

Erie Kennel Club, Inc.
Code of Ethics & Code of Conduct Highlights
 June 2024

The Erie Kennel Club (EKC) has a long and proud history of holding public events that encourage sportsmanship and companionship through dog training, trials, and all-breed dog shows. Club membership is credited with building and maintaining the Club's long and proud history by adhering to American Kennel Club (AKC) principles, standards, and practices established for the purpose of promoting and protecting the best interests of purebred dogs, AKC events, and the AKC. What follows is not an exhaustive list of ethical principles and appropriate member behavior. AKC resource documents that address undesirable member behavior in depth and the disciplinary process include:

- AKC Code of Sportsmanship
- AKC Code of Ethics Guidelines
- Dealing with Misconduct at AKC events
- AKC Discipline Guidelines
- AKC Working It Out
- Relevant EKC documents including EKC Bylaws, Standing Rules

The following Code of Ethics focuses on expectations and responsibilities of every EKC member that are necessary to:

- Maintain the integrity of the sport of purebred dogs and the present and future success of EKC.
- Maintain a club culture that is supportive of and provides a positive and safe environment for its membership.

Code of Ethics

This Code provides a partial list of guiding principles that provide members with a common framework for acting with integrity and, also, with a sense of personal responsibility and accountability.

- Be familiar with and adhere to AKC rules, regulations, and requirements, pertaining to the sport of dogs, the Constitution, and Bylaws and EKC bylaws, Standing Rules, and Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct.
- Observe the highest standards of sportsmanship and conduct while participating in AKC-sanctioned events and EKC-sponsored activities. This will reflect positively on the sport of showing dogs and EKC. This includes courteous verbal and written communications and social media postings.
- Assume the role of good ambassador for your breed(s), AKC, and EKC.
- Contribute to a safe environment by demonstrating goodwill and mutual respect for fellow club members and guests during club-sponsored or AKC-sanctioned activities regardless of background, identity, personality, religion, and/ or beliefs.
- The use of club facilities is a benefit given to all members. Helping to maintain building cleanliness and security is not only an act of responsibility but one of gratitude.

Code of Conduct

Conduct that may be prejudicial to the best interest of EKC and arises during, or in connection with an AKC-sanctioned event or EKC-sponsored activity or club event, will be investigated by EKC Board of Directors.

Examples of behaviors include:

- Any form of racism or discrimination; verbal, physical, or sexual aggression, including abusive, dehumanizing, or shaming language; harassment, intimidation/bullying.

These behaviors are detrimental to the well-being of individuals and EKC in the following ways:

- undermines personal sense of safety and security
- are contrary to the best interest of purebred dogs, purebred dog events; the AKC and EKC
- and, based on severity, may be illegal.

Board of Director Responsibilities

When *any* member-misconduct during an AKC-sanctioned event or EKC-sponsored event or activity is alleged by any member and is reported to the Board of Directors (BOD), it is the initial responsibility of the BOD to determine if the allegation(s) might be considered prejudicial to the best interest of EKC and if further BOD intervention is necessary.

In the event inappropriate member behavior and/or internal disagreements are reported to the BOD that may be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club for which AKC has no official authority, it remains the responsibility of the BOD to assess the allegations and to determine if further BOD involvement is warranted as per EKC Bylaws, Article VII.