



## Bylaws

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the United American Pit Bull Terrier Organization is to protect the image and standard of the American Pit Bull Terrier through:

- Educating communities about the breed and its characteristics
- Advocating for the breed against Breed Specific Legislation (BSL)
- Mentoring of individuals new to the American Pit Bull Terrier on the breed standard, health, breeding practices, and responsible ownership

**Article I. Name.** This organization shall be a not-for-profit organization and known as the **United American Pit Bull Terrier Organization**, also referred to as “the Organization” or “UAPBTO”.

**Article II. Purpose.** The Organization is formed for the following purposes:

- To encourage and promote responsible owning and breeding so as to enhance the qualities of the American Pit Bull Terrier as recognized by the registering body, the United Kennel Club, 100 East Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49002-5584.
- To encourage owners and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as established and approved by the United Kennel Club, as being the only standard by which the American Pit Bull Terrier will be bred and judged.
- To present the American Pit Bull Terrier to the public in a positive light through breed education in our communities.
- To conduct United Kennel Club approved and licensed events.
- To do all in its power to promote fairness and good sportsmanship at United Kennel Club licensed events.
- To promote good genetic health of the American Pit Bull Terrier
- To be advocates of the breed to include oppositions to Breed Specific Legislations in all communities.
- To mentor new people in the breed and UKC so they have a positive experience.
- To encourage international membership to support the American Pit Bull Terrier globally
- The club will not hold any other registry’s events on the same day/location as that of any UKC event without the prior approval of UKC.
- We reserve the right to refuse any entry in our competitions, as well as membership in this Club to any individual, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, and members. However, no person will be refused entry or membership on a basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, age, or national origin.

**Article III. Organization Profits.** The Organization shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Organization shall benefit any member or individual.

**Article IV. Rules For Licensed Events.** All licensed events sponsored by the Organization shall be run in accordance with the rules, policies, and procedures of the United Kennel Club.

**Article V. Banning From Events and UAPBTO.** No individual or group of individuals known to raise dogs for fighting; who knowingly sell, give or trade dogs that will be used for fighting; or who support, promote, condone or are associated with facing off, game testing, rolling or pitting will be tolerated or allowed membership in this Organization. These individuals shall be banned from all UKC events and clubs, with no reinstatement at any time.

**Article VII. Affiliation.** The United American Pit Bull Terrier Organization shall be affiliated with the United Kennel Club. It shall not affiliate with any other registering office, club, Organization, or groups; except by written consent of the United Kennel Club.

## **Article VIII. Membership.**

**Section 1. Eligibility.** There shall be four types of membership as outlined in Article I, Section 2, open to any breeder or owner (current or former) of the American Pit Bull Terrier, who subscribes to the purposes and objectives of the Organization, who agrees to abide by the Organization's Code of Ethics, Policy and Procedures, and who is in good standing with the U.K.C.

### **Section 2. Types of membership.**

**Section 2.1. Single membership.** Members eighteen years of age or older, who are entitled to one vote and be eligible to hold office in the Organization.

**Section 2.2. Household membership.** Any two members, eighteen years of age or older, who reside in the same household. Each household member is entitled to a vote but only one household member may hold office at any time.

**Section 2.3. Junior membership.** Any individual under eighteen years of age. Juniors may convert to regular membership after reaching their eighteenth birthday. Junior members shall not be entitled to vote or to hold office, but shall be eligible for annual trophies and awards offered by or through the Organization. Junior members are exempt from owning the APBT eligibility requirement.

**Section 2.4. Member Club.** A UKC approved club that has an interest in the American Pit Bull Terrier. Member clubs shall agree to abide by the Organization's Constitution and Bylaws, Policy and Procedures and the rules and regulations of the United Kennel Club. Each member club is entitled to one vote through the designated club delegate, who must be a Single or Household Member.

### **Section 3. Dues.**

**Section 3.1. Amount.** The board of directors shall determine annual membership dues.

**Section 3.2. Payment of dues.** Dues for the ensuing year shall be payable on or before the first day of January. The membership of any member or member club, who has not paid their dues by January 31 of any calendar year, shall be considered lapsed. If a member is in financial stress, there are opportunities for sponsorship.

**Section 3.3. Dues statement.** During the month of November of each year, the treasurer shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year. For member clubs, the treasurer shall send a statement for the ensuing year to the member club's delegate at the address on file with the Organization.

**Section 3.4. Lapsed Membership.** Lapsed members and member clubs must reapply for membership in the Organization by following the application for membership procedure found in Section 4.

**Section 4. Application for Membership.**

Each applicant(s) for membership in the Organization shall apply on a board-approved application for membership, which states that the applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution, and Bylaws, Policy and Procedures, Code of Ethics of the Organization and the rules and regulations of the United Kennel Club. The applicant(s) membership will not become effective until the application is received by the Treasurer, dues payment received, and approval made by the board of directors (with the exception of 2017 when the club is formed). Membership approval is the sole discretion of the board of directors and can be denied for cause. There will be no discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

**Section 5. Termination of Membership.** Memberships may be ended for any of the following reasons:

**Section 5.1. Resignation.** Any member in good standing may resign from the Organization by sending a written notice to the secretary. Resignation shall not discharge or eliminate any debt owed to the Organization. Dues shall be considered an obligation to the Organization and are incurred the first day of each fiscal year.

**Section 5.2. Lapsing.** A membership shall be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if the member's dues remain unpaid after January 31.

**Section 5.3. Suspension.** Any member who is suspended or barred from the privileges of the United Kennel Club shall be automatically suspended or barred from the privileges of membership in the Organization for the same time. A member can also be suspended as provided in Article XV of these bylaws.

**Section 5.4. Expulsion.** A membership may be suspended or ended by expulsion as provided in Article XV of these bylaws.

**Article IX. Organization Year.**

**Section 1. Fiscal/Official Year.** The Organization's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December.

**Article X. Directors and Officers.**

**Section 1. Board of Directors.** The board of directors shall be composed of the officers and directors elected as provided in Article XI. Officers and directors shall be members in good standing. They shall serve until their successors are elected or appointed. Management of the Organization's affairs shall be entrusted to the board of directors.

**Section 2. Term of Office.** The officers of the Organization shall serve terms of two years or until their successors are elected. No one person may hold more than one office per term, and only one member from each household may hold office at any one time. The president, secretary, treasurer, and director 2 shall be elected during the even numbered years. The

vice president, corresponding secretary, and director 1 shall be elected during the odd numbered years.

**Section 3. Board of Director Voting Rights.** The president serves as the chairperson of the meeting unless absent or a different chairperson is appointed. All Officers/Directors have the right to vote at the board of directors meeting except the chairperson, unless they recuse themselves of certain topics. In case of tie votes, the chairperson will be the tie breaker.

**Section 4. Removal for Unexcused Absences.** Any director or officer who misses two board meetings within a year shall be removed from their position, unless a majority of the board members present and voting at the meeting from which the director or officer is absent for the second time votes to excuse one or both of the absences. The board member or officer who wishes to be excused from a meeting or meetings shall send their request to the secretary at which action on the excuse will be taken at the meeting. The secretary shall mail notice to any board member who has been discharged within fifteen days of their removal.

**Section 5. Officers/Directors.** The Organization's officers/directors, consisting of the president, vice president, secretary, correspondence secretary, treasurer and 2 directors, shall serve in their respective capacities both for the Organization and its meetings. All officers/directors shall be in good standing with UAPBTO and the United Kennel Club.

**Section 5.1. President.** The president shall preside at all meetings of the Organization and of the board of directors, and shall have the duties and exercise the powers normally assigned to the office of the president in addition to those particularly specified in these bylaws. The president shall appoint committees and committee members with the approval of the board of directors. The president shall appoint the parliamentarian if needed.

**Section 5.2. Vice President.** The vice president shall assist the president when and where possible. The vice president shall carry out the duties and exercise the powers of the president if the president dies, is absent, or is incapacitated.

**Section 5.3. Recording Secretary.** The recording secretary shall keep a written record of all meetings of the Organization and of the board. The recording secretary shall also keep a record of all matters for which the Organization orders a record. The recording secretary shall be in charge:

- a. Taking meeting minutes.
- b. Keeping a roster of the members of the Organization with their addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail
- c. Notifying officers and directors of their election to office
- d. Carrying out, in the death, absence or incapacity of the president and vice president, the duties and exercising the powers of the president or vice president until the vacancies are filled by the board of directors as provided in Article III, Section 6, and
- e. Carrying out duties prescribed in these bylaws.

**Section 5.4. Corresponding Secretary.** The corresponding secretary shall be in charge of all Organization correspondence including:

- a. Notifying members of meetings
- b. Making the board meeting minutes and annual membership meeting minutes available to all members either by mail, by inclusion in an Organization publication, or other means of communication.
- c. Preparing, printing and mailing official Organization ballots
- d. Notifying officers and directors of their election to office
- e. Carrying out duties prescribed in these bylaws.

**Section 5.5. Treasurer.** The treasurer shall be the record keeper of all monies of the Organization. Responsibilities include:

- a. The treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Organization.
- b. The treasurer shall accept membership applications and provide copies to recording secretary.
- c. Monies shall be deposited in the name of the Organization in a bank designated by the officers.
- d. The financial records shall at all times be accurate, up to date, and open to inspection by the board.
- e. The treasurer shall report at every meeting on the condition of the Organization's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported.
- f. At the annual membership meeting the treasurer shall account for all monies received and expended during the previous official year and shall submit an audit committee report.
- g. If the treasurer resigns, dies, or is expelled from the Organization all monies and accounting books of the Organization shall be handed over to the officers until the office of treasurer is filled. The president shall sign all checks during the interim.
- h. The treasurer shall be bonded. The bonding expense shall be paid by the Organization.

**Section 5.5 Directors 1 (National Liaison)** This director will have the responsibility of representing national membership. This director will also have the requirement to serve on one or more committees. Director shall attend all Board of Director meetings.

**Section 5.6 Director 2 (International Liaison)** This director will have the responsibility of representing the international membership. This director will also have the requirement to serve on one or more committees. Director shall attend all Board of Director meetings.

**Section 6. Resignations.** Any officer or director may resign at any time by giving a written or verbal notice to the secretary of the Organization. Such resignation shall take effect immediately, unless otherwise stated therein.

**Section 7. Vacancies.** Any vacancies among the officers, except in the office of president, shall be filled by a majority vote of the current members of the board at its first regular meeting after the vacancy occurs, or at a special board meeting called for that purpose. The acting president shall nominate a candidate for the office to be voted upon. The vice president shall automatically fill a vacancy in the office of president. Any interim officers shall be replaced by regular election at the next annual election.

**Section 8. Compensation.** The members of the board shall serve without compensation for time or labor but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses at the discretion of the board.

## **Article XI. Elections.**

**Section 1. Annual Election.** The annual election of officers shall be conducted by mail, electronic or other means of distribution of ballot according to law. The board will appoint a receiver of the ballots before the ballots are sent out to the membership.

**Section 2- Candidates.** Candidates must be a member in good standing for a minimum of 6 months. Interested candidates must submit their letter of interest via mail or electronically to the board appointed receiver (Article XI, Section 1), postmarked by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the election year in order to be placed on the ballot. No person shall submit a letter of interest for more than one position. Candidates for office may submit a factual statement of biographical information, service, and qualifications for office to the board appointed receiver for enclosure with the ballot. Such statements shall not exceed 300 words and must be postmarked by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the year of election. Statements containing derogatory remarks about other members shall not be included in the mailing of the ballots.

**Section 3 Secret Ballots.** All letters of interest received (postmarked by June 30<sup>th</sup>) will be placed on the ballot with their candidates statements enclosed and mailed to each member in good standing, listing the nominees in alphabetical order for each position. For household memberships, each member will receive his or her own ballot. There will be a #9 return envelope addressed to the receiver that will be marked "Ballot" and have a signature line that must be signed by the member. There will also be a 6 ¾ size blank envelope that will be used to enclose the completed ballot. The member seals their ballot in the 6 ¾ blank envelope and encloses it in the #9 return envelope, signs the #9 envelope. The ballot must be postmarked and mailed by September 1 of the election year.

**Section 4. Tally Committee.** The tally committee may consist of a firm the Organization hires with approval of the board of directors. If not, the president shall appoint a tally committee consisting of four members in good standing. No candidate running for office shall sit on the tally committee. The president shall select a committee chairperson. The tally committee shall convene immediately preceding the annual meeting allowing sufficient time to complete counting of the ballots prior to the start of the annual meeting. The official count shall be reported to the secretary who shall announce the election results at the annual meeting or day designated approved by the board of directors.

**Section 5. Counting the Ballots.** Ballots shall be returned by U.S. mail or other means determined by the board of directors, to the board appointed receiver and shall be postmarked by September 1 of the election year. Ballots postmarked later shall be invalid. The receiver shall turn the sealed ballots over to the tally committee on the day of the annual meeting in sufficient time for the ballots to be counted as provided in Article XI, Section 3. The receiver shall keep all ballots and the envelopes in which they were received for one year as part of the Organization's official records.

**Section 6. Election Results.** The corresponding secretary of the Organization shall announce election results at the annual meeting or designated day approved by the board of directors. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each elective office from members in good standing who return valid ballots within the specified time limit shall be declared elected.

**Section 7. Change of Officers.** The newly elected officers shall take office as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Retiring officers shall turn over to their successors all properties and records relating to their respective offices by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Article XII. Meetings.**

**Section 1. Annual Membership meeting.** The annual in-person membership meeting shall be held within one day and at the same locale as the Organization's annual National Specialty Dog Show. Included with the ballot will be the notice of the meeting time, place and location. This notice shall be postmarked at least thirty days but not more than sixty days before the meeting. A quorum for the annual meeting shall be twenty voting eligible members or 10% of the voting eligible membership, whichever is less. If there is no National Specialty Dog Show, then the board of directors will determine if and when the Annual Membership meeting will take place.

**Section 2. Special Membership Meeting.** Special membership meetings may be called by:

- a. The president;
- b. A majority of the members of the board of directors voting at any meeting of the board or by mail;
- c. A petition signed by 10% of the members of the Organization in good standing.

**Section 2.1.** The officers shall specify the place, date, and time for special meetings. The corresponding secretary shall mail, electronically, or other means, a notice of a special meeting to all members at least fifteen days and not more than thirty days before the meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of the meeting. Only business listed in the notice may be transacted in the meeting. The quorum for a special meeting shall be 10% of the members in good standing.

**Section 3. Board Meetings.** Meetings of the Organization board of directors shall be held on the second Tuesday of the months of January, February, April, June, August, October and December. The corresponding secretary shall mail or electronically send a notice of each meeting to all the board members at least fifteen days before the meeting. The quorum for these meetings shall be a majority of the board. Business of the board may be conducted by electronic communication.

**Section 4. Special/Emergency Board Meetings.** The Organization President or Secretary shall call special/emergency meetings of the board on receiving a written request signed by at least three members of the board. The special meeting shall be held at a time and place designated by the person authorized to call the meeting. The corresponding secretary shall notify the board by email, phone or other means no less than two or more than five days before the meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of the meeting. Only business listed in the notice may be transacted in the meeting. The quorum for a special meeting shall be a majority of the board members in office.

**Section 5. Conducting Organization Business by Electronic Communication.**

Organization and board members may use e-mail, chat rooms, message boards, and other means of electronic communication to facilitate Organization business. The board of directors shall establish rules for conducting Organization business by electronic communication.

**Section 6. Voting.** Each Organization member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year may vote at any meeting at which the member is present, by mail ballot, or other means designated by the board. New members shall not be eligible to vote on any matter until sixty days after their memberships have been accepted and approved.

**Article XIII. Committees.**

**Section 1. Appointing Committees.** Each year the board shall approve those committees appointed by the president. Committee chairs and members appointed by the president shall be subject to the final approval of the board. All replacement, additions and changes of committees, shall also be subject to final approval of the board. The president shall be a member ex-officio of all committees.

**Section 2. Terminating Committee Appointments.** Any committee appointment may be terminated by majority vote of the board after written notice to the appointee. The president may appoint a successor, with board approval, to fill the vacancy.

**Article XIV. Contracts, Loans, Checks.**

**Section 1. Contracts.** The officers or board may authorize any officer, agent, or employee to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Organization.

**Section 2. Loans.** No loan may be contracted on behalf of the Organization, and no evidence of indebtedness may be issued in its name unless authorized by a resolution of the board of directors. This authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

**Section 3. Checks, Drafts, and Other Orders** All checks, drafts, or other orders for paying money, notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the Organization may be issued only when the officers or board determines them necessary, and in a way specified by the board. Such orders shall be signed by the Organization Treasurer or an agent or employee of the Organization. The treasurer has full authority for day to day business transactions of the Organization.



## **Article XV. Discipline.**

**Section 1. United Kennel Club Suspension:** Any member or member club who is suspended from the privileges of the United Kennel Club shall be automatically suspended from the privileges the Organization for the same period.

**Section 2. Misconduct & Discipline.** Misconduct is defined as behavior or actions that are not in the best interest of the sport of APBT and/or dogs. Conduct considered prejudicial to the sport of APBT dogs is any action or behavior that could cause an average, reasonable person or family to be offended or potentially repelled from the sport of dogs; i.e., conduct incompatible with a family friendly environment, mistreatment of dogs, anything detrimental to the breed or UKC.

**Section 3. Charges.** Any member may prefer charges against another member for alleged misconduct, prejudicial to the best interests of the Organization or the breed. Written charge with specifications shall be filed in duplicate with the corresponding secretary together with a deposit of five hundred dollars (\$500). The corresponding secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the board or present the charges to the board members at a board meeting. The board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Organization or the breed. If the board considers that the charges do not allege prejudicial conduct, the board may refuse to consider them. If the board decides to hear the charges, it shall set a date for a board hearing not less than three weeks before, or more than six weeks after the board's decision. The secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the member may personally appear in their own defense and bring witnesses. This fee shall be forfeited if the board does not sustain the charges. If charges are sustained, the deposit will be refunded.

**Section 4. Board Hearing.** The board shall have complete authority to decide whether Counsel may attend the hearing, but the complainant and the respondent shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by both parties, the board may, by a majority vote of those present and voting, decide the appropriate discipline that is relevant to the charges which could include suspending the member from all privileges of the Organization. If the board feels expulsion is the appropriate punishment, it must be presented to the membership. In this case, if suspended, the suspension may not restrict the accused member's right to appear before his fellow members at an Organization meeting that considers the board's recommendation. Immediately after the board has reached a decision, its finding shall be submitted in writing to the both the secretary and to UKC. The corresponding secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the board's decision and penalty, if any.

**Section 5. Expulsion.** Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at the next membership meeting following a Board Hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. The respondent will have the privilege of appearing in his or her own behalf though no evidence will be taken to this meeting. The President will read the charges, and the findings and recommendations, and will invite the respondent, if present, to speak on his/her own behalf. The meeting will then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A majority vote of those present and voting at the meeting will be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board can proceed with a suspension for no more than one year.

**Article XVI. Dissolution.** The Organization may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of at least two-thirds of the members in good standing who vote on the dissolution. If the Organization dissolves voluntarily or involuntarily or by operation of law, other than to reorganize, none of the property, proceeds or assets of the Organization may be distributed to any members of the Organization. After payment of the debts of the Organization, its property and assets will be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs. If the Organization dissolves to reorganize, the Organization's property, proceeds, and assets will belong to the successor organization.

#### **Article XVII. Amendment.**

**Section 1. Proposing Amendments.** Amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be proposed by the officers or by written petition addressed to the secretary signed by 20% of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by a petition shall be promptly considered by the board of directors and shall be submitted to the members, with the recommendation of the board, for a vote at the time of the next annual election or date designated by the board of directors.

**Section 2. Publishing Proposed Amendments.** The secretary shall mail to each member in good standing a ballot listing all proposed amendments, together with an envelope addressed to the secretary.

**Section 3. Voting Procedures.** Proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be included on the same ballot used for the annual election. Ballots shall be returned, counted, and results announced in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article IV. The favorable vote of two-thirds of the members in good standing who return valid ballots within the specified time limit shall be required for the adoption of any proposed amendment.

**Section 4. U.K.C. Approval.** Amendments to the constitution and bylaws adopted by the Organization shall not become effective until approved by the United Kennel Club.

#### **Article XVIII: General Regulations**

- Absolutely no alcoholic beverages, firearms, or illegal drugs will be allowed on the grounds or in the buildings while participating in any licensed UKC events.
- All United Kennel Club policies will be strictly adhered to during all UKC events.
- Members must conduct themselves in an honest and sportsman like manner at all meetings and events.
- Every applicant must agree to abide by these By Laws before being accepted into membership.
- Date the Bylaws were agreed upon by Members and Board
- Signatures of all officers

**Article XVIII. Parliamentary Authority.** The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* govern the Organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any other special rules of order the Organization may adopt.

## **Article XIX. Order of Business.**

**Section 1. Organization Meetings.** At meetings of the Organization, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, is as follows:

- Roll Call
- Adoption of Annual Meeting Rules of Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Appointment of Minutes Approval Committee
- Report of Minutes Approval Committee for previous meeting(s)
- Reports of Officers
- Report of Board of Directors
- Reports of Standing Committees
- Reports of Special Committees
- Reports on Election of Officers and Other Ballots
- New Business
- Adjournment

**Section 2. Board Meetings.** At meetings of the board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, is as follows:

- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
- Reports of Officers
- Reports of Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

**Article XX. Certification and Revisions.**

**Section 1. Original Certification.**

Date: 12/6/2017

Organizational representatives:

Sherri Flosi, Valerie Piltz, Judy Malone, Deb Gonzales,  
Jose Ortiz, Kelly Walker, Antonio Troisi,

**Section 2. Revised Certification**

Date: 12/12/2018

Sherri Flosi, Valerie Piltz, Judy Malone, Deb Gonzales,  
Jose Ortiz, Kelly Walker, Antonio Troisi



Sherri Flosi (Dec 16, 2018)

President



Valerie Ann Piltz (Dec 16, 2018)

Vice President



Judy Malone (Dec 16, 2018)

Recording Secretary



Deborah Gonzales (Dec 16, 2018)

Corresponding Secretary



Jose M. Ortiz (Dec 16, 2018)

Treasurer



Kelly Walker (Dec 16, 2018)

Board of Director-National Liaison



Antonio Troisi (Dec 17, 2018)

Board of Director-International Liaison