

American Sealyham Terrier Club Constitution

Article 1

Name and Objectives

1. The name of the Club shall be the American Sealyham Terrier Club.
2. The objectives of the Club shall be:
 - (a) To encourage and promote the quality in breeding of Sealyham Terriers, and to do all possible to protect the interests of the breed;
 - (b) To encourage the organization of independent local Sealyham Terrier Specialty Clubs in those areas where there is sufficient interest and fanciers of the breed to meet the requirements of the American Kennel Club;
 - (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 Sealyhams shall be judged;
 - (d) To encourage and promote the showing in dog shows and obedience trials with sportsmanlike conduct;
 - (e) To conduct Sanction Matches, Specialty Shows and Obedience Trials under the rules of the American Kennel Club;
 - (f) To encourage and promote the working qualities of Sealyham Terriers with Sealyham Digs.
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.
4. The members of the Club shall adopt from time to time and may revise such By-Laws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

American Sealyham Terrier Club By-Laws

Article I

Membership

1. Eligibility. There shall be five types of membership open to all persons who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of the Club.

(a) Regular Membership which shall be open to persons eighteen years of age and older who reside in the United States of America or Canada. A regular member shall be entitled to all privileges of the club and to one vote in its affairs.

(b) Regular Family Membership which shall be open to any two members of the same family and household who are eighteen years of age or older and who reside in the United States of America or Canada. Regular family members shall be entitled to all of the privileges of the Club and to have two votes in its affairs.

(c) Junior Membership, which shall be open to persons between the ages of ten and eighteen years. Junior members shall be entitled to all privileges of the Club except those of voting and holding office.

(d) Associate Membership, which shall be open to any person eighteen years of age or older, who is not a resident of the United States or Canada. An associate member shall be entitled to all of the privileges of the Club except those of voting and holding office.

(e) Honorary Membership, which shall be voted by the Board of Governors in recognition of contributions for the Sealyham Terrier or the American Sealyham Terrier Club. An honorary member shall be entitled to all of the privileges of the Club except those of voting and holding office. The number of Honorary Memberships shall not exceed 5 percent of the total membership at the time the recognition is approved. The honoree must be a member in good standing at the time of selection.

2. Dues. Membership dues shall be determined by the Board of Governors but shall not exceed:

Regular Membership - \$30.00 per year

Regular Family Membership - \$40.00 per year

Junior Membership - \$10.00 per year

Associate membership - \$15.00 per year

Dues shall be payable on or before the 1st day of January of each year. Members elected after June 30th in any year shall pay yearly dues of half the amount of the type of membership. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of November, the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year.

3. Election to Membership. Each candidate for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Governors and which shall provide that the candidate agrees to abide by these By-Laws and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The candidate shall state his/her name, address and occupation, and the application shall carry the endorsement of two members in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective members shall submit dues payment for the current year or half year.

Applicants may be elected by secret ballot at any meeting of the Board of Governors or by secret vote of the Governors by mail. Affirmative votes of 2/3 of the Governors present at a meeting of the Board or of 2/3 of the entire Board voting by mail shall be required to elect an applicant.

An application that has received a negative vote by the Board may be presented by one of the candidate's endorsers at the next Meeting of the Club and the Club may elect such candidate by favorable vote of 75 percent of the members present.

4. Termination of Membership. Membership 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 are considered a debt to the Club and they become incurred on the 1st 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 90 days after the 1st day of the fiscal year. However the Board may grant an additional 90 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 By-Laws.

Article II

Meetings

1. Annual Meeting. The Annual meeting of the Club shall be held in the month of October in conjunction with the Club's Specialty show, if possible, at a place, date and hour designated by the Board of Governors. Written notice of the annual meeting shall be mailed by the Corresponding Secretary to each member at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for the annual meeting shall be 10 percent of the regular members in good standing with a minimum of 15 such members.

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 at a meeting of the Board or who vote by mail and shall be called by the Corresponding Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by 10 percent of the members of the Club who are in good standing. Such meetings shall be held at such place, date and hour designated by the Board of Governors. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Corresponding Secretary at least 14 days and not more than 30 days prior to the meeting. The notice of the meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other club business may be transacted. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 10 percent of the regular members in good standing with a minimum of 15 such members.

3. Board Meetings. A meeting of the Board shall be held in conjunction with and immediately prior to the annual meeting and election. The first meeting of the new Board shall be held immediately following the annual meeting and election. Other meetings of the Board shall be held at such times and places as are designated by a majority vote of the entire Board. Written notice of such meetings shall be mailed by the Corresponding Secretary to each member of the Board at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for a Board meeting shall be a majority of the Board voting in person or by mail, fax or telephone.

4. The Board of Governors may conduct its business by mail, fax or telephone conference call through the Corresponding Secretary. Items voted on by telephone conference call must be confirmed in writing within 7 days.

Article III

Governors and Officers

1. Board of Governors. The board shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer all of whom shall be members in good standing who are residents of the United States, and all of whom shall be elected for one year terms at the Club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV, and shall serve until their successors are elected and assumed their offices. In addition, thereto, the Board shall consist of eight other members all of whom shall be regular members in good standing who are residents of the United States and four of whom shall be elected for two year terms at the Club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected and assume their offices.

2. Officers. The Club's 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 specified in these By-Laws.

(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 maintain the Club files, have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and Governors of their election to office and carry out such other duties as are prescribed by these By-Laws.

(d) The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all the votes taken by mail, of all matters in which a record shall be ordered by the Club, and keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these By-Laws.

(e) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the club. He/she shall deposit the same in a bank approved by the Board, in the name of the Club. His/her books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board and he/she shall report to them 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 he/she shall render an account of all monies received during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Governors shall determine.

(f) The delegate to the American Kennel Club, who may but need not be an officer or Governor, shall serve for a term of one year and until the credentials of his/her successor have been acted upon with approval by the Board of Directors of the American Kennel club, unless he/she has resigned or unless his/her appointment has been withdrawn.

3. Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the Officers during the year shall be filled until the next Annual Meeting by a majority vote of all the then members of the Board; except that a vacancy to the office of 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, Voting, Nominations, Elections

1. Club Year. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the Annual meeting. The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the last day of December. The elected Officers and Governors shall take office immediately upon conclusion of the Annual Meeting, and each retiring officer shall turn over to his/her successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 60 days after election. The Treasurer shall obtain an independent audit of the books immediately after the close of the fiscal year.

2. Voting. At the Annual Meeting or at a special meeting of the Club voting shall be limited to those regular members in good standing who are present at the meeting, except for the annual election of Officers, Delegate, and Governors, Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws and the Standard of the Breed, which shall be decided by written ballot cast by mail. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. The Board of Governors may decide to submit other specific questions for decision of the members by written ballot cast by mail.

3. Annual Election. At the Annual Meeting for the election the Officers, Governors and Delegate to the American Kennel Club the vote shall be conducted by mail ballot. Ballots to be valid must be received by the Recording Secretary 14 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Ballots shall be counted immediately prior to the Annual Meeting by those inspectors of election chosen by the nominee at the time of the meeting is unable to serve for any reason such nominee shall not

4. Nominations and Ballots. No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated in accordance with these By-Laws. A Nominating Committee shall be chosen by the Board of Governors before June 1st. The Committee shall consist of three members and two alternates, all regular members in good standing no more than one of whom may be a member of the current Board of Governors. The Board shall name a chairman for the committee. The Nominating Committee may conduct its business by mail or other form of communication. No person shall serve on consecutive Nominating Committees.

(a) The Nominating Committee shall nominate from among the eligible members in the Club, one candidate for each office and four candidates for the four other positions on the Board of Governors, candidates to fill any other vacancies and a candidate for the Delegate to the American Kennel Club and shall procure the acceptance of each nominee so chosen. The Committee shall then submit its slate of candidates to the Recording Secretary who shall mail the list to each member of the Club on or before July 1st, so that additional nominations may be made by the members if they so desire.

(b) Additional nominations of eligible members may be made by written petition addressed to the Recording Secretary at his/her regular address on or before August 1st signed by five regular members, indicating the position for which the nominee wishes to be a candidate, and accompanied by the written acceptance of each additional nominee signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate. Except for the position of Delegate no person shall be a candidate for more than one position. The additional nominations which are provided for herein shall be made only from those members not having accepted a nomination for the Nominating Committee.

(c) If no valid additional nominations are received by the Recording Secretary on or before August 1st, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the time of the Annual Meeting and no balloting will be required.

(d) If one or more valid additional nominations are received by the Recording Secretary on or before August 1st, he/she shall on or before September 1st, mail to each regular member in good standing a ballot listing all nominees for each contested position in alphabetical order. Together with a blank envelope and 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/her ballot shall seal it in the blank envelope addressed to the Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall at the designated time prior to the annual meeting deliver to the inspectors of elections the unopened return envelopes in alphabetical order complete with the membership roster. Counting of ballots shall begin at the designated time and shall continue without adjournment until completed. The inspectors of election shall check the returns against the list of regular 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. Results shall be sealed and returned to the Recording Secretary, who shall announce at the Annual Meeting the results of the election.

(e) Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than as provided above.

Article V

Committees

1. The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows, obedience trials, match 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.
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

1. **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.

2. Charges. Any member may prefer charges against another member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the Breed. Written charges with specification must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$10.00 which shall be forfeited if the charges are not sustained by the Board or a Committee 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 interests of the Club or the Breed. If the Board does consider the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or Breed 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, or a committee of not less than three (3) members of Board, not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Corresponding 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/her own defense and bring witnesses.

3. Board Hearing. The Board or Committee 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 or Committee may by majority vote of those present suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing, or until the next Annual Meeting if that will occur after six (6) months. 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/her fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting which considers the recommendation of the Board or Committee. Immediately after the Board or Committee 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 decision and penalty if any.

4. **Expulsion.** Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at the Annual meeting of the Club following a hearing and upon recommendation of the Board or Committee as provided in Section 2 of this Article. 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 findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his/her own behalf. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds vote of the regular members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted the suspension shall stand.

Article VII

Amendments

1. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws and to the Standard of the Breed may be proposed by the Board of Governors or by written petition addressed to the Recording Secretary signed by 20 percent of the regular membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Governors and must be submitted to the members with recommendation of the Board by the Recording Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.
2. The Constitution and By-Laws and the Standard of the Breed may be amended at any time provided a copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed by the Recording Secretary to each member.
3. No amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws or to the Standard of the Breed that is adopted by the Club shall become effective until it has been approved by the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club.

Article VIII

Dissolution

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds of the regular members. In the event of the dissolution of the Club whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the Club or any proceeds nor any asset 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 Governors.

Article IX

Order of Business

1. At the meetings of the club, the order of business so far as the character of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Corresponding Secretary
- Report of the Recording Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Unfinished Business
- Election of Officers and Board (at the Annual Meeting)
- New Business
- Adjournment

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

- Roll Call
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Corresponding Secretary
- Report of the Recording Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Unfinished Business
- Election of new members
- New Business
- Adjournment

Article X

Robert's Rules of Order

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 By-Laws and any other special rules of order the Club may adopt.

(Revised and Approved by the Membership and AKC – July 1994)