



# **Vizsla Society of Ontario Inc.**

## ***Constitution, By-Laws, and Code of Ethics***

**[ADOPTED AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2010]**

## ***Vizsla Society of Ontario Inc.: Constitution, By-Laws, and Code of Ethics***

### ***Club objects and Code of Ethics***

1. The name of the Corporation is *Vizsla Society of Ontario Inc.* Its area of operation is Ontario. Its objects are as follows.

- 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*.

2. The Club shall be operated on a non-profit basis, with any surplus in a given year retained for future Club activities.

3. Club Members agree to comply with the following Club *Code of Ethics*.

**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 CKC; 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.

### ***Membership***

4. Members must be age 18 or older, must be eligible to be members of The Canadian Kennel Club, and must agree to comply with the Club's *Code of Ethics*.

5. Three classes of membership exist: single member, family member, and probationary member (new applicant's first year).

6. Membership dues are payable on the first day of the calendar year. The treasurer shall notify members in October of the upcoming renewal dues payable and of the amount. The board may increase the membership dues amount. Any increase in a given year is limited to twenty per cent.

7. If dues are not paid by March 31<sup>st</sup>, membership terminates (thereby requiring a new application and one-year probationary membership as if applying for membership for the first time).

8. The Club will accept an application from a new member accompanied by fees paid for the calendar year. A new applicant will be a probationary member for one full year. Until that year has elapsed the new applicant is not eligible to vote, to be a board member, or to be listed on the Club's breeder's list. The new applicant must agree to abide by the Constitution and By-laws and rules of The Canadian Kennel Club. The application shall be recorded in the *Vizsla Voice*. If no objections to the proposed new membership are brought within thirty days of publication, the applicant is accepted. If an objection is received, it shall be decided on by the board of directors. Any rejected applicant must be provided with written reasons.

### ***Year***

9.The Club's Membership year is the calendar year. The fiscal year begins April 1st.

### ***Board of directors***

10.Club affairs shall be managed by the board of directors.

11.The Board comprises four executive officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) together with either four or five regional directors. The executive officers must be Canadian Kennel Club members. All members of the board must be residents of Ontario, and must be Club members. The term for the board begins April 1st in an election year. The term length is two years.

12.The president chairs all board and general meetings.

13.The secretary records minutes of meetings including voting.

14.The treasurer collects and receives Club money, deposits the money in a Club bank account, makes Club books available for inspection by the board, furnishes financial reports at board meetings, furnishes reports to be published periodically in the *Vizsla Voice*, and furnishes a fiscal report at annual meetings.

15.If a vacancy occurs on the Board, the remaining Board members may appoint a Club member to fill it.

16.If a vacancy occurs in the office of president the vice-president becomes president, with the board filling the resulting vice-president vacancy.

17.Quorum is a majority of existing board members. Voting is by majority of those attending. Voting may be in person, by telephone, by mail, or by e-mail.

### ***Committees***

18.The Board may strike committees for conformation shows, field trials and tests, obedience and agility trials, tracking tests, breed rescue, trophies, annual prizes, membership, and any other dog-related activity. The Board may appoint the committee chair, which chair may be any Club member. The Board may dissolve committees. The Board may terminate committee appointments.

### ***General meetings***

19.A general meeting will be held each year in April. Notice of the meeting shall be given, at least thirty days beforehand, in the *Vizsla Voice* or by e-mail or regular mail. The notice of the meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting.

20. The Board may call a special general meeting of the Club at any time. The Board must call a special general meeting if the Secretary receives a request signed by at least ten per cent of Club members.

21. A special meeting quorum is twenty per cent of Club membership.

22. Voting for selecting officers and directors, for deciding on amendments proposed to Constitution and by-laws, and for deciding on specific questions posed by board of directors, is by written ballot.

23. Any other voting at general meetings is restricted to Club members attending.

### ***Elections every second year***

24. Voting if required for officers and directors is done by ballot by mail. Voting shall be for persons who are Club members and who have been named by the nominating committee. The nominating committee shall comprise two members of whom at least one will not be a director. Ballots shall be counted before the meeting by two or more Club members chosen by the board beforehand who are neither Board members nor candidates. The slate of names proposed by the nominating committee shall be circulated by February 1st. If no additional names are proposed by February 15th, the slate proposed stands without any requirement for a ballot. If additional nominations are proposed, voting shall be done by ballot listing nominees alphabetically, submitting to each Club member a "double envelope" to preserve secrecy (with ballot placed in envelope within return envelope). Tabulating shall be done by one or more persons specified beforehand by the board.

### ***Newsletter***

25. The editor shall be appointed by and shall report to the Board. Six issues shall be published each year, once every second month, and shall be mailed to Club members. Each issue shall publish the list names of new applicants and newly accepted members.

### ***Discipline***

26. Any Club member expelled or suspended from Canadian Kennel Club membership is similarly expelled or suspended from Club membership.

27. Any member may lay a complaint against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed. Complaints must be in writing, supplying details of the misconduct alleged. The complaint must be accompanied by a \$30 deposit (refunded if the complaint is sustained, forfeited if it is not). A hearing shall be conducted within ninety days, by president plus at least four other board members. Complainant and accused member are to be treated fairly and in accordance with the rules of natural justice. The Board if sustaining the complaint may impose an appropriate penalty. If the sanction voted on is expulsion, a two-thirds vote of those of the Club members who vote is required (at either general meeting at which the

accused member is entitled to speak or by secret mail ballot for which the accused member is entitled to supply a written submission).

***Amendments to Constitution***

28. Amending the Constitution and By-Laws requires a two-thirds vote of members who attend a general meeting or who vote by ballot.

29. No amendment is effective until approved by the Canadian Kennel Club.

***Dissolution***

30. The Club may be dissolved by vote of two-thirds vote of all members.

31. Club assets on dissolution shall be given to a charity selected by the Board that benefits dogs.