

**SOUTH LOUISIANA VIZSLA CLUB CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**  
**(Revised 4/2008)**

**ARTICLE I**

**Name and Objectives**

**SECTION 1. The name of the club shall be:** “South Louisiana Vizsla Club, **Incorporated (Inc.)**”.

**SECTION 2. The objectives of the SLVC shall be:**

- (a) to further the advancement and protection of Vizslas by encouraging **quality in the breeding** of purebred Vizslas for health, good temperament, hunting ability and conformation, and by educating owners, breeders and the interested public about Vizslas;
- (b) to promote interest in training Vizslas and encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, pointing breed hunting tests, pointing breed field trials, obedience trials, agility trials, tracking tests and other sporting activities;
- (c) to conduct “fun” matches, sanctioned matches, educational seminars and licensed dog shows, pointing breed hunting tests, pointing breed field trials, obedience trials, agility trials, tracking tests, and other sporting events under the Rules **and Regulations** of The American Kennel Club;
- (d) to urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as developed by the Vizsla Club of America and approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which the Vizsla shall be judged;
- (e) to support research and education to reduce and/or eliminate detrimental congenital characteristics in the breed;
- (f) to support local, regional and national Vizsla rescue efforts.

**SECTION 3.** The SLVC shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the SLVC shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

**SECTION 4.** The members of the SLVC shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

**BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I**

**Membership**

**SECTION 1. Eligibility.** There shall be three types of membership open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing\* with the American Kennel Club and the Vizsla Club of America and who subscribe to the objectives of the SLVC. (\*not subject to any disciplinary or other adverse actions by these organizations)

**a. Regular Individual Membership** - *any Individual Member shall enjoy all of the privileges of the SLVC, including voting and holding office.*

**b. Regular Family Membership** - *consists of two people living in the same household, both of whom enjoy all of the privileges of the SLVC, including holding office and each individual is entitled to a separate vote. **There shall be a maximum voting privilege of two (2) votes per family membership.***

**c. Associate Membership** - *Associate Members **shall consist of any person(s) living in the same household and** shall enjoy all of the privileges of the SLVC, except holding office and voting and the membership does not count in the determination of the quorum.*

While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the SLVC's primary purpose is to be representative of the owners, exhibitors and breeders in its immediate area.

**SECTION 2. Dues.** Membership dues shall be recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting. Dues are payable on or before the first day of January. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year by March 1<sup>st</sup>. *New members* joining after October first shall be exempt from the annual dues for the next year. During the

month of November the **Membership Chairman** shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year.

(a) **Dues for an individual membership shall not exceed \$75 per year; dues for a family membership shall not exceed \$100 per year and dues for an associate membership shall not exceed \$50 per year.**

**SECTION 3. *Election to Membership.*** 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 club's constitution and bylaws, the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club, the code of ethics of the Vizsla Club of America and/or the applicant(s) authorize and approve to accept electronic mail (email) notification regarding club meetings, board of director meetings and/or event notices, also releasing the club from any liability should the notification be received late or not received by the member or board member due to circumstances beyond the club's control, in accordance with the AKC policy change effective January 1, 2006 regarding AKC Email Notification.** The application shall carry the endorsement of **two** members of the SLVC in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit payment of dues for the current year.

All applications are to be filed with the **Membership Chairman** and each application is to be read at the first meeting of the SLVC following its reception, **and read again at the next Club meeting**, after which time the application will be voted upon and affirmative votes of two-thirds (2/3) of the regular members present and voting by secret ballot at that meeting shall be required to elect that applicant.

Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the SLVC may not re-apply within six (6) months after such rejection.

**SECTION 4. *Termination of Membership.*** Memberships may be terminated:

- (a) ***by resignation.*** Any member in good standing may resign from the SLVC upon written notice to the Secretary; but no member may resign when in debt to the SLVC. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the SLVC and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
- (b) ***by lapsing.*** A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid after the 1<sup>st</sup> of March ; however, the Board may grant an additional thirty (30) days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any SLVC meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- (c) ***by expulsion.*** A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these bylaws.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Meetings and Voting**

**SECTION 1. *Club Meetings.*** Meetings of the SLVC shall be held each month or at least **six (6)** times a year in the greater **Lafayette** area or in conjunction with a club activity in another area and at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of each such meetings shall be by US mail **or electronic mail (email)**, forwarded by the Secretary, at least **ten (10)** days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be **twenty (20)** percent of the regular members in good standing.

**SECTION 2. *Special Club Meetings.*** Special SLVC meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five (5) regular members of the SLVC who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater **Lafayette** area or in conjunction with a club activity in another area and at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be by US mail **or electronic mail (email)**, forwarded by the Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting, and said notice shall

state the purpose of the meeting, and no other SLVC business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be **twenty (20)** percent of the regular members in good standing.

**SECTION 3. Board Meetings.** Meetings of the board of directors shall be held at **least six (6) times per year** in the greater **Lafayette** area or in conjunction with a club activity at such hour and place as may be designated by the board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be by US mail **or electronic mail (email)**, forwarded by the Secretary 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 4. Special Board Meetings.** Special meetings of the board may be called by the President; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three (3) members of the board. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater **Lafayette** area or at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. **Written notice of such meeting of such meeting shall be mailed or electronic mailed (emailed) by the Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than ten (10) days prior to the meeting.** Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the board.

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

### **ARTICLE III Directors and Officers**

**SECTION 1. Board of Directors.** The board shall be comprised of the officers and three (3) other persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for one-year terms at the club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the club's affairs shall be entrusted to the board of directors.

**SECTION 2. Officers.** The club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the club and its meetings and the board and its meetings.

- (a) **The President** shall preside at all meetings of the club and of the board, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these bylaws.
- (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.
- (c) **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; 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 as are prescribed in these bylaws. One copy of all out-going correspondence and incoming mail shall be sent to the President.
- (d) **The Treasurer** shall receive and account for all moneys due or belonging to the club. Moneys shall be deposited in a bank designated by the board, in the name of the club. The Treasurer shall write such checks and disburse such funds as may be determined and approved by the board. The books shall at all times be open to the inspection by the board and a report shall be given at every meeting on the condition of the club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting an accounting shall be rendered of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer may be bonded in such amount, as the board of directors shall determine.
- (e) The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person, in which the board shall be comprised of six (6) persons.

**SECTION 3. Vacancies.** Any vacancies occurring on the board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of all the then members of the board at

its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a special board meeting called for that purpose; except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by the board.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

##### **The Club Year, Annual Meeting, Elections**

**SECTION 1. Club Year.** The club's fiscal and official year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December.

**SECTION 2. Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting shall be held in **November** of each year, at a date, time and location as designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meetings shall be by US mail **or electronic mail (email)**, forwarded by the Secretary, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting.

**SECTION 3. Elections.** Election of officers shall take place at **the Annual Meeting** of each year. Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They shall take office effective the first day of January and each retiring officer shall turn over to the successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within thirty (30) days after the election. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The three (3) nominated candidates for the other positions on the board that receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

**SECTION 4. Nominations/Nominating Committee.** No person may be a candidate in a club election who has not been nominated. During the **month of August** the club shall open nominations for officers and board members. Nominations may be submitted from the floor or in writing. Each person so nominated shall indicate their acceptance to be a candidate at the meeting either in person or in writing. **In addition, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee each year.**

- (a) **The Nominating Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and positions on the board and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing.**
- (b) **Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall, at least 2 weeks before the last regular meeting prior to the Annual meeting in November, notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.**
- (c) **Additional nominations may be made at the last regular meeting prior to the Annual meeting in November by any member in attendance, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when their name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.**
- (d) **Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.**

#### **ARTICLE V**

##### **Committees**

**SECTION 1.** The board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the club in such matters as dog shows, obedience & agility trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership, field trials and hunt tests, hospitality, breeder referral, public education and outreach, breed rescue, newsletter, legislative liaison representative and other fields which may well be served by committees.

**SECTION 2.** Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the board upon written notice to the appointee; and the board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated or vacated.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Discipline**

**SECTION 1. *American Kennel Club Suspension.*** Any member who is suspended from the privileges of The American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended for 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. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$25.00, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the board following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each board member or present them at a board meeting, and the board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club. If the board considers that the charges do not allege conduct, which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the club, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date for a hearing by the board not less than three (3) weeks or more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one 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 own defense and bring witnesses if he/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 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 reprimand or suspend the defendant from all privileges of the club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, 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 fellow members at the ensuing club meeting which considers the board's recommendation. Immediately after the board has reached a decision, its finding shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the board's decision and penalty, if any.

**SECTION 4. *Expulsion.*** Expulsion of a member from 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 sixty (60) days but not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the board's finding and recommendation, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The members shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the board's suspension shall stand.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Amendments**

**SECTION 1.** Amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be proposed by the board of directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by twenty (20%) percent of the regular 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 the Secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

**SECTION 2.** The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) secret vote of the regular members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided that 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 VIII**

### **Dissolution**

**SECTION 1.** The club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the regular members. In the event of the dissolution of the club other than for purposes of reorganization whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of 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, 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 IX**  
**Order of Business**

**SECTION 1.** 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 the last meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of Committees
- Election of officers and board (at annual meeting)
- Election of new members
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

**SECTION 2.** At meetings of the board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- Minutes of last meeting
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

**ARTICLE X**  
**Parliamentary Authority**

**SECTION 1.** The rules contained in the most current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised," shall govern the club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any other special rules of order the club may adopt.