

# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Of The

## AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

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*Adopted 22 October 1884*

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### CONSTITUTION

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This Association shall be “The American Kennel Club”

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#### ARTICLE I.

All regularly organized Clubs or Associations of the United States and British American Provinces, under whose auspices Bench Shows or Field Trials of dogs have been held, or which have been formed wholly or in part for the purpose of holding Bench Shows or Field Trials, shall be eligible to membership.

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#### ARTICLE II.

The object of this Association shall be to secure uniformity in rules governing Bench Shows and Field Trials, the revision of standards, the decision of such appeals as may be taken from the decisions of the managers of Bench Shows and Field Trials held by members of this Association, and the preparation and enforcement of such rules and regulations as shall be required for the punishment of all cases of improper conduct on the part of the managers, judges, or exhibitors at any Show or Trial held by the members of this Association; also the advancement of fellowship and a higher standard of action among breeders, Exhibitors and Sportsmen...

#### ARTICLE III.

The members of the Association shall be represented at each meeting by delegates whose appointment shall be certified to in writing by the secretaries of the several members, which certificate shall be delivered to the Secretary of this Association.

The delegates need not necessarily be members of the club of clubs they represent, and the delegate or delegates may represent several members.

#### ARTICLE IV.

The Association shall be governed by a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and an Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE V.**

The President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting, and hold office until the next annual meeting and until their successors are elected.

The same individuals may be elected as Secretary and Treasurer.

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer and of so many individuals as there shall be clubs or associations members of this Association. The several members of the Executive Committee other than the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, shall be elected by the several members of this Association, and their election certified as in the case of delegates; the certificates shall be delivered to the Secretary of this Association at least two weeks in advance of the annual meeting. They shall hold office as provided in the case of the President and other officers.

Each of the officers shall be at the time of his election a regular member in good standing of one of the clubs or associations of which this Association is composed.

## **ARTICLE VI.**

The President, and in his absence, the First and Second Vice-President shall preside at all meetings of this Association, and of all committees of which he shall be a member.

The Secretary shall take and preserve minutes of all meetings, notify members of their election, conduct the correspondence of the Association and perform such other duties as are usual.

The Treasurer shall receive the funds of the Association and disburse the same under the direction of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall conduct all the Association except such matters as shall appertain exclusively to the duties of the other officers.

All officers shall serve without compensation.

## **ARTICLE VII.**

There shall be an annual meeting of the Association in the spring of each year. The time and place shall be selected by the Executive Committee and notice sent by the Secretary to each member of the Association at least four weeks prior to the date of holding same.

## **ARTICLE VIII.**

The President may at any time and must on written demand of any three members of the Association, call a special meeting thereof. A notice for a special meeting shall specify the time and also the purpose for which it may be called, and such a meeting shall not consider or take action upon any matter other than that specified in said notice. He cannot, however, be compelled to summon the members to more than one special meeting in any calendar month.

## **ARTICLE IX.**

The Executive Committee may conduct its business by correspondence among its members without assembling under such rules and provisions as may be provided by the By-Laws.

**ARTILCE X.**

At any meeting of the Association five members shall constitute a quorum.

**ARTICLE XI.**

At any meeting of the Executive Committee five shall constitute a quorum, except when voting on admission of members.

**ARTICLE XII.**

Clubs eligible to membership must be proposed by a member of the Executive Committee and elected by the committee. Two negative notes shall exclude the candidate.

**ARTICLE XIII.**

This Constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Association upon the vote of two-thirds of the members represented threat. Written notice of the proposed amendment shall be given to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. All election officers shall be by ballot, a plurality of votes shall be sufficient to elect.

## BY-LAWS

- I. The order of business at all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee shall be:
  1. Election of officers
  2. Secretary's Report
  3. Treasurer's Report
  4. Reports of Committees
  5. Election of Members
  6. Miscellaneous business
  
- II. The Executive Committee shall appoint from its members a Committee on Credentials, whose duty it shall be to investigate the qualifications of any candidate for membership and report the same to the Executive Committee. They shall also appoint from their own number a Committee on Discipline, whose duty it shall be to investigate all complaints and protests which may be made to the Association and report their findings, with such recommendation as they may desire, to the Executive Committee. They shall also appoint as many committees as they may deem desirable to revise and adopt standards for all breeds of dogs. In appointing such committees they shall not be confined to members of the clubs and associations forming this Association. The President shall be ex officio a member of all special committees except Committees on Standards.
  
- III. In all business of the Executive Committee when conducted by correspondence, the propose or initiator of any resolution or other business shall deliver to the Secretary of the Association a written statement of the resolution or other business which he desires to have considered by the committee, together with as many copies thereof as there are members of the committee. The Secretary shall thereupon deliver to each member of the committee on copy thereof, accompanied by a notice that the member addressed must within one week return the same with a written approval, disapproval, or proposed amendment, or be deemed to have approved thereof. In case any member of the committee prepared an amendment, he shall forward to the Secretary as many written copies thereof as there are members of the committee. The Secretary shall deliver them to the several members with a notice as above provided. Upon the expiration of the period provided for in said notices the Secretary shall deliver to the President the entire correspondence with a report detailing all that has been done in the matter, whereupon the President shall make such ruling as may be demanded by the circumstances and notify the Secretary thereof. He may, if deemed desirable by him, direct further correspondence or call a meeting of the committee. The Secretary shall enter upon his minutes a full report of the proceedings.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. The term dog where used in these rules is general in its application, and includes bitches, unless they are otherwise mentioned.
2. All dogs entered for competition or exhibition only shall be entered in the name of the bona fide owner. Such entries must be identified by name of dog, its age, it known, the names of its sire and dam; if the name of a dog which has won a first prize has been changed, its name at the time of winning any and every such prize, and the place thereof, as well as its present name, must be given. If the names of its sire and dam are not known, it may be entered "Pedigree unknown."
3. If dog shall be entered without being identified, as directed in Rule 2, it shall be disqualified from competition.
4. Puppies may compete in grown, classes, except in classes where they are specialty excluded, and will be judged as if matured.
5. A dog which has when a puppy won a first puppy class, is not thereby disqualified from competition in a class where first-prize winners are excluded.
6. Dogs can be entered for the special prizes when eligible, by they must in all cases be previously entered in their regular class.
7. No dog can be entered for competition in more than one regular class.
8. A dog to compete in the champion class must have won three first prizes in open classes at Bench Shows given under the auspices of clubs, members of this Association. And a dog having won three first prizes at above shows cannot compete in an open class when there is a champion class for its kind, but must compete in such champion class.
9. A dog to compete in the extra champion class must have won two first prizes in the champion classes at shows recognized in Rule 9 (sic) but it must have at least two competitors to advance in standing, otherwise it wins the prize alone. A dog having won two first prizes cannot compete in a champion class when there is an extra champion class for its kind, but must compete in such extra champion class.
10. A dog affected with mange or other contagious disease shall be disqualified from competition, and may, at the discretion of the Managers or Superintendents, be removed from the show. A competent person shall be appointed by the mangers to pass judgment as to the disease of dogs.
11. In any class where there is one or more dogs entered, the judge shall award the prizes only according to merit, withholding such as his judgment dictates.
12. The decision of the judges will be final in all cases, except where mistake, fraud, misrepresentation or collusion can be shown. In such case the Managers, or such referee as they may appoint, must decide all cases, and the dog may be rejudged.
13. All disputed questions, except those of merit, in any way connected with the judging, will be referred to, and decided by, the Managers.
14. No question involving the merit of a dog to receive a prize can be brought before, or be determined by, the Managers.
15. All protests and charges must be made in writing, and be delivered to the Managers or Superintendents as soon as possible after the awards are made.
16. The Managers will meet daily to receive complaints, and must decide the same as soon as practicable thereafter during the show.
17. Any person who misconducts himself or herself, or has misconduct himself or herself in any way in connection with dogs, dog shows, or field trials may, in the discretion of the Managers, be disqualified from exhibition or competition at these shows. Such disqualification shall recognize by al the members of this Association, and such person

18. The Managers or Superintendents shall have the right to exclude or remove any dog from the show for any cause appearing to be sufficient.
19. The Managers or Superintendents will use due diligence for the care and safety of all dogs exhibited. Watchmen will be kept on duty day and night, but it must be distinctly understood by all exhibitors that the management will not be responsible for loss or damage to any dog exhibited, whether the result of accident or other cause.
20. It is desired that with each entry the exhibitor will state the price for which he will sell his dog. A prohibitory price will be permitted. All transactions must be between the owner or his representative and the purchaser. The Managers or Superintendents, unless requested, will not interfere nor assume any responsibility in the matter.
21. An entry fee of.... Will be charged for each dog entered, and it must in all cases accompany the entry. It includes care and feed for dogs during the exhibition.
22. All entries must be made on blanks furnished by the Superintendent, and can be had on application at his office.
23. The entries close on..... and as soon thereafter as practicable each exhibitor will receive a ticket of identification, and a numbered tag corresponding with the stall number of his dogs. When the dog is brought to the exhibitor hall the tag must be attached to the collar, and the person accompanying the dog must show his ticket of identification before the animal will be received. Therefore, exhibitors are requested not to lose their tags, not put them on the dogs, when practicable, until just before presenting them at the door. In case of dogs coming by express, the tags must be firmly nailed to the crates.
24. Each exhibitor will receive a ticket of identification for all dogs entered, which must be carefully preserved, as no dog will be permitted to pass out of the building at night until its owner shall deposit \$5 and surrender this ticket to the check clerk, both of which will be returned on the return of the dog next morning before 9 o'clock. If prize winners are taken and not returned, the
25. No dogs will be received unless supplied with a suitable collar and chain.
26. The show will be open from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M. each day.
27. The judging will commence promptly each morning at 10 o'clock, or sooner if practicable, and continue until 1 o'clock and also from 2 P.M. until 6 P.M. During these hours no dog shall be taken from its stall, not even by its owner, and if any dog is not found in its stall when called for by the judge, the judging will proceed without it. This rule will be rigidly enforced that the judging may not be retarded. Owners are requested to be near their dogs, and when the class is called to bring their animals into the judging ring. In the absence of the owner, attendants will take the dog into the ring.
28. Notice of the awards will be attached to the stalls of the prize winners as soon as practicable after the awards are made.
29. Exhibitors will be furnished with a season ticket free.
30. No dog can be permanently removed from the building except by consent of the Managers of Superintendents.
31. Dogs shipped by express must be prepaid and have a label stating from whom shipped, also name of station and express company, that they may be properly returned.
32. Previous prize winnings, pedigrees or other mention, shall not be posted in kennels of prize winning dogs until after their respective classes have been judged.
33. Each member of the Association shall appoint their judges, arrange prize lists, form of catalogues, assume its own financial responsibility and arrange such other details as may properly come under its individual management.
34. Other rules and regulations not inconsistent with the constitution and by-laws may be adopted by the members of this Association.