
CONSTITUTION

Article I Name and Objectives

Section 1: The name of the Club shall be "Tri-State Kennel Club, Inc."

Section 2: The objectives of the Club shall be:

- (a) to further the advancement of all breeds of dogs:
- (b) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of all breeds of dogs and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials, agility trials and other dog related events.
- (c) to conduct dog related events under the rules of the American Kennel Club.

Section 3. The Club shall not be operated or conducted for profit and no part of any profit or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

Section 4: The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out these objects.

Bylaws

ARTICLE I Membership

Section 1 Eligibility. There shall be two types of membership. Regular (Individual and Family) and Associate memberships are open to all persons eighteen years of age and older, who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club, and who subscribe to the objectives of the Club. A junior membership is available for those younger than 18 years of age. (Refer to Standing Rules)

Section 2 Dues. Dues are payable on or before the 1st day of July of each year and shall be considered delinquent after that date. No member may vote at the annual meeting whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of May the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing year. (Refer to Standing Rules)

Section 3 Election to Regular or Associate membership. All persons seeking Regular or Associate membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by these Constitution and Bylaws and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall carry the endorsement of two regular members in good standing. Approved forms may be issued to any Club sponsor who is a member in good standing. Accompanying the application, the

prospective member shall submit dues payment of the current year and the initiation fee at a general meeting. (Refer to Standing Rules) The Board of Directors of the Tri-State Kennel Club Inc. shall act as a membership committee to screen all applications. At the first board meeting following receipt of the application, the Board will recommend for approval or disapproval. If approved, the application will be read by a Board member at the next Regular Club meeting in which the applicant is present. Then at the next following Regular Club meeting in which the applicant is present, voting will take place. Affirmative votes by secret ballot of 3/4 of the members present and voting at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.

Election to Associate membership. Associate members do not have voting privileges. Associate membership may be changed to an Active membership by attending a meeting, requesting the change and paying the additional dues.

Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not reapply within one year after such rejection.

Section 4 Termination of membership.

Membership may be terminated:

a). By resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Corresponding Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Dues obligation are considered a debt to the Club and they become incurred on the First day of the fiscal year.

b). By lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 30 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 30 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be allowed to vote at any Club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.

c). By expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in article VI of these bylaws.

Section 5 Reinstatement. A member in good standing whose membership has lapsed, or who resigned, may be reinstated without the formality of a written ballot, but by a hand vote at the next business meeting of the Club following receipt of his application for reinstatement upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.

Section 6 Good Standing. A member shall be considered to be in good standing who has paid his dues for the current year and has no debts to the Club more than 30 days past due.

Article II **Meetings and Voting**

Section 1 Club Meetings. Meetings of the Club shall be held in (or within 25 miles of) the city of Joplin on the second Tuesday of each month, at such an hour and place as may be designated by the President. Written notice of each such meeting shall be announced in the "Canine Capers" at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20% of the Regular members in good standing.

Section 2 Special Club Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the President or by a majority vote of the members of the Board, who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board, and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five members of the Club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held in (or within 25 miles of) the City of Joplin at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings.

Written notice of such meetings shall be sent by the Corresponding Secretary at least five days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other Club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such meeting shall be 20% of the Regular members in good standing.

Section 3 Board Meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such date, hour and place as may be designated by the President. Notice of each such meeting shall be given by the Corresponding Secretary at least three days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 5 Directors of the Club. Committee Chairpersons may be invited to attend Board meetings for the submission of reports.

Section 4 Special Board Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President, and shall be called by the Corresponding Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the Board. Such meetings shall be held in (or within 25 miles of) the City of Joplin at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be sent by the Corresponding Secretary at least five days, and not more than 10 days prior to the date of such meeting. Said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. A quorum for such meeting shall be five Directors of the Club. An emergency meeting may be called by the President at any time it is deemed necessary.

Section 5 Voting. Each Regular member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club at which he is present except the annual meeting. Regular members must have attended at least six Regular meetings or participated in other Kennel Club activities as approved by the Board of Directors in order to vote at the annual meeting. (See Standing Rules)

Article III

Directors and Officers

Section 1 Board of Directors.

a). General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to a Board of Directors comprised of eight members, one-half being elected by the membership each year for a two-year term.

b). No member of the Board of Directors may serve more than two consecutive terms on the Board. After a member of the Board of Directors has served two consecutive terms on the Board he may not run for re- election nor be appointed to fill an unexpired term, until one year has passed.

c). Any member of the Board of Directors who fails to attend three consecutive Board meetings shall be considered as having vacated his position. Under extenuating circumstances, the Board may reinstate a Board member.

d). No person shall be eligible to be an officer or a member of the Board of Directors who shall not have been a member of the Club in good standing for one year or more preceding the annual meeting of the Club at which the election is held.

Section 2 Officers. The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Club and it's meetings and the Board and its meetings. The President, Vice President and Recording Secretary shall be elected by the Board from among its members for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. The Corresponding Secretary and the Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board from among the regular membership for a term of one year or until their successors are appointed and qualified. This election shall be held at the first regular meeting of the Club at which time the new Board members were elected.

a). The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the Office of the President, in addition to those specified by these bylaws.

b). The Vice President shall have the powers and exercise the duties of the President, in the event of the President's absence or incapacity.

c). The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board of Directors and all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. This officer shall act as the Club's official Historian, and shall maintain a permanent record of all activities, events and matters of interest to the Club during the term of office elected for, and at the termination of service, shall turn over to the newly elected Recording

Secretary all records in this regard. A full and complete record of members of the Club shall be maintained, together with addresses and phone numbers. In addition, the Recording Secretary shall carry out such other duties as prescribed in these bylaws.

d). The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of all correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify officers and Directors of their election, and shall handle promptly and efficiently all detail work and correspondence designated by the officers of the Club and the Board of Directors.

e). The Treasurer shall collect and receive all money due the Club or belonging to the Club, and shall receipt therefore. He/she shall deposit the same in a bank satisfactory to the Board in the name of the Club. His/her books shall, at all times, be open for inspection by the Board, and he/she shall report at each Board meeting the condition of the Club's finances, and every item of receipt of payment not previously reported. At the annual meeting of the Club, he/she shall render an account of all money received and expended during the previous fiscal year. An independent financial analysis shall be conducted annually. The Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount to be determined by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the newly elected Board, at which the election of officers is held, following the annual meeting. The fee for such bond shall be borne by the Club.

Section 3 Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the officers during the year shall be filled by a majority vote of all members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a Special Board Meeting called for that purpose; except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by the Board.

ARTICLE IV

The Club year, Annual meeting, Elections

Section 1. Club Year. The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the of the election at the annual meeting and shall continue through the election at the next annual meeting.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall be held in the month of May at which Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office immediately or no later than thirty days following the meeting.

Section 3. Nominations. The Board shall elect by February 15th a Nominating Committee consisting of three members, all of whom shall have been a member of the Club in good standing for at least a year. The Board shall name a Chairperson for the committee and it shall be his duty to call a committee meeting within two weeks.

- a). The Committee shall nominate at least six candidates for the positions on the Board. The Nominating Committee shall ascertain if the nomination is acceptable to the person nominated. Upon such verification, the nominations shall immediately be reported to the Corresponding Secretary in writing.
- b). Upon receipt of the Nomination Committee's report, the Corresponding Secretary shall forthwith notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated, this being accomplished by the April regular meeting.
- c). Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the regular March and April meetings of the Club.
- d). On or before the May Annual Meeting, the Corresponding Secretary shall notify each member in writing of all such additional nominations.
- e). Nominations may not be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than provided in this article.

Section 4. Election of Directors. The Directors shall be elected from among those nominated at the annual meeting of the Club. The four nominated candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected as Directors.

ARTICLE V

Committees

Section 1. The President may each year appoint Standing Committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as Dog Shows, Obedience Trials, Agility Trials, Obedience Classes, Agility Classes, annual prizes, trophies, membership and other fields which may well be served by committees. All Committee appointments made by the President shall be approved by the Board of Directors. The President shall consult with officers and Committee Chairpersons on appointments to their respective committees.

Section 2. Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

ARTICLE VI

Discipline

Section 1: American Kennel Club Suspension. Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from privileges of the Club for a like period.

Section 2: Charges. Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a Discipline deposit, (Refer to Standing Rules) which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing. The Corresponding Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at a Board meeting, and the Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interest of the Club it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges it shall fix a date of hearing by the Board not less than 3 weeks nor more than 6 weeks thereafter. The Corresponding Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if he wishes.

Section 3 Board Hearing. 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. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by plaintiff and defendant, the Board may by a majority vote of those present suspend the defendant, the Board may by a majority vote of those present suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his fellow members at the ensuing Club Meeting which considers the Board's recommendation.

Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Recording Secretary. The Secretary, in turn shall notify each of the parties of the Board's decision and penalty if any.

Section 4 Expulsion. Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at a meeting of the Club following a Board hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at the meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendations and shall invite the defendant, if present to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not voted the Board's suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

Section 1 Amendments to the Constitution and By Laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by Written petition addressed to the Corresponding Secretary signed by twenty percent of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board. The Corresponding Secretary will then turn the petition over for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

Section 2 The Constitution and By Laws may be amended by 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and sent to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

Dissolution

Section 1 Dissolution. The Club may be dissolved by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, whether voluntary or involuntary or by the Operation of the 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 dogs. Selection of the charitable organization is to be made by a 2/3 vote of the club present and voting. If no charitable organization received a 2/3 vote, selection shall then be made a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX

Order of Business

Section 1 At 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 Club and Board meetings
- Report of the President
- Report of the Recording Secretary
- Report of the Corresponding Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of the Committees
- Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)
- Election of New Members
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

Section 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 Board meeting
Report of Recording Secretary
Report of Corresponding Secretary
Report of Treasurer
Reports of Committees
Unfinished Business
New Business
Adjournment

ARTICLE X

Anything not covered in the Constitution and By Laws shall be covered by Robert's Rules of Order.

STANDING RULES

MEMBER PRIVILEGES:

To be eligible for half price member discounts, members must attend six meetings or work at three club functions.

Eligible members may train in regular obedience class at half of the normal fee except classes where outside instructors are hired. Conformation and Ongoing Obedience/Rally Classes are not eligible for half priced fees since they are already at a reduced rate. Members must submit an application, vaccine records/titer testing results and fee in advance to hold a place in any obedience class. Vaccination records/titer testing results are required for all classes including conformation classes. This includes any additional dogs brought into the building even if they are not in a class. Puppies must have had their final round of a combination type vaccination to attend. Instructors who teach multiple classes per year are eligible for free classes at the rate of 1:1 except classes where outside instructors are hired. (If one class is taught, they can receive one free) OR the instructor may receive a \$100 instructor stipend, but not both. All TSKC members shall pay \$5.00 for a one-hour session for extra training not done while in a class at the building and must ensure they get their training put in a timeslot on the calendar to ensure we don't have overlapping activities. All non-members must accompany a member and shall pay \$15/hour. Tri-State Kennel Club pays one half the price of club attire bearing Kennel Club logo for eligible members one time only.

Committees:

In the event we have a cluster, the following will apply: The members of the Cluster Committee are the three show Chairpersons: The current year's show Chairperson and the two succeeding show Chairpersons and the alternate (which is the retiring year's show Chairperson). In case the retiring Chairperson is nonexistent, the board of directors will appoint the alternate. All cluster committee members have voting rights. Tri-State Kennel Club agrees to pay gas expense for one vehicle to Cluster meetings if such meetings are outside the 25-mile radius of Joplin. Any member who misses more than two meetings in a calendar year shall have his/her status as a delegate reviewed by the Board of Directors. Committees need to make reports of their meetings at the general meetings.

Show Committee & Show Chair: A show committee shall be appointed by the Board consisting of at least three members to include someone from conformation and obedience/rally and anyone else so deemed necessary. The Show Chairman shall be appointed by the Board and will be the Chair of this Committee. The Show Chair shall provide a monthly report on the progress of the Committee to the Board. The responsibilities of the Show Chair shall include but are not limited to: Calling meetings regarding show business, obtaining contracts for the show superintendent, show site,

stewards, host hotel, filing applications with AKC and work on the premium. The Show Chair will be required to turn over all contracts, correspondence, emails, maps and layouts and all other pertinent show information they have in their possession to the Board within 14 days of the conclusion of the show.

Superintendent and Show Veterinarian may not show in conformation as per AKC "Rules Applying to Dog Shows" (Conformation). Show chairs for other various sports or events must follow the rules for that sport.

Committee Chairs and committees for shows may be appointed by the Board as needed including hiring judges for their event.

AWARDS:

The Annual Awards Dinner will be a date to be determined in December or January with the presentation of awards to members completing titles during the calendar year, the Member of the Year award and various other awards. Members must notify the Awards Chairperson of completed titles. The Annual Award Dinner date will be announced in the Capers.

The Member of the Year shall be elected from the candidates chosen by a Selection Committee of three members comprised of the past three years Members of the Year. The Selection Committee meets in November.

MISCELLANEOUS:

"The Canine Capers" is a monthly newsletter on upcoming meetings and events, show wins and educational articles. The Tri-State Kennel Club appoints an Editor for "The Canine Capers."

MEMBERSHIP TYPES:

Regular Membership

Individual Membership: \$35.00

Family Membership: \$40.00 (Privileges for 2 or more related family members)

Voting privileges

Receive Canine Capers

Eligible for ½ price discounts

Initiation Fee: \$5.00

Associate Membership: \$25.00

No Voting Privileges

Receive Canine Capers

Initiation Fee: \$5.00

Junior Membership

Junior membership shall apply to anyone under eighteen years of age.

If both parents are members, no charge.

If one parent is a member the fee shall be the family membership.

If neither parent are members, the fee shall be \$5.00.

After the age of 18 they will need to apply for a regular membership.

Discipline Deposit (See Article VI, Sec. 2)

Discipline deposit: \$100.00

List of Generally approved Kennel Club activities (See Article II, Sec. 5)

- Teaching and assisting classes
- Significant contributions to supporting the shows and fun matches
- Producing the Canine Capers newsletter
- Organizing club events
- Promoting the Club at events
- Other activities as approved by the Board.

Member must submit a written or emailed request to the board by the April regular meeting in order to be considered as replacing attendance at one or more meetings for voting.