



Lone Star Schipperke Club, Inc.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Approved March 20, 2021

LONE STAR SCHIPPERKE CLUB, INC.
CONSTITUTION
Name and Objects

SECTION 1. The name of the Club shall be the Lone Star Schipperke Club, Inc.

SECTION 2. The objects of the Club shall be:

- (a.) To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of pure-bred Schipperkes and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- (b.) To require 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 Schipperkes shall be judged in the United States of America;
- (c.) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials, agility trials and any other event for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club;
- (d.) To conduct sanctioned and licensed Specialty Shows, Obedience Trials and any other event for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 3. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers, directors, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions on furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Constitution or in Article I of the Bylaws.

SECTION 4. The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such By-Laws as may be required to carry out these objects.

LONE STAR SCHIPPERKE CLUB, INC.
BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I - Membership

SECTION 1. Eligibility. There shall be five types of memberships open to all persons who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club who subscribe to the purposes of this Club and its Constitution and Bylaws.

While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the Club's primary purpose is to be representative of the breeders, exhibitors and fanciers in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex.

No person shall be denied membership for reasons of race, creed, sex or national origin.

- (a.) *Regular membership* shall be open to all persons 18 years of age and older.
- (b.) *Household membership* shall be open to two persons 18 years of age and older, residing in the same household. Household members shall each have a vote and shall each be eligible to hold office.
- (c.) *Junior membership* shall consist of individuals who meet the minimum age determined to be eligible for regular Junior Handling competition as determined by AKC, through 17 years of age. They shall be entitled to all the privileges of a Regular member except that they may not hold office or vote. Upon reaching his/her 18th birthday, a Junior member shall automatically become a Regular Member. Junior members do not count in determining a quorum.
- (d.) *Lifetime members* shall be exempt from dues but shall retain all other privileges of regular members. The Board of Directors, upon majority agreement, may elect to Lifetime Membership any member for their meritorious service to the Club.
- (e.) *Associate membership* shall consist of individuals interested in the Schipperke breed or full (Regular or Junior) members who do not wish to remain active. Associate members may not vote, hold office or serve on a committee, or be eligible for any club awards. An Associate member who was not previously a full member may apply for full membership after having been an associate member for two years. Associate members who have previously been full members may revert to full membership at any time by making application in the form of a letter of intent addressed to the Secretary and payment of the difference in dues. Associate members do not count in determining a quorum.

SECTION 2. Dues. Dues shall be set by the Board each year, not to exceed \$40.00 per year for Regular Membership, \$50.00 for Household Membership, \$20.00 for Junior Membership and \$20.00 for Associate 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 his dues for the ensuing year. Anyone being voted into the membership after August 31st, their dues shall be considered as paid for the following year. Dues shall be payable on or before the first day of January of each year.

SECTION 3. *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 the Constitution and By-Laws, and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of two members in good standing. 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 3/4 of the members present and voting at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant. Attendance by the applicant at one meeting of the Club is required before voting acceptance. 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.* 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 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 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 90 days 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 and Voting

SECTION 1. *Club meetings.* Meetings of the club shall be held in the greater Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex each month in person or via videoconferencing or teleconferencing at such hour and place as may be designated by the board. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed or emailed by the Secretary at least (10) ten days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be by a majority vote of the members in good standing present at any official Club meeting.

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, and shall be called by the 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 Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex area at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Notice of such a meeting shall be mailed or emailed by the Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than fifteen (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 there at. The quorum for such meetings shall be by a majority vote of the members in good standing present at any official Club meeting.

SECTION 3. *Board meetings.* Meetings may be in person or via videoconferencing or teleconferencing at such hour and place as may be designated by the board. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed or emailed by the Secretary at least (5) five days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board

SECTION 4. *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 (3) members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex area at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meetings. Meetings may be in person or via videoconferencing or teleconferencing at such hour and place as may be designated by the board. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed or emailed by the Secretary at least (5) five days and not more than (10) ten 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 5. *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.

SECTION 6. Minutes of all Regular meetings shall be sent to all members no more than three (3) weeks following each monthly meeting.

ARTICLE III - Directors and Officers

SECTION 1. *Board of Directors.* The Board shall be comprised of the officers and three (3) other members on this Board of Directors. At the inception of this Club these three (3) members shall be staggered as follows: that individual receiving the greatest number of votes shall serve for three (3) years; that individual receiving the second largest vote shall serve for two (2) years; that one receiving the third largest vote shall serve for one (1) year. Subsequently each year the new members elected to the Board shall serve for three (3) years. All Board of Director members shall be members in good standing. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. *Officers.* The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, 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 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 Secretary* shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. He shall have charge of 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 with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these By-Laws.

- (d.) *The Treasurer* shall collect and receive all moneys due to/or belonging to the Club. He shall deposit same in a bank designated by the Board in the name of the Club. His books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board and he shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported, and at the Annual Meeting he shall tender an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded if determined necessary in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.
- (e.) *Vacancies.* 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 of the then members of the Board at its first Regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a Special Board meeting called for that purpose. The term for this appointment shall last only until the next Annual Meeting at which time this vacancy shall be filled by the membership.
- (f.) The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person; in which case the Board shall be composed of the officers and 4 other persons.

SECTION 3. Officers and Directors will be elected as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their terms expire or until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE IV - The Club Year, Annual Meetings, Elections

SECTION 1. *Club Year.* The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the 31st day of December. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the Annual Meeting and shall continue through the election at the next Annual Meeting.

SECTION 2. *Annual Meeting.* The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of April at which Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected 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 his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within thirty (30) days after the election.

SECTION 3. *Elections.* The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The nominated candidate for the position on the Board who receives the greatest number of votes for such position shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4. *Nominations.* No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. During the month of December, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members and two (2) alternates, not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a chairman for the committee and it shall be his duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held on or before February first.

- (a.) The Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and one candidate for the other position on the Board (there shall be three (3) nominated for the first election for the Board of Directors) and after securing the consent of each person so nominated the Committee shall immediately report their nominations

to the Secretary in writing.

- (b.) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall, before February 15th, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- (c.) Additional nominations may be made at the March meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his willingness to be a candidate. No person maybe a candidate for more than one position, and the 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.
- (d.) 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 Specialty Shows, Obedience 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 objects.

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.* Any member who is suspended from any/all privileges of the American Kennel Club shall be automatically suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period.

SECTION 2. *Charges.* Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$10.00 which will 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 interests of the Club or the breed. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the 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 not less than 3 weeks nor 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.

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 suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) 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 recommendations, immediately after the Board 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 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 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 findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 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 1. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the 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 Secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

SECTION 2. The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 secret vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and sent by mail or email to each member at least two 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 unless otherwise prohibited by State Law.

ARTICLE IX - Order of Business

SECTION I. 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 the last meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of the Committees
- Election of Officers and Board (at 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 a majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- Reading of the minutes of the last meeting
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of the Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

ARTICLE X - Parliamentary Authority

SECTION 1. 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 bylaws and any other special rules of order the club may adopt.

Revised June 23, 2002
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