

**CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I**  
**Name and Objects**

**SECTION 1.** The name of the club shall be the Southern California Rat Terrier Club, heretofore referred to as SCRTC.

**SECTION 2.** The objects of the club shall be:

(a) To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Rat Terriers and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;

(b) 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 Rat Terriers shall be judged;

(c) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsman like competition at dog shows, obedience trials and agility trials;

(d) To conduct sanctioned matches, dog shows, obedience trials, agility trials, field trials, hunting tests, and any other event for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club.

(e) To support and promote study and research on the history, character, breeding, genetics and particular health problems of the Rat Terrier;

(f) To distribute to the general public educational materials about the proper care, treatment, breeding, health, development and training of Rat Terriers;

(g) To further understanding of diseases, defects, injuries and other ailments that afflict dogs in general and the Rat Terrier in particular.

**SECTION 3.** Non-Profit Status

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 4.** Revisions

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.

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I Membership

#### **Section 1, Membership Eligibility:**

There shall be seven (7) types of membership open to all persons who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this club. While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the club's primary purpose is to be representative of the breeders and exhibitors in the greater Ontario, California area comprised of the following geographical boundaries: Apple Valley on the North, Temecula on the South, Santa Monica on the West and Anza on the East.

#### Types of Membership

1. Regular (individual) - Regular members are entitled to all club privileges and are eligible to vote. Regular membership is open to all persons who are 18 years of age and older who qualify for membership, are in good standing with AKC and subscribe to the purposes of this club. Voting members who reside within the states of California, Arizona and Nevada may also serve as officers or directors of the club.
2. Regular Household - Two adult members residing in same household, each eligible to vote who are 18 years of age and older, qualify for membership, are in good standing with AKC and subscribe to the purposes of this club. Voting members who reside within the states of California, Arizona and Nevada may also serve as officers or directors of the club.
3. Associate - Members 18 years or older who qualify for membership, are in good standing with AKC and subscribe to the purposes of this club. Associate members are entitled to all club privileges except holding office and voting.
4. Associate Household - Two adult members residing in same household who are 18 years of age and older, qualify for membership, are in good standing with AKC and subscribe to the purposes of this club.
5. Junior - Open to children under 18 years of age; a non-voting/non office holding membership which may automatically convert to regular or associate membership at the age of 18.
6. Honorary Membership, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, may be awarded to those persons who have displayed significant service benefiting the Club's objectives. An Honorary member's approval is required. An Honorary member pays no dues, has no vote and has no obligations or responsibilities of a member in good standing of the club.
7. Life - For those individuals who have been members for a period of 20 years; Life members pay no dues but are eligible to vote and hold office if they reside in the Southern California counties listed in Section 1 on these Bylaws.

#### **SECTION 2. Dues**

Member in good standing shall be defined as a member who has paid dues for the current year and any and all financial obligations due this Club and who is not currently subject to any disciplinary action by AKC or this Club. Dues shall be payable on or before the 1st day of January of each year. Regular Voting Membership dues shall be \$25.00 per year; Household Voting Membership dues shall be \$35.00 per year; Associate Membership dues shall be \$20.00 per year; Associate Household Membership dues shall be \$25.00; Junior Membership dues shall be \$5.00 per year. 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. In regards to

new members, those who pay dues after September 1st will be approved for membership for the following year and not need to pay again in December. Anyone paying before September 1st will be considered as a member being paid for that entire year and given all information on the Club's business for that year in which they paid; they also are entitled to every right of their membership including voting for new officers. Members paying before September 1st will be required to renew their dues for the following year by January 1st. Dues for voting membership shall not exceed \$45.00; dues for voting household membership shall not exceed \$50.00; dues for associate membership shall not exceed \$35.00; dues for associate households shall not exceed \$40.00 and dues for junior membership shall not exceed \$15.00, without amendment to these Bylaws.

### **SECTION 3. Membership Requirements.**

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 Bylaws 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. If the preceding requirements are met, the membership is granted.

### **SECTION 4. Termination of Membership.**

Memberships may be terminated:

(a) by death or 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. Obligations other than dues are considered a debt to the club and must be paid in full prior to resignation;

(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 1. Electronic Member Notification**

Members and Board members may be notified of meetings, receive SCRTC notices, dues notices or minutes via email provided the member or Board member has signed an authorization agreeing to this method of communication. Such authorization, which is revocable, will also release the SCRTC from liability should the notification be received late or not received by the member or Board member due to circumstances beyond the SCRTC's control.

### **SECTION 2. Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Club shall take place in the month of December at a place, date and

hour determined by the Board of Directors. Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to each member at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for the Annual Meeting shall be 20% of the voting members in good standing. If the quorum for the Annual Meeting is less than 20% of the voting members in good standing and a motion is made at the Annual Meeting on which a vote is taken, the motion will be included in the next club meeting minutes for a vote of the membership at the next scheduled meeting where a quorum is present.

### **SECTION 3. Club Meetings.**

Meetings of the Club shall be held six times per year in the greater Ontario, California area at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Notice of each such meeting shall be sent to each member by mail or electronic transmission by the Secretary at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting. Notice of said meeting shall also be posted on the Club's website. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20% of the voting members in good standing.

### **SECTION 4. 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 members of the Club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Ontario, California 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 sent by mail or electronic transmission 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 meetings, and no other Club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the voting members in good standing.

### **SECTION 5. Board Meetings.**

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least six times per year within the greater Ontario, California area or via telephone conference call or via video conference at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be sent by mail or electronic transmission by the Secretary at least five days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board voting in person or by mail/electronic correspondence.

### **SECTION 6. 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 the greater Ontario, California area at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be sent by mail or electronic transmission by the Secretary at least five 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. The quorum for such a meeting shall be the majority of the Board.

### **SECTION 7. Conduct of Business.**

The SCRTC's Board of Directors may conduct any and all of its business in person, by mail, facsimile transmission, and electronic process or by telephone conference call by the President. This includes electronic transmission of signatures via fax or e-mail. The results of balloting by conference call shall be attested to by the Secretary. In the event that the Secretary is unavailable, the President shall appoint an acting secretary for the conference call. As a condition precedent to the conduct of business through electronic process, the club shall adopt procedures, to ensure the following with respect to the conduct of such business:

(a) Every SCRTC Board of Directors member shall be enabled to participate in the electronic conduct of such business;

(b) The verification of the identity of the participants in such electronic conduct of such business.

**SECTION 8. Voting.**

All eligible voting members in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote at any General and Annual meeting of the club at which he/she is present in person.

**ARTICLE III  
Directors and Officers**

**SECTION 1. Board of Directors.**

The board shall be comprised of the officers and a minimum of three other persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing and live within the states of California, Arizona and Nevada.

Section 1 Eligibility. The Secretary and one Board member shall be elected for two-year terms. All other officers and additional Board members shall be elected for one-year terms. The election of officers shall occur as provided in Article IV and elected officers shall serve until their successors are elected and take office on January 1. 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 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 Secretary shall make and preserve the records of all meetings of the Club and of Board and of all votes taken by mail, phone, facsimile or electronic means, and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. He/She shall record minutes of Club meetings and the annual meeting or any special meetings and shall assist in the preparation of such records as are necessary for conduct of the Club's business. He/She shall receive applications

for Active Membership and shall notify all new members of their active membership status.

(d) The Treasurer shall in formation of this club create and open a bank account in the name of the club as approved by the board in which he/she shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Club and deposit into said bank account. The Treasurer's books and Bank statements shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board and he/she 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 the Treasurer shall render an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer in conjunction with the secretary shall maintain a roll of members of the Club, along with their addresses. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.

(e) Two signatures will be required on all bank accounts in the name of the club. (f) The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.

**SECTION 3.** One (1) or more persons may be appointed by the Board of Directors to assist the officers listed above in the performance of their duties.

**SECTION 4. 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 the 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; except that a vacancy in 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, Annual Meeting, Elections**

**SECTION 1. Club Year.**

The club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December.

**Section 2, Annual Meeting.**

The annual meeting shall be held in the greater Ontario, California area, in December, at a place, date and hour determined by the Board of Directors. The Secretary will send out notification of said event at least 30 days prior. Newly elected officers shall be announced and said officers will take office immediately upon the conclusion of the meeting 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 annual meeting.

**SECTION 3. Elections.**

The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office 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 June, the Board of Directors shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board of Directors. The

Secretary shall immediately notify the committee members and alternates of their selection. The Board of Directors shall name a chairman for the committee and it shall be a such a person's duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held on or before July 30th.

(a) The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and positions on the Board and, after securing the consent of each person so nominate, shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing.

(b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall, at least two weeks before the last General meeting of the year, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.

(c) Additional nominations may be made at the last General meeting of the year, held in October, 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 candidate shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position

(d) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

(e) Any person accepting the nomination to serve as an officer or director must agree to attend Board meetings via video conference or audio conference unless excused for good cause.

(f) If there is more then one candidate nominated for any office or director position, a ballot shall be made available to all voting members in good standing no later then November 15<sup>th</sup>. Said ballot can be a mail ballot or an electronic ballot so long as confidentiality is maintained during the voting process.

(g) No current officer or director of the club shall be in control of the election if said officer or director is on the ballot.

## **ARTICLE V Committees**

### **SECTION 1.**

The board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the club in such matters as dog 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 projects.

### **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 of the privileges of The American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of SCRTC for a like period.

### **SECTION 2. Charges.**

An individual member may prefer charges against another individual member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$100.00, 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 interests of the club. If the board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the club, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date for a hearing by the board not less than three weeks or more than six weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges and the specifications 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 if he/she wishes.

### **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 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 is 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 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/her 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/her own behalf if he/she wishes. The members shall then vote by secret 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 bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by 20 percent 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 petition was received by the Secretary.

### **SECTION 2.**

The constitution and bylaws may be amended by electronic ballot vote by voting members in good standing. The Proposed Amendments to Bylaws shall be provided to the entire membership for review for a period of 14 days. At the end of the 14 days, voting members in good standing will be provided with a link to the electronic voting ballot. The ballot will be available to vote upon for a period of 7 days. All electronic voting shall be conducted in such a manner to maintain absolute confidentiality of members participating in the vote.

## **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 of directors.

## **ARTICLE IX Order of Business**

### **SECTION 1. Meetings of the SCRTC.**

The order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

Roll Call

Minutes of last meeting, read and approved. Report of President

Report of Secretary Report of Treasurer Reports of 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 majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

Reading of minutes of last meeting, read and approved

Report of Secretary

Report of Treasurer

Auditors Report. There shall be an annual audit of the Treasurer's records by two Board members that are not signatures to the bank account.

Reports of 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.