

## **Constitution and Bylaws as of July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

### **ARTICLE I: NAME OF CLUB**

1. The name of this association shall be Tornado Alley Hundesport, and shall be known as such.

### **ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB**

1. To train dogs for the sport of Utility Dog.
2. The promotion of working dogs for Utility Dog, police, and search and rescue work.
3. To support movements that demonstrate the advantages of Utility Dog training.
4. To support and organize trials for the Utility Dog.
5. To interest and educate the public about Utility Dogs, police, and search and rescue dogs.
6. To preserve The German Shepherd Dog in accordance to the breed standard as a working dog.
7. To promote humane training methods and to support responsible dog ownership and breeding practices.

### **ARTICLE III: NONPROFIT**

1. This club shall be conducted as a non-profit organization. All dues, levies, and other income shall be disbursed to promote the objectives of this club, along with associated social activities.

### **ARTICLE IV: DISSOLUTION**

1. The club shall be dissolved at any time by the written consent of (3/5) majority vote of its active members in good standing. In such case, after payment of all debts and liabilities of the club, its assets and property shall be divided equally among the active members in good standing.

### **ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP**

#### *Section A: The club shall consist of 3 types of members*

1. **Founding Members:** The three founding members are Debbie Whitfield, Cathy Clark, and Kelly Miller. These founding members shall remain in good standing as long as they belong to Tornado Alley Hundesport, and belong to the United Schutzhund Clubs of America (member in good standing). The founding members will have the sole responsibility to veto (by a 2/3 vote of the founding members) any change of direction of Tornado Alley Hundesport. This is to include but not limited to the disbandment/termination of Tornado Alley Hundesport or withdrawal from the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.
2. **Full Members:** These members are actively training dogs and are progressing towards their goals for the Utility Working Dog/IPO. These members are required to be members in good standing with the United Schutzhund Clubs of America. These members are entitled to vote, hold office, and benefit in all advantages of this organization, including reduced fees for seminars/trials. The Board of Directors, consisting of the club officers, may vote to make any associate member a Full member at any time and no later than one year after admission as an Associate member.
3. **Associate Members:** These members are actively training dogs and are progressing towards their goals in Utility Working Dog/IPO. These members hold no voting rights. Any new members to the club are admitted as Associate members.

#### *Section B: Application for Election to Membership*

1. Applicants must attend at 2-4 training sessions as nonmembers. The training director will evaluate the applicant's dog for appropriate drives for the sport. If the dog's drives or temperament are not suitable for IPO the applicant will be informed of this by the training director.
2. After the initial 2-4 training sessions, a prospective member is required to attend training continuously for 6 months before they are allowed to submit an application for membership.
3. Applications for membership shall be made to Tornado Alley Hundesport on forms provided. Membership to United Schutzhund Clubs of America shall be made at this time if you are seeking full membership.
4. The Board of Directors shall vote on the application and the outcome will be communicated to the applicant.
5. The Board of Directors will decide by vote no later than one year on promoting an Associate member to Full membership.

#### *Section C: Resignation*

1. A member may resign at any time and will be removed from the membership upon receipt of resignation. A written notice of resignation MUST be received by the Secretary. Any renouncement of club affiliation shall be viewed as an immediate resignation and the member shall be removed from membership and club roster immediately. Written resignation shall not be required after renouncement of club affiliation.

*Section D: Suspension*

1. Any member may be suspended by a 3/5 vote by the Board of Directors or automatically as provided for, elsewhere in the bylaws.
2. Any member under suspension shall be allowed to participate in training, club trials, club seminars, or be allowed to vote.
3. Any member under suspension can petition for reinstatement within 30 days of the suspension by requesting a hearing with the Board of Directors.
4. Any member under suspension for more than 30 days shall be expelled from membership automatically.

*Section E: Membership Responsibilities*

1. Members are responsible for maintaining all equipment used in the training program and all club property.
2. Members shall provide or otherwise arrange for various equipment necessary to keep the training program operating.
3. Each member shall greet visitors, answer questions, offer explanations, and provide good relations for the interested public.
4. Each member is responsible for ensuring that guest animals are fully vaccinated prior to entering the training grounds.

**ARTICLE VI: DUES AND SPECIAL LEVIES**

*Section A: Dues and Fees*

1. The individual membership dues for one person are \$150.00 per year.
2. The family membership dues, for two people living at the same address are \$225.00 per year.
3. Youth membership dues are based on age (until age 18 where youth members shall become full members) and are figured as such: 7 years old, \$7.00 /yr dues, 16 years old, \$16.00/yr dues.
4. Helpers may receive reduced fees as seen fit by the Board of Directors, based on their attendance and abilities.
5. There is a one-time (as long as the member is in good standing) equipment/initiation fee of \$100.00 for every member.
6. There is a nonmember training fee of \$20.00 for training with the club on scheduled training days.
7. Membership dues are paid on or before March 1<sup>st</sup> each year. A copy of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America membership card shall be included when the dues are paid each year. Members joining after March 1<sup>st</sup> shall have their membership dues prorated. There will be NO REFUNDS of club dues for any reason.
8. All issues concerning funds, dues, and fees will be discussed with the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall make him/herself available immediately before or following training. Issues concerning money shall not be discussed during training sessions, seminars, or trials.

*Section B: Special Levies*

1. The membership may approve by a majority vote by the Board of Directors, the collection of a special equal levy against the membership to meet the expenses of the club.

*Section C: Nonpayment of Dues or Special Levies*

1. Active members who fail to pay their dues on March 1<sup>st</sup> will be given a 30 day grace period. If dues remain unpaid after the grace period the member will be removed from the club roster.
2. Any member, whose share of a special levy remains unpaid for one month after the approval of said levy, shall be notified by the secretary or the treasurer. If said levy remains unpaid for another 30 days, the member shall be suspended.

**ARTICLE VII: TRAINING**

*Section A: Training Expectations*

1. It is the policy of this club for all members and guests to observe all training field safety rules at all times.
2. It is the policy of this club that 3 dogs per person will be given priority over extra dogs. The training of extra dogs at any training session can be done only with the consent of the Training Director and must not interfere with the timely training of other dogs. Extra dogs and nonmember dogs will be trained last in the session.
3. Extra dogs owned by club members that are under six months of age may be staked or tied out during training sessions, or brought to sessions for socialization, provided that such action does not interfere with the training of other dogs. A helper with the consent of the training director may work puppies briefly.
4. Prospective members and guests of members may attend training sessions. They may not enter into training activities of the club except by the consent of the presiding officer or training director. Dogs must be fully

vaccinated and all nonmember or guest dogs are required to register with the secretary or treasurer and pay the nonmember training fee.

5. The training director may require any member, at any time to demonstrate their dog's progress in phases other than the protection phase. In order for any dog to participate in the protection phase, the training director/helpers must be convinced that the dog is genuinely being trained for the sport of Utility Dog/IPO. The training director/helpers reserve the right to refuse protection training for any dog.
6. Prior to entering any trial, members are required to present their dog to the training director and helpers for evaluation in all three phases. This allows the training director/helpers to evaluate the dog's performance and decide if the dog is ready to trial.
7. Members may not participate in a training session unless their membership dues are current. If dues are not current a nonmember training fee must be paid.
8. Utility Dog/IPO training is a three-phase sport. Any member that shows up to a training session more than 20 minutes late shall be last in order to get their dog worked in each phase. It is vital that members are present and participate in all three phases.
9. Training with any other club during scheduled Tornado Alley Hundesport training times will not be permitted. Due to liability issues as well as for the well-being and camaraderie of the club, any member who chooses to do otherwise and is documented in engaging at such training will be brought up on disciplinary charges by the Board of Directors. These charges can result to suspension and/or expulsion from Tornado Alley Hundesport at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The only exception to this rule is if a member is also an active member of another USCA or DVG club (which at said training time would be under that club's jurisdiction) or the member has resigned from Tornado Alley Hundesport and has chosen to be an Auslander. If training as an Auslander with Tornado Alley Hundesport, the nonmember training fee will apply.

#### *Section B: Charges of Misconduct*

1. Any member may refer charges against another member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the interests of the club. Written charges with specific details must be submitted in duplicate and forwarded to the secretary of the club with a deposit of \$10.00, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained. All charges will be heard before the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall fine, suspend or expel from the club or take other measure as may be deemed advisable as a result of these charges. The accused member must be allowed to present their case to the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. The control and management of the affairs of the club shall be vested in the Board of Directors; consisting of at least 2 but not more than 5 members.
2. The Board of Directors shall consist of:
  - a. President
  - b. Vice President
  - c. Secretary
  - d. Treasurer
  - e. Director-at-Large
3. The President shall call regular meetings of the Board of Directors at least annually. Board meetings may precede or follow regular general membership meetings.
4. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by the President or two officers acting in concert.
5. A majority of the officers being present shall constitute a quorum to conduct regular business. The Board shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur between elections, except that of President.
6. The secretary or treasurer shall keep minutes of the Board meetings, which should be available to any member at any time.
7. The Board shall have general supervision over all disbursement of the treasurer and shall audit accounts, and records annually and prior to all elections.
8. The Board shall have the power to appoint committees and assistant officers from among the membership.

#### **ARTICLE IX: OFFICERS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. President: The President shall preside at all meetings and act as the chief executive of the club. He/She shall be a member of all committees.
2. Vice President: The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, perform all duties of the President. He/She will officially greet visitors and control their location and movements at the training grounds while dogs are in training.
3. Secretary: The Secretary shall have charge of all correspondence, keep records, and roll of members, the minutes of general membership meetings, and Board of Directors meetings, as well as election results.

4. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive, collect and disperse all funds of the club. Disbursements shall be made only by signed vouchers, which shall be kept as a part of the permanent record system, which shall include an account book of all receipts and disbursements. He/She shall render a formal statement regarding the club funds annually and informally at all meetings.
5. Director-at-Large: Shall have the power to fill any vacancy that may occur between elections except that of the President.

#### **ARTICLE X: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

1. The Training Director is selected by the Board of Directors and is responsible for working with handlers to develop their training plans. The Training Director does not serve in the Board of Directors.
2. Officers shall be elected by the full members in good standing for a term of one year, at the annual meeting of the club to be held in April of each year. Each member may vote one nominee for each office.
3. Nominations for officers shall be made from the membership at the April meeting. All nominations must be seconded. Prior to the election, the Secretary shall receive consent to hold office from all nominees.
4. Any full member whose dues or levies remain unpaid on Election Day shall be disqualified from voting or holding office.

#### **ARTICLE XI: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

1. The current edition of the Roberts Rules of Order shall govern this association in all parliamentary situations that are not covered in the law, or in this constitution, and by-laws, or adopted rules. In case of conflict between provisions of the constitution and the bylaws and the parliamentary provision of Roberts Rule of Orders, the provisions of this constitution and bylaws shall prevail.

#### **ARTICLE XII: MEETINGS**

1. General membership meetings to conduct business shall be held in conjunction with training sessions. Two officers must be present for an official meeting and/or vote to take place.

#### **ARTICLE XIII: CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENTS**

1. The constitution and bylaws may be amended, altered, or repealed by a 3/5 vote of the Board of Directors.
2. The Board of Directors do not have to all be present to vote, although all Board members must vote, which can be done via phone followed by a confirmations email of the phone call vote.

#### **ARTICLE XIV: EMPOWERED REPRESENTATIVE**

1. This club, at each annual meeting, will elect from the general membership, one person who will be the club delegate to the parent organization, the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.
2. This delegate must be an active member in good standing with the club, must not have any disciplinary action pending from Tornado Alley Hundesport or USCA. All dues and levies payable to Tornado Alley Hundesport and USCA must be paid in full.
3. This delegate will begin his/her one-year term as the club's empowered representative to the Board of Directors of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America effective with the annual meeting of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America.

#### **ARTICLE XV: CLUB DUES TO UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUBS OF AMERICA**

1. This club must pay the treasurer of the United Schutzhund Clubs of America an annual fee as prescribed by the parent organization, upon the date of affiliation with the United Schutzhund Clubs of America and every year thereafter.

#### **ARTICLE XVI: BREEDING CODE OF ETHICS**

1. This club shall support and practice humane and ethical breeding guidelines.
2. This club firmly believes in the complete German Shepherd Dog and shall continue to strive to improve on the quality of breeding. The following standards shall be met by any and all applicant and club members that are considering or are actively breeding dogs:
  - a. All dogs must be a minimum of 20 months of age.
  - b. All dogs must have a working title or be certified working dogs.
  - c. Hips and elbows must be xrayed and certified with a grade of passing. No dogs shall be bred if they are deemed to be dysplastic, arthritic, or have abnormal elbows.
  - d. All dogs must be of stable mind and sound temperament.
  - e. All dogs must be in good overall health and present with no breed faults.
3. Any applicant for membership or member that chooses to breed any dog without following the Breeding Code of Ethics as set forth by Tornado Alley Hundesport shall be dismissed immediately from Tornado Alley Hundesport.

*With the signing of my name, I agree that I have read and fully understand the expectations and requirements of being a member of Tomado Alley Hundesport. I also attest, with my signature, that I understand and agree that if I choose to act in a manner that is unbecoming or in violation of the constitution, bylaws and ethics of Tomado Alley Hundesport, that disciplinary actions shall be set into motion as outlined by the constitution, bylaws, and Code of ethics, which shall include, but not be limited to, suspension or expulsion from Tomado Alley Hundesport.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TASH Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_