

# The Sirius Working Dog Association

## ASSOCIATION BYLAWS 2006

### ARTICLE I NAME AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1 The name of this organization is The Sirius Working Dog Association, hereinafter referred to as The Association and/or SWDA.

Section 2 The objectives of The Association are:

- (a) To promote the goals and foster the growth of Landesverband DVG America (LV DVG America) as an active member Club of the Deutscher Verband Gebrauchshundsportvereine (DVG) and the North Kreisgruppen of LV DVG America.
- (b) To sponsor trials, seminars and special events that promote and award certifications, sanctioned titles and degrees that recognize the level of achievement attained by participating trainers and dog/handler teams.
- (c) To demonstrate to the general public through participation in these trials, seminars and special events the benefit to society of ownership and the appropriate training and development of the innate capabilities of the Working Dogs.
- (d) To promote excellence in the training and exhibiting of the Working dog breeds in the dog sports that are suited to them. These include but are not limited to agility, herding, ring sport, tracking, obedience and in particular the sport of Schutzhund.
- (e) The Association will be operated as a Non-Profit organization and will rely solely on the contributions of its members and friends and the proceeds of sponsored events to carry out its purpose.

## **ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1 The following membership categories shall be offered and apply to both Individual and Family Memberships as defined below. Membership is open to all individuals duly elected by a vote of the club.

1. SWDA/DVG Members. These are SWDA members that have joined Deutscher Verband der Gebrauchshundsprotvereline (DVG). They shall be entitled to vote, hold office and benefit in all advantages of this association.
2. SWDA Members. Individuals who have been members of SWDA for less than twelve (12) months and thus, have not yet joined DVG. They shall not be entitled to hold office or vote on anything other than SWDA matters.
3. Prospective Members. Members who have paid the \$25.00 evaluation fee and are actively involved in club activities for 3 months prior to membership review by full club members. The prospective member is not entitled to hold any office or vote on any matter.
4. Junior SWDA/DVG Members: SWDA/DVG members under the age of 18 years who has a club sponsor who is a FULL SWDA/DVG member. Junior members are not entitled to hold office, nor can they vote.
5. Junior SWDA Members: Individuals under the age of 18 years who have been members of SWDA for less than twelve (12) months and thus, have not yet joined DVG. They must also have a club sponsor who is a FULL SWDA/DVG member. Junior members are not entitled to hold office, nor can they vote.

INDIVIDUAL Membership is defined as a person who is actively training a working dog. Individual members are entitled to all of the privileges of membership and have a single vote at Club business meetings. The term of membership is one year.

FAMILY Membership is defined as all adult members of the same family all living under the same roof and actively training one Working dog. Family members are entitled to all of the privileges of membership but share a single vote at Club business meetings. The term of membership is one year.

MEMBERSHIP CAP: In order to meet the training needs of all involved in The Association, membership numbers will be limited to 40 dog members with the exception of the following:

- a) An existing Human member in good standing acquires one or more new dogs.

All membership categories must meet their financial obligations to The Association in a timely manner as described in Article VI.

### **ARTICLE III CLUB OFFICERS**

Section 1 (a) The Officers of The Association shall consist of:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Training Director

- Section 2 (a) Duties of the Officers  
The duties of all Officers shall be carried out in compliance with the organization and delegation processes of DVG LV America and DVG where they are not specifically addressed in these bylaws.
- (b) The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board and the membership, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office as a President of a member club of DVG LV America in addition to those particularly specified in these by-laws.
- (c) The Vice President shall have the powers and exercise the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence or incapacity. The Vice President shall assume the office of President for the unexpired term in case of the President's removal, resignation, death or inability to serve. The Vice President shall also perform those duties that are assigned by the President or the Board.
- (d) The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Board and membership. The minutes of all meetings shall be emailed to the board members, and/or membership prior to any meeting of the board and/or the board and the membership. The secretary shall have charge of the correspondence of The Association, notify the board and members of meetings, notify officers and directors of their election to office, maintain a roll of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of active members, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these by-laws, and may be prescribed by the Board.

- (e) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to The Sirius Working Dog Association. The Treasurer shall deposit all moneys received in a bank designated by the Board in the Name of The Sirius Working Dog Association no later than the second business day after the moneys are received. The Sirius Working Dog Association records kept by the Treasurer shall be opened to inspection of the board and the Treasurer shall report to the Board, at every meeting the condition of The Sirius Working Dog Association's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported. The Treasurer shall prepare a financial statement and balance sheet for the Annual report, which will be published following the Annual Meeting each year. Two of the three Board members as designated by the Board of directors must sign any payments made by check. The books of The Sirius Working Dog Association shall be audited by a Public Accountant at the discretion of the Board.
  
- (f) The Sirius Working Dog Association Training Director shall preside over all trials, training seminars and training sessions to ensure that all activities are conducted in a safe manner and in compliance with local and/or state laws. The training Director shall be certified within one year of The Association's existence and perform the duties required by the Training Director Certification program of LV DVG America. The Training Director shall also perform those duties, which may be assigned by the President or the Board.

#### **ARTICLE IV ELECTIONS**

##### Section 1

- (a) Officers are elected at the Annual Meeting at the beginning of the year for a minimum term of one year. An annual vote will be held by all members in attendance for all positions of the board whether there is a vacancy or not.
  
- (b) Officers who allow more than 12 consecutive weeks to pass without contact or training with the club will be asked to relinquish their position. The position will be reassigned by majority vote at a general membership meeting as soon as possible after the 12 week period. The new officer will keep the position until the next election period.

## **ARTICLE V BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1 (a) The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of The Association, and the immediate past President.

## **ARTICLE VI DUES**

Section 1 (a) Annual dues and other assessments payable by members shall be set at the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors with the approval of a simple majority of the membership.

(b) Annual dues and other assessments determined as necessary at the annual meeting may be paid in full by January 31 of each year for the year's membership from January 1 through December 31, OR members may choose to make payment of half total dues by January 31 and balance of dues by July 31 of each year. Late payment for either period will result in a \$5.00 late fee. New Memberships will be pro-rated to the closest half.

## **ARTICLE VII APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1 (a) All applicants must receive the approval of the majority of the members present at a Club business meeting.

(b) All applicants must sign and waive any liability of The Association for loss or damages to any property while engaging in the sponsored activities of The Association as a condition of membership.

(c) All applicants must present proof of vaccination on all dogs involved in training, and provide copies of yearly boosters to the Secretary to keep on file. Copies to be provided with membership renewal by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Vaccinations are defined as dogs under the age of two years to have complete boosters as well as Rabies and Bordatella. Over two years Rabies and Bordatella are required, the remainder of vaccinations is at the discretion of the dog's owner, their veterinarian AND the club/sponsor of any trial or training event.

## **ARTICLE VIII AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1 (a) All matters and decisions affecting The Association and/or its members must be presented in a timely manner for resolution at an Association business meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX CLUB PROPERTY AND FINANCES**

- Section 1
- (a) All properties purchased for The Association will remain with The Association throughout the existence of The Association.
  - (b) Should the members of The Sirius Working Dog Association decide to disband and dissolve The Association, ALL properties will be sold. Proceeds from the sale of such properties will be divided equally between members who have at least one year continuous membership and who's dues are paid in full.
  - (c) The Association shall hold a Petty Cash fund of \$100.00 to be in the possession of the Secretary and/or Treasurer. Purchase amounts from \$200.00 to \$500.00 will require authorization of the Treasurer AND two additional board members NOT living in the same household. Purchase amounts exceeding \$500.00 will require a majority vote by members present at a training session or business meeting.

## **ARTICLE X EXPULSION**

- Section 1
- (a) The following are causes for expulsion:
    - 1) Any action by a member which discredits The Association.
    - 2) Behavior unbecoming a member and detrimental to the interests of The Association.
    - 3) Any instance of inhumane treatment of a dog at any function sponsored by The Association.
    - 4) Unsportsmanlike conduct at any event, seminar or training session sponsored by The Association.
  - (b) The board of Directors will be responsible on a case-by-case basis for judging these actions.
  - (c) The decision of the majority of the Board of Directors to expel a member is final.

## **ARTICLE XI MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE BYLAWS**

- Section 1
- (a) These Bylaws may be altered or rescinded and new Bylaws added only at Business meetings of The Association called for this specific purpose.
  - (b) All members of the Board of Directors must be present at business meetings for the specific purpose of modifying these Bylaws. A simple majority of the membership must also be present for a vote to be taken on modifications or additions to these Bylaws.
  - (c) Proposals for changes and/or additions to The Association Bylaws must be submitted to the Board of Directors for review prior to any Business meeting called for this purpose.

## **ARTICLE XII MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- Section 1
- (a) The membership will be given a minimum of ten days notice by phone, fax, email or mail of any Association Business meeting.
  - (b) Any member of the Board of Directors or member at large may request an Association Business meeting for a purpose stated in writing and submitted to The Association Secretary.
  - (c) The Association Annual Meeting will be held every year on a date agreeable to the majority of members between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> .