

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE  
WEIMARANER CLUB OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS, INC.**

**CONSTITUTION**

**Section 1.** The name of the Corporation shall be the Weimaraner Club of Northern Illinois, Inc.

**Section 2.** The objects of the Corporation shall be:

- (A) To encourage and promote the breeding of pure-bred Weimaraners 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 Weimaraners shall be judged.
- (C) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, field trials, obedience trials and all other performance events under the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club
- (D) To conduct sanctioned matches, specialty shows, field trials and obedience, tracking and agility trials under the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.

**Section 3.** CORPORATE PROFIT

The Corporation shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

**Section 4.** BY-LAW REVISION

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.

**BYLAWS**

(The Corporation may also be hereinafter referred to as the Club)

ARTICLE 1 – Membership

**Section 1.** ELIGIBILITY.

There shall be three types of full membership open to all persons 18 years of age and older who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club. Memberships may be in the form of Individual, Household (Dual) and Life memberships, entitling the member to one (1) vote at any meeting at which

they are present, the privilege of holding office, receipt of club publications and eligibility of dogs owned by them for club awards. A Family membership shall entitle two adults living in the same household two (2) votes at any meeting at which both are present. It shall also include minors living in the household, but such minors shall not be entitled to vote or hold office. The Board, at their discretion, may offer dues-free Lifetime Honorary Membership to longtime members in gratitude for their loyalty and service.

While membership is not to be restricted as to residence, the Club's primary purpose is to be representative of the breeders, owners and exhibitors in its immediate area.

**Section 2.** DUES.

Membership dues shall be established by the Board and approved by the membership. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year.

Dues shall be payable on or before May 1 of each year. The spouse or household partner of a dues-paid member may become an active member at any time during the membership year with the payment of the additional dues required. During the month of January the Treasurer shall, via club publication, cause to be sent to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year.

**Section 3.** ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP.

Each applicant for membership shall apply to the Secretary on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by these Bylaws and the rules of The American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address and contacts of the applicant and it shall carry the sponsorship of one member in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year. The name and address of the applicant and name of the sponsor shall be published in the next issue of the Club publication. Applicants will become members 30 days after the transmission of the Club publication in which their name, address and sponsor were published unless objection shall be received in writing by the Secretary. If a written objection is received, the Secretary shall submit the names, addresses and sponsors of all such applicants to the Officers and Directors for their written vote by mail, not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days after transmission of the issue of the Club magazine in which the names were published, accompanied by copies of any correspondence received in connection with such applications. Affirmative votes of two-thirds of the Board present at a meeting, or the Board voting by mail, shall be required to elect a contested applicant.

Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not reapply within six (6) months of such rejection.

**Section 4. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.**

Members 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. Obligation other than dues are considered a debt to the Club and must be paid prior to resignation.
- (B) **By 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 the fiscal year, however, the Board may grant an additional sixty (60) days of 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 VI of these Constitution and Bylaws.

**ARTICLE II**

**Meetings and Voting**

**Section 1. CLUB MEETINGS.**

All meetings of the Club and the Board of Directors must be held within a one-hundred (100) mile radius of the greater Chicago, IL area.

**Section 2. MEETING DATES.**

Meetings of the Club shall be held at least four (4) times annually at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written or electronic notice of each meeting shall be made by the Secretary at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum of such meeting shall be twenty (20%) percent of the members in good standing who are present and voting.

**Section 3. 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 of the Board or who vote by mail or electronically. A Special Club Meeting shall also be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five (5) members of the Club who are in good standing. Such meetings shall be held at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the Board of

Directors. Written or electronic notice of such meeting shall be sent by the Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than fifteen (15) days prior to 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 (20%) percent of the members in good standing and present and voting.

**Section 4. REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS.**

The first meeting of the new Board shall be held following the election at the meeting designated for that purpose. Other meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such times and places as are designated by a majority vote of the entire Board. Written or electronic notice of each such meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to each member of the Board at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for a Board meeting shall be a majority of the Board. Board Meetings may also be held via teleconference and/or video conference.

**Section 5. 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 (3) Board members. Such special meetings shall be held at such hour and place as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meetings. Special Board Meetings may also be held via teleconference and/or video conference. Written or electronic notice shall be sent 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 of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. A quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

**Section 6. VOTING AT MEETINGS.**

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 at any club meeting or election.

**ARTICLE III**

**Directors and Officers**

**Section 1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) Directors (Bench, Field and Obedience), all of whom shall be members in good standing who are residents of the United States. All Board members shall be members in good standing of the Weimaraner Club of America. They 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. 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 the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President, in addition to those particularly specified in these Constitution and Bylaws.
- (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 the Board, and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. The Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses and telephone and electronic contacts, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these Constitution and Bylaws.
- (D) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all money due or belonging to the Club and shall deposit the same in a bank satisfactory to the Board, in the name of the Club. The financial records shall be kept following standard acceptable practices for Clubs of this type and in accordance with the rules of the IRS. The Treasurer's books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Board and there shall be a report to the membership at every meeting of the condition of the Corporation's finances and every item of receipt or payment not previously reported. At the annual meeting, an accounting shall be given of all money received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine. The books shall be audited annually by an accountant selected by the Board of Directors or by an Audit Committee appointed by the Board of Directors, and approved by the membership

**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 the then members of the Club at its first regular meeting following the creation of such a vacancy.

**Section 4. SEAL.**

The Corporation shall have a seal which shall be in the form as prescribed by law, and impressed over this Section.

**ARTICLE IV**

The 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 31<sup>st</sup> day of March. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting.

**Section 2. ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting shall be held in the month of April (unless otherwise designated by the Board of Directors) at which time 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 thirty (30) days after the election.

**Section 3. ELECTIONS.**

The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office and Board position shall be declared elected.

**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 shall select a nominating committee consisting of three (3) members and two (2) alternates, not more than one of whom shall be members of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a chairman for the committee whose duty it shall be to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before January 15<sup>th</sup>.

- (A) The committee shall nominate one (1) candidate for each office and one (1) candidate for each of the three Director positions on the Board (Bench, Field and Obedience) and after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing.
- (B) Upon receipt of the nominating committee's report, the Secretary shall before February 15<sup>th</sup>, notify each member in writing or electronically of the candidates so nominated.

- (C) Additional nominations may be made at the March 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 the meeting, the nominator shall present to the Secretary a written statement 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.
- (D) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

## **ARTICLE V** Committees

### Section 1.

The Board may each year appoint and/or renew standing committee chairs to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows, field trials, tracking tests, obedience and agility trials, trophies, annual awards, membership 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 appointed committee chairman may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written or electronic notice to the appointee 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 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 the Club or the breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the

Secretary, together with a deposit of Twenty-Five (\$25) Dollars which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board or a committee 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 action alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the breed, 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 three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one (1) copy of the 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 the complainant and defendant, the Board or committee may by a majority of those present suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing. If it deems that punishment is 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 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 hearing and upon the recommendation of the board or committee 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 findings and recommendations and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf, if he wishes. The members shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds vote of those present and

voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not voted, the suspension shall stand.

**ARTICLE VII**  
Amendments

Section 1.

Amendments to the bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by ten (10%) 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 to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

Section 2.

The bylaws may be amended at any time provided a copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed to each member accompanied by a ballot on which a choice for or against the action to be taken may be indicated. The notice shall specify a date not less than thirty (30) days after the date of mailing by which date the ballots must be returned to the Secretary to be counted. The favorable vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing whose ballots are returned within the time limit shall be required to effect any such amendment.

**ARTICLE VII**  
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 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 member 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 IX**  
Order of Business

Section 1.

At meetings of the membership, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by the majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- Minutes of last meeting
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of Directors
- Reports of Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

Section 2.

At a meeting of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority of those present, shall be as follows:

- Minutes of last meeting
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of Directors
- Reports of Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

**ARTICLE X**  
Parliamentary Authority

Section 1.

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's 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 bylaws and any other special rules of order the club may adopt.