



AMERICAN MALTESE ASSOCIATION, INC.

STANDING RULES

I. Membership

1. A prospective member's application and check will be sent to the Corresponding Secretary, who will then forward the check to the Treasurer.
2. Prospective members, as well as their Sponsors' names, and statement as to why they want to join the American Maltese Association (AMA) will be printed in the Maltese Rx Newsletter allowing (30) days for comments from the membership. When the Corresponding Secretary receives the printed copy of the Maltese Rx Newsletter, the 30-day window for comments begins. All comments must be written, signed and received by the Corresponding Secretary. All documentation must be received within the 30 days. Electronic correspondence will not be accepted. (06/91) Revised 8/14/13
3. The Corresponding Secretary shall mail to the Board, a complete membership application. After Board review, the Corresponding Secretary will send the applicant name to the Maltese Rx Newsletter editor for publication. (10/82) Revised 8/14/13
4. It shall be the responsibility of Board members to investigate all concerns about a prospective member. All concerns about a prospective member will be considered confidential and breach of confidentiality will be dealt with severely by the Board. Revised 8/14/13
5. If the Corresponding Secretary receives a concern about a prospective member, the application will be placed on hold. The Corresponding Secretary shall notify the applicant and sponsors in writing that the application is on hold until further research is completed. All research shall be considered confidential. Revised 8/14/13

6. Members may have multiple postal addresses listed on the AMA website. Each additional address listed will be \$20.00. However, the AMA roster can only have one address since only one ballot or newsletter etc. can be mailed to each member. (2/07) Revised 12/12/08
7. Membership bridging – If a membership is interrupted and the member brings verification of the periods of time before and after joining again, at the discretion of the Board and in good faith, the membership will be considered bridged, and the anniversary pin will reflect the total amount of time. (09/07) Revised 12/12/08
8. Honorary Lifetime Membership to those individuals who have been a member of the AMA for a minimum of forty-five (45) years. The Lifetime Members shall pay no further annual dues and shall continue to receive an annual renewal notice for the purpose of maintaining updated contact information and for donation opportunities. 5/24/2016

II. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As stated in the Constitution, the Board shall comprise of the President, three (3) Vice Presidents (one to represent each area), two (2) Secretaries (Recording and Corresponding), the Treasurer, six (6) Directors (two from each area), and Immediate Past President (if applicable).

A. BOARD:

1. Issues, along with how each Board member voted, are to be published in the Maltese Rx Newsletter and termed Open-Air Policy. This will pertain to Club Business issues and not contain how each Board member voted on people. Votes involving personalities (i.e.: membership applications, judges, committee members, Life Time Achievement Award, Shining Star Award etc.) shall not be printed and shall be considered confidential. (09/78)
2. The AMA Board shall obtain and present a gift noting AMA appreciation to the Show Chairman of the National Specialty at the Awards Banquet not to exceed (\$100.) one hundred dollars. Revised 8/14/13
3. The Board will conduct its business by email as well as by postal mail, telephone and facsimile. 12/13/08
4. No personal or confidential matters shall be transmitted by email or electronic submission. 8/14/13
5. The Board shall appoint a CPA or Independent Auditor to examine all AMA financial records annually. (09/07) Revised 8/14/13

B. PRESIDENT:

1. The AMA shall reimburse the President for expenses to attend all meetings in conjunction with each National Specialty, not to exceed four hundred (\$400.00) per year. (06/91)
2. The President, at the President's discretion, shall obtain the service of a parliamentarian for the AMA Annual General Membership Meeting. 08/14/13
3. No Officer or Director may serve on the Board for more than eight (8) years in any one position or combination of positions. After an absence of at least (1) year, a former Officer or Director may again run for office. The Immediate Past President shall automatically become a member of the Board for (1) one year following retirement from the office of President, in an advisory capacity with no voting rights. Advisory service to the Board by the immediate past President does not constitute full Board service. After the individual fulfills the 1-year advisory period, they are eligible to again run for office. 2/09/21

C. Vice President:

1. It is suggested that each Vice President write at least one (1) column a year for the Maltese Rx Newsletter on area news or on matters of interest to the membership.
2. If there are no group petitions for the National Specialty, the Vice President in the area serves as the National Specialty Chairperson and can appoint committees from the membership to be approved by the Board. (1979) Note: See reference in the Specialty Standing Rules and Guidelines under "Bids".
3. Each Vice President shall obtain the list members for their respective areas from the Treasurer who have not submitted membership dues for the upcoming year and contact each member personally as a reminder to submit dues prior to the end of the grace period. 5/20/2015

D. SECRETARIES

Each Secretary's report is to be published in the Maltese Rx Newsletter containing votes of the Board and of the membership as well as new members and any other club business. (09/78)

RECORDING SECRETARY

1. The Recording Secretary will take roll call and minutes at the AMA monthly scheduled board meetings. The “approved” minutes, once they are corrected if necessary, will be sent to the Maltese Rx Newsletter Editor for publication. 8/14/13
2. Committee reports will be sent to the Recording Secretary. Once received, the reports will be sent to the Board via email. After Board approval, the reports will be sent to the Maltese Rx Newsletter Editor for publication. 8/14/13
3. The Recording Secretary shall prepare two judge’s ballots; Initial and Final, beginning approximately two years prior to the National Specialty to allow the membership to vote on judges for the Specialty’s Regular Classes/Junior Showmanship and the Sweepstakes Judge. The Recording Secretary shall contact the AKC to order a current list of approved Maltese (non-provisional) judges, make arrangements for payment with the AKC and prepare an initial Judge’s Ballot using the list. The initial Judge’s Ballot should be mailed by the Recording Secretary, received and counted by an independent ballot counting organization or accounting firm appointed by the board. After the first ballot has been tabulated, the three judges highest in membership votes will be polled to discuss their fees and expenses. If any of the three exceed our maximum limits and do not agree to take the assignment within the limit, the next judge highest in votes will be contacted for the 2nd and final ballot. Maximum limits will be set by the Board and periodically reviewed to what is considered reasonable. The Recording Secretary will obtain Board approval on judge’s fees before submitting the final ballot. From the Initial Judge’s ballot results, the Recording Secretary shall prepare a “Final Judges Ballot” for a second vote by the membership including envelopes and envelope stickers sent to an independent ballot counting organization or accounting firm appointed by the Board. After receiving a “Tally Report” from the agency used to count the final ballot, a copy is shared with the Board and sent to the Maltese Rx Newsletter Editor for publication. The Recording Secretary shall contact all elected Specialty judges, including the non-elected Performance judges to obtain Board approval on judge’s fees before submitting the contracts for the judges to sign. After Board approval, Recording Secretary will send the judges a contract and distribute copies of all signed contracts to the AMA President, Show Chairman and Specialty Treasurer. 8/14/13 Revised 9/09/2014
4. The Recording Secretary is required to keep records and ballots for two (2) years. This does not pertain to permanent records such as minutes, rules, or Treasurer’s reports. (06/86)
5. The Recording Secretary shall count and report Board Ballots with the exception of new membership application votes. 6/4/14
6. The Recording Secretary shall read the minutes of the Annual Board Meeting at the Annual Membership Meeting. Revised 8/14/13

7. The Recording Secretary will send out a request to each Board member to submit one member's name to serve on the Nominating Committee in May of each year. 8/14/13
8. A committee shall be formed to designate documents and information for club history that is to be maintained by the Recording Secretary in an electronic form. 5/20/2015

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

1. In addition to the duties detailed in the Constitution and By-laws when new members are approved the Corresponding Secretary shall also notify the ROM and Sunshine Frost Record Keepers.
2. The Corresponding Secretary will electronically provide the AKC Club Relations Department with a membership roster formatted as they request annually and upon completion of the annual elections, notify AKC of the current officers. (9/06) Revised 8/14/13
3. The Corresponding Secretary shall list Officers and Directors in a separate section at the front of the Membership Roster along with their addresses, phone numbers and email addresses to allow members easier access to their Officers. (9/07) Revised 12/12/08
4. Upon receipt of data from the AMA Treasurer the Corresponding Secretary will create and mail the annual Membership Roster prior to the end of February each year. Along with the roster provide an annual Membership Card to each member. 8/14/13
5. Process Correspondence
 - i. Notify the Board through monthly reports of incoming and outgoing correspondence.
 - ii. Write replies to correspondence as directed by the Board. 8/14/13
6. At the annual membership meeting the Corresponding Secretary will provide a sign-in roster, take minutes and provide a copy of board approved minutes to the Maltese Rx editor for publication. 8/14/13
7. The Corresponding Secretary shall review incoming applications for membership and mail to the Board a completed copy of new membership applications. If incomplete, return to applicant for completion. If sponsor signature is missing, return to the sponsor for signature. Write a letter to the applicant confirming receipt of the application. Include a copy of the completed application via the monthly correspondence report. The Board will review the new membership application at the next Board Meeting. Upon Board approval the Corresponding Secretary will submit the Applicant's Name, Sponsors and Reason for Joining from the application to the Maltese Rx Editor to be published. (10/82) Revised 8/14/13

8. If the Corresponding Secretary receives a concern about a prospective member, the application will be placed on hold. Copies of the letters of concern will be sent to the entire Board via US mail and will not be sent electronically. Upon Board direction the Corresponding Secretary shall notify the applicant and sponsors in writing that the application is on hold until further research is completed. 8/14/13 Revised 5/12/20
9. Thirty days after publication in the Maltese Rx Newsletter, the Corresponding Secretary will send a ballot to all Board Members. The envelope will contain a ballot with a due date to be marked, a blank interior privacy envelope to maintain the ballot's security, and a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Corresponding Secretary. If a letter of concern has been received regarding the application, hold the ballot until Board authorization to vote on the applicant is received. 8/9/2022
10. A prospective member's application and check will be sent to the Corresponding Secretary, who will then forward the check to the Treasurer. 8/14/13
11. The Corresponding Secretary will send a welcome letter along with a membership card, a copy of the current Roster, the Constitution and By-Laws, Code of Ethics and the Standing Rules to the new members. Revised 8/14/13
12. The Corresponding Secretary shall submit an announcement to the newsletter editor at least three (3) months prior to the next scheduled national specialty to invite nominations for the Shining Star Award from the membership. 8/14/13

E. TREASURER:

1. The Treasurer's last statement in the fiscal year shall be an annual report.
2. More than one (1) signature shall be on file on all AMA accounts (Treasurer plus the President). This is for protection in case for some reason the Treasurer is not able to write checks. (08/81)
3. The Treasurer will add on the annual dues statement places for members to mark breeder, exhibitor, performance, fancier, judge, rescue, so that it can be included on the Membership Roster each year in their listing. AMA Members shall pay an annual fee as determined necessary and reasonable by the Board for their kennel name to be listed on the Roster. Any change in these fees will be reported in the Maltese Rx Newsletter and on the individual dues' notices. (12/07) Revised 8/14/13
4. Anyone who is an agent for the club on any AMA treasury account must have fidelity insurance. Expenditures over five hundred dollars (\$500.00) from any AMA treasury account will require notification to the entire AMA Board either by email, phone, USPS, etc. (09/07) Revised 12/12/08

5. Monthly AMA Treasurer Reports, including those from the Specialty Treasurer, should be prepared and submitted to the Board. The AMA General Treasurer and Specialty Treasurer will supply monthly bank statements to the Board. 1/11/12
6. Incorporate text with the dues notice as follows: By renewing the membership to the AMA, I hereby agree to abide by the current Code of Ethics. This will be signed each year. 06/27/07
7. The AMA Treasurer (General and Specialty) will only accept payments in US Funds. 8/14/13
8. The AMA Treasurer will send an annual contribution to the AKC National Championship show chairperson an amount, not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300), for Parent Club Medallions. 2/14/17

F. DIRECTORS:

1. It is suggested that each Director write at least one (1) column a year for the Newsletter on area news or on matters of interest to the membership.

G. AMA DELEGATE TO THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

1. The AKC Delegate's quarterly expense shall be reimbursed, based upon receipts, not to exceed eight hundred dollars (\$800.00) without Board approval for each quarterly meeting. The Board must approve any expenses over that amount for each meeting. (11/94) Revised 7/14/2015 Revised 10/11/2022
2. At the conclusion of the quarterly AKC delegates meetings, the AMA delegate will report his votes to be published in the Newsletter. A hyperlink to the official AKC delegate meeting minutes will also be published. (09/06) Revised 12/12/08
3. The AMA Delegate shall make regular reports to the AMA Board at Board meetings to facilitate the flow of information from AMA to AKC and from AKC to AMA. 4/30/11 Revised 8/14/13

H. DETERMINING LENGTH OF APPOINTED SERVICE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

When an individual is considered by the Board of Directors to fulfill a portion of an unexpired 2-year term of a vacated Board position, only the actual period of appointed service will count toward the 8-year maximum an individual is allowed to serve in any one position or combination of positions. After an absence of at least 1 year, a former Officer or Director may again run for office. 2/09/21

III. CLUB OPERATIONS

1. That the AMA adopt the logo used at the Silver Anniversary National Specialty as our official logo to be used on all club stationary, books, information flyers, websites, the Maltese Rx Newsletter, inside front cover of all National Specialty catalogs, premium lists, and any other printed matter or club publications. The logo is copyrighted and NOT to be used by anyone without written permission from the Board. (12/08)
2. The Board will send out only one ballot during any given time frame while in keeping with the statutes of the AMA Constitution and By-Laws. (12/08) Revised 8/14/13
3. There shall be a Breeder Referral contact position appointed by the Board. This person shall be in charge of sending out AMA packets when requested and can be contacted via email from the information posted on the AMA website. (07/98) Revised 8/14/13
4. The AMA will participate in the Purina Pet Partnership Program and the funds received from this program will be split evenly among AMA's Health, Education and AMA Rescue Group. (09/05) Revised 8/14/13
5. All Standing Committees and their members will be reviewed annually and approved by the Board at the annual board meeting. (09/06) Revised 8/14/13
6. The complete Constitution & By-laws, Standing Rules, Code of Ethics and a blank AMA Membership Application will be on the website and the Standing Rules will be updated regularly. (09/06) Revised 12/12/08
7. For a Member to be included on the AMA Breeder's List that is sent out to the public or on the AMA Website Breeder's List, he/she must have been a member in good standing for a minimum of two (2) years prior to application. Each member wishing to be included must also have performed at least one or more of the requirements listed on the Breeder Referral Participation Form during the calendar year preceding the year being applied for listing. Members shall pay an additional fee as determined necessary and reasonable by the Board in order to have their information included on these lists. These fees will be reported in the Maltese Rx Newsletter and on the Breeder Referral Participation Form. The application will be mailed to the membership with the annual Membership Renewal Notice. The completed application with fees is due and payable on or before the 1st day of January of each year; however, the Board may grant an additional thirty (30) days of grace to members in meritorious cases. The information included, as determined by the individual Member, may include: Name, address, phone number, kennel name, email address, and web URL address. (12/07) Revised 12/12/08 Revised 7/11/2017
8. Only the AMA board and officers may remove a member from the Breeder Referral List. The board may remove a member from the Breeder Referral List for the following:

- A) Formal charges or complaints were filed on the member and after hearing charges/complaint, a majority vote by the board determined the charges/complaint to be upheld that violates the AMA Code of Ethics and a temporary suspension of privileges are imposed the board may remove and suspend the member's participation on the BRL throughout the same period as the suspension.
- B) A member has had their own dogs (need not be restricted to the Maltese breed only) removed from their home/care due to neglect, cruelty or abandonment by a court order or equivalent legal order pending investigation, charges and legal outcome. The AMA board may temporarily remove a member from the BRL until the legal matter is resolved. If charges against the member are not upheld, the member should be immediately returned to the BRL. If charges by a local government are upheld or the member voluntarily surrenders ownership of confiscated dogs, the AMA board may vote to extend the removal from the BRL pending any formal charges and disciplinary action within the AMA.
- C) **Complaints:** The AMA board will review complaints alleged against an AMA member from both members and non-members. In order for a complaint to be reviewed, it must be submitted in writing to the corresponding secretary and carry the original signature of the individual making the complaint. Complaints faxed and/or emailed will not be considered. In order for the board to properly evaluate a concern, all complaints must be accompanied with substantiating evidence. Evidence can be submitted by email and/or fax EXCEPT when such evidence is a statement from a third party corroborating the complaint. Any third-party statement must be submitted in writing and carry the original signature of the individual submitting the statement. It is not necessary for the third-party statement to be notarized.
- D) Upon receipt of a complaint, the board will contact the member who is the subject of the complaint, requesting a reply to the allegations. The letter will carry a specific reply date no sooner than 14 days and no later than 30 days from the date the request is written. Member replies must be submitted in writing and carry the member's original signature. Evidence may be submitted with the reply in the same format as stated above.
- E) After review of the complaint and response, the board will notify both parties of its determination. Should a complaint be deemed "valid", a letter will be written to the member upon which the complaint was made, stating such determination.
- F) With a majority vote of the board, any member on whom three complaints have been made and three complaints have been found to be "valid" by the board shall be subject to immediate removal from the Breeder Referral List for a period of two (2) years. After that time, the member may reapply upon completing the requirements for participation and shall be subject to a kennel inspection. 8/8/12

9. AMA member donations of twenty-five dollars (\$25) or more to AMA Rescue qualifies them for the BRL. Members making qualifying donations to the AMA Rescue shall be eligible for the Breeders List. The Rescue Treasurer will provide the Breeder Referral Chair with the names of AMA Members that have made qualifying donations. 5/24/16
10. The AMA will participate in the CHIC Program, OFA Patellar Luxation database and the OFA Congenital Cardiac database. 12/9/2014
11. The AMA will advertise with a Google Ad at a cost of no more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month. 12/8/2015
12. The Governing Documents Committee shall update the Standing Rules Document when a motion is made at an AMA meeting, and minutes are approved, that reflects a new Standing Rule or change to a Standing Rule. After the Standing Rule Document has been updated it shall be submitted to the Web Master. 5/24/2016
13. There shall be an AMA Communications Liaison position, appointed by the Board, to facilitate communication between the Public and AMA. Email sent to the AMA website shall be routed to the AMA Communications Liaison for response. All responses shall be sent directly to the inquirer/sender, and the AMA President shall be copied in all responses. 9/13/2016
14. The AMA will support the awarding of Parent Club medallions at the annual AKC National Championship show not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300). 2/14/17

IV. THE MALTESE RX NEWSLETTER

1. The Maltese Rx Newsletter is the only official publication of the American Maltese Association. (1964)
2. Purpose: The Maltese Rx Newsletter is organized, operated, and produced exclusively for the purpose of providing charitable and educational information about the Maltese and to give recognition to individuals and events of interest. It is authorized to carry official sections and reports issued by the American Maltese Association.
3. Ad rates for the Maltese RX Newsletter will be determined by the Board. 8/9/2022
4. The official club publication shall include all club business as submitted by various officers. It shall be the duty of the officers to submit current club business to the editor.
5. Advertisers shall be members in good standing with the AMA. Advertisements may be placed by members or commercial entities whose advertising submission is judged by the Board to be in harmony with the purpose of the publication. Revised 8/14/13

6. All articles printed in The Maltese Rx Newsletter by members or area clubs, including non-members such as veterinarians, must be signed. The author's name shall be printed with the article. (08/81)
7. To avoid possible litigation, all copy submitted for publication must be on a positive, constructive level.
8. Discontinue the publication and mailing of the "Holiday Issue" of the Maltese RX Newsletter to every AMA member. The December RX will be prepared and distributed electronically by the RX editor. 6/14/2022
9. The Maltese Rx Newsletter will publish a tribute, not to exceed a half page, to acknowledge any member who has died. Revised 8/14/13
10. Individuals running for office may submit a resume and platform to the Maltese Rx Newsletter. Annual nominees' resumes should be limited to one-quarter (1/4) page.
11. Members of the nominating committee will be published in the Maltese Rx Newsletter on or before June 15th in sufficient time to allow for the membership to provide input to the committee. (09/06) Revised 8/14/13, 6/14/2022
12. At the conclusion of the quarterly AKC delegates meetings, the AMA delegate will report his votes to be published in the Maltese Rx Newsletter. A hyperlink to the official AKC delegate meeting minutes will also be published. (09/06) Revised 12/12/08
13. The AMA Specialty Best of Breed Winner shall have the option to advertise on the cover of the Holiday issue at a reduced rate. Best of Breed winner will have the right of first refusal at the reduced rate and shall notify the Maltese Rx Editor of this option which will be exercised within 30 days of the win at the specialty. Revised 8/14/13

THE MALTESE Rx NEWSLETTER EDITOR

1. Any editor approved by the Board shall serve a one (1) year probation period, with Board approval the editor will continue a four (4) year term. The Editor may run for unlimited consecutive terms. (06/97)
2. The Editor may be a member of the club or on the Board. The Editor need not be a member of the club. (08/10) Revised 8/14/13
3. The Editor shall be reimbursed by the club for any and all expenses incurred for publication. An itemized expense report shall be submitted monthly to the Treasurer and President with receipts going to the Treasurer. (06/97)
4. The Editor shall request participation by asking members to submit autobiographies on their involvement in the breed.

5. The Maltese Rx Editor shall submit a monthly draft for the Board to review and approve before distribution to the membership. The editor will seek approval from the Board to skip an issue due to the lack of information. Deadlines shall be adhered to except for extenuating circumstances. Revised 8/14/13
6. The Maltese Rx Newsletter Editor shall submit no more than one (1) editorial per year, not to exceed one-half (1/2) page. Editorials must be labeled as such. The Editor may not rebut an article in the issue in which it is first presented.
7. Once a year, each October in the Maltese Rx Newsletter, a listing will be made of the various funds available for individual donations with a short explanation of each fund and the amount already contained in each fund. Revised 8/14/13
8. If more than one bid for a National Specialty is received, the detailed information about each bid along with the date the Board will vote and contact information of the Board members and representative for each competing bid will be published in the Maltese Rx Newsletter at least 45 days prior to the postmark on the Maltese Rx Newsletter. (09/05)

V. DONATIONS AND GIFTS

1. Not less than three hundred (\$300.00) annually will be donated to foundations selected for research to benefit the Maltese breed. The Health Committee shall make a recommendation to the Board of recipient(s) for selection. This donation shall come out of the Health Fund. (6/91) Revised 8/14/13
2. One hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) will be gifted to independent Maltese specialties held by Member Clubs to be used as they see fit for the benefit of their Specialty. This must be applied for. (09/81) Revised 10/14/2014
3. Seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) will be gifted to any supported entry trophy fund approved by the Board (besides the supported entry after the National Specialty). Two hundred dollars (\$200.00) to the trophy fund for the supported entry held in conjunction with the National Specialty. (03/93)
4. Seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) will be gifted to a Group 5 (i.e., toy club) when a request is made by an AMA member belonging to the Group 5 club to be used as they see fit for the benefit of their Specialty. This must be applied for. 5/29/12
5. The AMA will present the out-going President with a plaque not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) at the next National Specialty. (06/86)

VI. SPECIALTIES AND SUPPORTED ENTRIES

The Standing Rules for Specialties are located in the “American Maltese Association Specialty Standing Rules and Guidelines”. The Standing Rules have been incorporated into this document and are in italics and highlighted in Red. Standing Rules MUST be followed for the smooth operation of the Specialty. Any changes or variations to these Standing Rules must be requested in writing to the AMA Board of Directors.

A. COMMITTEES

1. The individuals holding the following positions must be members in good standing of the American Maltese Association: Show Chairperson, Performance Chairperson, and National Specialty Treasurer.
2. The Specialty Treasurer is to submit monthly financial reports to the Board. 2/13/13
3. No National Specialty Committee member may be paid for any services provided.
4. For any educational programs in which the AKC Maltese Breed Standard or the interpretation thereof is subject matter, the American Maltese Association’s Education Chairperson must be contacted prior to any scheduling for approval. Due to American Kennel Club guidelines, this topic is subject to certain restrictions, which the AMA Education Chairperson must assure have been adhered to prior to scheduling at the National Specialty.

B. REGIONAL MALTESE MEMBER CLUBS

1. Specialty Clubs will send in all activity information to the Recording Secretary to be reviewed and approved by the Board for the Maltese Rx Newsletter and the AMA webmaster. (03/70) Revised 8/14/13
2. Specialty Clubs will send in rosters and club information to the AMA Recording Secretary. (04/72)
3. Applications for sanction of a Specialty other than the National Specialty should be directed to the President and Corresponding Secretary.

C. AMA REGIONAL SPECIALTIES

1. Regional AMA Specialties may be hosted by either an AMA Member Club or a host group.
2. Applications for AMA Regional Specialties shall be submitted to the AMA Board a minimum of 10 months prior to the event, Revised 5/24/2016

3. The AMA Regional Specialty requirements and application form are found in a stand-alone document under the Resources menu of the AMA website. Revised 6/14/2016

D. DISCIPLINE FOR AMA SPONSORED EVENTS

In accordance with Chapter 11, Section 15 of the American Kennel Club's Rules Applying to Dog Shows, the AMA Board of Directors may prohibit entry of any individual in AKC approved events as well as registration and participation in AMA activities at national specialty show for event related issues such as, but not limited to, nonpayment of entry fees, or jeopardizing a club's ability to retain a site/hotel, etc. The Board shall evaluate the merits of such situations on a case-by-case basis. The general prohibition periods shall range between 1 and 10 years as determined by the Board of Directors. It will be the responsibility of the Recording Secretary to notify the appropriate Show Chairpersons and Show Secretaries or Superintendents in all affected years. (12/15)

VII. AWARDS

A. THE AMA AWARDS SYSTEM

Awards will be presented every year at the National Specialty Awards Banquet for the top dog or person in each of the following categories (only AMA members are eligible):

Awards will be presented at the AMA Awards Banquet each year at the National Specialty. These awards are to be kept confidential so they can be announced at the Awards Banquet to honor each recipient.

TOP MALTESE (Breed Points) – The dog or bitch with the highest total number of Maltese defeated from January 1st through December 31st. This award does not have to be applied for and at least one (1) owner must be an AMA member to be eligible.

TOP MALTESE (All Breed Points) – The dog or bitch with the highest total number of dogs (all breeds, i.e., Group and Best In Show points) defeated from January 1st through December 31st. This award does not have to be applied for and at least one (1) owner must be an AMA member to be eligible.

TOP OWNER HANDLED MALTESE – The top-ranked dog or bitch in the AKC National Owner Handled Series in accordance with AKC rules and regulations. An AMA member must be the individual who exhibited the dog for the entire year. This award does not have to be applied for.

TOP SIRE – The Maltese sire of the most AKC champions completing their title(s) from January 1st through December 31st. This award must be applied for.

TOP DAM – The Maltese bitch of the most AKC champions completing their title(s) from January 1st through December 31st. This award must be applied for.

TOP BREEDER – The person that has bred the most AKC champions completing their title(s) from January 1st through December 31st. (Any dogs that are co-bred do not count for this award. This is a single person award.) This award must be applied for.

TOP CO-BREEDERS – The members who work as a pair or trio that have bred the most AKC champions completing their title(s) from January 1st through December 31st, (Dogs that are bred singularly or with any other or differing co-breeder(s) do not count for this award.) This award must be applied for.

TOP PERFORMANCE DOG – The top scoring, owner-handled performance dog from January 1st through December 31st. The Top Obedience, Top Rally and Top Agility awards will only be offered as Owner-Handled awards. The owner must be the individual who trained and exhibited the dog for the entire year. Also, three certificates will be awarded for Top Novice, Top Open, and Top Utility. Each of these awards must be applied for.

TOP JUNIOR HANDLER – The junior, while showing a Maltese that has defeated the highest total number of juniors in the open class from January 1st through December 31st. This award must be applied for.

The AMA Corresponding Secretary will use the AKC informational disc to verify the information submitted for the above awards. (Please note it is up to the person applying for the above-mentioned awards to verify any errors or omissions with the American Kennel Club.)

B. SHINING STAR AWARD

The AMA will honor members annually for outstanding contributions to the American Maltese Association. More than one member may be acknowledged annually for this award. The acknowledgements will be made during the awards presentation at the annual national specialty.

1. The corresponding secretary shall submit an announcement to the newsletter editor at least three (3) months prior to the next scheduled national specialty to invite nominations for this award from the membership. In addition, board members may also submit nominations. Nominations from the membership should be received by the corresponding secretary no later than 40 days prior to the national specialty. Each nomination should include a very brief summary listing the accomplishments for the previous calendar year that the member has contributed to the AMA.
2. The board shall review all nominations and determine which nominations merit Shining Star Awards and vote no later than the last monthly board meeting prior to the national specialty in order to permit ample time in preparation of certificates/awards.

C. LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

1. Nominee is currently a member in good standing including no disciplinary action.

2. Minimum twenty (20) years of membership.
3. Has provided at least eight (8) years of service to the AMA in multiple capacities.
4. Members will nominate candidates and the Board will select no more than one (1) recipient per year.
5. When making a nomination be sure to list all the areas of contribution the nominee has participated in.
6. This is a merit-based award.

D. PLATINUM AWARD

1. The intent of the Platinum Award is to retire recipients that have won Breeder of the Year and Co-Breeders of the Year from future awards in this category. Although both “Breeder of the Year” and “Co-Breeders of the Year” are awards that are applied for, Platinum Award winners are automatically moved to the Platinum list after the fifth win in either category.
2. The Platinum Award is awarded to Breeder of the Year and Co-Breeders of the year that have won five (5) times. The wins need not be consecutive. After the fifth award is presented at the annual awards ceremony, the names of the members shall be moved to the Platinum list for either “Breeder of the Year” or Co-Breeders of the Year.”
3. This is a prestigious acknowledgement, and the name of the Platinum Award recipients should be printed in any awards booklet or other printed material and the names should be read after presentation of the “Breeder of the Year” and “Co-Breeders of the Year” at each national specialty awards ceremony.

E. REGISTER OF MERIT (ROM) AWARD

1. In order to obtain this award, a Maltese dog or bitch must complete the following qualifications:
 - a. A bitch must be the dam of three (3) or more AKC champions of record.
 - b. A dog must have sired five (5) or more AKC champions of record.
2. The dog or bitch who qualifies for the ROM need not be an AKC champion themselves but must have produced the required number of AKC champions.
3. The breeder or owner of the dog or bitch that qualifies will send the dog’s or bitch’s name and AKC registration number, together with the names of the progeny that are AKC champions that the dog or bitch are to be accredited with, to a committee that will be appointed by the AMA Board. (A three (3) or four (4) generation pedigree with the

application would be great for the AMA records, but is not mandatory.) A numbered certificate will be issued by the AMA to the breeder or owner of the dog. A duplicate certificate made by the AMA for a set fee can be issued to co-breeders and/or co-owners. In other words, the person who takes the time to submit the information receives the free certificate. Once the certificate is obtained, the owner/breeder of such dog or bitch may put ROM after the name of the dog on their pedigree.

4. This award is for AMA members only and must be applied for.

F. REGISTER OF MERIT EXCELLENT (ROM EXCELLENT OR ROMX)

The American Maltese Association offers a Register of Merit Excellent (ROM Excellent or ROMX) award to any Maltese owned or bred by an AMA member achieving that status. The criteria are as follows: A Maltese who has already qualified and received an ROM may add the "X", if one of its off-spring has won an all-breed or a National Specialty Best in Show. This award is retroactive for any Maltese that already has an ROM title. The award must be applied for under the same rules as applying for an ROM. A separate certificate especially for ROMX will be awarded to those qualifying.

G. SUNSHINE-FROST AWARD

The Sunshine-Frost Award is given in memory of Sunshine Elizabeth Perlmutter and Tammy Frost to honor AKC Champions of Record and Performance Title Holders. This award is available to those individuals having had the thrill of campaigning their Maltese to a Championship or Performance title (whether owner-handled or shown by an agent).

1. To qualify for the Sunshine-Frost Award:
 - a. The applicant must be a member of the AMA at the time the dog finished its championship.
 - b. The member must be listed as the owner of the dog when published in the AKC Awards Book.
 - c. The award must be applied for and the applicant must provide supporting AKC documentation.
 - d. The application must be received by the deadline with AKC documentation of the title achieved.
2. Only one award per Champion or Performance Title holder is offered. The award is offered for the current award year only. Any member desiring the Sunshine-Frost Award for Champions of Record or Performance Title holders for previous years in which they were an AMA member may apply but will be required to pay for the name plate(s).

Co-Owners and Breeders may apply and pay for additional awards for the same dog if desired. If a dog receives more than one Champion or Performance Title and the owner wishes another plate, it may be obtained at the owner's expense. The calendar year of January 1st through December 31st will be used to determine awards each year.

H. CAROL F. ANDERSEN BREEDERS AWARD

In addition to the awards presented at the National Specialty Awards Banquet, there shall be a Carol F. Andersen Breeders Award given to the breeder of the #1 Maltese Breed Points and the #1 Maltese All-Breed Points. This award will be purchased by Larry and Vicki Abbott and sent to the Awards committee prior to the specialty. To be eligible, all breeder(s) must be AMA member(s) with Single Membership in good standing.

I. RENA MARTIN TROPHY

The acquisition of the Rena Martin trophy will be the responsibility of the Awards Committee.