

FLATHEAD KENNEL CLUB OF MONTANA, INC.
PO Box 2547, Kalispell, MT 59904

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I
Names and Objects

- Section 1. The name of the Club shall be "Flathead Kennel Club of Montana, Inc." (the Club)
- Section 2. The objects of the Club shall be:
- a. to further the advancement of all breeds of pure bred dogs;
 - b. to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of all breeds of the pure dogs and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and obedience trials;
 - c. to conduct sanctioned matches, dog shows, obedience trials, and any other events for which the Club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club.
- Section 3. The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any 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 these objects.

BYLAWS
ARTICLE I
Membership

- Section 1. *Eligibility.* There shall be four types of memberships for application (as defined in the Glossary on page 8) 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, constitution, and bylaws of the this Club.
- While Membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the Club's primary purpose is to be representative of the breeders and exhibitors in its immediate area.
- Section 2. *Dues.* Membership dues shall not exceed \$50 per year, payable on or before the 30th of November of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of September, the Treasurer shall send each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year.

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

All applications shall be filed in duplicate with the Secretary and Treasurer and each application is to be read at the first meeting of the Club following its receipt. At the next Club meeting the application will be voted upon and affirmative votes of 2/3 of the members present, and voting by secret ballot at that meeting, will be required to elect the applicant.

All applicants must be present for the first and second reading of their applications. Secretary will notify applicants by mail or e-mail within 10 days of the results of the voting. Absence of the applicants at regular Club meetings for a period of 4 meetings will be considered abandoned and the application fee will remain in the general fund. Applicants for membership who are rejected will have the application fee returned to the applicant. Applicants for membership, who have been rejected by the Club, may not reapply within six months after such rejection.

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

- a. *by resignation.* Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Obligations other than dues are considered a debt to the Club and must be paid in full prior to resignation.
- b. *by lapsing.* A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid as of the January general meeting. However, the Board may grant an additional grace period until March 1st (60 days) to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any Club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- c. *by expulsion.* A membership may be terminated by expulsions as provided in Article VI of the bylaws.

ARTICLE II

Meeting and Voting

Section 1. *Club Meetings.* Meetings of the Club shall be held each month in the greater Kalispell area at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by Board of Directors. Notice of each such meeting shall be sent by the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

Section 2. *Special Club Meeting.* Special Club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five members of the Club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Kalispell area at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Notice of such a meeting shall be sent by the Secretary at least five days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other Club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

- Section 3. *Board Meetings.* Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held each month in the greater Kalispell area at such place, date, and hour as may be designed by the Board. Notice of each meeting shall be sent by the Secretary at least five days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.
- Section 4. *Special Board Meetings.* Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Kalispell area at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such a meeting. Notice of such meeting shall be sent by the Secretary at least five days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.
- Section 5. *Voting.* Each member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club at which the member is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any Club meeting or elections.

ARTICLE III

Directors and Officers

- Section 1. *Board of Directors.* The Board shall be comprised of the officers and three other persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for one-year terms at the Club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.
- Section 2. *Officers.* The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Club and its meetings 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 the President in addition to those particularly specified in these bylaws.
 - b) The Vice President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence, or incapacity.
 - c) The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club; have charge of the correspondence, notify the members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors to their election to office, keep a roll of members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.
 - d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club. The Treasurer shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board in the name of the Club. The books at all times shall be open to the inspection of the Board and the Treasurer shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting an accounting of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Director shall determine.
 - e) The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person, in which case the Board shall be comprised of four persons.
- Section 3. *Vacancies.* Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of the members of the

Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a special Board meeting called for that purpose; except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by the Board.

ARTICLE IV

The Club Year, Annual Meetings, and Elections

- Section 1. *Club Year.* The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December.
- The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting and shall continue through the election at the next annual meeting.
- Section 2. *Annual Meeting.* The annual meeting shall be held in the month of January at which officers and board members for the issuing year shall be elected by secret ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office properties and records relating to office within 30 days after the election.
- Section 3. *Elections.* The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The nominated candidates for other three positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of vote for such positions shall be declared elected.
- Section 4. *Nominations.* No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. During the month of September, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee members and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a chairman for the committee and it shall be such person's duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before October 1st.
- a) The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and three candidates for the three other positions on the Board and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary by October 15th.
 - b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall, at least two weeks before the November meeting, notify each Club member of the candidates so nominated.
 - c) Additional nominations may be made at the November meeting by any member in attendance, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when their name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.
 - d) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

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, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership, and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees always shall be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special committees also may 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 full membership of the Board upon notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

ARTICLE VI

Discipline

Section 1. *American Kennel Club Suspension.* Any member who is suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period.

Section 2. *Charges.* An individual member may prefer charges against another individual member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club.

Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$25 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing. The 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. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interest of the Club, 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 not less than three weeks or more than six weeks thereafter. The Secretary promptly shall send one copy of the charges and the specifications 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 own defense and may bring witnesses.

Section 3. *Board Hearing.* The Board 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 complainant and defendant, the Board may by a majority vote of those present reprimand or suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. 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 fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting which considers the Board's recommendation. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its finding shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the Board's decision and penalty, if any.

Section 4. *Expulsion.* Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at a meeting of the Club following a Board hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and Board's finding and recommendation, and shall

invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf. The members shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

- Section 1. Amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary and signed by 20% 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 members with recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.
- Section 2. The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 secret vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.
- Section 3. No amendment to the constitution and bylaws that are 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. *Dissolution.* The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the members in good standing. In the event of the dissolution of the Club other than for purposes of reorganization 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, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting permit, shall be as follows:
- Roll Call
 - Minutes of last meeting
 - Report of President
 - Report of Secretary
 - Report of Treasurer
 - Report of committees
 - Election of officers and board (at annual meeting)
 - Election of new members
 - Old business

- New Business
- Adjournment
- Section 2. At meeting of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:
 - Reading of minutes of last meeting
 - Report of Secretary
 - Report of Treasurer
 - Reports of committees
 - Old Business
 - New Business
 - Adjournment

ARTICLE X

Parliamentary Authority

- Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised,” shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any other special rules of order the Club may adopt.

ARTICLE XI

Previous Bylaws

- Section 1. *Previous Bylaws.* All previous constitution, bylaws, and amendments thereto are hereby revoked. This constitution and bylaws shall be effective from date of approval of The American Kennel Club.

GLOSSARY

Member in good standing – An individual who is not suspended by The America Kennel Club or their Club and whose dues for the year are already paid.

Types of Membership (as stated in Article I, Section 1 of the Bylaws):

Regular (Individual) – Enjoys all Club privileges including the right to vote and hold office.

Household – Two (2) adults residing in the same household, each eligible to vote and hold office and may also include junior members, as defined below.

Associate or Newsletter – Entitled to all Club privileges except voting, office holding, and club awards (offered to individuals who live outside of the Club's area; also offered to individuals who live in the Club's area but are not active).

Junior – Open to children under 18 years of age; a non-voting, non-office holding membership which may automatically convert to regular membership at age 18.

Honorary – An individual who has made significant contributions to the Sport, Breed or the Club and is recommend by the Board and approved by the membership. Honorary members pay no dues and are not eligible to vote, but can maintain regular or household membership if they pay dues.

Uppermost limits for dues – In order to avoid frequent bylaws amendment, an uppermost limit should be included for each type of membership, in addition to when and by whom the dues are set each year.

Reprimand – A written warning to a member after charges have been filed in accordance with the bylaws and it is determined that the member's conduct was not severe enough to warrant a suspension of a recommendation for expulsion.

Notices – All Club notices must be sent either via the US Postal Service or e-mail in accordance with the current American Kennel Club policy.

Votes on Bylaw Amendments – After amendments are voted upon, the Club must provide The American Kennel Club with the number of members in good standing as well as the date of the vote, and the number who voted for and against. A copy of the revised document must be submitted to The American Kennel Club as soon as it is printed.