Three Rivers Kennel Club of Missouri

**Constitution**

*ARTICLE I – NAME AND OBJECTIVES*

SECTION 1: The name of the club shall be Three Rivers Kennel Club of Missouri.

SECTION 2:

The Objectives of the club shall be:

1. To Encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred

 dogs and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to

 perfection;

1. To urge members and breeders to accept the standards of the

 breeds as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only

 standards of excellence by which purebred dogs shall be judged;

1. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the

 breeds by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows

 and obedience trails;

1. To conduct sanctioned and licensed all breed shows and

 obedience trials under the rules of the American Kennel Club.

SECTION 3:

The club shall not be operated or conducted for profit and no part of any profits or remainder from dues or donations to the club shall inure to the benefit of any individual or member or groups.

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 objectives.

**THREE RIVERS KENNEL CLUB OF MISSOURI**

**BY-LAWS**

*ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP*

SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP. Membership shall be open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing with the

American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of the club.

There will also be junior membership for those persons between eight and eighteen years of age. Junior membership shall carry with it all the rights and privileges of regular membership except the right to vote and hold office.

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

SECTION 2: DUES: Membership dues for persons over eighteen years of age shall be $10 dollars per year per individual. Junior membership shall be $2.00 per year. Dues are payable on or before the first day of January of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year.

During the month of November the recording secretary shall send to

each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing year.

.

Section 3: ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP. Candidates for membership must attend at least two club meetings to be eligible to apply for membership. Each applicant shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors

and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this 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 who are not related to each other. Accompanying the application, the prospective members shall submit dues payment for the current year. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the club may not re-apply within six months after such rejection.

All applications are to be filed with the membership chairman. The application will then be read at the first club meeting following its receipt. At the next club meeting the application will again be read. The applicant must be present at both the first and the second readings and willing to answer any reasonable questions put to them by the voting membership. At least one of the applicants’ sponsors must be present at the second reading to speak on the applicants behalf. The meeting shall then be closed to all except the voting members for discussion and consideration of the membership application. Voting will be done by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote is required to elect the applicant.

SECTION 4: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

Membership may be terminated:

1. By resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the

 club upon written notice to the Corresponding Secretary; but no

 member may resign when in debt to the club.

1. 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 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. A lapsed membership will not excuse any debts owed

 to the club.

1. By Expulsion: A member 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 St. Louis area on the first Thursday of January, February, March, April, May, September, October, November and December at such an hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Monthly meetings may be virtual when weather, pandemics or other conditions make it in the best interest of the members. Board Meetings will be held as needed. All Club and Board meetings are to be held in the greater Saint Louis area.

Members will receive written notice of each such meeting by the recording secretary at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meeting shall be 20% of the voting members in good standing. All meetings shall be conducted using Roberts Rules of Order.

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 of Directors who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors, and shall be called by the President upon receipt of a petition signed by five members of the club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held within the greater St. Louis area at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized to call such meetings. Members will receive written notice of such a meeting by the recording secretary at least five days and not more than fifteen days prior to the date of the meeting, and no other club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be twenty percent (20%) of the members in good standing.

Section 3- BOARD MEETINGS: Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be virtual or at a location in the greater St. Louis area as needed. Members will receive written notice of each such meeting by the Recording Secretary at least 5 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. SPECIAL BOARD MEETING. Special meetings of the Board may be called at the President’s discretion or by the President upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the president. In case of a special Board meetings called by three members, the meeting must be held within two weeks from receipt of the request.

Board members shall be notified in writing at least five days prior to the date of the meeting by the Recording Secretary. 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 and has attended not less than four business meetings in the prior 12 month period shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the club at which he or she is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted. For any new members, required voting attendance will begin with their first reading and applied subject to their application.

*ARTICLE III – DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS*

SECTION 1 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary,

Treasurer, and four other persons all of whom shall be members in good

standing and all of whom shall be elected for two year terms at the club’s annual meeting as provided in Article IV. General management of the club’s

affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. OFFICERS. The clubs officers, consisting of the President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the club and its meetings and the Board and its meetings.

1. 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.

1. The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the

power of the President in the case of the President’s absence, death or incapacity.

1. The Recording Secretary is the custodian of all the club records

except those specifically assigned to others. In addition to keeping the minutes of all meetings, he/she shall keep a roster of the members of the club with their addresses and telephone numbers; notify officers, committees and delegates of their appointments and shall cause proper notices to be made for all called meetings.

1. The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of the club

correspondence, notify new members of their election to the membership and carry out such other duties are prescribed in these by-laws.

(E) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging

 to the club. He shall deposit the 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/she shall report to them at every

 meeting the condition of the club’s finances and every item of

 receipt of payment not before reported, and at the first business

 meeting each year he shall render an account of all monies received

 and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall

 bring a bank statement to the first business meeting each year. The

 Treasurer is responsible for maintaining the club’s nonprofit status in

 the state of Missouri and for filing the club’s tax return each year.

’

SECTION 3 - VACANCIES.

Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the officers during the year shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a majority vote of all 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; except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President, and the resulting vacancy in the office Vice-President shall be filled by the Board.

*ARTICLE IV – THE CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS*

SECTION 1 – CLUB YEAR. The club’s fiscal and official year shall coincide with the calendar year

.

SECTION 2 – ANNUAL MEETING. The annual meeting shall be held in the month of November at which officers and directors whose terms are expiring , shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this article. They shall take office January 1, and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office prior to January 1.

SECTION 3 – ELECTIONS. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The two nominated candidates for other position on the Board who receive the greatest

number of votes for such positions on the Board shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4 – NOMINATIONS. No person may be a candidate in the club election who has not been nominated. No person may be nominated who is not a member in good standing and has not attended at least four business

meetings in twelve month period prior to the election. During the month of

August, the Board shall select a nominating committee consisting of three members and two alternates, no more than one of whom may be a member of the Board. The Recording Secretary shall immediately notify the committee and alternates of the 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 September 15.

1. The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office or

 Board position, whose term is expiring, after securing the consent

 of each person so nominated, shall immediately report

 their nominations to the Recording Secretary in writing.

1. Upon receipt of the nominating committee’s report, the Recording

 Secretary shall notify each member in writing of the candidates so

 nominated. Such notification shall be made before October 1.

1. Additional nominations may be made at the October meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated accepts when his name is proposed or if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, a written statement shall be presented signifying their willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one office.
2. Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any

 manner other than as provided in this section.

*ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES*

SECTION 1: Each year the Board shall appoint such committees as are needed to advance the work of the club in such matters as all-breed shows, obedience trials, field trials, trophies, annual awards, membership

and other areas which will be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to final approval and authority of the Board.

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.

*ARTICLE VI – DISCIPLINE*

SECTION 1 - AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB SUSPENSION. Any member who is suspended from privileges of the American Kennel Club automatically shall be 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 interest of the club.

Written charges with specification must be filed in duplicate with the

Recording Secretary together with a deposit of $50.00 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the board following a hearing. The Recording 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 of a hearing by the Board not less than three weeks or more than six weeks thereafter. The Recording Secretary shall promptly send a 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 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 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 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 defendants 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 findings shall be put in the written form and filed with the recording secretary.

The Recording 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 sixty days but not earlier than thirty days after the date of the Board’s recommendation. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf though no evidence shall be taken at the 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 vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A vote of two-thirds 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 the Directors or by written petition presented to the Recording Secretary and signed by twenty per cent of the membership in good standing.

Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly consider by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the members with the recommendation of the Board, for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Recording Secretary

.

SECTION 2-

The constitution and by-laws may be amended by two-thirds 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 mailed to each member at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII- DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1. DISSOLUTION. 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 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. At meetings of the club, the order of business so far as the charter and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

Minutes of the last meeting

Announcements

Report of the President

Report of Recording Secretary

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Report of the Treasurer

Report of Committees

Unfinished Business

New Business

Election of Officers and Board (Annual Meeting)

Election of New Members

Adjournment

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

Minutes of the last meeting

Report of Recording Secretary

Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Report of the Treasurer

Report of Committees

Unfinished Business

New Business

Adjournment