



National Shiba Club of America

Regional Club Handbook

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About the National Shiba Club of America

Established in 1992, the National Shiba Club of America (NSCA) is the national organization which promotes and standardizes the description of the Shiba Inu. The best interest of the breed is foremost in the minds of the NSCA members.

Mission Statement

The National Shiba Club of America is dedicated to upholding the integrity of the Shiba Inu, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1992, the NSCA and its affiliated organizations (Regional Clubs) advocate for the purebred Shiba Inu as a family companion, conformation, agility and other performance event dog and to promote responsible dog ownership.

General Information

Interested in forming a new regional club? Congratulations! Few activities provide greater fun and more satisfaction than the sport of purebred dogs. The National Shiba Club of America will be happy to help you get started.

As the AKC recognized national specialty club (parent club) the National Shiba Club of America represents fanciers of a single breed, the Shiba Inu. Parent clubs primarily hold dog shows, but may also hold obedience trials, tracking tests and other performance events approved for their particular breed.

The AKC approves only one national club for each breed.

For information on the National Shiba Club of America go to www.shibas.org or view the information on the AKC's Web site. The board has designated a Regional Club Coordinator to serve as a liaison with regional clubs.

Regional clubs serve the interests of a single breed on a regional level. These clubs may be eligible to hold shows, obedience trials and performance events approved for their breed. Some of the more common activities of regional clubs are to sponsor

supported entries, regional and national specialty shows with the support of the National club.

What Makes a Good Club?

Whatever type of regional club you are considering, the AKC has found that every effective dog club:

1. Is composed of members who love purebred dogs and their sport and can work together to serve the best interests of the dogs and the sport.
2. Operates under an approved constitution and bylaws spelling out the orderly and democratic conduct of club business. The AKC Club Relations Department will provide you with an approved sample, or contact the Regional Club Coordinator for the National Shiba Club of America.
3. Has members who reside in a relatively compact geographic area, and hold events in their region, which promote the sport and the purebred Shiba Inu. In the case of the National Shiba Club of America it is recognized that the fancy is spread out around the Country and may need to encompass a larger area based on the number of Shiba Inu fanciers within a given geographic area.

Basic Regional Club Policies

If you and your fellow enthusiasts seek to establish a new club where none currently exists, the NSCA will be happy to help you make it a reality. However, the AKC & NSCA cannot encourage the establishment of a new club if there is an existing club of the same type in the same area. It may be possible to reassign areas based on the interests of a new club and with the agreement of an existing club in good standing.

Member Club status is open to all local Shiba Inu Clubs that meet the following requirements:

1. Shall accept the Constitution and by-laws of the NSCA.
2. Shall accept the breed standard as approved by the AKC.
3. Shall submit an application for membership that includes a copy of its Constitution and by-laws, a list of Officers, Directors, and members. In order to maintain membership as a club, this information shall be updated yearly when the dues for the following year are paid.
4. Shall have at least ten (10) members over the age of 18 years.

Member Clubs may not hold office or serve on committees but are entitled to one (1) vote and a single subscription to the Club's newsletter.

Member Clubs are entitled to all other benefits as provided by the Board.

Dues: Membership dues shall be set by the Board of Directors. Dues shall be payable on or before the 1st day of January each year. After 30 days, a penalty of an additional one-year's single membership is required. After 60 days member clubs must re-apply. For applications accepted after June 1st, dues shall be 1/2 of the stated amounts. No club may vote whose dues are not paid.

During the month of October, the Treasurer shall send to each member club a statement of dues for the ensuing year. An updated copy of your Club's Constitution & By-Laws along with a list of its officers and members, including the name, address, phone number and E-mail (if available) of each member, must be submitted with the dues payment. Renewals will not be accepted without this information. These documents along with the dues payment are sent to the Regional Club Coordinator.

Geographic Range or Territory: There is no specified mileage radius; each club is evaluated on its own merits and circumstances. We recognize that in densely populated areas there may be a need for more clubs, while in sparsely populated areas more territory may be suitable. If you have questions about your club's circumstances, please contact the current Regional Club Coordinator.

The geographic area of the club must be defined in its Constitution & Bylaws. The approval of the area will be determined by the NSCA Board of Directors. Half or more of the regional club's members are to reside in its designated geographic area (note: this is not an AKC requirement).

The National Shiba Club of America will maintain a map of the United States showing the areas that have recognized regional clubs and the contact person for each club is listed on the NSCA website.

Club Name: Your club's name should identify your geographic center of activity. We strongly suggest you receive written approval of the name from the NSCA before your club incorporates or prints letterhead.

Event Sites: Every club must have a suitable site for its events in its region.

Insurance:

(from www.akc.org)

AKC Club Liability and Accident, Director's & Officer's Liability and Crime Coverage "Could Your Club Survive a Liability Claim?"

In today's litigious society no organization or individual is immune from allegations of being liable for their actions. Accidents involving injury to spectators or participants can arise out of club activities. Directors and Officers can be held accountable for a loss which allegedly results from their decisions and acts on behalf of the club. Is your club prepared to pay a claim? Even if you are not found to be legally liable, defense costs can be significant. The American Kennel Club has partnered with Equisure, Inc. and Acordia to provide two economical group

insurance programs. These programs were designed to affordably help meet the liability needs of AKC affiliated clubs and their Directors and Officers. “

Others providers of insurance for clubs include: Sportsmans, Safeco, and Hartford

Regional Club's events are not covered by the NSCA's policy.

Specialty Clubs: Newly formed regional clubs should always contact their parent club before contacting the AKC. Parent clubs can be extremely helpful to a new club. For help in contacting the secretary of your parent club, please see the National Shiba Club of America website for current information.

Organization

The first step is to hold an organizational meeting. Try to contact all fanciers in your proposed area who may want to become involved.

At the first meeting we suggest you do the following:

- Select temporary officers. For starters, all you really need is someone to chair meetings, and someone to take minutes.
- Decide on a meeting schedule and location.
- Choose someone to keep records of the club's development. This is very important because the National Shiba Club of America's evaluation of your club will focus on the records your club submits. You may want to designate this person as NSCA Liaison. **Always keep copies of club records.** Clubs have unfortunately lost valuable records due to floods, fires, individuals moving, etc.
- Set up a program of activities. These should reflect your efforts to assist fanciers and promote the sport and responsible dog ownership.
- **Code of Ethics-** the National Shiba Club of America expects all members of regional clubs to abide by its code of ethics, which can be found on the website.

AKC Accreditation

The National Shiba Club of America encourages regional clubs to work toward becoming AKC accredited (optional depending on the desires of a regional club, new clubs may wish to defer this until they have experience with other activities or opt not to become AKC accredited).

Regional clubs wishing to hold independent shows must become AKC accredited.

HELPFUL PUBLICATIONS & WEBSITES:

AKC website www.akc.org provides information on AKC events and breeds, AKC news, and AKC departments.

National Shiba Club of America website www.shibas.org

This handbook is based on the following AKC document “**How to Form an AKC Accredited Dog Club**” and the National Shiba Club of America by-laws.

For more information contact the current Regional Club Coordinator:

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