



# Canadian Dogo Argentino Club

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## CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

VERSION 1.0  
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2019  
REVISED APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

## **ARTICLE I – Name and Objects**

**SECTION 1.** The name of the club shall be the Canadian Dogo Argentino Club

**SECTION 2.** The objectives of the club shall be:

- a) to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Dogo Argentinos, and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- b) to create and foster a community for breed advocates and enthusiasts;
- c) to promote appropriate and responsible selection and ownership of Dogo Argentinos;
- d) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials, tracking tests, agility trials, field trials and hunting tests
- e) to conduct sanctioned matches, dog shows, obedience and hunting trials.

## **BYLAWS ARTICLE I – Membership**

### **SECTION 1. Eligibility.**

There will be three types of membership open to all persons 18 years of age and older who subscribe 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 breeders, exhibitors, owners and enthusiasts within Canada.

*Individual Memberships:* Each member who is a Canadian citizen or a resident of Canada will enjoy all club privileges, including the right to vote and hold office.

*Breeder Membership:* Each breeder member who is a Canadian citizen and/or resident of Canada is eligible for a Breeder Membership. A list of Breeder Members shall be kept up to date on the club's website.

*International Members:* Enjoy all club privileges, including the right to vote. However, they are ineligible to hold office.

### **SECTION 2. Dues.**

Membership dues are payable on or before the 1st day of September of each year.

No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year.

During the month of August the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year.

### **SECTION 3. Election to Membership.**

Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the constitution and bylaws and the rules of the Canadian Dogo Argentino Club. Accompanying the application, the prospective member



shall submit dues payment for the current year. If the application is received and approved within six (6) months of the end of the year, membership dues shall be pro-rated 50% of the total dues. All applications are to be filed with the Secretary and each application is to be reviewed by the Board of Directors following its receipt. The Board of Directors will decide to accept or reject the application. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the club may not reapply within six months after such rejection. Applicants who have been accepted will be announced at the next meeting.

**SECTION 4. Termination of Membership.**

Memberships 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.
- 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 that meeting.
- c) *by expulsion.* A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these bylaws. Any member who has been expelled will not be considered for Membership for at least twelve (12) months following expulsion.
  - a. *Note:* For members who have demonstrated gross misconduct, or had repeated offensive, a Lifetime Ban may be necessary. Lifetime Bans shall be voted on by secret ballot of the entire membership, and the Secretary shall keep a list of individuals who have received a Lifetime Ban.

**ARTICLE II – Meetings and Voting**

**SECTION 1. Club Meetings.**

Meetings of the club shall be held quarterly at such date, hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of each such meeting shall be emailed and posted by the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.

The quorum for such meetings shall be 20 percent of the members in good standing.

Only members in good standing shall be permitted to engage and vote at club meetings.

**SECTION 2. Special Club Meetings.**

Special club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote 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 at least 3 members of the club who are in good standing.



Such special meetings shall be held at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be emailed by the Secretary at least five days to the date of the meeting and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other club business may be transacted thereat.

The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20 percent of the members in good standing.

Special Club Meetings are not open to the public.

### **SECTION 3. Board Meetings.**

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held the first Wednesday of every month via online teleconferencing, or in person if possible.

The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the board.

### **SECTION 4. Special Board Meetings.**

Special meetings of the board may be called by any member of the board; and shall be announced by the Secretary. Such special meetings shall be held in such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting.

Written notice of such meeting shall be emailed by the Secretary at least five days and not more than 10 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 thereat.

The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the board.

### **SECTION 5. Voting.**

Each 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 s/he is present.

Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or election.

## **ARTICLE III – Directors and Officers**

### **SECTION 1. Board of Directors.**

The board shall be comprised of the officers and up to 3 other persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for two-year terms, with elections occurring after club's year annual general meeting as provided in Article IV. Officers will be voted in on odd-years (2021, 2023, 2025, etc.) and 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, Treasurer and Director shall serve in their respective capacities both with regards to the club and its meetings and the board and its meetings.

- a) 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 bylaws.
- b) The Vice President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.
- c) 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; have charge of 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, which shall be sent to any member in good standing, upon written request, not more than once every club year, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.
- d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the club. Moneys shall be deposited in a bank designated by the board, in the name of the club. The books shall at all times be open to inspection by the board and a report shall be given at every meeting on the condition of the club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting an accounting shall be rendered of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.
- e) The offices of Director, Secretary, President or Vice President and Treasurer may be held by the same person, in which case the board shall be comprised of 4 persons.

## **SECTION 3. Provincial/Regional Representation.**

The club shall encourage regional and/or provincial participation through having regional representatives for each province or region when applicable. Representatives shall apply through an application process and act as a direct contact for club related inquiries in their designated area.

## **SECTION 4. Vacancies**

Any vacancies occurring on the board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of the 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; 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.

## **SECTION 5. Non-Disclosure & Intellectual Property**

The Canadian Dogo Argentino Club retains that all services and products produced for on behalf of the club including (but not limited to) content, graphics, user interface, website services, audio



clips, video clips, editorial content, scripts, software, etc. are considered intellectual property of the Canadian Dogo Argentino Club and are protected by applicable intellectual property and other laws, including but not limited to copyright. No member is authorized to use this proprietary information or materials in any way whatsoever except for use as authorized for on behalf of the club.

All officers, provincial/regional representatives and any member working for or on behalf of the club will be required to sign a Memo of Understanding outlining non-disclosure and intellectual property guidelines. All members are subject to Section 5 of this article.

## **ARTICLE IV – The Club Year, Annual Meeting, Elections**

### **SECTION 1. Club Year.**

The club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of September and end on the last day of August. The club's official two (2) year terms shall begin the first day of September following an election in odd-numbered years and continue until last day of August of the following odd number year.

### **SECTION 2. Annual Meeting.**

The annual meeting shall be held in the month of August, immediately following the Annual National Specialty Show. This meeting shall review all the directives and ongoing initiatives from the year before, providing a comprehensive overview of club activities for the previous year, including financials. The Annual Meeting will also serve to announce the official nominees for upcoming elections, if any.

### **SECTION 3. Elections.**

The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The 4 or 5 nominated candidates for other positions on the board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

### **SECTION 4. Nominations and Elections.**

No person may be a candidate in a club election who has not been nominated.

- a) During election years in the month of August, the Secretary will distribute to members a nomination survey with a list of members in good standing. All nominees will be contacted by the Secretary to determine if they will be electing to run for their nominated position.
- b) The Secretary shall, at least two weeks before the Annual Meeting, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- c) All candidates shall have the two weeks to campaign for their nominated position.
- d) Following the Annual Meeting, the Secretary shall submit to each member a link to an electronic voting card and given forty-eight (48) hours to vote.
- e) No person may be a candidate for more than one position (except the Treasurer).



## **ARTICLE V – Committees**

**SECTION 1.** The board may at any time appoint standing committees to advance the work of the club in such matters as dog 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 board. Special committees may also be appointed by the board to aid it on projects.

**SECTION 2.** 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.

## **ARTICLE VI – Discipline**

### **SECTION 1. Dog Club Suspension.**

Any member who is suspended from all the privileges of another dog or kennel club for reasons determined to be of merit and relevant to the Canadian Dogo Argentino Club shall automatically be suspended from the privileges of this club for a like period.

### **SECTION 2. Complaints.**

An individual member may file a complaint against another individual member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club.

Written complaints with specifications must be filed with the Secretary. The Secretary shall present a list of complaints at the monthly Board of Directors meeting. If the board considers that the complaint is unfounded or is not prejudicial to the best interests of the club, the board can refuse to entertain the complaint. If the board accepts the complaint, they shall schedule a hearing with the accused member.

The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the complaint and specifications to the accused member with a notice of the hearing and assurance that the defendant may personally appear in their own defense and bring witnesses, if requested.

### **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 complaint be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the board may by a majority vote of those present reprimand or suspend 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 fellow members at the ensuing club meeting which considers the board's recommendation.



Immediately after the board has reached a decision, its finding 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. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting.

The President shall read the charges and the board's finding and recommendation, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The members shall then vote by secret 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 bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by 20 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 petition was received by the Secretary.

**SECTION 2.** Under special circumstances not covered by existing bylaws or club precedents, the Board of Directors shall conduct a special meeting within 30 days to discuss recommendations for resolution. This report will be offered to the club no less than 10 days before a Special Meeting is held with the club to vote on the report and recommendations of the board.

### **ARTICLE VIII – Dissolution**

**SECTION 1.** The club may be dissolved at any time by the 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 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 dogs selected by the Board of Directors.

