

**Bylaws for Wisconsin River Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association.**  
**September 1, 1998**  
**Amended at Annual Meeting – February 2002**  
**Amended at Annual Meeting – January 2007**  
**Amended at Membership Meeting – August 2007**

Article I. Name and Purpose.

- Section 1 NAME The name of this corporation is the Wisconsin River Chapter of North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association. (WRC NAVHDA).
- Section 2 PURPOSE. The purposes of this corporation are:
- a.) To educate all interested persons in the techniques of training versatile hunting dogs, to conduct test of versatile hunting dogs breeds in North America and maintain records of such tests for all interested persons, and to promote selective breeding and population control of versatile hunting dog breeds.
  - b.) To prevent cruelty to animals by the use of properly trained hunting dogs.
  - c.) To foster, improve, promote and protect the versatile hunting dog breeds in North America.
  - d.) To promote the interest of wildlife by fostering ethical hunter ethics and behavior along with conservation of game through educational programs.
  - e.) No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying propaganda of otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not intervene in any political campaign.
- Section 2 CORPORATION STATUS. The corporation is a non-profit non-share organization.

Article II. Activation, Membership and Dues.

- Section 1 ACTIVATION. The corporation shall become active upon the payment of annual dues by five or more members.
- Section 2 MEMBERSHIP
- a) Persons of good standing, interested in NAVHDA and approved by the Board of Directors or a majority of the general membership at a General Membership meeting may become members upon payment of annual dues. Active members are those who have paid their annual dues for the current year.
  - b) Spouses of active members are eligible to be members upon payment of spouse dues with all the privileges and benefits of membership.
  - c) Young persons under the age of eighteen are eligible to be JUNIOR Members upon payment of Junior Member's dues with all the privileges and benefits of membership except the do not have voting privileges.
- Section 3 DUES. The annual dues are to be set by three-fourths vote of the Board of Directors. The Spouse and Junior classes of membership shall have reduced rates. The dues are payable as of January 1<sup>st</sup> for the ensuing calendar year. For those members who enter the corporation after September 1<sup>st</sup> of any year their dues will be applied for the balance of the current year and for the whole upcoming year. To renew membership after September 1<sup>st</sup>, the dues will be applied to the upcoming year.
- Section 4 HONARARY MEMBERSHIP. The corporation may elect to award a life time honorary membership with out payment of dues to any person who makes an outstanding contribution to the purpose of the corporation.
- Section 5 PARENT ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP. To renew membership the member must be a member of the parent corporation, NAVHDA.
- Section 6 EXPULSION. The Board of Directors may expel from the chapter any member for good cause shown, such as violation of rules, unsportsmanlike conduct or other actions that might bring discredit to the chapter or parent corporation. Prior to final action by the Board of Directors, the person in question shall be given the opportunity to present their case to the Board of Directors. A three-fourths vote of the Board of Directors is needed to expel the member. If the decision is to expel, no refund of dues will be made and recommendation will be made to NAVHDA to also expel the individual from membership.

Article III: Officers, Directors and Committees

- Section 1 ELECTED OFFICERS. The elected officers of the organization are the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers serve a two (2) year term without pay.
- Section 2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The Board of Directors consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and four (4) Directors, consisting of the: Director of Tests, Director of Training, Director of Publicity, and Test Secretary. Each of the 4 Directors shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by a majority vote from the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer at a meeting held as soon as possible after taking office on the first of January of each year (Article IV, Section 2). The 4 Directors shall serve a term of office of 1 year without pay.
- Section 3 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS DUTIES.
- a) President: The President is the chief executive officer of the corporation. The President shall conduct the business of the club in accordance with its constitution, bylaws and motions passed by the general membership and /or the Board of Directors, and presides as chair of the Board of Directors. The President, with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors, appoints acting officers to fill vacancies occurring between elections and committee chairpersons as may be required.
  - b) Vice President: In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President and in so acting shall have all the powers of the President. The Vice President shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors
  - c) Secretary: The Secretary is an executive agent of the corporation and in the temporary absence of the President acts for the President. The Secretary is responsible for all club correspondence, for recording and maintaining records of events and activities of the corporation.
  - d) Treasurer: The Treasurer is an executive agent of the corporation. The Treasurer maintains all financial records, receives and disburses all monies, and prepares financial statements.
  - e) Director of Tests: The Director of Tests shall be responsible for recommending to the Board plans and programs for field test. Shall be responsible for overseeing the execution of the approved plans and programs for tests.
  - f) Director of Training: The Director of Training shall be responsible for recommending to the Board plans and programs for clinics, demonstrations and activities centered on training. Shall be responsible for overseeing the execution of the approved plans and programs for training.
  - g) Director of Publicity: The Director of Publicity shall be responsible for recommending to the Board plans and programs designed for increasing public awareness of the aims, programs and events of the chapter. Shall be responsible for overseeing and implementing approved publicity programs. Shall be responsible for overseeing and preparing the preparation and distribution of chapter newsletters and other chapter publications.
  - h) Test Secretary: The Test Secretary is responsible for submitting Board of Director's approved tests to the NAVHDA Test Director for approval (dates and judges), receiving and validating the dog entries, preparing all necessary forms for the test, and performing all duties and responsibilities of a NAVHDA Test Secretary in accordance to the rules and policies of NAVHDA and the chapter.
- Section 4 TEST ATTENDANCE. At least one member of the Board of Directors, or an appointee by the President must attend any test sponsored by the chapter.

Article IV: Elections

- Section 1 FREQUENCY. Elections of officers will be held once a year for officer terms that are expiring.
- Section 2 TERMS OF OFFICE. Elected officers shall be installed on the first day of January of the year immediately subsequent to the election for a two-year term of office ending on the

31<sup>st</sup> of December of the second year. No elected officer may hold the same office for more than two consecutive 2-year terms. The terms of office for President and Treasurer shall begin in even numbered years and the Vice President and Secretary shall begin in odd numbered years. The number of 1-year terms of office for the 4 appointed Directors is not limited.

Beginning in 2007, elections will be held for the offices of President and Treasurer, who will assume office on January 1, 2008. And in 2008, elections will be held for the Vice President and Secretary, who will assume office on January 1, 2009.

Section 3

NOMINATIONS.

- a) The President, with advice and consent of the Board of Directors, will appoint a nominating committee. The recommendations of the nominating committee will be published in the newsletter prior to the election.
- b) Nominations for office will be accepted from an active member when accompanied by:
  - 1) a letter of consent signed by the nominee,
  - 2) a petition of nomination signed by at least five active members, and
  - 3) be in the possession of the Secretary no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c) Nominees must be members in good standing of the chapter and parent organizations.

Section 4

VOTING

- a) Voting will be conducted by mail ballot.
- b) The Secretary will prepare a ballot for distribution to all active members with voting privileges on chapter records as of October 15. Where there are two or more persons nominated for the same office, the name of the nominee selected by the Nominating Committee shall be listed first, with the other candidates for the office listed in alphabetical order. The ballot shall be a simple form and addressed to the Chairman of the Election Tellers.
- c) The Tellers Committee shall consist of the Nominating Committee.
- d) To be valid, a ballot must be postmarked not later than November 15. The ballots will be counted and the results reported to the Secretary by December 10 and the Secretary will immediately announce the results.
- e) A simple majority of the ballots cast shall determine the successful candidate in each office. In case of a tie vote, the Board of Directors will select the successful nominee.
- f) The Board of Directors shall be the sole arbiter of disputes regarding the validity of the election.

Section 5

DELEGATE TO NAVHDA ANNUAL MEETING.

- a) Article VII, Section 3 of the NAVHDA Bylaws (Revised) provides for the attendance of a chapter delegate at the annual membership meeting of NAVHDA, with voting privileges on all business conducted at the meeting.
- b) When deemed advisable and feasible, the Board of Directors will select a member of the chapter to attend. This delegate shall be in addition to any member who might also be serving on the NAVHDA Executive Committee.

Article V: Conduct of Meetings and Parliamentary Procedures

Section 1

BUSINESS CONDUCT. The parliamentary business of the corporation is conducted at all Board of Directors and General Membership meetings with Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- a) An annual General Membership meeting will be held every year in the first quarter of the year.
- b) The President may call for a General Membership meeting to be held, or shall call General Membership meeting when requested by a majority of the Board of Directors or petitioned by at least five (5) active members to call a General Membership meeting.

- c) Normal procedure requires the Secretary, by correspondence or newsletter to notify all active members with a reasonable prior time of notice of the next General Membership meeting.

Section 3 MOTIONS. Motions can be presented by active members. A simple majority of the votes cast by active members present at the meeting passes a motion, except for motions to revise or amend the constitution or bylaws.

Section 4 BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS. The President may call for a Board of Director's meeting to be held, or shall call a meeting when any two members of the Board of Directors request a meeting. Normal procedures requires the Secretary to notify all Board of Director members with a reasonable prior time of notice of the next Board of Director's meeting.

Section 5 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT. The Treasurer shall publish the financial statement of the corporation annually. The financial report shall be examined by at least two members of the Board of Directors before the annual publication of said report.

Article VI: Dissolution

Section 1 DISSOLUTION. In the event that the Board of Directors or General Membership passes a motion for this corporation to cease operation any assets of the corporation shall become the property of the parent corporation, NAVHDA.

Article VII: Amendments to the Bylaws.

Section 1 BYLAW AMENDMENTS. Amendments to these Bylaws will be voted on by the chapter active members. A two-thirds majority of the qualified voters voting at a Membership Meeting is needed to pass the bylaw change.

Section 2 NOTICE OF BYLAW AMENDMENTS. Motions to revise or amend the constitution or bylaws require active members to receive a 30 day notice of such a motion.