

1-4=5
2+5=12
3+6=21
8+11=

FLORIDA GULF COAST DACHSUND CLUB, INC. CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

new

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME AND OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1. Name. The name of the Club shall be the Florida Gulf Coast Dachshund Club.

SECTION 2. Objectives. The objectives of the Club shall be:

- (a) To encourage and promote the breeding of purebred Dachshunds 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 dachshunds may be judged.
- (c) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the Breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, field events, performance events, and any other event which the Club sponsors or in which the Club participates.
- (d) To conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty conformation shows, obedience trials, rally obedience trials, field trials, scent work trials, tracking events, agility events, Earthdog tests, and any other event for which the Club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club.

SECTION 3. Not for Profit. 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. By-laws. The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise the Club's By-laws as may be required to carry out these purposes.

[Handwritten signature]

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Eligibility. There shall be four types of membership open to all persons 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.

- (a) **Regular Membership** – Regular members enjoy all Club privileges including the right to vote and hold office. Regular members must be eighteen years of age or older.
- (b) **Associate Membership** – Associate members are entitled to all Club privileges except that they may not hold office or vote in Club matters. This type of membership may be offered to individuals who live outside of the Club's main geographical area, and may also be offered to individuals who live in the Club's area but are not active.
- (c) **Junior Membership** – Junior membership is open to any Junior Handler who is showing a Dachshund in AKC Junior Showmanship. Junior members do not pay dues and may not hold office or vote in Club matters. A junior member may automatically become a Regular member when the junior attains the age of eighteen (18) years.
- (d) **Honorary Membership** – Honorary membership may be offered to any individual who has made significant contributions to Dog Sports, the Breed, or the Club. Honorary members do not pay dues and may not hold office or vote in Club matters. An Honorary member may automatically become a Regular member upon payment of annual dues.

SECTION 2. Annual Dues. Annual dues for Regular members shall not exceed \$50.00 per year. Dues are payable on or before the 1st day of April of each year. During the month of February, the Corresponding Secretary shall send to each member a statement of annual dues payable for the ensuing year.

SECTION 3. Election to Membership.

- (a) **Application** - Each applicant for membership shall attend two meetings and apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors, which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the Club's Constitution and By-Laws and the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club. The application shall include the name, address, and occupation of the applicant, and it shall carry the endorsement of two members. The prospective member shall submit payment for the current year's dues with the application. Dues paid with an application between October 31st and December 31st shall be applied as annual dues for the ensuing year.

- (b) **Election to Membership** - All applications are to be filed with the Corresponding Secretary, and each application is to be read at the first meeting of the Club following its receipt. At the next Club meeting after the application has been read, the membership shall vote upon the application by secret ballot. An affirmative vote from three-quarters (3/4) of the Regular members present and voting at the meeting shall be required to elect the applicant to membership.
- (c) **Associate Membership Change to Regular Membership** - Associate members who wish to change to Regular membership must submit a Request to Change Membership Status from Associate to Regular Membership and attend two meetings before the Club votes on the conversion application.
- (d) **Reapplication** - Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not reapply until at least six months have passed after such rejection.

SECTION 4. Termination of Membership. Memberships may be terminated as follows:

- (a) **Resignation** – Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Corresponding Secretary, providing that no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Financial obligations other than dues are considered a debt to the Club, and must be paid in full prior to resignation.
- (b) **Lapsing** – A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid thirty (30) days after the first day of April. However, the Board of Directors may grant an additional ninety (90) days of grace to such delinquent member in meritorious cases. In no case may a lapsed member be entitled to vote at any Club meeting when the lapsed member's dues remain unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- (c) **Expulsion** - A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI, Section 4 of these By-laws.

ARTICLE II MEETINGS AND VOTING

SECTION 1. Club Meetings.

- (a) **Meetings** - Meetings of the Club shall be held at such hour and place as may be selected and so designated by the Board of Directors in consultation with the membership. The quorum for such meetings shall be twenty percent (20%) of the Regular members in good standing.
- (b) **Notice of Meetings** - Written notice of each meeting shall be mailed or emailed to the membership by the Corresponding Secretary, and may published in the Club newsletter, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting.

SECTION 2. Special Club Meetings. Special Club meetings may be called by the President, or by the Corresponding Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five (5) members of the Club who are in good standing. Written notice of such Special Meetings shall be mailed or emailed by the Corresponding 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 Special Meeting. Other Club business may be conducted at such Special Meetings upon a majority (51%) vote of the voting members present. The quorum for such a meeting shall be twenty percent (20%) of the Regular members in good standing.

SECTION 3. Board Meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least six (6) times per year in the greater Hillsborough County, Florida, area in person or via teleconference or videoconference, at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Corresponding Secretary as provided for in Article II, Section 4 of these By-laws. Written notice of each meeting shall be mailed or emailed to the Board of Directors by the Corresponding Secretary at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be a majority (51%) of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. Special Board Meetings. Special Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or by the Corresponding Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three (3) members of the Board of Directors. Such Special Meetings shall be held at such hour and place as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such special meeting shall be mailed or emailed by the Corresponding Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than ten (10) days prior to the date of the Special Meeting.

SECTION 5. Voting. Each Regular 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 that member is present. Proxy voting is not permitted at any Club meeting or election.

ARTICLE III DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Board of Directors. The Board shall be comprised of the Club's officers and four (4) other elected persons, all of whom must be Regular members in good standing and reside in the United States. Each of these positions shall be elected for a one-year term at the Club's Annual Meeting, as provided in Article V of these By-laws, 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.

- (a) **President** – The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board of Directors and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the Office of the President, in addition to those particularly specified in the Club's Constitution and these By-laws.
- (b) **Vice-President** – The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in the circumstances of the President's death, absence, or incapacity.
- (c) **Recording Secretary** – The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board of Directors and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club.
- (d) **Corresponding Secretary** – The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of the Club's correspondence, receive applications to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in the Club's Constitution and these By-laws. The Corresponding Secretary also shall keep a roll of all the members of the Club, along with their addresses, which shall be sent to any Club member in good standing, upon written request, not more than once every Club year.
- (e) **Treasurer** – The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Club and shall deposit same in the name of the Club in a bank satisfactory to the Board of Directors. The President and Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine. The Treasurer shall keep a daily ledger or journal of all individual transactions to include dues paid, contributions received, and all incomes and expenditures. The books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Board of Directors, and the Treasurer shall report to them at every meeting of any receipts or payments not previously reported. At each Annual Meeting, the Treasurer shall render an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. A report of the profits and/or losses for any Club show shall be provided by the Treasurer not later than the second meeting after the conclusion of such show.
- (f) **Club Financial Records Audit** – The Club's financial records shall be audited at least once a year, during the first month following the end of the fiscal year, and at any time there is a change in the Office of Treasurer. The auditing committee shall consist of three (3) Regular members in good standing and shall be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors at the October meeting.

SECTION 3. Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring in an office or on the Board of Directors during the year shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a Regular member elected by a majority vote of the voting members of the Board of Directors at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors 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 of Directors as described hereinabove.

ARTICLE IV

CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. Club Year. The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of April and end on the last day of March. The Club's official year shall begin immediately after the conclusion of the election at the Annual Meeting and shall continue through the election at the next Annual Meeting.

SECTION 2. Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of March, at which time directors and officers for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Article IV, Section 4 of these By-laws. The new officers and Board of Directors 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 with thirty days after the election.

SECTION 3. Election. For each office, the nominated candidate who receives the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected. Of the nominated candidates for other positions on the Board of Directors, the four who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected. In case of a tie vote, a run-off election among the tied candidates will be held immediately.

SECTION 4. Nominations. No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. During the month of December, the Board of Directors shall select a Nominating Committee, which shall consist of three members and two alternates, no more than one of whom may be a member of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall immediately notify the members of the Nominating Committee and the alternates of their selection. The Board of Directors shall designate a Chairman for the Nominating Committee, and it shall be the Chairman's duty to hold a meeting of the Nominating Committee on or before January first.

- (a) **Notification of Candidacy** - Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Corresponding Secretary shall, on or before January thirty-first, notify each member, at least two (2) weeks before the February meeting, of the candidates so nominated.
- (b) **Additional Nominations** - Additional nominations may be made at the February meeting by any member in attendance in good standing, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his/her name is proposed, and provided further that if the

proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the proposing member states that he/she has obtained verbal permission from the proposed candidate signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position, and the additional nominations which are provided for herein may be made only from among those members who have not accepted a nomination of the Nominating Committee. Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this section.

- (c) **Ballot** - The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall be responsible for the construction of the ballot. Candidates for like offices shall be listed together.
- (d) **Loss of Voting Status** - The unexcused absence of a voting member from five (5) consecutive meetings or failure to volunteer and work during at least one Club event annually, unless excused by the Board of Directors, shall operate as that member's acceptance of a change in their membership from a voting to a non-voting status. All written requests for excusal shall be considered by the Board of Directors. Any difference in that member's annual dues shall be forfeited. To regain voting status, any such member must attend three (3) meetings within six (6) months, after which the member's status shall automatically change back to a voting status.

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. Appointment of Committees. Each year, the Board of Directors may appoint committees to advance the work of the Club on such matters as dog shows, field events, performance events, trophies, annual prizes, membership, and other areas which may be well-served by committees. The decisions and work of such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board of Directors. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board of Directors to aid it on various projects.

SECTION 2. Termination of Individual Committee Appointment. Any individual member's appointment to a committee may be terminated by a majority (51%) vote of the full membership of the Board of Directors upon written notice to the appointee, and the Board of Directors may appoint successors to those persons whose service has been terminated.

ARTICLE VI DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1. American Kennel Club Suspension. Any member who is suspended from any of the privileges of the American Kennel Club shall be suspended automatically from the privileges of the Club for a like period.

SECTION 2. Charges. Any member may prefer charges against another member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the Breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Corresponding Secretary together with a deposit of fifty dollars (\$50.00), which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained. The Corresponding Secretary shall promptly notify the Board of Directors, which shall meet and fix a date for a hearing in front of the Board of Directors not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Corresponding Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the Accused member by registered mail and by email, together with the date of the hearing and an assurance that the Accused member may appear personally in his/her own defense and may also present witnesses if he/she wishes.

SECTION 3. Board of Directors Hearing. The Board of Directors shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both the Complainant and the Accused shall be treated uniformly in that regard. After hearing all of the evidence and testimony presented by both the Complainant and the Accused, the Board of Directors shall determine, upon a majority vote of those Directors present, whether the charges have been sustained. If the Board finds that the charges have been sustained, the Board shall suspend the Accused from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing. If the Board deems that punishment insufficient, they may also recommend to the membership that the punishment be expulsion from the Club. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the suspended member's right to appear before his/her fellow members at the next ensuing Club meeting, which shall consider the recommendation of the Board of Directors. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in a written form and filed with the Corresponding Secretary. The Corresponding 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 the hearing by the Board of Directors and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Article VI, Section 3 of these By-laws. Such proceedings may occur at a Regular or Special Meeting of the Club to be held not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The suspended member shall have the privilege of appearing on his/her own behalf, if he/she wishes. The voting members present shall vote by secret written 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 penalty shall stand as imposed.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Proposal of Amendments. Amendments to the Club's Constitution and these By-laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by a written petition addressed to the Corresponding Secretary and signed by twenty percent (20%) of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by any such petition shall be considered promptly by the Board of Directors. The Corresponding Secretary shall then submit the proposed Amendments, with the recommendations of the Board of Directors, to the Club's membership, who shall vote upon the proposed Amendments within three (3) months of the date when the petition was received by the Corresponding Secretary.

SECTION 2. Adoption of Amendments. The Constitution and By-laws of the Club may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) secret vote of the members present and voting at any Regular Meeting, or Special Meeting called for the purpose, provided the proposed Amendments have been included in the Notice of the meeting and provided to each member by mail or email at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1. Dissolution. The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, 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, which charitable organization shall be selected by a majority (51%) vote of the members present and in good standing.

ARTICLE IX PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of "Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised", shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-laws or any other special Rules of Order the Club may adopt.

ARTICLE X
ORDER OF BUSINESS

SECTION 1. Order of Business at Club Meetings. 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

READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD (AT ANNUAL MEETING)

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS (AS NECESSARY)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

SECTION 2. Order of Business at Board of Directors Meetings. At meetings of the Board of Directors, the Order of Business, unless otherwise directed by a majority (51%) vote of those present and voting, shall be as follows:

ROLL CALL

READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT