

Wild Rose NAVHDA Chapter Code of Conduct

as amended to February 18, 2017

Becoming a member of the Wild Rose Chapter of NAVHDA signifies your agreement with this Code of Ethics and confirms your responsibility to adhere to the Code as a member in good standing.

Introduction

NAVHDA International's primary purpose is *"to foster, promote and improve the versatile hunting dog breeds in North America; to conserve game by using well trained reliable hunting dogs before and after the shot; and to aid in the prevention of cruelty to animals by nonselective and uncontrolled breeding, which produces unwanted and uncared for dogs."*

Why Does Our Chapter Need A Specific Code Of Ethics?

The rules and guidance in the code are not intended to penalize or cause difficulty but are necessary to protect the Chapter's security, our members' safety, our dogs' welfare and the reputation of hunters in general. The Wild Rose NAVHDA Code of Ethics establishes a standard of conduct to be followed by all members in the normal course of training and testing their versatile hunting dogs in Chapter events.

What We Expect Of Members, Guests and Visiting Handlers

Insurance Coverage: All participants shall be covered by our Chapter insurance including members, guests, visitors, handlers and judges. Insurance fees are included in regular membership dues. To retain coverage for the event, all non-member visitors shall pay a nominal fee as listed in the current fee schedule. Consumption of alcohol or drugs during Chapter events voids Chapter coverage and as such is prohibited. The Chapter event is considered finished when participants leave the landowner's premises.

Treatment Of Dogs: All participants must consider the health and welfare of the dogs under their care and the dogs of other participants to be of the utmost importance. Mistreatment of a dog at the hands of an owner, handler, trainer, or judge will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The legal definition of mistreatment as described in the Criminal Code of Canada is "(a) willfully causes or, being the owner, willfully permits to be caused unnecessary pain, suffering". The definition of mistreatment shall be decided by the Board of Directors within the context of each situation. Severe mistreatment may result in automatic ejection from the event or suspension of membership without refund.

Firearms Safety: Only break-action shotguns and starter pistols are permitted for use during Chapter training days and testing events. Starter pistols must use blank rounds only. All Gunners must carry with them their PAL or POL. Any participant entering the training field shall wear blaze orange. All participants must handle firearms safely, in accordance with provincial and federal regulations and best practices. Unsafe firearms handling may result in automatic removal of shooting privileges, ejection from the event or suspension of membership without refund.

Payment Of Fees: Payment owed to the Chapter for dues, fees, or bird costs, shall be completed before participation in any Chapter event. If any participant, member or non-member, is in arrears of payments, all future payments made by them shall be reassigned to re-pay past debts. Failure to repay debts may result in suspension of current membership without refund and possible denial of future membership.

Membership And Participation: Applicants for Chapter membership or participation in Chapter events may be denied if Persons have a record of cruelty towards animals, violent behaviour or are found to be under suspension, with good causes, by another sanctioned club or association related to the breeding or testing of dogs.

Personal Conduct: All participants have a duty to both their dogs and to others to make Chapter events productive and welcoming and are expected to assist in the general duties of the event. All participants training a dog must give back to the Club by volunteering at the event. Unsportsmanlike or unethical, behaviour or abusive, disrespectful treatment of other participants, event volunteers, test judges or executive members will result in automatic ejection from the event or suspension of membership without refund.

Participants shall respect the landowners where Chapter events are held.

Vehicles must be driven and parked in designated areas.

Any participant assisting as a trainer, prior to initiating physical contact with a dog other than their own, shall provide a clear description of their intentions and receive clear permission from the dog's owner for said contact.

Dogs shall be under the continuous control of their owner/handler and shall be kept leashed unless running their discipline or exercising in designated areas. Dog waste shall be removed promptly from mowed areas and transported from the event by the owner.

Children must be under the continuous supervision of their parent or guardian. Where a child attends the parent's shooting discipline as part of the gallery, a second parent or guardian must supervise that child. Children must be a minimum of twelve years old to enter the field where live ammunition is in use.

Any Chapter or landowner equipment used by participants must be treated with care and respect and returned to the trailer or correct storage location before the end of each event.

All birds transported, store, handled and dispatched for the event shall be treated humanely, and with the utmost respect. Dead birds shall remain the property and responsibility of the purchaser, not the gunner, and shall be properly stored out of sight (bagged, out of the sun, etc.) and be transported from the event location by the owner.

Use of Social Media: Members are asked to observe best practice using social media and are urged not post confidential Chapter information. All Chapter business will be conducted by the Board of Directors, and assigned members only through the use of either personal or Chapter email addresses. Informal discussions, comments, posts and photos on social media should always promote Chapter pride and unity and illustrate our respect for the game. Inappropriate use of social media or the Chapter member contact list for purposes other than promoting the best interests of the Chapter shall be grounds for immediate termination of all membership privileges without refund of fees.

Reporting, Judging and Recourse: Any Chapter member may report and give evidence to the Board of Directors, to either support or refute any occurrence, behaviour or offence committed by any other member that breaches this Code of Ethics. Most occurrences can be corrected through open discussion or friendly reminders. Expulsion should only be considered if an offence is serious and chronic or when the offender is unapologetic or abusive. The Wild Rose NAVDHA Society Bylaws state that expulsion from membership is permitted for any cause the Society deems reasonable.