

CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I
Name and Objectives

SECTION 1. The name of the club is Four Paw Agility Club of North Georgia. All training activities as well as all obedience, tracking, and agility events sanctioned by the American Kennel Club, Incorporated will be promoted under this name.

SECTION 2. The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the utility of dogs as well-behaved and reliable companions for their own safety and well being, for the pleasure of their owners, and so they will be considered good canine citizens of the community. The objectives of the club shall be to:

- promote the training of purebred dogs;
- promote public education in the areas of agility, obedience, tracking, and other performance training;
- offer classes and seminars for the training of dogs and their handlers;
- encourage the training of judges;
- conduct sanctioned matches, agility trials, obedience trials, tracking tests, and performance events under the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club; and
- promote cooperation and good sportsmanship among its members in the training and exhibition of dogs.

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.

BYLAWS
ARTICLE I
Membership

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

- A REGULAR Membership is open to any individual eighteen (18) years of age and older who subscribes to the purposes of this Club.
- A FAMILY Membership is available to any household consisting of two adults and any children residing in the same home. Each adult holding a Family Membership shall have all the rights and privileges of and be deemed a Regular Member, and each child between the ages of 10 and 17 years shall be deemed a Junior Member.
- A JUNIOR Membership is open to any individual ten (10) to seventeen (17) years of age who subscribes to the purposes of this Club. A JUNIOR Member enjoys all the privileges of a Regular membership, except voting, office holding and sponsoring a regular membership application. Junior members may automatically convert to Regular membership upon reaching their eighteenth (18th) birthday.

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.* Dues shall be set from time to time by the Board of Directors and changes approved by the membership. Dues shall not exceed \$50.00 per person at any time, payable on or before the 1st day of January of each year. Starting in December of each year, the Corresponding Secretary will send out notice of dues along with the regular meeting notice.

SECTION 3. *Election to Membership.* Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form approved by the Board of Directors, which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the constitution and bylaws of the club as well as 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 members, from separate households, in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.

All applications are to be filed with the Secretary, and each application shall be read at the first meeting of the club following its receipt. At the next club meeting, the application will be presented, and a vote will be taken. The affirmative votes of 75% of the members present at the meeting shall constitute approval of the application. Applicants may either leave the room or remain, as they choose. Applicants shall attend at least one meeting before a formal vote is taken. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the club may not reapply within six months after such rejection.

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

- *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.

- *by lapsing.* A membership shall automatically lapse and terminate if such member's dues remain unpaid 60 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 30 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case shall a person whose dues are delinquent as of the date of a meeting be entitled to vote at said meeting.
- *by expulsion.* A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these bylaws.

ARTICLE II Meetings and Voting

SECTION 1. *Club Meetings.* Meetings of the club shall be held each month within the counties of Cobb, Cherokee, and Douglas, Georgia at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. A 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. In addition, a special club meeting 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 within the counties of Cobb, Cherokee, and Douglas, Georgia 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 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. No other club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a special meeting shall be 20 percent of the members in good standing.

SECTION 3. *Board Meetings.* Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held each month within the counties of Cobb, Cherokee, and Douglas, Georgia at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the 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 members.

SECTION 4. *Special Board Meetings.* Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held in the counties of Cobb, Cherokee, and Douglas, Georgia at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. The 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. A 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 officers and four (4) other persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing and shall be elected for one-year terms at the club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV. All Board members shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors. No Board member shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same position.

SECTION 2. Officers. The club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities, both with regard to the club and its meetings and the Board and its meetings.

- The PRESIDENT shall preside at all meetings of the club and 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.
- The VICE PRESIDENT shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.
- The RECORDING SECRETARY shall keep a record of all meetings of the club and the Board and all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the club as well as whatever contact with other organizations as needed. The CORRESPONDING SECRETARY shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, new members of their election to membership, 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. The TREASURER shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the club. Moneys shall be deposited in a 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 as to the condition of the club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not previously reported shall be provided at every meeting. At the annual meeting, an accounting of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year shall be rendered. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.

SECTION 3. Vacancies. Three (3) consecutive missed meetings will lead to contact by a Board member via a letter. After the fourth missed meeting, another letter shall be sent, stating that if no contact with a Board member is made within ten (10) days, then the position will be filled. Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy. A special Board meeting may be called for that purpose. However, a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President. The resulting vacant position 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 membership year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last 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 during the month of February, at which time 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. Those elected shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election, and each retiring officer shall provide his or her successor in office with 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 (4) nominated candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for other Board 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 November, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee, consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than one of who may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee members and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a chairman of the committee, and it shall be such person's duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held before the December general meeting.

- The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office (and for Delegate, who may but need not be an officer or director of the club) and positions on the Board and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing.
- Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, but not less than two (2) weeks prior to the January meeting, the Secretary shall notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- Any member in attendance may make additional nominations at the January meeting, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when their name is proposed. If the proposed candidate is not in attendance at said meeting, the nominator shall present to the 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.
- Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

ARTICLE V
Committees

SECTION 1. Each year, the Board may 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 assist 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 member may prefer charges against another member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary, together with a deposit of \$45.00, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present the charges at a Board meeting. 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 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, which shall not be less than three weeks nor more than six 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 a statement that the defending member may personally appear on his own behalf and present witnesses if desired.

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 equally in that regard. 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, reprimand or suspend the defendant from all privileges of the club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. If the Board deems the aforesaid punishment to be 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 at which the Board's recommendation is considered by the membership. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be reduced to writing 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 4. *Expulsion.* Expulsion of a member from the club may be accomplished only at a meeting of the club following a Board hearing, unless a hearing is not required under the circumstances set forth in Section 3 above, and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings, if required, 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 defending member shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf, though no evidence shall be presented at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendation and shall invite the defending member, if present, to speak in his own behalf if he so desires. The members shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A vote of 75% of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not approved, 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 written petition addressed to the Secretary and signed by 30 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 by the Secretary, along with recommendations of the Board, in order that a vote shall be held within three months of the date the petition was received by the Secretary.

SECTION 2. The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds secret vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for said 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 VIII

Dissolution

SECTION 1. The club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds of the 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 or any proceeds thereof nor any assets of the club shall be distributed to any members of the club. After payment of the debts of the club, its property and assets shall be donated to a charitable organization dedicated to the benefit of dogs as selected by 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 President
- Report of Recording Secretary
- Report of Corresponding Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of committees
- Election of officers and board members (at annual meeting)
- 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 last meeting
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of committees
- 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, provided that they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any other special rules of order the club may adopt.