



Pilgrim Doberman Pinscher Club, Inc.

Constitution and Bylaws

# CONSTITUTION

## Article I

### Name and Objectives

#### Section 1

The name of the Club shall be Pilgrim Doberman Pinscher Club, Inc.

#### Section 2

The objectives of the Club shall be:

1. To promote the public's knowledge and appreciation of dogs in general and Doberman Pinschers in particular;
2. To produce, publish, and distribute to the general public educational materials about the proper care, treatment, breeding, health, development and training of Doberman Pinschers;
3. To support and promote study and research on the history, character, breeding, genetics and particular health problems of the Doberman Pinscher;
4. To further understanding of the disease, defects, injuries and other ailments that afflict dogs in general and the Doberman Pinscher in particular;
5. To acknowledge and advance the critical role of an AKC recognized chapter club in providing education, health research and support of rescue and reduction of overpopulation for the benefit of the general public, purebred dogs and Doberman Pinschers in particular;
6. To conduct activities including sporting events, sanctioned matches, specialty shows, obedience and tracking trials, Working Aptitude Tests, and other such activities and events as may be held under the rules of the American Kennel Club and the Doberman Pinscher Club of America, in furtherance of the above purposes;
7. To otherwise preserve and protect the Doberman Pinscher and to do all things possible to bring its natural qualities to perfect;
8. To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which the Doberman Pinscher shall be judged.

#### Section 3

1. The club 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 corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
2. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization 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 the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

#### Section 4

The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out these objectives. Such revisions will not become effective until approved by the D.P.C.A. Constitution Review Committee and/or the Officers and Directors of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America.

## BYLAWS

### Article I~ Membership

#### Section 1.

Eligibility. There shall be two types of membership, open to all persons eighteen years and older, who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club, the Doberman Pinscher Club of America, and every branch chapter of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America and who subscribes to the purposes of this Club.

- Regular Membership – Enjoys all club privileges including the right to vote and hold office. Regular Members shall participate in at least one (1) General Meeting and contribute to at least one (1) club event in the prior calendar year, or membership will be transferred from Regular Membership to Associate Membership.
- Associate Membership – Open to all persons who otherwise meet the requirements for active membership. Associate members shall pay dues and are entitled to all club privileges except voting and office holding. Because they are ineligible to vote, Associate Members will not count as part of the quorum and Associate Members shall not engage in discussion of a motion on the floor.

## Section 2.

Dues. Membership dues shall be set from time to time by the Board of Directors with the consent of the membership and entered into the minutes of the Club. Dues are payable on or before the first day of January of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. In the month of November, the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year.

## Section 3.

Election of Membership. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to this Constitution and Bylaws and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of two members. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues in payment for the current year. If a new member is approved within the months of October, November or December, the dues paid will carry forward through the next calendar year.

All applications are to be filed with the Corresponding Secretary and each applicant will be published in the meeting notice. Anyone wishing to comment on the application may do so by writing to the Corresponding Secretary within thirty (30) days from the meeting notice. Those applications will then be submitted to the Board of Directors and will be voted on. An application for membership which has received a negative vote by the Board may be presented by one of the applicant's endorsers at the next meeting of the Club and the Club may elect such applicant by favorable vote of 75% of the members present. Applicants will be notified in writing immediately after their election for membership. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not reapply within six (6) months after such rejection.

## Section 4.

Termination of Membership. Membership may be terminated:

- a) By Resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the Club, upon written notice to the Recording Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club and they become incurred on the first day of each calendar year.
- b) By Lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid thirty (30) days after the first day of January.
- c) By Expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of this Constitution and Bylaws.

## Article I ~ Meetings

### Section 1.

Club Meetings. Meetings of the Club shall be held in Massachusetts, in the months of January, March, May, July, September and November in each year, at such hour and place as may be designated by the President. Six meetings will be held annually, which can be conducted in person or through Zoom or conference call. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed or emailed by the Corresponding Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum of such meetings shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

### Section 2.

Special Club Meetings. Special Club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board, or by the Corresponding Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five (5) members of the Club who are in good standing. Such Special Meetings shall be held in Massachusetts, and at such hour and place as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such meetings shall be mailed or emailed by the Corresponding Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting. 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% of the members in good standing.

### Section 3.

Board Meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in Massachusetts, in the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December in each year at such date and time and place designated by the President. Six meetings will be held annually, which can be conducted in person or through Zoom or conference call. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed or emailed by the Corresponding Secretary at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be the majority of the Board.

The Board of Directors may conduct its business by mail, facsimile transmission, and electronic process or by telephone conference call by the President. The Recording Secretary shall attest to the results of balloting by conference call. In the event that the Recording Secretary is unavailable, the President shall appoint an acting secretary for the conference call.

As a condition precedent to the conduct of business through electronic process, the Board shall adopt the following procedures with respect to the conduct of such business:

- a. That every Board member shall be enabled to participate in the electronic conduct of such business;
- b. The verification of the identity of the participants in such electronic conduct of such business to determine that the participant is a Board member eligible to participate in the electronic conduct of such business;

- c. The verification that the Board members eligible to participate in the electronic conduct of such business are receiving all data and information that is disseminated through the electronic process;
- d. That all Board members have agreed to the conduct of such business through electronic process.

#### Section 4.

Special board Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by the Corresponding Secretary upon receipt of a written petition signed by at least two (2) members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held at a location convenient for the Board members and at such hour and place as may be designated by the person herein authorized to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed or emailed by the Corresponding Secretary at least three (3) days and not more than five (5) prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. A quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

#### Section 5.

Voting. Each member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club at which he is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any Club meeting or election.

#### Section 6.

Procedure of Meetings. All meetings and parliamentary procedures shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of "Robert's Rules of Order\*", unless this is in conflict with the requirements of this Constitution and Bylaws, in which case the Constitution and Bylaws shall take precedence.

### Article III ~ Officers and Board of Directors

#### Section 1.

Board of Directors. The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice president, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, DPCA Delegate, and three (3) other persons, all of whom shall be elected for a two-year term at the Club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

#### Section 2.

Officers. The Club's Officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Club and its meetings and with the Board and its meetings.

- a) The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant of the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in this Constitution and Bylaws.
- b) The Vice President shall have the powers and exercise the duties of the President in case of the President's death, absence, or incapacity.
- c) The Recording Secretary prepares and maintains the records of the Club, and directs all inquiries to the appropriate Officer or committee chairperson, although the various Officers and committee chairpersons may be contacted directly. S/he keeps a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses.
- d) The Corresponding Secretary is in charge of the general correspondence of the Club. S/he answers letters requesting information, notifying Officers and Directors of their election to office, receives and processes all applications for membership and, following approval of an applicant by the Board, provides new members with the membership package.
- e) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the club and receipt therefore. S/he shall deposit the same in a bank, satisfactory to the Board, in the name of the Club. The books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Board and she shall report to them at every meeting of the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported. At the annual meeting s/he shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year.
- f) The DPCA Delegate shall be an active member of the DPCA and serve on the Executive Committee of the DPCA for the ensuing year. The DPCA Delegate shall serve on the Board of Directors and have on vote thereon. The Delegate shall attend the annual meeting of the DPCA Delegates, and shall represent the Club in such votes as may come before that group. The Delegate shall be elected for a one two-year term and there shall be no limitation on the number of consecutive terms s/he may serve if elected by the membership. The Delegate shall hold no other position as an Officer or Board member of the Club.

### Section 3.

Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the Officers during the year shall be filled for the unexpired term of the office, by a majority vote of all the then members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

## Article IV ~The Club Year - Annual Meeting - Elections

### Section 1.

The club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of October and end on the 30th day of September.

## Section 2.

Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall be held in the month of September on such a date, place and hour designated by the Board of Directors, which if possible, will be held in conjunction with a Designated Specialty Show. The Directors and Officers for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret written 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 thirty (30) days after the election.

## Section 3.

Elections. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The nominated DPCA Delegate and Alternate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected. The three (3) nominated candidates for the other positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

- a) An Alternate Delegate's duties shall be to act for said duly elected Delegate as a fully privileged and duly accredited member of the Executive Committee of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America. Such Alternate Delegate shall have the right to vote in place of the regularly elected Delegate in said Delegate's absence.

## Section 4.

Nominations. No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. During the month of April the Board shall select a nominating committee consisting of five (5) members and two (2) alternates, not more than one (1) of whom may be a member of the Board. The Corresponding Secretary shall immediately notify the committee and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a chairperson for the committee whose duty shall be to call a committee meeting to be held on or before June first.

- a) The committee shall nominate one (1) candidate for each office, three (3) candidates for the three (3) positions on the Board, DPCA Delegate and DPCA Alternate, and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nomination to the Corresponding Secretary in writing.
- b) Upon receipt of the nominating committee's report, the Corresponding Secretary shall before June fifteenth notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- c) Additional nominations may be made at the July meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when the nomination is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the proposer shall present to the Recording Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying the willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position and additional nominations which are provided for herein may be made only from among those members who have not accepted a nomination of the nominating committee.



- d) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting nor in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

## Article V ~ Committees

### Section .1

The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows and obedience 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 in particular projects. Show Chairs and members of their immediate families will not exhibit any dogs at the dog show in which they are Show Chair.

### Section 2.

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

### Section 3.

The President shall appoint an auditing committee and an audit shall be made prior to the election of new officers. An auditing committee may be called by the President at any time.

## Article VI ~ Discipline

### Section 1.

American Kennel Club Suspension. Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club shall automatically be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period.

### Section 2.

Charges. Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Corresponding Secretary together with a deposit of ten (\$10) dollars which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing. The Corresponding 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 of a hearing by the Board not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Corresponding Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges 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/her own defense and bring witnesses if one wishes.

### Section 3.

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, suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing. And, if it deems that the punishment is sufficient, 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 one's fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting which considers the Board's recommendation. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Corresponding Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary in turn shall notify each of the parties of the Board's decision and penalty, if any.

### Section 4.

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 3 of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within sixty (60) days but not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing on one's own behalf though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak on his/her own behalf if desired. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board suspension shall stand.

## Article VII ~ Amendments

### Section 1.

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed to the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Recording Secretary signed by 20% of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such a petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the corresponding Secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the petition was received by the Recording Secretary.

### Section 2.

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting. Such amendments shall not become effective until

approved by the D.P.C.A. Constitution Review Committee and/or the Officers and Board of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America.

## Article VIII ~Dissolution

### Section 1.

Dissolution. The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the members.

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or 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 disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization 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.

## Article IX ~ Order of Business

### Section 1.

At meetings of the Club, the order of business so far as the character and nature of the meetings may permit, shall be as follows:

- ROLL CALL
- MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
- REPORT OF BOARD
- REPORT OF PRESIDENT
- REPORT OF RECORDING SECRETARY
- REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
- REPORT OF TREASURER
- REPORT OF COMMITTEES
- ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD (ANNUAL MEETING)
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- NEW BUSINESS
- ADJOURNMENT

### Section 2.

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

- READING OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
- REPORT OF SECRETARIES
- REPORT OF TREASURER
- REPORT OF COMMITTEES
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS  
NEW BUSINESS  
ADJOURNMENT

## Article X

### Section 1.

The members of this Club are also subject to and regulated by the provisions of the Constitutions and Bylaws of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America, anything to the contrary in this Constitution and Bylaws notwithstanding.

In as much as our parent organization, Doberman Pinscher Club of America, has included us in a 501(c) 3 group exemption recognition before the IRS, we acknowledge our responsibility to make annual information reports pertaining to our continued good standing. We further agree to adhere to their specific policies related to the 501(c)(3) status that in their judgment keeps this status well maintained. While we reserve the right to challenge any such policy that may be established, we will inform them of such action in writing 30 days prior to any implementation on our part.

**Amended:** January 22, 1972  
September ,1 1976  
May 5, 1982  
March 7, 1984  
January 2, 198x  
April 24, 2006  
January 24, 2025

Name of Organization (As shown in organizing document) Pilgrim Doberman Pinscher Club, Inc.

Date January 24, 2025

Adopted: January 24, 2025

Signature of Officer\_\_\_\_\_

Type or Print Name and Title

Recording Secretary

Signature of Officer\_\_\_\_\_

Type or Print Name and Title

Director