



ORGANIZATION FOR THE WORKING SAMOYED
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

CONSTITUTION

Organization for the Working Samoyed

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the club shall be Organization for the Working Samoyed.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the club shall be:

- A. To encourage and promote the working heritage of purebred Samoyeds
- B. To develop the Samoyed's natural working abilities to their highest levels
- C. To preserve and protect the interests of the breed by encouraging high quality care
- D. To foster good sportsmanship and enjoyment in competitive and recreational dog sports
- E. To recognize the performance of outstanding Samoyeds in competitive events sponsored by AKC, ISDRA, IWPA, AHBA and other recognized organizations.

ARTICLE III

The club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or dues or donations to the club shall benefit any member or individual.

ARTICLE IV

The members of the club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such by-laws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

Section I Eligibility: Membership is open to those who subscribe to the purposes and objectives of this club.

A. Three types of membership shall be available to those owning a Samoyed :

1. Individual: This membership shall be available to all person eighteen (18) years of age or older.
2. Family: This membership shall be available to any two (2) adult members of a family, each to have voting privileges. Additional members of that family may apply as individual members.
3. Junior: This membership shall be available to individuals under 18 years old. Junior members do not have voting privileges.

B. Associate membership is available to persons eighteen (18) years or older. Associate members do not have voting privileges and may not compete for OWS awards.

Section II Dues:

Membership dues shall be set initially at \$20 for individual membership, \$25 for family membership, and \$10 for junior members. Associate membership dues shall be set initially at \$15.

Dues are payable on or before June of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. Prior to May 31st, the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year. Such notice may be contained within other printed material sent to members.

Applicants for membership shall submit payment of dues for the current year, except that applicants for membership filing after January first (1st) of each year will be required to submit half (1/2) of the annual dues with the application.

Dues may be changed upon an affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3rds) of the Board of Directors, but no more often than once in two years.

Section III Termination of Membership

A. Lapsing: A member will be considered as lapsed and unable to vote if dues are not paid by June of each year.

ARTICLE II
MEETINGS AND VOTING

Section I. Club Meetings

Members of the club may from time to time conduct meetings to carry out the objectives of the club. Meetings may be called by the Board and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request from at least five (5) members of the club. Such special meetings shall be held at such a time and manner as may be designated by the person authorized to call such meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed to members at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the meeting.

A quorum must be presented in order to conduct club business at a meeting.

Section II. Voting

Each member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one (1) vote at any meeting of the club at which there is a quorum or in any mail-in election, except as provided in Article I.

Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or election.

ARTICLE III
DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section I. Board of Directors

The Board shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) other persons all of whom shall be elected for two year staggered terms as provided in Article IV. General management of the club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

Section II. Officers

The club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, 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 Secretary and Treasurer positions may be combined and held by one person.

- A. The PRESIDENT shall preside at all meetings of the club and of the Board and shall have the duties and powers normally associated with the President in addition to those particularly specified in these by-laws.
- B. The VICE PRESIDENT shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.
- C. The 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. This officer shall have charge of all correspondence, notify members of meetings, keep a roll of the members and carry out other such duties as are prescribed in these by-laws.
- D. The TREASURER shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the club and keep receipt thereof, depositing same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the club. The club's bookkeeping records shall be open to inspection by the Board at all times. At least quarterly, the Treasurer shall report to the club the condition of the club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not previously reported.

Section III. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least twice yearly at such time and manner as designated by the Board, to include telephone conference, fax, e-mail, or some combination. Notice of each meeting shall be mailed to members at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be a majority of Board members.

Section IV. 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 from at least three (3) members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held at such a time and manner as may be designated by the person authorized to call such meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed to members at least five (5) and no more than ten (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. A quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

Section V Action Taken Without a Meeting

The Board of Directors may take any action in the absence of a meeting which they could take at a meeting by obtaining the written approval of all of the directors, which may include facsimile or electronic mail. Any action so approved shall have the same effect as though taken at a meeting of the directors.

Section VI Vacancies

Any vacancies in any office shall be filled until the next annual election, by a majority vote of the Board. If the office of President becomes vacant, the position shall be filled automatically by the Vice President and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by the Board.

Section VII Removal

Upon receipt of a petition signed by twenty percent (20%) of the members in good standing, the Secretary shall mail written notice to the membership of the proposed removal of named officer(s) or Board member(s).

Any Board member or officer may be removed from office by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the members voting in an election called for this purpose, provided that the proposed removal has been included in the notice of the election and mailed to each member at least one (1) month prior to the date of the vote.

ARTICLE IV

THE CLUB YEAR, ELECTIONS

Section I Club Year

The club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of July end of the thirtieth (30th) day of June.

Section II Elections

Officers and the Board of Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section IV of this Article. Elections will be held in June with new officers and board members taking office the following month. Elections of officers and board members shall be determined by a simple majority of the votes cast.

The first elections following adoption of the by-laws shall be for one year terms for the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and one Board member. The Vice President, and two of the Board of Directors shall be elected for two year terms. Thereafter, all terms shall be two years.

Section IV Nominations

Three (3) months prior to elections, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee, consisting of three members and two (2) alternates. The Board shall name a Chairperson for the Committee and that person shall call a committee meeting to determine nominations at least two months prior to elections.

A. A candidate must be a member in good standing with the club.

B. The Committee shall nominate one (1) candidate for each office and each Board position.

C. Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary/Treasurer shall notify members in writing of the nominations at least six (6) weeks prior to elections.

D. No person may be a candidate for more than one position except that one person may be a candidate for Secretary and a candidate for Treasurer.

E. Additional candidates may be added and voted on by write-in on the ballot for elections.

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

Section I

The Board shall appoint standing committees to advance the work of the club including, but not limited to a communications committee, and an awards committee. In addition, special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid in service to the club on particular projects. All committee actions shall be subject to the final authority and approval of the Board.

Section II

Any committee appointment 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 VI NEWSLETTER

Section I

The club newsletter shall be published four (4) times annually on or about February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1, and shall be the primary method of communication with members. Format and content of the newsletter may vary from time to time, with each newsletter including a report of the Board, financial report, any minutes from meetings, , and any committee reports.

Membership includes the cost of domestic mailing of the club newsletter. An additional fee to recover the cost of mailing the newsletter outside the United States may be charged. Such fee shall be stated clearly on the membership application and must be remitted along with membership dues before membership is accepted.

ARTICLE VII AWARDS

Section I

Each year, the club shall award recognition to Samoyeds excelling in certain areas of competition, as determined by the awards committee. Members must provide a reputable form of registration such as AKC, UKC, CKC, or an ILP number in order to compete for awards offered by OWS.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

Section I

Amendments to the constitution and by-laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition, addressed to the Secretary, and signed by twenty percent (20%) of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors. The Board's recommendations for amendments will then be submitted to the members, by the Secretary, for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

Section II

The constitution and by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the members voting in an election called for this purpose, provided that the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the election and mailed to each member at least one (1) month prior to the date of the vote.

ARTICLE IX
DISCIPLINE

Upon presentation to the Board of Directors of written evidence that a member has been cited for cruelty to animals or is engaged in other legal action which affects membership eligibility in the club, the Board shall review the eligibility of that member. If the Board concludes that the member may no longer be eligible for club membership, the general membership must be notified and allowed to comment. After a period of comment, the Board of Directors may make a final determination of eligibility.

The Board may expel a member for cause upon a simple majority vote. An expelled member must wait two years before reapplying to the club and the burden of establishing eligibility then rests on the applicant.

ARTICLE X
DISSOLUTION

The club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two thirds (2/3rds) of the members in good standing. In the event of the dissolution of the club, none of the property of the club nor any proceeds thereof, nor any assets shall be distributed to any members of the club. After payments of debts on behalf of the club, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of Samoyeds as selected by the Board of Directors.