

The CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS
Of
THE AMERICAN BLOODHOUND CLUB, INC.

as ratified on July 15, 1992 and approved by The American Kennel Club

Constitution

Article I

Name and Objects

Section 1 The name of the Club shall be the American Bloodhound Club, Inc.

Section 2 The objects of the Club shall be:

- (a) to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Bloodhounds and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- (b) to encourage the organization of independent local Bloodhound Specialty Clubs in those localities where there are sufficient fanciers of the breed to meet the requirements of the American Kennel Club;
- (c) to urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which Bloodhounds shall be judged;
- (d) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, tracking tests, trailing trials, and obedience trials;
- (e) to conduct sanctioned matches and specialty shows, tracking tests, and obedience trials under the rules of the American Kennel Club.

Section 3 The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

Section 4 The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out the objects.

Bylaws

Article I

Membership

Section 1 **Eligibility.** There shall be three types of membership.

- (a) Active members: Individual or family membership shall be open to all persons 18 years of age and older who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club, and who subscribe to the purposes of the American Bloodhound Club. An individual or family membership shall have one vote.
- (b) Junior members: Junior membership shall be open to those under 18 years of age. The junior member shall enjoy all the privileges of membership except for voting or holding office.
- (c) Honorary members: Individuals who have instituted, performed or accomplished some outstanding service in the interests of Bloodhounds may be elected to Honorary membership by a 2/3 majority vote by mail of the Board of Directors. The Honorary members shall enjoy all the privileges of membership for life.

Section 2 **Dues.** Initiation dues for an Active membership or a Junior membership must accompany the application for membership and shall be accepted as payment of dues for the year. Initiation dues submitted after January 1st shall be applied to the following American Bloodhound Club fiscal year.

The amount of the initiation dues and annual dues for Active and Junior memberships shall be set by a 2/3 majority vote by mail of the Board of Directors at least 30 days after the proposed change has been announced to the membership in one of the official American Bloodhound Club publications or in a separate mailing.

Annual dues shall be payable on or before June 1st of each year.

Changes for all dues must be finalized on or before April 1st of any given year in order to become effective for the ensuing year.

Honorary members shall be exempt from payment of initiation dues or annual dues.

No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. The Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year by May 1st. Dues shall be considered delinquent after September 1st.

The maximum allowable dues for an active membership shall be \$50.00. Dues for junior members shall not exceed 50 percent of the current active membership dues.

Section 3 **Election to Membership.** Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the constitution and bylaws and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name and address of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of two American Bloodhound Club members in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit initiation dues payment for the current year.

The name and address of the applicant will be published in one of the official American Bloodhound Club publications at least four weeks prior to the Board of Directors vote by mail.

Applicants may be elected by 2/3 majority vote by mail of the Board of Directors.

An application which has received a negative vote by the Board of Directors may be presented by one of the applicant's endorsers at the next annual meeting of the American Bloodhound Club and the Club may vote to accept such applicant by a favorable vote of 3/4 of the members present.

Section 4 **Termination of Membership.** Memberships may be terminated:

- (a) by resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Corresponding Secretary; but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club and they are incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
- (b) by lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 90 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a member be entitled to vote at any Club meeting if his or her dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- (c) by expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these bylaws.

Article II

Meetings

Section 1 **Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of the American Bloodhound Club shall be held in conjunction with the National Specialty. If there is no National Specialty for a particular year, the annual meeting of the American Bloodhound Club shall be held within a period beginning with the Saturday preceding Memorial Day and ending with the Monday following July 4th on a rotational basis from one section of the country to another. The hour and place will be designated by the Board of Directors. There shall be three other regular meetings of the American Bloodhound Club each year at a time and place designated by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Written notice of each meeting shall be published in one of the official American Bloodhound Club publications or may be mailed by the Corresponding

Secretary to each member at least 30 days prior to the meeting. The quorum for meetings shall be 10 per cent of the members in good standing.

Section 2 **Special Club Meetings.** Special Club meetings may be called by the President or by a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present at a meeting of the Board or who vote by mail, and shall be called by the Corresponding Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by 15 members of the Club who are in good standing. Such meetings shall be held at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Corresponding Secretary at least 14 days and not more than 30 days prior to the meeting. The notice of the meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other Club business may be transacted. The quorum for Special Club meetings shall be 10 per cent of the members in good standing.

Section 3 **Board Meetings.** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such times and places as are designated by the President or by a majority vote of the entire Board. Written notices of each meeting shall be mailed by the Corresponding Secretary to each member of the Board at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for a Board Meeting shall be a majority of the Board voting in person or by mail.

Section 4 The Board of Directors may conduct its business by mail through the Recording Secretary.

Article III

Directors and Officers

Section 1 **Board of Directors.** General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer who shall be elected to serve one year terms. The immediate Past President shall be a nonvoting member of the Board of Directors in an *ex officio* status for the year following his or her term in office. Five other Directors shall be elected to serve two year terms, two being elected in even-numbered calendar years and three being elected in odd-numbered calendar years. The Officers and Directors shall be elected as provided in Article IV, and shall serve until their successors are elected. Other than the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries and Treasurer, no member serving a full two year term as a Director shall be elected to consecutive terms in any one office.

Section 2 **Officers.** The Club's Officers, consisting of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Club and the Board and its meetings.

(a) The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these bylaws.

(b) The First Vice President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence, or incapacity. The Second Vice President shall have the duties

and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's and First Vice President's death, absence, or incapacity. In the death, absence, or incapacity only of the First Vice President, the Second Vice President would automatically assume the position of First Vice President.

- (c) The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify Officers and Directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.
- (d) The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all votes taken by mail, and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.
- (e) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club. He or she shall deposit the same in a bank approved by the Board, in the name of the Club. His or her books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Board and he or she shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item, receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting he or she shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded, the expense to be paid by the American Bloodhound Club.
- (f) The Delegate to the American Kennel Club shall be elected by the membership to a two year term of office. The Delegate shall attend all meetings of the American Bloodhound Club but shall exercise those privileges appurtenant to the Board only if an elected member of the Board as set forth in this article. It shall be the duty of the Delegate to attend all Delegate meetings of the American Kennel Club, and to vote on all matters presented there according to the advice and instructions of the Board of Directors of the American Bloodhound Club. The Delegate to the American Kennel Club shall not be limited to the number of consecutive terms of office he or she may serve.

Section 3 **Vacancies.** Any vacancy occurring on the Board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of all the members of the Board; except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the First Vice President, and the office of the First Vice President shall be filled automatically by the Second Vice President, and the resulting vacancy in the office of Second Vice President shall be filled by the Board.

Article IV

The Club Year, Voting, Nominations, Elections

Section 1 **Club Year.** The Club's fiscal year shall begin on June 1st and end on May 31st.

The Club's official year shall begin on August 1st and end on July 31st. The elected officers and directors shall take office August 1st. Each retiring officer and director shall turn over to his or her successor in office all properties and records relating to that office by September 1st.

Section 2 **Voting.** At the annual meeting, or at a special meeting of the Club, voting shall be limited to those members in good standing who are present at the meeting, except for the annual election of Officers, Delegate and Directors, amendments to the constitution and bylaws and the standard for the breed, and such other specific questions as the Board of Directors may decide to submit for decision of the members by written ballot cast by mail in accordance with Section 4 (d) of this Article. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

Section 3 **Annual Election.** The election of Officers and Directors, and Delegate to the American Kennel Club (who may but need not be a Director or Officer of the Club) shall be conducted by ballot. Ballots, to be valid, must be received by the Recording Secretary by July 1st. Ballots shall be counted by three inspectors of election who are members in good standing and who are neither members of the current Board nor candidates on the ballot and who shall be appointed by the Board to count ballots. The Board may designate an outside accounting firm to receive and count the ballots in accordance with Section 4 (d) of this Article. The ballots must be counted and the results mailed to the current Officers and Board by July 15th. The person receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The nominated candidates for the other positions on the Board of Directors who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected. If any nominee, at the time of the meeting, is unable to serve for any reason, such nominee shall not be elected and the vacancy created shall be filled by the new Board of Directors in the manner provided by Article III, Section 3.

Section 4 **Nominations and Ballots.** No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated in accordance with these bylaws. A Nominating Committee shall be chosen by the Board of Directors before January 1st. The Committee shall consist of five members from different areas of the U.S.A. and two alternates, all members in good standing, no more than one of whom may be a member of the current Board of Directors. The Board shall name a chairman for the Committee. The names of the Nominating Committee shall be included in one of the official Club publications prior to February 1st. The Nominating Committee may conduct its business by mail.

(a) The Nominating Committee shall nominate from among the eligible members of the Club, one candidate for each office and the other positions on the Board, as specified in Article III, Section 1, and a candidate for the Delegate to the American Kennel Club and shall procure the acceptance of each nominee so chosen. The Committee shall consider the geographical representation of the membership on the Board to the extent that it is practicable to do so. The Committee shall then submit its slate of candidates to the Recording Secretary by March 1st. The name of each candidate and the name of the state in which he or she resides, shall be included in one of the Club's official publications on or before April 1st, so that additional nominations may be made by the members if they so desire.

(b) Additional nominations of eligible members may be made by written petition addressed to the Recording Secretary and received at his or her regular address on or before May 1st signed by

five members and accompanied by the written acceptance of each such additional nominee signifying his or her willingness to be a candidate. Except for the position of Delegate no person shall be a candidate for more than one position and the additional nominations which are provided for herein may be made only from among those members who have not accepted a nomination of the Nominating Committee.

- (c) If no valid additional nominations are received by the Recording Secretary on or before May 1st the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected on July 15th and no balloting shall be required.
- (d) If one or more valid nominations are received by the Recording Secretary on or before May 1st he or she shall, on or before June 1st, mail, first class, to each member in good standing a ballot listing all the nominees for each position in alphabetical order, with the names of the states in which they reside, together with a blank envelope and a return envelope addressed to the Recording Secretary (or outside accounting firm) marked "Ballot," and bearing the name of the member to whom it was sent. The Ballots shall be returned to the Recording Secretary by July 1st. So that the ballots may remain secret, each voter, after marking his or her ballot, shall seal it in the blank envelope which in turn shall be placed in the second envelope addressed to the Recording Secretary (or outside accounting firm). The inspectors of election shall check the returns against the list of members whose dues are paid for the current year prior to the opening of the outer envelopes and removing the blank envelopes and shall certify the eligibility of the voters.
- (e) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided above.

Article V

Committees

Section 1 The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows, tracking tests, trailing trials, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects.

Section 2 Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board upon written notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose service has been terminated.

Article VI

Discipline

- Section 1* **American Kennel Club Suspension.** Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club shall automatically be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period.
- Section 2* **Charges.** Any member may prefer charges against another member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed. Written charges with specification must be filed in twelve (12) copies with the Recording Secretary together with a deposit of \$250.00 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board or a Committee following a hearing. The Recording Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at a Board meeting, and the Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or of the breed. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct that would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or of the breed it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges it shall fix a date of a hearing by the Board or a Committee of not less than three members of the Board, not less than 3 weeks nor more than 6 weeks thereafter. The Recording Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his or her own defense and bring witnesses if he or she wishes.
- Section 3* **Board Hearing.** The Board or Committee shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by the complainant and defendant, the Board or Committee may by a majority vote of those present suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing, or until the next annual meeting if that will occur after six months. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his or her fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting which considers the recommendation of the Board or Committee. Immediately after the Board or Committee has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the decision and penalty, if any.
- Section 4* **Expulsion.** Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at the annual meeting of the Club following a hearing and upon the recommendation of the Board or Committee as provided in Section 3 of this Article. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his or her own behalf though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his or her own behalf. The meeting shall then vote by secret

written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the annual meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted the suspension shall stand.

Article VII

Amendments

Section 1 Amendments to the constitution and bylaws and to the Standard for the breed may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Recording Secretary signed by twenty percent of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the membership (via one of the official Club publications). Members shall have a specified period of sixty days to offer comments or suggestions to the Bylaw committee and/or the Board (through the Recording Secretary) before a final draft is submitted to the membership for a vote. Amendments must be submitted with recommendations of the Board by the Recording Secretary for a vote within four months of the date when the petition was received by the Recording Secretary.

Section 2 The constitution and bylaws and the Standard for the breed may be amended at any time provided a copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed by the Recording Secretary to each member in good standing on the date of mailing, accompanied by a ballot on which he or she may indicate his or her choice for or against the action to be taken. The notice shall specify a date not less than 30 days after the date of mailing by which date the ballots must be returned to the Recording Secretary to be counted. The favorable vote of 2/3 of the members in good standing who returned valid ballots within the time limit shall be required to effect any such amendment.

Section 3 No amendment to the constitution and bylaws or to the Standard for the breed that is adopted by the Club shall become effective until it has been approved by the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club.

Article VIII

Dissolution

Section 1 The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the members. In the event of the dissolution other than for purposes of reorganization of the Club whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the Club nor any proceeds thereof nor any assets of the Club shall be distributed to any members of the Club but after payment of the debts of the Club its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs selected by the Board of Directors.

Article IX

Order of Business

Section 1 At meetings of the Club or Board, the order of business so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Recording Secretary
- Report of the Corresponding Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of Committees
- Election of new members
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment