

The Bloodhound Club



Constitution

1. NAME

The name of The Club shall be *The Bloodhound Club*.

2. OBJECTS

The objects of The Club shall be:

- a) To foster the interests of the breed generally.
- b) To encourage the use of the Bloodhound for tracking man.
- c) To promote the breeding of Bloodhounds according to the standard of the breed.
- d) To hold Shows, Working Trials and Training Meets, and to promote classes for Bloodhounds at other shows, and
- e) To provide opportunities for members of The Club to exchange information and opinions concerning Bloodhounds.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The number of members shall be unlimited, the classes of membership being Single, Joint, Family, Junior and Honorary.
- 3.2 The eligibility for membership, method of elections, rights and annual subscriptions shall be as set out in the Appendix to this Constitution.
- 3.3 The subscription is for a calendar year and shall be payable on 1st January each year.
- 3.4 No member shall be allowed to vote or compete for Club Specials or enjoy any of the privileges of membership until his/her subscriptions and all outstanding dues are paid. Members whose dues have not been fully paid by 1st of March shall be deemed non-members and will have to reapply for membership. New members must have been confirmed for at least a full year before being able to vote.
- 3.5 Any member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42. j. (4) and/or disqualified under the Kennel Club Rule A42.j. (8) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of The Club for the duration of the suspension and/or disqualification.
- 3.6 If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of The Club, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of The Club, the committee may, at a meeting, the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the member, determine that a Special General Meeting of The Club shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.

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Notice of the special general meeting shall be sent to the accused member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the Meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at a Meeting, a resolution to expel is passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of members and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a member of The Club except that he/she may, within two calendar months from the date of such meeting appeal to the Kennel Club, upon and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose.

3.7 The Secretary shall keep a register of the names and addresses of members and the register shall be open to the inspection of members, or to the Kennel Club at any time.

4. THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

4.1 The entire management of the affairs of The Club shall be vested in the Committee.

4.2 The Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and nine members.

4.3 No member shall be eligible for election to the Committee until two years after the date of application to join The Club.

4.4 The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall serve for a period of three years, one retiring each year. One third of the other Committee members shall retire annually in rotation.

4.5 No two officers and/or committee members may be members of the same household.

4.6 No Officer or Committee member may serve on the Committee of another bloodhound club.

4.7 Elections for Officers and Committee members shall be by postal ballot of all members. A Returning Officer shall be elected at a General Meeting and shall be responsible for arranging the elections. The Returning Officer during his term of office shall not be a Committee member nor may stand for election. At least one other Club member must be present when the envelopes containing the votes are opened; any member is entitled to be present.

4.8 Nominations for the election shall be sent to the Secretary in writing, duly proposed and seconded, prior to 30th November each year.

Existing Committee Members shall be eligible for re-election. Before standing for election any existing Committee Member or Officer must resign his existing post and then may be nominated for one post only. Nominees shall signify in writing their willingness to accept office.

4.9 Ties shall be decided by the toss of a coin by the returning Officer.

4.10 If an extra Committee vacancy is being filled (because of a resignation) the person polling the fourth highest number of votes shall fill that vacancy and therefore may require re-election in one or two years, and the three candidates with the highest number of votes shall fill the vacancies requiring re-election in three years' time.

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- 4.11 Committee Meetings shall be held as deemed necessary by the Chairman and Secretary, but at least one Committee Meeting shall be held in each four monthly period of the year.
- 4.12 The Committee shall appoint from amongst their number a Vice-Chairman, Show Secretary and Working Trial Secretary.
- 4.13 The quorum at a Committee Meeting shall be six.
- 4.14 The Chairman shall have the casting vote.
- 4.15 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt for special purposes, such co-opted members having no vote.
- 4.16 The Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees.
- 4.17 No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee of, or hold any other office or appointment within a KC registered society.

5. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 5.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held before the 31st of March each year, to receive a report of the elections of Officers and other Committee Members, to receive and pass the annual accounts of The Club and to transact such business that has been duly proposed, seconded and notified to the Secretary in writing before the 30th of November prior to the Annual General Meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be sent in writing to all members not later than 30 days before the date of the Meeting. No business other than that notified on the Agenda of such a meeting may be transacted unless deemed of an urgent nature by the Chairman.
- 5.2 A Special General Meeting must be held on the requisition of ten members stating the object of such meeting. The Secretary must send out notices within fourteen days of receiving the requisition, and at least twenty one days' warning must be given of the Meeting. No business other than that which appears on the agenda must be conducted at a Special General Meeting. The Committee of The Club is also empowered to call a Special General Meeting.
- 5.3 The quorum at a General Meeting shall be ten.

6. FINANCES

- 6.1 Accounts shall be held in the name of The Club from which withdrawals may be made on the signature of any two of the following: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.
- 6.2 All reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of The Club by the Secretary and Treasurer may be defrayed from The Club funds. The Secretary and Treasurer may grant reasonable out of pocket expenses to persons acting on behalf of The Club and with the prior knowledge of the Secretary and Treasurer.
- 6.3 At each Committee Meeting committee members shall be informed of all payments made on behalf of The Club since the previous meeting.

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6.4 The Financial Year shall end on the 31st of October.

6.5 A copy of the accounts shall be scrutinised and certified annually by an independent accountant and further reviewed by two committee members and shall be made available to members 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

6.6 The accounts will be certified by a qualified accountant, unconnected to the committee, who shall be elected by the committee and approved at the Annual General Meeting.

7. CLUB ACTIVITIES

7.1 All shows and working trials shall be organised by a sub-committee, minimum number three including the appropriate sub-section secretary. All changes in Club policy affecting these events recommended by a sub-committee must be ratified by the General Committee before being put in to operation.

7.2 The winner of a cup or trophy must be a member of The Club. All cups and trophies which are won must be presented at the event. Perpetual trophies may be held by members and engraved at their own expense, provided they are returned in time to be presented at the next event. Each holder of a cup or trophy shall be responsible for its safe keeping and for its return in good condition on demand.

7.3 All cups and trophies are to be retained in the United Kingdom.

7.4 The Club's list of show and working trial judges shall be compiled afresh each year in line with the Kennel Club best practice.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

8.1 The Club shall not join any federation of clubs or societies.

8.2 The Club shall be registered at the Kennel Club. The Kennel Club shall be the final authority for interpreting the rules and regulations of the society in all cases relative to canine or society matters.

8.3 The property of The Club shall be vested in the Committee. In the event of The Club ceasing to exist, a General Meeting shall be called to decide the disposal of The Club's assets and the outcome of the meeting notified to the Kennel Club.
(If a registered Club is wound up or ceases to be a Registered Society under Kennel Club Regulations, a final statement of accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of The Club shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as Officers and Committee of The Club will be held responsible by the Kennel Club for the proper winding-up of The Club).

8.4 No alteration or addition may be made to these rules unless the amendment is passed at two successive Annual General Meetings by a two thirds majority of those voting, except for the level of subscriptions which may be altered by a simple majority of those voting at any General Meeting. Such alterations shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and given its approval of the alterations.

8.5 The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Secretary for the continuance of registration and that by the 31st of July each year other returns as stipulated in the Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities, will be forwarded to the Kennel Club. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any change of Secretary to The Club which may occur during the course of the year.

APPENDIX TO THE CONSTITUTION

Code of Ethics

This code of ethics has been adopted by both breed clubs and all members of The Bloodhound Club and the Association of Bloodhound Breeders undertake to abide by this code.

Club Members:

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon who performs an operation on their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal or carries out a caesarean on a bitch may report such operations to the Kennel Club.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies that may not conform to the breed standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply puppies that have been docked illegally.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch that could in any way be harmful to the dog or breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are exhibited.
10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.

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11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing a dog in a new home.
12. Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog and will agree in writing to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
13. Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as standalone items (not accompanying a dog).
14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed or falsely advertise dogs, nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.
15. No member shall breed a litter of bloodhounds unless he/she has the facilities and time to devote proper care and attention to the rearing of the puppies and the well-being of the dam.
16. All breeding should be aimed at the improvement of the breed. Stud dogs should be in good health and free from hereditary defects. Bitches should not be bred from until they are mature, usually 2 years of age and should be in good health and free from hereditary defects. Breeders are strongly advised to use all Health Scheme tests currently required or recommended for the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme on all breeding stock.
17. The Bloodhound Club and the Association of Bloodhound Breeders recognise the importance of the Kennel Club Assured Breeders Scheme and recommend and encourage all breeders to join the scheme.
18. Members should conduct themselves at all times in such a manner as to reflect credit on the Bloodhound and should demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times at competitive events.

Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from club membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate.

