

RULES

1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be **THE FINNISH SPITZ SOCIETY**.

2. OBJECTS

To make the breed and its qualities more widely known, to assist owners and breeders in every way and to encourage the breeding, showing and judging of Finnish Spitz to the recognised standard of Finland.

3. MEMBERS

The Society shall consist of Founder Members and an unlimited number of members whose names and addresses shall be made available for inspection by the Kennel Club and printed for the benefit of members in one of the two Newsletters published annually. New members shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another member. The nomination shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary together with the appropriate entry fee and subscription, which shall be refunded if unsuccessful. The confirmation of the election of members shall be sent promptly to the applicant by the Honorary Secretary together with a copy of the Rules or, if not elected, with an explanation.

Members other than Founder Members may not call a Special General Meeting or vote at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting until they have been elected members for twelve calendar months.

The Society may elect a President and any number of Vice-Presidents who shall hold office for an indefinite period. The Society may also elect Honorary Members.

4. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The Officers of the Society shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer together with six serving members. No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any other office

or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society. No Officer or Committee Member shall serve on the Committee of the Finnish Spitz Society and the Finnish Spitz Club at the same time. The Committee may co-opt up to two members should there be any resignations during the member's term of office and such members may only serve until the succeeding Annual General Meeting when their appointment must be ratified.

The normal term of office for all Officers and Members of the Committee shall be two years, from Annual General Meeting to Annual General Meeting, and all may be eligible for re-election. The Committee shall be elected by ballot at Annual General Meetings. The Committee shall elect the Chairman (who shall remain in Office until the close of business at the next following Annual General Meeting and shall chair that meeting), Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer at the first Committee meeting after the Annual General Meeting. All

nominations for Officers and Members of the Committee must reach the honorary Secretary four weeks before the date set for the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee, who shall meet as often as necessary at a minimum of three times annually, shall manage the affairs of the Society. All members of the Committee shall have the right to a vote, including the Chairman who shall have a casting vote. Four shall form a quorum at meetings of whom at least one should be an Officer. Any Committee member shall be deemed to have resigned if he/she fails to attend three meetings during the year without adequate written apology. Minutes of all meetings shall be maintained by the Honorary Secretary and verified at each subsequent meeting. A summary of the minutes of every Committee meeting shall be included in one of the three Newsletters published annually. Any member is entitled to raise a subject for a Committee meeting through any one of the Committee members, every subject being proposed and seconded by paid up members of the Society.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting shall be held before the end of April each year, the place and date to be decided by the Committee. The business of the meeting shall be to read and adopt the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any intervening Special General Meeting; to discuss any matters arising; to receive the Chairman's Report; to receive the Honorary Treasurer's Report and the Statement of Accounts; to elect members of the Committee when necessary; to discuss any resolutions placed on the Agenda and any business of a routine matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, is urgent. Any member is entitled to raise a subject for an Annual General Meeting, every subject being proposed and seconded by paid-up members of the Society.

At least eight weeks notice shall be given to members of the place and date of the Annual General Meeting, including the proposed Agenda.

Four weeks notice shall be required by the Honorary Secretary of nominees for the Committee and any further item to be placed on the Agenda, for which the Honorary Secretary shall send an acknowledgement. The Honorary Secretary shall then circulate the final Agenda and the full list of nominees for the Committee to all members. Copies of the certified Statement of Accounts for the last financial year will be available at the Annual General Meeting and will be forwarded, on request, to any member after the meeting.

Eight members, of whom two shall be Officers, shall form a quorum at an Annual General Meeting.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting shall be printed in one of the Newsletters published annually.

6. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Honorary Secretary when ten members send a signed petition which shall contain the proposed agenda and the time and place for the meeting with alternatives giving at least thirty days notice. The Committee is also empowered to call a Special General Meeting. The Honorary Secretary shall give at least twenty days notice of the time, date and subject of the meeting to every member of the Society. Twelve members with at least two signatories of the petition and two Officers shall form a quorum at any Special General Meeting. No business other than the matter on the agenda may be discussed at any such meeting.

7. FINANCE

The entrance fee and annual subscription shall be fixed in advance by the Committee and any alteration in the rates must be presented for approval at the Annual General Meeting. The rates commencing 1st January 1998 shall be as follows:-

United Kingdom

Membership		Junior Membership	
Entrance Fee	£ 2.00	Entrance Fee	£ 2.00
Annual Subscription	£ 7.50	Annual Subscription	£ 2.00

Overseas

Membership		Junior Membership	
Entrance Fee	£ 2.00	Entrance Fee	£ 2.00
Three Yearly Subscription	£ 22.50	Three Yearly Subscription	£ 6.00

Joint members and partnerships shall be entitled to one vote each. Members under eighteen years of age shall not be entitled to a vote.

Annual subscriptions shall be due in advance on 1st January each year. Members joining after 31st October shall be members until the end of the following financial year. Members who have not paid their subscriptions by 31st March each year shall not be entitled to the privileges of membership.

A bank account shall be opened in the name of the Society into which all income shall be paid and from which withdrawal shall only be made on the signature of the Honorary Treasurer and one other Officer. The accounts shall be certified each year by one qualified Accountant or two unqualified individuals with accountancy experience and presented to the Annual General Meeting. The financial year of the Society shall be the calendar year. The Committee shall appoint the Auditors or unqualified individuals.

8. SOCIETY PROPERTY

In the event of the Society ceasing to exist, any property belonging to the Society shall be sold by auction and the proceeds and any funds of the Society shall be donated to some charitable or canine institution selected by the Society.

Any trophies donated and accepted by the Society are subject to the condition that they become the outright property of the Society.

9. SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL RETURNS

The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, the Maintenance of Title fee shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Honorary Secretary for the continuance of registration and that by 31st July each year other returns, as stipulated in Kennel Club regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies will be forwarded to the Kennel Club.

The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any change of Secretary that may occur during the course of the year.

10. JUDGES LISTS

The Committee, or an appointed Judges Sub-committee which fulfils the requirements of the Kennel Club, shall be responsible for producing a List of Judges whom the Society would support at differing levels of judging. A Judges List Criteria shall be compiled in accordance with the advisory criteria published by the Kennel Club, which shall be revised as necessary to conform with any future requirements of the Kennel Club, as they become mandatory.

Exhibitors who have been members for at least two years may submit nominations for inclusion in the Judges Lists and those who are nominated will be required to complete a questionnaire which will be available from the Honorary Secretary on request. The criteria and the final list of judges, with new nominations and their questionnaires, shall be considered annually in November or December and compiled from a ballot of the Committee. Consideration for inclusion in the Judges List will remain at the discretion of the Committee.

A copy of the Judges List Criteria and the completed Judges Lists shall be sent annually to the Kennel Club and to all Show Secretaries scheduling Finnish Spitz.

11. AMENDMENTS TO RULES

The rules of the Society may not be altered except at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting. Any alteration to the rules shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and given its approval to the alterations.

12. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

Any member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42.j.(4) and/or any member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A42.j.(8) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Society for the duration of the sentence and/or disqualification. If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character of interests of the Society, the Committee may, at a meeting the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of a member, determine that a Special General Meeting shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her. Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused member giving the particulars of the complaint and advising him/her of the place, date and hour of the meeting so that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If, at that meeting, the resolution to expel him/her is passed by as two-third majority of the members present and voting, his/her name shall be forthwith be erased from the List of Members and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a member of the Society, except that he/she may within two calendar months from the date of such a meeting appeal to the Kennel Club upon the subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose.

The Kennel Club shall be the final authority for interpreting the Rules of the Society.

13. OTHER SOCIETIES, ETC

The Finnish Spitz Society shall not join any federation of Societies or Clubs.

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