



**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE BULL TERRIER CLUB
OF NEW ENGLAND**

**Constitution & Bylaws of
The Bull Terrier Club of New England**

**CONSTITUTION
Article I**

Name and objectives

- Section 1** The name of the Club shall be the Bull Terrier Club of New England.
- Section 2** **a.** Its purpose shall be the development and promotion of interests in Bull Terriers through encouragement of training, fostering of shows, exhibits and matches, dissemination of knowledge and information to the general public, and within the extent of its means and abilities, the support of any programs or policies which advance these aims and are for the best interest of members, owners, and breeders of Bull Terriers.
- b.** to do all in its power to protect and advance the interest of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at:
- dog shows
 - obedience Trials
- c.** to conduct sanctioned matches, dog shows, obedience trials and any other event for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club.
- Section 3.** **The club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the club shall inure to the benefit of any member.**
- 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-Dues**

- Section 1 .** Eligibility: There shall be three types of membership available:
- Regular (individual)-enjoys all club privileges including the right to vote and hold office.
 - **Household**-Two (2) adult members residing in the same household, each eligible to vote and hold office.

- **Associate or Newsletter**-Entitled to all club privileges except voting and office holding

Any person favorable to the objectives of this Club shall be eligible for membership, providing they are (18) years or older and in good standing with the American Kennel Club. While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the club's primary purpose is to be representative of the breeders and exhibitors in its immediate area.

Section 2 Dues:

a. The membership dues shall be set by the Board of Directors and reviewed by the Board of Directors annually.

Regular dues shall not exceed \$ 25 per year

Household dues shall not exceed \$ 30 per year.

Associate dues shall not exceed \$ 20 per year

The fiscal year shall be from January 1 through December 31. Dues shall be payable on or before the first day of January each year. During the Month of November, the Treasurer will send to each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing year. A second bill shall be sent on January 1 to all members whose dues remain unpaid. Members whose dues remain unpaid by January 15 shall be considered delinquent and not in good standing.

c. Any person elected to membership four months prior to January 1 shall be exempt from annual dues for the ensuing year.

Section 3

Election to 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 the Constitution and Bylaws and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name and address and occupation of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of two (2) members in good standing.

Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.

All applications are to be filed with the Secretary and each application is to be read at the first meeting of the club following its receipt. At the next club meeting the application will be voted upon and affirmative votes of 2/3 of the members in good standing present and voting by secret ballot at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.

Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the club may not reapply within six months after such rejection.

Section 4. Termination of Membership

Memberships may be terminated :

(a.) by resignation-A member in good standing may resign from the club upon written notice to the Secretary, but no member may resign when in

debt to the club. Obligations other than dues are considered a debt to the club and must be paid in full prior to resignation

(b) by lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 90 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 entitled to vote at any club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.

All persons whose dues remain unpaid on March 1 (90 Days) of the ensuing year shall be automatically dropped from membership and shall be so advised in writing by the Secretary.

(c) by expulsion -A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these Bylaws.

Article III

Section 1 Board of Directors:

The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five (5) other persons all of whom shall be elected for one year terms at the Club's annual meeting as provided for in Article IV. The immediate Past President shall automatically become an additional member of the Board for one year after expiration of his/her term as President. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

Section 2 Officers:

- a. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board and the Club. He/She shall call meetings and direct the Secretary to mail to each Director and/or member due notice of same. He/She shall appoint all committee chairmen except the Nominating Committee.

He/She shall have the right to sign checks in the event of the death, incapability, or inability of the Treasurer to fulfill his/her duties. He/She may be required to furnish a bond in such amount as shall be deemed sufficient by the Board to safeguard the funds and property in his/her custody. The costs of such bond shall be paid from the funds of the Club.

- b. The Vice President, in the absence disability, or death of the President, shall exercise all the functions of the President.
- c. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Club and issue receipts therefore. He/She shall deposit such moneys in such bank as shall be approved by the Board in the name of the Club.

He/She may furnish a bond in such amount as shall be deemed sufficient by the board to safeguard the funds and property in his/her custody. The cost of such a bond shall be paid from the funds of the Club. The Treasurer's books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Club President and the Board. He/She shall report to them at every Club meeting the financial condition of the Club. At the annual meeting of the Club, he/she shall render an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous year.

- d. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Club and or Board including attendance. He/She shall keep a complete record of all such matters as may be prescribed by the Club or the Board. The Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence, notify the members of meetings, notify Officers and Directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, notify new members of their election to membership and mail to them a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these Bylaws. The address of the Club for all purposes shall be that of the Secretary.

Section 3 Vacancies:

Any vacancy occurring on the Board or among the Officers during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of all the then 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.

Impeachment of Officers:

The Board, acting on its own initiative, may prefer and consider charges against any Officer whom it may believe guilty of conduct prejudicial to the objectives or interests of the Club. All members of the Club, by virtue of their acceptance of membership in the Club and bound by its Constitution, expressly waive any possible right of action against the Club for any damages or claims of damages sustained by them as a result of the exercise of this provision. Also the financial interest of any member of the Club shall cease with the termination of his/her membership.

Article IV Meetings

Section 1

Club Meetings:

- a. Meetings of the Club shall be held 4 times a year within the club territory and as such time as the Board shall select. The club territory is defined as the area east of 1-91 in Connecticut and Massachusetts, including Rhode Island and the communities in New Hampshire in proximity to the Massachusetts state line. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The Quorum for such meetings shall be 20 (twenty) percent of the members in good standing.
- b. The annual meeting of the club shall be held in the last Quarter of each calendar year in the club territory (as defined in Article IV, Section 1a) for the purpose of hearing committee reports and for the election of Officers and Directors. Notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary to each member at least fifteen (15) days prior to the day set for the meeting.
- c. Regular meetings shall not be less than four (4) per year, including the annual meeting. Meetings of the Club shall be held in the club territory (as defined in Article IV, Section 1a). Notice of each meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary to each member at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such meeting.
- d. Special club 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 within the designated club territory 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 a meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 5 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 a meeting shall be 20 percent of the members in good standing.

Section 2

Board meetings:

- a. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at least four (4) times per year. Notice of each such meeting including an agenda shall be mailed out, stating time and place by in the club territory (as defined in Article IV, Section 1a) by the Secretary to each member of the board at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting.
Board meetings may be held by teleconference or videoconference.

b. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President, and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the board. Such special meetings shall be held in the club territory, as defined in Article IV, Section 1a, 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 mailed by the Secretary at least five days and not more than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the board .

Section 3

Voting:

Each 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. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or election.

Section 4

Quorum

The Quorum for a meeting of the Club shall be twenty percent (20%) of the membership and for a meeting of the Board shall be a majority of the Board.

Article V Committees

Section 1

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members in good standing,) and two (2) alternates, not more than one of whom may be a member of the board appointed by the Board of Directors in July, The secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen and alternates of their selection. The board shall name a chairman for the committee and it shall be such person's duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held before August 1. The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office, and positions on the board after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the secretary in writing.

Upon receipt of the Nominating committees report, the secretary shall, at least two weeks before the September meeting, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.

Additional nominations may be made at the September meeting, by any member in attendance, providing that the person so nominated does not decline when their name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at the meeting, the proposer shall present to the secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.

Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this section.

Section 2 The Board each year shall appoint other standing committees to advance the work of the club in such matters as matches, 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. Special committees may also be appointed by the board to aid it on particular projects.

Section 3 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

Section 1 American Kennel Club Suspension;
Any member who is suspended from any of the privileges of the American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this 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 deposit of ten dollars (\$10.00) which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained.

The secretary shall notify promptly the Board which shall meet and fix a date of a Board meeting not less than three (3) weeks or more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall send promptly one (1) copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail, together with a notice of the hearing and the assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if he/she wishes.

Section 3 Board Hearings:
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 complainant and defendant, the Board may, by a majority vote of those present, suspend the defendant from the privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing, and if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that penalty by expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear

before his/her 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 format and filed with the 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 can 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 proceeding will occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within sixty (60) days, but not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his/her own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting.

The President shall read the charges and the Board's finding and invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his/her own behalf if he/she 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 so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

Article VII
Conduct of Meetings

Section 1 Order of Business:

a. The regular order of business at any meeting of the Club shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of the Last Meeting
- Report of President
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Election of Officers and Directors (Annual Meeting)
- Election of New Members
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

b. At the 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 Secretary

Report of the Treasurer
Report of Committees
Unfinished Business
New Business
Adjournment

- Section 2** Parliamentary Authority
The rules contained in the current edition of “Roberts rules of order, newly revised” shall govern the club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not consistent with these bylaws and any other special rules of order the club may adopt.

Article VIII Amendments

- Section 1** Amendments to the Constitution and bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary and signed by twenty percent (20%) of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be considered by the Board and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the board by the secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

- Section 2** The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members 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 mailed to each member at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

Article IX Dissolution

The club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the Members in good standing, in the event of the dissolution of the club other than for 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 all debts of the Club, its property and assets shall be distributed to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs selected by the board of directors.