

# **The Australian Cattle Dog Club of America Inc.**



**ACDCA Inc. By-Laws, Standing Rules and Award Guidelines**  
**ACD Breed & Working Standards**



# AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG CLUB OF AMERICA, INC. BYLAWS

## ARTICLE I NAME AND OBJECTIVES

### Section 1. Name.

The name of the Club shall be Australian Cattle Dog Club of America, Inc, hereinafter referred to as the "Club."

### Section 2. Objectives.

The objectives of the Club shall be:

- a. To encourage and to do all possible to bring the natural qualities of Australian Cattle Dogs to perfection according to the current American Kennel Club (AKC) breed standard.
- b. To urge members and breeders to accept the current standard of the breed as approved by the AKC as the only standard of excellence by which the Australian Cattle Dog shall be judged.
- c. To do all in its powers to protect and advance the interests of the Australian Cattle Dog breed and to encourage sporting competition at dog shows, herding tests and trials, performance events, and obedience trials.
- d. To conduct sanctioned matches, national specialty shows, herding tests and trials, performance events, and obedience trials under the current rules and regulations of the AKC.
- e. To provide a minimum of two AKC herding tests and trials at the national specialty, with both tests and trials to include cattle.
- f. To encourage the organization of independent local Australian Cattle Dog Specialty Clubs in those localities where there are sufficient fanciers of the breed to meet the current requirements of the AKC.

### Section 3. Non-Profit Status.

The Club shall not be conducted nor operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

### Section 4. Revisions.

The members in good standing of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such Bylaws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

## ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1. Eligibility.

There shall be four types of membership open to those who subscribe to the purposes of this Club and who are in good standing with the AKC.

- a. Regular Membership is open to all persons 18 years of age or older. A Regular member pays dues, has one vote, may hold an elected office, and has all the normal duties, obligations and responsibilities of a member in good standing of the Club.
- b. Household Membership is open to all families. A family comprises such persons as habitually reside under one roof and form one domestic circle. A Household member pays dues, has two votes per membership, if 18 years of age or older, may hold an elected office and has all the normal duties, obligations and responsibilities of a member in good standing of the Club.
- c. Junior Membership is open to all persons under the age of 18. A Junior member pays dues, has no vote, may not make motions or hold office. Parental approval is required.
- d. Honorary Membership, subject to approval of the Board of Directors, may be awarded to those persons who have displayed significant service benefiting the Clubs objectives. An Honorary member's approval is required. An Honorary member pays no dues, has no vote, and has no obligations or responsibilities of a member in good standing of the Club.
- e. No person may hold more than one membership.
- f. A member in good standing of the Club is not, as such, personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the Club.
- g. Membership in the Club shall not vest in any member any distributions from the Club during the existence of the Club, but shall only entitle the member in good standing to vote at meetings of the members. Membership shall not be assignable inter vivo by any member in good standing, nor shall membership vest to any personal representative, heir or devisee.

### Section 2. Dues.

- a. Membership dues shall be payable on or before the first day of September of each year. No member,

whose dues are delinquent, may vote, conduct any official business or hold office in the Club. During the month of July, the Treasurer shall send to each active member in good standing a statement of his or her dues for the following year.

- b. The amount of annual membership dues shall not exceed \$100.00 and shall be established by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority of all members in good standing of the Club.

**Section 3. Election to Membership**

- a. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by these Bylaws and the rules of the AKC. The application shall state the name, address and occupation of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of two members in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.
- b. Applicants for membership may be elected to membership by secret ballot in a closed session at any meeting of the Board of Directors or by secret vote of the Board of Directors by mail. Affirmative votes of 2/3 the entire Board of Directors shall be required to elect an applicant. The Secretary shall by written notice notify each applicant of the outcome of the Board of Directors vote within 15 days.
- c. An applicant for membership who has received a negative vote by the Board of Directors may be presented to the membership of the Club by one of the applicant's endorsers at the next annual meeting of the Club and the membership may elect such applicant by a favorable secret written vote of 3/4 of the members present and voting. An applicant who has received a negative vote by the membership may not reapply for membership for a period of not less than twelve months from the date of the negative vote. The Secretary shall by written notice notify each applicant of the outcome of the membership vote within 15 days. Upon denial of any application the submitted dues shall be refunded with the written notice.

**Section 4. Termination Of Membership.**

A membership may be terminated:

- a. BY DEATH OR RESIGNATION. The death of any member terminates the membership. Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Secretary, but, no resignation shall be accepted from any member who is in debt to the Club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club and they become incurred the first day of September of each fiscal year.
- b. BY LAPSING. A membership shall be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid by the first day of November. In no case may a person whose dues are unpaid as of the date of any meeting be entitled to vote at that Club meeting, nor may he or she receive any Club information. However, the Board of Directors may grant an additional 60 days of grace in meritorious cases.
- c. BY EXPULSION. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these Bylaws. At termination of membership the person must return all Club property. All persons wishing to rejoin the Club may re-apply for membership as a new member as provided in Article II of these Bylaws, and if re-elected to membership he or she shall be reissued his or her old membership number.

**ARTICLE III  
MEETINGS**

**Section 1. Annual Meeting of the Club.**

The annual meeting of the Club shall be held between the fifteenth day of September and the fifteenth day of October in conjunction with the Club's Annual Specialty Show if possible, at a place, date and hour designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of the meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary to each member in good standing at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for the annual meeting of the Club shall be 10% of the members in good standing.

**Section 2. Special Club Meetings.**

Special Club Meetings may be called by the President, a majority of the members of the Board of Directors who are present at a meeting of the Board of Directors or who vote by mail, or by a written petition signed by 10% of the members of the Club who are in good standing. Such meeting shall be held at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 15 days and not more than 30 days prior to the meeting. The notice of the meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other Club business shall be transacted. The quorum for such special meeting shall be 10% of the members in good standing.

**Section 3. Board of Directors Meetings.**

The first and only regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held within 24 hours following the election at the annual meeting of the Club. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such times, places and dates as designated by the President or a majority of the Board of Directors.

Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held upon 15 days notice by first class mail or five days notice given personally or by verifiable telephonic communication, including a voice messaging system or other system or technology designed to record and communicate messages, telegraph, facsimile, electronic mail or other electronic means. The notice shall be addressed or delivered to each Director or at the Director's address as it is shown upon the records of the Club or as may have been given to the Club by that Director for purpose of notice.

Section 4. **Quorum for Board of Directors Meetings.**

Except as otherwise provided herein, a majority of the authorized number of Directors shall constitute a quorum except when a vacancy or vacancies prevents such majority, whereupon a majority of the Directors in office shall constitute a quorum, provided such majority shall constitute either one third of the authorized number of Directors or at least two Directors, whichever is larger, or unless the authorized number of Directors is only one. A majority of the Directors present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place. Except as the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws and the California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law may provide, the act or decision done or made by a majority of the Directors present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. **Conduct of Business.**

The Board of Directors may conduct its business by mail, facsimile, electronic mail or telephone conference call through the Secretary. Items voted upon by mail shall not be considered final until 30 days after the ballot has been mailed by the Secretary. Items voted upon by telephone conference call shall be confirmed in writing within seven days.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

Section 1. **Number of Directors.**

The Club shall have from eleven to sixteen Directors, who are residents of the United States, have been members in good standing for a minimum of one full fiscal year, who shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, if one exists, AKC Delegate, Regional Directors and National Directors. The number may be changed by amendment of this Bylaw, or by repeal of this Bylaw and adoption of a new Bylaw, as provided in these Bylaws.

Section 2. **AKC Delegate.**

The AKC Delegate shall be the liaison between the Club and the AKC. The AKC Delegate should attend quarterly meetings of the AKC.

Section 3. **Regional Directors.**

The boundaries of America shall be divided by the Board of Directors, every three to five years, into a number of certain geographical regions not to exceed the number of Officer and Directors elected on a national basis and these divisions shall be of equal size, as possible, determined by the number of members in good standing. Each region shall be entrusted to the leadership of one Regional Director who shall reside in that region and be elected by the regular membership of the Club.

- a. The Regional Directors shall be responsible for overseeing the shows, encouraging matches, and promoting the Club and the breed whenever possible within their regions.
- b. The Regional Directors shall promote intra-regional competition and cooperation.
- c. The Regional Directors shall act as liaison between the Club and their regions, keeping these members informed of all Club or AKC activities or both, and disseminate directives, and regulations as are prescribed by the Board of Directors in addition to those specified in these Bylaws.
- d. The Regional Directors shall keep a roll of members within their region and may request an assistant or assistants to be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. **Powers.**

Subject to the provisions of the California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation law and any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws relating to action required or permitted to be taken or approved by the members of this Club, the activities and affairs of the Club shall be conducted and all Club powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. **Duties.**

It shall be the duty of the Directors to:

- a. Perform any and all duties imposed on them collectively or individually by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws.
- b. Appoint and remove, employ and discharge, and, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, prescribe the duties and fix the compensation, if any, of all agents and employees of the Club.
- c. Supervise all agents and employees of the Club to assure that their duties are performed properly.
- d. Meet, at their own expense, at such times and places as required by these Bylaws.
- e. Register their addresses with the Secretary of the Club and notices of meetings mailed or telegraphed to them at such addresses shall be valid notices thereof.

Section 6. **Terms of Office**

Each Director, with the exception of the Immediate Past President, AKC Delegate, and Regional Directors shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the Club for election of the Board of Directors as specified in these Bylaws, and until his or her successor is elected and qualifies. The AKC Delegate shall be elected for a term of two Club years and shall serve until his or his successor is elected and qualifies. The Regional Directors shall be elected for staggered terms of two Club years and shall serve until his or her successor is elected and qualifies. There shall be no term limits except for the Immediate Past President who shall serve for only one year following his or her Presidency. Each retiring Director shall turn over to his or her successor all properties and records relating to that position at the annual meeting of the Club.

Section 7. **Number of Officers.**

The Officers of the Club shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Chief Financial Officer who shall be designated the Treasurer. The Club may also have, as determined by the Board of Directors, Assistant Secretaries, Assistant Treasurers, or other Officers.

Section 8. **Qualification, Election, and Term of Office.**

Any member, who is a resident of the United States and has been a member in good standing for a minimum of one full fiscal year, may serve as an Officer of the Club. No member in good standing may hold more than one office. Officers shall be elected by the members in accordance with Article V of these Bylaws, and each Officer shall hold office until he or she resigns or is removed or is otherwise disqualified to serve, or until his or her successor shall be elected and qualified, whichever occurs first.

Section 9. **Duties of President.**

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Club and shall, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, supervise and control the affairs of the Club and the activities of the Officers. He or she shall perform all duties incident to his or her office and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, or which may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and at all meetings of the members. Except as otherwise expressly provided by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, he or she shall, in the name of the Club, execute such deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, checks, or other instruments which may from time to time be authorized by the Board of Directors.

Section 10. **Duties of Vice-President.**

In the absence of the President, or in the event of his or her inability or refusal to act, the Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions on, the President. The Vice-President shall have other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, or as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Vice-President shall coordinate the various standing and/or special Committees.

Section 11. **Duties of Secretary**

The Secretary shall certify and keep at the principal office of the Club the original, or a copy, of these Bylaws as amended or otherwise altered to date. Keep at the principal office of the Club or at such other place as the Board of Directors may determine, a book of minutes of all meetings of the Directors and of members, and, if applicable, meetings of Committees, recording therein the time and place of holding, whether regular or special, how called, how notice thereof was given, the names of those present at the meeting, and the proceedings thereof. See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law. Be custodian of the records and of the seal of the Club and see that the seal is affixed to all duly executed documents, the execution of which on behalf of the Club under its seal is authorized by law or these Bylaws. Keep at the principal office of the Club a membership book containing the name and address of each member in good standing, and, in the case where any membership has been terminated, he or she shall record such fact in the membership book together with the date on which such membership terminated. Exhibit at all reasonable times to any

Club Director, or to his or her agent or attorney, on request therefore, the Bylaws, the membership book, and the minutes of the proceedings of the Directors of the Club. Communicate to the members minutes of meetings and voting results within thirty days of the vote or meeting adjournment. Request an assistant or assistants to be approved by the Board of Directors. In general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, or which may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 12. **Duties of Treasurer.**

The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds and securities of the Club, and deposit all such funds in the name of the Club in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Board of Directors. Receive, and give receipt for, monies due and payable to the Club from any source whatsoever. Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the Club as may be directed by the Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements. Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the Club's properties and business transactions, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses. Exhibit at all reasonable times the books of account and financial records to any Director of the Club, or to his or her agent or attorney, on request therefore. Render to the President and Directors, at every meeting and whenever requested, an account of any or all of his or her transactions as Treasurer and the financial condition of the Club. Prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify, or cause to be certified, the financial statements to be included in any required reports. Be bonded in the state of residency in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine. Request an assistant or assistants to be approved by the Board of Directors. In general, perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, or which may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 13. **Executive Committee.**

The Board of Directors by a majority vote, may designate two or more of its members in good standing (who may also be serving as Officers or Directors of the Club) to constitute an Executive Committee and delegate to such Committee any of the powers and authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the business and affairs of the Club, except with respect to:

- a. The approval of any action which, under law or the provisions of these Bylaws, requires the approval of the members or of a majority of all of the members.
- b. The filling of vacancies on the Board of Directors or on any Committee which has the authority of the Board of Directors.
- c. The fixing of compensation of the Officers for serving on the Board of Directors or on any Committee.
- d. The amendment or repeal of Bylaws or the adoption of new Bylaws.
- e. The amendment or repeal of any resolution of the Board of Directors which by its express terms is not so amendable or repealable.
- f. The appointment of Committees of the Board of Directors or the members thereof.
- g. The expenditure of Club funds to support a nominee for Director after there are more people nominated for Director than can be elected.
- h. The approval of any transaction to which the Club is a party and in which one or more of the Directors has a material financial interest, except as expressly provided in Section 7233 of the California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law.
- i. By a majority vote of its Directors currently in office, the Board of Directors may at any time revoke or modify any or all of the authority so delegated, increase or decrease but not below two, the number of its members, and fill vacancies therein from the members of the Club. The Committee shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings, cause them to be filed with the Club's records, and report the same to the Board of Directors from time to time as the Board of Directors may require.

Section 14. **Other Committees.**

The Club shall have such other Committees as may from time to time be designated by resolution of the Board of Directors to advance the work of the Club in such matters as show, herding tests and trials, performance events, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, audit, nominating, international, local club, membership, Bylaws, publicity, budget and finance, standards and education, rescue, grievance, history, genetics, stud book recording, and newsletter editing. Such other Committees may consist of members in good standing who are not also members of the Board of Directors. These additional committees shall act in an advisory capacity only to the Board of Directors and shall be clearly titled as "advisory" committees. Any Committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Any appointee whose services are terminated shall receive written notice of termination. The Board of Directors may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

**ARTICLE V**  
**THE CLUB YEAR, VOTING,**  
**ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND BALLOTS**

Section 1. **The Club Year.**

The Club's year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting of the Club and shall continue through the election at the next annual meeting of the Club. The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of September and end on the last day of August.

Section 2. **Voting.**

At the annual membership meeting or at a special membership meeting, voting shall be limited to those members in good standing who are present at the meeting, except for the election of Officers, Directors, AKC Delegate, Regional Directors, National Specialty Judges, amendments to the Bylaws, and standard for the breed, which shall be decided by a secret written ballot cast by mail. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. The Board of Directors may decide to submit other specific questions through referenda for decision of the members by secret written ballot cast by mail. All referenda contained in any Club ballot shall have a place for a YES or NO vote. All referenda with a favorable vote of more than 50% of all eligible votes received shall be enacted except where the ballot is clearly marked as "advisory only."

Section 3. **Annual Election.**

The President with the approval of the Board of Directors shall select a three-member special Committee comprised of the Secretary plus two alternates to receive and count the ballots for the annual election as provided in Section 4 of this Article. The name of this Committee shall be known as "The Ballot Counting Committee." Regional proximity of the members of this Committee is to be considered and these Committee members shall be members in good standing who are neither members of the current Board of Directors, with the exception of the Secretary, nor candidates on the ballot. In order for the ballots to be valid they must be mailed to and received by the Secretary or an independent professional firm designated by the Board of Directors on or before 30 days prior to the annual meeting of the Club. The nominee receiving the largest number of votes for each position shall be declared elected. If any nominee at the time of the meeting is unable to serve for any reason, such nominee shall not be elected and the vacancy so created shall be filled by the new Board of Directors in the manner provided for in these Bylaws.

Section 4. **Nomination and Ballots.**

A candidate in a Club election shall be a resident of the United States, a member in good standing for at least one full fiscal year and nominated in accordance with these Bylaws. A Nominating Committee shall be chosen by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the Club, and this Committee shall consist of three members from different areas of the United States and two alternates, all members in good standing, not more than one of whom shall be a member of the current Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall name a chairperson for the Committee. The Nominating Committee may conduct its business by mail, conference telephone, electronic video screen communications, or other communications equipment.

- a. The Nominating Committee shall nominate from among the eligible members of the Club, one candidate for each office and procure the acceptance in writing of each nominee so chosen. The Committee shall consider geographical representation of the membership on the Board of Directors to the extent that it is practical to do so. The Committee shall then submit its slate of candidates with the accompanying written acceptances to the Secretary who shall mail the list, including the full name of each candidate and the name of the State in which he or she resides, to each member in good standing of the Club on or before the first day of April so that additional nominations may be made by the members if they so desire. No two members being related or living in the same household may be permitted to serve on the Nominating Committee at the same time.
- b. Additional Nominations of members in good standing may be made by written petition signed by five members in good standing, to the Secretary and received at his or her regular address on or before the first day of May. A written acceptance from each additional nominee signifying his or her acceptance to be a candidate is required and shall be sent to the Secretary along with the petition. Additional nominations which are provided for herein may be made only from among those who have not accepted a nomination by the Nominating Committee.
- c. If no valid additional nominations are received by the Secretary on or before the first day of May, the Nominating Committee slate shall be declared elected and no balloting shall be required.
- d. If one or more valid additional nominations are received on or before the first day of May, the Secretary shall on or before the fifteenth day of May, mail to each regular member in good standing a ballot listing all of the nominees for each position in alphabetical order, with the names of the State in which they reside together with a blank envelope and a return envelope addressed to the Secretary marked "BALLOT" and bearing the name of the member in good standing to whom it was sent. So that the ballots may remain secret, each voter, after marking his or her ballot, shall seal it in the

- blank envelope, which in turn shall be placed in the second envelope addressed to the Secretary.
- e. Nominations shall not be made in any manner other than provided above.
  - f. Upon receipt of the sealed mailings with sealed ballots enclosed, the Secretary shall account for and deposit all such mailings, unopened, in a safe place until the meeting of the Ballot Counting Committee to count the ballots. The Ballot Counting Committee shall meet at a time and place 30 days prior to the annual meeting of the Club as designated by the chairperson and a notice to that effect shall be published in the Club's official Newsletter edition preceding the ballot counting meeting. The meeting for counting of these ballots is to be open to the inspection of all interested Club members. On or about 30 days prior to the meeting, the unopened mailings received by the Secretary shall be presented to the Ballot Counting Committee who shall check return addresses of the voting members for eligibility of the voters after which the mailings shall be opened and the unopened unmarked ballot envelopes shall be deposited in a secret ballot box. After the mailings have been certified for eligibility and the ballot envelopes have been deposited in the ballot box, the ballots shall be counted by the Ballot Counting Committee.
  - g. The Ballot Counting Committee shall send to the Editor of the Newsletter, by the next feasible mailing, the results of the election and a list of eligible members who have voted. This list shall be published in the issue of the Club's official newsletter preceding the annual meeting of the Club.

## **ARTICLE VI** **DISCIPLINE**

### Section 1. **AKC Suspension.**

Any member who is suspended from privileges of the AKC shall automatically and without recourse be suspended from the privileges of the Club on the same terms and conditions.

### Section 2. **Charges.**

Any member in good standing may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the breed. Written charges with specifications shall be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$100.00 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board of Directors or the Grievance Committee following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each Director or present them at a Board of Directors meeting, and the Board of Directors shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the breed. If the Board of Directors considers that the charges do not allege conduct that would be prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the breed it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction of the charges. If the Board of Directors entertains jurisdiction of the charges it shall fix a date of hearing by the Board of Directors or a Grievance Committee of not less than three members of the Board of Directors, not less than three weeks or more than six weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by certified return receipt requested mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the accused may personally or by written waiver of personal appearance, appear telephonically in his or her own defense and bring or present witnesses if he or she wishes.

### Section 3. **Board of Directors/Grievance Committee Hearing.**

The Board of Directors or Grievance Committee shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and accused shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by the complainant and accused, the Board of Directors or Grievance Committee may, by a majority vote of the entire Board of Directors or Grievance Committee, suspend the accused from all privileges of the Club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing or until the next annual meeting of the Club, whichever is greater. And, if it deems that punishment is insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the punishment be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the accused person's or Club's right to appear before his or her fellow members at the ensuing annual meeting of the Club where the recommendations of the Board of Directors or Grievance Committee shall be considered. Immediately after the Board of Directors or Grievance Committee has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in writing and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the decision and penalty, if any.

### Section 4. **Expulsion.**

Expulsion of a member of the Club may be accomplished only at the annual meeting of the Club following a hearing and upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors or Grievance Committee as provided in Section 3 of this Article. The accused shall have the privilege of appearing personally or by written waiver of personal appearance, appearing telephonically, on his or her own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the findings and the recommendations and shall invite the accused, if present, to speak on his or her own behalf. The membership shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those members in good standing present and voting at the annual meeting of the Club shall be necessary for

expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the suspension shall stand.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**AMENDMENTS OF BYLAWS**  
**OR THE STANDARD FOR THE BREED**

Section 1. **Amendments.**

Subject to any provision of law applicable to the amendment of Bylaws of California Mutual Benefit Nonprofit Corporations, the Bylaws, the standard for the breed or any of them, may be altered, amended, or repealed and a new Bylaws or standard for the breed adopted as follows:

- a. In writing, to the Secretary, proposed by any Director, or by 20% of the membership in good standing. Such proposed amendment shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors who shall prepare written recommendations. The Board of Directors shall select a date for a membership vote within three months of the date that the proposed amendment was received by the Secretary.
- b. The Secretary shall mail to each member in good standing, a copy of the proposed amendment, the Board of Directors recommendations, and a ballot on which that member may indicate his choice FOR or AGAINST the amendment. The ballot shall specify a date of not less than 30 days after the date of mailing by which the ballot must be returned to the Secretary to be counted. The favorable vote of 2/3 of the members in good standing, who vote, shall be required to effect any such amendment.

Section 2. **AKC Approval.**

No amendment to the Bylaws or to the standard for the breed that is adopted by the Club shall become effective until it has been approved by the Board of Directors of the AKC.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**DISSOLUTION**

Section 1. **Dissolution.**

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written vote of not less than 2/3 of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, other than for the purpose of reorganization, or by operation of law, none of the property of the Club nor any proceeds thereof nor any assets of the Club shall be distributed to any members of the Club, but after payment of the debts of the Club, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs selected by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Section 1. **Club Meetings.**

At meetings of the Club, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Committee Reports
- Report of the Regional Directors
- Report of the Committee Coordinator (Vice-President)
- Election of Officers and Board of Directors (at annual meeting of the Club)
- Selection of the annual meeting of the Club date, time and place
- Election of New Members
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

Section 2. **Board of Directors Meetings.**

At meetings of the Board of Directors, order of business, unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of the Last Board of Directors Meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of the Committee Coordinator (Vice-President)
- Election of New Members (and new active and/or associate member Clubs)

Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Adjournment

## **ARTICLE X** **PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

### Section 1. **Authority.**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any other special rules of order the Club may adopt.

## **ARTICLE XI** **GENERALIZED PROVISIONS**

### Section 1. **Rights of Inspection.**

Every Director shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the Club of which such person is a Director, for a purpose reasonably related to that person's interest as a Director.

### Section 2. **Compensation.**

Directors shall serve without compensation except that they shall be allowed reasonable advancement or reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their regular duties. Directors may not be compensated for rendering services to the Club in any capacity other than Director unless such other compensation is reasonable and is allowable under the provisions of these Bylaws.

### Section 3. **Restriction Regarding Interested Directors.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, not more than 49% of the persons serving on the Board of Directors may be interested persons. For purposes of this Section, "interested persons" means either:

- a. Any person currently being compensated by the Club for services rendered it within the previous twelve months, whether as a full or part-time Officer or other employee, independent contractor, or otherwise, excluding any reasonable compensation paid to a Director as Director; or
- b. Any brother, sister, ancestor, descendant, spouse, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, or any family member as defined in Article II Section 1 b., of any such person.

### Section 4. **Board of Director Vacancies.**

Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall exist (1) on the death, resignation or removal of any Director, and (2) whenever the number of authorized Directors is increased. The Board of Directors may declare vacant the office of a Director who has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of court, or convicted in a court of law of an animal cruelty related felony, or been found by a final order or judgment of any court to have breached any duty under Section 7221 and following of the California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law. If the Club has less than fifty members, Directors may be removed without cause by a majority of all members, or, if the Club has fifty or more members, by vote of a majority of the votes represented at a membership meeting at which a quorum is present. Any Director may resign effective upon giving written notice to the President, the Secretary, or the Board of Directors, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation. No Director may resign if the Club would then be left without a duly elected Director or Directors in charge of its affairs, except upon notice to the Attorney General. Vacancies on the Board of Directors may be filled by approval of the Board of Directors or, if the number of Directors then in office is less than a quorum, by (1) the unanimous written consent of the Directors then in office, (2) the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors then in office at a meeting held specifically for the purpose of filling the vacancy, or (3) a sole remaining Director. A vacancy in the office of the Immediate Past President shall not be filled and shall remain vacant until such time as a new Immediate Past President is available. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President and the resulting vacancy in the office of the Vice-President shall be filled according to this Section. Vacancies created by the removal of a Director may be filled only by the approval of the members. The members of this Club may elect a Director at any time to fill any vacancy not filled by the Board of Directors. A person elected to fill a vacancy as provided by this Section shall hold office until the next election of the vacated Board of Directors position or until his or her death, resignation or removal from office.

### Section 5. **Non-Liability of Directors**

The Directors shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the Club.

Section 6. **Indemnification of Directors, Officers, Employees and Other Agents.**

To the extent that a person who is, or was, a Director, Officer, employee or other agent of the Club has been successful on the merits in defense of any civil, criminal, administrative or investigative proceeding brought to procure a judgment against such person by reason of the fact that he or she is, or was, an agent of the Club, or has been successful in defense of any claim, issue or matter, therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such proceeding. If such person either settles any such claim or sustains a judgment against him or her, then indemnification against expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts reasonably incurred in connection with such proceedings shall be provided by the Club but only to the extent allowed by, and in accordance with the requirements of, Section 7237 of the California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law.

Section 7. **Insurance for Club Agents.**

The Board of Directors may adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the Club (including a Director, Officer, employee or other agent of the Club) against any liability other than for violating provisions of law relating to self-dealing (Section 7233 of the California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law) asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such, whether or not the Club would have the power to indemnify the agent against such liability under the provisions of Section 7237 of the California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law.

Section 8. **Subordinate Officers.**

The Board of Directors may appoint such other Officers or agents as it may deem desirable and such Officers shall serve such terms, have such authority, and perform such duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 9. **Removal and Resignation.**

Any Officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors or to the President or Secretary of the Club. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of receipt of such notice or at any later date specified therein, and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. The above provisions of this Section shall be superseded by any conflicting terms of a contract which has been approved or ratified by the Board of Directors relating to the employment of any Officer of the Club. If the Club has less than fifty members, Officers may be removed without cause by a majority of all members, or, if the Club has fifty or more members, by vote of a majority of the votes represented at a membership meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section 10. **Officer Vacancies.**

Any vacancy caused by the death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, of any Officer shall be filled by approval of the Board of Directors or, if the number of Directors then in office is less than a quorum, by (1) the unanimous written consent of the Directors then in office, (2) the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors then in office at a meeting held specifically for the purpose of filling the vacancy, or (3) a sole remaining Director. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President and the resulting vacancy in the office of the Vice-President shall be filled according to this Section. Vacancies created by the removal of an Officer may be filled only by the approval of the members. The members of this Club may elect an Officer at any time to fill any vacancy not filled by the Directors. A person elected to fill a vacancy as provided by this Section shall hold office for the term of the vacated office until the next annual election of the Officers and Directors or until his or her death, resignation or removal from office. In the event of a vacancy in any office other than that of President, such vacancy may be filled temporarily by appointment by the President until such time as the Board shall fill the vacancy. Vacancies occurring in offices of Officers appointed at the discretion of the Board of Directors may or may not be filled as the Board of Directors shall determine.

Section 11. **Compensation.**

The compensation of the Officers, if any, shall be fixed from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors, and no Officer shall be prevented from receiving such compensation by reason of the fact that he or she is also a Director of the Club, provided, however, that such compensation paid a Director for serving as an Officer of the Club shall only be allowed if permitted under the provisions of these Bylaws. In all cases, any compensation received by Officers of the Club shall be reasonable and given in return for services actually rendered for the Club which relate to the performance of the objectives of the Club. Reasonable expenses shall be reimbursed upon submission of receipts and Board of Directors approval is not required.

Section 12. **Execution of Instruments.**

The Board of Directors, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, may by resolution authorize any Officer or agent of the Club to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Club, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized, no Officer, agent, or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Club by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable monetarily for any purpose or in any amount.

Section 13. **Checks And Notes.**

Except as otherwise specifically determined by resolution of the Board of Directors, or as otherwise required by law, checks, drafts, promissory notes, orders for the payment of money, and other evidence of indebtedness of the Club shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President of the Club.

Section 14. **Deposits.**

All funds of the Club shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Club in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select.

Section 15. **Gifts.**

The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the Club any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the purposes of the Club.

REVISED: MARCH 1998

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, the undersigned, being the Secretary of the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America, Inc., do hereby certify that the above Bylaws were adopted as the Bylaws hereof on the 6th day of July, 1998 by the Board of Directors of said corporation and by the members at a special mail vote. Said Bylaws are, as of the date of this certification, the duly adopted and existing Bylaws of this corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of July, 1998.

SIGNATURE ON FILE

Kathy Buetow, Secretary

# ACDCA, INC. STANDING RULES

(As adopted by the Membership September 20, 2000 revised January 2005, October 2006)

## **Section 1. Advertising & Newsletter**

- a. The newsletter only accepts advertising "For Sale" or For Stud" of purebred Australian Cattle Dogs registered with, or eligible for registration with, the American Kennel Club and products and services of interest to the membership.
- b. Purchase of the front cover of the newsletter Is limited to one cover per year, per dog/person, with the editor allowed to use his/her discretion in case of emergency.
- c. Ads in any ACDCA publication referring to rankings must include system and date of source or the ranking will not be Included in the ad.
- d. The Club shall pay for a subscription to the Gazette and the Australian journals for the Newsletter Editor. After the editor has used them, s/he should transfer them to the archives.
- e. The Club shall pay for a subscription to AKC Awards for the Awards chair.
- f. The Club shall obtain data sets from AKC once a year for the performance venues of Herding, Obedience, Agility and Rally and for Junior Showmanship for the purposes of calculating the year-end awards for the National Specialty Awards Banquet.

## **Section 2. National Specialty Show and National Convention**

- a. Process for selecting specialty judges (for those events where the membership votes for the judge.)
  1. Require two nominations from club members for a judge to go on a selection ballot. In the year 2008 six nominations will be required.
  2. The membership votes to develop a list from which judges for the next three specialties will be selected.
  3. The top ten judges in each event are placed on a list in order of votes received, and contacted in order to determine their availability. If they are not available the next judge will be contacted and so on. For events requiring two judges, the top two would be contacted.
  4. If the top vote getter is not available for a given year, he or she stays at the top of the list and would be selected, if available, to judge the next year.
  5. In the third year of the list, the club would go through the nomination and balloting process once again to establish the next three-year list.
  6. All AKC judges who are ACDCA, Inc. members and who meet the AKC criteria for having the ACD as a first breed will automatically be on the nomination list.
  7. A judge that has judged in the past five years is not eligible to be selected. However they may be on the top ten list and may be asked to judge, consistent with their order on the list, and with the five-year rule.
  8. The club should not list the judges' fees on the ballot. Instead the club should establish a maximum they are willing to pay for each judge for each day. This committee recommends a \$400 per day maximum. Judges will be asked their fees ahead of time to insure adherence to the maximum.
  9. Each judge will be asked to submit a brief biography which, if supplied, will be included on the ballot.
- j. The AKC premium list for the Specialty Show shall state a reduced fee for the second entry of the same dog, Puppy Classes, Bred By Exhibitor Classes, Parade of Honors, Sweepstakes and Junior Showmanship. There shall be no added fee for Junior Showmanship as a second entry.
- k. The Property Classes at the National Specialty shall be coordinated and conducted by the International Committee. (Enacted 1991 AM)
- l. The National Specialty Parade of Titleholders shall recognize all ACDCA recognized titles.
- m. The hosting committee of each year's Specialty shall be responsible for the development, design and financing of Specialty-related sale items. The National Club may also sell regular club items at the Specialty.
- n. Each year's Convention Coordinator will include some sort of health clinic at the Specialty. (Enacted 1987 AB)
- o. Any special events proposed by the hosting Specialty Coordinators must have prior approval by the National Show Committee Chair and the Board.
- p. A Versatility competition shall be offered at each National Specialty (Enacted 2006AM).
- q. The Board shall have discretion to advance National Specialty Convention expenses as required and requested by the hosts. All incoming checks shall be payable to the ACDCA.
- r. The specialty Premium List shall carry a notice that permission for any professional video taping activities at any Specialty event must have the permission of the Convention Coordinator and that a copy of any such tape will be donated to the ACDCA and sent to the Historian for archiving.

For purposes of this rule, "professional" refers to the intention to sell or the act of selling originals or copies of the tapes. (Enacted 1991/2 RB)

- s. The National Convention sites shall be rotated around the country with respect to three regions (East, Central and West). If a region does not extend an invitation for its designated year, the site would pass to the next region. If more than one invitation is submitted, the members in good standing present at the annual meeting shall vote with the invitation having a majority being the site two years hence. For the purposes of the National Specialties, the three regions shall be divided by the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River.
- t. To require that any person/local club meet the following criteria prior to submitting an invitation to host a future ACDCA Annual Convention:
  - 1. Must have obtained Guidelines from the National Show Committee.
  - 2. Convention Coordinator must have attended at least one National Convention.
  - 3. Must have an area resource person who has served as a Show Chairman of a licensed AKC show.
  - 4. Must contact Herding Committee Chairperson for Guidelines on conducting Herding Trails, etc.
  - 5. Must submit a written proposal listing detailed information on the time, place, show site, herding, trial site, convention facilities, etc. at the annual meeting.
  - 6. Booth rental policy is to be established individually for each Convention by the Convention hosts. However, hosts should encourage vendors with products of interest to the membership to attend and should ensure adequate facilities at the show grounds and at the hotel whenever possible. Vendors must pay a fee or provide merchandise as described in material announcing the specialty.
  - 7. During the National Specialty, the ACDCA must hold 2 AKC Herding Trials which will include cattle (Enacted 1997 AM)
- u. At the discretion of the presiding judge, up to seven Awards of Merit will be given to dogs and/or bitches by the ACDCA at the National Specialty Convention. Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, and Best of Winners are not eligible for Awards of Merit. (Amended 1999 AM to exclude BOB, BOS and BOW)

#### **Section 5. Officers and Committees**

- a. Extra copies of the Officers/Director and Committee reports will be made available to the membership at the Convention prior to the annual meeting.
- b. Committee Chairs are required to submit a proposed budget to the Budget & Finance Committee (Enacted 1990 AB)
- c. The principal of the Mary Eckstein Bequeathment for rescue funds is to be preserved in perpetuity, invested in an interest-bearing account. Only 90% of the interest is to be spent each year to fund rescue activities. (Enacted 1999 AM)
- d. Each year all awards and final statistics shall be published together in the Annual Report.
- e. The ACDCA shall sponsor a trophy for the annual NSW Cattle Dog Society Easter Show, Canadian Cattle Dog Club Show and the United Kingdom Cattle Dog Show. Chosen and mailed by the International Committee, not to exceed \$50.00 each excluding postage.

#### **Section 6. Awards:**

- a. The ACDCA shall award publicity points in Conformation (points will be awarded for Best of Breed and Group placements), Obedience, Agility, Rally, Herding, ROM, and Junior Showmanship. These points will be tabulated from January 1 through December 31 each year. High point earners for the preceding year shall be recognized and awarded at the National Specialty Convention Awards Banquet.
- b. The National Herding Champion will receive an award presented by the ACDCA at each National Specialty. Sponsorship for the Award will be available and in years where there is no sponsor the ACDCA will award a plaque (Enacted 2006 AM).
- b. The ACDCA may award the Good Sportsmanship Award. The committee for selecting the recipient will be comprised of the Awards Chairperson and the immediate past four recipients.
- c. The ACDCA may award a Certificate for Outstanding Service to non-club members.
- d. The ACDCA may award an annual "ACD Hero of the Year Award" and issue an appropriate award.
- e. ROM recipients will be awarded a certificate and plaque engraved with the year received and titles earned. (Enacted 1986)

#### **Section 7. Annual Meeting**

- a. Members must submit proposals and items for discussion at the Annual Meeting in writing to the ACDCA Secretary 14 days prior to the annual meeting. The proposals will be posted to the acdca.org website and to the membersacdca Yahoo list and hard copies will be available in the hospitality room at the National Specialty. (Enacted 2005 AM)

# **GUIDELINES AND SPECIFIC DUTIES FOR**

## **OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE HEADS**

These guidelines are in addition to those specifically outlined in the By-Laws and in addition to those normally assigned to persons holding such elected and/or appointed positions. They are listed to assist Officers, Directors and Committee Chairpersons in the proper performance of their duties, to enable the Nominating Committee in understanding responsibilities to consider in selecting candidates and to inform the membership of the duties to be expected of these Officers, Directors and Committee Chairpersons.

For the benefit of effective and efficient management of this Club, it is requested that these persons, if, for any reason, find that they cannot fulfill their appropriate duties and responsibilities, voluntarily resign their elected or appointed position.

### **GENERAL DUTIES**

All Officers and Directors shall vote on new members and motions presented for their consideration within 30 days or less. All Officers and Directors shall attend Board meetings and Membership meetings during the Annual Convention, if at all possible. All Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairpersons shall submit annual written reports on their year's work. These reports shall be compiled and printed prior to the beginning of the Annual Convention and shall be made available for review by the membership.

### **SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT**

1. Maintain monthly correspondence with the Board.
2. Present motions to the Board and/or Membership for consideration.
3. Preside at Board and Membership meetings.
4. Write a President's message for each issue of the Newsletter which includes information pertaining to the activity/decisions of the Board.
5. Maintain other necessary correspondence to effectively oversee the organization and maintenance of the affairs of the Club.
6. Obtain, compile and print copies of the written annual reports from all Officers and Directors prior to the Annual Convention (one per Board member, one "official copy" for the Secretary and four copies for membership review).
7. The President shall appoint a three-member Audit Committee annually to audit the Club finances through the month of June. The results of the audit shall be presented to the Board during the Convention week.

### **SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

1. Nominate candidates for Committee Chairperson positions by October 16.
2. Obtain a list of committee members from each Chairperson and present to the Board; after approval, submit to the newsletter and to the Secretary (for inclusion in the Membership Directory) by November 1.
3. Maintain regular communication with all standing committees. Notify the President of continuing committee work.
4. Act as liaison with the Board and all committees.
5. Obtain, compile and print copies of written annual reports from all committees prior to the Annual Convention (one per Board member, one "official copy" for the Secretary and four copies for membership review).
6. Each year all awards and final statistics shall be published together in the Annual Report.

### **SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY**

1. Shall be responsible for compiling, printing and mailing of the annual report by December 1. This mailing will also contain the form for members to participate in the nomination of Specialty/Versatility judges and a copy of the new Breeder's Directory.
2. Shall be responsible for compiling, printing and mailing of updated Membership Directories by December 1.
3. After receiving the judge nominations from the membership, the Secretary shall be responsible for ascertaining that standing rules relating to judges inquiries, ballots, notification of judges selected and notification of membership are followed.
4. Shall mail a New Member/Motion ballot to the Board for monthly voting; shall report to the Board on the results of such voting monthly. A list shall be maintained of the Board's voting results and shall be included in the Annual Report.
5. Shall be responsible for monthly updating of the membership roll (new members, address changes, etc.) with the Newsletter, Board and Specialty Convention Coordinator.

6. Shall mail the Officer/Director nominations to the membership as outlined by the By-Laws (Standing Rules and By-Laws shall be followed by the Secretary with regard to additional nominations).
7. Shall be responsible for providing each member of the Board with a printed agenda for the Board meetings during the Annual Convention.
8. Shall be responsible for publishing the Annual Meeting Notice--May/June Newsletter.
9. Shall be responsible for preparing and mailing the Dues Renewal Notice and Breeder's Directory Listing Form in July.
10. Shall promptly prepare and mail New Member packets to each New Member.
11. Shall maintain prompt correspondence with the public by answering letters or inquiries (Dog World, etc.).
12. Shall maintain an adequate inventory of Breeder's Directories, Breed Brochures, Membership Applications, Additional Nomination Forms, New Member Packets, stationary, etc. and distribute these as necessary to appropriate persons.
13. Shall annually complete and submit by August 31, to the State of California, Office of the Secretary of State, the *Statement by Domestic Nonprofit Corporation*, and to insure that a photocopy of this form be passed to each incoming Secretary. (Enacted 1991 AB)
14. The fee to advertise In the Breeders' Directory shall be \$10.00. (Enacted 1983 AM)
15. Any person applying for new membership in the ACDCA who is approved in March or thereafter, shall be considered as a "Dues Paid" member for the remainder of the current club year and the next as well. New members approved in or prior to February, or reinstating their ACDCA membership at any time shall be required to renew their membership at the beginning of the new club year. (Amended 1997 AM)
  - a. The fee for new memberships is \$35.00, family membership \$45.00.
  - b. The surcharge for foreign members shall be \$10 00.
  - c. The membership renewal is \$30 00, family membership \$40.00.
  - d. Members shall be charged a \$20.00 fee for any returned checks. (Enacted 2000AB) (Family membership enacted 1998)
16. In order to accept the nomination of a person residing outside the North American continent for inclusion on the National Specialty judging panel ballot, it must be accompanied by a written statement from the nominee stating their intent and willingness to cover their own expenses to our continent. If selected to judge, the ACDCA would cover reasonable expenses normally associated with judging assignments within the United States incurred once the person has crossed our coasts. Coast is defined as the coast of the North American Continent.
17. The Officer/Director/Committee Chairperson Guidelines shall be included in the Membership Directory.
  - a. The Breeders' Directory is to be sent out with the Membership Directory.
  - B Members who have signed the Breeders' Code of Ethics shall be published with an asterisk so noting the fact in the Membership Directory. (Enacted 1989 AB)

## SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

1. Submit monthly reports to the Board via the President .
2. Submit regular reports to the Newsletter.
3. Write letter for dues renewal notice and send to Secretary in May.
4. Assist in the preparation and preparation of the annual budget.
5. Present and discuss finances with the Auditing Committee annually.
6. Advise of any situations which might lead to an emergency, relative to any financial area of Club work.
7. Coordinate with the Secretary to notify the Board and Newsletter of any members not "being in good standing" with the Club due to financial obligations.
8. Follow Standing Rules as they apply to financial support of National Convention Hosts.
9. The ACDCA shall sponsor an ad in "Dog World" magazine running each month.
10. The Club shall pay for a subscription to the *Gazette* and the Australian journals for the Newsletter Editor. After the editor has used them, s/he should transfer them to the archives. The Club shall pay for a subscription to AKC Awards for the Awards chair.
11. The Club shall reimburse the AKC Delegate for all appropriate expenses submitted with receipts, and include this figure in each year's budget. (Enacted 1999 AM)
12. Any person applying for new membership in the ACDCA who is approved in March or thereafter, shall be considered as a "Dues Paid" member for the remainder of the current club year and the next as well. New members approved in or prior to February, or reinstating their ACDCA membership at any time shall be required to renew their membership at the beginning of the new club year. (Amended 1997 AM)
  - a. The fee for new memberships is \$35.00, family membership \$45.00.
  - b. The surcharge for foreign members shall be \$10 00.
  - c. The membership renewal is \$30 00, family membership \$40.00.
  - d. Members shall be charged a \$20.00 fee for any returned checks. (Enacted 1989AB) (Family membership enacted 1998)
  - e. The principal of the Mary Eckstein Bequeathment for rescue funds is to be preserved in perpetuity, invested in an interest-bearing account. Only 90% of the interest is to be spent each year to fund rescue activities. (Enacted 1999 AM)

## **SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE AKC DELEGATE**

1. The Club shall reimburse the AKC Delegate for all appropriate expenses submitted with receipts, and include this figure in each year's budget. (Enacted 1999 AM)

## **SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE DIRECTORS**

1. Contact, in some way (by mail, telephone or at shows, etc.) new members in their areas to welcome them into the Club and to offer any assistance which may be needed.
2. Forward to the Vice President (and/or appropriate Committee Chairpersons) the names of members in their area who would be willing to devote time to the National Club through various committee work (including specifications, etc.).
3. Encourage and assist members in their area for consideration as National Convention hosts.
4. Encourage supported entries in Breed, Obedience, Tracking and Working events.
5. Promote the growth of local Australian Cattle Dog Clubs.

## **SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

1. Shall be appointed annually by the Board for one-year terms, which may be renewed at the discretion of the Board.
2. All proposed Committee Chairpersons, who are approved by the Board annually, need to have renewed their membership prior to the first meeting of the new Board which convenes within 24 hours of the annual meeting.
3. All past Committee Chairpersons need to turn over their records to the incoming chairperson of any given committee either at the National Convention or no later than 15 days after the new Board meeting.
4. Shall select members to serve on their respective committees, and forward the names of such members to the Vice President as soon as possible after National Convention. (No later than November 15.)
5. Shall communicate monthly with the Vice-President as to the work planned or accomplished by their committee.
6. Shall send materials to the Vice-President which requires presentation to the board.
7. Shall meet with committee members during National Convention week, if at all possible, to discuss pertinent work areas and make recommendations for the New Year.
8. Shall follow Committee Guidelines and Standing Rules as they apply to their specific committee area.
9. Shall provide the Vice-President with annual committee reports prior to August 1st.

# ACDCA, Inc. AWARDS INFORMATION

## **Good Sportsmanship Award**

The Good Sportsmanship Award may be presented by the ACDCA. Any member in good standing with the ACDCA may nominate another member in good standing. All nominations must include a brief summary describing the nominee's merits. Nominations shall be sent to the Awards Committee Chairperson and shall be postmarked no later than May 31<sup>st</sup> following the end of the Award year. The Award Committee Chairperson and the immediate past four recipients may choose a recipient from among those nominated. Past recipients are not eligible for the award. The award will be presented at the ACDCA National Specialty Convention.

## **Australian Cattle Dog Hero Dog of the Year**

The Australian Cattle Dog Hero Dog of the Year Award may be presented by the ACDCA. This award is for the dog's meritorious service to his/her owner(s). To be eligible, the dog must be registered as an Australian Cattle Dog with the American Kennel Club. All nominations must include a brief summary describing the nominee's merits. Nomination must be sent to the Awards Committee Chairperson and shall be postmarked no later than May 31<sup>st</sup> following the end of the award year. The Awards Committee may select a recipient from among the nominees. The award will be presented at the ACDCA National Specialty Convention.

## **Publicity Awards**

The ACDCA Awards/Performance Committee shall annually award publicity points. Points awarded for Conformation, Herding, Obedience, Agility, Rally and Junior Showmanship shall be based on the number of entries beaten in competition as determined by results published in *AKC Awards*, or obtained electronically from AKC. ROM points shall be tabulated by the ROM Committee in accordance with the ROM guidelines. The top standings in each category shall be published in the *ACDCA Newsletter*, and the top place in each category shall be awarded at the ACDCA National Specialty Convention. To be eligible, the dog must be recognized by the American Kennel Club as an Australian Cattle Dog and the owner or one of the co-owners must be a member in good standing of the ACDCA for the entire award year.

### Award Categories:

1. High Point Best of Breed
2. High Point Group Placements
3. High Point Obedience
4. High Point Herding
5. High Point Agility
6. High Point Rally
7. High Point Junior Showmanship
8. High Point ROM (Register of Merit) Dog
9. High Point ROM Bitch
10. Sire, Dam and Breeder of most:
  - a. CH title earners
  - b. Obedience title earners
  - c. Herding (Started or above) title earners
  - d. Agility title earners
  - e. Rally title earners

(NOTE: Although Rally and Tracking were added to the awards categories by vote at the 2005 membership meeting, Tracking is deliberately not included in this list. No High Point Tracking can be calculated as Tracking titles are earned on a pass/fail basis.)

## **Breeder Awards**

The ACDCA annually gives an award to the breeder of Best of Breed, Obedience High in Trial, Combined (STD & JWW) Agility High in Trial, Herding Cattle High in Trials I and II at the National Specialty. These awards shall be presented at the ACDCA National Specialty Convention Awards Banquet.

## VERSATILITY TITLES

Versatility Titles recognize a dog's completion of AKC titles in different events. These titles must be earned from each area in any combination of Breed Championship, Obedience, Herding, Tracking, and Agility. Awards recognizing these achievements and titles are presented at the National Specialty Awards Banquet each year.

AKC titles recognized:

1. Conformation (CH)
2. Obedience (CD or higher)
3. Herding (HT or higher)
4. Agility (NA or higher)
5. Tracking (VST, TD or higher)

### **Qualified Worker (QW)**

A dog that earns a combination of two titles from two different areas, from the above mentioned list. This title will appear after the dog's registered name.

### **Versatile Qualified Worker (VQW)**

A dog that earns a combination of three titles from three different areas, from the above mentioned list. This title supersedes the QW title and will appear after the dog's registered name.

### **Versatile Qualified Worker Excellent (VQWX)**

A dog that earns a combination of four titles from four different areas from the above mentioned list. In addition, one of these titles MUST be an Open or Intermediate title (CDX, HI, OA, TDX). This title supersedes the VQW title and will appear after the dog's registered name.

### **Versatility Champion (VCh)**

A dog that earns a combination of four titles from four different areas from the above mentioned list. In addition, one of these titles MUST be an Advanced title (UD, HX, AX, Ch Tracker). This title supersedes the VQWX and will appear before the dog's registered name.

Owners wishing to apply for these titles may do so through the Performance Committee chairperson.

# ACDCA REGISTER OF MERIT

## I. REQUIREMENTS FOR ROM TITLE:

In order to be considered for a ROM award the applicant dog or bitch must have:

- A. Earned an AKC Breed Conformation Championship
- B. Earned an AKC Obedience Title of Companion Dog or higher.
- C. Earned one of the following herding titles:  
After September 1, 1995, all applicant dogs must have earned an AKC Herding Started Title or higher. Applicant dogs earning the following herding titles prior to September 1, 1995 are exempt from the AKC Started Title requirement: ACDCA QW or VQW, AKC Pre Trial Tested Title or higher or ASCA Started Leg on cattle or higher.
- D. Applicant dogs must have produced offspring with an AKC Championship, AKC CD or higher, and one of the following herding titles: After September 1, 1995 offspring must have earned an AKC Herding Started Title or higher. Offspring earning a QW, VQW, AKC Pre Trial Tested Title or higher or ASCA Started Leg or higher on cattle prior to September 1, 1995 are exempt from the AKC Herding Started Title requirement. Qualifying offspring titles may be earned by one or more offspring.

## II. REQUIREMENTS FOR ROM POINTS:

- A. ROM dogs and bitches can accumulate 10 points for each title earned by the ROM dog/bitch or any of their offspring as follows:
  - 1. AKC: CH, CD or higher, TD or higher, NA or higher, or an HT.
  - 2. CKC: CH, CD or higher.
  - 3. Australian: CH, CD or higher.
  - 4. Mexican: CH, PC or higher.
  - 5. Sch I or higher.
  - 6. OFA, PennHip, BAER, ERG, or CERF certification.
  - 7. Police Service Dog.
  - 8. Search and Rescue certification.
  - 9. Any progeny earning a ROM title.
  - 10. An AHBA HCT title.
  - 11. ACDCA Versatility QW.
  - 12. ACDCA QW or VQW earned prior to AKC Herding Trial titles.
- B. ROM dogs and bitches can accumulate ROM points according to the following schedule for each herding title earned by the ROM dog/bitch or any of their offspring, minus the points from any previously earned lower titles, if applicable.
  - 1. 15 points for an ACDCA VQW, minus any points for an AKC HT.
  - 2. 20 points for an AKC Pre-Trial title, AHBA JHD, or ASCA Started Trial Dog title on any stock.
  - 3. 30 points for an AKC Herding Started title, AHBA HTDI or HRDI, or ASCA Open Trial Dog title on any stock.
  - 4. 40 points for an AKC Herding Intermediate title, AHBA HTDII or HRDII, or ASCA Advanced title on any stock.
  - 5. 50 points for an AKC Herding Excellent title, AHBA HTDIII or HRDIII, or ASCA Post-Advanced title on any stock.
  - 6. 75 points for AKC Herding Champion title, AHBA Herding Trial Champion, or ASCA Working Trial Champion.
  - 7. 100 points for an AKC Dual Champion.

**III.** This award is applied for, so it is your responsibility to keep the committee informed of any point increases or any new ROM applicant dogs. You must be a member in good standing of the ACDCA to apply. Once the ROM award is attained, it is considered permanent and non-conditional on membership of the owner(s). However, unless the owner or one of the co-owners is a member in good standing, additional ROM points for the ROM point standings will not be considered.

**IV.** Fill out one sheet for each dog/bitch applying for ROM status, then one sheet for each of the offspring being used to satisfy the progeny requirements (AKC Champion, Companion Dog and Herding Started title). Also fill out one sheet for each dog/ bitch that is being used to accumulate additional ROM points for a sire or dam.

Be sure to keep a duplicate copy of everything you send in for future reference. Please type or print all information, making sure the dog's or bitch's name is correct as this is how the name will appear on the award.

- V. Applicant dogs/bitches that are co-owned will be considered as belonging to the owner that is listed first. Duplicate plaques or certificates may be obtained from the Awards Committee for a fee.
- VI. As the ROM dog or offspring obtain additional titles, please send in the documentation. These will be added to the records and the updated ROM standings will be published in the ACDCA Newsletter.
- VII. Documentation of titles must include one or more of the following:  
 A photocopy of the Title Certificate, Certification, or test results, or of the page containing the publication of the Award including the "AKC Awards", the Awards section of "Dogs in Canada", or the Official Kennel Publication for any organization offering recognized and listed ROM-eligible titles, the Volume, Date, and page number of the "AKC Awards" where the AKC title is published, or any official signed original document from AKC Event Records substantiating any eligible title.

**REGISTER OF MERIT**

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION

*Use ONE form for each ROM dog/bitch and for each offspring.*

DOG \_\_\_\_ BITCH \_\_\_\_ Owner ACDCA Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Dog \_\_\_\_\_

Sire \_\_\_\_\_

Dam \_\_\_\_\_

Owner(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Breeder(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

ROM Points for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Title Certificate	Type	Publication		Official Use)
		Month, Year	Page #	
				Item #
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

## **NATIONAL SPECIALTY HERDING CHAMPION**

The National Specialty Herding Champion Award is presented annually by the ACDCA to the Advanced dog earning the combined high score on cattle at the National Specialty Herding Trials. The award is presented at the Awards Banquet.

To be eligible, a dog must run in the Advanced Class in both cattle trials.

The Championship will be decided in the following order:

1. The high combined total of two qualifying scores.
2. Should no dog earn two qualifying scores, the high combined total of a qualifying score and a non-qualifying score.
3. Should no dog earn a qualifying score, the award will be given to the dog earning the high combined of two non-qualifying scores.
4. Should no dog earn two non-qualifying scores, the award will be given to the dog earning the highest single score.

In the case of a tie score, the tie shall be broken in the following order:

1. By the two trial combined high score on the cross drive.
2. By the two trial combined elapsed times.
3. By single cross-drive score .
4. By single elapsed time.

This is a club award and according to AKC regulations must not be advertised in the Herding catalog.

# American Kennel Club Standard for the Australian Cattle Dog

**General Appearance** - The general appearance is that of a strong compact, symmetrically built working dog, with the ability and willingness to carry out his allotted task however arduous. Its combination of substance, power, balance and hard muscular condition must convey the impression of great agility, strength and endurance. Any tendency to grossness or weediness is a serious fault.

**Characteristics** - As the name implies the dog's prime function, and one in which he has no peer, is the control and movement of cattle in both wide open and confined areas. Always alert, extremely intelligent, watchful, courageous and trustworthy, with an implicit devotion to duty making it an ideal dog.

**Temperament** - The Cattle Dog's loyalty and protective instincts make it a self-appointed guardian to the Stockman, his herd and his property. Whilst naturally suspicious of strangers, must be amenable to handling, particularly in the Show ring. Any feature of temperament or structure foreign to a working dog must be regarded as a serious fault.

**Head and Skull** - The head is strong and must be in balance with other proportions of the dog and in keeping with its general conformation. The broad skull is slightly curved between the ears, flattening to a slight but definite stop. The cheeks muscular, neither coarse nor prominent with the underjaw strong, deep and well developed. The foreface is broad and well filled in under the eyes, tapering gradually to form a medium length, deep, powerful muzzle with the skull and muzzle on parallel planes. The lips are tight and clean. Nose black.

**Eyes** - The eyes should be of oval shape and medium size, neither prominent nor sunken and must express alertness and intelligence. A warning or suspicious glint is characteristic when approached by strangers. Eye color, dark brown.

**Ears** - The ears should be of moderate size, preferably small rather than large, broad at the base, muscular, pricked and moderately pointed neither spoon nor bat eared. The ears are set wide apart on the skull, inclining outwards, sensitive in their use and pricked when alert, the leather should be thick in texture and the inside of the ear fairly well furnished with hair.

**Mouth** - The teeth, sound, strong and evenly spaced, gripping with a scissor-bite, the lower incisors close behind and just touching the upper. As the dog is required to move difficult cattle by heeling or biting, teeth which are sound and strong are very important.

**Neck** - The neck is extremely strong, muscular, and of medium length broadening to blend into the body and free from throatiness.

**Forequarters** - The shoulders are strong, sloping, muscular and well angulated to the upper arm and should not be too closely set at the point of the withers. The forelegs have strong, round bone, extending to the feet and should be straight and parallel when viewed from the front, but the pasterns should show flexibility with a slight angle to the forearm when viewed from the side. Although the shoulders are muscular and the bone is strong, loaded shoulders and heavy fronts will hamper correct movement and limit working ability.

**Body** - The length of the body from the point of the breast bone, in a straight line to the buttocks, is greater than the height at the withers, as 10 is to 9. The topline is level, back strong with ribs well sprung and carried well back not barrel ribbed. The chest is deep, muscular and moderately broad with the loins broad, strong and muscular and the flanks deep. The dog is strongly coupled.

**Hindquarters** - The hindquarters are broad, strong and muscular. The croup is rather long and sloping, thighs long, broad and well developed, the stifles well turned and the hocks strong and well let down. When viewed from behind, the hind legs, from the hocks to the feet, are straight and placed parallel, neither close nor too wide apart.

**Feet** - The feet should be round and the toes short, strong, well arched and held close together. The pads are hard and deep, and the nails must be short and strong.

**Tail** - The set on of tail is moderately low, following the contours of the sloping croup and of length to reach approximately to the hock. At rest it should hang in a very slight curve. During movement or excitement the tail may be raised, but under no circumstances should any part of the tail be carried past a vertical line drawn through the root. The tail should carry a good brush.

**Gait/Movement** - The action is true, free, supple and tireless and the movement of the shoulders and forelegs is in unison with the powerful thrust of the hindquarters. The capability of quick and sudden movement is essential. Soundness is of paramount importance and stiltiness, loaded or slack shoulders, straight shoulder placement, weakness at elbows, pasterns or feet, straight stifles, cow or bow hocks, must be regarded as serious faults. When trotting the feet tend to come closer together at ground level as speed increases, but when the dog comes to rest he should stand four square.

**Coat** - The coat is smooth, a double coat with a short dense undercoat. The outer-coat is close, each hair straight, hard, and lying flat, so that it is rain-resisting. Under the body, to behind the legs, the coat is longer and forms near the thigh a mild form of breeching. On the head (including the inside of the ears), to the front of the legs and feet, the hair is short. Along the neck it is longer and thicker. A coat either too long or too short is a fault. As an average, the hairs on the body should be from 2.5 to 4 cms (approx. 1-1.5 ins) in length.

**Color (Blue)** - The color should be blue, blue-mottled or blue speckled with or without other markings. The permissible markings are black, blue or tan markings on the head, evenly distributed for preference. The forelegs tan midway up the legs and extending up the front to breast and throat, with tan on jaws; the hindquarters tan on inside of hind legs, and inside of thighs, showing down the front of the stifles and broadening out to the outside of the hind legs from hock to toes. Tan undercoat is permissible on the body providing it does not show through the blue outer coat. Black markings on the body are not desirable.

**Color (Red Speckle)** - The color should be of good even red speckle all over, including the undercoat, (neither white nor cream), with or without darker red markings on the head. Even head markings are desirable. Red markings on the body are permissible but not desirable.

**Size - Height -**

Dogs 46-51 cms (approx. 18-20 inches) at withers

Bitches 43-48 cms (approx. 17-19 inches) at withers.

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

*Approved: January 11, 1999*

*Effective: February 24, 1999*

## The Working Australian Cattle Dog

**Introduction:** The Australian Cattle Dog was developed to control wild cattle in groups of several hundred on drives through the inhospitable wilderness of Australia. These drives sometimes lasted weeks and crossed from the vast grazing lands of the outback, over the pass in the great dividing range, and through the streets of Sydney to the stockyards. The wild cattle and extremely harsh conditions were such that traditional working breeds were of no use. By crossing smooth-coated blue merle Scottish highland collies to selected dingoes in the 1840's; a drover named Thomas Hall developed a cattle dog that combined the hardiness of the dingo type, and the herding abilities of the highland collie. This cross reinforced the heeling instinct of the collie and eliminated their tendency to bark at the head. About 1860 some of these dogs were brought to the Homebush sale yards in Sydney by a butcher named Alexander Davis, where they "attracted much attention" and were taken by various drovers and butchers. Two brothers, Jack and Harry Bagust purchased some of these dogs and continued to improve on the breed, introducing select Dalmatian bloodlines and later, black and tan Kelpies. They succeeded in "advancing their working ability to intelligent controllable workers whilst retaining the silent biting of the animals heels."

**Intelligence:** The Australian Cattle Dog is an independent thinker and once trained, is capable of carrying out routine tasks without supervision. They are highly intelligent, making them self directed workers capable of complex problem solving. They are adept at picking out and punishing trouble makers, while at the same time they can be gentle with calves, lambs or ducks. It is this rating ability that makes the Australian cattle dog versatile enough for different classes of cattle as well as trial or farm work with sheep, hogs and fowl.

**Trainability:** The Australian Cattle Dog can be trained to perform various functions on the farm or ranch. They possess high trainability coupled with a strong desire to please. Most Cattle Dogs can perform routine jobs after just a few exposures. A well trained Cattle Dog can replace two to three good men on horseback.

**Posture:** The Australian Cattle Dog is considered an upright breed. The head is carried at shoulder level while working, enabling the dog to read the stock and to easily slip in and heel. When confronting stubborn animals at the head, some individuals drop to a crouch, preparing to nose bite, while others raise their heads to challenge and come straight on. Most dogs will experiment with different postures or approaches to win stand-offs with stubborn stock. The Cattle Dog's perfect combination of size, angulation, balance, agility and instinct enables him to continuously heel low and avoid being kicked.

**Approach:** The Australian Cattle Dog's approach to stock is calculated and deliberate, and directed at the animal or animals to be moved. He naturally wears on larger groups of stock, but can walk straight in at the balance point on singles or smaller groups of cattle or sheep. Whether an individual dog predominately fetches or drives is due not only to heritage, but can be affected by the dog's age, training technique, and the livestock the dog is started on. Cattle Dogs that fetch usually exhibit very keen natural balance. Regardless of individual style, the Australian Cattle Dog is considered a close worker. There is however variation, with some dogs working and flanking very close and others working and flanking moderately wide and closing the distance to heel. Most can be taught to work wider if required.

**Eye:** Australian Cattle Dogs are a loose to medium eyed breed. When heading, turning or otherwise challenging stubborn livestock, some individuals exhibit moderately strong eye, but return to a looser approach once the challenge is won. This loose approach enables the Cattle Dog to see and react to a herd of hundreds of cattle and give attention to just those requiring it, allowing him to work effectively, day in and day out.

**Grip:** The Australian Cattle Dog is best known as a "heeler" because of his instinctive grip. This is done in various ways depending on the livestock and rate of travel. Stubborn or wild stock may require a forceful hard biter until trained, whereas dairy cattle may just require a dog's presence. The typical technique is for the dog to time the grip to occur on the foot of the weight bearing leg, and to duck to miss the ensuing kick. The correct "heel" is low on the leg at the fetlock or coronet. The Australian Cattle Dog should not only heel, but use force at the head when turning or stopping livestock. All gripping should be quick with an immediate release. Gripping should be appropriate and not excessive.

**Bark:** The Australian Cattle Dog was developed as a silent worker. Force barking when heading or otherwise challenging stubborn livestock is acceptable if it is not excessive. Continuous barking, barking while working at the heels or more than just a few force barks is undesirable.

Approved by the ACDCA, Inc. 1996