

Valley of the Sun Weimaraner Club

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Valley of the Sun Weimaraner Club

CONSTITUTION

Article 1. Name and Objectives

Section 1. *Name.*

The name of the Club shall be VALLEY OF THE SUN WEIMARANER CLUB.

Section 2. *Objectives.*

The objectives of the Club shall be:

- (a) to provide fellowship and a forum for the care, training, and breeding of Weimaraners;
- (b) to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging good sportsmanship at competitive events and compliance with the Weimaraner Club of America's Code of Ethics;
- (c) to conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, hunting tests, field trials, and obedience trials under the rules of the American Kennel Club as well as shooting and retrieving rating tests under the rules of the Weimaraner Club of America.

BYLAWS

Article 2. Membership

Section 1. *Eligibility.*

There shall be two (2) types of memberships, Single and Family, open to all persons 18 years of age and older who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club. Single membership admits one person to membership; Family membership admits two persons to membership.

All members are encouraged to join the Weimaraner Club of America; however, membership in the national organization is not compulsory.

Section 2. *Dues.*

Membership dues for either a Single or Family membership shall be payable on or before the first day of each fiscal year. Dues shall be in such an amount as deemed reasonable and prudent by the Board of Directors, and such annual dues shall be subject to the consent of not less than two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the membership in good standing.

No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current fiscal year.

Section 3. *Election to Membership.*

Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form that has been approved by the Board of Directors. The application shall state that the applicant agrees to abide by this Club's Constitution and Bylaws and by the rules of the American Kennel Club, and it shall carry the endorsement of two (2) members.

Membership applications received during the fiscal year shall be accompanied by dues in the amount that shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Applicants may be elected at any meeting of the Club. Affirmative votes of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the members present at a meeting shall be required to elect an applicant.

Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the club may not reapply within six (6) months after such rejection.

Section 4. *Termination of membership.*

Membership may be terminated in the following ways:

- (a) **Resignation.** Any member may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Secretary.
- (b) **Lapsing.** A membership will be considered as lapsed if dues remain unpaid thirty (30) days after the first day of the fiscal year. Membership will be automatically reinstated, however, if dues are paid within the following sixty (60) days.
- (c) **Expulsion.** A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article 8 of these Bylaws.

Article 3. Voting and Meetings

Section 1. *Voting.*

Each member in good standing—that is, whose dues are paid for the current year and who has attended two (2) meetings in the previous 12-month period—shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club at which he or she is present.

A Teller's Committee of three (3), not to include more than one Officer or Director, shall be appointed by the President at the election of Officers. Any member may request that a Teller's Committee be appointed for any vote at any meeting.

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

Section 2. *Club Meetings.*

Meetings of the Club shall be held in the greater Phoenix area on the second Thursday of each month at an hour and place designated by the Board of Directors.

Notice of meetings shall be sent at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting.

The quorum for such meetings shall be twenty percent (20%) of the voting membership in good standing.

Section 3. *Special Club Meetings.*

Special club meetings may be called in any of the following ways:

- (a) by the President;
- (b) by a majority of the members of the Board; or
- (c) by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by ten (10) members of the club who are in good standing.

Special meetings shall be held at an hour and place designated by the person or persons who call the meeting.

Notice of such meetings shall be sent to all members at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other club business may be transacted.

The quorum for such meetings shall be twenty percent (20%) of the voting membership in good standing.

Section 4. *Board Meetings.*

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the greater Phoenix area on the second Thursday of each month at an hour and place designated by the Board of Directors.

Notice of meetings shall be sent at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting.

The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

Section 5. *Special Board Meetings.*

Special meetings of the Board may be called by either the President or by four members of the Board.

Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Phoenix area at an hour and place designated by the person or persons who call the meeting.

Notice of such meetings shall be sent to all members of the Board at least five (5) days and not more than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. Such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other Club business shall be transacted.

A quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

Article 4. Directors and Officers

Section 1. *Board of Directors.*

General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) Directors. They shall be elected for one-year terms as provided in Article 6 or they shall serve until their successors are elected.

Section 2. *Officers.*

The Club's officers shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

(a) **President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally associated with the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these Bylaws, as well as all other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

(b) **Vice President.** The Vice President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's absence, incapacity, or death, as well as all other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

(c) **Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. He or she shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify Officers and Directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

(d) **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club. He or she shall deposit the same in a bank approved by the Board, in the name of the Club. The books shall be open to inspection by the Board at all times and, at every meeting, the Treasurer shall report the condition of the Club's finances and every item

of receipt or payment not before reported. At the annual meeting, the Treasurer shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the previous year.

The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.

During the month of November, the Treasurer shall send each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year.

Section 3. *Vacancies.*

Any Board vacancies occurring during the year shall be filled, for the unexpired term of office, by a majority vote of the Board members at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy.

Article 5. Club Year and Annual Meeting

Section 1. *Club Year.*

The Club's year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the thirty-first day of December.

Section 2. *Annual Meeting.*

The annual meeting shall be held in the month of January.

At this meeting, the Directors and Officers for the coming year shall be elected by secret written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Article 6.

The Officers and Directors will take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election. At the annual meeting, each retiring officer shall turn over to his or her successor all properties and records relating to that office. If unable to attend the meeting, he or she shall deliver the properties and records to a member who will attend the meeting.

Article 6. Nominations and Elections

Section 1. *Nominations.*

No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated.

Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Article.

- (a) **Committee Nominations.** At the September Board meeting, the Board shall elect a Nominating Committee consisting of a Chairman and two alternates, not more than one of who shall be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall immediately notify Committee members and alternates of their selection.

The Committee shall meet before the regular October meeting. The Committee shall nominate one (1) candidate for each office and three (3) candidates for the Director positions. After securing the consent of each person so nominated, the Chairman shall notify the Board of Directors in writing.

Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall, at least by October 31st, notify all Club members in writing of the candidates.

- (b) **Floor Nominations.** Additional nominations may be made at the November meeting by any member in attendance with the following provisions: (a) the person so nominated does not decline when his or her name is proposed; and (b) if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the proposer shall present the Secretary with a

written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his or her willingness to be a candidate.

No person may be a candidate for more than one office. The additional nominations may be made only from among those members who were not nominated by the Nominating Committee or who declined such nomination. However, no person who has declined the Committee's nomination may be nominated for the same position.

Section 2. *Elections.*

The person receiving the largest number of votes for each position shall be declared elected. If any nominee, at the time of the meeting is unable to serve for any reason, such nominee shall not be elected and the vacancy so created, shall be filled by the new Board of Directors in the manner provided in Article 4, Section 3.

Article 7. Committees

Section 1. *Appointment.*

Each year, the Board may appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows, field trials, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership, and other fields that may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects.

Section 2. *Termination.*

Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board upon written notice to the appointee and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose service has been terminated.

Article 8. Discipline

Section 1. *American Kennel Club Suspension.*

Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period.

Section 2. *Charges.*

Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed. Written charges with specifications must be presented in duplicate to the Secretary or any other member of the Board, together with a deposit of fifty dollars (\$50.00), which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained. The person receiving the charge shall notify the other members of the Board by telephone or in writing within three (3) days. The Board shall fix a date for the Board hearing not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. Within three (3) days after the date has been set, the Secretary or another member of the Board shall send one copy of the charges to the accused member by certified mail, together with a notice of the Board hearing and an assurance that the Defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if he or she wishes.

Section 3. *Board Hearing.*

The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both Complainant and Defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard.

Should charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by Complainant and Defendant, the Board may by a majority vote of those present, suspend the Defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing.

If the Board deems that suspension is insufficient punishment, 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 or her fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting that considers the Board's recommendation.

Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary who shall, within three (3) days, notify each of the parties by certified mail of the Board's decision and penalty, if any.

Section 4. *Expulsion.*

Expulsion of a member of 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 120 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The Defendant shall have the privilege of appearing on his or her own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting.

The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendations and shall invite the Defendant, if present, to speak on his or her own behalf. The members present shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) 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 9. Amendments

Section 1. *Proposals.*

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws 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 recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for a vote within four (4) months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

Section 2. *Voting.*

The Constitution and Bylaws may be may be amended by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the members in good standing and voting at any meeting provided the proposed amendments have been included in the meeting notice and sent by the Secretary to each member at last two (2) weeks prior to the date of the voting.

Section 3. *Notification.*

The American Kennel Club shall promptly be advised of all amendments to the Constitution that are adopted by the Club.

Article 10. Dissolution

Section 1. *Dissolution.*

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the members in good standing. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, whether voluntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the Club or any proceeds thereof nor any assets of the Club shall be distributed to any member of the Club. After payment of the Club's debts, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization selected by the Board of Directors, for the benefit of dogs.

Article 11. Order of Business

Section 1. *Club Meetings.*

At meetings of the Club, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

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

Section 2. *Board Meetings.*

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

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

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