

CONSTITUTION OF THE MICHIGAN GAZEHOUND ASSOCIATION, INC.

A. NAME AND OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE I

SECTION 1: NAME The name of the club shall be MICHIGAN GAZEHOUND ASSOCIATION, INC. (MGA), subsequently referred to as the "Club".

SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES -The objectives of the "Club" shall be:

- a. To encourage and promote the breeding of Pure-Bred Gazeounds and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.
- b. To draw together in co-operation, for mutual enjoyment and assistance, lovers of the Gazeound breeds (Afghan, Basenji, Borzoi, Greyhound, Ibizan Hound, Irish Wolfhound, Pharaoh Hound, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Saluki, Scottish Deerhound, Whippet and ASFA designated Miscellaneous Over / Under sighthounds).
- c. To urge members and breeders to accept the standards of the Gazeound breeds as approved by the American Kernel Club (AKC) and the American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA), as the standard of excellence by which the Gazeounds shall be judged.
- d. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the Gazeound breeds by encouraging sportsmanlike attitudes and conduct at all dog shows, obedience trials, field trials, and MGA affairs.
- e. To conduct regular and specialty matches, obedience trials and coursing trials under the rules of AKC and ASFA.

SECTION 3: NON-PROFIT OPERATION The "Club" shall not be conducted or operated for profit. No part of any income, remainder, or residue from dues or donations to the "Club" shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

SECTION 4: BY-LAWS The members or the Board of Directors of the "Club" shall adopt and may from time to time revise such "By-Laws" as may be required to carry out these objectives.

B. BY-LAWS

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: ELIGIBILITY

- a. Voting membership shall be open to all persons' eighteen (18) years of age or older, who are in good standing with the AKC and ASFA and who subscribe to the purposes of the "Club" (members under 18 may not vote).
- b. Honorary membership shall be granted in recognition of exemplary achievement in the Gazeound world. An Honorary member shall have all the privileges of a voting member, but shall be exempt from dues and assessments.
- c. Residence - While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the "Club's" primary purpose is to be representative of the Gazeound breeders and exhibitors in its immediate area, southeastern and south central Michigan.

SECTION 2: DUES

- a. Membership dues shall not exceed \$50.00. This fee is to be set by the Board of Directors. The dues shall have a fee for a single member and a fee for a household membership. The dues shall also have a fee for a senior member, (single and household) age 65 and older (only one person in the household needs to be 65). There shall be no junior membership.
- b. Dues are payable before the first day of January of each fiscal year. New member dues paid after September 30th will be carried over into the next fiscal year. Any extensions for the deadline date are to be voted upon by the Board of Directors.
- c. During the month of October, the Treasurer shall send to each member, a statement of dues for the ensuing fiscal year.
- d. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current fiscal year.
- e. Any membership that has lapsed beyond any extension the Board of Directors may have approved must be resubmitted for membership as a new application.

SECTION 3: ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP

- a. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the MGA Constitution and "By-Laws" and the rules of the AKC and ASFA. The application shall state the name, address and phone number of the applicant. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current fiscal year.
- b. All applications are to be filed with the Treasurer (or Membership chair). Each application is to be read at the first meeting, Board of Directors or General, of the "Club" following its receipt and published in the next Bulletin following the reading of the application. At the next "Club" meeting, Board of Directors or General, following publication the application will be voted upon. An affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4), or ninety (90%) for Honorary membership, of the members present and voting shall be required to elect the applicant to membership.
- c. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the "Club" may not reapply within six (6) months after rejection.

SECTION 4: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP Membership may be terminated by:

- a. Resignation - Any member in good standing may resign from the "Club" upon written notice to the Secretary. But, no member may resign when in debt to the "Club". Dues obligations are considered a debt to the "Club" and are incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
- b. Lapsing - A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated, if such member's dues remain unpaid after December 31 (on the first day of the fiscal year). However, the Board of Directors may grant up to an additional sixty-(60) days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any "Club" meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- c. Expulsion - A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in ARTICLE VII.

ARTICLE III: MEETINGS AND VOTING

SECTION 1: GENERAL CLUB MEETINGS

- a. Two General meetings per year of the "Club shall be held in Michigan in July and November, at such day, hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors.
- b. Written notice of each such meeting shall be given to the membership at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting.
- c. The quorum for such meetings shall be ten (10) members or ten percent (10%) of the membership living within Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Monroe, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair and Essex (Ont.) counties, whichever is less.

SECTION 2: SPECIAL MEEETINGS

- a. Special Club meetings may be called by the President or a majority vote of the Board of Directors who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting. Special Club meetings shall also be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five (5) members of the "Club", who are in good standing.
- b. Such special meetings shall be held at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the President or Board of Directors.
- c. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed to the membership by the Secretary, at least five (5) days and not more than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meetings. The notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business may be transacted thereat.
- d. The quorum for such meetings shall be ten (10) members or ten percent (10%) of the membership living within Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Monroe, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair and Essex (Ont.) counties, whichever is less.

SECTION 3: BOARD MEETINGS

- a. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in Michigan four (4) times a year in the following months at such day, hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors:
 1. January - The date to be set at the November General Meeting.
 2. April
 3. August
 4. November
- b. Written notice of each such meeting shall be given at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting.
- c. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board of Directors.
- d. All Board of Directors meetings will be open to the General Membership, who shall be encouraged to attend. At Board of Directors meetings, General Members may initiate and participate in discussion. However, voting will be limited to Board of Directors.

SECTION 4: SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

- a. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President, or may be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three (3) members of the Board of Directors.
- b. Such meetings shall be held in Michigan, at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the President or Board of Directors.
- c. Written notice of such meetings shall be given by the Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. Or notice by telephone shall be made at least three (3) days and not more 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 thereat.
- d. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 5: VOTING

- a. Each member, in good standing shall be entitled to vote at any General meeting of the "Club" at which he/she is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any General Club meeting (members under eighteen (18) are not entitled to vote at any meeting).
- b. Absentee voting will be allowed at the General Election meeting. Absentee ballots are to be received by the Corresponding Secretary prior to the "Call to Order" of the General meeting.
- c. The "Bulletin" Editor shall have voting privileges at the Board of Directors meetings, but shall not be considered an Officer nor a member of the Board of Directors.
- d. Voting at Board of Directors meetings shall otherwise be limited to Broad members.

ARTICLE IV: DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

SECTION 1: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and five (5) other persons elected as Directors, all of whom shall be members in good standing.
- b. All Directors and Officers shall be elected for one (1) year terms at the "Club's" annual meeting as provided in ARTICLE V and shall serve until their successors are elected.
- c. General management of the "Club's" affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2: OFFICERS

- a. The "Club'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 "Club" and its meetings and the Board of Directors and its meetings.

SECTION 3: DUTIES

- a. The President shall preside at all meetings of the "Club" and of 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 By-Laws.
- b. The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity. He or she shall serve as exofficio member of all standing committees.
- c. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the "Club" and of the Board of Directors and of all matters of which, a record shall be ordered by the "Club". His/her duties shall also include reading minutes of the previous Board of Directors and General meetings.
- d. Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence and shall read all correspondence received, except those pertaining to membership applicants, at the monthly meetings following receipt, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their status of 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 as are prescribed in these By-Laws.
- e. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the "Club". He or she shall deposit the same in a Bank or Savings and Loan designated by the Board of Directors in the name of the "Club". His/her books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board of Directors and he/she shall report to them, at every meeting, the condition of the "Club's" finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported. A quarterly statement shall be published in the Bulletin, and at the annual meeting he/she shall render an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous twelve (12) months.
- f. The Directors shall along with the Officers govern the "Club" by consideration and adoption of operating and governing policies in accordance with "Club" Objectives in ARTICLE I.

SECTION 4: VACANCIES

- a. Any vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors or among the Officers during the year, shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at the first regular meeting following the creation of the vacancy, or at a Special Board of Directors meeting called for that purpose.
- b. Except that a vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President and the resulting vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 5: ATTENDANCE

- a. All Officers and Board of Directors members are expected to attend at least three-quarters (3/4) of all regularly scheduled Board of Directors meetings.
- b. Failure to attend at least three-quarters (3/4) of all regularly scheduled Board of Directors meetings shall be considered grounds for removal from office.

ARTICLE V: CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, and ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: CLUB YEAR

- a. The "Club's" fiscal year shall begin on the first (1st) day of January and end on the thirty-first (31st) day of December.
- b. The "Club's" "Official" year begins immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting.

SECTION 2: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of November, at which Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret written ballot from those nominated in accordance with SECTION 4 of this article.
- b. The Officers and Directors shall take office at the conclusion of the elections and each retiring officer shall turn over to his/her successor in office all properties and records relating to that office at the time.

SECTION 3: ELECTIONS

- a. The nominated candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected.
- b. The five (5) nominated candidates for Board - Director positions who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4: NOMINATIONS

- a. Nominations shall be made from the floor at the July General meeting.
 1. No person may be a candidate in the "Club" election who has not been nominated.
 2. Each person nominated must accept the nomination to be a candidate.
 3. Nominees not present will be contacted and advised by the Corresponding Secretary.
 4. If not present at the nomination meeting, nominees must acknowledge acceptance, in writing or verbally to an Officer or Director, prior to the August Board of Directors meeting.
- b. The October issue of the Bulletin or by other mailing to members shall provide each candidate a maximum of one (1) page to inform the membership of their qualifications and platform.
- c. Nominations will be accepted at the November meeting, from the floor, before the ballots are cast for each Office and the Board of Directors in turn.
- d. Election will be held at the November meeting for each office separately, starting with the President.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. The Board of Directors may each year appoint Standing Committees and Delegate(s) to advance the work of the "Club" in such matters as: Matches, Coursing Trials, Trophies, Annual Awards, and other such areas which may well be served by a committee.
- b. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board of Directors.
- c. Such committees may also be appointed by the Board of Directors to aid it on particular projects.

SECTION 2: COMMITTEE TERMINATION

- a. Any committee appointment may be terminated by a written notice to the appointee.
- b. The Board of Directors may appoint successors to those person(s) whose services have been terminated.

ARTICLE VII: DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1: SUSPENSION Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the AKC and/or ASFA automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this "Club" for a like period.

SECTION 2: CHARGES

- a. Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the "Club" or the Breeds.
- b. Written charges, with specifications, must be filed in duplicate with the Corresponding Secretary together with a deposit of ten (10) dollars, which shall be forfeited unless such charges are sustained by the Board of Directors following a hearing.
- c. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board of Directors or present them at a Board of Directors meeting.
 1. The Board of Directors shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the "Club" or Breeds.
 2. If the Board of Directors considers that the charges do not allege conduct that would be prejudicial to the best interests of the "Club" or the Breeds, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction.
 3. If the Board of Directors entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date of a hearing by the Board of Directors not less than three (3) weeks, nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter.
 4. The Secretary shall promptly send one (1) copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail, together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his/her own defense and bring witnesses if he/she wishes.

SECTION 3: BOARD of Directors HEARINGS

- a. The Board of Directors shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, both defendant and complainant shall be treated uniformly in that regard.
- b. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by the complainant and defendant, the Board of Directors 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.
- c. If the Board of Directors deems that suspension is insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such a case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendants' right to appear before his/her fellow members at the ensuing "Club" General meeting, which considers the Board of Directors recommendation.
- d. Immediately after the Board of Directors has reached a decision, its finding shall be put in writing and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn shall notify each of the parties of the Board of Directors' decision and penalty, if any.

SECTION 4: EXPULSION

- a. Expulsion of a member from the "Club" may be accomplished only at a General meeting of the "Club" following a Board of Directors hearing and upon the Board of Directors recommendation as provided in SECTION 3 of this ARTICLE.
- b. Such proceedings may occur at a regular General meeting or special meeting of the "Club" to be held within sixty (60) days, but not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the Board of Directors recommendation of expulsion.
- c. The defendant shall have the right of appearing in his/her own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting.
- d. The President shall read the charges and the Board of Directors findings and recommendations and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his/her own behalf.
- e. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion.
- f. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board of Directors suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: BY BOARD of Directors OR PETITION

- a. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or;
- b. By written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by ten percent (10%) of the membership in good standing.
 1. Amendments proposed by such petition shall promptly be considered by the Board of Directors and;
 2. Must be submitted to the membership, with the recommendations of the Board of Directors, by the Secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the Secretary received the petition.

SECTION 2: VOTING ON AMENDMENTS

- a. The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose and;
- b. Provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX: DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1: METHOD The "Club" may be dissolved at any time by written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members.

SECTION 2: PROPERTY

a. In the event of the dissolution of the "Club", whether voluntary or involuntary, or by operation of the law, none of the property of the "Club", nor any proceeds thereof, nor any assets of the "Club", shall be distributed to any members of the "Club".

b. But, after payment of the debts of the "Club", its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs selected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X: ORDER OF BUSINESS

SECTION 1: GENERAL MEETINGS

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

Roll call

Minutes of last General Meeting

Minutes of last Board of Directors Meeting

Reports from:

President

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary

Treasurer

Committees

Election of New Members

Old Business

New Business

Election of Officers and Board of Directors (at annual meeting only)

Adjournment

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

Roll call (Board of Directors members only)

Minutes of last Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of last General Meeting

Reports from:

President

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary

Treasurer

Committees

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment