



Rottweiler Club of Victoria Inc.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Updated and passed by members at SGM 16th October 2008

**Recommended Rules for an Incorporated Club or Association
affiliated with the Victorian Canine Association Inc.**

NAME

1. The name of the incorporated association is the Rottweiler Club of Victoria Inc. (in these rules called "the Club").

INTERPRETATION

2. In these Rules, unless the contrary intention appears:

"Act" means the Associations Incorporations Act 1981 and any amendments thereto and unless inconsistent with the context or subject matter, includes the Associations Incorporation regulations 1983 and any amendments thereto.

"Application for Membership" includes application for re-admission to membership.

"Association" has the same meaning as is ascribed to that word by Section 3.1 of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 which, inter alia, includes the Club.

"Body" means where the context reasonably admits, a Club, Society, Association, Company or group of persons.

"By-Laws" means the By-Laws in force for the time being of the Club as approved by the Committee of the Victorian Canine Association Inc. and shall form part of and be deemed to be incorporated in the Rules of the Club.

"Clause" means a provision of the Rules and where the context so admits includes a paragraph or sub-paragraph thereof.

"Club" for the purpose of these Rules, has the same meaning as is ascribed to the word Association by Section 3.1 of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

"Committee" means the Committee of Management of the Club and includes Officers of the Club and ordinary Members of the Committee unless the Rules specifically provide otherwise.

“Dual Member” means one of any two members of the one family resident at the same address or one of any two persons who are partners in the conduct of a kennel having a kennel prefix in their joint names registered with the Control who has been admitted with the other of such persons as a dual Member of the Club.

“Exhibition” includes a Canine Show, Canine Exhibition, Canine Parade, Gundog Trials and Tests, Canine Competition, Display, Obedience Trials and Tracking Trials, Non-Slip Retrieving Trials, Contest, Herding, match or similar event.

“Financial Member” means a Member of the Club who shall not be in default in the payment of his annual subscription or any fees or other monies payable by him/her in accordance with the Rules. Unfinancial shall have the opposite meaning.

“Financial Year” means the financial year as defined by Clause 42.

“Honorary Member” means a person, who upon the recommendation of the Committee or upon written nomination signed by not less than five Members is elected by a resolution passed in General Meeting by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the Members voting in person thereat as an Honorary Member for such period as may be so determined and who in the opinion of such Meeting has rendered outstanding service to the Canine Fancy or to the Club or for other good and sufficient reason and who need not comply with the provisions of Clause 3.1 and shall in addition have the rights and privileges of a financial Member but shall not be entitled to vote at General Meetings or hold office, unless a majority of Members otherwise decides.

“Insolvent under administration” in relation to a Member of the Committee of Management has the same meaning as that given to those words by Section 5.1 of the Companies (Victoria) Code.

“Junior Member” means a person under the age of sixteen years who has been admitted as a Member of the Club and who shall not be entitled to hold office or to vote at a General Meeting of the Affiliate but shall otherwise be entitled to enjoy all other privileges of membership.

“Life Member” means a Member who has been admitted to the Club as a Member for life, whether upon payment of a subscription or without payment of a subscription as may be determined by the members from time to time.

“Member” means a person who has been admitted as an ordinary or dual or Life Member of the Club and where the context otherwise so admits, shall include persons who have been admitted to any category of membership and the word “Member”, where the context so admits, shall mean and include persons who have been admitted to any category of membership.

“Office” means the Office of the Club, and shall be a place as determined from time to time at which the records of the Club are to be kept.

“Office Bearers” means the President, the Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Public Officer, and such other nominated positions as referred to in Clause 23 and the By-Laws for the time being of the Club.

“Period of Membership” in relation to a Member, denotes the twelve months terminating at midnight on the 30th day of June each year for which such Member is for the time being elected or admitted to membership of the Club or such portion of that term during which his/her membership continues.

“Person” where the context reasonably permits, includes an individual, a firm or partnership, a company or corporation, or any other legal entity.

“Public Officer” means the person referred to as such in Sections 24 to 28 inclusive of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and whose statutory duties are set out in Sections 13, 22.2, 26 28.2, 30.4, 47.5 and 47.6 of that Act.

“Registered” means breeds and breed varieties of dogs for which a separate register is kept by the Victorian Canine Association Inc.

“Regulations” means either the Association Incorporation Regulations 1983 or the Regulations of the Victorian Canine Association Inc. as specifically referred to in either case in the Rules of the Club.

“Rules” means the Rules for the time being of the Club and includes its By-Laws.

“Secretary” means the Honorary Secretary or Secretary of the Club, and where the context reasonably permits, includes the Assistant Secretary and any other person for the time being appointed by the Committee to exercise the functions of the Secretary.

“VCA” means the Victorian Canine Association Inc.

“Writing” includes printing and roneo and any other like recognised means of communication or of reproducing words in visible form.

Words importing the male gender shall, where the context reasonably permits, include the female and neuter gender and the singular number shall include the plural number.

Words or expressions contained in these Rules shall be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of the Acts Interpretation Act 1958 and the Act as in force from time to time.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1** Any person owning a pure bred dog or interested in any of the activities referred to in the Statement of Purposes of the Club who is nominated and approved for membership as provided in these Rules is eligible to be a Member of the Club on payment of the entrance fee and annual subscription payable under these Rules.

- 3.2** A person who is not a Member of the Club at the time of the incorporation of the Club (or who was such a Member at that time but has ceased to be a Member) shall not be admitted to membership:
- (a) unless he is nominated as provided in Sub-Clause 3.3; and
 - (b) his admission as a Member is approved by the Committee.
- 3.3** An Application for membership shall be in such form as the Committee may from time to time prescribe and shall be signed by the applicant (and the nominee where the form so provides) and lodged with the Secretary of the Club accompanied by the fees prescribed in Clause 4.
- 3.4** The Secretary shall submit such application to the next Meeting of the Committee for approval.
- 3.5** Upon a nomination being referred to the Committee, the Committee shall determine whether to approve or reject the nomination.
- 3.6** Upon a nomination being approved by the Committee, the Secretary shall enter the nominee's name in the register of members kept by him, and upon the name being so entered the nominee becomes a Member of the Club.
- 3.7** A right, privilege, or obligation of a person by reason of his membership of the Club is not capable of being transferred to or transmitted to another person.
- 3.8** A Member may within thirty days after the end of the club's financial year, make application to the Club for re-admission as a Member to his category of membership upon payment of his annual subscription and shall be deemed for all purposes to have been readmitted as such a Member.
- 3.9** A Member, upon election to any category of membership, shall strictly observe and act in conformity with and not otherwise than in accordance with the Act and the Rules and By-Laws of the Club and the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the VCA Inc. in so far as they shall relate to him and will uphold the honour of, and use his best endeavours to further the objects of, the Club.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION AND JOINING FEE

- 4.** Subject to notice of motion first being given by resolution of the Committee, the members in General Meeting at any time and from time to time may fix the amount of the annual subscription payable by each category of membership and may in like manner determine that a membership joining fee shall be paid and the amount thereof, (see By-Laws).

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

- 5.** The Secretary shall keep and maintain a register of members in which shall be entered the full name, address and date of entry of the name of each Member and the register shall be available for inspection by members at General Meetings.

CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS

6. Membership of the Club may be divided into the following categories (see By-Laws 4)
- (a) Member (Ordinary)
 - (b) Dual Member
 - (b) Life Member
 - (c) Honorary Member
 - (d) Junior Member
 - (e) Any other class of Member

and every person admitted and/or elected to membership shall be and be deemed for all purposes to have agreed to be bound by the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the VCA Inc. in so far as they shall relate to him and the Rules and By-Laws of the Club respectively for the time being in force.

PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

- 7.1 Subject to the restrictions and limitations prescribed by or pursuant to the Act, Rules and By-Laws of the Club the privileges of a Member shall be:
- (a) upon application and payment of the prescribed fee, (if any), to the Secretary to receive a copy of the Rules and By-Laws of the Club;
 - (b) the right to attend and vote at all General Meetings of the Club; subject to the conditions of Clause 27.2 and 27.3;
 - (c) to submit himself as a candidate for any Office of the Club and/or Committee subject to the conditions of Clause 27.2 and 27.3;
 - (d) to receive any publication issued by the Club, upon the payment of the prescribed fee, (if any);
 - (e) to compete for prizes (including trophies), available for members of the Club when exhibiting or competing at any exhibition conducted by the Club.
- 7.2 A Junior Member shall be entitled to take part in the proceedings of a General Meeting but shall not be eligible to vote and shall not be eligible to hold office as an Office Bearer or an Ordinary Member of the Committee, but shall be entitled to exercise all other privileges of membership.

RESIGNATION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBER

- 8.1 A Member shall cease ipso facto be a Member of the Club:

- (a) upon the termination of his period of membership, (whether by effluxion of time or otherwise), unless he shall be re-admitted pursuant to Clause 3.8 as a Member of the Club for a further period of membership;
- (b) if he resigns by notice in writing addressed to the Secretary pursuant to Sub-Clause 8.3;
- (c) if he shall die;
- (d) if his annual subscription for the forthcoming financial year has not been paid in accordance with Clause 3.8;
- (e) if pursuant to the Rules he shall be expelled from the Club;
- a. if as a Member of the VCA Inc. he is disqualified or suspended by the VCA Inc. for any period for which he is suspended or disqualified.

8.2 Should any person cease to be a Member of the Club for any reason whatsoever, he or she shall not be entitled to the return of his or her membership fee or any part thereof.

8.3 A Member of the Club who has paid all moneys due and payable by him to the Club may resign from the Club by first giving notice in writing to the Secretary of his resignation.

8.4 Upon the receipt of a notice given under Sub-Clause 8.3, the Secretary shall make in the register of Members an entry recording the date on which the Member by whom the notice was given, ceased to be a Member.

9.1 Subject to these Rules, the Committee may by resolution:

- (a) expel a Member from the Club;
- (b) suspend a Member from membership of the Club for a specified period; or
- (c) fine a Member in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Associations Incorporation Act.

If the Committee is of the opinion that the Member:

- i. has refused or neglected to comply with these Rules;
- ii. has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a Member or prejudicial to the interests of the Club.

9.2 A resolution of the Committee under Sub-Clause 9.1:

- (a) does not take effect unless the Committee, at a Meeting held not earlier than 14 days and not later than 28 days after the service on the Member of a notice under Sub-Clause 9.3 confirms the resolution in accordance with this Clause; and
- (b) where the Member exercises a right of appeal to the Club under this Clause, does not take effect unless the Club confirms the resolution in accordance with this Clause.

9.3 Where the Committee passes a resolution under Sub-Clause 9.1, the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable, cause to be served on the Member a notice in writing:

- (a) setting out the resolution of the Committee and the grounds on which it is based;
- (b) stating that the Member may address the Committee at a Meeting to be held not earlier than 14 and not later than 28 days after service of the notice;
- (b) stating the date, place and time of that Meeting;
- (c) informing the Member that he may do one or more of the following:
 - i. attend that Meeting;
 - ii. give to the Committee before the date of that Meeting a written statement seeking the revocation of the resolution;
 - iii. not later than 7 days before the date of the Meeting, lodge with the Secretary a notice that he wishes to appeal to the Club in General Meeting against the resolution.

9.4 At a Meeting of the Committee held in accordance with Sub-Clause 9.2 the Committee:

- (a) shall give to the Member an opportunity to be heard;
- (b) shall give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the Member; and
- (c) shall by resolution determine whether to confirm or revoke the resolution.

9.5 Where the Secretary receives a notice under Sub-Clause 9.3(d)iii. he shall notify the Committee and the Committee shall convene a General Meeting of the Club to be held within 21 days after the date on which the Secretary received the notice.

9.6 At a General Meeting of the Club convened under Sub-Clause 9.5:

- (a) no business other than the question of the appeal shall be transacted;
- (b) the Committee may place before the Meeting details of the grounds for the resolution and the reasons for the passing of the resolution;
- (c) the Member shall be given an opportunity to be heard; and
- (d) the members present shall vote by secret ballot on the question whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.

9.7 If at the General Meeting:

- (a) two-thirds of the members vote in person in favour of the confirmation of the resolution, the resolution is confirmed; and
- (b) in any other case, the resolution is revoked.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 10.1** The Club shall in each calendar year convene an Annual General Meeting of its members.
- 10.2** The Annual General Meeting shall be held on such date and time, and at such venue, as the Committee determines.
- 10.3** The Annual General Meeting shall be specified as such in the notice convening it.
- 10.4** The ordinary business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:
- (a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding Annual General Meeting and of any General Meeting held since that Meeting;
 - (c) to appoint a Returning Officer, where necessary, and at least two scrutineers, pursuant to Clause 25.6;
 - (d) to receive from the Committee reports upon the transactions and activities of the Club during the last preceding financial year;
 - (e) to elect officers of the Club and the ordinary Members of the Committee;
 - (f) to receive and consider the statement submitted by the Club in accordance with Section 30.3 of the Act; and
 - (g) to appoint an Auditor pursuant to Clause 33, 34 and 35.
- 10.5** The Annual General Meeting may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with these Rules.
- 10.6** The Annual General Meeting shall be in addition to any other General Meetings that may be held in the same year.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 11.1** The notice convening the Annual General Meeting shall be given to each Member not less than thirty days before the date of the Meeting and shall be accompanied by a form of Nomination of Committee of Management, see Clause 25.1 (b).
- 11.2** The signature to the notice convening the Annual General Meeting may be written, stamped, impressed, typed or printed.
- 11.3** Notice of an Annual General Meeting and the form of Nomination of Committee of Management shall be deemed to have been given to each Member if they are published in, or enclosed with, the club's newsletter or journal or such other publication as the Club may circulate to its Members provided that such publication is despatched to each Member not less than thirty days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting or if they are served upon him personally not less than twenty eight days prior to the date of that Meeting or they are sent through the post not less than thirty days prior to the Meeting addressed to each Member at the address shown in the Register of Members. A notice and form of Nomination of Committee of Management sent to

one of a dual membership shall be deemed for all purposes to have been notice to each of such Members.

- 11.4 A notice sent by post to a Member shall be deemed to have been received by him at the time at which the notice would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.
- 11.5 The accidental omission to give notice to a Member, or if a Member shall fail to receive a notice sent in accordance with Sub-Clause 11.3, shall not invalidate an Annual General Meeting.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 12. All General Meetings other than the Annual General Meeting shall be called Special General Meetings.
- 12.1 The Committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a Special General Meeting of the Club and, where, but for this Sub-Clause more than 15 months would lapse between Annual General Meetings shall convene a Special General Meeting before the expiration of that period.
- 12.2 The Committee shall, on the requisition in writing of Members representing not less than 5% of the total number of Members, convene a Special General Meeting of the Club.
- 12.3 The requisition for a Special General Meeting shall state the objects of the Meeting and shall be signed by the Members making the requisition and be sent to the address of the Secretary and may consist of several documents in a like form each signed by one or more of the Members making the requisition.
- 12.4 If the Committee does not cause a Special General Meeting to be held within one month after the date on which the requisition is sent to the address of the Secretary, the Members making requisition, or any of them, may convene a Special General Meeting to be held not later than 3 months after that date, and the Secretary shall for that purpose, if requested by such Members, furnish to them or otherwise make available a list of names and addresses of all Members entitled to attend a Special General Meeting.
- 12.5 A Special General Meeting convened by Members in pursuance of these Rules shall be convened in the same manner as nearly as possible as that in which those Meetings are convened by the Committee and all reasonable expenses incurred in convening the Meeting shall be refunded by the Club to the persons incurring the expenses.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 13.1 Every Special General Meeting convened by the Committee shall be convened by notice given by the Secretary to each Member of the Club specifying the date, time

and venue of such Meeting as prescribed in Sub-Clause 13.3. The signature to any such notice may be written, stamped, impressed, typed or printed.

- 13.2** At least seven days prior notice shall be given in respect of each such Meeting.
- 13.3** Notice of a Special General Meeting shall be deemed to have been given to each Member if it is published in the Club's newsletter or journal or such other publication, provided that such publication is made and despatched to the Members not later than seven days prior to the date of the Meeting or if it is served upon him personally or if it is sent through the post addressed to such Member at the address shown in the Register of Members. A notice sent to one of a dual membership shall be deemed for all purposes to have been notice given to each of such Members.
- 13.4** The accidental omission to give notice to a Member or if a Member shall fail to receive a notice sent pursuant to Sub-Clause 13.3 shall not invalidate a Special General Meeting.
- 13.5** A notice sent by post to a Member shall be deemed to have been received by him at the time at which the notice would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

- 14.1** If at a Special General Meeting or a Committee or Sub-Committee Meeting a quorum shall not be present after the expiration of thirty minutes from the appointed time thereof, the Meeting shall thereupon be adjourned in accordance with Clause 15.5.
- 14.2** A Special General Meeting of Members or a Meeting of Members of Committee or of a Sub-Committee shall have the power to adjourn its proceedings from time to time for any period not exceeding at any one time, one month.

PROCEEDINGS AT ALL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

- 15.1** All business that is transacted at a Special General Meeting and all business that is transacted at the Annual General Meeting with the exception of that specially referred to in Clause 10.4 as being the ordinary business of the Annual General Meeting shall be deemed to be special business.
- 15.2** Representation by proxy including voting by proxy is expressly precluded.
- 15.3** No item of business shall be transacted at a General Meeting unless a quorum of Members entitled under these Rules to vote is present during the time when the Meeting is considering that item.
- 15.4** 10 Members personally present (being Members entitled under these Rules to vote at a General Meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a General Meeting.
- 15.5** If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a General Meeting, a quorum is not present, the Meeting if convened upon the requisition of Members under Clause 12.4 and 12.5 shall be dissolved and in any other case shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and (unless another place is specified by the Chairman at the time of the adjournment or by written notice to Members given before the day to which the Meeting is adjourned) at the

same place and if at the adjourned Meeting the quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the Meeting, the Members present (being not less than 3) shall be quorum.

- 16.1** The President, or in his absence, the Vice-President shall preside as Chairman at each General Meeting of the Club.
- 16.2** If the President and the Vice-President are absent from a General Meeting, the Members present shall elect one of their number to preside as Chairman at the Meeting.
- 17.1** The Chairman of a General Meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the Meeting, adjourn the Meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned Meeting other than the business left unfinished at the Meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- 17.2** Where a Meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, a like notice of the adjourned Meeting shall be given as in the case of the General Meeting.
- 17.3** Except as provided in Sub-Clause 17.1 and .2, it is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned Meeting.
- 18.** A question arising at a General Meeting of the Club shall be determined on a show of hands, and unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll is demanded, a declaration by the Chairman that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or been carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or loss, and an entry to that effect in the Minute Book of the Club is evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the vote recorded in favour or, or against that resolution.
- 19.1** Upon any question arising at a General Meeting of the Club, a Member has one vote only. A dual membership shall be entitled to one vote only unless expressly provided for otherwise in the Club's By-Laws.
- 19.2** All votes shall be given personally.
- 19.3** In the case of an equality of voting on a question, the Chairman of the Meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- 20.1** If at a Meeting a poll on any question is demanded by not less than three Members, it shall be taken at that Meeting in such manner as the Chairman may direct and the resolution of the poll shall be deemed to be a resolution of the Meeting on that question.
- 20.2** A poll that is demanded on the election of a Chairman or on a question of adjournment shall be taken forthwith and a poll that is demanded on any other question shall be taken at such time before the close of the Meeting as the Chairman may direct.
- 21.** A Member is not entitled to vote at any General Meeting unless all moneys due and payable by him to the Association have been paid including the amount of the annual subscription payable in respect of the current financial year.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

22.1 The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee of Management constituted as provided in Clause 24.1

22.2 The Committee:

- (a) shall control and manage the business and affairs of the Club.
- (b) may, subject to these Rules, the Regulations and the Act, exercise all such powers and functions as may be exercised by the Club other than those powers and functions that are required by these Rules to be exercised by General Meetings of Members of the Club; and
- (c) subject to these Rules, the Regulations of the Associations Incorporation Act, the Committee has the power to perform all such acts and things as appear to the Committee to be essential for the proper management of the business and affairs of the Club.

23.1 The Officers of the Club shall be:

- (a) a President;
- (b) two Vice-Presidents;
- (b) a Treasurer;
- (c) a Secretary;
- (e) a Public Officer; and
- (f) such other Officials as required (see By-Law 2)
- (g) That the term of office for the President, Vice President 1&2, Treasurer, Secretary and Assistant Secretary be a two year term; President, Assistant Secretary and Vice President 1 elections to fall on even years and the Treasurer, Secretary and Vice President 2 elections fall on odd years.

23.2 The provisions of Clause 24 so far as they are applicable and with the necessary modifications apply to and in relation to the election of persons to any of the offices mentioned in Sub-Clause 23.1.

23.3 Each Officer to the Club shall hold Office until the Annual General Meeting next after the date of his election that the position is up for election but is eligible for re-election.

23.4 In the event of a casual vacancy in any office referred to in Sub-Clause 23.1, the Committee may appoint one of its Members to the vacant office and the Member so appointed may continue in office until the Annual General Meeting next following the date of his appointment that the position is due to be elected.

24.1 Subject to section 23 of the Act, the Committee shall consist of:

- (a) the Officers of the Club; and

- (b) ordinary Members- each of whom shall be Members of the VCA Inc. and shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club in each year.

24.2 Each ordinary Member of the Committee shall, subject to these Rules, hold office until the Annual General Meeting next after the date of his election but is eligible for re-election.

24.3 In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the office of an ordinary Member of the Committee, the Committee may appoint a Member of the Club to fill the vacancy and the Member so appointed shall hold office, subject to these Rules, until the Annual General Meeting next following the date of his appointment that the position is due to be elected.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT AND VACANCY

25.1 Not less than 90 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting, the Club must at a special general meeting appoint an impartial non member of the Club, with the consent of such person, as Returning Officer.

25.2 Nomination of candidates for election as Officers of the Club or as ordinary Members of the Committee:

- (a) shall be made in writing in such form as the Committee shall prescribe, signed by one Member of the Club and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and
- (b) shall be delivered to the Returning Officer of the Club not less than 21 days before the date fixed for the holding of the Annual General Meeting.

25.3 If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the Committee, the candidates shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall be received at the Annual General Meeting subject to each nominee consenting to such nomination.

25.4 If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed to be elected.

25.5 If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot shall be held, for the purpose of Sub-Clause 25.6(b) the Returning Officer shall, upon closure of nominations of candidates for election the Committee of Management when a ballot becomes necessary under this Clause send forthwith to all Members entitled to vote a list of all nominees in alphabetical order in respect of each position on the Committee of Management for which they have been nominated.

25.6 The election of the Office Bearers and ordinary Members of the Committee shall be by ballot:

- a) cast by Members present at the Annual General Meeting and eligible to vote thereat;
- b) notwithstanding Clause 25.6(a) any Member who is entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting, but unable to attend shall be entitled to apply to the Returning Officer for a postal vote. Application for a postal vote must be in writing and lodged with the Returning Officer fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Within seven days the Returning officer in the presence of the President and one other Committee Member appointed by the Committee will forward an initialed ballot paper to each applicant and record their names.

Members to whom ballot papers are posted will under no circumstances be given a second ballot paper. Completed ballot papers are to be returned to the Returning Officer in envelopes endorsed Ballot Papers. These envelopes shall be brought (unopened), by the Returning Officer to the Annual General Meeting.

- 25.7 As the second item of business of the Annual General Meeting, not less than two scrutineers shall be appointed by the Members at the Annual General Meeting.
- 25.8 Each member wishing to participate in the ballot will strike out from the ballot paper, all names in excess of the number of positions vacant and ballot papers containing a greater or lesser number of candidates to be elected shall be invalid.
- 25.9 After the appointment of the Scrutineers, the Returning Officer and the Scrutineers shall count the postal votes returned in accordance with Clause 25.6 and the votes cast by Members in accordance with Clauses 25.6 and 25.8.
- 25.10 The Returning Officer shall declare the result of the ballot immediately after the votes have been counted, and in the event of an equality or votes in favour of any candidate which could affect the election of a candidate, the Members at the Annual General Meeting shall elect one of such candidates to fill the vacancy for which he was nominated by a resolution passed by a simple majority of Members present and voting thereon.
- 25.11 If any question shall arise as to the validity or invalidity of a ballot paper, or whether any particular Member has or has not been elected to any particular Office, a statement by the Returning Officer that the relevant voting paper is or is not valid or that a particular Member has or has not been elected to a particular Office shall be conclusive.
- 26.** For the purposes of these Rules, the office of an Officer of the Club or of an ordinary Member of the Committee becomes vacant if the Officer or Member:
- (a) ceases to be a Member of the Club;
 - (b) becomes insolvent under administration within the meaning of the Companies (Victoria) Code;
 - (c) resigns his office by notice in writing given to the Secretary;
 - (d) absents himself from three consecutive Committee Meetings without leave of the Committee;
 - (e) if as a Member of the VCA Inc. he is disqualified or suspended by the VCA Inc. whilst the Club remains an affiliate of the VCA Inc.

VOTING OF MEMBERS

- 27.1** At Meetings of Members or of the Committee or of a Sub-Committee the mode of voting shall in the first instance be by show of hands, or if required by two Members by

an actual division or by ballot and the Chairman shall have an ordinary and in the case of equality also a casting vote and all questions shall be decided by the majority of votes of the Members voting in person at any such Meeting provided that on a resolution relating to the election of the Office Bearers or of the Members of the Committee or relating to the expulsion of Members, the foregoing shall not apply and in lieu thereof votes shall be taken in accordance with the relevant Clause of the Rules.

- 27.2** Every Member, other than a Junior Member, who was a financial Member of the Club for not less than three months of the financial year preceding the Annual General Meeting and is currently a financial Member shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible to nominate or be nominated as an Office Bearer or Member of the Committee other than President, Secretary or Treasurer (refer By-Law 5). Unless the Club's By-Laws provide otherwise a Member may be nominated for and hold more than one position on the Committee other than President, Secretary or Treasurer (refer By-Law 5).
- 27.3** No person becoming a Member between the closing date of the financial year preceding the Annual General Meeting and the date of the Annual General Meeting, shall be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting, nominate, or be nominated as an Office Bearer or Member of the Committee.
- 27.4** In all matters not covered by these Rules the Rules of common debate shall apply provided always that the best interests of the General Members of the Club be served and General Members have the right to vote in favour or against any Committee decision.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

- 28.1** Meetings of the committee shall be held at such place and at such time as the Committee from time to time determines.
- 28.2** The Secretary or his representative shall attend all Meetings of the Committee. The minutes of such meetings signed by the Chairman thereof or by the Chairman of a confirmatory Meeting shall be accepted as sufficient evidence of the proceedings of such Meeting.
- 28.3** The quorum for a Committee Meeting shall be not less than one half of the Members thereof present in person or such other number as prescribed by Member (Refer By-Law 3).
- 28.4** The Secretary shall call a Meeting of the Committee whenever requested to do so by the President or by three Members of the Committee.
- 28.5** The President, or in his absence, or if he shall be unwilling to act, a Vice-President present or if present he shall be unwilling to act, then a Member of the Committee elected by the Members thereof present in person shall be the Chairman of a Meeting of the Committee.
- 28.6** A Member of the Committee shall not vote in respect of any contract or proposed contract with the Club in which he is interested or in respect of any matter arising thereout and if he does so vote, his vote shall not be counted.

- 28.7** All acts done by any Meeting of the Committee or of a Sub-Committee thereof or of a Sub-Committee appointed by the Members or by any person acting as a Member of the Committee or of a sub-Committee notwithstanding that it is afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of the Committee or of a Sub-Committee or of any person acting as aforesaid or that the Members of the Committee or any of them or of a Sub-Committee were disqualified shall be as valid as if any such person had been validly appointed and was qualified to be a Member of the Committee or of such Sub-Committee.
- 28.8** A resolution in writing signed by all Members of the Committee for the time being entitled to receive notice of a Meeting of the Committee shall be as valid and effectual as if it has been passed at a Meeting of the Committee duly held and convened. Any such resolution may consist of several documents in like form each signed by one or more Members of the Committee.

DUTIES OF SECRETARY AND/OR PUBLIC OFFICER

29.1 The Secretary shall exercise and perform all the usual secretarial functions and generally attend to the secretarial work of the Club and in particular shall keep and maintain:

- (a) the roll of Members;
- (b) minutes of all proceedings of meetings of the Committee, and of the Club;
- (c) all necessary record of the affairs of the Club;
- (d) a complete record of awards made at all exhibitions and shows conducted by the Club, where necessary;
- (e) and shall forward to the VCA Inc. within one month of the Annual General Meeting an Audited Statement of Receipts and Expenditure and Balance Sheet of the Club.

29.2 The Public Officer shall:

- (a) notify the Registrar of his appointment within fourteen days - s.28.1;
- (b) notify his changes of address within fourteen days - s.28.2;
- (c) notify alterations to the statement of purposes or Rules within one month - s.28.2;
- (d) make application for approval of a change of name, if any within the prescribed time - s.13;
- (e) lodge with the Registrar the documents required by s.30.4 in respect of the Annual General Meeting within one month of the date of the Meeting or such further period as the Registrar may allow - s.30.4;
- (f) produce any book to the Registrar or his authorised Officer on being required to do so - s.47.5
- (g) tell the Registrar or authorised Officer where a book is at the time a request is made - s.47.6
- (h) not hinder or obstruct the Registrar or his authorised Officer whilst he is exercising powers of inspection; and
- (i) ensure that the incorporated Club complies with its obligation to lodge with the Registrar particulars of Trusts within fourteen days of becoming a trustee of the Trust.

DUTIES OF TREASURER

30. The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Receive all monies paid to the Club and cause the same to be paid into the banking account of the Club kept for the purpose within fourteen days of the receipt thereof;
- (b) Keep all necessary books of account and financial statements as shall be required by the Auditors, the VCA Inc. and the Act;
- (c) Prepare the annual accounts and accompanying reports;
- (d) Submit financial statements to all constituted Meetings of the Committee and the Club;
- (e) Produce in General Meetings the cash books and bank passbook when requested to do so;
- (f) Keep vouchers for payments authorised by the Club and the Committee; and
- (g) Keep a true and correct inventory of all property of the Club.

REMOVAL OF MEMBER OF COMMITTEE OR PUBLIC OFFICER

31.1 The Club in General Meeting may by resolution remove any Member of the Committee before the expiration of his term of office and appoint another Member within fourteen days in his stead to hold office until the expiration of the term of the first-mentioned Member; however

31.2 Where the Member to whom a proposed resolution referred to in Sub-Clause 31.1 makes representations in writing to the Secretary or President of the Club (not exceeding a reasonable length) and requests that they be notified to the Members of the Club, the Secretary or the President may send a copy of the representations to each Member of the Club, or if they are not so sent, the Member may require that they be read out at the Meeting.

BANKING ACCOUNT

32.1 The Committee shall cause a banking account to be opened with a recognised Bank and be kept in the name of the Club. All cheques payable to the Club shall be deposited to the credit of the Club's banking account.

32.2 All cheques payable on behalf of the Club amounting to \$20.00 or upwards with the exception of prize money shall be paid by cheque drawn upon the Club's bankers which shall be signed by the Treasurer or in his absence his authorised deputy any one of the Office Bearers authorised to sign on behalf of the Club. Notice of every such authority or change thereof shall be given to the Club's bankers forthwith whenever the need shall arise. Where an amount less than \$20.00 is paid in cash, the Treasurer, or his authorised deputy, shall ensure a receipt is obtained at the time of the transaction.

AUDIT AND AUDITOR

33. Subject to any Regulation that may be made under Section 54.2(b) of the Association Incorporation Act the Members at the Annual General Meeting shall appoint each year a person with accountancy knowledge to be the Auditor of the Club and a person so appointed shall hold that office until the next Annual General Meeting. A casual vacancy occurring in the position of Auditor shall be filled by the Committee.
34. Notice of the nomination of any person other than a retiring Auditor for appointment as Auditor shall be given to the Members not less than fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting at which the appointment of Auditor is to be made.
35. A person shall not be appointed or act as Auditor of the Club if he is an Office Bearer or an ordinary Member of the Committee or an employee of the Club.

NOTICES

- 36.1 A notice may be served on behalf of the Club upon any Member either personally or by sending it by post to the Member at his last known address shown in the Register of Members or by electronic mail if the Member so desires.
- 36.2 Where a document is properly addressed and pre-paid and posted to a person as a letter, the document shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been given to the person at the time at which the letter would have been delivered in the ordinary course of the post.

WINDING UP OR CANCELLATION

37. In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the Club, the assets of the Club shall be disposed of in accordance with the provision of the Act and Clause 41 of these Rules.

SEAL

- 38.1 The Common Seal of the Club shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary.
- 38.2 The Common Seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Committee and the affixing of the Common Seal shall be attested by the signature either of two Members of the Committee or of one Member of the Committee and of the Public Officer of the Club.

CUSTODY OF RECORDS

- 39.1 Except as otherwise provided in the Act and in these Rules the Secretary shall keep in his custody or under his control all books, documents and securities of the Club.
- 39.2 The books and documents referred to in Sub-Clause 39.1 shall be available for inspection by Members.

FUNDS

40. The funds of the Club shall be derived from entrance fees, annual subscriptions, donations and such other sources as the Committee determines.

PROPERTY

- 41(a) The property assets and income of the Club, wherever derived, shall be applied towards the promotion of the Statement of Purposes of the Club, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any Member or Members of the Club. Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of:
- (i) remuneration or reimbursement to any officers or servants of the Club or any Member in return for services actually rendered or for authorised expenses incurred;
 - (ii) interest on money borrowed from any Member of the Club;
 - (iii) honorariums of amounts determined annually at the AGM for Secretary, Treasurer and Championship Show Secretary;
 - (iv) Club certified obedience instructors and obedience administrators currently instructing or assisting at Club obedience venues: payment of Club membership
- (b) Should the Club for any reason whatsoever, cease to function, the:
- a) Members may at a Meeting specially convened for the purpose of the
 - b) winding up of the affairs of the Club, direct by resolution, passed by
 - c) majority of 75% of financial Members, that the funds be donated to an
 - d) approved charity or applied for use by an approved canine activity.

FINANCIAL YEAR

42. The financial year of the Club shall commence on the first day of July in each year, and terminate on the last day of June of the following year. Member fees must be paid on or before the first day of August each year, for continuity of membership.

ALTERATION OF RULES AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

43. These Rules and the Statement of Purposes of the Club shall not be altered except in accordance with the Association Incorporation Act.

BY-LAWS

44. Subject always to the Association Incorporation Act, VCA Inc. Rules and Regulations, and these Rules, Members in General Meeting by resolution passed by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the Members present and voting in person may make By-Laws and may from time to time amend such By-Laws by variation, deletion or addition as they shall think fit in respect of:
- (a) nominations of Members;
 - (b) amount of joining fee if any, and the annual membership subscription;

- (c) the conducting of a ballot;
- (d) the holding and conducting of Shows and Exhibitions by the Club;
- (e) the granting of awards and prizes at such Shows and Exhibitions;
- (f) the manner and procedure of dealing with protests and objections made at Shows or Exhibition subject always to the VCA Inc. Rules;
- (g) Meeting of Members and of Committees;
- (h) the publication of a Newsletter or Journal; and
- (i) any matter the Members consider necessary.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The objects of the Rottweiler Club of Victoria Inc. are:

- (a) to affiliate with the Victorian Canine Association Inc.;
- (b) to promote and encourage the breeding of pure bred dogs and in particular the Rottweiler;
- (c) to promote and raise the standards and exhibition of registered pure bred dogs, particularly the Rottweiler;
- (d) to promote the holding of Exhibitions under the Victorian Canine Association Inc. Rules and Regulations and to conduct Exhibition and/or to promote Obedience training and to conduct Obedience Trials and Tracking Tests;
- (e) to foster, promote and protect the interest of exhibitors of dogs at Exhibitions and particularly the Exhibitors of Rottweilers;
- (f) to collect, verify and publish information relating to dogs and the breeding and exhibition of dogs;
- (g) to educate and encourage Members, breeders and judges to abide by the requirements and standards approved by the Victorian Canine Association Inc. for the conduct of Exhibitions and Shows;
- (h) to promote good fellowship and sportsmanship amongst Members and those participating in or attending at Exhibitions and Shows;
- (i) to inform Members of and make known to them the Laws and Regulations of the State relating to the ownership and care of dogs, and the responsibility of owners for the conduct and actions of their dogs;
- (j) to hold functions and lectures relating to dogs and to the purposes of the Club generally;
- (k) to provide awards and donate prizes for competition at Exhibitions and for the competition by breeders and exhibitors of dogs;

- (l) to foster relations with other Clubs and bodies having similar aims;
- (m) to promote and assist worthy causes, as agreed at a General Meeting of the Members of the Club;
- (n) to invest the funds of the Club not immediately required in such manner as the Members or the Committee in lieu thereof shall determine;
- (o) to purchase, hire, lease, etc. and do such things as are conducive or incidental to promoting and achieving the purposes of the Club;
- (p) to carry on such other activities or promote or encourage interest in the breeding, upkeep and training of and the general well-being and improvement of Rottweilers and to do all such other things as may be necessary or conducive to carrying out the objects of the Club.

BY-LAWS

1. The annual Subscription shall be determined in accordance with Clause 44 of the Constitution, and shall be in respect of the period 1st July to 30th June. A joining fee shall be charged for new memberships. That joining fee shall include the information book. The Subscription shall be:
 - (a) Single Member \$40.00
 - (b) Dual Member \$50.00
 - (c) Junior Member \$ 5.00
 - (d) Overseas and Interstate \$40.00

2. The Office Bearers shall consist of:
 - (a) President;
 - (b) Two (2) Vice Presidents;
 - (c) Secretary;
 - (d) Assistant Secretary;
 - (e) Treasurer;

The Committee of the Club shall consist of not more than twelve (12) persons.

3. The quorum for a meeting shall be:
 - (a) Committee Meeting - 50% of the members of Committee
 - (b) General Meeting of Members - ten (10) financial members

4. The Membership of the Club shall consist of:
 - (a) Ordinary Membership;
 - (b) Joint (Dual) Membership;
 - (c) Life Member (any person may be nominated as a Life Member of the Club, in recognition of services rendered to the Club, or services rendered towards any of the objects of the Club);
 - (d) Honorary Member as per the Constitution;
 - (e) Junior Membership (any person under the age of 16 years of age may be a Junior Member of the Club, but shall cease to be a Junior Member at the end of the Financial Year in which he/she attains their sixteenth year).
 - (f) Any other form of membership (as per Constitution).

5. To be President, Secretary or Treasurer of the Rottweiler Club of Victoria Inc. a person must serve twelve (12) months on Committee prior.

6. Any person named on Dual Membership forms are each entitled to a vote.

7. All members other than Junior Members are entitled to a vote.
8. Any motion which affects or changes the Club Code of Ethics (or Code of Behaviour) or HD Scheme regulations or By-Laws of the Club or freedom of action of members in relation to breeding shall be subject to Notice of at least twenty-eight (28) days.
9. **Hip Dysplasia**
The Rottweiler Club approved Hip Scoring Scheme is the accepted method for evaluating Hip Status for the Rottweiler Club of Victoria Inc.
10. **Breeding**

Age at Breeding:
Dog - Not younger than 18 months
Bitch - 22 months of age or has reached 24 months at whelping and less than 7 years 10 months of age or 8 years at whelping. Subsequent matings to be at least 9 months from previous whelping date. Provided however, that it should be necessary through extenuating circumstances to breed from the bitch within 12 months, the bitch shall be rested on the third season.
 - (a) Stud service will be refused to any bitch under 22 months or which is in poor health or has disqualifying faults as per the FCI Standard.
 - (b) Repeat service will be allowed within the following 12 months, where a bitch has failed to conceive after being bred, if the stud is still available and in good health and at such time and place as mutually agreed to by the owner of the bitch and the owner of the stud dog.
11. **Placement of Rottweilers**
Buyers of puppies or adult dogs will receive accurate health, breeding and registration records and a three generation pedigree (as per VCA Rules & Regulation).
12. **Placement of Rottweilers**
The Sales Agreement supplied by the Rottweiler Club of Victoria inc. will be used with any sale or purchase involving a Rottweiler. Where a written Sales Agreement is not prepared the conditions of the Sales Agreement are deemed to be included.
13. **Enforcement**
Upon receipt of sufficient written proof of violations of the Code of Ethics or By-Laws, the Committee of the Rottweiler Club of Victoria Inc. may proceed with an investigation into the alleged violations and take appropriate action.
14. In all matters of Common Meeting Procedure the book "Law and Procedure at Meetings- Australia and New Zealand" (Joske) shall be used.

Passed by a special meeting of members 1/11/90.
Accepted by the V.C.A. Inc. (then K.C.C.) on 12/12/90
Updated and passed by Members 12/5/94
Updated and passed by Members 12/8/03
Updated and passed by Members 16/10/08
Approved by Consumer Affairs 5/2/09
Accepted by the VCA Inc.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE FOR BREACH OF CODE OF ETHICS

In the event of a breach of the Code of Ethics by a Member of the Rottweiler Club of Victoria Inc, the following will apply:

1. A letter is sent to the Member/s asking for an explanation or rectification of the alleged breach within 28 days. Should no response be received, the process will continue regardless.
2. After this 28-day period the Committee must consider the available information and determine whether there is a breach of the Code of Ethics, and, if so, whether the breach is minor or major.
3. If the committee determines that a breach has occurred, either minor or major, a fine of an amount determined by members from time to time in accordance with the Act is imposed on the Member/s, and a letter will be sent to the member/s advising them of the committee decision. The Secretary will keep a record of the breach on file.
4. In addition, if the breach is deemed to be a major breach:
 - A. The Member is barred from advertising in any RCV publication for a period of 12 months from the date of the determination by the Committee that a breach has been committed. This includes Stud Dog Register, Litter Listing, Congratulations, and paid advertisements.
 - B. The following details will be published in On Guard: The member's name, names of dogs involved, details of the breach, date of the determination by the committee that a breach has been committed, whether it is a first, second or third breach, and the penalty imposed.

If a Member commits a third Major breach of the Code of Ethics the Committee may suspend, expel or not renew their membership of the RCV.

GRIEVANCE RULE – DISPUTES AND MEDIATION

- (1) The grievance procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these Rules between-
 - (a) a member and another member; or
 - (b) a member and the Association.
- (2) The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute, and, if possible, resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all of the parties.
- (3) If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting, or if a party fails to attend that meeting, then the parties must, within 10 days, hold a meeting in the presence of a mediator.

- (4) The mediator must be-
 - (a) a person chosen by agreement between the parties; or
 - (b) in the absence of agreement-
 - (i) in the case of a dispute between a member and another member, a person appointed by the committee of the Association; or
 - (ii) in the case of a dispute between a member and the Association, a person who is a mediator appointed or employed by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria (Department of Justice).
- (5) A member of the Association can be a mediator.
- (6) The mediator cannot be a member who is a party to the dispute.
- (7) The parties to the dispute must, in good faith, attempt to settle the dispute by mediation.
- (8) The mediator, in conducting the mediation, must--
 - (a) give the parties to the mediation process every opportunity to be heard; and
 - (b) allow due consideration by all parties of any written statement submitted by any party;
and
 - (c) ensure that natural justice is accorded to the parties to the dispute throughout the mediation process.
- (9) The mediator must not determine the dispute.
- (10) If the mediation process does not result in the dispute being resolved, the parties may seek to resolve the dispute in accordance with the Act or otherwise at law.