

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Of The

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Adopted 5 January 1909
Amended 19 February 1912
Amended 18 February 1913
Amended 16 September 1913
Amended 13 February 1917
Amended 19 February 1924
Amended May, 1927

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

All Clubs or Associations which have held Dog Shows or Field Trials under rules of the American Kennel Club or Specialty Clubs which are formed for the improvement of any breed or breeds of dogs shall be eligible to membership.

Each member is entitled to appoint a male delegate, who, upon his acceptance by the Club, shall exercise all the voting powers of the member appointing him until said appointment has been withdrawn or he shall cease to be a delegate.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I. – OFFICERS

The officers of the Club shall be President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be annually elected by the Board of Directors.

The President and two Vice-Presidents must be directors.

The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.

The president shall be ex-officio member of all committees.

ARTICLE II. – PRESIDENT

The President, or in his absence the ranking Vice-President, shall exercise the usual function of a presiding officer and shall call special meetings of the Club and Directors. In the absence of the President and the Vice-Presidents a presiding officer for the meetings of the Club, Board of Directors or Executive Committee shall be chosen without ballot. The President shall, with the Secretary, execute all contracts on behalf of the Club and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Club or Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III. – SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep the records of all the meetings of the Club, Board of Directors, Executive and all other Committees (except the Advisory Committee on the Pacific Coast) and shall issue calls for the same. He shall have the custody of the seal of the Club. He shall keep a roll of members, delegates and associate subscribers, and shall have charge of all records and papers of the Club. He shall transact such other business and perform such further duties as may be directed by the Club, the Board of Directors, the Executive or Standing Committees. His salary shall be fixed and determined by the Finance Committee subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV. – TREASURER

The Treasurer shall keep books of accounts of the business of the Club in such manner as may be directed by the Finance Committee. He shall be charged with the collection, custody and control of the funds of the Club, subject to the supervision and instructions of the Finance Committee. He shall turn over to the Finance Committee as and when it shall direct, all funds of the Club, which in the opinion of such Committee are not necessary for its current business. He shall transact such other business and perform such further duties as may be directed by the Club, Board of Directors, Executive or Finance Committee. He shall have power to employ, under the supervision of the Finance Committee such clerical aid as may be necessary. He shall be required to execute a bond of indemnity in favor of the Club in an amount satisfactory to the Finance Committee. His salary shall be fixed and determined by the Finance Committee subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V. – DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Club shall be governed by a Board of Directors of thirty members.

The incorporators shall constitute the Board of Directors until the annual meeting in 1909, or until their successors are elected. At the annual meeting in 1909, or any adjournment thereof, the delegates shall elect from their own number thirty directors, six of whom shall hold office until the annual meeting of 1910, six of whom shall hold office until 1911, six of whom shall hold office until 1912, six of whom shall hold office until 1913, and six of whom shall hold office until 1914, and at each annual meeting thereafter the delegates shall elect six directors to hold office for five years, or until their successor are appointed and elected.

Section 2. The Directors shall have the general management of the business and affairs of the Club and generally perform all duties appertaining to their office.

Section 3. Twelve members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings.

There shall be a regular meeting of the board in February, May, September and December.

Ten days' notice of said meetings must be given to each Director by mail.

Special meetings of the Board shall be called by the Secretary on direction of the President or a Vice-President or upon the written request of five Directors.

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Five days' notice of such meetings must be given to each Director by mail, unless a Waiver of Notice of such meeting shall have been signed by every Director.

Section 4. The Board of Directors elected by the delegates at the annual meeting of 1909, or any adjournment thereof, shall, at its first meeting, elect, and thereafter the Board shall annually elect from their number, at their first meeting after the annual meeting of the Club, a Chairman of the Board, who in the absence of the President and Vice-President shall preside at all meetings of said board and shall have all the powers of the President of the Club, except that of calling meetings of the Club and executing contracts; and the following Standing Committees:

- Membership Committee, consisting of five members
- Rules Committee, consisting of five members
- License Committee, consisting of five members
- Stud Book Committee, consisting of three members
- Finance Committee, consisting of three members
- Publication Committee, consisting of three members
- Field Trial Committee, consisting of three members
- Law Committee, consisting of three members

They may by a majority vote of the entire board appoint such additional standing committees as in their judgment shall be necessary to facilitate and carry out the objects of the Club. They may appoint, in order to facilitate business, one or more representatives with jurisdiction in such territory as may be designated by said Board.

No director shall be elected as Chairman of more than one standing committee.

Section 5. In the event of an incumbent of office (excepting Secretary and Treasurer and members of the Pacific Coast Advisory Committee) ceasing to be a Director, his term of office, or membership of a Committee, shall then and there cease.

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Any vacancy in office or committee, shall be filled by the Directors by a majority vote of those present at any meeting. Any vacancy in the Board shall be likewise filled by a like vote, until the next annual meeting of the Club.

Section 6. They shall have power, to prefer charges and to suspend until the final determination of such charges made against it or them, any association, club, licensed show, individual, person or persons, for alleged misconduct in connection with dogs, dog shows or field trials.

Section 7. They shall have power to prefer charges against any association, club, licensed show, individual, person or persons, for alleged misconduct in connection with dogs, dog shows, field trials, or conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the American Kennel Club, and pending the final determination of any such charges, may suspend any such person or body against whom charges are pending.

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Section 8. They shall have power to consider and determine charges preferred by Bench Show or Field Trials Committees.

Section 9. They shall have power to appoint from time to time Trial Boards of not less than three members each to hear such charges in the first instance as may be referred to such Trial Boards.

Section 10. Any director who shall absent himself from two consecutive regular meetings of the Board without being excused by a majority vote of said Board, shall be deemed to have resigned and shall cease to be a director.

Section 11. Any director may be designated by the president to act as a substitute member of any standing committee, to take the place of an absent member of such committee if requested so to do by the Chairman or Acting Chairman of such committee and any action taken by such substitute member shall be deemed the same as if taken by a regular member of such committee.

ARTICLE VI. – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. There shall be an Executive Committee, consisting of the President, the two Vice-Presidents and the Chairman of each standing committee.

Section 2. It shall have general supervision of the standing committees of the Club, and if it shall appear at any meeting of the Committee that any Standing Committee, through inability to obtain a quorum or for any other reason, has failed to hold a meeting or has neglected to perform the duties imposed by these by-laws on such committee, then in any such event the Executive Committee shall be, for the time being, vested with and may exercise all the powers of and act as such delinquent Standing Committee, and any action of the Executive Committee so taken shall have the same force and effect as if taken by the Standing Committee whose functions it is exercising. It shall have the power to investigate, or appoint a committee to investigate any matters that shall be brought to its attention, and if in its opinion such action is warranted may refer the same to a Trial Board, in which event the matter so referred shall have the same standing as if charges had been preferred.

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It shall also have the power to appoint an Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, who by their direction may fulfill all the duties of the Secretary and all the duties of the Treasurer.

Section 3. It shall have power to hear, review and finally determine any appeal which may be taken from the decision of a Trial Board.

On the hearing of any appeal it may, in its discretion, at the Club's expense, summon witness or a member of any Trial Board. It shall, within two weeks after appeal is made, name a date for the hearing, notice of such date to be sent to all parties in interest, by registered mail at least twenty days' prior to the date named.

Section 4. It shall consider and report upon charges made against suspended members or delegates which may be referred to it by the Club.

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Section 5. It shall consider and have power to review the acts of all committees, and determine any matter which may be referred to it by the Board of Directors.

In the intervals between the regular meetings of the Board of Directors, it shall exercise all the power and authority of such Board.

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It shall have all the powers of the Board of Directors between the meeting of said Board

There shall be regular meetings of the Committee on the third Tuesday of each month.

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Five days' notice of said meetings must be given to each member of the Committee by mail.

A meeting of the Committee may be held at any time without notice provided a Waiver of Notice of such meeting shall have been signed by every member of the Committee.

Five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings.

ARTICLE VII. – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Membership Committee shall consist of five members and shall investigate all applications for membership and credentials of delegates; three members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

Section 2. Meetings of the Committee shall be held on the third Tuesday of each month and shall be called by the Secretary of the Club by giving five days' notice of the meeting to each member of the Committee by mail. He shall send with such notice a list of all applications for membership and credentials of delegates filed with him, and which shall have been published as herein provided, and the members of said committee may vote thereon by mail. The committee shall report their findings to the next regular meeting of the Club.

A meeting of the Committee may be held at any time without notice provided a Waiver of Notice of such meeting shall have been signed by every member of the Committee.

Section 3. A meeting of the Committee may be held at any time without notice provided a Waiver of Notice of such meeting shall be signed by every member of the Committee.

All applications for membership or delegates must be published in the earliest possible number of the Kennel Gazette appearing after their receipt by the Secretary, and in the next succeeding number. Any one desiring to object to any application for membership or delegate may do so in writing to the Membership Committee. Any such communication shall be secret and confidential.

After such publication, such application for membership and delegates shall be referred to the Committee on Membership, whose proceedings thereon shall be secret and confidential and no member of said Committee shall be questioned as to the action of the Committee.

Section 4. It shall at its meeting in December of each year nominate candidates for election as delegates representing the associate subscribers in accordance with Article XIX, Section 4.

Section 5. It shall suggest to the Club at the December meeting of each year names of five delegates to act as a Nominating Committee in conformity with Article XVIII, Section 3.

ARTICLE VIII. – RULES COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Rules Committee shall consist of five members and shall examine all proposed amendments or alterations to the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules or Regulations and report thereon to the Club for action.

Section 2. All matters in dispute as to interpretation of the Rules or Regulations shall be submitted to it for its construction, which shall be decisive unless reviewed by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Three members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings, which shall be called by the Secretary of the Club at the request of any member or by order of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX. – LICENSE COMMITTEE

The License Committee shall consist of five members.

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It shall have power to approve or disapprove any or all application for a license under which to hold a Dog Show or Field Trials and must act upon the same within thirty days after the same has been filed with the Club.

It shall have power to issue and revoke Licenses to Judges and Superintendents of shows. It shall also have the power to determine and fix the rating of each breed of dog to qualify for Championship, and may from time to time change such rating. Three members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings which shall be called by the Secretary of the Club, at the request of any member, or by order of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X. – STUD BOOK COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Stud Book Committee shall consist of three members. It shall have supervision and control of the Stud Book, the registration of dogs, kennel names and the transfer thereof, and determine the manner in which such records shall be preserved.

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Section 2. It shall determine all matters which may arise affecting the pedigree and registration.

Section 3. It shall in all matters be subject to the action of the Board of Directors, to which it shall report as occasion may require.

Section 4. Two members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings, which shall be called by the Secretary of the Club at the request of any member or by order of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XI. – FINANCE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Finance Committee shall consist of three members. It shall have supervision of the funds, assets and property of the Club and shall determine how much thereof shall be left in the hands or under direct control of the Treasurer for current needs, and how the balance thereof shall be deposited or invested, and it shall have power to withdraw or transfer said deposits, or dispose of or change said investments for the benefit of the Club. It shall in all matters be subject to the action of the Board of Directors, to which it shall report as occasion may require.

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Section 2. It shall report annually to the Club.

Section 3. Two members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings, which shall be called by the Secretary of the Club at the request of any member, or by order of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XI. – PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Publication Committee shall consist of three members and have the supervision and regulation of the printing of all publications of the Club.

Section 2. Two members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings, which shall be called by the Secretary of the Club at the request of any member.

ARTICLE XIII. – FIELD TRIAL COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Field Trial Committee shall consist of three members and have supervision of all matters pertaining to Field Trials, which do not conflict with the duties of other Committees.

Section 2. It shall make such recommendation as to the Field Trials as it deems desirable.

Section 3. Two members shall constitute a quorum at all meetings, which shall be called by the Secretary of the Club at the request of any member.

ARTICLE XIV. – TRIAL BOARDS

Section 1. Trial Boards shall be appointed from time to time by the Board of Directors, and shall consist of three members for each Board. In case of one or more members being unable to act in a particular case, the President of the American Kennel Club may appoint a substitute or substitutes for such case.

Section 1. They shall have power to hear and decide by a majority vote of the entire board, matters submitted to them, and shall have power to fine, not to exceed twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars, or to suspend for a period not more than six months, or recommend, to the Board of Directors the penalty of disqualification or fines exceeding twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars. They shall also have power to recommend to the said Board of Directors the removal of suspensions and disqualifications. continue or remove the suspension or impose the penalty of disqualification.

Section 2. They shall keep complete minutes of its sittings

Section 3. Their decision shall be in writing signed by all members attending and have annexed thereto all Exhibits and papers offered before it. All decisions, together with complete copies of its minutes, and testimony taken, shall be filed with the Secretary of the Club within ten days of the date of the rendition of any decisions. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Club to at once notify in writing all parties in interest of the decision of a Trial Board.

Section 4. An appeal from a decision of a Trial Board may be made to the Executive Committee. Notice of such appeal must be made to the Executive Committee in writing within thirty days' after the receipt of such notice by the Secretary of the American Kennel Club, accompanied by a deposit of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars, which shall be forfeited if said appeal is not sustained.

ARTICLE XV. – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Applications for membership must be made in writing on forms approved by the Membership Committee and to be furnished by the Secretary, and must be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's constitution and by-laws, list of officers and members, the admission fee and dues for the current year. Members may be elected only at regular meetings of the Club. Their election shall be by ballot and the affirmative vote of four-fifths of all delegates present at the meeting shall be necessary to elect. If an applicant fail of election, such candidate shall not be again considered for membership within one year thereafter.

Section 2. The admission fee for all members joining after the election to membership in the American Kennel Club, as provided by the Charter of this Club shall be two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).

Section 3. The annual dues of members shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) payable January 1st in each year. If not paid in said month of January, the member so failing to pay shall stand suspended from all privileges of the Club on February 1st, and if said dues remain unpaid at the time for the next annual meeting of the Club, held in said month of February, the member so in arrears shall thereby forfeit all its rights as such member, and shall on said date cease to be a member of the Club.

Such members of the American Kennel Club (elected members of this Club as provided by its Charter), as shall have been paid their dues to that Club for the year 1909, and the incorporators, shall be exempt from the payment of any dues for that year.

ARTICLE XVI. – DELEGATES

Section 1. Any member desiring to be represented by a delegate must obtain from the Secretary a printed form of credentials approved by the Membership Committee and fill out and cause the same to be signed by its President or Vice-President and Secretary, and forward the same to the Secretary of this Club.

Section 2. Delegates of members must be balloted for at a regular meeting of the Club, and a four-fifths vote of members present shall be necessary to elect. No delegate can represent more than one member. If a delegate fails of election, he shall not again be eligible for election within one year thereafter. A delegate shall cease to act as such, as soon as the credentials of his successor shall have been acted upon by the Membership Committee.

ARTICLE XVII. – MEETINGS OF DELEGATES

Section 1. The annual meeting shall be held in February of each year, and there shall be regular meetings in May, September and December.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called at such times as may be necessary, as hereinbefore provided, or upon the written request of twenty delegates to the President, who shall send out notices of such meeting within five days of the receipt of such request. At special meetings, no other business shall be transacted than that specified in the call, which shall be mailed to each delegate ten days before said meeting. Notice of the annual and regular meetings shall be published in the Gazette and mailed to each delegate and member at least fifteen days before such meetings.

Section 3. At the December meeting of the delegates in each year, a Nominating Committee of Five shall be elected to name individuals to be elected as Directors to fill vacancies in the Board of Directors at the annual meeting the following February. It shall be the duty of the Membership Committee to suggest the names of individuals to be elected as such Nominating Committee, but other nominations can be made at the December meetings by acclamation.

Section 4. At all meetings of this Club twenty delegates shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The delegates shall have sole power to alter or amend the By-Laws and
Constitute, elect members, delegates and directors (except as provided in Article V,
Section 5.) and to make, alter or amend rules governing Dog-Shows and Field-Trials.

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ARTICLE XVII. – DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The Club shall have the power, by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at any regular meeting, to suspend any member or delegate, or remit or continue the suspension imposed by the Directors, for conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club, or for violation of its Constitution, By-Laws or Rules. The order of suspension must then be referred to the Executive Committee who shall investigate the charges and report on the same at the next regular meeting of the Club when the delegates shall act upon such report and by a majority vote of those present reinstate, continue the suspension for a stated time or expel such member or delegate. The Executive Committee must send to such suspended member or delegate by registered mail, a copy of the charges and a notice of the meeting at which said charges are to be heard, at least thirty days prior thereto.

Section 2. No member under suspension shall be represented by its delegates and no delegate under suspension shall act for a member, nor in any official capacity for the Club during the period of suspension.

Section 3. Any association, club, license show, individual, person or person, may prefer charges against another for alleged misconduct in connection with dogs, dog-shows or field trials, except in cases of monetary transactions where fraud is not strongly evident.

Charges with specifications must be preferred in duplicate and sworn to before some qualified person, and forwarded with a deposit of Ten Dollars, which shall be forfeited if said charges are not sustained, except when preferred by the Secretary at the request of the Club or Board of Directors.

Section 4. Any association, club, licensed show, individual, person or person, may be suspended by the Board of Directors for a period not exceeding sixty days for alleged misconduct in connection with dogs, dog-shows, or field trials, pending action of the Trials Board on charges preferred, or to be preferred.

Section 5. No association, club, licensed show, individual person or person shall be disqualified without due notice and copy of the charges and specifications having been given with an opportunity to be heard in defense.

Any person who may have been suspended or disqualified may appeal for reinstatement upon paying a fee of five dollars. ~~Until said fee has been paid, the appeal shall not be acted upon.~~

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ARTICLE XIX. – ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR DELEGATES

Roll Call
Reading of minutes
Report of Secretary
Election of members, delegates and directors in order named

Report of Treasurer (at annual meeting)
Report of Secretary
Report of Standing Committees
Report of Special Committees
General Business

ARTICLE XX. – ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR DIRECTORS

Reading of minutes
Report of Secretary
Election of officers, Chairman and members of Standing Committees, in order named
Reports of Secretary and Treasurer, in order named
Report of Standing Committees
Report of Special Committees
General Business

ARTICLE XXI. – CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Section 1. The Rules of Cushing’s Manual shall govern meetings of the Club and Directors so far as they are applicable and not inconsistent with these By-Laws
Section 2. No person not a delegate or officer of the Club, except employees, shall be present at a meeting without consent of the majority present.
Section 3. All elections shall be by ballot

ARTICLE XXII. – ALTERATIONS OF CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND RULES

Section 1. The Constitution or By-Laws may be amended at the annual meeting of the Club only, and notice of any proposed amendment must be filed sixty days prior thereto. The proposed amendment, with report of the Rules Committee, to which it must be referred, shall be published in the Gazette, prior to the annual meeting.

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Section 2. The Rules may be altered at any meeting of the Club, provided such proposed alteration is referred to the Rules Committee, and its report published in the Gazette prior to said meeting, but no new Rule shall become effective until the expiration of ninety days following its passage except by unanimous consent of the delegates present.

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Section 3. A three-quarters vote in the affirmative of delegates present at a meeting is necessary to adopt amendment to Constitution and By-Laws or alternation of the Rules.