



English Shepherd Club Registry Rules and Regulations

Revised 06/26/17

Background

Registration is the process of identifying and creating a permanent, public record of all the individuals in a population and thus a record of the breed's genetic history.

The purpose of registration is to support the breed community and assist breeders & owners in the work of selecting, maintaining and conserving a population of dogs that share a common history, purpose and type. Registration is not a mechanism for "quality control" in breeding – the responsibility for evaluation and selection of breeding stock always lies with breeders. An accurate and accessible system of public records can facilitate the work of breeders but can never supplant their role in maintaining a healthy, functional breed.

The English Shepherd Club's commitment to and support of the English Shepherd Club registry derives from a recognition of (1) the genetic basis of the appearance, behavior and health of dogs in the breed; and (2) the need for an identified breed population of sufficient size and genetic breadth to enable continuous selection for important characteristics of health and function.

Operating Principles

In order to successfully fulfill its purpose in protecting the integrity and the viability of the breed population, the registration process must be:

- 1) Selective: criteria must be applied to ensure that dogs registered are distinguishable from the general population of dogs in those characteristics which define the breed – specifically, registered dogs should share a common history, purpose and type.
- 2) Comprehensive: registration is encouraged for all English Shepherds, not simply those destined for future breeding, so that it is possible for breeders to obtain a realistic view of the condition (and needs) of the broad breed population.
- 3) Dynamic: process for determining eligibility for registration should be capable of responding to identified needs of the breed population.
- 4) Transparent process must be clearly defined and accountable; information recorded must be accurate and accessible.

Governance

The English Shepherd Club Registry (ESC Registry), as authorized by the bylaws of the

English Shepherd Club, is governed by the Board of Directors of the English Shepherd Club. The Board of Directors will appoint a Registry Committee composed of no fewer than three (3) members in good standing. The Registry Committee will function as an advisory board, overseeing the operation of the registry and recommending policy and procedures for its functioning. All such policies and procedures must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to implementation.

English Shepherd Club members wishing to propose a change in rules, regulations or policies regarding the registry should submit those proposals in writing to the Registry Committee. If said proposals are not acted upon in a timely fashion, the member may present their proposals to the Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws of the English Shepherd Club.

The Board of Directors shall also be responsible for hiring a Registrar. The job description of the registrar is found in a separate document

Rules and Regulations

1. Definition of breeder

The breeder of a dog is the person who owns the dog's dam when the dog is whelped; if the dam was leased at the time of whelping, the breeder is the lessee.

2. Application for registration

The ESC Registry is open to all English Shepherds; club membership is not necessary. Any person in good standing* with the English Shepherd Club Registry may apply to register an individual dog or litter of puppies.

Individuals who have had registry privileges revoked or suspended with any registry may not register dogs or record litters with the ESC Registry.

The ESC Registry will not record a transfer or register a dog that has been sold through a commercial broker or retailer.

The ESC Registry will register, record, and transfer only for natural persons, and will not do so for corporations, partnerships, or other entities.

*See Section 15 for explanation of loss of registration privileges

3. Explanation of Tracks

There are two tracks within the ESC Registry: (1) Full registration and (2) Step-In registration. The appropriate track and process required for registration will vary depending on the history and information available for individual dogs.

4. Determining Eligibility for Registration

The ESC Registry will determine eligibility for registration by considering information in the three areas which define the breed:

A) History, common ancestry – English Shepherds descend from a group of dogs imported from the United Kingdom and selected by American farmers and ranchers for use as all around farm dogs. Pedigree records have been maintained by several private organizations including the United Kennel Club, the International English Shepherd Registry, and the Animal Research Foundation. Some segments of the population have remained outside of these registries. In many instances, private records such as pedigrees, photographs, and written and oral histories have been maintained and passed down through families. These provide important historical and contextual information on the development of various lines and merit consideration when identifying dogs for registration.

B) Purpose, working ability – English Shepherds were originally identified by and selected for their usefulness as working farm dogs. If English Shepherds are to be maintained in a manner consistent with this heritage, they must continue to be a working breed, evaluated and selected according to their ability to fulfill the jobs assigned to them.

C) Type, appearance – Selection from a common pool of ancestors for a common purpose resulted in a population of dogs characterized by certain physical features. These are articulated in the breed standard of the English Shepherd Club. The standard paints a picture of the general type which distinguishes the breed. The standard is not, however, a formula to be rigidly followed but rather a useful benchmark for determining how particular dogs compare to the rest of the breed and are distinct from other breeds.

5. Full Registration

Full Registration may be applied for only by a dog's owner or breeder and is available to English Shepherds having a documented family history of registration with the ESC Registry or another recognized registry. Registrations will be processed by the Registrar upon receipt of a registration application accompanied by the appropriate fee and supporting documents as listed below.

The Registrar will refer cases of incomplete documentation to the Step-In Committee.

5.1 Establishing Ownership of Dog

Only the owner or breeder of a dog may apply for Full Registration with the ESC Registry. Breeders applying to fully register a pup they bred, but no longer own, must do so by registering the litter within one year of the date of whelping (see Section 5.2.3).

Ownership of a dog may be established by providing any ONE of the following from the person applying for ESCR registration:

1) A copy of a registration certificate from UKC, IESR, or ARF for the dog in the name of the

applicant registering the dog.

- 2) A copy of a UKC, IESR, or ARF registration certificate for the dog in the name of another person, with the Transfer of Ownership section signed by previous owner.
- 3) A written declaration signed by the individual(s) named on the existing UKC, IESR, or ARF registration, that applicant is the owner of the dog.
- 4) An original ESC Registry breeder-signed Puppy Registration Application for the dog.
- 5) A copy of a UKC, IESR, or ARF paperwork for the dog.
- 6) A copy of a Bill of Sale for the dog, made out to applicant, signed by the breeder.
- 7) A written declaration from the breeder stating the applicant is the owner of the dog.
- 8) Correspondence from breeder/previous Owner implying ownership to applicant.
- 9) Microchip or tattoo registration of named dog in applicant's name.
- 10) Canceled check made out to breeder/previous owner or or executed contract between applicant and breeder/previous owner.
- 11) Adoption records from National English Shepherd Rescue or from another shelter/rescue in applicant's name.
- 12) Canine Good Citizen, ATT or competition title certificate with applicant's name on it.
- 13) Veterinary records dating back to acquisition of dog.
- 14) Signed declaration (on letterhead) from veterinarian that applicant has been bringing the dog in for routine veterinary treatment from (date).
- 15) County or City dog license in the applicant's name.

The breeder is the owner of a litter (see section 1 for definition) so a lease agreement of dam establishes ownership of a litter whelped from that dam.

Only one person will be listed as a dog's owner in ESCR registration records and documents. The ESC Registry will not register dogs in the names of multiple owners. Co-ownership of a dog, if it exists, is solely a private matter between individuals. The ESC Registry and ESC will not become involved in co-ownership agreements, nor in any disputes between co-owners. If a dog is co-owned, only the owner recorded on the ESCR Registration Certificates will be recognized by ESC Registry and the ESC.

ESCR Registration does not constitute legal proof of ownership. The ESC Registry will not become involved in ownership disputes. Registration of a dog with the ESC Registry includes an implicit automatic agreement not to involve ESC in legal disputes.

5.2 Establishing Dog as Registerable

Documentation to establish that an English Shepherd is eligible for Full Registration includes One of the following:

- 1) currently registered by an organization recognized by the English Shepherd Club, OR
- 2) born of parents currently registered either by ESC Registry or by an organization recognized by the ESC, OR
- 3) from a litter registered with the ESC Registry or an organization recognized by the ESC. Applicants must also provide a 3 generation pedigree. Handwritten pedigrees are acceptable

if registry issued pedigree is not available. If pedigree is handwritten, please note source of information.

5.2.1 For dogs currently registered with another recognized registry (IESR, UKC, or ARF):

1) Copy of both sides of registration certificate(s) from IESR, UKC, or ARF. If the dog is shown as a step-in with IESR, the application may be referred to the ESCR Step-In Committee.

- AND -

2) Copy of three (3) generation pedigree: if the only pedigree available is handwritten, that may substitute if accompanied by an explanation of the source of the information.

5.2.2 For dogs not currently registered but out of registered parents:

1) An original breeder-signed ESCR Puppy Registration Application.

-OR-

2) (a) Any document signed by the breeder which identifies the dam and sire as being registered with UKC, ARF, or IESR, which includes dam and sire's registered names and registration numbers. If a parent is shown as a step-in with IESR, the application may be referred to the ESCR Step-In Committee.

-AND-

Copy of pedigree – include either copies of the certified pedigree for each parent or a handwritten pedigree accompanied by a letter explaining the source of the information. If there are gaps in a three generation pedigree, the application shall be referred to ESCR Step-In Committee.

- OR -

(b) A copy of IESR, UKC, or ARF paperwork for the litter. If a parent is shown as a step-in with IESR, the application may be referred to the ESCR Step-In Committee.

- AND –

Copy of pedigree – include either copies of the certified pedigree for each parent or a handwritten pedigree accompanied by a letter explaining the source of the information.

5.2.3 Litter registrations

To register a litter of pups prior to one year from date of whelping:

1) A breeder must submit completed Litter Registration Application along with appropriate fee;

2) A breeder must provide evidence of registration for sire and dam (either with ESCR or other recognized registry).

(a) Only the ESCR registration number needs to be provided for sire or dam that is ESCR registered.

(b) A copy of both sides of an IESR, UKC, or ARF registration certificate is required for sire or dam that is not registered with the ESCR. If a parent is shown as a step-in with IESR, the application may be referred to the ESCR Step-In Committee.

3) In cases where the dam is not owned by the breeder but is leased, it is also required to provide a copy of the signed lease contract.

A Puppy Registration Application will be issued for each puppy in the litter. Upon each puppy being sold or otherwise transferred, the Puppy Registration Application will be signed by the breeder and the new owner will submit the Puppy Registration Application, with the appropriate fee, to the ESCR for permanent registration. Alternatively, breeders may obtain permanent registration papers for an additional fee (per pup) at the time of litter registration.

6. Step-In Registration

The Step-In process offers a means of recognizing and registering purebred English Shepherds over one year of age who lack, for whatever reason, the documentation required to qualify for full registration. The Step-In program offers registration at three levels, based upon the amount of pedigree and background information available on an applicant.

Eligibility for Step-In registration will be determined through evaluation of ancestry, type, and working ability of applicants.

6.1 Step-In Application Process

The Step-In application process is outlined below. In general, the dog's owner will submit a regular application and fee to the Registrar, along with a cover letter describing the dog as an unregistered English Shepherd and explaining the dog's background and pedigree. The owner should also include clear photographs of the dog (each side view and a close up head shot), and copies of any other supporting documentation, such as bills of sale; registration certificates of relatives; photographs of relatives, including ancestors, littermates, or descendants; letters from breeder; and so forth. The goal is to connect these unregistered dogs to the historic, documented English Shepherd population. A completed ESC Working Trait Evaluation form may be required, depending upon the level of Step-In.

The Registrar will check the application to see if it meets the rules for registration as far as ownership and other guidelines are concerned. Then, the application is forwarded to the Step-In committee for evaluation. If the dog is accepted, it is entered into the registry and the database, assigned a registration number, which includes its step-in level. If the dog is not accepted, the application fee will be refunded with a letter of explanation.

Offspring of step-in dogs are automatically advanced from the lowest level of Step-In by each one (1) generation until they qualify for full registration. The Step-In Committee does reserve the right to request photographs of descendant generations. Offspring of level 3 dogs are fully registerable.

Application Overview: Applications for Step-In registration (for dogs over one year of age). Please submit the following:

- (a) Complete registration application
- (b) Provide proof of ancestry as described in 6.2

- (c) Provide supplementary information as follows:
 - i. documentation of working ability (see 6.3)
 - ii. documentation of type (see 6.4)
- (d) Payment of appropriate fee (refundable if application denied).

6.2. Documentation of Ancestry

The most basic element for determining ancestry is pedigree. Please provide as much information as possible regarding known ancestors -- name, location, breeder, descriptions/ photos, etc. Other documents that may help establish connection to the breed include breeder brochures, correspondence, articles, sales slips or other formal paperwork.

6.3. Documentation of Working Ability

One of the most distinctive English Shepherd characteristics is the dog's keenness to work in *partnership* with its owner and to *adapt* to the needs of the job at hand. All applicants are encouraged to complete the ESC Working Trait Evaluation form. In addition, the following may be used to supplement this area of the application:

- 1) Description of environment in which dog works.
- 2) Herding instinct test (particularly encouraged for applicants that do not live on farm)
- 3) Demonstration of working ability by third party observer: this may include a minimum 10 minute video of informal demonstrations at home, or video of participation in stock dog or herding dog trials.

6.4. Documentation of Type

Type is documented through photographs showing that the dog in question displays a general conformity to the ESC breed standard. Photographs may be digital or prints. If type is indistinct, additional photographs will be requested.

Dogs who have passed hip or other health screenings are encouraged to provide this information as well.

6.5. Step-In Committee

The Step-In Committee is charged with the responsibility of reviewing and scoring applications for step-in registration. The Step-In Committee will consist of three (3) or more members appointed by the Board of Directors. The Registrar is an ex-officio member of the Committee. The Step-In Committee will include at least one member with experience using English Shepherds for livestock work. The Step-In Committee will also include at least one breeder. A breeder will be considered someone who has produced at least one litter within the previous five (5) years or who has produced 3 or more litters of English Shepherds. It is recommended that members of the step-in committee have a minimum of five (5) years experience in the breed.

6.6. Review of Step-In Registration Applications

The protocol for reviewing dogs for Step-In registration will be as follows:

I. Dogs without documentation of registration (i.e., neither registered elsewhere nor out of registered ancestors)

A. Pedigree and available background information will determine level of Step-In registration if dog is approved after full review --

- 1) Dogs with one complete generation of pedigree or less -- Level One
- 2) Dogs with two complete generations of pedigree -- Level Two
- 3) Dogs with three or more complete generations of pedigree -- Level Three

B. All applicants are required to provide photos demonstrating type consistent with ESC breed standard (evaluated on pass/ fail basis)

C. A Working Trait Evaluation is required for approval at Levels One and Two and may be requested for Level Three at discretion of Step-In committee.

II. Dogs with some registration history but incomplete pedigree information

A. Pedigree and history evaluated as above with following exception:

- 1) Dogs may be advanced one level beyond that specified above based on history of registration with recognized registry.

B. All applicants are required to provide photos demonstrating type consistent with ESC breed standard.

C. A Working Trait Evaluation is required for approval at Levels One and Two and may be requested for Level Three at discretion of Step-In committee.

- 1) Working Trait Evaluation may support advancing dog an additional level beyond what is specified above.

7. Pedigree Submission

Submitting a pedigree to the ESC Registry database does not constitute registering the dog; it only provides pedigree information to serve as a foundation for providing pedigree information on registration certificates and research information for breeders or individuals on familial lines within the breed.

English Shepherd pedigrees are of value to the ESC Registry even if the dogs are not registered with the ESC Registry. Dogs may have been registered with another English Shepherd registry, or they may be unregistered. Dogs may be alive or deceased.

Pedigrees and other historical information should be submitted to the Registrar. An individual

submitting documentation to the Registrar does not need to be the owner of the English Shepherd(s).

We ask anyone with English Shepherd pedigree information, even if it is old historical information, to send it to the ESC Registrar. We especially desire copies of UKC, ARF, or IESR pedigrees. Handwritten pedigrees and pedigrees in other formats are also acceptable if accompanied with an explanation of their source(s). All pedigree information will be tagged as to the source of the information, and the source of the information will be available. Every effort will be made to investigate any conflicting information. If our investigation doesn't bring about a firm conclusion, conflicting information will be flagged as such until decisive evidence is provided.

8. Registered Names of Dogs

The person who owns the dog at the time the application for registration is submitted to the ESCR has the right to name it. Dogs that have been previously registered with another English Shepherd registry should retain the registered name used for those registrations whenever possible.

A dog's ESCR registered name will not be changed once the dog is entered into the Registry database and issued an ESCR registration number, except to correct an error made by the Registrar. A dog's registered name must be unique.

To facilitate research of pedigree lines, it is recommended that ESCR registered names adhere to a convention in which the kennel that produced the dog is recognized in the dog's ESCR registered name. ESCR registered kennel names may only be included in a dog's ESCR registered name if it is the ESCR Registered Kennel Name of the breeder of that dog. In this case blanket permission exists for the use of the kennel name in the dog's ESCR registered name, in a manner specified when the breeder registered their kennel name with the ESCR. Kennel names unregistered with the ESCR may be used in any registered name regardless of breeder of the dog.

If a kennel name is not registered with the ESCR, then the surname of the breeder may be used as part of the registered name if so desired. The surname of the owner is also allowable in the registered name.

If the dog's name on the application for registration is not unique, the Registrar has the option to add the owner's surname to the registered name to make it unique.

Registered names of dogs are subject to ESCR approval and these guidelines:

1) Name choices are limited to forty (40) letters. Spaces between words, numbers, apostrophes and hyphens are counted.

2) All letters in a dog's name are limited to the standard English alphabet. There are no restrictions on Arabic (1, 2, 3), cardinal (one, two, three) and ordinal (first, second, third) numbers that are spelled out. Diacritical markings (accent grave, accent acute, umlaut, etc.)

are not printed on Registration Certificates in a dog's name.

3) Derogatory, vulgar, and/or obscene language may not be used.

4) Champion or any other recognized title, either spelled out or abbreviated, is not allowed.

9. Transfer of Registration

Any person in good standing with the English Shepherd Club Registry may apply for transfer of registration to him of any registered dog acquired by him by supplying the English Shepherd Club Registry with such information and complying with such conditions as it shall require. The Transfer of Registration form is on the back of each ESCR Registration Certificate.

10. Kennel Names

Applications for the use of a kennel name with the English Shepherd Club Registry shall be made on the applicable form, accompanied by the appropriate fee and submitted to the ESCR Registrar.

Only the breeder, or an owner of a dog bred by that breeder, may use the kennel name registered with the ESCR absent written permission from the owner (breeder) of the ESCR registered kennel name when registering a dog. Such permission is implicit when the dog was bred by the breeder to whom the kennel name is registered. An owner of a kennel name registered with the ESCR can transfer the kennel name, or permission to use the kennel name, to another individual upon completing an ESCR Kennel Transfer Application form and submitting the form, along with the applicable fee, to the ESCR Registrar.

ESCR Registered Kennel Names are subject to ESCR approval and these guidelines:

1) Name choices are limited to thirty (30) letters. Spaces between words, numbers, apostrophes and hyphens are counted.

2) Derogatory, vulgar, and/or obscene language may not be used.

3) Champion or any other recognized title, either spelled out or abbreviated, is not allowed.

11. Record keeping and identification of dogs

The accuracy of the ESC Registry database depends on the accurate record-keeping and identification practices of ES breeders and owners. Best practices would require the breeder to provide to the buyer (new owner) a written and signed Bill of Sale at the time of purchase and the necessary paperwork for registration, including the dog's pedigree.

11.1 General Practices

Each person covered by these regulations must follow such practices as, consistent with the

number of dogs involved, will preclude any possibility of error in identification of any individual dog or doubt as to the parentage of any particular dog or litter.

Thus, if more than one dog is shipped to some new Owner or if a number of similar dogs are kept in a kennel, a system should be used, such as marking, tagging, tattooing or microchipping each dog, which will preclude any possible error in identities, and a record of the identifying information must be kept. Bitches in season must be so segregated from males that there can be no doubt as to the identity of the sire of any litter. Puppies from different litters must be so segregated, marked or identified that there can be no doubt as to the parents or age of a particular puppy, and the identifying information must be recorded.

11.2 Records

Breeders' written records are a source of reference for registration or transfer applications which have been made or may later be made to English Shepherd Club Registry, and to assure the accuracy of such applications. Records kept on a computer should also be maintained as printed copies (hard copy) .

For the sake of accuracy, records should be updated immediately when dog is acquired and delivered, and at time of mating, whelping or death. Records should be consecutive, accurate, up-to-date and maintained for at least five (5) years after the dog has died, has been sold or has been given away.

11.2.1 Records to be kept by Owners and breeders.

1) The Owner (and the lessee if a dog is leased) shall keep a record of each dog owned (or leased) which will show:

Breed

Registered name and number (or litter number if not registered)

Sex, color and markings

Date of birth

Names and numbers of sire and dam

Name of breeder

Name and address of person from whom **directly** acquired

Date of acquisition

Date and duration of lease, if any and when dog is sold, given away or dies:

Name and address of person to whom **directly** sold or delivered

Date sold or delivered or date of death

Kinds of papers and date supplied

In addition, the Owner (or lessee, if dog is leased at that time) shall keep the following breeding records:

2) Whenever dog is mated to another dog:

Date and place of mating

Names of persons handling mating

Registered name and number of dog to which mated

Name and address of its Owner

3) and (if a female) when resulting litter is whelped:

Date of whelping

Number of puppies whelped by sex and by color and markings

Litter registration number

Date of sale, transfer or death of each puppy so described

Name and address of person acquiring each puppy so described

Kinds of papers and date supplied

Registered name and number of each puppy registered by breeder

11.3 Inspection

The rules provide that the English Shepherd Club Registry or its duly authorized representative shall have the right to request records as identified in 11.2.1.

11.4 Penalties

The rules provide that the English Shepherd Club may refuse to register any dog or litter or to record the transfer of any dog, for the sole reason that the application is not supported by the records required by these regulations.

The rules also provide that the English Shepherd Club may suspend any or all privileges of any person who fails to observe the above regulations.

12. Multiple-Sired Litters

The ESC will consider the registration of litters with more than one sire, or litters for which the identification of the sire is in question. The registration must be based upon DNA Certification for the sire(s), dam, and all puppies. This policy is meant to ensure the integrity of the registry and allow for the registration of purebred dogs with DNA certified parentage.

13. Artificial Insemination Using Fresh Semen

The English Shepherd Club Registry will register a litter resulting from artificial insemination using fresh semen, provided both the sire and dam are present during the extraction of the semen and the insemination of the bitch and the litter is, in all other respects, eligible for registration.

13.1 Artificial Insemination Using Fresh Extended (Chilled) Semen

The English Shepherd Club will register a litter resulting from artificial insemination of the bitch using fresh extended semen provided the semen is extracted and extended by a licensed veterinarian; the insemination of the bitch is performed by a licensed veterinarian and the litter is eligible for registration in all other respects.

The Sire's Owner and Breeder need to sign the Litter Registration Application.

13.2 Artificial Insemination Using Frozen Semen

The English Shepherd Club Registry will register a litter resulting from the artificial insemination of the bitch using frozen semen provided the litter is, in all other respects, eligible for registration and the following conditions are met:

- 1) The sire must be DNA Certified.
- 2) The collector/ storer must comply with the ESCR regulations for record keeping and identification of dogs.
- 3) The Litter Registration Application form must be submitted containing the certifications completed by the Owner of the semen, the Owner of the dam and the veterinarian who performed the artificial breeding, together with the proper fee.

14. DNA Complaint Policy

Any person owning an English Shepherd registered or registerable by the ESCR who questions the recorded parentage of the dog or the litter may submit a complaint in writing to the ESCR requesting DNA testing. The complaint must be accompanied by a deposit sufficient to pay for the cost of DNA testing of the sire and/or dam in question. The breeder (person accused of presenting incorrect parentage) of the litter will be informed that he/she is required to DNA the dog(s) in question and that should the allegations not be sustained, the deposit will be used to cover his/her costs in complying with the required testing. If the allegations are sustained, the deposit will be returned to the individual submitting the complaint. Should the breeder refuse to DNA testing of the dog(s) in question, he or she will lose registration privileges. Additionally, if the allegations are sustained, the breeder may be required to provide DNA testing for other registered dogs where the registration is called into question by the results of the original DNA testing or lose registration privileges.

In cases where parentage is shown to be incorrect, the ESCR will work with customers to correct the registrations of dogs and litters when possible. The responsible parties will be billed for registration correction fees. Registration services will be placed on hold until payment is made. When corrections cannot be made, the necessary registrations will be canceled.

15. Loss of Registration Privileges

The ESC Board of Directors may deny registration services to any person for specific offenses. The ESCR will not register any litter or individual dog nor transfer registration of any dog owned by the suspended person to another person. Additionally, ESCR will not register any litter of dogs owned by any other party if the sire of the litter was owned by a suspended person and if the mating occurred after the date of notification of suspension. All applications are held in abeyance pending completion of the inquiry. Any transaction which occurs during the term of suspension will never be accorded registry service.

An individual may have registry privileges permanently revoked for:

- 1) Conviction or no contest plea on animal cruelty charges.
- 2) A finding that he or she has deliberately and willfully defrauded the ESC Registry by providing false information when registering a dog, recording a litter, or recording a pedigree.
- 3) Attempt by any subterfuge to register or record the transfer of an animal that has been sold, held, or marketed by a commercial animal broker or retailer

15.1 Hardship Policy

When an inquiry has been brought against a breeder (seller), or the breeder (seller) has been suspended, the ESCR will consider transfer and registration of dogs and litters owned by innocent third parties. The buyer must provide dated documentation (such as a canceled check or veterinary record) that show the dog(s) was acquired before an inquiry was instituted or the the breeder (seller) was suspended. The parentage of the dog or litter must not be in question, and all other requirements for registration must be met.

15.2 Hardship Policy Concerning Innocent Third Parties Involved in Circumvention

Innocent third parties who purchase dogs from individuals who have acquired registration by circumventing their suspension will not have the registration of their dogs/litters canceled if the parentage of their dogs is not in question

16. Contract Disputes

The ESC Registry cannot act as arbitrator in "dog deals." Because the Registry is not party to the original agreement between buyer and seller, the ESC Registry has no standing to intervene at a later date. The ESC Registry's advises buyers and sellers to have a written agreement that clearly spells out the terms of the contract and the penalties for violating those terms. Breeders, owners and buyers of dogs are well-served by the provision of a signed Bill of Sale which describes the dog and terms of sale.

The ESC Registry will not become involved in ownership disputes or other legal disputes. Registration of a dog, kennel name, or litter with the ESC Registry includes an implicit automatic agreement not to involve ESC Registry in legal disputes.