



Greater Pittsburgh Dalmatian Club

Constitution and By-Laws

Date of Update: September 25, 2018

ARTICLE I

INTRODUCTION

Section 1 Name

The name of the Corporation shall be The Greater Pittsburgh Dalmatian Club.

Section 2 Club

The term Club shall refer to the Corporation, whereas the corporation is a membership corporation, not for profit, to be operated as a club with full powers to do all things authorized by the statutes of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Section 3 Purpose

- a. To encourage and promote through education the breeding of quality pure-bred Dalmatians and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- b. To urge members and hobby breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which Dalmatians shall be judged
- c. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows
- d. To conduct sanctioned and licensed Specialty shows under the rules of the American Kennel Club.



- e. To conduct licensed *Agility (NEW)* , Coursing Ability or Obedience Trials and potential events such as, but not limited to Barn Hunt and Rally (with AKC approval) under the rules of the American Kennel Club (*Amended September 25, 2018*)

Section 4

Finances

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 insure to the benefit of any member of individual.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Eligibility

There shall be one type of membership open to all natural persons (18) eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club. There shall be one type of membership open to all natural persons who have not reached their eighteenth (18) birthday, but who are at least ten years of age; Junior members shall have all rights or privileges of membership, except that of the right to vote.

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.

- a. The Club will not accept application for membership from those persons who do not fulfill the purposes as outlined in Article 1, Section 3, or from those persons who sell their stock to persons who do not fulfill the purposes as outlined in Article 1, Section 3.
- b. The Club will not accept application for membership from those who permit their dog's stud services to be available through negotiations arranged by any person or persons who would not be eligible for membership as stated in Article II, Section 1(a).

Section 2

Dues (Amended November 20, 1976)

Dues shall be determined annually for the forthcoming year by the Board of



Directors; subject to the approval of a majority of those present at the next general Membership Meeting.

Section 3

Election to Membership

Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form, as approved by the Board of Directors, which shall provide that the applicant agree to abide by this Constitution and By-Laws, and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address and occupation of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of two members. 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. Prior to this meeting, a listing of the new member applications will be mailed to the membership, along with notification of the meeting, so that the membership will be prepared to vote on the applications at that meeting. An affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members present at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant as a member.

Applicants for membership, who have been rejected by the Club, may not re-apply within six months after such rejection.

Section 4

Termination of Member

Memberships may be terminated:

- a. By Resignation. Any 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. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
- 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 90 days for payment by 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.
- c. By Expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VII of this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE III

MEETING & VOTING



Section 1

Club Meetings

Meetings of the Club shall be held at a convenient location in or near the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, during the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November in each year, at such date, hour and place as may be designated by the President. 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 a meeting shall be three-fourths (3/4) of the members present at the meeting.

Section 2

Special Club Meetings

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, or 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 at a convenient location in or near the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and at such hour and place as shall be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such meetings shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than fifteen (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 a Special Meeting shall be three-fourths(3/4) of the members present.

Section 3

Board Meetings *(Amended March 19, 1995)*

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at a convenient location in or near the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania bi-monthly at such date, hour and place as may be designated by the President. Such regular Board Meetings shall be held prior to the regular meetings of the membership. Written notice of each Board Meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for a Board Meeting shall be three-fourths (3/4) of the Board members present at the meeting.

Section 4

Special Board Meetings

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three (3) members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held at a convenient location in or near the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and at such hour and place as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. Written notice of such meetings shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five (5) and not more than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting, or Telegraphic notice shall be filed at least three (3) days and not more than five (5) 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. A quorum for a Special Board Meeting shall be three-fourths(3/4) of the Board members present at the meeting.

ARTICLE IV

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

Section 2 Board of Directors (*Amended March 19, 1995*)

The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected for one year terms at the Club's Annual Meeting, as provided in Article V; and three other persons to be known as Directors, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors, unless overruled by three-fourths (3/4)of the voting members present at the next meeting.

Section 3 Officers (*Amended March 19, 1995*)

The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Club and its meetings and the Board and its meetings.

- 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 President, in addition to those specified in this Constitution and By-Laws.
- b. The Vice President shall have the power and exercise the duties of the President in cases of the President's death, absence or incapacity.
- c. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club.



- d. The Corresponding Secretary shall have the charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in this Constitution and By-Laws.

- e. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all money dues or belonging to the Club and receipt thereof. He,/she shall deposit the same in a bank satisfactory, to the Board, in the name of the Club. His/she books shall, at all times, be open to inspection by the Board and he/she shall report to them at every meeting, the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not previously reported; and at the Annual Meeting, he/she shall render an account of all money received and expended during the previous fiscal year.

Section 4

Vacancies

Any vacancies occurring on the Board during the year, shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a majority vote of all the members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such a vacancy.

ARTICLE V

THE CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION

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 election at the Annual Meeting in March and shall continue through the election at the next Annual meeting in March.

Section 2

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting shall be held during the month of March, and shall be called in accordance with the requirements and provisions as set forth for regular meetings in Article III, Section 1.



Section 3

Nominations (Amended March 19, 1995)

No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated.

No person may be a nominated candidate in a Club election who has not attended a minimum of four meetings during the current year.

During the month of November, the Board shall select a nominating committee, consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than one of whom shall be a member of the Board. The Corresponding Secretary shall immediately notify the committee and the alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a Chairman for the committee and it shall be his/her duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held on or before November 25th.

- a. The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and such candidates as are required for the other positions on the Board, as provided in Article IV, Section I and after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing.
- b. Upon receipt of the nominating committee's report, the Corresponding Secretary shall on or before January 3rd, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- c. Additional nominations may be made at the January meeting, by any member in attendance, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his name is proposed, and provided further that if the nominated candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his nominator shall present to the Recording Secretary, a written statement from the nominated candidate signifying his willingness to be a candidate. Additional nominations which are provided herein, may be made only from among those members who were not nominated by the nominating committee.
- d. Nominations may not be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than as provided herein.

Section 4

Elections

The election of the director or directors and officers for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 3 of this Article at the Annual Meeting.

The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office



shall be declared elected. The nominated candidates for other positions on the Board who received the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to this successor in office, all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

ARTICLE VI

COMMITTEES

Section 1 Standing and/or Special Committees

The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows, trophies, annual prizes, membership and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects.

Section 2 Termination of Committee Appointment

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 service has been terminated.

ARTICLE VII

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 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 interest of the Club or the breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary, together with a deposit of \$10.00 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained. The



Secretary shall promptly notify the Board, which shall meet and fix a date of a Board hearing not less than three weeks or more than six weeks thereafter. The 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 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 all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months after 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 cases, 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 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 this meeting. The President 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. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1

Proposal

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary, signed by 20% of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition



shall be prompted, considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

Section 2

Voting on Proposal

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the members present 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 weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX

DISSOLUTION

Section 1

Dissolution

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two thirds (2/3) of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, whether voluntary or involuntary, or by operation of the law, none of the property of the Club or any proceeds thereof, nor any assets of the Club shall be distributed to any members of the Club, but after payment of debts of the Club, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization, for the benefit of dogs, selected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1

Club Meetings

At meetings of the Club, the order of business, so



far as the character a,.10 nature of the meetings may permit, shall be as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Report of Board
4. Report of President
5. Report of Recording Secretary
6. Report of Corresponding Secretary
7. Report of Treasurer
8. Report of Committees
9. Election of Officers and Board (*at Annual Meeting*)
10. Election of new members
11. Unfinished business
12. New business
13. Adjournment

Section 2

Board Meetings

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

1. Reading of minutes of last meeting
2. Report of Recording Secretary
3. Report of Corresponding Secretary
4. Report of Treasurer
5. Reports of Committees



6. Unfinished business
7. New business
8. Adjournment

GPDC Mission Statement

- Educate the public about the Dalmatian Breed
- Sponsor Breed, Obedience, Agility (new) matches and shows along with future events such as but not limited to including Barn Hunt and Rally.
- Promote quality breeding to better the Dalmatian Breed