

Iron Dog Schutzhund Club

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I Name of Club

The name of this association is the **Iron Dog Schutzhund Club**, and shall be known as such.

ARTICLE II Object of the Club

1. Train dogs for the sport of schutzhund.
2. Promote working dogs for the sport of schutzhund, police work and search and rescue work.
3. Support movements that demonstrate the advantages of schutzhund training.
4. Support and organize trials for schutzhund.
5. Support the use of dogs by police departments.
6. Interest and educate the public about schutzhund, police and search and rescue training.
7. Preserve the German Shepherd Dog in accordance with the breed standard as a working dog.
8. Promote humane training methods for the working dog.
9. Support responsible dog ownership and breeding practices.

ARTICLE III Non-profit Status

This club shall be conducted as a nonprofit organization. All dues, levies and other income shall be disbursed to promote the objectives of this club, along with associated social activities.

ARTICLE IV Provision for Dissolution

The club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of two thirds (2/3) majority vote of its active members in good standing. In such case, after payment of all debts and liabilities of the club, its assets and property shall be divided equally among the active members in good standing. The club secretary will maintain a ledger of all items purchased by or donated to the club. Only assets listed in that ledger may be disposed of as club property; all other items (e.g. Blinds, hurdles, helper equipment) that had been made available for club use will be returned to the person(s) who supplied them.

ARTICLE V Membership

Section A: The club shall consist of two types of members.

1. Active members -These members shall be entitled to vote, hold office and benefit in all the advantages of this organization.

2. Honorary members - These members may be elected at large from those who have rendered valuable service to the Club or the police dog movement. They are not entitled to vote or hold office.

Section B: Application for Election to Membership

1. Applicant shall attend three (3) training sessions as a non-member. The Training Coordinator will at these sessions evaluate the applicant's dog(s) for prey and defense drives. If a dog's prey and/or defense drives, or temperament, are not suitable for the sport of schutzhund, the applicant will be informed of this by the Training Director.
2. Prospective members must attend, at a minimum, all three phases of training at 2 of the 3 consecutive training sessions they come to prior to applying for membership, and 2 phases at the remaining session.
3. Applications for membership shall be made to the secretary in writing upon forms provided.
4. The application shall be voted upon at the next meeting of the club. Election to active membership shall require approval by three-quarters (3/4) of the members present.
5. Honorary Members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section C: Registration

1. Any member may resign at any time and may be deleted from the membership upon receipt of resignation, in writing, by the Secretary.

Section D: Code of Conduct and Breeding Ethics

1. In dealing with the general public all members will, when indicating affiliation with the club, handle and care for their dogs in a sportsmanlike manner that reflects positively on the sport of Schutzhund.
2. Any members breeding dogs will abide by the rules set forth by their breed organization.

Section E: Suspension

1. Any member may be suspended by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the Board of Directors or automatically as provided for elsewhere.
2. Any member under suspension shall not be entitled to vote or participate in training sessions.
3. Any member under suspension for four (4) months shall be expelled from membership automatically.

ARTICLE VI Dues and Special Levies

Section A: Dues and Fees

1. The Individual Membership dues, for one person over the age of 17, are \$125 per year.
2. The Family Membership dues, for two adults living at the same address, each working separate dogs, are \$200 per year.
3. Junior Membership dues, for one person under the age of 18, are \$50 per year.

4. The anniversary date is 8 September. A membership year runs from 8 September through 7 September.
5. Membership dues are paid on each anniversary date. Members joining more than six (6) months after that date will be charged 1/2 of the annual dues.
6. There is an extra dog fee (\$10 per dog) for members wishing to work more than two dogs six (6) months or older at a training session.
7. Prospective members may work up to 2 dogs at each of their evaluation visits. There will be a \$20 field fee per dog per session. If the dog is not worked by the helper(s), the fee is \$10/dog.
8. If an application for membership is received within six (6) months of the third training session and an applicant is accepted into the club, \$30 of the field fees paid will be credited to the applicant's membership dues.

Section B: Special Levies

1. The membership may approve by a majority vote the collection of special equal levies against the membership, to meet the expenses of the club.

Section C: Nonpayment of Dues or Special Levies

1. An active member whose dues remain unpaid one (1) month after the anniversary date shall be notified in writing by the Secretary/Treasurer. If said dues remain unpaid for another thirty (30) days, the membership shall be automatically suspended.
2. Any member whose share of a special levy remains unpaid for one (1) month after approval by membership vote shall be so notified in writing by the Secretary/Treasurer. If said levy remains unpaid for another thirty (30) days, the member shall be automatically suspended.

ARTICLE VII Charges for Misconduct

Any member may press charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the interests of the club. Written charges with specifications must be prepared in duplicate and forwarded to the Secretary/Treasurer of the club with a deposit of \$100, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained. All charges shall be heard before the Board of Directors only. The Board shall fine, suspend, or expel from the club or take such other measures as may be deemed advisable. The accused member must be allowed to present his case to the Board. Any member against whom charges have been filed may, by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the Board of Directors, be suspended for a period not exceeding sixty (60) days, or expelled from membership.

ARTICLE VIII - Board of Directors

1. The control and management of the affairs of the club shall be vested in the Board of Directors, consisting of at least five (5) but not more than nine (9) members
2. The Board of Directors shall consist of:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Secretary/Treasurer

- d. Sergeant at Arms
 - e. Director at Large who shall be elected from the Active Members.
 - f. In addition, the elected Board shall appoint a Training Coordinator, for an indefinite term, who shall also be a voting member of the Board of Directors.
3. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the President at least quarterly. Board meetings may precede or follow regular general membership meetings.
 4. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the President or three Directors acting in concert.
 5. A majority of the Directors in office being present shall constitute a quorum to conduct regular business. The Board shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur between elections except that of President.
 6. The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep minutes of the Board meeting, which shall be available to any member at any time.
 7. The Board shall have general supervision over all disbursements of the Secretary/Treasurer and shall appoint an auditing committee to consist of three (3) members of the Board who shall audit accounts and records annually and prior to all elections.
 8. The Board shall have the power to appoint committees and assistant officers from among the membership.

ARTICLE IX Officers and their responsibilities

1. President: Shall preside at all meetings and act as the chief executive of the club. He/she shall be a member of all committees.
2. Vice President: Shall, in the absence of the President, perform all the duties of the President.
3. Secretary/Treasurer. Shall have charge of all correspondence; keep the records and roll of members, the minutes of meetings and Board meetings, and election results. He/She shall receive, collect, and disburse all funds of the club. Disbursements shall be made only by signed vouchers, which shall be kept as a part of a permanent record system, which shall include an account book of receipts and disbursements. He/She shall render a formal statement regarding the club funds annually and informally at all regular meetings.
4. Sergeant-at-Arms: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be in charge of maintaining all equipment used in the training program, and all club property.
 - a. He/She shall provide or otherwise arrange for equipment necessary to keep the training program operating.
 - b. He/She shall officially greet visitors and control their location and movements at the training grounds while dogs are in training.
 - c. He/She shall also answer questions, offer explanations and in general provide good relations for the interested public.

ARTICLE X Election of Officers and Directors

1. The Officers and Directors shall be elected by the Active Members in good standing for a term of one (1) year by secret ballot, at the annual meeting of the club. The number of Directors at

Large to be nominated and elected shall be limited to the number in office prior to such meeting. All Officers and Directors shall assume office immediately after the election results are known. Each active member may vote for only one (1) nominee for each office.

2. Nominations for Officers and Directors shall be made from the active membership at the annual meeting. All nominations must be seconded. Prior to the election, the Secretary/Treasurer shall receive a “consent to hold office” from all nominees; this may be written or verbal.
3. Any active member whose membership fees or levies remain unpaid on election day shall be disqualified from voting or holding office.

ARTICLE XI Parliamentary Authority

The current edition of “Sturgis” shall govern this association in all parliamentary situations that are not covered in the law, or in these constitution and bylaws, or adopted rules. In case of conflict between the provisions of the constitution and bylaws and the parliamentary provisions of “Sturgis” the provisions of these constitution and bylaws shall prevail.

ARTICLE XII General Membership Meetings

The general membership meeting to conduct business shall be held in conjunction with the training sessions. Unless otherwise announced, these meetings shall be held on the date of the first training session of each month.

ARTICLE XIII Constitutional Amendments

1. The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended, altered or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active members in good standing.
2. Any proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws shall be formally read at the monthly meeting preceding the meeting at which actual voting takes place, and shall appear in the minutes of that meeting.

ARTICLE XIV Training Coordinator

A Training Coordinator shall be appointed for an indefinite term, but not to exceed two (2) years, by the Board of Directors. He/She may be reappointed at the end of the term. He/She shall fulfill all requirements to maintain a satisfactory and successful training program. He/She shall be in charge of all club activities at the training grounds during normal training hours. He/She shall be a member of the club. The Training Coordinator is a member of the Board of Directors by appointment; should he/she already be holding office, the Assistant Coordinator would then become the appointed Board member.

The Training Coordinator, the Assistant Coordinator, any assistants, trainer or helpers shall not be reimbursed for club activities.

ARTICLE XV Training

1. Members, guests and prospective members are encouraged to train in all 3 phases of Schutzhund at each club training session. Persons wishing to work their dog(s) in protection at any session

must work the dog(s) in tracking or obedience prior to the protection work. The Training Coordinator has the right to disallow protection work by any dog he/she feels has not been sufficiently worked in tracking or obedience beforehand.

2. At training sessions, one (1) dog per person will be given priority over extra dogs. The training of extra dogs at any one session can be done only with the consent of the Training Coordinator and must not interfere with the timely training of other dogs. Extra dogs (and non-member dogs) may be trained last in the session.
3. At each club training session the Training Coordinator and helpers are each entitled to work, without paying the extra dog fee, up to 4 of their own dogs, or as many dogs as they work in protection for other members and guests, whichever is greater. However, their dogs will be given the same priority as other members' dogs, as set forth in the previous paragraph.
4. Extra dogs owned by club members that are under six (6) months of age may be tied out during a training session, or brought to a session for socialization, without paying the extra dog fee provided such action does not interfere with the training of other dogs. Puppies may be worked briefly by a helper with the consent of the Training Coordinator. Any substantial training or evaluation of a new dog or puppy will require a training fee.
5. Prospective members and guests of members may attend any training session. They may not enter into training activities of the club except by the consent of the presiding officer or Training Coordinator. Before participating in any of the three phases of schutzhund, non-members shall be required to register with the Secretary/Treasurer and pay the non-member training fee. There shall be a limit of three (3) training sessions per non-member.
6. A member can not participate in training session unless his/her membership dues are paid in full.

ARTICLE XVI Empowered Representative

1. This club at each annual meeting will elect from the general membership one person who will be the club delegate to the parent organization, the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.
2. This delegate must be an active member in good standing with the club; he/she must not have any disciplinary action pending from the United Schutzhund Clubs of America. All dues payable to this club and the United Schutzhund Clubs of America must be paid in full.
3. This delegate must be empowered to represent the club in all matters, as he/she will be a member of the Board of Directors of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.
4. This delegate will begin his/her one (1) year as the Club's empowered representative to the Board of Directors of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America effective with the annual meeting of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.

ARTICLE XVII Clubs Dues to the United Schutzhund Clubs of America

The club must pay to the Treasurer of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America, an annual fee as prescribed by that organization, upon the date of affiliation with the United Schutzhund Clubs of America, and every year (anniversary date) thereafter.