

Annual Meeting held in December and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after taking office.

Section 2. Voting. At the Annual, Regular or Special Club and Board meetings, voting shall be limited to those members in good standing who are present at the meeting; with exception of the non-voting Associate memberships. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted at any Club meeting or election. The Board of Directors may decide to submit specific questions for decision of the members by written ballot cast by mail.

Section 3. Nominations. No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated in accordance with these By-Laws. A Nominating Committee shall be chosen by the Board of Directors at the October meeting. The Committee shall consist of three members and two alternates, all members in good standing, no more than one of whom shall be a member of the current Board of Directors. The Board shall name a chairperson for the committee, and it shall be the chairperson's duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held before the November general Club Meeting. The Secretary shall immediately notify committee members and alternates of their selection.

- a. The Nominating Committee shall nominate from among the eligible members of the Club, one candidate for each office and position on the Board, and shall procure the acceptance of each nominee so chosen. The committee shall submit its slate of candidates to the Secretary who shall mail the list including the full name of each candidate to each member of HRKC one week to ten days prior to the December meeting.
- b. Additional nominations of eligible members may be made by written petition or from the floor at the December meeting by any member. The acceptance of those so nominated must be procured prior to adding their names to the slate of candidates.
- c. If no valid additional nominations are received at the December meeting, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected, and no balloting will be required at the Annual meeting.
- d. No person shall be a candidate for more than one position.

Section 4. Elections. The election shall be conducted by the Nominating Committee Chairperson and committee members by secret ballot. A simple majority is needed to elect. The tally and ballot shall remain secret. At no time shall the actual count of votes be disclosed under penalty of Board discipline.

ARTICLE VI

Committees

Section 1. The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows, obedience trials, 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. 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 service has been terminated.

ARTICLE VII

Discipline

- Section 1. American Kennel Club Suspension. Any member who is suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club shall automatically be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period.
- Section 2. Charges. Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the 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 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 concludes that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests 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 or a Committee not less than 3 weeks nor more than 6 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 chooses.
- Section 3. Board Hearing. The Board 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. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, the Board, or Committee 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 his fellow-members at the ensuing Club which considers the recommendation of the Board or Committee. Immediately after the Board or Committee 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 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 recommendation of the Board or Committee 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 recommendation has been made for expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board or Committee's findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf if he chooses. 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 suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VIII

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 60 days of the date when the petition was received by the 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 the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 3. No amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws that is adopted by this Club shall become effective until it has been approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club. Section 3 of this Article becomes effective upon the American Kennel Club sanctioning approval.

ARTICLE IX

Dissolution

Section 1. Dissolution. 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 X

Order of Business

Section 1. Club Meetings. The order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Report of President
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Election of Officers and Board (at Annual Meeting)
- Election of New Members
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

Section 2. Board Meetings. The order of business, unless otherwise specified by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

Reading of Minutes of Last Meeting
Report of Secretary
Report of Treasurer
Report of Committees
Unfinished Business
New Business
Adjournment