



RAINIER HUNTING RETRIEVER CLUB

NAME AND OBJECTS

SECTION 1. The name of the Club shall be:

RAINIER HUNTING RETRIEVER CLUB, INC. hereinafter referred to as “the Club”.

SECTION 2. The objects of the Club shall be:

- a) To encourage and promote quality in all Gundog Breeds and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.
- b) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breeds by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at Hunting Retriever Tests.
- c) To conduct licensed Hunting Retriever tests under the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club, the North American Hunting Retriever Association, or any other Associations or Clubs that may sponsor these tests.

SECTION 3. The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits and/or assets shall be used to benefit any member or individual.

SECTION 4. The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

RHRC BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Eligibility. There shall be two types of membership (*Single and Family*) open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club, the North American Hunting Retriever Association, or any other Associations that may sponsor Hunting Retriever Tests and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club. While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the Club's primary purpose is to be representative of the participants in its immediate area.

SECTION 2. Dues. Membership dues shall be as set by the Board at the November meeting for the following year, payable on or before the first of February of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of December, a statement of dues for the ensuing year shall be sent to each member through the newsletter. Dues paid after September 1st of the existing year shall carry a new member through the following year.

SECTION 3. Election to Membership. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this constitution and by-laws and the rules and regulations of the organizations sponsoring these hunting tests. The application shall state the name, address, and telephone number of the applicant. The application shall list the breed of retrievers, spaniels, pointers or poodles owned by the applicant and his or her areas of interest for helping. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year either by check or electronically. Each application shall be acknowledged by the Membership Chairman or Treasurer. All applications are to be sent to the Membership Chairman for acceptance and each application is to be reviewed at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following its receipt.

SECTION 4. Termination of membership. Memberships 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.
- b) By Lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 60 days after the first day of the fiscal year. 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 VI of these by-laws. Dues will not be refunded.

- d) By Debt. A membership may be terminated when monies that are owed to the Club are not paid within 60 days.

ARTICLE II

MEETINGS AND VOTING

SECTION 1. Club Meeting.

Meetings of the Club shall be held in the greater Seattle metropolitan area at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written or email notice of such meeting shall be sent by the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The means of notification may also be the Club Newsletter. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20% of the members of the Club.

SECTION 2. Special Club Meeting.

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 of the Board; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five members of the Club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Seattle metropolitan area at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be emailed by the Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other Club business shall be transacted thereat. Means of notification may be the Club Newsletter. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the members of the Club in good standing.

SECTION 3. Board Meetings.

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the greater Seattle metropolitan area at least quarterly, at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board. Written, oral or emailed notice of each such meeting shall be given by the Secretary to all Board Members at least 5 days prior to the date of the meeting. Means of notification may be the Club Newsletter or email. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 4. Special Board Meeting.

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the Board. Special meetings shall be held in the greater Seattle metropolitan area at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. Written oral or emailed notice of such a meeting shall be given by the Secretary at least 5 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other business shall be transacted thereat. Means of notification may be the Club Newsletter or by email. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 5. Voting.

Members in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to vote at any meetings of the Club at which they are present. Single members, one vote; Family members, two votes. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or elections.

Any voting done at any meeting shall be considered valid if a quorum is present as defined in Article 2, Section 1. The Secretary will determine, by head count, if a quorum is present to conduct general business.

ARTICLE III

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Board of Directors.

The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice- President, Secretary, Treasurer, Past President, Communications Officer and at least five other persons all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for one-year terms at the Club's annual meeting as provided In Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. Whenever feasible, at least one representative from each Retriever Breed shall be included on the Board of Directors or among the officers. No officer shall serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors. No more than one member of a household shall serve on the Board of Directors at any one time. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

Attendance at Board meetings may be accomplished in person or electronically in a virtual space. Phone (conference call) is also acceptable if agreed on by a majority of the Board members present.

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 President in addition to those particularly specified in these bylaws. The President shall have the sole authority to appoint special committees and make special appointments for projects in the furtherance of the Club's interests. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees. Further, the President has the responsibility to develop and maintain current Policies and Procedures for the operation of the Club. This will be accomplished with the cooperation and assistance of Board Members.
- 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. In addition, the Vice-President will serve as Program Chair for the Club.
- 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. He/she shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify officers and directors of their election to office, filing proper paperwork annually to ensure and maintain the Club's status with the State of

Washington, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.

- d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Club. He/she shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. The Treasurer has the sole authority to move funds and or accounts as directed by the Board. His/her books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Board and he/she shall report to the Board at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting he/she shall render an account of all money received and expended during the previous fiscal year. An annual audit will be made of the Treasurer's books in January by three Club members appointed by the President and approved by the Board. The results will be presented by the Treasurer at the Annual Meeting in February.

SECTION 3. Vacancies.

Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next election by a majority vote of the current members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a Special Board Meeting 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.

ARTICLE IV

THE CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. Club Year.

The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the 31st day of December. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the end of the election at the annual meeting and shall continue through the election at the next meeting.

SECTION 2. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting shall be held in either January or February, at which Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They 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 within 30 days after the election.

SECTION 3. Elections. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The nominated candidates for other positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4. Nominations. No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. At the November meeting, the President shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board of Directors, one (1) of which shall act as a Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee and alternates of their selection. It shall be the duty of the Chair to call a committee meeting which shall be held on or before December 15th. The Committee will locate, enlist and promote those persons who have a desire to serve on the Board for the upcoming year(s).

- a) The Committee shall nominate one (1) candidate for each office and five (5) candidates for the positions on the Board, and after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall report their nominations to the Secretary in writing or by email, on or before January 1st,
- b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall before January 15th notify each member in writing/email of the candidates so nominated. Means of notification may be the Club Newsletter. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall formally place the committee's selection in nomination at the February Club meeting.
- c) Additional nominations may be made at the January Board meeting by any member in good standing, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed

candidate is not present when his name is proposed, his proposer 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 position.

- d) Nominations cannot be made in any manner other than as provided in this section. Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting.

e) ARTICLE V

COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. The President or the Board of Directors may during the year appoint chairpersons of standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as Hunting Retriever Tests, trophies, membership, annual prizes, and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects.

SECTION 2. Any chairperson or committee appointed 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 services have been terminated.

ARTICLE VI

SPECIAL AWARDS

SECTION 1. Annually the Club may decide to present a special award to a member of the Club that has demonstrated conduct that exemplifies behavior which promotes the Sport and or the Club in a positive manner.

- a) Member of the Year: The recipient will be selected from nominations made by the membership and subsequently selected by the President. The recipient will be decided upon based on but not limited to: Volunteerism on behalf of the Club; donations to the club in the form of time, labor and effort to make the Club a success. The recipient will receive a perpetual Plaque inscribed with their names along with names of other recipients of the Award.
- b) President's Award: The recipient will be selected by the President and will reflect assistance and support to the President and long-term support of the Club. The recipient will be awarded a Plaque inscribed with their name(s).
- c) Honorary Member(s): The recipient(s) will be selected by the Board of Directors and will reflect assistance and support of the Club above and beyond the call of duty throughout the Hunt Test season. The recipient will be awarded an honorary membership in the Club for 1 year.

The Awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting in January/February.

ARTICLE VII

DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1. American Kennel Club Suspension.

Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club, the North American Hunting Retriever Association, United Kennel Club or other nationally recognized sporting dog or retriever association automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period for the events licensed by that organization.

SECTION 2. Charges.

Any member may refer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the breeds. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$50 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at a Board meeting, and the Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges it shall fix a date of a hearing by the Board not less than 3 weeks nor more than 6 weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in their own defense and bring witnesses if they wish.

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 the complainant and defendant, the Board may by a majority vote of those present suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six 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 their fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting which considers the Board's recommendation. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its finding 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 recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceeding may occur at regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in their 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, if present, to speak in their own behalf if so wished. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 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 suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by twenty percent of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted, by the Secretary, to the Club members with recommendations of the Board. A vote on the Amendment must be held within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

SECTION 2. The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided that proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and emailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIX
DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1. Dissolution. The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the members. In the event of the 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 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

Report of Secretary

Report of Treasurer

Reports of Committees

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 majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

Reading of minutes of last meeting

Report of Secretary

Report of Treasurer

Reports of Committees

Election of new members

Unfinished business

New business

Adjournment

SECTION 3. The official standard of decorum for all meetings shall be Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised.

RHRC Bylaws Revised 2016
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