

I. CONSTITUTION AND AIMS

Art. 1

The World Dog Press Association whose registered office is presently in BOUTERSEM (Belgium), Doornstraat 6, has acquired legal status by virtue of the Belgium law on October 25, 2007, as amended by the law of December 6th, 1964, relating to international associations with philanthropic, religious, scientific, artistic and educational aims, and shall be governed by these articles of association. The registered office may be transferred to any other location in Belgium upon a simple decision taken by the general committee. Any change to the registered office must be published in the annexes to the 'Moniteur Belge' within one month, following the date of the change.

Art. 2

The association has the objective to unite the people involved with canine press as reporter, photographer, editor or a combination of these functions and all people with functions related to canine press, and defend their interests involved with their jobs. The WDPA will in the first place help its members to receive access to dogshows, to publish articles and photos, to get in contact with magazines all over the world, to defend the copyrights as far as possible and to speak for them whenever needed.

The WDPA will strive for worldwide recognition on every level and especially from the major canine organisations in the world like the American Kennel Club, the British Kennel Club and the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (alphabetical order).

The association sets forward the following activities to achieve its goals:

- The WDPA provides its members with access to its official website in order to promote its members and the WDPA itself. Members will be able to publish articles, reports and photos on it in order to try to sell them to any interested press organ or sell photos to any private person.
- The WDPA issues its own membership press cards and will promote worldwide facilities for its members.
- The WDPA will establish a code of ethics for its members with regard to their behaviour however, it cannot be held responsible for any violation of this code by its members.

In order to realise its objectives the association will be allowed to take all actions, alone or in cooperation with other organisations, undertake all initiatives and acquire and manage all movable and immovable goods.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Art. 3

The WDPA has professional members, associated members and editorial members:

- a) **Professional members** are those members professionally involved with canine press and do their job for a living with a minimum of 50% of their daily professional activities.
- b) **Associate members** are those members who regularly or occasionally write or photograph for magazines and do this for a hobby and have another main income other than reporter and/or photographer.
- c) to the group of **Editorial members** belong editors and all people working for a publication on a professional basis and who are mainly involved with the editing process notwithstanding the fact that those people might be involved from time to time with covering big events as occasional writers and/or photographers.
- d) new members, candidates and any other members that do not relate to one of the above groups will be evaluated by the executive committee or the director and added to one of the above groups.

- d) members may ask for a re-evaluation in order to belong to another group.
- f) although the professional group has the most prominent needs, there is no hierarchy between the groups.
- g) **Professional members** must publish a minimum of 12 articles and/or reports or have published a minimum of 36 photos during the year prior to the year of membership. They must be able to prove upon request, that their work generates an income that fully or partially covers their livelihood
Associated members must publish a minimum of 2 articles and/or reports or have published a minimum of 12 photos during the year prior to the year of membership
Editorial members only need a declaration in which is stated that they are editor or do editorial work for a magazine
- h) every member needs to register himself on the official website www.worlddogpress.com of the WDPA. Candidates need to register within one month before they can be accepted and considered as a new member.
- i) the WDPA issues its own press cards. Any abuse of this press card by a member can result in the exclusion of the member for one year, five years or for lifetime.
- j) the WDPA expects its members to accept its rules and speak for the Association and its members whenever needed. While wearing the WDPA Press Card or whenever a member can be identified as a member of the World Dog Press Association he needs to behave according to its "Code of Ethics".

Art. 4

- a) In order to become a member of the WDPA the candidates have to submit to the CEO a written application and to undertake to observe the provisions of the present articles of association and the rules of the WDPA. He needs to return the WDPA application from filled out completely and accompanied by a digital passport photo. The application must be accompanied by copies of the publications according to the group he wants to belong to.
- b) Every accepted member has the right to vote for the General Committee and the Executive Committee elections and has the right to propose himself as a candidate for one of these committees as long as he is a holder of his WDPA press card for the current year.
- c) The WDPA press card is only granted to those members who have accomplished their membership duties as stated in art 3 g-h.

Art. 5

- a) The president of the General Committee or the Executive Committee shall examine applications according to the articles of association and the rules of the WDPA
- b) The General Assembly will make the final decision should the committee refuse to admit an applicant.

Art. 6

Membership of the WDPA will end:

- a) by resignation
- b) if the member does not renew his membership fees within 3 months of the expiration of the previous fees
- c) expulsion by decision of the General Assembly passed by a two thirds majority vote, if a member refuses to follow the articles of association and the rules or does not pay due subscriptions and fees to the WDPA.

The member threatened with exclusion must be summoned and allowed to present his case.

The excluded member has the right to appeal to the courts, which will verify the conformity of the exclusion procedure and check whether substantial grounds exist for excluding the member in question.

Each member may voluntarily withdraw from the association at any time. The resignation must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee.

Art. 7

Members shall be bound by the Articles of Association and rules of the WDPa insofar these do not infringe on national laws.

III. ORGANIZATION

Art. 9

The WDPa has :

- a) a General Assembly
- b) a General Committee
- c) an Executive Committee
- d) a Chief Executive Officer or CEO

IV. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Art. 9

- a) The General Assembly is formed by the members of the WDPa.
- b) A full member can vote with a proxy only for one other full member. The proxy must be in writing and must be submitted at the start of the General Assembly.
- c) The General Assembly will convene at least once every two years. The General Committee will send an invitation by e-mail and /or regular mail to each member at least 30 days before the date.
- d) The CEO will be notified at least two months before the meeting of the General Assembly of the proposed matters to be dealt with. The agenda and details of such matter shall be mailed to members/contract partners at least four weeks before the General Assembly.
- e) An extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly can be convened by the General Committee when necessary, or at the request of at least one tenth of the full members. The agenda must include all the proposals of the above-mentioned members.
- f) The General Assembly is valid and can make decisions whatever the number of members present.
- g) Decisions of the General Assembly must be approved by at least a simple majority of the present and represented members (50% of the vote + 1).
- h) The General Assembly may only amend the Articles of Association if this amendment is included in the agenda. For each amendment a two thirds majority of the members present or represented is required.
However, if the amendment of the Articles of Association concerns the exact description of the aims and objectives for which it was founded, as well as the intended activities to realise these aims or objectives, the amendment will only be valid if the members present or represented at the General Assembly give their unanimous approval.
- i) Otherwise, for any amendment to the Articles of Association of the WDPa, article 50 § 3 of the Law of 27 June 1921 relating to charities, the international non-profit associations without and the foundations must be respected.
- j) The decisions of the General Assembly are recorded in a register of minutes signed by the President and the CEO. This register is kept at the registered office where all members may consult it on the spot, but may not remove it.

Art. 10

The President of the WDPa will conduct the General Assembly.

Art. 11

The competencies of the General Assembly are as follows:

- a) determination of the general program of the WDPa
- b) final decisions on the admission, resignation and expulsion of members of the WDPa
- c) approval of membership subscriptions and membership fees
- d) amendments of the articles of association
- e) election of five members of the General Committee
- f) decisions related to general policy matters
- g) approval of the General Committee's annual report and financial report
- h) approval of the general rules of the WDPa
- i) dissolution of the association

V. THE GENERAL COMMITTEE**Art. 12**

- 1) the General Committee shall consist of at least five members.
- 2) the members of the General Committee are elected by the General Assembly from a list of candidates proposed by the full members of the General Assembly by simple majority of votes. Their term of office will last four years. They may be re-elected.
- 3) in the event of death or permanent disability or some other valid reason preventing a General Committee member from carrying out his duties, the General Assembly may nominate a replacement for the period until the next elections. The President of the WDPa must immediately be notified by registered letter of such an eventuality. The newly elected member will complete his predecessor's term of office.
- 4) The General Committee acts as a college. In the absence of the chairman, the vice-chairman will fulfil his role.
- 5) The General Committee decides by simple majority of members present or represented. Should voting result in a tied vote, the vote of the chairman or his deputy is decisive.
- 6) The members who are unable to attend may be represented by another member of the General Committee. The proxies must be in writing and must be submitted at the start of the meeting.

Art. 13

The powers of the General Committee are as follows:

- a) to achieve the aims set out in these articles of association
- b) to carry out the decisions of the General Assembly
- c) to manage the day to day business and to ensure that the articles of association and the rules are respected
- d) to draw up the budget, the financial report and the annual report and submit these last two documents to the General Assembly for approval
- e) to approve the annual works and programme of the commissions
- f) to approve all the special regulations, drawn up by the special commissions (exception: WDPa General Rules)
- g) to announce events
- h) to supply press organizations and other publicity organizations with any publications
- i) to appoint a CEO
- j) to try to settle in a fair way any differences that may arise between two or more members. If a satisfactory result is not obtained in reasonable time, the matter is submitted to the arbitration committee
- k) to decide on the admission, resignation and exclusion of contract partners. The contract partners threatened with exclusion present their case before the General Committee

- l) the General Committee shall be entitled to submit proposals and requests to the General Assembly at any time. Furthermore, the General Committee can give opinions to the General Assembly about any matter and proposals forwarded by the members.

Art. 14

- a) Notice of a meeting must be sent on behalf of the President by the CEO and received by the members of the General Committee at least thirty days before the date of the meeting.
- b) The meeting is valid with at least three members attending.
- c) The General Committee shall meet at least twice a year.

VI. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Art. 15

- a) The General Committee elects from its members the President, the Vice-President and the treasurer of the WDPA. Their term of office shall be four years.
- b) The President of the WDPA is also the legal representative of the WDPA.. The instruments binding upon the association, other than those concerned with day-to-day management, are to be signed by the President of the WDPA, or barring that, by a special delegation of the Executive Committee. Legal action shall be brought about or supported by the Executive Committee on behalf of the association and the President shall take the initiative to start legal proceedings.
- c) He assures that the decisions of the General Committee are carried out. He presides over the meetings of the General Committee and the Executive Committee and chairs the sessions of the General Assembly.
- d) In urgent cases, he may take any necessary decisions on behalf of the Executive and General Committees. He must, however, submit these decisions for the approval of the General Committee as soon as possible.
- e) The Vice-President assists the President and takes his place when the President is absent or not able to carry out his duties.
- f) The treasurer supervises all the financial and economic affairs and has the power to make all the necessary and proper decisions.
- g) For certain actions or for a number of certain legal actions only special proxies are allowed. The authorised representatives bind the association within the remit of the proxy they received, without prejudice to the responsibility of the principal in case of excessive power of attorney.

Art. 16

- a) The President of the WDPA, the Vice-President and the treasurer together form the Executive Committee.
- b) The Executive Committee:
- must take urgent decisions about matters that cannot be delayed to the next meeting of the General Committee
 - has to prepare the General Committee meetings
 - may call upon the President or a member of a commission to attend the meeting to discuss the activities and finances involved. If an agreement is not reached, the matter shall be referred to the General Committee.
- c) The notice of meeting shall be sent on the President's behalf by the CEO .

VIII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 17

English shall be the official working language of the WDPa. Official documents will be written in English. If required a sworn Dutch translation will be prepared, for instance if certain matters must be published (in the Belgian Gazette) in Dutch.

Art. 18

- a) All positions within the WDPa are on a honorary capacity, with the exception of the CEO. Honorary functions may be compensated. Expenses have to be reimbursed.
- b) The General Committee will decide about reimbursement of expenses only upon individual request.

Art. 19

- a) In the event of disputes between two WDPa members, an arbitration committee composed of three members, who do not belong to either party involved and who shall be appointed by the committee, shall be called upon to give a ruling on the matter. The procedure shall be determined by the three members of the arbitration committee.
- b) The arbitration committee will decide on complaints from members with direct interest when rules of the WDPa have been broken. Complaints must be presented to the CEO of the WDPa in writing, with all evidence, at the latest within 6 months from the event. The procedure will be defined by the arbitration committee and reported to the General Committee.

Art. 20

- a) Every member of the WDPa has the right to submit a complaint against another member to the General Committee.
- b) The object of the complaint can be any kind of violation of the articles of association and the General Rules of the WDPa.
- c) Complaints must be sent in English together with evidence in writing and all the necessary documentation to the CEO of the WDPa. The CEO has to receive the complaints within six months after the event has happened or has been known by the plaintiff, in any case no longer than a year from the event.
- d) The CEO will certify the date of the receipt of the complaint to the other party concerned, informing that it has the right to send a reply in English within one month. The reply must be completed with all the documented evidences in writing.
- e) When the CEO has received the reply, he will immediately send one copy to the plaintiff for information only and will immediately send the files with all the documents of the parties involved to the members of the arbitration committee.
- f) The legal commission, before deciding, has all the rights to investigate the evidence by all means, including hearings.
- g) A decision will be made in writing as soon as possible in English and copies will be transmitted immediately to the two parties involved, by the CEO.
- h) The legal commission will decide the sanction to be applied. It will transmit it to the General Committee, which may lodge an appeal with the General Assembly. The same right is reserved to the parties concerned.

Art. 21

- a) On the 31st of December each year, a statement of accounts for the past year shall be drawn up. The General Committee, pending final ratification at the next General Assembly, provisionally approves the statement of accounts.

- b) The general committee will meet at Cruft's to prepare the annual budget.

Art. 22

- 1) In the event of voluntary dissolution, the General Assembly will designate two liquidators and will determine their powers.
- 2) In all cases of voluntary or compulsory dissolution by the court at any moment in time or for any reason whatsoever, the disposable assets of the dissolved federation will be made over to associations having similar objectives, as designated by the General Assembly.
- 3) The General Assembly can only pronounce dissolution of the Association on condition that ten percent of the members are present. Any decision of dissolution shall only be adopted if passed unanimously by the members present.

Art. 23

In the event of dispute, the original text will take precedence to any other version.

Art. 24

Anything that is not explicitly provided for in these Articles of Association, in particular the formalities pertaining to publications to be made in the Annexes to the 'Moniteur Belge', falls under the provisions of the law of 27 June 1921 relating to charities, the international non-profit associations without and the foundations.

General Rules

Art. 1 - General Committee

1. The General Committee shall meet at least once a year. If the Executive Committee considers it necessary, the General Committee may meet more often. A supplementary meeting will precede the WDPA General Assembly.
2. At each meeting, the place and date of the next meeting should, if possible, be decided. If important and unforeseen circumstances make it necessary, the date and place of a meeting may be changed (with the agreement of the President) providing that there is time to notify all the members involved.
3. Notices of the General Committee meetings shall be issued by the CEO on behalf of the President. Notices shall be sent out in writing, at least one month before the date of the meeting. The Executive Committee prepares the agenda and determines the matters that should appear on it. The President may add points to the agenda if this becomes necessary after the last meeting of the Executive Committee. The members of the Committee shall inform the CEO in due time of subjects which should appear on the agenda.
4. All meetings of the General Committee shall be attended by the CEO who shall keep the minutes of the meeting. The minutes shall be written in English and sent to the members of the General Committee in this form at the latest one month after the meeting
5. The CEO shall keep a book (which may be in electronic form) in which he must note the date and the text of the resolutions approved by the General Committee. The book shall be available at each meeting for the members to examine.
6. Should the CEO be unable to attend a meeting, he must be replaced by another qualified person who will keep the minutes.
7. The minutes of the previous meeting must be approved by the General Committee. The original minutes must be signed by the President and the CEO.

Art. 2 - Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year. If the President considers it necessary, the Executive Committee may meet more often.

2. At each meeting, the place and date of the next meeting should, if possible, be decided.
3. Notices of the Executive Committee meetings shall be issued by the CEO on behalf of the President. Notices shall be sent in writing, at least one month before the date of the meeting. The President prepares the agenda and determines the matters that should appear on it. Members of the Executive Committee may add points to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.
4. All the meetings of the Executive Committee shall be attended by the CEO who shall keep the minutes of the meeting. The minutes shall be written in one of the four working languages of the F.C.I and sent in this form at the latest one month after the meeting. Translations of the minutes into the other working languages of the WDPA shall be made available as soon as possible. Should the CEO be unable to attend a meeting, then he must be replaced by another qualified person who will keep the minutes.
5. The CEO shall keep a book in which he shall note the date and the text of the resolutions approved by the Executive Committee. This book shall be available at each meeting for the members to examine.
6. The minutes of the previous meeting must be approved by the Executive Committee. The original minutes must be signed by the President and the CEO.
7. The Executive Committee shall assign the duties and salaries of the CEO and the staff.

Art. 3 - Internal management

1. The President of the WDPA and the CEO shall meet as often as necessary.
2. At the General Assembly, the President and the CEO shall present a written report on the activities of the Committee and the WDPA office.

Code of ethics

Membership of the WDPA will involve the acceptance of the following code of ethics:

- never enter a ring unless with the permission of the judge or the ring steward
- never behave impolitely towards any official
- never be rude towards any exhibitor
- never take any photos of a private character of people without their permission.
- never enter any main ring unless with permission of the ring steward or any other person who is in charge of the maintain of order
- never obstruct colleagues even if they are not WDPA members
- always behave as has been stipulated by the ruling committee
- only make complaints in a polite, official and constructive way
- always respect the rules of WDPA, AKC, BKC and FCI or any official organisation
- always refund for any damage, material or corporal, caused to any person. (It is advised to take third-party liability insurance)
- talk for the WDPA and/or any of its members
- promote the WDPA whenever possible

This "Code of Ethics" may be reconsidered at any time by the General Assembly.

Membership fee

The membership fee should be approved by the General Assembly. However, as the WDPA is open to members worldwide, membership fee can be high for some members living in some countries compared to others living in countries with a higher standard of living. The general committee is empowered to give members special discounts, should they be eligible, on financial grounds.

Special Regulation

The World Dog Press Association has been founded by Karl DONVIL, Doornstraat 6, 3370 BOUTERSEM BELGIUM during the World Dog Show held in Porto, Portugal, June 2001.

Mr.Karl DONVIL will be for lifetime entitled founding president of the WDPa. This title does not grant him any special rights other than those of any other member except in case of dissolution of the association. In that case he has the exclusive right to restart the Association under the very same name.

Non-profit organisation

The WDPa is a non-profit organisation. Any income of the association will be adopted to cover its expenses. Any profits will be used to promote the association, to refund it to its members in kind and in any form agreed by the General Assembly. The WDPa may make contributions to charities in general and canine related charities in particular.

If profits will allow, a special WDPa magazine can be established and edited.

Approved by the WDPa General Assembly held in Birmingham, United Kingdom on 8 March 2014.