



**CONSTITUTION
& BY-LAWS**

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The Great Dane Club of Northern California, Inc.

Constitution and By-Laws
Revised December, 2005

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The Great Dane Club of Northern California, Incorporated

Constitution

Article 1 - Name and Objectives.

Section 1. The name of the Club shall be "The Great Dane Club of Northern California, Incorporated".

Section 2. The Objectives of the Club shall be:

- A. To promote and safeguard the welfare of the Great Dane.
- B. To encourage careful, responsible, scientific and healthy breeding of the Great Dane and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- C. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, field trials and obedience trials;
- D. To conduct sanctioned matches, specialty shows and obedience trials under the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club, and to generate publicity on any matter affecting the welfare of the breed;
- E. To educate and promote new fanciers to the breed;
- F. To promote the program and purposes of the Great Dane Club of America;
- G. To otherwise aid and assist the parent club (Great Dane Club of America), in encouraging the study of the breed by breeders, owners, exhibitors, judges and all others interested in the Great Dane breed;
- H. To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which the Great Dane is judged.

Section 3. The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

Section 4. The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such By-laws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

BY-LAWS OF THE GREAT DANE CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INCORPORATED

(A Nonprofit Corporation)

ARTICLE I: NAME AND OFFICES

SECTION 1

The name of this corporation shall be the GREAT DANE CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INCORPORATED, hereafter referred to as the "Club".

SECTION 2

The principal office for the transaction of the business of this corporation shall be at such address in the northern part of the State of California as described in Article III, Section 2, and as may be fixed by the Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as the "Board". The Board is granted full power and authority to change the principal office from one location to another as long as the location is within the boundary as stated in Article III, Section 2.

SECTION 3

The Corporation may have such other offices as may be designated by the Board.

ARTICLE II: MANNER OF OPERATION

SECTION 1

The corporation shall be operated as a nonprofit corporation exclusively for the purpose set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and Article I of the Constitution. It is not intended as a profit-making organization, although some of its activities may be reflected in a pecuniary advantage to the Club.

ARTICLE III: BOUNDARY AND AREA

SECTION 1

The area to be served by this club shall be all of that portion of the State of California being generally north and northwest of a line described as follows: Beginning at the shoreline of the Pacific Ocean at a point marking the boundary between Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, then east and north along the boundary of Monterey County to its intersection with the boundary of San Benito County, then in a generally northwesterly direction along the eastern boundary of San Benito County to its intersection with the boundary of Merced County, then in a general northeasterly direction along the southern boundaries of Merced County and Mariposa County to the intersection of the boundaries of Mariposa, Mono and Tuolumne Counties, then in a generally northerly direction along the eastern boundaries of Tuolumne and Alpine Counties to the Nevada-California State boundary.

SECTION 2

This area is to include all of the counties of Monterey, San Benito, Merced, Mariposa, Tuolumne and Alpine and those counties lying generally north and northwest of those named, but to include no territory of the counties of San Luis Obispo, Kings, Fresno, Madera and Mono, or of other counties lying south or southwest of those counties.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

There shall be three classes of membership open to persons in good standing with the American Kennel Club and the Great Dane Club of America, who subscribe to the purposes of this Club and agree to adhere to this Club's Code of Ethics, provided such person(s), or any member of their immediate family, owns or has owned a Great Dane, or are interested in the welfare of the Great Dane.

A. Regular Members. Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older, in good standing with the American Kennel Club, and with the Great Dane Club of America, may make application for regular membership in this Club.

B. Junior Members. Any person between the ages of ten (10) and seventeen (17) inclusive, in good standing with the American Kennel Club and with the Great Dane Club of America, may make application for junior membership in this Club.

C. Honorary Membership. Honorary membership may be conferred only upon a person who has rendered a distinctly valuable service to the Club or breed. Honorary members shall be exempt from dues and initiation fee and shall enjoy all privileges of the Club, except that they may not vote or hold office. Upon the recommendation of the Board, honorary membership may be conferred by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the regular members in attendance at a meeting consisting of 20% of the general membership. A member so honored may maintain regular membership status by paying the appropriate yearly dues. Persons who have been elected to honorary membership of the Great Dane Club of Northern California under By-laws previously in effect may retain that membership.

SECTION 2 - ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP

A. Regular and Junior Membership

1. Each applicant for membership shall apply in writing, directed to the Membership Chairperson, on a form approved by the Board, which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this Club's Constitution and By-Laws, its Code of Ethics, and the rules of the Great Dane Club of America and the American Kennel Club.
2. Each application shall be accompanied by a check payable to the Club in the appropriate amount as specified on the application form. Two (2) sponsors, both of whom shall be regular members in good standing with this Club for one year and unrelated to the applicant, shall sign the application. Both sponsoring members shall be personally acquainted with the applicant for a minimum of six (6) months prior to the date of application.
3. Application for membership shall be referred to the Membership Committee. The name of the applicant and sponsors shall be presented to the membership in the newsletter and website on two consecutive publishings. The Membership Committee shall consider whether or not the applicant is eligible for Club membership. The Membership Committee shall recommend action at the next meeting of the Board held after the *second* publishing in the newsletter of an applicant at which time the applicant shall be voted upon by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board voting shall be required to elect an applicant to membership in the Club.
4. An applicant receiving a negative vote will be refunded all dues paid within thirty (30) days after such vote. The *application fee is not refundable*. The Corresponding Secretary shall send a letter to the applicant, accompanied by the refund check, stating the results of the vote.

5. An applicant who has received a negative vote by the Board may be represented by one or both of the applicant's sponsors at the next regular meeting of the Board, provided notification of intent is sent to the Corresponding Secretary and President at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date. Within ten (10) days after said presentation, the Corresponding Secretary shall send to all regular members a written ballot for election to membership of said applicant. Along with the written ballot will be a statement from the applicant, a written statement by one or both of his/her sponsors and a written statement of the Board's position. Ballots are to be returned to the Corresponding Secretary within five (5) days of the next meeting of the Board, at which time they will be counted. The membership may elect such applicant by a favorable vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the members in good standing attending the meeting. Applicants who fail to receive the required vote may not reapply for at least one (1) year.

6. Each person elected to regular membership shall have the full privileges of the Club, including the right to vote and hold office, provided their dues are paid in full. The exception is that no member shall have the right to vote for the election of Officers until thirty (30) days after his/her election to membership.

7. Each person elected to Junior membership shall not have the right to vote or hold office, but shall be entitled to enjoy all the other privileges of Club membership.

8. Junior members having reached their eighteenth (18th) birthday shall automatically become regular members upon payment of regular member dues.

B. *Dropped Members.* Any member who has been dropped from membership, for any reason, shall be required to make application as provided for new membership in the Club.

SECTION 3 - DUES

All dues are set and subject to change by the Board provided notice is given of such change at least thirty (30) days prior to September 1. The annual dues shall not exceed fifty dollars (\$50). The period covered by the dues shall be a fiscal year.

A. Regular and Junior Membership

1. Dues are payable on or before the *first day of November* of each year. During the month of September the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of his or her dues for the ensuing year.

2. The dues for a new member whose membership is accepted after May 30, shall be one-half (1/2) of the annual dues.

B. Honorary Membership.

Exempt from dues as provided in Article IV, Section 1, Item C in these By-laws.

SECTION 4 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership may be terminated:

1. *By resignation.* Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Corresponding Secretary.

2. *By lapsing.* Membership will be considered lapsed and automatically terminated if such dues remain unpaid after November 30. The Board may grant an additional grace period of thirty (30) days to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no instance may a person whose membership has lapsed be entitled to any of the privileges and benefits of the Club.

3. *By expulsion.* A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article V, Section 7, Item A, of these By-laws.

ARTICLE V: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1

Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club or the Great Dane Club of America automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period of time.

SECTION 2

A Disciplinary Board shall be appointed, with the approval of the Board of Directors, by each incoming President and shall consist of not less than three (3) members, one of whom shall be a Director of the Great Dane Club of Northern California. The appointed Director shall automatically be the chairperson of this Disciplinary Board. In case one or more members of the Disciplinary Board shall be unable to sit in any given case, the President, or in the President's absence, the Vice-President, shall appoint a substitute or substitutes, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3 - CHARGES

A. *Against a Member.* The Great Dane Club of America, the Great Dane Club of Northern California, any regular member of the Great Dane Club of America or the Great Dane Club of Northern California or any regular member of an affiliate Club of the Great Dane Club of America may bring charges against a member of the Great Dane Club of Northern California.

B. *Against the Club.* Five (5) or more regular members of the Great Dane Club of America or an affiliate Club of the Great Dane Club of America may bring charges against the Great Dane Club of Northern California.

SECTION 4 - NATURE OF CHARGES

A. The commission or omission of any act that discredits or tends to discredit or otherwise injure the Great Dane Club of America or the Great Dane Club of Northern California or any affiliate Club of the Great Dane Club of America is subject to disciplinary action.

B. The commission or omission of any act that is inconsistent with effectively carrying out the purposes of the Great Dane Club of America or the Great Dane Club of Northern California or any affiliate Club of the Great Dane Club of America is subject to disciplinary action.

SECTION 5 - CHARGES SPECIFICATION PROCESS

A. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Corresponding Secretary of the Great Dane Club of Northern California, together with a deposit of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) that shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained following a hearing. The Corresponding Secretary shall promptly notify the Disciplinary Board of the Club, which shall promptly meet to determine the validity of the charges. The Disciplinary Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Great Dane Club of Northern California, the Great Dane Club of America or the Breed. If the Disciplinary Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct that would be prejudicial to the best interests of the aforementioned clubs or the Breed, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction of the charges. If the Disciplinary Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date of a hearing by the Disciplinary Board, not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Corresponding Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by certified mail with return receipt, together with a notice of the hearing date and assurance that the accused member may personally appear in his/her own defense and bring witnesses if he/she so wishes. Any member shall have the right to appear with and be represented by counsel.

SECTION 6 - CHARGES DETERMINATION

A. A majority vote of the Disciplinary Board shall determine and decide all matters before it. Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence, testimony or affidavits presented by the complainant and accused, the Disciplinary Board may reprimand the accused or suspend the accused, effective immediately, from all privileges of the Club for a period of not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing. If it deems that such punishment is insufficient, the Disciplinary Board may also recommend to the next regular meeting or a special meeting of the membership that the penalty be the expulsion of the accused from the Club. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the accused's right to appear before the next regular meeting or special meeting of the membership called to consider the Disciplinary Board's recommendation.

B. Immediately after the Disciplinary Board has reached a decision, its finding shall be put in written form and filed with the Corresponding Secretary who, in turn, shall notify the accused of the decision and the action to be taken.

SECTION 7 - EXPULSION

A. Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only upon the recommendation of the Disciplinary Board and at a meeting of the membership. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the membership that must be held within sixty (60) days, but not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the decision of the Disciplinary Board. Notice of the date, time and place of any meeting at which any recommendations of the Disciplinary Board shall be considered will be sent at least ten (10) days in advance to all regular members and to the accused member. The notice shall further set forth the full name of the accused member, the charges preferred, and a copy of the finding of the Disciplinary Board and its recommendation. The accused member, if he/she so desires, shall have the privilege of appearing on his/her own behalf and/or be represented by counsel, but no evidence shall be taken at this meeting of the membership. The President or Chairperson of the meeting shall read the charges and the Disciplinary Board findings and, if present, invite the accused member to speak on his/her own behalf if he/she so desires. The membership shall then vote by secret, written ballot on the proposed expulsion of the member. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at such meeting shall be necessary for expulsion of the member. If expulsion of the member is not so voted, the Disciplinary Board's suspension shall still stand.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS

All meetings of the Club shall be held at a place, date and time designated by the Board and which are to be held usually at a location central to the majority of the membership.

SECTION 2 - EMAIL NOTIFICATION

1. The Club may send member notification of club meetings, and board members notification of board meetings via email, provided that the member or board member has signed an authorization agreeing to this method of communication.
2. Such authorization, which is revocable, will also release the Club from any liability should the notification not be received, or be received late, by the member or board member due to circumstances beyond the Club's control.

SECTION 3 - ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Club shall be held in the month of January.

1. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given to each member by mail a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting.
2. The quorum for the annual meeting shall be twenty percent (20%) of the membership in good standing or fifteen (15) members in good standing, whichever is greater.

SECTION 4 - REGULAR MEETINGS

- A. The regular membership meetings of the Club shall be held not less than six (6) times per year.
- B. A notice of all membership meetings, stating the place, day and hour of the meeting, shall be given a minimum seven (7) days before such a meeting.
- C. All unapproved minutes of the regular meetings will be made available to the membership via the newsletter and the Club website prior to final approval.

SECTION 5 - SPECIAL MEETINGS

- A. Special Club meetings may be called by the President or by a majority vote of the members of the Board or by five percent (5%) of the membership eligible to vote.
- B. A call for a Special Club meeting must be presented in writing to the Corresponding Secretary.
- C. No special meetings shall be called unless notice is sent to the membership a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the meeting stating the place, day and hour of said meeting and the purpose for which the meeting is being called.

SECTION 6 - QUORUM AT MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

At any meeting of the membership, twenty percent (20%) of the members eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may, from time to time, adjourn any meeting. When a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of the members present may decide any question brought before such meeting, except as otherwise provided by law or by these By-laws.

ARTICLE VII: DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

SECTION 1 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The Board shall be comprised of the Officers of the Club, including the Delegate to the Great Dane Club of America and six (6) Directors, all to be elected by the membership.
- B. The term of office of the six (6) Directors shall be two (2) years. Three (3) of the Directors are to be elected each year. The term of office of three (3) of the Directors shall expire each year.
- C. The Board shall be vested with the authority and responsibility for the general management of the Club's property and affairs, so far as this delegation of authority is consistent with the laws of the State of California, the Great Dane Club of America and the Club's Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By-laws.
- D. All unapproved minutes of the Board will be made available to the membership via newsletter and the Club website prior to final approval.
- E. Meeting of the Board of Directors
 1. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held not less than six (6) times per year in such place and at such time as the Board may determine, provided that a minimum seven (7) day notice is provided to the board members.
 2. Special meetings of the Board may be held at anytime, if called by the President or five (5) members of the Board, provided that if a special meeting is called, a minimum seven (7) day notice is to be sent to each Board member and to the membership, stating date, time, place and the purpose of the Special Meeting.

3. In the event an Officer or Director fails to attend, without just cause, at least one-half (1/2) of the meetings of the Board in any calendar year, and unless such absences are excused by the Board, said Officer or Director shall be deemed to have resigned his/her office and the vacancy shall be filled pursuant to the provisions of these By-laws.
4. Quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors shall be a majority of the board for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board but a lesser number may, from time to time, adjourn any meeting. Notice shall be given to all members of the Board of the time and place of any such meeting.
5. The Board may, by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote, recommend for cause the removal from office of any Officer(s) or Director(s) of the Club. Said Officer(s) or Director(s) shall be considered removed from office if the membership, at the next regular meeting of the Club or special meeting called for that purpose, approves the decision of the Board by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

SECTION 2 - OFFICERS

A. The Club's Officers shall consist of:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Corresponding Secretary
4. Recording Secretary
5. Treasurer
6. Delegate to the Great Dane Club of America
7. Immediate Past President

B. No member shall hold more than one (1) office. Each Officer shall be a regular member in good standing and shall be elected for a two (2) year term by the regular membership from among their own number by written ballot at the annual meeting.

C. The office of the Immediate Past President is a non-elected position and shall terminate one year after his/her term of President expires.

D. PRESIDENT

1. The President, when present, shall preside at all meetings of the membership and all meetings of the Board.
2. All Standing Committees shall be appointed by the President on or before the last day of February of each year. Such appointments can be overruled by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Board and their decision shall be final. The Board shall appoint all committees not appointed by the President on or before the last day of February.
3. The President, by virtue of his/her office, may be an ex-officio member of all committees (excluding the nominating committee) and as such, may have full voting privileges on such committees.
4. The President shall perform all duties commonly incumbent to his/her office and shall perform such other duties, as the Board shall from time to time designate.

E. VICE-PRESIDENT

1. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside at all meetings of the Membership and of the Board.
2. S/he shall perform such other duties as are commonly incumbent to his/her office and have such powers and duties, as the Board shall from time to time designate.

C. CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

1. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to keep all correspondence of the Club, notify those candidates for membership whose membership has been *denied*, register names and addresses of the members and issue all necessary notices required of his/her office.
2. S/he shall be the custodian of all tangible properties of the Club, unless these properties are stored, with the approval of the Board, away from his/her personal premises and except funds in the treasury.
3. S/he shall be custodian of all correspondence pertaining to the Club and perform all other duties incumbent and customary to this office.
4. The Corresponding Secretary shall perform such other duties and have such other powers, as the Board shall from time to time designate.

D. RECORDING SECRETARY

1. The Recording Secretary of the Club shall keep an accurate record of the attendance and proceedings of all meetings of the membership and of the Board, in books provided for that purpose. Such books shall be open at all reasonable times for inspection by any member in good standing at any regular meeting.
2. The Recording Secretary is required to carry only two (2) years of approved minutes to each meeting. Written request to the Board for viewing of approved minutes of prior years will be required.

E. TREASURER

1. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of the funds of the Club and shall have and exercise, under the supervision of the Board, all powers and duties commonly incumbent to his/her office.
2. The Treasurer shall keep the Corresponding Secretary advised concerning delinquent members.
3. The Treasurer shall submit all non-budgeted bills, prior to disbursing funds, at each regular meeting of the Board for approval.
4. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties and have such other powers, as the Board shall from time to time designate.
5. All monies received by the Treasurer shall be deposited in the name of the Club with a depository approved by a majority vote of the Board. The signatures of the President and the Treasurer, provided they are not related by blood, marriage or co-habitation, are required to be registered with the Bank or other depository.
6. The Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount that is determined by the Board.
7. At least once each year an independent auditor or a committee selected by the Board, shall audit all the books and records of the Treasurer. Said committee should have no less than three (3) and no more than five (5) members and is not to include the Treasurer or any member of his/ her family or household, nor is it to include the President or any member of his/her family or household.
8. It is *required* that all the books and records of the Treasurer must be audited by an independent auditor every six (6) years and/or or at every change of Treasurer.

F. DELEGATE

1. The Delegate to the Great Dane Club of America shall be the accredited representative of this Club.
2. S/he shall be a member in good standing of the Club and shall be elected for a period of two years by the membership and shall be a voting officer of the Board.

3. On all matters of interest to the Great Dane Club of Northern California or the welfare of the Breed, s/he shall vote and plead at all meetings as directed by a majority of the Membership or in absence of specific direction, at his/her own discretion, provided it will be for the best interest of this Club and the Breed.

G. IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

1. The Immediate Past President shall hold office as a voting member of the Board for one (1) year *immediately after* his/her term expires as President.
2. This position on the Board is not replaceable and is for the current Past President only. If this position is vacant it will remain vacant until a new President is voted into office.

SECTION 3 - APPOINTEES

One (1) or more persons may be appointed by the Board to assist the Officers listed above in the performance of their duties. These appointed persons shall not have the power to vote on issues before the Board.

SECTION 4 - VACANCIES

Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the Officers during the year, except the office of Immediate Past President, shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of the Board. The only exception is a vacancy in the office of the President, which shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President, and the resulting vacancy in the office of the Vice-President shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board.

SECTION 5 - CONSECUTIVE TERMS

- A. The Club President shall not be elected for more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- B. Any other Officer or Director may be reelected for consecutive terms.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

SECTION 1 - STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Education Committee/PEC (AKC Public Education Chairperson)
- B. Membership Committee
- C. Ways and Means Committee
- D. Website Committee
- E. Disciplinary Board

SECTION 2 - SHOW COMMITTEE

- A. The President, with the approval of the Board, shall appoint a Show Chairperson at least six (6) months prior to the date of any Specialty show.
- B. The Event Committee shall consist of a quorum of the Officers and Directors of the Club and the Event Chairperson, who will chair all hearings dealing with conduct at Club events.

SECTION 3 - SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- A. Special committees may also be appointed by the President to aid the Club with particular projects.
- B. Approval of such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board.

SECTION 4 - COMMITTEE TERMINATION

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 service has been terminated. .

SECTION 5 - COMMITTEE LENGTH OF TERM

All appointed committees shall serve only until the new Officers and / or Board members take office.

ARTICLE IX: THE CLUB YEAR, VOTING, NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS

SECTION 1 - CLUB YEAR

- A. The Club's fiscal year shall begin on November first (1st) and end on October thirty-first (31st) of the following year.
- B. The Club's official year shall begin immediately upon the conclusion of the election at the Annual Meeting and shall continue through the election at the next Annual Meeting.
- C. The elected Officers and Board members shall take office immediately upon conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his/her successor all properties *and* records relating to that office within thirty (30) days after the election at the Annual Meeting, with the exception of the Treasurer who has sixty (60) days.
- D. All members in good standing as of the date of the Annual Meeting may vote in the annual election, except as specified in these By-Laws Article IV, Section 2-A, Item 6.

SECTION 2 - VOTING

- A. At all meetings of the membership of the Club each member, if present, is entitled to one (1) vote.
- B. Voting shall be limited to those members who are members in good standing with the Club.
- C. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

SECTION 3 - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- A. Each year the President will, with the approval of the Board, appoint on or before the regular October meeting, a chairman and two (2) members of the Club who will constitute a Nominating Committee.
 - 1. No more than one (1) current Board member may serve on this Committee.
 - 2. No regular member of the Club shall be eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee unless s/he has been a member in good standing for at least one (1) year.
- B. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for the Officers and Directors positions for election at the next Annual Meeting of the Club.
 - 1. The Nominating Committee may nominate any regular member who has been in good standing for one (1) year.
 - 2. Candidates for Officer shall have served for a minimum of one (1) year as a member of the Board.
 - 3. The Nominating Committee may not nominate one of its members for office.
- C. The Nominating Committee shall report its slate of nominees, in writing, to the Corresponding Secretary of the Club on or before the November meeting.
- D. The Corresponding Secretary of the Club shall, on or before December first (1st) of the same year, send a notice to each regular member of the Club, setting forth the nominations.
- E. Any regular member in good standing, whose name does not appear upon the slate submitted to the Corresponding Secretary by the Nominating Committee, shall be eligible if and only if his or her name is proposed in writing, endorsed by at least five (5) other members in good standing, has the written consent and signature of the candidate, is sent with "return receipt requested" (USPS, FedEx, UPS, etc.) and is received by the Corresponding Secretary and President of the Club on, or before, the fifteenth (15th) of December. The candidate and endorsers shall be in good standing with The Great Dane Club of Northern California for a minimum of one (1) year.

- F. In the event that a nominee for office withdraws his/her candidacy, a written notice must be given to the Nominating Committee of such withdrawal. At that time, the Nominating Committee has the right to select another candidate in place of the one who withdrew.
- G. If no valid additional nominations are received by the Corresponding Secretary and President on or before December fifteenth (15th), the Nominating Committee's slate shall stand.
- H. The Corresponding Secretary shall, on or before December thirty-first (31st) of the same year, notify each regular member of the Club of the name or names of the candidates so proposed.
- I. No nominations shall be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting of the Club.
- J. The candidates receiving the greatest number of votes cast by members present at the Annual Meeting eligible to vote in accordance with Article IV, Section 2-A, item 6, shall be elected for their nominated positions.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1

Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws may be proposed by the Board or by written petition signed by twenty percent (20%) of the membership in good standing and addressed to the Corresponding Secretary. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board and must be submitted to the membership with the recommendations of the Board by the Corresponding Secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date the Corresponding Secretary received the petition.

SECTION 2

The Constitution and By-laws may be amended at any time by vote at a meeting at which 20% of the membership is in attendance. The following conditions must be met:

- A. A copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed by the Corresponding Secretary to each member in good standing at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of any regular or special meeting called for that purpose.
- B. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership by secret ballot at a meeting is required to effect any such amendment.

SECTION 3

No amendments to the Constitution and By-laws that are adopted by the Club shall become effective until the Board of Directors of the Great Dane Club of America and the Club Relations Office of the American Kennel Club has approved them.

ARTICLE XI: DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing. In the event of dissolution of the Club other than for the 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 will be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of Great Danes selected by the board of directors.

ARTICLE XII: ORDER OF BUSINESS

SECTION 1

At general membership meetings of the Club, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

- A. Roll Call
- B. Introduction of Guests
- C. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting
- D. Agenda Items
- E. Call for Additional Agenda Items
- F. Report of the President
- G. Report of the Corresponding Secretary
- H. Report of the Treasurer
- I. Report of the Committees
- J. Unfinished Business
- K. New Business
- L. Election of Officers and Board Members (Annual Meeting)
- M. Adjournment

SECTION 2

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

- A. Roll Call
- B. Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting
- C. Agenda Items
- D. Call for Additional Agenda Items
- E. Report of the President
- F. Report of the Corresponding Secretary
- G. Report of the Treasurer
- H. Report of the Committees
- I. Unfinished Business
- J. Election of New Members
- K. New Business
- L. Adjournment

ARTICLE XIII: RECORDS AND REGULATIONS

SECTION 1

This Club at all times shall have its books and records available and open for the inspection by any Officer or duly appointed representative of the Great Dane Club of America and shall annually on the first (1st) day of February, forward to the Secretary of the Great Dane Club of America the following:

- A. A complete list of the Officers, Directors and Committees.
- B. A complete list of members and their home addresses.
- C. Upon request, a complete certified copy of the minutes of any meeting or meetings.

SECTION 2

The annual dues of this affiliated Club shall be paid in advance of the first (1st) day of January of each year to the Great Dane Club of America and shall be in such amount as the Great Dane Club of America shall, from time to time, determine. This Club shall adopt uniform regulations as prescribed from time to time by the Great Dane Club of America.

ARTICLE XIV: SHOWS

SECTION 1- SPECIALTY SHOWS

The Club shall, whenever possible, hold a Great Dane Specialty Championship Show provided it shall first obtain from the Great Dane Club of America consent in writing to apply for, and hold, such a show.

ARTICLE XV: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

SECTION 1

The rules contained in the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised" shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-laws and any other special rules of order the Club may adopt

Revised: 12/18/05

Great Dane Club of Northern California, Inc.

"Code of Ethics"

A guide for the owners, breeders and stud owners of Great Danes.

- Code: "A system of principles or rules."
- Ethics: "A principal of right or good conduct, a system of moral values, the right conduct."

Ethical Behavior:

"Of or relating to moral action, motive or character; conforming to professional standards of conduct." The *Code of Ethics* is presented as an informative guide for both current and future owners, breeders and stud owners of Great Danes. The foremost aim is the welfare and improvement of the *Breed*. The Constitution of the Great Dane Club of Northern California, Inc. (Article 1; section 2; paragraph A-H) indicate what the objectives of the club shall be. This *Code of Ethics* details certain practices and membership obligations necessary to implement these objectives, thereby showing a concerted effort to protect and advance the interests of the *Breed*. In applying for membership, applicants agree to further the club's objectives and conduct all their activities in connection with the *Breed* in an ethical manner.

Ownership Behavior:

The Great Dane is a wonderful breed with many sterling qualities, but it is not the breed for everyone. The Great Dane is an indoor dog, people/family oriented, and in need of quality attention. The novice owner has a responsibility to their Great Dane to seek the advice and guidance of established, reputable breeders and/or experienced owners.

A *conscientious breeder* will:

- o 1) Show their pride of ownership and love of their Great Dane by always presenting a clean and healthy companion, who is well socialized and trained, thereby making him an ambassador of the breed wherever he goes.
- o 2) Provide and maintain proper housing and bedding suitable to the needs of this giant breed.

- o 3) Keep their Great Dane in a safe and sanitary environment at all times.
- o 4) Socialize their Great Dane by exposing them to a variety of situations and stimuli appropriate to their age and past experience.
- o 5) Through **humane** training methods, insure that their Great Dane behaves in a controlled, but happy and outgoing manner, at all times.
- o 6) Never allow their Great Dane to roam loose. **A secured, fenced yard is a must!**
- o 7) Will keep their Great Dane on proper restraint when venturing off their property.
- o 8) Never allow their Great Dane to become a nuisance to others in any way, shape or form.
- o 9) Learn and maintain correct grooming practices.
- o 10) Provide fresh water indoors and out in adequate amounts.
- o 11) Provide fresh food according to predetermined schedules.
- o 12) Provide proper preventative veterinary care at all times and act promptly in times of emergency. As a giant breed, the Great Dane can, and will, present certain health problems and special needs not often seen by most small animal veterinarians. **Make sure** that the veterinarian you select is familiar and experienced in dealing with these problems. **Do not wait** until an emergency arises, to talk to your veterinarian.
- o 13) Provide correct and humane ear care whether cropped or natural-eared. Correct ear cropping and after care is an art that not all veterinarians can provide. Always seek experienced advice and help before, and after, you crop your dog. Not all natural ears lie correctly without some help; therefore, also seek advice .from someone experienced with natural ears.
- o 14) Keep abreast of new advances in the health, training and care of the Great Dane.

Sportsmanship Practices:

As a member of the Great Dane Club of Northern California, Inc., you have already shown an interest in the Great Dane and have taken the necessary steps toward increasing your awareness. Many people prefer simply to maintain companions only and many decide to try their hand at exhibiting their Great Dane. There is always a viable place for both type of members in the club, with each person contributing equally to the betterment and well-being of the breed

they love. Please keep in mind the following suggestions of appropriate behavior when engaged in dog related and/or club related activities.

A GDCNC member should:

- o 1) Conduct themselves at all times in a manner which will reflect credit upon them, their club and their breed regardless of location or circumstances.
- o 2) When confronted with a difficult situation, conduct themselves as they would like to be treated under similar circumstances.
- o 3) Attempt to show good sportsmanship, whether winning or losing, in or out of the show ring.
- o 4) Will refrain from conduct considered prejudicial to the best interests of the Great Dane, dog shows and pure breed dogs in general.
- o 5) Not engage in, and will discourage others from, maligning and making libelous, slanderous or malicious criticism regarding another person and/or animal.
- o 6) Try to present a positive image by outward conduct and a willingness to answer questions by spectators, other exhibitors and the general public.
- o 7) Regardless of location or circumstances, keep their facilities clean and not let their dogs become a nuisance to others.
- o 8) Be concerned with the well-being of the dogs and the people around them.
- o 9) Make themselves available to **offer** advice to others less experienced and, if so needed, seek the advice of others more experienced than them.
- o 10) Familiarize themselves with the American Kennel Club (AKC) rules, regulations and correct procedures involved in exhibiting purebred dogs.

Breeding Practices:

The advancement, or decline, of a breed lies exclusively in the hands of those who choose to breed their animals. AKC registration is not an indication of quality nor does a certificate of championship always indicate a superb breeding animal. **At all times, a breeder/stud dog owner must ask themselves three questions:**

- 1) why am I choosing to breed this animal?
- 2) Of what possible benefit, or detriment, to the Breed will this breeding be?
- 3) Am I fully prepared to deal with all the responsibilities and ramifications resulting from this breeding?

An **ethical breeder/stud dog owner** should:

- ✓ 1) Always strive to produce dogs of sound mind and body.
- ✓ 2) Never breed a dog known to have a hereditary defect NOR continue to breed a dog that produces a hereditary defect.
- ✓ 3) Prescreen all breeding dogs for hereditary defects by use of the latest medical techniques available and refrain from breeding to dogs who have not obtained the required prescreening tests.
- ✓ 4) Not use a dog too young or too old for breeding. **Suggested ages** are two to five years for a bitch-up to six years if she has previously whelped a litter successfully; and two to eight years for a male.
- ✓ 5) **Not breed a bitch on consecutive heats** unless the first litter consisted of a trouble free, naturally whelped litter of three, or less, puppies; or if it is a part of the veterinarian's recommendation for the treatment of pyrometra.
- ✓ 6) Make a concerted effort to limit the number of litters whelped by a breeder (including co-owned bitches) to a suggested limit of three in a calendar year.
- ✓ 7) Realize that the indiscriminate use of a stud dog can result in a decline of the Breed and, therefore, plan and limit use to a suggested limit of ten times in a calendar year.
- ✓ 8) Grade their litters and sell (place) pets on a spay/neuter contract and make full use of the AKC Limited Registration form option.
- ✓ 9) Carefully screen all potential homes as to their suitability to own and care for their Great Dane. **Will never sell to pet shops, puppy mills or wholesale brokers.**
- ✓ 10) Provide new owners with no less than: correctly filled out and signed registration papers, 4 generation color pedigree, health record, feeding schedule, important dates, written guarantees/contractual agreements, club information, magazine, book references.
- ✓ 11) Not release a puppy prior to six weeks of age. Suggested age is 7-8 weeks or after ear cropping and suture removal.
- ✓ 12) Maintain contact with buyers over the life of the dog to ensure its well-being. Stud dog owners have an equal responsibility in tracking their dog's get.

• It is the responsibility of both the novice and the experienced breeder, to always avail themselves of a wide range of educational material. A mentor is suggested for novice breeders, but **do not expect the mentor, nor any other breeder, to take care of your litter and/or buyers.** If you, as the breeder (or stud dog owner), cannot provide your buyers with the necessary information or skills needed to ensure the health and welfare of your puppies, then **do not breed** until you have the education and experience to do so. Strive to be an ethical and reputable breeder, not just a producer of puppies.

Rescue Practices:

While it is hoped that no Great Dane ever should need to be rescued from a less than desirable situation, nor that any should ever be surrendered to a humane society or shelter, we do realize that this is not a very realistic hope in today's "throwaway" society. As purebred dog owners, it is our duty to educate the public at every opportunity regarding animal health care and responsibilities. As breeders and stud dog owners, we must assume full responsibility for those puppies we choose to produce.

In this era of anti-dog prejudice, animal right extremists and strict breeder-ban legislation, it is becoming increasingly evident that, unless we take responsibility for our actions as GDCNC members and as individuals, our rights to self-governing might well be taken from us.

An ***ethical breeder/stud dog owner*** should:

- 1) Realize that they have a moral obligation to any animal of their breeding (sire or dam) that requires a new home.
- 2) Immediately assess the situation: Can the animal safely remain where it is until a new home is found? Can it be brought to their home or a foster home? Is there some health or temperament problem? What are the appropriate measures to rectify the situation?
- 3) Not knowingly place an animal with a health, temperament, training or socialization problem without correcting the situation or making the new owners fully aware of the existing conditions.
- 4) Work closely with Great Dane Rescue to provide support, foster care (if feasible), provide transportation (if feasible), and volunteer time in any area where it is appropriate.
- 5) Contact the rescue organization if they have a dog in need, or are aware of a Great Dane that may need evaluation and a possible rescue.
- 6) Refer potential owners to the Great Dane Rescue organization. Although Most of the dogs which are surrendered to shelters and/or find their way to the rescue come from unknown ancestry, uneducated owners and unenlightened breeders, there may well come a time when a dog from your sire or dam will become a "rescue dog".