

AMERICAN HUNTING TERRIER ASSOCIATION (AHTA)

THE JAGDTERRIER BREED CLUB



CONSTITUTION

AND

ByLAWS

AHTA MISSION STATEMENT

The American Hunting Terrier Association Inc. promotes and advances the Deutscher Jagdterrier in the U.S. by evaluating ability and character through breed-specific testing. It supports member participation in testing, competition, and responsible breeding through mentorship and education, hosts sanctioned events, and upholds high standards of professionalism, fairness, and sportsmanship.



AHTA CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1. NAME & PURPOSE

Section A: Name. The name of this club shall be the *American Hunting Terrier Association, Inc.* herein referred to as “*the Club*”.

Section B: Principal Office of the Club. The principal office of “*the Club*” shall be the office of the current Registered Agent as stated in the organizational documents, and it shall encompass the entire United States.

Section C: Purpose. This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The corporation will promote and advance the Deutscher Jagdterrier (DJT) in America in the following ways::

1. to develop a breed specific program of testing, examination, and competition applicable to the hunting Jagdterrier in America, herein referred to as “the Breed”.
2. to evaluate the ability and character of “the Breed” through breed specific natural ability and versatility testing;
3. to encourage members to participate in “*the Club*”’s program of testing, examination, and competition through mentorship and education;
4. to encourage members to participate in safe and selective breeding practices through mentorship and education;
5. to educate members about the natural ability and character required to advance dogs in AHTA sanctioned performance events and accreditation programs;
6. to hold and support quality AHTA sanctioned events under the Rules and Regulations of “*the Club*”; and
7. To encourage fair and professional conduct, and sportsmanlike competition at sanctioned trials, shows, and events sponsored by “*the Club*”.

Section D: Not for Profit. No part of the net earnings of *the Club* shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in *Section C. Purpose* hereof.

No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on

(a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or

(b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE II: ADOPTION and AMENDMENT of BYLAWS

Section A: Bylaws. The members of *“the Club”* shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out the defined purposes of *“the Club”*.

Section B: Amendment. The bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of *the Board*.

Section C: Notice. All members shall receive advance notice of the proposed amendment at least five (5) days before the next regular meeting.

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ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

Section A: Eligibility - Membership shall be open to all persons who agree to support and uphold the purposes of *the Club* as provided in *Article I, Section D* of the *Constitution* upon payment of the dues as provided in *Section D* of this *Article*.

Section B: Types of Membership. There shall be three types of membership:

1. **Individual Annual Member.** Individual members must be eighteen (18) years of age or older. These members shall be entitled to vote, hold office, and enjoy all privileges and benefits of the Club. Individual members must actively participate in at least one (1) Club event or other qualifying activity within each Club Year to retain Individual Member status.
2. **Individual Lifetime Member.** Individual Lifetime Members must be eighteen (18) years of age or older and shall be entitled to the same rights, privileges, benefits, and participation requirements as Individual Annual Members, including the right to vote and hold office. Lifetime Members pay a one-time membership fee in lieu of annual dues, and their membership remains in effect for life.
3. **Family Member.** Family Membership shall be available to two (2) or more individuals related by family and residing in the same household. Each family member eighteen (18) years of age or older shall be entitled to vote, hold office, and enjoy all privileges and benefits of the Club. Family members under eighteen (18) years of age shall be considered Junior Members and may enjoy the benefits of the Club but shall not be entitled to vote or hold office. At least one (1) adult member of the family must actively participate in at least one (1) Club event or other qualifying activity within each Club Year to retain Family Membership status. Family Membership shall be subject to a separate annual fee established by the Club.
4. **Junior Member.** Junior Members are individuals under the age of eighteen (18) years. Junior Members may enjoy the privileges and benefits of the Club but shall not be entitled to vote or hold office.

Section C: Membership Year & Renewal. The membership year shall begin on April 1 and end on March 31 of the following year. The acknowledged receipt of dues as outlined in *Section D* of this *Article* shall constitute renewal of membership.

Section D: Dues. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of January, the *Club* shall send to each member a statement of dues

for the ensuing year. Dues shall not exceed \$20 per year due on or before the first day of the membership year as defined in *Section C* of this *Article*.

Section E: Application & Procedure. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form approved by the Board of Directors, which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws, rules, and policies of the *American Hunting Terrier Association (AHTA)*. The application shall state the applicant's name, address, telephone number, email address, and such other information as may be required.

To be eligible for membership, each applicant shall have attended a minimum of two (2) AHTA-sponsored or AHTA-approved events and shall be sponsored by a current member in good standing. The sponsoring member shall be identified on the application.

All applications shall be submitted to the Membership Secretary and shall be accompanied by payment of the applicable dues for the current membership year. Upon verification that the applicant has satisfied the membership requirements, the Membership Secretary shall enroll the applicant as a member of the AHTA.

New members shall be required to renew their membership and pay dues again at the inception of the next membership year, except those applicants approved within sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of the new membership year as defined in *Section C* of this *Article*. Applicants approved between February 1 and March 31 shall not be required to renew their membership until the following membership year.

Section F: Termination. Membership may be terminated:

1. **By resignation.** Any member in good standing may resign from the club upon written notice to the Membership Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the club and must be paid in full prior to resignation.
2. **By lapsing.** A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such a member's dues remain unpaid thirty (30) days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the board may grant an additional sixty (60) days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a per be entitled to vote at any club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
3. **By expulsion.** A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in *Article VI* of the Bylaws.

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ARTICLE II. MEETINGS and VOTING

Section A: Club Meetings. An annual meeting shall be held either in person or via telephone/video conference at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Notice of each such meeting shall be sent to *every member in good standing* via electronic mail and/or posted on the Web site or official Facebook page by the Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20 percent of the individual members in good standing.

Officers, and directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret ballot from among those nominated in accordance with *Section 4* of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to the successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

Section C: Special Club Meetings. Special club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five (5) Individual members of *the Club* who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held either in person or via telephone/video conference at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Notice of each such meeting shall be sent to *every member in good standing* via electronic mail and/or posted on the Web site or official Facebook page by the Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20 percent of the members in good standing.

Section D. Board of Directors Meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held either in person or via telephone/video conference at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Notice of each such meeting shall be sent via electronic mail and/or posted on the Web site or official Facebook page by the Secretary at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section E. Special Board of Directors Meetings. Special Board of Directors meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a request signed by at

least three (3) members of the Board of Directors. Such special meetings shall be held either in person or via telephone/video conference at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Notice of each such meeting shall be sent to *every member in good standing* via electronic mail and/or posted on the Web site or official Facebook page by the Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be the majority of the Board of Directors.

Section F. Voting. Each Individual member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one (1) vote at any meeting of *the Club* at which he is present including via telephone/video conference call. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or election.

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ARTICLE III. DIRECTORS and OFFICERS

Section A: Board of Directors. the *Executive Board of Directors*, herein referred to as “*the Board*” shall be comprised of the officers and directors for each region as outlined herein, all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for one (1) year terms at *the Club’s* annual meeting as provided in *Articles II* and *IV* of this document, and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of *the Club’s* affairs shall be entrusted to *the Board*.

1. **Regional Directors.** Regional Directors, herein referred to as “*Directors*” must reside within the region they represent and will ensure geographic representation. They will assist in the development of new *Clubs*, serve as liaisons to their respective regions, act as advisors for all regional events, and perform such other functions as prescribed by *the Board*. AHTA Regions correspond to the :
 - A. **Northeast** (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont),
 - B. **Midwest** (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin),
 - C. **South** (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia)
 - D. **West** (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, and Canada).

Section B: Officers. *The Club’s* officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to *the Club* and its meetings and *the Board* and its meetings.

1. **President.** The *President* shall preside at all meetings of *the Club* and of *the Board*, vote in the event of a tie, represent *the Club*, appoint committee chairpersons subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these bylaws.
2. **Vice President.** The Vice President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President’s death, absence or incapacity.
3. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of *the Club* and of *the Board* and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by *the Club*; have charge

of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of *the Club* with their addresses, which shall be updated and published, not more than once every Club year; act as the official Registrar, managing dog registration and issuing certified pedigrees; record all information concerning AHTA Shows and Trials, including but not limited to judges, entries, placements, scores and titles; Web master; Social Media, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.

4. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to *the Club*. Moneys shall be deposited in a bank designated by *the Board*, in the name of *the Club*. The books shall at all times be open to inspection by *the Board* and a report shall be given at every meeting on the condition of *the Club's* finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting an accounting shall be rendered of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as *the Board* shall determine.

Section C: Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring on *the Board* or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of the members of *the Board* at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a special Board of Directors meeting called for that purpose; except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by *the Board*.

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ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS

Section A: Club Year. *the Club's* fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December. *The Club's* official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting and shall continue through the next annual meeting.

Section B: Annual Meeting. *Officers and Directors* for the ensuing term shall be elected by secret ballot from among those nominated in accordance with *Section D* of this *Article*. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to the successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

Section C: Elections. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The nominated candidates for other positions on the board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

Section D: Nominations. Any member in good standing of *the Club* may nominate a candidate in a *Club* election.

- 1) All nominations should be submitted to the Secretary in writing. Once nominations have closed, the Secretary shall submit the slate of nominees to *the Board*. *The Board* will determine the eligibility of all candidates.
- 2) Upon receipt of the slate of eligible candidates as determined by *the Board*, the Secretary shall, at least two weeks before the annual meeting, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- 3) Additional nominations may be made at the annual meeting by any member in attendance, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when their name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position except for the position of Secretary and/or Treasurer.
- 4) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

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ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

Section A: *The Board* may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of *the Club* in such matters as performance events, seminars, trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership, and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of *the Board*. Special committees may also be appointed by *the Board* to aid it on particular projects.

Section B: Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of *the Board* upon written notice to the appointee; and *the Board* may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

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ARTICLE VI. DISCIPLINE

Section A: Charges. An individual member may prefer charges against another individual member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of *the Club*. Written charges must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$100, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by *the Board* following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of *the Board* or present them at a board meeting, and *the Board* shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of *the Club*. If *the Board* considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of *the Club*, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If *the Board* entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date for a hearing by *the Board* not less than three weeks nor more than six weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges and the specifications to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if he wishes.

Section B: Board Hearing. *The Board* shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, *the Board* may by a majority vote of those present reprimand or suspend the defendant from all privileges of *the Club* for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his fellow members at the ensuing club meeting which considers *the Board's* recommendation. Immediately after *the Board* has reached a decision, its finding shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of *the Board's* decision and penalty, if any.

Section C: Expulsion. Expulsion of a member from *the Club* may be accomplished only at a meeting of *the Club* following a board hearing and upon *the Board's* recommendation as provided in Section C of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of *the Club* to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of *the Board's* recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and *the Board's* finding and recommendation, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf if

he wishes. The members shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, *the Board's* suspension shall stand.

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ARTICLE VII. DISSOLUTION

Section A. *the Club* may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members in good standing. In the event of the dissolution of *the Club* other than for purposes of reorganization whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of *the Club* nor any proceeds thereof nor any assets of *the Club* shall be distributed to any members of *the Club*, but after payment of the debts of *the Club* its property and assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

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ARTICLE VIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Section A: Member Meetings. At meetings of *the Club*, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Report of President
4. Report of Secretary
5. Report of Treasurer
6. Reports of Regional Directors
7. Election of officers and board (when applicable)
8. Election of new members
9. Unfinished business
10. New business
11. Adjournment.

Section B: Board Meetings. At meetings of *the Board*, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

1. Reading of minutes of last meeting
2. Report of Secretary
3. Report of Treasurer
4. Reports of committees
5. Unfinished business
6. New business
7. Adjournment.

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ARTICLE IV. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section A. The rules contained in the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised,” shall govern the club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any other special rules of order the club may adopt.

