**Dogue de Bordeaux Club of Canada**

**Constitution and bylaws**

The club shall be known as the Dogue de Bordeaux Club of Canada (DDBCC) and the area of operation shall be within the boundary of Canada.

The aim of the DDBCC is to foster an increased appreciation for the Dogue de Bordeaux in Canada. The club advocates responsible and ethical ownership of all purebred dogs and the breeding of same using accepted ethical breeding practices. The club acts as a resource sharing mechanism to ensure that the DDB remains an asset to the canine community at large.

The DDBCC will hold sanction and fun matches, confirmation and national specialty shows, as well as encourage all DDB owners to actively participate in all Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) and Canine Federation of Canada (CFC) events including obedience, rally, chase ability, and other sanctioned events. The DDBCC advocates the active socialization of all canines.

The DDBCC recognizes that the only standard to which the DDB may be judged to is that of the parent club in the country of origin, the SADB. And, as this is the standard which the CKC accepted when the breed was granted listed breeds status, it follows that this shall remain the standard to which the DDB is judged according to. The only changes to the standard that will be made are those which are in response to changes made by the breed's parent club in its country of origin. Notwithstanding, additions may be added to the standard in the form of appendices for explanation and or for descriptive purposes.

The DDBCC adheres to strict rules of eligibility, (ROE) for the registration of all the Dogue de Bordeaux. The rules of eligibility are found as an appendix to this document. The DDBCC further agrees that all live births of the DDB’s here in Canada must be registered with the official registering body, the CFC as set forth within the Animal Pedigree Act mandated by AgCanada.

All DDB born in Canada must be registered with the FCC/CFC before six months of age. Any person failing to do so will be immediately removed from the membership of the DDBCC.

**Membership**

The term of membership for the DDBCC shall be 01 January through 31 December of the same calendar year.

Membership is open to all persons who apply, showing interest in the DDB, not under suspension by the DDBCC, the CKC, the CFC, any affiliated club or criminally convicted of animal abuse.

Membership types include annual memberships for individuals, households, foreign and junior with fees as set by the Board of Directors. Honorary life memberships will also be provided at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors to persons who significantly influenced the DDB breed, either domestically or elsewhere in the world. Junior members shall not have to pay membership fees.

Applications for membership will be available by contacting the membership director or club secretary in writing, via electronic media or by telephone. The completed application and applicable funds will be forwarded to the membership director or secretary. The name(s)of the applicant shall be posted for 30 days on the club Electronic media. Should greater than 50% of the members, in good standing, write or vote at an AGM or SGM to reject the application showing, good and just cause (IE suspension from or conduct detrimental to the DDBCC, the CKC, the CFC or affiliate and or their members) then the application will be rejected. The applicant will be notified in writing of the decision with the application fees returned within 30 days of the decision. All other applications will be processed as soon as possible following the 30 days. And the applicants name added to the membership list. Termination of a membership will occur if the member is suspended by the DDBCC, CKC, CFC or affiliate with no renumeration due to the suspended members. Termination will also occur automatically if the membership is not renewed for any reason by February 1st of the year following the paid membership year. Voting privilege will be granted only to those DDBCC members in good standing 18 years of age or over at the time of the vote. Special honorary life members and those DDBCC members who are not CKC or CFC members will not be afforded voting privilege.

All members must agree to and sign the club's Code of Ethics and Conduct. Any person failing to do so will be immediately removed from the membership of the DDBCC.

Although eligible to vote in their initial year of membership, members are not eligible to run for positions on the directorship of the DDBCC until their second year as members. Refunds will not be given if someone chooses to leave the club, or is asked to leave the club because of unethical conduct.

**General Meetings**

The annual general meeting AGM will ideally be held on the day immediately preceding and within 10 kilometres of the National Specialty of the DDBCC at a location announced on the club’s electronic media, a minimum of 15 days prior to the event. The exception to this would be with prior notice of changes in venue, date or time for the meeting, which would require a quorum of greater than 50% of the BOD. It is understood that the National Specialty will not be held for one year following the DDBCC being granted club accreditation with the CKC. Therefore, the BOD is obligated to choose a date and location for the AGM until accreditation is awarded. It is understood that, although a National Specialty show may not be held for any reason, there will be an AGM held at a preannounced venue or on a secure electronic meeting space. Attendees may attend in person, or via media.

A Special General Meeting SGM may be called by the BOD with a 10-day advanced notice published on the club's electronic media. The Special General Meetings are discretionary insofar as they will be called to deal with items that arise that are deemed of an urgent matter by the BOD. The Special General Meetings may be held in person or via media such as a teleconference or via the Internet. Special General Meetings require a quorum of in excess of 50% of the BOD.

A Board Meeting MB will be held a minimum of twice annually, as required they may be held in person or via the media as above. Board meetings require a quorum in excess of 50% of the BOD.

**Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall be members in good standing of the DDBCC, the CFC and CKC and must be Canadian and reside in Canada and must consist of at minimum, the following positions

* President -duties of this position include presiding over all meetings that he/she is present, as well as other duties as deemed required by the BOD.
* Vice President -duties of this position include presiding over all meetings in the temporary or permanent absence of the President as well as other duties as deemed required by the BOD. In case of a permanent absence of the President than the Vice President shall assume the co-signing authority of the absent President.
* Secretary -duties of this position include the recordings of minutes of all meetings, preparation and release of all correspondence on behalf of the BOD, as well as other duties deemed required by the BOD
* Treasurer -duties of this position are to oversee the day-to-day finances of the DDBCC, including the paying of all debts from the club expense account, the preparation of the annual statements, the co-signing of cheques with other BOD members, as well as other duties deemed required by the BOD
* Membership chairperson -duties of this position are to oversee the distribution, collection, and processing of membership applications as well as other duties deemed required by the DOB.
* Plus, a minimum of three other directors representing 7 geographical regions of Canada as outlined by the DDBCC. The areas shall be Atlantic, Newfoundland- Labrador and Nunavut, Québec, Ontario, Prairies, British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories. Their duties are to act as a representative voice for members within their region as well as other duties as required by the BOD.

Vacancies occurring on the board of directors shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the BOD using a simple majority vote during any meeting of the club the term of office for the BOD Shall be

President -three-year term

Secretary -three-year term

All others- two-year term

All regional directors must reside in the area that they represent. Although it is the intention of the DDBCC to maintain two individuals for the position of Secretary and Treasurer, it should be understood that one person may share these positions.

**Finances**

Co-signing authority will be granted to the Treasurer plus two other Board of Director members. The bank account shall list 3 signatures on file so as to always avail two signatures. All invoices will be immediately forwarded to the Treasurer for payment thereof.

**Club year, voting, nominations and elections**

The fiscal year for the DDBCC shall be January 01 to December 31, with annual reports forwarded by the Treasurer within 30 days of the end of the fiscal year. Voting is a privilege granted to those Canadian DDBCC members who are in good standing, 18 years of age and over on the day of voting. New members who join after June 1st of said year will not be allowed to vote until the second year of membership. This allows time for new members to get to know the club and its BOD. Honorary life members and Foreign members although a valuable part of the club, will not have voting privileges. Elections to office will be completed at the AGM, with the results being made public to those in attendance at the time and published to the club’s media presence. And forwarded to the CKC/CFC in a timely manner. Nominations must be in writing and mailed or sent electronically and received by the Secretary if possible 30 days prior to the AGM and will be published on the club's website 10 days prior to the AGM. Should no challenges to a position be filed then the incumbent shall assume the position for the duration of the term.

**Committees**

Committees will be appointed and terminated at the sole discretion of the BOD and as so deemed as required by the BOD. They may be formed at anytime by the BOD, with the appointment of committee members being completed by simple majority vote by the BOD.

**Discipline**

Any member who has a complaint levied against them by the DDBCC, the CKC, the CFC or affiliate, will be deemed to be suspended by the DDBCC until such time as the matter is dealt with by the BOD. Should the member be found guilty of the complaint then the member will have their membership revoked. The complaint should be dealt with in a timely manner and may require a Special General Meeting called by the BOD. A greater than 2/3 majority vote for revocation by the BOD is required for revocation of the membership. Should the BOD receive confirmation of a member's membership in any other affiliated club being suspended and or revoked than the same shall apply to the DDBCC member in question. Any member in good standing of the DDBCC, or a CFC/CKC director may file a complaint with the Secretary in writing. As complaints against persons are serious, no anonymous complaints will be accepted. All complaints will be dealt with by the BOD at the next meeting. A member may be expelled from the DDBCC if the BOD deems their conduct/actions to be seriously detrimental to the breed, the club or any person associated with the DDBCC. The member receiving the expulsion will be notified by registered mail of the BOD's decision. Should the individual not sign for the mail, or the notice be unable to be served to the person, then the date of the expulsion shall be the date when the registered mail was sent. Members of the DDBCC should always be respectful and courteous to other members of the club. At no time shall any member of the DDBCC harass or be slanderous of any other member. Harassment and all types of defamation of character or any threatening behaviour, be it spoken, written or in any electronic media form will not be tolerated. This type of behaviour is detrimental to the breed, the club and its members. Any member found harassing or damaging to any other club member or the club itself shall be given fair warnings and their membership may be revoked. A Code of Ethics has been added and must be signed. People leaving the club or if asked to leave the club will not be refunded any membership monies.

**Amendments**

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws may occur during the Annual General Meeting, Special General Meetings, or Board Meetings. Voting shall be completed only by DDBCC members who are in good standing, 18 years of age or older on the day of voting. Proposed amendments can be forwarded to the Secretary by any member in good standing, ideally 30 days prior to that meeting. Those amendments receiving acceptance by the simple majority vote shall be added to the Constitution and Bylaws. Proxy votes for the proposed amendments will be accepted, provided they are received in writing by the Secretary five days prior to the meeting.

**Dissolution**

The DDBCC shall be considered dissolved on the 30th of June of the year following a year in which no Annual General Meeting has been held. At that time, the DDBCC will convert any and all-real property into cash. All debts will be paid, and all remaining funds if any will be donated in the name of the DDBCC to the Canadian Kennel Club foundation and SADB.

**Rules of Order**

Whenever possible, Roberts rules of order shall be adhered to at all club meetings. Minutes of all meetings will be available to all members in good standing as well as the CKC/CFC at their request. There will be no “in camera” sessions at DDBCC meetings

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**Appendix one**

**Rules of Eligibility for the Dogue de Bordeaux**

A dog is eligible for registration with the Canine Federation of Canada as a Dogue de Bordeaux, if the dog is the product of a mating of two dogs registered as Dogue de Bordeaux by the breeds official registering body in the breeds country of origin, the Livre des Origines Francais (FRANCE), also known as the Society Central Canine , or by any other registering body that is recognized by the LOF/ SCC, or the Canine Federation of Canada (FCC/CFC), and whose purebred status can be traced, by way of pedigree database, back to the foundation stock of the breed. The Dogue de Bordeaux shall retain all of its physical characteristics, including a brachiocephalic trapezoidal head type, undershot jaw, webbed feet, and a uniformed coloured red coat. As the breed is well established throughout the world, the pedigree-based proof shall be the determining factor for the registration eligibility, so as to prevent the introduction of non pure genetic specimens into the gene pool

**All amendments voted on are highlighted in yellow**