



North West Golden Retriever Club

Rules, General Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct

**Acting Secretary
Mrs T Shepherd
Moons Farm
Garstang Road
Catterall
Preston
PR3 0HD**

Tel: 07545 641400

RULES

Name and Objectives

1. The name of the Club shall be THE NORTH WEST GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB.
2. The objectives of the Club shall be (a) To promote and encourage the breeding of Golden Retrievers in accordance with the breed standard. (b) To encourage members to develop their knowledge of the breed. (c) To encourage and promote the training and working of the breed. (d) To encourage and promote shows, field trials, working tests and gundog certificates and any other activities.
3. To encourage all members in their handling and training methods.
4. To optimise the health of the breed.
5. The Royal Kennel Club shall be the final authority for interpreting the rules of the Club, and in all cases relating to Canine or to Club members-

Membership and Subscriptions

6. The Club shall consist of an unlimited number of members whose names and addresses must be kept up-to-date and available for inspection if so requested by the members of the society or by the Kennel Club. Application for membership shall be made to the Secretary, accompanied by the Annual Subscription for the current year. The Secretary shall submit all new applications to the committee for their approval. The right to refuse application for membership after submission is reserved. (no other form of payment shall entitle membership).
7. The annual subscription for each category (Single, Joint and Junior) shall be reviewed by the committee for approval by the members at the Annual General Meeting.
8. Subscriptions are due on January 1st each year. A member who has not paid their subscription by the date of the Annual General Meeting, shall not be allowed to attend or vote at the Annual General Meeting, shall cease to be a member of the Club and may only be reinstated to the membership with the approval of the committee and on payment of the current annual subscription. Any member who has not paid their subscription by January 1st shall have no privileges offered to fully paid-up members. A person under eighteen years on 1st January each year may apply for junior membership.

Management & Election of Officers and Committee

9. The Officers of the Club shall be President, a limited number of Vice Presidents at the discretion of the Committee, Chairman, Hon. Secretary, and Hon. Treasurer.

10. Any functions or events organised by the North West Golden Retriever Club shall be held in the North West.
11. The President shall be elected by the members present and shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting. The Vice Presidents shall be elected by the Executive Committee. They shall hold office for three years. The President and the Vice Presidents shall have no voting rights other than as stated above.
12. The election of Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer shall be made at the Annual General Meeting by the vote of all fully paid-up members present and entitled to vote. They shall hold office for three years except at the inception of the Club when the Hon. Treasurer shall hold office for one year, Chairman for two years and the Hon. Secretary for three years. No officer shall hold more than one office during their elected period.
13. All Officers at the end of their term in office may stand for re-election or election to the Committee.
14. The Committee shall consist of a maximum of twelve members, a third of whom shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election. The election of three Officers and twelve Committee shall be made at the Annual General Meeting.
15. No Committee Member of the NWGRC should be a member of any other Golden Retriever Breed Club Committee as this could constitute a conflict of interest.
16. Nominations for Officers and Committee shall be received by the Hon. Secretary not later than 5th December each year and shall bear the signatures of the proposer, seconder and the nominee who has consented to stand for election. No individual who has been a member for less than one year may be elected onto the Committee. Any member putting their name forward for the position of Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer must have served on the Committee for at least the previous two years save in exceptional circumstances
17. The ballot for Officers, and committee shall be made secretly at the Annual General Meeting of all fully paid-up members present and entitled to vote. The papers to be counted by independent scrutineers and the result submitted to the meeting. Each member shall be entitled to one vote after six months membership. Postal/proxy votes are not allowed. Joint memberships shall have one vote each member. Junior members having no voting rights.
18. In the event of a casual vacancy occurring on the Committee, the Committee may co-opt any bona fide member to fill the vacancy. The person co-opted shall serve for such time as the person replaced should have served. The co-opted member shall be eligible for re-election.

19. The Committee relies on the commitment of its members to work effectively. If any Officer or committee member misses consecutive meetings without satisfactory explanation, as deemed by the Officers, their commitment must be questioned. The Committee shall then consider requesting their resignation. Members of the committee must agree that Club matters discussed in committee meetings must remain confidential. Any member found to be in breach of this will be subject to disciplinary action.

Club Finance

20. A bank account shall be maintained in the name of the Club, into which all revenue of the Club shall be paid and from which withdrawal shall be made only on the signature of two Officers of the Club, one of whom shall be the Hon. Treasurer.
21. The books and accounts shall be kept by the Hon. Treasurer and the Balance Sheet shall be duly certified annually and submitted to the Annual General Meeting.
22. No Officer or member of the Club shall incur any liability, financial or otherwise in the name of the Club other than current and routine expenses, without the written authority of the Committee.
23. Officers and Committee shall be indemnified against any legal claim against them in connection with the proper discharge of their duties or losses incurred by the Club should the Club at any time become insolvent; any debts of the Club shall be paid by a levy of all members.
24. The financial year of the Club shall be from 1st January to 31st December each year. The Club's accounts shall be audited each year by an accountant or an individual with accountancy experience; who is independent of the Committee and also approved by the Committee. This must be submitted for approval by the members at the AGM.
25. The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club by the Hon. Secretary for the Continuance of Registration and that by 31st July each year other returns as stipulated in the Royal Kennel Club regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Titles of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities, will be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Royal Kennel Club of any change of Hon. Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year and to inform the Royal Kennel Club of the month in which the Society's Annual General Meeting is held and to notify of any subsequent amendments to that date.

Meetings

26. The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall take place not later than 28th February each year and every member shall receive at least twenty one days' notice of such a meeting. The Annual General Meeting shall receive the reports

of the Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, together with the audited accounts. Propositions for discussion at the Annual General meeting shall be sent to the Hon. Secretary not later than 5th December and shall bear the signature of the proposer and seconder both of whom shall be bona fide members of the Club. No business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those which, in the opinion of the Chairman, are urgent. The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be circulated at least twenty one days before the meeting.

27. Meetings of the Committee shall be held as often as deemed necessary but at least every four months to conduct the affairs of the Club. The quorum of such a meeting shall be six members, one of which must be an Officer. In the event of a tie in voting at such meetings, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
28. A Special General Meeting shall be called by the Hon. Secretary at the request of the Committee or at the written request of twenty five bona fide Members submitted to the Hon. Secretary. Such meetings shall be called within twenty one days of the request and fourteen days written notice of the meeting shall be sent to all members. No business other than that stated in the notice shall be discussed.
29. The Chairman shall preside at every meeting if possible. In the absence of the Chairman, the deputy Chairman will preside and will have the voting rights of the Chairman. The Chairman shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie taking place.
30. At every meeting minutes must be taken and the accuracy of the previous minutes shall be confirmed. At least fourteen days notice of every meeting shall be given by the Secretary, together with the Agenda of business to be discussed and a copy of the previous meeting minutes.

Powers of the Committee

31. The entire property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee jointly and in the event of the Club ceasing to exist, after all the Club's liabilities have been dealt with, shall be used in the best interest of the Golden Retriever Breed. A final statement of the Audited accounts, with a record of the disposal of the property of the Club, shall be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club within six months, and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the Club on the last return to the Royal Kennel Club will be held responsible for the winding up of the Club.
32. The Committee shall have the power to call a meeting at any time on not less than fourteen days notice in writing by the Secretary.
33. The Committee is empowered to appoint sub-committees for any specific purpose. Any sub-committee may consist of members from the Committee and co-opted persons but the number of people co-opted shall not exceed 50% of

the number of the Committee serving on such a sub-committee without the knowledge and approval of the Committee.

34. The Committee shall have the power to vote prizes or subscriptions to any Show or Field Trial.
35. The Committee cannot exhibit their own dog or anybody else's dog at any North West Golden Retriever Club show.
36. The Committee shall select Judges for Championship and Open Shows.

Prizes, Cups etc.

37. All Cups and trophies for award at the Club's events shall be the property of the Club and they will be accepted on this understanding only.

Expulsion of Members

38. Any member who shall be disqualified under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.j.(5) and/or Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.j.(9) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Club for the duration of the disqualification. If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Club be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Club, the Committee of the Club may, at a meeting, the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the Member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel the member. Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused member giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the meeting that they may attend to offer an explanation. If, at the meeting, a resolution to expel is passed by two thirds majority of the members present and voting, their name shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a member of the Club, except that they may, within two calendar months from the date of such meeting, appeal to the Royal Kennel Club upon and subject to such condition as the Royal Kennel Club may impose.

General

39. Every member shall receive a copy of the Rules, General Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct of the Club, as approved by the Royal Kennel Club.
40. The Rules of the Club may only be altered at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting and notice must be provided in accordance with the meeting rules, which includes details of the proposal to alter the rules. Such alterations shall not be brought into force until the Royal Kennel Club has been advised and has given approval to the alteration.
41. The Royal Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules of the Club and in all cases relative to Canine and Club matters.
42. The Club shall not join any federation of Societies or Clubs.

43. No person, whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold office or appointment within a Royal Kennel Club Registered Society.

Judges' List

44. Registered Breed Club's must produce a list of Judges each year which must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club as part of the Club's Annual returns. The purpose of Breed Clubs' Judges' list is to indicate to interested parties those persons a Breed Club would support at differing levels of judging. Membership of the Club must not be a prerequisite for the inclusion in the lists. Judges' lists must be divided into parts namely A1, A2, A3 and B: and JEP levels 1, 2, 3 and 4, pending amalgamation of lists and must indicate the date on which the list will expire. On expiry a new list must be compiled.

GENERAL CODE OF ETHICS
Approved by RKC Canine Health & Welfare Team

All members of the North West Golden Retriever Club undertake to abide by its general Code of Ethics.

Club Members

1. Will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.
2. Will agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon who performs an operation on any of their dogs which alters the natural conformation of the animal, or who carries out a caesarean section on a bitch, may report such operations to the Royal Kennel Club.
3. Will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.
4. Will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.
5. Will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.
6. Will agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or to the breed.
7. Will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.
8. Will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars, are identified according to current legal requirements and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.
9. Will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.
10. Will only sell dogs where there is a reasonable expectation of a happy and healthy life and will help with the re-homing of a dog if the initial circumstances change.
11. Will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.
12. Will ensure that all relevant Royal Kennel Club documents are provided to the new owner when selling or transferring a dog, and will agree, in writing, to forward any relevant documents at the earliest opportunity, if not immediately available.
13. Will not sell any dog to commercial dog wholesalers, retail pet dealers or directly or indirectly allow dogs to be given as a prize or donation in a competition of

any kind. Will not sell by sale or auction Royal Kennel Club registration certificates as stand-alone items (not accompanying a dog).

14. Will not knowingly misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The North West Golden Retriever Club, through its Officers and Committee, expect all members of the Club to conduct themselves both by word and deed, in a manner and attitude conducive to promoting and maintaining the high standard of awareness and understanding, coupled with an honest dedication to the Breed, the Club and dogdom in general. Any comments or criticism should be made through the appropriate channels, i.e., in writing to the Hon. Secretary.

General

Members should be in control of their dogs at all times and responsible for their health and welfare.

Stud Dog Owners

Your dog should be hip and elbow scored under B.V.A./R.K.C. scheme, or other recognised scheme, and have a current clear eye certificate, to include Gonioscopy and other health tests as per current Royal Kennel Club recommendations, before they are used for breeding. Insist on seeing the bitch's pedigree, her R.K.C registration, current eye certificates and result sheet from the scoring scheme for hips and elbows. Ask if there are any known hereditary faults. Also remember that if you withhold information pertinent to hereditary faults you could be liable. In order to discourage indiscriminate breeding, it is not advisable to advertise stud dogs in the local press. Advertisements should be confined to the Dog Papers and Breed Club lists. Try to gauge how responsible the bitch's owner is. Determine why they want puppies. Impress upon them the responsibility they are taking on. Above all, impress upon them their responsibility to find loving, permanent homes for their puppies.

Refuse to allow the use of your dog if there is any doubt.

Bitch Owners

Before you consider breeding from your bitch make sure she is fit and healthy. Your bitch should be hip and elbow scored under B.V.A./R.K.C. scheme, or other recognised scheme, and have a current, clear eye certificate, to include Gonioscopy and other health tests as per current Royal Kennel Club recommendations before they are used for breeding.

Do not mate your bitch before eighteen months of age or if she will be over the age of eight years at whelping. Leave at least twelve months between litters and do not have more than four litters from any one bitch. If in doubt consult with your vet. Insist on seeing the stud dog's Royal Kennel Club Registration, hip and elbow scores, scored under B.V.A./R.K.C. scheme, or other recognised scheme and current clear eye certificate, to include Gonioscopy and other health tests as per current Royal Kennel Club recommendations.

Remember, you are responsible for rearing the puppies until they are old enough to leave their dam and you have to find loving, caring, permanent homes and give diet sheets and correct pedigrees when they leave. Be prepared to give an after-sales service to the new owners.

Finally, you may be expected to refund the price of a puppy if necessary and to help re-home a puppy. Also, you are expected to help re-home or be responsible for any dog you breed, no matter what age.

Any member who shows a flagrant disregard of the Club's Code of Conduct will be subject to censorship from the Committee and could be expelled from the Club. Subject to Royal Kennel Club Regulation C3.a.(7).