



Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America

CODE OF ETHICS

Approved by the membership of the MBTCA, this Code of Ethics has been established to set guidelines for breeders and owners of Miniature Bull Terriers that will help ensure their welfare and future. Breeding from quality, healthy stock will produce more animals closer to the breed standard and therefore better show dogs; but equally important, such careful breeding will improve overall breed health and preserve the unique breed personality and character that make the Miniature Bull Terrier a delightful pet and companion.

AS A MEMBER OF THE MBTCA I WILL:

GENERAL CONDUCT

1. Conduct myself in a manner that reflects positively on the breed, the club and its agencies, the AKC, and the sport of dogs, demonstrating fellowship in working together through cooperation and participation.
2. Exhibit good sportsmanship and civility at all dog-related events in accordance with the AKC Code of Sportsmanship. Winning and losing with grace is the minimum standard of good sportsmanship in all forms of competition. The interaction of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition is essential inside and outside the ring. This includes showing respect and courtesy to competitors, judges, show officials, and spectators. It also includes respect for show sites, hotels, and related facilities.
3. Conduct myself in a responsible and courteous manner in written and verbal communication and in action pursuant to the advancement of our breed, our club, and dog sports as a whole, and will treat others as I would wish to be treated.
4. Be a responsible dog owner, treating my dogs humanely and providing them with adequate food, water, shelter, veterinary care, exercise, and grooming, as well as the socialization and training necessary for them to be family companions.
5. Not be involved or participate in any manner with dog or animal fight-related activities.

BREEDING

1. Make every effort to learn about the structure, anatomy, action, inherited traits, and behavior of the MBT, educating myself with the AKC breed standard and representative dogs, prior to breeding a stud dog or brood bitch. When breeding, select animals that will reduce the incidence of genetic problems while enhancing the attributes and abilities of the breed.
2. Be honest, factual, and candid in any written or oral statement about dogs and breeding programs, whether referring to my own dogs or those of others.
3. Test all breeding animals for the presence of heritable diseases and refrain from breeding those with a serious inherited defect or temperament problem, acknowledging that physical soundness and good temperament are of utmost importance to the breed; these qualities should never be neglected or altered.
4. Require documented health testing of all animals to which I intend to breed my dog(s) and disclose to the owners of the stud or bitch any known health or temperament problems in my animals or in the litters they have produced.
5. As owner of the stud dog accept equal responsibility with the owner of the bitch for any breeding, and refuse service to any bitch I feel is not worthy of breeding.
6. Sell any animal that is known to have a hereditary defect as a companion animal with limited registration and a neuter/spay contract.
7. Not sell or dispose of any dog through wholesalers, commercial dealers, or brokers.

8. Take responsibility for the puppies I have produced for the lifetime of those puppies, ensuring their optimum safety and well-being, including carefully screening buyers to ensure that they are able to provide safe and loving homes.
9. Provide puppies some form of permanent identification, i.e., microchip or tattoo, before sending them to their new homes.
10. Provide the new owner with the puppy's health records, including vet exam report and copies of any testing (BAER, PLL, LP, LAD), a feeding and immunization schedule, AKC registration paperwork or copies of the online registration, a sales contract outlining the terms of sale and any health guarantee, as well as additional information regarding care, training, and socialization of their puppy in an effort to ensure the well-being and longevity of their dog.
11. Act as a mentor to persons with whom I place puppies and encourage an open dialog for the life of the dog.
12. Follow the MBTCA Recommended Health Testing Addendum.

Implicit in membership is the understanding, full acceptance, and agreement to abide by the MBTCA Code of Ethics. Failure to comply with the Code of Ethics may subject a member to disciplinary action based upon procedures as provided in Article VI of the Constitution and By-Laws of the MBTCA.

While the Code of Ethics may be amended only by vote of the entire MBTCA membership, the Recommended Health Testing Addendum may be modified by approval of the MBTCA Board of Directors on a recommendation made by the Genetics and Health Committee. Requests from club members for changes in the Recommended Health Testing Addendum shall be referred to the Genetics and Health Committee.

MBTCA's Recommended Health Testing Addendum

The MBTCA Health Committee and the Board of Directors have created this addendum with the knowledge and information currently available regarding the health of the Miniature Bull Terrier. Together they have prepared the following list of tests which screen for health disorders known to affect the breed. All breeding shall be done with the intent of the preservation and betterment of the Miniature Bull Terrier, taking into consideration structure, health and temperament. The genetic tests currently available allow breeders to avoid producing puppies affected with certain serious genetic disorders without eliminating clinically healthy carriers from the gene pool.

PUPPIES – a BAER hearing testing, heart auscultation and DNA tests for PLL, LP, and LAD should be performed before any puppy leaves for its new home.

BREEDING STOCK – in addition to the above tests it is recommended that an echocardiogram of the heart and UP/UC for kidney values be done as indicated below. Please be aware that changes may occur in heart and kidney values as dogs mature. Echocardiograms performed under 2 years of age should be repeated after the dog is mature (2 years of age) and kidneys should be tested annually from 1 year of age on.

GENETIC HEALTH TESTING –

The following are DNA tests performed by saliva swab or blood sample through several labs.

PLL – (Primary Lens Luxation) The lens of the eye is held in place behind the iris by a series of fibers called zonules. It functions to focus light rays on the retina in the back of the eye. If these fibers begin to breakdown, the lens becomes unstable, and if enough fibers breakdown the lens can luxate, or fall out of place. Lens luxation can either be a primary problem or secondary to other disease within the eye,

such as chronic inflammation. Primary lens luxation is an inherited disease seen in many breeds of dog where spontaneous luxation of the lens occurs in early adulthood (most commonly 3-6 years of age). It often affects both eyes, although generally not at the same time. Lens luxation generally leads to inflammation and glaucoma which results in a blind and painful eye if left untreated. If the lens luxates posteriorly (back), oftentimes chronic daily medication can be used to keep the eye comfortable. If the lens luxates anteriorly (forward), often surgery is needed for comfort due to glaucoma. Signs of lens luxation to watch for in your dog include redness to the white part of the eye, cloudiness to the clear part of the eye, squinting/closing/pawing at the eye, or any changes in vision. If lens luxation is suspected, your dog should be evaluated by a veterinarian immediately.

LP - (Laryngeal Paralysis) The trachea should open on two sides when breathing in and relax when breathing out. In dogs with laryngeal paralysis the muscles that normally draw the airway open do not function properly – the muscles don't pull open but instead get sucked into the opening, or in severe cases sucked shut. Early in the condition this creates increased noise when a dog breathes, later it can obstruct their airway and potentially be fatal. We now have a DNA marker to identify dogs that are carriers and dogs that are affected and may become symptomatic. Dogs carrying two copies of the mutation are considered to be at an increased risk of developing the disease.

LAD – (Lethal Acrodermatitis) Affected dogs were often referred to as “zincers” as for a long time the condition was thought to be a zinc deficiency disorder given the clinical similarity of LAD to a zinc deficiency disorder in humans called acrodermatitis enteropathica. Through an international collaboration between researchers from Austria, Finland, France, Switzerland, the UK and USA (and samples given by dog owners and breeders around the world) the genetic cause of LAD was finally identified in 2018. The researchers' data strongly suggests that LAD is a recessive disorder caused by a pathogenic genetic variant in the *MKLN1* gene (and its encoded intracellular protein muskelin 1). The *MKLN1* gene is expressed in many different cell types and has various functions, which makes it likely that a defect in this gene affects different organs in the body and thus the immune system.

LAD puppies commonly develop chronic skin infections, pneumonia and/or diarrhea. Stunted growth is usually the first indicator followed by crusting of the skin around the eyes, ears and in-between the toes as well as being lighter in color and having splayed feet and cracking of the skin between the toes. The condition is usually apparent before pups are weaned. Although these symptoms can sometimes be treated symptomatically, there is no treatment for the disorder itself and animals will normally die or need to be euthanized.

CLINICAL HEALTH TESTING -

The following are tests performed by a veterinary specialist.

BAER – (Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response) An electro-diagnostic test for congenital deafness to determine if hearing is normal in both ears, or if the animal is deaf in one (unilateral) or both ears (bilateral). This test may be given to dogs at six weeks of age or older. Results of this test are valid for the dog's lifetime. No bilaterally deaf dogs are to be used for breeding.

HEART – All breeding animals should have an echocardiogram (heart ultrasound) performed by a veterinary cardiologist before being bred. Components of the echocardiogram can include the two-dimensional exam (to see lesions and overall cardiac structure), the M-mode study (used to measure heart size and function), and the Doppler examination (used to evaluate blood flow). The presently accepted parameters for cardiac health of breeding candidates are LVOT rates of less than 2.2 m/sec with no multiple minor or any major structural defects present.

KIDNEY HEALTH – (UP/UC ratio) A sterile urine sample should be checked for the presence of protein. This test is called Urine Protein Creatinine ratio (UP/UC). All breeding dogs should be checked annually and bitches before each breeding. The recommended UP/UC should be 0.3 or less. A ratio >0.3 is cause for retesting and further bloodwork if necessary to establish kidney health.

OPTIONAL CLINICAL TESTING

Patella Luxation, Elbow Luxation and Hip Dysplasia. Consult your veterinarian for testing and evaluation.

