

# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS



Revised February 2007

# CONSTITUTION

## CONTINENTAL WHIPPET ALLIANCE (CWA)

### AN UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

#### ARTICLE I

##### Name and Objectives

SECTION 1. The name of the Association is Continental Whippet Alliance.

SECTION 2. The objectives of the Alliance shall be:

- (a) to unite Whippet fanciers with the common goal of promoting, protecting and preserving purebred Whippet racing
- (b) to encourage and promote quality in the breeding and racing of Whippets and to do all that is possible to bring their natural instincts to perfection
- (c) to urge members and breeders to accept the Whippet Standard of the Breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence for Whippets
- (c) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the Whippet by encouraging sportsman-like competition at race meets and conformation competitions and by providing a friendly and enjoyable environment
- (e) to provide a testing ground for Whippets to demonstrate they still have the instinct, desire, and physical ability to do the athletic activity they were bred for, helping to maintain the Whippet as a healthy breed
- (g) to issue rules, maintain records, determine fees and award titles to deserving Whippets

SECTION 3. The Alliance shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues, fees or donations to the Alliance shall inure to the benefit of any member or Affiliated Club/Group.

SECTION 4. The members of the Alliance shall adopt and may from time to time revise the By-Laws required to accomplish these objectives.

# **BY-LAWS**

## **CONTINENTAL WHIPPET ALLIANCE (CWA)**

### **AN UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION**

#### **ARTICLE I**

##### **Membership**

SECTION 1. Eligibility. There shall be one type of membership open to qualified Affiliated Clubs/Groups that subscribe to the objectives of the CWA Constitution.

SECTION 2. Dues. Annual membership dues shall be \$25.00 payable on or before January 1st. During the month of November, the Secretary shall mail each Affiliated Club/Group a statement of dues for the ensuing year.

SECTION 3. Election to Membership. Applicants shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the Club/Group has read and agrees to abide by the CWA Constitution, By-Laws and Rules. The application shall state the name and address of each Club/Group Officer and carry the endorsement of one Affiliated Club/Group.

Applications are filed with the Secretary who will mail a copy to each member of the Board of Directors. A favorable vote by a majority of the Board of Directors is required for approval to membership. Applicants who are rejected may not reapply for one year.

SECTION 4. Qualifications. An applicant for membership shall be an association, organization or club which has demonstrated its proficiency in conducting a race meeting. Applicants must agree to conduct a minimum of one CWA race meet and conformation competition each calendar year.

SECTION 5. Termination of Membership. Memberships may be terminated:

- (a) by resignation. Any Affiliated Club/Group may resign from the CWA upon written notice to the President; but no member may resign when in debt to the CWA. Annual dues and per capita fees are considered a debt.
- (b) by lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid by February 1st. In no case may an Affiliated Club/Group vote whose dues are unpaid.
- (c) by failure to conduct a minimum of one race meet and conformation competition each calendar year.
- (d) by failure to provide race meet and conformation competition results within two weeks of said event.
- (e) by expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided by Article V of these By-Laws.

## ARTICLE II

### Directors and Officers

SECTION 1. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of two representatives from each Affiliated Club/Group in good standing. Board members are appointed by Affiliated Clubs/Groups each January. Affiliated Clubs/Groups must notify the Secretary in writing giving the name, address and phone number of their designated Board member. General management of CWA affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors, who serve without compensation.

SECTION 2. Officers. Officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar shall serve in their respective capacities, without compensation, for one year terms beginning March 1 (see Article III). Officers must be Board members.

- (a) The President shall preside at all meetings and Board meetings 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 President shall be the Chief Executive Officer and oversee the day-to-day affairs. The President approves the annual schedule of events.
- (b) The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in the case of absence or incapacity.
- (c) The Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, keep a record of all meetings of the CWA, maintain a membership roster, prepare, mail, receive, preserve and tally all ballots for elections, rule changes, by-laws revisions, etc.
- (c) The Treasurer will receive all moneys due or belonging to CWA, deposit same in name of CWA in bank account, render annual account of all moneys collected (i.e. membership dues, registration fees and per capita fees), and disbursed.
- (d) The Registrar shall register all Whippets participating in the CWA program; issue CWA registration numbers to eligible Whippets, maintain and publish results of each race meet and conformation competition in the CWA Newsletter and issue titles to owners of Whippets that complete requirements as specified in the Rules.

SECTION 3. Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring among the Officers will be filled until the next election by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice-President shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE III

### Fiscal Year. Meetings. Elections

SECTION 1. Fiscal Year. The CWA fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December

SECTION 2. Meetings. Due to the non-profit nature of the CWA and lack of compensation of its Officers and Board of Directors, and the distances between members, live meetings will be kept to a minimum and called at the

discretion of the President or majority of the Board of Directors. Meetings for the purpose of voting on pending matters may be held electronically, via email or in a chat room set up for the purpose, at the discretion of the President.

- (a) Meeting Notices. In the event a meeting of the Board of Directors is called, the President will notify each Director by land mail, electronic mail, or phone at least ten (10) days prior to said meeting.
- (b) Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by a majority of the Board of Directors. Such meetings may be held electronically, either via email or in a chat room set up for the purpose.
- (c) Conduct of Meetings. The President, Vice-President or designated officer shall preside over meetings which shall be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order*. The President, Vice President, or a designated officer shall preside over electronic meetings, which shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order to the extent possible.

SECTION 3. Elections. Election of Officers will be held every year. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes from the Board of Directors for each office shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4. Ballots. The Secretary will request nominations from the Board of Directors by January 1st of the election year. On or before February 1st the Secretary shall mail ballots to all Board members. Ballots must be returned by March 1st with results announced by the Secretary within two (2) weeks.

SECTION 5. The Board of Directors may conduct its business by mail, either electronic mail or land mail, through the Secretary.

## ARTICLE IV

### Committees

SECTION 1. Registration Committee. The Board of Directors will comprise the Registration Committee and will determine the criteria for registration in the CWA program. It is the responsibility of the Registrar to enforce said criteria and issue CWA registration numbers to Whippets eligible to compete in the CWA race program. The minimum requirements for registration of Whippets are:

- (a) must conform to the Whippet Standard for the Breed. Any disqualifications in the Whippet Standard apply to CWA participants. Spayed bitches and neutered males are eligible to compete. Monorchid males must be neutered.
- (b) must be individually or litter registered by the AKC or CKC. ILP registered Whippets are not eligible.
- (d) Foreign born Whippets must be registered in their country of birth and provide a "Passport" stating this Whippet is accredited by the Official Pedigree Whippet Racing Association, if such an association exists, from the country of origin. United Kingdom bred Whippets must carry a passport from their Purebred Racing Association. A copy of the passport must be provided with the registration application.

To be eligible for CWA registration a Whippet with a U.K. imported sire or dam must meet one of the following:

- U.K. sire or dam must be a show champion in any country or
- U.K. sire or dam must have a champion sire or dam or
- U.K. sire or dam must have a passport from the official pedigree racing association.

If the dog is ineligible because of the above, the owner has the right to appeal.

- (d) A four-generation pedigree.
- (e) Any dog or owner barred by AKC, CKC or any other National Kennel Club or National Purebred Racing Association is ineligible. Ban is applicable- to submitted four generation pedigree (see d above).
- (f) must be free of AKC disqualifications (two normal testicles, blindness, deafness)
- (f) Agreement to submit to DNA or drug testing if requested, at CWA expense.
- (g) Must have a minimum of one Bench Champion (American Kennel Club, Canadian Kennel Club, or the equivalent competitive Bench Champion title of a foreign country) or one Dual Purpose Champion (DPC) in the first three generations of the 4-generation pedigree. This requirement will apply to all litters born after April 1, 2007. A "competitive bench championship" is defined as a championship which requires defeating other dogs in competition to earn the title.

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TION 2. Other Committees. The President or Board of Directors may appoint standing committees or special committees to advance the work of the CWA in such matters as rules, protests, communications, trophies, formation competition judge selection, equipment standardization, etc. Actions by committees shall be subject to final approval by the Board of Directors.

TION 3. Any committee appointed may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, upon written notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

**ARTICLE V**

**Discipline**

TION 1. Charges. Any Affiliated Club/Group or individual participant may prefer charges against another Affiliated Club/Group or individual participant for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the CWA or its breed. Written charges along with a \$25.00 deposit (which shall be forfeited if charges are not sustained by the Board) must be filed with the President, who will forward them to the Board of Directors for resolution. If a majority of the Board considers the charges, if proven, to be prejudicial to the best interests of the CWA it shall fix a date of hearing of the accused individual participant and/or the Affiliated Club/Group not less than three weeks nor more than eight weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to the accused by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his/her defense and bring witnesses if he/she wishes.

TION 2. Hearing. The individual participant and/or Affiliated Club/Group shall be entitled to participate in the hearing. The hearing shall be informal and the rules of evidence and rules of judicial procedure need not be observed. The President shall preside over the hearing who will: 1) read the charges against the accused, 2) require the charges be verified by the testimony of the accuser and appropriate witnesses, 3) allow for cross-examination by the individual participant and/or Affiliated Club/Group member, 4) allow the accused to make a statement on his/her behalf and call witnesses if necessary, 5) allow witnesses to be questioned and 6) rule on the admission and exclusion of evidence and on questions of hearing procedure.

Following the hearing, the Board of Directors shall vote on whether to impose discipline or dismiss the matter. The imposition of discipline or dismissing the matter shall be final.

TION 3. Suspensions and Expulsion. Depending on the severity of the offense, the Board of Directors has

complete authority to suspend or expel Affiliated Clubs/Groups or individuals competing in the CWA program. Suspension or expulsion requires approval by a 2/3 majority of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE VI

### Amendments

SECTION 1. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by the President, Board of Directors or any Affiliated Club/Group.

SECTION 2. The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors. Said vote will be conducted by written ballot by the Secretary.

## ARTICLE VII

### Dissolution

SECTION 1. The CWA may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of 2/3 of the Board of Directors. In the event of the dissolution of the CWA other than for purposes of reorganization whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the CWA nor any proceeds thereof nor any assets of the CWA shall be distributed to any members; but after payment of any debts, its property and assets shall be distributed to a nonprofit tax-exempt fund, foundation, corporation or charitable organization which is organized and operated exclusively for education or recreational purposes relating to the Whippet. Said distribution of property and assets shall be by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Revenue

SECTION 1. Membership Dues. Annual club membership dues will be assessed in accordance with By-Laws Article I, Sections 2 and 3.

SECTION 2. Registration Fees. Participants must pay a fee of \$3.00 per Whippet, payable to the CWA. Said fee must accompany the CWA Registration Form sent to the Registrar. Fee is refunded if registration is denied.

SECTION 3. Per Capita Fee. Affiliated Clubs/Groups must include a \$1.00 per Whippet fee with official race and conformation results sent to the Registrar.

SECTION 4. Annual Accounting. Each year the CWA Treasurer will issue a report of all moneys received and disbursed. Said report will give a specific breakdown of membership dues, registration fees and *per capita* fees.

SECTION 5. Publications. The CWA newsletter, *Line & Lure*, is sent free of charge to the CWA Board of Directors and is available to individuals on a subscription basis.

SECTION 6. Returned Checks. There will be a fee charged on all checks returned to the Treasurer; fee to be based on bank charge and handling fee at the time of the transaction.