



CONSTITUTION RIVER VALLEY OBEDIENCE AND FIELD TRIAL CLUB

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND OBJECTIVES

Article 1, Section 1

The name of this organization shall be the River Valley Obedience and Field Trial Club.

Article 1, Section 2

The objective of this Club shall be to advance the best interests of the dog and the dog fancier in all matters; to encourage and support such activities as dog shows, field and water trials and obedience training; to emphasize the value of pure breeding to create an appreciation on the part of the public of the value of pedigreed dogs; and to foster and maintain among ourselves a warm friendship and the highest sportsmanship.

ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP, DUES, DISCIPLINE, HEARINGS & EXPULSION

Article 2, Section 1

Members: Any person interested in fostering the aims and objectives of the company may become a member upon complying with and continuing to comply with the provisions hereunder. Further, no person or member shall promote goods or services he or she may render at official club events whatsoever. Not to limit the generality of the foregoing, specifically at a) obedience classes or any other type of class the Club may hold; b) at trials unless booth space is rented and paid for through the Trial Chair; c) at any meeting of the Club or its subcommittees; d) at any other Club-sponsored events; If any event is occurring that activity of this nature will be allowed by the Club, notice will be given in the Newsletter and all members wishing to participate must indicate their request in writing to the president of RVO&FTC and approval may be granted. Action in contravention will be considered as conduct injurious, prejudicial and detrimental to the Club. If a non-member is involved, the non-member will be removed from the event. This motion does not apply to catalogue advertising as it is publicly available.

Type of Class: Members shall be divided into the following classes: a) ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: any person who is a breeder, an owner, or is interested in dogs. Associate membership class is for the first 12 months of membership of new members and for ordinary members whose membership has lapsed. Associate members have no voting privileges and are not eligible to be an officer of the RVO & FTC; b) ORDINARY MEMBERS: any person shall be eligible for membership who is a breeder, an owner, or is interested in dogs; c) FAMILY MEMBERS: ordinary members & family; d) HONOURARY MEMBERS: to be defined as someone who has provided an outstanding contribution to the RVO&FTC in the opinion of the Board and by a majority vote of the membership. Such a member is not required to pay yearly membership fees, but is afforded the same privileges as an ordinary member.

Membership Fee: The membership dues shall be such sum as may from time to time be set by the directors. All applications for membership shall be made through a member of the Club or through the Secretary, accompanied by the dues for the ensuing year. Any reputable person shall be eligible for active membership. *Other Memberships & Termination:* The terms and conditions of other memberships shall be determined by the Board from time to time. Memberships shall be deemed terminated if annual dues are not paid within 60 days after the annual meeting. Any member who has not paid his or her dues by this time shall not be considered a member in good standing.

Article 2, Section 2: Discipline: Any member who is suspended, debarred, expelled or deprived of privileges from the Canadian Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of the Club for a like period.

Article 2, Section 3: Complaints: Any member may lay a complaint against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club and the sport. Written complaints containing details of the alleged misconduct must be filed with the Secretary, along with a deposit of \$50 which shall be forfeited if the defendant is found guilty at a hearing of the Board or of a committee duly appointed for this purpose.

Article 2, Section 4: The Secretary, upon receiving such a complaint, within 30 days shall forward a copy of the complaint, along with a notice of hearing to the complainant and each member of the Board or appointed committee. The hearing date shall be set no later than 90 days from date of receipt of the complaint. If the hearing is held by the board, a minimum of three members of the Board must be present. In the event that the hearing is held by a committee, at least a majority of the appointed committee shall be present. Should a complaint be laid against the Secretary, then the President shall act in accordance with these by-laws.

Article 2, Section 5: Hearing: The Board or appointed Committee shall ensure that both the complainant and the defendant are treated fairly and in accordance with the rules of natural justice. Should the complaint be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by the complainant and defendant, the Board or Committee may by a majority vote of those present, impose an appropriate penalty. The Secretary shall then notify each of the parties of the decision within 30 days of the decision.

Article 2, Section 6: Expulsion: Expulsion of a member from the Club shall be accomplished at an Annual General Meeting of the Club following a proper hearing and upon the recommendation of the Board or Committee. The President shall read the complaint and report the findings and recommendations of the Board or appointed committee, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak on his own behalf. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present shall be necessary for expulsion. At the discretion of the Board, expulsion may also take place by mail-in vote consisting of a 2/3 majority of all eligible voting members in favour of expulsion. Proxy voting is not permitted.

Article 2, Section 7: A member may resign at any time by sending written notice to the Secretary. No part of the annual dues shall be refunded to a resigning member.

ARTICLE 3: OFFICERS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

- Article 3, Section 1* The officers of this Club shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, each of whom must be Regular members in good standing of the Canadian Kennel Club.
- Article 3, Section 2* The President shall act as Chairman at the Club meetings. The President shall be a member ex-officio of all standing committees. It shall be his duty to appoint all auditors, scrutineer and committees and cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.
- Article 3, Section 3* The Vice-President shall in the absence of the President carry on the duties pertaining to the office of President.
- Article 3, Section 4* The Secretary shall be the custodian of all Club papers, correspondence, etc. The Secretary shall send out all notices of meetings. The Secretary shall keep a true record of all meetings of the Club and generally carry on those duties that pertain to this office.
- Article 3, Section 5* The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Club and shall keep a true account thereof. Monies shall be paid out by the Treasurer only upon previous approval by the majority of members of the Club at a regular meeting. However, should a special occasion arise, by obtaining approval of the President. Funds shall be kept in a chartered bank in a separate and independent bank account in the name of the Club. Funds may only be released by cheque signed jointly by any two of the following three: President, and or Vice-President and Treasurer. The book shall be audited annually.
- Article 3, Section 6* The term of office shall be for one year from the date of election or until the respective successors are elected.

ARTICLE 4: MEETINGS

- Article 4, Section 1* Election of officers shall be held at the annual meeting. The annual meeting to be held in October of the ensuing year. Nominations may be made from the floor or by a nominating committee, consideration to be given to volunteer officers. Balloting must be by secret vote. A majority vote of one vote shall elect. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the members at the next regular meeting. The newly-elected officers shall take office immediately. Seven ordinary voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- Article 4, Section 2* Meetings of the Club shall be held monthly unless otherwise decided upon by a majority vote at a club meeting. The date and time and place of holding all regular and special meetings shall be determined by the Club as per an advance schedule.
- Article 4, Section 3* The retiring officers and committees shall give their reports in writing at the annual meeting and submit same to the Secretary for filing.
- Article 4, Section 4* Notice of regular meetings and activities shall be *transmitted to members via mail, e-mail or telephone* by the Secretary to each member on the mailing list to his last known address *at least seven business days* before the date of such meetings.
- Article 4, Section 5* At least 7 members in good standing must be present to constitute a quorum at any meeting,

special or regular. Only members in good standing may vote, hold office or be candidates for office.

be candidates for office.

Article 4, Section 6 The address of the Club for mail, correspondence and the like shall be that of the post office box rented by the Club, or that of the Secretary.

Article 4, Section 7 Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or by a signed request to him by at least three members. Notice of such special meeting must be mailed or phoned to each member in good standing, not later than four days before the date of such meeting. The subject of which the special meeting is called shall constitute the agenda.

ARTICLE 5: DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES

Article 5, Section 1 The governing body of the Club shall be the officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Article 5, Section 2 The following shall be considered standing committees; each shall have a Chairman which is elected by the members:

Article 5, Section 3 Committees:

- Canine Good Citizen
- Social & Parties
- Newsletter
- Tracking
- Hospital Visitation
- Membership
- Obedience Classes
- Obedience
- Trials Equipment

and any other committee deemed necessary by the membership. *Committees as deemed necessary to be named by the Board of Directors.*

Article 5, Section 4: Committees can be dissolved as deemed necessary by the membership.

Article 5, Section 5 Chairmen of committees are authorized to appoint their additional committee members, pertaining to their own particular activity.

Article 5, Section 6 At the conclusion of the committee activity, trials, etc. all reports, monies, bills, etc must be turned in to the Club Secretary or Treasurer as applicable.

ARTICLE 6: BOUNDARIES, HEADQUARTERS, CONDUCT, AFFILIATION

Article 6, Section 1 The Club *area of operation* is a 40-mile radius of the City of Fredericton.

Article 6, Section 2 Club Directors must reside within Club boundaries.

Article 6, Section 3 All members and participants shall be governed by such rules as laid down by the Club or its committees.

Article 6, Section 4 In the event of activities requiring the sanction or permission of the parent clubs, i.e. the

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Canadian Kennel Club, their rules and regulations will be adhered to.

Article 6, Section 5

In sanctioned and licensed events Canadian Kennel Club rules apply to Canadian activity.

ARTICLE 7: CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS; RULES OF ORDER

Article 7, Section 1 This constitution cannot be changed except by a two-thirds vote of all eligible members. Proxies are not allowed. *Amendments may be proposed by the Board or petitioned from the members.*

Article 7, Section 2 The order of business at a regular meeting shall be as follows:

- 1 *Introduction of new members*
- 2 *Reading of the minutes of the last regular meeting*
- 3 *Report of Treasurer*
- 4 *Report of Executive Meeting (if any)*
- 5 *Business arising out of Executive meeting*
- 6 *Report from all committees (standing & special)*
- 7 *Unfinished business*
- 8 *New business*
- 9 *Adjournment*

Article 7, Section 3 *Order of business for Board (Executive) meetings shall be: 1) Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting 2) Unfinished business 3) New Business 4) Adjournment*

ARTICLE 8: NON-PROFIT AND DISSOLUTION

The River Valley Obedience and Field Trial Club shall be operated and carry on its affairs without purpose of gain for the members, and any profits or other accreditations to the company shall be used in promoting the aims and objectives of the Company, all of its remaining assets, after payment of liabilities, shall be distributed to one or more recognized charitable organizations of Canada, as directed by the Minister responsible for the administration of the Income Tax Act of Canada and amendments thereto.

The River Valley Obedience and Field Trial Club may be dissolved at any time by providing to The Canadian Club written documentation signed by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Club (RVO&FTC) who are in favour of this decision; proxies are not permitted. In the event of dissolution of the Club, other than for 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 dogs as selected by the Board of Directors.