

North of England Dalmatian Club.

Formed 1903
The World's Senior Dalmatian Club



Club Rules 2026

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Code of Ethics

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Breed Standard

Membership Application

Honorary Secretary
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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 Royal Kennel Club (RKC) 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.
- 2(e) To maintain and abide by the highest standards in all activities (whether licensed or otherwise) in accordance with the RKC rules and regulations and appropriate Codes of Best Practice.
- 2(f) To adopt the RKC and Club Code of Ethics (as amended from time to time) in addition to the rules set out below.

3. CONSTITUTION.

The Club shall consist of an unlimited number of members. An up-to-date list of Members and their addresses must be maintained and if so requested, made available for inspection by the RKC and Members of the Club. A declaration of the number of Members of the Club must be made with Annual Returns

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. Seconders shall not be joint or partnership members or the husband, wife, civil partner, son or daughter of a proposer.

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 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) Young persons under the age of 16 years shall be entitled to apply for Junior Membership, if at least one parent or guardian is a fully paid-up member, at such reduced subscription as shall be determined from time to time in accordance with these Rules. Junior members shall become Full Members from January 1st following their 16th birthday. All full Junior Years Membership will count towards Senior Membership. Junior Members shall have no voting rights but may attend any General Meetings.
- (e) 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.
- (f) 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.
- (g) By renewing their membership, Members agree to abide by the Club's Rules and the Club's Code of Ethics. Subscriptions are payable annually to the Treasurer and fall due on 1st January. Members who have not paid their subscription by the 31st January will be notified by the Treasurer and if by **14th February** subscriptions have not been paid then the person/s names will be struck off the register of members and they cease to be entitled to any benefits or privileges of membership. The Treasurer shall inform the Committee at the next meeting of the names of lapsed members. A person having allowed their membership to lapse and wishing to rejoin shall be treated as a new member.
- (h) The financial year of the Club shall be from the 1st of January to 31st December. The Treasurer shall maintain a proper record of accounts showing receipts and payments and prepare a balance sheet made up to the 31st of December each year for submission to the elected auditors.
- (i) The Accounts will be certified annually and presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting. NOTE: Certification of accounts must be carried out by one qualified Accountant or two unqualified individuals with accounting experience. Those undertaking the certification must be independent from those who prepare the accounts.
- (j) The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club Ltd. by the Secretary for continuance of Registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in the RKC 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 RKC.

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

(k) 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.

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 management of the Club shall be conducted by a Committee of no more than twelve members (where sufficient nominations are received) 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:

(i) President, who shall be nominated by the Committee and elected at the AGM and shall serve for a full term of three years only and must not be re-elected consecutively.

(ii) 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. For Vice-Presidents members shall be nominated and elected in accordance with these Rules.

(iii) The President, and Vice-presidents shall be ex-officio Members of the Committee and have the right to attend, with full voting rights, at all meetings

(c) The Officers and Committee except for 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 Vice President.

(d) No joint members of one family or partnership may hold office simultaneously.

(e) Not less than twelve clear weeks before the AGM, the Secretary shall notify each paid-up member, inviting nomination 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.

Seconders shall not be joint or partnership members or the husband, wife, civil partner, son, or daughter of a proposer.

(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 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 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, except for 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 provide a signed sealed envelope for declaration at the AGM, containing the results of the votes cast and certification of the number of papers sent out, returned, and spoilt. The Chairman of the AGM shall open and present the results to the AGM.

(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 and will be over the age of 18 at the date of election.

(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 by the Committee and voting at the AGM. Nominations shall be accompanied by a summary of the nominee's contribution to the Club or the breed. Members may recommend, in writing to the Secretary, the name of any Member for consideration by the Committee.

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.
- (c) Each Member present at a Committee or Sub-Committee meeting shall be entitled to one vote on each motion, in the case of an equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- (d) The Committee shall have the power to appoint a Sub Committee.

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 a business shall not alter or amend any decision made by the Committee and 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. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS.

- (a) There shall be a General Meeting of the members once per year. The timetable for calling AGMs will be as follows:
- (b) Not less than twelve clear weeks before the date of the AGM the Secretary will notify all members a Notice of Meeting containing a request for proposals and nominations for Officers and Committee places.
- (c) 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 AGM. No proposal may be discussed at an AGM unless proposed and seconded.
- (d) Four clear weeks before the AGM the Secretary will notify all members an agenda showing proposals received accompanied by the balance sheet.
- (e) Where two or more members are recorded as living at one address, it shall be deemed sufficient to send one notice only and in the case of a partnership to a first named partner.
- (f) The business of the AGM shall be conducted in the following order: -

- (g) The President's Address.
- (h) Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM.
- (i) Receive the Chairman's Annual Report.
- (j) Consideration of the balance sheet and statement of accounts duly audited and the Auditor's report.
- (k) To receive the results of all ballots for election of Officers and Committee in accordance with Rule 8(a)
- (l) To elect Auditors who shall not be members of the Committee.
- (m) To conduct business of which notice has been given to the Secretary in accordance with these Rules
- (n) To report revisions of the A1, A2, A3, B and C Breed Judges Lists.
- (o) To receive the results of the election of Championship and Open Show judges.
- (p) Any other business relevant to the Club or wellbeing of the Breed.
- (q) No business shall be transacted at the AGM unless notice thereof appears on the final Agenda.
- (r) No Annual General Meeting of members shall proceed to business unless there be present within one hour of the stated time a quorum of 18 Members. In the event of no meeting taking place because of the lack of a quorum, no proposal is to be voted upon except a proposal to call another meeting, time, and place to be determined by the Committee.

12. SPECIAL GENERAL 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.
- (e) No Special General Meeting of members shall proceed to business unless there be present within one hour of the stated time a quorum of 18 members. If quorum is not reached, the meeting shall not be valid to proceed. In the event of no meeting taking place because of the lack of a quorum, no proposal is to be voted upon except a proposal to call another meeting, time and place to be determined by the Committee.

13. VOTING POWERS.

All members, provided they have paid all subscriptions due to the Club, and all Honorary life members shall have power to attend and vote at any General or Special General Meeting, or to vote in an election. Junior Members have no voting rights as defined in Rule 5(d).

14. JUDGES & SHOW REQUIREMENTS.

The Committee shall cause to be maintained the following lists of judges:

A1, A2, A3 (Breed Specialists), A3List (Non-Breed Specialists), B List (Breed Specialists and Non-Breed Specialists) and C List

The method of judge's election shall be as follows:

(a) 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. All applications for the A1, A2, A3, B, and C List 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.

(b) 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. Decisions shall be made by secret ballot.

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

(c) The Committee will nominate to the Annual General Meeting six names of judges in respect of the Championship Shows, together with three names of judges for each Open Show, for the membership to vote upon by postal ballot.

(d) The Committee shall cause to be maintained lists of judges commencing in January each year as follows: "A1", "A2", "A3", "B" and "C" in accordance with the current requirements and regulations of the Kennel Club Ltd. All lists will expire on 31st December.

(e) Judges Lists will be submitted to the Kennel Club Ltd annually as part of the Club's Annual Returns.

(f) The criteria for the Lists of Judges at each level will always meet the Kennel Club Ltd minimum requirements.

(g) The full criteria for each level will be published in the Club's Judges List and will be reviewed annually by the Committee with any amendments and revision notified to members at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with Rule 11(n).

(h) The Club shall actively support the education and training of judges in accordance with Kennel Club Ltd Judges Education Programme (Breed Shows) as published from time to time.

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

(j) The Club will meet the Kennel Club Ltd., requirement to support classes for Dalmatians at a minimum of two general or group open shows each year following the criteria set by the Kennel Club Ltd.

15. CLUB FUNDS, TROPHIES AND OTHER PROPERTY.

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 or bank transfers must be signed/approved by two Officers, one of whom must be the Treasurer the other the Chairman. All Trophies will remain the property of the Club who are their Trustee's. In the event of loss of a trophy, the Club member will be liable for an equivalent replacement.

The property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee, who shall have power to dispose of it should the Club be dissolved.

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.

16. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB.

The Club shall not be dissolved except at a Special General Meeting convened in accordance with Rule 12(c)

If the Club is dissolved or ceases to be a Registered Society under the RKC regulations, a final statement of accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Club shall be forwarded to the RKC within 6 months and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the Club on the last return furnished to the RKC, will be held responsible by the RKC for the proper winding up of the Club.

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 and other personal details held by the club.

18. THE ROYAL KENNEL CLUB. (RKC)

The RKC Kennel Club shall be the final authority for interpreting the rules and regulations of the Club in all cases relative to Canine or Club matters. Any member who shall be disqualified under the RKC Rule A11j. (5) and/or RKC Rule A11j. (9) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Society. 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 RKC upon and subject to such conditions as the RKC may impose.

If the Club expels any Member for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, dog shows, trials or competitions, the Club must report the matter in writing to the RKC within seven days and supply any particulars required.

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

19. RULES OF THE CLUB.

No new rules or alterations of existing rules, or alteration to the Code of Ethics, shall be made except by a 2 to 1 majority of members present and voting at General or Special General Meetings of members and shall not be brought into force until the RKC has been advised and given its approval of the alteration. Notice of proposed alterations to rules shall be submitted in accordance with Rule 11 & 12. A copy of the rules and Code of Ethics and of any additions or alterations thereto shall be supplied to and be binding upon all members of the Club.

Any proposed alteration to the rules may not be brought into effect until the Kennel Club has been advised and approved the alteration. New rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately.

20. DEFINITION.

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

The definition of 'sent' and 'notify' in the context of these Rules includes by electronic message or by mail in accordance with each Members preference.

CODE OF ETHICS 2026

ALL CLUB MEMBERS OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND DALMATIAN CLUB SHALL ABIDE BY THIS CODE OF ETHICS.

Club Member.

- 1) Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
- 2) Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, may report such operation to the Royal Kennel Club. (RKC)
- 3) Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
- 4) Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
- 5) Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
- 6) Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
- 7) Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
- 8) Will ensure that their dogs are microchipped, wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
- 9) Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
- 10) Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
- 11) Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.

12) Will ensure that all relevant of the RKC documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.

13) Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction the RKC registration certificates as standalone items (not accompanying a dog).

14) Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.

15) A Club, whose membership is so varied in every way, necessitates many kinds of activity to suit all tastes; but the dignity and prestige of the breed and Members should be upheld in whatever circumstances. With an ever-changing membership, amongst whom are numbered not only dog lovers of many years standing, but many who are newcomers to the world of dogs, it is considered that a Club Code of Ethics is appropriate and helpful to us all. It is appreciated that this will not eliminate the many wrong practices which we all know exist, but it does create a common basis for us all. We have tried, as concisely as possible, to set out our thoughts under the following headings.

1. BREEDERS 2. EXHIBITORS 3. JUDGES 4. ALL MEMBERS

1. BREEDERS

The Purpose of Breeding. All breeding shall be aimed at improvement of the breed. The future of the Dalmatian is in the breeder's hands. Breeding should be from healthy stock of good temperament. It is therefore of paramount importance that all breeding stock is kept in peak condition with good food, plenty of exercise, and the type of living conditions which lead to a good happy temperament. This applies to stud dogs as well as bitches.

Breeding From Sound Stock. Members shall only breed from healthy stock of good temperament. Members shall only breed from Dalmatian Dogs and Bitches which have been Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) hearing tested, carried out by a recognised person of appropriate qualification, as having Bilateral Hearing. Members undertake and agree to have all surviving puppies bred by them Hearing Tested in accordance with the RKC BAER Health Scheme by a recognised person of appropriate qualification and all results recorded promptly with the RKC.

It is noted that The North of England Dalmatian Club supports the publication of the Breed database of results for the KC BAER Scheme, in addition to the existing publication of the individual results.

The undertaking shall apply to litters bred by members in a partnership, irrespective of whether the other partners are members.

Members agree that, when breeding a litter, their paramount concern will be the welfare of the bitch and her puppies. This is especially true of any bilaterally deaf puppies among those born. Members agree that, in relation to such puppies, they will not pass the care and control of such a puppy to any person unless they are fully satisfied that, the person is completely aware of the special needs of the puppy and understands such a puppy will require additional training and support to provide for these needs.

In the current thinking, have you considered the absolute basics of having a litter?

The following criteria should be observed

- a) Is your bitch good enough to breed from?
- b) Are both the dog and the bitch free from known inherited defects?
- c) No bitch should be bred from if she has had 2 caesarean sections.
- d) No bitch should whelp without an interval of at least twelve months since the birth of her last litter.
- e) No bitch should be bred from more than four times.
- f) No bitch should whelp before the age of two years or once she has reached the age of eight years
- g) Have you studied the stud dog and his pedigree in enough detail? i.e. suitability for your line.
- h) Are both dog and bitch in prime health? No animal should ever be bred from which shows aggression or nervousness.
- i) Discuss every aspect of rearing a correct and happy litter, having regard to cost, accommodation, supervision, and time, with an experienced breeder.

These paragraphs apply also to the Stud Dog Owner.

Stud Dog Owners

- a) Is your dog good enough to breed from?
- b) Be certain you have checked all the basic points above with the owner of the bitch.
- c) Check that the bitch is correctly registered at the RKC Club and without restrictions on the registration.
- d) It is the duty of the stud dog owner to visit and check all litters personally and to confirm that the above recommendations have been met. They should always be available to give help and advice, particularly to novice breeders.
- e) It is the duty of the stud dog owner to consider whether the dog is being overused.

Total honesty is essential on both sides concerning background information and knowledge of known faults in previous litters. The resultant puppies will bear the pedigree of both sire and dam, and the owners will carry equal responsibility for their welfare.

It is as much the stud dog owner's responsibility, as that of the brood bitch owners to ensure these provisions are observed.

Care Of A Litter.

A Member should not breed a litter unless he/she has the time and the facilities to devote proper care and attention to the rearing of puppies and the wellbeing of the dam. A Member should not provide stud dog services unless satisfied the owner of the bitch also has such time and facilities.

Sale of Puppies

The breeder should check prospective purchasers for suitability and inform them of the characteristics of the Dalmatian and the responsibilities of dog ownership.

- a) It is wise to have some puppy enquiries before contemplating a litter.
- b) Question prospective buyers closely and, if possible, arrange for the whole family to visit you and meet the adult dogs. If you feel it advisable, arrange a visit to their home, either by yourself or the owner of the stud dog. Make sure the puppy will not be left alone for long periods at a time.
- d) Enquire as to the adequate facilities for exercising. Is there a fully enclosed garden?
- f) Children must be taught to respect animals. If there are young children or a baby is expected, be sure to discuss any possible problems thoroughly.
- g) Do not pass your puppy on until you can be sure it will receive kind and sufficient attention in every respect. It is essential that all new owners should feel able to return to the breeder for help and advice and, in case of disaster, for practical help on re-homing.
- h) When selling puppies abroad, use the facilities of the Club to check on prospective owners; check what will happen to the dog if a show career proves unsuccessful. No dog should be sold to countries where they are not protected by Anti Cruelty Laws.
- i) When selling puppies in this country, the same standards apply. Explain any faults and the changes, both for better and for worse that can take place from eight weeks onwards! Total honesty is essential in every respect.

2. EXHIBITORS

Dogs do not ask to be exhibited. They will do so willingly, and in return should be given that care and attention which makes it a pleasure for them.

Note the following points:

- a) Give ample opportunity to empty out before a journey and again before going on the bench and into the ring.
- b) Supply a comfortable mattress or bench rug.
- c) A coat may be necessary on a draughty bench, or when going from an overheated hall into a cold wind.
- d) Provide regular opportunities for exercise.
- e) If you must leave your dog unattended on the bench, check back regularly to ensure he is neither in trouble nor causing it.

By these and other means, you can alleviate the tedium and discomfort of a day cooped up on a bench. Above all, appreciate and allay the fears, which a puppy or novice dog must suffer at his first shows. A serious shock at this stage may never be forgotten.

There are some who should not be at a show at all, most particularly bitches in whelp or those in season. No animal, which is chronically nervous or bad tempered, should appear in the ring.

In the show ring, present your dog and yourself in immaculate condition. Watch to see what the judge will require and ensure that neither you nor your dog interferes with any other. Treat your dog calmly and kindly – he is there only to please you, not to obtain prizes. Do not allow disappointment to mar your behaviour either to your dog or to other exhibitors, and certainly not to the judge. Malicious comments regarding the judging, other exhibitors or their dogs is totally unacceptable either in the ring or outside it.

3. JUDGES

All dogs should be treated with the utmost gentleness, and puppies should only receive the quietest and kindest of handling. Each exhibitor should be treated courteously and have the full attention of the judge.

Judges come under very close scrutiny, and it is of the first importance that fair dealing is not only done but is seen to be done. By their own demeanour, both in and out of the ring, judges can create the right atmosphere and at the same time must be aware of all activities in their ring.

In addition to the RKC Regulations regarding judging appointments, the following points should be considered:

- a) A written report to be produced for every show.
- b) Members should avoid canvassing for judging appointments and wait to be asked.

4. ALL MEMBERS

Whether or not a dog is shown, it must be realised that it is always a pet and must be treated as such. When undertaking the ownership of a dog, you also assume total

responsibility for its happiness and wellbeing and, equally important, for its behaviour both in and out of your home. Dogs prosper on a happy interesting life, with good food, plenty of exercise, the right discipline and, above all, a great deal of love. Moreover, all Dalmatians crave human companionship. Those whose dogs do not live in the house should pay particular attention to ensuring that their pets enjoy the items listed in the two previous sentences.

Do not leave the dog at home for hours unattended. If you have children, particularly toddlers do be sure the dog has a “get-away” place, which is totally forbidden to the children. Take time to teach your pet dog the rules of good behaviour too. He can then take his place as a much-loved member of the family and not have to be shut away because his own naughtiness creates a problem. Take your dog to a training class. A short course of lessons will teach you as well as the dog!

It is essential that veterinary assistance should always be used whenever an animal, of any age, must be put down.

It should be remembered that, together with the dogs, we enjoy a marvellous sport and hobby. Owners can be hurt to the core by spiteful comment or condemnation in the ring from the judges. To each and every dog lover their animals are precious, and we destroy ourselves as well as others when employing malicious comment, whether regarding stud dogs, bitches, litters, or even their owners.

Breed Clubs are formed for the benefit and furtherance of the breed and the reputation of that breed is dictated by the behaviour of the Members.

The North of England Dalmatian Club expects all of its members concerned with breeding, acquisition or disposal of Dalmatians to conduct their business in an ethical manner whilst at the same time conforming to the Rules of the North of England Dalmatian Club and the RKC.

Overseas Members are expected to follow this code whilst conforming to the rules governing their Kennel Club.

If an alleged breach of these provisions is reported to the Club, this shall result in the Club undertaking an investigation that may result in the appropriate relevant action being taken.

Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from club membership, and/or disciplinary action by the RKC and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate.

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 always 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 RKC 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, 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.