

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF
THE BUCKEYE RETRIEVER CLUB, INC.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I
Name and Objectives

The name of the Club shall be **The Buckeye Retriever Club, Inc.**

SECTION 2.

The objectives of the Club shall be:

- (a) the promotion of the working retriever, the betterment of retrieving breeds and furtherance of good sportsmanship in the field;
- (b) to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred retrievers and to do all things possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- (c) to conduct sanctioned and licensed hunt tests and field trials under the rules of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 3.

The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

SECTION 4.

The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. **Membership**

SECTION 1. *Eligibility.*

There shall be three (3) types of membership open to all persons eighteen (18) years of age and older who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purpose of the Club. While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the club's primary purpose is to be representative of the breeders and exhibitors in its immediate area.

General Membership - Enjoys all club privileges including one (1) vote per household and the right to hold office. General Membership will include spouses and children, over the age of eighteen (18) residing in the same house.

Honorary - Honorary membership is reserved to individuals who, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, have provided invaluable service to the promotion of the working retriever and are so recognized. Honorary membership may be awarded by action of the Board of Directors. Honorary members shall not pay dues nor have voting privileges. However, such members can maintain regular or household membership if they pay dues.

Lifetime - A lifetime member is one who has been honored by the Club for faithful service and has been elected to such membership by the Board of Directors. A lifetime member shall not pay dues, but shall have all other privileges, including voting and holding office.

SECTION 2. *Dues.*

Membership dues will be set by the board. Dues are payable on or before the first (1)st day of March of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of January, the Treasurer (or designate) shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year. Dues are subject to revision by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. Election to Membership.

Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this Constitution and these Bylaws and the rules of The American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, and phone number of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of one member in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.

All applications are to be filed with the Secretary and each application is to be read at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following its receipt. At the next Club meeting, the applications will be voted upon and the affirmative votes of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting by secret ballot at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.

Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not re-Apply within six (6) months after such rejection.

SECTION 4. Termination of Membership.

Memberships may be terminated:

- (a) *by resignation.* Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Secretary; but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Dues obligation is considered a debt to the Club and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
- (b) *By lapsing.* A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid ninety (90) days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional sixty (60) days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any Club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- (c) *By expulsion.* A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these bylaws.

ARTICLE II
Meetings and Voting

SECTION 1. *Club Meetings.*

Regular Club meetings shall be held in the greater Cleveland area on the first Wednesday of each month at such hour as may be designated by the Board, unless the day is a legal holiday wherein it will be held on the following Wednesday. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The requirements of this subsection shall be met if notice of same is published in the newsletter at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum at meetings of the club shall be twenty-five percent (25)% of the members in good standing.

The Annual meeting of the Club shall be held in the greater Cleveland area during the month of January of each year at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of each such meeting shall be Mailed by the Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meeting shall be twenty-five percent (25)% of the members in good standing.

SECTION 2. *Special Meetings.*

Special: illeetings shall be held in the greater Cleveland area such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other Club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be twenty-five percent (25)% of the members in good standing.

SECTION 3. *Board of Directors' Meetings.*

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the greater Cleveland area on the first Wednesday of each month at such hour as may be designated by the Board, unless the day is a legal holiday wherein it will be held on the following Wednesday. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The requirements of this subsection shall be met if notice of same is published in the newsletter at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum at meetings of the board shall be a majority of the board.

SECTION 4. *Special Meetings of the Board of Directors.*

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President; and shall be called by the Secretary upon members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Cleveland area at such place, date, and hour as maybe designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. A quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 5. *Voting.*

Each member in good standing whose dues are paid for the official fiscal year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club at which he is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or election.

ARTICLE III
Directors and Officers

SECTION 1. *Board of Directors.*

The Board of Directors shall be comprised of eleven (11) persons, including the officers, all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for three-year (3) terms at the Club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. *Officers.*

The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Club and its meetings and the Board and its meetings.

- (a) The President is to preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these bylaws.
- (b) The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.
- (c) The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club; shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.
- (d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Club. Moneys shall be deposited in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. The books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board and a report shall be given at every meeting of the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting an accounting shall be rendered of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.

- (e) The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.
- (f) AKC Delegate - (The duties of the AKC Delegate shall be to represent the interests of the Buckeye Retriever Club with respect to issues that relate to events at AKC meetings. The term of office shall be one calendar year. The Board of Directors shall appoint the AKC Delegate during the November Board of Directors meeting).

SECTION 3. Vacancies.

Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of all the then members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a Special Board Meeting called for that purpose; except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President and the resulting vacancy of the office of Vice-President shall be filled by the Board.

ARTICLE IV

The Club Year, Annual Meeting, Elections

SECTION 1. Club Year.

The Club's fiscal year shall begin March 1.

The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting, and shall continue through the election of the next annual meeting.

SECTION 2. Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting shall be held in the month of January at which Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected from among those nominated in accordance with Section Four (4) of this Article. Officers shall be elected by the directors at a closed meeting of the directors during the annual meeting; for a one (1) year term. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to the successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within thirty days (30) after the election.

SECTION 3. *Elections.*

The nominated candidates for positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4. *Nominations.*

No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. During the month of July, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members and two (2) alternates, not more than one (1) of who may be a member of the board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen and alternates of their selection. The board shall name a chairmen for the committee and it shall be that person's duty to call a committee meeting on or before October 15th.

- (a) The Committee shall nominate one (1) candidate for each open position on the Board, and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, the chairperson shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing.
- (b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall, at least two weeks before the November meeting, notify each member in writing by mail or email.
- (c) Additional nominations may be made at the November meeting by any other member in attendance provided that the person nominated does not decline when their name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position (except for the position of Delegate).
- (d) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this section.

ARTICLE V
Committees

SECTION 1.

The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as hunting tests, field trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership and other categories which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects.

SECTION 2.

Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated:

ARTICLE VI
Discipline

SECTION 1. *American Kennel Club Suspension.*

Any member who is suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period.

SECTION 2. Charges.

Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the retriever breeds. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of ten (10) dollars which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at a Board Meeting, **and the Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or retriever breeds. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or retriever breeds, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction.** If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date of a hearing by the Board not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if he wishes.

SECTION 3. Board Hearing.

The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board may by a majority vote of those present suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his fellow-members at the ensuing Club meeting which considers the Board's recommendation. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its finding shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the Board's decision and penalty, if any.

SECTION 4. Expulsion.

Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at a meeting of the Club following a Board hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceeding may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within sixty (60) days but not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's finding and recommendation, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The members shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VII
Amendments

SECTION 1.

The Board of may propose amendments to the constitution and bylaws Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by twenty (20) percent of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the Members with recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

SECTION 2.

The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

SECTION 3.

(No amendment to the constitution and bylaws that is adopted by the club shall become effective until the Board of directors of the American Kennel Club has approved it.)

ARTICLE VIII

Dissolution

SECTION 1.

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the Club other than for purposes of reorganization whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the Club nor any proceeds thereof nor any assets of the Club shall be distributed to any members of the Club but after payment of the debts of the Club its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs selected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX

SECTION 1. *Order of business*

At meetings of the club, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

Roll Call
Minutes of last meeting
Report of President
Report of Secretary
Report of Treasurer
Reports of committees
Election of officers and board (at annual meeting)
Election of new members
Unfinished business
New business
Adjournment