CONSTITUTION

Article I

Section 1. NAME. The name of this organization shall be Dogo Argentino Club of America (DACA).

Section 2. OBJECTIVES. The objectives of the DACA shall be:

a) To encourage high quality and responsible breeding of the Purebred Dogo Argentino and to do all that is possible to bring the form and function into the harmony in which it was originally created.

b) To encourage a spirit of fellowship and support among club members and the Dogo community.

c) To urge members and breeders to accept the Standard of the breed as approved by the The American Kennel Club as the only Standard of excellence by which the Dogo Argentino shall be judged.

d) To provide support, information and education on proper care for new puppies, new owners, rescue Dogos and aging Dogos, regardless whether the dog is a show, hunting or pet Dogo to both members, and non-members seeking assistance.

e) To conduct sanctioned matches, licensed events for which the club is eligible, under the AKC Rules and Regulations.

Section 3: FINANCIAL CONDUCT. The club shall not conduct or operate for profits and no part of any profits or remainder of residue from dues or donations shall inure to the benefit of any member(s) or individual(s). No part of the net earnings of the DACA shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the DACA Board of Directors and Officers 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 section 2 hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the DACA shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, DACA shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170( c ) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 4: CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS. The members of the Dogo Argentino Club of America shall adopt and may from time to time revise the Constitution as may be required to carry out the objectives of the organization.

Section 5: The Board of Directors of the Club may adopt standing rules as necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the Club. Such rules shall be consistent with these by laws.

BYLAWS

Article I: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: ELIGIBILITY. Membership is open to all individuals who subscribe to the objectives of the Dogo Argentino Club of America. There shall be four types of membership:

a) Family Membership. Open to individuals sharing the same household with or without children, or
other family members. Adult household members have individual voting privileges assuming they meet the age requirements for voting. The family will be sent an e-mail, providing them access to the quarterly Electronic Dogo Domain Newsletter.

b) Individual Membership. This is open to all individuals 18 years old or older. All members in good standing have the right to exercise voting. The individual will be sent an e-mail, providing them access to the quarterly Electronic Dogo Domain Newsletter.

c) International Membership. This is open to all individuals 18 years or older who reside outside the United States of America. As this is the Dogo Argentino of America, International members do not have voting rights, but are entitled to all other benefits of membership. The individual will be sent an e-mail, providing them access to the quarterly Electronic Dogo Domain Newsletter.

d) Honorary Membership. This is a non-voting membership that can be given under special circumstances to any individual proposed by any member to the Board of Directors and given majority Board approval. Honorary members receive all the same benefits as the other members. The Honorary Member will be send an e-mail, providing them access to the quarterly Electronic Dogo Domain Newsletter.

Section 2: Dues. All dues shall be payable upon expiration, with a grace period of 60 days, in the amount to be specified for the coming fiscal year by the Board of Directors. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. The applicant shall insure that the application is complete and legible. Accompanying the completed application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year. All dues shall be submitted to the treasurer. Dues are as follows:

a) Family Membership 1 year: $35.00    Family Membership 2 Year: $55.00
b) Individual Membership 1 Year: $30.00   Individual Membership 2 Year: $50.00
c) International Individual Membership: $30.00 per year
d) Honorary Membership: Free

Section 3: ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP

a) Each applicant for membership shall apply on the form approved by the Board of Directors available on the www.dogousa.org website. Each member should adhere to The Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club and AKC's Code of Sportsmanship.

b) Each applicant shall have a one-year probationary period, during which time they will not have voting rights. This probationary period may be waived, if you have two members of the DACA who are in good standing, send in references for you. These references may be written/typed, and mailed in, or sent electronically via e-mail.

c) Each applicant shall be approved or rejected by the membership committee within 30 days of submission.

d) Any applicant who has been rejected will be provided a written explanation, and may reapply for membership after a period of six months of said rejection or appeal immediately to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will review the appeal and respond within a reasonable time.

Section 4: OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

a) Conflict of Interest. Membership in DACA is not a right, but a privilege. To avoid a potential conflict of interest, no member of DACA shall be permitted to serve as an officer, director, or in any other similar position in any another dog club, Dogo or otherwise. While members are not prohibited from supporting other dog clubs, or even from being members in more than one dog club, members that choose to do so must take special care to avoid causing damage to DACA and its membership. Deliberately causing or attempting to cause harm to the reputation of DACA or its membership will not be tolerated.
b) Proprietary Club Information. Information provided by DACA to its members and not otherwise made public is considered confidential and proprietary. Members shall not disseminate any proprietary club information without the express approval of one or more of the Board of Directors. Proprietary club information includes, but is not limited to, the DACA newsletter, club meeting minutes, member passwords, as well as any information, documentation or photographs posted by the club in the Members Only section of the forum.

c) Members Only Board. The members only Board is a privilege of DACA membership and is restricted to use by its members only. As such, all information and documentation, including photographs, provided on the Members Only Board shall be kept confidential and not disclosed to non-members except as otherwise authorized by the Board.

d) Remedy for Violation. The remedy for violation of this section shall include all appropriate sanctions up to and including expulsion. Violations shall be determined on a case by case basis, after review pursuant to Article VII, and will take into account the severity of the violation and all surrounding circumstances.

Section 5 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP
a) Resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the DACA upon written or e-mailed notice to any member of the Board of Directors.

b) Lapsing. Any member who has not paid the appropriate membership dues within 60 days of the deadline will automatically be terminated and will lose voting privileges.

c) Expulsion. Any member may be terminated by expulsion as provided for in Article VII.

d) Actions of a member, which reflects upon the club in a negative manner, or which may damage the reputation of the club, or its members may be grounds for expulsion as per Article VII section 2.3

ARTICLE II: MEETING AND VOTING

Section 1: ANNUAL REGULAR MEETING
a) The annual meeting of the DACA shall be held in October of each year, on line. The meeting date will be announced in the Sept. Newsletter, as well as on the message board.

b) The annual meeting shall be a semi-open meeting. This is the opportunity for members (And non-members by invitation) to give suggestions, and share ideas to help the DACA safeguard the Dogo Argentino and serve their members better.

Section 2: SEMI-ANNUAL REGULAR MEETING
a) The semi-annual meeting shall be held in January on line.

b) The semi-annual meeting shall be open to all members in good standing.

c) The Board of Directors will also attend the semi-annual meeting.

Section3: SPECIAL BALLOTS.
A special Ballot may be sent out quarterly with the newsletter if there is an issue that needs to be addressed before the October or January meetings.

Section 4: BOARD MEETINGS:
a) Meeting of the board of Directors shall be held no less than quarterly. All meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such a place, and time designated by the President or the majority of the Board. Notices for the meetings will be e-mailed to each member of the Board of Directors.

b) For a motion to stand there must be at least 4 members of the Board of Directors voting on the motion.
c) Communications. The Board of Directors can conduct business through the following avenues of communication: in person, regular mail, e-mail, chat, or conference calling. Participation through such means will constitute a presence by individuals participating. All action taken through such communication will be recorded and ratified in writing by the Secretary or appointed Board Member.

d) Attendance. The Board of Directors will reserve the right to extend invitations to any regular members, especially committee chairs, to participate at any specified Board Meeting.

ARTICLE III: DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1: DIRECTORS.

a) Board of Directors. The Board of Directors for the DACA shall be comprised of, but not limited to, the President, Vice President, Secretary/Registrar, Treasurer and up to six General Directors who are residents of the United States. The Board will be comprised equally between hunters, exhibitors and companion owners. The Officers of the DACA will be the President, Vice President, and Treasurer. General management of the club’s affairs shall be entrusted to the board of directors. All Board of Directors members will be DACA members in good standing. No person elected to the Board Officer position can hold that Board position for more than four consecutive years. All DACA documents, accounts and materials must be sent to/signed over to, the successor or the President within 90 days of retirement, resignation or dismissal. If the Board Member, after exhausting his/her tenure on the Board wishes to return, the person may remain a member of the General Directors for two years before again running for an Officer Position.

b) All members of the Board of Directors must attend a minimum of 50% of scheduled Board meetings. Board members with excessive absences (over 50%) may be replaced by an interim Board Member, appointed by the President and approved by the majority of the then members of the Board at the first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a Special Board Meeting called for the purpose.

Section 2: OFFICERS. The DACA officers’ basic job responsibilities are as follows:

a) The PRESIDENT shall preside at all meetings of the DACA and shall have the duties and powers appurtenant to the office of President. Including but not limited are the following: Represents and speaks for the DACA to the public at large; supervises all activities of the DACA and presides at all meetings. When presiding at meetings the President must uphold and enforce these principles: keep order, be fair, and be impartial, and protect the rights of all members. With respect to voting, the President will vote on all ballot issues and in case of a tie, the president shall consider the issue and make a judgment.

b) The VICE PRESIDENT shall, in order of office, have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the president’s death, absence, or incapacity. The Vice President is also to act as President, temporarily, when the President requests to step down from the chair, in order to debate an issue. The Vice President shall have the additional responsibility of appointing both standing and special committees.

c) The SECRETARY/REGISTRAR shall keep records of all DACA meeting, or all votes taken by mail and of all matters, which a record shall be ordered by the DACA. The Secretary/Registrar will also be responsible for the storage of Dogo Registration papers as well as the issuing of new registration papers, transfers, and litter registrations.

d) The TREASURER shall collect and receive all money due or belonging to the DACA while maintaining the appropriate bank accounts. Books shall be maintained and open for inspection by the Board of Directors.
Section 3: VACANCIES. Any officer position vacancy occurring will be filled by a general director. Board position vacancies will then be replaced with members in good standing within the United States of America, during the regular election cycle or sooner if deemed necessary by the board of Directors. The exception to this vacancy is with the President's position, which will automatically and immediately be filled by the Vice President or an Interim President if the Board of Directors have voted unanimously to do so. Any retiring, resigning, or dismissed members of the Board of Directors, must send all DACA Documents and materials, to their successor, or the President within 90 days, the DACA will pay postage for the return of all club related documents and materials.

ARTICLE IV: CLUB YEAR, VOTING, NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Section 1: FISCAL YEAR. The Fiscal Year shall begin January 1 and end December 31. Elected officers and directors shall take office immediately following the annual meeting. Amendment (10-15-2005) Each retiring officer shall turn over all documents and property of the DACA within thirty days of the annual meeting to the successor or the President.

Section 2: VOTING.
   a) Only members in good standing will be allowed to vote.
   b) At annual, general or special meetings of the DACA, voting shall be limited to those individuals present, except for the annual elections of officers, amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, unless the majority of the individuals present cannot make a decision and feel it is necessary for the items to be voted on by online ballots that are sent to the membership at large.
   c) Voting by proxy is allowed under special circumstances, to be approved by the Board of Directors in advance.
   d) With respect to voting on motions at a meeting the following will apply: Majority of one rules except when 2/3 vote is required. The 2/3 votes are required when a proposed action takes away any members' rights. Such actions include but are not limited to: motions to limit or extend debate, to close debate on matters which directly affect the rights of the members; rescind an action with no previous notice given (Ex. Changing dues, or registration fees), suspension of rules or altering the Constitution and or Bylaws in such a way that it affects the members or their rights. Taking note of the Constitution Section 5, exception.

Section 3: NOMINEES AND BALLOTS. No person may be a candidate for a position within DACA who has not been nominated in accordance with the Bylaws. The Nomination through to the election process shall take no more than 3 months to complete. It is desirable that newly elected board members have 30 days from the point of election to assume the new office to become familiar with the position.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

Section 1: STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES. The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the DACA in such matters as dog shows, obedience trials, hunting trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership, and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall be appointed by the Officers and subject to final approval by the board.

Section 2: TERMINATION. Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.
ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS. The members of the Dogo Argentino Club of America shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out the objectives of the organization as long as any proposed amendment receives 2/3 vote from the membership.

Section 2: ABSENCE OF A BYLAW. Where no specific bylaw or procedure is evident, the Board of Directors will vote and act accordingly on each individual issue or situation not covered in the existing bylaws.

ARTICLE VII: DISCIPLINE

Section 1: DOGO ARGENTINO CLUB OF AMERICA SUSPENSION. Any member who is suspended from the privileges of any other breed club may be suspended from the privileges of the DACA for a like period.

Section 2: BOARD HEARINGS. When a complaint against a member or members is brought before the BOD, the BOD will discuss the complaint, and decide what actions, if any are needed. If the complaint is deemed serious enough, a Board Hearing shall be held. Both the complainant and the defendant shall be notified of the time and date of the on line hearing. The Board of Directors shall have complete authority whether council may attend any hearings, but both defendant and complainant shall be treated fairly in that regard. Should charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented the Board or Committee may, by majority vote, suspend the defendant from all privileges of the DACA for not more than 6 months from the date of the hearing. If the Board deems the punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion.

Section 3: APPEAL. If suspended, the defendant has the right to appear before his/her fellow members at an ensuing DACA meeting to appeal. Immediately after the Board or Committee has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in writing and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary shall, in turn, notify each of the parties of the decision and penalty, if any.

Section 4: SANCTIONS. Violations of membership as set forth in these Articles may result in sanctions, including but not limited to warnings, probation, suspension or other actions up to and including expulsion as deemed appropriate. The imposition of sanctions will follow a hearing and upon recommendation from the Board or Committee as provided by section 3 of this Article. The accused member shall have the privilege of appearing on his/her own behalf although no evidence will be taken. The President shall read the charges, findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak on his/her own behalf. A 2/3 vote of those present shall be necessary for expulsion. If the expulsion is not so voted, then the suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VIII: DISSOLUTION

Section 1: The DACA may be dissolved at any time by written consent of no less than 2/3 of the members. The DACA, however cannot be absorbed or enveloped by another or similar club. In the event that dissolution of the DACA occurs, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of the law, none of the property of the DACA nor any proceeds thereof, nor any asset of the DACA shall be distributed to its members. After payment of any debts, assets of the DACA shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501( c ) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the 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 so disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principle office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organizations as said Court shall determine which are organized or operated exclusively for such purposes.
THE DOGO ARGENTINO CLUB OF AMERICA
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

1 Denotes Amendments voted upon by the membership during the 10-15-2005 Annual Members Meeting.
2 Denotes Amendments voted upon by the membership during the on line voting which took place August 1-7, 2006.
3 Denotes Amendments voted upon by the membership during the on line voting which took place Nov. 13-17, 2006.
4 Denotes Amendments voted upon by the membership during the on line voting which took place Nov. 22-28, 2006.
5 Denotes Amendments voted upon by the membership during the on line voting which took place June 1, 2017.