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**CONSTITUTION**

ARTICLE I  
Name and Objects

SECTION 1. The name of the Club shall be:  
RALEIGH-DURHAM LABRADOR RETRIEVER CLUB

SECTION 2. The objects of the Club shall be:

- a) to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Labrador Retriever 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 Labrador Retrievers shall be judged;
- c) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsman like competition at dog shows and obedience trials and field trials;
- d) to conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, obedience trials, field trials and sanctioned matches under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club.

SECTION 3.

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

SECTION 4.

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.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I  
Membership

SECTION 1. Eligibility

There shall be three types of membership open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who is in good standing with The American Kennel Club and who subscribes 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 breeders and exhibitors in its immediate area.

SECTION 2. *Dues*

Associate Membership dues shall be \$20.00 per year, with no voting rights and cannot hold office. Individual Membership dues shall be \$25.00 per year. Family Membership dues shall be \$30.00, and

each spouse is entitled to a separate vote. Dues are payable on or before the 1st day of January of each year. Full dues apply to new members joining from January through June; half dues apply to new members joining from July through December. No members may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of November, the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing 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 these constitution and by-laws and the rules of The American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address and occupation of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of two members. Accompanying the application the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.

All applicants must attend one club function before the application will be reviewed. All applications are to be filed with the Membership Chair and each application is to be read at the first meeting following its receipt. At the next Club meeting the application will be voted upon and affirmative votes or 3/4 of the members present and voting by secret ballot at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.

Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not re-apply within six months after such rejection.

### 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. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
- b) *by 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 fiscal year: however, the Board may grant an additional 90 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 By-Laws.

## ARTICLE II

### Meetings and Voting

#### SECTION 1. Club Meeting

Meetings of the club shall be held in the greater Raleigh-Durham area 6 times per year, on such a date and at such an hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall send notice of each such meeting at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

#### 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 Raleigh-Durham area at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Notice of such a meeting shall be sent 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 may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

#### SECTION 3. Board Meeting.

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the greater Raleigh-Durham area on such a date and at such an hour and place as may be designated by the Board and should be held at least six times each year. The Secretary shall send notice of each such meeting at least 5 days prior to the date of the meeting. 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. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Raleigh-Durham area at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. Notice of such meeting shall be called by the Secretary at least 5 days and not more than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting, or telegraphic notice shall be filed at least 3 days and not more than 5 days prior to the date or 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 5. Voting

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.

#### SECTION 6. Mailing of Notices

The Secretary may use the Club newsletter to send official notice of any meeting to Club or Board members.

### ARTICLE III

#### Directors and Officers

##### SECTION 1. Board of Directors

The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and five (5) 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. 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 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 by-laws.
- 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 of 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, notify officers and directors of their election to office,

- i. the Secretary or Membership Chairperson shall notify new members of their election to club, keep a roll of the members of the club with addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these by-laws.
- d) the Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Club. Said monies shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. The Club's books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board. The Treasurer shall report to the Club at every meeting the condition of the finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported. At the annual meeting, the Treasurer shall render an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount, as the Board of Directors shall determine.
- e) the offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person in which case the Board shall be comprised of the officers and six (6) other persons.

#### SECTION 3. Vacancies

Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote from Board of Directors 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 and official year shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December.

##### SECTION 2. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting shall be held in the month of November at which Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 3 of this Article.

##### SECTION 3. Nominations

No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated by the Club . During the month of July, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members and two (2) alternates, not more than one (1) of who may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee and alternates of the Board's selection. The Board shall name a Chairman for the Committee and it shall be their duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before August 1st.

- a) the committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and five candidates for the five other positions on the Board, 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 August 15<sup>th</sup> notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- c) additional nominations may be made at the September 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 this meeting, their proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying their willingness to be a candidate.

- d) nominations cannot be made at the Annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.
- e) no person may be a candidate for more than one position with the exception of Secretary/Treasurer where both positions may be held by the same person.

#### SECTION 4. Elections

The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The five nominated candidates for other positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected. The Officers and Directors shall take office the 1st day of January. 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.

- a) If there is only one (1) candidate nominated for each position available (i.e., President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Board of Directors) the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected and take office on January 1st.

### ARTICLE V Committees

#### SECTION 1.

The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as specialty shows, obedience trials, field trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership, programs 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 committee member 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 Discipline

#### SECTION 1. American Kennel Club Suspension

Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club will automatically be suspended from the privileges of the Club for the length of time as the American Kennel Club suspension.

#### SECTION 2. Charges

Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or Breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$10, 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 in 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 interest 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 defence 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 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 his 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 a 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 his 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 his own behalf if he wishes. 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 exclusion is not so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

## ARTICLE VII Amendments

### SECTION 1.

Amendments to the constitution and by-laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by twenty percent (20%) 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 (3) months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

### SECTION 2.

The constitution and by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

## ARTICLE VIII 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 the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE IX Order of Business

### SECTION 1. Club Meetings

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:

- Reading of Minutes of last meeting
- Report of Secretary
- Report of President
- Report of Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Election of Officers and Board (annual meeting)
- Election of new members
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Roll call
- Adjournment

### SECTION 2. Board Meetings

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
- Report of Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

## ARTICLE X Parliamentary Authority

### SECTION 1.

The rules contained in the current edition of Raleigh-Durham Labrador Retriever Club Constitution and By-Laws and, shall govern the club in all areas 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.