

# DALLAS CHIHUAHUA CLUB INC.



## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

AMENDED: FEB 20, 1996

# DALLAS CHIHUAHUA CLUB, INC.

## CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

### **Article I: Name and Objects**

#### Section 1

The name of the Club shall be Dallas Chihuahua Club, Inc.

#### Section 2

The Objects of the club shall be:

- a) To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Chihuahuas and to do all possible to ring their natural qualities to perfection;
- b) To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by The American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which Chihuahuas shall be judged;
- c) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows;
- d) To conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows under the rules of The American Kennel Club;
- e) To educate members about all aspects of the Chihuahua breed;
- f) To promote membership and participation in club activities.

#### 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 members or individual.

#### Section 4

The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such by-laws as may be required to carry out these objects.

### **Article II: Membership**

#### Section 1. Eligibility

There shall be four types of membership open to all persons who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club.

- a) Regular Membership. All persons eighteen years of age or older.
- b) Junior Membership. All persons under eighteen years of age. (No vote, no office, no fee) At the age of eighteen, membership shall automatically convert to regular upon payment of dues.
- c) Honorary Membership. Those persons of such outstanding accomplishments in the breeding, showing, handling or similar achievements in the world of purebred dogs are deemed worthy of this honor. Election to honorary membership will be only with the consent of the party so being honored and limited to one year. Such members do not vote or hold office and pay no dues.
- d) Lifetime Membership. Those persons of such outstanding accomplishments in breeding, showing, handling or similar achievements in the world of purebred dogs. (No dues, same privileges to vote and hold office as regular member.)

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 be \$5.00 per year, payable on or before the 1st day of May of each year. Dues will be set by the membership annually.

### 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 these constitution and by-laws 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. The prospective member must attend two meetings after submission of an application in order to be eligible for membership, provided candidate lives within a 100-mile radius of the Dallas County Courthouse. He shall not attend another meeting until application has been voted on and a letter has been received from the Secretary regarding the results of the vote. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.

All applications are to be filed with the Secretary with current dues payment attached. The application is to be read at the first and second meeting of the Club following its receipt. The application is not read again until the prospective member has met the attendance requirement. At which time, the application shall be voted on at the next regular club meeting. Application will be voted upon by secret ballot and affirmative votes of 51% of the members present and voting at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.

Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not re-apply within six months after such rejection.

### Section 4. Termination of Membership

Memberships may be terminated:

- a) By resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Secretary; but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
- b) By lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year. 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 expulsion as provided in Article VII of these by-laws.

### Section 5. Reinstatement

Memberships may be reinstated.

- a) Any delinquent persons wishing to be reinstated may do so upon reapplication to the Club as a new member and provided all indebtedness to the club is paid along with his or her annual dues.
- b) Any former member in good standing with the Club may be reinstated by reapplication to the Club as a new member.

## **Article III Meetings and Voting**

### Section 1. Club Meeting

Meetings of the club shall be held within 25 miles of the Dallas County Courthouse at such date of each month, at such hour and place as may be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority vote of the members in attendance. The quorum for such meetings shall be five members in good standing.

### Section 2. Special Club Meeting

Special Club Meetings may be called by the President, a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board, or by a petition signed by five members of the Club who are in good standing. The meeting shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of written notification from the person or persons authorized here in to call such meetings. Such special meetings shall be held within 25 miles of the Dallas County Courthouse at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person or persons who called the meeting. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting. The quorum for such meeting shall be five members in good standing.

### Section 3. Board Meetings

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held within 25 miles of the Dallas County Courthouse, at such date, hour and place as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 5 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meeting shall be three members of the Board.

### Section 4. Special Board Meetings

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by a majority of the Board. The meeting shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of written notification from the person or persons authorized her in to call such meetings. Such special meetings shall be held within 25 miles of the Dallas County Courthouse at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person or persons who called the meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting. The quorum for such meeting shall be three members 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 he is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or election.

## **Article IV Directors and Officers**

### Section 1. Board of Directors

The Board shall be comprised of the President,, Vice- President, Secretary, Treasurer and one Director, 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 V 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 President in addition to those particularly specified in these by-laws.
- 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. He shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, and notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with there addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these by-laws.
- d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the club. He shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. His books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board and he 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 he shall render an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount, as the Board of Directors shall determine.

### 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 all the then 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 V The Club Year, Annual Meeting, Elections**

### **Section 1. Club Year**

The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1st day of May and end on the 30th day of April. The Clubs 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 April at which officers, and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 3 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the meeting and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all current properties and records relating to that office immediately. All old records shall be turned over within seven days of the election.

### **Section 3. Nominations**

No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. Nominations may be made at the April meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position. No person may be a candidate who is in arrears on any money owed to the club, provided notice has been given by the treasurer.

### **Section 4. Voting**

No member may vote for election of officers until they have been a member for 90 day. Election of officers and directors will be done by secret ballot. The ballots will be counted by two members and the results will be given to the Secretary who in turn will announce the results of the vote. The ballots will then be placed in a sealed envelope and retained by the Secretary for a period of six months.

### **Section 5. Elections.**

The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected.  
The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for the Board shall be declared elected.

## **Article VI Committees**

The President shall appoint all committees.

## **Article VII 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**

Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the Breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$10, which shall be forfeited if the Board following a hearing does not sustain such charges. 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 interest of the Club. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct that would be prejudicial to the best interests 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 3 weeks nor more than 6 weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witness if he wishes.

### 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 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 his 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 proceeding 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 the Board's findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The meeting shall then vote by secret written 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 VIII Amendments

### Section 1

Amendments to the constitution and by-laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by twenty percent of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors at a meeting within thirty days. The proposed Amendments must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for a vote no sooner than twenty days and no later than sixty days from the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

### Section 2.

The constitution and by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 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.

## Article IX. 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 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 X Order of Business**

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

- Roll Call
- Introduction of guests and new members
- Minutes of last meeting
- Report of President
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Board
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of Committees
- Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)
- Election of New Members
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

### Section 2.

At meetings of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- Reading of minutes of last meeting
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of Committees
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

### Section 3.

Robert's rules of Order shall govern in parliamentary procedure anything not covered by the Constitution and by-laws.

AMENDED: FEB 20, 1996