

# CONSTITUTION

## Article 1

### Name

#### **Section 1.**

The Organization existing under this Constitution and By-Laws shall be known as THE EASTERN GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB, INC.

#### **Section 2.**

The objectives of the Club shall be:

- a) to encourage and promote the selective and responsible breeding of pure-bred German Shorthaired Pointers and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- b) to ensure that members who conduct such breeding abide by our Club's Code of Ethics in this regard and assume responsibility for the proper care, placement, and continual welfare of any puppies produced;
- c) to require members 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 Pointers shall be judged or selectively bred;
- d) to conduct specialty shows and other events for which the club is eligible under the rules and regulations of The American Kennel Club.
- e) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at all specialty shows, and all other events conducted by this Club.

#### **Section 3.**

The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profit or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Club shall inure to the profit 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 Article 1

### Membership

#### Section 1. Eligibility

- a) Individual Membership will be open to all persons eighteen (18) years of age and emancipated or older and who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club, and who subscribe to the objectives of the Club.
- b) Family Membership will be open to persons residing in the same domicile and with each of these persons meeting the above requirements for individual membership. Each adult member over eighteen (18) years of age and in good standing is entitled to one vote at Club meetings.
- c) Lifetime Membership will be open to a member in good standing who is recommended by the Club's Board of Directors as having provided exceptional support and service to the Club. Individuals so recommended must receive an affirmative vote by two-thirds (2/3) of the members attending and voting at any Regular, Special or Annual Meeting. Individuals so honored by election to Lifetime Membership will not be required to pay annual dues and shall be entitled to the same voting privileges as any individual Member of the Club.
- d) Honorary Membership will be open to any individual who is approved by the Club's Board of Directors as having made an exceptional contribution to the German Shorthaired Pointer breed, to the sport of purebred dogs, or to the welfare of purebred dogs. Individuals so honored will not be required to pay annual dues or be entitled to vote at any Club Meeting or Election.

#### Section 2. Dues

- a) The membership dues for the coming year shall be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at the September Board Meeting and shall not exceed \$100.00 for the Family Membership or \$90.00 for Single Membership.
- b) All membership dues are payable on or before January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c) Persons applying for membership after June 30<sup>th</sup> shall pay one half (1/2) of the annual dues.
- d) On or before November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Membership Chairperson shall send to each member a statement of dues payable for the New Club Year. A reminder for any outstanding unpaid dues shall be sent by January 1<sup>st</sup>. The membership list for each new year shall be updated and mailed by February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- e) A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid after February 1<sup>st</sup>; however, the Board

may grant an additional sixty (60) days of grace to such delinquent members in hardship or meritorious cases. In no case may a person vote at any Club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.

### **Section 3. Election to Membership**

Each new applicant for membership shall apply on the official Club application form for membership. This form shall state the name and address of the applicant, and shall carry the endorsement of a member in good standing. In addition, the form must be signed by the applicant, affirming his intention to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws and Code of Ethics of the Club, as well as the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club. The prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year, with the application for membership.

An application is to be filed with the Membership Chairperson and approved or disapproved by the Board of Directors. The application shall be read at the next scheduled Board meeting. Affirmative votes of a majority of the Board members voting at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.

Applicants for membership who have been accepted by the Club will be so notified within thirty (30) days; those who have been received by an unfavorable vote by the Board may have their applications presented for consideration at the next Regular Meeting of the Club, if the applicant's sponsor so desires. The Club may elect such an individual by a favorable vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the membership present by secret ballot. Should the Club reject such an application, the applicant may not re-apply for membership within one (1) year after such rejection.

## **Article 2**

### **Meetings and Voting**

#### **Section 1.**

There shall be at least four (4) general meetings of the Club each year to be held in the state of New Jersey. Three of these meetings are determined to be held in February, June and either in October or November, with the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) at a date, time and a place approved by the Board of Directors. Written notice for these meetings will be sent to the membership by the Corresponding Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the date. The February meeting shall be designated the Annual Meeting, and in addition to the regular business, shall be the meeting at which the election and installation of newly elected officers shall take place.

#### **Section 2.**

Special Club Meetings. Special Meetings of the Club may be called at the discretion of the President or the Board of Directors, or shall be called by the Corresponding Secretary, upon receipt of a petition signed by ten (10) members of the Club, who are in good standing. The Corresponding Secretary shall notify all members in writing, stating time, place and purpose of the meeting at least seven (7) days prior to any Special Meeting date. No other business shall be transacted thereat.

### **Section 3.**

The quorum for any regular or Special Meeting of the Club shall be ten percent (10%) of the members in good standing.

### **Section 4.**

Board Meetings. There shall be no less than three (3) regular meetings of the Board each year, in January, April/May, and in September. Notice of such meetings will be mailed by the Corresponding Secretary at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date, The quorum for such meetings shall be a majority of the Board.

### **Section 5.**

Special Board Meetings. Special Meetings of the Board may be called by the President, and shall be called by the Corresponding Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three (3) members of the Board. Oral or written notice of such a meeting shall be made by the Corresponding Secretary who shall state the purpose of the meeting. No other business shall be transacted thereat. A quorum for such meetings shall be a majority of the Board.

### **Section 6.**

Proxy voting will not be permitted at any Club meeting or Election.

## **Article 3**

### **Directors and Officers**

#### **Section 1.**

Board of Directors. The Board shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Delegate to The American Kennel Club and five (5) other persons all of whom shall be members in good standing for a minimum of one (1) year. The President, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer will be elected on even years. The Vice-President, Recording Secretary and the AKC Delegate will be elected on odd years. The five (5) other Board members will be elected as follows; three (3) on odd years and two (2) on even years. All shall serve until their respective successors are elected. The Performance Events and Specialty Show Chair persons shall be appointed by the President for one (1) year terms subject to Board approval and shall attend all Board Meetings for the purpose of reporting but without eligibility to vote on Board business. 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, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capabilities 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 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 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 mail or hand deliver the minutes of all Board meetings to each Board member not later than thirty (30) days after each Board meeting. The Recording Secretary shall also keep all records pertaining to the Club History.
- d) The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence, arrange for and notify members of meetings, 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 by these By-Laws.
- e) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all money due or belonging to the Club and shall deposit same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. The Treasurer's books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Board. The Treasurer shall report at every Club meeting on the condition of the Club's finances. The Treasurer's books shall be audited at the end of each fiscal year by the Auditing Committee. At the Annual Meeting the Treasurer shall render an account of all money received and expended during the previous fiscal year.
- f) The Delegate shall regularly attend all meetings of the Delegates to The American Kennel Club, shall vote at such meetings to reflect the wishes of the Club, and make a complete report at the next meeting of the Club following such attendance. The incumbent Delegate shall remain in an active capacity until the newly elected Delegate shall have been approved and accepted by The American Kennel Club.

### **Section 3.**

Officers and Board Members are required to attend at least two-thirds (2/3) of all board and General membership meetings. If an Officer or Board Member cannot attend a scheduled meeting they must notify the Corresponding Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours of the scheduled meeting. Non compliance by the Officers and/or the Board Members "may" result in a possible termination from their position.

### **Section 4.**

Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the Board or among the Officers during the year shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term. This will be done by a majority vote of the members of

the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such a vacancy or a Special Board Meeting called for that purpose, except that a vacancy in the Office of the President shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President, and the resulting vacancy in the office of the Vice-President shall be filled by the Board.

## **Article 4**

### **The Club Year, Annual Meeting and Elections**

#### **Section 1.**

Club Year. The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the thirty-first (31<sup>st</sup>) day of December. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, and shall continue through the next Annual Meeting.

#### **Section 2.**

Annual Meeting. The February meeting shall be identified as the Annual Meeting and in addition to the regular business, shall be the meeting at which the election and installation of the newly elected officers shall take place.

#### **Section 3.**

Elections. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The five (5) candidates for positions 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 the Club's elections who has not been nominated and no person may be nominated for more than one elective office. At the September Board Meeting, prior to a February Annual Meeting having an election of Officers and Directors, the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members and two (2) alternates not more than one of whom may be a member of the Board. The Corresponding Secretary shall immediately notify the Committee members and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a Chairperson for the Committee and it shall be the Chairperson's duty to call a Committee meeting which shall be held on or before October 31<sup>st</sup>.

- a) The Committee shall nominate one (1) candidate for each Officer and/or Board position, whose term is due to expire and after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall report their nominations to the Corresponding Secretary in writing no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Committee shall ask each nominated candidate to submit a resume describing pertinent individual and Club-related activities to the Corresponding Secretary by November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- b) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Corresponding Secretary shall by December 15<sup>th</sup> notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- c) Additional nominations, with the consent of the nominee may be made by a member

in good standing, and submitted in writing to the Corresponding Secretary. Once the nomination had the consent of the nominee and has it been endorsed by five (5) members in good standing it is to be submitted with a resume of involvement of Club Related activities to the Corresponding Secretary by December 30<sup>th</sup>. After December 30<sup>th</sup> and at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting in February, the Corresponding Secretary shall forward to each member one (1) Official Ballot, together with a return envelope. The ballots shall be returned to the Corresponding Secretary by mail prior to the Annual Meeting or hand delivered to the Corresponding Secretary at the Annual Meeting. These ballots shall remain sealed until opened by tellers appointed by the President at the elections during the Annual Meeting. In the event of a tie in voting for any Officer or Director position, the President casts a deciding vote in favor of one of those candidates involved in the tie vote.

- (d) Nominations cannot be made at the Annual Meeting or in any other manner than that provided in this section.
- (e) If no valid additional nominations are received by the Corresponding Secretary on or before December 30<sup>th</sup>, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the time of the Annual Meeting, and no balloting will be required.

## **Article 5**

### **Committees**

#### **Section 1.**

Standing Committees: Standing committees, Subject to the approval by a majority of the Board, Chairpersons of the Standing Committees are to be appointed each year at the Annual Meeting by the President, may include but not be limited to following American Kennel Club approved events;(a) Field Trial; (b) Walking Field Trial; (c) Hunting Test; (d) Obedience; (e) Agility; (f) Show; (g) Rescue; and (h) Rally.

The Chairpersons shall attend the Board of Directors meetings but are ineligible to vote at these meetings. They shall be vested with authority for promotion and operation of all shows, trials or events given by the Club, including the appointment of committee members, but they shall be limited in this authority by conducting shows, trials or events on dates and locations approved by the Board of Directors.

Chairpersons will be accountable to the Treasurer for such funds as they handle. All funds for all committees shall be deposited with the Club Treasurer. A request for an advance payment of no more than \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) total to cover expenses for a specific Club event may be provided to the Chairperson by the Club Treasurer if approved in advance by a majority of the Board of Directors. All Standing Committee Chairpersons will be required to file reports and records of their events within two (2) weeks of the event with the Recording Secretary; and financial reports (including receipts for all expenditures) with the Club Treasurer and President. Copies of all The American Kennel Club Show and Trial forms will be included with the reports to the Recording

Secretary. All funds collected must be forwarded to the Club Treasurer within five (5) days of the event.

- a) The Field Trial Chairperson shall appoint a Field Trial Secretary; organize a Field Trial Committee and promote no less than two (2) American Kennel Club Field Trial during tenure of office.
- b) The Walking Field Trial Chairperson shall appoint a Walking Field Trial Secretary; organize a Walking Field Trial Committee and promote no less than one (1) American Kennel Club Walking Field Trial during tenure of office.
- c) The Hunt Test Chairperson shall appoint a Hunt Test Secretary; organize a Hunt Test Committee and promote no less than two (2) American Kennel Club Hunt Tests during tenure of office.
- d) The Obedience Chairperson shall organize an Obedience Committee to promote American Kennel Club Obedience and Tracking Competitions as well as Canine Good Citizenship evaluations.
- e) The Agility Chairperson shall organize an Agility Committee to promote American Kennel Club Agility Competitions.
- f) The Specialty Show Chairperson(s) shall organize a Show Committee for the conduct of the Specialty Show(s); promote no less than one (1) American Kennel Club Specialty Show during tenure of office.
- g) The Rescue Chairperson shall organize a Rescue Committee; and shall aid in the rescue and re-homing of German Shorthaired Pointers and to help with educating the public on the true nature of the breed, dog ownership and any other fields of interest that they feel might benefit rescue during tenure of office.
- h) The Rally Chairperson shall organize a Rally Committee; and shall promote no less than one (1) Rally event during tenure of office

## **Section 2.**

**Auditing Committee:** The President shall appoint a three (3) member Auditing Committee (one of whom is designated Chairperson) subject to approval by the Board of Directors at the September Board Meeting. The Auditing Committee shall examine all accounts of the Club as to receipts and disbursements, and shall report the result of this examination to the Club at the Annual Meeting.

## **Section 3.**

**Special Committees:** Chairpersons of Special Committees may also be appointed by the President subject to approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Special Committees may include but are not limited to the Membership Chairperson; and committees to run important Club events such as the Splash-In; Dual Day; Training Day and the Club Championship.

#### **Section 4.**

Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board of Directors upon written notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

### **Article 6**

#### **Discipline**

##### **Section 1.**

The 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 Club member, Board member or Committee Event member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the Breed with the understanding that if it is a Board member that prefers the charges said Board member will not be able to sit in judgment but rather as a complainant. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Corresponding Secretary with ten (\$10) dollars to be deposited in the Club's Treasury. These ten (\$10) dollars shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board or a Committee following a hearing. The Corresponding 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 of 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 or a Committee of not less than three (3) members of the Board, not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks afterwards. The Corresponding 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 or her own defense and bring witnesses if so desired.

##### **Section 3.**

Board Hearing. The Board or Committee shall advise both parties that counsel may be present at the hearing in an advisory capacity only. 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 or Committee may by a majority vote of those present suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing or from the date of the next Club meeting. 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 recommendations of the Board or Committee. Immediately after the Board or Committee has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Corresponding Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the decision and penalty, if any.

#### **Section 4.**

Expulsion. Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished at any regular meeting of the Club or at a special meeting expressly for the purpose, due notice being given, following a hearing and upon the recommendation of the Board or Committee as provided in Section 3 of this Article. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his or her own behalf though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his or her own behalf. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the suspension shall stand.

### **Article 7**

#### **Amendments**

##### **Section 1**

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by the written petition addressed to the Corresponding Secretary signed by twenty (20) percent 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 Corresponding Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Corresponding Secretary.

##### **Section 2.**

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any time provided a copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed by the Corresponding Secretary to each member who is in good standing on the date of the mailing, accompanied by a ballot on which the member may indicate his or her choice for or against the action to be taken. The notice shall specify a date not less than 30 days after the date of mailing by which date the ballots must be returned to the Secretary to be counted, The favorable vote of 2/3 of the members in good standing who return valid ballots within the time limit shall be required to effect any such amendment.

##### **Section 3.**

No amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws that is adopted by the Club shall become effective until it has been approved by the Board of Directors of the American Kennel Club.

## **Article 8**

### **Dissolution**

#### **Section 1.**

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, other than for the 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 by the Board of Directors.

## **Article 9**

### **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:

- Call to Order
- Minutes of the last Club Meeting
- Reports of Officers
  - President
  - Corresponding Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Delegate to the American Kennel Club
- Reports of Committees
  - Field Trial
  - Walking Field Trial
  - Hunt Test
  - Obedience
  - Show
  - Rescue
  - Special Committees (Membership, Chairman, Splash In, Dual Day, etc.)
  - Auditing (at Annual Meeting)
- Election of Officers and Board (at Annual Meeting)
- Election of new Members
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

#### **Section 2.**

At a meeting of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

Call to Order  
Reading of the minutes of the last meeting  
Reports of Officers  
    President  
    Corresponding Secretary  
    Treasurer  
    Delegate to the American Kennel Club

Reports of the Committees  
    Field Trial  
    Walking Field Trial  
    Hunt Test  
    Obedience  
    Show  
    Rescue  
    Special Committees  
    New Jersey Federation of Dog Clubs Delegate  
Election of New Members  
Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Adjournment

### **Section 3.**

Any Officer, Board Member, or Committee Chairperson not attending a regular Club meeting shall notify the Corresponding Secretary prior to the meeting, and any report he or she wishes presented at said regular meeting shall be presented by the Corresponding Secretary.

## **Article 10**

### **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 other special rules of order the Club may adopt.