

# The Vizsla Club of Central New England (VCCNE)

## Bylaws

Amended Spring, 2019

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## ARTICLE I

### ***Name and Objectives***

SECTION 1. Name. The name of this club shall be The Vizsla Club of Central New England, Inc. and be otherwise known and referenced to as the VCCNE.

SECTION 2. Legal. The VCCNE shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profit or remainder or residue from the dues or donations to the VCCNE shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

SECTION 3. VCCNE Purpose and Objectives. The objectives and purposes of the club shall be:

- (a.) *PROMOTE* cooperation and friendship among the breeders and owners of the Vizsla, and to encourage high standards in breeding for hunting ability and conformation. Further, to promote participation in training of the Vizsla for bench shows, field trials, other sanctioned events, use as a gun dog and as a personal companion.
- (b.) *ENCOURAGE* and promote the interest for Vizsla breeders and owners to work toward perfection of the natural qualities of the breed for field use.
- (c.) *EDUCATE* Vizsla owners and introduce them to the merits of field, obedience, and bench work, in addition to other sanctioned dog sports with the breed.
- (d.) *URGE* members and breeders to accept the standards of the breed as developed by the National Club and approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which the Vizsla shall be judged.
- (e.) *WORK* actively to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at all field trials, bench shows, and other sanctioned dog sports.

- (f.) *CONDUCT* sanctioned and licensed field trials, specialty shows, and other sanctioned dog sports under the rules of the American Kennel Club.
- (g.) *SUPPORT* research and educational efforts that will reduce and/or eliminate undesirable or detrimental congenital traits in the Vizsla breed.

## ARTICLE II

### ***Membership***

SECTION 1. Eligibility. Membership is open to owners, handlers, trainers and breeders of registered Vizslas and to persons with specific interests in the breed. Membership is open to qualified applicants who subscribe to the purposes of the Vizsla Club of New England (VCCNE), the Vizsla Club of America (VCA), and are in good standing with the American Kennel Club (AKC).

#### SECTION 2. Membership Types:

(a.) Regular

i. **INDIVIDUAL Membership**. Individual membership is for a single qualified applicant who is eighteen years of age or older. An individual membership has VCCNE voting privileges and shall be entitled to one (1) vote at any VCCNE membership meeting at which he/she is present.

ii. **HOUSEHOLD Membership**. Household membership applies to up to two qualified individuals from the same household or partnership, as specified on the application, who are eighteen years of age or older. Household Memberships have voting privileges and are entitled to two (2) votes at any VCCNE membership meeting at which both are present. Additional dependents under the age of 18 that reside within the household are also eligible to be included in the club as non-regular members.

iii. **LIFE Membership**. Life membership is a non-paying membership with full VCCNE rights and a Life member is entitled to one (1) vote at any VCCNE membership meeting at which he/she is present. To be granted a Life membership by the VCCNE Board of Directors, one must have significantly and regularly contributed to the VCCNE for a substantial period of time. Life members may run or be nominated for VCCNE offices.

(b.) Non-Regular

i. HONORARY Membership. Honorary membership is a non-paying membership, granted by the VCCNE Board by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote for a term designated by the Board. Honorary members may include, but are not limited to Vizsla enthusiasts from outside our geographic territory, former club members who want to stay in touch with the club, and/or juniors under 18 years of age who are interested in learning about the handling and care of their Vizsla. Honorary members may not run or be nominated for office, nor are they entitled to vote at any VCCNE meetings.

ii. ASSOCIATE INDIVIDUAL Membership. Associate Individual membership is for a single qualified applicant who is eighteen years of age or older. An Associate Individual membership may not run or be nominated for office, nor are they entitled to vote at any VCCNE meetings.

iii. ASSOCIATE HOUSEHOLD Membership. Associate Household membership applies to up to two qualified individuals from the same household or partnership, as specified on the application, who are eighteen years of age or older. Household Memberships may not run or be nominated for office, nor are they entitled to vote at any VCCNE meetings.

SECTION 3. Dues. Member dues for each class of membership shall be established by the Board of Directors. Dues are payable on or before the first day of July of each year. No eligible voting member whose dues are not paid for the current year may vote. During the month of May, the Treasurer shall send to each member a statement of each member's dues for the ensuing year. The Treasurer will notify all the delinquent members on August 1st of each year. Non-receipt of dues by September 1st will result in an automatic cancellation of membership.

SECTION 4. Membership Elections. Application for new membership shall be on a form provided by the VCCNE that states that the applicant agrees to abide by the Bylaws of the VCCNE, and the rules of the American Kennel Club (AKC). The Applicants must provide their full name and address and submit payment for VCCNE dues, for the current year, at the time of submission.

The Treasurer shall record collected dues and applications are filed with the Recording Secretary for processing. The Corresponding Secretary will notify the VCCNE Board of the application(s), which requires their affirmative vote by at least 3/4 of the Board members present.

The Corresponding Secretary shall deliver notification of membership approval to the newly elected member via electronic or postal mail following the Board's approval. New member will be announced to the entire VCCNE membership also by electronic or postal mail and also at the following general VCCNE meeting.

SECTION 5. Membership Termination. Membership in the VCCNE may be terminated the following ways:

- (a.) RESIGNATION. Any member in good standing may resign from the VCCNE upon written notice to the Corresponding Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the VCCNE. Obligations other than dues are considered a debt to the VCCNE and they are incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
- (b.) LAPSED DUES. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 60 days after the first day of the fiscal year. However, the Board may grant an additional 60 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any VCCNE meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- (c.) EXPULSION. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as defined by ARTICLE VII, SECTION 4 of these VCCNE Bylaws.

[Delete: SECTION 6. Reinstatement. A former member wishing reinstatement under conditions of Section 4 must present his name as a former member and be approved by a absolute majority vote of the VCCNE Board. ]

## **ARTICLE III**

### ***Meetings***

SECTION 1. Club Meetings. Club Meetings of the Vizsla Club of Central New England (VCCNE) are meetings of the entire members and shall be held in the city of Boston or a radius of 100 miles thereof, indicative of the Central New England area this club serves, at such an hour and place as may be designated by the President and/or the Board of Directors. There shall be a minimum of one meeting per year with additional meetings being called by the President and/or the Board of Directors as necessary for the welfare of the VCCNE. The Corresponding Secretary shall notify all members of Club meetings by electronic or postal mail, no less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 15% of the Regular members in good standing with voting open to all voting members.

SECTION 2. Special Club Meetings. Special Club meetings are meetings for the entire membership and may be called into action the following ways: First, by the President.

Second, by a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board. Third, by a petition signed by at least five members of the VCCNE who are in good standing then which is provided to the Corresponding Secretary.

Such special meetings shall be held in the city of Boston or within a radius of 100 miles thereof, indicative of the Central New England area this club serves, and at such hour and place as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. The Corresponding Secretary shall notify all members of Special VCCNE Meetings by electronic or postal mail, no less than five (5) days, nor more than 30 days, prior to the date of the meeting. This notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other VCCNE business shall be transacted then. The quorum of such a meeting shall be 20% of the Regular members in good standing with voting open to all voting members.

**SECTION 3. Board Meetings.** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the city of Boston or a radius of 100 miles thereof; indicative of the Central New England area this club serves, or via teleconference, or video conference and at such hour and place as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such a meeting.. There shall be a minimum of four meetings per year with additional meetings being called by the President and/or the Board of Directors as necessary for the welfare of the VCCNE. Written notice of each such meetings shall be delivered to members via electronic or postal mail by the Corresponding Secretary, no less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be a majority of the Board.

**SECTION 4. Special Board Meetings.** Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or by the Corresponding Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least five members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held in the city of Boston or a radius of 100 miles thereof, indicative of the Central New England area this club serves, or via teleconference, or video conference and at such hour and place as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such a meeting. Written notice of each such meetings shall be delivered to members via electronic or postal mail by the Corresponding Secretary, no less than five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted then. A quorum of such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

**Section 5. Voting** each member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to the one vote at any meeting of the Club at which he is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any Club meeting or election.

## ARTICLE IV

### *Directors and Officers*

SECTION 1. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of seven (7) members: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and two Members at Large. General management of the VCCNE's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. Officers. The VCCNE's officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities, both with regard to the VCCNE and its meetings and to the Board of Directors and its meetings.

- (a.) **PRESIDENT**. The President shall preside at all meetings of the VCCNE and the Board of Directors, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President, in addition to those particularly specified in these Bylaws.
- (b.) **VICE PRESIDENT**. The Vice President shall exercise the duties of the President and exercise all the powers of the President in such case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.
- (c.) **RECORDING SECRETARY**. The Recording Secretary shall keep a detailed record of all VCCNE membership meetings and of the Board of Directors' meetings and keep a record of all matters so ordered by the VCCNE. The Recording Secretary shall carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these Bylaws.
- (d.) **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**.
- The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence and also keep an organized record of all correspondence made by, for, and on behalf of the VCCNE. Any member of this club who corresponds with any one or any organization on official VCCNE business, must forward a photocopy or electronic copy of that communiqué to the Corresponding Secretary, who in turn will add that to the VCCNE's correspondence records.
  - The Corresponding Secretary must handle all official VCCNE correspondence with the American Kennel Club (AKC.)
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- The Corresponding Secretary will notify members of meetings, notify VCCNE Officers and Directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the VCCNE with their addresses and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these Bylaws.

(e.) TREASURER.

- The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due belonging to the VCCNE and provide payers with a receipt of record.
- He/She shall keep an organized record of all financially related correspondence.
- The Treasurer shall deposit all moneys in a bank satisfactory to the Board, in the name of the Vizsla Club of Central New England, Inc. and financial accounting books shall be open at all times for inspection by the Board.
- The Treasurer shall report the condition of the VCCNE's finances to the Board at every meeting and account for every receipt or payment not previously reported. At the annual meeting the Treasurer shall render an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year.
- The Treasurer's books shall be subject a financial review at the end of each fiscal year.

SECTION 3. Members at Large. Two (2) members elected by the general VCCNE membership shall represent the membership on the Board. These Members at Large attend all Board meetings and are entitled to one (1) vote each, at meetings at which they are present.

SECTION 4. Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring within the VCCNE Board during the year shall be filled by appointment from the Board. With consent of the appointee, replacements will be decided by a *majority vote* of all the members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy. Elections should be held at the next VCCNE Annual Meeting to fill the remainder of the term.

## ARTICLE V

### ***Club Operations***

SECTION 1. Club Year. The VCCNE's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of July



and end on the thirtieth day of June. The VCCNE's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election of officers at the annual meeting and shall continue through the election at the next annual meeting.

SECTION 2. Annual Meeting. The VCCNE annual meeting shall be held within forty-five (45) days of the beginning of the fiscal year. At this time, directors and officers for the ensuing year shall be elected by written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election, and each retiring officer shall turn over to his/her successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within thirty (30) days after the election.

SECTION 3. Elections. For the Officer positions, the nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. For the At-Large positions, the two nominated candidates who receive the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4. Nominations. During the month of March the VCCNE Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than one of who shall be a member of the Board. The Corresponding Secretary shall immediately notify the committee and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a Chair for the Committee and it shall be his/her duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before April 15<sup>th</sup>.

(a.) **ADVISE AND CONSENT.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one candidate for each office and at least two candidates for the members at large positions on the VCCNE Board. After securing the consent of each person so nominated, the committee shall immediately report his/her nominations to the Corresponding Secretary in writing.

(b.) **NOTIFICATION.** Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Corresponding Secretary shall notify candidate members in writing of their nomination, on or before April 30<sup>th</sup>

(c.) **ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS.** Additional nominations may be made at the VCCNE annual meeting, before voting takes place by any member in attendance. Only members not among those members who were nominated by the nominating committee are eligible for nomination at the annual meeting, provided that person is present and does not decline when his/her name is proposed. If the proposed

candidate is not present the proposer shall present a written statement to the Corresponding Secretary from the candidate signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate.

(d.) **ELIGIBILITY.** All nominees must be in good standing with VCCNE and the AKC. No person may be a candidate for more than one office.

**SECTION 5. Term of Office.** Officers of the Board Directors including the Members at Large on the Board shall be elected by the VCCNE membership for two-year terms and shall serve until their successors are elected. Elections should be staggered with President, Corresponding Secretary, and one (1) Member At Large position terms expiring on Club Years ending in odd years and Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and one Member At Large position terms expiring on Club Years ending in even years.**ARTICLE VI**

## ***Committees***

**SECTION 1. Formation.** The VCCNE Board may appoint standing committees to advance the work of the VCCNE including but not limited to dog shows, field trials, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, or membership. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to provide aid on particular VCCNE projects.

**SECTION 2. Appointments.** 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 VII**

### ***Discipline***

**SECTION 1. Suspension.** Any VCCNE member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club (AKC) automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of the VCCNE for a like period. Also, any member suspended from the Vizsla Club of America (VCA) shall have action taken against them by the VCCNE if the conditions so warrant.

**SECTION 2. Charges.**

- (a.) **BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** Although it is not the purpose of the VCCNE to discipline or punish a member in good standing, or deny that member his/her status, the Board of Directors is charged with protection of the club's name and character. Any Board member of the VCCNE may call any member, who commits an act or series of acts of misconduct, reflecting upon the name of the VCCNE or breed, before the Board to explain his/her actions.
- (b.) **CLUB MEMBERS.** Any VCCNE member may press charges against another member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the VCCNE or the breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Corresponding Secretary together with a deposit of fifty dollars (\$50.00) which shall be forfeited if any such charges are not sustained. The Corresponding Secretary shall promptly notify the Board which shall meet and fix a date of a Board hearing not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Corresponding Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused VCCNE member by Registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if he/she wishes.

**SECTION 3. Board Hearings.** The VCCNE Board shall have complete authority to decide whether the defendant's council may attend the hearing, but 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 may by a majority vote of those present suspend the defendant from all privileges of the VCCNE for not more that six months from the date of the hearing. If the Board deems that punishment insufficient, the Board 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 VCCNE membership meeting, which considers the Board's recommendation. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with Corresponding Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties by Registered mail of the Board's decision and penalty, if any.

**SECTION 4. Expulsion.** Expulsion of a member from the VCCNE may be accomplished only at a meeting of the VCCNE following the Board hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Article VII, Section 3. Such proceedings may occur at a regular meeting or special meeting of the VCCNE to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation for expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his/her own behalf, though no evidence will be taken. The President shall read the charges, the Board's findings and their recommendations and the President shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak on his/her own behalf. The members shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed

expulsion. A 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote of those VCCNE members present at the membership meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### ***Amendments***

SECTION 1. Authorization. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Corresponding Secretary signed by twenty persons of the VCCNE 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 Corresponding Secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the Corresponding Secretary received the petition.

SECTION 2. Process. These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote of the members present at any regular or special meeting called for such purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member either electronically or via the postal service no less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### ***Dissolution***

Process. The VCCNE may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the Regular members. In the event of the dissolution of the VCCNE whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, not any of the assets of the VCCNE shall be distributed to any members of the VCCNE. After the payment of the debts of the VCCNE, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs selected by the board of directors.