

Club Rules 2011/12

1. NAME

The Club shall be called "The North of England Dalmatian Club"

2. OBJECTIVES

- (a) To protect and promote the interests of the Dalmatian Breed.
- (b) To render all assistance possible to owners, breeders and exhibitors of Dalmatians.
- (c) To publish the Kennel Club Standard of the Breed and to urge upon all breeders, owners and judges the adoption of this as the only recognised standard by which Dalmatians shall be judged and awarded prizes for excellence.
- (d) To encourage Canine Societies to provide Dalmatian classes at their shows by offering such Societies special prizes where the classification and judge are approved by the Committee of this Club.
- (e) Solely or jointly to organise Shows, Matches and Special Events in the interests of the members.

3. CONSTITUTION

The Club shall consist of an unlimited number of members whose names and addresses shall be entered in a Register. The Society must make a list of members and their addresses available for inspection if so requested by the members of the Society and will supply a copy, annually, to the Kennel Club and the Secretary shall be responsible, on behalf of the Club, for ensuring that this list of members is kept up to date.

4. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Every candidate for election to membership shall be proposed and seconded in writing to the Secretary by two members of the Club, such proposers to be responsible for the fitness of the candidate. Election of members shall be by simple majority vote of the Committee present and voting. Membership shall run from the time of election. The Committee shall have the right to refuse membership.

Proposers or seconders shall not be joint or partnership members or the husband, wife, son or daughter of a proposer or seconder.

5. MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FINANCE

- (a) Subscriptions shall be payable on election. The membership year shall be from the 1st January to the 31st December, except that in the case of a member elected between 1st October and 31st December (both inclusive) in any year, the payment of the first subscription shall cover membership to the 31st December of the next ensuing year.
- (b) The Annual Subscription and terms of entry to membership shall be determined annually at the AGM. The Committee shall recommend to the AGM an appropriate scale.
- (c) Joint membership shall be open to husband or wife, sons or daughters, or members of a registered partnership. Such additional members shall pay 50% of the full membership fee.

- (d) Overseas members having a permanent residence outside the British Isles shall pay an annual subscription at such rate as the AGM shall from time to time decide.
- (e) Honorary Life Membership, free of liability for subscription, may be conferred on any person in recognition of services rendered to the Club or Dalmatian Breed. Such Honorary Life Members shall not be eligible to hold office unless otherwise qualified in accordance with these rules. Nomination and election shall be in accordance with Rule 8.
- (f) By renewing their membership, Members agree to abide by the Club's Rules and agree to be guided by the Club's Code of Conduct.

Subscriptions are payable annually to the Treasurer, and fall due on 1st January. Members who have not paid their subscriptions by the 31st January will be notified by the Treasurer and if by the last day of February subscriptions have not been paid then the persons' names will be struck off the Register and they cease to be entitled to any benefits or privileges of membership.

- (g) The financial year of the Club shall be from the 1st January to 31st December.

The Treasurer shall maintain a proper book of accounts showing receipts and payments and prepare a balance sheet made up to the 31st December each year for submission to the elected auditors.

- (h) The Accounts will be certified annually and presented to the members at the AGM.

- (i) The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Secretary for continuance of Registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities, be forwarded to the Kennel Club.

The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any changes of Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year.

- (j) Upon written application to the Committee, a Member (as defined in Rule 13) may examine, within a reasonable time and location, the accounting records of the Club (Paying in Books, Cheque Books, Bank Statements, Building Society Pass Books) for each account held by the Club and the Day Book Ledger.

6. RESIGNATION

Any Officer or Committee Member wishing to resign from Office shall so notify the Secretary in writing. Such resignation shall be effective from the date of receipt by the Secretary, who shall report the resignation to the next meeting of the Committee. Any person wishing to resign from membership shall advise the Secretary in writing, and such resignation shall be effective from the date of receipt by the Secretary.

7. COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

The affairs of the Club shall be conducted by a Committee of twelve members plus the following officers:-

- (a) Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected by ballot in accordance with Rule 8.
- (b) In addition to the foregoing there shall be offices of:
 - (1) President, who shall be nominated by the Committee and elected at the AGM. The President shall have full voting rights at all meetings and shall serve for a full term of three years, then being eligible for re-election.
 - (2) Vice-Presidents, who shall be elected for life, shall be past Presidents or members whom the Club wish to honour and shall not exceed six in number. To fill vacancies for Vice-Presidents members shall be nominated and elected in accordance with these Rules. They shall have the right to attend and vote at all meetings.
- (c) The Officers and Committee with the exception of the President and Vice-Presidents, shall retire every year at the AGM, but shall automatically be nominated for election in accordance with Rule 8.
No one member shall hold two offices, excepting a life officer.
- (d) No two joint members of one family or partnership may hold office simultaneously.
- (e) Not less than twelve clear weeks before the AGM, the Secretary shall issue to each paid-up member, a circular inviting nominations for posts of officers and committee. No member may propose himself.
Any Officer or Committee member who resigns from Office shall not be eligible for nomination for re-election to that office for a period of twelve calendar months from the date of such resignation.
- (f) Nominations bearing the assent of the nominee in writing shall be proposed and seconded by two members and submitted to the Secretary eight clear weeks prior to the date of the AGM. Proposers or seconders shall not be joint or partnership members, or the husband, wife, son or daughter of a proposer or seconder.
- (g) No person, whilst an undischarged bankrupt, may serve on the Committee of, or hold any other Office or appointment within, the North of England Dalmatian Club.

8. ELECTIONS

- (a) The Committee and officers shall be elected by secret postal ballot from those members eligible for
by the member, to reach the Scrutineer named on the ballot paper, two clear weeks before the AGM.
Voting shall be by a simple "X" vote and, with the exception of election of Vice-Presidents, those
candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected at the AGM.

In the case of election for Vice-President, the ballot paper shall provide for Members to cast a vote 'for' or 'against' each candidate, or to 'abstain'. No candidate shall be deemed elected in any circumstances unless he or she receives a majority of votes 'for' over 'against'. Where the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, then the successful candidate or candidates will be those securing the highest number of votes 'for'. In the event of a tie, then the candidate with the lowest votes 'against' shall be deemed elected. The Scrutineer shall present to the AGM a declaration of the votes cast and certification of the number of papers sent out, returned and spoilt. election and duly nominated in accordance with these Rules. A numbered ballot paper shall be sent by post by the Secretary to members four clear weeks before the AGM. The ballot paper shall be returned

- (b) No person shall be nominated for any Office or for Committee unless he has been a member for three consecutive years at the date of nomination.
- (c) Vacancies on the Committee arising between AGMs shall be filled by appointing the next unsuccessful candidate with the highest number of votes.
- (d) Honorary Life Membership may be conferred on a member or members by nomination and voting at the AGM.

9. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

- (a) The Committee, in its conduct of affairs, shall have power to deal with all matters not expressly provided for in the Rules of the Club.
- (b) The Committee shall have powers to co-opt members to the Committee for a specific purpose or appoint members to perform a specific function. Co-opted members shall have the right to have their views and findings made known at Committee meetings but shall not have the right to vote. Such appointments and the reasons therefore shall be reported at the next AGM.

10. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall meet within two calendar months from the date of their election and thereafter as often as may be deemed necessary by its members. At least one week's notice convening a meeting and stating the business on the agenda shall be issued to all members of the Committee.

In the event of emergency the Secretary shall have power in conjunction with the Treasurer and Chairman or Vice-Chairman, to transact such urgent business as might be transacted at a meeting of the Committee but any such action shall be reported by the Secretary at the next meeting of the Committee. Seven, one of who shall be an Officer, shall form a quorum at a Committee Meeting.

11. GENERAL MEETINGS

(a) There shall be a General Meeting of the members once per year. The timetable for calling AGMs will be as follows:

(1) Not less than twelve clear weeks before the date of the AGM the Secretary will send to all members a Notice of Meeting containing a request for proposals and nominations for Officers and Committee places.

(2) Not less than eight clear weeks before the AGM proposals and nominations are to be received by the Secretary. Proposals must be proposed by a Member but a seconder may be sought at the A.G.M. No proposal may be discussed at an A.G.M. unless proposed and seconded in accordance with this Rule 11(a)(2)

(3) Four clear weeks before the AGM the Secretary will send to all members an agenda showing proposals received accompanied by the balance sheet. Copies of standing orders will be available at the AGM.

(4) By Resolution of the Committee each year any notices referred to in the foregoing Rules may be given by way of publication in "Our Dogs" and "Dog World" at the appropriate date.

(5) Where two or more members are recorded as living at one address, it shall be sufficient to send one notice only to the address and in the case of a partnership to a first named partner.

(b) The business of the AGM shall be conducted in the following order:-

(1) The President's Address.

(2) Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM.

(3) Receive the Chairman's Annual Report.

(4) Consideration of the balance sheet and statement of accounts duly audited and the Auditor's report.

(5) Receive the results of the election of Officers and Committee from the Scrutineer in accordance with these rules.

(6) To elect Auditors who shall not be members of the Committee.

(7) To conduct business of which notice has been given to the Secretary in accordance with these Rules.

(8) To report revisions of the "A1", "A2", "A3" and "B" Breed Judges Lists

(9) Any other business relevant to the Club or wellbeing of the Breed.

(c) No business shall be transacted at the AGM unless notice thereof appears on the final Agenda.

(d) No Annual or Extraordinary Meeting of members shall proceed to business unless there be present

within one hour of the stated time a quorum of 25 members. The subsequent lack of a quorum shall not

invalidate the proceedings. In the event of no meeting taking place because of the lack of a quorum, the

Committee shall have power to determine another date, time and place for the meeting.

12. EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

- (a) These may be convened at any time either by the Committee by vote of not less than one half of the number of its members, or by a written requisition to the Secretary signed by not less than 25 members having voting power at that time.
- (b) Business shall be confined to the matter specified in the notice convening the meeting.
- (c) The notice convening the meeting shall be issued to all members at least 14 days prior to the date thereof and the majority shall be 2 to 1 of members having voting power present and voting at the meeting.

13. VOTING POWERS

All members, provided they have paid all subscriptions and monies due to the Club, shall have power to attend and vote at any General or Extraordinary meeting, or to vote in an election.

14. JUDGES

The Committee shall cause to be maintained lists of judges as follows:

“A1” List

For persons who have previously been approved by the Kennel Club to award Challenge Certificates in the breed, have completed their first appointment and who have the support of this club.

“A2” List

For persons who fulfil all the requirements for the A3 List and who have been assessed in accordance with the Kennel Club requirements and accepted by the Kennel Club for inclusion on an A2 List and who have the support of this club.

“A3” List (Breed Specialists)

For persons who have judged a minimum of 40 Dalmatian classes at Open Shows or Championship Shows where there are no Challenge Certificates on offer for Dalmatians, with at least 160 Dalmatians present in those classes, over a minimum period of seven years and who have the support of this club. In addition, such persons must have bred and/or owned a minimum of three dogs when they obtained their first entry in the Kennel Club Stud Book (save in exceptional circumstances) and must have stewarded at twelve shows. Such persons must have attended a seminar given by a Kennel Club accredited trainer and passed the relevant examination on Kennel Club Regulations and Judging Procedures, must have attended a seminar given by a Kennel Club accredited trainer on Conformation & Movement, and have attended at least one seminar, specific to the Dalmatian, run in accordance with the relevant Kennel Club Code of Best Practice and passed an examination and/or assessment and must have attended a Conformation & Movement “Hands On” Assessment, conducted by a Kennel Club accredited trainer and passed the assessment.

“A3” List (Non-Breed Specialists)

For persons who must have awarded CCs in at least one other breed and who have judged a minimum of 40 Dalmatian classes at Open Shows or Championship Shows where CCs were not on offer for Dalmatians, with at least 160 Dalmatians present in those classes, over a minimum period of five years, and have judged dogs of any breed for a minimum period of seven years and who have the support of this Club. In addition, such persons must have bred and/or owned a minimum of three dogs of any breed when they obtained their first entry in the Kennel Club Stud Book (save in exceptional circumstances)

“B” List (Breed Specialists and Non-Breed Specialists)

For persons who have judged a minimum of 15 Dalmatian classes with at least 60 Dalmatians present in those classes at Open Show level or below, over a minimum period of three years and who have the support of this club; or

For persons who have judged a minimum of 8 Dalmatian Classes with at least 30 dogs present in those classes at Open Show level or below, over a minimum period of three years, and who have attended at least one seminar, specific to the Dalmatian, run in accordance with the relevant Kennel Club Code of Best Practice and passed an examination and/or assessment and who have the support of this club.

“C” List

For persons aspiring to become judges in the breed and who have either owned a Dalmatian for a minimum period of three years or who are on the “B” List, or above, of any breed club, irrespective of the breed.

The method of election shall be as follows:

Applications for election to the Club’s lists may be submitted to the Secretary at any time. The Secretary will then forward a questionnaire to the applicant for completion by the applicant in respect of their experience in breeding, exhibiting and/or judging. All applications for the “A1”, “A2”, “A3” and “B” lists of judges will be scrutinised by the Judges Sub-Committee on a continual basis. The decisions of this Sub-Committee shall be final and will be notified to the Annual General Meeting. Election to the “C” List shall be by a majority vote of the Committee. The Judges’ Sub-Committee shall consist of those of the existing Officers and Committee members who have already awarded CCs in Dalmatians, together with a group of other Officer/Committee members (totalling no more than 25% of the whole Sub-Committee) who have not yet awarded CCs in Dalmatians.

The Club shall not incur any financial liability for Dalmatian Classes at any show, excepting Club Shows.

The Committee will nominate to the AGM five names of judges in respect of the Championship Show, together with three names of judges for each Open Show, for the membership to vote upon by postal ballot.

15. CLUB FUNDS, CUPS ETC.

The funds shall be lodged in a bank approved by the Committee and shall be in the name of “The North of England Dalmatian Club”. All accounts must be passed by the Committee and all cheques drawn must be signed by two Officers, one of whom must be the Treasurer. The property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee, who shall have power to dispose of the same should the Club be wound up.

The Committee shall recommend to the AGM each year when practicable, a reasonable amount to be transferred to a Reserve Fund which shall be held in an interest-bearing account.

Upon written application to the Committee, a member (as defined in Rule 13) may examine, within a reasonable time and location, the accounting records of the North of England Dalmatian Club (paying-in books, cheque books, bank statements, building society pass books) for each account held by the North of England Dalmatian Club and the daybook and ledger.

16. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

The Club shall not be dissolved except at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.

Four clear weeks notice shall be sent by post to all members of such a meeting.

17. NOTICES

All notices shall be sent to the last recorded address of the respective members as recorded in the Register of Members and shall be considered as duly delivered when such notices are posted. Members shall advise the Secretary in writing of any change of address.

18. THE KENNEL CLUB

The Kennel Club shall be the final authority for interpreting the rules and regulations of the Club.

Its rules shall apply to the Club and it shall be the final Court of Appeal in all cases relative to Canine or Club matters.

Any member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42j(4) and/or any member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A42j(8) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Society for the duration of the suspension and/or disqualification.

If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Society, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Society, the Committee of the Society, may, at a meeting, the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the Member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Society shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.

Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused Member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the Meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at the meeting, a resolution to expel is passed by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of Members, and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a Member of the Society except that he/she may, within two calendar months from the date of such Meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose.

19. RULES OF THE CLUB

No new rules or alterations of existing rules shall be made except by a 2 to 1 majority of members present and voting at General or Extraordinary General Meetings of

members and shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and given its approval of the alteration. Notice of proposed alterations to rules shall be submitted in accordance with Rule 11(a)(2). A copy of the rules and of any additions or alterations thereto shall be supplied to and be binding upon all members of the Club.

20. FEDERATIONS ETC.

The Club shall not join any Federation of Societies or Clubs.

21. HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Members shall only breed from Dalmatian Dogs and Bitches which have been *Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response* BAER hearing tested, by a recognised person of appropriate qualification, as having Bilateral Hearing.
- (b) Members shall have all surviving puppies bred by them BAER Hearing Tested by a recognised person of appropriate qualification.

22. DEFINITION

In these rules where the context so admits the masculine shall include the feminine and the singular the plural.

DALMATIAN BREED STANDARD.

A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Kennel Club website for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure

GENERAL APPEARANCE

A distinctively spotted dog, balanced, strong, muscular, and active. Symmetrical in outline, elegant, free from coarseness and lumber.

CHARACTERISTICS

Dog of good demeanour, capable of great endurance and a fair turn of speed.

TEMPERAMENT

Outgoing and friendly, not shy or hesitant, free from nervousness and aggression

HEAD AND SKULL

Of fair length, skull flat, reasonably broad between the ears, moderately well defined in front of ears. Moderately well defined in front of ears. Entirely free from wrinkle. Moderate amount of stop. Muzzle powerful, never snipey. Distance from nose to stop equals that from stop to occiput. Lips clean, fitting jaws moderately closely. Nose in black spotted variety always black, in liver spotted variety always brown.

EYES

Set moderately well apart, medium size, oval in shape, bright and sparkling, with intelligent expression. Colour dark brown in black spotted, amber in liver spotted with uniformly pigmented irises. Fully pigmented eye rims, black in black spotted, and liver brown in liver spotted.

EARS

Set on rather high, moderate size, rather wide at base, gradually tapering to rounded point. Fine in texture, carried close to head. Marking well broken up, preferably spotted.

MOUTH

Jaws strong, with a perfect, regular and complete scissors bite, i.e. the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK

Fairly long, nicely arched, light and tapering. Entirely free from throatiness.

FOREQUARTERS

Shoulders well laid back, clean, muscular with length of shoulder and upper arm approximately equal. Elbows set close to body. Forelegs perfectly straight with strong round bone down to feet, with slight spring at pastern joint.

BODY

Length from point of shoulder to point of buttock slightly greater than height from withers to ground. Chest not too wide but deep and capacious with plenty of lung and heart room. Ribs well sprung and carried well back. Well defined withers, powerful level back, loin strong, clean, muscular and slightly arched.

HINDQUARTERS

Rounded, muscles clean with well developed second thigh, good turn of stifle, hocks well defined. Rear angulation balancing that of the forequarters, without exaggeration

FEET

Round, compact with well arched toes; catlike, round, tough, elastic pads. Nails black or white in black spotted variety, in liver spotted brown or white.

TAIL

Length reaching approximately to hock. Strong at insertion, gradually tapering toward end, never inserted too low or too high, free from coarseness and carried with a slight upward curve, never curled.

GAIT/MOVEMENT

Great freedom of movement. Smooth, powerful, rhythmic action with long stride. Viewed from fore and aft, the legs should appear straight with a degree of convergence towards the centre line at the trot. The feet should move along straight lines with the rear feet tracking the fore. A short stride and paddling action is incorrect.

COAT

Short, hard, dense; glossy in appearance.

COLOUR

Ground colour pure white. Black spotted, dense black spots and liver spotted, liver brown spots; not running together but round and well defined. In size 2cm – 3cm in diameter as well distributed as possible. Spots on extremities smaller than those on body. Tricolours and spotting other than black or liver unacceptable. Bronzing on spots undesirable in adults. Some patching on ears or head not to be penalised

SIZE

Overall balance of prime importance. Ideal height: Dogs - 58.4 to 61 cm (23 to 24 inches) Bitches - 55.9 to 58.4 cm (22 to 23 inches)

FAULTS

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

NOTE

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.