

THE GORDON SETTER ASSOCIATION

Constitution and Rules

1. Name

The ASSOCIATION shall be called 'The Gordon Setter Association' (hereinafter referred to as 'The GSA')

2. Objects

The objects for which the GSA is established are:

- a) Uniting lovers of the breed, promoting the interests of the breed and upholding the standard of the Gordon Setter, as issued by the Kennel Club, amongst breeders and judges;
- b) Encouraging the working of Gordons;
- c) Helping Gordon owners & exhibitors to foster friendship among people with a common interest;
- d) To formulate Judging Lists in compliance with KC regulations and to train and educate breed judges;
- e) Organising shows and encouraging the scheduling of the breed at General Shows;
- f) Social activities;
- g) The GSA shall run for the benefit and further education of its members and not as a trading business. The surplus from any source, function and/or activity of the GSA shall be maintained and used for the benefit of its members in every aspect of Gordon Setters.

3. Membership

The GSA shall be constituted as follows:

An unlimited number of members.

Categories of Membership

These shall be:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| a) Members | b) Joint Members |
| c) Junior Members | d) Life Members |
| e) Overseas Members | |

Applicants for membership must be proposed and seconded. Proposers & seconders shall not be Joint Members. Election shall be by a majority vote of the Committee. Elected members accept as a condition of membership to agree at all times to abide by the GSA published Code of Ethics. On acceptance as a member and payment of subscription they shall be entitled to the privileges of membership and entitled to vote on all GSA matters on the basis of one vote per member, including overseas members, each member of a Joint membership shall be entitled to one vote each. Junior members (16 years or under) singly or as a member of a Joint membership shall have no voting rights, nor shall they have the right to make or accept nominations for Officials, Committee members, Judges or be eligible to propose items for the agenda of either an AGM or SGM.

Life Membership

Shall be restricted to members who have had a minimum of 10 years consecutive membership. Life membership shall at no time exceed 10% of the total membership.

The GSA will maintain a list of members and their addresses available for inspection if so requested by members of the GSA or the KC.

4. Subscriptions

The financial year shall be 1st January to 31st December. Annual subscriptions shall be voted by the members at the AGM and shall be notified to the KC. Subscriptions shall be payable by 1st February each year. During that time members with any outstanding financial debt to the GSA at the end of the year will lose all membership privileges pending an investigation which will include the member. No future show entries will be accepted from them until the matter is resolved.

5. Office Bearers and Committee

The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be members of the Committee. Whilst the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually by the membership, a Chairperson shall be appointed by the Committee from within the Committee. The Committee shall total no more than 13 in number. The Committee shall have the power to appoint sub Committees. They may also appoint such Honorary Officers, if the occasion arises, as Patrons or Life Vice Presidents. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members on to the Committee in the event of positions becoming vacant between General meetings. Any such persons so co-opted shall serve out the unexpired portion of period for which the Committee member they replaced was elected.

The President shall not hold office for more than four consecutive years. He or she shall, however be eligible for re-election in any other capacity.

The Chairperson shall not vote at Committee meetings except in the case of a split vote, in which case they shall have a casting vote.

Nominees for election to the Committee must have been fully paid up members of the GSA for five consecutive years immediately prior to nomination.

They shall be elected for a three-year period but shall be eligible for re-election. Each person must be proposed and seconded, in writing, by fully paid up members of the GSA and the nominees must indicate, in writing his/her willingness to stand for election and these documents must reach the Honorary Secretary by the date agreed by the Committee. Election shall be by postal ballot of all members entitled to vote and voting papers shall be returned to an independent scrutineer appointed by the Committee.

No Office Bearers or Committee members of the GSA shall serve as an Office Bearer or Committee member of any other Gordon Setter Breed Society, other than a Gordon Setter Field Trial Society. In accordance with the current Constitution & Rules, any Officer or Committee member of the GSA are required at all times to abide by the GSA published Code of Ethics.

Meetings of the Committee shall be held as often as may be deemed necessary and five members, one at least of whom shall be an Office Bearer, shall form a quorum for the transaction of the business.

No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society.

No person who has resigned from the committee of any Gordon Setter Breed Club shall be eligible to stand for election as an Officer or Committee member of the GSA until the unexpired portion of their previous elected tenature plus two years has expired.

6. Functions & Powers of Committee

The management of the GSA shall be vested in the Committee, which shall be responsible for organising its activities. The Committee shall have the power to invest the funds of the GSA in whatever manner it may decide for the benefit of the membership.

The Committee may, at its discretion, appoint such officials as Cup Secretary, Year book Editor, Show Manager, Show Stewards etc., whose duties and tenure of office shall be such as the Committee shall determine. Any such supernumerary official may be invited to attend and take part in (although shall not vote) on any discussion on the subject for which they have been appointed.

7. General Meetings

a) Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held as near as possible to the end of March for the following purposes:

To receive the Committee report and balance sheet;

To receive the results of the postal vote for the Office Bearers and Committee;

To discuss any resolution duly placed on the agenda of which prior notice has been given to the Honorary Secretary.

No business shall be transacted at an Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those, which in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting are urgent.

Members will receive not less than **EIGHT WEEKS notice**, by way of a notice in the weekly dog paper, Our Dogs under the Breed Notes heading, of the date of the Annual General Meeting. Items for inclusion on the Agenda, duly proposed and seconded, must be received by the Secretary at least **SIX WEEKS** prior to the date of the meeting and the Agenda will be circulated to reach members not later than **TWO WEEKS** prior to the date of the meeting.

b) Special General Meetings

A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Honorary Secretary if **TWENTY FIVE**

Members send a signed requisition, duly proposed and seconded by individual members, stating the subject to be discussed. Each signatory on the requisition notice for a SGM will pay the sum of £10 towards the cost of the meeting. In the event of the SGM not being called, or the motion being carried, monies will be refunded. The date of the SGM should normally be announced no later than thirty working days from the receipt of requisition. No business other than that detailed on the Agenda can be discussed at a Special General Meeting. The Committee of the Society is also empowered to call a Special General Meeting at its discretion.

Members will receive not less than **TWENTY-ONE DAYS** notice of a Special General Meeting specifying the business to be discussed.

The rules of the GSA may not be altered except at an AGM or SGM, notice of which includes details of the proposal to alter the rules. Such alterations shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and has given its approval of the alterations.

Proxy votes are not accepted for any voting matters in any circumstances.

8. Club Accounts

A banking account shall be opened in the name of the GSA into which all revenue will be paid and from which withdrawals shall only be made on the signatures of two officers, one of which shall be the Treasurer. The Accounts shall be kept by the Treasurer and an Auditor or Auditors appointed by the GSA shall annually certify the Accounts in advance of the Annual General Meeting. A certified copy of the Accounts shall be sent to all members with the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

Note: Certification of Accounts must be carried out by one qualified accountant.

9. GSA Property

The property of the GSA shall be vested in the Committee. In the event of the GSA ceasing to exist, all cups and trophies shall be, where possible, returned to their donors, or offered to their representatives.

10. Notice to Members & Office Bearers

a) No member or Office Bearer of the GSA shall incur any liability, financial or otherwise, in the name of the GSA. Such liabilities shall be incurred only by the secretary or Treasurer, with the authority of the committee.

b) Members shall not make use of the title 'The Gordon Setter Association' for purposes of private advertisements nor in personal letters to the press, radio or television.

c) The details of management of the GSA and proceedings are private to the GSA. No individual member shall give publicity in the press or media to matters affecting these. Official reports published by the Honorary Secretary, with the authority of the committee, are excepted from this rule.

d) All documentation, publications etc. are copyrighted and may not be re-produced without prior written permission from the GSA.

11. Expulsion of Members

Any member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42j(4) and/or any member whose dogs(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A42j(8) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the GSA for the duration of the suspension and/or disqualification.

If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the GSA be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the GSA, the Committee of the GSA may, at a meeting the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the GSA be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.

Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at the meeting, a resolution to expel is passed by a two thirds majority of the members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of members and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a member of the GSA except that he/she may, within two calendar months from the date of the meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose.

12. Appeal

The GSA acknowledges the Kennel Club as supreme authority and as the final court of Appeal in all matters of dispute.

13. Federation

The GSA shall not join any Federation of Societies or Clubs.

14. Annual Returns

The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year Maintenance of Title Fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Secretary for continuance of Registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in Kennel Club Regulation for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies, and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities be forwarded to the Kennel Club.

The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any changes of Secretary of the GSA, which may occur during the course of the year.

15. The United Gordon Setter Rehoming and Support

The GSA is a joint sponsoring body of the United Gordon Setter Rehoming and Support and as such the GSA Committee shall ensure two of its elected GSA Committee members to serve on the controlling Committee of the United Gordon Setter Rehoming and Support. This is in accordance with the rules, objectives and constitution of the United Gordon Setter Rehoming and Support.