

Greater Atlanta Toy Dog Association, Inc. CONSTITUTION

Article I

Name and Objectives

Section I. The name of the club shall be Greater Atlanta Toy Dog Association, Inc.

Section II. The objectives of the club shall be:

- a. to further the advancement of all toy breeds;
- b. to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of dog shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at such events; and
- c. to conduct sanctioned matches, dog shows, obedience trials, and tracking tests under the rules and regulations of The American Kennel Club.

Section III. 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 IV. 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.

Revised April 2, 2001

BYLAWS

Article I

Membership

Section I. *Eligibility.* There shall be three types of membership open to all person's eighteen 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 membership:

Open to all persons who are *eighteen* years of age and older and enjoy *all* privileges of the club including voting and holding office.

Family membership:

Open to all persons who are eighteen and older and enjoy all privileges of the club including voting and holding office. Family membership is defined as two persons living *in* the same household.

Associate membership:

Open to all persons who are eighteen years of age and older and are entitled to all privileges except voting and holding office. Dues are set at a lesser rate than Individual members, *basically* to cover the printing and/or postal expenses of mailings. Such members are not computed in determining a quorum. Applications should be filed with the Secretary, but do not require sponsors or approval process applicable to prospective Individual applicants; after a period of *time* (one year), the person may apply for Individual membership as outlined in this by-laws.

While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the clubs primary purpose is to be representative of the breeders and exhibitors in its immediate area.

Section II. *Dues.* Individual and Family membership dues shall not exceed \$50.00 per membership per year. Associate membership dues shall not exceed \$ 30.00 per year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. The Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year by October 1st. Dues are payable on or before November 1 st.

Section III. *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 these constitution and bylaws and the rules of The American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant. Individual and Family membership applications shall carry the endorsement of two members in good standing. Associate membership applications do not require sponsorships. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.

All applications are to be filed with the Secretary and each application is to be read at the first meeting of the club following its receipt. At the next club meeting the application will be voted upon and affirmative votes of two-thirds of the members present and voting by secret ballot at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.

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

Section IV. *Termination of Membership.* Memberships may be terminated:

a) *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. Dues obligations notices are considered a debt to the club and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.

b) *By lapsing.* A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 30 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 30 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 that 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 I. *Club Meetings.* Meetings of the club shall be held each month in Atlanta or within the greater Atlanta area 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 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

Section II. *Special Club Meetings.* Special club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote to 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 in Atlanta or within the greater Atlanta 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 by the Secretary at least five days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

Section III. *Board Meetings.* Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held each month in Atlanta or within the greater Atlanta Area at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

Section IV. *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 members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held in Atlanta or within the greater Atlanta area at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. The Secretary shall mail written notice of such meeting at least 5 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 transacted thereat. A quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

Section V. *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 is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or election.

Article III

Directors and Officers

Section I. *Board of Directors*. The Board shall be comprised of the officers and 5 other persons all of *whom* shall be members in *good* standing and all of *whom* shall be elected for one-year terms at the clubs annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the clubs affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

Section II. *Officers*. The clubs officers, consisting of the President, Vice-president, Corresponding Secretary, Recording 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 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 Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meeting of the club and of the Board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by *the* club; and the Corresponding Secretary 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 and their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.

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 of the Board and a report shall be given at every meeting of the condition of the club 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 in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.

e) The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person in which case the Board shall be comprised of 9 persons.

Section III. *Vacancies*. Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the offices 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 following creation of such vacancy, 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 and the resulting vacancy of the office of Vice-President shall be filled by the Board.

Article IV

The Club Year, Annual Meeting, Elections

Section I. *Club Year*. The clubs fiscal year shall begin on the first day of November and shall end the last day of October. The clubs official year *shall* begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting and shall continue though the election at the next annual meeting.

Section II. *Annual Meeting*. The annual meeting shall be held in the month of October at which officers and *directors* for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section IV of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to the successor in office *all* properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

Section III. *Elections.* The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The 5 nominated candidates for other positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

Section IV. *Nominations.* No person may be a candidate in a club election who has not been nominated. During the month of June, the Board shall select a nominating committee consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than one of who may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen 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 July 15th.

a) The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and position on the Board, and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report his or her nominations to the Secretary in writing.

b) Upon receipt of the nominating committee's report, the Secretary shall before August 1st notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.

c) Additional nominations may be made at the September meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when their name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at *this* meeting, the proposed shall present to the Secretary a *written* statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.

d) Nomination cannot be made at the annual meeting or in *any* manner other than as provided in this section.

Article V

Committees

Section I. The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the club in such matters as specialty shows, obedience trials, field 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 II. 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 I. *American Kennel Club Suspension.* Any member who is suspended from the *privileges* The American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this club for a like period.

Section II. *Charges.* Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the club or the breeds. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$25.00, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board 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 considers that the charges do not allege conduct that would be prejudicial to the best interest 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 not less than 3 weeks or 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 wishes.

Section III. *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 months from the date of the hearing. And, if it 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 fellow-members at the ensuing club meeting, which considers the Board's recommendation. Immediately after the Board has reached a *decision*, its finding 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.

Section IV. *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 proceeding 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 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 finding and recommendation, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The 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 I. Amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by *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 Secretary received the petition.

Section II. The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds secret vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting 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.

Article VIII

Dissolution

Section I. The club may be dissolved at any time 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 purpose 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.

GREATER ATLANTA TOY DOG ASSOCIATION, INC.

CODE OF ETHICS (AS APPROVED, 1996)

This code is to establish the goals of The Greater Atlanta Toy Dog Association, Inc. To advance the interest of Pure-Bred Toy dogs by maintaining high breeding standards. To include soundness of body and mind, while preserving the unique beauty and character of the Toy Breeds.

BREEDING:

The Owner/Breeder shall:

- 1. Learn and understand the AKC Standard of the Breed and breed only with the intentions of conforming to it.**
- 2. Breed selectively to upgrade the breed to include both conformation and temperament and will not sacrifice one for the other.**
- 3. Test and exclude from a breeding program all dogs and bitches that carry inheritable defects that are known to affect the specific breed as recommended by National or Local breed clubs. Providing certification of test results when necessary.**
- 4. Breed only mature dogs and bitches, providing facilities for excellent pre-natal and post-natal care for the dam and puppies. Recommend that bitches under 12 months not be bred. Bitches not to be bred more than twice in any three consecutive seasons.**
- 5. Refuse to breed a stud dog to poor specimens, unhealthy or unregistered bitches, or to bitches whose owners do not make a sincere effort to protect and improve the breed. Then explain your refusal.**

REGISTRATION:

The Owner/Breeder shall breed only AKC or other pure-bred registered dogs of their breed to other pure-bred dogs of the same breed and keep accurate records of matings and pedigrees. The Owner/Breeder shall always abide by the rules of the American Kennel Club.

HEALTH:

The Owner/Breeder shall maintain the best possible standards of canine nutrition, health, cleanliness and veterinary care. Including mental health and proper socialization. Neglect or abuse of any dog in the care of a member will not be tolerated.

SALES:

The Owner/Breeder Shall:

- 1. Not sell, consign puppies or adults to pet shops, commercial dealers, agents/brokers, mail order houses or wholesale outlets. Will not donate them as prizes for any raffle or contest, nor engage in breeding for profit.**
- 2. Require puppy purchasers to spay or neuter all pets and use the AKC limited registration.**
- 3. Not release puppies to new home before they are 12 weeks of age, and furnish details on feeding, general care, health records, immunization/worming, etc. Suggest Veterinarian exam within 72 hours of sale and allow puppy to be returned if the veterinarian finds a health problem.**
- 4. Screen all prospective buyers and care takers to assure that puppies will have a safe and loving home. Recommend that puppies not be purchased as gifts.**
- 5. Follow up on puppies and adults to insure continued care and encourage the new owners to become involved in pure-bred activities. Buyer understands that if for any reason the dog cannot be kept, the breeder will assist by either taking back the dog, or placing it in a suitable home.**
- 6. Written agreements to be signed by seller and buyer at the time of the sale. Supply duplicate copy to buyer.**

SPORTSMANSHIP:

The Owner/Breeder should always conduct himself in a manner which will reflect credit upon himself, his pure-bred dogs, and club, its members and the sport of pure-bred dogs, regardless of his location or circumstance.

PLEDGE:

BEING A MEMBER OF THE GREAT ATLANTA TOY DOG ASSOCIATION, INC., I PERSONALLY PLEDGE TO ABIDE BY THE ABOVE CODE OF ETHICS AS PER MY SIGNATURE OF THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.