

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
RICHMOND AFGHAN HOUND CLUB

Article 1  
Name and Objectives

SECTION 1. The name of the Club shall be the Richmond Afghan Hound Club.

SECTION 2. The objectives of the Club shall be:

- (a) to encourage and promote the breeding of pure-bred Afghan Hounds 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 set forth by the Afghan Hound Club of America and approved by The American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which Afghan Hounds shall be judged.
- (c) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike conduct at all dog competitions.
- (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 residuals from dues or donations to the Club shall benefit 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 1  
Membership

SECTION 1. Eligibility. There shall be two types of 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 this Club.

(a) Active Members – The applicant must be deeply interested in the Afghan Hound and desire to actively participate in the activities of the Club. Any person and his or her spouse and/or his or her children may jointly apply for membership, but each of them shall be active members and individually enjoy the privileges of active membership.

(b) Honorary Life Members – Individuals nominated by the Club for Honorary Life membership because of their significant contributions to the breed and to the Club. Honorary Life members shall be afforded all the rights of active members except voting privileges and are not to be counted for determination of a quorum.

SECTION 2. Dues. Membership dues shall be payable on before the first day of April of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of February the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing year.

(a) Active membership dues shall be determined by the Board annually. Currently the dues are \$15.00 per year for each individual and \$20.00 per couple.

(b) Honorary life members shall not be assessed dues.

SECTION 3. Election to membership. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by these constitution and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of two members. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.

All applications are to be filed with the membership committee and each application is to be read at the first meeting of the club following its receipt. All applicants for active membership must attend two meetings prior to their application being voted upon. No applications shall be voted upon prior to the third meeting following its receipt. All applications will be presented to the membership for action at the first meeting upon completion of all requirements and affirmative votes of three-fourths of the members present and voting at the meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.

Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not reapply within six months after such rejection.

SECTION 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 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 as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 90 days grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. 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.
- (c) by expulsion. A membership 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 City of Richmond or the surrounding areas on the first Tuesday of each month, at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20% of the members in good standing. There shall be no less than six meetings per year.

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 five members of the Club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held in the City of Richmond or surrounding areas at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five days and not more than fifteen 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 at the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

SECTION 3. Board Meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the City of Richmond or surrounding areas each year on the second Monday in the months of January, April, July, and October, at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board. Notice by email, mail or phone of each such meeting shall be issued by the Secretary at least five days and not more than fifteen days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 4. Special Board Meetings. Special Meetings of the Board may be called by the President and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held in the City of Richmond or surrounding areas at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five days and not more than ten days prior to the date of the meeting, or notice by email or phone shall be issued at least three days and not more than five days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted at the meeting. A quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 5. Voting. Each active member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club at which he is present.

### 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 previous year's President and two (three if the previous year's President is unable to serve or is re-elected) other persons all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for one year terms 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, Secretary and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Club and its meetings 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 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 incapacity. He shall have the responsibility of ensuring the recording and maintaining of all records as may be required by the American Kennel Club or required by the Board of Directors.
- (c) The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. He 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, keep a roll of members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these by-laws.
- (d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club. He shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. His books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Board and he shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not previously reported; and at the annual meeting he shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.

Any expenditures of Club monies exceeding \$100 requires approval by the membership or approval by Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of all the then members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a Special Board Meeting called for that purpose; 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, Elections

SECTION 1. Club Year. The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of April and end on the thirty-first day of March.

The Club's official year 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 2. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall be held in the month of December at which Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret written ballot or verbal rollcall from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within thirty days after the election.

SECTION 3. Elections. The nominated candidate receiving the majority of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The nominated candidates for other positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4. Nominations. No person may be a candidate in a club election who has not been nominated. During the third quarter of the year the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members and two alternates. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a Chairman for the Committee and it shall be his duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held on or before the first of October.

- (a) The Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office, and candidates for the other positions on the Board; and after securing the consent of each person so nominated shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing.

- (b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall, before the fifteenth of October, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- (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 his name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his 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. The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as specialty shows, 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. 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 Suspensions. 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.

SECTION 2. Charges. Any member may bring 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 Secretary. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at a Board meeting, and the Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club 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 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 not less than two weeks nor more than six weeks thereafter. The 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 own defense and bring witnesses if he wishes.

SECTION 3. Board Hearing. The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, 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 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; and if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the punishment be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his 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 Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, shall 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 on his 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 invite the defendant, if present, to speak on his own behalf if he wishes. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds 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 of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by 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 members 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. The constitution and by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two week prior to the date of the meeting.

## Article VIII Dissolution

SECTION 1. Dissolution. The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds of the members. In the event of dissolution of the Club whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property 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
- Report of the 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

SECTION 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 the minutes of previous meeting
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of committees
- Unfinished business
- Adjournment

Article X  
Parliamentary Authority

SECTION 1. The rules contained in the current edition of “Roberts 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.