

**THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF EAST TENNESSEE**  
**KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I**  
**NAME and OBJECTIVES.**

**Section 1. The name of the Club shall be THE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG CLUB OF EAST TENNESSEE.**

**Section 2. The objectives of the Club shall be:**

**(a). to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of pure-bred German Shepherd Dogs and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;**

**(b). to urge members and breeders to accept the Standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which German Shepherd Dogs shall be judged;**

**(c). to do all in its power to protect and advance the interest of the breed by encouraging sportsman-like competition at the dog shows:**

**(d). to conduct sanctioned and licensed Specialty 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 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 I  
MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. ELIGIBILITY.** There will be three types of membership:

(a) **Regular membership**: open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of the Club.

(b) **Junior membership**: open to all persons under the age of eighteen who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club. Junior members will have full privileges of the Club except that they will not be permitted to vote or hold office.

(c) **Family membership**: open to a husband and wife and/or minor offspring. Each family member over the age of eighteen listed as a club member under the Family membership shall have the same rights and benefits as a holder of a Regular membership and those under the age of eighteen shall have the same benefits as a holder of a Junior membership.

**Section 2. DUES.** Regular membership dues will be Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) per year. Junior membership will be Five Dollars (\$5.00) per year. Family membership will be Ten Dollars (\$15.00) for the first family member and Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each additional family member.

Dues are payable on or before the first day of the Club's fiscal year, September 1. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year.

During the month of July, the Treasurer will send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year.

Membership renewals will not be permitted to those with outstanding debts to the Club.

**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 these Constitutions and By-Laws and by the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name and address of the applicant and shall carry the endorsement of two members in good standing. Accompanying the application the applicant shall submit dues for the current year. Applications received after March 1 shall be

accompanied by one-half of the current dues to cover the remainder of the fiscal 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. There will be three readings of application. Members will vote on application at fourth reading. Applicant must be present at each reading of his/her application. Readings will be limited to six meetings. Affirmative votes of three-quarters (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 in the following manners:

(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 lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid for 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board of Directors may grant an additional 30 days of grace to such delinquent member in meritorious cases. In no case may a member 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 these By-Laws.

## ARTICLE II CLUB MEETINGS

**Section 1. CLUB MEETINGS.** Meetings of the Club shall be held in the Greater Knoxville area on the first Tuesday of each month at such hour and place as designated by the Board unless canceled in accordance with Section 2.

Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed out by the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.

The quorum for such meetings shall be Twenty per cent (20%) of the membership.

**Section 2. CANCELLATION OF MONTHLY MEETING.** A monthly meeting may be canceled upon consent of the Board of Directors due to inclement weather and hazardous driving conditions only.

The Secretary will contact the membership by written notice of the new date, if any, set for the meeting at least seven days prior to the date set by the Board of Directors to replace such meeting.

**Section 3. SPECIAL CLUB MEETINGS.** Special Club Meetings may be called by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors 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 meeting shall be held in the Greater Knoxville area and at such hour and place as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such a meeting. Written notice of the meeting shall be mailed out by the Secretary at least 10 days and no 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 meeting shall be twenty per cent (20%) of the membership.

**Section 4. BOARD MEETINGS.** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held within the Greater Knoxville area on the third Tuesday of the months of August, October, December, February, April and June at such place as designated by the Board of Directors.

Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 5 days prior to the date set for the meeting.

The quorum for such meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

**Section 5. SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS.** Special Board Meetings may be called by the President or by the Secretary upon receipt of written request signed by at least two members of the Board. Such meeting shall be held within a 50 mile radius of Knoxville at such hour and place as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such a meeting.

Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed out by the Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting or telephonic notice shall be made by the Secretary at least 3 days and not more than 5 days prior to the date set for such meeting; and such notice shall state the

purpose of the meeting and no other Club business shall be transacted thereat.

A quorum for such meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

**Section 6. VOTING.** Each holder of a Regular membership and each holder of a Family membership over the age of eighteen years who is in good standing and whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club for which he is present.

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

### **ARTICLE III DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

**Section 1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) other persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing, have paid their dues for the current year and shall be elected for a one-year term at the Club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV. 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 meeting 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 Constitutions and By-Laws.

(b) The Vice-President shall have the powers and exercise the duties 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 all matter of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. The Secretary shall have charge of all correspondence, notify the members of the meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a role of the members of the Club with their addresses and carry out such duties in addition, as prescribed in these By-Laws.

(d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging

to the Club and provide receipt. The Treasurer shall deposit the same in a bank satisfactory to the Board, in the name of the Club. His or her books shall be at all times open to the inspection of the Board and he or she shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting he or she shall enter an account of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year.

**Section 3. 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 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 MEETING, ELECTION**

**Section 1. CLUB YEAR.** The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of September and end on the thirty-first day of August. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election of officers at the annual meeting and shall continue through the election of officers at the next annual meeting.

**Section 2. ANNUAL MEETING.** The annual meeting shall be held in the month of August at which the Directors and Officers for the ensuing year shall be elected from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. 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 the 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 on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

Voting by proxy is not permitted at any Club meeting or election.

**Section 4. NOMINATIONS.** No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. No person may be eligible to be nominated as an Officer or Board member unless that person has been a member in good standing with the Club for at least one year. During the month of April the Board shall select a Nominating Committee, consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board.

The Secretary shall notify the committeemen and alternates immediately of

their selection.

The Board shall name a Chairman for the committee and it will be his or her duty to call a meeting of the committee which shall be held on or before June 10th.

(a) The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and three (3) candidates for the three other positions on the Board, and shall immediately report their nomination to the Secretary in writing.

(b) The Secretary shall notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated at least two (2) weeks before the regular July meeting.

(c) Additional nominations may be made at the July meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated accepts when his name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his or her proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his or her willingness to be a candidate.

No person may be a candidate for more than one position and the additional nominations which are provided for herein may be made only from among those members who have not accepted a nomination of the Nominating Committee.

(d) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

## ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

**Section 1. STANDING COMMITTEES.** The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as Shows, Obedience Trials, Trophies, Annual Awards, Membership and other fields which may be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board.

**Section 2. SPECIAL COMMITTEES.** Special committees may be appointed by the Board to aid in special projects.

**Section 3. TERMINATION, VACANCY AND REPLACEMENT.** 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 privileges of the American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from privileges of this Club for a like period.
- Section 2. CHARGES.** The Board shall hear and investigate any charges against a member or requests to dismiss a member at any regular or specially called Board meeting.
- Section 3. BOARD HEARING.** An affirmative vote of 2/3 of the total Board members shall be required to allow the charged member to respond to charges. However, if the charged member is an officer or member of the Board, that member shall not be counted in determination of the percentage required and, unless allowed by such a vote, shall not be present during any discussion or take part in any investigation.
- Section 4. EXPULSION.** A unanimous vote of all Board members, with the exception of any Board member who may be the one under consideration for expulsion, shall be necessary to bring the question of expulsion of a member before the total membership present at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The matter shall be brought before the entire membership at the next meeting following the Board meeting where such vote for expulsion was held. A vote shall be held and if 2/3 of the total membership present at such meeting, less the charging party and the charged member, vote for expulsion, then the member shall be immediately expelled and dismissed.

**ARTICLE VII  
AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1. PROPOSALS.** Amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by twenty per cent (20%) 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 membership 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. RATIFICATION.** The Constitution and/or By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the meeting notice and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.



**ARTICLE VIII  
DISSOLUTION**

**Section 1. DISSOLUTION.** The Club may be dissolved at any time by written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members. In the event of dissolution of the Club other than for the purpose of reorganization whether voluntary or involuntary 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 payments 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 IX  
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 Members (at annual meeting)  
Election of New members  
Unfinished business  
New Business  
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:

**Readings of minutes of last meeting  
Report of the Secretary  
Report of the Treasurer  
Reports of Committees  
Unfinished business  
New business  
Adjournment**

**Section 3.** Robert's Rules of Order shall be used when any point is not covered by the Constitution and By-Laws.

**Amended: August 2004**