

Canadian Akita Club Constitution & Bylaws

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ARTICLE I - NAME AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1 - NAME - The name of the club shall be the Canadian Akita Club, hereinafter referred to as the Club.

Section 2 - OBJECTIVES - The objectives of the club shall be:

- a) To encourage and promote the breeding of purebred Akitas with emphasis on perpetuating their natural qualities
- b) To define, promote, and secure uniformity of type to achieve excellence in the breed
- c) To promote, advance and protect the interest of the breed, including stability of temperament, quality of conformation, and freedom from known genetic defects and conditions
- d) To promote responsible breeding of the Akita via health testing through all reputable methods, breeding at appropriate ages and ensuring dogs are of sound conformation and temperament before breeding
- e) To encourage sportsmanlike conduct by members at show, obedience trials and all other CKC competitions
- f) To conduct Sanction Matches, Booster Shows, and Specialty Shows in accordance with the rules of the Canadian Kennel Club
- g) To provide factual and accurate education to the general public about the breed
- h) To encourage membership and support from breeders, exhibitors, and fanciers and adherence to the Constitution and Bylaws and the Code of Ethics of the Club
- i) To provide events for Akita owners in the following disciplines:
 - Conformation
 - Rally Obedience
 - Obedience
 - Draft Dog
 - Barn Hunt
 - Chase Ability
 - Sprinters

- Scent Detection
- And encourage the versatility of the breed

Section 3 - AREA OF OPERATION - The area of operation of the club shall be all of Canada

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – CALENDAR - Membership in the Club shall be based on the calendar year. Any new member joining after Oct.1st will have a valid membership for the balance of that year and the next. Many decisions, except Board elections, shall be done through e-mail and Facebook Messenger voting

Section 2 – ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Membership shall be open to all individuals interested in promoting the American variety of the Akita breed and working towards the betterment of the Akita through education, community involvement and promoting responsible breeding practices.

2.2 All new members will be probationary for the first year to let the club get to know them. The Executive holds the right to refuse a probationary member's renewal the following year. Any breaking of bylaws or noted unethical practices within the first year will result in immediate termination of the individual's membership by vote of the Executive. Probationary members are not allowed to vote or hold office until their probation is completed.

2.3 A member on probation can not sponsor a new member. If they wish to invite people to the club they should contact their own sponsor to see if they are willing to sponsor the new member.

2.4 The Board of Directors reserves the right to extend the probationary period if it is uncertain at the end of the first year if the new member is a good fit for the club or if the Board wants more time getting to know them.

Section 3 - TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

There shall be 3 types of memberships as follows:

3.1 Regular Member - Open to all individuals residing in Canada. Full voting and office-holding privileges are extended.

3.2 Non-Resident Member – Open to all individuals who do not maintain a permanent residence in Canada. Non-residents shall be entitled to all benefits of Regular members, except office-holding privileges and the ability to vote for Officers and Directors of the Club.

3.3 Probationary Member - All new members are considered probationary until the end of their first year. Probationary members shall not have voting or office-holding privileges until they become a regular member.

Section 4 - CLASSES - There shall be two classes of membership: Single (One Vote) and Family (Two Votes)

4.1 Single Membership - Basic Membership for one individual, one vote for all club decisions where the members may vote

4.2 Family Membership - Membership for two individuals who live together/are family, there will be one address for the membership but may be two phone numbers, CKC numbers etc. Two votes for all club decisions where the members may vote

Section 5 - DUES - Members shall be notified via a post in the group that dues for the upcoming year are payable. Non-payment of dues by February 28th, with two reminders, shall require payment of a new membership fee instead of a renewal fee. When a change in membership fees and/or late penalty is proposed by the Executive it shall be put to the membership for an online vote. The new fees will be implemented January 01st of the following year.

Section 6 - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

6.1 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 this Constitution, By-Laws, and the rules of The Canadian Kennel Club. The applicant must also supply one sponsor, an individual already in the Club as a full member who can vouch for them. If a member submits with no sponsor they need to acquire one sponsorship from a full member of the club. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year. All membership applications will receive a confirmation from the Executive of the receipt of the form within 14 days of receiving the application. If no confirmation is received and the applicant is unable to get into contact with the Secretary or the Treasurer, the applicant should follow up with their sponsor.

6.2 Approval of Membership - Applications for membership shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors within 30 days of receiving the application form. If the application is received with a sponsor of a member in good standing with the Club the prospective member shall be voted on by the Board of Directors. If the vote passes by a majority the individual is accepted as a member. Each member must have a copy of the Club By-Laws and Constitution, whether by internet from the web site, or by mailing from the Club Secretary.

6.3 Rejection of Membership – Any applicant who has been rejected must be provided in writing with a reason for such rejection within 30 days of having received the application. The applicant has 30 days to contest the decision of the Executive and present their arguments. If after having received the arguments of the applicant and the decision of the Executive remains unchanged the decision remains irrevocable. The applicant's money shall be returned if they paid prior.

6.4 Termination of Membership
Membership may be terminated as follows:

a) Resignation: Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon providing written notice to the Secretary.

b) Lapsing: A membership shall be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first day of the

fiscal year.

c) Termination during Probation: A membership may be terminated by a vote of the Executive within a new member's first year with the club if it is noted the individual is participating in unethical practices, is noted to be breaking bylaws or harms the image and proper functioning of the Club.

d) Expulsion: A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article XIII, Section 4 of these Bylaws. In all cases of termination of membership, all outstanding debts and property of the Club shall be paid and/or returned within 30 days to the Club.

ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

Section 1 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - An Annual General Meeting will be held at a time designated by the Board of Directors and shall be held at least once each calendar year on an online forum.

Section 2 –BOARD MEETINGS - There shall be Online Board meetings of elected representatives and committee chairs. These shall take place regularly at times designated by the Board of Directors. Other Board Meetings to discuss urgent business may be called at any time at the discretion of the President, or a question put to the Board for a vote.

Section 3 – SPECIAL GENERAL CLUB MEETINGS - A special issue may be brought to the attention of the membership by a majority vote of the Board, or by a petition signed by 10 or more of the members in good standing, setting forth the reasons for the meeting. A meeting to discuss this issue will be announced and all members may participate. Both the announcement and the meeting shall take place online.

Section 4 - NOTICE OF MEETINGS - Notice of all Annual and Special Meetings shall be announced online via email or a post in the Club's Facebook group

Section 5 - PROXY - Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.

Section 6 - QUORUMS - The quorum is the minimum amount of members present at a meeting for the meeting to proceed. The quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall consist of 75% of the Board members and 20% of the members in good standing. The quorum for Board Meetings shall consist of 50% of the Executive.

ARTICLE IV – ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section I - MEETINGS - All meetings will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and will follow the following itinerary:

- a) Call to Order
- b) Roll Call
- c) Old Business
- d) New Business
- e) Plan for Next Meeting
- f) Adjourned

ARTICLE V – THE EXECUTIVE

Section 1 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS - The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Officers of the Club as well as 4 Regional Directors, all of whom shall be permanent residents or citizens of Canada elected by the Club's Annual Meeting in the odd numbered years. The Board must have Directors residing in at least (3) regions as provided by the CKC in the Club Policy Document. These (3) regions are:

- a) All zones west of Ontario plus Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut
- b) Ontario
- c) All zones east of Ontario.

General Management of the Club shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions contained in the Club Bylaws.

Section 2 – OFFICERS

The Officers of the Club must be members of the CKC in good standing, and shall include:

- a) President
- b) Vice-President
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer

The position of the Secretary and the Treasurer may be held by the same person.

Section 3 - TERM OF OFFICE

- a) The Executive shall hold office for a period of two years commencing January 01 and ending December 31 of the second year.
- b) Any persons previously on The Executive may go up for nomination again after their two years if no other persons step up for the position or the club deems they would continue to do well in the position
- c) The Executive shall appoint a member to fill any vacancy occurring between elections. The only office this does not apply to, is that of the President, which is automatically assumed by the Vice President, whose position is in turn appointed by the Board. The Secretary shall advise the CKC of any change of Board within 30 days.

Section 4 –DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

a) President:

- 1. Shall preside at all meetings of the Canadian Akita Club.
- 2. Shall supervise the officers in the execution of their duties.
- 3. Shall automatically be a member of all committees.

b) Vice-President:

- 1. Shall carry out the duties of the President in his/her absence.

c) Secretary

- 1. Shall maintain a record of current members and their status, as well as dates of when they joined.
- 2. Shall provide a list of regular, voting members to the President at each meeting for voting privileges.
- 3. Shall handle correspondence pertaining to new members.

4. Shall handle all matters relating to payment of dues, membership applications and renewals.

5. Shall handle all correspondence.

6. Shall keep minutes of all meetings.

7. Shall maintain all records.

d) Treasurer

1. Shall keep financial records of all accounts pertaining to the Club.

2. Shall render financial statements to the Board and membership at each Annual General Meeting, and when required.

3. Shall deposit Canadian Akita Club funds in a financial institution in the name of the Canadian Akita Club. The signing officers empowered to make authorized withdrawals of funds shall be the Secretary, Treasurer, and either the President or Vice-President.

4. Shall, at all times, have their books open to inspection by the Board.

5. All books and monies shall be transferred to the new Treasurer within 30 days of all outstanding bills being paid.

6. Ensure no funds are barred from being deposited and must ensure all membership dues are deposited within 14 days of receiving them.

e) Regional Directors

1. Shall make recommendations to the Canadian Akita Club as directed by their members.

Section 4 –REMUNERATION - Unless authorized at any meeting, no officer or member of the Canadian Akita Club shall receive remuneration for his or her services.

Section 5 - CLUB PROPERTY - All club emails, social media pages, websites and bank accounts are the sole property of the club. Any members of the Executive or the Board leaving their positions must hand over control of club related entities to their successors without hesitation or conflict.

ARTICLE VI – FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Section 1 - OVERVIEW

- a) The fiscal year of the Club shall be January 1 through December 31.
- b) The Club must have a separate and independent bank account in the name of the Canadian American Akita Club and all checks drawn from the Club account must have the signature of a minimum of two (2) Officers. Any e-transfers must be confirmed by a minimum of two (2) Officers.
- c) The books and records of the Club shall be open to inspection by the Board and members.
- d) Each committee shall submit a proposed budget to the board at the January meeting. The Board shall then prepare and present a complete budget to the membership via email for comment. Upon release of these pre-approved funds; each committee head shall submit a quarterly statement, along with receipts, to the Treasurer. Any costs, above what was budgeted for, are subject to Board approval; as would be any new expenses not provided for in the budget.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTIONS

Section 1 –VOTING, CANDIDATES, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS NOMINATION/ELECTION COMMITTEE

- a) Each election year, the Board shall appoint a nomination/election chairperson.
- b) The Chair shall appoint at least one, and up to two other Club members to assist on the committee.
- c) No member of the committee may be on the current Board or on the election slate.
- d) There shall be a call for nominations, and a nominations form, by September of an election year. The BOD shall go through elections as follows:
- President and Treasurer shall be voted in Even Years
 - Vice President, Secretary and Regional Directors shall be voted in Odd Years

e) Nominations shall close by October 31, of the election year.

f) Voting will be conducted by secret ballot, emailed to all voting members in good standing, by the Nomination/election committee, on Sept. 15, of the election year, to be returned by December 1. Publication of the results shall be in the Club Facebook group and will be emailed out as well.

g) The nomination/election committee shall be convened any time that the Board requires a vote by secret ballot.

h) The nomination/election committee shall be responsible for arranging for the tabulation of any voting that requires a vote by secret ballot.

i) All Board nominees must be members in good standing with the Canadian Kennel Club, and be eligible to stand as according to these Bylaws.

Section 2 - ELECTION OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS

a) There shall be a minimum of (4) Regional Directors, with a minimum of (1) Director from each of the (3) regions of the club's jurisdiction.

b) A Director may be nominated by any member in Good Standing.

c) Voting is restricted to those members who reside in their own region, and who are eligible to vote as according to these Bylaws.

d) A Director must reside in the region which they represent.

e) In the event there is more than one person running in a Region, then the individual with the most votes shall win, with a second Director in a region being possible if only (3) Director spots are currently filled. The individual with the next highest votes amongst all regions shall be the 4th Director, and the second Director in their region.

Section 3 – COMMITTEES

a) Each year the Board shall set up committees to advance the objects of the Club. These committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board.

b) Committee Appointments: - Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board upon written notice being sent to the appointee, and the Board may appoint a successor to the person whose services have been terminated.

c) Committee Termination: - Any committee may be dissolved by a majority vote of the Board should a committee no longer be needed or when its purpose is fulfilled. All members of the committee being dissolved will receive written notice from the Secretary within 7 days of the vote.

c) The CKC requires that each Club undertake doing educational and/or community involvement work, and supply a statement of such with each annual renewal. This is a mandatory committee, and reports must be submitted to the Treasurer.

ARTICLE VIII – DISCIPLINE

Section 1 – SUSPENSION

Any member who is suspended, expelled, debarred or deprived, of privileges of the Canadian Kennel Club, or whose membership has been terminated by the CKC discipline committee, or if any similar action has been taken by any other recognized registering body, or their recognized clubs, shall automatically be suspended from the privileges of the Club for a like period.

Section 2 - COMPLAINTS

a) Any member may lay a complaint against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed. Written complaints containing details of the alleged misconduct must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a fee set by the Board, from time to time, which shall be forfeited if the complaint is not justified by a hearing of the Board or of a committee duly appointed for this purpose.

b) The Secretary upon receiving such a complaint, within 30 days shall forward a copy of the complaint, along with a notice of hearing to the defendant, the complainant and each member of the Board or appointed committee.

c) The hearing date shall be set no later than 90 days from the date of receipt of the complaint. If the Board holds the hearing, a minimum of four (4) members of the Board must be present either electronically or by phone conference call or in person. In the event that a committee holds the hearing, at least a majority of the appointed committee shall be present. Should a complaint be laid against the Secretary, then the President shall act in accordance with these by-laws

d) Anyone using any one of the Club mediums and breaking the Bylaws in the process shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Club as according to these by-laws.

e) Any member using any one of the Club mediums, and accusing another member of breaking the Bylaws, without following the Club Bylaws shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Club as according to these bylaws.

Section 3 – HEARING

The Board or appointed Committee shall ensure that both the complainant and the defendant are treated fairly and in accordance with the rules of natural justice. Should the complaint be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by the complainant and defendant, the Board or Committee may by a majority vote of those present, either electronically or by phone conference call or in person, impose an appropriate penalty. The Secretary shall then notify each of the parties of the decision within 30 days of the decision.

Section 4 - APPEAL

a) Should any person subject to any decision arising out of a complaint hearing be dissatisfied with the decision of the Board or Committee these individuals may appeal the decision.

b) All appeals must be sent to the Secretary in writing, whom will then notify the respondent of the appeal within 30 days

c) Both the appellant and the respondent will be provided with a date and time of the appeal hearing a minimum of 30 days before the appeal is heard/read by the Board/Committee

d) Both the appellant and the respondent will have the right to attend the hearing

e) An appeal hearing will not be a retrial but rather a hearing to determine whether or not there is just cause to overturn the finding of the prior decision-making hearing. Arguments presented by the parties to the complaint during the appeal process should, therefore, be limited to this aspect.

f) The Secretary shall inform both the appellant and the respondent of the decision of the Board or Committee in writing within 30 days of the hearing.

Section 5 – EXPULSION

Expulsion of a member from the Canadian Akita Club shall be accomplished at the Annual General Meeting or a Special Meeting of the Club following a proper hearing and upon the recommendation of the Board or Committee being provided as stated in Section 3 of this Article. The President shall read the complaint and report the findings and recommendations of the Board or appointed committee, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak on his/her own behalf. Afterwards, an email vote shall be conducted by the election committee consisting of 2/3 majority of all eligible voting members in favor of expulsion.

Section 5 - SOCIAL MEDIA

All members of the club should conduct themselves in a way befitting the club's goal of positive community and love for our breed, including on online platforms. Any member found conducting themselves poorly online, via starting fights, posting slanderous comments, or otherwise being negative without following these Bylaws for official complaints shall be given a warning and a 6 month period of probationary membership. Depending on the severity the Board of Directors may ask for a public apology and to remove the post/comment. If this behaviour is repeated the Board of Directors may vote to expel the individual from the club.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 1 – PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS - Amendments to the Constitution, the Bylaws, and Breed Standard may be proposed by the Board or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by ten members in good standing. Amendments proposed by such a petition shall be considered by the Board at the next Board meeting.

Section 2 – AMENDMENT BY VOTE - The Constitution, Bylaws, and Breed Standard may be amended at any time provided a copy of the proposed amendment has been emailed by the Secretary to each member in good standing on the date of emailing, accompanied by a ballot on which he/she may indicate his/her choice for or against the action to be taken. Notice with such ballot shall specify a date not more than 2 weeks after the date of emailing by which date the ballots must be returned via email to the Secretary to be counted. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those eligible voting members who have voted is required. No amendment to the Registered Name or Breed Standard shall become effective until the Canadian Kennel Club has approved it.

Section 3 - REVISION OF CONSTITUTION

a) This Constitution may be amended only at the Annual General Meeting; all amendments must be forwarded to the general membership no later than one month after the Annual General Meeting in any given year.

b) Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the Executive and/or Executive Committee.

c) Any ordinary member in good standing may propose an amendment to the Constitution by submitting such proposal along with signatures of twenty (20) percent of the membership in good standing, a detailed explanation of the change in writing to the Secretary.

d) The original proposal and detailed explanation shall be distributed to the members to allow not less than thirty (30) days to elapse prior to the meeting at

which the notice of motion is to be considered.

e) The general membership at the first annual meeting following adequate notification shall consider the proposed amendment. An affirmative vote of 2/3 of those eligible voters present is necessary for ratification.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

The Canadian Akita Club may be dissolved at any time by providing the Canadian Kennel Club, written documentation, signed by at least 2/3 of the members of the Club who are in favor of this decision. In the event of the 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 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 the Club, such organization being selected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI – BORROWING POWERS

The Canadian Akita Club shall have no borrowing powers.

This Document is Current as of December 13, 2023