

# *The English Shetland Sheepdog Club*

## **THE RULES - 2007**

### 1. Objects

The English Shetland Sheepdog Club (hereinafter called "the Club") shall promote the breeding, training and exhibiting of Shetland Sheepdogs, supporting shows and doing all in its power to protect the safety, welfare, good breeding practice and housing of dogs and advance the interests of the breed.

### 2. Members

1. The Club shall consist of an unlimited number of members whose membership shall be on a hobby but not a career or professional basis.
2. The Committee of the Club (hereinafter called "the Committee") shall have unfettered discretion on the question of acceptance of new members and its deliberations shall remain confidential to the Committee. No person shall be admitted as a member of the Club unless he/she has been proposed in writing by a member and seconded by a member, both to have had at least five years' continuous membership of the Club; has been accepted by the Committee; has paid an entrance fee of £1.00 or such other amount as may be fixed by the members of the Club at a general meeting; has paid his/her first annual subscription and has read, understood and undertakes to adhere to the Club's Rules, Objects and Code of Ethics.
3. Upon the admission of a person to membership of the Club his/her name and address shall be entered in the list of members which shall be kept and maintained by the Secretary of the Club (hereinafter called "the Secretary"). The Club must make a list of members and their addresses available for inspection if so requested by the members of the Club or by the Kennel Club.
4. In the case of a member of the Club admitted after September in any year no further annual subscription shall be payable until 1st January next following the first anniversary of his/her admission.
5. A member of the Club may resign by notice in writing to the Secretary. Upon the receipt of the notice by the Secretary the member shall forthwith cease to be a member of the Club.
6. Upon a person ceasing to be a member of the Club his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of members.

### 3. Honorary Vice-Presidents

1. Members of the Club who have rendered particularly valuable service to the Club or the breed shall be eligible for election by the Committee as Honorary Vice-Presidents and after such election they shall remain honorary members of the Club until the Committee otherwise determines.
2. The number of Honorary Vice-Presidents shall be limited to six at any one time.

### 4. Officers and Committee

1. The Officers of the Club (hereinafter called "the Officers") shall consist of a President, a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Trophy Secretary. No one person can be elected to more than one position on any one committee whether it be main Club or branch or section.
2. The Committee shall consist of ten members (of whom one shall represent the Obedience, Working Trials and Agility interest) and the Officers.
3. The Officers and Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Club, but shall not incur expense beyond the funds of the Club.

4. The Committee shall have power to co-opt not more than two additional members in any year, but a co-opted member shall retire at the next annual general meeting and is then eligible for re-election in accordance with rule 4[i].
5. Any five members of the Committee, of whom at least two shall be Officers, shall form a quorum.
6. Any member of the Club ordinarily resident in the British Isles shall be eligible for election as an Officer or member of the Committee, save that no member shall be so eligible if he/she is an officer or member of the committee of any other club concerned with Shetland Sheepdogs.
7. Each Officer and member of the Committee shall be elected by the members of the Club by postal vote upon the nomination in writing of any two members of the Club, supported by the consent in writing of the nominee, to be received by the Secretary not less than twenty-eight clear days before the day fixed for the next annual general meeting of the club. The Secretary shall where necessary send to each member of the Club a ballot paper returnable within fourteen clear days.
8. Subject to paragraphs (4) and (9) each Officer and member of the Committee shall retire at the annual general meeting three years after his/her election and is then eligible for re-election in accordance with rule 4[7].
9. In the event of a casual vacancy occurring among the Officers or members of the Committee, the Committee shall have the power to appoint any member of the Club to fill the vacancy, but any member so appointed shall retire at the next annual general meeting and is then eligible for re-election in accordance with rule 4[7].
10. The Committee shall decide upon the trophies to be awarded at any show.
11. Committee business may be transacted by post, telephone, fax or e-mail.
12. The Committee shall have power to deal with any matter for which no provision is made in these rules.
13. The Secretary shall keep a minute book in which shall be recorded all business transacted at general meetings and Committee meetings and all guarantees offered by the Club.
14. No individual who has been a member of the Club for less than five years may be elected to the Committee.
15. No member may be elected as Chairman unless he/she is an existing member of the Committee and has served on the Committee for at least three years in total.
16. No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club registered society.
17. Any candidate offering him/herself to represent the interests of the Working Section must have been a member of that Section for a period of not less than five years and all such candidates must be approved by the Section committee either by proposal or seconding and liaise directly with the Working Section committee. The successful candidate shall have full voting rights in the Committee.

## 5. Finance

1. Every member of the Club shall pay an annual subscription of £8.00 or such other amount as may be fixed by the members at a general meeting, which shall be due on 1st January in each year, and which shall be deemed to be a debt due to the Club; provided that two members living at the same address may pay a joint annual subscription of £10.00 or such other amount as may be so fixed. The joint annual subscription for more than two members living at the same address to increase by £1 (or such other amount as may be so fixed) for the third and each subsequent member. Single senior members (aged 60) shall pay an annual subscription

of £7. Two senior members living at the same address shall pay the joint membership subscription of £10.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of these rules, a member of the Club whose subscription is in arrears shall not be entitled to any benefits of membership.
3. The Secretary may by letter ask any member of the Club whose subscription is three calendar months in arrears to pay the arrears forthwith and if any sum remains due from that person for thirty clear days after the day that letter is posted that person shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Club.
4. All revenue of the Club shall be paid into a banking account in the name of the Club.
5. Withdrawals from the Club's banking account shall be effective against the signatures of two Officers of whom one shall be either the President or the Chairman or vice-Chairman and the other shall be either the Secretary or the Treasurer or the Trophy Secretary. No withdrawal shall be valid against the signatures of two Officers who reside at the same address or who are in partnership.
6. All investments shall be in the name of the Club
7. The realisation or withdrawal of investments shall be on the signatures of any two Officers or named Trustees.
8. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain a system of accounts showing a complete record of the income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the Club, and shall at the end of each financial year prepare a balance sheet and an income and expenditure account for that year.
9. The financial year of the Club shall end on 31st December.
10. The accounts and balance sheet of the Club shall be certified by one or more independent qualified Accountants and a copy of the certified balance sheet and income and expenditure account shall be sent to each member of the Club not less than fourteen clear days before the annual general meeting in the year following the financial year to which they relate.

#### 6. General Meetings

1. The annual general meeting of the Club shall be held before the end of June.
2. At the annual general meeting the following business only shall be transacted:
  - (a) the presentation and (if accepted) the passing of the accounts for the previous financial year
  - (b) the receipt of reports from the Chairman and other members of the Club
  - (c) the receipt of the results of elections of Officers and members of the Committee
  - (d) such other business as is normally transacted at an annual general meeting of the Club
  - (e) such other business as shall have been communicated to the Secretary and included in the notice of the meeting
  - (f) such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is urgent.
3. A special general meeting shall be called by the Secretary on the written request of thirty members of the Club, provided that such a meeting shall not be so called if such a meeting has been called during the proceeding two years to transact what is, in the opinion of the majority of the Officers, the same or substantially the same business.
4. The Secretary shall send to each member of the Club not less than fourteen clear days written notice of a general meeting. Subject to rules 8[3] and 11[1], the notice shall state the date and time when and the place where the meeting is to be held and the business to be transacted at the meeting.

5. No business other than that stated in the notice of the meeting or such business as, in the opinion of the chairman of the meeting, is urgent shall be transacted at a special general meeting.
6. At a general meeting any thirty members of the Club shall form a quorum.
7. At a general meeting the Chairman of the Club or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairman of the Club or, if both are absent, another Officer selected by the meeting, shall be chairman of the meeting and shall have a casting vote.
8. Subject to rules 8[3] and 10[1], any member of the Club who is absent from a general meeting may vote upon any business stated in the notice of the meeting by letter to be received by the Secretary at least 24 hours before that business is voted upon at the meeting. Proxy votes are not allowed.

#### 7. Judges

1. The Secretary shall keep a list of judges approved to officiate at shows (hereinafter called "the List").
2. Any person may apply for inclusion in the List provided that he/she fulfils the relevant criteria. The Committee, having assessed the experience, theoretical knowledge and practical capability of the applicant will direct that the name of the applicant be added to the appropriate List. The Secretary shall comply with any such direction forthwith.
3. No guarantee or trophy shall be offered at any show unless the name of the judge appointed for that show is on the List.
4. The Committee may at any time remove a name from the List if in its opinion it is no longer desirable that the name should be included.

#### 8. Expulsion of Member

1. Any member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42j (4) and/or any member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A42j (8) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Club for the duration of the suspension and/or disqualification.
2. If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Club, be injurious or likely to 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 passing a resolution to expel him/her.
3. 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 Club except that he/she may, within two calendar months from the date of such meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such condition as the Kennel Club may impose.

#### 9. Federations

The Club shall not join any federation of societies or clubs.

#### 10. Dissolution

1. If at any general meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Club is passed by a majority of members of the Club present and voting and at a special general meeting held not less than six weeks thereafter, at which not less than half the members of the Club ordinarily resident in the British Isles are present, that resolution is confirmed by a majority of two-thirds of the members of the Club present and voting, the Committee shall thereupon or at such later date as shall be specified in the resolution proceed to realise the property of the Club and after the discharge of all liabilities of the Club shall divide the proceeds rateably in proportion to the

amount each member of the Club has paid in subscriptions in the current year among the members of the Club, save that each trophy which is the property of the Club shall become the property of the member who has won it most often or, if more than one member has won it an equal number of times, the member who has won it most recently and upon the completion of the division the Club shall be dissolved.

2. If the Club is wound up or ceases to be registered a final statement of audited accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Club shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the Club on the last return furnished to the Kennel Club will be held responsible for the proper winding up of the Club

#### 11. Alteration and Interpretation of Rules: Questions

1. These rules may be revoked or amended by resolution at a general meeting carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members of the Club voting thereon and not otherwise, but no such resolution shall have effect until the approval of the Kennel Club to the alteration shall have been given. The notice of the general meeting shall, in addition to the matters specified in rule 6[4], state details of the proposed alteration.
2. The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Club in all cases relative to canine or Club matters.

#### 12. Annual Return to the Kennel Club

1. The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Secretary for continuance of Registration and that by 31st July each year other returns, as stipulated in Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities, be forwarded to the Kennel Club.
2. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any changes of Secretary of the Club which may occur during the course of the year.
3. Assets - Trophies Donors of trophies and cups will be required to acknowledge in writing that the gift is made outright to the Club.

#### 14. Legal Liability

1. It is a condition of attending events organised by the Club that the attendee is responsible for any damage howsoever caused by the attendee or any person accompanying the attendee to the event (this includes children) to any property or article owned, leased, hired or otherwise the responsibility of the Club.
2. The Club will not accept responsibility for damage to, loss or theft of personal property within the vicinity of a function run by the Club, howsoever caused.

#### 15. Branches/Sections

1. Regional activities may be organised by registered Branches of the Club, where these exist.
2. The Working Section will organise events in the specific areas of interest indicated by its title.
3. Branches will be required to observe the Club's Rules for Branches.

#### 16. Commencement

These rules shall come into force on 9 June 2007, whereupon the Rules of the English Shetland Sheepdog Club previously in force shall be revoked without affecting the validity of anything done under and in accordance with those rules.

09/06/2007