



Constitution and By-laws

As revised and adopted January 2007

Constitution

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND OBJECTIVE.

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the Federation of Maine Dog Clubs, Inc.

Section 2. The objectives of this Federation shall be: to coordinate items of general interest to all-breed, obedience and specialty clubs in the State for their mutual betterment.

Section 3. The Federation shall not engage in any act which would prevent it from qualifying as a tax exempt organization under 26 U.S.C., Section 501. The Federation is innervocably dedicated to and operated exclusively for, non-profit purposes; and no part of the income or assets of the Federation shall be distributed to, not inune to the benefit of , any individual.

Section 4. The delegates of the member clubs shall adopt and may revise such by-laws as may be necessary to carry out these objectives.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1. MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. Eligibility. There shall be one class of members. All Maine all-breed, obedience and specialty clubs shall be eligible for membership. All members shall have the right to participate in all activities of the Federation of Maine Dog Clubs, Inc.

Section 2. Dues. The Federation's fiscal year shall begin on June 1st and end on May 31st of each year. Annual dues, that shall be established by the Federation by the March meeting per club are due and payable at the June meeting of each year. Clubs who dues are unpaid as the June meeting shall not be allowed to vote until their dues are paid. Clubs whose dues remain unpaid as of September 1st shall be dropped from membership.

Section 3. Election to membership. Each applicant club shall apply in writing to the Federation, stating that it will abide to the constitution and bylaws of the Federation and by the rules of the American Kennel Club and/or by its own governing body, and include with their application dues for the current year. Any club whose application for membership is approved after March 1 shall be considered to have paid their dues for the following year. All applications are to be filed with the Secretary to be presented to the delegates at the first meeting of the Federation following its receipt. An affirmation vote of 2/3 of the clubs present shall be required to elect an applicant.

Section 4. Termination of Membership. Membership may be terminated:

a) By Resignation. Any member club in good standing may resign from the Federation upon written notice to the Secretary. Payment of all debts to the Federation must be made before acceptance of any resignation.

b) By Expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided as provided in Article 5 of these Bylaws.

c) By Lapse of Dues. Clubs whose dues remain unpaid after September 1st shall automatically be dropped from membership.

ARTICLE 2. MEETING AND VOTING.

Section 1. Federation Meetings. Meetings of the Federation shall be held in a central location at such time and place as shall be decided at the previous meeting. Written notice of each meeting shall be mailed to all delegates of each member club by the Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting.

The above shall also apply to meetings of the Board of Directors of the Federation.

Section 3. Voting.

a) Each member Club in good standing shall be entitled to three delegates to the Federation. Each club shall have only one (1) vote.

b) Quorum. A quorum, consisting of delegates of a minimum of five (5) of the member Clubs or 20% of the member clubs, whichever is greater, shall be necessary to conduct Federation business. If the delegates at any Federation meeting do not constitute a quorum, they may decide upon the date and place of the next meeting, but may not conduct any other Federation business.

ARTICLE 3. DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.

Section 1. Board of Directors. The Board shall be comprised of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, immediate past Chairperson, all of whom shall serve a term of one year.

Section 2. Officers. The Federation officers, consisting of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities for a term of one year. No two officers may be from the same club at any one time.

a) Chairperson. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Federation and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of Chairperson in addition to those particularly specified in these Bylaws. The Chairperson may speak for the Federation and may disburse its funds in the pursuit of the Federation's objectives, but is jointly responsible with the Treasurer for the proper handling of any Federation funds.

b) Vice Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson when the chair is unable to discharge them.

c) Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings, including Board meetings, and all matters of interest to the Federation. The Secretary shall have charge of all correspondence concerning the Federation and the Secretary's address shall be the official address of the Federation. *The Secretary shall be the registered agent for the Federation.*

d) Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all money due or belonging to the Federation. The Treasurer shall deposit the same in a bank approved by the Federation in the name of the Federation. The Treasurer's books shall be open to inspection by the Federation delegates and the Treasurer shall report the condition of the Federation's finances to the delegates at each meeting.

On or before May 1st of each year, the Treasurer shall send notice to the Treasurer of each member club notifying them that dues are due and payable.

Section 3. Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring among the officers and/or Board of directors shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a majority vote of all the delegates present at the first meeting of the Federation following the creation of such vacancy.

Section 4. Rotation of Officers. The office of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall change at the June meeting, being on a rotating basis among the member clubs. The order of rotation is: Vacationland Dog Club, Penobscot Valley Kennel Club, and Central

Maine Kennel Club, which it to be followed in rotation by the other member clubs by seniority, based on their date of acceptance into the Federation. The office of Secretary and Treasurer shall change at the June meeting and shall be an elected office by the majority of delegates present and voting at that meeting. The term office shall be one

year. The Board shall dismiss an officer for failure to attend two consecutive meetings unless just cause is shown for the absence.

ARTICLE 4. DUTIES OF DELEGATES.

Section 1. Duties of Delegates.

- a) It is the duty of every club delegate to attend all meetings of the Federation or to send a proper substitute.
- b) Delegates shall make reports to their clubs and take back to their clubs news of the activities of the Federation.
- c) Delegates shall bring back to the Federation reports from their individual clubs and be empowered to conduct Federation business.

ARTICLE 5. DISCIPLINE.

Section 1. American Kennel Club Suspension and/or member club's own governing body. Any member club that is suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club and/or the member club's own governing body, automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this Federation for a like period of time.

Section 2. Failure of a member club to comply with the provisions of this Constitution or substantially disregard the rights and prerogatives of other member clubs will subject the offending club to suspension of Federation membership privileges or suffer lesser penalty as the Federation Board of Directors may decide.

Section 3. Section 3: A member of a FMDC member club may not place an ad in the FMDC breeder directory until he/she has been a member of said club for one full year. The member must be in good standing with the member club.

ARTICLE 6. AMENDMENTS.

Section 1. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by any member club delegate at meetings of the Federation for discussion among the delegates present, but shall not be voted upon until the next meeting. The Secretary shall notify all known current delegates of each member club of any proposed change ten (10) days prior to the meeting date.

Section 2. The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the clubs present. The amendment must be voted upon within three (3) months of the meeting when the amendment was first proposed.

ARTICLE 7. DISSOLUTION.

Section 1. The Federation may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the member clubs. In the event the dissolution of the Federation or the winding up of its affairs, or other liquidation of its assets, the Federation's property shall not be conveyed to any organization created or operated for profit or to any individual for less than the fair market value of such property, and all assets remaining or distributed only to an organization or organizations created and operated for nonprofit purposes similar to those of the Federation.

ARTICLE 8. ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Section 1. The order of business shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2. Items to be discussed at meetings of the Federation shall, inasmuch as possible, be proposed at the previous meeting, and a list of such proposals shall be sent to each member club's delegates along with notice of the next meeting.

ARTICLE 9.. COORDINATION.

Section 1. In order to provide for coordination of items of general interest as stated in Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution, member Clubs are required to make application in writing to the Federation Calendar Secretary for approval of the date or dates on which a member Club proposes to sponsor, organize, participate in or otherwise conduct a Club event open to participation by persons other than those who are members in good standing of the sponsoring Club.

(These events include, but are not limited to, Dog Shows and Matches, sanctioned or unsanctioned, Field Trials, Obedience trials, Seminars, Lectures, Demonstrations or other activities in which the sponsoring Club seeks support of other member Clubs.)

Section 2. The earliest possible application for approval of a proposed event date is encouraged. In the event of a conflict in proposed event dates by two or more Clubs, precedence will be accorded that Club whose application was first received by the Federation Calendar Secretary. Member Clubs have the right to make representation in support of their application if adversely considered by the Federation but in all cases, the decision of the Federation Board of Directors shall be final.

Section 3. Failure of a member club to seek appropriate coordination and Federation approval of an event as defined herein, or failure to comply with the decision of the Federation, membership privileges or such lesser penalty as the Federation Board of Directors may decide, as provided in Article 5, Section 2 of the Federation By-laws.