

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB**

**Adopted Philadelphia
May 20, 1885**

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.

The name of this organization shall be "The American Kennel Club."

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 appeals which 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 rules and regulations necessary for the punishment of all cases of improper conduct on the part of the managers, judges, or exhibitors at any bench Show or field Trial by the members of this Association; also to adopt and maintain such measures as shall tend to the mutual benefit and protection of its several members.

Deleted: such

Deleted: as

Deleted: such

Deleted: as shall be required

Deleted: the advancement of fellowship and a higher standard of action among breeders, Exhibitors and Sportsmen...¶

ARTICLE II.

Section 1. All regularly organization clubs or associations in the United States and British American Provinces, under whose auspices bench shows or field trials have been held, or which shall be formed wholly for the purpose of holding bench shows or field trials, are eligible to membership.

Section 2. All clubs or associations forming this Association shall annually appoint or elect one delegate to the National Association, whose election shall be certified to in writing by the Secretary of the club or association which he represents, which certificate shall be delivered to the Secretary of the National Association at its regular meeting. A person to be eligible to act as delegate or proxy for a club or association, whose regularly elected member or representative is absent, must be a member of a club, one of the members of this Association, but in no case shall any delegate act as proxy for more than one other member of this organization.

ARTICLE IV.

The officers of this Association shall be a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and an Executive Committee, consisting of one delegate for each club, members of this Association. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer shall be elected annually by ballot by the delegated members of this Association. Officers of the American Kennel Club shall not be privileged to vote upon business before the Executive Committee, unless regularly elected delegates from their clubs except the President, who shall have the casting vote in case of a tie. Provided that

all organizations, members of this Association, that do not hold bench shows or field trials within two years, dating from Jan. 1, 1885, or actual date of their admission, shall not have representatives in Executive Committee meetings, nor its members be eligible to office. Upon holding a bench show or field trial the usual representatives shall be allowed.

ARTICLE V.

The President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at the annual meeting, and shall hold office until the next annual meeting or until their successors are elected. Each of the officers shall be, at the time of their election, regular members in good standing of a club, one of the members of this Association, and shall serve without compensation.

ARTICLE VI.

The President shall preside at all meetings of this Association. He shall have power to call a special meeting at any time when the interests of the Association require. The Vice-President, in the order of their election, shall, in the absence of the President, preside at meeting of this Association.

ARTICLE VII.

The Secretary shall keep records of all meetings of the Association, make all calls for meetings, take charge of and keep a roll of membership, of all papers belonging to the Association, and do any other business proper for his office, or directed by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Treasurer shall receive all moneys belonging to the Association, and disburse same under the approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX.

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall conduct all the business of the Association, decide all disputes, arbitrate upon all matters affecting the welfare of the several clubs forming this Association, and make such rules and regulations as may be considered advisable for the advancement of the interests of dogs, dog shows and field trials.

Section 2. All vacancies in the offices of the Association may be filled by the Executive Committee until the next annual meeting. The Executive Committee may assess the members of this Association in such sums as are necessary to defray its expenses. A club failing to pay said assessment within sixty days shall forfeit representation.

ARTICLE X.

Section 1. The annual meeting of this Association shall be in the spring of each year. The time and place of meeting to be selected by the Executive Committee, and notice sent by the Secretary [to the secretaries of the several clubs forming this Association at least three weeks prior to the said meeting.](#)

Section 2. The President shall, [on written request of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee,](#) call a special meeting. The notice for such meeting shall specify the particular purpose for which said meeting was called, and said meeting shall not consider or take action upon any matter other than that specified in said notice. The Executive Committee may conduct its business by correspondence among its members without assembling, [under rules and regulations hereinafter provided.](#)

Section 3. [At any regular or special](#) meeting of this Association, five members in person shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Clubs eligible to membership must be proposed by a member of the Executive Committee and elected by that committee. [Three](#) negatives shall exclude applicant. [The election shall be by ballot.](#)

ARTICLE XI.

This Constitution may be [revised](#) or amended at any [annual](#) or special meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the members [of the Association,](#) but no such amendment shall be considered unless the same shall have been properly submitted to the members of the Association at least two weeks prior to such meeting, [except by unanimous consent.](#)

BY-LAWS

Section 1.

The following order or business shall be observed at all meeting of this Association.

1. [Roll call](#)
2. [Reading of minutes of previous meetings.](#)
3. Secretary's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. [Report of standing committees.](#)
6. [Report of special committees](#)
7. [Unfinished business](#)
8. Election of [officers](#)
9. [New business](#)
10. [Adjournment](#)

Deleted: and of the Executive Committee shall be:

Section 2.

The Executive Committee shall appoint from its members a Committee on Credentials whose [duties](#) shall be to investigate the qualifications of [all](#) candidates for membership and report same to Executive Committee. They shall appoint from their own number a Committee on Discipline, whose [duties](#) shall be to investigate all complaints and protests which may be made to the Executive Committee. They shall appoint [such](#) committees as they [find necessary](#) to revise and adopt standards for all breeds of dogs, and [all other committees desirable for the promotion and general welfare of the interests of this Association.](#)

Section 3.

In all business of the Executive Committee conducted by correspondence, the proposer 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 Executive Committee. The Secretary shall at [once deliver](#) to each member of the Committee one copy thereof, accompanied by a notice that said members shall within one month return the same with a written approval, disapproval, or amendment. In case of amendment, the [proposer](#) shall [fill all the requirements necessary to the original proposition](#), and the Secretary shall [serve the different members with certified copies thereof](#). Upon expiration of the period for in said notices, the Secretary shall deliver to the President the entire correspondence with [detailed](#) report of all [connecting proceedings, and](#) the President shall make a ruling [in accordance with said correspondence](#), and notify the Secretary, [who shall in turn notify each member, giving the result of the vote and the manner in which each club voted. If necessary, the President shall](#) direct further correspondence [or advise](#) the call of a special meeting [to consider the subject](#). The Secretary shall enter upon his minutes full report of such proceedings.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The term “dog” where used in these rules is general in its application.
2. All dogs entered for competition or exhibition only shall be entered in the name of the bona fide owner. Such entry must be identified by name of dog, [its date of birth](#), and if known, the name of its sire, dam and [breeder](#); otherwise it must be entered “pedigree unknown”, if the name of a dog which has won a first prize has been changed, its name at time of winning any and every such prize, and the place thereof, must be given.
3. If a dog shall be entered without being identified, as directed in Rule 2, it shall be disqualified from competition.
4. Puppies may [be entered](#) in the grown classes [in addition to the puppy class by the payment of an extra entrance fee](#).
5. [A prize won in a puppy class, does not count as a win under the champion rule](#).
6. [Dogs to be eligible for special prizes must in all cases be entered in their regular classes, and no dog eligible for special prizes can be withdrawn from competition, unless it has been stated on entry blanks, “Will not compete for special prizes”. Stud dogs and brood bitches, with their progeny, may compete for such special prizes as may be offered, but the progeny must be entered in regular classes](#).
7. A dog to compete in the champion class must have won three first prizes at bench shows given under the auspices of clubs members of this Association. A dog having won three first prizes as above, cannot compete in an open class when there is a champion class for its kind, but must compete in such champion class.
8. [Any dog entered in a champion class must have stated on its entry blank at least three winnings, with the date of each, to show that it is eligible to such classes](#).
9. [In estimating the number of prizes a dog has won shall be calculated up to 12 o'clock noon of the day previous to the day of closing entries for the show](#).
10. [Dogs that have won in a Champion Class shall be continued in said class](#).
11. A dog affected with mange or other contagious disease must be disqualified from competition, and be removed from the show. A competent person shall be appointed by the managers to pass judgment as to the disease of dogs.
12. [The judge may withhold such prizes as his judgment may dictate](#).
13. [In miscellaneous classes judges will award prizes only to dogs of a recognized breed, that have no regular classes assigned. Dogs that have a regular class provided for them will not be allowed to compete in the Miscellaneous Class](#).
14. [Dogs that have been erroneously entered may be transferred by the judge to their proper classes. If such classes have been judged, they shall not be reopened](#).
15. The decision of the judges shall be final in all cases, except where mistake, fraud, misrepresentation, or collusion can be shown. In such cases the managers, or such referee as they may appoint, must decide all cases, and the dog must be re-judged.
16. All protests and charges must be made in writing, and be delivered to the Managers or Superintendents as soon as [practicable](#).
17. Any person [guilty of misconduct, or has been guilty of misconduct](#), 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 be recognized by all members of this Association, [until the](#)

person or persons disqualified shall appeal to, and the case has been decided by the Executive Committee. The disqualification of the owners will apply to all dogs connected in the perpetration of the fraud.

18. A castrated dog or spayed bitch shall be disqualified from competing, or from receiving a prize if awarded. Total or partial blindness shall have great weight against a dog.
19. 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.
20. Other rules and regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws, may be adopted by the members of this Association for the government of their shows.