



Heart Of Texas French Bull Dog Club Constitution And By-Laws

We, the undersigned, desiring to associate ourselves for the purposes hereinafter described, under the laws of the State of Texas, as a not-for-profit organization, establish the following Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1.

The name of the club shall be the **HEART OF TEXAS FRENCH BULL DOG CLUB**

Section 2.

The objectives of the Club shall be: To encourage and promote quality in breeding of purebred French Bull Dogs according to the Code of Ethics of The French Bulldog Club of America.

- a. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interest in the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows.
- b. To conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, obedience trials and events 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 profit or remainder of residue from dues or donation to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member, past or present, or any individual.

ARTICLE II -- Membership

Section 1. Eligibility

Membership shall be open to all persons who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and the French Bull Dog Club of America, who subscribe to the purposes of the 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. Types: There shall be four types of memberships

- a. **Regular Membership** is open to all, who are over the age of eighteen years and live within our local area.
- b. **Family membership** is open to individuals living in the same household, including children 10-17 years of age.

- c. **Lifetime membership** is open to individuals who have been members for a long period of time and who have contributed significantly to this Club and its objectives. Lifetime members shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by the general membership. Lifetime members are excused for payment of dues, but are eligible to vote and hold office.
- d. **Associate membership**, is open to all persons 18 years of age and older, who reside outside our local area. Associate members are entitled to all privileges of the club, except they may not vote or hold office.

Section 3. **Application for Membership**

- a. Each applicant shall submit an application expressing his or her desire to join on the approved application form, along with dues.
- b. Applicants must be sponsored by a member in good standing of the Club.
- c. Each application will be held until such time as applicant attends their first regular meeting.
- d. The applicant must sign the CODE OF ETHICS and agree to abide by the Constitution and By Laws of the Heart Of Texas French Bull Dog Club and the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.
- e. Applications are to be read at the first meeting of the club following its receipt and voted upon after the second reading.
- f. Affirmative votes of three-fourths of the regular members present and voting at the meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.
- g. The applicant must be present at the meetings in order for their applications to be read and voted upon and will be immediately be notified by the President of the action taken prior to the adjournment of the Club meeting. (Except Associate Members)
- h. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not reapply within 12 months following such rejection.
- i. All applications become a part of the Club's permanent records and shall be maintained by the acting Secretary.

Section 4. **DUES**

- a. Membership dues shall be payable by the 1st of January. No member shall be eligible to vote if dues for the current year are not paid.

- b. During November of each year the Secretary shall advise each member of the dues amount for the coming year.
- c. New members will be charged full membership dues provided their acceptance to the Club falls within the months of January through June.
- d. New members joining July through December will be assessed dues in the amount of one half of current years dues.
- e. Regular and Associate membership dues shall be \$10.00 and payable by January 1st of each year.
- f. Family membership dues shall be \$20.00 per year and payable by January 1st of each year.
- g. Upon recommendation by the Board of Directors and an affirmative majority vote of the General Membership, dues for each class of membership may be increased as deemed necessary to a maximum of \$50.00 per year.

Section 5. **Termination of Membership.**

1. Resignation.

- a. Any member in good standing may resign upon written notice to the Secretary.
- b. No member may resign when in debt to the Club.
- c. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club and may become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.

2. Lapsing:

- a. A membership shall be considered lapsed and automatically terminated if such members dues remain unpaid 60 day after the first day of the fiscal year.
- b. The Board of Directors may grant an additional 30 days in meritorious cases.

- 3. **Expulsion:** Any member may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VII of this Constitution and By Laws.

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

Section 1. **Club Meetings**

- 1. Meetings of the Club shall be held in the greater San Antonio area each month, at such date, hour and place as designated the Board of Directors.

2. Notice of each meeting shall be given by the Secretary at least 7 days prior to the date of the meetings.
3. A quorum for such meetings shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

Section 2. **Special Club Meetings**

1. Special club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special Board meeting or by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five members of the Club who are in good standing.
2. Notice of such meeting shall be given by the Secretary at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting.
3. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater San Antonio area, at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings.
4. Written notice of such meeting shall be by the Secretary at least 5 days prior and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting.
5. Said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other Club business shall be transacted thereat.
6. A quorum for such meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

Section 3. **Board Meetings**

1. Board meetings shall be held in the greater San Antonio area. Board meeting may be called by the President at such time and place as he or she may designate, or by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by four Board members stating the purpose of the meeting.
2. A quorum for such meeting shall consist of four members of the Board.

Section 4. **Special Board Meetings**

1. Special board meetings may be called by the President at such time and place as he or she may designate, or by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by four board members stating the purpose of the meeting.
2. Notice of such meeting shall be sent by the Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 10 days prior to date of meeting.
3. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, no other Club

business shall be transacted thereat.

4. A quorum for such meeting shall consist of four members 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.

ARTICLE IV **DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

Section 1.

The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three other members, all of whom are elected for one year terms at the Club's Annual Election meeting, as provided in ARTICLE V.

The immediate past president may be elected as a member of the Board, and if so may be a voting member of the board. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

Section 2. **Officers**

- a. **President.** The President shall preside at all meeting of the Club and the Board and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the Office of the President, in addition to those particularly specified in these Constitution and By-Laws.
- b. **Vice President.** The Vice President shall have the powers and exercise the the duties of the President in cases of the President's death, absence, or incapacity.
- c. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and Board, and of all matters of which a record shall be in order or ordered by the Club. The Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, keep roll of the members of the Club with addresses and telephone numbers, and carry out such other duties as prescribed by these Constitution and By-Laws.
- d. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club and receipt thereof, deposit the same in a bank satisfactory to the Board, in the name of the Club, keep books, which shall be open at all times to inspection of the Board, and shall report at every Club meeting the condition of the Club's finances, and every item of receipt or payment not before reported, and at the Annual Meeting render and account of all monies received and expended during the year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount determined by the Board of Directors. The expense shall be born by the Club.

Section 3. **Vacancies.**

- a. Any vacancy 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.
- b. The 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 V. CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION

Section 1. **Club Years**

- a. The Club's **fiscal** year shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December.
- b. The Club's **official** year shall begin immediately at conclusion of the election at the Annual Meeting, and shall continue through the election at the next Annual Meeting.

Section 2. **ANNUAL MEETING**

- a. The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of November, at which time the Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 5 of this ARTICLE.
- b. They shall take office immediately upon conclusion of the election, and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days the election.

Section 3. **PROXIES**

Proxy voting is not permitted at any Club meeting or election.

Section 4. **ELECTIONS**

The nominated candidate receiving the majority of vote cast for each office shall be declared elected.

Section 5. **NOMINATIONS**

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

- a. 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 Board member.

- b. The Board shall name a Chairman for the committee, and it shall be his duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held within one week after selection.
- c. The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and three candidates for the Board.
- d. The committee shall contact each nominee and insure that they will accept nomination in writing. The committee shall report their nominations to the Secretary in writing or e-mail.
- e. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the October meeting by any member in attendance, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when their name is proposed.
- f. No person may be a candidate for more than one office.
- g. Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting held in November' or in any manner other than provided in this section.

ARTICLE VI. **COMMITTEES**

Section 1.

- a. The Board shall appoint all standing committees and their chairpersons, to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership and other fields which may well be served by committees.
- b. The Board is empowered to terminate such committees and chairpersons. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board.

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 VII. **DISCIPLINE**

Section 1. **American Kennel Club Suspension.**

Any member who is suspended from the American Kennel Club shall automatically be suspended for the privileges of this Club for the same period of time.

Section 2. **Charges**

- a. Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the breed.
- b. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary, together with a deposit of \$25.00 which shall be forfeited if the charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing.
- c. 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 it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction.
- d. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges it shall fix a date of a hearing by the Board not less than three weeks and not more than six weeks thereafter.
- e. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail, together with the 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**

- a. 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.
- b. Should the charges be sustained after the hearing all evidence and testimony presented by the complainant and defendant, the Board may, by majority vote suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing.
- c. If the Board deems that punishment is insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership be expulsion.
- d. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his fellow members at the ensuing meeting of the Club, which will consider the Board's recommendation.
- e. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its finding shall be put into written form and filed with the Secretary, who shall read the same at the

ensuing meeting. The Secretary shall, in turn, notify each party of the Board's decision and penalty, if any.

Section 4. **Expulsion.**

- a. 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.
- b. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club held within 60 days, but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion.
- c. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf if he wishes, 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 on his behalf if he wishes.
- d. The membership shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion.
- e. If expulsion is not voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VIII. **AMENDMENTS.**

Section 1.

Amendments to the CONSTITUTION and BY LAWS may be proposed by the Board or by written petition and addressed to the Secretary signed by 20 per cent of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for 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 that purpose, but the proposed amendment must be presented to the members for discussion and voted on not earlier than the following meeting.

ARTICLE IX **DISSOLUTION.**

Section 1. The Club may be dissolved at any time by a written consent of not

less than 2/3 of the members.

- a. In the event of the dissolution of the Club other than for the purposes of reorganization whether voluntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the Club nor any proceed thereof nor any assets of the Club shall be distributed to any members of the Club.
- b. The Club's property and assets shall be given to the French Bull Dog Club Of America - AKC Canine Health Foundation, French Bull Dog Donor Advised Fund, as voted by the Board.

Article X. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of "Robert's Rules Of Order, Newly Revised" shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are Applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws And any special rules of order the Club may adopt.

Article XI. 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
WELCOME GUEST (if any)
MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
REPORT OF THE TREASURER
COMMITTEE REPORTS
ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS (at Annual Meeting)
ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
ADJOURNMENT
BRAGS

Section 2.

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

ROLL CALL
READING OF THE LAST MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
REPORT OF THE TREASURER
COMMITTEE REPORTS
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED by the membership at the regular monthly meeting held on XXXXXXXX
XX, XXXX.

Signed:

Mary V. Miller
President