



The Vizsla Society Of Ontario

**Constitution
By-Laws
Code of Ethics**

Revised November 2006
Effective April 2007

*There is a new
consideration
? wonder if CKC approved?*

*Sent
2009 Version*

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Vizsla Society of Ontario
Constitution & by-laws
Updated November, 2006

1.0 NAME

1.1 Name of the Club shall be Vizsla Society of Ontario

1.2 Area of operation shall be Ontario.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objects of the Club shall be:

- a) To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of pure-bred smooth and wire haired Hungarian Vizslas and to do all that is 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 Canadian Kennel Club as the premier standard of excellence;
- c) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interest of the breed and to encourage sportsmanlike competition at conformation shows, field trials, and tests, obedience trials, agility trials, fly ball competitions, tracking tests, and any other CKC recognized performance test and or trial.
- d) To conduct sanctioned and approved events under the rules of The Canadian Kennel Club and to abide by the principles of The Canadian Kennel Club Code of Ethics;
- e) The Club shall be operated on a non-profit basis. Any resulting surplus shall not be used to the benefit of any member of the club;
- f) The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such by-laws as may be required to carry out these objects.

3.0 MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership Year:

Membership in the club shall be based on the calendar year.

3.2 Eligibility:

Membership shall be open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who are eligible to be members of The Canadian Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this club.

3.3 Types of Membership:

There shall be 3 types of memberships, they are as follows:

- a) Regular Single Member
- b) Regular Family Member
- c) Regular Honorary

All regular members must be eligible to be members in good standing of the CKC.

3.4 Dues:

Membership dues shall be payable by the 1st day of each calendar year. During the month of October, the Treasurer shall notify each member that the dues for the ensuing year are payable. This can be done through a notice put in the Vizsla Voice, which is mailed to each member on a by-monthly basis. The Board at its discretion may increase dues for the following year, but not more than 20%. The notice of increase will be included in the renewal notice.

3.5 Application for Membership:

Each new applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors. The new applicant agrees to abide by this constitution and the by-laws and rules of The Canadian Kennel Club. The application shall state the name and address of the applicant. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year. This completed application and payment is to then be mailed to the club treasurer.

3.6 Approval of Membership:

Once the application process is complete and in the hands of the club treasurer, this information shall be passed onto the Newsletter Editor for publication in the Voice. If there are no formal complaints brought upon the new applicant in writing to any member of the Board of Directors within 30 days of publication in the Newsletter, the listed applicant shall be accepted for membership.

3.7 Rejection of Membership:

Any applicant who has been rejected must be provided with a written reason for such rejection.

3.8 Termination of Membership:

Memberships may be terminated as follows:

- a) Resignation: Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon providing written notice to the Secretary.
- b) 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 calendar year.
- c) Expulsion: A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Section 11.4 of these by-laws.

3.9 Voting Privileges:

An individual must be a member for one full year prior to being granted voting privileges. Unpaid membership dues shall constitute denial of voting privileges. Only regular members are entitled to vote.

4.0 GENERAL MEETINGS

4.1 The Annual General meeting of the Club shall be held in the month of April at a place, date, and hour designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of the annual meeting shall be delivered to each member at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. This can be done as a notice put in the Vizsla Voice, by email or by regular mail.

4.2 Special General Club Meetings:

- a) The Board may call a special general meeting of the club at any time by providing such notice to the membership.
- b) The Board is obligated to call a special general meeting, upon the Secretary receiving formal request. Such request must be signed by at least 10 % of the members in good standing.
- c) Such special meeting(s) shall be held at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Secretary (or their designate) shall provide written notice of such a meeting at least 30 days and not more than 45 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 at that special meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

4.3 Board Meetings:

The first meeting of the Board shall be held in April immediately following the election of the Board. Other meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such times and places as are agreed to by a majority vote of the Board. Written notice of such meetings shall be either mailed or sent by electronic means to each member of the Board at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. This is generally done by the club secretary.

- a) The quorum for a Board meeting shall be a majority of the Board voting in person, by mail or by electronic means.
- b) The Board of Directors may conduct its business either in person, by mail or electronic means.

5 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5.1 The Board:

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the Executive Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) and a minimum of 4 or maximum of 5 Regional Directors, preferably one for each CKC zone in Ontario. All of whom shall be residents of Ontario and regular members in good standing with the Club and the Canadian Kennel Club. They shall be elected for one term as provided and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

5.2 Officers:

The executive officers of the club shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All must be residents of Ontario and regular members in good standing of The Canadian Kennel Club.

- a) The President shall chair all Board and General Meetings of the Club and shall have such duties and responsibilities as specified in these by-laws.
- b) The Vice-President shall assume the duties and exercise the responsibilities of the President upon the direction of the President or in such case, as the President is unable to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the President.
- c) The Secretary shall keep a record of all Meetings of the Club and of all votes taken in the order of business. The Secretary shall receive and send correspondence on behalf of the club, to notify members of meetings, notify Officers and Directors of their election to office and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these by-laws.
- d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all revenues of the Club and shall deposit same in a club bank account as approved by the Board, in the name of the Club. The books of the club shall be open to inspection by the Board at any time and a financial report shall be provided at every meeting of the Board, a written report shall be provided quarterly for publication in the newsletter and written fiscal report for the annual general meeting of the club. The financial records of the club shall be the property of the Club. All cheques drawn from the club account will have the signature of the treasurer. For the purpose of accessibility one other member of the Executive shall also have signing authority. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for keeping a roll of the current members of the Club complete with home addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. This list will be provided to the Voice Editor for publication of the club Directory annually and for mailing of the Voice. A current list will also be provided electronically to all Board members quarterly.
- e) All Directors and Executive Officers shall be required to attend at least 50% of all board meetings and shall be part of the decision making process with regards to club activities. They may also be appointed from time to time by majority vote of all board members as chairperson of club activities, such as Field Chair, Obedience Chair, Show Chair, Rescue Chair, Agility Chair and Breed Referral Chair, or any other dog related activity deemed appropriate by the Board. The board may also, by majority vote appoint a regular member in good standing to chair any committee that the board sees fit to fill.

5.3 Vacancies:

Should a vacancy occur on the Board, the Board may appoint a member of the club to fill the vacancy. Should a vacancy occur in the office of President, such vacancy shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice-President shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board.

5.4 Terms of Office:

The elected Officers and Directors shall take office on April 1st of the year of the election. Each of the former Board members shall turn over to his successor in office, all properties and records relating to that office by April 1st of the new term. A term constitutes a two year period.

6.0 CLUB YEAR

The Club's Membership year shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December. The fiscal year shall begin on the 1st day of April and end on the 31st day of March.

7.0 VOTING

At the Annual General meeting or at a Special General meeting of the Club voting shall be limited to those members in good standing who are present at the meeting, except for the election of Officers and Directors and amendments to the constitution and by-laws which shall be decided by written ballot. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. The Board of Directors may decide to submit other specific questions for decision of the members by written ballot.

8.0 ELECTIONS

8.1 Ballots:

The Election of Officers and Directors shall be conducted by secret ballot. Ballots to be valid must be received by the Secretary (or an independent individual or firm designated by the Board) by mail. Ballots shall be counted before the meeting by a minimum of two inspectors of election who are members in good standing and neither members of the current Board nor candidates on the ballot and who shall be chosen in advance by the Board. The person receiving the largest number of votes from each position shall be declared elected. If any nominee is unable to serve for any reason, such nominee shall not be elected and the vacancy so created shall be filled by the new Board of Directors in the manner provided by Section 5.3.

- a) Executive Officers – The executive officers of the club shall be elected by the members of the club.
- b) Regional Directors – The regional directors of the club ideally shall represent each CKC zone in Ontario and shall be elected by the members of the club.

8.2 Nominations:

- a) No person may be a candidate in a club election who has not been nominated in accordance with these by-laws. A Nominating Committee shall be chosen by the Board of Directors before January 15th. The Committee shall consist of two members and one alternate, all members in good standing, no more than one of whom may be a member of the current Board of Directors. The Board shall name a Chair for the Committee. The Nominating Committee may conduct its business by mail or by electronic means.
- b) The Nominating Committee shall accept nominations from among the eligible members of the Club, to serve as a member of the Board of Directors either as an Executive Officer or Regional Director and shall procure the acceptance of each nominee so chosen. The Committee shall then submit its slate of candidates to the Secretary (or an independent individual or firm designated by the Board) who shall send out a list by electronic means, including the full name of each candidate, to each member of the Club on or before February 1st, so that additional nominations may be made by the members if they so desire.
- c) Additional nominations of eligible members may be made by written petition addressed to the Secretary (or an independent individual or firm designated by the Board) and received at his/her regular address on or before February 15th, signed by 1 member and

accompanied by the written acceptance of each such additional nominee signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate.

- d) If no valid additional nominations are received by the Secretary (or an independent individual or firm designated by the Board) on or before February 15th, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected and no balloting will be required.
- e) If one or more valid additional nominations are received by the Secretary on or before February 15th he/she (or an independent individual or firm designated by the Board) shall, on or before March 1st, mail to each member in good standing a ballot listing all of the nominees in alphabetical order. The ballot will be mailed out using a dual envelope procedure so as to assure secrecy. One envelope will be marked "ballot" and the other will be the return envelope labeled with the address of the Secretary (or an independent individual or firm designated by the Board) and will also show the name and address of the member whose ballot will go in to the ballot envelope. Each voter, after making his ballot, shall seal it in the "ballot" envelope this in turn shall be placed in the second envelope addressed to the Secretary (or an independent individual or firm designated by the Board). The inspectors of election (or an independent individual or firm designated by the Board) will check the return envelopes against the list of members whose dues are paid for the current year and shall certify the eligibility of the voters at which time they can remove the "ballot envelope, tally the results of the voting which then shall be announced (at the Annual General Meeting or by written notification to all members).
- f) Nominations cannot be made at the Annual General Meeting or in any manner other than as provided above.

9.0 COMMITTEES

9.1 Standing Committees:

The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as Conformation shows, Field Trials/Tests, Obedience/ Agility Trials, Tracking Tests, Breed Rescue, Trophies, Annual Prizes, Membership and any other dog related activity which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall organize and run said activity as well as submit cumulative reports to the board annually and will be subject to the final authority of the Board. Ad hoc committees may from time to time be appointed by the Board to aid with specific projects. These committees may be dissolved by a majority vote of the Board.

9.2 Committee Appointments:

Any committee appointee may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board upon written notice being sent to the appointee, and the Board may appoint a successor to the person whose services have been terminated.

10.0 NEWSLETTER

The VSO publishes a newsletter titled The Vizsla Voice. The Board of Directors shall appoint the position of Newsletter Editor for the same bi-annual term as other office positions. The Editor shall report to the Board of Directors from time to time or as specified by the Board. The duties of the Newsletter Editor will be to publish the newsletter on a bi-monthly basis (6 issues per year) and mail to the entire membership of the VSO. The Board may from time to time request the number of issues published be altered in the event of financial or other difficulties as deemed by the Board. The Newsletter Editor has the right to impose a deadline for all articles and or ads to be published in the Voice.

In each issue the following must appear:

- a) The code of ethics
- b) Membership forms (as approved by the Board)
- c) Minutes of the general and Board meetings as supplied by the Secretary
- d) Report of President as supplied by same
- e) Report of Editor

- f) Reports of Chairpersons of committees as supplied by same
- g) A submissions deadline for the next issue.
- h) Advertising rates (as approved by the Board)
- i) Names of new applicants for membership
- j) Names of newly accepted members

11.0 DISCIPLINE

11.1 Canadian Kennel Club Suspension:

Any member who is suspended, debarred, expelled or deprived of privileges from The Canadian Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period.

11.2 Complaints:

- a) Any member may lay a complaint against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed. Written complaints containing details of the alleged misconduct must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$30.00. This deposit shall be forfeited if the defendant is found not guilty at a hearing of the Board or of a committee duly appointed for this purpose.
- b) The Secretary upon receiving such a complaint, within 30-day s shall forward a copy of the complaint, along with a notice of hearing to the defendant, the complainant and each member of the Board or appointed committee.
- c) The hearing date shall be set no later than 90 days from the date of receipt of the complaint. If the hearing is held by the Board, a minimum of four (4) members of the Board must be present plus the President to make a total of five (5). 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, and then the President shall act in accordance with these by-laws.

11.3 Hearings:

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.

11.4 Expulsion:

- a) Expulsion of a member from the Club except as provided by 11.1 shall be accomplished at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special meeting of the Club following a proper hearing and upon the recommendation of the Board or by an appointed committee or as stated in Section 3 (3.8 Termination / 3. Expulsion) of this Article. The President shall read the complaint and report the findings and recommendations of the Board or of the 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.
- b) 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.

12.0 AMENDMENTS

12.1 Proposal of Amendments:

Amendments to the constitution and the by-laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors (or a committee designated by the Board) or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by ten members in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be considered by the Board of

Directors at the next regular meeting and must subsequently be presented to the members of the club with the recommendations of the Board within 90 days of the date when the Secretary received the petition.

12.2 Amendment of Vote:

The constitution and by-laws may be amended at any time provided a copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed by the Secretary (or a committee designated by the Board) to each member in good standing on the date of mailing, accompanied by a ballot on which he may indicate his choice for or against action to be taken. Dual-envelope procedures shall be followed in handling such ballots, to assure secrecy of the vote. Notice with such ballot shall specify a date not less than 30 days after the date of mailing by which date the ballots must be returned to the Secretary (or a committee designated by the to be counted. Amendments may be passed with a 2/3 affirmative vote of all participating eligible voting members.

12.3 Canadian Kennel Club Approval:

No amendment to the constitution and by-laws shall become effective until the Canadian Kennel Club has approved it.

13.0 DISSOLUTION

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written documented consent of at least 2/3 of the eligible members of the club; proxies are NOT permitted. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, other than the 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 such organization being selected by the Board of Directors. In addition to this written documentation must be submitted to the CKC.

14.0 ORDER OF BUSINESS

14.1 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:

- a) Roll Call
- b) Minutes of last Meeting
- c) Report of President
- d) Report of Secretary
- e) Report of Treasurer
- f) Reports of Committees
- g) Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)
- h) Election of new members
- i) Unfinished business
- j) New Business
- k) Adjournment.

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

- a) Acceptance of minutes of last meeting
- b) Report of Secretary, including any and all correspondence
- c) Report of Treasurer
- d) Reports of Committees
- e) Unfinished Business
- f) Acceptance of new members
- g) New business
- h) Adjournment



Code of Ethics *Of the* *Vizsla Society of Ontario*

SPORTSMANSHIP: VSO members shall always conduct themselves in a manner which reflects credit upon themselves, their Vizslas and the sport of purebred dogs, regardless of location or circumstance.

VSO members will exhibit in Canada only dogs which conform to the CKC Vizsla standard.

VSO members will protect and advance the development of the Vizsla through maintenance and improvement of soundness, stable temperament, natural hunting ability and conformation as set forth in the official CKC Vizsla standard.

HEALTH: VSO members shall maintain the best possible standards of canine health, cleanliness and veterinary care in an atmosphere conducive to the stable development of their dogs.

BREEDING: VSO members shall breed only with the intention of improving the quality of the breed and shall keep foremost in their consideration the Vizsla standard as recognized by the CIC; soundness; stable temperament and natural hunting ability.

VSO members shall not knowingly breed dogs which carry serious hereditary defects of diseases including: epilepsy; progressive retinal atrophy; Von Willebrand's disease; entropion; cranial muscular atrophy; long coats; shyness or aggressive behaviour.

VSO members shall breed only dogs which are over two years of age and have been x-rayed and OVC or OFA certified free from hip dysplasia.

SALES: VSO members shall not breed, sell, or consign puppies or adult dogs to pet shops or other commercial ventures such as lotteries or raffles.

VSO members will honestly evaluate the quality of the Vizsla they sell, fairly represent that evaluation and urge puppy purchasers to spay or neuter all pets which for any reason will not be used for breeding. Puppies are to be sold on CKC non-breeding contracts whenever possible.

VSO members will not release puppies less than seven weeks of age. They will furnish registration papers, details on feeding, care, inoculations, pedigrees and written sales agreements. They will screen all prospective buyers to assure that puppies have safe and loving homes, and will supply assistance and support to puppy buyers for the life of the dog.

VSO members will encourage owners to become involved in Vizsla activities and the Vizsla Society of Ontario.

