

Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of Eastern Canada

CONSTITUTION

Constitution :: By-laws :: Code of Ethics

05.10.2009 Revision 1a

Revised November 2001

Revised November 17, 2002

To comply with the rules and regulations of the Canadian Kennel Club to have at least one Director from all provinces under the jurisdictions of the RRCEC



Section I - Name

1.1 The name of this Club shall be "The Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of Eastern Canada" hereinafter referred to as the "RRCEC".

1.2 The official publication of the RRCEC is the "Ridgeback Roster", hereinafter referred to as the "Roster"

Section II - Insignia and Certificates

2.1 The insignia in the header hereof shall be the insignia of the RRCEC.

2.2. The RRCEC shall offer Register of Merit Certificates (ROM) to those members whose dogs or bitches have produced the required amount of champions.

Section II - Affiliation

3.1 The RRCEC shall operate in co-operation with the Canadian Kennel Club.

3.2 The RRCEC and the members thereof shall abide by the Rules, Regulations and Code of Ethics as set down by the Canadian Kennel Club.

Section IV - Objectives

The objectives of the RRCEC shall be:

4.1 to be guardians of the Breed Standard for the Rhodesian Ridgeback in Canada as set down for the Canadian Kennel Club by the registered Rhodesian Ridgeback Clubs in Canada.

4.2 to advocate, develop and ensure the humane treatment of the Rhodesian Ridgeback as a companion by promoting a clear understanding of the breed through education of its members and the public at large.

4.3 to promote activities that encompass the versatility of the Rhodesian Ridgeback including but not limited to conformation, obedience, agility and lure coursing.

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Section V - Area of Operation

5.1 The area of operation of the Club shall be the Dominion of Canada from the Atlantic Coast to the Western Ontario border.

Section VI - Revision of the Constitution

6.1 The Constitution and by-Laws may be amended by a majority of two-thirds (2/3) vote of all valid ballots returned by Club members in good standing.

6.2 Non Returned Ballots - If the member has not indicated the choice for an item the vote will be counted in favor of the item

6.3 Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Secretary with the names of the proposer and seconder to be published in the Roster

6.4 If required, once a year the Secretary shall prepare and mail ballots to all members in good standing. Ballots shall be returned to the Secretary, postmarked within thirty (30) days of the original mailing. The secretary shall mark the mailing date on all ballots and envelopes.

6.5 The results of all official voting will become effective immediately and will be published in the Roster.

Section VII - Dissolution

7.1 The RRCEC may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing.

7.2 In the event of dissolutions of the RRCEC whether voluntary or involuntary, none of the property of the RRCEC nor any proceeds thereof, or any assets of the RRCEC shall be distributed to any members of the RRCEC, but after payment of the debts of the RRCEC, its property and assets shall be given to a charity organization for the benefit of dogs as selected by the Executive of the RRCEC.

Section VIII - RRCEC Status: Not for Profit

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

BY - LAWS

Article I - Membership

1.1 The membership year of the RRCEC shall be the calendar year.

1.2 Membership in the RRCEC shall be open to any person or persons over the age of eighteen (18) years of age who agree to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws and Code of Ethics of the RRCEC.

1.3 Classes of Membership

1.3.1 SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: Shall be open to persons residing in Canada

1.3.2 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: Shall be open to two (2) persons residing in Canada

1.3.3. LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Shall be open to all single members and family members who have attained twenty-five (25) years or more consecutive membership in the RRCEC. Such membership shall be automatic and no further dues shall be paid by a Life Member. A Life Member shall retain all voting and election privileges.

1.3.4 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: Shall be granted to individuals by reason of appreciated contribution to the RRCEC. This form of membership carries no dues, shall carry no voting or election privileges and shall be bestowed annually.

1.3.5 FOREIGN MEMBERSHIP: Shall be open to persons of any other county. This form of membership carries no voting or election privileges.

1.4 Only those Single Members, Family Members and Life Members in good standing as of April 30th shall be entitled to vote, be eligible to move or second a nomination, be nominated, vote, stand for election, and/or be elected as an officer/director of the RRCEC.

1.5 New Membership: Membership application forms for the current calendar year shall be completed, signed and dated by the applicant(s) and such application shall be submitted, accompanied by the appropriate dues payment, to the Treasurer of the RRCEC. The application will be forwarded to the Executive for approval.

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Applications received after the 15th day of October and approved by the Executive will automatically apply to the following calendar year.

1.6 Membership Renewal: Membership renewal forms for the pending calendar year shall be completed, signed and dated by the existing member(s) and shall be submitted, accompanied by the appropriate dues payment, to the Treasurer of the RRCEC before the end of February. Members failing to remit dues before the last day of February will have their membership privileges cease.

1.7 Any member in good standing may resign from the RRCEC upon written notice to the secretary, such resignation shall not be accepted if there is any indebtedness due and owing from the said member of the RRCEC...

1.8 Any member of the RRCEC having been suspended or expelled from the Canadian Kennel Club shall be automatically suspended/expelled from the RRCEC. Members having been suspended/expelled from any other dog Club shall have their membership reviewed by the RRCEC.

1.9 Expulsion of a member for behaviour that is considered to be detrimental to the Rhodesian Ridgeback, the RRCEC, or any of its members, will be contemplated upon written submission to the Executive by the complainant, together with a fee as determined under Section 4.3 of the By-Laws. The Executive shall convene to determine the validity of the complaint. The defendant and complainant will be called upon to appear before the Executive to present a verbal and written explanation of their behaviour. Should the Executive find the defendant's explanation unacceptable, a Recommendation for Discipline in the matter, via secret ballot, will be placed before the general membership. Resolution of the matter will be decided upon by majority vote of returned ballots. Should the complaint be upheld the fee will be refunded.

Article II- Organization

2.1 Officers: The officers of the RRCEC shall be : President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer.

2.2 Executive: The Executive of the RRCEC shall consist of the above noted officers together with seven (7)** Directors and the immediate Past President. Further Director positions may be established as the membership may determine at the Annual General Meeting and the names taken from the published list of nominees in the September Roster.

2.3 All officers and directors shall be elected to a two (2) year term.

2.4 The immediate Past President shall be a non-voting member of the Executive.

2.5 Board of Directors: The Board of Directors of the RRCEC shall consist of the Officers and Directors.

2.6 Committees: The Board of Directors of the RRCEC shall be struck by the Board of Directors as required.

2.7 Duties of Officers:

2.7.1 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club. The President shall vote only in case of a tie.

2.7.2 The Vice-President shall have the powers and exercise the duties of the President in case of the President's absence, incapacity or resignation.

2.7.3 The Secretary shall keep records of all proceedings and meetings and all business of the RRCEC. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence pertaining to the affairs and business of the RRCEC shall remain the property of the RRCEC

2.7.4 The Treasurer shall keep the current account in the name of the RRCEC which will be opened with a Chartered Bank or Trust Company approved by the Executive and the Treasurer will deposit therein all monies received on behalf of the RRCEC.

2.8 Nominations

2.8.1 A notice shall be published in the June Roster asking for nominations from the members. The names of the nominee, proposer and seconder shall be mailed to the Secretary for publication in the September issue of the Roster.

2.8.2 If no nominations are received, the President shall select a Nomination Committee consisting of three (3) members. The Nomination Committee shall solicit names of members who are willing to stand for election. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall notify the Secretary of all nominations received. The slate of nominees shall be published in the Roster.

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2.9 Elections

2.9.1 The Secretary shall mail to each voting member a suitable ballot or election of officers. A family membership shall receive two (2) ballots. Ballots shall be returned to the Secretary. The member receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected to that office. The results will be published in the Roster, following the A.G.M.

2.9.2 When only one member is standing for election and no further nominations are received, that member shall be elected by acclamation.

2.9.3 No member may be elected to more than one office.

2.9.4 The time between the mailing of the ballots and the close of voting shall be not less than three (3) full weeks prior to the AGM.

2.9.5 The Secretary shall be empowered to destroy all marked election ballots on December 31st next following the election.

2.10 Assumption of Office

Assumption of Office shall begin immediately after the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting and shall continue for a period of two (2) years.

2.11 Removal from Office

Failure of an Officer to attend meetings without good cause shall necessitate the replacement of the Officer by appointment of a member, in good standing, to the said Officer's position by majority vote of the Executive.

2.12 Filling of Vacancies

The Executive shall have the power to fill any vacancy which may occur during the term of office by appointment of a member, in good standing, to a vacant position by a majority vote of the Executive.

2.13 Notice of Executive Change

The Secretary of the RRCEC will ensure that the Canadian Kennel Club is advised within thirty (30) days, in writing, of any changes to the Executive of the RRCEC.

Article III - Meetings

3.1 General Meetings

The RRCEC may conduct general meetings on a day and at a time and place to be specified through a "Notice of Meeting" in the Roster.

3.2 Annual General Meeting

3.2.1 The annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be on such a date after October 1st as designated by the Executive.

3.2.2 A quorum for the AGM shall consist of no less than 10% of the eligible voting membership

3.2.3 The results of the election of the Officers and Directors of RRCEC shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

3.3 Executive Meetings

Executive Meetings shall be called as the need arises.

3.4 Special Meetings

Special RRCEC meetings may be called on the written request of at least three (3) members of the Executive. Such special meetings shall be held at such a place, date and hour as may be designated by the members authorized herein to call such meeting. Written or Verbal Notice of such a Special Meeting shall be given by the secretary at least five (5) days prior to the date of the Special Meeting and said Notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business of the RRCEC may be transacted.

3.5 Quorum

A Quorum for Executive Meetings shall consist of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the elected Executive Members.

3.6 Order of Business

The Order of Business shall be as follows:

(i) Roll Call

(ii) Reading of Minutes

(iii) Reports of Officers

(iv) Reading of Correspondence

(v) Business arising out of the correspondence

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Article IV - Finance

4.1 Financial Year

The Financial Year of the RRCEC shall commence on the 1st day of October and shall terminate on the 30th day of September of the following year.

4.2 Dues

Dues shall be set annually at the Annual General Meeting

4.3 Fees

Fees shall be established for Section 1.9 of the By-Laws by the Executive on an annual basis and published in the Roster.

4.4 Budget

All officers and committees will submit a budget to the Executive for approval by January 1st following the AGM

4.5 Remuneration of Officers

Holding office with the RRCEC is strictly on a voluntary basis and remuneration will not be forthcoming.

4.6 Banking

The Treasurer shall keep a current account in the name of the RRCEC which will be opened with a Chartered Bank or Trust Company approved by the Executive, and the Treasurer will deposit therein all monies received on behalf of the RRCEC..

4.7 Authorization of Expenditures

4.7.1 Proper accounting of all purchases with official receipts shall be maintained by the Treasurer

4.7.2 All single expenses over \$100 shall be approved by the Executive prior to expenditure.

4.7.3 All requests for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses are to be submitted on an RRCEC Expense Form and approval by two (2) officers of the RRCEC.

4.8 Signing of Cheques

All cheques shall be co-signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by one other authorized Board Member of the RRCEC Executive, who is not related.

4.9 Audit

Ledgers, Disbursements, Assets and Accounts shall be available for inspection by the Auditors at any time, and the Treasurer shall present a full and complete Financial Statement at the Annual General Meeting. After approval the Financial Statement at the Annual General Meeting, a copy of the said Financial Statement will be published in the ensuing issue of the Roster.

Article V - Legal

5.1 Signing Officers

Signing Officers of the RRCEC shall be the Treasurer and two (2) of the Executive as agreed to by the Board.

5.2 Any document requiring the official endorsement of the RRCEC shall be deemed to have been duly signed when it bears the recognized signature of the President and one other Executive Officer.

5.3 Inspection

All records of the RRCEC will be available for inspection at any time upon a written request and in the presence of two (2) members of the Board.

5.4 Acquisition of Property and Goods:

Property, in any way, shape or manner, purchased on behalf of the RRCEC until dissolution.

Article VI - Procedures

6.1 All meetings of the RRCEC and of its governing bodies and all other matters of practice and procedure not otherwise specified herein shall be governed by the Common Law of Procedure of Canada. Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

Article VII - Amendment of By-Laws

7.1.1 These By-Laws may be amended by a majority two-thirds (2/3) vote by the RRCEC eligible voting members in good standing.

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7.1.2 Non-returned Ballots - If the member has not indicated the choice for an item the vote will be counted as in favour of that item.

7.1.3 Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Secretary with the names of the proposer and seconder to be published in the Roster.

7.1.4 If required, once a year the Secretary shall prepare and mail ballots to all members in good standing. Ballots shall be returned to the Secretary postmarked within thirty (30) days of the original mailing. The secretary shall mark the mailing date on all ballots and envelopes.

7.1.5 The results of all official voting will become effective immediately and will be published in the Roster.

CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics has been drawn up as a set of guidelines for owners, breeders, potential breeders and exhibitors of Rhodesian Ridgebacks. The primary intention of this document is for the education of club members and anyone else who wished to become involved in our breed. This document is not intended to supplant the knowledge, experience and good judgement of seasoned individual breeders and owners.. We can only hope that the primary motivation driving anyone's individual personal conduct with regard to our Rhodesian Ridgebacks is, of course, the long term health and well being of the dogs in their care and of any puppies that they produce.

Our foremost aim as a Club is the welfare of the Rhodesian Ridgeback and the diligent guardianship of the breed standard. Each RRCEC member, breeder, potential breeder, owner and exhibitor are duly obligated to be the guardians of the Rhodesian Ridgeback breed and Breed Standard. RRCEC members will protect the interest of the breed by conducting themselves in a manner reflecting credit upon themselves and the breed as a whole. We will encompass the breed standard and the following guidelines and principles when engaged in any activities involving the breeding, exhibiting and sale of Rhodesian Ridgebacks. The health and welfare of the Rhodesian Ridgeback and protection of the Breed standard should be of foremost importance to every breeder, potential breeder, owner and exhibitor of Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

All members in good standing will avoid any activity that will be detrimental to the best interests of the breed and the breed standard. Ethical breeder, owners and exhibitors will not intentionally engage in false or misleading advertising or any other falsifications of their Rhodesian Ridgebacks. They will not intentionally malign judges, fellow competitors or fellow Ridgeback owners by making false or misleading statements regarding their dogs, breeding practices or person.

Gross infractions fo the CKC regulations and by-laws by which all RRCEC members that are CKC members must abide, are to be presented to the appropriate CKC representatives and not the RRCEC Executive. The RRCEC Executive is not a disciplinary agent and will not intervene in personal disputes amongst individual members. The RRCEC Executive will not engage in any form of disciplinary action against any RRCEC member without written sworn affidavit evidence from the complainant to support any claims of gross infraction and then only in accordance with the RRCEC Constitution.

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GUIDELINES FOR RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK OWNERS

Ethical Rhodesian Ridgeback owners will ensure that their Rhodesian Ridgebacks are kept under sanitary conditions and given maximum health protection through fecal checks, deworming (when necessary), inoculations and an annual examination by a qualified veterinarian.

When a Rhodesian Ridgeback's life must be ended, an ethical owner will ensure a death free of pain and suffering by having a qualified veterinarian humanely perform the euthanasia.

Ethical owners will not allow their Rhodesian Ridgebacks to become a nuisance to the public, i.e. roaming free without supervision, unnecessary barking.

Rhodesian Ridgeback owners will periodically inform their breeder of their dogs welfare, development and any problems that may have arisen.

GUIDELINES FOR RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK BREEDERS

When contemplating breeding, the ethical breeder makes it their mandate to breed Rhodesian Ridgebacks of superior quality and will ensure that the offspring of such matings are placed in homes that are conducive to the lifelong welfare of the dog. They will be secure in their knowledge that the breeding stock they use represent the standard and are both mentally and physically sound, worthy of reproducing.

Ethical breeders and potential breeders will study and evaluate the virtues and weaknesses of the stud and bitch. They will educate themselves of those virtues and weaknesses which are considered genetic (inheritable). Ethical breeders will not breed dogs with defects which are likely to cause pain or suffering and /or impairment of the health of the dogs, of their offspring or be of gross disregard of the standard.. + (see last page)

Ethical breeders will have their stud and bitch x-rayed and certified to be clear of hip dysplasia by a registered authority prior to breeding.

An ethical breeder will not sell or give away Rhodesian Ridgebacks with known genetic defects except under non-breeding agreement. They will inform the new owners of all genetic and cosmetic defects that make a pup unsuitable for breeding. A neutering clause will be placed in the sales contracts of all such pups and these pups will be registered with the CKC under Non-Breeding Registrations.

The ethical breeder considers the health and growth of their bitches and refrains from breeding them too early or too late in their age, or too often. An average is considered, i.e. a minimum of 18 months of age for the first breeding of a bitch and never at the time of her first season, up to a maximum of 3 litters. Breeding a bitch beyond 6 years of age should only be done on the advice of a qualified veterinarian.

An ethical breeder breeds only purebred, CKC REGISTERED Rhodesian Ridgebacks that have been bred from show quality stock. Members residing in countries other than Canada ethically follow the registration policies of their respective countries.

An ethical breeder will accurately register their Rhodesian Ridgeback puppies and keep

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An ethical breeder will accurately register their Rhodesian Ridgeback puppies and keep correct records of matings and pedigrees. No registration will be sold separately from the dog. Each new owner will be provided with a written guarantee for every pup sold ensuring that the pup has had its initial immunization shots from a qualified veterinary doctor, that the pup is healthy, free of worms and diseases. The guarantee will cover puppy replacement for unforeseen genetic defects, i.e. hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, shoulder dysplasia, dermoid sinus, deafness, blindness, etc.

An ethical breeder does not wholesale litters, act as a broker to sell Rhodesian Ridgebacks or sell any Rhodesian Ridgeback to places such as pet dealers, catalogue houses or other sources of commercial distribution. Ethical breeders will not engage in over-breeding Rhodesian Ridgebacks for profit (i.e. every heat season till the bitch is bred out) with no regard for the quality of the offspring and the health and welfare of the bitch and/or offspring. An ethical breeder will not supply Rhodesian Ridgebacks for raffles, "give-away" prizes or similar projects. Ethical breeders will not engage in and /or encourage raising Rhodesian Ridgebacks merely as a money-making scheme.

Ethical breeders will check every new pup for dermoid sinus and will arrange at their own expense, the surgical removal of any detected dermoid sinus prior to the pup leaving for its new home or they will cull the pup from the litter. If the pup is found to have a dermoid sinus that the breeder missed on the initial examination, the breeder will arrange to have the sinus removed at the breeder's own expense and return the puppy to the new owner(s) (after convalescence) or replace the puppy with one of equal quality from another litter if the new owner(s) so wishes.

The ethical breeder sells Rhodesian Ridgeback puppies to individuals only after ensuring themselves that the new owners will give their Rhodesian Ridgeback puppy proper care. The ethical breeder will make themselves available to the new buyers for consultation before and after completion of the sale. If for any reason, the new owner(s) are no longer able to keep the dog, the breeder must arrange or assist in the arrangement of placing the dog in another home.

Ethical breeders are well informed of and follow the CKC rules. They will not transport under-aged puppies to dog shows for purpose of sale nor ever take puppies and/or dogs which have not been properly immunized to shows or club events.

GROSS DISREGARD OF THE STANDARD

overshot/undershot jaw, dysplastic hips, dermoid sinus (present or surgically removed), unacceptable ridges, ridgelessness, bad temperament.

Rhodesian Ridgeback
Club of Eastern Canada

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