Midnight Sun Golden Retriever Club

Constitution and Bylaws

# Revised and adopted June 28, 2014

# ARTICLE I. NAME and OBJECTIVES

SECTION 1.

The name of the club shall be Midnight Sun Golden Retriever Club.

SECTION 2.

The objectives of the Club shall be:

1. To further club aims through the education of members and the General Public in the care, handling, breeding, showing and training of their dogs, and by providing an opportunity to work together and with experts on common problems, and to promote good fellowship among Golden Retriever Owners;
2. To encourage and sponsor education programs that promote the responsible breeding of pure-bred Golden Retrievers and to do all possible by selective breeding to produce Golden Retrievers that possess the soundness, temperament, natural ability, and personality that is reflected in the standard of the breed;
3. To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which Golden Retrievers shall be judged;
4. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows, obedience trials, field trials, agility trials and other types of competition;
5. To conduct sanctioned and licensed matches, specialty shows, trials and tests under the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club.

SECTION 3.

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

SECTION 4. The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such by-laws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

# ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. All persons who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club are eligible for membership in the Midnight Sun Golden Retriever Club. No person who has been convicted of animal cruelty, or similar statute or ordinance, in this or another jurisdiction, is eligible for membership in the Club.

SECTION *2*. Eligibility. There shall be six types of memberships. Five types, Charter, Supporting, Regular, Family and Associate, are offered to individuals 18 years or older, who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club, and who subscribe to the purposes of this club, and one type of membership, Junior, offered to individuals who are between the ages of 10 and 17.

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

1. Charter Membership. Charter Members are granted the rights and privileges of a Regular Membership but elected to pay a one-time membership fee of $100.00. Charter memberships were only available between February 2002 and July 2002. Charter Members will receive recognition designated with an asterisk beside their name whenever membership lists are published or distributed.
2. Supporting Membership. Supporting Memberships are granted all the rights and privileges of a Regular Membership. In addition, Supporting Members elect to pay $100.00 annual dues and will receive recognition designated by a double asterisk whenever membership lists are published or distributed. Becoming a Supporting Member shall be an option on an annual basis.
3. Regular Membership. Shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of the Club, including voting and holding office.
4. Family Membership. A family membership is limited to two adults (18 years or older) per household, each is granted all the rights and privileges of a Regular Membership.
5. Associate Membership. Associate members are entitled to all club privileges, except voting, holding office, and being counted towards a quorum.
6. Junior Membership. Junior membership shall be available to persons 10– 17 years of age. Junior members are not eligible to vote or hold office until the age of 18. At that time,

 the membership automatically shifts to a Regular membership.

1. Individuals may request a change in status on a standard membership form.

SECTION 3. Dues. Dues will be set by recommendation of the Board and an affirmative vote of the general membership. Supporting Member dues shall not exceed $100.00. Regular Membership dues shall not exceed $50.00. Associate Member dues shall not exceed $40.00. Family Membership dues shall not exceed $60.00. Junior Member dues shall not exceed $25.00. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of November, a notice written or electronic (if so authorized) shall be sent to members notifying them that dues are payable for the following year. Dues are payable on or before the first day of January. Dues from New Membership applications that are accepted and/or approved between October 1 and December 31 shall be valid for the following year.

SECTION 4. Election to Membership. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this constitution and bylaws and by the rules of The American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, and an endorsement of one member in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year. All applications are to be filed with the Vice President and each application is to be read at the first meeting of the Club following its receipt. At that Club meeting, the applicant will be voted upon. An affirmative vote of ¾ of the members present and voting at that meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.

Each applicant for regular, family and supporting memberships shall have attended two Club sponsored functions, one of which must be a club meeting.

SECTION 5. Termination of Membership. Memberships may be terminated as follows:

1. By 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.
2. By Lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member’s dues remain unpaid for as long as 60 days past the first of the year. Members who have not paid the current year’s dues may not vote until dues are paid.
3. By Expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VII of these by-laws.

# ARTICLE III. MEETINGS and VOTING

SECTION 1. Club Meetings. Meetings of the Club shall be held every other month within the greater Anchorage, Alaska area between Kenai and Palmer. Every attempt will be made to schedule meetings at convenient times and locations for the membership. The Secretary will send out notice of each meeting in a notice, written or electronic (if so authorized) to membersat least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20 percent of the regular members in good standing.

SECTION 2. Special Club Meetings. Special Club 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 members of the club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Anchorage, Alaska area between Kenai and Palmer. Every attempt will be made to schedule the meeting at a convenient time and location for the membership. A notice, written or electronic (if so authorized) of such a meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to members at least five days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20% of the members in good standing.

SECTION 3. Board Meetings. Board Meetings will be held a minimum of six times per year within the greater Anchorage area. The quorum for Board Meetings is the majority of the Board. The President or a majority of the Board member can call a board meeting. A notice, written or electronic (if so authorized***)*** of such meeting shall be sent by the Secretary at leastfive days prior to the date of the meeting

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 members of the board. Such special meetings shall be held in the greater Anchorage area at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. A notice, written or electronic (ifso authorized) of such meeting shall be sentby the Secretary at least five days and not more than 10 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. 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 s/he is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any Club meeting or election. Voting consists of one vote per membership and two votes per family membership.

# ARITCLE IV. OFFICERS, BOARD of DIRECTORS, and COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. Board of Directors. The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and five other personsall 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 V. General management of the Club’s affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. Officers. The Club’s officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and shall serve in their respective capacities both with regards to the Club and its meetings and the Board and its meetings.

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board and shall have the duties and powers normally entrusted to the office of President in addition to any particularly specified in these by-laws.
2. The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President’s death, absence or incapacity. The Vice-President shall also serve as Membership Chairperson.
3. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all matters of which the Club shall order record. S/he shall have charge of the correspondence, notification of meetings, keep a roll of the Club membership with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these by-laws.
4. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Club. S/he shall deposit the same in the bank designated by the Board in the name of the Club. The books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board and s/he shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club’s finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported. At the annual meeting, s/he shall render an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year.

SECTION 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring on the board or among the officers during the year shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a majority vote of all the then members of the Board at its first meeting following the creation of such a vacancy, or at a special Board meeting called for that purpose.

SECTION 4. Committees.

 (a) Committee Chairs shall be responsible for fostering and organizing the fun events and fundraisers that will support the sponsorship of sanctioned shows trials and tests in their respective areas. Committee chairs may select committee members who are in good standing to assist them. Committees shall present an annual calendar to the Club for approval of activities. Committees shall enlist the participation of the membership in all functions.

(b) The board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the club in such matters as dog shows, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership, hospitality, and other fields, which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the board. Special committees may also be appointed by the board to aid it on particular projects.

(c) 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.

# ARTICLE V. THE CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. The Club’s fiscal year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December. The club’s official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting and shall continue through the election at the next annual meeting.

SECTION 2. The annual meeting shall be held in the month of June, at which 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 July 1 and each retiring officer shall turn over to the successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

SECTION 3. Elections. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The nominated candidates for other positions on the board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4. Nominations. No person may be a candidate in a club election who has not been nominated. During the month of February, the board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than one of who may be a member of the board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen and alternates of their selection. The board shall name a chairman for the committee and it shall be such a person’s duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before the firstday of March.

1. The 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 written or electronic (if so authorized).
2. Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee’s report, the Secretary shall, at least two weeks before the April meeting, notify each member written or electronic (if so authorized) of the candidates so nominated.
3. Additional nominations may be made at the April meeting by any member in attendance, provided that the person so nominated does not decline when their name is proposed, and 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.
4. Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

# ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Amendments to the constitution and by-laws may be proposed by the Board or by written petition addressed to the Secretary and signed by 20% of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board and must be submitted to the members with recommendation of the Board by the Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the Secretary received the petition.

SECTION 2. The constitution and by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 secret vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and sent to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

# ARTICLE VII. DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1. American Kennel Club suspension. Any member who is suspended from privileges of the AKC automatically shall be suspended from 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 interest of the Club or breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of $10.00, 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 member of the Board or present them at a Board meeting. The Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute the conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the Breed. If the board considers that the charges do not allege conduct, which would be prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the Breed, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges it shall fix a date of a hearing by the Board not less than 3 weeks nor more than 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/her own defense and may bring witnesses.

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 this regard. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by the 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 months from the date of the hearing. If it deems that punishment is 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/her fellow members at the ensuing Club 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 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 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board’s recommendation or expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his/her own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board’s findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in their own behalf, if they so wish. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 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 VIII. DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1. The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the Club whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property 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 the majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

Reading of minutes of last meeting

Report of Secretary

Report of Treasurer

Reports of committees

Unfinished business

New business

Adjournment.

# ARTICLE X. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

SECTION 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these by-laws and any special rules of order the Club may adopt.