

# **RUSHDEN & DISTRICT DOG TRAINING CLUB**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### 1: NAME AND OBJECTIVES

The club shall be called Rushden and District Dog Training Club, and its objectives shall be promoting responsible dog ownership and training.

### 2: OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The club shall consist of Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Committee and an unlimited number of members.

### 3: COMMITTEE

The management of the club shall be in the hands of a committee consisting of at least six members, of whom all shall retire annually but be eligible for re-election. Each member shall be entitled to vote at meetings. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote. Meetings shall be held as often as may be necessary and five shall form a quorum for the transaction of business. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members of the Committee in the event of positions becoming vacant between Annual General Meetings. These co-opted members shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

The Society must send a list of Committee members and their addresses to The Kennel Club with their Annual Returns, and, if so requested, make an up to date list of members available for inspection by The Kennel Club and members of the Society.

### 4: ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Candidates for membership of the club shall be accepted on payment of subscription.

### 5: VOTING RIGHTS

Each member shall be entitled to one vote immediately upon acceptance of membership. Voting shall be by show of hands or as decided by majority at a meeting. In the case of joint membership, one vote for each member of the partnership. Members under the age of sixteen shall be unable to vote.

## 6: CLUB ACCOUNTS

A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Society into which all revenue of the Society shall be paid and from which withdrawals shall be made on the signature of one or more officers — Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer.

In addition if required the club may open a 'show account' in the name of the society into which all revenue received from any shows the club may hold shall be paid. Withdrawals shall only be made on the signature of a club member authorised by the Committee for the purpose of organising a show, and together with the signature of at least one of the officers of the club specified for the main accounts.

The accounts shall be kept by the Honorary Treasurer, or in the case of the 'show account' by a club member authorised by the Committee, but acting for and responsible to the Honorary Treasurer.

The accounts shall be certified annually by a qualified accountant or by two unqualified individuals with accountancy experience. Those undertaking the certification must be independent from those who prepared the accounts.

## 7: SUBSCRIPTIONS

There will be an annual subscription payable to the Honorary Treasurer on the date of joining, then renewable every twelve months thereafter.

No member whose subscription is unpaid is entitled to any of the privileges of membership and if any member shall fail to pay outstanding subscriptions within two months of the due date his/her name shall be erased from the register. Acceptance back onto the register will be dependent upon a new application and payment of arrears.

In addition to the annual subscription there will be a training fee payable by any handler taking part in any training to cover the cost of the rent for the premises used by the Club. The level of such training fees will be set by the Committee and may be adjusted from time to time to reflect changes in cost.

8: CLUB PROPERTY

The property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee. In the event of the Club ceasing to exist, a final General Meeting shall be called to decide the disposal of the Club's assets. A final statement of audited accounts with a record of the disposal of the property for the Society shall be forwarded to The Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the Society on the last return furnished to The Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the Society.

9: EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

Any Member who shall be disqualified under the Kennel Club Rule A11.j.(5) and / or the Kennel Club Rule A11.j.(9) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the society. If the conduct of any Member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Society, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Society, the Committee of the Society may, at a meeting the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the Member, determine that notice of a Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused Member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the Meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at the Meeting a Resolution to expel is passed by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the List of Members, and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a Member of the Society, except that he/she may within two calendar months from the date of such Meeting appeal to The Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as The Kennel Club may impose.

If the Society expels any member for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, Dog Shows, Trials or Competitions the Society must report the matter in writing to The Kennel Club within seven days and supply any particulars required.

No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society.

10: FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the Club shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.

11: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in June for the following purposes:-

- i: to receive the report of the Committee
- ii: presentation and approval of the accounts
- iii: election of officers
- iv: discussion of any resolution duly placed on the Agenda of which prior notice has been given to the Honorary Secretary

No business shall be transacted at an Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the Agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those which in the opinion of the Chairman of the Meeting are urgent.

Forty-two days notice will be given of an Annual General Meeting, notice to be given to members on the club notice board, or by email, or display on the club website and facebook page.

Agenda items shall be forwarded up to 21 days before the date of the Annual or General Meeting. The Agenda will be available to the members 7 days before the date of the Meeting. A copy of the annual statement of accounts will be made available on request to members 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

12: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Honorary Secretary if twelve members send a signed requisition stating the subject to be discussed and requesting a Special General Meeting to do so. The Committee of the Society is also empowered to call a Special General Meeting. No business other than that detailed on the Agenda can be discussed at a Special General Meeting notice of which shall be given to

members via the club notice board, or by email, or by display on the Club website and facebook page.

#### 13: AMENDMENTS TO RULES

The Rules of the Society may not be altered except at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting, notice of which includes details of the proposal to alter the Rules. Such alterations shall not be brought into force until The Kennel Club has been advised and has given its approval of the alterations.

The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Society in all cases relative to Canine or Society matters.

#### 14: ANNUAL RETURNS TO KENNEL CLUB

The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club whether by the Secretary or by Direct Debit, for continuance of registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in The Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities, will be forwarded The Kennel Club.

The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform The Kennel Club of any change of Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year.

#### 15: KENNEL CLUB FINAL COURT OF APPEAL

The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the rules of the Society in all cases relative to canine or society matters.

16: The Society shall not join any Federation of Societies or Clubs.