

# **Rules Applying to Registration and Discipline**

**Also applies to  
Foundation Stock Service**

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**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**



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## FOREWORD

The American Kennel Club was formed principally for the protection and advancement of purebred dogs.

The State of New York by Special Act of its legislature incorporated The American Kennel Club and granted it a charter in Section 2 of which the objects of the corporation are described to be “to adopt and enforce uniform rules regulating and governing dog shows and field trials, to regulate the conduct of persons interested in exhibiting, running, breeding, registering, purchasing and selling dogs, to detect, prevent, and punish frauds in connection therewith, to protect the interests of its members, to maintain and publish an official stud book and an official kennel gazette, and generally to do everything to advance the study, breeding, exhibiting, running and maintenance of the purity of thoroughbred dogs.”

Section 2 of this charter further states that “for these purposes it,” The American Kennel Club, “shall have power to adopt a constitution, bylaws, rules and regulations, and enforce the same by fines and penalties, which it shall have the right to collect and enforce by suit, or by suspension or expulsion from membership, or by a suspension or denial of any or all of the privileges of said corporation.”

Forms for the registration of purebred dogs may be obtained by writing to or calling in person at the offices of The American Kennel Club.

The holding of dog shows at which purebred dogs may be exhibited and be given an opportunity to compete for prizes and thereby enable their breeders and owners to demonstrate the progress made in breeding for type and quality, and the holding of obedience trials and field trials at which purebred dogs may be run in competition for prizes and thereby enable their breeders and owners to demonstrate the progress made in breeding for practical use, stamina and obedience have been found to be the best methods by which the progress which has been made in breeding can be shown.

The American Kennel Club has adopted certain Bylaws, Rules and Regulations designed to carry out these objects. This book contains such of these bylaws, rules and regulations as affect the registration of purebred dogs; or the person who by unsportsmanlike conduct or wrongdoing is believed to be injuring the welfare of the sport of breeding and showing purebred dogs.

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **GENERAL EXPLANATIONS**

**SECTION 1.** The word “dog” wherever used in these Rules and Regulations includes both sexes.

**SECTION 2.** The words “United States of America” wherever used in these Rules and Regulations shall be construed to include all territories and possessions of the United States of America and all vessels sailing under the American Flag.

# **CHAPTER 2**

## **REGISTRABLE BREEDS BY GROUPS**

The following breeds divided by groups shall be all the breeds now recognized by The American Kennel Club as being distinct breeds of purebred dogs eligible for registration in the Stud Book of The American Kennel Club.

### **GROUP 1—SPORTING DOGS**

**BRITTANYS**  
**POINTERS**  
**POINTERS (GERMAN SHORTHAIRED)**  
**POINTERS (GERMAN WIREHAIRD)**  
**RETRIEVERS (CHESAPEAKE BAY)**  
**RETRIEVERS (CURLY-COATED)**  
**RETRIEVERS (FLAT-COATED)**  
**RETRIEVERS (GOLDEN)**  
**RETRIEVERS (LABRADOR)**  
**RETRIEVERS (NOVA SCOTIA DUCK TOLLING)**  
**SETTERS (ENGLISH)**  
**SETTERS (GORDON)**  
**SETTERS (IRISH)**  
**SETTERS (IRISH RED AND WHITE)**  
**SPANIELS (AMERICAN WATER)**  
**SPANIELS (BOYKIN)**  
**SPANIELS (CLUMBER)**  
**SPANIELS (COCKER)**  
**SPANIELS (ENGLISH COCKER)**  
**SPANIELS (ENGLISH SPRINGER)**  
**SPANIELS (FIELD)**  
**SPANIELS (IRISH WATER)**  
**SPANIELS (SUSSEX)**  
**SPANIELS (WELSH SPRINGER)**  
**SPINONI ITALIANI**  
**VIZSLAS**  
**WEIMARANERS**  
**WIREHAIRD POINTING GRIFFONS**

### **GROUP 2—HOUNDS**

**AFGHAN HOUNDS**  
**AMERICAN ENGLISH COONHOUNDS**  
**BASENJIS**  
**BASSET HOUNDS**  
**BEAGLES**  
**BLACK AND TAN COONHOUNDS**  
**BLUETICK COONHOUNDS**  
**BLOODHOUNDS**  
**BORZOI**  
**DACHSHUNDS**  
**FOXHOUNDS (AMERICAN)**  
**FOXHOUNDS (ENGLISH)**

GREYHOUNDS  
HARRIERS  
IBIZAN HOUNDS  
IRISH WOLFHOUSES  
NORWEGIAN ELKHOUNDS  
OTTERHOUSES  
PETIT BASSET GRIFFON VENDÉENS  
PHARAOH HOUNDS  
PLOTTS  
REDBONE COONHOUSES  
RHODESIAN RIDGEBACKS  
SALUKIS  
SCOTTISH DEERHOUSES  
WHIPPETS

GROUP 3—WORKING DOGS

AKITAS  
ALASKAN MALAMUTES  
ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOGS  
BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS  
BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIERS  
BOXERS  
BULLMASTIFFS  
CANE CORSOS  
DOBERMAN PINSCHERS  
DOGUES DE BORDEAUX  
GERMAN PINSCHERS  
GIANT SCHNAUZERS  
GREAT DANES  
GREAT PYRENEES  
GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOGS  
KOMONDOROK  
KUVASZOK  
LEONBERGERS  
MASTIFFS  
NEAPOLITAN MASTIFFS  
NEWFOUNDLANDS  
PORTUGUESE WATER DOGS  
ROTTWEILERS  
SAINT BERNARDS  
SAMOYEDS  
SIBERIAN HUSKIES  
STANDARD SCHNAUZERS  
TIBETAN MASTIFFS

GROUP 4—TERRIERS

AIREDALE TERRIERS  
AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIERS  
AUSTRALIAN TERRIERS  
BEDLINGTON TERRIERS  
BORDER TERRIERS  
BULL TERRIERS  
CAIRN TERRIERS  
DANDIE DINMONT TERRIERS  
FOX TERRIERS (SMOOTH)

FOX TERRIERS (WIRE)  
GLEN OF IMAAL TERRIERS  
IRISH TERRIERS  
KERRY BLUE TERRIERS  
LAKELAND TERRIERS  
MANCHESTER TERRIERS  
MINIATURE BULL TERRIERS  
MINIATURE SCHNAUZERS  
NORFOLK TERRIERS  
NORWICH TERRIERS  
PARSON RUSSELL TERRIERS  
SCOTTISH TERRIERS  
SEALYHAM TERRIERS  
SKYE TERRIERS  
SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIERS  
STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIERS  
WELSH TERRIERS  
WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIERS

GROUP 5—TOYS

AFFENPINSCHERS  
BRUSSELS GRIFFONS  
CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIELS  
CHIHUAHUAS  
CHINESE CRESTEDS  
ENGLISH TOY SPANIELS  
HAVANESE  
ITALIAN GREYHOUNDS  
JAPANESE CHIN  
MALTESE  
MANCHESTER TERRIERS  
MINIATURE PINSCHERS  
PAPILLONS  
PEKINGESE  
POMERANIANS  
PUGS  
SHIH TZU  
SILKY TERRIERS  
TOY FOX TERRIERS  
YORKSHIRE TERRIERS

GROUP 6—NON-SPORTING DOGS

AMERICAN ESKIMO DOGS  
BICHON FRISES  
BOSTON TERRIERS  
BULLDOGS  
CHINESE SHAR-PEI  
CHOW CHOWS  
DALMATIANS  
FINNISH SPITZ  
FRENCH BULLDOGS  
KEESHONDEN  
LHASA APSOS  
LÖWCHEN



NORWEGIAN LUNDEHUNDS  
POODLES  
SCHIPPERKES  
SHIBA INU  
TIBETAN SPANIELS  
TIBETAN TERRIERS  
BASENJIS  
XOLOITZCUINTLI

**GROUP 7—HERDING DOGS**

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOGS  
AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERDS  
BEARDED COLLIES  
BEAUCERONS  
BELGIAN MALINOIS  
BELGIAN SHEEPDOGS  
BELGIAN TERVUREN  
BORDER COLLIES  
BOUVIER DES FLANDRES  
BRIARDS  
CANAAN DOGS  
COLLIES  
ENTLEBUCHER MOUNTAIN DOGS  
FINNISH LAPPHUNDS  
GERMAN SHEPHERD DOGS  
ICELANDIC SHEEPDOGS  
NORWEGIAN BUHUNDS  
OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOGS  
POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOGS  
PYRENEAN SHEPHERS  
PULI  
SHETLAND SHEEPDOGS  
SWEDISH VALLHUNDS  
WELSH CORGIS (CARDIGAN)  
WELSH CORGIS (PEMBROKE)

The Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club may add other breeds to the foregoing list whenever in its opinion sufficient evidence is presented to said Board to justify its belief that such other breeds have been in existence as distinct breeds for such length of time as to justify being designated pure breeds. The Board of Directors also may remove any breed from the foregoing list or may transfer any breed from one group to another group whenever in its opinion sufficient evidence is presented to the Board to justify such removal or transfer.

# CHAPTER 3

## REGISTRATION

**SECTION 1.** The breeder of a dog is the person who owned the dam of that dog when the dam was bred; except that if the dam was leased at the time of breeding, the breeder is the lessee.

**SECTION 2.** An American-bred dog is a dog whelped in the United States of America by reason of a mating which took place in the United States of America.

**SECTION 3.** Any person in good standing with The American Kennel Club may apply for the registration of any purebred dog or litter of purebred dogs owned by him, by supplying The American Kennel Club with such information and complying with such conditions as it shall require.

**SECTION 4.** No individual dog from a litter whelped in the United States of America of which both parents are registered with The American Kennel Club shall be eligible for registration unless the litter has first been registered by the person who owned the dam at the time of whelping, or by the lessee if the dam was leased at the time of whelping, and, further, that an application to register such litter is filed with The American Kennel Club no later than six (6) months from the date of whelping of the litter.

An application to register a litter filed with The American Kennel Club more than six (6) months from the date of whelping may be considered for registration provided the litter owner supplies such required information and remits such penalty fee as shall be determined by the Board of Directors. These restrictions shall not apply when the delay in filing the litter application results from an American Kennel Club® investigation or inquiry, an action of law, or other hardship circumstances satisfactory to The American Kennel Club.

An application to individually register a member of a registered litter shall be valid for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of issue of the application. An application to individually register a member of a registered litter filed with The American Kennel Club more than twelve (12) months from the date of issue of the application may be considered for registration provided the applicant supplies such required information and remits such penalty fee as shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 4A.** Limited Registration may be requested for a dog when application for individual registration of the dog is submitted, provided the application, together with a request for such limitation, is filed by the owner(s) of the litter at birth. No offspring of a dog for which Limited Registration has been granted is eligible for registration. Each registration certificate for such dog shall carry notice of the limitation, and the limitation shall continue, regardless of any change of ownership, unless and until the owner(s) of the litter at birth shall apply to AKC for removal of the limitation.

*The term "owner(s)" in this section means all of the owners of the litter at birth. Thus, all owners of the litter must agree to both the imposition and the removal of the limited designation. If the owners disagree on whether there shall be full or limited registration, in the absence of any written agreement to the contrary, the dog will receive full registration.*

*Only when the entire litter has been initially individually registered by the owners of the litter at birth through the Full Litter Registration, the Limited Registration for any dog in that litter may be requested by those owners at the time of the first transfer of that dog.*

**SECTION 5.** No dog or litter out of a dam under eight (8) months or over twelve (12) years of age at time of mating, or by a sire under seven (7) months or over twelve (12) years of age at time of mating, will be registered unless the application for registration shall be accompanied by an affidavit or evidence which shall prove the fact to the satisfaction of The American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 6.** No litter of purebred dogs and/or no single purebred dog which shall be determined by The American Kennel Club to be acceptable in all other respects for registration, shall be barred from registration because of the failure, by the legal owner of all or part of said litter, or said single dog to obtain some one or more of the signatures needed to complete the applicant's chain of title to the litter or dog sought to be registered, unless that person who, when requested, refuses to sign the application form shall furnish a reason therefor satisfactory to The American Kennel Club, such as the fact that at the time of service an agreement in writing was made between the owner of the sire and the owner or lessee of the dam to the effect that no application for registration should be made and/or that the produce of such union should not be registered. In all cases where such an agreement in writing has been made, any person disposing of any of the produce of such union must secure from the new owner a statement in writing that he received such produce upon the understanding that it shall not be registered. For the purpose of registering or refusing to register purebred

dogs The American Kennel Club will recognize only such conditional sale or conditional stud agreements affecting the registration of purebred dogs as are in writing and are shown to have been brought to the attention of the applicant for registration. The American Kennel Club cannot recognize alleged conditional sale, conditional stud or other agreements not in writing which affect the registration of purebred dogs, until after the existence, construction and/or effect of the same shall have been determined by an action at law.

The owner or owners of a stud dog purebred and eligible for registration who in print or otherwise asserts or assert it to be purebred and eligible for registration and on the strength of such assertion secures or permits its use at stud, must pay the cost of its registration. The owner or owners of a brood bitch purebred and eligible for registration who in print or otherwise asserts or assert it to be purebred and eligible for registration and on the strength of such assertion leases it or sells its produce or secures the use of a stud by promising a puppy or puppies as payment of the stud fee in lieu of cash, must pay the cost of its registration.

That person or those persons refusing without cause to sign the application form or forms necessary for the registration of a litter of purebred dogs or of a single purebred dog and that person or those persons refusing without cause to pay the necessary fees due from him, her or them to be paid in order to complete the chain of title to a purebred litter or a purebred single dog sought to be registered, when requested by The American Kennel Club, may be suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club or fined as the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club may elect.

The registration of a single purebred dog out of a litter eligible for registration may be secured by its legal owner as a one-dog litter registration and the balance of the litter may be refused registration where the breeder or the owner or lessee of the dam at the date of whelping wrongfully has refused to register the litter and that person or those persons so wrongfully refusing shall be suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club or fined as the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club may elect.

**SECTION 7.** The name of a dog registered with The American Kennel Club will be allowed to be changed provided the dog was whelped in the United States and in cases where the breeder(s) first individually registered the dog, their written consent would be required. A dog name containing a Registered Kennel Name cannot be changed without the written consent of the owner(s) of that Registered Kennel Name.

However, no change in the name will be recorded by The American Kennel Club after the dog has produced or sired an AKC registered litter or received an award at an AKC licensed or member event.

Any name change must comply with all AKC requirements.

**SECTION 8.** Any person in good standing with The American Kennel Club may apply for transfer of ownership to him of any registered dog acquired by him by supplying The American Kennel Club with such information and complying with such conditions as it shall require.

**SECTION 9.** The American Kennel Club will not protect any person against the use by any other person of a kennel name in the registration of dogs with The American Kennel Club or in the entry of registered dogs in shows held under The American Kennel Club rules, unless the kennel name has been registered with The American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 10.** On and after October 1, 1948, applications for the use of a kennel name in the registering and showing of dogs shall be made to The American Kennel Club on a form which will be supplied by said Club upon request, and said application must be accompanied by a fee, the amount of which shall be determined by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. The Board will then consider such application and if it approves of the name selected will grant the right to the use of such name for a period of five (5) years.

**SECTION 11.** The recorded owner shall have first consideration of the grant to use said kennel name for additional consecutive five (5) year terms upon receipt of the application for renewal accompanied by the renewal fee, the amount of which shall be determined by the Board of Directors, when received before the date of expiration of the original grant but the grant for any five (5) year renewal term will be made only at the expiration of the previous term.

In the event of the death of a recorded owner of a registered kennel name, his executors, administrators or legal heirs, upon submission of proper proof of their status may use the name during the remainder of the five (5) year term of use and the legal heir of the deceased recorded owner, or the executors or administrators acting in his behalf, shall have first consideration of the grant to the use of said name for additional terms, as provided heretofore in this section.

**SECTION 12.** If the recorded owner of a registered kennel name granted after October 1, 1948, desires to transfer ownership of or an interest in said kennel name to a new owner, application to transfer such name for the unexpired term must be made to The American Kennel Club on a form which will be supplied by said Club upon request. The application must be submitted for the approval of the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club and accompanied by a fee, the amount of which shall be determined by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.

Any kennel name granted by The American Kennel Club prior to October 1, 1948, may be transferred by its present owner or owners to another only by consent and on certain conditions and payment of fee as determined by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 13.** In the case of any registered kennel name which is recorded as jointly owned by two or more persons, application to transfer the interest of one co-owner to another co-owner, may be made to The American Kennel Club on a form which will be supplied by said Club upon request. The application must be submitted for the approval of the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club but no fee will be charged for such a transfer.

**SECTION 14.** The protection of all kennel names registered between March 1, 1934, and October 1, 1948, shall depend upon their continuous use by registered owners. Neglect by the recorded owner of a registered kennel name to use such name in the registration of dogs for a continuous period of six (6) years or more shall be considered such an abandonment of the name as to justify The American Kennel Club in refusing to protect its use unless the owner or owners thereof prior to the expiration of such six-year period shall notify The American Kennel Club of his, her or their desire to retain the same.

# CHAPTER 4

## IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDS

**SECTION 1.** The word “person” as used in this chapter includes any individual, partnership, firm, corporation, association, or organization of any kind.

The word “dog” as used in this chapter includes a dog or puppy of any age and either sex.

**SECTION 2.** Each person who breeds, keeps, transfers ownership or possession of, or deals in dogs which are registered or to be registered with The American Kennel Club, whether he acts as principal or agent or sells on consignment, must make in connection therewith and preserve for five (5) years adequate and accurate records. The Board of Directors shall by regulation designate the specific information which must be included in such records.

**SECTION 3.** Each person who breeds, keeps, transfers ownership or possession of, or deals in dogs that are registered or to be registered with The American Kennel Club, whether he acts as principal or agent or sells on consignment, must follow such practices as, consistent with the number of dogs involved, will preclude any possibility of error in identification of any individual dog or doubt as to the parentage of any particular dog or litter.

**SECTION 4.** The American Kennel Club or its duly authorized representative shall have the right to inspect the records required to be kept and the practices required to be followed by these rules and by any regulations adopted under them, and to examine any dog registered or to be registered with The American Kennel Club.

*Such examinations may include physical, saliva, urine, hair, blood test, or other test or procedure at the discretion of The American Kennel Club, with the procedure performed by one or more persons designated by The American Kennel Club.*

**SECTION 5.** Each person who transfers ownership or possession of a dog that is registered or to be registered with The American Kennel Club must describe the dog in the records of The American Kennel Club in writing to the person acquiring the dog at the time of transfer, either on a bill of sale or otherwise. The Board of Directors shall by regulation designate the descriptive information required.

**SECTION 6.** The American Kennel Club may refuse to register any dog or litter or to record the transfer of any dog, for the sole reason that the application is not supported by the records required by these rules and the regulations adopted under them.

**SECTION 7.** Any person who is required to keep records and who fails to do so, or who fails or refuses when requested to make such records available for inspection by The American Kennel Club or its duly authorized representatives, may be suspended from all privileges of The American Kennel Club by the Board of Directors.

Any person who fails to follow such practices as will preclude any possibility of error in identification of an individual dog or doubt as to the parentage of a particular dog or litter, or who fails or refuses to permit The American Kennel Club or its duly authorized representatives to examine such practices, or to examine a dog that is registered or to be registered with The American Kennel Club, may be suspended from all privileges of The American Kennel Club by the Board of Directors.



# CHAPTER 5

## AKC DISCIPLINE

**SECTION 1.** Any club or association or person or persons interested in purebred dogs may make a complaint against any other club or association or person or persons for conduct alleged to have been prejudicial to the best interests of purebred dogs, purebred dog events or the AKC, which complaint shall be made in writing setting forth the circumstances. It shall be signed and sworn by an officer of the club or association or by the person or persons making the same before a person qualified to administer oaths and shall then be sent to the AKC, (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) with a deposit, the amount to be established annually by the Board of Directors. This sum shall become the property of the AKC if said complaint shall not to any extent be sustained, or shall be returned if said complaint is sustained in whole or in part, or if the AKC shall refuse to entertain jurisdiction thereof.

The Board of Directors has the authority to determine whether the AKC shall exercise jurisdiction.

**SECTION 2.** Upon receipt of a duly filed complaint pursuant to Section 1 of this Chapter, the President shall cause the matter to be investigated, and following such investigation, and upon notice to the Board of Directors, shall direct that charges be filed, which shall be sent to a Trial Board for a hearing, or that the matter be dropped from further consideration. The President, with the concurrence of the defendant, may impose a penalty according to guidelines established by the AKC Board without referring the matter to a Trial Board. The President may refer a recommendation for a penalty greater or lesser than provided for in these guidelines, to the Board of Directors for final action. The President shall promptly report all complaints and their disposition to the AKC Board of Directors.

**SECTION 3.** The President or the Board of Directors shall have the power to investigate any matters which may be brought to their attention in connection with the objects for which the AKC was founded, or to appoint a committee or Trial Board to investigate, in which event the same procedure shall be followed and the same rules shall apply as in a trial before a Trial Board.

If after such investigation the President or the Board of Directors believe that sufficient evidence exists to warrant the filing of charges, they may file or direct the filing of such charges. The President upon notice

to the Board of Directors, or the Board of Directors, may prefer charges for conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the AKC against clubs or persons who shall bring to their attention any matter which upon investigation shall be found to have been reported maliciously and/or in bad faith.

**SECTION 4.** The President upon notice to the Board of Directors, or the Board of Directors, shall have power to prefer charges against any association or club not a member of the AKC, or person or persons, for conduct alleged to be prejudicial to purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or to the best interests of the AKC. Pending the final determination of any such charges, the privileges of the AKC may be withheld from the person or body against whom charges are pending.

**SECTION 5.** The Board of Directors shall have the power to prefer charges or to suspend from membership in the AKC any member club pending final action by the Delegates in accordance with the provisions of this section; for conduct alleged to have been prejudicial to the best interests of the AKC or for violation of the member club's constitution, bylaws, or rules.

The Board of Directors shall then file charges and promptly set a date for a hearing and send notice to the suspended member by certified mail at least ten days prior to the scheduled hearing. The time and place where the suspended member may be heard will be stated. Such notice shall also set forth a copy of the charges.

The Board of Directors shall refer the charges to a Trial Board to take the testimony and to report its findings and/or recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors, after hearing or reviewing the evidence, shall report its findings to the Delegates at the next regular meeting of the AKC. The Delegates shall take action upon said findings and by a majority vote of Delegates present may reinstate, continue the suspension from membership for a stated time, or by a two-thirds vote expel the member from the AKC.

# CHAPTER 6

## TRIAL BOARDS

**SECTION 1.** Trial Boards and an Appeal Trial Board shall be appointed from time to time by the Board of Directors of AKC. No member of a Trial Board or an Appeal Trial Board shall be a Director, shall have served as a Director in the preceding three years, or shall have been a past or current AKC employee. An individual may not concurrently be appointed to nor serve on a Trial Board or the Appeal Trial Board. Each Trial Board and the Appeal Trial Board shall consist of three members, one of whom, if practicable, should be an attorney-at-law. In case one or more members of a Trial Board or the Appeal Trial Board shall be unable to sit in any given case, the Chair of the Trial Board or Appeal Trial Board may appoint a substitute or substitutes for such case from the current list of those appointed by the Board of Directors as members of a Trial Board or as alternate Appeal Trial Board members. In case of the absence of one or more members of a Trial Board, the remaining member or members may hear and determine a case if the parties being heard shall consent thereto. A Trial Board Chair, with the concurrence of both the AKC and the defendant may hear and determine a case or designate one Trial Board member from the list of current appointees to hear and determine a case in lieu of a hearing before a three-member Trial Board. The Appeal Trial Board must have three members to hear and determine a case.

**SECTION 2.** When charges have been filed and referred to a Trial Board, a notice which shall state that such charges have been filed and shall set forth a copy of the same shall be sent to the club or association, or person or persons against which or whom said charges have been preferred which club or association, or person or persons herein shall be known as and called the defendant. The club or association or person or persons which or who shall have filed the complaint leading to the charges shall be known and called the complainant.

Such notice shall also set forth a time and place at which the defendant may attend and present any defense or answer which the defendant may wish to make. The time and place shall be determined by the Trial Board Chair in consultation with the parties.

If the complainant shall fail or refuse to cooperate with the AKC in the prosecution of said charges, without giving reasonable excuse for such failure or refusal, the AKC or the Trial Board presiding may suspend said

complainant for a period of six months or until such time as the party is prepared to cooperate with AKC. Appeals to such suspensions shall be to the Appeals Trial Board.

If the defendant shall fail to appear at the hearing, without giving reasonable excuse for such failure or refusal, the complainant's evidence may be heard and the defendant's written answer, if any, will be considered. The record of the hearing shall also include a statement by the Trial Board Chair of any conversations with the defendant concerning the failure or refusal to appear. In such cases, the Trial Board may make a finding. The Trial Board may also suspend the defendant for six months or until the party is prepared to present a defense.

**SECTION 3.** Trial Boards shall hear and decide by majority vote matters submitted to them by the President or the Board of Directors and shall have the power to impose fines and suspensions from any or all AKC privileges not to be less than nor to exceed guidelines established by the AKC Board of Directors. A Trial Board may refer a recommendation for a penalty greater or lesser than provided for in these guidelines to the Board of Directors for final action.

If a Trial Board withholds privileges of the AKC, the suspension shall take effect immediately when the defendant has been so notified in person or five days after the date of a written notice. Notice may be made orally and must be made by certified and first class mail to the defendant's last known address within five days of receipt of the decision.

A Trial Board, the Trial Board Chair or one Trial Board member appointed to hear and determine a case as provided in Article XIII, Section 1 (AKC Bylaws) has the power with the concurrence of a defendant, to impose fines and suspensions from any or all AKC privileges according to guidelines established by the AKC Board of Directors without a formal Trial Board hearing. The Trial Board, with the concurrence of the defendant, may without a hearing recommend a lesser penalty to the Board. A Trial Board, the Trial Board Chair, or an appointed Trial Board member who heard and determined a case may refer a recommendation for a penalty greater or lesser than provided for in these guidelines to the Board of Directors for final action.

All Trial Board actions shall be reported to the Board of Directors promptly after such actions are taken.

**SECTION 4.** Trial Boards shall have power to withhold from any person all AKC privileges for a period of not more than one year for improper or disorderly conduct during a hearing or trial.

**SECTION 5.** Trial Boards shall keep minutes of their sittings.

**SECTION 6.** The decisions of Trial Boards shall be in writing signed by all members attending, and include all exhibits and papers offered before them. Each decision, together with complete copies of the minutes and testimony taken, shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of AKC within thirty days of the date of the rendering of the decision. The Trial Board may file with its decision or within thirty days thereafter or in the event of an appeal, within thirty days of hearing an appeal, an opinion or expanded statement in detail of the reasons for its findings. Within five business days of receipt of the Trial Board's report, the Executive Secretary of the AKC shall notify all parties in interest of the Trial Board's decision.

**SECTION 7.** An appeal may be taken from any decision of a Trial Board (*except where it is acting as the appellate body for an Event Committee appeal where its decision is final*). Notice in writing claiming such appeal together with a deposit, the amount of which is determined annually by the AKC Board of Directors, must be sent to the AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within thirty days after the receipt of the notice of the decision of the Trial Board. A three-member Appeals Trial Board shall hear said appeal on the record.

The deposit shall become the property of the AKC if the decision of the Trial Board shall be confirmed in whole or in part, or shall be returned to the appellant if it shall not be confirmed. If the aggrieved party shall fail to take such appeal, there shall be no further right of appeal of any kind.

**SECTION 8.** The AKC and any Trial Board of the AKC may, and if necessary at AKC expense, summon witnesses or a member of any Event Committee to testify at any and all hearings held under the provisions of the Bylaws of the AKC. Any person who is summoned by the AKC and/or Trial Board to testify, may be suspended from AKC privileges if he or she shall fail to testify, without reasonable excuse.

# CHAPTER 7

## EVENT COMMITTEES

**SECTION 1.** The Event Committee of a club or association shall have the right and responsibility to suspend any person from AKC privileges for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or the AKC, alleged to have occurred in connection with or during the progress of its event, after the alleged offender has been given the opportunity to be heard. When the penalty for the offense as set forth in the guidelines authorized by the Board of Directors provides for a reprimand in certain instances, the Event Committee shall have the authority to stay the suspension pending a final determination by the AKC.

Notice in writing must be sent promptly by certified and by first class mail by the Event Committee to the person suspended and a duplicate notice giving the name and address of the person suspended and full details as to the reasons for the suspension and if applicable, the reasons for the stay of suspension must be forwarded to the AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within five days.

An appeal may be taken from a decision of an Event Committee and any subsequent disciplinary action applied by AKC. Notice in writing claiming such appeal together with a deposit, at an amount established by the AKC Board of Directors, must be sent to AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within thirty days after the date of the suspension. The appeal shall be determined by a Trial Board whose decision is final. The deposit shall become the property of the AKC if the decision is upheld in whole or in part or shall be returned to the appellant if the decision is not upheld in whole or in part.

# CHAPTER 8

## PENALTIES

**SECTION 1.** Penalties range from a reprimand or fine to suspension for life from all privileges of the AKC.

**SECTION 2.** The suspension of a person shall date from the day of the perpetration of the act or from any date subsequent thereto which shall be fixed by the AKC or after a hearing by a Trial Board.

**SECTION 3.** Any or all privileges of the AKC may be withheld from any person suspended. The terms of suspension shall be defined in the most current published list of penalties approved by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 4.** Any AKC club, association or organization which shall hold a purebred dog event or dog exhibition of any kind not in accordance with the rules of the AKC which apply to such purebred dog event or exhibition without the express permission of the AKC may be disciplined even to the extent of being deprived of all privileges of the AKC for a stated period of time or indefinitely, and if such club, association or organization shall be a member of the AKC, it may be expelled from membership therein.

**SECTION 5.** No club or association licensed by the AKC to give a purebred dog event or give a dog exhibition of any kind shall employ in any capacity, accept the donation of a prize or money from, or permit to be within the walls or boundaries of its building or grounds, if a purebred dog event, save only as a spectator, any person known to be under suspension from the privileges of the AKC, or any employee or member of a corporation which shall be under suspension from the privileges of the AKC. And any contract for floor space at a purebred dog event, or contract for advertising space in a catalog, premium list or other printed matter, in connection with the giving of said event, shall bear upon it the following condition: "This space is sold with the understanding that should the privileges of the AKC be withdrawn from the purchaser of this space prior to its execution, this contract is thereby automatically canceled. Any money paid by the purchaser for such space shall be refunded."

**SECTION 6.** No member club or association under suspension shall be represented by its Delegate and no Delegate under suspension shall act for a member or in any official capacity for the AKC during the period of suspension.

**SECTION 7.** Any association, club, person or persons suspended by the AKC or from whom the privileges of the AKC have been withheld, may apply for reinstatement or restoration of privileges upon paying a fee, the amount of which may be fixed and determined by the Board of Directors of the AKC. Until said fee has been paid the application shall not be acted upon.



## NOTES

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## AKC Code of Sportsmanship

*PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.*

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

Complete text of booklet available at:  
<http://www.akc.org>

To order booklet(s), contact the AKC® at:  
The American Kennel Club Order Desk  
8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100  
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