

**Miami Valley Vizsla Club
Constitution and By-Laws**

Revised and Approved 6/3/00

ARTICLE I

SECTION 1: The name of the Club shall be the Miami Valley Vizsla Club.

SECTION 2: The objects of the Club shall be:

- (a) To encourage and promote the breeding of purebred Vizslas and their registration with the American Kennel Club.
- (b) To encourage breeding within the Vizsla standard as approved by the American Kennel Club and their use to preserve and perpetuate natural qualities and ability that distinguishes the breed.
- (c) To promote cooperation, friendship, and good sportsmanship in the members of the Club.
- (d) To educate members on the merits of, and encourage their participation in field trials, hunting tests, water retrieving and water trials, obedience and shows.
- (e) To conduct field trials, licensed matches, conformation shows, hunting tests, and water trials under the rules, of the American Kennel club and provide Club members with point-giving competition activities under licenses 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.

**ARTICLE II
Membership**

SECTION 1: Eligibility. There shall be one type of membership, open to all persons 18 years and older who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club.

SECTION 2: Dues. Membership shall be \$10.00 per year per person, payable on or before the 1st day of January of each year. During the month of November the Secretary shall send to each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing year.

SECTION 3: Election to Membership. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a Club form, approved by the Board of Directors, and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the constitution and by-laws and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address and occupation of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of a member. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues in payment for the current year. Applicants may be elected at any meeting by the membership. All applications are to be filed with the Secretary and each application is to be read at the first meeting of the club following its receipt. At the next Club meeting the application will be voted upon and affirmative votes of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members present and voting at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not reapply 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 written notice to the Secretary but no member may resign when in debt to the Club and the debt of dues becomes incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
- (b) By lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 90 days' 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 VII of these constitution and by-laws.

ARTICLE III Meetings

SECTION 1: Club Meetings. Meetings will be held in the Greater Miami Valley area, state of Ohio, no less than quarterly each fiscal year. Beginning with June, at the hour and place as may be designated the Board of Directors. Written notice of each meeting shall be included in the Club Newsletter and mail at least ten (10) days prior the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be eighteen (18) the members in good standing. Each meeting will consist of a business session and an educational/training session. Meetings will be conducted in an orderly and courteous manner.

SECTION 2: 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 the Board or by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by ten (10) members of the Club who are good standing. Such meetings shall be held at such hour and place as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such meeting shall be included in the Club Newsletter and mailed at least (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The notice of the meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other club business may be transacted. The quorum for such a meeting shall be twenty percent (20%) of the members in good standing.

SECTION 3: Board Meetings. The first meeting of the Board shall be held immediately following the annual meeting and election. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held prior to each membership meeting at such an hour and place as designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be included in the Club Newsletter and mailed at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 4: Special Board Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held at such hour and place as may be designated by the person authorized here to call such meetings. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. A quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 5: Voting. Each 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. Proxy voting will not be permitted any Club meeting or election.

SECTION 6: Club business that has been transacted by the Board shall be brought to the attention of the members at the general membership meetings in the Report of the President (those items not requiring action) and the Report of the Secretary (those items requiring action).

ARTICLE IV Directors and Officers

SECTION 1: Board of Directors. The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and not less than five (5) other persons all of whom shall be members in good standing who are residents of the United States. They shall be elected for a one-year term at the Club's annual meeting (June) as provided in Article V, 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 appurtenant to the office of the President in addition to those particularly specified in these constitution and by-laws.

- (b) The Vice President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.
- (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. She/he shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and Directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these constitution and by-laws.
- (d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all money due or belonging to the Club. She/he shall deposit the same in a bank satisfactory to the Board, and in the name of the Club. Her/his books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board and she/he shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances an every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and, at the annual meeting she/he shall render an account of all money received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors determines.
- (e) A Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the Board, and shall be responsible for preparing and printing a monthly newsletter to be distributed to the membership. The newsletter editor shall be considered a member of the Board and shall attend Board meetings so as to be kept informed on the business and current issues of the club.
- (f) 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 not less than five (5) other persons.

SECTION 3: Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring on the Board during the year shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a majority vote of all of the then members of the Board at its first regular, meeting following the creation of such vacancy.

ARTICLE V

The Club Year, Voting, Nominations, Elections

SECTION 1: Club Year. The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1st day of June and end on the 31st day of May. The Club's official year shall begin immediately following the annual meeting and continue through the next annual meeting.

SECTION 2: Voting. At the annual meeting or at a special meeting of the Club voting shall be limited to those members in good standing who are present at the meeting.

SECTION 3: Annual Election. The annual election shall be in the month of June at which directors and officers for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The persons nominated for positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected. The elected officers and directors shall take office immediately following the annual meeting and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within thirty (30) days after the election.

SECTION 4: Nominations and Ballots. No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated in accordance with these by- laws. The President shall choose a nominating committee before March 1st. The committee shall consist of three (3) to five (5) members in good standing and no more than one (1) of who shall be a member of the current Board of Directors. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen and advise them of their duties. The Chairman will be named by the President and it shall be his duty to call a meeting, which shall be held on or before the 30th of March.

- (a) The Nominating Committee shall nominate from among the eligible members of the Club one (1) candidate for each office and for each position on the Board of Directors and shall procure the acceptance of each nominee so chosen. The Committee shall report its slate of candidates to the membership at or prior to the April Meeting.
- (b) Additional nominees of eligible members may be made at the April Meeting by any member 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 that his prepares shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his willingness to be a candidate. No

person may be a candidate for more than one (1) 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.

- (c) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this section.

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, conformation shows, obedience trials, water trials, trophies, membership, and other related fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall be subject to [mal authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to assist on particular projects.

SECTION 2: Any committee appointment 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 service has been terminated.

SECTION 3: Each committee must be reviewed and the same or new members appointed every year.

SECTION 4: The Board shall keep committees at an absolute minimum consistent with the orderly execution of the Club's functions. Unless the membership rolls justify this method, the Board should retain all functions and operations.

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 interests of this Club or the breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$10.00, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained. The Secretary shall promptly notify the Board, which shall fix a date of a hearing by the Board, not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one (1) copy of the charges to the accused member by certified mail, return receipt requested, 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 no more than six (6) 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 findings 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 recommendations as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within sixty (60) days but not earlier than thirty (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 to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The meeting shall then 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 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 addressed to the Secretary signed by twenty percent (20%) 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 by the Secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

SECTION 2: The constitution and by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds (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 mailed to each member at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX

Dissolution

SECTION 1: The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members. 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 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:

Roll call

Minutes of last meeting

Report of President (to include business of the Board of Directors not requiring action)

Report of Secretary (to include recommendations of Board of Directors requiring action) Report of Treasurer

Report of Committees

Election of new members

Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting) Unfinished business

New business

Adjournment

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

Readings of minutes of last meeting Report of Secretary

Report of Treasurer

Report of Committees Unfinished business

New business

Adjournment