



The British Briard Club

THE RULES OF THE CLUB

- 1. TITLE:** The Club shall be known as the British Briard Club hereinafter referred to as “The Club”.
- 2. OBJECTIVES:** The Club shall promote the breeding and exhibiting of Briards, the supporting of shows and shall protect and further the interests of the breed.
- 3. THE CLUB:** The Club shall comprise a President, a Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, Members of Committee and an unlimited number of Members.
- 4. PRESIDENT:** The office of President shall be subject to election every three years, the retiring President being eligible for re-election. The President may be a non-member of The Club, but rules for nomination apply in other respects as for nomination of other Officers and Members of Committee.
- 5. COMMITTEE:** The Club shall be managed by a Committee of 12 Members of The Club, comprising the offices of Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and 9 Memberships of Committee. No person may be elected as a Member of Committee or Officer of the club unless they have been a member of the club for a minimum period of two years. One Office and three Memberships will be open for election annually in rotation, the retiring Officer and Members of Committee being eligible for re-election.

When more than three Committee Memberships are up for election, those individuals receiving the most votes will be elected to the longest terms. Election will be by ballot of Members of The Club qualified to vote at General Meetings. If either the retiring Chairman, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer fails to be re-elected to that Office, he or she will be included automatically in the ballot for Members of Committee without separate nomination, provided that they so wish to be included.

The Committee shall have authority to co-opt.

- a) Not more than 3 Members of The Club to fill vacancies until the next Annual General Meeting but excluding replacement for a vacancy arising by default of attendance by a Member of Committee. (See below)
- b) Not more than 3 Members of The Club to deal with specific matters.

If a Member of Committee misses three consecutive Committee Meetings or any three meetings within the financial year of The Club, without giving satisfactory explanation, he or she will cease automatically to be a Member of The Committee and the vacancy arising will be filled by the person next in line with the most votes at the last General Meeting at which election for Members of Committee took place.

No person whilst an un-discharged bankrupt may serve on the Committee of, or hold any other Office or appointment within a Kennel Club registered society.

Meetings of the Committee shall be held as frequently as may be deemed necessary but not less than four times per financial year and shall be convened normally on notice from the Honorary Secretary, but issued at not less than fifteen days prior to the meeting. The Honorary Secretary shall, at the signed request of any five Members of Committee, call a meeting to be held at between fifteen and thirty days from the date of receipt of the request.

Seven of the twelve elected Members of the Committee, of whom at least one must be an Officer of The Club, shall form a quorum for the transaction of business and the Chairman will have the casting vote.

6. MEMBERSHIP: Candidates for Membership of The Club shall be proposed by a Member and approved by a majority of Committee. All candidates must complete and sign an approved Club Membership application form on which they agree to adhere to The Code of Conduct as appended and to acknowledge that failure to comply with this Code or its intent are grounds for expulsion by the Procedure for Expulsion of Members as defined hereto by these Rules. The completed application form together with the

appropriate fee shall be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary. Membership will commence at the date of approval by Committee. Members must have been a member for one year before proposing a new member.

7. SUBSCRIPTION: The annual subscription shall be payable to the Honorary Treasurer on the 1st January in each year and shall be as follows:

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|---------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-----|
| Single Members | £12 | Joint Members | £14 |
| Junior Members (under 16) | £0.50 | Overseas – Europe | £15 |
| | | Overseas – Rest of the World | £17 |

No Member whose subscription is unpaid is entitled to any of the privileges of Membership and shall not carry voting rights. If any Member shall fail to pay the annual subscription by 1st March or the date of the Annual General Meeting, whichever is earlier, the Committee shall have the power to remove his or her name from the list of Members. If the Committee shall subsequently receive a satisfactory explanation, the Member may, at the discretion of the Committee, be re-admitted to Membership.

In the case of joint Membership each party shall be entitled to voting rights as a Single Membership. No Member under 16 years of age, whether Single or Joint or Junior Membership, will be entitled to voting rights.

Hon. Life Members shall be entitled to full voting rights and shall enjoy all the benefits of full Membership.

8. CLUB PROPERTY: The property of The Club shall be vested in the Committee and, in the event of The Club ceasing to exist, a General Meeting shall be called to decide the disposal of the assets of The Club and the results of the Meeting notified to the Kennel Club. The last Officers and Committee of The Club will be deemed responsible for the proper winding up of The Club. Cups and other trophies shall be returned to the donors.

9. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS: Any Member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A11.j(5) and/or Kennel Club Rule A11.j(9) shall ipso facto cease to be a Member of the Club. If the conduct of any Member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of The Club, be injurious to the character or interests of The Club, the Committee of The Club 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 Club shall be called for the purpose of expelling him or her. Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused Member, giving particulars of the complaint, and advising him or her of the place, date and hour of the Meeting, that he or she may attend and offer an explanation. If at the Meeting a resolution to expel is passed by two thirds majority of the Members present and voting, his or her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of Members, and he or she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a Member of The Club, except that he or she may, within two calendar months from the date of the Meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS: The financial year of The Club shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than 31st July in each year, to receive the reports of the Committee and the balance sheet, to elect Officers and Committee and to discuss any resolutions placed on the Agenda. No business shall be transacted at an Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the Agenda with the exception of routine matters or those which, in the opinion of the Chairman of the Meeting, are urgent.

Notice of any resolution to be placed on the Agenda, and also nominations for Officers and Committee, must be received by the Honorary Secretary on or before the 36th day before the Annual General Meeting date. Proposers and seconders of nominees for Officers and Committee must be fully paid-up Members of The Club, as also the nominees except for the Office of President. Nominees are required to signify acceptance of nomination in writing, failing which the nominations will not be forwarded for ballot.

A Member, permanently resident overseas may appoint another Member to act as his or her proxy and vote on his or her behalf at an Annual General Meeting. Notice of such appointment must be given to the Honorary Secretary in writing prior to the start of the Meeting. For voting in elections the procedure of voting by proxy is valid only when directed. Proxy votes for elections should be sent, directed to the Honorary Secretary contained in a sealed envelope and with instructions for who the vote(s) is/are to be cast.

Members will receive Preliminary Notice of an Annual General Meeting and a formal notice, incorporating an Agenda, at not less than fourteen clear days prior to an Annual General Meeting. Twenty Members of The Club, each bearing voting rights shall form a quorum for the transaction of business. The Chairman shall have the casting vote.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting are to be prepared and distributed to all Members within three months of the date of the Annual General Meeting to which they apply or together with the Summer edition of The Club magazine (if sent), whichever is later.

11. SPECIAL BUSINESS: A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Honorary Secretary at the request of the Committee, or if 20 Members of The Club submit a signed requisition, stating the subject to be discussed. No business other than the matter on the Agenda shall be discussed at a Special General Meeting. The Meeting shall be held not more than 60 days from the date of receipt by the Honorary Secretary of the signed requisition. Rules applicable to the General business in regard to nominations for Officers and Committee

appointments of proxies, quorum and rights to the casting vote by the Chairman, are valid equally to a Special General Meeting. Votes by proxy will not be acceptable at Special General Meetings convened for the Expulsion of Members.

12. AMENDMENT TO RULES: The Rules of The Club shall not be altered except at a General or Special Meeting, the notice for which contains specific proposals to amend the rules. Any alteration to the Rules shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and given approval to the alterations.

13. CLUB ACCOUNTS: A banking account or accounts shall be opened in the name of The Club, into which all revenue of The Club shall be paid and from which withdrawal shall only be made on signature of two or more Officers. The accounts shall be kept by the Honorary Treasurer and will be certified annually and presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting. Certification of accounts must be carried out by one qualified or two unqualified individuals with accountancy experience. Those undertaking the certification must be independent from those who prepared the accounts and must be appointed at the Annual General Meeting to certify the accounts for the ensuing year. The certified accounts shall be made available to members 14 days prior to the AGM.

The Committee shall have the power to authorize the Honorary Treasurer to transfer funds between The Club bank and building society accounts in order to maximize the interest earned by The Club.

14. KENNEL CLUB - THE FINAL COURT OF APPEAL: The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the rules and regulations of the club in all cases relative to canine or society matters.

15. NON-FEDERATION: The Club shall not join any federation of societies or clubs.

16. ANNUAL RETURNS TO THE KENNEL CLUB: The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club whether by the Secretary or by Direct Debit, for continuance of registration and that by the 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in the Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils, will be forwarded to the Kennel Club. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any change of Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year.

17. MEMBERSHIP LIST: An up-to-date list of Members' names and their addresses shall be maintained and the list of names made available for inspection if so requested by the Members of The Club or by the Kennel Club.

18. BRIARD WELFARE: Any Member of The Club, if asked by either the current owner or another Member of The Club, shall accept back, if necessary, on a temporary basis, any Briard bred by them that needs re-homing.

19. CODE OF CONDUCT:

- a) As a member of The Club I pledge that I will adhere to the Rules of The Club. I will adopt the Briard Standard as approved by the Kennel Club, and conduct myself in such a manner as to reflect credit upon The Club and upon Briards. I will display good sportsmanship at all times, and refrain from criticizing other breeders' stock in a way which may be considered vindictive. I will maintain a high standard of health and care for my Briards.
- b) If I cannot keep my Briards I will notify the Committee (Welfare Officer), after prior reference to the breeder.
- c) For the purpose of this Code of Conduct, the wording breeder shall mean both the owner of the Stud Dog and the owner of the Breeding Bitch.
- d) As a breeder of Briards, I will try to improve the quality of the Breed, having regard to the Breed Standard by using a dog well suited to the bitch, and to prevent the doubling up on major faults.
- e) I will refuse to mate my Briard to a Briard that is not registered with the Kennel Club or a Foreign Kennel Club with a reciprocal agreement.
- f) I will only sell Briards in good health to the best of my knowledge at the time of sale.
- g) I will provide each purchaser at the time of sale with an accurate pedigree, a diet sheet and general care information. I will provide the Kennel Club Registration documents within a reasonable length of time, unless otherwise agreed. I will encourage purchasers to join The British Briard Club.
- h) I will assist the owner in every reasonable way during the life of the Briard, including assistance with re-homing if this becomes necessary, by liaising with The Club's Welfare Officer.
- i) I will not sell stock without true representation to the purchaser, nor use misleading or untruthful statements in selling or advertising, especially as to the potential prospects of young stock in case it should inadvertently imply guaranteed show success.
- j) I will not sell any Briard which has a known major fault/abnormality without ensuring the buyer is fully aware of that (or those) fault(s) or abnormality(ies).
- k) I will not knowingly sell Briards to commercial dog dealers, retailers or laboratories, not allow stock to be prizes for raffles or competitions and I shall exercise every possible care as to the suitability of the future homes for Briards.
- l) I will not breed Briards unless both sire and dam are either tested or hereditary clear for congenital stationary night blindness (CSNB).

- m) I will not breed Briards unless both sire and the dam have been x-rayed and scored for hip dysplasia under the KC/BVA scheme or a HD scheme run by a Foreign Kennel Club with a reciprocal agreement.
- n) I will ensure that the purchaser is fully informed as to any restrictions, endorsements or terms that may apply to the purchaser of the Briard.
- o) No Briard bitch should be mated before reaching 24 months or whelp puppies after 8 years of age (KC rule – section B3.22(c)). No Briard male should be used at stud before the age of 12 months due to the KC/BVA hip dysplasia test age requirements.
- p) There should normally be a minimum of 12 months between each litter produced by a bitch.
- q) I will not advertise any unregistered litter on any British Briard Club publication in print or on-line.
- r) In exceptional circumstances the committee may use discretion in the application of the above Code of Conduct.

This Code of Conduct establishes a standard of conduct that should be followed by all Members of the British Briard Club in the normal course of owning, breeding, exhibiting, selling and judging Briards. We recognise the impossibility of covering all situations so that any failure to comply with the intent of this Code is to be dealt with in the same manner as if it were a specific violation.

20. PROTOCOLS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF CSNB IN THE BRIARD:

- a) No member shall breed a litter of Briards unless the genetic status for CSNB of both the sire and dam are known.
- b) No member shall arrange a mating of Briards unless at least one parent is certified or hereditary clear of CSNB.
- c) Should an unplanned mating take place where neither parent is clear of CSNB immediate steps should be taken to prevent conception or continuation of the pregnancy subject to veterinary advice.
- d) Should an unplanned mating take place where neither parent is clear of CSNB, resulting in a pregnancy which has not been terminated, the resulting litter shall not be registered at the Kennel Club. The committee must be notified of such a mating as soon as the pregnancy is confirmed.
- e) The prospective purchasers of any puppy shall be informed of the certified or genetic status of their purchase.
- f) In the event of the genetic status of a puppy being unknown at the time of sale the registration papers shall be endorsed 'progeny not eligible for registration' and this explained to the prospective purchaser. The endorsement may only be lifted after the certified status becomes known.
- g) All certificates of testing shall be submitted to the Kennel Club and the Club Abnormalities Officer for inclusion in the health programme and publication of results.
- h) As from 1st January 2015 no member shall breed a litter unless both parents are certified or hereditary clear of CSNB.

** The wording of Rules 12, 13, 14 and 17 is prescribed by the Kennel Club.

May 2023