



GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB OF NORTHUMBRIA

Rules

1. NAME AND OBJECTS

The Club shall be called the Golden Retriever Club of Northumbria and its objects shall be to encourage the breeding of sound Golden Retrievers of dual purpose type conforming to the Kennel Club Breed Standard and to give as much help and encouragement as possible to its' members

2. MEMBERSHIP

- a) The Club must make a list of members and their addresses available for inspection if so requested by the members of the Club or by the Kennel Club.
- b) Application for membership shall be made to the Hon. Secretary on the appropriate form signed by a proposer and seconder who must be members of the Club. The application shall then be submitted to the Executive Committee at their next meeting. No applicant is deemed a member until approval has been given and the appropriate membership fee has been paid.
- c) Honorary life membership may be conferred by the Executive Committee. Honorary life members shall have all the rights and privileges of membership but shall not be liable for annual subscription.

3. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a) The annual subscription to be payable on the 1st January each year, at a rate determined at the Annual General Meeting. Membership shall consist of single membership £10.00 and joint (husband and wife, two members of the family or two joint registered owners) £12.00. Joint membership only entitles 1 vote. Junior membership (up to 16 years) £1.00. This does not include a vote. Overseas membership £12.00. Members who pay their membership by post should receive a receipt, to be posted in the mailing after the A.G.M.
- b) No member will be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting unless membership fees have been received 28 days before the A.G.M.
- c) No member shall be entitled to vote at any meeting or take part in any benefits rising from the Club's membership whose subscriptions are in arrears.
- d) That membership accepted on or after 1st November will be valid for the coming year.

4. MANAGEMENT

- a) That the management of the club shall be conducted by an Executive Committee of ten together with the President, Vice President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer (the latter office may be held by 1 or 2 persons). The President, Vice President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary and the Hon Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of all the committees.
- b) All members of the Executive Committee, including Officers, other than the Chairman shall be eligible to propose motions to speak on them and to vote. Each member of the Committee, with the exception of the Chairman shall be entitled to cast one vote in respect of each motion. In the event of a motion receiving the same number of votes for and against, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.
- c) The President, Vice President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer and the Executive Committee shall retire every 2 years (the Chairman and the Hon. Secretary shall not retire in the same year), but shall be eligible for re-election.
- d) That in the event of any official or Executive Committee Member being absent from 3 consecutive meetings without a reasonable explanation, then the Executive Committee shall have the right to co-opt another member in his/her place, until the Annual General Meeting.
- e) The Golden Retriever Club of Northumbria shall not be wound up as long as 12 members are willing to carry on under its present title.
- f) Sub-committees may be formed by the Executive Committee if needed, the number of members left to the Executive Committee with the sub-committee's Secretary as an

additional member. That all the nominations will be subject to a ballot by the Executive Committee

- All sub-committees elect their own Chairman and copies of the minutes given to the Hon. Secretary.
- No person, whilst an undischarged bankrupt, may serve on the Committee or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society.

5. ELECTIONS

- a) All nominations for President, Vice President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Executive Committee must be in writing and signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee, then be returned to the Hon. Secretary 28 days before the Annual General Meeting. The election of Officers and Executive Committee shall be by secret ballot and of members present at the A.G.M. All ballot papers shall have the G.R.C.N. stamp.
- b) Individuals must have been members of a Golden Retriever Breed Club for 3 consecutive years, and the Golden Retriever Club of Northumbria for one year, before their names can be put forward for the Executive Committee.
- c) To propose or second a person for the Executive Committee an individual must have been a member of the Golden Retriever Club of Northumbria for 3 consecutive years.
- d) All nominations received for a position of either an Officer or a member of the Executive Committee must be accompanied by a c.v. to support their nomination. This will be sent out to members in the event of a ballot.
- e) The voting papers, together with the agenda and a balance sheet with reduced detail to be received by members 14 days before the A.G.M. A full account will be available on request after the A.G.M.

6. POWER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a) The Executive Committee shall have the power, at any time, to call a General Meeting of the Club, to arbitrate on any matters, to elect members as aforesaid, to appoint sub-committees and to co-opt on all committees anyone whom the Executive Committee may think desirable and to carry on the general business of the Club. 14 days notice of a General Meeting must be given to all members. The Executive Committee shall have the power to deal with all the expenses incurred on behalf of the Club. The Executive Committee shall be required to call a Special General Meeting when requested in writing. No business other than that named in the notice shall be brought before the Special General Meeting.
- b) The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint, in the course of the year, Hon. Secretaries for sub-committees and for shows, if such appointments are considered desirable. Any appointments shall be confirmed at the following A.G.M.
- c) A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Hon. Secretary if 10% of the members send a signed requisition stating the subject to be discussed and requesting a Special General Meeting to do so. The Executive Committee of the Club is also empowered to call a Special General Meeting.

7. MEETINGS

- a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held before the end of March and preliminary notice of which shall be sent out at least 40 days beforehand.
- b) No resolution other than the adoption of the Report shall be moved at the Annual General Meeting unless a notice, in writing by the proposer, is received by the Hon. Secretary 28 days before the A.G.M.
- c) The quorum for the A.G.M. shall be 12.
- d) The quorum for an Executive Committee meeting shall be 6.
- e) At least 4 Executive Committee meetings shall be held each year.
- f) Any resolution passed at either the A.G.M. or an Extraordinary General Meeting can be altered or rescinded only at the subsequent General Meeting.
- g) The minutes of every meeting will be recorded and the accuracy of the previous minutes will be approved and confirmed. Minutes of Executive Committee meetings are to be sent to the Executive Committee within 14 days of the meeting.
- h) The sub-committee quorum consists of not less than 50% of that committee.

- i) Not less than 14 days notice shall be sent by the Hon. Secretary of all general and Executive Committee meetings together with the Agenda of the business to be transacted

8. DISPUTES AND EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

- a) Any member who shall be disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A11.j.(5) and/or Kennel Club Rule A11.j.(9) shall ipso facto cease to be a member.

If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Executive Committee of the Club be injurious to the character or interests of the Club, the Executive Committee of the Club may, at a meeting (the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of a member of the Club) determine that a specific general meeting of the Club shall be called, for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.

Notice of the Special Meeting shall be sent to the accused member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising him/her of the place, date and hour of the meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at that meeting a resolution to expel is passed by a two thirds majority of the members present and voting, his/her name shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a Member of the Club except that he/she may, within 2 calendar months from the date of such meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon the subject to such condition as the Kennel Club may impose.

- b) The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Club in all cases relative to canine and Club matters.

9. CUPS AND PRIZES

- a) No prize, cups, subscriptions or guarantees shall be granted to any Show or Field Trial, which is not held either under rules or licence of the Kennel Club or International Gundog League. All challenge and other cups and trophies are the property of the Club.
- b) Persons must have been fully paid up members for one year before they can claim for an annual trophy.
- c) Any member winning a Club's trophy shall be responsible for the return of such trophy to the Cup Steward not less than ONE MONTH before the date of the show at which the trophy is to be competed for and it shall be returned in as good condition as it was received.

10. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCES

- a) An annual report shall be drawn up by the Hon. Secretary in conjunction with the Chairman and be presented at the A.G.M. This together with the names and addresses of the Officers shall be sent by the Hon. Secretary to every member of the Club.
- b) In the event of the Club ceasing to exist, the Executive Committee shall return all cups and trophies to donors or dispose of them as terms of a gift. All other assets, after the Club's liabilities have been dealt with shall be disposed of at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- c) All the accounts for the Financial Year ending 31st December and presented at the A.G.M. shall be audited by an Auditor to be chosen at the previous A.G.M. No officer or Executive Committee member is eligible for this appointment. A copy of the accounts to be presented at the A.G.M. The certified accounts will be made available on request to members fourteen days prior to the AGM.
- d) NOTE - Certification of accounts must be carried out by one qualified Accountant or two unqualified individuals with accountancy experience.
- e) A separate banking account shall be opened in the name of the Club to be operated jointly by the Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Chairman. Cheques must be signed by the Hon. Treasurer, with either the Hon. Secretary or Chairman's signature.
- f) The Executive Committee must approve all financial transactions over £300.00

11. GENERAL

- a) The rules of the Club may not be altered except at an A.G.M. or at a Special General Meeting, notice of which includes details of the proposal to alter the rules. Such alterations shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and has given its approval on the alterations. No business shall be transacted at an A.G.M. unless notice thereof appears in the agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those, which in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting are urgent.

- b) The Club shall, at no time, join any federation of Clubs or Societies.
- c) The officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Secretary for the continuance of registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Titles of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities will be forwarded to the Kennel Club.
- d) The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any change of Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year.

12. JUDGING LIST

Judging lists will be compiled by the Judges Sub-Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. Judges for the Championship Shows shall be chosen by the Show Working Party following a random draw from names selected from A1/A2/A3 judging lists. Selection of judges for our Open Shows will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

13. PROCEDURE FOR WINDING UP THE CLUB

If the Society is wound up or ceases to be a registered Society under Kennel Club Regulations, a final statement of audited accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Society will be forwarded to the Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as Officers and Executive Committee of the Society on the last return furnished to the Kennel Club, will be held responsible by the Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the Society.

Code of Ethics

All members of the Golden Retriever Club of Northumbria undertake to abide by its general Code of Ethics.

Club members:

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
 2. Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, may report such operation to the Kennel Club.
 3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard, should be placed in suitable homes.
 4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
 5. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
 6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
 7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
 8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
 9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
 10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
 11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
 12. Will ensure that all relevant Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
 13. Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Kennel Club registration certificates as stand alone items (not accompanying a dog).
 14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.
- Breach of these provisions may result in expulsion from club membership, and/or disciplinary action by the Kennel Club and/or reporting to the relevant authorities for legal action, as appropriate.

15. Members who wish to breed from their bitch(es) or offer their dog(s) at stud must participate in the various health schemes appropriate to the breed. As a minimum hips must be scored and eye certificates current. Owners are also strongly advised to have elbows scored. All health results must be available for inspection by stud dog/bitch owner and any prospective puppy buyers.