



Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.

Member of the American Kennel Club

Thank You for Your Interest in Joining the Bichon Frise Club of America

The **Bichon Frise Club of America (BFCA)** is the **American Kennel Club (AKC)-approved Parent Club**—also known as the **National Specialty Club**—for purebred Bichon Frises in the United States. Our membership includes passionate Bichon enthusiasts from across the country and around the world.

All members are required to sign and uphold **BFCA's Code of Ethics**, which reflects our commitment to the health, well-being, and preservation of the breed.

BFCA's mission is to serve the interests of the purebred Bichon Frise at the national level.

We operate under an AKC-approved **Constitution and By-Laws**, and our **Board of Directors**, elected by the voting membership, manages the general business of the Club.

Each year, BFCA hosts a **National Specialty** featuring **Conformation, Obedience, and Rally** events. We also support and promote **educational opportunities** for both members and the general public.

In addition to breed education and events, BFCA supports a proactive **Health Committee** and proudly backs the **Bichon Rescue organization**.

Please read this membership packet thoroughly.

If you have any questions about membership or the application process, please contact our Membership Administrator:

Kim Furlong

✉ kimfurlong9705@gmail.com

BFCA Membership Application Instructions

1. Review Guidelines: Read the guidelines and requirements carefully before applying for membership.
2. Send Sponsor Forms: Provide the sponsor forms to your sponsor(s). Applicants and sponsors are encouraged to share completed forms with each other to ensure accuracy and completeness.
3. Complete the Forms: You may complete the forms electronically using the fillable PDF, or print and complete them by hand.
4. Gather Completed Forms: Collect all completed documents — your application and the sponsor form(s).
5. Convert to Electronic Format: If your forms are printed, convert them to digital files by scanning or taking clear, legible photos of each page.
6. Pay the Application Fee: Submit the \$30 application fee at:
 - <https://bichon.org/membership/membership-application-form/>
7. Submit All Materials Together: Email all completed forms along with your application fee payment confirmation in one email to: kimfurlong9705@gmail.com

Associate Membership

Please complete the form as thoroughly as possible.

Section II – Breeding Practices:

Kindly fill out this section even if you are not currently a breeder. We understand that plans can change, and individuals who had not intended to breed may choose to do so in the future.

Sponsorship Requirements:

Only **one sponsor** is required for an **Associate Membership**. You may **disregard the space for a second sponsor** on the form, as well as the second sponsor form.

Membership Review Process:

- Within 30 days of submitting your forms, your name and sponsor(s) names will be shared with the membership for comment.
- The membership has 15 days to provide their comments.
- After the comment period, the board will convene to vote at their earliest convenience.
- Prospective members will be notified of the board's decision via email, telephone, or US mail.

Membership Dues:

- **Regular Membership:**
 - Check: \$40.00
 - PayPal: \$42.00
- **Regular Household Membership:**
 - Check: \$50.00
 - PayPal: \$52.00
- **Associate Membership:**
 - Check: \$25.00
 - PayPal: \$27.00
- **Associate Household Membership:**
 - Check: \$30.00
 - PayPal: \$32.00
- **Foreign Membership:**
 - Check: \$40.00
 - PayPal: \$42.00
- **Foreign Household Membership:**
 - Check: \$50.00
 - PayPal: \$52.00

Prorated annual membership dues will be payable upon acceptance and must be received by the BFCA before actual membership is granted.

BFCA Membership Levels

All classes of voting and non-voting members are open to persons who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club (the "AKC") and who subscribe to the purposes of this Corporation.

Regular/Household Membership: Regular Members consist of individuals who are reputable citizens of the United States, 18 years of age or older, and who demonstrate a measurable commitment to the Bichon Frisé breed (the "Breed"). Household Members consist of two Regular Members residing in the same household. Regular/Household Members enjoy all club privileges, are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors (the "Board"), and have voting rights as defined under the California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law (the "Nonprofit Law") as further set forth in these bylaws. Each member of the household shall be entitled to one vote.

Lifetime Regular/Household Membership: Lifetime Regular/Household Members consist of persons who have been a Regular/Household Member in good standing for 30 years or more. Lifetime Regular/Household Members shall retain all rights available to Regular/Household Members, including the right to vote and serve on the Board, but shall not be required to pay dues.

Associate/Associate Household Membership: Associate Members consist of individuals who are reputable citizens of the United States, 18 years of age or older, and who are interested in supporting the Corporation and learning more about the Breed. Associate Household Members consist of two Associate Members residing in the same household. Associate/Associate Household Members shall enjoy certain Corporation privileges, but are not eligible to serve on the Board and do not have voting rights as defined under the Nonprofit Law.

Junior Membership: Junior Members shall consist of youth between the ages of 10 and 18 years of age who are reputable citizens of the United States. Junior members shall not pay dues and shall not be eligible to serve on the Board, may not endorse others for membership, and do not have any voting rights as defined under the Nonprofit Law. Junior Members in good standing shall become Regular Members upon reaching the age of 18.

Foreign/Foreign Household Membership: Foreign Members consist of individuals who are reputable citizens of a country other than the United States, 18 years of age or older, and who subscribe to the purpose and principles of the Corporation. Foreign Household Members consist of two Foreign Members residing in the same household. Foreign Members shall not be eligible to serve on the Board, may not endorse others for membership, and do not have any voting rights as defined under the Nonprofit Law.

Lifetime Foreign Membership: Lifetime Foreign Members consist of any individuals who have been Foreign Members in good standing for 30 years or more. Lifetime Foreign Members shall retain all rights available to Foreign Members, but shall not pay dues.

Bichon Frise Club of America
Regular Membership Guidelines
Bylaws Article 2, Section 2.2

Regular Membership Description Article 2, Section 2.2.2.

Regular Members consist of individuals who are reputable citizens of the United States, 18 years of age or older, and who demonstrate a measurable commitment to the Bichon Frise breed (the "Breed"). Household Members consist of two Regular Members residing in the same household. Regular/Household Members enjoy all club privileges, are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors (the "Board"), and have voting rights as defined under the California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law (the "Nonprofit Law") as further set forth in the bylaws. Each member of the household shall be entitled to one vote.

Application Process

1. Persons who wish to become full members must request an application, as well as pay any fee indicated in the bylaws. This fee is non-refundable.
2. Applications should be made on a form that shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant, as well as other items deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
3. Completed applications will be handled per the current bylaws.
4. The Membership Chairperson will so inform all applicants of the decision. Those who have received favorable acceptance will receive new member information.

To assure uniformity when reviewing applications, the following items will be considered in Board deliberations.

1. Responses to the application questions (health testing, breeding practices, education, etc.)
2. Involvement in the sport of purebred dogs, i.e., showing in conformation and/or performance events, grooming, veterinary services, involvement in the Bichon Frise Club of America Charitable Trust, or similar experience is encouraged.
3. Attendance at local and national specialties, seminars, and other educational opportunities including the desire to learn more about purebred dogs by reading, studying, and working with a current member mentor is highly recommended/valued.
4. It is desirable that at least one sponsor be from the applicant's geographic area and be familiar with the applicant's dogs and facilities.
5. Membership in a local Bichon Frise club, an all-breed club, and/or training club is valued.

Bichon Frise Club of America
Associate Membership Guidelines
Bylaws Article 2, Section 2.4

Associate Membership Description:

To encourage all enthusiasts in the Bichon Frise breed, the Associate Membership aims to give potential members an opportunity to explore and learn more about the breed. Should an Associate Member desire to become a Regular Member, it is recommended that they have mentors from among the

current Regular Members and that they demonstrate their commitment to advancing their study of the breed.

Article 2, Section 2.2.4 Associate Members consist of individuals who are reputable citizens of the United States, 18 years of age or older, and who are interested in supporting the Corporation and learning more about the Breed. Associate Household Members consist of two Associate Members residing in the same household. Associate/Associate Household Members shall enjoy certain Corporation privileges but are not eligible to serve on the Board and do not have voting rights as defined under the Nonprofit Law.

Additionally,

1. Associate members are encouraged to contribute to committee work but may not chair committees.
2. Associate members may not vote, sponsor new members, or hold office.
3. Associate members will not be listed in the Breeders Directory and may not use membership as an endorsement of their breeding practices.
4. Associate members may apply for Regular membership after meeting the qualifications in the bylaws, Section 2.2.2, and the most current considerations for Regular Membership.

Application Process

5. Persons who wish to become full members must request an application, as well as pay any fee indicated in the bylaws. This fee is non-refundable.
6. Applications should be made on a form that shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant, as well as other items deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
7. Completed applications will be handled per the current bylaws.
8. The Membership Chairperson will so inform all applicants of the decision. Those who have received favorable acceptance will receive new member information.

To assure uniformity when reviewing applications, the following items will be considered in Board deliberations:

1. A love and appreciation for the Bichon Frise.
2. Current, past, or planned ownership of a Bichon Frise is encouraged.
3. Applicants who have demonstrated their desire to learn more about the Bichon Frise by reading, studying, and working with a current member mentor is encouraged.
4. Involvement in the sport of purebred dogs, i.e., showing in conformation and/or performance events, grooming, veterinary services, involvement in the Bichon Frise Club of America Charitable Trust, or similar experience is encouraged.
5. Attendance at local and national specialties, seminars, and other educational opportunities is encouraged.
6. Membership in a local Bichon Frise Club, an all-breed club and/or training club is encouraged.

Foreign Membership Description Article 2, Section 2.2.6 Foreign Members consist of individuals who are reputable citizens of a country other than the United States, 18 years of age or older, and who subscribe to the purpose and principles of the Corporation. Foreign Household Members consist of two Foreign Members residing in the same household. Foreign Members shall not be eligible to serve on the Board, may not endorse others for membership, and do not have any voting rights as defined under the Nonprofit Law.

Application Process

9. Persons who wish to become foreign members must request an application, as well as pay any fee indicated in the bylaws. This fee is non-refundable.
10. Applications should be made on a form that shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant, as well as other items deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
11. Completed applications will be handled per the current bylaws.
12. The Membership Chairperson will so inform all applicants of the decision. Those who have received favorable acceptance will receive new member information.

To assure uniformity when reviewing applications, the following items will be considered in Board deliberations:

1. Responses to the application questions (health testing, breeding practices, education, etc.)
2. Involvement in the sport of purebred dogs, i.e., showing in conformation and/or performance events, grooming, veterinary services, involvement in the Bichon Frise Club of America Charitable Trust, or similar experience is encouraged.
3. Attendance at local, national, and international specialties, seminars, and other educational opportunities including the desire to learn more about purebred dogs by reading and studying is highly recommended/valued.
4. It is desirable that at least one sponsor be familiar with the applicant's dogs and facilities.

**Bichon Frise Club of America
Junior Membership Guidelines
Bylaws Article 2, Section 2.2.5**

Junior Membership Description:

Junior members are encouraged in the Club to help shape their career in purebred dogs and to receive mentoring and support to enhance their learning and development.

Article 2, Section 2.2.5 Junior Members shall consist of youth between the ages of 10 and 17 years of age who are reputable citizens of the United States. Junior members shall not pay dues and shall not be eligible to serve on the Board, may not endorse others for membership, and do not have any voting rights as defined under the Nonprofit Law. Junior Members in good standing shall become Regular or Associate Members upon reaching the age of 18.

Additionally,

5. Junior members are encouraged to contribute to committee work but may not chair committees – including working with the Junior Coordinator.
6. Junior members may not vote, sponsor new members, or hold office.

7. Junior members may apply for Regular or Associate membership after meeting the qualifications in the bylaws, Section 2.2.4 or 2.2.2, and the most current considerations for Regular or Associate Membership.

Application Process:

13. Persons who wish to become Junior members must request an application.
14. Applications should be made on a form that shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant, as well as other items deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
15. Completed applications will be handled per the current bylaws.
16. The Membership Chairperson will so inform all applicants of the decision. Those who have received favorable acceptance will receive new member information.

To assure uniformity when reviewing applications, the following items will be used in membership and Board deliberations:

7. Applicants who have demonstrated their desire to learn more about purebred dogs by reading and studying and mentorship are highly valued.
8. Involvement in the sport of purebred dogs, i.e., showing in conformation and/or performance events.
9. Attendance at local and national specialties, seminars, and other educational opportunities is highly recommended/ valued.
10. It is recommended that Junior members have mentors from among the full members to assist with their knowledge of the breed, showmanship, animal care, and grooming.
11. Membership in a local Bichon Frise Club, an all-breed club and/or training club is valued.

CODE OF ETHICS

BICHON FRISE CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

PURPOSE

Each member of the Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc. has an obligation to protect the interest of the breed and the club by conducting themselves in a manner which will reflect credit upon themselves, their breed, and the Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.

Anyone applying for membership in the Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc is expected to review and comply with the Code of Ethics. A signed application for membership in and of itself will be considered as an agreement to do so. In addition, only those persons subscribing to the Code of Ethics are eligible to receive BFCA awards, to be listed in the BFCA Breeders Directory, and to be listed for referrals on the BFCA Breeder referral list.

MEMBER OBLIGATIONS

Each member should be familiar with and observe the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club, the Bichon Frise Club of America, and this Code of Ethics.

Members are expected to observe the highest standards of sportsmanship and conduct themselves in a manner which will reflect positively on the sport of showing dogs. They shall exhibit goodwill at all dog-related events including All-Breed shows, Specialties, and Performance Trials.

No member shall knowingly engage in false or misleading advertising or misrepresentation of his/her dogs. No member shall malign the competition by making false or misleading statements about a competitor, a competitor's dogs, or a competitor's breeding practices.

Members shall put the welfare of each dog above personal gain, profit, and/or personal convenience - remembering that each dog (purchased, bred, or sold) is a lifetime responsibility.

Members shall be familiar with their breed, the Standard for the breed, and be responsible for breeding only those specimens with merit.

Members shall abide by AKC rules concerning record keeping, registration, sale, and transfer of dogs.

Members, when contemplating breeding a litter, or allowing the use of their stud dog to the same end, shall do so with every effort toward producing dogs of exceptional quality, temperament, and conditions.

Members shall use for breeding only those dogs which are healthy, and free from serious congenital and hereditary defects, and shall cease breeding any animals which have been found to produce such defects in their offspring.

Members shall breed only when they have the time and facilities to provide adequate attention to the physical and emotional development of puppies, and shall provide this attention until such time as the puppies are sold.

Members shall refuse to breed stud dogs to any bitch whose owner is directly involved with any puppy broker, puppy mill, litter lot sales, or any other commercial enterprise whose business is involved in like activities.

Should a Bichon bred by any member of BFCA end up in BFCA Rescue, the member should endeavor to do one of the following: take back the Bichon; assist Rescue in re-homing the Bichon; and/or make a donation to Rescue, to the extent the member can afford to do so, in order to assist in the care and re-homing of the Bichon.

Bichon Frise Club of America Charitable Trust (BFCAT) provides assistance for unwanted or abandoned Bichons and will provide assistance, without prejudice, to any member who is in need of help with his/her Bichons.

Members must be concerned with the proper placement of Bichons, both pet and show potential. It is highly recommended that breeders do a thorough background check (to the best of their ability) of prospective buyers to insure the buyers will provide a good home and proper care.

Contracts must be clear and complete, with all conditions agreed upon between buyer and breeder/seller stated. A member signing any contract must honor all contractual conditions agreed upon at the time of signing.

All Bichons sold should be in good health and at least 10 weeks old before placement.

The Member should supply written instructions on feeding, care, training, and grooming, and should supply medical records which include dates and type of vaccinations given and dates of deworming.

Members will NEVER sell puppies or adults to pet stores, either on consignment or outright, nor supply any Bichon for raffles or other such enterprises, including donations for fund raisers or shelters. Likewise, no intact Bichon puppy or adult shall be sold, traded, or bartered to any commercial breeding facility.

Members will never knowingly falsify pedigree or breeding information.

DISCIPLINE

Violations of the Code of Ethics shall be considered prejudicial to the best interest of the BFCA and the breed. The process for filing a charge is addressed in Article VI of the BFCA's Constitution and By-laws. Any proven violation can result in the suspension of membership or expulsion from the club.

ACCEPTANCE AND AGREEMENT WITH THE CODE OF ETHICS

Membership in the Bichon Frise Club of America in and of itself is an acceptance of the Code of Ethics. New members must sign an acceptance of the Code of Ethics before membership becomes effective. This acceptance will be binding on all members until such time as the Code of Ethics is modified; at which time a new acceptance will be required.

Each member and member applicant will be provided access to the current Code of Ethics.