



TREASURE COAST RETRIEVER CLUB CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name and Objects

SECTION 1. The name of the Club shall be **The Treasure Coast Retriever Club.**

SECTION 2. The objects of the Club shall be:

- (a) to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred retrievers and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- (b) to urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by The American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which retrievers shall be judged;
- (c) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breeds by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at field trials and hunting tests;
- (d) to conduct sanctioned and licensed field trials and hunting tests 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 by-laws as may be required to carry out these objects.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE II

Membership

SECTION 1. **Eligibility.** There shall be 2 types of memberships open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club or who subscribe to the purposes of this Club. All privileges of membership extend to all members of a Club member's family except that of voting (see ARTICLE III, SECTION 6). While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the Club's primary purpose is to be representative of the breeders and handlers in its immediate area.

SECTION 2. **Dues.** Membership dues shall be: Single - \$35 per year (1 vote) and Family - \$45 per year (a maximum of 2 votes) - payable on or before the 31st day of January of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of November the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing year. If an application for membership is accepted on or after November 1, no additional dues shall be owed for the following year.

SECTION 3. Election to Membership. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by these constitution and by-laws and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, dog breed, and other information as determined by the Board. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payable for the current year.

All applications for membership are to be filed with the Secretary and each application is to be read or published at/in the next meeting or newsletter of the Club. Any member who objects to the application must notify the President, in writing or via email, within thirty days after said reading or publication, at which time the President shall convene a Special Board Meeting to decide on the merits of the application and objection. The decision of the board shall be final, and shall be rendered within sixty days of the reading or publication of the application. Applicants shall be automatically elected to membership provided no objection has been received for a period of thirty days after said reading or publication. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not re-apply within six months after such rejection.

SECTION 4. Termination of Membership. Membership may be terminated:

(a) **By resignation.** Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon emailed notice to the 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 January of each year.

(b) **By lapsing.** Any member will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first day of January; however, the Board may grant an additional 90 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 by-laws.

ARTICLE III Meetings and Voting

SECTION 1. Club Meetings. Meetings of the Club shall be held at least two times per year, considering the calendar of events for dog shows and trials held in our area, at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Notice of each such meeting shall be emailed prior to the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

SECTION 2. Training Sessions. There shall be at least 6 Training Sessions sponsored by the Club per year, to be held at such place, date and hour as determined by the Board of Directors. The Training Sessions shall be open to all members in good standing. Notice of such Training Sessions shall be emailed prior to the date of the Training Session.

SECTION 3. 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 at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized to call such meetings. Notice of such a meeting shall be emailed prior to the date of the meeting, and no other Club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

SECTION 4. **Board Meetings.** Meetings of the Board of Directors may coincide with training sessions at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the Board. Notice of each such meeting shall be emailed prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 5. **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 or emailed request signed by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized to call such meeting. Notice of such meeting shall be emailed prior to 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 6. **Voting.** Each single 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 is present; family memberships in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to a maximum of two votes at any meeting of the Club at which the members are present. Proxy voting will be permitted at any club meeting or election. Proxy votes shall be emailed from the member(s) to the Secretary prior to the meeting at which a vote is to be taken.

ARTICLE IV Directors and Officers

SECTION 1. **Board of Directors.** The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and five other persons all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of who shall be elected for two-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 2. **Officers.** The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, 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 pertaining to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these by-laws.

(b) The Vice-President shall have the duties and powers normally pertaining to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these by-laws.

(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. Additionally, the Secretary shall keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these by-laws.

(d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Club. He/she shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. The Treasurer's books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board and he/she shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting he/she shall render an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year.

(e) The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person in which case the Board shall be comprised of the officers and six other persons.

SECTION 3. **Vacancies.** Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the officers during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of all then members of the Board at its first regular meeting following 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 V The Club Year, Annual Meeting, Elections

SECTION 1. **Club Year.** The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December.

SECTION 2. **Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting shall be held in the month of April, and bi-annually, Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret, written ballot from those nominated in accordance with SECTION 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

SECTION 3. **Elections.** The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The five nominated candidates for other 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 January, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members, not more than one 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 Chairman for the Committee and it shall be his duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held on or before the last day of February.

(a) The Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and five candidates for the five other positions on the Board, and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary via email.

(b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the secretary shall before the 15th day of March notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.

(c) Additional nominations may be made at the April Annual Meeting by any member in good standing in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his proposer shall present to the Secretary a statement from the proposed candidate signifying his willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position, except that the Nominating Committee may propose the same person for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, in which case the Committee shall select candidates for six other positions on the Board. In no case shall the elected members of the Board exceed nine persons.

ARTICLE VI Committees

SECTION 1. The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as field trials, hunting tests, training sessions, annual prizes,

membership and other fields 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 member of a committee appointed 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 VII 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 interest of the Club or to the retriever breeds. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$10 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 interest of the Club. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege to 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 hearing by the Board not less than three weeks or more than six 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 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 by Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings 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 own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The meeting shall

then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 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 VIII Amendments

SECTION 1. Amendments to the constitution and by-laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition signed by twenty 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 for a vote within four months of the date that the petition was received.

SECTION 2. The constitution and by-laws may be amended by a 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 emailed to each member at least 10 days prior to the date of

ARTICLE IX Dissolution

SECTION 1. **Dissolution.** The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 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; after payment of the debts of the Club its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of retrievers selected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X Order of Business

SECTION 1. 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:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Report of President
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Old Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

SECTION 2. At meetings of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- Reading of Minutes of Last Meeting
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of Committees
- Old Business
- New Business
- Adjournment