

# **RULES OF THE POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG CLUB ( Revised 2012 )**

**1. NAME AND OBJECTIVES.** The club shall be called the Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club. It's objectives shall be the protection and furtherance of the interests of the breed in the UK. The club will, as a condition of membership, have a code of ethics, with particular emphasis on the selection and breeding of sound stock.

**2. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.** The Club shall consist of a President, Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, a committee of nine and an unlimited number of members. The Club may, if desired, invite Patronage from outside it's membership, if deemed appropriate.

**3. COMMITTEE.** The management of the club shall be in the hands of a Committee of nine persons, three to retire annually, in rotation, but being eligible, may offer themselves for re-election. The Committee shall appoint Sub-Committee's, if required, to include Club Members. The Chairman, Hon. Secretary, and Hon. Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the committee and shall retire in rotation. A Vice- Chairman to be elected annually from within the Committee. Meetings of the Committee shall be held as often as necessary, upon agreement of the Officers of the club, and six shall form a quorum for the transaction of business. Committee members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings shall on the third occasion be required to withdraw from the Committee unless a valid reason can be given. Valid reasons being those of genuine illness consistent with being absent from the work-place, a serious illness of a family member or dependant, a family bereavement or that of a close friend and any other reason deemed appropriate by the Committee, who shall vote on any instance accordingly. In the event of the resignation or decease of a Committee member, the Committee has the power to co-opt a member in his/her place. This would be the candidate obtaining the next highest number of votes at the preceding election. In the absence of any defeated candidates, or if a candidate be unwilling to serve, then the power of co-option is vested in the Committee.

**4. MEMBERSHIP.** Candidates for membership shall apply to the Membership Secretary for a membership form. Upon receipt of the completed form, their application will be confirmed upon a simple majority vote at the next Committee meeting. The Committee reserves the right to refuse proxy applications. All club benefits are restricted to club members and in the case of dogs owned in partnership both owners must be members.

**5. SUBSCRIPTIONS.** The annual subscription shall not be less than eight pounds per person, or ten pounds for two persons living at the same address, overseas members twelve pounds. Juniors ( under 18yrs ) membership applications must be supported by a single or joint membership application. The subscription shall be £1 and the junior member shall not be entitled to vote. Memberships payable, to the Hon. Treasurer, on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. No member whose subscription remains unpaid at January 31<sup>st</sup> shall be entitled to have any privileges of membership and the Committee shall have the power to erase his/her name from the list of members. Should the Committee subsequently receive a

satisfactory explanation, the member may, at the discretion of the Committee, be re-admitted to membership.

Honorary Life Members – a person may be elected to Hon. Life Member at the AGM on recommendation of the Committee or a member, in recognition of outstanding service to the Club. Notice of a proposal to elect an Hon. Life Member shall appear on the agenda for the AGM. Hon. Life Members shall have all rights and privileges of membership, but shall not be liable to pay subscriptions.

**6. CLUB PROPERTY.** The property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee, and in the event of the Club ceasing to exist, the Committee shall call a General Meeting to decide upon the disposal of assets, and resolution of all other matters relating to the Club affairs at the time. A final statement of accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Society shall be forwarded to the Kennel Club within six months of dissolution, and it should be acknowledged that those persons named as Officers and Committee of the Club, at the time of dissolution, will be held responsible by the Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the Society.

**7. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.** Any member who shall be suspended under Kennel Club Rule A42j ( 4 ) and/or any member whose dog(s) is/are disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A42j(8) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Club for the duration of the suspension and/or disqualification. If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Club, be injurious or be 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 him/her. Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused member, giving particulars of the complaint, and advising him/her of the place, date and hour of the Meeting, that he/she may attend and offer explanation. If at the Meeting, a resolution to expel is passed by two thirds majority of the members present and voting, his/her name shall be forthwith erased from the list of members, and he/she shall cease thereupon for all purposes to be a member of the Club, except that he/she may, within two calendar months from the date of such Meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon, and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose.

If the Club expels any member for disreputable conduct in connection with dogs, dog shows or trials, the Society must inform the matter in writing to the Kennel Club within seven days, and supply any particulars required.

**8. GENERAL MEETINGS.**

a ) The Financial Year of the Club shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> January until 31<sup>st</sup> December. The Annual General Meeting shall be held before the end of March, for the following purposes: To receive reports from the Committee, and the Balance sheet, to elect Officers and to discuss any resolution duly placed on the Agenda, of which prior notice has been given to the Secretary. No business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting unless prior notice thereof appears on the Agenda, with exception of routine matters or those which, in the opinion of the Chairman of the Meeting are urgent. The Committee shall have the discretion to give notice of the Annual General Meeting by advertisement in “ Our Dogs and “ Dog World “ , such notice to be published at least

fourteen clear days before the date of the Meeting and to include the Agenda of the Meeting. The minutes of the AGM to be distributed, to all members, with the following issue of the Nizziny Newsletter. The certified Statement of Accounts and Agenda will be available for inspection at the AGM, but members may apply for a copy to be sent to them prior to the AGM, such applications to be received, in writing, at least 7 days prior to the date of the AGM.

b ) A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Hon. Secretary upon receipt of a request signed by twenty five fully paid up members, stating the subject to be discussed; no business other than that which is on the Agenda can be discussed at a Special General Meeting. Members shall be given written notice at least 28 days before the date of any such meeting. The Rules of the club shall not be altered except at an Annual General Meeting, or Special General Meeting, notices of which include details of the proposal to alter the rules. Any alteration to the rules shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and given it's approval to the alteration.

#### **9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.**

a ) The election of Officers and Committee shall be conducted by a paper ballot of those members present and entitled to vote at the AGM. A candidate for a Committee position, should have been a club member for at least one year and for an Officers position a minimum of three years. Members should have been in the Club for at least one calendar year before being permitted to vote. The vote to be counted in the presence of the members and the result to be declared by the Chairman at the AGM. At least 35 days prior to the AGM, the Hon. Secretary shall send a request to all members to submit nominations for candidates for the ensuing year. Any eligible member can be nominated by another member, subject to the consent of the nominee. These nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary at least 28 days before the date of the meeting, together with the names of those retiring Committee members who are willing to stand for re-election. The period of 28 days is to exclude the date of receipt of the nomination and the date of the AGM. Nominations and notifications of willingness to stand for re-election are to be sealed in an envelope clearly marked " NOMINATION " and are to contain no other matter. Envelopes containing nominations are to be opened by an Officer in the presence of at least two other Officers or Committee members, not less than 21 days prior to the AGM. If the number of nominees together with those members retiring Committee and Officers who are willing to stand again, shall exceed the vacancies, a list recording the names of the nominees, and in the case of members of the previous Committee, the number of times they have attended meetings, shall be available at the AGM however members may apply, in writing, to the Hon. Secretary for a copy prior to the AGM. Officers in the Club shall be elected by a single ballot of all members. A nomination for election as an Officer shall also constitute an automatic nomination for the Committee.

b) Each member may record an alternative vote for any candidate for election to Office. Those recording the largest number of votes for the appropriate number of places shall be declared, by the Chairman, to be the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year. In the event of an even number of votes being recorded for any two or more candidates, a final decision between those candidates shall be made at the AGM by a vote of members

present. The members of the Committee and Officers will hold office from the conclusion of the AGM at which they are elected, until the conclusion of the AGM following.

c) In all matters of decision the Chairman shall have the casting vote only.

**10. CLUB ACCOUNTS.** A Banking Account shall be opened in the name of the Club, into which all revenue of the Club shall be paid, and from which withdrawal shall be made on the signatures of three unrelated Officers of the Club, one of whom must be the Hon. Treasurer. The Accounts shall be kept by the Treasurer, and two Auditors ( or one fully qualified Accountant) shall be appointed at each AGM who shall certify the Clubs Accounts for the ensuing year, before the AGM.

**11. FINAL COURT OF APPEAL.** The Kennel Club shall be the final court of appeal in all matters of dispute. The Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the rules and regulations of the Society in all cases relative to Canine or Society matters. The Club shall not join any federation of Societies or Clubs.

No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee of or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society.

**12. CLUB MEETINGS.** Discussions of any of the Clubs meetings are to be treated as private and confidential by members and are not to be discussed with non-members.

**13. CLUBS JUDGING LISTS.** The Committee shall ensure that appropriate lists, of acceptable persons to judge the breed, will be compiled and circulated to Societies. Reasons for non-inclusion on clubs lists will not be disclosed.

**14. CODE OF ETHICS.** *This is a kennel Club mandatory rule and thus members cannot propose changes.*

a) Members will properly house, feed, water and exercise all dogs under their care and arrange for appropriate veterinary attention if and when required.

b) Members agree without reservation that any veterinary surgeon performing 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 operation to the Kennel Club.

c) members will agree that no healthy puppy will be culled. Puppies which may not conform to the Breed Standard should be placed in suitable homes.

d) Members will abide by all aspects of the Animal Welfare Act.

e) Members will not create demand for, nor supply, puppies that have been docked illegally.

f) Members agree not to breed from a dog or bitch which could be in any way harmful to the dog or the breed.

g) Members will not allow any of their dogs to roam at large or to cause a nuisance to neighbours or those carrying out official duties.

h) Members will ensure that their dogs wear properly tagged collars and will be kept leashed or under effective control when away from home.

i) Members will clean up after their dogs in public places or anywhere their dogs are being exhibited.

- j) Members 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.**
- k) Members will supply written details of all dietary requirements and give guidance concerning responsible ownership when placing dogs in a new home.**
- l) Members will ensure that all relevant 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.**
- m) Members 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 Kennel Club registration certificates as stand alone items ( not accompanying a dog ).**
- n) Members will not misrepresent the characteristics of the breed nor falsely advertise dogs nor mislead any person regarding the health or quality of a dog.**

#### **15. CODE OF ETHICS. ( Continued )**

- o) Members will not advertise dogs for sale or stud dogs on any commercial web site.**
- p) Members shall familiarise themselves with the Breed Standard, as approved by the Kennel Club, and attempt to breed and exhibit stock conforming as closely as possible to the standard.**
- q) Prior to breeding, stock to be hip x-rayed and scored. Members will not breed from any PLS whose KC/BVA Hip-Score total is more than 20. Eye testing to be carried out within 12 months prior to breeding, under the appropriate KC/BVA scheme, with the results declared to the PLSC Health Officer/Archivist. Such information to be available anytime and may be published. Only breeders complying to this rule to be recommended to prospective puppy purchases. The Officers & Committee have the right to refuse to accept requests for inclusion on the PLSC Puppy List ( even when hip & eye results have been forwarded ) if it is considered that puppies were born through indiscriminate inbreeding.**
- r) Breeding only to be undertaken with stock that is proven to be sound both physically and mentally, and no breeding to be undertaken under the age of eighteen months or before the third season, at which time full maturity should be reached.**
- s) Bitches to be bred no more than twice in succession, and this to be followed by a rest of at least one year.**
- t) Stud dog owners to satisfy themselves of the condition in which ensuing litters would be raised.**
- u) Breeders to sell puppies in good health, exhibiting sound temperament, and are at least eight weeks of age, and accompanied by a complete diet sheet, health and record, details of worming and any inoculations administered.**
- v) A fully signed pedigree to be available at the time of purchase together with any agreed terms of ownership and/or endorsement to control exhibition or breeding of progeny.**
- w) Member will at all times maintain a high standard of health care for the Breed.**
- x) In addition to any foregoing documentation listed, breeders will ensure that purchasers are given a copy of the hip score sheets of parents and other certificates that maybe relevant to other currently known possible defects within the Breed.**

y) All members will familiarise themselves with the facility offered by the Kennel Clubs endorsement B when registering puppies. Ideally this exclusion should be placed on the registration of all pet puppies, also breeding/show puppies sold should be subject to an agreement of suitability of hip and eye results. All owners should be made aware of this exclusion when purchasing puppies.

z) Members will, when breeding dogs, adopt as a minimum standard the principles, requirements and recommendations as embodied in the Kennel Clubs Assured Breeder Scheme. It is strongly recommended that members who breed should apply to join the scheme.

16. MEMBERSHIP LIST. The Club will make a list of members and their addresses available for inspection if so requested by members of the Society or by the Kennel Club. The Societies membership list to be forwarded to the Kennel Club with the Annual Returns.

17. ANNUAL RETURNS. The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Secretary for the continuance of registration and that by 31<sup>st</sup> July each year, other returns, as stipulated in the Kennel Club Regulation for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities, will be forwarded to the Kennel Club.

The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any change of Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year.