

THE MOBILE KENNEL CLUB, INC.
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS (Revised 01/01/2020)

Article I: Name and Objects

Section 1. The name of the Club shall be the Mobile Kennel Club.

Section 2. The object of the Club shall be to:

- A. Further the advancement of all breeds of pure-bred dogs.
- B. Urge members and other breeders to accept the standards of their respective breeds as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which those breeds shall be judged.
- C. Do all within its power to protect and advance the interests of all breeds of pure-bred dogs and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and obedience trials.
- D. Conduct sanctioned matches and dog shows and any AKC events for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club.^{iv}

Section 3. The Club is a ^v501(c)(3) organization and 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 except club approved functions and awards.

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.

Section 5. The members of the Club shall adopt policies and procedures and may, from time to time, revise such policies and procedures as may be required to carry out these objectives

BY-LAWS

Article 1: Membership

Section 1. Eligibility: There shall be four types of membership open to all persons eighteen years of age or older, who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club, and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club, with the exception that no member under the age of eighteen will be allowed to hold an office or have voting privileges. There shall be a Junior Division of the Club, and member ship in that division shall be open to persons' age ten to seventeen, who likewise subscribe to the purposes of this Club and are in good standing with the American Kennel Club.

Full Member - Shall have full membership privileges and voting rights.

Associate Member - New member shall be an associate for one year from the time they are voted into the club. They shall have NO voting privileges. After one year as an associate member, said member shall be eligible to apply for full membership, they shall apply in writing to the ^{vi} Secretary. The board shall vote if said member shall be accepted into full membership.

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Honorary Member - Are members of the community and/or dog community, nominated by and voted upon by the club members, they have NO voting privileges.

Jr. Members - Members of the Junior Division shall govern their own activities under the supervision of the Board and its agents, but they shall have NO vote on any matters before the Club, in accordance with the American Kennel Club rules.

Section 2. Dues: The membership dues shall be determined annually by the board. Except for Juniors which will be \$10.00 per junior per year. Should the board fail to recommend a change in dues or should a motion to change the amount of dues fail at the annual meeting dues will continue at the previous level. Dues shall be payable on or before the first day of January of each year, and no member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. Notice of dues will be sent via email in November.

Section 3. Election to membership: Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the rules of the American Kennel Club and the Constitution and By- Laws of this Club, and the code of conduct of this club. The application shall state the name, address and occupation of the applicant. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year. Each applicant applying for membership shall attend two meetings prior to their application being voted on.

All applications are to be filed with the Membership Chairperson. Upon receipt of a completed application, accompanied by dues, the Membership Chairperson will read the application to the membership at the first meeting of the club following the application' receipt. These applications will be voted on by written secret ballot after the second meeting following their presentation. Affirmative votes of 3/4th of the membership shall be required to elect the applicant. The person applying for membership shall be excused prior to any discussion on their application and during membership voting. The applicant shall be notified by the ^{vi} secretary via email on the results of their membership status after the vote by the club.

ⁱⁱ If said applicant is voted by the membership into the club they shall be considered as an associate member for one year, or until they complete 20 (twenty) hours of club volunteer service as witnessed by a full member. At the end of one year or upon completion of the minimum club volunteer hours, they may apply for full membership into the club. Notice must be submitted in writing by the associate member to the ^{vi} secretary and then voted on by the board at the next meeting.

ⁱⁱⁱ Any applicant who was a full member in good standing with the Mobile Kennel Club and AKC, and whose membership has lapsed within the past 5 years from date of the new application may apply to be a full member. This type of full member application will be voted on by the Board after the completion of their second meeting following their application.

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Article I, Section 3 (cont.):

Persons whose applications for membership have been rejected by the Club may not reapply within six months after such rejection and proffered dues shall be returned to the rejected applicant no later than the date of the next regular meeting.

Section 4. Termination of membership:

Members may be terminated by:

- a. 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. (intentionally blank)
- c. Lapsing: A membership will be considered as lapsed and terminated if such members' dues remain unpaid 60 days after the first day of the Club's fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 60 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases upon request in writing (or email) to the ^{vi} Secretary, by the delinquent member. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any Club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- d. (intentionally blank)
- e. Expulsion: A member may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these By-Laws.

Article II: Meetings and Voting

Section 1. Club Meetings: Meetings of the club shall be held in the greater Mobile, Alabama area, on the first Wednesday of each month, except for the months of December and the month of the Spring/Summer party, at such hour and place and time as may be designated by the Board. Email notice of each such meeting shall be emailed to the members of the club. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing. A quorum must be present in order to conduct Club business.

Club members shall sign in at the start of each meeting. It shall be the duty of the ^{vi} Secretary to advise the presiding officer if a quorum is not present.

Section 2. Special Club Meetings: Special Club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by at least five members of the Club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Mobile, Alabama area, at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Email notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the ^{vi} Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting, and no other Club business than stated in the call may be transacted. The quorum for such a special meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing who are in attendance.

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- Section 3. Board Meetings: Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the greater Mobile, Alabama area. The meeting shall be held at the discretion of the Board no less than four (4) times per yearⁱ; date, place and hour to be designated by the Board. Meeting notice must be in email form and emailed by the ^{vi} Secretary to each board member at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. A quorum for such a meeting will be a majority of the Board. Yahoo Group board meetings shall be allowed.
- Section 4. Special Board Meetings: Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or shall be called by ^{vi} Secretary upon receipt of email request, emailed by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Mobile, Alabama area at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such a meeting. Email notice of such meetings shall be emailed by the ^{vi} Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted herein. The quorum for such meeting shall be a majority of the Board.
- Section 5. Voting: Each member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote per motion at any meeting of the Club at which that member is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any Club meeting or election. Any proposed vote which concerns a Club member shall be done by written secret ballot.

Any motion which requires major change to the club and or the show shall be tabled until the next meeting, so information may be gathered, therefore the club may make an informed decision.

Article III: Directors and Officers

- Section 1. Board of Directors: The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, ^{vi} Secretary, Treasurer and five other persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for one-year term at the Club's annual meeting, as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.
- Section 2. Officers: The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, ^{vi} 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 specified in these by-laws.
 - b. The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapability.
 - c. The ^{vi} Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the club and of the board and of all matters which a record shall be ordered by the Club, and shall have charge of the correspondence, acceptance to club, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses and carry out such duties as prescribed herein.

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- d. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the club and the Treasurer shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the club. Club books shall be at all times open to inspection of the Board, and the Treasurer shall report to the Board at every meeting, the condition of the club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported. At the annual meeting the Treasurer shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year.
- e. Two officers shall be designated by the Board to sign the club's checks and each shall be bonded in such amount as the Board shall determine. The fee for bonding shall be paid by the club.

Section 3. Vacancies: Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual election, by a majority vote of all the members of the Board present at this first regular meeting following the creation of such a 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 and Election

Section 1. The Club Year: The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the 31st day of December. The club's official year shall begin and end immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting and shall continue through the election at the next annual meeting.

Section 2. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting shall be held in the month of January at which officers and directors shall be elected for the ensuing year by written ballot from among those nominated, in accordance with Section 4 of this article. They shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting and shall continue through the election at the next annual meeting.

Section 3. Elections: The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The five (5) nominated candidates who receive the greatest number of votes for positions on the board shall be declared elected.

Section 4. Nominations: No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. During the month of August, the Board shall select a nominating committee, consisting of 3 members and 2 alternates, not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board. The ^{vi} Secretary shall immediately notify those selected as committee members and alternates. The Board names a chairperson of the committee who shall call a meeting of the committee on or before October 1.

a. The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and 5 candidates for the Board, and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report the nominations to the ^{vi} Secretary in writing.

b. Upon receipt of the nominating committee's report, the ^{vi} Secretary shall, before October 15th, notify each member, by email, of the candidates so nominated.

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c. Additional nominations may be made at the November meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when that person's name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the proposer shall present to the ^{vi} Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying the absent candidate's willingness to be a candidate. No person shall be a candidate for more than one office.

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. The Board may, each year, appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows, matches, trophies, annual prizes, membership and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board to aid it on particular matters. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects.

Section 2. Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

Article VI: Discipline

Section 1. American Kennel Club suspension: Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this Club for the like period.

Section 2. Charges: Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club or the sport. Written charges, with specifications, must be filed, in duplicate, with the ^{vi} Secretary, together with a deposit of \$10, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing.

The ^{vi} 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 interest of the Club. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interest of the Club it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date of a hearing by the Board, not less than 3 weeks nor more than 6 weeks thereafter. The ^{vi} Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member, by registered mail, together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his or her own defense and bring witnesses if or she wishes.

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- Section 3. Board Hearings: The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing(s), but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board may, by majority vote of those present, suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than 6 months from the date of the hearing. And, if the Board deems that the punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the punishment be expulsion. In such case(s), the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting which considers the Board's recommendation. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the ^{vi} Secretary, who shall, in turn, notify each of the parties of the Board's decision and penalty, if any.
- Section 4. Expulsion: Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at a meeting of the club, following a Board hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the club, to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his or her own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his or her defense if wished. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

Article VII: Amendments

- Section 1. Amendments to the constitution and by-laws may be proposed by the Board or by written petition addressed to the ^{vi} Secretary, signed by 20% 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 a vote within 3 months of the date when the petition was received by the ^{vi} Secretary.
- Section 2. The constitution and by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided that the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member, by first class mail, at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

Article VIII: Dissolution

- Section 1. The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the club, other than for purposes of reorganization, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the club nor any proceeds thereof, nor any assets of the club shall be distributed to any members of the Club, but, after payment of the debts of the Club, its

property and assets shall be given to a charitable, organization for the benefit of dogs, selected by the Board of Directors.

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 previous meeting and date of previous meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the ^{vi} Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of the committees
- Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)
- Election of new members
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

Section 2. At meetings of the Board, the order of the business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- Minutes of the previous meeting and date of previous meeting
- Report of the ^{vi} Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

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 other special rules of order the Club may adopt.

[END]

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Changes to Constitution and Bylaws

ⁱ Change: February 4, 2015 meeting from “Article II, Section 3. Board Meetings: Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the greater Mobile, Alabama area. The meeting shall be held at the discretion of the Board by no less than ten (1) times per year...” Vote: 11 voting members present. Pat Robinson made motion to accept, Nicole Guidry 2nd – passed unanimously. Board passed January 2015.

ⁱⁱ Change: November 2, 2016 add verbiage to permit alternate method for becoming full member, Article 1, Section 3, Par. 3: If said applicant is voted by the membership into the club they shall be considered as an associate member for one year, or until they complete 20 (twenty) hours of club volunteer service as witnessed by a full member. At the end of one year or upon completion of the minimum club volunteer hours, they may apply for full membership into the club. Notice must be submitted in writing by the associate member to the recording secretary and then voted on by the board at the next meeting.

ⁱⁱⁱ Change: November 2, 2016 add verbiage for returning full members, Article 1, Section 3, add Paragraph 4: Any applicant who was a full member in good standing with the Mobile Kennel Club and AKC, and whose membership has lapsed within the past 5 years from date of the new application may apply to be a full member. This type of full member application will be voted on by the Board after the completion of their second meeting following their application.

^{iv} Change: November 7, 2018 changed Constitution Article 1, Section 2. D. Replaced “...under the rules of the American Kennel Club” with “...and any AKC events for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club.”

^v Added: June 5, 2019. Constitution, Article 1, Section 3 “The Club is a 501(c)(3) organization and shall not be conducted or operated for profit...”

^{vi} Changes: June 5, 2019 to be effective January 1, 2020. Make all necessary changes to Bylaws combining Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary positions due to the availability of electronic media. Sections affected: Article 1, sections 1, 3, & 4; Article 2, Sections 1, 2, 3, & 4; Article 3, Sections 1 & 2; Article 4, Article 4, Section 4a, 4b, & 4c; Article 6, Sections 2 & 3; Article 7, Sections 1 & 2; and Article 9, Sections 1 & 2.