

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

PREAMBLE

The breeders owners and fanciers of the Plott Hound Breed have organized themselves and affiliated with United Kennel Club, Inc. for the express purpose of advancing the principles of the United Kennel Club, Inc. for and for the betterment of the Plott Coon, Cat, Boar, and Bear Hound breed as a whole and to influence the breeding and hunting of a better and finer Plott Hound.

We accept these principles and subscribe to them as members of the **NATIONAL PLOTT HOUND ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Constitution

Article I

Name

The organization shall be known as the **NATIONAL PLOTT HOUND ASSOCIATION, INC.** whose **HOME OFFICE** shall be the **Residence of the President** of said organization.

Article II

Purpose

SECTION A. To create a closer relationship and to instill confidence between breeder, owners and fanciers of the Plott Hound Breed that we may be able to improve the breed beneficial to all concerned in accordance with the standards set forth by the United Kennel Club, Inc. Registering Office, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

SECTION B. In fulfillment of the above, the **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.** is formed by the following purposes:

1. To negotiate collectively with the United Kennel Club, Inc. in regard to matters of breed standard and all registered events that are licensed by the United Kennel Club, Inc. with the **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.** relative to the Plott Hound breed.
2. To secure and protect all legal rights, benefits and privileges conferred upon said association by the United Kennel Club, Inc. or any federal, state, or local law.
3. To maintain, safeguard and further the principles of the Plott Hound breed standard, the principles of American Democracy and sportsmanship, and to prevent its members from being subjected to restraint or coercion on the part of any individuals or group.
4. To guard against (1) any separation of dogs from this breed registration in any other and (2) subversive splinter groups organizing which would tend to disunite the **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.**
5. To sponsor an annual hunt and various Plott Sectionals, and special yearly awards, awarded to **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.** members hunting in U.K.C. registered Plott Hounds.

Article III Membership

SECTION A. Any or all breeders, Owners and/or Plott fanciers of the Plott Hound breed regardless of sex, race, creed, or color may be eligible for membership in said organization subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

SECTION B. Any person is a member in good standing who pays annual dues: membership renewal will be January 1st of each succeeding year.

SECTION C. Members in good standing as of December 31st of each year will receive a ballot to vote the next year.

SECTION D. There was a vote by the members in good standing August 2, 2008; the following resolutions were adopted: by adding new Sections D, E and F to Article III, Membership, which shall read as follows:

There shall be four (4) classes of membership. They are as follows:

- (1) Individual,
- (2) Family,
- (3) Youth, and
- (4) Lifetime

SECTION E. Any person under the age of eighteen (18) may become a “youth” member upon payment of one-half (1/2) of the dues then in effect for an individual membership. Any person under eighteen (18) years of age who is not a youth member in good standing shall be included in his or her family for which family membership dues are paid. Youth membership shall have all privileges of an individual membership, except that until such youth member attains eighteen (18) years of age he or she shall have no voting rights, and until such member attains eighteen (18) years of age he or she shall not receive a yearbook. He or she must still be in school.

SECTION F. A member in good standing shall become eligible for “lifetime” membership at the point in time, on or after such member’s sixty-fifth (65th) birthday, at which he or she has been a member in good standing in each of the immediately preceding ten (10) consecutive years. A person must actually have been a member during each of said ten (10) years and such years must be consecutive to one another, ending at a point on or after said member’s sixty-fifth birthday; provided however, that any member in good standing who has attained sixty-five (65) years of age and who has at least twenty (20) previous years of paid membership during which he or she was an active member in good standing (whether or not such twenty (20) years were consecutive) may pay dues at the current rate for the applicable membership class for any and all of the said ten (10) preceding consecutive years in order to qualify for lifetime status; and provided further that regardless of the number of years a person has been a paid member in good standing, he or she may pay dues for up to two (2) missing years during said preceding ten (10) consecutive years in order to qualify for lifetime membership. Except as above provided, neither prepaying dues nor paying dues for a prior year, without actual membership status in the subject year, will qualify. An eligible lifetime member shall become an “individual lifetime” member or a “family

lifetime” member depending on the paid classification of such member in each of the qualifying ten (10) preceding consecutive years. If a member has been a family member in good standing during each and every year of the said ten (10) year qualifying period, including any catch-up dues payment permitted above, he or she shall become a “family lifetime” member, and as such his or her surviving spouse shall be entitled to continued lifetime membership status until such surviving spouse’s subsequent death. If, in any year during said ten (10) year qualifying period, such a lifetime member was an individual member and not a family member, such member shall be eligible only for “individual lifetime” membership status and his or her spouse shall have no survivorship rights. Lifetime members, and the surviving spouses of “family lifetime” members as above provided, shall not be required to pay dues, but shall be entitled to all privileges of membership, such as receiving a yearbook, voting and holding office. The Association reserves the right to prospectively amend the above provisions for “lifetime” or “youth” membership if it determines, in its sole discretion, that such waiver or reduction of dues is no longer financially feasible.

Article IV

Expulsion of Members

SECTION A. Any Member of the Association may be expelled by a majority of the Executive Committee, voting by a secret ballot, for conduct by word, deed or act detrimental to said Association.

SECTION B. Any member of the Association so expelled shall have the right to appeal to the membership for reinstatement. The said appeal shall be made in writing and shall be in the hands of the Secretary of the Association within seven (7) consecutive calendar days after expulsion, the appeal for reinstatement shall then be acted upon at the next annual meeting of the Association. Reinstatement shall be granted upon two-thirds majority vote of the members in good standing present and shall take place at the Annual Plott Days meeting of the Association. Voting on said appeal to be by secret ballot.

SECTION C. Expelled members may have an appeal at annual meeting three (3) years following expulsion. The appeal to be made in writing and may be reinstated by two-thirds majority vote of the members in good standing present and shall take place at the annual Plott Days meeting of the Association.

SECTION D. All membership meetings shall be open to all members.

Article V

Officers

SECTION A. All members of the Association shall be represented at the annual meeting of the Association by their officers who have been duly elected for this purpose.

SECTION B. The officers of the Association, all of whom must be members in good standing, shall consist of **President** and **Vice-President**. All officers to be elected for a term of one (1)

year, all officers shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms of office. The officers and Board of Directors make up the Executive Committee.

1. A Board of Directors consisting of six (6) members in good standing, will be elected as follows: one (1) for a term of three (3) years: two (2) for a term of two (2) years, and two (2) for a period of one (1) year each. The outgoing President will assume a three (3) year director's position. One director will be elected at each annual meeting thereafter for a term of three (3) years. In a 1990 Special Ballot, the general membership voted to add two (2) members to the Board, by electing one (1) for a term of two (2) years, and one for a term of one (1) year. One director will be elected at each annual meeting thereafter for a term of two (2) years. A Board of Directors will now consist of eight (8) members in good standing. Outgoing directors cannot be re-elected as a Director for the following year.

2. The Board of Directors shall control the monies of the Association. In the event of the demise, resignation, or expulsion of the Treasurer, all monies of the Association shall automatically go into the hands of the Board of Directors where it shall remain until a new Treasurer is appointed by the Executive Board. During the interim, checks on the Association shall be countersigned with the President. Furthermore, in the event of a legal collection of the Association monies, the Board of Directors shall be the receivers of said money.

Article VI Election of Officers

National Plott Hound Association, Inc. Officers shall be elected absentee ballots and the winners will be announced at the annual Plott Days meeting.

SECTION B. Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Executive Committee. The Committee shall nominate three (3) persons for each office, if possible. The ballots shall have three (3) candidates, if possible listed for each office and shall have space for a write-in candidate for each office. There was a vote by the members in good standing November 30, 1998; that the Nominating Committee was to use the nominations that were made, whether the three (3) candidates for each office was met or not. The ballots shall be mailed to a **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.** designated box number, so that it arrives no later than one (1) day before the annual meeting. All ballots must be numbered in sequence. The elected Breed Representatives shall count the ballots and announce the new slate of officers at the annual Plott Days meeting. Newly elected officers will assume their respective duties January 1st of the coming year. Outgoing officers will assume all responsibilities for the completion of the annual Plott Days and yearbook in their respective year of office.

Article VII Breed Representatives

SECTION A. All members of the Association shall be represented at the regular meeting of the United Kennel Club, Inc. Rules Committee meeting by their two (2) Breed Representatives who have been duly elected for this purpose.

SECTION B. The Breed Representatives of the Association, all of whom must be members in good standing, shall consist of two (2) persons for a term of two (2) years. One Breed

Representative will be elected by absentee ballot each year thereafter for a term of two (2) years. One alternate will also be elected.

Article VIII

Election of Breed Representatives

SECTION A. Breed Representatives shall be elected by absentee ballots and the winners will be announced at the annual Plott Days meeting.

SECTION B. Nominating Committee: The nominating Committee shall consist of the Executive Committee. The Committee shall nominate three (3) persons for this office. The ballots should take the exact procedure as the election of the Association's officers as outlined in Article VI. The one (1) individual receiving the most votes will be the official Association representative. The remaining one (1) will be the alternate for that year. The newly elected Breed Representative will assume his respective duties January 1st of the coming year.

Article IX

Eligibility of Officers and Directors

SECTION A. Candidates for the offices of **President, Vice-President, Director, or Breed Representative** shall not be officers or directors of U.K.C., A.C.H.A., N.K.C., A.K.C., or any organization registering dogs or licensing dog events.

SECTION B. Any officers or director found guilty of conduct inimical to the purpose of the organization, out of harmony with the principles of the organization, or guilty of a serious breach of regulations and ethics may be removed from office by two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Committee. A written copy of the charges of such misconduct shall be handed to the officer or director accused by any other Executive Committeemen or delivered by registered mail to the accused at least two (2) weeks prior to the Executive Meeting dealing with the charges brought against the accused. The charges shall be read at the meeting of the Executive Committee. The accused officer or director shall be given the opportunity to submit a statement, oral or written, in rebuttal. The convening authority of the Executive Committee meeting shall prosecute the case and conduct the voting procedure. The charges and voting results shall be read into the minutes of the annual Plott Days meeting immediately following the proceedings.

Article X

Meetings

SECTION A. The annual meeting of the Association shall be the regular meeting held during annual Plott Days. The annual spring Executive Committee meeting will not be held before February 1st of each year. The location of the meeting to be determined by the Executive Committee. Special meetings shall be called by the President or Board of Directors when deemed necessary and advisable. All members of the Executive Committee to be notified of special meetings by registered mail at least one (1) week prior to the meeting. The Officers and Board of Directors shall meet two (2) times annually or as often as is necessary.

Article XI

Affiliation

SECTION A. The National Plott Hound Association, Inc. shall be affiliated with United Kennel Club, Inc. There shall be no affiliation with any other registering office, association or groups. This article of this constitution shall not be changed at present or in the future.

SECTION B. Candidates for the offices of **President, Vice-President, Secretary, Director, or Breed Representative** shall not be Officers or Directors of U.K.C., A.C.H.A., N.K.C., A.K.C., or any organization registering dogs or licensing dog events.

Article XII Duties of the Officers

SECTION A. President: The president has no legislative authority. He shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for the implementation of the objectives of the **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.**, and responsible to the membership for the operation of the organization in accordance with Constitution and By-Laws. He shall preside at all meetings of the organization. He shall form special committees when needed and appoint committeemen. He shall countersign with Secretary all written documents and contracts of the organization. He is a member of all committees.

Vice-President: The Vice-President shall perform such duties as assigned him by the President and assume the duties of the President in his absence and edit the yearbook.

Secretary: The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the organization in a permanent record book and turn over the records to their successor as required. He shall publish "Newsletters" to the membership after the President's approval by signature. He shall keep current and valid records of the memberships and suspensions. He is to conduct all official correspondence of the organization. The Secretary has voting power on the board. The Secretary is an appointed position at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Treasurer: Shall write and sign all checks, co-signed by the President, disburse such funds as authorized by the organization, and have custody of all funds. **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.** shall be audited by the breed Representatives at least once annually, preferably prior to the annual Plott Days meeting. The Treasurer shall give an itemized report of funds at each annual meeting. The Treasurer shall furnish a security bond in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) in favor of the **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.**, paid for by the Association. The Treasurer has voting power on the board. The Treasurer is an appointed position at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

SECTION B. The Directors shall have no legislative powers. The Directors are responsible to the membership, they will observe the operation of the organization and assure that policies are followed. They shall make immediate and long range plans acting as advisors in the execution of the business legislated by the membership at the annual meeting.

Article XIII Amendments

This Constitution may be amended, except for Article XI Affiliation and it cannot be changed or amended, at the annual meeting by two-thirds majority vote of members in good standing, provided that said members in good standing are notified by mail, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual Plott Days meeting with a printed ballot describing what the proposed amendment(s) might be. The ballots shall be mailed to a **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.** designated box number so that it arrives no later than one (1) day before the annual meeting.

All ballots must be numbered in sequence. The elected Breed Representatives shall count the ballots and announce the results at the annual Plott Days meeting.

Article XIV

By-Laws

SECTION A. Any member of the **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.**, who becomes delinquent in dues shall be dropped from the membership roll.

SECTION B. No member shall be eligible for nomination as an officer of the **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.** until after they have been a member in good standing for a period of three (3) consecutive years in the Association.

Article XV

Parliamentary Proceedings

SECTION A. Roberts Rules of Order shall be accepted as the basis of Parliamentary Procedure in all meetings of the **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.**

Article XVI

Order of Business

SECTION A. The following Order of Business shall prevail at meetings of the **National Plott Hound Association, Inc.**

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| 1. Call to Order | 5. Report of Committees | 9. Old Business |
| 2. Roll Call of Officers | 6. Report of President | 10. Introduction of New Officers |
| 3. Reading and Approval of minutes | 7. Report of Secretary | 11. New Business |
| 4. Presentation of Special Award | 8. Report of Treasurer | 12. Adjournment |

Article XVII

Amendments to the By-Laws shall be implemented as the Amendments to the Constitution by the process described in Article XIII of the Constitution.

Approved by the membership: August 14, 1976; Amended January 1, 1991; Amended December 20, 1996; Amended November 30, 1998; Amended August 2, 2008.