

# THE ASSOCIATION OF BLOODHOUND BREEDERS (Founded 1897) INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

## Contents

A Brief History

Rules and Regulations

The Association and its Affairs

The Kennel Club Standard of the Breed Code of Ethics

Acknowledgements

## A Brief History

In March 1897 Edgar Farman, a London solicitor and a Member of the Kennel Club, sent a letter to Bloodhound breeders, owners and exhibitors, and to the Press, headed 'Proposed Association of Bloodhound Breeders'. In his letter Mr Farman referred to the initiative of Mr Mark Beaufoy 11 years earlier, which did not attract sufficient support, and set out a list of objectives that such an Association would have. He advised that a meeting had been arranged for 6.30 p.m. on the 12th April; 1897 at the Kennel Club, and added that he hoped interested parties would attend and support the proposal.

At the meeting between 20 and 30 owners said they would join, and elected Mr Edwin Brough, a well known authority on Bloodhounds, to be the new Association's first Chairman, and Mr Farman to be Secretary.

By the end of 1898 the Association was well established with 42 Members, having increased the support for Shows and made a successful and well publicised debut into Field Trials. Mr A Croxton- Smith had joined the Executive to be Treasurer.

The first Field Trials were held in October 1898 but support for the Trials was slow to build up as most bloodhound owners were more interested in showing. However, entries gradually improved and the first Kennel Club Field Trial Championship Certificate was awarded in 1900. In 1909 the Association introduced the award of Certificates, which stated the time and distance of a Trial, for presentation to the owner of a bloodhound performing meritorious work in 'hunting the clean boot'. By

1911 Trials were receiving very much better support and in 1912 a six hour cold Trial attracted an entry of 6 hounds.

During the First World War the breed suffered a considerable setback and was slow to recover. The activities of the Association were halted entirely only in 1918 and 1919, but it was not until 1922 that Field Trials could be re-started. At this time, in contrast to earlier years, the enthusiasm of the Members was mainly for Field Trials, while entries for Shows were disappointing.

The Second World War was very much more serious, not just for the Association, but for the breed generally, and it was mainly the determined efforts of the Chairman, Mr Wilfred Unwin, together with the Secretary and Treasurer, Mr FC Harrison, and a handful of other Members, that ensured continuity of the breed and the Association.

Field Trials were started again in 1950 and then as Members developed an interest in dual activities, the Association organised its first Open Show in 1979, and first Championship Show in 1982.

The number of Bloodhounds in the country has never been very large and Membership of the Association did not exceed 70 until the mid 1950's. The number of Members then increased steadily and the present Membership is about 200.

## RULES and REGULATIONS

### Name and Objects

1. The Society shall be named The Association of Bloodhound Breeders and its Objects shall be:-

1. 1.1 To foster the interests of the Breed generally.
2. 1.2 To approach Show Committees with the view of obtaining extended classification in the Bloodhound classes.
- 1.3 To offer prizes for competition at Shows in addition to those offered by Show

Committees.

1.4 To do everything possible to promote by Trials or otherwise the training of Bloodhounds to hunt man.

### Members

2. The Association shall consist of an unlimited number of Honorary Members, Members, and Joint Members, who shall be persons interested in the promotion of the breeding and training of Bloodhounds, whose names and addresses shall be entered in a register kept by the Secretary and available for inspection if so requested by the Members or by the Kennel Club.

### Honorary Members

3. The Committee shall have power to elect as Honorary Members any person whose election may be considered beneficial to the interests of the Association, Honorary Members to be exempt from paying the Annual Subscription.

### Subscriptions

4. Annual Subscriptions, as fixed by an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting, shall be payable on the first day of January each year.

### Members in Arrear

5. No Member shall be allowed to vote or compete for Association Prizes, or in any way whatsoever enjoy any of the privileges of membership, whilst that Member's current subscription and any other debts due by that Member to the Association are outstanding, and for which application has been made.

6. The Committee shall have the power to erase the name from the Register of Members of any Member whose subscription remains unpaid on the twenty eighth day of February of the current year, and application for payment has been made previous to that date.

#### Executive

7. The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by a committee of eleven which include a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary, duly elected by the Committee to serve in these capacities. All Officers of the Association shall be honorary, and no Member shall be allowed to make the Association a means of private speculation or trade, or derive money profit through it.

8. No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any other office or appointment within the Association.

#### Election of Committee and Officers

9. The Committee shall elect its Officers annually from among its members. All Committee Members shall be subject to ballot by the membership on a three-year rota, one third of the Committee to retire annually. Nominations may be made for the vacancies each year but only full, paid up Members may serve on the Committee. All such nominations must be proposed and seconded by full Members, they must be in writing with the signatures of the Nominee signifying his or her willingness to serve, as well as those of the Proposer and Seconder. Nominations must be received at least three weeks before the advertised date of the Annual General Meeting. The Election shall take place by postal ballot, only one partner of the two permitted in a Joint Membership may vote and no Member may give more than one vote to any candidate.

#### Powers of the Committee

10. The management of the Association shall be wholly vested in the Committee, which shall have the power to call meetings of the Association, to make necessary Bye-Laws and to rescind the same, and to arbitrate in disputed matters. The Committee shall also have the sole power to deal with the property and funds of the Association in its absolute discretion, and to deal with any question or matter not provided for by these Rules, and to elect persons to fill up any vacancies occurring in its numbers, such persons to continue in office till the next Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall decide upon the value and nature of the prizes to be offered at the various Shows and Trials.

#### Meetings

11. There shall be a meeting of the Committee as often as deemed necessary; five shall form a quorum. There shall be meetings of Members of the Association; General, Special General, or other (ten non-committee members present shall form a quorum), as often as the Committee may deem necessary. A Special General Meeting must be summoned by the Secretary if 10% of the current membership sends a written and signed application for such a meeting, stating the subject to be discussed. Members concerned shall be notified by the Secretary, by pre-paid letter, of the place, date, and time of the meeting, fourteen days in advance. In the case of a Special General Meeting to consider expulsion, the Secretary shall take additional action under Rule 20.

#### Annual General Meeting

12. An Annual General Meeting shall be held at the earliest convenient date following the end of the calendar year, which is also the end of the Association's financial year, to consider the Report of the Committee, the past year's accounts, and to hear the results of any postal ballot for election of Members to the Committee and also to discuss any resolution notified to the Secretary and duly placed on the Agenda. In no case shall the Annual General Meeting be held later than the end of April each year. Notice of the Annual General Meeting will be served on all Members a minimum of eight weeks prior to the Meeting, and as agreed at the 2025 AGM may be held online , followed by the Agenda four weeks before the Meeting.

#### Minutes and Votes

13. The minutes of the proceedings of all meetings shall be kept, and the minutes of the last preceding meeting shall be read at the commencement of the next subsequent meeting, and be approved and confirmed by vote. Each full Member and each Joint Membership shall have one vote, and the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

#### Shows and Trials

14. The Association shall, if possible, promote and hold such Shows and Trials as the Committee may deem expedient, and either in or without connection with any other exhibition, as the Committee may direct.

#### Judges Lists

15. Lists of Bloodhound Trials Judges and Show Judges shall be prepared each year by secret ballot of the Committee and submitted to the Kennel Club as part of the Annual Returns. Members may nominate persons for inclusion in the ballot. The list shall be compiled in conformity with the Kennel Club rules then current.

#### Banking Account

16. A Banking Account shall be opened in the name of the Association, into which all revenue of the Association shall be paid, and from which withdrawals shall be made on the signature of two or more Officers.

#### Disbursement

17. All expenses incurred by the Secretary, Treasurer, or other members of the Committee, or by any Member for or on behalf of the Association, on the authority of the Committee, shall be defrayed out of the funds of the Association.

#### Report and Audit

18. A Financial Report, and the certified accounts of the Association, shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

#### Withdrawal from Membership

19. It shall be competent for any Honorary Member, or Member to withdraw from the Association on giving notice of that intention in writing to the Secretary, but any Member leaving the Association shall remain liable for all subscriptions not already paid, including that due for the current year, and shall not be entitled to receive back any money that may have been paid to, or on account of, the Association during Membership, or have any claim against the Association, except under Rule 17.

#### Expulsion

20. Any Member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42j (4) and/or disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A42j (8) shall, ipso facto, cease to be a Member of the Association for the duration of the suspension and/or disqualification.

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 the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the Member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Association shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel the Member.

Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused Member, giving particulars of the complaint and information as to the place, date and time of the Meeting so that the Member may attend and offer an explanation. If at that Meeting a resolution to expel is passed by a two-thirds

majority of the Members present and voting, the Member's name shall forthwith be erased from the Register of Members, and the person shall thereupon cease, for all purposes, to be a Member of the Association, except that the person may, within two calendar months from the date of such Meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose.

#### Notice

21. Notice of the convening of any meetings may be inserted in the 'Kennel Gazette', 'Dog World', or 'Our Dogs', or such other similar publication of which due notice is given to Members, and which shall thenceforth be deemed full and sufficient without notice in writing.

#### Service of Notices

22. A notice may be served by the Association upon any Member either personally or by sending it through the post in a prepaid letter addressed to such Member at the Member's registered place of address.

23. Any notices, if served by post, shall be deemed to have been served at the latest within seven days after the same shall have been posted, and in proving such services it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter containing the notice was properly addressed and put into a Post Office letter box.

24. With regard to those Members of the Association who have no registered address in the United Kingdom, a notice posted up in the office or residence of the Secretary for the time being, shall be deemed to be well served on them at the expiration of seven days after it is so posted up.

#### Winding Up

25. In the event of the Association ceasing to exist for any cause, all challenge cups and other trophies belonging to the Association, which have not been won outright at the time of winding up, shall be returned to the donors, their heirs, executors or assigns, or otherwise disposed of at the discretion of the Committee. Trophies purchased by the Association shall be sold or disposed of as the Committee may decide and any remaining assets, after all liabilities have been discharged, shall be given to the Animal Health Trust. The Kennel Club

shall be notified and supplied with a final statement of account and a record of the disposal of property within six months.

#### Federation of Clubs

26. The Association shall not join a Federation of any other Clubs or Societies.

#### Alteration of Rules

27. The Rules of the Association may not be altered except at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting. Such alterations shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and given its approval of them.

#### Kennel Club Affiliation

28. The Association is affiliated to the Kennel Club which requires 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, be forwarded to the Kennel Club. The Association also has the duty to inform the Kennel Club of any changes of Secretary of the Association which may occur during the course of the year. The Kennel Club shall be the final court of appeal in all matters of dispute.

## The Association and its Affairs

### Organisation

The management of the Association is vested in the Committee of 11, including Chairman, Vice-Chairman with administration being carried out by the permanent officials, who are the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer. Certain Committee Members are responsible for organising and running the Shows, and the Bloodhound Trials, and for the magazine, sales of insignia and other items, and Cup and Trophy records.

### Application for Membership

#### Magazine

A magazine is issued twice a year, Summer and Winter, and sent free of charge to all Members. Every effort is made to put out an informative, interesting, and readable magazine but it is also the main method of communication between the Executive and the Membership and so contains official notices, and Bloodhound Trials and Show results.

#### Sales

There are always items of insignia, training books and other publications, and various goods for sale. A full list of these is given in the magazine and any item can be obtained from the Committee member responsible for sales, or at most Shows.

#### Welfare Fund

The Association administers a Fund set up to benefit Bloodhounds who are in need. Voluntary contributions from Members, and cash received from fund raising activities, maintain the Fund which is available for rescue, veterinary fees, accommodation and food.

The very high standard of responsibility of Members, particularly the breeders, ensures that the Fund is called upon only when really necessary.

### Judges Lists

Lists of Show Judges and Bloodhound Trials Judges are maintained during the year. At the end of every year these Lists fall in their entirety and are replaced by new lists compiled by appropriate sub Committee.

Members are invited, through the magazine, to submit names for inclusion or updated CV.

The Show Judges List is sent to the Secretaries of Championship Shows which offer Kennel Club Challenge Certificates for the Breed.

## Promotions

### Shows

The Association organises and runs its own Open Show and Championship Show each year, usually in April and September respectively. Kennel Club Challenge Certificates are on offer at the Championship Show.

There are several other major Championship Shows throughout the country at which Kennel Club Challenge Certificates are also on offer.

### Bloodhound Trials

Every year the Association holds two, four day, Championship Bloodhound Trials, one in the Spring and the other in the Autumn. There are also three Advanced Limited Stakes which are run during the Winter months. The locations for all these activities vary considerably and may be anywhere in Great Britain depending on where land can be obtained at the time. There is also a Veteran Stake for hounds over seven years of age who have retired from Bloodhound Trials.

At the Championship Bloodhound Trials there are Novice, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Open Stakes. A Kennel Club Bloodhound Trials Certificate is on offer for the winner of the Senior (Open) Stake.

Brough Cup:- Hounds obtaining 1st or 2nd place in the Senior Stake at the Association's Spring and Autumn Trials may compete for the Brough Cup on lines 6 hours cold.

Bracken Trophy:- The winner of the Brough Cup and hounds awarded a Certificate of Merit in that stake, along with Working Trial Champions by invitation, may compete for the Bracken Trophy on lines 12 hours cold.

Marlwood Beaker:- The winner of the Brough Cup, the winner of the Bracken Trophy and hounds awarded a Certificate of Merit in that stake, along with Working Trial Champions by invitation, may compete for the Marlwood Beaker on lines 24 hours cold.

### Training

Training Days are held in various parts of the country at suitable times of the year so that Members can obtain practice and advice in hunting their hounds.

To qualify for entry into the Novice Stake at a Championship Bloodhound Trial, hounds must

have been awarded a Working Permit which can be tried for at an official Training Day or by private arrangement with the Bloodhound Trial Secretary.

Line walkers

## The Kennel Club Standard of the Breed

A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential. Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed. From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Kennel Club website for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure.

### General Appearance

Noble and dignified expression, characterised by solemnity, wisdom and power.

### Characteristics

Possesses in a most marked degree every point and characteristic of those dogs which hunt together by scent (Sagaces). Very powerful, standing over more ground than is usual with hounds of other breeds. Skin relatively loose.

### Temperament

Affectionate, neither quarrelsome with companions nor with other dogs. Somewhat reserved and sensitive.

### Head and Skull

Head narrow in proportion to length and long in proportion to body, tapering slightly from temples to muzzle, thus when viewed from above and in front having appearance of being flattened at sides and of being nearly equal in width throughout entire length. In profile upper outline of skull is nearly in same plane as that of foreface. Length from end of nose to stop not less than that from stop to back of occipital protuberance. Entire length of head from posterior part of occipital protuberance to end of muzzle 30 cms (12 ins) or more in dogs and 28 cms (11 ins) or more in bitches. Skull is long and narrow, with occipital peak pronounced. Brows not prominent. Sufficient stop. Foreface long, deep and of even width throughout, with square outlines when seen in profile. Head furnished with only a small amount of loose skin. Nostrils large and open. In front, lips fall squarely making a right angle with upper line of foreface.

### Eyes

Medium size, dark brown or hazel, neither sunken nor prominent, the lids being oval in shape and meeting the cornea – front window of the eye – perfectly without any irregularity in their contour. Eyes should be free from any interference from the eyelashes. Any obvious signs of eye irritation must be heavily penalised. The eyesight of the hound should be unimpeded.

### Ears

Thin and soft to the touch, long, set on low and falling in graceful folds, lower parts curling inwards and backwards.

## Mouth

Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

## Neck

Long

## Forequarters

Shoulders muscular and well sloped. Forelegs straight, large, round in bone with elbows well set in. Pasterns strong.

## Body

Ribs well sprung, chest well let down between forelegs forming a deep keel. Back and loins strong, the latter deep and slightly arched.

## Hindquarters

Thighs and second thighs very muscular. Hocks well let down, bent and squarely set.

## Feet

Strong and well knuckled up.

## Tail

(Stern) Long, thick, tapering to a point, set high with moderate amount of hair underneath. Carried scimitar-fashion, but not curled over back or corkscrew any time. When moving carried high.

## Gait/Movement

Elastic, swinging free.

## Coat

Smooth, short and weatherproof.

## Colour

Black and tan, liver and tan and red. Darker colours sometimes interspersed with lighter or badger-coloured hair and sometimes flecked with white. Small amount of white permissible on chest, feet and tip of tail.

## Size

Height of adult dogs: 66 cms (26 ins); bitches: 61 cms (24 ins). Dogs usually vary from 63-69 cms (25-27 ins); bitches from 58-63 cms (23-25 ins). Mean average weight of adult dogs in fair condition 41 kgs (90 lbs); bitches: 36 kgs (80 lbs). Dogs attain the weight of 50 kgs (110 lbs); bitches: 45.5 kgs (100 lbs). Hounds of the maximum height and weight preferred, providing that quality, proportion and balance combine.

## Faults

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.

## Note

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum

## Code of Ethics BLOODHOUNDS

All members of the Association of Bloodhound Breeders and the Bloodhound Club undertake to abide by this Code of Ethics

### Breed Club Members:

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon, who performs an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, may report such operations to the Kennel Club.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
12. Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
13. Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind.

Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as standalone items (not accompanying a dog).

14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.
15. No Member should breed a litter of Bloodhounds unless he/she has the facilities and time to devote proper care and attention to the rearing of the puppies and the well-being of the dam.
16. All breeding should be aimed at the improvement of the breed. Stud dogs should be in good health and free from hereditary defects. Bitches should not be bred from until they are mature, usually 2 years of age, and should be in good health and free from hereditary defects. Breeders are strongly advised to use all health scheme tests currently required or recommended for the Kennel Club Assured Breeder Scheme on all breeding stock
17. The Association of Bloodhound Breeders and the Bloodhound Club recognise the importance of the Kennel Club's Assured Breeder Scheme and recommend and encourage all breeders and owners to join the scheme.
18. Members should conduct themselves at all times in such a manner as to reflect credit on the Bloodhound and should demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times at competitive events.

Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from club membership, and / or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and / or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate.

#### Acknowledgements

The History of the Association was first published in the Kennel Gazette of April 1984.

The Standard of the Breed is published by kind permission of the Kennel Club.

F.W.D 1987

Revised 1992 Revised 1995 Revised 1997 Revised 1999 Revised 2000/1

Revised 2000/8

Revised 2002

Revised 2009/10 (Revised Kennel Club Breed Standard)

Revised 2012 (alteration to Rule 12) (inclusion of Code of Ethics)

Revised 2020 (Revised Kennel Club Breed Standard)

Revised Nov 2020 ( Addition to code ethics 16)

Revised May 2025 Option to hold AGM's online (rules & regs 12)