

Staffordshire Terrier Club of America
Constitution & Bylaws (Revised Jan. 1999)
Accepted by the club, May 1999

Constitution

ARTICLE 1

NAME AND OBJECTS

Sec. 1 The name of the club shall be Staffordshire Terrier Club of America.

Sec. 2 The objects of the Club shall be:

- a. to foster and maintain among ourselves a warm friendship, and the highest standards of sportsmanship.
- b. to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of pure-bred American Staffordshire Terriers for sound, healthy dogs of excellent temperament, and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.
- c. to encourage the organization of independent local American Staffordshire Terrier Specialty Clubs in those localities where there are sufficient fanciers of the breed to meet the requirements of the American Kennel Club.
- d. to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed and to encourage sportsman-like competition at dog shows, obedience trials, agility trials and tracking tests and any other competitions or activities that demonstrate the qualities of the breed in a favorable light.
- e. to conduct sanctioned specialty shows, obedience trials, and agility trials under the rules of the American Kennel Club.
- f. To provide educational programs and a forum for the exchange of information among fanciers regarding the American Staffordshire Terrier.
- g. 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 the American Staffordshire Terrier shall be judged.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 4 The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out these objects.

Bylaws

ARTICLE 1

MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1 Eligibility. There shall be five types of membership open to persons who are in good standing with the American Kennel club and who subscribe to the purposes of this club.

- a. Regular membership. Open to persons 18 years of age and older. Residents of the United States. These members enjoy all the privileges of the Club, including the right to vote and hold office.
- b. Family membership. Open to persons 18 years of age and older who reside in the same household. Residents of the United States. These members both enjoy all the privileges of the Club, and both have the right to vote and hold office, but only one newsletter will be sent to each household.
- c. Newsletter membership. Open to persons 18 years of age and older who reside outside of the United States and those persons who reside in the United States who just wish to receive the club newsletter. Newsletter members can not vote or hold office and do not count in the determination of a quorum. Dues are set to cover the cost of printing and postal expenses.
- d. Honorary membership. Open to persons 18 years of age and older. Honorary members do not pay dues and can not vote or hold office. However, such members can maintain active voting status upon payment of dues.
- e. Junior membership. Open to persons 10-17 years of age. Junior members can not vote or hold office. However, a Junior member can convert to regular or family membership upon reaching their 18th birthday.

Sec. 2 Dues.

- a. Membership dues shall not exceed: Regular - \$35.00, Family of two - \$50.00, Newsletter - \$40.00. Junior \$15.00. There shall be a \$10.00 initiation fee in the first year of membership, which shall accompany the application for membership and the annual dues for the first year. Dues are payable on or before the first day of January of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. Any member who has not paid his dues on or before the last day of March, shall not be considered a member in good standing and may not vote. Any member whose dues are not paid prior to the Annual Meeting shall be dropped from the membership rolls, and must reapply for membership including initiation fee.
- b. During the month of December, the Corresponding Secretary shall send to each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing year.

Sec. 3 Election to Membership. All applications for membership (including dues and initiation fee) shall be made to the Corresponding Secretary. Application must be made on a form as approved by the Board of Directors, and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by these constitution and bylaws and by the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, and address of the applicant, and it shall carry the endorsement of at least one member in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues and initiation fee payment for the current year.

Applicants may be elected by secret ballot at any meeting of the Board of Directors or by secret vote of the Directors by mail. Affirmative votes of 2/3 of the Directors present at a meeting of the Board or of 2/3 of the entire Board voting by mail, shall be required to elect an applicant.

An Application which has received a negative vote by the Board may be presented by one of the applicant's endorsers at the next annual meeting of the club and the members may elect such applicant by secret ballot and a favorable vote of 75% of the members present.

Sec. 4 Termination of Membership. Memberships may be terminated:

- a. by resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the club upon written notice to the Corresponding 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 January of each year.
- b. by lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid by 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 60 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote in any Club matter whose dues are unpaid as of March 31 of that year.
- c. by expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these bylaws.

ARTICLE II MEETINGS

Sec. 1 Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Club shall be held in the month of October in conjunction with the Club's Specialty Show if possible, at a place, date and hour designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of the annual meeting shall be mailed by the Corresponding Secretary to each member at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for the annual meeting shall be 10% of the members in good standing.

Sec. 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 at a meeting of the Board or who vote by mail; and shall be called by the Corresponding Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by 10% of the members of the Club who are in good standing. Such meeting shall be held at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Corresponding Secretary at least 14 days and not more than 30 days prior to the meeting. The notice of the meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other club business may be transacted. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 10% of the members in good standing.

Sec. 3 Board Meetings. The first meeting of the Board shall be held immediately following the election. Other meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such times and places as are designated by the President, or by a majority vote of the entire Board. Written notice of each such other meeting shall be mailed by the Corresponding Secretary to each member of the Board at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for a Board Meeting shall be a majority of the Board (five members) voting in person, by mail, FAX or telephone conference call.

Sec. 4 The Board of Directors may conduct its business by mail, FAX or telephone conference call through the Secretary. Items voted upon by telephone conference call must be confirmed in writing within 7 days.

Sec. 5 The Directors may vote by mail ballot filed with the Corresponding Secretary on any matters properly coming before the Board, including the election of officers and the filling of vacancies on the Board. Any Board member who does not return his ballot postmarked within fourteen days shall be considered absent.

Sec. 6 The Board of Directors shall hold meetings, or conduct a mail ballot, at the discretion of the President or at the written request of three of its members.

ARTICLE III DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Sec. 1 Board of Directors. The Board shall be comprised of nine persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing, who have been members of the Club for at least five consecutive years, prior to the election year, and who are residents of the United States. They shall be elected for two year terms as provided in Article IV, and shall serve until their successors are elected. Five of the persons shall be elected in even numbered years, and four in odd numbered years. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

Sec. 2 Officers. The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Club and its meetings and the Board and its meetings.

The officers shall be elected by the Board from their membership at the first meeting following the election. Each shall serve for a two year term. The President and Corresponding Secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years and the Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer in even numbered years.

- 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 bylaws.
- b. The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.
- c. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all votes taken by mail, and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.
- d. The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify Officers and Directors of their election to office, and carry out such other duties as requested by the Board. The address of the club for mailing, correspondence and the like shall be that of the Corresponding Secretary.

e. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Club. Moneys shall be deposited in a bank approved by the Board, in the name of the Club. The books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board, and a report shall be given at every meeting of the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting an accounting shall be rendered of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.

f. The AKC Delegate, who may but need not be a Director or Officer of the club, shall be appointed by the Board to represent the club at AKC meetings and to report back to the board on his activities on behalf of the club. The Delegate will be responsive to the wishes of the Club, as instructed by the Board. Length of term of appointment will be reviewed annually by the Board.

Sec. 3 Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the officers during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of all the then members of the Board; 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, VOTING, NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS

Sec. 1 Club Year. The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December.

The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election and shall continue through the next election. The elected officers and directors shall take office at the Board meeting following their election. Such meeting shall take place within a month of the election. Each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days of that meeting.

Sec. 2 Voting. At the Annual Meeting or at a special meeting of the Club voting shall be limited to those eligible members in good standing who are present at the meeting, except for the annual election of Directors and amendments to the constitution and bylaws and the official standard for the breed which shall be decided by written ballot cast by mail. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. The Board of directors may decide to submit other specific questions for decision of the members by written ballot cast by mail.

Sec. 3 Annual Election. The election of Directors shall be conducted by secret ballot. Ballots to be valid must be received by the independent professional firm designated by the Board by September 1. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each position shall be declared elected. If any nominee, at the time of the annual meeting is unable to serve for any reason, such nominee shall not be elected, and the vacancy so created shall be filled by the new Board of Directors in the manner provided by Article III Section 3.

Sec. 4 Nominations and Ballots. No person may be a candidate in a club election who has not been nominated in accordance with these bylaws. The Nominating Committee shall be chosen by the Board of Directors by May 15. The Committee shall consist of three eligible members in good standing of the Club and two alternates, whose duty it shall be to nominate candidates for the Board of Directors, from the eligible members

of the club, to be voted on by direct mail ballot. Only Regular members or Family members, in good standing, who have been members of the Club for at least five consecutive years, prior to the election year, may hold office or be candidates for office. No member of the Nominating Committee may have their own name put on the Nominating Committee's slate. No more than one member of the Nominating Committee will be a member of the Board. The Board shall name a chairman for the Committee. The Nominating Committee may conduct its business by mail.

The Nominating Committee shall nominate from among the eligible members of the Club, one candidate for each position open on the Board of Directors and shall procure the written acceptance of each nominee so chosen. The Committee shall then submit its slate of candidates to the Corresponding Secretary who shall mail the list, including the full name of each candidate to each member of the Club on or before June 15, so that additional nominations may be made by the members if they so choose.

Additional nominations of eligible members may be made by written petition addressed to the Corresponding Secretary and postmarked on or before July 15, signed by five members in good standing and accompanied by the written acceptance of each such additional nominee signifying his willingness to be a candidate. These nominations should be sent to the Corresponding Secretary by certified mail, with return receipt requested.

If no valid additional nominations are postmarked on or before July 15 the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected and no balloting will be required.

If one or more valid additional nominations are postmarked on or before July 15, the Corresponding Secretary shall, on or before August 1, mail to each member in good standing a ballot listing all of the nominees for each position in alphabetical order, together with a blank envelope and a return envelope addressed to a designated professional firm marked "Ballot" and bearing the name of the member to whom it was sent. So that the ballots may remain secret, each voter, after marking their ballot, shall seal it in the blank envelope which in turn shall be placed in the second envelope addressed to the professional firm. The firm shall check the returns against the list of members whose dues are paid for the current year prior to opening the outer envelopes and removing the blank envelopes and shall certify the eligibility of the voters as well as the results of the voting. The Corresponding Secretary will notify candidates of the results following the professional firm report. The results will be announced to the membership at the annual meeting.

Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this section.

ARTICLE V

COMMITTEES

Sec. 1 The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows, obedience trials, agility trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership, education, and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects. All committees will be renewed or terminated annually at the annual board meeting.

Sec. 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 service has been terminated.

ARTICLE VI
DISCIPLINE

Sec. 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 a like period.

Sec. 2 Charges. Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Corresponding Secretary together with a deposit of \$50.00 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board or a Committee following a hearing. The Corresponding 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 or the breed. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the club or of the breed 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 of a Committee of not less than three members of the Board, not less than 3 weeks nor more than 6 weeks thereafter. **The Corresponding Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by certified mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if he wishes.**

Sec. 3 Board Hearing. The Board or Committee shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board or Committee may by a majority vote of those present suspend the defendant from all privileges of the club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing, or until the next Annual Meeting if that will occur after six months. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting which considers the recommendation of the Board or Committee. Immediately after the Board of committee has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the decision and penalty, if any.

Sec. 4 Expulsion. Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at the Annual Meeting of the Club following a hearing and upon the recommendation of the Board or Committee as provided in Section 3 of this Article. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in their own behalf though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in their own behalf. The meeting shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the annual meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted the suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VII
AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1 Amendments to the constitution and bylaws and to the Standard for the breed may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Corresponding Secretary signed by twenty percent of the eligible membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Corresponding Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Corresponding Secretary.

Sec. 2 The constitution and bylaws (or the Standard for the breed) may be amended at any time provided a copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed by the Corresponding Secretary to each eligible member in good standing on the date of mailing, accompanied by a ballot on which a choice for or against the action to be taken shall be indicated. Receiving and counting of such ballots shall be handled by a professional firm designated by the Board, under the procedures described in Article IV, Section 4. Notice with such ballot shall specify a date not less than 30 days after the date postmarked by which date the ballots must be returned to the professional firm designated on the ballot. The favorable vote of 2/3 of the eligible members in good standing who return valid ballots within the time limit shall be required to effect any such amendment.

No amendment to the constitution and bylaws – or to the Standard for the breed that is adopted by the Club shall become effective until it has been approved by the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club.

ARTICLE VIII
DISSOLUTION

Sec 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 purposed 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 payments 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

Sec. 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 the last meeting
- Report of President

Report of Secretary
Report of Treasurer
Reports of Committees
Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)
Election of new members
Unfinished Business
New Business
Adjournment

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

Reading of minutes of last meeting
Report of Secretary
Report of Treasurer
Reports of Committees
Unfinished Business
Election of new members
New business
Adjournment

ARTICLE X

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Sec. 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 bylaws and any other special rules of order the Club may adopt.