

**The Pacific Rim Bloodhound Club  
Constitution and By-Laws  
Amended November 2001, October 2007, and November 2014**  
(Amendments have been approved by the Pacific Rim Bloodhound Club membership and the  
American Bloodhound Club Board of Directors)

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I. Name, Regional Geographic Area, and Objectives**

Section 1. The name of the club is designated as the Pacific Rim Bloodhound Club.

Section 2. The objectives of the club are:

- a) To be representative of Bloodhound owners, breeders, and exhibitors in the regional area.
- b) To educate members and the general public concerning the purebred Bloodhound. To promote quality in the breeding of the purebred Bloodhound, and to strive to bring its natural qualities to perfection. To promote responsible ownership and breeding practices of the purebred Bloodhound.
- c) To actively promote acceptance of the American Kennel Club breed standard of excellence by which Bloodhounds shall be judged.
- d) To protect and advance the interest of all breeds of purebred dogs and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and obedience, trailing, and tracking trials.
- e) To engage in social and recreational activities designed to stimulate and promote interest in the care and development of purebred Bloodhounds.
- f) To conduct sanctioned matches, dog shows, and obedience, trailing, and tracking trials under American Kennel Club and American Bloodhound Club rules.

**BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I. Membership**

Section 1. Eligibility

The Pacific Rim Bloodhound Club shall offer two (2) types of membership for applicants: voting and junior membership. Membership shall be open to all persons 18 years of age and older who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and the American Bloodhound Club and who subscribe to the Pacific Rim Bloodhound Club, Inc.'s constitution, by-laws, and code of ethics.

A voting member shall be a person who meets the general membership requirements. Many members reside in the Northwest Region as defined by the American Bloodhound Club (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming), California, and the Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. However, PRBC welcomes members from throughout the U.S. and elsewhere. To maintain voting privileges, members must either attend one meeting per year or participate actively in the business of the club.

A junior member shall be a person who is under the age of 18 years old and who meets the general membership requirements. The junior member shall not be eligible to vote or hold office.

Section 2. Membership Applications

- a) Each applicant shall apply for membership on a form that has been approved by the Board of Directors. As a minimum, the application shall include the name and address, space for two sponsors' signatures, and the provision that the applicant agrees to abide by the club constitution and by-laws, code of ethics, and those of the American Kennel Club and the American Bloodhound Club. The application will be submitted to the Membership Chair and will include payment of the application fee.
- b) Individuals or families applying for membership must obtain the signature of two unrelated members in good standing with the Pacific Rim Bloodhound Club. New members will be eligible to vote at the next meeting following approval of their application.
- c) Voting members must attend one meeting per year or participate actively in the business of the club to maintain eligibility to hold office.

Section 3. Membership Application Approval

A membership application will be reviewed by the Board of Directors for acceptability. An application that is rejected by three (3) or more Board members shall be tabled. The reasons for the Board members' rejection shall be noted, and the applicant shall be interviewed by a designated Board member and a copy sent to each Board member within 45 days of the original application review. A second ballot shall be cast. A simple majority shall determine the outcome of the second ballot.

Membership applications will be summarized in the club newsletter as an introduction of the applicant. The Secretary shall notify the Membership Chair and the Treasurer of the outcome of the vote of the Board of Directors. If the application is approved, the Treasurer will notify each applicant, in writing, of membership approval. If rejected, the Membership Chair will notify each applicant, in writing, of membership denial.

Section 4. Membership Rejection

Rejected applicants will be refunded all dues when notified of rejection by the Board. Applicants may reapply for membership after a six-month waiting period from the rejection date. The application fee is non-refundable. The club will have the authority to review a rejected application prior to completion of the six-month period, if such review is deemed right and proper by the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Dues

The amount of application fees and annual dues for active and junior memberships shall be set by a 2/3 majority vote by mail, or e-mail of the Board of Directors at least 30 days after the proposed change has been announced to the general membership in the club newsletter or in a separate mailing. Annual dues shall be payable on or before January first of each year. Changes for all dues must be finalized on or before November first of any given year in order to become effective for the ensuing year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. The Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year by December first. Dues shall be considered delinquent after March first. Those members living outside the United States shall be assessed additional postage costs. Such costs shall reflect the actual postage costs of the newsletter.

The maximum allowable dues for an active membership shall not exceed \$50.00. The maximum allowable application fee shall not exceed the amount of the current annual dues amount for an active member, plus \$10.00. Dues for junior members shall not exceed 50% of the current active membership fees.

New members shall be required to submit an application fee in the amount set by the Board of Directors for the current year. Applicant dues submitted after August first shall be applied to the following Pacific Rim Bloodhound Club fiscal year.

Section 6. Membership Termination

Club membership can be terminated by:

- a) Resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the club upon written notice to the Secretary. However, no member may resign when in debt to the club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the club and are incurred the first day of January each year.
- b) Lapsing. A membership will lapse if dues are delinquent for more than 60 days following the first day of January. Requests for extension will be directed to the Board for consideration.

## **ARTICLE II. Officers and Directors**

### Section 1. Board of Directors

The Board will consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three other persons.

- a) Responsibilities. The Board is responsible for the general management of the club's affairs and will govern the club through the provisions of these by-laws. The Board may issue policy directives for the purposes of by-law clarification or to establish detailed written procedure, but in no case will the directives conflict with or expand the intended scope of these by-laws.
- b) Term of Office. Officers shall be elected for two-year terms. Four members of the Board of Directors (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) shall be elected for two-year terms and the remaining members (three Board members) also for two-year terms. They shall take office January first, and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office by February first.

### Section 2. Officers

The club's Officers shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All will serve in their respective positions with regard to the club and its meetings; and the Board of Directors and its meetings. Officers shall have the following responsibilities:

- a) President. Presides at all meetings of the club and Board of Directors; performs the duties and exercises the powers normally associated with the Office of President, in addition to those specifically mentioned in these by-laws.
- b) Vice President. Assumes the responsibilities of the President in his/her absence. In the event of the President's death, resignation, or expulsion, the Vice President will assume the title, duties, and responsibilities of the President and will serve in that capacity until the next annual election.
- c) Secretary. Records and maintains a file of all membership and Board of Directors meetings. Maintains the official file of club documents, which consists of the constitution and by-laws, policy directives (including standing rules), committee charters, membership roster, and other such items as directed by the Board of Directors. This file will be made available to the Board of Directors at all meetings; he/she shall transact the official correspondence between the club and its members and the club and other organizations or individuals. This will be accomplished in close coordination with the Board of Directors. Specific responsibilities include: take notes for and publish minutes of club meetings and election matters as specified in Articles III, IV and V of these by-laws; supervise the publication and

distribution of the club's newsletter; and other duties as required that are normally associated with the position of Secretary.

- d) Treasurer. Collects and holds in a bank account all money belonging to the club. Pays club debts from club funds as directed by the Board of Directors. The club account will be in the club name, and funds may only be withdrawn by the officers. The Board of Directors will have cognizance of the Treasurer's banking institution selection. Club financial records will be open to inspection by the Board at all times, and at each club meeting the Treasurer will report the status of the club's finances, including each item of receipt or payment not previously reported. At the annual meeting, the Treasurer will summarize in a written report, all money transactions for the year. At the discretion of the Board, the Treasurer will be bonded for an amount established by the Board; the bond fee will be paid by the club.

Section 3. Officer and Board of Director Vacancies

Any vacancy occurring during the year due to resignation or other reasons shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of all the members of the Board of Directors at its first meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a special Board meeting called for that purpose; except that a vacancy in the office of President will be filled by the Vice President.

**ARTICLE III. Meetings**

Section 1. Club Meetings

The Board of Directors will establish the time, date, and meeting location, and club members will be provided notification a minimum of 30 days prior to such meeting, either through the club newsletter, e-mail, or personal letter.

Section 2. Special Club Meetings

Special club meetings may be called when other than routine matters require general membership consideration or approval. These meetings may be called by the President; a majority vote of the Board; or by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by a minimum of 33% of the members in good standing. Meetings shall be held at the time, place, and date designated by those authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice stating the purpose will be provided to the membership a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting.

Section 3. Board of Directors' Meetings

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such times and places as are designated by the President or by a majority vote of the entire Board. The quorum for a Board meeting shall be a majority of the Board voting in person, by mail, e-mail, or by telephone. The Board of Directors may conduct its business by mail, e-mail, or by telephone through the Secretary. All telephone conversations must be documented in writing.

Section 4. Annual Club Meetings

The annual club meeting shall be held in conjunction with the American Bloodhound Club's Northwest Regional Specialty. If there is no regional specialty for a particular year, the annual meeting of the Pacific Rim Bloodhound Club shall be held within a period beginning on August first and ending on August thirty-first at an hour and place designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice will be provided to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Section 5. Order of Business

a) At club general membership meetings, the order of business will normally be as follows:

1. President will call the meeting to order
2. Roll call, including introduction of members and guests
3. Minutes of the previous meeting and Secretary's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Standing committee reports
6. Old business
7. New business
8. Report of the President
9. Adjournment

b) At Board of Directors' meetings, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of those present, will be as follows:

1. President will call the meeting to order
2. Minutes of the last Board meeting
3. Minutes of the last general club meeting
4. Treasurer's report
5. Committee reports
6. Old business
7. New business
8. Adjournment

**ARTICLE IV. The Club Year, Voting Nominations, Elections**

Section 1. Club Year

The club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the 31st day of December.

Section 2. Voting

Voting shall be limited to those members in good standing who are present at a meeting, except for the annual election of Officers and Directors; amendments to the constitution and by-laws; and such other specific questions as the Board of Directors may decide to submit for decision of the members by written ballot cast by mail in accordance with Section 4(d) of this article. Voting shall be limited to one vote per paid individual membership and one vote per family membership.

Voting by submission of a written vote or ballot shall be permitted, providing it is received before the meeting in which the issue(s) are voted on. Voting by proxy will not be permitted.

General membership issues shall be voted on at regular meetings. Only those members in good standing and in attendance at the meeting shall be eligible to vote on those issues. A simple majority shall determine the outcome of each vote.

Section 3. Election of Officers and Directors

The election of officers and directors shall be conducted as described in Section 4.

Section 4. Nominations and Ballots

No person may be a candidate in a club election who has not been nominated in accordance with these by-laws.

- a) The Nominating Committee shall nominate from among the eligible members of the club one candidate for each office and the other positions on the Board, as specified in Article II Section 2, and shall procure the acceptance of each nominee so chosen. The committee shall consider the geographical representation of the memberships on the Board to the extent that it is practical to do so. The committee shall then submit its list of candidates to the Secretary by September fifteenth. The Secretary shall mail the list, including the full name of each candidate and the name of the state in which he/she resides, to each member of the club, on or before September twenty-fifth, so that additional nominations may be made by the members if they so desire.
- b) Additional nominations of eligible members may be made by written petition addressed to the Secretary and received at his/her regular address on or before October fifteenth, signed by five members, and accompanied by the written acceptance of such additional nominee signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate. No person shall be a candidate for more than one position, and the additional nominations that are provided for herein may be made only from among those members who have not accepted a nomination of the Nominating Committee.
- c) If no valid additional nominations are received by the Secretary on or before October fifteenth, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected effective January first of the following year, and no balloting shall be required.
- d) If one or more valid nominations are received by the Secretary on or before October fifteenth, the Secretary will mail to each member in good standing a ballot listing all the nominees for each position in alphabetical order with the names of the states in which they reside, together with a blank envelope and a return envelope addressed to the Secretary marked "Ballot" and bearing the name of the member to whom it was sent. The ballots shall be returned within 30 days of the Secretary's mailing. So that the ballots may remain secret, each

voter, after marking his/her ballot, shall seal it in the blank envelope, which, in turn, shall be placed in the second envelope addressed to the Secretary. The Secretary shall check the returns against the list of members whose dues are paid for the current year prior to opening the outer envelopes and removing the blank envelopes and shall certify the eligibility of the voters as well as the results of the voting, which shall be announced at the meeting, in the newsletter, and at the first-quarter meeting.

e) Nominations cannot be made in any manner other than as provided above.

## **ARTICLE V. Committees and Appointed Positions**

### Section 1. Formation and Purpose

The Board of Directors will appoint committees and appointed positions as required in these by-laws. They may also appoint committees as necessary for any club activity or function that will benefit through committee effort. These may include, but are not limited to: committees for specialty show, field trials, trophies, and club membership. The President will appoint the chairperson for each committee.

### Section 2. Operations

The specific committee formed may be either permanent (standing) or temporary (special), depending upon its purpose. All committees will be subject to the final approving authority of the Board.

### Section 3. Termination

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

### Section 4. The Nominating Committee

- a) Purpose. The nominating Committee provides candidates for officer and Board of Director elections described in Article IV of these by-laws.
- b) Selection and Composition. The nominating committee is temporary and is appointed by the Board of Directors by July 15th. The committee will consist of a chairperson and two other members, plus at least one alternate. No more than one of the members may be on the Board of Directors. The nominating committee may conduct its business by mail or by telephone. All telephone conversations must be documented in writing.



**ARTICLE VI. Discipline**

Section 1. Automatic Suspension

Any club member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club or the American Bloodhound Club will be automatically suspended from this club for a like period.

Section 2. Charges

Any club member may prefer charges against another member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club or of the breed. Written charges with specifications must be filled in duplicate with the Secretary, together with a deposit of \$50.00, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board of Directors following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the board or present them at the Board meeting. The Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, will constitute behavior prejudicial to the best interests of the club or the breed. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date of a hearing by the Board not less than three weeks or more than six weeks thereafter. The Secretary will send one copy of the charges and a notice of the hearing to the accused by registered mail. The notice will include a statement of assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his/her own defense and bring witnesses, if desired.

Section 3. Board Hearing

The Board of Directors 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, the Board may, by majority vote of those present, suspend the accused from all privileges of the club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. If the Board feels the foregoing punishment insufficient, it may recommend the penalty of expulsion to the club membership. In such cases, the defendant may appear before the membership at the ensuing club meeting that considers the Board recommendation. Immediately after the Board hearing, the Secretary will notify each of the parties involved of the Board's decision and the penalty, if any.

Section 4. Expulsion

Expulsion of a member from the club can only be accomplished at a club membership meeting following a Board of Directors' hearing and recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this article. Two-thirds of the members present and voting are required for expulsion. Such proceedings may be held at a regular or special meeting of the club and will be conducted within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's expulsion recommendation. The defendant may appear in his/her own behalf, although no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendations. He/she shall invite the defendant, if

present, to respond to the charges, if desired. The membership shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. If expulsion is rejected, the Board's suspension of six months shall stand.

## **ARTICLE VII. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws**

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 signed by 20% of the members in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the membership. The constitution and by-laws may be amended at any time, provided a copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed by the Secretary to each member in good standing on the date of the mailing, accompanied by a ballot on which he/she may indicate a choice for or against the action to be taken. The notice shall specify a date not less than 30 days after the date of the mailing, by which date the ballots must be returned to the Secretary to be counted. The favorable vote of two-thirds of the members in good standing who return valid ballots within the time limit shall be required to effect any such amendment.

## **ARTICLE VIII. Dissolution of the Club**

Section 1. The club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of two-thirds of the members. Whether the dissolution is voluntary or involuntary, none of the club property or assets of any kind may be distributed to any club members. After payment of the club debts, the remaining property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization, selected by the Board of Directors, which will benefit dogs. This donation will be in strict compliance with the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.