



CONSTITUTION

OBJECTIVES:

1. To encourage people to work their sled dog in the pursuits for which they were intended.
2. The cooperation of owners and sled dog lovers for the good of the dogs, the exchange of views and information on all subjects appertaining to the dogs.
3. sled dogs participating in the events organised by the Sled Dog Association of Scotland should be as follows : Registered with the UK Kennel Club (or the accepted international equivalent) and one of the following breeds :-
Alaskan Malamute
Canadian Eskimo / Greenland Dog
Samoyed
Siberian Husky
Or any of the above, holding a recognised breed club welfare number.
Or Fall within the "Open" group as defined in the Code of Ethics.

DEFINITION OF A SLED DOG:

The definition of a sled dog shall be:-

" A dog which demonstrates a willingness to be harnessed and the desire and ability to participate in the activity for which it is harnessed, and which it is adequately trained and conditioned for such activity"

COMMITTEE

1. The management of the Association shall be in the hands of the committee consisting of the Chairperson (elected annually by the committee). Secretary, Treasurer and a minimum of 3 other members. There will be a maximum of 10 members including officers.
2. All committee members shall retire biannually but shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. The Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary shall retire annually but also be eligible for re-election.
3. Meetings of the committee shall be held quarterly or as may additionally be necessary and should consist of a quorum of 5.
4. The chairperson has the deciding vote in the event of a split committee vote.
5. Committee shall be elected by means of show of hands or ballot papers (Those standing for election may choose) at the AGM including votes by proxy from absent members.
6. All committee shall have the right to vote.
7. The secretary and treasurer will be elected by the committee.
8. SDAS committee members are entitled to free membership due to the commitment expected and roles carried out during term of role.
9. Any committee member found to be working against the best interests of the club and its members may be expelled from the committee following a vote by the officers and committee members. The expelled committee member's membership will be considered as lapsed unless their membership fee is subsequently paid.

MEMBERSHIP

- 1.** Anyone interested in sled dogs and sled dog pursuits is eligible to become a member.
- 2.** Annual membership fees shall be sent to the membership secretary by 1st December of each year. If membership fees remain unpaid after 15th January the committee shall have the power to erase the member from the list of members, but if the committee shall subsequently receive satisfactory explanation and payment the member may be re admitted to the membership.

FEES/JOINT MEMBERSHIP/JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP.

- 1.** Fees are as follows:-
 - i.** Single membership will be £15.00
 - ii.** a partnership (2) is eligible for joint membership at a subscription of £ 20.00. Each partner being eligible to vote at meetings.
 - iii.** A young person under the age of 16 is eligible for membership at a subscription of £6.00. Provided Parents/Guardians are members of the SDAS. Juniors are ineligible to vote at meetings.
 - iv.** A family membership, 2 adults and 2 children (under the age of 16). For membership at a subscription of £28.00. Both adult members in the family being eligible to vote at meetings. Junior members of the family are not eligible to vote.
- 2.** Membership fees may be amended at the AGM.
- 3.** Minutes of the AGM and Committee meetings will be made available on the SDAS Website.

GENERAL MEETINGS

- 1.** The annual General Meeting will be held on the Saturday afternoon of the last event of the Season each year and will cover the following:
 - i.** The election of Officers and committee.
 - ii.** Rules of the Association.
 - iii.** Financial Matters/Membership fees
 - iv.** Any other competent business.
- 2.** Members will receive seven weeks' notice of an Annual General Meeting to allow Agenda circulation and registration of proxy votes as laid out in 3.
- 3.** Amendments to the Associations Rules can be made at an AGM or SGM without the requirement of a subsequent postal ballot, with the proviso that members be given the opportunity well ahead of the meeting, to submit items for inclusion in the agenda. The aforementioned Agenda will be circulated throughout the membership prior to the meeting to allow those not able to attend to register their votes by proxy.
- 4.** Any alterations to rules passed at the AGM or SGM shall not be brought into force until the association has been advised.

ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS

- 1.** A bank account shall be opened in the name of the association into which all revenue of the association shall be paid and from which withdrawal shall only be made on the signature of either of two officers authorised by the committee to do so one of whom shall be the treasurer, and the officers authorised to manage the bank account shall be able to operate and access online banking.
- 2.** The account shall be kept by the treasurer, and if requested by a simple majority of members present at the AGM auditors may be appointed who shall audit the Associations Accounts for the ensuing year before the AGM.

ASSOCIATION PROPERTY

- 1.** The property of the association shall be vested in the officers and in the event of the association ceasing to exist, a general meeting shall be called and the assets shall be disposed of on the decision of the existing committee.
- 2.** All trophies and cups accepted by the association must be an outright gift to the association. Cups will be returned to the donator or sponsor in the event of the association ceasing to exist.

Ethical Principles

Ethical principles:

The responsibility for a dog starts on the first day of ownership and lasts until the end of its life. The life expectancy of a healthy, medium to large dog averages between 12 to 14 years.

The top priority is to preserve and promote the physical and psychological health of the dog. In addition to the basic needs for food, care and exercise, it is important to provide an environment free of abuse and violence.

In addition to the basic needs of food, care and exercise are considered to be normal behaviours for having a dog, along with non-violent occurrences with the dog

Regular health checks, vaccinations and treatment of internal and external parasites are part of responsible dog ownership. Care must be adapted to the dog's natural needs and both social and psychological stimulation is important for maintaining physical and mental health.

When deciding how many dogs to own, it is important to consider how much money and time can be dedicated, and what zoning laws and living situation will allow. Keeping kennels the size one can care for properly will allow to avoid future problems.

The basic education of each dog is important for its welfare and safety.

Runs or pens must be large enough to allow dogs to perform most behaviors that are typical of their species. Good weather protection must be provided. Tethering is illegal and violates the Animal Protection Act.

The dog or dogs should have his/her kennel area accessible with the ability for he/she to move around accordingly and be able to stay occupied. The dog's urge to move, the ability to learn and the other ways of a dog's being must be encouraged and supported.

Along with that, a dog must have plenty of activities to get sufficient exercise; for example letting the dog free run. For this purpose, the activities mentioned above, should be put as a standard for the basic training for a dog.

An excellent way of staying busy and active is the sled dogging sport as well as the various other possibilities of dog sports in general.

It is important to properly train and condition dogs and never push them to perform beyond their capabilities. Usage of performance-enhancing drugs and harmful training methods are strictly prohibited.

A responsible Musher will participate in events only with healthy, well trained and conditioned dogs. Ambition or financial motives should never overrule animal welfare.

Above all, it is unthinkable to shorten the life of a dog for financial reasons, lack of space or because the animal's performance is not up to expectations.

The killing of vertebrates is regulated by the Animal Protection Act of each country and clearly prohibits killing for above reasons.

Ethical people will grant their dog a pleasant last stage of life according to its age and health. This demonstrates their gratitude towards the animal for being a reliable friend and partner over many years.

Dog Transportation Guidelines

Dog transport guidelines vers. 1.1

The size of the crates in which the dogs are being transported in is generally based on the size of the dogs. Dogs must be able to stand, lay down lengthwise and rotate. If two dogs are being transported in the same crate, the width of the box must be adjusted. The crate must be ventilated properly. Wire mesh crates that are open on all sides are not allowed. Top, bottom and three sides of a crate should always be closed. If single dogs are being transported, for example, in the rear of an estate car, wire mesh crates are allowed. When planning the construction of crates remember that bedding has to be added, which will reduce the standing height. The bedding / litter should be clean and dry and must be changed after soiling.

If a trailer is being used, make sure that the opening to the outside is protected from spray and rainwater and that the dogs are not exposed to direct wind. The exhaust fumes from the towing vehicle must be guided so that they cannot penetrate into the trailer. The crates must be reasonably well ventilated.

EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- 1.** If the conduct of any Member shall, in the opinion of the committee of the association, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the association, the committee of the association may at a meeting determine that a special general meeting of the association shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.
- 2.** Notice of the special general meeting shall be sent to the accused member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising of the place date and hour of the meeting.
- 3.** 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 be erased from the list of members for one year.

Children and Vulnerable Adults; Protection Policy

See Website to download policies

<http://sleddogassociationofscotland.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/cocstaffvolunteers.pdf>

http://sleddogassociationofscotland.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/coc_parentscarers.pdf

http://sleddogassociationofscotland.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/coc_children.pdf

http://sleddogassociationofscotland.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/child_protection_policy_statement.pdf