
CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

- 1.1 The name of this Club shall be Bullmastiff Fanciers of Canada.
- 1.2 The operation of the Club shall be the whole of Canada.

2. OBJECTS

- 2.1 The objects of the club shall be:
 - a) To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Bullmastiffs, and to preserve their natural qualities.
 - b) To encourage the organization of independent local Bullmastiff Specialty Clubs in those localities where there are sufficient fanciers of the breed to meet the requirements of the Canadian Kennel Club.
 - c) To urge members and fanciers to accept the standards of the breed as approved by the Canadian Kennel Club as the premier standards of excellence and to urge the pursuit of these standards by breeders, judges and exhibitors.
 - d) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interest of the Bullmastiff and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at conformation shows and obedience trials.
 - e) To conduct sanctioned and approved events under the rules of the Canadian Kennel Club and to abide by the principles of the Canadian Kennel Club Code of Ethics.
 - f) To ensure that the breeder members of the Club maintain the highest standards possible at all times with strict adherence to the Code of Ethics as published by the Bullmastiff Fanciers of Canada and incorporated into this document as Bylaws Article 11.
 - g) To preserve and advance a high standard of quality, not only in appearance but also in strength, stamina, temperament, character, obedience and the instinct to guard and to this end encourage the training of Bullmastiffs for useful and beneficial purposes.
- 2.2 The operations of the Club may, incidental to its purposeful activities, produce Gain or Profit; and all such profits shall be used for the promotion of the Club's purpose. This is unalterable.
- 2.3 The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such By-laws as may be required to carry out the objects of the Club. This is unalterable.

BYLAWS

1 MEMBERSHIP

1.1 Membership Year

Membership in the Club shall be based on a start date of February 1st and ending January 31st.

1.2 Eligibility

Membership shall be open to all persons at least eighteen years of age who are in good standing with the Canadian Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club. No person shall be eligible for, or continue to enjoy membership, who knowingly supplies dogs to pet stores or puppy mills or has been convicted of cruelty or neglect of animals.

1.3 Types of Members

There shall be four types of memberships as follows:

- a) Regular member
- b) Joint Member – two persons from the same household
- c) Life Member - granted after 30 years of cumulative membership and approved by the board. Lifetime members may elect to forego payment of annual dues, but are entitled to full membership privileges and, as such, may vote and hold office
- d) Honorary Member - any person may be granted honorary membership by resolution of the board subject to ratification at a general meeting, and any member in good standing may propose names for the board's consideration. No honorary members shall be eligible to hold office or to vote. Honorary membership shall not confer any right, privilege or beneficial interest in the company; however, honorary members may be invited at the discretion of the board to attend meetings as observers and for the purpose of giving information, advice and counsel and to participate in other activities.

1.4 Dues

Membership dues shall be payable by February 1st of each year.

1.5 Application for Membership

Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this constitution and the by-laws and the rules of the Canadian Kennel Club. The application shall state the name and address of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of two Club members. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit payment for the current year.

1.6 Approval of Membership

Successful applicant will be notified by mail, telephone or electronic means and will be mailed a Constitution and current communication/newsletter.

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- 1.7 An applicant who has been rejected must be provided with a reason for such rejection in writing.
- 1.8 Termination of Membership
Memberships 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 will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid by the first Monday in April
 - c) *Expulsion*. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided by Section 9.4 of these by-laws.
- 1.9 Voting Privileges
Unpaid membership dues shall constitute denial of voting privileges. Only regular, joint and life members are entitled to vote.

2 MEETINGS

2.1 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held at a place, date and time designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to each member at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting. Notice must be mailed, e-mailed or handed to each member.

2.2 Special General Club Meetings

- a) The Board may call a Special General Meeting of the Club at any time by providing such notice to the membership.
- b) The Board is obligated to call a special general meeting upon any Board member receiving formal request. Such must be signed by at least eight (8) members of the membership.
- c) Special general meetings will be held at such place, date and time as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of such meeting shall be given to each member at least 30 days and not more than 45 days prior to the meeting. The notice of the meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other Club business may be transacted. Notice must be mailed, e-mailed or handed to each member

2.3 Board Meetings

The first Board Meeting shall be held in February immediately following the election of the Board. Other board meetings shall be held at such times and places as are agreed to by a majority vote of the Board. Notice of such meeting and an agenda must be mailed, emailed or handed to each Board member at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

The Board may conduct its business by mail or electronic means.

2.4 Quorum of Membership

- a) Twenty (20) percent of members in good standing in the Club present in person shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business at any Annual General Meeting and Special Meeting of the Club.
- b) Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum at any Board meeting.
- c) No business at any meeting shall be transacted unless a sufficient number of members are present to constitute a quorum.

3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3.1 Officers

The Officers of the Club must be residents of Canada and they shall be the

- a) President
- b) Vice-President
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer
- e) Communications Officer

3.2 Board of Directors

The Board shall be comprised of the Officers who are residents of Canada plus a minimum of three directors. It is desirable that the directors be selected as follows:

- a) Two (2) from the provinces of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador,
- b) Two (2) from the province of Quebec
- c) Two (2) from the province of Ontario
- d) Two (2) from the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta
- e) Two (2) from the province British Columbia, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territory and Nunavut
- f) Two, at the discretion of the annual or other general meeting, to serve as Directors-at-large: provided, however that the past president will automatically be a director-at large (if otherwise qualified) for one term without confirmation or election by the membership.

All of whom must be members in good standing with the Club and the Canadian Kennel Club. No more than three (3) directors may be elected from any one region and directors must reside in the region they represent. They may be elected for as many terms as provided and shall serve until successors are elected. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

3.3 Duties of the Officers

- a) The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and shall be the Chief Executive Officer exercising general supervision over the interests and welfare of the Club and shall have such duties and responsibilities as specified in these By-laws. The President shall be ex-officio a member of all committees and shall appoint committees as directed by the membership.

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- b) The Vice-President shall assume the duties and exercise the responsibilities of the President upon the direction of the President or in such case, as the President is unable to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the President.
 - c) The Secretary shall keep a record of all Board and General Meetings, and when requested meetings of the Committees and record all votes taken in the order of business, in a book provided for the purpose. The Secretary shall send and receive all correspondence on behalf of the Club, notify new members of their election to membership, notify Officers and Directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the current members of the Club complete with addresses and telephone numbers and perform other duties as prescribed in these By-laws or as directed by the Board.
 - d) The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Club and shall collect all dues and revenues and deposit all monies in the Club's independent bank account as approved by the Board, in the name of the Club. The books of the Club shall be open to inspection by the board at any time and a financial report shall be provided at every meeting of the Board and every Annual General Meeting of the Club. The financial reports of the Club shall be the property of the Club. All cheques drawn from the Club bank account must have a minimum of two (2) officer's signatures.
 - e) The Communications Officer shall publish newsletters, an annual magazine and manage the Club's general e-mail account.

3.4 Vacancies

Should a vacancy occur on the Board, the Board may appoint a member of the Club to fill the vacancy. Should a vacancy occur in the office of President, the First Vice-President shall fill such vacancy automatically and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice-President shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board.

3.5 Terms of Office

The elected Officers shall take office on February 1st of the year following the election. Each of the former Board members shall turn over to his successor in office, all properties and records relating to the office by February 1st of the new term.

4 CLUB YEAR

The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1st of February and end on the 31st of January.

5. VOTING

- a) At any Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Club, voting shall be limited to those members in good standing who are present at the meeting, except for the election of Officers and Directors, amendments to the Constitution and By-laws and changes to the breed standard. which shall be decided by written ballot.
- b) Any regular motion or resolution shall be deemed to have passed if a majority of members present at any Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting

vote in favour of said motion or resolution. The Presiding Officer shall not cast a vote except in case of a tie.

c) Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

6 ELECTIONS

6.1 Ballots

The Election of Officers shall be conducted by secret ballot. Ballots must be received by the Secretary or an individual or independent firm designated by the Board. Ballots will be collected and counted by two scrutineers who are members in good standing and neither members of the current Board nor candidates on the ballot and who shall be appointed by the presiding officer for the purpose. The person receiving the largest number of votes for each position shall be declared elected. The Presiding Officer shall not cast a vote except in case of a tie. If any nominee is unable to serve for any reason, such nominee shall not be elected and the new Board of Directors, in the manner specified in Section 3.4, shall fill the vacancy so created.

To protect the secrecy of the balloting no count will be made known to the general membership at the meeting. The Presiding Officer will state only the successful candidate for each position. The scrutineers will destroy the Ballots.

6.2 Nominations

- a) No person may be a candidate in the Club election who has not been nominated in accordance with these By-laws. The Board shall choose a Nominating Committee before June 15th. The committee shall consist of three (3) members from different regions of Canada who are in good standing, no more than one of who may be a member of the current Board. The Board shall name a Chairperson for the Committee.
- b) The Nominating Committee shall nominate from among the eligible members of the Club, one candidate for each office and shall procure the acceptance of each nominee so chosen. Candidates shall not be nominated for more than one position. The Committee shall submit the slate of candidates to the Secretary who shall mail the list, including full name of each candidate and the name of the province and region in which they reside, to each member of the Club on or before August 1st, so that the members may make additional nominations if they desire.
- c) Additional nominations of eligible members must be made by written petition addressed to the secretary and received on or before September 1st signed by at least one member and accompanied by the written acceptance of the additional nominee signifying a willingness to be a candidate.
- d) If no valid additional nominations are received by the Secretary on or before September 1st, the nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected and no balloting will be required.
- e) If one or more valid additional nominations are received by the Secretary on or before September 1st, the Secretary shall on or before September 15th mail to each member in good standing, a ballot listing all of the nominees for each

position in alphabetical order with the names of the province and region in which they reside, together with a blank envelope and return envelope addressed to the Secretary marked "Ballot" and bearing the name of the member to whom it was sent. So that the Ballots will remain secret, each voter after marking the ballot shall seal it in the blank envelope, which in turn is placed in the second envelope addressed to the Secretary. To be valid, ballots must be received by the Secretary by November 1st. The scrutineers of the election shall check the list of members whose dues are paid for the current year prior to opening the outer envelope and removing the blank envelope and shall certify the eligibility of the voters as well as the results of the voting which shall be announced at the Annual General meeting or by written notification to all members.

f) Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than provided above.

7. COMMITTEES

7.1 Standing Committees

The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the objects of the Club in such matters as conformation shows, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Ad hoc committees may from time to time be appointed by the Board to aid the Board with specific projects.

7.2 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.

8. REGIONAL CHAPTERS

8.1 Regional Chapter Chairpersons

Each Regional Director shall assume the position of Chairperson of the Regional Chapter of that chairperson's Regional jurisdiction.

8.2 Duties of the Regional Chairperson

- a) It shall be the duty of each chairperson to act in a manner accordingly to encourage the popularity of the aforementioned jurisdiction by calling meetings as and when deemed necessary.
- b) The chairperson shall cause minutes to be recorded for all meetings and shall forward a copy to the Secretary of the parent club, with a copy to the president, within ninety (90) days to keep the parent club informed of any developments in the Region.

8.3 Regional Specialties

Providing the Regional Chapter has received endorsement from the parent club, the chapter shall have the authority to hold its own Regional Specialty. All monies raised for a Regional Specialty shall be retained by the Regional Chapter to offset

costs allotted to the specialty, boosters, and other events that promote the objectives of the Club.

8.4 Regional Chapter Funds

The Regional Directors shall keep an account of the Regional Chapter Funds and shall collect all revenues and deposit all monies in the Regional Chapter's independent bank account, in the name of the Regional Chapter of the Club. The books of the Regional Chapter shall be open to inspection by the board at any time and a financial report shall be provided at every meeting of the Board and every Annual General Meeting of the Club. All cheques drawn from the Regional Chapter's bank account must have a minimum of two (2) directors.

8.5 Boosters

Besides specialties, the Provincial Chairperson shall be responsible from the onset for organizing boosters as often as possible to bring the breed to the attention of the general public.

8.6 Relationship to Parent Club

Regional Chairpersons shall observe all parts of the existing constitution as their guide in matters pertaining to Club activities, and if in doubt, shall consult the Board without delay before proceeding on any course that shall be represented as an action of the Club.

9. DISCIPLINE

9.1 Canadian Kennel Club Suspension

Any member of the Club who is suspended, debarred expelled or deprived from the privileges of the Canadian Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of the Club.

9.2 Complaints

- a) Any member may lay a complaint against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the breed. Written complaints containing details of alleged misconduct must be sent to the Secretary a deposit of \$50.00, which shall be forfeited to the Club.
- b) Upon receiving such a complaint, the Secretary shall forward, within 30 days, a copy of the complaint along with a Notice of Hearing to the defendant, the claimant and every member of the Board or appointed committee.
- c) The hearing date shall be set no longer than 90 days from receipt of the complaint. If the Board holds the hearing a minimum of four (4) members of the Board must be present. In the event the hearing is held by a committee at least a majority of the committee shall be present. Should a complaint be laid against the secretary, then the President shall act in accordance with these By-laws.

9.3 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 the hearing all of the evidence and testimony presented by the complainant and defendant, the Board or Committee may by a majority vote impose an appropriate penalty. The Secretary shall then notify the parties of the decision within 30 days of the decision.

9.4 Expulsion

- a) Expulsion of a member from the Club shall be accomplished at an Annual General Meeting of the Club following a hearing and upon recommendation from the Board or Committee being provided as stated in Section 1 of these By-laws. The President shall read the complaint and report the findings and recommendations of the Board or Committee and shall invite the defendant if present to speak on his or her own behalf. The meeting shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present shall be necessary for expulsion.
- b) At the discretion of the Board, expulsion may also take place by mail-in vote or electronic voting consisting of 2/3 majority of all eligible voting members in favour of expulsion. Proxy voting is not permitted.

10. AMENDMENTS

10.1 Proposal for Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution, By-laws and breed standard may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by ten (10) members in good standing. Amendments proposed by such a petition shall be considered by the Board at the next regular meeting and must subsequently be presented to the Board within 90 days (90) of the date when the Secretary received the petition.

10.2 Amendment by Vote

The Constitution, By-laws and breed standard may be amended at any time providing a copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed, by the Secretary to each member in good standing accompanied by a ballot on which the member may indicate a choice for or against the action to be taken together with a blank envelope and return envelop addressed to the Secretary marked "Ballot" and bearing the name of the member to whom it was sent. So that the Ballots will remain secret, each voter after marking the ballot shall seal it in the blank envelope, which in turn is placed in the second envelope addressed to the Secretary. Notice with such a ballot shall specify a date not less than thirty (30) days after the date of mailing by which date the Ballots must be returned to the Secretary to be counted. In the case of breed standards, two thirds (2/3) majority vote of those eligible voting members is required. In the case of constitution and By-laws a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all eligible voting members is required.

Voting must be by mail in or electronic balloting. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

11. CODE OF ETHICS -

This Code of Ethics is presented for members of the Bullmastiff Fanciers of Canada who are breeders and/or owners of bullmastiffs. This code embodies two of the foremost aims of the Club; namely, the welfare and improvement of the breed, and the promotion of the interests of the Club.

An ethical breeder is constantly aware of the underlying responsibilities to the breed and conducts all related activities as follows:

11.1 Member Conduct and Bullying

- a) Any member initiating bullying tactics at a Club sanctioned show or event, a Canadian Kennel Club sanctioned show or events, an American Kennel Club sanctioned show or event, or similar events will be subject to expulsion. Bullying refers to a range of behaviors in which targeted individuals are repeatedly, and over time, treated in a mean, insulting or abusive way. Bullying can be initiated deliberately or unconsciously. The affected person may feel upset, afraid, isolated, or humiliated. The bully sometimes acts alone and sometimes as part of a group of people. Bullying includes, but is not limited to:
 - insulting a person's skills, looks, or habits
 - spreading false or malicious rumors, gossip, or innuendo
 - berating/belittling an Individual
 - unwarranted criticizing or ridiculing, especially in the presence of others
 - giving insulting nicknames
 - engaging in practical jokes that humiliate
 - undermining or deliberately impeding a person's work
 - physical gesturing that intimidates, offends, degrades, or humiliates
 - mocking a person's accent, abilities or mannerisms
 - yelling or shouting which intimidates, coerces, or belittle
- b) At all times, members shall conduct themselves in a manner which reflects credit upon themselves, the Club, and the breed. When confronted by a situation not covered by the Code of Ethics, the actions of the Club member should reflect the treatment the Club member would expect under similar circumstances.

11.2 Selection of Breeding Stock:

- a) The breeder must ensure that all breeding is carried out with the Canadian Kennel Club breed standard in mind.
- b) The breeder uses only healthy adult dogs and bitches that are physically and mentally sound and should be at least 24 months of age.
- c) In consideration of the aim of the overall improvement of the breed, the breeder should decline any breeding when the presence of any undesirable or potentially debilitating genetic or behavioural trait is known in either the sire or the dam.

12 DISSOLUTION

- a. The Club may be dissolved at any time by providing to the Canadian Kennel Club written documentation with signatures of least 2/3 of the members of the Club to indicate that they are in favour of dissolution. Voting by proxy is not permitted.
- b. In the event of dissolution of the Club, other than for the purpose 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 member of the Club but after payment of debts of the Club, its property and assets shall be given to charitable organizations for the benefit of dogs such organization being selected by the Board.
- c. No member of this Club voting for dissolution shall be a member of a Club or Organization benefiting from the distribution of the assets of this Club.

13. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 13.1 At the meetings of the Club the order of business so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of the Committees
- Election of the Officers (at annual general meeting)
- Election of new members
- Unfinished business
- New Business
- Set date and time of next meeting
- Adjournment

- 13.2 At meetings of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- Reading of the Minutes of the Last Meeting
- Report of the President
- Reports of the Secretaries
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of the Committees
- Unfinished Business
- Election of New Members
- New Business
- Adjournment

Amended February 2021