

BY – LAWS
TEXAS CHAPTER
OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN VERSATILE HUNTING DOG ASSOCIATION (NAVHDA)

ARTICLE I – NAME, AUTHORIZATION AND PURPOSE

Section 1. NAME

The name of this organization is the Texas Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA).

Section 2. AUTHORIZATION

Texas Chapter is an authorized Chapter of NAVHDA, which is a non-profit organization. The Chapter is pledged to operate within the frame work of the by-laws and policies of the parent organization.

Section 3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Chapter is to foster, improve, promote, and protect the versatile hunting dog breeds in North America by such activities as:

- (a) Sponsoring field tests for the versatile breeds according to the rules of the Field Test Standards of NAVHDA.
- (b) Conducting training clinics, demonstrations and similar activities as an aid to members and other interested persons in realizing the full potential of their versatile hunting dogs.
- (c) Cooperating with other hunting dog clubs and hunting dog breed clubs that wish to run sanctioned field tests under the rules of NAVHDA.

ARTICLE II – ACTIVE STATUS, MEMBERSHIP, AND DUES

Section 1. ACTIVE STATUS

To remain on active status the Chapter is required to maintain a dues paying membership of not less than ten adult persons.

Section 2. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Membership in the parent organization (NAVHDA) shall be a prerequisite to membership in Texas Chapter.
- (b) Spouses of active members and people under eighteen years of age who are also members of NAVHDA shall be eligible for membership in Texas Chapter. Spouses and Junior Members shall have all privileges and benefits of membership, except that the latter will not be accorded voting privileges.
- (c) The Executive Council of Texas Chapter may expel from the Chapter any members for good cause shown, such as violation of rules, unsportsmanlike conduct, or other actions that might bring discredit to the Chapter and NAVHDA. Prior to final action by the Executive Council, the person in question shall be given an opportunity to present their case to the Council. If the decision is to expel, no refund of dues will be made and recommendation will be made to NAVHDA that the parent organization also expel the individual.

Section 3. DUES

- (a) Membership dues will be established annually by the Chapter Executive Council and will be for a full calendar year. A reduced rate will be offered to spouses of active members and to Junior Members.
- (b) Such dues shall be due and payable on January 1 of each year. Dues must be paid by January 1 of each year or membership is considered terminated. Dues paid after November 1 shall be deemed adequate for the balance of the year in which they are paid and for the next succeeding year.

ARTICLE III – EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND DUTIES

Section 1. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council of Texas Chapter shall consist of four elected officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer), the Immediate Past President, a Director of Field Test and Training, and a Director of Publicity who are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the other members of the Council. These two Directors shall have a vote in all executive business conducted by the Council.

Section 2. DUTIES

- (a) President. The President is the chief executive of the Chapter. The President chairs Executive Council and general membership meetings, appoints ad hoc committees as required and, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council appoints persons to fill vacancies occurring within the Council. He also acts as the principle liaison officer between the Chapter and NAVHDA.
- (b) Vice President. The Vice President assumes the office of President in the event of a vacancy occurring therein. He acts for the President during the temporary absence of the President and performs such other duties as may be assigned by the President.
- (c) Secretary. The Secretary shall be responsible for Chapter correspondence, mailings, administrative records and reports, minutes of meetings and other administrative business of the Chapter.
- (d) Treasurer. The Treasurer shall maintain the financial records of the Chapter, receive and disburse monies and prepare financial statements.
- (e) Director of Field Tests and Training. The Director of Field Tests and Training shall be responsible for recommending to the Executive Council plans and programs for field tests, training clinics, demonstrations and similar activities and for overseeing the execution of approved plans and programs in this category.
- (f) Director of Publicity. The Director of Publicity shall be responsible for recommending to the Executive Council plans and programs designed to increase public awareness of Chapter aims, programs and events and for implementing approved publicity plans. The Director of Publicity is also responsible for the preparation of Chapter newsletters and narrative reports of Chapter events for other publications.

ARTICLE IV – ELECTIONS

Section 1. FREQUENCY

Election of officers shall be held biannually. The President and Secretary will be elected on the even numbered years, and the Vice-President and Treasurer will be elected on the odd numbered years.

Section 2. TERM OF OFFICE

Elected officers shall be installed on the first day of February of the year immediately subsequent to the time of election for a two year term ending on the 31st of January of the second year.

Section 3. NOMINATIONS

- (a) Nominees must have been a member of Texas Chapter for a minimum of one year at the time of nomination and must have reached their twenty-first birthday.
- (b) Nominations for elected office will be made at a meeting no later than September, selected by lot from among those active adult members who have been members of the Chapter for a minimum of one year. The Election Committee will consist of the officers whose office is not up for election that year and an alternate official who would like to volunteer or will be picked from the membership at large.
- (c) In addition, any member who is nominated for an office must be seconded by another member and the nominee must accept the nomination.

Section 4. VOTING

- (a) Voting will be confidential balloting conducted by mail.
- (b) To be valid, a ballot must be postmarked no later than January 1. The Treasurer will mail the official ballots to each voting member. The ballot will be mailed back to the Treasurer when paying dues for the next calendar year. A ballot can be placed in a sealed envelope if the member desires to have his vote confidential. The Treasurer will give the ballots to the Election Committee to be counted. The Secretary will announce the results at the February membership meeting.
- (c) A simple majority shall determine the successful candidate in each case. In case of a tie vote, the candidate who has been a member of the Chapter for the longest period shall be declared the winner.
- (d) Ballots will be kept on file for a period of one year following the election.

Section 5. DELEGATE TO NAVHDA MEETINGS

- (a) Article VII, Section 3 of the NAVHDA By-Laws (Revised 1977) provides for attendance of a Chapter delegate at the annual meeting of NAVHDA, with voting privileges on all executive business conducted at the meeting.

- (b) When deemed advisable and feasible, the Executive Council of Texas Chapter 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 Council.

ARTICLE V - FIELD TESTS

Section 1. RULES

Field Tests conducted by Texas Chapter shall be conducted with prior NAVHDA sanction and in accordance with the NAVHDA test rules then pertaining.

Section 2. AWARDS

Awards for the Natural Ability and Utility Tests will be limited to simple awards, every dog qualifying will receive the same award, and no other trophies other than those mentioned will be awarded. No monetary awards will be given at any test.

Section 3. ENTRY FEES

Entry fees for field tests sponsored by the Chapter will be established by the Executive Council for each test. Fees for dogs owned by members of NAVHDA will be established at a reduced rate, regardless of whether the handler is a member of NAVHDA or not.

ARTICLE VI – BUSINESS PROCEDURES

Section 1. MOTIONS

Motions for consideration by the Executive Council shall be presented to the Secretary in the form of eight written copies. Any adult member may make a motion at any time. Motions before the Executive Council will be decided by a simple majority.

Section 2. BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the By-Laws shall be voted upon as heretofore set forth for motions provided, however, that it shall require two-thirds majority of the membership voting to pass a By-Law amendment.

Section 3. MEETINGS

The Executive Council shall meet at the call of the President. A minimum of one announced formal meeting of the Executive Council shall be scheduled each year (normally during January). This meeting will also serve as the annual general membership meeting and is open to all

members. To the extent practicable, meetings will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 4. FISCAL

- (a) Any bank account established with Texas Chapter funds shall require the prior approval of the Executive Council.
- (b) All account applications to banks shall be made by the Treasurer.
- (c) Should the unencumbered balance in the Chapter Treasury exceed an amount estimated by the Executive Council to be sufficient for the next year's budgetary requirements, the Executive Council may transfer the excess to a savings account. Withdrawals from savings accounts shall require approval of the Executive Council in each case.
- (d) The Treasurer shall publish a financial statement as of January 31 each year. Prior to publication the annual financial statement will be reviewed by at least one other member of the Executive Council.
- (e) Texas Chapter shall at all times maintain a liability insurance policy in such amounts as are deemed necessary by the Executive Council.

Section 5. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Whenever a director or officer has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before the board of directors, the board shall ensure that:

- (a) The interest of such officer or director is fully disclosed to the board of directors.
- (b) No interested officer or director may vote or lobby on the matter or be counted in determining the existence of a quorum at the meeting of the board of directors at which such matter is voted upon.
- (c) Any transaction in which a director or officer has a financial or personal interest shall be duly approved by members of the board of directors not so interested or connected as being in the best interests of the organization.
- (d) Payments to the interested officer or director shall be reasonable and shall not exceed fair market value.
- (e) The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention, and rationale for approval.

Section 6. DISSOLUTION

- (a) In the event that it becomes necessary to dissolve the chapter, upon payment of any outstanding debts and obligations, the remaining monies will be given over to the parent organization. In the event of the dissolution of the parent organization, which would dictate the dissolution of the Texas Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA), the monies will be donated to an organization which is worthily and successfully working for the betterment of hunting dogs and the North American hunter. This organization will be chosen by a majority vote of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE VII – SUMMARY STATEMENT

Notwithstanding any other provision of these by-laws, the chapter shall not carry on any other actives not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under the section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any further United States internal Revenue Law). No substantial part of the activities of the Chapter shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the chapter shall not participate in, or intervene in (including publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Provided, however that nothing herein contained shall be construed as authoring the chapter to transact business in any state, territory or foreign country contrary to the provisions of the law thereof, and nothing in these purposes shall be construed to give the corporation any rights, powers or privileges not permitted by the laws of the state of Pennsylvania to charitable corporations organized under the general law, but it shall have all powers and privileges to do any and all acts and things not prohibited by the laws of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE VIII – APPROVAL

The members of the Texas Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA) approved these bylaws on April 10, 2010.