

## **Greater Shelby Kennel Club Policy on Conflict of Interest**

Greater Shelby Kennel Club (the “Club”) expects all members to support its mission, policies, and programs and to conduct themselves in the performance of their elected or appointed duties in an ethical manner. In addition, it is the policy of the Club that all members avoid any conflict between their interests and those of the Club. The fundamental principle guiding this policy is that no Club member should have or appear to have personal interests that conflict with the best interests of the Club.

### **Officers and Directors**

No person is eligible to become an Officer or Director of Greater Shelby Kennel Club if he or she has a significant interest in any organization deemed to be in competition with the Club or with AKC or in conflict with objectives of AKC and/or the Club. Significant interest would include, but not be limited to, ownership in, employment by, directorship of, and holding office in. Exceptions include associations with and significant interests in parent breed clubs, which pre-date a particular breed’s recognition by AKC and which currently offer conformation and performance events that are independent of AKC.

Officers and Directors exercise voting powers related to governance of the Club. While there will always be debate and legitimate differences of opinions on issues, there should be no question, but that all Officers and Directors are basing their votes on what is best for the Club as opposed to any competing organization.

Officers and Directors, as the Club’s governing body, must hold the best interest of the Club over any organization that is clearly in competition with the Club for event entries or that is deemed to be in conflict of its objects. In addition to significant interests cited above, significant interest that would create a real or perceived conflict would also include monetary investment or gains, business affiliation, representation or consulting, with such interest resulting in payment or receipt of any remuneration or reward, cash or in kind, direct or indirect.

When it comes to the attention of the Club’s Board of Directors, that an Officer or Director or any candidate for such a position, may not be in compliance with this policy, he or she will be contacted and given the opportunity to clarify the alleged conflict or resign or withdraw from nomination.

If, after clarification, there is still deemed to be a conflict, and the Officer, Director, or candidate declines to resign or withdraw, the matter will be referred to the Club’s Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors finds that there is sufficient reason to consider the question of ineligibility to serve as an officer or director under this policy, the procedure for discipline outlined in Article VI of the Bylaws shall apply.

## **Members**

Members must not show favor or preference to any contractor or person doing or seeking to do business with the Club based on anything other than appropriate business concerns.

Members must not participate in any decisions or votes, if their interest in any company or business concern might influence such decision or vote.

Members must not participate in any decision or votes, if they stand to gain a financial or other benefit based on that decision or vote.

Members must not offer, give, seek, or accept for themselves or others any gifts, favors, or benefits other than modest courtesies openly given and accepted as a part of the usual business amenities.

If there is a question of conflict of interest involving any member, the Club's Board of Directors will be notified. The individual member will be given an opportunity to explain or clarify the alleged conflict. If the Board of Directors finds that there is sufficient reason to consider a question involving breach of this policy, the procedure for discipline outlined in Article VI of the Bylaws shall apply.

## **Enforcement**

The Club's policy on conflict of interest requires all members to report annually certain outside interests of themselves or any immediate family member (not only spouse, dependent children, parents, and non-dependent children). At the time of membership renewal, members will declare that their outside interests have not changed from those previously reported or declare any new outside interests by completing a disclosure form. These reporting requirements help prevent or minimize conflicts between the outside interests of members and especially officers and directors and their Club responsibilities.

As part of the application process, each new member applicant will be required to complete a form declaring his or her interests and that of any immediate family member in any other dog-event-giving organization, dog registry, or any organization deemed to be in competition with the Club or with AKC or in conflict with objectives of AKC and/or the Club, as well as significant interest in any dog-related activity or enterprise, producing monetary investment or gains, business affiliation, representation or consulting, with such interest resulting in payment or receipt of any remuneration or reward, cash or in kind, direct or indirect. This form will become a permanent part of the membership application.

## **Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form**

1. Are you or is any member of your immediate family the owner, employee or consultant of an organization or individual, which to your knowledge does or is seeking to do business with Greater Shelby Kennel Club?
  
2. Have you or any member of your immediate family accepted any benefits beyond the customary business courtesies from any organization or individual, which to your knowledge does or is seeking to do business with Greater Shelby Kennel Club?
  
3. Do you or any member of your immediate family have any other interest or arrangement, which may violate the Club's policy on Conflict of Interest, which may result in compromising yourself or the Club or may result in the impairment of your independent judgment?

If you have answered "yes" to any of the above questions, please explain and attach that explanation to this form.

I have read and am familiar with the Conflict of Interest policy of Greater Shelby Kennel Club and have answered the above questions fully, absolutely, and truthfully. I recognize that the consequences of an incomplete, inaccurate, or untruthful response may be discipline under the procedure for discipline outlined in Article VI of the Bylaws.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_