

# **LONE STAR MASTIFF FANCIERS**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **Article I**

#### **Name**

##### **Section 1**

The name of the club shall be "**Lone Star Mastiff Fanciers.**"

#### **Objectives**

##### **Section 2**

The objectives of the club shall be:

- (A) to encourage participation in and sportsmanlike conduct at dog shows, obedience trials and other events in which our Mastiffs may participate;
- (B) to encourage selective breeding of quality purebred Mastiffs and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- (C) 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 Mastiffs shall be judged;
- (D) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed and to protect and improve the quality of life for Mastiffs;
- (E) to conduct sanctioned matches, conformation trials, obedience trials, agility trials, carting tests, tracking tests, and licensed specialty shows under the rules and regulations of The American Kennel Club;
- (F) to provide continuing education geared to both the novice and the experienced Mastiff owner as well as the general public;
- (G) to publish a Newsletter/Journal for the exchange of news, views and helpful information;
- (H) to support the Mastiff Club of America's national rescue efforts.

##### **Section 3**

The club shall not be conducted or operated for a 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.

##### **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.

# LONE STAR MASTIFF FANCIERS

## BY-LAWS

### Article I

#### Membership

##### Section 1

**Eligibility:** membership is open to all individuals 18 years of age or older, in good standing with the American Kennel Club, who subscribe to the purposes of this club. It is not necessary to be a member of the Mastiff Club of America (MCOA), but any person not in good standing with the MCOA, or who has been suspended or been denied membership into the MCOA is not eligible for membership in Lone Star Mastiff Fanciers.

While membership is unrestricted as to residence, the club's primary purpose is to be representative of the owners, breeders and exhibitors in Texas.

The following memberships are offered:

**Regular Membership:** Open to all individuals, 18 years of age or older, who meet the eligibility requirements. Regular members are entitled to all club privileges, **including the right to vote and hold office.**

**Household Membership:** Open to two adults, 18 years of age or older living in the same household, who meet the eligibility requirements. Household members are entitled to all club privileges, including the right to **two votes** per household and **two persons** to hold office. Children can be considered Jr. Members but will not be eligible to vote nor hold office.

**Junior Membership:** Open to children of Household memberships. Jr. Members are not entitled to vote nor hold office.

**Associate Membership:** Beginning June 1, 2003, new members will be Associate members for a period of one year during which time they will be entitled to all club privileges, **excluding the right to vote and hold office.**

##### Section 2

**Dues:** Membership dues are as follows:

- Regular Membership \$20.00 (dollars) per year
- Household Membership \$35.00 (dollars) per year
- Associate Membership \$20.00 (dollars) per year

Membership dues shall not exceed \$35.00 per year, payable on or before the first day of January of each year. During the month of December, the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year. A member may not vote if dues have not been paid for the current year.

##### Section 3

**Election to membership:** Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws, the Code of Ethics, and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, and address of the applicant and, beginning June 1, 2003 it shall carry the endorsement of two members in good standing.

3a. All applications are to be filed with the Secretary.

3b. Until June 1, 2003, all applicants meeting the eligibility requirement will be admitted to the Club.

3c. Beginning June 1, 2003, the Secretary will send to all members in good standing notice of applications received up until each bi-monthly (meaning every two months) board meeting and that the membership will have until the next regular board meeting to send in objections or comments regarding any of the applicants at which time the board will vote to elect the new member(s). At the next regular Board meeting, the applications will be voted upon and affirmative votes of 2/3 of the Board present and voting by secret ballot at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant. Upon approval of membership, dues for current year will be collected.

3d. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the club may not re-apply within six months following such rejection.

#### **Section 4**

**Termination of Membership:** Memberships may be terminated:

**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 and no member may resign during any pending disciplinary investigation nor to avoid expulsion. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the club and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.

**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. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any club meeting whose dues are unpaid prior to that meeting.

**By Expulsion:** A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these By-laws.

#### **Article II**

##### **Meeting and Voting**

##### **Section 1**

**Club Meetings:** Meetings of the club shall be held at various locations within and outside of Texas to be held a minimum of four (4) times annually at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20 percent of the members in good standing.

##### **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 at various locations within and outside of Texas, the date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. The Secretary shall mail written notice of such a meeting, at least five days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting. Said notice shall state the location and purpose of the meeting and no other club business may be conducted at said meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20 percent of the members in good standing.

##### **Section 3**

**Board Meetings:** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held a minimum of four (4) times per year, prior to the general meeting and as necessary, at such hour and place held at various locations within and

outside of Texas, as may be designated by the Board or via a chat room on the internet or by telephone conference call. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board voting in person or by post or via e-mail or verbally via telephone conference call. When a vote is called for via email, a cut-off date will be set. If there is no response by that date, the vote shall be considered as abstained

#### **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 (3) members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held at various locations within and outside of Texas, as may be designated by the Board or via a chat room on the internet or by telephone conference call at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meetings. The Secretary shall mail written notice of such meeting at least five days and not more than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be conducted at said meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board voting in person or by post or via e-mail or verbally via telephone conference call. When a vote is called for via email, a cut-off date will be set. If there is no response by that date, the vote shall be considered as abstained

#### **Section 5**

**Voting:** Each 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 or she is present. Election of Officers and Directors and amendments to the constitution and by-laws and the code of ethics shall be decided by written ballot cast by postal mail or hand delivered to the Secretary. The Board of Directors may decide to submit other specific questions for decision of the members by written ballot cast by postal mail or hand delivered to the Secretary.

### **Article III**

#### **Directors and Officers**

##### **Section 1**

**Board of Directors:** The Board shall be comprised of the officers and five other persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing. All of whom shall be elected for two year terms at the club's annual meeting in odd years as provided in Article III 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 the President in addition to those particularly specified in these Constitution and By Laws.

(b) The **Vice President** shall have the duties and exercise the power of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.

(c) The **Secretary** shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board, of all votes taken in any manner, 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 the members of the club with their addresses, oversee all inquiries about the Club, 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. Monies shall be deposited in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. The books shall at all times be open to inspection by 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 monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded at Club expense.

### **Section 3**

**Vacancies:** any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the offices during their term shall be filled until the next bi-annual (meaning every two years) 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 vacancies, 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. The resulting vacancy in the office of Vice-President shall be filled by a vote of the Board.

## **Article IV**

### **The Club Year, Annual Meetings, Elections**

#### **Section 1**

**Club Year:** The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first (1st) day of January and end on the thirty-first (31st) day of December.

The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the annual meeting and shall continue through the next annual meeting.

#### **Section 2**

**Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of July alone or in conjunction with the club's specialty show or supported entry if possible and when one or the other are held, at a place, date and hour designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of the annual meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary to each member at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for the annual meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

#### **Section 3**

**Bi-annual (meaning every two years) Election in odd years:** At the Annual Meeting, in odd years, for the election of Officers and Directors, the vote shall be conducted by ballot. Ballots, to be valid, must be received by the Secretary no later than the night before the Annual Meeting. Ballots shall be counted the evening prior to the meeting by three (3) inspectors of election who are members in good standing of the club, and who are neither members of the current Board nor candidates on the ballot and who shall be chosen by the Board of Directors prior to counting of the ballots.

The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number 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 position 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 March in an election year, the Board shall select a nominating committee consisting of three (3) members and two (2) alternates, not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee persons and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a chairman for the committee and it shall be such person's duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before April Fifteenth (15th). The nominating committee may conduct its business by post, e-mail, internet chat room, or telephone conference.

(a) The committee shall nominate the candidate for each office and position on the Board and, after securing the consent of each person who is so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing.

(b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall, at least two weeks prior to the May meeting, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.

(c) Additional nominations may be made by written petition addressed to the Secretary and received via post, email or hand delivered prior to the May meeting or at the May 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 name proposed is not in attendance at this meeting, the nominator 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. Each nominee shall provide the Secretary with a biographical statement.

(d) Nominations can not be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

(e) If no valid additional nominations are received by the Secretary or made and accepted at the May meeting, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the time of the Annual Meeting and no balloting will be required.

#### **Section 5**

##### **Ballots:**

(a) If one or more valid additional nominations are received by the Secretary at or before the May meeting, the Secretary shall, on or before June 1<sup>st</sup>, mail to each member in good standing a ballot listing all of the nominees in alphabetical order and copies of the biographical statements, a blank envelope and a return envelope addressed to the Secretary marked "Ballot" and bearing the name of the member to whom it was sent. So that the ballot may remain secret, each voter, after marking his ballot, shall seal it in the blank envelope which in turn shall be placed in the second envelope addressed to the Secretary. The inspectors of election 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 which shall be announced at the Annual Meeting.

#### **Article V**

##### **Committees**

### **Section 1**

The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as education, rescue, specialty shows, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership, and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall 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**

**Discipline:** **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. After which he/she must apply in writing for reinstatement.

**Mastiff Club of America Suspension:** Any member who is suspended or expelled from the MCOA automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of or expelled from this Club for a like period, after which he/she must apply in writing for reinstatement or membership.

Any disciplinary action taken by Lone Star Mastiff Fanciers against a member of the MCOA will be reported to the MCOA.

#### **Section 2**

**Charges:** Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed, such misconduct occurring on or after the date the accused member submitted application for membership with the Club. Written charges with specifications and appropriate documentation, including the name of the person preferring charges, 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 following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at a Board meeting. 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 breed. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or breed, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date for a hearing by the Board not less than three weeks or more than six weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member, with-holding the name of the member preferring charges, by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if he wishes.

#### **Section 3**

**Board Hearing:** Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all evidence, and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board may, by a majority vote of those present, reprimand or 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 is insufficient, it may also consider expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before the Board at the ensuing Special Board meeting which considers expulsion. 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.

(a) A Board member may not vote on a case involving themselves, a relative, co-owner or client.

#### **Section 4**

**Expulsion:** Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at a Special Board meeting following the Board hearing as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings will occur 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 own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendation, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his/her own behalf if they so choose. The Board members shall then vote by secret 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:** Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by twenty percent (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 secret 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 written notice of the amendment/amendments meeting and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

### **Article VIII**

#### **Dissolution**

##### **Section 1**

**Dissolution:** The Club may be dissolved at anytime by the written consent of not less than two-thirds 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 the Mastiff Club of America.

### **ARTICLE IX**

#### **Order of Business**

##### **Section 1**

**Order of Business:** 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 the President  
Report of the Secretary  
Report of the Treasurer  
Reports of Committees  
Election of Officers and Board (Annual Meeting odd years only)  
Election of new members  
Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Adjournment

### **Section 2**

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

Reading of the minutes of the last meeting  
Report of the 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 bylaws and any other special rules of order the club may select.

The Board will appoint a Parliamentarian for Club Meetings and Special Club Meetings.