

Canadian Akita Club Constitution & Bylaws

Index Summary of Official Document

ARTICLE I – NAME, OBJECTIVES, AREA OF OPERATION AND PRINCIPLES
(Pg. 2-4)

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP (Pg. 4-9)
Eligibility, Types of Membership, Membership Application (Fees, Approval, Rejection, Termination, Resignation)

ARTICLE III - MEETINGS (Pg. 9-10)
Annual General Meeting, Board Meetings, Special General Club Meetings

ARTICLE IV - ORDER OF BUSINESS (Pg. 10)

ARTICLE V - THE EXECUTIVE (Pg. 10-15)
Officers, Term of Office, Duties of Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Regional Director), Remuneration, Club Property

ARTICLE VI - FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS (Pg 15)

ARTICLE VII - ELECTIONS (Pg. 15-18)
Voting, Candidates, Nominations, Elections, Nomination/Election Committee, Election of Regional Directors, Committees

ARTICLE VIII - DISCIPLINE (Pg. 18-22)
Suspension, Complaints, Hearing, Appeals, Expulsion

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS (Pg. 22-23)
Proposal for Amendments, Amendments by Vote

ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION (Pg. 23)

ARTICLE XI - BORROWING POWERS (Pg. 24)

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) Canadian Akita Club is a 'Non Profit' entity.
- b) Exhibit and encourage respect and ethical sportsmanship to others at all events held under the CKC Rules and Regulations and any other sponsored activity or function of the club.
- c) Require club members to accept the Breed Standards, as approved by The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC), as the only standard of excellence by which purebred dogs shall be judged in Canada.
- d) To encourage and promote the breeding of purebred Akita's with emphasis on perpetuating their natural qualities.
- e) To define, promote, and secure uniformity of type to achieve excellence in the breed.
- f) 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.
- g) To promote responsible breeding of the Akita's via health testing through all reputable methods, breeding at appropriate ages and ensuring dogs are of sound conformation and temperament before breeding.
- h) Encourage and Educate Judges or Prospective Judges.
- i) Mentor new members in various roles within the club to encourage club growth and foster a sense of community with the club.
- j) Liaise with our counterparts from Parent/National Breed Clubs of other countries.
- k) To conduct Sanction Matches, Booster Shows, and National Specialty Shows in accordance with the rules of the Canadian Kennel Club.

- l) To provide factual and accurate education to the general public about the breed.
- m) 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.
- n) To hold the following CKC approved events including but not limited too:
 - Conformation
 - Rally Obedience
 - Obedience
 - Draft Dog
 - Barn Hunt
 - Chase Ability
 - Sprinters
 - Scent Detection
 - Sled Dog Racing

And encourage the versatility of the breed.

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

Section 4- PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 The club shall be a Non-Profit club.
- 4.2 The club shall take all necessary steps to investigate and comply with Federal and Provincial Guidelines with respect to clubs and corporations.
- 4.3 The club shall maintain CKC recognition by adhering to the Policy set out by CKC and acknowledge that any changes in such Policy from time to time will supersede contravention within this Constitution & By-Laws.
- 4.4 The club employs the use of electronic signatures, electronic mail, online bank transfers and virtual meetings as required and any reference, finance, correspondence or meetings in this Constitution and By-Laws shall be deemed to include these methods unless otherwise specified.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – CALENDAR - Membership in the Club shall be based on the calendar year from January 1st to December 31st. 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 Akita breed and working towards the betterment of the Akita through education, community involvement and promoting responsible breeding practices.

2.2 No person who has been terminated or suspended by the CKC or convicted of any charge related to cruelty to animals or offences related to actions in direct contravention of the Policy, Mission Statement and Code of Ethics of CKC or the Canadian Akita Club shall be eligible for membership.

2.3 Application for membership in the club shall be received from individuals living in any location in Canada.

2.4 Each applicant for membership must agree to abide by the Club's Constitution and/or By-Laws.

2.5 Application for membership in the club shall be received from individuals that currently own, previously have owned an Akita or are enthusiasts of the breed and are interested in the welfare and responsible ownership of dogs.

2.6 Application for membership will be considered from residents of countries other than Canada at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

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 over the age of 18. 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 for one 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- APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Membership application and fees are to be completed and submitted to the club via email at Canadianakitaclub@gmail.com and the club Secretary will be the one to receive it.

5.2 Membership applications shall be made easily accessible to the public by way of club website canadianakitaclub.ca

5.3 Members may contact Canadianakitclub@gmail.com for other information, alternate ways to submit an application, and/or alternative payment methods.

5.4 The application shall state the name, mailing and residential address of the applicant and their relationship with the Akita breed.

Section 6 – MEMBERSHIP FEES

6.1 Members shall be notified via a post in the Facebook group or Members Facebook chat 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.

6.2 Renewal of membership will occur following the completion of the first year of fully paid membership.

6.3 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.

6.4 Membership fees are payable by the first day of the Club year via e transfer to Canadianakitclub@gmail.com or by cash. Any member who has not paid their membership fee sixty (60) days past the renewal date of the current year will be removed from the rolls and be ineligible to vote regardless of their previous membership type.

6.5 If any member is in financial distress, his/her/their fees may be waived by a majority vote of the Board on a case-by-case basis.

6.6 Membership fees shall be reviewed and set annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

6.7 The Treasurer shall collect and record the fees submitted.

Section 7 – APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP

7.1 National Club Membership is available to any individual related to the breed, unless that individual has been found guilty in a court of law of offences related to actions in direct contravention of the Policy, Mission Statement and Code of Ethics of the CKC and/or the club. Membership will be denied to those who have had CKC membership privileges suspended or terminated, or have been found guilty in a court of law on any charge relating to cruelty of animals.

7.2 Approval of Membership- Applications for membership shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors within 30 days of receiving the application form. The applicant's name shall be posted in the private Facebook Executive chat for any valid objection. 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.

7.3 Rejection of Membership– Any applicant who has been rejected for the reasons outlined herein 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 evidence. 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**

7.4 An applicant whose membership application has been rejected or denied may not reapply for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of the rejection.

7.5 New members without immediate valid Executive objection shall be accepted but have a one-year probationary period. If the Board finds the applicant to be in violation of the Constitution and/or By-Laws of the club, or the rules, regulations and Policy of CKC, or conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club or breed, their membership shall not be renewed.

Section 8- TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership may be terminated as follows:

8.1 Any member suspended, debarred, expelled or deprived from the privileges of The CKC shall, without notice, be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period. Upon termination or suspension of membership, all records, property and related paraphernalia of the club shall be returned to a current club officer immediately.

8.2 Resignation: Any member in good standing may resign from the club upon verifiable written notice to the Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the club. All materials belonging to the club must be surrendered in proper condition to the Secretary no later than ten (10) days after resignation of membership. Obligations other than membership fees are considered a debt to the club and must be paid in full prior to resignation.

8.3 Lapsing: A membership shall be considered lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid sixty (60) days after the first day of the club year. If any member is in financial distress, the Board may grant thirty (30) days of grace to such members or waive the membership fee entirely by a majority vote of the Board on a case-by-case basis. In no case may a person be entitled to vote or hold office whose fees are unpaid.

8.4 Termination: Any member may be terminated at any time by a majority vote of the Executive if they are found to act in contravention of the Policy, Mission Statement and Code of Ethics of CKC or the Canadian Akita Club, or the eligibility requirements of membership in the Canadian Akita Club.

8.5 Suspension: Membership may be suspended as a result of discipline, as outlined in this document. Membership fees shall not be refunded in such cases.

ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

9.1 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - An Annual General Meeting will be held at a time designated by the Board of Directors and shall be held every March via teleconference and/or videoconference. Notice of the AGM shall be emailed or posted online to all members by the Secretary 1 month in advance of the date.

9.2 - General Membership Meetings- There shall be a minimum of two General Membership meetings per year and may be held electronically or via teleconference.

9.3 –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.

9.4 – 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 and no other business shall be addressed at such meeting.

9.5 - 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.

9.6- PROXY - Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.

Section 6 - QUORUMS

10.1-The quorum is the minimum amount of members present at a meeting for the meeting to proceed. The quorum for the membership meetings 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

11.1 - 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

12.1- BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Officers):

- (a) The officers of the club shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer may be combined into one role.
- (b) The President and Vice-President and either the Secretary or Treasurer must be members of The Canadian Kennel Club in good standing.
- (c) The club's officers shall serve in their respective roles at both club meetings and Board meetings.
- (d) A club officer must not also be a club director.
- (e) Club officers must be residents of Canada.

12.2- Directors:

The Club must have a minimum of four (4) Regional Directors residing in at least three (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.
- d) The club's directors shall serve in their respective roles at club meetings
- e) A club director must not also be a club officer.
- f) The club shall maintain 4 or more director positions.
- g) Club directors must be residents of Canada and reside in the area they represent.

12.3- Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall hereinafter be referred to as 'the Board', which shall be composed of the Officers and Regional Directors of the club.

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

13.1- 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) The offices of President and Treasurer shall have a term of 2 years begin and end on even numbered years.
- c) The offices of Vice-President, Secretary and Directors shall have a term of 2 to begin and end on odd numbered years.
- d) Individuals may not hold office in perpetuity.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.

14.1 –DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

a) President Shall:

Preside at all club meetings and call Special Meetings of the Board. The President shall ensure the club's Constitution and By-Laws are current and adhered to by all members of the club. Any other duties that the club deems applicable to the office of the President shall be assigned to the President. The President may delegate duties to the Vice-President and/or other members of the Board as required.

b) Vice-President Shall:

The Vice-President shall attend all Club meetings. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President and exercise the powers of the President in case of absence, resignation, vacancy, or incapacity. The Vice-President Is responsible for coordinating all official club events with the President.

c) Secretary:

The Secretary shall attend all club meetings and be responsible for the club's correspondence as directed by the President and/or Board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify the membership of meetings;

- (i) keep a record of all meetings of the club and board;
- (ii) record all votes taken electronically;
- (iii) notify new members of their membership status;
- (iv) notify officers and directors of their election to office; and,
- (v) keep a roll of the members of the club who are in good standing with their contact information and CKC membership numbers where applicable;
- (vi) keep a record of all matters ordered by the club;
- (vii) have charge of correspondence; and,
- (viii) issue notices regarding discipline proceedings.

d) Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall attend all club meetings, collect and receive all monies paid to the club and be responsible for deposits to the designated bank account in the name of the club. The financial records shall, at all times, be open to inspection by the board. A report shall be given at every meeting regarding the finances of the club and every item of receipt or payment not previously reported. At the AGM, an accounting shall be rendered of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year.

e) Regional Directors:

The Directors shall make recommendations to the club as directed by their members and transact the business of the club as provided for in this document.

15.1- Execution of Documents

- a) The President or Vice-President, together with the Secretary, shall sign contracts, documents or instruments in writing requiring the signature of the club.
- b) All contracts, documents, or instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon the club without any further authorization or formality.

- c) Electronic signatures by the same combination of authorized signing authorities herein will be considered the same as if written signatures were provided in person.

16.1- Vacancies

The office of a member of the Board shall automatically be vacated if:

- (i) an Officer or Director sends a written resignation to the Secretary;
 - (ii) a resolution is passed by a majority vote of voting members that they be removed from office;
 - (iii) they are found by a court of law to be of unsound mind; or,
 - (iv) they pass away.
- a) The Vice-President shall automatically become the Acting President should the position of the President become vacant during the year.
- b) Any Board vacancy, other than that of the President, occurring during the year shall be filled for the remainder of the position's term by a majority vote of the Board.
- c) An office shall automatically become vacant if the Board member is absent for more than two (2) meetings in a year, unless excused by the President.
- d) Each retiring Board member shall turn over all properties and records relating to that office to their successor within 30 days after the election or on the date designated by the current Board.

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

18.1 - CLUB PROPERTY - All club emails, social media pages, websites and bank accounts, show equipment, logos 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

19.1- 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 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, members and an annual report provided at the AGM.
- d) **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

20.1 –VOTING, CANDIDATES, NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS NOMINATION/ELECTION COMMITTEE

- a) A voting platform or method shall be defined by the Board of Directors, The club may employ an online platform for such purpose.
- b) Only those members with voting privileges and in good standing with the club are eligible to vote.
- c) Candidates with the majority of votes shall be declared the winners.
- d) Each election year, the Board shall appoint a nomination/election chairperson.
- e) The Chair shall appoint at least one, and up to two other Club members to assist on the committee.

- f) No member of the committee may be on the current Board or on the election slate.
- g) There shall be a call for nominations, and a nominations form, by September of an election year. The Board 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.
- h) Nominations shall close by October 31, of the election year.
- i) Voting will be conducted by emailing, online voting app or poll via our members only messenger on facebook 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.
- j) The nomination/election committee shall be responsible for arranging for the tabulation of any voting.
- k) All Board nominees must be members in good standing with the Canadian Kennel Club, have a CKC membership, and be eligible to stand as according to these Bylaws.
- l) in the event of a tie a revote shall be cast until such time as there is a declared winner. Such revote must be held in the same manner as the original vote.
- m) in the event there is only one nominee for any office position that nominee will be the winner by acclamation and not on the ballot.
- n) The elections meeting shall be held in conjunction with the AGM.
- o) all election related material (nominations, ballots, etc will be retained for a period of two (2) years.

20.2 - 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.

20.3- COMMITTEES

- a) Each committee shall submit a proposed budget to the board at the March 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.
- b) At its discretion, the Board of Directors may appoint Standing Committees by a majority vote to further the interests of the Club in the areas of, but not limited to, elections, events, discipline, membership, procurement and any other project that may require the resources of a committee.
- c) At its discretion, the Board of Directors may terminate any Standing Committee by a majority vote when it is deemed that the Standing Committee has fulfilled its original purpose.
- d) 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

21.1 – 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.

21.2 - COMPLAINTS

- a) Any member may file a complaint against another member of the club for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club or in contravention of this Constitution and By-Laws, or the Policy, By-Laws and Code of Ethics of CKC.
- b) Complaints must be filed in writing to the Secretary and accompanied by a deposit of \$100, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board or a Board appointed Committee following a hearing.
- c) The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each Board member and/or present them at a Board meeting.
- d) The Secretary shall notify the defendant of the complaint and the procedures within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the complaint.
- e) The Board shall meet in person or by teleconference or videoconference to first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club.
- f) If the Board determines that the charges do not allege conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. The Secretary shall inform the complainant and defendant of the Board's decision.
- g) If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, both the complainant and defendant shall be provided with a date and time of hearing of the complaint a minimum of thirty (30) days before the complaint shall be heard/considered. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the

- charges to the defendant by email together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally or virtually appear in their defense and bring witnesses if they wish.
- h) A member who resigns while charges have been preferred against them or allows their membership to lapse during the fiscal year in which the charges were sustained may not apply for membership for a minimum period of five (5) years from the time of resignation or lapse or the end of any suspension, after which they may reapply for admission to membership according to the process outlined.

21.3- HEARING

- a) Disciplinary hearing may be conducted in person or teleconference or videoconference.
- b) 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.
- c) Both the complainant and defendant shall be treated fairly and without prejudice and have the right to attend the hearing and to present any evidence.
- d) The meeting procedures shall be Call to Order, Chair Opening Remarks, Complainant, Defendant, Questions, and Deliberations.
- e) Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board or appointed Committee may, by a majority vote of those present, reprimand or suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for six (6) months from the date of the hearing.

21.4 - DECISION

- a) Immediately after the Board or Board Committee has reached its decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary.
- b) The Secretary, in turn, shall notify the complainant and defendant in writing of the decision, the reasons for the decision, who was involved in the decision, and any penalty. This must be provided to the complainant by way of Email and delivered within thirty (30) days of the decision being made.

21.5- Complaints – Executive

- a) Where the complaint involves misconduct, misrepresentation or any breach of this Constitution and/or By-Laws by one or more members of the Board of Directors, written notice of the offence together with supporting evidence must be forwarded to the club Secretary by email and the club Secretary must immediately provide copies of the complaint to the Board of Directors.
- b) If the complaint is in whole or in part against the Secretary or the officer that would normally receive complaints, then the next executive would take on the complaint.
- c) The Board of Directors shall respond to the complainant with resolution within thirty (30) days of receipt of the complaint.
- d) If the Complainant remains unsatisfied and communicates dissatisfaction in writing to the Club Secretary, a Special General Meeting shall be scheduled by the club Secretary where, by a majority vote of the membership present, the complaint will be deemed justified or disregarded.
- e) If the complaint is deemed justified, resolution will be presented in the form of a Motion and the majority vote of the membership present shall rule.

21.6 – EXPULSION

21.7 Permanent expulsion of a member requires a Special General Meeting of the membership where Article VIII – Discipline is deemed insufficient.

21.8 Expulsion requires 70 percent of the members present at the meeting.

21.9 The following are considered grounds for expulsion:

- a) Any member found to be mistreating any animal.
- b) Any member found to be stealing or falsifying documents of any kind.
- c) Any member found guilty of not following the rules of an event put on by other clubs or groups.

22.1 Notification of Expulsion:

- a) Immediately after the Board or Board Committee has reached its decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary.

- b) The Secretary, in turn, shall notify the complainant and defendant, in writing, of the decision itself, the reasons for the decision, who was involved in the decision, and any penalty. This must be provided to the complainant by way of registered letter and defendant within thirty (30) of the decision being made.

23.1- APPEAL PROCESS

23.2 Any person subject to any decision arising out of a complaint filed through the Club's internal disciplinary process may file an appeal. Appeals must be filed in writing and forwarded to the Club Secretary. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the appeal to each Board member and/or present them at a Board meeting.

23.3 An appeal hearing shall be scheduled within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the appeal. The complainant and defendant shall be provided with a date and time for the appeal hearing a minimum of thirty (30) days before the appeal shall be considered.

23.4 Both the complainant and defendant have the right to attend the appeal hearing, which may be conducted in person or teleconference or videoconference.

23.5 This shall not be a retrial, but rather a hearing to determine whether there is just cause to overturn the decision. Arguments during the appeal process are limited to this aspect. After hearing the testimony presented by the complainant and defendant, the Board may, by a majority vote of those present, decide to sustain or overturn the expulsion. The Secretary shall inform both the complainant and defendant of any decision in writing within thirty (30) days of the hearing.

24.1- SOCIAL MEDIA

24.2 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 Constitution and 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 behavior is repeated the Board of Directors may vote to recommend the membership expel the individual from the club.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

25.1- Constitution and By-Laws

- a) The Club shall have the power to add, modify, and/or rescind items in the Constitution & By-Laws according to the process outlined below.
- b) Amendments may be proposed by the Board or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by 20% of the membership in good standing.
- c) All proposals shall be accumulated and included in an agenda for the next AGM.
- d) All proposals shall be emailed to each member a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of the AGM.
- e) The Secretary shall prepare ballots to be emailed to the general membership. Ballots must be returned to the Secretary via email by a specified date.
- f) Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws require a 2/3 majority vote of the ballots received from members in good standing.
- g) Amendments shall be forwarded to the CKC Shows & Trials Division within thirty (30) days of being passed.

25.2- Breed Standard

- a) Proposals for amendments to the Breed Standard by the Club must meet CKC Procedure RG002 – Proposed Changes to a Breed Standard.
- b) Only CKC members in good standing are eligible to vote on any proposed changes to breed standards.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

26.1 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.

26.2 The Secretary will notify The CKC in writing immediately of the decision to dissolve and include a copy of the Minutes from the meeting where dissolution was confirmed.

ARTICLE XI – BORROWING POWERS

Canadian Akita Club shall have no borrowing powers.

Approval of Constitution and By-Laws by The Canadian Kennel Club:

[insert date of approval]

Approval of Constitution and By-Laws by Board of Directors of the Club:

[insert date of approval]

President: [type or print name]

Secretary: [type or print name]

Vice-President: [type or print name]

This Document is Current as of May,07, 2025