

# USDC'S BYLAWS

## Article I Purpose

The Ultimate Squirrel Dog Club (USDC) was created to provide the competition squirrel hunter a venue to participate in a full elimination hunt format, open to any breed of dog, which awards cash and other prizes to the winners. Our goal is to provide clearly written rules that will be strictly enforced in order to maintain a level playing field for all participants.

## Article II Offices

The USDC may have such offices as the Board of Directors may designate or as the business of the registry may require as the need arises.

## Article III Membership and Dues

**Section One: Members.** Any person agreeing with the objectives and purpose of this registry may become a member by paying annual dues to the Treasurer. By paying dues, a member agrees to abide by and uphold the rules, policies, and Bylaws of the Ultimate Squirrel Dog Club that exist at the time of their membership and as amended over time. The Ultimate Squirrel Dog Club does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, gender, and/or disability.

**Section Two: Dues.** The annual membership dues shall be twenty dollars (\$20) per member. The annual dues are subject to review and increase or decrease by the Board of Directors from time to time. Annual membership will run from World Hunt to World Hunt.

### Section Three:

1. **Termination of Membership.** A member may resign at any time and the Executive Committee shall have full authority and discretion to suspend or expel any member for violation of the Bylaws or any Rules adopted by the Board of Directors or for cause for any conduct deemed to be detrimental to the best interest of the registry. An affirmative vote of 2/3 of the Executive Committee (Directors and Officers) will be required to suspend or expel a member.
2. **Removal of Director/Officer.** Any of the Directors or Officers may be removed for cause by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the sitting board and officers. If a position on the board or officer position is vacated for any reason, the remaining members of the board and officers will appoint someone to fulfill the remainder of the vacated term.

Section Four: Voting. All members in good standing shall be entitled to one vote at all meetings of the members, provided said member is at least sixteen years of age.

#### Article IV-Officers and Board of Directors: Terms, Elections, and Duties

Section One: The officers of the USDC shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Registrar. The term of the office for the President shall be three years. The Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer shall serve two year terms. The Registrar will be appointed by the executive committee. The appointment can be terminated by the same with a 2/3 vote for just cause. There is no time limit on this appointed position. There will be five Board of Directors positions. The members of the board will serve staggered terms. There will initially be two one (1) year terms, two two (2) year terms, and one three (3) year term. Then each will serve a two year term. This board, along with the elected and appointed officers, shall comprise the Executive Committee.

Section Two: The President of this Club shall preside over all meetings and act as the official representative and public relations coordinator of the USDC. He shall ensure that the Club is operating within the standards set forth within this document along with Federal and State Laws.

The Vice President of this Club shall act as an aid to the President and perform the Presidential duties in his absence. He will schedule all events and coordinate the organization. He shall also organize and coordinate all correspondences with the membership.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall also be responsible for maintaining an accurate record of all fiscal transactions. He will be responsible for collection of all dues, fees, and donations. He shall furnish a complete financial report at each annual meeting. He shall maintain all necessary banking accounts and responsible for tax filings.

The Registrar of this Club will be responsible for taking and maintaining the pedigrees of all dogs submitted for registration along with answering any and all questions associated with his duties to any member. He shall, if received, transfer any monies to the treasurer in a timely manner. He will be responsible for presenting to the whole membership an accurate record of each type of transaction performed by his office. This shall be a paid position and that amount will be determined by the Executive Committee. Anything the registrar needs to perform his duties shall be supplied out of the petty fund of the treasurer. When and if the registrar relinquishes or is relinquished of his duties ALL information, supplies and components are owned by the Club and shall be returned in good faith and condition as soon as possible.

Section Three: Newly elected officers and board members will take office at the spring meeting (held at World Hunt in March) in the years in which any of these positions come up for election. New officers and board members will be nominated by the current board members and officers. All USDC members will have the opportunity to vote on the nominees.

## Article V- Registration of Dogs and Hunt Formats

### Section One-

1. Dogs. The USDC welcomes all breeds and crossbreeds of dogs into the registry. Registration fees will be \$5/ puppy for puppy registration and \$15 for permanent registration. There will be a \$10 to transfer ownership of a permanently registered dog. All fees are subject to change by BOD.
2. Championship Degrees- The USDC will award the following champion degrees based on monies won in USDC competition hunts: Squirrel Champion- \$750, Elite Squirrel Champion- \$2000, Ultimate Squirrel Champion- \$5000, Major Squirrel Champion- \$10,000 and Platinum Squirrel Champion- \$20,000 and Double Platinum Squirrel Champion- \$40,000.

### Section Two-

1. Hunts. All state and World Hunts will be full elimination. The host club will determine the number of entries they will be able to accept based on available hunting spots and guides. Entry fees paid in advance will reserve a spot in the hunt. The entry fee for all hunts will be determined by the BOD. Dogs must prequalify for the World Hunt in order to participate in that event. The final cast of all state hunts and first round cast winners at Blue Ribbon Hunts automatically qualifies for the World Hunt. A last chance qualifier for the World Hunt will be held on the day before the hunt begins. Dogs that have not qualified for the World Hunt may hunt on that day in an attempt to qualify. Winners of morning casts will qualify for the hunt. Losers of morning cast may pay an additional fee and hunt in a last chance qualifier in the evening, with a cast win required to qualify for the World Hunt. All qualifying rules are subject to change by the BOD.
2. Payouts-The host club will receive 20% of the entry fee money, USDC will get 15%, and 5% of the entry fee money will go into an escrow account for the added purse of the World Hunt. The remaining portion of the entry fees and any added money purse will be divided among the members of the final cast. For a three dog final cast: 60% will go to first (1<sup>st</sup>) place, 30% to second (2<sup>nd</sup>), and 10% will go to third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place. For a two dog final cast: 2/3 will go to first place and 1/3 to second place. All Payouts are subject to change by the BOD.

## Article VI- Amendments and Ratification

Section One- Recommendations for amendments must be presented in writing to the Board of Directors at any stated or regularly called meeting and have no less than 10 current member signatures. Proposed amendments of bylaws must pass a majority quorum vote of the Executive Committee. It must then be passed by no less than a 2/3 affirmative vote of the voting membership.

Section Two: Three of the four officers and three of the five board members will comprise a quorum.

### **Added 7/19/2016**

Section Four: Annual membership will run from World Hunt to World Hunt.

Section Five: The members of the board will serve staggered terms. There will initially be two one (1) year terms, two (2) year terms, and one three (3) year term. Then each will serve a two year term.

Section Six: He shall maintain all necessary banking accounts and responsible for tax filings.

Section Seven: Newly elected officers and board members will take office at the spring meeting (held at World Hunt in March) in the years in which any of these positions come up for election. New officers and board members will be nominated by the current board members and officers. All USDC members will have the opportunity to vote on the nominees.

Section Eight: All fees are subject to change by BOD.

Section Nine: The entry fee for all hunts will be determined by the BOD.

Section Ten: The final cast of all state hunts and first round cast winners at Blue Ribbon Hunts automatically qualifies for the World Hunt.

Section Eleven: All qualifying rules are subject to change by the BOD.

Section Twelve: All Payouts are subject to change by the BOD.

**Removed 1/09/2021**

**Article III Section 3-1 and 3-2**

**Section 3.1**

Prior to suspending or expelling a member, the charged party will receive 30 days written notice of the charges being brought against them and provide the charged party a hearing not less than seven (7) days before the effective date of such suspension or termination by the Board of Directors. The accused has the right to be heard, but will not be allowed to participate in the deliberations of the board and officers.

**Section 3.2**

Party subject to possible removal shall receive 30 days written notice prior to hearing as outlined in subsection 1 above.

**Article VI Section 3**

These bylaws shall become effective upon a favorable  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote of the charter members.

**Added 11/09/2021**

**Article V Section 1-2**

Championship Degrees- The USDC will award the following champion degrees based on monies won in USDC competition hunts: Squirrel Champion- \$750, Elite Squirrel Champion- \$2000, Ultimate Squirrel Champion- \$5000, Major Squirrel Champion- \$10,000 and Platinum Squirrel Champion- \$20,000 and Double Platinum Squirrel Champion- \$40,000.