



ESTRELA MOUNTAIN DOG ASSOCIATION

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. TITLE AND OBJECTS

That the Association is styled the ESTRELA MOUNTAIN DOG ASSOCIATION and its objects are the promotion of the interests of the Estrela Mountain Dog (Cao da Serra da Estrela) and its welfare, together with the perfection of the breed in accordance with the standard approved by the Portuguese Kennel Club (Club Portuguese de Canicultura) at the date of the constitution of the Association, 8th May 1977.

2. MEMBERSHIP

That the Association is founded by 44 Founder Members, who have each donated £2 to a fund for its establishment.

Further Members may be submitted at the discretion of the Committee, and shall commence from the date of acceptance. This must be on an official application form, from the Committee. The Committee are also empowered to confer honorary Membership upon suitable persons, such Honorary Members however have no voice in the deliberations of the Association.

The Society must make a list of Members available for inspection if so requested by the Members of the Society or by the Kennel Club. A declaration of the number of Members of the Society must be made with Annual Returns.

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3. EXPULSIONS

Any Member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42j(4) and/or any Member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A42j(8) shall ipso facto cease to be a Member of the Society for the duration of the suspension and/or disqualification.

If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Society be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Society, the Committee of the Society may, at a meeting the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the Member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Society shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.

Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused Member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the Meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at the Meeting, a resolution to expel is passed by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of Members, and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a Member of the Society except that he/she may, within two calendar months from the date of such Meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose.

If the Society expels any Member for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, Dog Shows, Trials or Competition, the Society must report the matter in writing to the Kennel Club within seven days and supply any particulars required.

4. COMMITTEE

That the entire Management of the Association is in the hands of the Committee which shall comprise of a maximum of twelve, together with such ex-officio Members included under rule 5. Those eligible for nomination and re-election to Committee, if duly elected will serve for a term of three years. Voting for Committee shall be by postal ballot as set out in Rule 9. at the end of a Committee Members term of office (unless they wish to retire before serving out their normal term) they shall be eligible for re-election. Candidates for election must have signified their willingness to serve if elected, must have been paid up Members for at least 12 months in their present membership, from the date of their membership acceptance. No previous membership will be relevant. Must be proposed and seconded in writing, the proposal to reach the Hon. Secretary not later than 14th February, before the AGM.

No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee of or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society (KC mandatory rule as of 1st July 1995).

The Committee may constitute Sub-Committee for special purposes at it's discretion. In the event of any vacancy occurring on the Committee after the annual election the Committee may fill the vacancy at it's own discretion, in which case the co-opted member shall serve only until the next AGM when he/she may stand for election.

Minutes shall be kept of all Committee Meetings, at which five (one of which shall be one of the Officers) shall constitute a quorum. The Minute Book shall be open to inspection at all Meetings of the Association.

Minimum notice to convene a Committee Meeting shall be seven clear days with an Agenda and Minutes of the previous Meeting. Items for the Agenda will be accepted in writing by the Secretary up to 3 days prior to the date of the Meeting. A register of attendance will be kept and any Committee Member who fails t attend two consecutive meetings shall be required to withdraw from the Committee unless an acceptable valid reason is given.

5. OFFICERS

The Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three years by postal ballot as set out in Rule 9. At the end of an Officer's term of office (unless they wish to retire before serving out their normal term) they shall be eligible for re-election. The Committee may appoint any other Officers it may deem expedient from among its own members. The Association may appoint a President and Vice President recommended by the Committee, from among those Members of the Association who have rendered a significant service thereto and to the breed, such appointments being made by a General Meeting of the Association. The duration of Presidency and Vice presidency shall be for three years but is renewable by the Committee for a further term or terms. The number of Vice presidents (excluding Past Presidents) not to exceed 1% of the Association Membership rounded up to the nearest whole number. Suitable persons who are not Members of the Association may be made Hon. President or Hon. Vice

President for three years but is renewable by the Committee for a further term or terms. The number of Vice Presidents shall have no voice in the Management of the Association. The General Meeting may also on recommendation of the Committee instruct the latter to invite some suitable personage to become Patron of the Association, at the same time stipulating whether for life or for some other term. The Patron shall have no voice in the Management of the Association.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions will fall due on 1st January each year. Members who have not attained their 16th birthday on 1st January shall pay £1.50 per annum. Anyone joining the Association after 1st July will pay half the annual charge.

Reminders and notification of the AGM will be sent out no later than 5th December before the subscription falls due.

The annual subscription shall be such amount as agreed by Members in a General Meeting and notified to the Kennel Club.

No member whose subscription is unpaid is entitled to any of the privileges of Membership and if the Member shall fail to pay outstanding subscriptions by 14th February his/her name shall be automatically erased from the Register.

Acceptance back on the Register will be dependent upon a new application.

Once Members have been accepted for Membership, providing they continue to pay their Membership Subscription at the correct time they cannot be refused **renewal** of Membership. With the exception of default on Subscriptions, the only way to remove a Member from the Club's Register is by following the procedure defined.

7. ACCOUNTS

The Association's financial year shall be from 1st January to 31st December. The Accounts of the Society will be certified annually and presented to the Members at the Annual General Meeting. Certification of Accounts must be carried out by one qualified accountant or two unqualified individuals with accountancy experience.

A Banking Account shall be opened in the name of the Association into which all revenue of the Association shall be paid and from which withdrawals shall be made on the signature of any two of the Officers of the Association authorised for the purpose by the Committee and who may not be Business Associates, Husband and Wife or otherwise related.

8. GENERAL MEETING

That the AGM of the Association shall be held at such time and place as the Committee may appoint, but in the event not later than the last day of May, to receive the Report and Audited Accounts for the previous year, to approve or confirm the Auditors and election of Officers and Committee and for general business.

Items for the AGM will be accepted in writing by the Secretary not less than 21 days prior to the date of the Meeting. No business shall be transacted at an AGM unless notice thereof appears in the Agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those which in the opinion of the Chairman or the Meeting are urgent.

The Agenda will be circulated at the Meeting unless sent to Members 7 days prior to the Meeting.

The Committee shall call a Special General Meeting at the written request of not less than ten Members of the Association, stating the object of such Meeting, which shall be held not more than 30 days after the request has reached the Hon. Secretary. A Special General Meeting may also be held on the Committee's own initiative without such a request. No business shall be brought before a Special General Meeting other than that named in the notice convening the same.

Members shall be given not less than 14 clear days notice in writing of all General Meetings. Notice of the AGM may be given by publication in the Canine press.

9. VOTING

That all fully paid up Members aged 16 or over shall have one vote at all General Meetings of the Association, joint members being treated as two Members. Such Members as are unable to attend any General Meeting shall be entitled to vote by written proxy given to some Member who is present. Hon. Members and Members, who are under 16 years of age, are not entitled to any vote. In the event of an equal number of votes being given in favour of and against any action, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

The election of Officers and Committee members shall be by postal ballot. Only members whose subscriptions have been received by the Secretary by the 14th February shall be entitled to vote. Independent **Scrutineer** will be elected by the Committee. Ballot papers will be sent to all eligible members by 20th February, to be returned to the Independent **Scrutineer** by 14th March (postmark). The Independent **Scrutineer** shall verify and count the ballot papers; any spoilt ballot papers will not be counted. The certified results shall be returned by the Independent **Scrutineer** to the Secretary, not less than seven (7) days (by postmark) prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting, in a sealed envelope. The results shall be opened and announced by the Chairman, at that year's Annual General Meeting.

In the event of a tied postal ballot, the tie shall be decided by regular ballot at the Annual General Meeting.

The Kennel Club shall be the final court of appeal in all matters of dispute.

10. RULES AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATION

That the Rules of the Association may not be altered except by a majority of the votes counted at an AGM or SGM the notice of which includes details of the proposal to alter the Rules. Such alterations shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and given its approval of the alteration. New Rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately and be included in the Society's Constitution with effect from the Society's Annual Meeting. The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Association and in all cases relevant to canine affairs and will make relevant documents available to the Kennel Club when necessary. Affiliation to the Kennel Club will allow the organisation to apply for one dog show licence each year.

11. ANNUAL RETURNS

The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Secretary or by Direct Debit for the continuance of Registration and that by 31st July each year, other Returns as stipulated in Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and Affiliation of Agriculture Societies and Municipal Authorities, will be forwarded to the Kennel Club. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel club of any change of Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year.

12. BREED SOCIETY JUDGES LIST

The Society must produce a list of Judges each year which must be submitted to the Kennel Club as part of the Society's Annual Returns. The purpose of Breed Society Judges Lists is to indicate to interested parties those persons the Society would support at different levels of judging. Membership of the Society must not be a prerequisite of judging. The lists produced must be in accordance with Kennel Club requirements for Rare Breeds.

13. BY-LAWS

That the Committee is empowered to enact and promulgate such by-laws as it may consider desirable for the proper functioning of the Association or the well being or development of the Breed, always providing such by-laws are not at variance with Rules of the Association. The by-law which requires at least two-thirds of the Committee shall come into effect from the date of their promulgation, but must be ratified by the next Annual General Meeting of the Association on pain of cancellation. No by-law which fails to obtain ratification by a General Meeting may be re-instated except by authorisation of a subsequent General Meeting.

14. ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

Discussion at any of the Association Committee meetings are to be treated as private and confidential.

15. WINDING UP

That in the event of the Association being wound up, it may only be done by SGM and by a majority vote of two-thirds of those being present and entitled to vote. The Meeting shall determine in what manner the assets of the Association are to be disposed of.

If the Registered Society is wound up or ceases to be a Registered Society under these Regulations, a final statement of audited accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Society shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the Society on the last return furnished to the Kennel Club, will be held responsible by the Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the Society.

16. REGISTRATION

The Association shall be registered with the Kennel Club but shall not join any federation of Society's or Clubs.

Amendment to the Rules by Order of the Kennel Club 30th April 1977.

Further Amendments made on 24th March 2002.

Further Amendments made on 25th March 2007 and Approved by the Kennel Club on 8th August 2007.

Further Amendments made on 18th May 2008 and Approved by the Kennel Club on 12 August 2008.

Further Amendments made on 28th March 2009 and approved by the Kennel Club on the 1st September 2009

Further Amendment made on the 16th May 2010 and approved by the Kennel Club on the 5th July 2010.