

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS OF LOUISVILLE, INC. BY-LAWS

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT SOCIAL WELFARE CORPORATION

ARTICLE I - ORGANIZATION

- A. The name of the organization shall be RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS OF LOUISVILLE, INC.

- B. The organization may at its pleasure by a vote of the membership body change its name.

- C. As a part of the organization's application for recognition of exemption from federal income tax, the following amendments shall apply:
 1. The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and/or scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the 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. 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 by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
 3. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(4) 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.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

The following are the purposes for which this organization has been organized:

- A. Promoting Alternatives to Breed Specific Legislation
 1. To serve as a resource for the development of generic dangerous dog laws in Metro Louisville as well as other cities interested in developing generic dangerous dog laws.
 2. To actively work to educate lawmakers, the media, and the public about the problems of breed specific legislation and the benefits of strong generic dangerous dog laws.

- B. Education
 1. To develop educational programs for dog owners, as well as the general public that will:
 - (a) Promote canine health and responsible pet ownership
 - (b) Improve understanding of canine behavior and socialization
 - (c) Encourage spay/neuter of pet dogs
 - (d) Educate the public about the requirements of responsible breeding
 2. To develop resources for the community to enrich the pet-owning experience, such as:
 - (a) Behavior classes
 - (b) Obedience classes
 - (c) Professional advisory board of behaviorists and trainers
 - (d) A website with Q/A section
 - (e) Quarterly newsletter

3. To develop and promote programs that will lessen the risk of dog bites by:
 - (a) Educating new parents about appropriate supervision of children and dogs
 - (b) Educating children to behave in a safe manner around dogs

C. Funding

1. To provide revenue to MAS and rescue organizations for spay/neuter, adoption and volunteer programs.
2. To assist in the funding of a volunteer run problem behavior hotline and educational endeavors through private and corporate donations solicited through a fund raising campaign.

D. Promotion

1. To schedule public events to promote the park (may include fund raising), such as Dog Shows (professional or just for fun), Dog Walks, Dog Games, Pet Therapy, etc.
2. To demonstrate the benefits of canine companions to the individual, family and community.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization shall be open to all who adhere to the RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS OF LOUISVILLE definition of Responsible Dog Owner, which shall be:

A Responsible Dog Owner:

- Maintains control of his/her dog at all times
- Provides for the optimum food/shelter/veterinary needs of his/her dog always
- Spays/Neuters or uses some other medically effective birth control method for all pet quality dogs over the age of two kept strictly as companion animals, and only allows dogs to remain intact for showing/conformation, working (hunting, K9, SAR, service, etc.), or for a documented health reason in order to prevent accidental breeding(s).
- Breeds only according to the Breeder Code of Ethics (see definition below)
- Provides basic obedience training and requires good manners of his/her dog
- Is a courteous neighbor (does not allow dogs to bark at all hours, scare neighbors, or roam)
- Is a considerate citizen (scoops poop, does not allow dog to bother those with allergies, etc.)
- Socializes his/her dog with people of all ages, and other dogs
- Never allows his/her dog around young children unsupervised
- Does not tolerate abuse or fighting of animals and reports such behavior when aware of it
- Strives to educate others about responsible dog ownership in a kind and courteous manner
- Strives to be the best owner he/she can be

Membership in this organization shall be open to all breeders who adhere to the definition of Responsible Dog Owner above and who follow a suitable Breeder Code of Ethics. A suitable Breeder Code of Ethics requires that dogs intended for breeding have:

- At least one working title
- Passed all available, appropriate health screenings
- Been provided all appropriate vet care
- Offspring that are provided puppy shots, health checks & vet exam
- Offspring that are only sold to carefully screened homes
- Offspring that are only sold on a puppy contract that holds breeder responsible for providing a home in the event of unforeseen circumstances (i.e. purchaser unable to keep dog, home unsuitable)

Membership shall be denied or revoked for any person convicted of any animal related crime.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

- A. The annual membership meeting of this organization shall be held on the second Sunday of January each and every year except if such day be a legal holiday, then and in that event, the Board of Directors shall fix the day but it shall not be more than two weeks from the date fixed by these By-Laws.
- B. The Secretary shall cause to be mailed to every member in good standing at his/her address as it appears in the membership roll book in this organization a notice telling the time and place of such annual meeting.
- C. Regular meetings of this organization shall be held on the second Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Panera Bread, intersection of Dutchman's Lane & Breckinridge Lane, Louisville, Kentucky. The meeting date, time, and/or location may be changed if announced at least one week in advance.
- D. The presence of not less than a majority plus one of total members in good standing shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to conduct the business of this organization; but a lesser percentage may adjourn the meeting for a period of not more than two weeks from the date scheduled by these By-Laws and the secretary shall cause a notice of this scheduled meeting to be sent to all those members who were not present at the meeting originally called. A quorum as herein before set forth shall be required at any adjourned meeting.
- E. Special meetings of this organization may be called by the president when he/she deems it for the best interest of the organization. Notices shall be sent to the participants at least seven (7) days before the scheduled date set for such special meeting. Such notice shall state the reasons that such meeting has been called, the business to be transacted at such meeting and by whom it was called. At the request of two of the members of the Board of Directors, or ten percent (10%) members of the organization, the president shall cause a special meeting to be called but such request must be made in writing at least seven (7) days before the requested scheduled date.
- F. No other business but that specified in the notice may be transacted at such special meeting without the unanimous consent of all those present at such meeting.

ARTICLE V – VOTING

- A. At all meetings, except for the election of officers and directors, all votes shall be by voice. For election of officers, ballots shall be provided and there shall not appear any place on such ballot that might tend to indicate the person who cast such ballot.
- B. At any regular or special meeting, if a majority so requires, any question may be voted upon in the manner and style provided for election of officers and directors. At all votes by ballot the chairman of such meeting shall, prior to the commencement of balloting, appoint a committee of three who shall act as "Inspectors of Election" and who shall, at the conclusion of such balloting, certify in writing to the Chairman the results and the certified copy shall be physically affixed in the minute book to the minutes of that meeting.

ARTICLE VI - ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Roll Call.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the preceding meeting.
- 3. Reports of Committees.
- 4. Reports of Officers.
- 5. Old and Unfinished Business.
- 6. New Business.
- 7. Adjournments.

ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. The business of this organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of five (5) members, together with the officers of this organization. At least one of the directors elected shall be a resident of the State of Kentucky and a citizen of the United States.
- B. The directors to be chosen for the ensuing year shall be chosen at the annual meeting of this organization in the same manner and style as the officers of this organization and they shall serve for a term of two (2) years.

- C. The Board of Directors shall have the control and management of the affairs and business of this organization. Such Board of Directors shall only act in the name of the organization when it shall be regularly convened by its chairman after due notice to all the directors of such meeting.
- D. Over fifty (50) percent of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum and the meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held regularly on the first Tuesday of every even numbered month.
- E. Each director shall have one vote and such voting may not be done by proxy.
- F. The Board of Directors may make such rules and regulations covering its meetings as it may in its discretion determine necessary.
- G. Vacancies in the Board of Directors shall be filled by a vote of the majority of the remaining members of the Board of Directors for the balance of the term.
- H. The President of the organization by virtue of his/her office shall be Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- I. Any Director may resign at any time by delivering written notice to the President or the Secretary at the registered office of the corporation, or by giving oral or written notice at any meeting of the Directors. Any such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, or if the time is not specified, upon delivery thereof, and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.
- J. A director may be removed when sufficient cause exists for such removal. The Board of Directors may entertain charges against any director. A director may be represented by counsel upon any removal hearing. The Board of Directors shall adopt such rules for this hearing as it may in its discretion consider necessary for the best interests of the organization.
- K. A vacancy in the position of Director may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining Directors though less than a quorum of the Board. A director who fills a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office.

ARTICLE VIII - OFFICERS

- A. The initial officers of the organization shall be as follows:
 - Chairperson
 - Vice-Chair/Treasurer
 - Secretary/Legislative Liaison
- B. The President shall preside at all membership meetings.
 - The President shall by virtue of his/her office be Chairman of the Board of Directors.
 - The President shall present at each annual meeting of the organization an annual report of the work of the organization.
 - The President shall appoint all committees, temporary or permanent.
 - The President shall see all books; reports and certificates required by law are properly kept or filed.
 - The President shall be one of the officers who may sign the checks or drafts of the organization.
 - The President shall have such powers as may be reasonably construed as belonging to the chief executive of any organization.
- C. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all monies belonging to the organization and shall be solely responsible for such monies or securities of the organization.
 - The Treasurer must be one of the officers who shall sign checks or drafts of the organization. No special fund may be set aside that shall make it unnecessary for the Treasurer to sign the checks issued upon it.
 - The Treasurer shall render at stated periods as the Board of Directors shall determine a written account of the finances of the organization and such report shall be physically affixed to the minutes of the Board of Directors of such meeting.
 - The Treasurer shall exercise all duties incident to the office of Treasurer.
- D. The Secretary shall keep the minutes and records of the organization in appropriate books.
 - It shall be the Secretary's duty to file any certificate required by any statute, federal or state.
 - The Secretary shall give and serve all notices to members of this organization.
 - The Secretary shall be the official custodian of the records and seal of this organization.
 - The Secretary may be one of the officers required to sign the checks and drafts of the organization.

- The Secretary shall present to the membership at any meetings any communication addressed to him as Secretary of the organization.
 - The Secretary shall submit to the Board of Directors any communications which shall be addressed to him as Secretary of the organization.
 - The Secretary shall attend to all correspondence of the organization and shall exercise all duties incident to the office of Secretary.
- E. Officers shall by virtue of their office be members of the Board of Directors.
- F. No officer shall for reason of his/her office be entitled to receive any salary or compensation, but nothing herein shall be construed to prevent an officer or director for receiving any compensation from the organization for duties other than as a director or officer.

ARTICLE IX – SALARIES

- A. The Board of Directors shall hire and fix the compensation of any and all employees which they in their discretion may determine to be necessary for the conduct of the business of the organization.

ARTICLE X - COMMITTEES

- A. All committees of this organization shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and their term of office shall be for a period of one year or less if sooner terminated by the action of the Board of Directors.
- B. The permanent committees shall be:
- i. **Public Relations and Information Committee** = This committee shall be responsible for gathering information about dog park facilities, operations, and other information deemed useful to the RDOL. This committee shall also maintain the RDOL Website, oversee the distribution of pamphlets, as well as other duties appointed by the Board of Directors.
 - ii. **Fundraising Committee** = This committee shall oversee all fundraising activities; including but not limited to contacting potential donors, creating fundraising opportunities, and managing on-going fundraising activities.
 - iii. **Volunteer Committee** = This committee shall oversee the scheduling of volunteer activities such as information booths, see to the recruitment of volunteers for such events, and promote volunteer opportunities to the members of the organization.

ARTICLE XI - LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

- A. No member or officer shall be personally liable for any bills or obligations of the Responsible Dog Owners of Louisville, past or present.
- B. No officer or member will obligate or disburse any money belonging to the Responsible Dog Owners of Louisville without authorization of the board of directors.
- C. No person shall use the name, mailing list, or official logo of the Responsible Dog Owners of Louisville for other than strict Association purposes, without authorization of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII - DUES

- A. The dues of this organization shall be \$20.00 per annum and shall be paid before March 1 of the membership year.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

- A. These By-Laws may be altered, amended, repealed or added to by an affirmative vote of not less than fifty (50%) percent of the members of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors adopted these by-laws on April 10, 2006.