



Cirneco dell'Etna Club of America Code of Ethics

- I. I shall comply with all the rules and regulations of the Cirneco dell'Etna Club of America, Inc. ("CdECA") and the American Kennel Club ("AKC").

II. OWNERSHIP

Environment - I shall provide my Cirnechi with safe, clean living and travel conditions, dry housing that is free from extreme temperatures, and not kept in circumstances or numbers where their needs cannot be adequately fulfilled. I also shall provide ample opportunity for proper exercise.

Food - I shall feed my Cirnechi a properly balanced and nutritious diet, commensurate with the requirements of the breed.

Veterinary Care - I shall be certain that all Cirnechi in my care are protected by all necessary immunizations, as recommended by my veterinarian. I shall consult with my veterinarian regarding parasite control and prevention and follow the program he/she suggests. I shall provide regular veterinary care and seek prompt medical attention for my Cirnechi for situations outside of routine medical care, as needed.

Love and Attention - I shall ensure that my Cirnechi have the socialization necessary to develop and support their natural love and acceptance of human companionship. I shall further endeavor to properly socialize my Cirnechi with other animals.

Ownership of a Potential Sire/Dam - I shall refuse to work with any breeder who does not adhere to the criteria outlined herein. I shall refuse stud service: to any bitch that is unregistered, in poor health, immature, exhibiting unsound temperament, or that has known hereditary faults; to any owner who is unwilling to cooperate in efforts to protect the welfare of the breed or who lacks the ability and/or facilities to properly care for the litter; or in any case in which I have reason to believe that the litter will be disposed of in litter lot sales, through retail outlets, or in any other fashion potentially detrimental to the breed or to the dogs themselves. I shall share the full and complete health information of my Cirnechi with prospective breeders.

Sportsmanship - I shall always conduct myself in a sportsmanlike manner. To that end, I shall not make false or misleading statements about, or express unconstructive criticism of, fellow Cirnechi owners or their dogs.

Public Interaction - When interacting with others, I shall positively represent CdECA and adhere to its stated goals, which are: to educate the public about the history, importance, qualities, training and care of the breed; to encourage and promote quality in the breeding and performance of purebred Cirnechi with strict adherence to the breed standard, while striving to bring their natural qualities to perfection; and to rescue and otherwise ensure humane treatment for Cirnechi throughout the continental US.

Lifetime Care - In the event that I am no longer able to adequately care for my Cirnechi, and in the absence of any contractual agreements previously made with my breeder, I will commit to finding a suitable home for them that meets the standards outlined in this Code. If I am unable to provide such care, I will contact CdECA Rescue for assistance. I will also proactively make plans for the care of my Cirnechi in the event I am unexpectedly incapacitated, and will communicate those plans to a third party for safekeeping.

Initials: _____

III. BREEDING - HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY

Breed Awareness - I shall breed only to produce dogs that preserve and advance the breed standard created by CdECA and accepted by the AKC. I shall breed conservatively and selectively, not merely for the sake of producing puppies. All breedings should be done with the intention of the preservation and betterment of the breed

Selecting Sire and Dam - I shall study the breed standard, functions, and history; canine anatomy; and general principles of breeding. It is critical to the future of the breed that the selection of sire and dam be made to maintain these attributes and historical function. Poor breeding for several generations can have a substantial negative impact reversing thousands of years of natural selection process. I shall thoroughly research the pedigrees of prospective parents, including genetic, physical, and temperament anomalies that may have occurred in their lines. I shall ensure that any dog used for breeding has undergone all testing recommended by CdECA prior to breeding and shall make these test results available to co-breeders and prospective owners of the offspring. I shall use for breeding only dogs that are free from disqualifying faults and known heritable issues, and that are sound of body and temperament. Under exceptional circumstances a request may be made to the CdECA Board for a waiver to allow the breeding of a Cirneco despite disqualifying faults. I shall not use for breeding Cirnechi that are not registered by the AKC or a foreign registry recognized by the AKC.

Health - I shall ensure that a potential sire/dam is examined by a veterinarian to ensure that he/she is healthy and mature enough to be bred. I shall not breed a bitch in her first season or less than two years of age. I shall not breed a bitch more than once per year. Stud dogs shall not be bred prior to eighteen (18) months of age.

Puppy Care - Prior to breeding my bitch, I shall ensure that I have adequate facilities to properly care for the litter. I shall provide adequate socialization for all puppies. I shall accept a lifelong responsibility to protect the well-being of every Cirneco puppy I breed. I shall take responsibility for puppies produced by my stud and verify that the bitch owner is a responsible owner and breeder, able to provide lifelong responsibility for the puppies produced.

IV. BREEDING - ARRANGEMENTS AND CONTRACTS

Breeding Arrangements - I shall ensure that breeding arrangements are agreed upon in advance, written, and signed by both parties. I shall not enter into a breeding contract with, recommend, or support the breeding practices of an individual who does not meet the requirements of this Code of Ethics. I shall ensure that all of my co-ownership and/or breeding arrangements, including the care and placement of the puppies from such arrangements, shall meet the standards of this Code, regardless of whether these arrangements are with fellow CdECA members. Furthermore, I shall not knowingly provide a Cirneco for sale or for breeding purposes to any unethical person or one who would be in violation of this Code.

Puppy and Dog Placement - I shall offer for sale only dogs that are sound of body and temperament. I shall make every effort to place each dog properly for its temperament and personality. I shall not consign, sell, or donate a Cirneco to retailers, pet stores, wholesalers, animal brokers, commercial kennels, in litter lot sales, or for raffles. I shall not knowingly deal with unethical persons. I shall not sell to, nor aid in procuring a Cirneco for, any person I have reason to believe will not provide proper care and environment for the dog or who may use it in any fashion detrimental to the breed or to the dog itself.

Evaluation of Puppies - I will fairly evaluate the qualities of each puppy and honestly represent them to prospective buyers. I will refrain from using the phrase "show quality," as it is difficult to ascertain disqualifying faults until a Cirneco reaches full maturation. I will defer evaluation of breeding potential until a Cirneco has attained at least 15 months of age. At that time I will re-evaluate the Cirneco for breeding potential, using the breed standard, health, temperament and genetic diversity as criteria. I shall ensure that all of my sales contracts have protections in place that will preclude the breeding of any Cirnechi bred by me if, upon evaluation, the Cirneco is deemed unsuitable for breeding.

Puppy Health - I shall not release or ship a puppy to its new home until it is at least eight weeks old. I shall ensure that, prior to being released to its new home, every puppy receives vaccinations as recommended by a veterinarian. I shall supply a written health guarantee allowing the buyer a specified period of time within which to have a puppy examined by the buyer's veterinarian. This guarantee shall address conditions for replacement or reimbursement.

Initials: _____

Record Keeping - I shall maintain health and breeding records for each dog as required by the AKC, which I shall produce to the CdECA Board of Directors within thirty (30) days of a request from the Board. I shall provide to the new owners: the dog's registration information; health records, including immunizations and booster due dates; microchip information and the name and address of my veterinarian and permit release of all medical records to the new owners. I shall provide to CdECA the AKC registration information for all litters produced after my membership commences. When available and possible to do so, I will provide to CdECA all AKC registration information for litters produced before CdECA membership began.

Identification – I will have each puppy microchipped or otherwise permanently identified prior to releasing it to its new home. I shall maintain permanent identification records on each puppy that I breed, and I shall provide this information to the new owners. I shall produce permanent identification information to CdECA at the same time litter registration information is submitted.

Representations to Buyers - I shall educate prospective buyers about the Cirneco dell'Etna, including: breed health problems; physical, mental, and nutritional needs; owners' responsibilities to the breed and to the puppies resulting from any breeding; and the importance of membership in CdECA, in which I shall encourage participation. I shall represent my dogs truthfully, forthrightly noting all known defects. I shall invite buyers to contact me at any time with questions.

Placement of Dogs - I shall not sell or place any dog without a written agreement that it will not be resold or otherwise released to a new owner in the event its original owner/buyer cannot keep it. Rather, the dog shall be returned to me.

Lifetime Responsibility - I shall take back, rehabilitate when possible, and place in a suitable home any dog I have bred and/or placed if, at any time in its life, the original buyer is unable to keep the dog. Only if a dog is beyond rehabilitation and treatment, shall I either advise euthanasia or be responsible for euthanasia if the owner is unable or unwilling to do so. Unless required to do so by law, I shall not allow any dog I own or have bred to be disposed of in an animal shelter or allowed to remain in the care of a rescue organization other than CdECA Rescue. If I am unable, either physically or financially, to accept the return of any Cirneco I have owned or bred, I will contact CdECA Rescue for assistance.

I hereby accept and agree to abide by the foregoing Code of Ethics of the Cirneco dell'Etna Club of America and conduct myself in the furtherance of CdECA's role as the representative and protector of the breed in the U.S.A. I understand that violations shall be dealt with according to the By-Laws of CdECA and may result in revocation of membership.

Printed Name(s): _____

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

Please return the signed Code of Ethics along with your Membership application and dues check payable to CdECA

Questions may be addressed to CdECA via email: Membership@cirneco.org