

Yankee Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association By-laws

Article I. Name and Purpose:

Section 1.01. Name: This Corporation shall be known as “Yankee Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, Inc.” (The Chapter).

Section 1.02. Purpose: The Chapter educates all interested persons in the techniques of training, breeding and caring for versatile hunting dogs; conducts tests of versatile hunting dogs; and promotes selective breeding and population control of versatile hunting dog breeds.

Section 1.03 Funds and Taxes: No part of the net earnings of The Chapter shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that The Chapter shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth above. No substantial part of the activities of The Chapter shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and The Chapter shall not participate in, or intervene in (including publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these By-laws, The Chapter shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under the section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any further United States internal Revenue Law). Provided, however that nothing herein contained shall be construed as authorizing The Chapter to transact business in any state, territory or foreign country contrary to the provisions of the law thereof, and nothing in these purposes shall be construed to give The Chapter any rights, powers or privileges not permitted by the laws of the State of Maine to charitable corporations organized under the general law, but it shall have all powers and privileges to do any and all acts and things not prohibited by the laws of the State of Maine.

Article II. Membership and Dues:

Section 2.01. Membership: Membership in The Chapter shall be open to any person regardless of race, religion, sex, age, or place of natural origin. The Board at its next meeting or via electronic communications will approve Persons applying for chapter membership. Applicants, who meet Board approval and also are members of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA), become Chapter members upon payment of annual dues. The Board at its discretion can deny membership to any applicant who is not in good standing with either NAVHDA International or another NAVHDA Chapter.

Section 2.02. Active Membership: The Active Members of The Chapter shall be those persons who have paid their annual dues for membership and spouses.

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Section 2.03. Junior Membership: The Junior Members of The Chapter shall be those persons who are under nineteen years of age and have paid one-half of the annual dues for membership.

Section 2.04. Dues: Annual chapter dues shall be due and payable on January 1 of each year and shall apply for 1 calendar year. The amount of said dues shall be set by a majority vote of The Board. New members who pay dues after October 1 shall be deemed paid through the end of the subsequent calendar year.

Section 2.05. Expulsion: The Board may expel a member for their misconduct, misconduct of their family or guests, any action determined by The Board to be harmful to The Chapter, or any action contrary to the conduct of a sportsman who respects and conserves the natural environment, for good cause shown. No refund of dues shall be made. A member thus expelled may petition The Board for reinstatement after a period of one year. The Board will vote on the petition at the following Board meeting.

Section 2.06. Disputes: In the event of a dispute or grievance which is of such a serious nature as to damage The Chapter, the President may appoint a committee consisting of three members of The Chapter, at least one of which shall be a member of The Board and shall act as Chairperson. The purpose of this committee is to gather facts and mediate the dispute. If a settlement cannot be reached by efforts of this committee, the Chairperson shall present this matter to The Board for final resolution.

Section 2.07. Lifetime Membership: The Chapter may elect to a lifetime membership, without payment of dues, any person who makes an outstanding contribution to the purpose of The Chapter.

Article III. Directors:

Section 3.01. Directors: The property and business of The Chapter shall be managed by a Board of Directors (The Board), not to exceed 11 in numbers, who shall be members of NAVHDA International and The Chapter. They shall hold office for 2 years and until their successors are elected or appointed. The Board shall have the control and management of the business of The Chapter and in addition to the powers and authorities by these By-laws expressly conferred upon them may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as may be exercised or done by The Chapter, but subject, nevertheless, to the provisions of the Maine statutes and of these By-laws. The Board shall have the power to constitute such standing or temporary committees, as it shall from time to time deem necessary. The Directors shall act only as The Board and the individual Directors shall have no power as such. Each Board member shall provide a status of their respective areas at the Annual Meeting and at any other Board of Directors or Membership meeting, as required. The status shall provide a full and clear statement of the business and conditions of their respective responsibilities.

Section 3.02. Meetings of the Directors: A quorum will consist of 5 members of The

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Board, except to adjourn from time to time until a quorum be present, but not for more than 90 days. All business of The Board will be decided on a majority vote of the Directors present. Meetings of The Board may be held at any time and at any place as called for by the President on seven (7) day notice to each Director. Such notice may be oral or in writing. All regular Board meetings shall be open to the membership at which members shall be allowed to speak with permission of the chair, but shall not have voting privileges. The Board shall meet a minimum of 3 times per calendar year.

Section 3.03. Resignation and Vacancy: Any Director or Officer may, in writing addressed to The Board, resignation of office at any time. Such resignation shall be valid without any acceptance of the same by The Board. In case of any vacancy in any of the offices of The Chapter, caused by death, disability, disqualification, resignation, removal, or for any reason whatsoever, the vacancy may be filled by appointment by the President with the approval of The Board. The appointee shall serve until the next election year at which time the office shall be filled by a regular election at the Annual Meeting of The Chapter.

Article IV. Board of Directors (Officers):

Section 4.01. President: The President shall have general supervision, direction and control of the business and affairs of The Chapter and The Board. The President shall preside at all meetings of The Chapter, The Board and its members. The President shall appoint and determine the time and place of all meetings thereof, unless otherwise ordered by The Board. The President shall make annual reports showing the condition of the affairs of The Chapter and make recommendations to The Board on information that may be required regarding the business and property of The Chapter. The President shall be an ex officio member of all standing committees of The Board.

Section 4.02. Vice President: In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President and in so acting shall have all the powers of the President. The Vice President shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the President and The Board. In case of the absence or disability of both the President and Vice-President, a president pro tem may be elected by The Board.

Section 4.03. Secretary: The Secretary shall attend all meetings of The Board and shall record all votes and the minutes of all proceedings. The Secretary shall see that the proper notice is given of all special meetings of The Board and of all meetings of The Chapter, and shall perform such other duties as may be required by The Board or by the President.

Section 4.04. Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for and shall maintain financial records of The Chapter, maintain bank accounts, sign checks, and receive and disburse monies. The Treasurer shall make the proper vouchers for disbursements of Chapter funds and shall render to the President and The Board at the regular meetings of The Board or whenever they may require it, an account of all of the transactions as Treasurer, and of the financial conditions of the

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Corporation.

Section 4.05. Director of Testing: The Director of Testing is responsible for the organization of all field tests given by The Chapter including, selection of judges.

Section 4.06. Director of Communications: The Director of Communications will oversee publication of the chapter newsletter, the chapter website, test brochures, and social media. The Director of Communications will also oversee distribution of communications to the membership as directed by the President and/or The Board.

Section 4.07. Director of Youth Development: The Director of Youth Development will oversee youth participation in The Chapter events, be in charge of activities and events specifically for youths, and promote the The Chapter's commitment to engaging youths in outdoor skills, hunting and versatile hunting dogs.

Section 4.08. Test Secretary: The Test Secretary will perform all duties pertaining to test events and national information.

Section 4.09. Director of Training: The Director of Training will provide all information for clinics and testing programs.

Section 4.10. Director of Gunning: The Director of Gunning will conduct training for all personnel that wish to gun for tests and events of The Chapter. The Director of Gunning will be responsible for ensuring sufficient gunners and ammo are available at all testing and events that require live fire.

Section 4.11. Delegate at Large: The past President will act on behalf of The Chapter as the Delegate at Large. If The Chapter does not have sufficient coverage for this position, the President and The Board may appoint a Delegate at Large from the active membership of The Chapter. The Delegate at Large will have voting privileges on The Board in the event of a tie vote.

Article V. Testing:

All tests shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements established by NAVHDA International.

Article VI. Elections:

Section 6.01. Elections shall be held annually at the time of The Chapter Annual Meeting.

Section 6.02. Election Terms: Terms of an office shall be two years and shall begin in the election year for that office on the day of the Annual Meeting and shall expire on the subsequent election year for that office on the day of the Annual Meeting.

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Even Years

2 Officers: President and Secretary

3 Directors: Training, Promotions/Publications, and Youth Development

Odd Years

2 Officers: Vice President and Treasurer

3 Directors: Test, Secretary, Gunning and Testing

Section 6.03. Nominations: An active member of The Chapter may make prior to or during the election year Annual Meeting nominations for office.

Section 6.04. Ballot: A completed ballot roster shall be presented to the general membership at the election year Annual Meeting prior to voting. The ballot shall contain the offices which are up for election and the listing of each person(s) nominated for such office. One person may be nominated for more than one office; however, that person may only serve in one office at a time.

Section 6.05. Voting: Each member of The Chapter with voting rights shall be entitled to one vote for each office. The order of the voting may be decided at the discretion of The Board.

Section 6.06. Counting of Ballots: Balloting may be accomplished by visible hand count, secret ballot, or by mail at the discretion of The Board. The results of such election, as determined by a plurality of the votes, shall be made known at the meeting and shall be reported to the general membership within 60 days.

Section 6.07. Disputes of Election: The Board shall be the sole arbiter of disputes regarding the validity of the election.

Section 6.08. Procedure: The Board may make such rules and regulations regarding elections as necessary and in accordance with The Chapter By-laws.

Article VII. Chapter Procedures:

Section 7.01. Procedure: The Chapter shall hold an Annual Membership meeting in January to review prior year and coming year events and efforts. A quorum of 20 members shall be present for voting purposes during this meeting. With the exception of the Annual Meeting, all chapter business may be conducted by use of the mail and digital communications.

Section 7.02. By-laws Amendments: Amendments to the By-laws shall be voted upon and it shall require two-thirds majority of the membership voting to pass a By-law amendment.

Section 7.03. Financial Statement: The Treasurer shall publish a financial statement of The Chapter annually. Such financial report shall be examined by at least two members of the Board, other than the Treasurer, before the annual publication of such report.

Section 7.04. Voting: All ordinary business of the membership of The Chapter will be

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decided by the majority of the membership voting to pass.

Article VIII. Dissolution:

Section 8.01. The Chapter is not organized for profit and no part of the net earnings or assets of The Chapter shall inure to the benefit of any private individual. In the event of liquidation or dissolution of The Chapter the balance of all money and other property of The Chapter from any source, after payment of all debts and obligations of The Chapter, shall be used or distributed exclusively for purposes within those set forth in Article 1, Section 1.02 of these By-laws to institutions qualifying in the State of Maine as exempt from taxation under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986, as amended.