

**CONSTITUTION**  
**THE SLEEPY HOLLOW GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB, INC.**  
Revised 04/20/2016  
**ARTICLE I**  
**NAME AND OBJECTIVES**

**SECTION 1.** The name of the Club shall be The Sleepy Hollow German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.

**SECTION 2.** The objectives of the Club shall be:

- (a) to encourage and promote the responsible breeding of purebred German Shorthaired Pointers and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to meet the accepted standard.
- (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 the German Shorthaired Pointer shall be judged.
- (c) to do all in its power to advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials and field activities.
- (d) to conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, field activities and obedience trials under the rules and regulations of The American Kennel Club.
- (e) to collect and disseminate among the membership, educational information on subjects of interest to the fancier such as breeding, training, conditioning, showing, judging, field training and other topics to the fancy.

**SECTION 3.** The club shall not be conducted nor 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 objectives.

**BY-LAWS**  
**THE SLEEPY HOLLOW GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB, INC.**

**ARTICLE I**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1. Eligibility.** The Club shall consist of an unlimited number of members open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club and the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America, who subscribe to the purposes and goals of the Club.

Membership shall be of six (6) types –

- (a) Individual Members are those members who pay individual yearly dues, attend (and/or volunteer at) at least 2 meetings or club events annually. They have all rights and voting privileges of the Club and may hold office.
- (b) Family Members shall be limited to two adults (eighteen years of age or older) living in the same household, each to have all rights and voting privileges of individual members of the Club. Junior members of the same family, living in the same household, shall enjoy the rights and privileges of the Club except the right to vote and hold office.
- (c) Life Members any past or present member, having rendered outstanding service to the Club over a significant period of time, may be proposed as a Life Member by any member of the Board of Directors for election to Life Membership by the Club at the Annual Meeting. Life Members must have been active members of the Club for at least 10 years. Election shall be by affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present and voting. Such life members shall be exempt from payment of dues and shall have the rights, privileges and duties of membership, including the rights to vote and hold office.
- (d) Associate Members are members who pay individual yearly dues, are not required to attend meetings, not eligible to vote, not included in meeting quorums and may not be eligible to receive certain awards.
- (e) Honorary Members are those elected to this position by the Board of Directors. These members pay no dues and may not vote or hold office. Honorary Members may maintain active/voting status by payment of dues.
- (f) Junior Membership (non-voting/non-office holding) will be open to all persons between the ages of 10 to 17 years. When the member turns 18 years old they can convert to regular membership. With the exception of Junior Members, all members must be at least 18 years of age. While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the Club's primary purpose is to be representatives of the breeders and exhibitors in its immediate area.

## **ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP (continued)**

**SECTION 2. Dues.** Membership dues shall be set in June by the Board of Directors, but shall not exceed \$50.00 per year for any class of membership. Dues are payable in advance and due on the first day of January of each year. During the month of November of the previous year, the treasurer shall send to each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing year. Members joining the club after the thirtieth day of June shall pay one-half the yearly dues for that year.

**SECTION 3. Election to Membership.** Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form approved by the Board of Directors which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws and rules of the American Kennel Club and The Sleepy Hollow German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc. The application shall state the name, address and present day breed-related activities of the applicant. The applicant shall submit the appropriate dues payment as provided in Article 1, Section 2 for the current year along with the application.

(a) All applications are to be filed with the Secretary or other individual designated by the Board of Directors as Membership Chairman. Each application is to be submitted at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following its receipt. The Board shall recommend the acceptance or rejection of each applicant to Membership. At the next Club meeting the application will be voted upon by sealed secret ballot of the membership and the affirmative votes of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the members present and voting at the meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.

(b) Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the membership may not re-apply within six (6) months after such rejection.

**SECTION 4. Termination of Membership.**

(a) Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Club Secretary; but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club, and are incurred as specified in Article 1.

(b) A membership shall be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid sixty (60) days after the first day of January. However, the Board may grant an additional sixty (60) days of grace to such delinquent members in hardship or meritorious cases. All others must re-apply for membership.

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

**SECTION 5. Reinstatement of Terminated Members.**

(a) Any member in good standing who resigned upon written notice to the Club Secretary while not in debt to the Club, may be reinstated upon payment of the current dues.

(b) Any membership terminated for any reason other than as provided in Article 1, Section 2, (a) must apply for reinstatement by following the same procedure that new applicants undergo, as stated in Article 1, Section 2 and 3.

**SECTION 6.** No individual member may incur indebtedness on the part of The Sleepy Hollow German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc. without written, formal permission from the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE II MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1. Club Meetings.** All Club meetings shall be held in the Greater Newburgh, New York area. Meetings of the Club shall be held at times and places to the convenience of the greatest number of the members, as designated by the Board of Directors. Meetings of the Club shall be held a minimum of six (6) times a year. Written notice of each meeting shall be mailed or e-mailed to each member by the Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting or may be included in the Club's newsletter if it is mailed in a timely fashion. The quorum at all club meetings shall be twenty percent (20%) of the members in good standing and must include one (1) Executive Officer.

**SECTION 2. Special Club Meetings.** All club meetings shall be held in the Greater Newburgh, New York area. Special Club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote at any meeting of the Board of Directors, or by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five (5) members of the Club who are in good standing. Each such meeting shall be held at a time and place convenient to the greatest number of members, as designated by the person or persons authorized to call the meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed or e-mailed to each member by the Secretary at least seven (7) days and not more than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting. Such a notice shall state the date, time, location, and purpose of the meeting, and no other Club business shall be transacted thereat. The quorum at all Club meetings shall be twenty percent (20%) of all members in good standing and must include one (1) Executive Officer.

## **ARTICLE II – MEETINGS (continued)**

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**SECTION 3. Board Meetings.** All club meetings shall be held in the Greater Newburgh, New York area.

Regular Board meetings shall be scheduled by the Board at least once every other month. Meetings of the Board shall be held in the Greater Newburgh, New York area. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of six (6) times per year. Each meeting shall be held at a time and place convenient to the greatest number of members of the Board, as designated by the person or persons calling the meeting. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed or e-mailed to each member of the Board by the Secretary at least seven (7) 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 Meetings.** All Club meetings shall be held in the Greater Newburgh, New York Area. 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 (3) members of the Board. Each such meeting shall be held at a time and place convenient to the greatest number of the members of the Board, as designated by the person or persons authorized to call the meeting. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed or e-mailed to each member by the Secretary at least seven (7) days, and not more than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the date, time, location and purpose of the meeting and no other club business shall be transacted thereat. The 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.

## **ARTICLE III DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1. Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall be comprised of a President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and five (5) other members who shall be called "Directors", all of whom shall be members in good standing. All officers will be elected for one (1) year terms at the Club's annual meeting, as provided in Article IV.

The club's five (5) Directors shall be elected for two year terms at the Club's annual meeting, as provided in Article IV. Directors shall be elected in staggered years, with three (3) Directors being elected in odd numbered years, and two (2) in even numbered years. During the first year of the Club's operation, the Nominating Committee shall designate which Directors are elected to two-year terms and which to one-year terms to allow for the staggered terms. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 2. Officers.** The Club's Officers, consisting of a President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities both with regards to the Club and its meetings, and the Board and its meetings. They shall take office immediately at the conclusion of the annual meeting.

(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 the President in addition to those particularly specified in these By-Laws.

(b) The Vice-President shall be vested with the full powers of the President and perform all of his duties in case of the President's death, absence, or incapacity. He or she shall perform other duties as assigned by the President.

(c) The Recording 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 Recording Secretary shall 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 address and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these by-laws.

(d) The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of all correspondence, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these by-laws.

(e) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the club. He shall deposit the same to the Club's account in a duly licensed banking institution, designated by the Board. He shall pay all bills by check from the Club's account or as authorized by the Board. The Club's books, which shall be his responsibility to keep and maintain, shall, at all times, be open to inspection by the Board, and the Treasurer shall report to them at each meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not previously reported. At the annual meeting he shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer may be bonded in such amount as the Board shall determine. The Treasurer shall make this list available at all times to the Secretary, and his books shall be audited at the end of each fiscal year by an Auditing Committee.

## **ARTICLE III - DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (continued)**

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**SECTION 3. Vacancies.** Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the Officers, shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a majority vote of the then members of the Board at its first meeting following the announcement of said vacancy; 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 MEETINGS, ELECTIONS**

**SECTION 1. Club Year.** The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of June and end on the thirty-first day of May. The Club's official year shall begin immediately after the announcement of the elections at the next Annual Meeting and shall continue through the announcement of the elections at the next Annual Meeting. The elected Officers and Directors shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

**SECTION 2. Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of the Club shall be held during the month of June. At this meeting, officers and directors shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. Those elected, shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the current official year and each retiring Officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within thirty (30) days after the election.

**SECTION 3. Elections.** The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The three (3) nominated candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for the position of Director in odd numbers years and the two (2) nominated candidates receiving the greatest number of votes in even numbered years, 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 February of each year, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee of three (3) members, not more than of whom may be a member of the Board, and one of which the Board shall appoint as Chairperson. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee members of their selection.

(a) The Nominating Committee shall meet and nominate one candidate for each office and candidates for Directors insuring that the candidates are in conformity with the requirement of Article III and Section 1 and Section 3 of this Article.

(b) The Nominating Committee, after securing the consent in writing of each person so nominated, shall report its nominations in writing to the Secretary at least two (2) weeks before the April meeting. Written or e-mailed notices of said meeting shall be sent to each member not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of said meeting, and the notice shall include the slate of nominations from the nominating committee and state that one of the purposes for which said meeting is to be held, is to complete the nominations of candidates. During the April meeting, the Nominating Chairman will announce to the general membership the slate that the nominating committee has selected and nominations shall be accepted from the floor as provided in part (c) below, and nominations shall be closed.

(c) Members may be nominated from the floor only if the nominations are proposed by a member in good standing and seconded by two (2) additional members in good standing, and the persons to be nominated affirm their willingness to be candidates for the positions to which they are nominated and are members in good standing. Said affirmations of willingness must be given in person or be available in writing at the time a nomination of such is proposed. No one may be a candidate for one position, but a person who has declined to be nominated for one position may be nominated for another position.

(d) To be elected an Officer, the nominee must attend a minimum of 50% of Club meetings and at least two (2) Club events in the last calendar year.

## **ARTICLE V COMMITTEES**

**SECTION 1.** The Board of Directors may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club. There shall be three (3) standing committees - (a) Show (b) Field Activity (c) Obedience. Subject to approval by a majority of the Board of Directors, Chairmen for the standing committees are to be selected at the Annual Meeting by the President.

## **ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES (continued)**

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**SECTION 2.** Any committee appointee may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board upon written notification to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to that person 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 shall be suspended from the privileges of The Sleepy Hollow German Shorthaired Pointers Club for a like period. Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America 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 breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary, together with a deposit of \$50.00 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 breed. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or breed, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date for a hearing by the Board not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (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, its location and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if he wishes.

**SECTION 3. Board Hearing.** The Board shall have the complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both defendant and complainant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by the complainant and defendant, the Board may, by majority vote of those present, suspend the defendant for not more than six (6) 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, suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his/her 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 proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within sixty (60) days but not earlier than thirty (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 finding and invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The meeting shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds 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 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 and 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 membership with the 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 vote of two-thirds 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.** The club may be dissolved at any time by written consent of not less than two-thirds of the members. In the event of dissolution of the Club, other than for the purpose of re-organization, whether voluntary or involuntary, or by operation of law, none of the assets or property of the Club, nor the proceeds thereof, shall be distributed to any of the members of the Club, but after payment of the debts of the Club, its property and assets shall be donated to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs as selected by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE IX ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**SECTION 1.** At the 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 and Determination of Quorum
- Minutes of the Last Meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of the Committees
- Election of Officers and Board (at Annual Meeting)
- Election of New Members
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

**SECTION 2.** At the meetings of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- Reading of the Minutes of the Last Meeting
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

**SECTION 3.** Parliamentary Authority. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order 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 the Club may adopt.

# THE SLEEPY HOLLOW GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB, INC.

As a member of The Sleepy Hollow German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc., I

\_\_\_\_\_ have the choice to receive any  
(member's name)  
notices from the club either by regular U.S. mail or by e-mail. Notices will include, meeting notices, newsletters, and any other information pertaining to the club. At any time, I may change my decision and notify the club's Secretary in writing for this change to take effect.

\_\_\_\_\_ (member's signature)      \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

I would like all notices to be sent to me via U.S. mail

I would like all notices to be sent to me via e-mail

My current e-mail address is \_\_\_\_\_

I will notify the club's Secretary if there is any change to my e-mail address.

***Each member will be required to fill out this release form that gives permission for them to receive e-mails or regular mailing and will have the option of revoking that privilege in writing at any time as per the American Kennel Club and the Constitution and By-Laws of The Sleepy Hollow German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.***