

CONSTITUTION
Columbia River Akita Alliance

ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND OBJECTIVES:

Section 1: The name of this club shall be Columbia River Akita Alliance.

Section 2: The objects of the Club shall be:

- a) To advance the best interests of all Akitas and to foster friendship amongst all Akita owners.*
- b) to emphasize the value of purebred dog breeding through encouragement of an appreciation of the Akita as a purebred dog.*
- c) To foster the highest standards of sportsmanship and mutual respect among all members of the Club at all times.*
- d) To conduct sanctioned matches, point shows, obedience trials and any other AKC event for which the club is eligible under the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.*
- e) To conduct events in which all Akitas and their owners may participate.*

Section 3: The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

Section 4: 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 1 - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Eligibility: There shall be four (4) types of membership which shall be open to all persons in good standing with The American Kennel Club and who subscribes to the purposes of this Club.

While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the Club's primary purpose is to be representative of the owners, breeders and exhibitors within its designated area. The designated area shall consist of the following Washington and Oregon counties:

- In the state of Washington; South Thurston, Lewis, Cowlitz and Clark counties.*
- In the state of Oregon: All Counties within its borders.*

Section 2: Types of Membership:

- a) Regular Individual: shall be open to all persons 18 years of age or older. This type of membership enjoys all the privileges of the Club including the right to vote and hold office. To be eligible for regular membership an applicant must have been an associate member for no less than six (6) months attending at least 2 general meetings. After the 6 month period and at the next dues renewal period the member may request regular status by written request. The difference in dues between associate and regular member status will be tendered at the time of request to regular membership.*
- b) Regular Household: Same as Individual except to include two (2) adult members residing in the same household, each eligible to vote and hold office after the 6 month associate membership period.*
- c) Associate membership: shall be for all persons 18 years of age or older. Associate Members do not have the right to vote or hold office and shall not count in determining a quorum. Associate Membership is suggested for individuals who live outside of*

the defined borders in Article 1, Section 1 or those individuals who are not able to attend meetings on a regular basis but would like to enjoy the CRAA events and participate on a level of their own comfort. Any person applying for regular status membership (individual, household or junior) must first complete a 6 month associate membership period.

- d) Junior Membership: Shall be for persons between the ages of 10 and 18 years who have demonstrated an interest in Akitas and the purposes of this Club. Junior Members may not vote or hold office and will not count in determining a quorum. Junior Members must convert to Regular or Associate Membership upon reaching their 18th birthday.
- e) Changing Membership Type: Any member may change their type of membership only during the annual dues renewal period by so requesting on their dues renewal form, and the new membership type will be effective the month of January of that year, except as follows: If a membership change is requested by an Officer or Director, such change will not be effective until that Officer resigns from office or is replaced in an election. Only eligible Associate or Junior Members (Section 2, Subsections A, C & D) would be able to request a change to Regular Membership.

Section 3: Dues:

- a) Membership dues shall be determined by the board in the month of November for the ensuing year and shall be payable on or before the first day of January of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of November the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing year. Annual dues will not exceed \$100.00.
- b) Those applications for membership which are accepted during the months of October, November and December shall be considered paid for those months as well as for the ensuing year.

Section 4: Election of Membership:

- a) *Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the board which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this Constitution and By-Laws and the rules of the American Kennel Club and to actively serve the Club in such capacity as may be required and within the applicant's capabilities. Each applicant must have attended at least one meeting within the 6 month period prior to submitting the application, except for those applying for associate membership only. The application shall state the name; address, occupation and number of Akitas owned, bred or exhibited by the applicant, as well as the type of membership sought and shall carry the endorsement of two members in good standing and from separate households. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.*
- b) *All applications are to be filed with the Secretary and each application is to be read at the first meeting of the Club following its receipt. At the next Club meeting the application will be voted upon by secret ballot and affirmative votes of 2/3 of the members present and voting at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.*
- c) *Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club due to lack of affirmative votes may not re-apply within twelve (12) months after such rejection.*

Section 5: Termination of Membership: Membership may be terminated:

- a) *By resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Obligations other than dues are considered*

a debt to the club and must be paid in full prior to resignation.

There shall be no refund of current dues paid in part or in whole.

- b) By lapsing: A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 30 days after the first day of the fiscal year. However, the Board may grant an additional 30 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any Club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of the meeting.*
- c) By expulsion: A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these by-laws.*

ARTICLE II -- MEETINGS AND VOTING

Section 1: Club meetings: Meetings of the Club shall be held at least 6 times per year within the Greater Portland, Oregon area at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall e-mail/mail written notice of each meeting at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meeting shall be 20% of the regular members in good standing.

Section 2: Special Club Meetings: Special club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board, and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five (5) members of the Club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held within the greater Portland, Oregon area at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice shall be shall be sent by the Secretary at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting, said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other Club business may be transacted at that meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

*Section 3: **Board Meetings:** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held within the greater Portland, Oregon area, at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board. To reflect the authority vested in them, the Board should meet at least 1 time per year. Written notice of each meeting shall be e-mailed/mailed by the Secretary at least five days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board. The Board shall meet at least once annually.*

*Section 4: **Special Board Meetings:** Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held within the greater Portland, Oregon area at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such a meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least seven days and not more than ten 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 at this meeting. A quorum for such meeting shall be a majority of the Board.*

*Section 5: **Voting:** Any regular member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club at which he is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or election.*

*Section 6: **Correspondence:** Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws, Club communication may be sent by electronic mail (e-mail) or the United States Postal Service (USPS). On the membership application Individual members may elect to receive communications by e-mail or usps and members may revoke such authorization with a signed request; otherwise, communication will be sent by e-mail.*

ARTICLE III - DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS:

*Section 1: **Board of Directors:** The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three (3) other persons all of whom shall be elected for one year terms at the Club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.*

*Section 2: **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 meeting and the Board and its meeting.*

- ***The President** shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these by-laws.*
- ***The Vice President** shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.*
- ***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. He or she shall have charge of all the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these by-laws.*
- ***The Treasurer** shall collect and receive all monies due the Club. He or she shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. His or her books shall be at all times open to inspection of the Board and he or she shall report every item of receipt or payment not before reported, and at*

the annual meeting he or she shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person in which case the Board shall be comprised of the officers and four (4) other persons.

Section 3: Vacancies: Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the Officers during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of the then members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a special Board meeting called for that purpose. An exception to this is that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President and the Board shall fill the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President.

ARTICLE IV - THE CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS

Section 1: Club Year: The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December.

The club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting in January and shall continue through the election at the next annual meeting.

Section 2: Annual meeting: The Annual meeting shall be held in the month of January at which time Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his or her 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 three

nominated candidates for other positions on the Board who received the greater number of votes for such positions 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 November the Board shall select a nominating committee consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than one of who may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a Chairperson for the Committee and it shall be his or her duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before December^{1st}.

- a) The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and three other positions on the Board, and after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nomination to the Secretary in writing.*
- b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall notify each member, in writing, of the Nominating Committee's slate at least two weeks prior to the January meeting date.*
- c) Additional nominations may be made at the January meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated accepts when his or her name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposer shall present to the Secretary, a written statement from the candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.*
- d) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.*

e)

ARTICLE V -- COMMITTEES

Section 1. The membership may, each year, appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as specialty shows, 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 membership. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects.

Section 2. Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership upon written notice to the appointee, and the membership may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

ARTICLE VI -- DISCIPLINE

Section 1. American Kennel Club suspension: Any member who is suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period.

Section 2. Charges: Any member may prefer charges against a member for misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breeds. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$100.00, which shall be forfeited if the Board following a hearing does not sustain such charges. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at a Board Meeting, and the Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breeds. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date of the hearing by the Board not less than three weeks or more than six weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his defense and bring witnesses if he or she wishes.

*Section 3. **Board Hearing:** The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board by a majority vote of those present reprimands or suspends the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his or her fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting which considers the Board's recommendation. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the Board's decision and penalty, if any.*

*Section 4. **Expulsion:** Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at a meeting of the Club following a Board hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceeding may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his or her own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his or her own behalf if he or she wishes. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.*

ARTICLE VII -- AMENDMENTS

Section 1. 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 of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the Secretary received the petition.

Section 2. The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a 2/3 secret vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII -- DISSOLUTION

Section 1. The Club may be dissolved at any time by written consent of not less than 2/3 of the members in good standing. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, other than for purposes of reorganization, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of the law, none of the property of the Club nor any proceeds thereof nor any assets of the Club shall be distributed to any members of the Club but after payment of the debts of the Club, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of Akitas selected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX -- ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section 1. At meetings of the Club, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

*Roll call
Minutes of last meeting
Report of President
Report of Secretary
Report of Treasurer
Report of Committees
Election of Officers and Board (annual meeting)
Election of new members
Unfinished business
New business
Adjournment*

Section 2. At the meetings of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

*Reading of minutes of last meeting
Report of Secretary
Report of Treasurer
Report of Committees
Unfinished business
New business
Adjournment*

ARTICLE X -- PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are

applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws or any other special rules of order the Club may adopt.