Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club, Inc.

MFGRC CODE OF ETHICS

Below you will find the Code of Ethics adopted by the Board of Directors on October 24th, 2026. This text was adopted after many revisions, discussions, and review of other national breed clubs' "Codes". New members, by their application, agree to abide by and follow the Code of Ethics. The reaffirmation statement of the annual dues renewal also will note members' agreement to follow the "Code".

The Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club (MFGRC) endorses the following Code of Ethics for its members. It is the purpose of the MFGRC to encourage its members to perfect (through selection, breeding, and training) the type of dog most suitable in all respects for work as a companionable gun dog, and to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of Golden Retrievers in every endeavor.

RESPONSIBILITIES AS A MEMBER OF MFGRC

Members' responsibilities include educating the public about the breed, keeping in mind that they and their dogs represent the breed, the MFGRC, and the sport of purebred dogs in general.

Members are urged to accept the written breed standard as approved by the American Kennel Club and the Golden Retriever Club of America (or other applicable governing body of the country in which they reside or exhibit) as the standard description of physical and temperamental qualities by which the Golden Retriever is to be judged.

Members are required to maintain good sportsmanship at all events and competitions, abiding by the applicable rules and regulations set forth by the governing bodies for such events and competitions. Members' conduct should always be in accord with the purposes and intent of the MFGRC Constitution and By-Laws.

RESPONSIBILITIES AS A BREEDER

MFGRC members who breed Golden Retrievers are encouraged to maintain the purpose of the breed and are expected to demonstrate knowledge, honesty, and fairness in dealing with other owners and breeders, purchasers of dogs, and the general public. The MFGRC does not support the cross-breeding of dogs and is particularly opposed to the deliberate crossing of Golden Retrievers with any other breed. Owners of breeding animals shall provide appropriate documentation to all concerned regarding the purebred status of any litters produced, and the health of dogs involved in a breeding or sale, including reports of required examinations such as those applying to hips, elbows, heart and eyes.

Breeders should understand and acknowledge they may need to take back or assist in finding a new home for any dog they produce at any time in its life, if requested to do so.

Members who breed should sell puppies, permit stud service, and/or lease any stud dogs or brood bitches only to individuals who give satisfactory evidence that they will give proper care and attention to the animals concerned, and who may be expected to act with the intent of the statements of this Code of Ethics. Members are encouraged to use clear, concise written contracts to document the sales of animals, use of stud dogs, and lease arrangements, including the use, when appropriate, of non-breeding agreements and/or Limited Registration. Members should not sell dogs at auction, or to brokers or commercial dealers.

ADVISORY GUIDELINES

Breeding stock should be selected with the following objectives of the MFGRC in mind:

Recognizing that the Golden Retriever breed was developed as a useful gun dog, to encourage the perfection by careful and selective breeding of Golden Retrievers that possess the appearance, structure, soundness, temperament, natural ability, and personality that are characterized in the standard of the breed and to do all possible to advance and promote the perfection of these qualities. (Paraphrased from Article A, Section 2, of the MFGRC By-laws, as amended in 2004.)

MFGRC members are expected to follow AKC requirements for record keeping, identification of animals, and registration procedures.

ANIMALS SELECTED FOR BREEDING MUST

I. Be of temperament typical of the Golden Retriever breed; stable, friendly, trainable, and willing to work. Temperament is of utmost importance to the breed and must never be neglected.

II. Be in good health, including freedom from communicable disease.

III. Possess the following examination reports in order to verify status concerning possible hip dysplasia, hereditary eye disease, cardiovascular disease, and elbow dysplasia:

   a. **HIPS** - appropriate clearance from Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Penn Hip (done at minimum 24 months of age), Ontario Veterinary College (Canada), or BVA/KC Hip Score (Great Britain).

   b. **EYES** - Current OFA clearance (done yearly) from a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology (ACVO) or from a BVA/KC approved ophthalmologist (Great Britain).

   c. **HEARTS** - appropriate OFA clearance from a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Medicine, Cardiology Specialty.

   d. **ELBOWS** - appropriate clearance from Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Ontario Veterinary College (Canada), or BVA/KC Elbow Score (Great Britain).

   e. **A preliminary report does not constitute a clearance.**

Consideration should be given to genetic disorders that can be tested for (e.g, pred-PRA, PRA1, PRA2, ichthyosis 1 and 2, and NCL), as well as other disorders that may have a genetic component, including, but not limited to epilepsy, hypothyroidism, skin disorders (allergies), and orthopedic disorders such as osteochondritis.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____