

MISSOURI RHINELAND KENNEL CLUB
BY-LAWS

NAME AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The name of the Club shall be Missouri Rhineland Kennel Club.

Section 2. The objectives of the Club shall be as follows:

- a. To further the advancement of all breeds of purebred dogs.
- b. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of purebred dogs and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at Dogs Shows, Obedience, Agility and Field Trials and Tracking Tests.
- b. To conduct Sanctioned Matches, licensed all-breed Dog Shows and licensed Obedience and Agility Trials and Tracking Test under the rules of the American Kennel Club.

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

Section 4. The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such By-Laws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

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ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership – There shall be three types of membership open to all persons who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and subscribe to the purposes of this Club.

Individual Membership – Open to all person 18 years of age and older. They can vote and hold offices.

Household Membership – Shall consist of two adults residing at the same address. Such membership shall entitle the household to two votes in any election and must be in compliance with Article 2, Section 5.

Junior Membership – Is open to all those under 18 years of age and at least ten years of age. They cannot vote or hold office. Upon their 18th birthday the membership will convert automatically to a full membership.

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Section 2. Dues – Membership dues shall be \$15.00 a year for Individual Membership, not to exceed \$24.00 per year. Family Membership \$20.00 per year, not to exceed \$36.00 per year. Junior Membership \$8.00 per year, not to exceed \$16.00. Dues are due on or before the 1st day of October of each year. During the month of September, the Membership Chairman shall send each member a notice of his dues owed for the ensuing year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. Membership dues shall be set by the Board of Directors and will be subject to change upon notification to the members by the Recording Secretary. Any change in dues shall be at the pleasure of the majority vote of the membership.

Section 3. Election to Membership – Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the By-Laws of the American Kennel Club, and, in addition, have their premises inspected by the Membership Committee. The application shall state the name, address, occupation and type of Membership that the applicant is applying for and it shall carry the endorsement of two members in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues for the current year. Dues will be prorated for the members who join after the dues renewal period.

All applications can be filed with the Membership Chairman and a copy given to the Recording Secretary after the applicant has attended one regular meeting. Each application is to be read at the first meeting of the Club following its receipt. Applicants are required to be present for the second reading, at which time the applicant will be voted upon by secret ballot and three fourths (3/4) affirmative vote at the (second reading) meeting shall be required to approve the applicant for membership.

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

Section 4. Termination of membership – Membership may be terminated by the following:

- a. By Resignation – Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Recording Secretary; but no member can resign when in debt to the Club. Dues obligations are considered 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 members' dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 90 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a 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 VI of these By-Laws.

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ARTICLE II

Meeting and Voting

Section 1. Club Meetings – Meetings of the Club shall be held in the greater Washington, MO, area at such date, hour and place, as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Meetings will be held February through November with none scheduled for the month of January, July or December.

Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Recording Secretary at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20 percent of the members in good standing. The Club newsletter may be used for such notification, provided it is sent by first class mail.

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

Section 3. Board Meeting – Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the greater Washington, MO, area at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors at least six times a year. Written notice of each meeting shall be mailed by the Recording Secretary at least five days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

Section 4. Special Board Meeting – Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President and shall be called by the Recording Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the Board. Such special meeting shall be held in the greater Washington, MO, area at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such a meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Recording Secretary at least five days and not more than ten days prior to the date of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. A quorum of such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

Section 5. Voting – Each member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year and has attended not less than four meetings in the prior 12 month period, shall be entitled to one vote, at any meeting at which he is present. The member is required to have supported (by working) in at least three Club activities. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any Club meeting or election.

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Any new member must attend four meetings which includes the meeting where his/her membership was approved before voting privileges are enacted.

ARTICLE III

Directors and Officers

- Section 1. Board of Directors – The Board shall consist of the Club’s Officers and five other persons, all of who shall be members in good standing, which shall be elected for one year terms at the Club’s annual meeting as provided for in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the Club’s affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.
- Section 2. Officers – The Club’s Officers consisting of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Club and its meetings and the Board and its meetings. Officers and Board Members will automatically be removed from office if they miss three consecutive Board meetings. (See Vacancies, Section 3).
- a. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally pertinent to the office of President; in addition to those particularly specified by 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 (includes absence or incapacity) in addition to these duties and powers particularly specified by these By-Laws.
 - c. The Recording 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/she shall have charge of the in-club correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll call and attendance record of member of the Club with their addresses and carry out such other duties as prescribed in these By-Laws.
 - d. The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of all out-of-Club correspondence and other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors.
 - e. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due to or belonging to the Club. He/she shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. His books shall be at all times 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 and receipt or payment not before reported.

An audit of these books shall be made annually. At the annual meeting the Treasurer shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the previous year. Vouchers

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will be signed by the Treasurer or President. The Club Treasurer and President shall be bonded at the expense of the Club.

- f. The offices of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary may be held by the same person.
- g. In the event of absence of all the five Officers at any regularly scheduled Club meeting, those Board members present may elect any Board member to preside over the scheduled Club meeting.

Section 3. Vacancies- Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the officers during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority of the vote of all the then members of the Board at it's first meeting following the creation of each vacancy, or a Special Board meeting called for that purpose; except that a vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President and the resulting vacancy of Vice President shall be filled by the Board.

ARTICLE IV

THE CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS

Section 1. Club Year- The Club's official year shall begin on the 1st day of November and end on the 31st day of October.

The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the Annual Meeting and shall continue through the election at the next meeting.

Section 2. Annual Meeting – The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of October at which Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret and written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over all properties and records relating to that office within 14 days after election. If nominated slate is unopposed, then Recording Secretary may cast the ballot of the assembly.

Section 3. Elections – The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The five nominated candidates for other positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie, all candidates shall be included in re-balloting.

Section 4. Nominations- No person may be a candidate of the Club election who has not been nominated. During the month of June, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of two members and one Board Member. The Board Member will act as Chairman. The Recording Secretary shall immediately notify the committee members of their selection. It shall be the Chairman's duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before July first.

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- a. The committee shall nominate one candidate (who has voting privileges) for each office and five candidates for the other positions of the Board, and after securing the written consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Recording Secretary in writing.
- b. Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Recording Secretary shall, before August 15th, notify each member in writing of the Candidates so nominated.
- c. Additional nominations may be made at the September 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 Recording Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his willingness to be a candidate (except for the candidate of delegate). No person may be a candidate for more than one position.
- d. Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this section.

ARTICLE V

COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as shows, obedience, agility, tracking (including trials and tests), trophies, annual prizes, membership and other endeavors in which the Club may become involved and will be subject to the final approval of the Board. Special committees may be appointed by the Board to aid the Club on particular projects, such as Audit Committee, Building Committee, etc.

Section 2. Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee and the Board may appoint a successor to those person whose services have been terminated.

ARTICLE VI

DISCIPLINE

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

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- Section 2. Charges – Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club. Written charges with specifications must be filed with the Recording Secretary together with a deposit of ten dollars (\$10.00) which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at the Board meeting and the Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best 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 three weeks, nor more than six weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses, 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 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. If it deems that punishment is insufficient, 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 Boards' recommendation. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary in turn shall notify each of the parties of the Boards' decision and penalty, if any.
- Section 4. Expulsion – Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished by a meeting of the Club following a Board hearing and upon the Boards' recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within 60 days, but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Boards' 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 Boards' findings and recommendations and shall invite the Defendant, if present, to speak on his own behalf, if he wishes. The members shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two thirds vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Boards' suspension shall stand.

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ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to the By-Laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Recording Secretary signed by 20 percent of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

Section 2. The By-Laws may be amended by a two thirds (2/3) vote of members in good standing who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for that 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 VIII

DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Dissolution – The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of the not less than two thirds (2/3) of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, other than the purpose of reorganization, 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. The Club's property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization, for the benefit of Dogs, selected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

1. Roll call
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Report of President
4. Report of Recording Secretary
5. Report of Corresponding Secretary
6. Report of Treasurer
7. Report of Committees
8. Election of Officer and Board (at annual meeting)
9. Election of New Members
10. Unfinished Business
11. New Business
12. Adjournment

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Section 2. At the meeting of the Board the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority of vote of those present, shall be as follows:

1. Reading of minutes of last meeting
2. Report of Recording Secretary
3. Report of Corresponding Secretary
4. Report of Treasurer
5. Report of Committees
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

ARTICLE X

DEFINITIONS

Section 1. Anything not covered in these By-Laws shall be considered under Roberts Rules of Order, (newly revised), current edition, shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws and any other special rules of order the Club may adopt.

Section 2. Words importing the masculine gender include the feminine gender.