

Sacramento Valley Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.

Constitution

Article I

- Section 1. The name of the Club shall be the Sacramento Valley Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.
- Section 2. The objects of this Club shall be:
- A. To encourage, promote and protect the quality of purebred dogs and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.
 - B. To urge members and breeders to accept the standards of their breeds as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standards of excellence by which dogs shall be judged at AKC events.
 - C. To hold at least one AKC-licensed Show every year.
- Section 3. The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.
- Section 4. The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such By-Laws as may be required to carry out these objectives.
- Section 5. In adherence with the objectives of the Club as set forth in Section 2 above and to promote the spirit of the dog fancy, Show Chair and Assistant Show Chair(s) will not exhibit in conformation any dog owned or co-owned by them or by any members of their immediate families at any licensed show given by the Club. Members may show in all events as well as work at the show.

By-laws

Article I

Section 1. **Eligibility:** Membership is to be unrestricted as to the residence, the Club's primary purpose is to represent the breeders and exhibitors in its immediate geographic area. There will be three types of membership: Full, Junior and Life.

No person convicted by a Court of Law, having jurisdiction under any laws or courts of the United States of America or within the United States and its Territories, shall be permitted membership into the Club if such person has been convicted of a felony for a crime of Moral Turpitude or Crime of Animal Cruelty of any kind.

- A. **Full Membership:** Shall be open to all persons at least eighteen years of age who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws.
- B. **Junior Membership:** Shall be open to any person **ten through seventeen** years of age who desires to participate in the various activities of the Club, including Junior Showmanship. Applicants for Junior Membership shall have the approval and signature of a parent or legal guardian. Junior members shall pay no dues. Junior members may serve on committees but shall not vote, serve in elected office, nor be eligible for membership on the Nominating Committee. Junior members in attendance at meetings shall not be counted in determining a quorum, and shall not have petition rights. Upon attaining **eighteen** years of age and upon payment of appropriate dues, Junior members may apply for full membership; this will require a vote by the membership.
- C. **Life Membership:** Life Membership shall be conferred on an individual by the board, as a recognition of service to the Club and the sport of dogs for a minimum of 20 years. There shall be no dues charged to life members, though they shall retain all other privileges of membership.

Section 2. **Dues:** Membership dues shall be determined annually by the Board of Directors. Dues shall not exceed **Fifty Dollars (\$50)** per year. Dues from persons joining the Club between October 1st and December 31st will be considered paid through the next full Club year.

During the month of November, the Secretary shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year. Dues are payable by December 31st. The Treasurer shall notify the Secretary of any members who have NOT paid their dues as of January 1, and the Secretary shall, in turn, provide a courtesy reminder to those members, which shall include the notification that membership will be cancelled if dues have not been received by March 1 of the year for which they are being paid.

Members who have lapsed for non-payment of dues shall be required to re-apply if they want to re-join the Club.

Section 3. **Election to Membership:** Each individual seeking membership in the Club, shall attend three Club functions—one show or match event and two meetings—before submitting an application. Application for membership shall be on a form approved by the Board of Directors, it shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this Constitution and By-Laws and by the rules of the American Kennel Club.

The form shall include the name, address and occupation of the applicant, and shall carry the endorsement of two (2) members in good standing from different households. Along with the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year. At this time, the applicant(s) will be required to attend a General Meeting with the purpose of introducing themselves and answering any questions from the membership.

Applications are to be filed with the Secretary for review and recommendation by the Board of Directors. Each application shall be considered at the first Board of Directors meeting following receipt of the application. Applications that have the recommendation of the Board, shall then be presented at the next two regular meetings of the membership. At the second of these meetings, the general membership shall vote on each application. An affirmative vote of 3/4 of the members in good standing present shall be required to elect an applicant to membership. Voting may be by written ballot if requested. Applicants shall not be in attendance at this point in the meeting. Persons whose applications for membership have been rejected by the Club may reapply after six months has elapsed.

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

- A. **Resignation:** Any member in good standing may resign from the Club by written notice to the Secretary. No member may resign when in debt to the Club. Dues obligations and trophy pledges are considered debts to the Club. Dues obligations become incurred the first day of each calendar year
- B. **Lapsing:** A membership will be considered lapsed and automatically terminated if a member's dues remain unpaid by March 1 of the calendar year for which they are being paid. The Board may, however, grant additional grace time to a delinquent member in meritorious cases. In no case shall a person be entitled to vote at a Club Meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- C. **Expulsion:** A membership may be terminated by expulsion, as provided in Article VI., Section 4, of these By-Laws

Article II

Meeting and Voting

- Section 1. **Club Meetings:** Meetings of the Club, except summer activity meetings, shall be held a minimum of four times per year, at a location within the Club's designated area, the Sacramento Valley, at such time and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors, including by internet web-based means. Written notice of all meetings shall be mailed, or electronic notification sent, by the Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for Club meetings shall be 20% of the total voting membership in good standing,
- Section 2. **Special Club Meetings:** Special Club Meetings may be called by the President, by majority vote of other members of the Board of Directors, or by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five (5) members of the Club who are in good standing. Such Special Meetings shall be held in the Sacramento Valley at such hour and place as may be designated by person(s) authorized to call said meetings, including by internet web-based means.
- Written Notice of a Special Club Meeting shall be by mailed and/or electronic notification sent by the Secretary, at least five (5) days and not more than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other Club business shall be transacted. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the total voting membership in good standing
- Section 3. **Board Meetings:** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the Sacramento Valley five (5) times year, at such hour and place as designated by the Board of Directors, including by internet web-based means. Written notice of each such meeting may be sent by first class mail or electronic notification ten (10) days prior to the meeting. The quorum for Board meetings shall be a simple majority.
- Section 4. **Special Board Meetings:** Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or by the Secretary upon receipt of written request signed by at least three (3) members of the Board. Such meetings shall be held in the Sacramento Valley at such an hour and place as designated by the persons authorized herein to call such meetings, including by internet web-based means. Written notice of such meetings shall be mailed or sent by electronic notification by the Secretary at least five (5) and not more than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting, and shall state the purpose of the meeting. No other business shall be transacted. A quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.
- Section 5. **Voting:** Each Full member in good standing, whose dues are paid for the current year, or who are Lifetime members, shall be entitled to one vote per issue, at any meeting of the Club. Proxy and/or absentee voting will not be permitted at any Club Meeting or Election.

Article III

Directors and Officers

- Section 1. **Board of Directors:** The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) other persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing. All shall be elected for one-year terms at the Club's Annual Meeting, as provided in Article IV, and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.
- Section 2. **Officers:** The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities with regard to both the Club and its meetings, and the Board and its meetings. Only one member of any household may serve as a Club Officer at any one time. No member shall hold more than one office at a time.
- A. **The President:** shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board and shall have the duties and powers normally belonging to the office of President, in addition to those specified in these By-Laws.
 - B. **The Vice President:** shall have the powers and exercise the duties of the President in case of the President's absence, incapacity, or death, and such other duties as may be assigned by the Board or President.
 - C. **The Secretary:** shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and the Board, and all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. The Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of the election to office, keep a roll of members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such duties as are prescribed in these By-Laws. The Secretary shall chair the Hearts and Flowers Committee.
 - D. **The Treasurer:** shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club, and shall deposit same in a bank satisfactory to the Board in the name of the Club. The Club's books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Board, and the Treasurer shall report at every Board meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item not previously reported. At the Annual Meeting, but no later than December 31st of the subject year, the Treasurer shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the calendar year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as determined by the Board of Directors. The records of the Treasurer will be annually reviewed by two members of the Club appointed by the Board.
- Section 3. **Vacancies:** Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the Officers during the year shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a majority vote of all of the members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a Special Board Meeting called for that purpose. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board.

Article IV

The Club Year, Annual Meeting and Elections

- Section 1. **Club Year:** The Club's Fiscal and Official Year shall correspond to the calendar year, beginning on the 1st day of January and ending on the 31st day of December.
- Section 2. **Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of December. At the Annual Meeting, directors and officers for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. The Board will determine the election process.
- Section 3. **Elections:** The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The nominated candidates for other positions on the Board, who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions, shall be declared elected. In the case of a tie, a runoff election between the tied candidates shall be immediately held. Those elected shall take office effective January 1 of the coming calendar year. Each retiring officer shall, prior to January 1 of the coming calendar year, turnover to the newly elected successor to that office all properties and records relating to that office.
- Section 4. **Nominations:** No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not attained membership as per Article 1 of these By-Laws and has not been nominated. During the month of September, the Board shall select a Nominating committee consisting of three members and one alternate, not more than two of whom may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee members and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a chair for the Nominating Committee, whose duty it shall be to call a Committee meeting to be held on or before October 1st.
- A. The Committee shall nominate one candidate for each position on the Board and, after securing the consent of each nominee, shall immediately report their nominees to the Secretary in writing.
 - B. Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report the Secretary shall, on or before October 14th, notify all club members of the Committee's candidates. This written notification may be included in the Club's newsletter, bulletin, or electronically, as long as it is mailed on time.
 - C. At the November general membership meeting, additional nominations may be made by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline the nomination. If the person so nominated is not present at the November meeting, the proposer must present to the Secretary a written statement signifying the proposed candidate's willingness to be nominated. No member shall be nominated for more than one position.
 - D. Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner except as provided in this Section.

Article V

Committees

- Section 1. **Committees:** Each year the Board shall appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as the Show, and other areas that may be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final approval of the Board. Special committees may be appointed by the Board from time to time, to aid it on special projects.
- Section 2. **Termination:** Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice or electronically, to the appointee. The Board may appoint successors to persons whose services have been terminated.

Article VI

Discipline

- Section 1. **American Kennel Club Suspension:** Any member who is suspended from any privileges of the American Kennel Club shall automatically be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period.
- Section 2. **Charges:** Any member may prefer charges against any other member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary, together with a deposit of \$25.00; the deposit shall be forfeited if charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to each member of the Board, or present them at a Board meeting. The Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges might, if proven, constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club. If the Board finds no allegation of conduct that might be prejudicial to the best interest of the Club, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction of the charges. If the board decides to entertain jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date for a Board Hearing in no less than three (3) nor more than six (6) weeks from the date of the decision. The Secretary shall then promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member, via electronic notification (email) and registered mail, together with a notice of the hearing and as assurance that the defendant may appear in person to present a defense and may bring witnesses.
- Section 3. **Board Hearings:** 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 (6) months from the date of the hearing. If the Board deems that punishment to be insufficient, it may further recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before fellow club members at the next regular meeting, at which the Board's

recommendation is considered. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in writing and filed with the Secretary who shall, in turn, notify, by electronic notification (email) and registered mail, each of the parties of the Board's decision and of the penalty, if any.

Section 4. **Expulsion:** Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at a General Meeting of the Club following a Board Hearing and upon the Board's recommendation, as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club, to be held not less than thirty (30) nor more than sixty (60) days after the date of the Board's recommendation to expel. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in person, although no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendations, and shall inquire whether the defendant wishes to speak.

The members shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at the meeting is necessary to uphold the recommendation of expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

Article VII

Amendments

Section 1. **Amendments:** Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors, or by written petition addressed to the Secretary and signed by twenty percent of the members in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and the Secretary must submit them to the members for voting, with the Board's recommendation, within three (3) months of the date the petition was received by the Secretary.

Section 2. **Vote:** The Constitution and By-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided that the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and, by mail and/or electronic notification, sent to each member at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

Article III

Dissolution

Section 1. **Dissolution:** The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than **two-thirds** (2/3) of the members. In the event of dissolution of the Club other than for the 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 the members of the Club. After payment of the debts of the Club, its property and assets shall be given to charitable organizations for the benefit of dogs. Such organizations shall be selected by the Board of Directors.

Article IX

Order of Business

Section 1. **Club Meetings:** 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:

- Additions/Deletions to the Agenda
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of the Secretary
- Committee Reports
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Elections of Officers and Board (at Annual Meeting)
- Election of New Members
- Adjournment
- Brags

Section 2. At meetings of the Board of Directors, the Order of Business shall be as follows:

- Additions/Deletions to the Agenda
- Minutes of the Last Meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of the Secretary
- Committee Reports
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

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