

Heartland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

These Bylaws are subject to and governed by the State of Minnesota Laws and the Articles of Incorporation of the Heartland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club. In the event of a direct conflict between the provisions of these bylaws and the mandatory provisions of the Minnesota State Laws, the Minnesota State Act will be controlling.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name and Objects

SECTION 1. The name of the club shall be Heartland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club.

SECTION 2. The objects of the club shall be:

(a) to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Staffordshire Bull 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 Staffordshire 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 all events and trials

(d) to conduct sanctioned matches for any event for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 3. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall enure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers, directors, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions on furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Constitution or in Article I of the Bylaws.

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 household and individual types 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. Junior membership is non-voting membership open to all persons under the age of 18 years who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club. Associate membership is a non-voting membership open to all persons 18 years of age or older 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 its immediate area.

SECTION 2. Dues. Membership dues shall not exceed \$50 per year, payable on or before the 1st day of July of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the Financial/Fiscal year. During the month of June the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of dues for the Financial/Fiscal year.

SECTION 3. Election to Membership. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the board of directors ("Board" or "the Board") and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the code of ethics, constitution and bylaws, and the rules and regulations of The American Kennel Club. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the Financial/Fiscal year. All applications for membership shall be filed with the Secretary. Each membership application shall be voted upon by the Board. An affirmative vote of 2/3 [or other majority] of Board members shall be required to elect the applicant. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the club can reapply six months after the date of rejection.

SECTION 4. Termination of Membership. Memberships may be terminated:

(a) by resignation. Upon written notice to the Secretary.

(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 Financial/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. Club Meetings. Meetings of the club may be held each month by in-person and virtual methods in Minnesota, preferably the Twin Cities metro area, as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be sent via email by the Secretary prior to the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be twenty (20) percent of the eligible voting members in good standing. Non-voting members do not count towards the determination of a quorum.

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 who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board; and may also be 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 by in-person and virtual methods in Minnesota, preferably the Twin Cities metro area, as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be sent via email by the Secretary prior to the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be (20) percent of the eligible voting members in good standing. Non-voting members do not count towards the determination of a quorum.

SECTION 3. Board Meetings. Meetings of the Board may be held each month by in-person and virtual methods in Minnesota, preferably the Twin Cities metro area, as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be sent via email by the Secretary prior to the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board. Non-voting members do not count towards the determination of a quorum.

SECTION 4. 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 by in-person and virtual methods in Minnesota, preferably the Twin Cities metro area, as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be sent via email by the Secretary prior to the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board. Non-voting members do not count towards the determination of a quorum.

SECTION 5. Voting. Each member in good standing whose dues are paid for the Financial/Fiscal year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the club at which the member is present. Proxy voting will be permitted at any club meeting or election for members in good standing who submit their vote via email to the secretary prior to the meeting or election.

ARTICLE III

Directors and Officers

SECTION 1. Board of Directors. The Board shall be comprised of the officers and at least one other persons to equal an odd number, all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for two (2)-year terms at the club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board.

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 keep a record of all meetings of the club and of the Board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the club; 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, keep a roll of the members of the club with their addresses, which shall be sent to any member in good standing, upon written request, once every club year, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.

(d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the club. Moneys shall be held electronically as designated by the Board, in the name of the club. The books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Board and a report shall be given at every meeting on the condition of the club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting an accounting shall be rendered of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The club shall be insured in such amount and through a type of policy as the Board shall determine which will cover the actions of the Treasurer.

SECTION 3. Vacancies. Any vacancies in the Board arising at any time and from any cause, including the resignation or removal of a director, shall be filled at any meeting of the Board by the affirmative vote of the majority of the directors then in office, although less than a quorum, or sole remaining director. Each director so elected shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of that office.

ARTICLE IV

The Club's Financial/Fiscal Year, Annual Meeting, Elections, Official Year

SECTION 1. Financial/Fiscal Year. The Financial/Fiscal year shall begin on the first day of July and end on the last day of June.

SECTION 2. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall be held in the month of July, at which officers and directors for the ensuing year 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 relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

SECTION 3. Nominations. The Board 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. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee persons and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a chair for the committee and it shall be such person's duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held before the June meeting.

(a) The committee shall nominate at least one candidate for each office and positions on the Board, and shall procure the acceptance of each nominee so chosen and shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing or by email.

(b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall notify each member in writing or by email of the candidates so nominated.

(c) Additional nominations may be made at the June meeting by any member in attendance, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when their name is proposed. 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) Ballots must be received by the Secretary no later than the 1st of July. Ballots received after July 1st will not be counted.

SECTION 4. 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. If no valid additional nominations are received on or before the June meeting the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected and no balloting will be required. Any uncontested position should be automatically elected.

SECTION 5. Club's Official Year. 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.

ARTICLE V

Committees

SECTION 1. The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the club. Such committees shall always be subject to the final 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; 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 shall be suspended from the privileges of this club for a like period. American Kennel Club suspensions are published on the Secretary's page of the AKC Gazette.

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 containing specific facts signed under oath ("Charges") must be filed with the Secretary with a \$50 deposit, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained or entertained by the Board. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the Charges to each Board member. 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 or a committee appointed by the Board not less than two weeks nor more than six weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the Charges to the accused member by certified mail return receipt requested, or other form of receipted or acknowledged delivery and set forth a time and place at which the accused may attend and present any defense, call witnesses or answer.

SECTION 3. Board Hearing. If the Board has a hearing, the Board or a committee appointed by the Board may hear the charges. The Board or the Board's appointed committee shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and accused shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and accused, the Board or Board's appointed committee may by a majority vote of those present reprimand or suspend the accused from all privileges of the club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. And, if the Board or the Board's appointed committee deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. Immediately after the Board or the Board's appointed committee 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 or the Board appointed committee's decision and penalty, if any.

SECTION 4. Expulsion. The members shall vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those and voting 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 or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by 20 percent of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such a petition shall be promptly considered by the Board 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 a 2/3 vote of the members 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 sent via email to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

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 unless otherwise prohibited by State Law.

ARTICLE IX

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.

GLOSSARY

Member in good standing — An individual who is not suspended by The American Kennel Club or their Club and whose dues for the year are already paid.

Types of Membership:

Individual — Enjoys all club privileges including the right to vote and hold office.

Household — Two (2) adult members residing in the same household, each eligible to vote and hold office.

Junior — Open to minors under 18 years of age; a non-voting/non office holding membership which may automatically convert to regular membership at age 18.

Associate — Enjoys all club privileges except the right to vote and hold office.

Life — For those individuals who have been members for a greater than 20 years; Life members pay no dues but are eligible to vote and hold office.

Reprimand — A written warning to a member after charges have been filed in accordance with the bylaws, and it is determined that the member’s conduct was not severe enough to warrant a suspension or a recommendation for expulsion.

Notices — All club notices must be sent via email in accordance with current AKC policy or in accordance with State Law.

Votes on Bylaw Amendments — After amendments are voted upon, the club must provide AKC with the number of members in good standing as well as the date of the vote, and the number who voted for and against. A copy of the revised document must be submitted to AKC as soon as it is printed along with the date of the vote, the percentage of membership that voted and the breakdown of the vote.

Heartland Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club

CODE OF ETHICS

This code of ethics is established to protect, advance the interests of, maintain high standards of conduct within ownership, breeding, sportsmanship and ethics, and improve the Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed.

Members who blatantly disregard this Code of Ethics or are the subject of a violation complaint risk the possibility of having their membership brought up for review by the standing Board of Directors and/or Complaint Committee, which can result in the suspension or removal from the club.

ARTICLE 1: RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

Responsible ownership indicates that you provide the following for all dogs in your care:

1. The best possible standards of health care for the physical and emotional well-being of your dog(s). This includes but is not limited to: appropriate food, shelter, sanitation, immunizations, regular health checks, medical care as needed, attention, exercise and affection regularly.
2. Keep only as many dogs for which the above can be provided.
3. Control your dog(s) at all times, both on and off your premises, in the form of leashes or the appropriate training to affect this control. Your Stafford(s) should never be allowed to roam unattended. Avoid discredit to the breed and yourself by curbing your dog where required and cleaning up after your dog in public places (i.e. Parks, hotels, motels, show sites, etc) and leaving public facilities clean.
4. Identification for your animals in the form of collars with tags, tattooing, or microchip implants. Accurate records complete with photos and a list of each dog's readily identifiable marks and/or characteristics should be available.
5. Fairness to your dog and the breeder. If for any reason you find you cannot keep, or do not wish to keep the dog you have purchased, contact the breeder. Responsible breeders make every effort to see that the dog is re-homed. NEVER drop the dog off at a shelter, turn the dog loose to fend for itself or attempt to sell the dog on Craigslist, Puppyfind, or other similar classified publication. If the breeder cannot be contacted, your next step should be to contact the SBTCA or HSBTC for help.
6. A humane death for your dog when necessary. Euthanasia should be accomplished by a lethal injection and administered by qualified personnel.

ARTICLE 2: RESPONSIBLE BREEDING

Members who wish to breed Staffordshire Bull Terriers should do so only with the full understanding of the responsibility they bear to the future of the breed and to the future of the puppies produced by them as well as the future of purebred dogs in general. Breeders should conduct themselves in an ethical and honorable manner to avoid discrediting breeders to the general public. Breeders should understand the breed standard, be able to evaluate both individual dogs' traits and the traits of their ancestors and apply the principles of genetics to attempt to improve upon the next generation. Additionally, breeders should have knowledge of mating, the care of the bitch in whelp, raising a litter, and the time, effort and resources required to engage in this activity.

BREEDING should only be considered:

1. With the intention of producing Staffords who are physically and mentally sound, of the proper temperament, and within the desired type and characteristics inherent to the breed as described in the official Staffordshire Bull Terrier breed standard.
2. When the breeding stock has been selected based upon the breed standard, merit of the individuals, genetics, pedigrees, and when every reasonable attempt has been made to determine that the dogs selected are in the best health, temperamentally sound and free of any serious inheritable genetic disease or defect including but not limited to: L-2-Hydroxyglutaric Aciduria ("L-2-HGA"), Hereditary Juvenile Cataracts ("HC"), Persistent Hyperplastic Primary Vitreous ("PHPV"), and Posterior Polar Subcapsular Cataracts ("PPSC"). L-2-HGA and HC status to be verified by DNA test or CBP (Clear By Parentage) Parentage is to be understood as the sire and dam DNA Tested
 - a. The HSBTC encourages breeders to screen litters for PHPV before placement as it can be detected as early as 6 weeks of age.
 - b. The HSBTC discourages selecting breeding stock that hold carrier status for genetic diseases.
3. When the breeder is in the position to offer proper care to the dam and the litter. Suitable homes are not always readily available, therefore the breeder must be committed to long term care and be able to provide the additional facilities needed for the physical and emotional development of the puppies.
4. Breeder must be prepared to ensure to the best of their ability that no stud dog or brood bitch owned by them is bred to any dog or bitch whose owner is directly or indirectly involved with any dog broker, puppy mill, pet shop that retails dogs, auctions, litter lot sales, or any other commercial enterprise whose business is involved in these activities.
5. Breeder ensures that all puppies are micro-chipped and registered with AKC before they leave the breeder's house, with the breeder on the paperwork as an alternate contact.
6. Breeder ensures that all breeding stock is DNA cleared for L-2-Hydroxyglutaric Aciduria (L2-HGA) and Hereditary Juvenile Cataracts (HC) as well as having a current CERF clearance (within a year) before being bred.
7. No stud dog or brood bitch shall be cross-bred to an unregistered dog or crossbred with another breed.

8. No brood bitch shall be bred for commercial gain.
9. Studs/bitches shall be properly registered with the American Kennel Club. Stud/bitch owners shall keep accurate, current breeding record, health records, and pedigrees according to AKC policy and make these available on request of the other party.
10. Stud dogs shall be over one year of age, in good health, parasite free and free of any known communicable disease or serious genetic defects. and the HSBTC recommends he be at least 24 months old when the recommended health testing can be completed.
11. No bitch will be bred prior to her second season and the HSBTC recommends she be at least 24 months old when the recommended health testing can be completed. She will be in good health parasite free, and free of any known communicable diseases or serious genetic defects.
12. No bitch will be bred more than twice in any three consecutive seasons without a physical from her veterinarian determining her to be healthy and in condition to whelp and raise puppies
13. No bitch shall be bred after her 7th birthday without a thorough exam by a veterinarian to determine the state of her health.

ARTICLE 3: PUPPIES, SALES, AND CONTRACTS

1. Litters shall not be sold to a person en-bloc, to commercial sources, or for purposes of resale.
2. Breeders should consult with known authorities regarding countries outside the United States where dog fighting has not been made illegal practice and refuse ALL export to these countries.
3. No Stafford shall be sold with any defect that will interfere with its ability to perform and function as a pet or companion.
4. Puppies shall be placed in private, safe, and caring homes. Buyers should be as thoroughly screened as possible to determine their stability to provide a proper environment. Prior to placing any Stafford puppy, the breeder should discuss with the prospective owner the health care and behavioral management needs of the dog and provide recommendations for general care. Breeders should remain available for advice when sought, for the lifetime of the offspring from their dogs.
5. Puppies shall not be placed prior to eight weeks of age, and with the proper temporary vaccination protection. Puppy buyers should be provided with a copy of the Breed Standard, all health care records, a bill of sale, and an accurate three generation pedigree, a registration application provided by the AKC or, alternatively, an AKC registration certificate.
6. Breeders should follow up on the puppy after its sale to ensure continued care and support for the new novice owners. The buyer should provide reasonable opportunity for the examination and inspection of the premises and environment maintained for the puppy. Fenced yards are recommended.

7. Breeders shall provide assistance to dogs of their breeding in need of rehoming whether through a shelter, rescue organization, or an individual. Stud dog owners should also assist with rehoming of dogs sired by their stud dogs.
8. Breeders must act in an ethical and honorable way to avoid discrediting breeders and purebred dogs in general.

ARTICLE 4: GENERAL

1. Advertising should be truthful and should not refer in a deprecatory manner to the methods, reputations, or animals of other Stafford owners. Advertising should not be used to promote the rearing of dogs for profit.
2. The Staffordshire Bull Terrier owner/breeder/exhibitor shall NEVER, under any circumstances, condone, support, or ignore the practice of pitting a dog against any other animals in a fight for pleasure or profit. Information regarding this type of abuse shall be reported to the proper humane authorities.
3. Good sportsmanship should be advanced by all. Refrain from the use of disparaging, false, and misleading statements about judges, fellow competitors, and other Stafford owners in competition, at events, or when communicating online. Conduct yourself in such a manner as to reflect credit on the sport of purebred dogs in general, and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier in particular.
4. All Staffordshire Bull Terrier owners should stay abreast of current state/local laws and legislation related to the dog. Owners are encouraged to take the time to educate the public regarding the breed in order to help prevent breed specific laws.

Revised July 8, 2024