



The Dalmatian Association Club Rules

1 NAME & OBJECTS

The Association shall be called **The Dalmatian Association** (TDA) (herein after referred to as the 'Association') and its objects will be:

- a) To promote the wellbeing of the breed by encouraging caring ownership and responsible breeding by Dalmatian enthusiasts.
- b) To organise social events including the exhibition of, and many disciplines of all things 'Dalmatian'.
- c) To promote the breeding of Dalmatian to the type and standard adopted as the Dalmatian Breed Standard.
- d) To advance the interests of this breed by exhibiting and encouraging classes at shows, with the aim of eventually being affiliated.
- e) To be paper free (in the interests of the environment), therefore all members must be electronically enabled.

2. CONSTITUTION

The Association shall consist of an unlimited number of Members from which the Committee and Officers are elected.

3 COMMITTEE & OFFICERS

- a) The management of the Association shall be in the hands of the following officers of the Association: Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer and nine Committee Members. Each year up to four Committee Members, and one officer shall retire on a three -year rotation. All those retiring may declare their willingness to stand for re-election. In the event of more candidates standing than vacant positions, a ballot will be undertaken.
- b) Officers will be elected by the Committee. One Officer shall retire annually on a 3-year rotation. Those retiring may declare their willingness to stand for re-election.
- c) The committee will consist of the founding members. Members can apply to join the committee if there is a vacancy available and may be elected to the committee by the committee. All those retiring may declare their

willingness to stand for re-election. The Officers and Committee shall have full voting rights at Committee and General Meetings.

- d) The Committee may appoint a Patron, to represent the Association. Any person so appointed as Patron shall become an Honorary Member of the Association and elected by the Committee for a period of three years. They shall not have the voting rights as an appointed Member. There shall be no limit to the number of times the Committee can re-elect a person into one of these positions.
- e) Meetings of the Committee shall be held as often as deemed necessary but at least four times a year.
- f) A quorum for Committee meetings shall be half the total number serving on the committee plus one, two of whom shall be officers.
- g) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members on to the Committee in the event of positions becoming vacant. Co-opted Committee Members shall have voting rights at Committee Meetings.
- h) No individual who has been a member for less than 1 consecutive year may be elected on to the Committee.
- i) No officer or committee member holding office in any other Dalmatian breed club shall be able to stand for election to The Dalmatian Association Committee. An officer or committee member of The Dalmatian Association may not hold a position on any other Dalmatian breed Club Committee.
- j) No Member shall be eligible for or take part in the election of the Committee if his or her current subscription, or any other monies are outstanding.
- k) No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any other Office or appointment within the Association.
- l) No more than two Members of an immediate family (namely the spouse/partner or family member at the same address), will be allowed to hold a position on the committee. Two family members cannot both hold officer positions at the same time.

4. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

- a) The Committee in its conduct of affairs shall have power to deal with all matters not provided for in the Rules of the Association.
- b) The Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees composed of Members of the Association.
- c) In the event of an emergency, the Chairman shall have power, in conjunction with the Secretary or Treasurer and at least one committee member to transact such urgent business as might be transacted at a meeting of the Committee. Such action shall be reported to the Committee as soon as possible and minuted at the next meeting.

5. MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS

The Association shall be established with 'Founding Members' and they shall be identified as such in the Association records and shall be deemed Members of the Association on condition that they comply with the same eligibility criteria for their membership to be valid as other members and have paid an amount equal to or greater than the annual subscription proposed to general members at the inaugural general meeting of the Association.

The Association shall have an unlimited number of members whose membership shall be defined into the following categories, and which shall have the following rights and entitlements:

- a) **Founding Member:** a title conferred to those members that helped establish the Association by offering their expertise, donating their time and/or money. Such a person shall be recognised in the records of the Association and may title themselves as holding this position. For all other purposes, they shall have the same rights and entitlements within the Association's Constitution as a member.
- b) **Single Member:** Such a person shall be entitled to one vote at general meetings and, after 12 months as a member, may apply to serve on the committee of the Association.

- c) **Junior Members:** a person under the age of 18yrs may become a Junior Member of the Association, if they have parental/guardian consent and are sponsored by an existing Member. They shall be required to comply with the constitution and rules of the Association but shall not be entitled to vote at general meetings.
- d) **Joint membership.** Open for two people who reside at the same address, and after 12 months as members, either of them may apply to serve on the committee of the Association.
- e) **Honorary Life Member** Those who have rendered services to the Association, or to the Dalmatian Breed, may be invited to become Honorary Life Members by a majority vote at an Annual General Meeting from nominees put forward by the Committee. Honorary Life Members will retain their voting rights.
- f) Membership shall be granted to a person upon completion of the details contained in the **Membership Application Form**. This form must receive the sponsorship from one existing Member who shall vouch for the character and suitability of the nominee to become a member and be approved by the majority at a Committee meeting . Membership is not granted until the aforementioned steps have been completed and the subscription fee has been paid and accepted into the Associations' bank account.
- g) The Committee reserve the right to withhold membership from any person who, in their rightful opinion does not meet the objects of the Association or has breached its *Code of Ethics* and/or whose conduct does not meet that which is expected from its members.
- h) An up-to-date list of Members must be maintained.

6. VOTING RIGHTS – GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) Each Member shall be entitled to one vote immediately upon acceptance of membership except Junior Members. Postal votes/proxy votes are not allowed.
- b) Voting shall be by a positive affirmation as indicated by the medium used for the meeting or by an indication of the proportion of negative/against a motion; whichever the Chair decides is more

accurate, and decided by the majority at the meeting, In the event of an equal number of votes, the Chairman shall hold a casting vote.

- c) Joint membership will have one vote for each member of the partnership.

7. ASSOCIATION PROPERTY

- a) The property of the Association shall be vested in the Committee. In the event of the Association ceasing to exist, a final General Meeting shall be called to decide on the disposal of the Association's assets.
- b) The Association is to obtain written acknowledgements from donors of cups, trophies and archive material that are given as outright gifts to the Association.

8. BANK ACCOUNTS

- a) A banking Account shall be held in the name of the Association into which all revenue of the Association shall be paid and from which withdrawal shall only be made on the signature of two or more of the following officers: Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Chairman.
- b) The Accounts will be kept by the Hon. Treasurer and shall, as soon as possible at the end of the financial year, be audited/certified by a qualified accountant or two unqualified individuals with accountancy experience.

Person(s) certifying accounts must be unconnected to the committee.

9. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The amount of subscription shall be such amount as agreed by Members at the Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions are due yearly on January 1st

- a) The Treasurer shall remind any Member failing to pay his or her subscription by 15th January. Should the subscription remain unpaid by 31st January they will cease to be entitled to any benefits or privileges of Membership, whereupon such names shall be removed from the register of Members.
- b) By renewing their membership, Members agree to abide by the Association rules and Code of Ethics in force at that time.

10. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- a) Any member who shall be disqualified under Royal Kennel Club Ltd Rule

A11.j.(5) and/or Royal Kennel Club Ltd Rule A11.j.(9) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Association.

- b) If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the committee of the Association, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Association, the committee of the Association may, at a meeting the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Association shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.
- c) Notice of the 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 Association.
- d) If the Association expels any member for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, dog shows, trials or competitions, the Association must report the matter in writing to the Royal Kennel Club Ltd within seven days and supply any particulars required.

11. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the Association shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting shall be held, if possible, in the first quarter of the year. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be: -

- a) The nature of the business to be conducted.

To receive the report of the committee and balance sheet, to elect officers and committee and to discuss any resolution duly placed on the agenda of which prior notice has been given to the 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 chairman of the meeting are urgent

Notice of Annual General Meetings will be published on the Association's *website* and Face book. Not less than 28 clear days' notice will be given to the members of the Annual General Meeting.

Items are required by the Secretary for inclusion on the agenda no later than 21 days prior to the meeting.

The agenda will be circulated 14 days prior to the meeting. Under exceptional circumstances the agenda may be circulated at the meeting.

A simple majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to carry a resolution.

13. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Hon. Secretary if 20% of the membership send a signed requisition stating the subject to be discussed and requesting a Special General Meeting to do so. The Committee of the Association 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. Not less than fourteen clear days' notice shall be given writing to members prior to the meeting. A majority of two thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary to carry a resolution.

14. AMENDMENTS TO RULES

The rules of the Association may not be altered except at a General Meeting, the notice for which contains specific proposals to amend the rules.

15. BREED ASSOCIATION JUDGES LIST

The transition to the new Judges Education Programme has now been finalised by the RKC. Anyone seeking a judge for our breed should search the RKC's 'Find a Judge' service using the attached link:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/search/find-a-judge/>