

Official By-Laws
For
P. R. I. D. E.

ARTICLE 1: NAME – PREAMBLE – OBJECTIVES

- A. The organization shall be known as PRIDE. (Providing Responsible Information on Dogs' Environment)

- B. The relationship between sled dogs and humans is one of the oldest bonds of its kind. Modern sled dog owners are proud of their dogs as canine athletes that are bred and trained to do what they love – run as part of a team. We support the responsible care and humane treatment of all dogs. PRIDE is therefore dedicated to enhancing the care and treatment of sled dogs in their traditional and modern uses.

- C. The objectives of PRIDE shall be to:
 - 1. Establish guidelines for proper sled dog care and treatment.
 - 2. Facilitate communication among dog mushers about treatment and care of sled dogs.
 - 3. Educate young people about sled dogs and mushing through existing youth groups and schools.
 - 4. Enhance the care of sled dogs by development of improved husbandry and veterinary practices.
 - 5. Promote public understanding about the care, treatment, traditional and modern uses of sled dogs.
 - 6. Welcome and assist beginning mushers.

ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all who wish to join. Membership categories and respective annual dues are:

- A. Active Members: \$15.00 per year
- B. Youth Members (under 18 years old): \$5.00 per year
- C. Family Members: \$20.00 per year = 2 votes
- D. Associate Members: \$10.00 per year (will not have voting privileges)
- E. Club Members: \$20.00 per year (will not have voting privileges)
- F. Business Members: \$100 per year = 1 vote

THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR SHALL BE FROM NOVEMBER 1ST TO OCTOBER 31ST.

Active, Family & Youth members in good standing may vote and hold office. Membership may be terminated by resignation, death, non-payment of dues or expulsion.

ARTICLE 3: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The officers and directors shall constitute the Board of Directors.

1. A. The number of directors shall be 10 Not more than eight shall be from Alaska as determined by permanent residency.
- B. The term of the directors shall be two years with approximately half of the Board elected yearly. Even-numbers seats will be elected in even numbered years and odd-numbered seats will be elected in odd-numbered years.
- C. Vacancies – Any vacancies occurring on the Board shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors.
- D. Removal of Directors – Any director may be removed by a majority of the directors providing just cause has been established and, in their judgments, the best interest of PRIDE would be served.
- E. Two consecutive unexcused absences from board meetings, or an unexcused absence from the annual meeting shall be cause for removal from the board. Attendance may be by teleconference.
- F. All officers and board members shall have their kennels inspected in accordance with the PRIDE voluntary kennel inspection program every two years.

ARTICLE 4: ELECTIONS

Elections of directors shall be by letter ballot.

Nominations made by the Nominating Committee shall be transmitted to the Secretary at least six (6) weeks before the date of the election. Nominations by the membership at large if endorsed by at least fifteen (15) percent of the voting members in good standing presented to the Secretary in writing at least six (6) weeks before the date of the ballot mailing also shall be included on the mail ballot. The Secretary shall determine whether all nominees are voting members in good standing eligible to hold office and have accepted their nomination. The Secretary shall report to the Chair of the Nominating Committee the names of the nominees who fail to qualify. Further nominations, if necessary, shall be made by the Nominating Committee no later than three (3) weeks before the date of ballot mailing.

The Secretary shall mail a letter ballot to all voting members in good standing at least four (4) weeks before the date of the election. The Ballots shall (1) state the offices to be filled, (2) list the names of the candidates for each seat in alphabetical order, (3) show the closing date for receiving the ballots, and (4) be accompanied by a brief factual professional biography of each candidate and a return envelope or post care addressed to the Secretary. The outcome of all elections shall be determined by a plurality or simple majority of those voting. The ballots shall be counted by the Secretary and one other board member who shall promptly certify the results of the election to the Nominating Committee and Executive Committee. The entire membership shall be informed of the election results as soon as possible.

All elected directors shall assume office following the close of the annual meeting, except as provided for under Article 3 of these by-laws.

ARTICLE 5: MEETINGS

- A. Annual Meeting: shall be held in conjunction with the Alaska Dog Musher Symposium or other major sled dog sports conference for the purpose of installation of directors of PRIDE and conducting other business. If no suitable meeting occurs, the Annual Meeting shall be held in the northern hemisphere Fall. At least 10 days advance written notice shall be given to all members of the time and place of the meeting.
- B. Special Meetings of PRIDE shall be held at the call of the President or upon the written request of 20 active members. At least 7 day advance written notice shall be given to all voting members. At Special Meetings at least 10% of the membership or 20 members, whichever is larger, shall constitute a quorum.
- C. Board of Directors shall meet as called by the President. Six directors shall constitute a quorum.

- D. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern all meetings of PRIDE except where superseded by the bylaws or specifically suspended for a given time by the Directors of the Board.

ARTICLE 6: OFFICERS

A. Officers of PRIDE shall be:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Other officers as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

B. Qualifications:

Any director, active, or family member over 18 years of age may serve as an officer of this organization.

C. Election and Terms of Office

Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors after the Annual Meeting and shall hold office for a term of one year or until he/she resigns, is removed, is disqualified to serve, or until a successor shall be elected and qualified.

D. Removal, Resignation, and Vacancies

Any officer may be removed either with or without cause by the Board of Directors at any time. Officers may resign by giving written notice to the Board of Directors. Any vacancy of office shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Temporary appointments may be made by the President until the Board can fill the vacancy.

E. Compensation

No compensation shall be given the directors of officers of PRIDE except reimbursement of expenses specifically authorized by the Board of Directors.

F. Duties of Officers

The President shall be responsible for developing and continuing PRIDE activities during the term of office and for organizing the membership toward meeting the objectives of PRIDE. The President shall preside at meeting of PRIDE; serve as Chair of the Executive Committee and exofficio member of all other committees; oversee the business affairs of PRIDE; with the approval of the Executive Committee, appoint the standing Committees and other special committees as needed; and shall perform all others duties commonly incident to such office.

The Vice-President, in absence of the President, shall preside at PRIDE meetings and act for and assist in conducting PRIDE affairs as may be requested by the President.

The Secretary shall conduct all elections and referendums; keep the minutes of the meetings; conduct its correspondence; announce its meetings; and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall prepare and present at the Annual Meeting a written report of PRIDE activities.

The Treasurer shall act as custodian of the records and accounts of PRIDE; receive and disburse all monies on behalf of PRIDE and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall prepare and present at the Annual Meeting an income and expense statement for the year's operations and a balance sheet as of the end of the fiscal year.

ANY EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS BY THE ORGANIZATION WILL REQUIRE THE SIGNATURE OF THE TREASURER AND ONE OTHER OFFICER.

ARTICLE 7: COMMITTEES

- A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall consist of elected officers of PRIDE and up to three additional board members appointed by the President; Executive Committee shall perform the business of PRIDE when the Board is not in session.
- B. BY-LAWS COMMITTEE shall examine the by-laws annually to recommend changes to promote the expedient operation of PRIDE and attainment of its objectives.
- C. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE shall be responsible for drafting proposal for membership including: types of memberships; benefits derived from various types of memberships; suggested strategies for membership recruitment.
- D. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE shall be charged with identifying: methods of communicating with the public and the media; methods of communicating, within PRIDE, public concerns so they can be addressed promptly and effectively; immediate issues which should be addressed by PRIDE; methods of membership recruitment.
- E. EDUCATIONS PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: This committee is to identify potential audiences which PRIDE shall address with educational efforts; methods of delivering educational programs; ways to evaluate the effectiveness of educational efforts; general programmatic directions; and potential teaching resource groups.
- F. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The charge for the nominating committee shall be to propose director nominations to be voted on as per Article IV.
- G. GUIDELINES COMMITTEE: This committee shall identify: specific areas of dog care for which PRIDE will develop guidelines; methods of guideline development; potential resource people and groups; and areas of needed research.
- H. The President may appoint other committees as needed by PRIDE.

ARTICLE 8: CHAPTERS

Chapters may be authorized by the Executive Committee of PRIDE upon written petition of ten (10) or more voting members of PRIDE resident in an area where strong local organization of diversified interests may be affected. The boundaries of a Chapter shall be established by the

Board on recommendations from the members concerned. The authorization for a Chapter may be rescinded by the Board of PRIDE or upon affirmative vote of a quorum of the member of the chapter. Chapters shall hold at least one meeting each year to retain their authorization. Student Chapters are authorized and shall be composed of Student members of PRIDE.

The Chapter shall adopt by-laws for its government subject to the approval of PRIDE Board provided that no part thereof shall conflict with the by-laws of the parent society.

Newly elected Chapter officers and adoption or amendment of by-laws shall be reported promptly to the PRIDE Board and at least once each year a report on the proceedings of the Chapter shall be submitted to the Board of PRIDE.

ARTICLE 9: AMMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

Amendments to By-laws may be proposed by the By-laws Committee or upon written petition of 10% of the Membership. Amendments to the By-laws require 2/3 of the membership voting at an annual or a meeting announced for the purpose of amending the by-laws.