

Constitution of the Gateway Sled Dog Club Proposed 1994

Article I: Name

The name of the organization shall be the Gateway Sled Dog Club.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this club shall be to promote the awareness and growth of sled dog activities and to educate the general public with the positive aspects of working sled dogs.

Article III: Nonprofit Status

The Gateway Sled Dog Club is a private nonprofit organization issuing no stock. Any proceeds derived from promotions or events, or from the sale of any goods connected with the said promotion or events shall be used to defray the expenses of operating the club. No officer or member shall be paid for his or her services to the club other than to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses made for official club business.

Article IV: Membership

Membership, as provided for in the bylaws, shall be granted upon payment of required dues to the treasurer.

Article V: Board of Directors/Officers

The board of directors/officers of this club shall be five officers: the president, vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer and four (4) members who are not officers. Any vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the general membership.

Article VI: Meetings

There shall be regular (monthly) meetings except as voted on by the membership.

Article VII: Amendments

The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the eligible general membership present at any regular meeting, provided that notice of such amendments shall have been mailed to all members at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting.

Article VIII: Dissolution

The Gateway Sled Dog Club may be dissolved at any time by the consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present. After payment of all club debts, all property and assets shall be donated to a nonprofit organization decided upon by the remaining voting membership.

By-Laws of the Gateway Sled Dog Club

Article I: Membership

Section 1: The board of directors/officers shall have the power to enforce the rules established by the general membership regulating the admission, suspension and expulsion of members. Upon recommendation of the board, secret balloting for admission, suspension or expulsion of members shall take place at regular or special meeting of the general membership. An affirmative three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the voting membership shall be required; the majority vote shall be at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the total eligible voting membership.

Section 2: Candidates for membership shall be reputable and favorable to the purpose of the club. Persons seeking membership shall be considered candidates after attending two (2) meetings and upon presenting the membership chairperson with:

- A. Completed application form which requires signed sponsorship by two (2) voting members, not of the same household, who have been members in good standing for at least one full year.
- B. Proof of personal liability insurance.
- C. Proof of current rabies vaccination for all dogs owned.
- D. Sections 2B and 2C shall take effect immediately for all members and shall apply annually at renewal of membership.

Section 3: Every member shall pay annual dues. Annual dues are due March 1. New members joining between March 1 and August 31 shall pay the full amount of annual dues. New members joining between September 1 and February 28 shall pay half (1/2) of the annual dues. All members, regardless of category, shall receive the newsletter and are eligible to receive any merit awards and titles earned at club sponsored events.

- A. Family membership: \$15.00 The family is entitled to two (2) adult votes, both adults may hold office, and includes all dependent children living at home. This is to include the immediate family only.
- B. Individual membership: \$10.00 The member is entitled to one (1) vote and may hold office.
- C. Junior membership: \$5.00 Members under the age of 18 not covered by a family membership will not be entitled to vote or hold office but are entitled to a voice in any club business.
- D. Associate membership: \$10.00 individual, \$15.00 family. Cannot vote or hold office, but are entitled to all other benefits. This membership category is intended only for those individuals who are unable to attend regular meetings due to geographical distance.
- E. If dues are not received by the treasurer before the annual March meeting, the member shall be dropped from the membership and address lists and must reapply as a new member.

Section 4: Families and/or spouses may not participate in club events if individual membership was obtained.

Section 5: The president shall be responsible for ensuring that the new member receives his or her copy of the club's constitution and by-laws and understands the same and agrees to abide by same.

- Section 6: Suspension and/or expulsion of a member shall be brought about only when:
- A. A written accusation is made by a fellow member within ten (10) days of an offense, and given/sent to any board member.
 - B. The board shall meet within thirty (30) days of receiving the written accusation. Both the accusing member and the accused will be notified of this meeting and asked to attend. At this meeting, the board shall decide, by majority vote, whether to suspend the accused member until the next monthly meeting.
 - C. After the board meeting and review, the board shall, if necessary, make a recommendation to the voting membership at the next monthly meeting.

Article II: Officers/Board Members

- Section 1: The officers of the club shall be a president, vice-president, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary and a treasurer, who shall be elected annually by the general voting membership at a meeting which shall be held immediately following the annual March meetings of the club. The new officers will take office at the close of this meeting. No officer may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office. Any vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the membership present at any meeting.
- Section 2: All board members shall be voted into office for a single two (2) year term by the general voting membership. Any vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the general membership present at any regular meeting.
- Section 3: The president shall preside over all meetings of the club and of the board of directors. The president shall also act as the sergeant-of-arms for all meetings and be ex-officio member of all committees.
- Section 4: The vice-president shall perform the duties of the president if he or she is unable to act and shall chair the membership committee.
- Section 5: The recording secretary shall keep all records of all club meetings and board of directors meeting and all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the club except for financial records and individual committee meetings.
- Section 6: The corresponding secretary shall have charge of the club correspondence, and other pertinent data.
- Section 7: The treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due to or belonging to the club. He or she shall deposit all monies in a bank in the club's name. The books shall be open to inspection at all times. An annual audit may be required.
- Section 8: Committees may be appointed from time to time by the president as needed, with the understanding that members of such committees shall be chosen on a voluntary basis.
- A. Standing committees shall be: Membership, Title, Trophy, Events, Demonstration and Parade
- Section 9: Candidates for office shall have attended nine (9) of the past twelve (12) regular meetings from March to the following February.

Article III Events/Public Appearances/Practices

- Section 1: Only paid up, qualifying members and/or their dogs shall be eligible to represent the club at public events, or participate in any club activity. (Guests may attend only two (2) practices unless they are actively seeking membership)
- Section 2: Members who represent the Gateway Sled Dog Club in events, demos or parades without the express consent of the appropriate committee shall be subject to disciplinary action.
- Section 3: Each official/chairman of an event shall have the authority, right and obligation to enforce the rules and their decision is final.

Section 4: The Gateway Sled Dog Club has a positive image it wishes to project and protect. Towards this end it is recognized that individual dogs or certain breeds may be at different times, have a negative image and may be denied participation in events by the appropriate committees and /or the board of directors.

Article IV Miscellaneous

Section 1: Voting by proxy shall be in writing and limited to the election of the officers/board of directors and shall be allowed on an individual basis only. Proxy votes shall stand if agreed upon by the general membership prior to the vote.

Section 2: All monies received from or in relation to events will be distributed as decided upon by the general membership.

Section 3: All complaints and suggestions shall be treated as new business at the regular meeting.

Section 4: All resignations must be submitted in writing to the recording secretary.

Section 5: All members and non-members participating in any event or meeting held under jurisdiction of the Gateway Sled Dog Club shall be bound by the rules and regulations as set forth by the club.

Section 6: No member shall bring more dogs to any event or practice than he or she can safely handle. This shall not be deemed a problem if dogs not working are crated or otherwise restrained in a designated area.

Section 7: At every practice or event, all dogs shall be under control at all times. No dogs shall be allowed to run loose or cause injury or duress to other dogs or people.

Section 8: From time to time various committees are formed and make recommendations to the general membership. Following majority approval by the voting membership present at a regular meeting, such committees' recommendations shall become binding until completion of the event for the purpose for which the committee was formed.

Section 9: Members are encouraged to support and/or promote our sponsors

Article V: Code of Ethics

The Gateway Sled Dog Club has a positive image that it wishes to project and protect. Therefore, the Gateway Sled Dog Club member shall conduct him/herself with good sportsmanship, working or training a clean (when practicable), groomed and healthy dog. All training will be done under humane conditions, keeping your dog's health and well-being of utmost importance. The Gateway Sled Dog Club member who wishes to participate in events shall become familiar with and abide by the rule and regulations pertaining to those events.