

Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc.

Adopted January 5, 1909

Amended as of March 12, 2024

Published by The American Kennel Club



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®**

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT

The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

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of
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The American Kennel Club
101 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10178

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CHARTER

SECTION 1. William G. Rockefeller, Dwight Moore, Howard Willets, B.S. Smith, Marcel A. Viti, Frederick H. Osgood, John E. De Mund, Clair Foster, Laurence M.D. McGuire, Henry Jarrett, August Belmont, William B. Emery, Edward Brooks, Charles W. Keyes, James W. Appleton, George B. Post, Jr., Thomas Cadwalader, Winthrop Rutherford, James Mortimer, George Lauder, Jr., William Rauch, Samuel R. Cutler, John G. Bates, J.H. Brookfield, Chetwood Smith, Hildreth K. Bloodgood, Singleton Van Schaick, Hollis H. Hunnewell, J. Sergeant Price and William C. Codman, and all other persons, corporations, associations and organizations as shall hereafter become associated with them as members, as may be provided for by the constitution or bylaws, under and for the purposes of this charter and act of incorporation, are hereby organized and constituted a body corporate and are a corporation under and by name of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 2. The objects of the corporation shall be to adopt and enforce uniform rules regulating and governing dog shows and field trials, to regulate the conduct of persons interested in exhibiting, running, breeding, registering, purchasing and selling dogs, to detect, prevent and punish frauds in connection therewith, to protect the interests of its members, to maintain and publish an official stud book and an official kennel gazette, and generally to do everything to advance the study, breeding, exhibiting, running and maintenance of the purity of thoroughbred dogs. And for these purposes it shall have power to adopt a constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations, and enforce the same by fines and penalties, which it shall have the right to collect and enforce by suit, or by suspension or expulsion from membership, or by a suspension or denial of any or all of the privileges of said corporation. It may, from time to time, alter, modify or change such constitution, bylaws, rules or regulations.

SECTION 3. Said William G. Rockefeller shall call a meeting of said incorporators hereinbefore named by giving written notice of the time and place of said meeting by mail to each of them at least fifteen days before the time of said meeting, and in event of his failure so to do within thirty days after this act shall take effect, any one of said incorporators may so call said meeting. At said meeting a majority of said incorporators shall form a quorum. Said incorporators at said meeting or any adjournments thereof shall adopt a constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations hereinbefore authorized, and shall elect all the present members and Delegates and associate subscribers of The American Kennel Club members, Delegates and associate subscribers, of the corporation.

SECTION 4. Such corporation shall, subject to the provisions of this act, have all the powers and be subject

to all the liabilities of a membership corporation organized under the membership corporations law.

SECTION 5. The Directors of The American Kennel Club, a corporation heretofore incorporated under the membership corporations law by certificate filed in the office of the Secretary of State and the Clerk of New York county, upon obtaining the consent of the members of such corporation as provided by this section, are hereby authorized to transfer, without consideration, all the property of such corporation to the corporation created by this act. The board of directors of such corporation shall appoint a time for holding a special meeting of the members of the corporation. At least thirty days before such meeting, the secretary of the corporation shall mail to every member thereof a notice of the time and place of such meeting and stating that there will be submitted to the members at such meeting a proposition to transfer all of its property, without consideration, to The American Kennel Club incorporated by Chapter 280 of the laws of nineteen hundred and eight. At any time prior to such meeting any member of the corporation may vote on such proposition by mailing to the secretary of the corporation his assent or dissent in substantially the following form: I hereby assent to (dissent from) the proposition to transfer the property of The American Kennel Club to The American Kennel Club as incorporated by Chapter 280 of the laws of nineteen hundred and eight. Such proposition shall be submitted to the members present at the special meeting. If all such members voting thereon shall vote in the affirmative and no dissent has been filed with the secretary as authorized by this section, the proposition shall be deemed adopted, and thereupon the directors of the corporation shall transfer to The American Kennel Club incorporated by this act all the property of such corporation subject to any outstanding debts or liabilities of such corporation existing at the time of such transfer, which debts and liabilities the corporation incorporated hereby must assume as a condition of such transfer and shall be liable for the same in the same manner and to the same extent as such corporation. Upon completing such transfer the directors of the corporation or a majority of them shall execute in duplicate a certificate to the effect that a special meeting was held by the members of the corporation pursuant to this act, that the members thereof assented to the transfer of its property to The American Kennel Club as required by this section, and that such transfer has been made accordingly, and upon the filing of such certificate in the offices in which the original certificate of incorporation of such corporation is filed, such corporation shall be deemed dissolved.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect immediately.
May 18, 1908

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this Club shall be "THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB," hereafter referred to as "the AKC®."

ARTICLE II: SEAL

The Seal of the AKC shall be circular in shape, having on the outer rim thereof the words "American Kennel Club Founded 1884" and in an inner circle the capital letters "A.K.C."

ARTICLE III: OBJECTS OF THE CLUB

The objects of the Club shall be to advance canine health and well-being, to maintain and publish an official stud book, to adopt and enforce uniform rules regulating and governing purebred dog events, to regulate the conduct of persons interested in breeding, registering, selling, purchasing, exhibiting and running purebred dogs, to prevent, detect, and punish frauds in connection therewith, to protect the interests of its members, to publish an official kennel gazette, and generally to do everything to advance the study, breeding, exhibiting, running and maintenance of purebred dogs.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. All All-Breed Clubs, Group Clubs, Multi-Breed Clubs, or Associations which have held at least three Dog Shows, Obedience Trials, Field Trials, or Agility Trials in consecutive years under rules of the AKC and all Parent Specialty Clubs which have been or shall be formed for the improvement of any breed of purebred dogs shall be eligible to become members of the AKC.

SECTION 2. Candidates for membership must apply in writing to the AKC on forms the terms of which shall be approved by the Board of Directors of the AKC which forms will be supplied by the Executive Secretary of the AKC upon request. Each application must be accompanied by a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the applicant and a list of the names of its officers and members. Each candidate also must send with its application a check or cash for the amount of its admission fees and dues for the current year which will be returned to the candidate if and when it shall fail to be elected.

SECTION 3. No Club or Association shall be eligible to be admitted to membership in the AKC unless its Constitution and Bylaws shall provide that among the objects for which said Club or Association has been formed are the holding of annual dogs shows, annual obedience trials, or annual field trial, or annual agility trials, or that said Club or Association was formed for the protection or benefit of purebred dogs.

SECTION 4. It shall be the duty and privilege of each parent member Specialty Club to define precisely the true type of the breed of purebred dogs which it was organized to promote and improve and its definition when approved by the Board of Directors of the AKC shall and will be recognized by the AKC as the sole standard of excellence for which such breed of purebred dogs shall be bred and by which specimens of such breed must be judged in the awarding of prizes of merit. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no AKC breed standards of excellence may be altered or replaced without the official approval of the parent member Specialty Club representing the breed in question. The parent member specialty club shall own its standard and the AKC shall have full use of the approved standard.

The standards of excellence of all breeds of purebred dogs now adopted by parent member Specialty Clubs and approved by the Board of Directors of the AKC shall not be changed in any respect until the wording of any proposed change or changes first has been submitted to the Board of Directors of the AKC and its approval of the same has been obtained.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors of the AKC to and it shall define precisely the true type of each breed of purebred dogs recognized by the AKC as eligible for registration in its Stud Book for which no standard of excellence has been adopted by any member Specialty Club and submitted to and approved by said Board of Directors in the manner set forth in the preceding paragraphs of this section.

SECTION 5. The name of each candidate and the fact that it has applied for membership must be published in the first issue of the *AKC GAZETTE* which shall be published after the receipt by the Executive Secretary of the AKC of such application and again in the next succeeding issue of said *AKC GAZETTE* and such application then shall be referred to the Board of Directors of the AKC for its approval or disapproval.

SECTION 6. Any person, Club or Association which may desire to object to the admission of a candidate for membership may do so by sending a letter to the Board of Directors of the AKC stating the reasons for such objection and such letter will be considered a privileged communication the contents of which must not be disclosed.

SECTION 7. The Board of Directors of the AKC shall report to the AKC at the next regular meeting of the AKC its findings as to the eligibility of all candidates for membership the names of which duly have been published as provided in **Section 5** of this Article, indicating the approval or disapproval of the Board by using the word "approved" or the word "disapproved" as the case may be, and said Board or any member of it in no instance shall be required to give any reason for the findings of said Board.

SECTION 8. The election of all candidates for membership which have been reported “approved” or which have not been reported “disapproved” by the Board of Directors of the AKC in accordance with the provisions of **Section 7** of this Article shall be at any regular meeting of the AKC and it shall require the affirmative vote of four-fifths in number of all the Delegates present and voting at such meeting to elect. A written ballot shall be required if requested in writing by at least five Delegates, made to the Executive Secretary of the AKC seven days prior to the start of the meeting at which such election is scheduled.

SECTION 9. Any club or association elected to membership shall notify the Executive Secretary of the AKC of all changes in its officers as they occur, and no change in its Constitution and/or Bylaws shall go into effect until the proposed change be duly approved by the Board of Directors of the AKC.

SECTION 10. No candidate for membership which shall be disapproved by the Board of Directors of the AKC or which shall fail to be elected may again become a candidate until after one year from the date of such failure.

ARTICLE V: ADMISSION FEE AND DUES

SECTION 1. The amount of the admission fee for all new members of AKC and for all former members which may be re-elected shall in each instance be determined by the Board of Directors of the AKC subject to approval by the Delegates.

SECTION 2. The amount of the annual dues of the members of the AKC shall be determined by the Board of Directors of the AKC subject to approval by the Delegates and shall be payable January 1 in each year, in advance. Any member which shall have failed to pay its annual dues on or before February 1, in any year, shall stand suspended from all privileges of the AKC. Any member which shall have failed to pay its annual dues on or before the day of the annual meeting of the AKC, may have its right to membership terminated at the election of the Board of Directors of the AKC which may take such action in each instance as it shall deem wise or may impose such fines or penalties as it may deem just and proper under the particular circumstances. This section of Article V shall be printed on each bill for dues so that no member may be in ignorance thereof.

ARTICLE VI: DELEGATES

SECTION 1. The voting powers of each member organization or Association can and shall be exercised only by a Delegate selected by said club to represent it for that purpose.

SECTION 2. The use of proxy voting in any election or vote is prohibited.

SECTION 3. Any member organization which desires to be represented by a Delegate must apply in writing to the AKC on a credential form, the terms of which shall be approved by the Board of Directors and which shall be supplied by the Executive Secretary of the AKC. Each such application must be signed by the President, Vice President or Executive Secretary of the member organization making the application, and must contain all the information requested therein.

SECTION 4. The name and address of each candidate for the position of Delegate, and the fact that application has been made for his or her appointment, shall be published in the first issue of the *AKC GAZETTE* which shall be published after receipt by the Executive Secretary of the AKC of the Delegate's credentials; and again in the next succeeding issue of the *AKC GAZETTE*. The Delegate's credentials then shall be referred to the Board of Directors for its approval or disapproval.

SECTION 5. Any person or organization desiring to object to the appointment of any person named to be a Delegate may do so by sending a letter to the Board of Directors stating the reasons for such objection.

SECTION 6. Any person in good standing with the AKC who is a resident citizen of the United States, its territories or possessions, or has permanent resident alien status as defined by the Immigration and Naturalization Act, shall be eligible to become or remain a Delegate, providing this person meets the criteria for occupational eligibility given herein. No person is eligible to become or remain a Delegate if he or she (a) is a professional handler or trainer of dogs, (b) is engaged in trade or traffic in dogs, which includes commercial breeders or brokers of dogs for resale, (c) is employed full time in the manufacture or sale of dog food or dog supplies, (d) is a publisher or other person who promotes show dogs/kennels through solicitation or acceptance of advertisements in commercial dog publications, dog show superintendents or his or her employees, (e) has a significant interest in a dog registry, dog event-giving organization or any organization deemed to be in competition with AKC or in conflict with its objects. Significant interest would include but not be limited to, ownership in, employment by, a directorship of, and holding office in.

No person may become or remain a Delegate if convicted of a misdemeanor or felony involving the theft, embezzlement, or misappropriation of funds or property from The American Kennel Club, any AKC subsidiary, or affiliated organization, or an AKC-sanctioned, licensed, or member club in a civil court action within the previous ten (10) years. The same would apply to a person found liable for the theft, embezzlement, or misappropriation of funds or property from The American Kennel Club, any AKC subsidiary, or affiliated organization, or an AKC-sanctioned, licensed, or member club in a civil court action within the previous ten years.

A conviction or admission of guilt or finding of a liability in a court of competent jurisdiction involving theft, embezzlement or misappropriation of funds or property from The American Kennel Club, any AKC subsidiary, or affiliated organization, or an AKC-sanctioned, licensed, or member club within the last ten years, shall be deemed conclusive proof and shall be grounds for the disapproval of a Delegate candidate or the removal of a seated Delegate.

SECTION 7. All candidates for the position of Delegate, approved by the Board of Directors, shall be notified in writing within five days of their approval. Approved candidates shall be considered seated as of the date of receipt of written notification.

The Board shall act upon all applications within sixty days of the last date of publication. Failure of the Board of Directors to approve or deny said credentials within that period shall be presumed to be a denial and said credentials shall then go to the Delegates for a vote at the next quarterly meeting unless the club withdraws the candidate before that meeting.

SECTION 8. Candidates disapproved or Delegates removed by the Board of Directors shall be notified in writing of said disapproval or removal. The candidate's sponsoring Club or Delegate's Club may, within thirty days of notice of disapproval or removal appeal the disapproval or Delegates removal in writing to the Executive Secretary of the AKC, stating the reasons why the candidate is eligible under Section 6 of this article. Such appeal shall be presented to the Delegates at their next regular meeting by a delegate of the club's choosing. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Delegates present and voting that the candidate is eligible (under Section 6 of this article) shall be required to seat or to retain the seat of a disapproved candidate or removed Delegate.

SECTION 9. An incumbent Delegate may, at the discretion of the club which he or she represents, continue to represent his or her club until a new Delegate is seated.

SECTION 10. No candidate for the position of Delegate who has been disapproved by the Board of Directors, or who fails election on appeal, may again be a Delegate candidate until one year from the date of such disapproval or failed appeal.

SECTION 11. No Delegate shall represent more than one member club.

SECTION 12. The Delegates may elect standing committees with such goals and charges as shall be established in a standing rule on committees adopted by the Delegates. The size and election procedures for these committees shall be established in this same standing rule.

ARTICLE VII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION, MEETINGS AND QUORUM

SECTION 1. The AKC shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of thirteen (13) voting members, all of whom must be Delegates, except as provided for in Section 3 of this Article. The Board shall be elected as follows:

At each annual meeting the Delegates shall elect Directors from the list of candidates nominated as provided in Article VIII of these Bylaws. The thirteen voting Directors shall be divided into four classes of three (3), three (3), three (3), and four (4) members. Such Directors to hold office for four (4) years or until their successors are elected. At each annual meeting the Delegates shall elect such other Director or Directors as shall be required to fill the place of any Director who has died or resigned before the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected.

No person shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms on the Board. A Board member who has served more than half a term on the Board is considered to have served a full term. This section does not preclude re-election of any delegate to the Board of Directors after a one year (or greater) hiatus from Directorship.

Excluding the President, who serves as a non-voting member, no members of the Board of Directors may be employed by the AKC nor may they receive remuneration from the AKC on a consulting or contract basis.

Excluding the President, no members of the Board of Directors are eligible for employment by the AKC or any AKC division or subsidiary for a period of twelve months from the date when they last served on the Board, nor may they receive remuneration from the AKC on a contract or consulting basis for a period of twelve months from the date when they last served on the Board.

The President shall serve on the Board as an ex officio non-voting member during his/her tenure as President.

SECTION 2. The names of all candidates for election as directors shall be published in alphabetical order on the Secretary's Page of the March AKC GAZETTE of the year in which they come before the annual meeting to be voted upon.

SECTION 3. All elections shall be by ballot; except, if no valid additional nominations are received by the Executive Secretary by November 15; the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the annual meeting and no balloting will be required. If no valid additional nomination(s) are received by the Executive Secretary by November 15; for any partial term up for election, the partial term candidate shall be declared elected at the annual meeting and no balloting will be required.

SECTION 4. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled by the Directors by a majority vote of those present at any meeting. Such Directors shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the AKC.

SECTION 5. When a Delegate who is also a Director of the AKC shall be removed as a Delegate and shall not offer his/her resignation as Director of the AKC, he or she may continue to hold the office of Director provided that at the first regular meeting of the Board held subsequent to the date of his or her removal as a Delegate, the majority of the Board present shall vote to continue him or her on said Board.

If a Director shall be removed as a Delegate prior to August 1, of any year, he/she may only be continued by the Board until the next annual meeting. If a Director shall be removed from that position after August 1, and he/she has more than one year remaining on his/her term, he/she may be continued for a period of six months. If at the end of this six-month period, he/she has been approved as a Delegate, the Board may vote to continue him/her on the Board until the annual meeting in the following year. If he/she has not been approved as a Delegate, a vacancy shall exist and ARTICLE VII, SECTION 2, shall apply.

SECTION 6. There shall be at least eight regular meetings of the Board each year. Additional meetings may also be scheduled at the direction of the Board. The date, time, method and location of all regular meetings shall be determined by the Board. Fourteen (14) days' notice of said date must be given to each Director by United States mail, telephone or electronic mail.

At the four quarterly Delegate Meetings, Directors should attend the Delegate Meetings and other appropriate Delegate functions.

SECTION 7. Special meetings of the Board shall be called by the Executive Secretary at the direction of the President. Chairman of the Board, or on the written request of three (3) Directors. Five (5) days' notice of the date, time, method and location of such special meeting must be given to each Director by United States mail, telephone or electronic mail unless a waiver of notice of such meetings shall have been signed by every Director.

SECTION 8. Any one or more members of the Board or of any committee thereof who is not physically present at a meeting of the Board or a committee may participate by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment or by electronic video screen communication. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting as long as all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time and each Director can participate in all matters before the Board, including, without limitation, the ability to propose, object to, and vote upon a specific action to be taken by the Board or committee.

SECTION 9. Seven (7) members shall constitute a quorum of the Board for the transaction of business at all meetings.

SECTION 10. The unexplained and unexcused absence of a Director from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Board shall operate as the accepted resignation of that Director from the Board.

SECTION 11. Each member of the Board shall be paid a monthly Director's fee recommended by the Board of Directors of the AKC subject to the approval by the Delegates and shall be reimbursed for the actual cash outlay made while engaged in the business of the AKC. Said cash outlay is to be reported to the Delegates.

ARTICLE VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors before August fifteenth of each year shall designate five Delegates serve as principal members and two Delegates to serve as alternates to to be a Nominating Committee. No Delegate designated to serve on the Nominating Committee may be an officer of the AKC or a member of its Board of Directors. The duty of the Nominating Committee is to nominate candidates for vacancies on the Board of Directors which are to be filled at the next annual meeting of the AKC. The names of the Delegates on the Nominating Committee and their roles as either principal members or alternates are to be published on the Secretary's Page of the September *AKC GAZETTE*.

SECTION 2. The Nominating Committee is to report its nominations in writing to the Executive Secretary of the AKC before October fifteenth of the year appointed. Within five days of receipt the Executive Secretary is to notify in writing each Delegate and each member club not represented by a Delegate of the names of the candidates selected by the Nominating Committee.

SECTION 3. If, after nomination, the name of any candidate is withdrawn, the Nominating Committee shall nominate a new candidate. The Nominating Committee will notify the Executive Secretary of the AKC in writing of the new candidate. The Executive Secretary will send notice within five days of receipt of the new candidate to all Delegates and member clubs not represented by a Delegate.

SECTION 4. Any Delegate not nominated by the Nominating Committee is eligible to be a candidate for election to the Board of Directors on submission of a written petition endorsed by at least fifty other Delegates. A Delegate's petition must be received by the Executive Secretary of the AKC before the fifteenth of November. The Executive Secretary shall send notice in writing of a petition candidate or candidates within five days of receipt to all Delegates and member clubs not represented by a Delegate.

SECTION 5. No nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting of the AKC.

SECTION 6. All elections shall be by ballot; except, if no valid additional nominations are received by the Executive Secretary by November 15; the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the annual meeting and no balloting will be required. If no valid additional

nomination(s) are received by the Executive Secretary by November 15; for any partial term up for election, the partial term candidate shall be declared elected at the annual meeting and no balloting will be required.

ARTICLE IX: BOARD OF DIRECTORS GENERAL POWERS

The Board of Directors shall have the general management of the business and affairs of the AKC and generally perform all duties appertaining to the office of director provided, however, that all the powers conferred by this Article of the Bylaws shall be exercised subject to all other provisions of these Bylaws and to the statutes of the State of New York and all amendments thereof and additions thereto.

ARTICLE X: BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIFIC POWERS

Without detracting from any general powers of the Board of Directors but by way of explanation it shall be understood that:

SECTION 1. The Board shall have supervision of the funds, assets and property of the AKC and shall determine how much thereof shall be left in the hands or under direct control of the Chief Financial Officer for current needs, and how the balance thereof shall be deposited or invested and shall have power to withdraw or transfer said deposits or dispose of or change said investments for the benefit of the AKC.

SECTION 2. The Board may appoint from time to time and at will discharge committees with such powers and authority as in the judgment of said Board may be necessary to facilitate and carry out the objects and business of the AKC; and in order to facilitate business may appoint one (1) or more persons who shall represent the AKC in such territory of the United States and with such jurisdiction as may be designated by said Board.

SECTION 3. The Board shall examine all proposed amendments or alterations to the Bylaws, Rules or Regulations of the AKC and report thereon to the AKC for action.

SECTION 4. All matters in dispute as to interpretation of the Rules or Regulations of the AKC shall be submitted to the Board for its construction, which shall be decisive.

SECTION 5. The Board shall have supervision and control of the Stud Book, the registration of purebred dogs, kennel names and the transfers thereof, and determine the manner in which such records shall be preserved.

SECTION 6. The Board shall determine all matters which may arise affecting pedigrees of purebred dogs.

SECTION 7. The Board shall have supervision and control of the *AKC GAZETTE* and shall determine the manner and form in which it shall be published.

SECTION 8. The Board shall have power to approve or disapprove any or all applications for purebred dog events.

SECTION 9. The Board shall have power to issue and revoke licenses to Judges, Superintendents of Purebred Dog Events and Handlers of Dogs.

SECTION 10. The Board also shall 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.

SECTION 11. The Board shall have the power to sanction or disapprove applications for informal purebred dog events.

SECTION 12. The Board shall have power to issue such regulations as it may deem necessary for the governing or holding of purebred dog events.

SECTION 13. The Board shall have power to consider charges preferred by Event Committees, Clubs, Associations or persons, and to determine whether the charges alleged have been sustained, and if sustained what penalty shall be imposed.

The powers of the Board of Directors in this connection are more fully set forth in Article XII of these Bylaws entitled "Discipline."

SECTION 14. The Board shall have power to appoint and at will remove Trial Boards of not less than three (3) members each, whose duty it shall be to hear such charges in the first instance as may be referred by the Board of Directors to such Trial Boards. The powers and duties of Trial Boards are more fully set forth in Article XIII of these Bylaws entitled "Trial Boards."

SECTION 15. The Board shall have power to determine and fix and from time to time change the amount of all fees to be charged by the AKC, whether for registration, listing and change of ownership of dogs, the granting of kennel names and the transfer thereof, the issuing of certificates or otherwise.

SECTION 16. The Board shall have power without previous hearing to fix and determine the amount or extent of the penalty and to impose a penalty for all uncontested violations of the Rules and Regulations of the AKC.

ARTICLE XI: OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The Executive Officers of the AKC shall be a President, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Secretary. The Directors, by a majority vote of those present at any meeting, may determine, for such period or periods as they deem appropriate, that one or more of the above offices may remain vacant or that the same person may hold one or more of the above offices, except that the President may not serve as Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Chief Financial Officer, or Executive Secretary. The Executive Officers shall be elected annually at the first regular meeting after the annual meeting. The President is an ex officio non-voting Director by virtue of his or her position. The President may but need not be a Delegate.

SECTION 2. The Board Officers of the AKC shall be a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The Board Officers shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at a meeting which shall be held immediately following the annual meeting.

The Chairperson of the Board and Vice Chairperson of the Board must be Directors.

SECTION 3. The Chairperson of the Board shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall preside at the meeting. In the absence of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, an Acting Chairperson shall be elected by a majority of those present at any meeting. The Chairperson of the Board shall perform such additional duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. The Vice Chairperson shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors and shall be the primary Board contact with the Chief Financial Officer in monitoring the finances of the AKC.

SECTION 5. The President shall perform the usual duties of a chief executive officer, shall preside at all meetings of the AKC and shall perform such other duties, as may be assigned by the Board of Directors. All contracts on behalf of the AKC shall be executed by the President or by such Executive Officers or Vice Presidents as may be designated by the President. In the absence or disability of the President, the Chief Operating Officer, and in the absence or disability of both the President and Chief Operating Officer, the Executive Secretary shall perform the duties of the President. The President shall devote his/her whole time to the business of the AKC. The salary of the President shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6. The Chief Operating Officer shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors and shall devote his or her whole time to the business of the AKC. The salary of the Chief Operating Officer shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 7. The Executive Secretary shall keep the records of all the meetings of the AKC and Board of Directors and shall issue calls for said meetings. He/she shall keep a roll of members and Delegates, and shall have charge of all records and papers of the AKC. He/she shall have custody of the seal of the AKC. He/she shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President or by the Board of Directors, devoting his/her whole time to the business of the AKC. The salary of the Executive Secretary shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 8. The Chief Financial Officer shall keep the financial records of the AKC in such manner as may be directed by the Board of Directors; shall be responsible for the collection, custody and control of the funds of the AKC, subject to the supervision of the President and the Board of Directors; and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors, devoting his/her whole time to the business of the AKC. The salary of the Chief Financial Officer shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 9. The President may appoint one or more Vice Presidents or Assistant Vice Presidents with administrative responsibility for different AKC departments and with such additional duties as may be assigned by the President. They shall devote their full time to the business of the AKC.

ARTICLE XII: AKC DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1. Any club or association or person or persons interested in purebred dogs may make a complaint against any other club or association or person or persons for conduct alleged to have been prejudicial to the best interests of purebred dogs, purebred dog events or the AKC, which complaint shall be made in writing setting forth the circumstances. The complaint shall be verified by the complainant stating that the complainant has read the complaint, has knowledge of the facts stated in the complaint, and affirms and verifies under penalty of perjury that the complaint is true and correct. The complaint shall then be sent to the AKC, (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) with a deposit, the amount to be established annually by the Board of Directors. The deposit shall become the property of the AKC if the Board of Directors does not exercise jurisdiction; or in the event the Board of Directors exercises jurisdiction and the complaint is not sustained to any extent. The deposit will be returned if the Board of Directors exercises jurisdiction and the complaint is sustained to any extent.

SECTION 2. Upon receipt of a duly filed complaint pursuant to Section 1 of this Article, the President shall cause the matter to be investigated, and following such investigation, and upon notice to the Board of Directors, shall direct that charges be filed, which shall be sent to a Trial Board

for a hearing, or that the matter be dropped from further consideration. The President, with the concurrence of the defendant, may impose a penalty according to guidelines established by the AKC Board without referring the matter to a Trial Board. The President may refer a recommendation for a penalty greater or lesser than provided for in these guidelines, to the Board of Directors for final action. The President shall promptly report all complaints and their disposition to the AKC Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. The President or the Board of Directors shall have the power to investigate any matters which may be brought to their attention in connection with the objects for which the AKC was founded, or to appoint a committee or Trial Board to investigate, in which event the same procedure shall be followed and the same rules shall apply as in a trial before a Trial Board.

If after such investigation the President or the Board of Directors believe that sufficient evidence exists to warrant the filing of charges, they may file or direct the filing of such charges. The President upon notice to the Board of Directors, or the Board of Directors, may prefer charges for conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the AKC against clubs or persons who shall bring to their attention any matter which upon investigation shall be found to have been reported maliciously and/or in bad faith.

SECTION 4. The President upon notice to the Board of Directors, or the Board of Directors, shall have power to prefer charges against any association or club not a member of the AKC, or person or persons, for conduct alleged to be prejudicial to purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or to the best interests of the AKC. Pending the final determination of any such charges, the privileges of the AKC may be withheld from the person or body against whom charges are pending.

SECTION 5. The Board of Directors shall have the power to prefer charges or to suspend from membership in the AKC any member club pending final action by the Delegates in accordance with the provisions of this section; for conduct alleged to have been prejudicial to the best interests of the AKC or for violation of the member club's constitution, bylaws, or rules.

The Board of Directors shall then file charges and promptly set a date for a hearing and send notice to the suspended member by certified mail at least ten days prior to the scheduled hearing. The time and place where the suspended member may be heard will be stated. Such notice shall also set forth a copy of the charges.

The Board of Directors shall refer the charges to a Trial Board to take the testimony and to report its findings and/or recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors, after hearing or reviewing the evidence, shall report its findings to the Delegates at the next regular meeting of the AKC. The Delegates shall take action upon said findings and by a majority vote of Delegates present may reinstate, continue the suspension

from membership for a stated time, or by a two-thirds vote expel the member from the AKC.

ARTICLE XIII: TRIAL BOARDS

SECTION 1. Trial Boards and an Appeal Trial Board shall be appointed from time to time by the Board of Directors of the AKC. No member of a Trial Board or an Appeal Trial Board shall be a Director, shall have served as a Director in the preceding three years, or shall have been a past or current AKC employee. An individual may not concurrently be appointed to nor serve on a Trial Board or the Appeal Trial Board. Each Trial Board and the Appeal Trial Board shall consist of three members, one of whom, if practicable, should be an attorney-at-law. In case one or more members of a Trial Board or the Appeal Trial Board shall be unable to sit in any given case, the Chair of the Trial Board or Appeal Trial Board may appoint a substitute or substitutes for such case from the current list of those appointed by the Board of Directors as members of a Trial Board or as alternate Appeal Trial Board members. In case of the absence of one or more members of a Trial Board, the remaining member or members may hear and determine a case if the parties being heard shall consent thereto. A Trial Board Chair, with the concurrence of both the AKC and the defendant may hear and determine a case or designate one Trial Board member from the list of current appointees to hear and determine a case in lieu of a hearing before a three-member Trial Board. The Appeal Trial Board must have three members to hear and determine a case.

SECTION 2. When charges have been filed and referred to a Trial Board, a notice which shall state that such charges have been filed and shall set forth a copy of the same shall be sent to the club or association, or person or persons against which or whom said charges have been preferred which club or association, or person or persons herein shall be known as and called the defendant. The club or association or person or persons which or who shall have filed the complaint leading to the charges shall be known and called the complainant.

Such notice shall also set forth a time and place at which the defendant may attend and present any defense or answer which the defendant may wish to make. The time and place shall be determined by the Trial Board Chair in consultation with the parties.

If the complainant shall fail or refuse to cooperate with the AKC in the prosecution of said charges, without giving reasonable excuse for such failure or refusal, the AKC or the Trial Board presiding may suspend said complainant for a period of six months or until such time as the party is prepared to cooperate with the AKC. Appeals to such suspensions shall be to the Appeals Trial Board.

If the defendant shall fail to appear at the hearing, without giving reasonable excuse for such failure or refusal, the complainant's evidence may be heard and the defendant's written answer, if any, will be considered. The record of the

hearing shall also include a statement by the Trial Board Chair of any conversations with the defendant concerning the failure or refusal to appear. In such cases, the Trial Board may make a finding. The Trial Board may also suspend the defendant for six months or until the party is prepared to present a defense.

SECTION 3. Trial Boards shall hear and decide by majority vote matters submitted to them by the President or the Board of Directors and shall have the power to impose fines and suspensions from any or all AKC privileges not to be less than nor to exceed guidelines established by the AKC Board of Directors. A Trial Board may refer a recommendation for a penalty greater or lesser than provided for in these guidelines to the Board of Directors for final action.

If a Trial Board withholds privileges of the AKC, the suspension shall take effect immediately when the defendant has been so notified in person or five days after the date of a written notice. Notice may be made orally and must be made by certified and first class mail to the defendant's last known address within five days of receipt of the decision.

A Trial Board, the Trial Board Chair or one Trial Board member appointed to hear and determine a case as provided in Article XIII, Section 1 has the power, with the concurrence of a defendant, to impose fines and suspensions from any or all AKC privileges according to guidelines established by the AKC Board of Directors without a formal Trial Board hearing. The Trial Board, with the concurrence of the defendant, may without a hearing recommend a lesser penalty to the Board. A Trial Board, the Trial Board Chair, or an appointed Trial Board member who heard and determined a case may refer a recommendation for a penalty greater or lesser than provided for in these guidelines to the Board of Directors for final action.

All Trial Board actions shall be reported to the Board of Directors promptly after such actions are taken.

SECTION 4. Trial Boards shall have power to withhold from any person all AKC privileges for a period of not more than one year for improper or disorderly conduct during a hearing or trial.

SECTION 5. Trial Boards shall keep minutes of their sittings.

SECTION 6. The decisions of Trial Boards shall be in writing signed by all members attending, and include all exhibits and papers offered before them. Each decision, together with complete copies of the minutes and testimony taken, shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of the AKC within thirty days of the date of the rendering of the decision. The Trial Board may file with its decision or within thirty days thereafter or in the event of an appeal, within thirty days of hearing an appeal, an opinion or expanded statement in detail of the reasons for its findings. Within five business days of receipt of the Trial Board's report, the

Executive Secretary of the AKC shall notify all parties in interest of the Trial Board's decision.

SECTION 7. An appeal may be taken from any decision of a Trial Board (*except where it is acting as the appellate body for an Event Committee appeal, where its decision is final*). Notice in writing claiming such appeal together with a deposit, the amount of which is determined annually by the AKC Board of Directors, must be sent to the AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within thirty days after the receipt of the notice of the decision of the Trial Board. A three-member Appeals Trial Board shall hear said appeal on the record.

The deposit shall become the property of the AKC if the decision of the Trial Board shall be confirmed in whole or in part, or shall be returned to the appellant if it shall not be confirmed. If the aggrieved party shall fail to take such appeal, there shall be no further right of appeal of any kind.

SECTION 8. The AKC and any Trial Board of the AKC may, and if necessary at AKC expense, summon witnesses or a member of any Event Committee to testify at any and all hearings held under the provisions of the Bylaws of the AKC. Any person who is summoned by the AKC and/or Trial Board to testify, may be suspended from AKC privileges if he or she shall fail to testify, without reasonable excuse.

ARTICLE XIV: EVENT COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. The Event Committee of a club or association shall have the right and responsibility to suspend any person from AKC privileges for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or the AKC, alleged to have occurred in connection with or during the progress of its event, after the alleged offender has been given the opportunity to be heard. When the penalty for the offense as set forth in the guidelines authorized by the Board of Directors provides for a reprimand in certain instances, the Event Committee shall have the authority to stay the suspension pending a final determination by the AKC.

Notice in writing must be sent promptly by certified and by first class mail by the Event Committee to the person suspended and a duplicate notice giving the name and address of the person suspended and full details as to the reasons for the suspension and if applicable, the reasons for the stay of suspension must be forwarded to the AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within five days.

An appeal may be taken from a decision of an Event Committee and any subsequent disciplinary action applied by the AKC. Notice in writing claiming such appeal together with a deposit, at an amount established by the AKC Board of Directors, must be sent to the AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within thirty days after the date of the suspension. The appeal shall be determined by a Trial Board whose decision is final. The deposit shall become

the property of the AKC if the decision is upheld in whole or in part or shall be returned to the appellant if the decision is not upheld in whole or in part.

ARTICLE XV: PENALTIES

SECTION 1. Penalties range from a reprimand or fine to suspension for life from all privileges of the AKC.

SECTION 2. The suspension of a person shall date from the day of the perpetration of the act or from any date subsequent thereto which shall be fixed by the AKC or after a hearing by a Trial Board.

SECTION 3. Any or all privileges of the AKC may be withheld from any person suspended. The terms of suspension shall be defined in the most current published list of penalties approved by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. Any AKC club, association or organization which shall hold a purebred dog event or dog exhibition of any kind not in accordance with the rules of the AKC which apply to such purebred dog event or exhibition without the express permission of the AKC may be disciplined even to the extent of being deprived of all privileges of the AKC for a stated period of time or indefinitely, and if such club, association or organization shall be a member of the AKC, it may be expelled from membership therein.

SECTION 5. No club or association licensed by the AKC to give a purebred dog event or give a dog exhibition of any kind shall employ in any capacity, accept the donation of a prize or money from, or permit to be within the walls or boundaries of its building or grounds, if a purebred dog event, save only as a spectator, any person known to be under suspension from the privileges of the AKC, or any employee or member of a corporation which shall be under suspension from the privileges of the AKC. And any contract for floor space at a purebred dog event, or contract for advertising space in a catalog, premium list or other printed matter, in connection with the giving of said event, shall bear upon it the following condition: "This space is sold with the understanding that should the privileges of the AKC be withdrawn from the purchaser of this space prior to its execution, this contract is thereby automatically canceled. Any money paid by the purchaser for such space shall be refunded."

SECTION 6. No member club or association under suspension shall be represented by its Delegate and no Delegate under suspension shall act for a member or in any official capacity for the AKC during the period of suspension.

SECTION 7. Any association, club, person or persons suspended by the AKC or from whom the privileges of the AKC have been withheld, may apply for reinstatement or

restoration of privileges upon paying a fee, the amount of which may be fixed and determined by the Board of Directors of the AKC. Until said fee has been paid the application shall not be acted upon.

ARTICLE XVI: FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the AKC shall end with the thirty-first day of December of each year.

ARTICLE XVII: AUDIT

The Board of Directors shall have the books and records of the Chief Financial Officer audited at least once a year, either by a professional auditor approved by said Board or by an auditing committee appointed by said Board. A comprehensive summary of the auditor's report shall be published in the *AKC GAZETTE* and a copy of said summary of said report shall be sent to each member club or association and to each Delegate as soon as the same can be prepared and printed.

ARTICLE XVIII: MEETINGS AND QUORUM

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the AKC shall be the regular meeting held in March. There shall also be regular meetings of the AKC in June and September. There shall be one regular meeting held in December or January. The exact date, time and location of all meetings shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. Notice of the date, time and location of the annual meeting and of each regular meeting shall be printed in that issue of the *AKC GAZETTE* which shall be published next before the date fixed for each said meeting. Mail notice of each such meeting will be sent to all Delegates at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the meeting.

SECTION 3. Special meetings of the AKC shall be called by the Executive Secretary on the written request of 10 percent or more of the Delegates. Only business specified in the call shall be transacted at a special meeting.

SECTION 4. Notice of the date, time and location of each special meeting, together with the business to be transacted, shall be sent to all Delegates within seven (7) days of the receipt of the written request for the special meeting. Such notice must be sent at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the special meeting.

SECTION 5. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the total number of Delegates shall constitute a quorum of the AKC for the transaction of business at all meetings.

SECTION 6. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the

AKC in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special Rules of Order the AKC may adopt.

SECTION 7. No person not an AKC Board Member, Delegate or Officer of the AKC, except employees, shall be present at a meeting of the AKC without the consent of the majority present and voting.

ARTICLE XIX: RULES

The Delegates to the AKC shall have sole power to make the Rules governing dog shows and field trials and the clubs or associations formed to conduct them.

ARTICLE XX: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS AND RULES

SECTION 1. Amendments to the Bylaws and/or the Rules may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by a Member Club acting through its Delegate. Amendments to the Bylaws and/or the Rules may also be proposed by a Standing Delegate Committee, provided such proposal is within the scope of the charge to that committee as defined in the standing rule on committees.

SECTION 2. The Bylaws and/or the Rules may be amended at any regular meeting of the AKC provided the notice requirements set forth in **Section 4** of this Article have been satisfied.

SECTION 3. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws and/or the Rules by a Member Club, acting through its Delegate, or by a Standing Delegate Committee must be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary and also to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall review said proposed amendments and approve, disapprove and/or make recommendations.

a) If the Board approves, the amendment shall be noticed as set forth in **Section 4** and voted upon as set forth in **Section 5** hereunder.

b) In the event the Board disapproves of the proposed amendment, it shall, through the Executive Secretary, so notify the proposer of the amendment through its Delegate in writing with recommendations, if any. The Member Club may then within 60 days, or in the case of a Standing Delegate Committee, within 90 days of receipt of said notice demand in writing that the proposed amendment be noticed pursuant to **Section 4** hereunder and presented at a regular meeting of the AKC for a vote, and said procedure shall then commence forthwith. Should the Member Club or the Standing Delegate Committee elect to submit a revised proposed amendment, it shall be treated as a new proposal.

c) In the event the Board does not approve or disapprove of the proposal within 6 months of receipt, the matter shall proceed forthwith with notice as set forth in **Section 4** and vote as set forth in **Section 5** of this Article.

SECTION 4. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws and/or the Rules shall be read verbatim or in summary form and distributed at a regular meeting of the Delegates and thereafter shall be published in two consecutive issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* along with the proposed amendments. The recommendation of the Board of Directors shall appear in the *AKC GAZETTE* along with the proposed amendments.

SECTION 5. A two-thirds vote of the Delegates present and voting shall be required to adopt proposed amendments to the Bylaws and/or the Rules.

SECTION 6. Unless otherwise specified in this **Article** all proposed amendments, demands, recommendations, and other writings hereunder shall be filed with the Executive Secretary.

Delegate Standing Rule on Committees

Adopted June 8, 1993, Amended September 14, 1993, June 13, 1995, September 10, 1996, June 10, 1997, June 11, 2002, June 7, 2004, January 17, 2005, March 8, 2022

I. This rule shall be known as “The Standing Rule on Delegate Committees.”

II. The goals of these committees are:

- A.** To provide the broad-based independent involvement of the Delegates in matters affecting the dog fancy.
- B.** To identify and utilize the expertise within the Delegate Body and within the fancy.

III. The Delegates establish the following standing committees and charge them as follows:

A. Parent Clubs

- 1. To share information and procedures useful to parent clubs.
- 2. To find ways of making parent clubs and parent club events more effective and efficient in serving the needs of their members, their breeds, and their local specialty clubs.

B. All-Breed Clubs

- 1. To share information and procedures useful to all-breed clubs.
- 2. To find ways of making all-breed clubs and their events more effective and efficient in serving the needs of their members and their communities.

C. Companion Events

- 1. To share information and procedures useful to Obedience, Tracking, Rally, and Agility clubs.
- 2. To find ways of making Obedience, Tracking, Rally, and Agility clubs and their events more effective and efficient in serving the needs of their members and their communities.

D. Field Trial and Hunting Test Events

- 1. To share information and procedures useful to field trial and hunting test clubs.
- 2. To find ways of making field trial and hunting test clubs and their events more effective and efficient in serving the needs of their members and their communities.
- 3. To support the role of field trial and hunting test clubs and events in enhancing and preserving the working skills of the breeds involved.

E. Canine Health

- 1. To gather and share with the Delegates scientific information vital to the improvement of canine health.
- 2. To recommend to the Delegates educational programs, procedures and research relevant to canine health.

F. Bylaws

To review and make recommendations on proposed amendments to the Bylaws.

G. Dog Show Rules

To review and make recommendations on proposed amendments to the Dog Show Rules.

H. Delegate Advocacy and Advancement

To review and make recommendations on issues and proposals affecting the future structure of the Delegate Body, Delegate empowerment, changes relating to Delegate meetings and Delegate eligibility.

I. Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and Scent Work Events

1. To share information and procedures useful to the clubs that conduct herding, earthdog, coursing and scent work events.
2. To find ways of making herding, earthdog, coursing and scent work events and the clubs that conduct such events more effective and efficient in serving the needs of their members and their communities.
3. To support the role of herding, earthdog, coursing and scent work events and the clubs that conduct these events in enhancing and preserving the working skills of the breeds involved.

J. Coordinating Committee

1. To determine the scope and jurisdiction of Delegate committees.
2. To establish procedural guidelines for committee operations.
3. To coordinate, control, and facilitate committee requests for staff resources and committee expenses.
4. To ensure the timely submission of committee annual reports.
5. To review committee effectiveness and make recommendations.

IV. The membership of the committees, with the exception of the Coordinating Committee, shall be elected by the Delegates as follows:

- A.** Elections for standing committees shall be held at the Delegates quarterly meeting in September of each year.
- B.** Members of the Board of Directors are not eligible to serve as voting members on Delegate committees.
- C.** A Delegate may self-nominate for only one committee.
- D.** Each self-nominated Delegate shall submit to AKC a statement of not more than 150 words indicating his or her qualifications.
- E.** AKC shall furnish to the Delegates, with the call for the meeting at which the election will be held, the list of nominees for each committee, the statements of qualification, the record of attendance at Delegate meetings, incumbents' attendance records at Delegate Committee Meetings, and the length of tenure of each nominee.

F. If the nominations for any committee are equal to or less than the maximum number of committee members to be elected, there shall be no election for that committee and the nominated candidates shall be deemed elected.

G. Elections shall be by written ballot at a regular Delegates Meeting.

1. Those nominees receiving the most votes shall be elected.
2. If at any annual election the number of nominees would result in a committee of less than five members, that committee shall not function for that year.
3. Standing committees shall consist of not less than five nor more than eleven members.
4. In case of a tie for the last position on any committee, the tie will be resolved by a standing vote of the Delegates.

V. The committees shall be organized as follows:

A. At the conclusion of the Delegates Meeting at which they are elected, each committee shall elect a chair, then a secretary.

B. The Coordinating Committee shall be comprised of the chairs of each of the other Delegate standing committees. The Coordinating Committee shall, at its first meeting, elect a chair, then a secretary.

C. Committee members shall serve terms determined as follows:

1. Upon initial committee election, committees shall be divided into three classes, as follows:

Committee Size	3 year terms	2 year terms	1 year terms
5	2	2	1
6	2	2	2
7	3	2	2
8	3	3	2
9	3	3	3
10	4	3	3
11	4	4	3

2. Thereafter all newly elected members will serve three-year terms.

D. From time to time, the Delegate Body may establish and charge additional standing committees. Staffing of additional committees will follow the procedure described in *Article IV*.

VI. The following operating rules shall apply to committees:

- A.** Committees may, at their discretion, invite non-Delegates to participate in a non-voting capacity.
- B.** Committees may, at their discretion, seek liaison with Board members.
- C.** All committee reports shall be directed to the Delegate Body with copies to the Board of Directors.
- D.** An annual written report shall be submitted to the Delegate Body by a date designated by the Coordinating Committee.
- E.** Interim oral or written reports may be submitted by committees at their discretion, or as directed by the Coordinating Committee.
- F.** Committees will consider and respond to Board requests for input. In instances where a committee is responding to a Board request, their report will go directly to the Board.
- G.** No committee shall speak in the name of the Delegates or the American Kennel Club®.
- H.** Each committee shall respect the powers designated to the Board of Directors in **Articles IX and X** of the Bylaws.
- I.** All committee meetings shall be open to Delegates as observers only.
- J.** Committees shall utilize *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.
- K.** In the absence of the elected chair, the committee members present at a meeting shall elect an interim chair.
- L.** Three consecutive absences without the approval of the committee chair shall constitute a resignation from that committee.
- M.** Vacancies on a committee shall be filled, until the next committee election, by a vote of the committee.
- N.** Committees shall meet in conjunction with the quarterly Delegates Meetings. Special meetings may only be held at other times with the prior approval of the Coordinating Committee.

VII. None of the above provisions shall be presumed to limit the power of the Board of Directors to appoint committees as specified in *Article X, Section 2* of the Bylaws.

NOTES

NOTES

AKC Code of Sportsmanship

PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

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