

THE CASCADE GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB CONSTITUTION

Section 1. Club Name: The name of the club shall be the *Cascade Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club*, hereafter referred to as “CGSMDC” or "Club".

Section 2. Objects: The objects of the Club shall be:

- a) To encourage and promote quality breeding of purebred Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs (GSMD) 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 Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs shall be judged.
- c) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interest of the breed. To encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog events and encourage goodwill, support and cooperation among GSMD owners and fanciers.
- d) To conduct sanctioned matches and specialty shows and other AKC events for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club.
- e) To provide a source of information and education to GSMD owners and the interested public.

Section 3. Bylaws: 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.

Section 4: The CGSMDC 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 accrue to the benefit of any member or individual.

BYLAWS

Article 1 Membership

Section 1: Memberships: There shall be three types of membership open to persons 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.

- a) Individual Membership – Open to persons 18 years of age and older and who own a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog (GSMD) at the time of application. The member shall enjoy all the privileges of the Club, including one vote, and the ability to hold office.

- b) Family Membership – Has the same requirements as an individual membership and is further defined to include the following: two (2) members of the same household, 18 years or older. Each member will receive one vote and the ability to hold office.
- c) Associate Membership – Open to persons 18 years of age and older who are not in the Club's immediate area or those who are inactive within the Club. Associate members shall enjoy all privileges except voting or holding the position of an officer or director. Associate members do not count in determining a quorum.
- d) Election to Membership – Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the constitution and bylaws and the rules of The American Kennel Club and those of the CGSMDC. The application shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant, registered name(s) of any GSMDs owned and it shall carry the endorsement of two members (individual or family) in good standing. Applicants for Associate Membership do not require an endorsement. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.

Applicants for membership are to be elected by secret ballot at any meeting of the Board of Directors. An applicant who has received less than the majority needed by the Board may be presented by one of the applicant's endorsers at the next meeting of the Club. The Individual and Family Members present may elect such applicant by secret ballot and a favorable 2/3 vote provided that 20% of the voting Members are present at the meeting. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not reapply within six months.

Section 2. Membership Dues:

- a) Membership dues shall be payable on or before the first day of July of each year. New memberships paid after March 1 shall be assumed to carry over through the following year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year.
- b) Notice of dues owed annually will be sent during the month of May by the membership chairperson. Dues may be paid by check made payable to (CGSMDC), submitted to the Club's Treasurer.
- c) Dues will be set by the majority vote of the Board of Directors of CGSMDC. Any changes to the dues rate must be voted on by the Board of Directors, if it is deemed necessary for the financial stability of the Cascade Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club on an annual basis. Dues for Individual membership shall not exceed \$40 per year; dues for Family membership shall not exceed \$60; dues for Associate membership shall not exceed \$40 per year.

Section 3. Termination of Membership:

- 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. Obligations other than dues are considered a debt to the Club and 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 60 days after the first day of the fiscal year, however, the Board may grant an additional 60 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

Section 1. Club Meetings: Meetings of the Club shall be held a minimum of six times per fiscal year within the Greater Seattle, Washington area at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of meetings shall be published in the Club's Newsletter or shall be mailed by the Recording Secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20 percent of the members in good standing.

Section 2. Special Club Meetings: Special club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board; and shall be called by the Recording 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 Seattle, Washington area 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 by the Recording 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 20 percent of the members in good standing.

Section 3. Board Meetings: Meetings of the board of directors shall be held bi-monthly within the Greater Seattle, Washington area at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Recording Secretary at least five days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the board.

Section 4. Special Board Meetings: Special meetings of the board may be called by the President; and shall be called by the Recording Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the board. Such special meetings shall be held in within the Greater Seattle, Washington area at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. The Recording Secretary shall mail written notice of such meeting 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 business shall be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the board.

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 III

Directors and Officers

Section 1. Board of Directors: The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and four (4) elected Directors; all officers and directors shall be; Individual or Family members in good standing for a minimum of one year at the time of nomination. They shall be elected for two-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 of Directors.

Section 2. Officers: The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, 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 specific in the bylaws.
- b) The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of President, in the event of the President's death, absence, or incapacity.
- c) 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. The Recording Secretary on request by the Board will produce a review of the record in the form of minutes, and the minutes can only be accepted after formal approval by a majority vote of the Board. He or she 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, keep a roll of the members of the club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.
- d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belong to the Club. He or she shall deposit the same in a bank approved by the Board, in the name of the Club. The books shall, at all times, be open to inspection of 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.

Section 3. Vacancies: Any vacancies occurring on the board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next election 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; 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 and official 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 June. The election of directors and officers listed in Article III will be held every two years. During an election year at the Annual Meeting, 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 the first of July following 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 four 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 in accordance with these Bylaws. During the month of March, the board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members and one alternate, not more than one of who may be a member of the board. The Recording Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen and alternates of their selection. The board shall name a chairman for the committee and it shall be such person's duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before April 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 Recording Secretary in writing.

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

(c) Additional nominations may be made at the May meeting by any member 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, the proposer shall present to the Recording Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.

(d) If no valid additional nominations are offered at the May meeting, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected and no voting will be required. If one or more valid additional nomination(s) are offered, a vote shall be conducted for these positions only. The candidate receiving the most votes for the voted position shall win.

(e) 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 Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows, obedience trials, 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 in its particular projects.

Section 2: Any committee appointee 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 service has been terminated.

Article VI Discipline

Section 1: Club Suspensions: Any member who is suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club shall automatically be suspended from the privileges of this club for a like period.

Section 2: Charges: Any member may refer 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 Recording Secretary together with a deposit of \$50.00, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board or a Committee following a hearing. The Recording 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. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct that would be prejudicial to the best interest of the Club it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges it shall fix a date of a hearing by the Board or a committee of not less than three (3) members of the Board, not less than four (4) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Recording 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 their own defense and bring witnesses if they wish.

Section 3. Board Hearing. The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by the complainant and defendant, the Board may by a majority vote of those present reprimand and/or suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing, or until the next annual meeting if that will occur after six (6) months. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, a suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting, which considers the recommendation of the Board. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings

shall be put in written form and filed with the Recording Secretary. The Recording 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 recommendation of the Board 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 for expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf though no evidence shall be taken at his meeting. The President shall read the charges and the findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his or her own behalf. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion.

A two-third (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 VII Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Recording Secretary signed by twenty (20%) percent of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Recording Secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the Recording Secretary received the petition.

Section 2: The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a two-third (2/3) secret vote of the members present and 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 mailed 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 written consent of not less than two-thirds (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 or 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 given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs selected by the Board of Directors.

Article IX

Order of Business

Section 1: At meetings of the Club, Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed with the order of business so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit as follows:

1. Roll call
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Report of the President
4. Report of the Recording Secretary
5. Report of the Treasurer
6. Reports of Committees
7. Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)
8. Election of new members
9. Unfinished business
10. New business
11. Adjournment

Section 2: At meeting of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Report of the Recording Secretary
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Report of committees
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of new members
7. New business
8. 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 bylaws and any other special rules of order the club may adopt.

Constitution & Bylaws

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