

CORN BELT KENNEL CLUB, INCORPORATED

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name and Objectives

SECTION 1. The name of the Club Shall be Corn Belt Kennel Club, Incorporated.

SECTION 2. The objectives of the Club shall be:

- a) To further the advancement of all breeds of pure-bred dogs;
- b) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of all breeds of pure-bred dogs and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and obedience trials
- c) To conduct sanctioned matches, dog shows and obedience trials under the rules 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 or individual

SECTION 4. The Club shall operate within the guidelines of the Illinois General Not For Profit Corporation Act.

SECTION 5. The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such by-laws as may be required to carry out these objectives

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1

Membership

SECTION 1. Eligibility. There shall be one type of membership open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing with the The American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this 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. Membership dues shall be payable on or before the 1st day of December of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of October the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of his 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 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. At the next Club meeting the application will be voted upon and affirmative votes of 3/4 of the members present and voting at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.

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

SECTION 4. Termination of Membership. 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 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.
- c) **By expulsion.** A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE II Meetings and Voting

SECTION 1. Club Meetings. Meetings of the Club shall be held in the Bloomington/Normal area every other month, at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 5 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

SECTION 2. Special Club Meetings. Special Club meetings may be called by the President, or by 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 the Bloomington/Normal area 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% of the members in good standing.

SECTION 3. Board Meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held every other month, on the opposite months as the Club meetings, in the Bloomington/Normal area at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 5 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 4. Special Board Meetings. 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 Bloomington/Normal area 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 meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting, or telegraphic notice shall be filed at least 3 days and not more than 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 such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 5. 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 6. Rules of Order. The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order (current edition) shall govern the meetings of the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the rules of order of the Club.

ARTICLE III Directors and Officers

SECTION 1. Board of Directors. The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three other personas all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for one-year terms at the Club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. Officers. The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and 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 particularly specified in these By-Laws.
- b) The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.
- c) The 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. He shall have 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 and their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these By-Laws.
- d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Club. He shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. His books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board and he shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before report; and at the annual meeting he shall render an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine. The Treasurer shall act as the Registered Agent for the Club.
- e) No more than one office shall be held concurrently

SECTION 3. Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the offices 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.

ARTICLE IV

The Club Year, Annual Meetings, Elections

SECTION 1. Club Year. The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1st day of December and end on the 30th of November. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion 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 December at which Officers, Delegate to The American Kennel Club and 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 January 1 and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

SECTION 3. Elections. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The three nominated candidates for other positions of the Board, and the position of Delegate to The American Kennel Club who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4. Nominations. No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. During the month of September, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members, not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen of their selection. The Board shall name a Chairman for the Committee and it shall be his duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held on or before the fifteenth day of October.

- a) The Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and for Delegate, who may, but need not be an officer or director of the Club and three candidates for the three positions on the Board, 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 Secretary shall before the 15th day of November notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- c) Additional nominations may be made at the December meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline and when his name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at the meeting, his proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his willingness to be a candidate. Except for the position of Delegate, no person may be a candidate for more than one position.
- d) Nominations cannot be made in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

ARTICLE V Committees

SECTION 1. The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid on particular projects.

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 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 \$10.00 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send a 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 a hearing by the Board not less than 3 weeks nor more than 6 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 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 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 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 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 and not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendations 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 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 to expulsion. If expulsion is not so 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 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 by the Secretary 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 a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided 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.

SECTION 3. No amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws that is adopted by the Club shall become effective until it has been approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 4. No amendment to the Constitution and By-laws that is adopted by the Club shall become effective until it has been approved by the State of Illinois under the Illinois Not-For-Profit-Corporation Act.

ARTICLE VIII Standing Rules

SECTION 1. Standing rules may be presented at any regular Club meeting.

SECTION 2. All standing rules in effect shall be printed and copies made available to members on or before each annual meeting and shall be on file with the Secretary at all times throughout the year.

ARTICLE IX Dissolution

SECTION 1. Dissolution. The Club may be dissolved at any time by 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 the 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 and in accordance with the Illinois Nor-For-Profit-Corporation Act.

ARTICLE X
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 last meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of Committees
- Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Election of new members
- 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 minutes of last meeting
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of Committees
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

STANDING RULES
(revision: October, 2009)

- 1) Annual dues for membership shall be \$5.00 per person
- 2) Meetings of the general membership shall be the third Tuesday of February, the second Tuesday of April, June, August, October, and December, with the provision of having the meeting postponed one week due to inclement weather.
- 3) Standing Committees shall consist of: Show, Cluster, Conformation Class, Match, Education/Community Projects, Newsletter, and Judges Selection. Each committee is empowered to make decisions for the Club, always subject to Club sanction. Any expenses exceeding \$100.00 per fiscal year shall require pre-approval by the Board of Directors.
- 4) The nominating committee shall consist of one Board member and two additional Club members.
- 5) Prospective members must attend at least one Club meeting prior to submitting an application for membership. Their application for membership shall be accompanied by letters of recommendation from their two sponsors.
- 6) A member in good standing shall be a member whose dues are paid and who is not suspended by Corn Belt Kennel Club or The American Kennel Club.
- 7) CBKC will pay for each eligible member's Christmas dinner if the Treasury exceeds \$25,000.00. To be eligible the member must:
 - a) Attend at least 2 meetings during the year other than the December meeting, and:
 - b) Work at or for 1 event (i.e. show, classes, committee, etc.)
- 8) Reimbursable expenses incurred by Club members must be submitted to the Club Treasurer for reimbursement within the calendar year in which they occurred and be accompanied by receipt(s) for such expenses. December expenses may be submitted until January 31 of the following year.
- 9) CBKC Cluster Committee shall consist of 4 members who will be appointed for 2 year terms. Two positions are appointed each June. New appointees and outgoing committee members will all attend the Cluster meeting which is the show wrap-up. Committee members may be re-appointed when their term expires. Show Chairperson, Club President, or other Club members may attend the Cluster meetings but only the 4 appointed Committee members will have voting privileges.
- 10) CBKC Judges Selection Committee shall consist of 4 members who will be appointed for 4 year terms. One position is appointed each year in January. Rotation/responsibilities shall be as follows:
 - First year - Judges for breeds in 3 groups
 - Second year - Judges for breeds in 3 groups
 - Third year - Chair the committee, set meetings, send/receive contracts, and judges for breeds in 1 group
 - Fourth year - Mentor the current chair, judges for obedience, junior showmanship, miscellaneous class, Groups and BIS.
- 11) A Scholarship certificate will be offered annually at any of our Shows for Best Junior Handler, in accordance with AKC regulations.
- 12) Upon notice to the current Treasurer, flowers and/or memorials will be conveyed for death of a Club member not to exceed \$150.00 and death of an immediate family member not to exceed \$100.00.