



President Mr J R Haddock

## WIRRAL ALSATIAN TRAINING SOCIETY

### CONSTITUTION

#### 1. NAME AND OBJECTIVES

The Society shall be called WIRRAL ALSATIAN TRAINING SOCIETY (informally known as W.A.T.S).

The objectives are:

- To promote responsible dog ownership.
- To promote and organise Agility, Obedience and Rally Competitions.
- To offer training for Members in the following:
  - KC Good Citizen Dog Scheme.
  - Fun Agility.
  - Competitive Agility.
  - Pet Obedience.
  - Competitive Obedience.
  - Rally Obedience.

#### 2. THE SOCIETY

The Society shall consist of: President, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Training Director and up to maximum of five Committee Members and an unlimited number of Members.

#### 3. COMMITTEE

The management of the Society shall be in the hands of the following officers of the Society: - Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Training Director. Also a Committee consisting of up to five Members of whom all shall retire annually. Officers shall retire annually.

The President, with no voting rights in Committee, shall be elected by the Committee for an indefinite period.

All Officers and Committee shall have full voting rights at Committee and General Meetings.

Meetings of the Committee shall be held as often as deemed necessary but at least once every three months.

Seven days notice shall be given for all Committee meetings. Should the Chairperson and Honorary Secretary decide that an Emergency Committee meeting is necessary; such a meeting shall be called at once.

A quorum for Committee meetings shall be made up of five Members, two of whom must be the Honorary Secretary (or his/her nominee from the Committee) and the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson.

In the event of vacancies arising for Officers or Committee Members between Annual General Meetings, the Committee shall have the power to co-opt Members on up to a maximum of two occasions. Should there be subsequent vacancies in any one year a Special General Meeting shall be called for the sole purpose of those present to vote, by secret ballot, for Members to fill these vacancies.

Co-opted Members shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and shall have voting rights at Committee meetings.

The Committee may form sub-Committees selected from the general Membership and co-opt non-member specialists for defined tasks as appropriate and within a specified timescale.

The Committee reserves the right to reject any entry to any Show or Event held under the auspices of the Society. Any fees will be returned to the entrant.

#### **4. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

No Member who is serving on the Committee of another Dog Training Club or Society shall be eligible for election to the Committee of this Society and, should a Member accept election to the Committee of another such Society or Club while serving on the Committee of this Society, he or she shall be deemed to have resigned from the Committee of this Society and his or her place filled at the discretion of the Committee.

Retiring Members of the Committee are eligible for re-election each year.

No individual under the age of 21 may be elected onto the Committee

No individual who has been a Member for less than twelve calendar months may be elected onto the Committee.

No individual may be elected on to the Committee if they are a close relative of, or reside at the same address as another Committee Member.

Nominations for Officers and Members of the Committee must be proposed by one fully paid up Member and seconded by another fully paid up Member.

Those standing for Committee will be encouraged to provide a brief resume.

Should there be more nominees than places on the Committee a secret ballot will be held at the Annual General Meeting. All such appointments will be operative immediately.

## **5. LIST OF MEMBERS**

An up to date list of Members' names and their addresses is maintained in line with GDPR and the list of names to be made available for inspection, if so requested by the Kennel Club. A declaration of the number of Members is made to the Kennel Club and Members of the Society. A declaration of the number of the number of Members is made to the Kennel Club with the Annual Returns.

## **6. VOTING RIGHTS**

Voting rights at all General Meetings including the Annual General Meeting are restricted to those who have been fully paid up Members for a minimum of twelve calendar months.

Joint Members are entitled to one vote for each adult Member.

Voting is restricted to those over 18 years of age.

Postal votes are allowed for the Annual General Meeting.

## **7. CLUB PROPERTY**

The property of the Society shall be vested in the Committee. In the event of the Society ceasing to exist, a Final General Meeting shall be called to decide the disposal of the Society's assets and the outcome of the meeting notified to the Kennel Club.

In the event of the Society being dissolved, all monetary assets and trophies which are the property of the Society shall be given to 'Guide Dogs for the Blind Association'. A final statement of accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Society shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as the Officers and Committee of the Society will be held responsible by the Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the Society.

## **8. CLUB ACCOUNTS**

A Banking Account shall be opened in the name of Wirral Alsatian Training Society into which all revenue will be paid and from which withdrawals shall only be made on the signatures of two of the following Officers: Chairperson, Honorary Treasurer, and Honorary Secretary

The Committee shall cause true and correct accounts to be kept of all monies received and expended by the Society and of the assets of the Society. The accounts shall be

closed on 31 December each year. The accounts will be certified annually and presented to Members at the Annual General Meeting.

Certification of accounts will be carried out by one qualified Accountant or two unqualified individuals with accountancy experience, independent of the Committee.

A copy of the annual statement of accounts will be made available on request to Members 14 days prior to the AGM; additionally the annual statement of accounts will be available for inspection by Members at the Annual General Meeting.

## **9. MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TRAINING FEES**

Membership is open to all, subject to the approval of the Committee, who reserve the right to refuse applications.

Members under the age of 18 are classed as Junior Members

The Society has a Code of Conduct (Appendix 1)

There will be an annual subscription payable to the Honorary Treasurer on the date of joining and then renewable on 1 January each year. Members joining after 30 September in any year will not be required to renew their Membership on the following 1 January. The annual subscription shall be such an amount as agreed by its Members in General Meeting and notified to the Kennel Club. No Member whose subscription is unpaid is entitled to vote, compete for prizes or enjoy any of the privileges of Membership and if any Member shall fail to pay outstanding subscriptions by 31st January his/her name will automatically be erased from the list of Members and deemed not to be a Member of the Society.

The level of training fee will be set by the Committee and may be adjusted from time to time to reflect changes in costs.

## **10. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS**

Any Member who shall be disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A11 j(5) and/or Kennel Club Rule A11 j(9) shall ipso facto cease to be a Member of the Society.

If the conduct of any Member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Society, be injurious to the character or interests of the Society, the Committee of the Society may, at a meeting the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the Member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Society shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/ her.

Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused Member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and time of the Meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at the Meeting resolution to expel is passed by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of Members and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a Member of the Society except that he/she may, within two

calendar months from the date of such Meeting appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such condition as the Kennel Club may impose.

If the Society expels any Member for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, dog shows or competitions, the Society must report the matter in writing to the Kennel Club within seven days and supply any particulars required.

## **11. FINANCIAL YEAR/ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The financial year of the Society shall be from 1 January to the 31 December.

## **12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held within ten weeks of the end of the financial year to receive:

- Report of the Committee
- Statement of Accounts
- To discuss any resolution duly placed on the Agenda of which prior notice of which has been given to the Honorary Secretary
- Elect the Society's Officers and Committee. All such appointments to be operative immediately

No business shall be transacted at an Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the Agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those which in the opinion of the Chairperson of the Meeting are urgent.

Twenty eight days notice shall be given for all General Meetings

Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be displayed at all Training venues, inserted in 'Dog Sport UK' magazine and sent to all Members by e-mail, or in writing if requested by an individual Member.

Items for the Agenda must be submitted to the Honorary Secretary no later than at least twenty eight days prior to the meeting.

Details of the Agenda will be available to Members, on request, twenty one days prior to a General Meeting. Copies of the Agenda will be available at the Meeting.

A quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall be made up of five Members, two of whom must be the Honorary Secretary (or his/her nominee from the Committee) and the Chairperson (or Vice Chairperson.)

## **12a. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Honorary Secretary if 30 Members submit a signed requisition to the Committee stating the subject to be discussed and requesting a Special General Meeting to do so.

The Committee of the Society is also empowered to call a Special General Meeting.

No business other than that detailed on the agenda will be discussed at a Special General Meeting.

Fourteen days notice shall be given of the Special General Meeting.

Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be displayed at all Training venues and sent to all Members by e-mail, or in writing if requested by an individual Member.

Items for the Agenda must be submitted to the Honorary Secretary no later than at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Copies of the Agenda will be circulated at the Special General Meeting.

A quorum for a Special General Meeting shall be made up of five Members, two of whom must be the Honorary Secretary (or his/her nominee from the Committee) and the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson

### **13. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION**

The Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than a two thirds majority of Members present who vote at a General Meeting called specifically for that purpose. Such alterations shall not be brought into effect until the Kennel Club has been advised and approved the alterations.

New rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately.

### **14. ANNUAL RETURNS TO THE KENNEL CLUB**

The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, the Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Honorary Secretary or by direct debit for the continuance of Registration and by 31<sup>st</sup> July each year, other returns, as stipulated in Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club.

The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any changes of Secretary of the Society which may occur within the year.

### **15. KENNEL CLUB FINAL AUTHORITY**

The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Constitution of the Society in all cases relative to canine or Society matters.

**16. FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES AND CLUBS**

The Society shall not join any Federation of Societies or Clubs.

**17. UNDISCHARGED BANKRUPTS**

No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee of or hold any office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society.