

DEUTSCH-LANGHAAR ASSOCIATION e.V.
(a registered non-profit member organization)
BY-LAWS

1995

As adopted by the General Meetings on March, 25th, 2006 and March 20th, 2010
and most recently revised on March 21st, 2015

§ 1

Name, Location and Purpose of the Association

The Deutsch-Langhaar Association e.V., hereafter referred to by its acronym "**DLV**", represents the voluntary organization of all clubs and groups participating in the pure-breeding and performance breeding of the Deutsch-Langhaar Pointing Dog. The Association's business address is in Nürnberg where it is properly registered by the Nürnberg court as a not-for-profit member organization.

The **DLV** is a member of *Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen, VDH*, (German Kennel Club) and by nature of such membership is also associated with the *Federation Cynologique Internationale, F.C.I.*, (World Canine Organization).

The **DLV** recognizes as binding upon itself and its individual members the *VDH* by-laws and regulations in their most recent version (available online www.vdh.de) in as much as these involve areas of mutual interest.

The **DLV** Breeding Regulations are founded on the principles of the *VDH* breeding regulations. They are - without exception - binding on all member clubs and their respective individual members.

The **DLV** is a member of the *Jagdgebrauchshundverband, JGHV*, (German Versatile Hunting Dog Association) and as such recognizes as binding upon itself and its individual members the *JGHV* by-laws, disciplinary and tribunal regulations in their most recent version (available online www.jghv.de).

With regard to breeding matters, the *VDH* disciplinary regulations shall take precedence over those of the *JGHV*.

§ 2

Mission and Objectives

2.1. The **DLV** Mission and Objectives are:

- 2.1.1. Preserve the existence of the Deutsch-Langhaar Pointing Dog (DL) and continue its pure-breeding in accordance with the principle of utilizing dogs with proven performance in regular hunting practice, in particular after the shot;
- 2.1.2. Familiarize more people with the DL breed and promote the breed's growth both in and out of its country of origin;
- 2.1.3. Cultivate hunting activities consistent with existing wildlife conditions and the rules of animal protection by using reliable hunting dogs;
- 2.1.4. Train Deutsch-Langhaar Pointing Dogs for hunting activities and apply thereto the principles of animal protection as set forth by the respective laws.
- 2.1.5. The **DLV** exclusively and directly pursues only non-profit objectives as defined in the paragraph of the German Ordinance on Taxation and Fees, entitled "Tax Privileged Status".
- 2.1.6. The **DLV** does not pursue self-serving goals nor does it primarily pursue means to generate internal funds. The financial resources of the Association may be used only in pursuit of the objectives laid down in the present By-laws. Members do not receive contributions from Association funds.

- 2.1.7. No one shall benefit from expenses which are not related to the purpose or objectives of the Association, or from disproportionately high reimbursements.
- 2.2. The **DLV** seeks to achieve its objectives through the following actions, some of which are:
- 2.2.1. Establish Breeding Regulations as a binding guideline for all member clubs and their individual members;
- 2.2.2. Define the Breed Typical Characteristics and Standards, and deposit them with the **VDH** (German Kennel Club) and the **F.C.I.** (World Canine Organization);
- 2.2.3. Maintain a collective Deutsch-Langhaar Breed Register, for reference by its acronym "**ZDL**". This Register shall be available to breeders who are members of a **DLV** member club. The Register shall list, for each calendar year collectively, every litter whelped, individual dogs, their pedigrees and breeder information. The Register shall be printed annually in the first quarter of the following year;
- 2.2.4. Organize national and international breed and performance tests, as well as stud dog shows for the purpose of evaluating the existing dog pool against established performance and breed standards;
- 2.2.5. Establish regional areas in which individual member clubs of the **DLV** engage in breeding activities.

§ 3 Membership

DLV membership requires that clubs and groups have by-laws that define as one objective the pure-breeding and the performance breeding of the DL dog; further, they must have a verifiable minimum of 50 regular members.

The by-laws of **DLV** member clubs must include the statement that each club and its individual members shall recognize as binding the **DLV**, **VDH** and **JGHV** by-laws and regulations.

A written membership application to join the **DLV** must be received by the **DLV** President at least six (6) weeks prior to a regular General Meeting.

The membership application must be accompanied by the following documents:

- Current by-laws;
- Proof of the proper registration with the respective local court;
- Member roster.

The General Meeting shall decide on membership applications. Admission into **DLV** shall be granted when the application is supported by at least 2/3 majority of the votes present. In the event that the application fails to secure the required 2/3 majority, the General Meeting may decide by simple majority vote that the applicant club fulfill certain requirements until its admission request is presented for voting again at one of the upcoming General Meetings.

DLV membership ends by:

3.1. Resignation

Resignation from membership must be in writing and sent by registered mail to the President by September 30th of the current fiscal year, with the termination date effective at the end of the calendar year.

3.2. Expulsion

The membership of a member club can be terminated when its annual dues have not been paid by the end of the fiscal year; or when it has grossly violated, or violated more than once, either the Association By-laws; the Breeding Regulations; or the Association's decisions.

After the member club has been given the opportunity to submit a written statement regarding the proposed expulsion, a 2/3 majority vote by the General Meeting shall be necessary to enact the expulsion.

§ 4 Association Bodies

The **DLV** shall consist of these bodies:

- The General Meeting
- The Executive Board
- The Extended Board

4.1. The General Meeting

The General Meeting shall represent the highest decision-making body in the **DLV** administration. Unless the Law or Association By-laws stipulate that decisions must be made by qualified majority vote, decisions by the General Meeting shall be by simple majority vote. In the event of a tie, the deciding vote shall be cast by the President.

4.1.1. The General Meeting shall be comprised of:

- The delegates from individual Association member clubs;
For every 50 individual members, the member club shall be entitled to one delegate (count of registered members will be conducted each year on the 1st day of January).
- The Executive Board;
- The Breeding Commission;
- The Breed Registrar;
- The Public Relations Officer.

4.1.2. Responsibilities of the General Meeting

- The decision-making power over Breeding Regulations, their interpretation and implementation;
- The decision-making power over budget and Association dues;
- The decision-making power over motions, member expulsion, and changes to the By-laws;
- Approval of the decisions by the Executive Board of the Association;
- The election of the Executive Board, the Breeding Commission, the Breed Registrar, the Public Relations Officer and the two Auditors.

Decisions regarding Breeding Regulations or the By-laws require a 2/3 majority vote.

At least once every year, the President shall convene a General Meeting. He shall give 4 weeks advance notice, including the agenda, in the official **DLV** Newsletter and/or by posting it on the **DVL** website and/or in writing to the chairpersons of the member clubs.

A General Meeting must be convened when the Extended Board has requested one, or when it is requested by at least 1/3 of the votes present in the General Meeting. The request must be in writing and include the reasons for the meeting.

4.1.3. Motions to the General Meeting

- Motions to the General Meeting must be in writing, including the reasons for the motion, and must be submitted to the President not later than six weeks prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.
Motions must be published 4 weeks prior to the meeting on the **DVL** website and/or the official Newsletter of the Association.
- Motions may be submitted by one of these entities: Association member clubs, the Executive Board, the Breed Registrar or the Breeding Commission.
The Executive Board shall have the right to submit motions independently and not subject to deadlines.
During the course of the meeting, new motions or supplementary motions may be submitted when these are related to the issue under debate. When it is unclear whether the new motion or supplementary motion is related to the ongoing debate, the General Meeting shall make the decision whether or not to include these motions for voting. This does not include motions to change the Breeding Regulations. Such motions cannot be submitted as new motions or supplementary motions during the General Meeting.

The General Meeting shall constitute a quorum when more than half of the Association member clubs are represented by their delegates. Should a quorum not be met, then the President shall convene the General Meeting again within 4 weeks from the failed quorum at which time the General Meeting shall constitute a quorum regardless of the number of delegates present.

The General Meeting shall vote by ballot. The vote can also be by hand, if not more than ¼ of the delegates present object to this method.

Individual members of Association member clubs, who do not have delegate status, are welcome to participate as guests in the meeting.

4.1.4 Minutes of the General Meeting

Minutes of the General Meeting shall be taken; they must be preserved and published in the official Association Newsletter.

The Minutes shall be approved at the next General Meeting.

Any comments or objections to the Minutes must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson within 8 weeks after the Minutes have been published. The next General Meeting will decide on any objections. Decisions by the General Meeting will become effective with the publication of the Minutes in the official Association Newsletter.

4.2. The Executive Board

4.2.1. The Executive Board shall consist of:

- The President;
- The Vice-President;
- The Secretary;
- The Treasurer.

The Executive Board shall manage the Association and conduct its regular business. It shall be responsible for the implementation of **DLV** mission and objectives; compliance with By-laws, Breeding Regulations and decisions passed by the General Meeting.

It shall further be responsible for completing the annual fiscal report for the preceding year, proposing the budget for the upcoming year and for the minutes of the General Meeting.

The Executive Board shall be responsible for composing and publishing the official Association print, the DL Newsletter (*DL-Mitteilung*). The Newsletter shall serve as support for the network and foster the collective spirit among member clubs and individual members, and as a source for news and information.

The President shall be the legal representative of the *DLV* as defined by Section 26 of the German Civil Code (*BGB*). In this function, he shall be

- The principal officer in the administration of the Association, safeguard its mission and objectives;
- Ensure the timely convening of regular and – where applicable – non-regular General Meetings;
- Determine the agenda;
- Preside over the General Meeting in accordance with democratic principles.

The Vice-President shall support the President in all managing responsibilities and shall act on his behalf on those occasions when the President is unavailable. The President does not have to provide the reason for his unavailability.

Executive Board members serve in an honorary capacity; their cash expenses shall be reimbursed in accordance with § 2 of the *DLV* By-laws. Reimbursement for expenses incurred may not exceed the permissible rates of applicable Tax Codes.

4.2.2 The President shall call a meeting of the Executive Board with a two-week advance notice when one of the following events occurs:

- a. An important matter requires attention;
- b. The meeting has been requested by three Board members.

The simple majority rule shall apply regarding voting in the Executive Board. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Deliberation and subsequent decisions may also be conducted by telecommunication methods. Outcomes shall be recorded in writing. The meeting attendees shall receive the minutes within 4 weeks of the meeting; the minutes to be approved by those having been in attendance at the next meeting.

The Executive Board may appoint special committees or assistants to tend to special matters. The Executive Board shall define the nature and extent of and authority for such commissions. Appointments shall be for the period of one election term. The Executive Board may revoke an appointment at any time.

Reimbursement of cash expenses shall be the same as for Executive Board members. This furthermore applies to members of appointed committees.

4.3. The Extended Board

It shall consist of:

- The Executive Board;
- The Chairpersons of all Association member clubs or their representatives;
- The Breed Registrar;
- The Public Relations Officer;
- The Members of the Breeding Commission.

The Extended Board shall be consulted in all important matters. It shall also decide when deserving members are to be honored with awards under the Merit Award System as established by the General Meeting.

The **DLV** President shall convene the Extended Board with an advance notice of 2 weeks from the proposed date whenever the necessity for a meeting arises. Meetings of the Extended Board must be convened when five of its members have so requested in writing. The Extended Board shall constitute a quorum when more than half of its members are present. At least two members must be Executive Board members. Voting shall require a simple majority.

§ 5 The Breeding Commission

The Breeding Commission shall consist of three individual members with seniority and experience in the breeding history of the **DLV**. The members designate one of the Commission members to act as spokesperson.

The responsibilities of the Breeding Commission shall include, but are not limited to:

- Monitor the breeding of DL dogs and the compliance with the Breeding Regulations and with the established standards for the breed;
- Collect the hunting test results for each year for all DL dogs; analyze and present them with commentaries to the General Meeting;
- Present proposals for maintaining quality standards and, where indicated, the improvement of breeding. The latter shall apply in particular to characteristics such as a mental stability, temperament, performance in regular hunting practice and trueness to the DL type;
- Decision-making body for disputes regarding the interpretation of Breeding Regulations;
- Advise the Executive Board and the Extended Board, the Association member clubs and individual breeders in all breeding related matters;
- Maintain a current list of breed judges; prepare, present and oversee seminars for breed judges.

The Breeding Commission shall render decisions by unanimous vote. When unanimity cannot be reached, the Executive Board shall have the decisive vote or it may delegate the decision-making authority to the General Meeting.

Decisions by the Breeding Commission shall be forwarded, in writing, to the parties concerned and to the members of the Extended Board.

In cases where a decision by the Breeding Commission is challenged, a protest may be filed with the **DLV** President within 4 weeks after the disputed decision has been served. The protest shall be deliberated and voted upon in the next General Meeting.

§ 6 Elections

Members of the Executive Board, as well as the Breed Registrar, the Public Relations Officer, the Members of the Breeding Commission, and two Auditors shall be elected by the General Meeting for a three-year term.

The Executive Board shall be elected by secret ballot. Re-election shall be allowed for all positions. The Auditors shall be re-electable only one time.

Three persons shall be elected by acclamation to form the election committee. This committee shall be responsible for the proper conduct of the election, and for preparing the post-election report which will be attached to the minutes of the General Meeting.

§ 7 Membership Dues

The **DLV** shall raise dues for carrying out its mission and objectives. Every member club shall be obligated to pay dues. The amount of dues shall be determined by the General Meeting.

Each member club shall count the number of its registered members, including honorary members, on the 1st day of January of each fiscal year. The number shall be reported to the **DLV** President and the Treasurer by the 10th day of January of that year. The respective member number shall be the basis for assessing the dues payable by the club.

§ 8 The Fiscal Year

Fiscal year is the calendar year.

§ 9 Final Provisions

The **DLV** shall not be liable for any activities or omissions by its associated member clubs.

The General Meeting shall be the only body authorized to decide on the dissolution of the **DLV**.

In the event that six (6) Association member clubs, regardless of their respective delegate votes, desire that the Association be continued, the **DLV** may not be dissolved. In the event of a tie vote on the dissolution, the motion fails.

In the event that the motion for dissolution shall pass or when the Association is unable to pursue one of its statutory purposes under the By-laws, the dispersion of Association assets shall be determined in the same General Meeting. The assets shall be dispersed to a hunting dog related association which enjoys a tax-privileged status. It shall utilize the assets directly and exclusively for non-profit purposes.

Decisions on the future use of assets may not be executed until approval from the (German) Tax Office.

In the event that individual stipulations of these By-laws are or shall become invalid, the remainder of the By-laws shall remain in effect.

The By-laws shall be valid upon registration with the proper court and subsequent publication in the Association Newsletter (and/or Homepage).