

WOLVERINE DOG TRAINING CLUB

CONSTITUTION

Article I – NAME

The name of the club shall be the "Wolverine Dog Training Club".

Article II -- OBJECTS

The objects of this Club shall be:

- a. To promote and further public interest in the obedience training of all dogs, of all breeds - whether pet, companion or show and to support and encourage responsible dog ownership.
- b. To encourage adherence to high standards of conduct and to the rules and regulations set forth by the American, Canadian and United Kennel Clubs.
- c. To support and encourage the participation and sportsmanlike competition at all obedience trials, agility trials, rally dog shows, and fun matches.

Article III -- NON-PROFIT

The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or residue from dues or donations to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual. Upon dissolution, the net assets of the Club shall be distributed to one or more organizations, to be selected by the members of the Club at the time of dissolution, as follows:

- a. The cash assets shall be distributed to organizations conducting veterinary research (such as Cornell University, Michigan State University) or canine public service organizations (such as Dogs For The Deaf, Leader Dogs For The Blind).
- b. The personal property (training equipment) shall be distributed to non-profit organizations conducting public education in dog obedience training (such as 4H Clubs).

Article IV -- BY-LAWS

The members shall adopt and may from time to time revise such by-laws as may be required to carry out these objects.

Constitution Adopted: March 1, 1957

Amended: January 1, 1974

Amended: January 1, 1977

Revised: December 5, 1979

Amended: June 10, 1987 (To agree with the "Articles Of Incorporation" on file with the State of Michigan.)

Amended: December 1, 2005

BY-LAWS

Article I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ELIGIBILITY

There shall be four types of membership:

1. Associate Membership:
 1. Open to all persons who are in their third month or later of training and are sponsored by an “active” Club Member. Application voted on at a General Membership Meeting.
 2. Submission of an Application for Associate Membership is required, per individual.
2. Senior Membership:

Open to Associate members upon written application and fulfillment of the following:

 1. Six months of continuous “active” Associate Membership.
 2. a. Completion of a performance title (either with WDTC or otherwise).
OR
b. Exceptions require written sponsorship from an active Senior/Life Member.
 3. Submission of an Application for Senior Membership is required, per individual.
3. Life Membership:

Open to Senior members upon written application and the fulfillment of the following:

 1. Five years of continuous “active” Senior membership.
 2. a. Completion of either one full year as an officer of the Club or one full year as a trainer (not including apprenticeship)
OR
b. Three years of service as committee chairs, committee member or trainer (not including apprenticeship) or any combination thereof.
 3. Submission of an Application for Life Membership is required, per individual.
4. Auxiliary Membership:
 1. Open to a household member of a present “active” Associate, Senior or Life Member. This person is not training a dog, but, if at any time, this member starts training a dog with this Club, the membership shall be automatically changed to Associate.
 2. Submission of an Application For Membership (equivalent to Associate) is required, per individual.
5. New members shall be considered “active” at the time of membership approval.

Section 2. ELECTION TO SENIOR MEMBERSHIP

- a. An applicant for Senior Membership shall supply the following information to the Club:
 1. Name of applicant, address and phone number.
 2. Registered name of dog, call name of dog, and breed of dog.
 3. Documentation of the Performance Title or written sponsorship from a Senior/Life Member.
- b. The application shall be submitted to the Vice-President.
- c. Applicants can only be elected to Senior Membership at a general membership meeting.
- d. Affirmative votes of 2/3's of the Senior and Life members present at the Meeting shall be required for election to Senior Membership.

Section 3. PRIVILEGES, RESPONSIBILITIES and DEFINITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

- a. Associate Membership:
 - 1. Annual Membership Dues
 - 2. Reduced training fees per session
 - 3. May vote at General Membership Meetings.
 - 4. May not hold office.
 - 5. May serve on any committee.

- b. Senior Membership:
 - 1. Annual Membership Dues
 - 2. Reduced training fees per session
 - 3. May vote at General Membership meetings
 - 4. May hold an office.
 - 5. May serve on any committee.

- c. Life Membership:
 - 1. One training fee for life.
 - 2. All of the privileges of Senior Membership.
 - 3. No Annual Membership Dues

- d. Auxiliary Membership:
 - 1. Annual Membership Fee
 - 2. Pays no training fees
 - 3. May vote at General Membership meetings if membership is "active".
 - 4. May not hold office.
 - 5. May serve on any committee.

- e. Definition of "Active" Membership
 - 1. All applicable Dues and Fees must be paid.
 - 2. Must attend at least 50% of the meetings during the preceding 12 months or from the date of membership approval for new members of less than 12 months. Substantial service to the Club, such as being a trainer or phone caller may substitute for meeting attendance.
 - 3. Must provide service to the club at one or more club functions.
 - 4. Any Associate, Auxiliary, Senior or Life Member whose membership becomes "non-active" returns to "active" status after payment of any appropriate dues and training fees and attending one additional business meeting. (*Exceptions to be voted upon by the general membership.*)

Section 4. TRAINING PRIVILEGES and RESPONSIBILITIES for Members & Non-Members

- a. Individuals enrolled in training must be 14 years old or older and physically able to restrain their dog. Exceptions to be voted upon by the Training Director and the trainers.

- b. The Club shall have no liability for any damages incurred to persons, animals, or property. Waivers must be signed by all individuals enrolling in the training classes.

- c. An Associate Member is entitled to pay a reduced fee. (See Section 5.)

- d. A Senior Member is entitled to pay a reduced fee for training. (See Section 5.)

- e. A Life Member is entitled to train without paying any fees. (See Section 5.)

- f. Responsibilities for all individuals: All dogs shall be inoculated against DHLPP and rabies.

Note: The Training Director or class instructor may request verification of the above at any time. Bordatella vaccines (for kennel cough) are highly encouraged.

Section 5. DUES and FEES

a. TRAINING FEES:

1. All Training Fees are determined by a vote of the Trainers based upon recommendations from a 2/3's vote at a Trainers Meeting.
2. Where applicable, prorating of Fees may apply. See current Fee List.

b. Non-members:

1. Initial Training Fee followed by Session Fees.
2. Session Fees are payable on or before the first class of each session.
3. Where applicable, prorating of Fees may apply. See current Fee List.

c. Associate Members:

1. Initiation Fee shall be \$25.00 per individual (refundable if membership is denied).
2. Annual Dues of \$25.00. (Initiation Fee will count as dues for the year if membership accepted.)
3. Annual Dues shall be payable by the end of the 1st Quarter of the calendar year.
4. Session Training Fees shall be about 20% less than non-member fees and payable on or before the first class of each session. See current Fee List.

d. Senior Members:

1. Annual Dues of \$50.00.
2. Annual Dues shall be payable by the end of the 1st Quarter of the calendar year.
3. Session Training Fees shall be about 50% less than non-member fees and payable on or before the first class of each session. See current Fee List.

e. Life Members:

1. One Time Individual Fee of \$100.00 shall be payable at the time of application for Life Membership.
2. No Training Fees except for Special Classes or Events

f. Auxiliary Members:

1. Initiation Fee shall be \$25.00 per individual (refundable if membership is denied).
2. Annual Dues of \$5.00. (Initiation Fee will count as dues for the year if membership accepted.)
3. No Training Fee since not training a dog.

g. Trainers Fee:

Trainers shall consult with the Training Director concerning any fees for classes, if appropriate.

h. Special Classes or Events

1. Fees for Special Classes or Events will be determined by the Trainers.
2. All Members are subject to payment, including Life Members.

i. Re-Instatement Fee:

1. The Re-Instatement Fee for terminated members is payable at the same time as the request for membership re-activation.
2. The Re-Instatement Fee is equivalent to the Annual Dues for the membership level.
3. Refundable if the request is denied.

Section 6. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- a. A Leave Of Absence will be granted upon written request which must be submitted to the Club.
- b. The request will be presented and voted upon at a General Membership Meeting.
- c. All Fees and Debts to the Club must be cleared in order for the leave to be granted.
- d. If the leave is granted by the Club
 1. The Re-Instatement Fee will be waived.
 2. All Fees which would have accrued during the leave are waived.

Section 7. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- a. 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.
- b. By Lapsing: Any member whose membership status has been "non-active" for one full year shall be considered as lapsed and may be terminated unless a Leave Of Absence has been granted by the Club.
- c. By Expulsion: Any member may be expelled by a 2/3's vote of the "active" members present at a Club Meeting after a "hearing". (See Article VI, Sections 2 & 3).

Section 8. RE-INSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

- a. After a Termination Of Membership, a written request accompanied by the Re-Instatement Fee, must be submitted to the Club and voted upon by the General Membership. An affirmative vote of 2/3's of the "active" members present at the General Membership Meeting shall re-instate a membership. If membership is denied, the Re-Instatement Fee shall be refunded.
- b. After a Termination Of Membership, the re-instated member shall be considered "non-active" until such time as they have
 - 1. Paid any applicable Training Fees, and
 - 2. Attended an additional Business meeting
- c. After a Leave Of Absence, the re-instated member shall be considered "non-active" until they have paid any applicable prorated Training Fees for the current session.
- d. The level of membership remains the same when an individual is re-instated. (i.e., Associate remains Associate; Senior remains Senior; and Life remains Life.)

Article II -- MEETINGS

Section 1. ANNUAL MEETING

- a. The Annual Meeting of the Club shall be held in November.
- b. The Quorum for the Annual Membership Meeting shall be two officers and three additional "active" Senior and/or Life Members.
- c. The Election of Officers for the next year shall occur at this meeting.

Section 2. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- a. General Membership Meetings shall be held during the first week of each month, if possible.
- b. The Quorum for a General Membership Meeting shall be two officers and three additional "active" Senior and/or Life Members.

Section 3. TRAINERS MEETINGS

- a. Trainers Meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Training Director.

Section 4. SPECIAL MEETINGS

- a. Special Club Meetings shall be called by:
 - 1. The President; or
 - 2. A majority vote of the "active" Senior and Life Members present at a General Membership Meeting; or
 - 3. The Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the "active" Senior and Life Members.
- b. Such a meeting shall be held within thirty (30) days.
- c. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Corresponding Secretary to all "active"

Members at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

- d. The notice of the meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other Club business may be transacted.
- e. The Quorum for such a meeting shall be two officers and an additional twenty percent (20%) of the "active" Senior and Life Members.
- f. All "active" Members (all levels) are eligible to vote.

Article III -- OFFICERS

Section 1. OFFICERS AND DUTIES

The Club officers shall consist of the President, Training Director, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall serve in their respective capacities with regard to the Club and its meetings.

- a. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club 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 Training Director shall appoint Trainers and Training Assistants and shall have charge of all training activities of the Club.
- c. The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in the case of the President's death, absence or incapacity. This person shall maintain all membership records and show scores/results required for Club presentations.
- d. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of all votes taken. This person shall keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, conduct a Roll Call at all Club meetings, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these By-Laws.
- e. The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of all the correspondence of the Club and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these By-Laws.
- f. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club. This person shall deposit the same in a bank in the name of the Club. The books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Club and the Treasurer shall report at every meeting of the Club the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported. All checks drawn on the Club account are to be signed by the authorized signers, for example, the Treasurer, or Corresponding Secretary. No expenditures may be contracted from the treasury without a majority vote of the members present at the meeting, exceptions are monthly operating expenses (rental, phone, etc.).

Section 2. UNIQUENESS

No member may hold more than one elected office during any one fiscal year.

Section 3. VACANCIES

Any vacancies occurring among the officers during the year shall be filled until the next election by a majority vote of the members present at a General Membership Meeting; except that a vacancy in the office of president shall automatically be filled by the Vice-President and the resulting vacancy in the office of vice-president shall be filled by a vote.

Article IV -- VOTING and ELECTIONS

Section 1. CLUB YEAR

The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December.

Section 2. VOTING

At the Annual Meeting and General Membership Meetings, all members who are present at the meeting are eligible to vote.

Section 3. ANNUAL ELECTIONS

The election of officers shall be conducted at the Annual Meeting and nominees shall be limited to "active" Senior/Life members only. Primary balloting shall take place when two or more candidates have been nominated for any one office. In the event that only one candidate is nominated for an office, they shall be declared elected, and no further balloting will be required. The order for the offices shall follow the order listed under Article III, Section 1.

Section 4. ELECTED TERMS

Terms of all elected offices shall correspond with the Club Year.

Article V -- COMMITTEES

Section 1. REASON FOR COMMITTEES

The President may appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as membership, dog shows, publications, education and other fields which may well be served by a committee. Special committees may also be established for special projects.

Section 2. DURATION

All appointments shall correspond to the Club Year unless terminated by the President.

Section 3. CURRENT STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Banquet
- b. "Brag" Editor
- c. Historian
- d. Legal
- e. Phone Callers
- f. Property
- g. Refreshments
- h. Show Chairman
- i. Trophies

Section 4. ANNUAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Annual Audit must be completed by the 31st day of December and consist of at least three Senior and/or Life Members.

Article VI -- DISCIPLINE

Section 1. KENNEL CLUB SUSPENSION

Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the Kennel Club (American, Canadian, United or States) shall automatically 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 interests of the Club. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Recording Secretary together with a deposit of \$10.00 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the membership following a hearing. The Recording Secretary shall notify the President to set a date for the hearing of not less than three weeks or more than six 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 own defense and bring witnesses if he wishes.

Section 3. HEARING and PUNISHMENT

Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by the complainant and the defendant, the "active" members present at this hearing may by a majority vote suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. If the membership deems that punishment insufficient, they may vote for expulsion, by secret written ballot. A 2/3's vote of those present and voting shall be necessary for expulsion.

Note: A "hearing" is considered a "Special Meeting" and the procedures set forth in Article II, Section 4 shall be followed.

Article VII -- AMENDMENTS

Section 1. WRITTEN PETITION

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by written petition signed by twenty percent (20%) of the "active" members. Amendments proposed by such a petition shall be voted upon within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Recording Secretary.

Section 2. METHOD and VOTE

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any time provided a copy of the proposed amendment and the date of the meeting have been mailed to each "active" member. The favorable vote of 2/3's of the "active" members present at the meeting shall be required to effect any such amendment.

Article VIII -- ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. ORDER

At the 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 of "active" members
- Minutes of last meeting
- Report of President
- Report of Treasurer
- Report of Training Director
- Report of Recording Secretary
- Report of Corresponding Secretary
- Report of Vice-President
- Report of Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

Section 2. RULES

Roberts Rules of Order shall be supported at all Club Meetings.

By-Laws Adopted March 1, 1957
Amended January 1, 1974
Amended January 1, 1977
Revised December 5, 1979
Amended February 1, 1982
Amended June 5, 1985
Amended February 4, 1987
Amended June 10, 1987
Amended June 1, 1988
Amended November 5, 1997
Amended December 1, 2005
Amended November 1, 2006