

**BY-LAWS FOR**

**Valley Center Vaqueros, Inc.**

Whenever the word Club, or the word Corporation, appears in the By-Laws or the Constitution, it is intended to refer to and mean Valley Center Vaqueros, Inc.

**BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE 1 - POWERS**

The official seal shall be “Valley Center Vaqueros, Inc.” Valley Center, California

**ARTICLE 2 - LOCATION**

The Corporation shall maintain its principal office in the County of San Diego, State of California, but may have offices and transact business at such other places as the Board of Directors may from time to time appoint.

**ARTICLE 3 - PROPERTIES**

All properties purchased, or otherwise obtained, shall belong to Valley Center Vaqueros, Inc. (Valley Center Vaqueros, Inc. shall be interpreted as meaning all members in good standing.)

**ARTICLE 4 - FEES AND DUES**

Section 1 – The annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors and posted on the website.

Section 2 - The dues are payable annually, beginning January 1, of each calendar year.

Section 3 - Dues will be prorated quarterly for new members who join after June 30.

Section 4 - Daily memberships are available for events.

## **ARTICLE 5 – OFFICERS**

Section 1 – The officers of this Club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five directors. These nine officers shall constitute a Board of Directors, with a quorum of five.

Section 2 – Officers must have been members in good standing for at least six months, and must be or have been horse owners.

Section 3 – Supportive and One Day Members are excluded from board and officer positions.

## **ARTICLE 6 - ELECTION and INSTALLATION**

Section 1 – A nominating committee of three members shall be elected from the floor at the regular meeting of the Valley Center Vaqueros, Inc., held in October.

Section 2 – The nominating committee will present their slate of candidates for election at the regular meeting held in November. No members of a Nominating Committee shall be nominated by that Committee.

Section 3 – Two members of the same family may serve on the board. No more than one member of a family can serve as an executive officer.

Section 4 – Offices are numbered as follows: 1= President, 2= Vice President, 3= Secretary, 4= Treasurer. Board Members will be numbers 5 through 9. (Numbers will be printed next to Names on the web site. Executive Officers will serve 2 years all other Board Members will serve 1 year.

Section 5 - Officers are elected on the following schedule by their number. Even number years elect Officers and Board Members with even numbers. Odd numbers years elect Officers and Board Members with odd numbers. This insures that the Board and Offices maintain 2 Offices, and 2 Board members at each election, preventing all Officers and Board Members from being replaced in one election.

Section 6 – Election shall be held at the December Meeting with the nominations taken from the floor at the November meeting. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

Section 7 - Eligible voters are specified in the Constitution, Article 5, Section 3.

Section 8 - The officers shall be installed at the December meeting of the Club.

Section 9 - In case of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall automatically become President for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 10 - Any vacancies in other offices or on the Board of Directors shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of eligible voters at the next regular meeting of the Club, after duly notifying members of such an election.

Section 11 - Balloting shall be by secret ballot, in person, annually on duly specified ballots to be distributed, collected and tallied by two members in good standing and not running for office or board position

## **ARTICLE 7 - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1 - The duties of the officers of the Valley Center Vaqueros, Inc. shall be those duties which usually evolve upon such officers and such duties which may be designated from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 2 - The President shall preside at all meetings and shall authorize other members to carry out specified orders, to look after the interests of the organization and countersign all checks drawn by the Treasurer in amounts in excess of \$500.00.

Section 3 - The Vice-President, in the absence or incapacity of the President, shall assume his duties and shall have the same powers.

Section 4 - The Secretary shall attend all meetings, and keep an accurate record of all proceedings, including regular, special and board meetings of the Club, shall enter said records in a book for that purpose, said records to be available at all meetings for reference.

Section 5 - The Treasurer shall receive all money paid to the Club, said money to be deposited in a financial institution as contracted by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all money received and paid out, ***and shall pay out money only authorized by the Board of Directors.*** A statement of finances must be posted at each regular meeting, with full report and audit at the end of the year in writing. The Yearly Audit will be posted within 30 days of receive. The Profit & Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet Year-to-Date, shall be emailed to each Board Member at least 1 week prior to the Board Meeting if possible. Any Member in good standing has the right to request a Profit & Loss statement, at any time.

Section 6 - The Board of Directors shall have the power to settle all disputes and direct the management of the Club in matters not fixed by the Club at its regular meetings, and in case of emergency. The Board of Directors may delegate power to Committees, which will report back to the Board. No Board member may hold multiple officer positions.

Section 7 - The Board of Directors may conduct business, and take action by written consent without a meeting, through e-mail or by conference call, given a majority quorum is met in keeping with bylaws in place.

Section 8 – The Board of Directors is denied the ability to establish their own compensation.

Section 9 – The Board of Directors shall not be held personally liable for any club actions or policies of the Club.

### **ARTICLE 8 – CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Section 1 – Any Board Member who might gain from any specific issue monetarily or who has potential conflict of interest may not vote on that issue.

### **ARTICLE 9 – AMENDMENTS**

Section 1 - Additions or revisions to these By-Laws can be made by a majority vote of members at any regular business meeting, provided that such amendments be in writing, and must be e-mailed and posted on the website for 30 days prior to voting.

**CONSTITUTION FOR**  
**VALLEY CENTER VAQUEROS, INC.**

**ARTICLE 1 - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Valley Center Vaqueros, Inc.

**ARTICLE 2 – MISSION STATEMENT**

The Valley Center Vaqueros is an organization of horse enthusiasts dedicated to providing community members with opportunities for education, recreation, and fellowship. Valley Center Vaqueros offer community outreach programs to support Seniors, Youth, and Disabled Veterans in our community.

**Who We Are**

Valley Center Vaqueros enjoy working with horses in a variety of activities that advance the skills, knowledge and abilities of members and their horses. We host educational clinics, field trips, horse shows, camp-outs, trail rides and other equine related activities. We encourage our members to get involved and stay active while having fun with their horses. Riding horses is a lifelong skill and activity that can be enjoyed by any age. Riding is very good exercise and conditions the core muscles. Learning to care for and handle a horse promotes leadership and responsibility, increases self-worth; it also relieves stress.

We are a family oriented club. Our members range from the children who are just learning the skills to handle, care for, and ride horses to seniors who are long time horse people. We mentor members, regardless of their age, who are new to the world of horses. We have members of all skill levels who own, or would like to own, all kinds of horses.

Through the Young Rider Program, the Vaqueros are committed to mentoring and teaching our young members all about horses. We help the Young Riders learn the mental and physical skills, responsibility, dedication and leadership that support a lifelong enthusiasm for, appreciation of, and involvement with horses. In addition to the regular club activities, the Vaqueros support the Young Riders by helping to fund their activities and raise money for scholarships.

Valley Center Vaqueros has 50 plus years of history supporting the equine industry in the rural community of Valley Center. We help keep the equestrian heritage an integral part of life in Valley Center.

**“There’s nothing so good for the inside of a man as the outside of a horse.”**  
**Ronald Reagan**

## **ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1 – This Club shall be a membership organization.

Section 2 – Memberships are not transferable.

Section 3 – Club year shall start January 1<sup>st</sup> and shall end December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Section 4 – Dues and other charges shall be as specified by the Board and reviewed yearly, and posted on the web site.

Section 5 – Membership is not refundable for any reason.

## **ARTICLE 4 – TYPES of MEMBERSHIPS**

Section 1 – Membership shall consist of Families, Individuals, Extended Family, and Supportive Memberships for anyone interested in promoting horses in Valley Center. The name Vaqueros was chosen to represent the natural horsemanship heritage of Southern California.

Section 2 – Family membership shall consist of up to 2 adults and their children living at the same address.

Section 3 – Single membership shall consist of individuals not covered in any family membership.

Section 4 – Extended Family memberships will include Grandchildren (Must include a signed release of Liability from a Parent). This membership is for Members that occasionally have Grandchildren visiting from out of town that wish to attend Club Events.

Section 5 – Supportive Membership – This membership is for individuals that wish to support the Club. Supportive members are welcome to attend meetings and events. This is a non-riding membership no horse needed, no vote, and no park riding privileges.

Section 6 – One Day Trial Memberships – are offered to prospective members to sample activities the Club has to offer.

Section 7 – Membership is due Jan. 1, of each year, a 30-day grace period is given before the membership is dropped, from all club activities.

Section 8 - New applications and Release of Liability forms are required each year for all memberships at time of renewal.

Section 9 – Proceedings may be brought against any member for misconduct that, reflects in any way upon the Club. Upon charges being presented to the Club, in writing, the

offending member shall be given 10 days in which to answer said charges. Said charges are to be heard by the Board of Directors of the Club and a quorum vote required to cause expulsion. Any legal action resulting, following a quorum vote will be the responsibility of said member of cause of action.

Section 10 – Charges can be brought against any member of the Club who is, or has been, drinking to excess, or who is, or has been, using abusive language, at any stated meeting or social gathering or other club event.

Section 11 – If the offending member does not answer all charges under Sections 9 and 10 within said period, the member shall be expelled.

## **ARTICLE 5 - MEETINGS**

Section 1 - Regular meetings shall be determined by the Board of Directors with a minimum of six meetings a year; meeting date and time to be posted to the web site.

Section 2 - Special meetings may be called by the President at the request of any member in good standing, with good and sufficient reason, and all members shall be notified of such meetings.

Section 3 - Members in good standing, as determined by a roll call from the Secretary's record, shall be eligible to vote. Both Family membership, and an Extended Family membership has two (2) votes, and a Single membership has one (1) vote. Supportive membership has No vote, One Day Trial membership also has No vote. All voting members must be 18 or over.

## **ARTICLE 6 – CONTRACTING and SECURING**

Section 1 – The Board of Directors may contract for building materials, and any other needs of the Club and may secure supplies and all other materials for the Club activities through regular or special channels. The amount of said contract may not exceed \$ 500.00. Any Board approved expenses greater than \$ 500.00 must be presented to and approved by majority vote of membership at the Club's next general meeting. Three bids shall be obtained for all contracted work, over \$ 500.00.

## **ARTICLE 7 – TABLING**

Section 1 – No matter, properly brought up before the Club for discussion, shall be tabled for more than one meeting. Action on said matter shall be brought up at the next stated business meeting.

## **ARTICLE 8 – DISSOLUTION**

Section 1 - In case of dissolution of the Valley Center Vaqueros being voted at a legal meeting, the properties and money belonging to the Valley Center Vaqueros can be stored up to 3 years or shall be given to a charitable organization of the Club's choosing.

## **ARTICLE 9 - AMENDMENTS**

Section 1 - This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the members at any business meeting, provided that such amendments be in writing, and must be e-mailed and posted on the website for 30 days prior to voting.