

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
February, 1928
February, 1929
February, 1931

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by the Club, shall exercise all the voting powers of the member appointing him until said appointment has been withdrawn or he shall cease to be a delegate.

Deleted: 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.

Vacancies in any of the above office shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Directors by a majority vote of those present at any meeting, subject to the provisions of Article II.

ARTICLE II. – PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

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. ~~In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of President, the First Vice President shall become President for the unexpired term of office, and the Second Vice President shall become First Vice President for the unexpired term of office, and the office of Second Vice President shall be filled by vote of the Board of Directors.~~

Deleted: or the Executive Committee

ARTICLE III. – SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep the records of all the meetings of the Club, Board of Directors, 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 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 President, the Board of Directors. He shall have power to employ, under the supervision of the President, such clerical as may be necessary. His salary shall be fixed and determined by the Finance Committee subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Deleted: Executive and all other Committees (except the Advisory Committee on the Pacific Coast)

Deleted: , the Executive or Standing Committees

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 Board of Directors. He shall be charged with the collection, custody and control of the funds of the Club, subject to the supervision and instructions of the Board of Directors. He shall transact such other business and perform such further duties as may be directed by the President or Board of Directors, Executive or Finance Committee. He shall have power to employ, under the supervision of the President 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 Board of Directors. His salary shall be fixed and determined by the Finance Committee subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

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Deleted: Finance Committee

ARTICLE V. – DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Club shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting, except as hereinafter provided, of twelve (12) members, Such Board shall be elected as follows.

Deleted: of thirty members.¶

At the annual meeting in the year 1931 or at any adjournment thereof the Delegates shall elect from their own number twelve (12) Directors, there 93) of whom shall be elected to hold office until the annual meeting in the year 1932, three (3) of whom shall be elected to hold office until the annual meeting in the year 1933, three (3) of whom shall be elected to hold office until the annual meeting in the year of 1934 and three (3) of whom shall be elected to hold office until the annual meetin in the year

Deleted: 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.

1935; at each annual meeting following that in 1931 the Delegates shall elect three (3) Directors to hold office for four (4) years or until their successors are elected. In the event that at any such annual meeting following that in the year 1931 no Directors shall be elected, the Directors then in office, whose terms except for the provisions hereof would have expired at the time of said annual meeting, shall continue in office until their successors shall have been elected.

Provided, however, that the present members, of the Board of Directors shall continue to be members of the Board of Directors in addition to the twelve members to be elected as above provided until, but only until, the termination of their respective terms by expiration, resignation, removal or otherwise.

Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled by the Directors by a majority vote of those present at any meeting; such Director shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the Club.

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

There shall be a regular meeting of the board each month, date of which shall be determined by the Board, of which said meeting seven (7) days' notice must be given to each Director by mail.

Special meeting of the Board shall be called by the Secretary on direction of the President or upon the written request of three (3) Directors. 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 may appoint from time to time such Committee as in their judgement may be necessary to facilitate and carry out the objects and business of the Club; and may appoint in order to facilitate business one (1) or more representatives in such territory and with such jurisdiction as may be designated by said Board.

Section 5. They shall have power, by two-thirds vote of those present at any meeting, to suspend until the next meeting of the Club, any member or Delegate, for violation of its Constitution, By-Laws or Rules, or for conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club.

Deleted: Twelve

Deleted: in February, May, September and December

Deleted: . . . 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. ¶

Deleted: 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 such jurisdiction. [1]

Deleted: 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.¶

Any vacancy in office or committee, except as provided for in Article 2, shall be filled by the Directors by a majority vote of those present at any meeting. [2]

Deleted: 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 6. 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 without privileges of the club from any such person or body against whom charges are pending. Deleted: 7
- Section 7. They shall have power to consider and determine charges preferred by Bench Show or Field Trials Committees, Clubs, or individuals. Deleted: 8
Deleted: .
- Section 8. They shall have power to appoint from time to time Trial Boards of not less than three (3) members each to hear such charges in the first instance as may be referred to such Trial Boards. Deleted: 9
- Section 9. 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. Deleted: 10
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- Section 10. They shall have the power to investigate, or appoint a Committee to investigate, any matters that may be brought to their attention, and if in their 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. Deleted: 1
Deleted: 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.
- Section 11. They 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 12. They shall have the power to hear, review and finally determine any appeal which may be taken from the decision of a Trial Board, or Bench Show Committee.

On the hearing of any appeal they may, in their discretion, at the Club's expense summon witnesses or a member of any Trial Board of Bench Show Committee. They shall, within two weeks after the 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 (20) days prior to the date named.
- Section 13. They shall consider and report upon charges made against suspended members or delegates which may be referred to them by the Club.
- Section 14. They shall suggested to the Club at the December meeting of each year names of five (5) Delegates to act as a Nominated Committee in conformity with Article IX, Section 3.

Section 15. They shall examine all proposed amendments or alterations to the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules or Regulations and report thereon to the Club for action.

Section 16. All matters in dispute as to interpretation of the Rules and Regulations shall be submitted to them for their construction, which shall be decisive.

Section 17. They shall have power to approve or disapprove any or all application for show dates and for licenses under which to hold Dog Shows or Field Trials and must act upon the same within thirty days after the same has been filed with the Club.

They shall have power to issue and revoke licenses to Judges, Superintendents of Shows and Handlers. They 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. They shall have power to issue such regulations as they may deem necessary for the governing of holding of dog shows. They shall have the power to sanction or disapprove applications for informal shows.

Section 18. They shall have supervision and control of the Stub Book, the registration of dogs, kennel names and the transfers thereof, and determine the manner in which such records shall be preserved.

Section 19. They shall determine all matters which may arise affecting pedigrees and registration.

Section 20. They 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 they shall have power to withdraw to transfer said deposits or dispose of or change said investments for the benefit of the Club.

Section 21. A Director shall cease to be a Director after the first meeting of the Board of Directors subsequent to his ceasing to be a Delegate, unless said Board of Directors as said meeting vote to retain him as a Director until his term of office expires; but his Directorship may thereafter be discontinued at any future meeting of the Board of Directors by a majority of vote of those present.

ARTICLE VI. – TRIAL BOARDS

Deleted: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Trial Board 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 substitute for such case. In case of the absence of one or more members of said Board the remaining member or members may hear and determine a case if the defendant consents thereto.

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 withhold the privileges of the club 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 said Board of Directors the restoration of privileges and the removal of disqualifications.

They shall have power to disqualify any person or withhold from any person all the privileges of the Club for a period of not more than six months or to recommend to the Board of Directors the penalty of disqualification or withholding of privileges for a longer period for improper or disorderly conduct during a hearing or a trial.

Section 2. They shall keep minutes of their sittings.

Section 3. Their decisions shall be in writing signed by all members attending, and have annexed thereto all exhibits and papers offered before them. 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 Board of Directors. Notice of such appeal must be made to the Board of Directors 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 VII. – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Applications for membership must be made in writing on forms approved by the Board of Directors 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.

Section 2. All applications for membership must be made in writing on forms approved by the Board of Directors to be furnished by the Secretary and

again in the next succeeding number. After such publication such application for membership shall be referred to the Board of Directors whose proceedings thereon shall be secret and confidential and no member of said Board shall be questions as to its action thereon.

- Section 3. Anyone desiring to object to an applicant for membership may do so in writing to the Board of Directors and such communication shall be held as secret and confidential.
- Section 4. The Board of Directors will make a report of their action on the application for membership at the next regular meeting of the Club.
- Section 5. 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 the Delegates present at the meeting shall elect. If an applicant fail of election such applicant shall not again be considered for membership within one year thereafter.
- Section 6. 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 7. The annual dues of members shall be determined by the Board of Directors, subject to approval by the delegates, and shall be payable January 1, 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 1, and if said dues shall remain unpaid at the time of 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.
- Section 8. No Club, other than a Breed Specialty Club, shall be eligible for membership until and unless it shall have held at least three shows in consecutive years.

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. The name of such Delegate must be published in the earliest possible number of the GAZETTE appearing after its receipt by the Secretary and again in the next succeeding number. Anyone desiring to object to such Delegate may do so in writing to the Board of Directors and such communication shall be considered secret and confidential. The

Board shall report its action on such credentials at the next regular meeting of the 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. A Delegate shall cease to act as such as soon as the credentials of his successor shall have been acted upon by the Board of Directors. If a Delegate fails of election, he shall not again be eligible for election within one year thereafter.

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Deleted: 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 IX. – MEETINGS OF DELEGATES

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- 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 the 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.

ARTICLE X. – DISCIPLINE

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- 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 Board of Directors 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.

Deleted: Executive Committee

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.

Charges with specifications must be preferred in duplicate and, except when preferred by the Secretary at the request of the Club or Board of Directors, must be sworn to before some qualified person, and forwarded with a deposit of Ten (\$10) Dollars, which shall be forfeited if said charges are not sustained, but which shall be returned if the charges are sustained or if the Club refuses to entertain jurisdiction thereof.

Deleted: or Executive Committee

Section 4. The privileges of the Club may be withheld from any association, club, licensed show, individual, person, or persons by the Board of Directors for alleged misconduct in connection with dogs, dog shows, or field trials, pending the trial upon charges preferred, or to be preferred.

Section 5. No association, club, licensed show, individual person or person shall be disqualified, or have the privileges of the Club withheld without due notice and copy of the charges and specifications having been given with an opportunity to be heard in defense, except as otherwise provided in there By-Laws and in the Rules of the American Kennel Club.

Any association, club, licensed show, individual, person or persons who shall, after receipt of due notice and a copy of the charges and specifications, fail or refuse to appear or to present a defense at the time and place designated for the trial of said charges, may be suspended or have the privileges of the Club withheld by order of the Trial Board before which said charges were to be heard on account of such failure or refusal, without regard to the merits in connection with the charges preferred, for a period of six months or until such time as he or it shall appear or present a defense or on recommendation of the Trial Board may be suspended or

have the privileges of the Club withheld by order of the Board of Directors for a longer period.

Deleted: or Executive Committee

Any association, club licensed show, individual person, or persons who may have been suspended or disqualified or from whom the privileges of the Club have been withheld, may apply for reinstatement or restoration of privileges upon paying a fee of five (\$5) dollars. Until said fee has been paid, the appeal shall not be acted upon.

ARTICLE XI, – ORDER OF BUSINESS,

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Deleted: 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 XII, – ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR DIRECTORS

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- 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 XIII, – CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

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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.

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

Deleted: Section 3. All elections shall be by ballot¶

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- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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 such jurisdiction in such territory as may be designated by said Board.

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

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.

Any vacancy in office or committee, except as provided for in Article 2, 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.