

BULL TERRIER CLUB OF TAMPA BAY  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Section 1:

The name of the club shall be the Bull Terrier Club of Tampa Bay, Inc.

Section 2:

The objectives of the club shall be:

- a) To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Bull Terriers and to do all possible to bring the 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 Bull Terriers shall be judged;
- c) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog show, obedience trials and other events under the auspices of The American Kennel Club;
- d) To do all in its power to oppose and prevent all forms of cruelty and inhumane practices toward dogs;
- e) To promote friendship and cooperation among members, breeders and exhibitors of Bull Terriers, and to encourage and assist them in every possible way for the benefit of the breed; and
- f) To aid in the passage of favorable and just legislation for the health and welfare of Bull Terriers.

Section 3:

As a matter of policy, the club stands absolutely opposed to dog fighting and any activities related thereto, such as participating in, or breeding, training, buying and/or selling dogs for the purpose of fighting. Strict adherence to this policy is required to be eligible for membership or to remain a member in good standing of the club.

Section 4:

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

#### Section 5:

The members of the club shall adopt and may, from time to time, revise such by-laws as may be necessary to carry out these objectives.

#### Section 6

The Club may utilize e-mail for communication as required by the constitution in accordance with AKC policy which reads: *"Clubs may send members notifications of club meetings (also included would be dues notices, minutes and newsletters) and board members notification of board meeting via email, provided that: The member or board member has signed an authorization agreeing to this method of communication. Such authorization, which is revocable, will also release the club from any liability should the notification be received late or not received by the member or board member due to circumstances beyond the club's control"*

## ARTICLE II Membership

#### Section 1: Eligibility:

The Bull Terrier Club of Tampa Bay is committed to equal opportunity in membership and all club activities. This means that we will not discriminate or in any way treat anyone less favorably, on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, color, religion or disability. There shall be two types of membership, regular individual and regular as a member of a couple/household, open to all persons eighteen (18) years of age and older, who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club, and who subscribe to the purposes of the club as outlined in Article I, Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this Constitution and By-Laws. Such Regular Members shall be entitled to the full rights and privileges of membership. While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the club's primary purpose is to be representative of the Members in our geographic area. Persons under eighteen (18) years of age are eligible to become Junior Members of the club. Such Junior members will have all the rights and privileges of membership with the exception of voting at club meetings and for officers. Junior membership may automatically convert to an Individual or Couple/Household membership upon reaching their 18th birthday.

#### Section 2: Dues

Regular membership dues shall be set at \$25.00 per person, or \$35.00 per couple, per year, payable on or before the last day of November of each year. Amounts of dues may be changed by a majority vote of the Board. Dues shall not be required of Junior Members. By the first day of November, the Treasurer shall send a statement of dues to each member for the ensuing year. After the first day of December, the

Treasurer shall send a reminder to those members who have not responded to the initial notice. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. Initial membership shall be accepted and paid on a prorated basis as follows:

December 1 – June 30 - Full year rate

July 1 - November 30 - Half-year rate

### 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, By-Laws and rules of The American Kennel Club and The Bull Terrier Club of Tampa Bay. The application shall carry the name(s), address and telephone number of the applicant(s) and it shall carry the endorsement of two members in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member(s) shall submit dues pro-rated for the current year. All applications and pro-rated dues for the current year are to be filed with the Secretary and the Secretary shall notify the membership of the name of the applicant(s). Each application is to be read at the first Board meeting of the club following receipt. Applicants for membership are encouraged to attend a club meeting prior to having their names presented. At the following Board meeting, the applications will be voted in a secret vote, and the affirmative votes of two-thirds of the Board shall be required to elect the applicant(s) to membership unless there has been a written objection to the applicant(s) filed with the Secretary. In the event of such written objection, there shall be a secret vote at the club meeting of members in good standing and an affirmative vote of two thirds of the members voting at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant(s). Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the club may not re-apply within six months of such rejection.

### Section 4: Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated:

- a) 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) Lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid thirty (30) days after the due date; however, the Board may grant an additional thirty (30) days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no such case may such person be entitled to vote at any club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- c) Expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VII of these by-laws.

ARTICLE III  
Meetings and Voting

Section 1: Club Meetings

Meetings of the club shall be held in the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December at such date, place and hour as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The June meeting shall be considered the club's Annual Meeting, at which time officers and directors shall be elected. Written notice of such meetings shall be mailed or emailed to all members in good standing by the Secretary at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be twenty (20) percent of the members in good standing.

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 (to include telephonic polling) of the Board, or 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 at such date, place and hour as may be designated by the Board, and must be held within thirty (30) days. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed or e-mailed by the Secretary at least ten (10) 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 that no other club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be twenty (20) percent of the members in good standing.

Section 3: Board Meetings

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held prior to the general membership meetings. Written notice of such meetings shall be mailed or e-mailed to all members in good standing by the Secretary at least (20) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be a majority of the Board. Meetings may be either in person or via videoconference or teleconference.

Section 4: Special Board Meetings

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President; or 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 at a place, date and time as may be designated by the Board, and must be held within thirty (30) days. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed or e-mailed by the secretary at least five (5) and not more than ten (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. Telephonic or videoconference meetings and voting may be utilized.

## 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 or she is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club or Board meeting or election.

## ARTICLE IV Directors and Officers

### Section 1: Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the officers and two (2) 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 in even numbered years as provided in Article V and shall serve until their successors are elected. The 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 with regard to the club and the Board of Directors and its meetings.

- a) The President shall preside at all meetings of the club and the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those 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 the record of all meetings of the club and the Board, and of all matters for which a record shall be ordered by the club; shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, accept membership applications and pro-rated membership dues, keep roll of the members of the club with their addresses, and carry out such duties as are prescribed in these by-laws.
- d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the club. Monies shall be deposited in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the club. The books shall be open at all times for inspection by the Board and a report shall be given at every meeting of the club's finances and every item or receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting an

accounting of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.

#### Section 3: Vacancies

Any vacancies on the Board or among the officers during the year shall be filled until the next annual meeting 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.

#### Section 4: Removal of Board Member

A vote for removal, for cause, of any Board member may be requested at a Special Club Meeting convened for that purpose. The Special club meeting shall be called as provided in Article III, Section 2. If two thirds of members who are in good standing and voting at the Special Club Meeting vote affirmative for removal, ballots will be issued and the Board member shall be removed by a two-thirds vote of the membership in good standing. Such voting will be conducted by mail with each member having one (1) vote. Ballots shall be sent out within fifteen (15) days of the Special Club Meeting by the Secretary (or designee appointed by the Board if the Secretary is the Board member named on the ballot) and returned and tallied at the next club meeting by three (3) inspectors to be selected by the President, not more than one of who may be a member of the Board. Before counting the ballots, the inspectors shall check the returned envelopes against the list of members in good standing and shall certify the eligibility of the voters as well as the results of the voting which shall be announced at the meeting where the votes are tallied. Any vacancy shall be filled as provided in Article IV Section 3.

### ARTICLE V

#### 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. 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 June, at which time officers and directors for the

ensuing two (2) years shall be elected by secret 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 the successor in office all properties and records to the officer 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 candidates for other positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions 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 February, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members, not more than one of who may be a member of the Board, and two (2) alternates. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee members and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a chairman for the committee and it shall be that person's duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held within fifteen (15) days. Telephone conference call meetings shall be permitted.

- a) The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and position on the Board. In selecting their nominees, the committee may consider any factor that they feel relevant. After securing the consent of each persons 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 notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated prior to the April meeting.
- c) Additional nominations of another member may be made and seconded at the April meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his or her name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the proposed shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a 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.

### Section 5: Ballots

Within fifteen (15) days of the April meeting, the Secretary shall mail to each member in good standing a copy of the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee. If no valid additional nominations are received

by the Secretary prior to the close of the April meeting, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the Annual Meeting.

In the event that there is more than one nominee for any position, the Secretary shall, no later than fifteen (15) days following the April meeting, mail to each member in good standing a ballot listing all of the nominees, in alphabetical order, for each office together with a return envelop addressed to the Secretary marked "Ballot" and bearing the name of the member to whom it was sent.

To be valid, ballots must be received by the Secretary prior to the opening of the Annual Meeting. Ballots shall be counted at the Annual Meeting by three (3) inspectors, none of who may be candidates for any office, to be selected by the President at the meeting. Before counting the ballots, the inspectors shall check the returned envelopes against the list of members in good standing and shall certify the eligibility of the voters as well as the results of the voting, which shall be announced at the Annual Meeting. The person receiving the largest number of votes for each position shall be declared elected. If any nominee, at the time of the annual meeting, is unable to serve for any reason, that position shall be considered vacant. Any vacancy shall be filled according to Article IV, Section 3 of this Constitution and By-Laws.

## ARTICLE VI

### Committees

#### Section 1:

The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the club with those matters as may be deemed appropriate. 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 appointees and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

## ARTICLE VII

### Discipline

#### Section 1: American Kennel Club Suspension

Any member who is suspended from all 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 interests of the club or the breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$25.00, 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, 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 that might 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 (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. Once the Board accepts jurisdiction, 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 as assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his or her defense and bring witnesses if so desired.

## 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 reprimand the defendant or 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 recommendation. 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 meeting of the club to be held within (60) days but not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing on his own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendation, and shall invite the

defendant, if present, to speak on his own behalf if he wishes. The members shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

## ARTICLE VIII

### 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 twenty (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 membership 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 by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership in good standing. Such voting will be conducted by mail, with each member having one (1) vote for each of the proposed amendments. Ballots shall be sent by, and returned to, the Secretary according to a timetable established by the Board. Ballots shall be tallied at the next club meeting by three (3) inspectors to be selected by the President, not more than one of who may be a member of the Board. Before counting the ballots, the inspectors shall check the returned envelopes against the list of members in good standing and shall certify the eligibility of the voters as well as the results of the voting which shall be announced at the meeting where the votes are tallied.

## ARTICLE IX

### 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 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, or 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 X  
Order of Business

Section 1:

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 last meeting
- Report of President
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Report 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
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

ARTICLE XI  
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 by-laws and any other special rules or order the club may adopt.