



The Bermuda Kennel Club

Founded 1955

Incorporated by the Governor, the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Bermudas or Somers Islands 1964.

CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS

Effective 1969 (as amended to April 2016)

ARTICLE I

NAME

The organization shall be "The Bermuda Kennel Club" Incorporated, hereinafter referred to as "the Club."

ARTICLE II

CORPORATE SEAL

The seal, an impression of which is stamped on the cover hereof, shall be the corporate seal of the Club.

ARTICLE III

OBJECTS

The Club shall have for its objects the encouragement and development of pure-bred dogs in Bermuda, and in general to act as an authoritative body in the arbitration of controversies and in the final determination of all questions which may arise relating to the pure-bred dog and the Agility, Obedience, Rally and Tracking trained dog (pure bred and mixed breed) in Bermuda, by:

- a. advancing the best interests of the dog and the dog fancy in all matters;
- b. striving for better care and control of all dogs;
- c. keeping records and issuing certificates of pedigree registration of all recognized breeds of pure-bred dogs;
- d. keeping records and issuing certificates for a mixed breed registration
- e. collecting, preserving and publishing data, information and documents relating to pure-bred and mixed breed dogs;
- f. carrying out a system of registration as approved by the Board of Governors;
- g. establishing standards of breed;
- h. adopting and enforcing rules and regulations governing Conformation dog shows, Agility Trials, Obedience Trials, Rally Trials and Tracking Tests for all dogs where the clubs, organizations or associations (hereinafter referred to as "clubs") staging such events desire to hold same under said rules and regulations of the Club;
- i. conferring the title of Champion in breed, and awarding Agility, Obedience, Rally and Tracking titles to those dogs that have met the requirements for these awards;
- j. creating an appreciation on the part of the public of the value of the registered dog;
- k. assisting in all possible ways the registration of all dogs in the records of The Bermuda Kennel Club;
- l. fostering and maintaining among its members the spirit of friendship and the highest sportsmanship;
- m. adopting means to encourage and assist persons engaged in activities referred to in these objects.

ARTICLE IV
MEMBERSHIP

1. **CLASSES:** The membership of the Club shall consist of Active, Junior, Non-Resident, Honorary and Honorary Life Members.
 - a. **ACTIVE:** Anyone residing in Bermuda who is at least sixteen years of age.
 - b. **JUNIOR:** Anyone residing in Bermuda who is under sixteen years of age.
 - c. **NON-RESIDENT:** Anyone not residing in Bermuda who is at least sixteen years of age.
 - d. **HONORARY LIFE:** Honorary Life Members may be elected at the discretion of the Board of Governors from Active or previously Active Members. They shall not be required to make any special payment for such membership or to pay any further annual dues during their life.
2. **INITIATION FEES AND ANNUAL DUES:** Initiation fees and annual dues shall be determined by the Board of Governors.
3. **PRIVILEGES:** Only Honorary Life and Active members in good standing shall have voting rights and be eligible to serve as Officers, Directors or Representatives on the Board of Governors of the Club.
4. **ELIGIBILITY:** No person shall be eligible for, or can continue to enjoy, membership who:
 - a. is under suspension or expulsion by any Kennel Club with which the Club has a reciprocal agreement;
 - b. is engaged in breeding, buying or selling of dogs which are not eligible for registration in the record of The Bermuda Kennel Club;
 - c. is indebted to the Club
5. **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Application for membership must be in writing on the Club's prescribed form and shall be signed by the applicant. Initiation fees and dues must accompany the application.
6. **ELECTION:** Applications shall be presented to the Board of Governors for consideration by circulation of email or at its next regular meeting or at a special meeting convened for any purpose and election shall take place thereat. If the ballot is favourable by a majority vote of the Governors, the applicant shall be deemed to have been duly elected to membership.
7. **MEMBERSHIP YEAR:** The membership year of the Club shall be the calendar year.
8. **NON-PAYMENT OF DUES:** Only those members who have paid their annual dues for the current membership year shall be considered to be in good standing and entitled to voting rights and be eligible to serve on the Board of Governors of the Club. The name of any member who, after being given due notice, has not paid his dues on or before the 31st of March will be automatically removed from the membership records.
9. **RESIGNATION:** A member may resign at any time by emailing the BKC or sending written notice to the Secretary, P.O. Box HM 1455, Hamilton HM FX, Bermuda. No part of his annual dues shall be refunded to a resigning member.
10. **LIMITED LIABILITY:** The financial liability of a member of the Club to the creditors of the Club is limited to the amount due from him in respect of membership dues.

ARTICLE V
BYE-LAWS

The Bye-Laws of the Club bind each member thereof fully as though he had subscribed his name and affixed his seal thereto.

This Constitution and Bye-Laws shall be emailed or a copy of them be delivered to each member or transmitted to his last known address in the records of the Club, or be available on the Internet at the Club website. But no person, whether a member or not, shall be absolved from the effect of these Bye-Laws on any allegation of not having received them or of ignorance of their contents of meaning.

BYE-LAWS

ARTICLE I

MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

1. The Annual General Meeting of the members shall be held on a date determined by the Board of Governors, within ninety days following the end of the year.
2. The Board of Governors may elect to hold a Semi-Annual General Meeting of the members each year on a date determined by the board.
3. Special Meetings may be called from time to time by the Board of Governors or upon a written, signed request of one-sixth of the total Honorary Life and Active membership in good standing. Only business set forth in the notice of the meeting shall be considered at a Special Meeting.
4. Open Meetings may be called for any purpose by the Board of Governors.
5. Notice of all meetings shall be given at least ten days prior to the meeting either by emailing such notice to each member in good standing to his last known address or by publication in a daily newspaper.
6. The time and place of holding the above meetings shall be determined by the Board of Governors.
7. Save as herein otherwise provided seven Honorary Life and/or Active Members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of members. If within one half hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum of members is not present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of the members, shall be dissolved; in any other case it shall stand adjourned to the same day two weeks later at the same time and place; and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum of members is not present within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall constitute a quorum.
8. The Order of business at a General Meeting shall be as follows:
 - a. Identification of members
 - b. Minutes of the previous General Meeting and of any Special Meeting held subsequent thereto.
 - c. Matters arising out of the Minutes.
 - d. Report of the Treasurer.
 - e. Report of the Board of Governors (if Annual General Meeting).
 - f. Reports of Committee Chairmen, both standing and special.
 - g. Amendments to the Constitution and Bye-Laws, if any.
 - h. Any other business.
 - i. Election of Officers and Directors (if Annual General Meeting).

ARTICLE II

ELECTIONS

1. The election of Officers and Directors shall be by vote at the Annual General Meeting and the elected Board will take office immediately following the conclusion of the elections. Each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within thirty days after the election.
2. It shall be the duty of the Board of Governors to prepare a list of candidates for election as Officers and Directors for the ensuing year. Such lists shall include the names of all eligible members of the Club who have signified their willingness to stand for election or re-election and shall be emailed to all members at least ten days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

3. Additional nominations for election to the board may be made by Honorary Life or Active members in good standing. Such nominations must be in writing, accompanied by the written consent of the nominee and must reach the Recording Secretary at least seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Nominations cannot be made from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.
4. No Officer shall serve in the same capacity for more than three consecutive years unless re-elected by a majority vote of three-quarters of the members present and entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting.
5. Candidates for election to the office of President or Vice-President must have served at least one year on the Board of Governors.
6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: A majority vote shall elect. When there are more than two nominees for one office, and the leading candidate has not received a majority of all votes cast, a second balloting will be held immediately limiting the nominees to the two highest. Voting may be by written ballot.
7. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS: Where there are more than two nominees voting shall be by written ballot and the vacancies shall be filled by the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

ARTICLE III
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1. The Club shall be governed by a Board of Governors consisting of five Officers and a minimum of two Directors, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, plus one Representative appointed by each of the breed and agility/obedience clubs in the Island.
2. The Officers of the Club shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
3. All terms of office shall be for one year from the Annual General Meeting to the conclusion of elections at the next Annual General Meeting.
4. THE PRESIDENT: The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Club. He/She shall be ex-officio a member of all committees and Chairman of all meetings of the Board of Governors, of the Management Committee and of the Members.
5. THE VICE-PRESIDENT: The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the case of the latter's resignation, absence or inability to function.
6. THE SECRETARY: The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Board of Governors and of the members and shall record all facts and minutes of all proceedings. He/She shall be responsible for giving all notices required to be given to members and governors. The Secretary shall be responsible for all official correspondence of the Club and for the safe custody of the seal of the Club. The Secretary shall have available for the use of the Board up-to-date copies of the Club's Byelaws, Rules and other directives.
7. THE TREASURER: The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping full and accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements of the Club in proper books of account, and for depositing all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Club in such banks or institutions as the Board may direct. He/She shall disburse the funds of the Club up to a maximum amount authorized annually by the Board and shall render to the Board at its meetings or whenever required of him an account of his transactions as Treasurer and of the financial position of the Club. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year. A copy of the Club's annual financial statements shall be made available to each member at the Annual General Meeting and the Treasurers accounts shall be subject to an independent annual review by a Chartered Accountant appointed by the Board of Governors.

8. A vacancy in any office excepting the Presidency shall be filled at once for the unexpired term by the Board of Governors.
9. THE DIRECTORS: A vacancy among the Directors may be filled for the unexpired term by the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1. The Board of Governors shall meet at the call of the President but not less than-three times annually.
2. A quorum shall consist of sixty percent of the Board of Governors.
3. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, a Chairman elected by the Board will conduct the meeting.
4. Any member of the Board who misses three consecutive meetings without good cause shall be considered no longer a member of the Board.

ARTICLE V

COMMITTEES

1. The business affairs of the Club shall be administered in accordance with policy laid down by the Board of Governors, by a Management Committee consisting of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and two other members of the Board of Governors appointed by the Board.
2. The Board of Governors shall designate all other Committees and appoint their respective Chairmen, and may name Committee members. All such appointments shall be for the term of office of the Board.

ARTICLE VI

STAFF

The Board of Governors is empowered to employ such staff as it deems necessary to conduct the business of the Club, and to award honorariums.

ARTICLE VII

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and these Bye-Laws and any special rules of order the Club may adopt.

ARTICLE VIII

RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

The Board of Governors may enter into reciprocal agreements with any national club or organization maintaining registration records of pure-bred and/or mixed breed dogs.

ARTICLE IX

BREED, AGILITY, OBEDIENCE, RALLY & TRACKING CLUBS

The Board of Governors shall foster the creation of breed, agility and obedience clubs under the jurisdiction of the Club.

ARTICLE X
DISCIPLINE

1. The Board of Governors shall have the power;
 - a. to expel, to suspend, to terminate membership and/or otherwise discipline any member, having first offered said member the opportunity to be heard;
 - b. to warn or to reprimand any person who, in the opinion of the Board, has done any act which is prejudicial to the objects or interests of the Club or to the interests of its members or their dogs.
2. The Board of Governors shall have the power to deprive any non-member of the privileges of the Club if, in the opinion of the Board, he has violated:
 - a. A Bye-Law of the Club;
 - b. The Registration Rules;
 - c. The Dog Show Rules;
 - d. The Agility Trial Regulations and Standards;
 - e. The Obedience Trial Regulations and Standards;
 - f. The Rally Trial Regulations and Standards;
 - g. The Tracking Regulations; or
 - h. Any other rule of the Club.
3. Any person or persons may submit a charge or complaint by email to the Club or by writing to the Bermuda Kennel Club, P.O. Box HM 1455, Hamilton HM FX, Bermuda, with regard to any matter relating to the Club's objects or activities. Any such charge of complaint shall be referred to the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE XI
CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS

The Constitution and Bye-Laws cannot be changed or revised except by a majority vote of the Honorary Life and Active Members present at a General or Special Meeting or by email approval from at least ten Honorary Life and/or Active Members, after the proposed changes verbatim shall have been mailed or emailed to each member at least ten days prior to the date of such meeting.

ARTICLE XII
REPEAL

The Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Club and all amendments thereto, as heretofore in effect, are hereby repealed.