



THE FLATCOATED RETRIEVER SOCIETY

Affiliated to the Royal Kennel Club, the Field Trial Liaison Council, the BASC,
the NGO, and the International Gundog League Retriever Society

www.flatcoated-retriever-society.org

Code of Ethics for the Working Flatcoated Retriever Development Programme (WFRDP)

I. Dog Welfare, Health, and Training Standards:

The health, welfare, and security of dogs shall be paramount at all times. Trainers should manage the training so that risks are minimised to the dog and handler, although the ultimate responsibility is the handler's.

1. Training methods used and advocated by the WFRDP and its trainers should never involve training methods or equipment that cause physical harm or distress to the dog. Prohibited methods include, but are not limited to, electric shock collars, prong collars, and harsh physical corrections. Appropriate training methods should be given to the handler to enable dog and handler to achieve a successful outcome
2. Health and Fitness: participants on FCRS organised WFRDP training days should ensure their dogs are fit for purpose, healthy, and up-to-date on all necessary vaccinations and health checks. Bitches in season must not be brought to the venue of events or training sessions where other dogs are present.
3. Control and Temperament: Dogs must be under control at all times and not show undue aggression towards people or other dogs. If a dog shows aggression towards people or other dogs, it should be removed from the training group. The owner or handler of any dog showing such aggression should be offered advice regarding veterinary health checks and behavioural modification.
4. Basic Care: Handlers are responsible for the immediate safety and well-being of their dogs, ensuring they have adequate water, food, and rest, and are checked for injuries and for ticks after activity.

II. Conduct in the Field and General Courtesy:

Handlers should conduct themselves with integrity, honesty, and respect for other handlers, the public, other professionals, dogs, and where applicable game.

1. Respect for quarry: Game is food and must be treated with the utmost respect. On live game days, all wounded game should, where possible, be gathered and dispatched immediately. Where fresh, previously shot game is used to introduce young or inexperienced dogs to retrieving game, this too should be treated with respect. Fresh, previously shot game will be handled in the same manner as live game. Appropriate advice should be offered to handlers on dispatching game and handlers should be encouraged to take game away from live game days and prepare it for the table.
2. Etiquette and Sportsmanship: Handlers on WFRDP training days should be courteous to trainers, gamekeepers, hosts, and other participants.
 - It is not acceptable to openly impugn a trainer's opinion; handlers should seek clarification or advice respectfully.

- Handlers should thank the trainers and the host/landowner.
 - Handlers should be encouraged to dress appropriately in unobtrusive clothing, suitable for the shooting field.
 - Photographs and videos should not be taken or posted without the express permission of the trainer and other course participants
 - Any complaints or issues should not be posted on social media; in the first instance the complaint/issue should be raised with either the trainer or the organiser of the day. If this is not felt to be appropriate then the issue or complaint may be raised with the Secretary of the Flatcoated Retriever Society, who should be contacted in writing.
3. Public Image: Members' conduct should not bring the FCRS, the sport of gundog training, or the WFRDP into disrepute.