

# **BONANZA KENNEL CLUB**



## **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

**2012**

*CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
BONANZA KENNEL CLUB of CARSON CITY*

*REVISED : 2012*

*APPROVED BY AKC : FEBRUARY 27, 2013*

## *CONSTITUTION*

### *Article I*

#### *Section 1:*

The name of the Club shall be the:

Bonanza Kennel Club of Carson City.

#### *Section 2:*

The objectives of the Club shall be:

- (a) to further the advancement of all breeds of purebred dogs.
- (b) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of purebred dogs and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and obedience trials.
- (c) to conduct sanctioned matches, licensed all - breed dog shows, obedience trials and any other AKC sanctioned event, 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 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 Bylaws as may be required to carry out these objectives

## *BYLAWS*

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **Membership**

##### **SECTION 1. Eligibility:**

There shall be four (4) types of membership: Individual, Junior, Associate and Lifetime.

- (a) **Individual Membership** shall be open to all persons 18 years of age and older, who are in good standing with "The American Kennel Club", and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club. Individual Members shall have the right to vote, and to enjoy other Club privileges.
- (b) **Junior Membership** shall be open to persons 9 through 17 years of age. The Junior Member may not vote or hold office. He/she will automatically convert to Individual Membership upon reaching his/her 18th birthday and will begin to pay dues as an Individual Member.
- (c) **Associate Membership** shall be open to persons living well outside of the Club's immediate area, who cannot regularly attend meetings or to individuals who merely wish to receive the Club's newsletter. Any Individual Member may request Associate Membership by so notifying the Recording Secretary. Associate Members shall not have the right to vote or hold office. Such members are not computed in determining a quorum. Individual Membership may be sought by following the procedures outlined in Section 3 of this Article. Associate Membership shall also be available to commercial organizations. However, they shall not have the right to become Individual Members. Any Officer or Director who becomes an Associate Member shall be considered to have vacated that office.
- (d) **Lifetime Membership (usually 20+ Years)** may be conferred in recognition of long-time or outstanding service to the Club. The name of the proposed Lifetime Member shall be presented to the Board of Directors for approval, after which the name shall be submitted to the General Membership at the next regular meeting. A majority vote shall rule. Lifetime Members shall be entitled to all privileges of the Club, but are not required to pay dues.

## **SECTION 2. Membership Dues:**

*The Board of Directors* shall determine the amount of annual dues for Individual Members (not to exceed \$50.00) and Associate Members (not to exceed \$30.00). 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. During the month of October, the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of his/her dues for the ensuing year. There shall be no dues for Junior or Lifetime Members.

## **SECTION 3. Election to Membership:**

- (a) 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 this Constitution and Bylaws and the rules of The American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, phone, email, and occupation of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of two (2) members in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.
- (b) All applications are to be filed with the Recording Secretary and each application is to be read at the first meeting of the Club following its receipt. After attending three (3) meetings, the application will be voted upon and affirmative votes of two-thirds of the members present and voting at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.
- (c) Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not re-apply within six (6) months after such rejection.

## **SECTION 4. Termination of Membership:**

- (a) **By resignation:** Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Recording Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Obligations other than dues are considered a debt to the Club and must be paid in full prior to resignation.
- (b) **By lapsing:** A membership will be considered lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 60 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 at any Club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of the meeting.
- (c) **By expulsion:** A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these Bylaws.



**ARTICLE II**  
**Meetings and Voting**

**SECTION 1. Club Meeting:** Meetings of the Club shall be held in the greater Carson City area on the first Tuesday of each month, at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed or e-mailed by the Recording Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20% of the members in good standing and present at the meeting. By signing the authorization for emailing notices to the membership you agree to the use of email.

**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, or shall be called by the Recording Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five (5) members of the Club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Carson City area 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 or e-mailed by the Recording Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting. Said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other Club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meetings shall be 20% of the members in good standing and present at the meeting.

**SECTION 3. Board Meetings:** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held each month in the greater Carson City area, at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed or e-mailed by the Recording Secretary at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board present at the meeting.

**SECTION 4. Special Board Meetings:** Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President, and shall be called by the Recording Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three (3) members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Carson City area at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed or e-mailed by the Recording Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than ten (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 transacted thereat. A quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board present at the meeting.

**SECTION 5. Voting:** Each member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one (1) vote at any meeting of the Club at which he/she is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any meeting or election.

### **ARTICLE III** **Directors and Officers**

**SECTION 1. Board of Directors:** The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary, and two (2) Directors, 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. They shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors. The outgoing President shall be a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Board for one (1) year following the completion of his/her term as President.

**SECTION 2. Officers:** The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary, 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 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 Corresponding Secretary** shall have charge of all of the correspondence outside the business of the club. This will include flyers, announcements, sunshine cards, etc.
- (d) **The Recording Secretary** shall keep a record of all general meetings of the Club and of the Board of Directors and of all matters of which a permanent record shall be ordered by the Club. The Recording Secretary shall notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, and notify Officers and Directors of their election. Responsibilities also include keeping a record of the members of the Club with their addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses, and shall carry out such other duties as are prescribed by these Bylaws.



- (e) *The Treasurer* shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club. The Treasurer shall deposit the same 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 the Treasurer shall report to them at every meeting on 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 accounting 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. In the absence of the President and Vice President, the Treasurer shall assume those duties, as required.
- (f) *To hold office in the Club*, a member must, during the 11 meetings previous to elections have attended at least three (3) regular meetings and have worked at least one (1) event/activity in that same year in some capacity.
- (g) The offices of both Secretary positions or either Secretary position and Treasurer may be held by the same person, in which case the board shall be comprised of (6) persons.

**SECTION 3. Vacancies:** Any vacancies occurring on the Board 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 called for that purpose; except that a vacancy in the office of the 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. The Club Year:**

- (a) The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December.
- (b) The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the elections at the annual meeting and shall continue through the elections 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 secret, written ballot 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 their successor in office all properties and records re-



lating to that office within 30 days after the election. The new Board shall establish a set of Standing Rules for the year.

### **SECTION 3. Elections:**

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 positions shall be declared elected.

### **SECTION 4. Nominations:**

- (a) No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. During the month of October the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members and two (2) alternates, not more than one (1) of whom may be a member of the Board. The Recording Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen and alternates of their selection. The Nominating Committee shall name a Chairman for their committee and it shall be his/her duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before October 15th.
- (b) The committee shall nominate one (1) 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 Recording Secretary in writing or by e-mail. No member of the Nominating Committee shall be on the ballot unless nominated from the floor, as specified in Article IV, Section 4d, of these Bylaws.
- (c) Upon receipt of the Nominating committee's report, the Recording Secretary shall before November 1st, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- (d) Additional nominations may be made at the November meeting by any member in good standing in attendance, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his/her name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting his proposer shall present to the Recording Secretary a signed statement from the proposed candidate signifying his willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one (1) position. **Except as provided in Article III, Section 2 (g).** 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.

- (e) In order to maintain the independence and integrity of Bonanza Kennel Club, anyone serving as an elected official in another all-breed Kennel Club is ineligible to concurrently serve as an elected official in Bonanza Kennel Club.
- (f) 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 shows, matches, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership, Club newsletter, annual Party, and other such 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 on particular projects. Standing Rules for such committees may be created as required.

**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:**

- (a) Any member who is suspended from any of the privileges of The American Kennel Club shall automatically be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period.
- (b) Any Bonanza Kennel Club member found by a court of law to be in violation of any Federal, State, City or County anti-cruelty statute is subject to expulsion from Bonanza Kennel Club membership by a hearing and voting of the membership as per Section 2, 3, and 4 of this Article.

**SECTION 2. Charges:** Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the sport. Written charges, with specifications, must be



filed in duplicate with the Recording 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 Recording Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges, by mail or e-mail, 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 purebred dogs. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct that would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or purebred dogs, 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 three (3) weeks or more than six (6) week thereafter. The Recording Secretary shall promptly send one (1) 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 their own defense and bring witnesses if they so wish.

**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 may, by a majority vote of those present, reprimand or suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing. If the Board 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 his/her 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 Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties in writing, by mail or e-mail, 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 general 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/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/her own behalf if he/she wishes. The membership shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of members in good standing and present 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 Bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or written petition addressed to the Recording 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 Recording Secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the petition was received by the Recording Secretary.

**SECTION 2.** The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 secret vote of the members present and in good standing at any regular general meeting called for that purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed or e-mailed to each member at least two (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 good standing. 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 Last Meeting  
Minutes of Last Board Meeting  
Report of the President  
Report of the Recording Secretary  
Report of the Corresponding Secretary  
Report of Treasurer  
Reports of Committees  
Election of Officers and Board (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 Minutes of Last Board Meeting  
Report of the Recording Secretary  
Report of the Corresponding Secretary  
Report of Treasurer  
Reports of Committees  
Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Adjournment

**ARTICLE X**  
**Parliamentary Authority**

**SECTION 1.** *Rules of Order:* The rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised", shall govern the meetings of this Club in all cases where they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.