



YANKEE WATERFOWLERS HUNTING
RETRIEVER CLUB INC.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

As amended through the annual member meeting of January 14, 2024.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME AND OBJECTS

SECTION I:

The name of the Club shall be Yankee Waterfowlers Hunting Retriever Club.

SECTION II:

The objects of the Club shall be:

- (a) To educate handlers, breeders, owners, and the general public and to encourage/promote quality in the breeding and field testing of hunting retrievers.
- (b) To protect and advance the interest of hunting retrievers through education and encouraging sportsmanlike participation at hunting field tests.
- (c) To conduct training sessions, sanctioned and licensed hunting dog tests under the rules of the YWHRC, AKC, NAHRA or UKC/HRC.
- (d) To promote the use of trained retrievers as a conservation tool and efforts to preserve and improve wildlife habitats.
- (e) To perpetuate the grand sport of water fowling.

SECTION III:

The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits, remainders or residuals from events, raffles, dues, or donations, etc. to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual. Great care should be taken by Officers, Board Members, and Event Chairs to avoid the appearance of impropriety in this regard.

SECTION IV:

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

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I: ELIGIBILITY.

- (a) There shall be 3 types of memberships, Individual, open to all persons 18 years of age or older, Spouse, open to spouses of Individual members, and Youth, open to children under 18 years of age. All categories of membership candidates must be in good standing with the AKC, NAHRA, or UKC/HRC, subscribe to the purposes of the club, agree to abide by the codes of conduct of our parent organizations, and be sponsored by a member in good standing.
- (b) Individual and Spouse members must work for the good of the Club a minimum of TEN (10) hours per calendar year, Youth members must complete FIVE (5) hours (for example: must actively contribute to one major event and/or actively serve on a committee). The Club shall make special work accommodations for members who, due to age, infirmity, or other extenuating conditions, are unable to perform strenuous physical activities in the completion of the annual work requirement.
- (c) While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the Club's primary purpose is to be representative of the hunters/sportsmen, breeders and exhibitors in its immediate area.
- (d) All members of Yankee Waterfowlers Hunting Retriever Club agree to abide by this constitution and bylaws and the rules of the AKC, NAHRA, or UKC/HRC.

SECTION II: DUES

Annual membership dues shall be assessed as the Board of Directors sees fit and shall be payable on or before the 1st day of January each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of December, the Membership Secretary shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year.

SECTION III: ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP

Each applicant to membership shall apply on a form as provided by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this constitution and bylaws and the rules of the AKC, NAHRA or UKC/HRC. The applicant must be sponsored by a member in good standing. The application shall state the name, address and occupation of the applicant. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the coming year. All applications are to be filed with the Membership Secretary. If the Membership Secretary determines that the application is complete including verifying the sponsor, the application will be forwarded to the membership via the email list within 10 days of submission. The membership will then have 14 days from the day and time the email was sent to voice objections to the applying member. If no objections are raised during that time, the Membership Secretary will notify the applicant their membership has been accepted. If objections are raised the Board of Directors will review the application and objections and may make one of the following three decisions:

1. Elect the new member
2. Reject the new member's application
3. Defer the election of the applicant to the next membership meeting where the objections will be discussed and the membership application put to a vote of the membership.

The individual(s) expressing concern will be notified of the date of the meeting the application will be discussed at. The Membership Secretary will notify the applicant of the outcome of their application.

SECTION IV: 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 Membership Secretary; but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Dues obligations are 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 members' dues remain unpaid 60 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 30 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 the meeting.
- (c) By expulsion: A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these Bylaws.
- (d) By failing to complete work requirements: In lieu of termination of membership, any member may elect a one-time renewal by paying off their work obligation at a rate of \$10 (ten) dollars per hour. The fulfillment of the work requirements shall be left entirely to the discretion of the Board.

ARTICLE II MEETINGS AND VOTING

SECTION I: CLUB MEETINGS

Meetings of the Club shall be held bimonthly (January, March, May, July, September and November) in the greater Bradford area (or any area mutually agreed upon by the membership) at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 15% of the members in good standing.

SECTION II: SPECIAL CLUB MEETINGS

Special Club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five members of the Club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Bradford area (or any area mutually agreed upon by the membership) at such time, place, date and hour as 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 5 days and not more than 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 15% of the members in good standing.

SECTION III: SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Bradford area (or any area mutually agreed upon by the membership) at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 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 meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION IV: VOTING

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

SECTION V

Any one or more persons who are not physically present for a membership, board, or committee meeting may participate by means of a conference telephone, or similar communications equipment or by electronic video screen communication. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting as long as all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time and each person can participate in all matters before the meeting, including, without limitation, the ability to propose, object to, and vote upon a specific action to be taken by the membership, board or committee. All information necessary to participate by conference telephone or electronic video screen communication shall be included in the notice required by these by-laws for any membership, board or committee meeting.

ARTICLE III DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

SECTION I: BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The board shall be comprised of the officers and 4 other persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing, and all of whom shall be elected for one-year 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 II: OFFICERS

The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Membership 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 shall 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 officers and directors of their election to office, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.
- (d) The Membership Secretary shall keep a roll of the membership of the Club with their addresses, maintain the email distribution list, notify new members of their election to membership, maintain and publish the roster of work hours, report non-fulfillment of work hours to the Board, prepare such correspondence as necessary with regard to non-compliance with Article I, Section IV (d) (work hours), and notify the Recording Secretary of lapsed, terminated, and delinquent memberships.
- (d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club. Monies 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 monies received and expended the previous fiscal year.
- (e) The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.

SECTION III: 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 in the office of Vice-President shall be filled by the Board.

ARTICLE IV THE CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS

SECTION I: CLUB YEAR.

The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting and shall continue through the election at the next annual meeting.

SECTION II: ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting shall be held in the month of January at which Officers and Directors for the coming year shall be elected by secret ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section IV of this Article. 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 30 days after the election.

SECTION III: ELECTIONS.

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

SECTION IV: NOMINATIONS.

- (a) No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. During the month of October, the Board shall select a nominating committee consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than one of who may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the Committee members and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a Chairperson for the Committee and it shall be such a person's duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before December 1.
- (b) The Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and position on the Board, and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the secretary in writing.
- (c) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall notify each member in writing before December 30 of the candidates so nominated.
- (d) Additional nominations may be made at the annual meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when their name is proposed, and 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 office.

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

SECTION I:

The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as field trials, trophies, annual prizes, and other areas 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. Committee chairs are responsible for reporting event income and expenses.

SECTION II:

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 I: AKC, NAHRA OR UKC/HRC SUSPENSION.

Any member who is suspended from privileges of the AKC, NAHRA or UKC/HRC or who is otherwise not in good standing with these clubs is automatically suspended or expelled for the same duration of time imposed by the governing organizations. The member under suspension may request a hearing before the Board. The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing. After hearing all the evidence and testimony presented, the Board may, by majority vote of those present, suspend the defendant from some or all of the privileges of this club for a like period. Other decisions are at the complete discretion of the Board. When a member is suspended from YWHRC, the member must re-apply for membership to rejoin the club once his/her suspension has been lifted.

SECTION II: CHARGES.

Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$50.00 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board 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. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club 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 3 weeks or more than 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 or her own defense and bring witnesses if they wish.

SECTION III: 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 months from the date of the hearing. And, if it deems 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 or her 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 IV: 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 III of this Article. Such proceeding may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his or her 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 or her own behalf if they wish. The members shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds 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 AFFILIATION

SECTION I:

The Club shall be affiliated with the United Kennel Club, Inc. (UKC) and the Hunting Retriever Club, Inc. (HRC). It is understood and agreed that this hunting retriever club will not hold any events of any other association or group on consecutive dates with a UKC/HRC event. All UKC/HRC rules and policies will be followed at all UKC/HRC licensed hunts sponsored by this Club.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

SECTION I:

Amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by 20% of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

SECTION II:

The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds 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 weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX DISSOLUTION

SECTION I:

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the Club other than for the 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 X ORDER OF BUSINESS

SECTION I:

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

- Roll Call
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Report of President
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Membership Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Election of Officers & Board (at annual meeting)
- Adjournment

SECTION II:

At meetings of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by the majority of those present shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Report of President
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Membership Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment