

Revised: August 22, 2009

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME AND OBJECTS

SECTION 1. The name of the Club shall be the Atlanta Golden Retriever Club.

SECTION 2. The objects of the Club shall be:

- (a) to encourage and promote responsible ownership of Golden Retrievers;
- (b) to encourage and promote the quality breeding of pure-bred Golden Retrievers and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- (c) 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 Golden Retrievers shall be judged;
- (d) to urge members and breeders to subscribe to the Atlanta Golden Retriever Club Code of Ethics;
- (e) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials and field trials;
- (f) to conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, obedience trials, field trials and agility trials under the rules 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 donations 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.

ARTICLE II Membership

SECTION 1. Eligibility. There shall be three types of membership.

(a) Individual: which shall be open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club.

(b) Family: which shall be open to an individual and their immediate family who are eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club. Family members seventeen years of age and under would be non-voting junior members.

(c) Non-voting Junior: which shall be open to a person seventeen years of age and under who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club. However, no junior member can hold office.]

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. Annual membership dues shall be set by the board and approved at a regular meeting by a majority of the members attending. An uppermost limit on dues should be stated, within which amount the board may set dues. Dues shall be payable on or before the 1st day of January of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of August the Treasurer shall notify each member of his/her pending 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 this constitution and these by-laws and the rules of The American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address and occupation of the applicant. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year. Applications submitted on or after July 1st are subject to ½ current dues.

All applications are to be filed with the Secretary. Dues are to be forwarded from the Secretary to the Treasurer. Upon notification that the dues have cleared, Treasurer shall inform Secretary and Secretary shall send a welcoming communication to the new member and copy to the general membership as notification of a new member in the Club.

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.

ARTICLE II (Continued)
Membership

(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 the meeting.

(c) by expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these by-laws.

ARTICLE III
Meetings and Voting

SECTION 1. Club Meetings. Meetings of the Club shall be held within the greater Atlanta area 25 miles of Metropolitan Atlanta bi-monthly, at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed/e-mailed to the members 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 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 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 within the greater Atlanta area 25 miles of Metropolitan Atlanta at such a place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting. 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 Meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held within the greater Atlanta area 25 miles of Metropolitan Atlanta at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

SECTION 4. Special Board Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President and shall be called by the Secretary upon the receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held within the greater Atlanta area, 25 miles of Metropolitan Atlanta, at such a place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. 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/she is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any Club meeting or election.

ARTICLE IV

Directors and Officers

SECTION 1. Board of Directors. The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and three Directors at Large, 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. Written notice of meetings shall be mailed/e-mailed by the Secretary. He/she shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their 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. He/she shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. The books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board and he/she shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting he/she 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.

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 of all the then members of the Board 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 V

The Club Year, Annual Meeting, Elections

SECTION 1. Club Year. The Club's fiscal 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 December at which Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated. Within 30 days of the conclusion of the election, each retiring officer shall turn over to their successor in office all properties and records relating to that office.

SECTION 3. Elections. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The three nominated candidates for the three Directors at Large on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions 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 June, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a Chairman for the Committee and it shall be their duty to call a committee meeting.

(a) The Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and three candidates for the three Directors at Large on the Board. After securing the consent of each person so nominated, the committee shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing. Said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business may be transacted thereat.

(b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated prior to the October meeting.

(c) Additional nominations may be made at the October meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his/her name is proposed and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his/her proposer 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) The Nominating Committee should meet by September 1st and immediately notify the Secretary of their selections. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each member of the Nominating Committee's slate at least two weeks prior to the October meeting. Since nominations may not be made at the Annual Meeting (December), additional nominations may only be made at the October meeting. Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

ARTICLE VI

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 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 appointment 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 VII

Discipline

SECTION 1. American Kennel Club Suspension. Any member who is suspended from 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 \$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 or the breed. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or 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 weeks nor more than six 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 his/her own defense and bring witnesses if he/she 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 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/her fellow-members at the ensuing Club meeting which considers the Board 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 Board's decision and penalty, if any.

ARTICLE VII (Continued)

Discipline

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 proceedings 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/her 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/her own behalf if he/she wishes. The membership 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 expulsion is not so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VIII

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 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 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 meetings called for this purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed/emailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX

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 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 by 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 by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X

Order of Business

SECTION 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:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Report of President
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)
- Election of new members
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

SECTION 2. 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 XI
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 by-laws and any special rules of order the club may adopt.

President: _____
Date: _____

Secretary: _____
Date: _____

Dues: Individual \$25, Family \$30, Non-voting Junior \$10

Definition of "in good standing:"

Club Dues must be current.

Can not be under investigation or suspension by the AGRC

Can not be under investigation or suspension by the GRCA

Can not be under investigation or suspension by the AKC