



Ethical guidelines of the Finnish Kennel Club

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This document is a translation. In cases of doubt, the Finnish version will prevail.

The Finnish Kennel Club is a non-profit association with the goal of creating good prerequisites for dog welfare and dog ownership in the Finnish society, so that a dog constitutes a natural part of the Finnish lifestyle. The Finnish Kennel Club consists of its individual members, club members, decision-making bodies, and employees at the office and at the Kennelliitto companies.

Proper kennel practice requires adherence to these ethical guidelines. Ethical guidelines describe the values and principles the Finnish Kennel Club commits to in its operations and in the society. The Finnish Kennel Club's values include expertise, openness, and active responsibility. Every dog owner and person responsible for a dog should familiarize themselves with the ethical guidelines and aim to follow these in their dog keeping. Anyone involved in activities under the Finnish Kennel Club commits to adhering to the Finnish Kennel Club's values and general ethical principles, which include key aspects such as distinguishing between right and wrong in specific situations, striving for socially accepted conduct, justice and equality, recognizing and acknowledging rights and responsibilities, and respecting other people and animals.

Welfare of animals and people is in key position in all canine activities. The Finnish Kennel Club uses the same definition for animal welfare as the Companion and Hobby Animal Welfare Council of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland: welfare is an animal's experience of its own psychological and physical state. A dog has a right to species-typical behaviour and living conditions, good health and functional ability as well as good treatment, positive feelings and experiences. In activities under the Finnish Kennel Club, all operators commit to follow current legislation as well as rules and guidelines of the Finnish Kennel Club.

1. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The Finnish Kennel Club is committed to creating a non-discriminatory, open, and positive environment for dog sports where everyone is treated fairly and equally. At the same time, it is ensured that the effect on the surrounding society is positive.

Activities organized by the Finnish Kennel Club and its member clubs have a zero-tolerance policy for bullying and inappropriate behaviour. In activities under the Finnish Kennel Club, it is forbidden to act in ways that can harm people, animals, or the reputation of dog sports. In activities under the Finnish Kennel Club, anyone can intervene in a situation where they notice that the physical, mental, or social safety of people or animals is threatened.

The Finnish Kennel Club actively highlights the recreational possibilities dogs and canine activities have to offer and enables a low threshold for participation in canine activities. In this way, activities under the Finnish Kennel Club are experienced to promote welfare of dogs and to be reliable and safe.

2. CONSIDERATION OF DOG WELFARE

All dogs are equal in activities under the Finnish Kennel Club. All dogs are treated with respect and fairness.



Further guidelines about consideration of welfare of dogs can be found in separate guidelines regarding dog welfare as well as in other Finnish Kennel Club's rules and guidelines regarding canine activities.

3. RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

A person responsible for a dog takes full responsibility and makes sure that the dog's behaviour does not cause danger or disturbance to people or animals. Dogs are not to be kept unleashed in violation of the Hunting Act or the Public Order Act. The owner or holder of the dog must ensure that the dog's faeces are not left on the ground in a maintained section of a built-up area.

Every dog has a right to socialization, proper upbringing, and basic obedience training. A dog owner must make sure that his or her dog keeping does not cause excessive harm to the environment. Everyone has a responsibility in their dog ownership and recreational activities to make sure that the impact dogs have is seen as something positive and beneficial for society.

4. PARTICIPANTS IN CANINE ACTIVITIES

Everyone participating in canine activities commit to adhere to the following principles of fair game:

- we are fair and treat each other equally,
- we act with kindness and respect each other,
- we give everyone a chance to participate and pursue dog sports as themselves,
- we take others into consideration, we cheer on everyone and congratulate the winners,
- we show good example to new enthusiasts and youth,
- we acknowledge that intoxicants are not a part of dog sport activities, and
- we act in accordance with these principles also on social media.

5. OFFICIALS AND PEOPLE ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES

Officials and people who organize activities must pay particular focus on the responsibility their position as a representative of the Finnish Kennel Club in canine activities entails. This must be reflected in all aspects of canine activities.

The privacy of members and other participants is respected, and personal data is used and stored in a manner required by the data protection regulation.

Event organizers, judges, and other appointed officials must immediately intervene and, if necessary, interrupt a dog's performance or an event if the welfare of people or animals is put at risk.

6. TRIALS, COMPETITIONS, AND DOG SHOWS

Welfare of dogs is acknowledged and prioritized at all trials, competitions, and dog shows. Particular attention must be paid to endurance of dogs and their suitability for the tasks that are required of them. Trials, competitions, and dog show activities must be carried out with consideration of the dog's age, level of competence and performance, health, and circumstances, without putting the dog's welfare at risk.



Canine activities offer enrichment and possibilities to fulfil natural aptitudes for dogs, and significant social engagement for people. Animal friendly training methods are used in canine activities under the Finnish Kennel Club.

Some trials, competitions, and training that aim for these use target animals that are cared for by humans, released game animals, or wild game animals. For target animals and game animals, the Animal Welfare Act and Hunting Act along with their decrees as well as guidelines of the Finnish Food Authority are observed, in addition to trial rules and guidelines.

The Finnish Kennel Club's Anti-Doping Regulations are followed in the Finnish Kennel Club's trial and competition activities as well as dog shows. According to current legislation, increasing, reducing or maintaining the performance of an animal artificially by means of medicines or similar substances or preparations is prohibited.

7. BREEDING

The Finnish Kennel Club, breed associations, and breed clubs direct responsible breeding of registered pedigree dogs.

The Finnish Kennel Club's General Breeding Strategy outlines the goals of dog breeding. When directing breeding, it is important to observe that breeding choices impact future dog generations and, consequently, the future of the breeds. Breeding activities must be transparent and withstand critical societal scrutiny.

Dog breeding is based on responsibility, honesty, openness, and commitment to dog welfare. The breeder aims to choose responsible homes that are committed to dog ownership and can provide care suitable for the species for his or her puppies. The breeder teaches puppy buyers about how to care for a dog and aims to support puppy buyers, when needed. The breeder encourages owners of puppies to take their dogs to health tests recommended by the Finnish Kennel Club, which are used to collect data of the breed's health status to support breeding.

8. ADDRESSING UNETHICAL CONDUCT

Anyone involved in activities under the Finnish Kennel Club have the right to, at their own discretion, intervene in unethical activities. Primarily, one should intervene in unethical conduct right in the situation by guiding and steering towards ethically approved conduct. Failure to follow the rules and guidelines of the Finnish Kennel Club may ultimately result in the matter being addressed by the Finnish Kennel Club. Instructions for reporting unethical conduct can be found on the Finnish Kennel Club's website.