

## **MEDALLION ROTTWEILER CLUB CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

**SECTION 1.** The name of the Club shall be **MEDALLION ROTTWEILER CLUB.**

**SECTION 2.** The objectives of the Club shall be:

(a) to encourage and promote the breeding of pure-bred Rottweilers and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.

(b) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by maintaining high breeding standards and by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, herding and agility trials and any other American Kennel Club sanctioned events where Rottweilers are, or will be, permitted to participate.

(c) to conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, herding and agility trials and any other American Kennel Club sanctioned events where Rottweilers are, or will be, permitted to participate under the care of the American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 3.** The Club shall further the objectives stated in Section 2 by requiring all members to subscribe to the following Code of Ethics:

**I. Purpose.** In Rottweiler breeding, the emphasis shall be placed upon working ability and other outstanding qualities of character of this breed, as well as upon appearance.

Consistent with the aforementioned, I will agree to breed discriminatingly and only upon strong evidence of the possibility of finding suitable homes for the resultant puppies. I understand and agree that to breed unadvisedly may lead to overpopulation and contribute materially to the deterioration of the Rottweiler breed.

**II. Records.** I agree, if I breed my bitch or use my stud in service, to keep accurate records of stock, matings, and pedigrees, and to register my breeding stock with the American Kennel Club.

**III. Breeding.** I agree that only those Rottweilers will be used for breeding which have OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) certified hip x-rays (or certified by foreign counterparts of the OFA – imported Rottweilers must have OFA certification within six months after arrival in U.S.A.). At this time, the Board of Directors strongly recommends and suggests that all breeding stock be permanently identified by one or all of the following: tattoo, microchip, DNA markers, prior to health certifications being obtained from the OFA. If frozen or chilled semen is used, the dog must be x-rayed and certified by the OFA or foreign counterpart at no less than 24 months of age, and have no disqualifying faults as listed in the 1990 Official AKC revised standard, and no radical departures from the official AKC Rottweiler standard, such as:

Entropion, ectropion. Overshot, undershot (when incisors do not touch or mesh); wry mouth; two or more missing teeth. Unilateral cryptorchid or cryptorchid males. Long coat. Any base color other than black; absence of all markings. Excessive temperament exhibited as consistent.

I will further agree that, should I breed from lines in which I am knowledgeable that any of the above occur, I will disclose this to my buyers.

**As the owner of a bitch:** I will only breed normal healthy, mature bitches which have reached their 24th month. I will not permit my bitch to produce litters in three consecutive seasons. I further agree to cull deformed puppies.

**As the owner of a stud dog:** I will only breed healthy, mature dogs which have reached their 24th month, and I will refuse stud service to any bitch who has not reached her 24th month, or which I consider in poor health, or which has disqualifying faults or radical departures from the 1990 official AKC revised Standard. I will follow the custom to allow one repeat service (at the bitch's next season) where a bitch has failed to conceive after being bred to one of my studs if the stud is still in good health and available, and at such time and place as mutually agreed to by the owner of the bitch and myself. I will encourage bitch owners to breed only if they have the facilities, time and resources to adequately care for a litter.

It is recommended that each member make a sincere effort to see that a reasonable portion of an anticipated litter by his bitch or that resulted from the use of his stud dog is suitably spoken for before a breeding takes place. A bitch may be bred to only one stud-dog during any one estrous cycle with the exception that a bitch may be bred to multiple sires in the same estrus cycle with strict adherence to the AKC Multiple-Sire Registration Application requirements.

Breeders and stud dog owners recognize that they have a lifetime responsibility for puppies produced by their brood bitch or stud dog. Breeders must also recognize the inherent obligation to provide a stable environment that protects each puppy's physical and emotional well being. This includes helping to relocate to a new home that puppy (or adult dog) which the owner is unable/unwilling to keep or taking that puppy (or adult dog) back. Any provisions for refunds or reimbursement of expenses shall be handled in the contract between the breeder and owner. No puppy or adult dog bred or owned by an MRC member shall be disposed of in an animal shelter or pound unless such disposal is required by law.

Enforcement of this paragraph would require that both the breeder and the stud dog owner failed to respond to notification in writing of the plight of the dog/puppy in harm's way.

**IV. Health.** I agree to maintain good standards of health and care of my dogs including proper veterinary care. I further agree that proper mental health includes regular contact with people and exposure to the outside world.

**V. Sales.** I will refuse to recommend breeders who do not conform to the obligations expressed in this Code, or to sell to dog wholesalers and retailers (such as pet shops), or to donate a Rottweiler for raffle purposes, or to sell or buy in litter-lots.

I will use a written agreement with any sales involving a dog.

I will pass on to the buyers of puppies or adult dogs accurate health breeding and registration records and a four generation pedigree. When appropriate, AKC limited registration procedures will be followed and the buyer will be advised of the restrictions of this type of registration.

I will follow the general practice of breeders, that any puppy sold as a show prospect which subsequently develops a genetic disqualifying defect shall be: (1) replaced by the breeder with another show prospect puppy, or (2) the money refunded and the dog returned to the breeder or (3) the buyers money be refunded to the extent of the differences between the price of pet puppies sold from the same or similar litters with the buyer retaining the dog, or any other mutually agreeable alternative.

I will further recommend to my puppy purchasers that they render incapable of reproducing any dog which has developed disqualifying and serious faults thereby rendering the dog unsuitable for breeding.

I will not release puppies before they are seven weeks of age, and then only with the full knowledge that they are healthy and have had the required medical inoculations and care.

I will urge my puppy purchasers to provide obedience training at the proper age. As a breeder I will make a sincere effort to see that every dog will have an adequate home and be properly cared for.

**VI. Advertising.** I agree that my advertising, oral or written, shall be factual and not worded so as to attract undesirable buyers, or to encourage the raising of purebred Rottweilers as an easy money scheme.

No price should be given in advertising Rottweilers.

**VII. Sportsmanship.** I shall conduct myself at all times in a manner which will reflect credit upon me and the breed, regardless of the location or circumstances, but especially when attending dog shows, whether as an exhibitor or a spectator. It is recommended that this conduct follow through at club meetings.

**VIII. Enforcement.** I understand and agree that upon receipt of sufficient written proof of violations of this Code of Ethics, the Board of Directors will proceed according to the Constitution of the Medallion Rottweiler Club, Article VII (Discipline).

A Grievance Committee of three members is to be appointed by the Board of Directors as required to report their findings to the Board for a vote by the Board.

**IX. Special Circumstances.** I further understand and agree that should I, through no fault of my own, be in violation of any of the aforementioned provisions, I shall have recourse to the Grievance Committee appointed by the Board of Directors.

## **Article II - Membership**

**SECTION 1. Eligibility.** There shall be two types of memberships:

(a) **Full Membership**, consisting of individual or family membership, shall be open to all persons 18 years of age or older, who, at the time of joining, own a Rottweiler and who are in good standing with the AKC and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club; Family membership consists of the voting privileges of two persons who live in the same house and who are related and whose names are specified on the membership application. A member who has owned Rottweilers, but is currently without one may retain full-member status.

(b) **Associate Membership**, open to all persons 18 years or older who are in good standing with the AKC and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club. This membership is for an individual who wishes to show interest and to support the breed through club membership while awaiting ownership of a Rottweiler. Associate members shall have all the privileges of the Club with the exception of the right to vote or hold office for any elective position.

When an associate member shall acquire ownership of a Rottweiler, his or her status shall be changed to that of full membership with notification of this change having been received by the Membership Chairman along with a photo copy of the AKC registration form of the Rottweiler he or she now owns or co-owns.

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 be \$30.00 per year per person or \$35.00 per family membership, payable on or before the 1st day of January each year. This fee will include the newsletter, if one is published, and access to the Member Only Section of the MRC website ([www.mrcrottweiler.org](http://www.mrcrottweiler.org)). Any new member joining after July 1 of any given year is liable for only one-half of the membership dues for that membership year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. Membership renewal notice shall be published in the December-January newsletter and again in the February-March newsletter, if there is one, and/or in the Member Only Section of the Club website.

**SECTION 3. Election to Membership.** Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors, which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by these Constitution and By-Laws and Code of Ethics and rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.

New member(s) names will be published on the Club Website and in the next newsletter, if published, following its receipt.

**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 secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club, and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year (January 1).

(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; 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 whose dues are unpaid as of the date of the meeting.

(c) by expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion, as provided in Article VII of these By-Laws.

**Article III - Meetings**

**SECTION 1. Club Meetings.** Meetings of the Club shall be held in the Chicagoland area in the months of January, March, May, August, October, and December in each year, or at any other time and place as may be designated by the President. Written notice of each such meeting shall be provided on the Club Website and electronic list and in the newsletter, if published. The Quorum for such a meeting shall be equal to 10% of the Illinois members in good standing as of the first of the year.

**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 Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five members of the Club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held in the Chicagoland area, at such hour and place as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such meeting shall be published on the Club Website, posted on the Club's electronic list or mailed by the Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting; and said business may be transacted there-at. The Quorum for such a meeting shall be equal to 10% of the Illinois members in good standing at the first of the year.

**SECTION 3. Board Meetings.** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the Chicagoland area in the months of January, March, May, August, October, and December in each year, or at any other time and place as may be designated by the President. Notice of such meeting shall be posted on the Club Website and electronic list and/or written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary to be received at least 5 days prior to the date of the meeting. The Quorum for such a meeting shall be five.

**SECTION 4. Special Board Meetings.** Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by the Secretary upon a written request signed by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held in the Chicagoland area and at such hour and place as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. Notice of

such meeting shall be published on the Club Website, posted on the Club's electronic list and/or written notice shall be sent by the Secretary to be received at least 5 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 business shall be transacted there-at.

**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 is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or election.

#### **Article IV - Directors & Officers**

**SECTION 1. Board of Directors.** The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and four Directors. The President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and two Directors shall be elected in even numbered years and the Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary and two Directors shall be elected in odd numbered years, so that a staggered pattern can be established, as provided in Article V. Officers and Board Members shall be elected for two year terms. 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, Secretaries, and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities with regard to the Club and its meetings and the Board and its meeting;

(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 the President in addition to those particularly specified in these Constitution and By-Laws.

(b) The **Vice-President** shall serve as a board member and have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.

(c) The **Recording Secretary's** duties are to serve as a Board member, to record the minutes of the Board meeting, to record the minutes of the Business meeting, to furnish a copy of the business meeting minutes to the Website Administrator and newsletter editor, if applicable, to furnish the Officers and Board of Directors with a copy of Board and Business meeting minutes prior to the following meeting and to carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these Constitution and By-Laws.

(d) The **Corresponding Secretary's** duties are to serve as Board member, to prepare and post or mail all Club materials (including notification of time and place of members' meetings and of Board meetings), to lend as much assistance as possible to committee chairmen with mailings pertaining to Club business, to have the responsibility of carrying through on all correspondence of the Club (except that which is in special committee), and to carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these Constitution and By-Laws.

(e) **The Treasurer** shall serve as a Board Member and collect and record all moneys belonging to the club. Moneys shall be deposited in a bank designated by the Board, in the

name of the Club. The books shall be open to inspection by the Board and at the discretion of the Board, open for professional audit. A report shall be given at every meeting on the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt of payment not before reported. At the January meeting an accounting shall be rendered of all moneys received and expended during the previous year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine. An Audit Committee consisting of three members not involved in preparing or signing of checks shall meet at the January meeting to review the details of all cash receipts and disbursements.

**SECTION 3. Vacancies.** Any vacancies occurring on the Board during the year shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a majority vote of all the then 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.

## **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 31st day of December. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting following the installation of officers, and shall continue through the election and installation of officers at the next annual meeting.

**SECTION 2. Annual Meeting.** The Annual meeting shall be held in the month of May at which the Board of Directors for the ensuing year, as previous designated in Article IV, Section 1, shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this article. They shall take office immediately upon conclusion of the election and installation of officers, and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 14 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. Prior to February the Board shall select a nominating committee consisting of three members and one alternate, not more than one of whom shall be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen and alternate of their selection. The Board shall name a Chairman for the Committee and it shall be his duty to call a committee meeting in February or as soon as possible after the committee is notified of its selection, and no later than February 15th.

(a) The Nominating Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office. The nominating committee by letter will request written acceptance or refusal of candidacy from each nominee within 10 days.

(b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report of its candidates by the Secretary, same shall immediately notify the entire membership in writing and post on the Club Website and electronic list.

(c) Additional nominations may be made at the March meeting from the floor after the nominator ascertains his nominee's willingness to be a candidate. Nominations from the floor can be made only from members not selected as candidates by the Nominating Committee. No person who has declined Committee nomination may be nominated from the floor for the same position. No person may be a candidate for more than one office.

(d) On or before April 15th, the Secretary shall notify the membership in writing and post on the Club Website and electronic list, a slate of all candidates to be elected.

(e) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any other manner than as provided in this Section 4, Article V.

## **Article VI - Committees**

**SECTION 1.** The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows, tracking tests, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership and other fields which may be well 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.** The duties of the **Membership Chairman** are as follows: to mail application blanks to prospective members; to furnish Website Administrator with all new member names for publishing on Club Website; to furnish new members with a copy of the membership list and current copy of the Constitution and By-Laws and Standing Rules; to keep a permanent roll of members together with suspensions and resignations, such record to be passed on to each successive membership chairman; to furnish the incoming Corresponding Secretary with an up-to-date membership list; to furnish the newsletter editor, if applicable, with names and addresses of new members - these to be printed in the newsletter; to work with the Treasurer in collection of dues, so as to keep members in good standing. The Membership Chairman shall send notices of dues, collect all dues, record them and forward them to the Treasurer.

**SECTION 3.** The Specialty Chairman shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The chairman's duties shall be to select a committee as is necessary; and to do all things necessary to run the specialty.

**SECTION 4.** The Futurity Chairman shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The chairman's duties shall be to do all things necessary to assure that the Futurity Stake is run in accordance with the Futurity Rules as set forth and approved by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 5.** The Tracking Committee Chairman shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The chairman's duties shall be to select a committee as is necessary; and to do all things necessary to run the Tracking Tests.

**SECTION 6.** Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the members of the Board present and voting. The appointee must be notified in writing. The Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

**SECTION 7.** No member of the Club may take on any liabilities without prior authorization from the Board. Any financial commitments above \$50.00 may not be honored by the Club unless a budget has been submitted and approved by the Board authorizing such commitments. Any Committees or officer whose expenses are expected to exceed the \$50.00 limit must submit a budget to the Board for approval.

**SECTION 8.** There shall be an Ethics Grievance Committee consisting of three members and one alternate appointed biannually by the Board of Directors, to investigate possible violations of the Code of Ethics, to otherwise assist the Board in disciplinary matters as directed, and to make recommendations to the Board on all matters coming before it.

## **Article VII - 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. Request for Inquiry.** A request for inquiry to the Grievance Committee must be in writing. The Grievance Committee will follow up the inquiry and if further action is necessary will make recommendations to the Board.

**SECTION 3. 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 Grievance Committee will not be requested to deposit \$25.00. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at a Board meeting, 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 which would be prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or breed, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date of hearing by the Board not less than 3 weeks nor more than 6 weeks thereafter. 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 an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if he wishes.

**SECTION 4. 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. The Board may request further investigation by the Ethics Grievance Committee and may request a recommendation as to Board Action. 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 suspend the defendant from the 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 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 5. 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 held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 day after 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 findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The meeting shall then vote by secret written 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 so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

#### **Article VIII - Amendments**

**SECTION 1.** Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws and Code of Ethics may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by twenty 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 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 By-Laws and Code of Ethics may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided that the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

#### **Article IX - 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 the event of the dissolution of the Club 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 payments 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 the last meeting, Report of the Board, Report of the President, Report of Secretaries, Report of Treasurer, Report of Committees, Election of Officers and Board (Annual Meeting), Unfinished Business, Election of new members, 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 the minutes of the last meeting, Report of Secretaries, Report of Treasurer, Report of Committees, Unfinished Business, Review of Proposed members, 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 of order the Club may adopt.

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