

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I: NAME

The Name shall be known as the “Obedience Dog Training Club of Waterbury, Inc.”

## ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Club shall be to produce better trained dogs and better canine citizens, and to promote good sportsmanship in obedience competition.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION I: CLASSIFICATION

There shall be three types of memberships open to all persons who subscribe to the purpose of the Club and are in good standing with such dog organizations as the American Kennel Club.

- a) Active: Single and Family (household). An active member shall be entitled to all privileges of the Club, may vote, and provided he has been a member for at least one (1) year, may hold office.
- b) Junior: Any person under 18 years of age shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Club with the exception of voting and holding office.
- c) Honorary: Honorary membership may be conferred upon any person by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Honorary members are entitled to all privileges of the Club except voting and holding office. If, however, an Honorary member applies for active membership in the Club and such application or request is accepted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, the restriction as to voting and holding office shall no longer apply.

All memberships must be approved by the Board of Directors.

### SECTION 2: VOTING RIGHTS

An active single membership shall have one (1) vote. An active family membership shall have two (2) votes. The junior and honorary memberships shall have no voting rights.

### SECTION 3: DUES

Annual dues will be determined by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

### SECTION 1: TITLES

The officers of the Club shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary and a Treasurer.

### SECTION 2: TERM OF OFFICE

All officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Club in accordance with Section 3 of Article VI.

### SECTION 3: VACANCIES

Vacancies in office shall be filled by the remaining members of the Board of Directors, voting by ballot. The term of any officer so elected shall be until the next election.

### SECTION 4: ELIGIBILITY

- a) Any member in good standing who is eighteen (18) years of age or older and who has been a member in good standing for at least one (1) year or longer may become an officer of the Club.
- b) No member shall hold, ordinarily, more than one elective office at any one time. Exception to this provision must be authorized by the Board of Directors.

### SECTION 5: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

- a) Officers shall be subject to recall by members of the Club as set forth in the By-Laws.
- b) Any officer who is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Club or of the Board of Directors without notifying the presiding officer or secretary in advance, may at the discretion of the Board of Directors be disqualified and a successor chosen.

## ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### SECTION 1: CONSTITUANCY

The officers of the Club and two elected members shall constitute the Board of Directors of the Club. The Training Director shall attend the meetings of the Board of Directors at the request of the President.

### SECTION 2: VACANCIES

Vacancies in the board membership elected from the Club at large shall be filled by the remaining Board members voting by ballot.

### SECTION 3: MEETINGS

The Board of Directories shall meet after the Annual Meeting. Thereafter it shall meet whenever necessary for the transaction of the Club's business.

## ARTICLE VI: THE CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS, NOMINAIONS

### SECTION 1: CLUB YEAR

The Club's fiscal year shall begin the first day of January and end on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December.

### SECTION 2: ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of February at which Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his 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 each position 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 December the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members, not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen of their selection. The Board shall name a chairman for the committee and it shall be his duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

- a) The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and two (2) candidates for the other positions on the Board, and after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing.
- b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall, before January 15<sup>th</sup>, notify each member of the candidates so nominated.
- c) Additional nominations may be made by written petition of five (5) members. The petition must include a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his willingness to be a candidate, and must be received by the Secretary on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>. No person may be a candidate for more than one position and the additional nominations which are provided for herein may be made only from those members who have not accepted a nomination of the Nominating Committee.
- d) Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting nor in any manner other than as provided in this section.

## ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

### SECTION 1: STANDING COMMITTEES

The Board may, each year, appoint Standing Committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as 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 it on particular projects.

### SECTION 2: APPOINTEE TERMINATION

Any committee appointee may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee. The Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

### ARTICLE VIII: DISCIPLINE

Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club and/or any other similar Kennel Club (i.e. Canadian Kennel Club, United Kennel Club, AMBOR, etc.) automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period.

### ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Meeting by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all the active members present. Before any amendment shall be voted upon by the Club, it shall be put in writing, signed by five members in good standing, and referred to the Secretary at least four weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. It shall then be the Secretary's duty to notify, in writing, the enrolled members of the Club as to the nature of the proposed changes in the Constitution and such notice to be mailed to each enrolled member at least one week prior to the Annual Meeting.

### ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION

The Club may be dissolved at a special meeting called for that purpose by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the paid up members. A vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members in attendance at such meeting would be necessary to dissolve the Club. In the event of the dissolution of the Club other than for the purpose 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 member of the Club, but after payment of the debts of the Club, its property and assets shall be given to one or more of the more established non-breed specific canine medical research foundations selected by the Board of Directors.