



***By-Laws, Constitution &
History***

***Metropolitan Washington
Dachshund Club***

***Amended and Approved by
The
American Kennel Club
on
June 1, 2012***

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Founded September 7, 1955



History & Purpose of Metropolitan Washington Dachshund Club:

The Metropolitan Washington Dachshund Club was founded on September 7, 1955 with 27 members. The first club officers were:

**President- Mr. William Klimkiewicz
Vice President- Mrs. Louis A. Cornet
Secretary- Mrs. Robert Smith
Treasurer- Mrs. Jack O. King**

On the Board of Directors at that time were Mrs. Harry E. Howell, Mrs. William Wheeler and Mr. Thomas A. Harris.

The club held its first sanctioned match on January 21, 1956 in the auditorium of the Hecht Co. in downtown Washington, D.C. Dorothy Hardy judged and the club had an entry of 186! Their first specialty was held in 1958 in conjunction with the Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia and their second specialty (an independent) was held the following year. The judge was Mrs. Ramona Van Court Jones and the Best of Breed was CH. Valiant of Mari-Dox, owned by Bencelia Kennels and handled by Jerry Rigden. MWDC now holds two specialty shows a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Since 2007, the fall specialty has been held in conjunction with a specialty by the Dachshund Fanciers of Central Virginia, together known as the Hunt Country Combined Dachshund Specialties. On October 10, 2010 the club will hold its 51st independent fall specialty.

Over the years, the Club has hosted four Dachshund Club of America National Specialty Shows with the first in 1977. The second was co-hosted in 1982 with the Metropolitan Baltimore Dachshund Club, and the third and fourth were co-hosted in 1999 and 2009 with the Dachshund Club of New Jersey. Each time the National was remembered not only for the events but the wide variety of social opportunities.

In March, 2002, MWDC held its first Licensed Field Trial. MWDC now holds 3 licensed Dachshund Field Trials a year - 2 in the spring and one in the fall which is held in conjunction with the Dachshund Fanciers Association of Berks County Licensed Field Trial. On November 6, 2010, the club will hold its 15th Licensed Field Trial.

MWDC meets 6 times per year in the months of January, March, May, June, September, and November at members' homes. The club also holds a fun match & picnic during the summer months.

Additional club and event information is available on our website: www.mwdc-dachshunds.com

MWDC Constitution

Article I Name and Objects

SECTION 1. The name of the club shall be the Metropolitan Washington Dachshund Club.

SECTION 2. The object of the club shall be:

- (a) To educate members and the public in all aspects of responsible dachshund ownership;
- (b) to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of pure-bred dachshunds; to preserve the structure, soundness, temperament, natural abilities and personality of the Dachshund as described in the breed standard, and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- (c) to urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as adopted and promulgated by the Dachshund Club of America and approved by The American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which dachshunds shall be judged;
- (d) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at:
 - Conformation dog shows
 - Obedience trials
 - Agility trials
 - Tracking tests
 - Field trials
 - Earthdog tests
 - Matches
 - Rally Trials
 - And all functions where the Metropolitan Washington Dachshund Club is represented under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club and their Code of Sportsmanship.

- (e) to conduct sanctioned and licensed
- Conformation dog shows
 - Obedience trials
 - Agility trials
 - Tracking tests
 - Field trials
 - Earthdog tests
 - Matches
 - And any other event for which the Metropolitan Washington Dachshund Club is eligible 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.

MWDC Bylaws

ARTICLE I Membership

SECTION 1. *Eligibility.* There shall be three types of membership:

(a)Full membership is open to all persons age 18 years of age and older residing in the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, inclusive of an additional 50 miles beyond that defined area for membership purposes. Applicants must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club and subscribe to and demonstrate their interest in promoting the purposes of this Club. Full members must attend at least one Club meeting during the calendar year.

(b)Associate membership is open to a non-member residing anywhere in the United States. Current *Full* members who are unable or choose not to attend at least one MWDC meeting during a calendar year may opt to become *Associate* members, regardless of where they reside. *Associate* members pay *Full* dues, may attend meetings and club events and receive the Newsletter. *Associate* members may not vote or

hold office and do not count toward the determination of a quorum. *Associate* members, including former *Full* members, may apply for *Full* membership after one year as an *Associate* member per the requirements stated in **Section 3** of these By-Laws.

(c)Junior membership is open to all persons 10-17 years of age residing in the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area as previously defined in **Section 1(a)** of these By-Laws. Applicants for *Junior* membership must be in good standing with The American Kennel Club and subscribe to and demonstrate their interest in promoting the purposes of this Club. *Junior* members cannot vote or hold office and do not count in the determination of a quorum. *Junior* members do not pay dues. Upon reaching their 18th birthday, a *Junior* member may apply to convert to the appropriate membership.

SECTION 2. Dues. The board shall determine the amount of membership dues. Dues shall be payable on or before the 1st 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 Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year. Statements may be sent via electronic mail if a

member has so designated in writing that this is their preferred method of communication.

SECTION 3. *Election to membership.*

(a) Election to Full Membership - Each applicant for *Full* membership (as defined in Section 1 (a) of these By-Laws) shall apply on a form approved by the Board of Directors which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of this Club 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** *Full* MWDC members in good standing. At least one of the sponsors shall make a care and condition home visit and submit their findings in writing to the membership Committee. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year and shall document that (s)he has participated in a *minimum* of one meeting and one other MWDC sponsored event during the previous 12 months.

Each application for *Full* membership shall be screened by the Membership Committee if one is established, otherwise, by the Board of Directors acting as the Membership Committee.

Each application for *Full* membership is to be filed with the Corresponding Secretary and read at the first meeting of the club following its receipt. At the next club meeting, any discussion of the application shall be in executive session. The vote shall be by secret ballot and requires an affirmative vote by 2/3 of the members present and to elect the applicant.

(b) Election to Associate Membership - Each applicant for *Associate* membership (as defined in Section 1 (b) of these By-Laws) shall apply on a form approved by the Board of Directors which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of this Club 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** *Full* MWDC members in good standing. At least one of the sponsors shall make a care and condition home visit and submit their findings in writing to the membership Committee. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year and shall document that (s)he has participated in a *minimum* of one meeting and one other MWDC sponsored event during the previous 12 months.

Each application for *Associate* membership shall be screened by the Membership Committee if one is established, otherwise, by the Board of Directors acting as the Membership Committee.

Each application for *Associate* membership is to be filed with the Corresponding Secretary and read at the first meeting of the club following its receipt. At the next club meeting, any discussion of the application shall be in executive session. The vote shall be by secret ballot and requires an affirmative vote by 2/3 of the members present and to elect the applicant.

(c) Election to Junior Membership - Each applicant for *Junior* membership (as defined in Section 1 (c) of these By-Laws) shall apply on a form approved by the Board of Directors which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of this Club 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 Full** MWDC members in good standing. At least one of the sponsors shall make a care and condition home visit and submit their findings in writing to the membership Committee. Accompanying the

application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year and shall document that (s)he has participated in a *minimum* of one meeting and one other MWDC sponsored event during the previous 12 months.

Each application for *Junior* membership shall be screened by the Membership Committee if one is established, otherwise, by the Board of Directors acting as the Membership Committee.

Each application for *Junior* membership is to be filed with the Corresponding Secretary and read at the first meeting of the club following its receipt. At the next club meeting, any discussion of the application shall be in executive session. The vote shall be by secret ballot and requires an affirmative vote by 2/3 of the members present and to elect the applicant.

Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the club may reapply no less than six months after such rejection.

SECTION 4. *Termination of membership.* Memberships may be terminated:

(a) *by resignation.* Any member in good standing may resign from the club upon written notice to

the Recording Secretary but no member may resign when in debt to the club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the club and become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year. Any and all debt to the club must be paid in full prior to resignation.

(b) *by lapsing*. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year which begins January 1 of each 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 if their 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*. At least six general meetings of the club shall be held within the greater Metropolitan Washington Area (as previously defined in

Article I, Section 1a) at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed and/or e-mailed (with prior written permission from the club member) to the MWDC membership by the Corresponding Secretary no less than 7 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for each such meeting shall be twenty percent (20%), but no less than seven (7) of the members in good standing as of the last day of the previous fiscal year. Quorum determination shall be adjusted to reflect any members who are deceased, have opted to become Associate members since the end of the fiscal year, or any member whose membership has been terminated under Article I, Section 4.

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 shall be called by the Corresponding Secretary 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 Metropolitan Washington Area (as previously defined in Article I, Section 1a) at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed and or/e-mailed (with prior written permission from the club member) by

the Corresponding Secretary at least five days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of 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 the same as stated herein above for general meetings.

SECTION 3. *Board Meetings.* Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held within the greater Metropolitan Washington Area (as previously defined in Article I, Section 1a) as necessary to conduct club business and at such hour and place as may be designated by the President. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed and/ or e-mailed (with prior written permission from club member) by the Corresponding Secretary at least 5 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be four.

SECTION 4. *Special Board Meetings.* Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by the Corresponding Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least two members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held within the greater Metropolitan Washington Area (as previously defined in Article I, Section 1a) at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed or emailed (with prior written

permission from the club member) by the Corresponding Secretary at least five days and not more than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such 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 four. Waiver of notice to a special Board meeting may be affected in writing by all members of the Board.

SECTION 5. *Voting.* A *Full* member in good standing is hereby defined as a member whose dues are paid for the current fiscal year and against whom there is no current disciplinary action in force either of this club or the American Kennel Club. *Full* members in good standing 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

SECTION 1. *Board of Directors.* The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and two other persons, all of whom shall be *Full* members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for one year terms at the club's annual meeting

as provided for in Article IV 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, Corresponding Secretary, Recording 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 Corresponding Secretary 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 and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.

(d) The Recording 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; keep a roll of the members of the club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.

(e) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the club. Moneys shall be deposited in the bank 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 be given at every meeting on the condition of the club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not previously reported; and at the annual meeting an accounting shall be rendered of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The books and accounts shall be audited as determined by the Board of Directors or upon election of a new Treasurer and/or at least every 5 year period. The Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount determined by the Board of Directors.

(f) The offices of Corresponding and Recording Secretary may be held by the same person, in which case the Board shall consist of six (6) persons.

SECTION 3. *Vacancies.* Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the officers during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of all members of the Board at its first regular meeting following creation of such a 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.

ARTICLE IV

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 31st 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 January 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. *Elections.* The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The two 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 October, 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 Corresponding Secretary shall immediately notify the committee and their alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a Chairman for the Nomination Committee and it shall be such person's duty to call a Committee meeting, which shall be held on or before November 1st.

(a) The Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and positions on the Board and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their

nominations to the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries in writing.

(b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report the Corresponding Secretary shall, at least two weeks before the Annual Meeting, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.

(c) Additional nominations may be made at the November meeting by any MWDC member in good standing who is in attendance, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when their name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, that the proposer shall present to the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate.

(d) Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

ARTICLE V

Committees

SECTION 1. The President may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the club in

such matters as dog shows, trophies, annual prizes, membership, and other fields which may well be served by committees. 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 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 the privileges of The American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this club for a like period.

SECTION 2. *Charges.* Any members 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 Corresponding Secretary together with a deposit of \$ 10, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing. The Corresponding

Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at a Board meeting. The Board shall meet and 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 not less than three weeks, nor 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 or bring witnesses if he wishes.

SECTION 3. *Board Hearing.* The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, 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 the complainant and defendant, the Board may by a majority vote of those present reprimand or 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 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 finding shall be put in written form and filed with the Recording Secretary. The Corresponding 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 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 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 shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The members shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

SECTION 1. *Amendments to the Constitution.* The Constitution of this Club may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the members present and voting at any general or special meeting called for the purpose; but the proposed amendments must be embodied in the call for any such meeting and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of such meeting.

SECTION 2. *Amendments to the By-laws.* The By-laws of this Club may be amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any general or special meeting called for the purpose; but the proposed amendments must be mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of such 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 *Full* 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 debts of the club its property and assets shall be converted to cash and shall be distributed to worthy charitable and non-profit institutions engaged in research, medical care, dog rescue, and welfare work, breeding and nutrition programs and similar activities for dachshunds; said distribution to be in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX

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 the Board
- Report of the President
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of Corresponding Secretary
- Report of Recording Secretary
- Report of Committees
- Election of Officers and Board (at Annual Meetings)
- 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 the last meeting
- Report of Corresponding Secretary
- Report of Recording Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Election of new members
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

ARTICLE X

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 of order the club may adopt.