

Vereinigter CanAm Deutsch Kurzhaar Klub

BY-LAWS

As adopted by the Members on 15 November 2006

Revised by the Members on 5 January 2007

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

Section 1 – NAME AND REGISTERED ADDRESS

- A. The name of this organization is the *Vereinigter CanAm Deutsch Kurzhaar Klub* hereinafter referred to as “VCDKK”. The VCDKK is an affiliate club of the *Deutsch-Kurzhaar-Verband, e.V.*, hereinafter referred to as “DKV”. The VCDKK will be a member club of the *Jagdgebrauchshund Verband, e.V.*, hereinafter referred to as “JGHV”, if admitted.
- B. The VCDKK’s registered address is Selma, Alabama, USA. It is registered in the State of Alabama.

Section 2 - PURPOSE. The purposes of this club are to:

- A. promote and improve the Deutsch-Kurzhaar (DK) breed in accordance with the principles originated by the DKV,
- B. provide well-performing and reliable DK for the foot hunter that will be utilized for sportsman-like hunting in conformity with federal, state and provincial hunting, conservation and animal protection laws. Such DK will be developed through recommended breeding programs as set forth by the DKV.
- C. VCDKK seeks to achieve its objectives through the following actions:
 - sponsor training seminars and hunting performance tests following the regulations of the DKV and JGHV, which are designed to evaluate all hunting qualities of the DK and other versatile hunting dogs with a FCI-recognized and VDH-registered pedigree.
 - sponsor Zuchtshau (conformation show) to evaluate the conformation of the DK against the DKV standards.
 - familiarize hunters and the public with the history, use and characteristics of the DK, and support the efforts of other versatile hunting dog breeding and testing organizations that are members of the JGHV.
 - promote the importance of wildlife preservation through education of club members and the public.
 - Submit motions recommending eligible members, breeders and handlers possessing outstanding service records for merit awards to the DKV and JGHV. The Executive Committee may confer VCDKK merit awards separate from DKV and JGHV merit awards.
 - Creating a positive public image of the versatile hunting dog movement.
- D. When profits are incurred, these may only be used for purposes as defined in the VCDKK’s Bylaws.
- E. All service of elected, appointed, committee and other volunteer positions in the VCDKK is performed in an honorary capacity. Compensation or reimbursement is limited to repayment of cash expenditures.

Section 3 - ORGANIZATION. The organization shall consist of:

- A. A Board of Directors (Board) shall consist of the Officers elected by the membership. The board shall have responsibility for the operation and continuance of the VCDKK. The Board may expand its size by establishing one or more Regional Chapters.

- a. The Board, as the executive policy-making group, shall have responsibility for interpretation of the VCDKK Bylaws.
 - b. The Board shall make recommendations to the membership regarding matters that are outside its vested authority established in the Bylaws.
- B. The Executive Committee consists of the officers and shall be responsible for the administration of the VCDKK, under the direction of the Board. The Executive Committee shall consist of (1) a President, (2) a Vice-President, (3) a Secretary, (4) a Treasurer and (5) a Breed Warden. The Board may combine Executive Committee officer positions whenever it deems appropriate.
- C. The Executive Committee shall be considered the operating committee charged with the day-to-day functions of the VCDKK and will establish operating procedures as it deems appropriate. The Executive Committee will carry out the policies set forth by the Board. All Board members are to receive all Executive Committee meeting agendas and minutes. Responsibilities include, but not limited to:
- a. PRESIDENT:
 - i. Call and preside over all meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee.
 - ii. Preside at all national meetings of the membership and call said meetings in the manner provided herein.
 - iii. Recommend candidates for interim appointments to national office should vacancies occur.
 - iv. Appoint committee chairpersons from the membership dealing with VCDKK activities.
 - v. Be the official spokesperson for the VCDKK.
 - b. VICE-PRESIDENT:
 - i. In the event of the Presidents absence, disability or disqualification, the Vice-President shall perform all duties of the President.
 - ii. Attend and participate in all meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board.
 - iii. If both the President and the Vice President are absent or unable to perform their duties, the Board shall appoint a President, pro tempore.
 - c. TREASURER:
 - i. Be responsible for the financial affairs of the VCDKK, including but not limited to maintaining the club bank account, receiving membership dues, seminar and test fees and dispersing funds.
 - ii. Prepare, interpret and disseminate budgets and periodic financial reports to the Board, which after approval by the Board, will be published for the membership at least annually.
 - iii. Attend and participate in all meetings of the Executive Committee and Board.
 - d. SECRETARY:
 - i. Be responsible for the minutes of all meetings of Board, Executive Committee and the national membership meeting of the VCDKK.
 - ii. Attend and participate in all meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board.
 - iii. Maintain all club records and conduct club correspondence.
 - iv. Oversee election process.
 - e. BREED WARDEN:
 - i. Advise, consult with, and assist any member who is interested in breeding and registering his/her DK.
 - ii. Answer, or get answers from the DKV, to questions from members regarding the DKV breeding program.
 - iii. Approve and organize all Zuchtschau (Conformation Evaluation Shows)
 - iv. Process necessary DKV forms related to breeding and Zuchtschau.

- v. Coordinate the Hip Dysplasia program.
- D. CHAPTERS: There may be Chapters established within Canada and the United States of America, with the number and boundaries determined by the Board before each election to fairly represent the distribution of the membership. Chapter Directors shall be elected from and by the VCDKK membership from within the chapter boundaries. Executive Committee officers may serve collaterally as a Chapter Director, but will only get one vote as a board member.
- a. CHAPTER DIRECTORS: The Chapter Directors shall perform the following:
 - i. Serve as a member of the Board and actively represent the Chapter at all Board meetings.
 - ii. Development and maintain chapter programs.
 - iii. Appoint chapter positions corresponding with VCDKK officers and appointed positions respective responsibilities.
- E. APPOINTED POSITIONS: Positions reporting to the President shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Board, shall consist of, but not limited to: Director of Testing, Director of Judge Development, Director of Promotions, and Director of Communications. Board members may serve collaterally in these positions. General responsibilities:
- a. Director of Testing:
 - i. Approves all tests and judging assignments.
 - ii. Submits all required test documents to the DKV and JGHV.
 - b. Director of Judge Development:
 - i. Develops the uniformity of judging standards and judge continuing education, including Judging Seminars.
 - ii. Manages the judge apprentice program.
 - c. Director of Promotions
 - i. Organize material and activities to promote the VCDKK and DKV to prospective new members and the general public.
 - d. Director of Communications:
 - i. Publishes membership news bulletin four (4) times a year and mails and/or emails a copy to each member. Members who submit the additional fee specified by the Board will also receive the *Kurzhaar Blaetter* (DKV quarterly publication).
 - ii. Develops and maintains an internet web site.
- F. VACANCIES: In the event of a vacancy caused by death, resignation, removal for cause, or otherwise, in the Executive Committee or a Chapter Director, the Board shall fill by appointment by majority vote such vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term of the office. The Board shall give consideration to, but is not limited to, candidates nominated by the President, . For Regional Directors, the Board shall consider only candidates from the Chapter.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Section 1 – MEMBERSHIP:

- A. At least $\frac{3}{4}$ (75%) of the club members must be hunters. The this ratio will be monitored
- B. Subject to the maintenance of the $\frac{3}{4}$ of members being hunters;, any person may join VCDKK, provided they:
 - a. Apply for membership utilizing the approved application form and submitting the membership dues.
 - b. Agree in writing to abide by these bylaws and declare if they are a hunter or not..
 - c. A member’s Chapter affiliation shall be the choice of the member once each year by notifying the Secretary.

- C. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP: The Board shall have authority to grant Honorary Life Membership in the VCDKK. Such authority may be exercised in recognition of certain members who have made substantial contributions to the organization and/or continuation of VCDKK. Such membership will entitle such an Honorary Life Member to all rights and privileges of a member and will not require further payment of membership dues.
- D. PAID LIFE MEMBERSHIP: The Board shall have the authority to establish the criteria for Paid Life Membership.
- E. MAINTENANCE OF MEMBERSHIP: A member must make payment if the annual dues within forty-five (45) days of when due to maintain membership. Thereafter, the individual must apply for reinstatement of membership.
- F. SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION: Members may be suspended or expelled from VCDKK for good reason. "Good Reason", is defined as any action of the member considered by the Board to be detrimental to the best interest of the VCDKK. A member may be suspended or expelled by two-thirds vote of Board.
- G. NONDISCRIMINATION: The qualification for membership or for holding office or appointed position will be without regard to age, sex, religion, natural origin or other factors prohibited by law.

Section 2 - ELIGIBILITY AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND CHAPTER DIRECTORS

- A. ELIGIBILITY: Any member in good standing on 1 September of the election year is eligible to vote and will receive an election ballot. Any member in good standing on 1 August of the election year is eligible to hold Office or Chapter Director positions.
- B. TERMS OF OFFICE: All Officers and Chapter Directors shall be for a two (2) year period and shall run from January 1 of the first year, through December 31 of the second year.
- C. ELECTION:
 - a. Prior to January 1, in even years (divisible by two (2)), Officers and Regional Directors shall be elected by mail ballot. The elections shall be popular vote and a majority of those voting shall be necessary to elect in each case.
 - b. A Nominating Committee of at least three (3) non-director members shall be appointed by the President. The President will designate a Chairperson of the Committee. The committee will solicit nominations from the membership also give consideration to others it considers qualified. The committee members may not nominate themselves. Consideration should be given to presenting at least two candidates when more than one is qualified. Eligible members nominated by the membership and/or by the committee by 1 August of the election year will appear on the ballot. The Secretary will send ballots with the nominations of the Committee to the members for a vote no later than 15 September. The ballots will be returned to the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee for the vote count. No ballots received with a postmark after 1 November will be counted. The election result tallies will be relayed the Executive Committee simultaneously.

Section 3 – MEETINGS & COMMUNICATION

- A. BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: There shall be at least one meeting each year in the first half of the year. A simple majority of the members of the Board or Executive Committee will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A minimum of fifteen (15) working days notice must be given to each member of the Board and Executive Committee prior to any called meeting. In the event a Board member is unable to attend a Board meeting, he/she may vote via absentee ballot or give a written proxy to another Board Member on agenda items.
- B. NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: There shall be at least one national meeting of the membership of the VCDKK each year in the first half of the year, the time and place to be designated by

the Executive Committee. National meetings shall be held for the purpose of reviewing and reporting on the VCDKK and its activities.

- C. CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS: If, and when chapters are established by the Board, there may also be chapter meetings each year, with the time and place of such meetings to be designated by the respective Chapter Director.
- D. SPECIAL MEETINGS: Special Meetings of the membership may be held at any time upon call of the Board, stating briefly the purpose thereof; provided however, notice must be given in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph E, following.
- E. NOTICE OF MEETINGS: Notice of national or chapter meetings of the membership shall be given to each member. Notice of time and place of such meetings, in addition, notice of special meetings shall briefly state the purpose thereof.
- F. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE: All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rule of Order. The parliamentary business of the VCDKK may be conducted by the Secretary through correspondence and through the News Bulletin, to canvas the opinions of the membership and to frame appropriate motions to be present to the Board, or if appropriate, to the membership.
- G. COMMUNICATION. Except where otherwise specified in these bylaws, communication may be made using electronic documents and transmitted using e-mail. Such communication includes, but is not limited to New Bulletins, Meeting notices and minutes, and Executive Committee and Board votes.

Section 4 - DUES AND FEES

- A. Annual membership dues shall be established by the Board and communicated to the membership annually. They are due and payable January 1st of each year. Membership renewal dues will be delinquent after February 15th, and if not paid, the member will be considered to have withdrawn. New members joining the club between January 1st and December 31st of the following year will pay the full annual dues. Dues are not pro-rated. New members joining and paying full dues between November 1st and December 31st will be paid through December 31st of the following year.
- B. Seminar, Test and other event fees charged non-members shall exceed the fee charged members by the amount approved by the Board. Should the non-member make application for membership at the time of the VCDKK seminar or test, or within thirty (30) days after attending the event, the difference shall be applied toward the membership dues. All fees and charges for tests, seminars or other meetings will be established by the Board.

ARTICLE III: ACCEPTANCE OF GOVERNING BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Section 1- JGHV BY-LAWS

- A. The VCDKK and its members accept the JGHV By-laws, JGHV Disciplinary and Association Tribunal Regulations, and declare itself/themselves bound by their provisions, if it is admitted into JGHV as a member.

Section 2 - ZUCHTORDNUNG (BREEDING REGULATIONS)

- A. The DKV Zuchtordnung is binding on the VCDKK and its members, as it is for all affiliated clubs, and its members. The Zuchtordnung must be followed to the letter and to the spirit of its intent. Each member will receive an English translation copy of the Zuchtordnung.
- B. The principle of the Zuchtordnung Ordinance is based on the breeding of pure-bred DK dogs and on the freedom of breeders observing the regulation of the DKV and VCDKK.
- C. Members are permitted to breed their DK only with DK registered in the Zuchtbuch-DK or in the studbook of a foreign FCI-member-club. DK utilized for breeding must fulfil the breeding rules and requirements of the DKV. Exceptions would only be possible with the express authorization by the Zuchtwart of the DKV. The exception request must be submitted through the Zuchtwart and President of

the VCDKK, who will submit an analysis of the request along with the request to the Zuchtwart of the DKV. Members violating this VCDKK regulation will be expelled from the club and their dog excluded from any further breeding.

- D. Members will not engage in the commercial breeding or trading of dogs in the sense of the valid jurisdiction or the JGHV-Constitution. Members violating this provision will be subject to disciplinary action up to expulsion

Section 3 - PRUEFUNGORDNUNGEN (TEST REGULATIONS).

- A. The Pruefungordnungen (Test Regulations) of the DKV are binding on the VCDKK and its members, as it is for all affiliated clubs and its members. Each member will receive an English translation copy of the Pruefungordnungen.
- B. DK that do not have an FCI-recognized and VDH-registered pedigree will not be permitted to enter club performance tests or Zuchtschau.

ARTICLE IV: DISSOLUTION, DISBURSEMENT

Section 1 – DISSOLUTION. Dissolution of the VCDKK must be voted on by mail ballot. At least fifty percent (50%) of the members must vote and at least seventy-five (75%) of those voting must be in favor of dissolving the VCDKK. Upon dissolution, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligation of the VCDKK the remaining assets of the VCDKK will be sent to the DKV.

Section 2 – DISBURSEMENTS. No part of the net earnings of the VCDKK shall be for the benefit of, or distributable to, its members, officers, or other private persons, except that VCDKK shall be empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes for which it was formed.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to these bylaws may be submitted to the membership for approval only after two-thirds (2/3) of the Board approves. Bylaw amendments must be approved by the membership in a mail ballot by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those voting.