

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 a regular or special meeting of the general membership. The voting should include at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the total eligible voting membership. Of these voters, an affirmative three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of those present shall be required.
- 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. Proof of personal liability insurance and proof of current rabies vaccinations for all dogs owned shall be given to the Membership Chairperson as they become current. (ie. Rabies is given in the month of July and the liability insurance is renewed in December--copies are then given to the Membership Chair.)
- 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: \$15.00. Members under the age of 18 not covered by a family membership will not be entitled to a 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 monthly meetings due to geographical distance. The requirement of attending two (2) meetings is dropped for the Associate Membership. (As stated in Section 2, Article I, Membership)

- 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, a 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 Meeting 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 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 meetings 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, Titles, Trophy, Events, Demonstration, and Parade.

Section 9. Candidates for office shall have attended seven (7) of the past twelve (12) regular meetings from March to the following February, if they have been a member for at least three (3) years. (If a monthly meeting is not held, everyone is counted present.)

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. Non-members will participate in only two events while seeking membership. Non-members shall provide proof of rabies vaccination.

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, at different times, have a negative image and may be denied participation in events by the appropriate committee and/or the Board of Directors.

Article IV: Miscellaneous

Section 1. Voting by proxy shall be in writing and limited to the election of 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 asset 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 committee recommendations shall become binding until the completion of the event or 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 practical), groomed, and healthy dog. All training will be done under humane conditions, keeping the 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 rules and regulations pertaining to those events.

