

# **Constitution and Bylaws for Motown Working Alaskan Malamutes**

## **Constitution**

Section 1. Name. The name of the organization (herein called the “Club”) shall be Motown Working Alaskan Malamutes.

Section 2. Objectives. The objectives of the Club shall be:

To protect and advance the interests of the Alaskan Malamute breed by promoting and encouraging participation in working dog competitions as well as sportsmanlike competition at all dog events.

To conduct sanctioned working dog events such as weight pulls, backpacking, dog sledding, and other events for working dog titles under the rules of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America.

To educate the public with regard to proper care and maintenance, training, working and breeding of the Alaskan Malamute.

Section 3. Intent and Purpose. It is the intent and purpose of the Club to be organized and operated exclusively for the pursuit and attainment of the objectives in Section 2 and not for any monetary gain or profit to the members. The Club will be organized as a 501 (c)(3) non profit organization. Whatever property, real and/or personal, or any income the Club may accrue, shall be held and utilized only for the objects and purpose of the Club.

## **By-Laws**

### **Article I**

#### **Membership**

Section 1. Eligibility. There shall be four types of membership as follows:

Family membership. Open to all families and their children under 18 years of age who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the stated purpose of this Club. Members under 18 years of age will not have voting privileges or be eligible to hold office. \$25.00

Individual membership. Open to all persons 18 years of age or older who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the stated purpose of this Club. \$20.00

Associate membership. Open to all persons 18 years of age or older who live out of the state of Michigan who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the stated purpose of this Club. Associate members will not have voting privileges and will not be eligible to hold office. \$15.00

Honorary membership. This membership can be bestowed by the Board of Directors on any deserving person if that person willingly accepts it and two Club members approve it. Honorary members will not have voting privileges and will not be eligible to hold office.

A person can apply for membership by completing an Application for Membership form as approved by the Board of Directors which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Club. A copy of this Constitution and By-Laws shall be given to prospective members along with the application form. The membership shall be informed of all new applicants in the newsletter or by email. Voting on new members will take place at the next regularly scheduled meeting after the new application has been received.

To keep voting and office holding rights members have to work 25% of the events or be dropped to Associate membership status.

Section 2. Dues. The membership application form and annual dues shall be established by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority of the voting members present at a regular meeting.

A statement of dues payable and membership renewal form for the ensuing year will be provided in the newsletter or by email at least one month prior to the due date. Renewal forms and dues shall be returned to the Treasurer postmarked by November 30 of the current year. Dues and membership renewal forms not received by January 31<sup>st</sup> of the coming year will be considered lapsed. Partial year memberships will be pro rated.

Section 3. Termination of membership. Memberships may be terminated by:  
Resignation. Written notice is necessary to the Corresponding Secretary.  
Lapsing. If dues are not paid within 60 days of November 30 of each year.  
Expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided by Article VI of these By-Laws.

## **Article II**

### **Meeting and Voting**

Section 1. Club meetings. There will be 4 regular Club meetings held in a centralized location to the majority of the membership, or in conjunction with a working event where many members are able to meet. Membership will be notified of when and where the meetings will be held at least 2 months prior to the meeting. Interim meetings will be conducted by other means such as using the internet when possible.

Section 2. Board of Directors meeting. Meetings of the Board shall be held one hour prior to a scheduled Club meeting. The quorum for Board meetings shall be a majority vote of the Board members.

Section 3. Voting. Each family or individual member who is 18 years of age or older, who is in good standing and whose dues and obligations are paid for the current year, will be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club at which he or she is present or participates in. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any Club meeting or election.

Section 4. Quorums. The quorum for all general membership meetings and special meetings held by the Club shall be 25% of the members in good standing.

### **Article III**

#### **Directors and Officers**

Section 1. Board of Directors. The management of the Club shall be vested in the Board of Directors, which shall consist of the office of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. Initially, the President, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary will be elected to a two year term. The Vice President and Treasurer will be elected to a one year term. After the first election, all terms will be two years. This will result in only two or three Board positions standing for election each year. No person may be a candidate for more that one position. The President shall be Chairman of the Board. Elections will be held in the fourth quarter for the following year.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and Board and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of the President.

The Vice President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in the event of the Presidents death, incapacity, or absence.

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and Board and all matters of which the Club shall order a record.

The Corresponding Secretary shall keep a roll of the members of the Club and current demographics of each member and carry out such duties as are prescribed in these By-Laws as well as conduct the general correspondence of the Club.

The Treasurer shall collect, receive and disperse all monies due or belonging to the Club. The treasurer shall have the books open to inspection by the Board at all times and shall report to the Board at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not previously reported. The Club's monies shall be deposited in a bank or credit union designated by the Board in the name of the Club. At the annual

meeting of the Club in the first quarter of each fiscal year, an account of all assets and expenses from the previous fiscal year shall be given. All bills shall be paid by check except bills small enough to be paid out of petty cash. Checks may be signed by any one of the President, Vice President, or Treasurer.

Section 2. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the Board during the year shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a majority vote of the members of the Board at its' first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy. Missing three consecutive meetings will be considered an automatic vacancy for the Board position unless the Board members deem the missed meetings were beyond the persons' control (i.e. illness, family emergency, accident, etc.). The Board will make the final decision as to whether it would benefit the Club to retain this member on the Board.

## **Article IV**

### **Club year, Election Meetings, Nominations and Elections.**

Section 1. Club year. The Club's fiscal year will begin on the first day of January and end on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December.

Section 2. Election Meetings. The election meeting shall be held in the fourth quarter of the calendar year, at which time the Directors for the ensuing term shall be elected by secret ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 3 of this article. The elected candidates will take office beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> of the ensuing year. The retiring officers shall turn over all properties, works in progress, and records relating to that office to the newly elected officer at that time. There will be an audit of the financial records at that time conducted by the incoming and outgoing Treasurer, the incoming President, and a member at large.

Section 3. Elections. No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated.

Acceptance of nomination must be presented to the Board in person or in writing prior to the actual vote.

Votes will consist of those members present and any requested and received absentee ballots.

Absentee shall be requested from the Corresponding Secretary a minimum of 14 days prior to the election meeting. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the Corresponding Secretary no later than 48 hours before the election.

One vote per eligible member.

The Recording Secretary shall call roll of all members in good standing and from this roll plus the number of absentee ballots received by the Corresponding Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the election, the number of legal ballots will be determined.

Voting will be done by secret ballot.

Ballots shall be collected and counted by one Board member, who is not standing for election, and two members at large.

If there is only one name for any office, the nominee shall be declared elected by the presiding officer.

In the case of a tie, another ballot will be taken.

## **Articles V**

### **Committees**

Section 1. The President with the approval of the Board may appoint standing committees each year that will advance the work of the Club's objectives, intent, and purpose.

## **Article VI**

### **Discipline**

Section 1. Any member who is suspended from the privileges of any kennel club, weight pull organization, performance organization or convicted of abuse/cruelty charges by any municipality will automatically be suspended from the privileges of the Club for a like period.

Section 2. Three (3) misconducts not in the best interest of the Club will result in suspension or expulsion from the Club. Misconducts will be determined by a majority vote of the membership at large. The accused member can state his case in writing to the voting members at this time.

Section 3. The decision to suspend a member or expel a member will be decided by a majority vote of the membership.

Section 4. Suspensions will be for one calendar year.

Section 5. Expulsion is a lifetime expulsion.

## **Article VII**

### **Amendments**

Section 1. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by any member in good standing with the following conditions:

The proposal must be presented to the Board of Directors in writing along with the signatures of 25% of the membership showing that they believe the proposal has enough merit to be presented to the membership for a vote. The vote may take place at a regular meeting or by email vote.

## **Article VIII**

### **Dissolution**

Section 1. The Club may be dissolved at any time by written consent of not less than 75% of the voting members in good standing. All voting members will be provided 30 days notice of intent to disband.

Section 2. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, whether voluntary, involuntary, or by operation of law, none of the property of the Club, nor any proceeds or assets shall be distributed to any members of the Club. After payment of any indebtedness the Club may have, any property, assets, or monies left shall be given to the Alaskan Malamute Assistance League.

## **Article IX**

### **Order of Business**

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Club shall be conducted so far as the nature and character of the meeting may permit as follows:

Attendance

Presentation of the minutes of the Board

Presentation of the minutes of the last meeting for approval

Presentation of the Treasurers report for approval

Report from the President

Report from committees

Introduction of guests, new members or member applicants

Elections

Old business

New business

Adjournment

Section 2. At meetings of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of those present, will be the same as that of a regular Club meeting.

Section 3. Unless specifically provided for in these By-Laws, Roberts Rules of Order will govern all meetings.

## **Motown Working Alaskan Malamutes Code of Ethics**

The members of the Club shall accept the Code of Ethics adopted by the Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc. In addition, the following is also adopted by the Club.

Members shall work toward the improvement of the Alaskan Malamute breed and that which is good for the welfare of the Club. Conduct that is detrimental to these goals could result in suspension or expulsion from the Club.

All members with full membership shall be accorded equal status in expressing opinions, making motions, noting issues and receiving the benefits of the Club membership.

Members shall work to educate others about responsible ownership and improvement of the Alaskan Malamute.