

Constitution Article I  
Name and Objects

**SAMPLE ONLY**

Section 1. The name of the club shall be \_\_\_\_\_

Section 2. The objects of the club shall be to:

- A) further the advancement of all coonhounds.
- B) do all in it's power to protect and advance the interests of Coonhound events and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at such events.
- C) conduct Coonhound events under the rules and regulations of The American Kennel Club.

Section 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.

Section 4. The members of the club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out these objects.

Bylaws  
Article I  
Membership

Section 1. *Eligibility.* There shall be one type of membership open to all persons 18 years of age and older who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this club.

While membership is to unrestricted as to residents the club's primary purpose it to be representative of the breeders and exhibitors in it's immediate area.

Section 2. *Dues.* Membership dues shall not exceed ..... per year, payable on or before the first day of ( ) each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year.

Section 3. Memberships may be terminated either by resignation or expulsion.

Article II  
Meetings and Voting

Section 1. The annual meeting of the club shall be held in the month of ( ) at a place, date and hour designated by the board of directors. Written notice of the annual meeting shall be mailed by the secretary to each member at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for the meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

Section 2. *Board Meetings.* Meetings of the board of directors shall be held in ..... (or within the greater ..... 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 5 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum of such a meeting shall be a majority of the board.

Section 3 *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

**SAMPLE ONLY**

Section 1. *Board of Directors.* The board shall be comprised of the officers and ( ) other persons all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for 1 year terms at the club's annual meeting and shall serve until their successors are elected. 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 it's meetings and the board and it's meetings.

Section 2. *Annual meeting.* The annual meeting shall be held in the month of ( ), at which the officers and directors for the ensuing year shall be elected. 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 after the election.

Section 3. *Elections.* The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The ( ) nominated candidates for other positions on the board who received the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

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 all the then members of the board at it's first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy; 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.

Section 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 alike.

Section 2. *Charges.* Any member may prefer charges against a 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 the deposit of \$..... 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 concludes 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 3 weeks nor more than 6 weeks thereafter. The secretary shall promptly send 1 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 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 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 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 defendants right to appear before his/her fellow members at the ensuing club meeting which considers the board's recommendation. Immediately after the board has reached a decision, it's finding shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the boards 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 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 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 two-thirds vote of those present in voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the board's suspension shall stand.

Article V  
Amendments

**SAMPLE ONLY**

Section 1. Amendment to the constitution and bylaws 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 3 months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

Section 2. The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present in voting at a meeting provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

Article VI  
Dissolution

Section 1. 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 elected by the board of directors.

Article VII  
Order of Business

Section 1. At meetings of the club and meetings of the board of directors the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Club Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date