



The Estrela Mountain Dog Club (UK)

Rules and Regulations

1. Title & Objectives

The Society shall be called 'The Estrela Mountain Dog Club (UK)' and its objectives shall be:

- a) The protection and promotion of the Estrela Mountain Dog (Cao da Serra da Estrela) and to ensure that Kennel Club principles are promoted and adhered to.
- b) The Society will aim to work closely with Estrela Mountain Dog organisations throughout the world for the betterment of the breed.
- c) To promote the health and wellbeing of the breed.

2. Officers & Committee

The Society shall consist of Patron, President, Chairperson, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and a Committee of seven and an unlimited number of Members.

Election of Officers and Committee:

The election of Officers and Committee members shall be by secret postal ballot. Only members whose subscriptions have been received by the Secretary by 28 February shall be entitled to vote. Independent auditors will be elected by the Committee. Ballot papers will be mailed to all eligible members after 28 February, to be returned to the Independent Auditors by 31 March (postmark). The Independent Auditors shall verify and count the ballot papers; any spoilt ballot papers will not be counted. The certified results shall be returned by the Independent Auditors, to the Secretary, by 15 April (postmark) in a registered sealed envelope. The results shall be opened and announced by the Chairman, at that year's Annual General Meeting.

In the event of a tied ballot, the tie shall be decided by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting, where proxy votes will be accepted from those not able to attend as stated above.

No individual who has been a member for less than twelve months, in their current membership period, may be elected onto the Committee. No previous membership period will be relevant (except in the Society's initial year).

All nominees must be proposed and seconded by fully paid up members and sent in writing to reach the Hon. Secretary by 28th February. All nomination papers must be signed to signify the nominee's willingness to stand for election.

3. Committee

The management of the Society shall be in the hands of the following officers of the Society: Chairperson, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and a Committee consisting of seven members, of whom three shall retire every two years. Officers shall retire on a two year rotation.

The inaugural Officers and Committee will stand for two years after being voted in at the Inaugural meeting. They will then stand down in a rotation to be agreed by Committee for the first terms of office. This will only occur with the Inaugural Committee; thereafter voting will follow normal election procedures.



The Patron and President shall be elected by Committee for a period of five years.

Members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election every two years.

The following voting rights for Officers and Committee shall be as follows:

Patron & President	No voting rights at Committee and General Meetings
Chairman	Casting vote only at Committee and General Meetings
Hon. Secretary	Full voting rights at Committee and General Meetings
Hon. Treasurer	Full voting rights at Committee and General Meetings
Committee	Full voting rights at Committee and General Meetings

Meetings of the Committee shall be held as often as is deemed necessary but at least one every four months.

A Committee meeting shall be convened with a minimum of ten days clear notice sent via mail or email as agreed with each Committee Member. Notification of time and place, an agenda and minutes of the previous meeting will be sent prior to each meeting. Items for the agenda must reach the Hon. Secretary at least five days prior to the meeting.

A quorum for Committee meetings shall be fifty percent of the serving Committee. If the serving Chairperson is not available to attend a scheduled meeting, a chosen Member of the Committee may take the Chair.

Minutes shall be kept of all meetings and a Minute Book shall be open to inspection at all meetings of the Society.

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members onto the Committee in the event of positions becoming vacant between General Meetings.

Those co-opted shall only hold office until the next General Meeting of the Society at which an election of Officers and Committee takes place. Co-opted committee members shall have voting rights at Committee meetings.

Sub-Committees may be formed by the Committee to facilitate the smooth running of the Society.

4. Election of Members

New Members may make an application for membership on the Society's official application form. The membership form must contain a requirement for Members to adhere to all Society rules and the Codes of Conduct, which must be signed and dated.

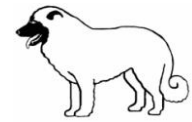
Candidates for membership shall be accepted on approval by Committee.

Honorary Members may be invited at the discretion of the Committee. Such Honorary Members may take part in the deliberations of the Society and will have an entitlement to vote.

An up to date list of Members and their addresses, must be maintained and, if so requested, made available for inspection by the Kennel Club and Members of the Society. A declaration of the number of Members of the Society must be made with Annual Returns.

5. Voting Rights

Each Member shall be entitled to one vote immediately upon acceptance of membership. Postal and proxy votes are allowed.



Voting for election of Officers and Committee shall be by secret postal ballot.

Voting at General Meetings or Special Meetings will be taken by show of hands with a simple majority decision.

Junior memberships will be available for those who have not reached their eighteenth birthday on 1st January of that year. Junior Members shall have no voting rights.

6. Club Property

The property of the Society shall be vested in the Committee. In the event of the Society ceasing to exist, a final General Meeting shall be called to decide the disposal of the Society's assets and the outcome of the meeting notified to the Kennel Club.

If a Registered Society is wound up or ceases to be a Registered Society under these Regulations, a final statement of accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Society shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the Society will be held responsible by the Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the Society.

The Society will require a written acknowledgement from donors of cups and trophies that are given as outright gifts to the Society.

7. Club Accounts

A banking account shall be held in the name of the Society at the NatWest bank into which all revenue of the Society shall be paid and from which withdrawal shall only be made on the signatures of two Officers. A third signature will be required for amounts over £250.00.

The accounts will be certified annually and presented to the Members at the Annual General Meeting. Certification of accounts must be carried out by one qualified Accountant or two unqualified individuals with accountancy experience.

8. Subscriptions

The annual subscription shall be such amount as agreed by Members in General Meeting and notified to the Kennel Club.

Subscription renewals shall become due on 1st January of each year.

Members who have not renewed their subscription by 28th February shall be considered as lapsed and their name(s) shall be removed from the Members Register. Lapsed Members may submit a new application for membership but this application, if accepted, will be considered as a new term of membership.

No Member whose subscription is unpaid is entitled to any of the privileges of membership and if the Member shall fail to pay outstanding subscriptions by 28th February of that year his/her name shall be automatically erased from the register. Acceptance back on the register will be dependent upon a new application.

Once Members have been accepted for membership, and providing they continue to pay their membership subscriptions at the correct time, they cannot be refused renewal of membership. With the exception of default on subscriptions, the only way to remove a member from the Society's register is by following the procedure set out in Rule 9.

9. Expulsion of Members

Any Member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42j(5) and/or any Member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A42j(9) shall ipso facto cease to be a Member of the Society.



If the conduct of any Member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Society, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Society, the Committee of the Society may, at a meeting the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the Member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Society shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.

Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused Member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the Meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at the Meeting, a resolution to expel is passed by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of Members, and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a Member of the Society except that he/she may, within two calendar months from the date of such meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such condition as the Kennel Club may impose.

If the Society expels any Member for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, dog shows, trials or competitions, the Society must report the matter in writing to the Kennel Club within seven days and supply any particulars required.

10. Financial Year/Annual General Meeting

The financial year of the Society shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held prior to 31st May at a venue approved by the Committee.

11. Annual General Meeting

The nature of business at the Annual General Meeting will be to receive the report of the Committee and Balance Sheet, to elect Officers and to discuss any resolution duly placed on the agenda of which prior notice has been given to the Hon. Secretary. No business shall be transacted at an Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those which in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting are urgent.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting may be given by publication in the dog press (Our Dogs or Dog World). The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting and the Statement of Accounts will be sent to members via mail or email at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.

Members shall be given not less than fourteen clear days notice in writing of all General Meetings.

Items for the agenda of the AGM will be accepted in writing or by email by the Honorary Secretary not less than twenty-one days prior to the meeting.

The minutes will be circulated at the meeting unless sent to Members at least seven days prior to the meeting.

11A. Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Hon. Secretary if fifteen Members send a signed requisition stating the subject to be discussed and requesting a Special General Meeting to do so. The Committee of the Society is also empowered to call a Special General Meeting.

No business other than that detailed on the agenda can be discussed at a Special General Meeting.

A Special General Meeting must be held not more than two calendar months after the request has reached the Hon. Secretary.



Members shall be given not less than twenty-one clear days notice in writing of all Special General Meetings.

12. Amendments to Rules

The rules of the Society may not be altered except at a General Meeting, the notice for which contains specific proposals to amend the Rules. Any proposed alteration to the rules may not be brought into effect until the Kennel Club has been advised and approved the alterations. New rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately.

13. Annual Returns to the Kennel Club

The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year the Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel club whether by the Secretary or by Direct Debit, for continuance of registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in the Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities, will be forwarded to the Kennel Club. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any change of Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year.

14. Kennel Club Final Authority

The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the rules of the Society in all cases relative to canine or society matters.

The Society may not join any Federation of Societies or Clubs.

No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee of or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society.

The Kennel Club shall be the final court of appeal in all matters of dispute.

15. Breed Society Judges Lists

Registered Breed Societies must produce a list of Judges each year, which must be submitted to the Kennel Club as part of the Society's Annual Returns. The purpose of the Breed Society Judges List is to indicate to interested parties those persons a Breed Society would support at differing levels of judging. Membership of the Society must not be a prerequisite for inclusion in the lists. The lists produced must be in accordance with Kennel Club requirements for Rare Breeds, and must indicate the date on which the list will expire. On expiry a new list must be completed.

The Committee shall allocate proposed judges to the appropriate Judges List as required by the Society's Judges Criteria. Such criteria will be in line with Kennel Club requirements for Rare breeds.

16. Health Declaration

The Committee shall put in place a system by which the Breed's health status can be assessed and monitored.