



For the Love of the Boxer Breed

The Maryland Boxer Club, Affiliate member of the American Boxer Club, was founded on November 29, 1950. The twelve individuals who are considered the MBC's Charter Members were Miss Thelma V. Francis, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Helmker, Mr. and Mrs. Sam L. Garmel, Dr. and Mrs. Norman Herbert, Miss Geraldine Girard, Miss Lorraine Levine, Mr. and Mrs. Howard B. McElwain, Jr., and Director Mervin Fribush. These founding members established the purpose of the Club to be:

“To promote the ownership, quality breeding and exhibiting of the pure bred Boxer; to encourage adherence to the definition of the true Boxer type as established in the Standard adopted by the American Boxer Club and approved by the American Kennel Club; and do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed, subject to the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.

The club shall conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows under the rules of the American Kennel Club. The Members will initiate educational programs and promotional activities which will stimulate and extend public interest in the Boxer. The members will abide by those sections of the American Boxer Club Bylaws and Code of Ethics which are applicable to members of member clubs.

The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any remainder or residue from dues or donations to the club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual. The members of the club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such By-Laws as may be required to carry out these purposes.”

Today, the Purpose of the Maryland Boxer Club is:

“To be representative of the breeders and exhibitors in the immediate area; To promote the ownership, quality breeding, and exhibiting of the purebred Boxer; To encourage adherence to the definition of true Boxer type as established in the Standard adopted by the American Boxer Club and approved by the American Kennel Club; To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed, subject to the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club; To conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows under the rules of the American Kennel Club; To initiate educational programs and promotional activities which will help educate the public.”

Maryland Boxer Club's membership numbers have been fairly fixed at between forty and forty-five members, of which about ten are American Boxer Club life members. zMaryland Boxer Club President Mr. Tom Davis said, “I think the Maryland Boxer Club is based on the dedication and hard work of a group of Boxer lovers who have stayed together through a lot of years, which proves to be true when we realized that our three oldest members are still alive and were

active until about 2014, i.e. Suzanne Workman for 53 years, Margaret Krey for 50 years, and Barbara Blue for 49 years. Barbara Blue still manages to attend meetings regularly. The knowledge these long time members bring forth is a priceless commodity. They are our timeless treasures.”

The current Maryland Boxer Club Officers and Board of Directors include President Mr. Tom Davis, Vice President Mrs. Marylou Hatfield, Corresponding Secretary Mrs. Brenda Grice, Recording Secretary Mrs. Cherron Davis, Treasurer Dr. Cindy Idzik-Starr, and Board Members Ms. Mary Lou Carroll, Mrs. Brenda Grice, Mr. Derek Grice, Mr. Matt Kaminkow, Ms. Jean Mattheiss, and Mrs. Debbie Speed. Membership Chairperson is Brenda Grice. Bobbi Compton is the Breeder Referral contact. Elaine Hauck and Dianne Spessard are the Boxer Rescue contacts.

The Maryland Boxer Club meets several times a year in locations throughout Maryland. The club holds Specialty Shows and a Match Show annually. When the American Boxer Club decided to find a new location for the National Show, MBC was one of the affiliate clubs asked to help. MBC made a presentation which was eventually accepted to move the National Show from Newark, New Jersey to Frederick, Maryland. To date the MBC has been co-host for three Regional shows: Holiday Inn FSK, Frederick, Maryland in 2004, Holiday Inn FSK, Frederick, Maryland in 2009, and the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in 2013.

The true strength of any Club is its members. The Maryland Boxer Club certainly is very fortunate in that respect. From its newest member who is there with wide eyes and an open mind to the eldest members who are so willing to share, they all support our efforts. From serving in an official capacity of the club to helping clean up after a function, there are always plenty of workers to complete every task with a smile on their face. Our success has come from within. We have developed a core group of people that believe in our vision and are willing to place it all on the line to achieve our goals. Our move to Salisbury was thought to be a mistake by some but we proved that Salisbury is not only a great place to show Boxers. We have proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that it is one of the absolute best places to show Boxers!

There will be several events coming up for the Maryland Boxer Club in 2017. The club will have its two yearly Specialties on Friday and Sunday of November 10th and 12th at the Eastern Shore Classic Cluster in Salisbury, Maryland. Mr. Joseph Gregory is slated as one of the Specialty judges.

The Maryland Boxer Club will host the American Boxer Club 2017 Regional Specialty on Saturday, November 11th, 2017 in Salisbury MD.; also during the Eastern Shore Classic. Judge nomination and voting are in progress and will be announced shortly. The ABC Banquet and membership meeting will be held on Friday night, November 10th, at the same facility. It looks like a very busy but hopefully rewarding November for MBC!!

Maryland Boxer Club is hosting the ABC Regional at an all-breed cluster to cut down on the overhead cost of buildings and the cost of the show supervisor. The All Breed shows are already equipped to handle those costs thereby greatly reducing the financial risk to clubs. MBC believes that by doing this they can help other smaller clubs see a path to successfully host a Regional. As MBC President Tom Davis stated, “Our thought is that if this model works like we believe it will, then the ABC Regional could become a true Regional Specialty, more able to locate in more remote areas with smaller clubs. So many clubs do not have the membership or financial power to pull off a stand-alone Regional. This model changes that drastically. It still takes work and effort, but having the facility without cost and the set up complete greatly reduces your financial exposure. Although this was done years ago, it is very exciting to go back to something very different from what we have grown accustomed to and hopefully we are blazing a trail for other clubs to follow.”

Who knows what the future holds for the Maryland Boxer Club. From appearances, there seems to be a limitless amount of excitement and innovative thought that will surely bring about some new ideas. You never know what this group of Boxer lovers will dream up next!