

Bylaws of the American Rancho Society

Article I - Name and Purpose of the Organization

Section A - The name of the organization shall be the American Rancho Society, hereinafter "ARS".

Section B - The purpose of the organization will be:

- 1) promote the Japanese-style top-view rancho goldfish (hereinafter "TVR") hobby within North America,
- 2) promote and support the American Goldfish Association (hereinafter "AGA"),
- 3) promote breeding TVRs and distributing offspring to others,
- 4) have at least one annual show and competition each year to display and judge TVR.
- 5) promote the other top view Japanese breeds including toskin, nankin, shukin, etc.
- 6) develop and distribute information about AGA and TVR.
- 7) engage in social activities related to ARS purposes.

Article II - Membership

Section A - Any person who has an interest in TVR culture and is a member in good standing of the AGA shall be eligible for Membership. Upon submitting an application and payment of dues as outlined in Article V, the applicant will become a Member of ARS.

Section B - A Member may voluntarily withdraw from the ARS by giving notice. A Member may be expelled by a majority vote of the Membership for violation of the Bylaws, non-payment of dues or for conduct deemed by the Membership as detrimental to ARS. Memberships are not transferable or assignable.

Article III – Sponsorship

Section A – Any company with an interest in TVR culture shall be eligible to become an ARS Sponsor. Upon submitting an application and payment of dues as outlined in Article V, the applicant will become a Sponsor.

Section B - A Sponsor may voluntarily withdraw from ARS by giving notice. A Sponsor may be expelled by a majority vote of the Membership for violation of the Bylaws, non-payment of dues or for conduct deemed by the Membership as detrimental to ARS. Sponsorships are not transferable or assignable.

Section D –Sponsors, their employees, associates and family members, as well as any other persons or entities with an economic interest in TVR or goldfish in general may

not hold a elected office in ARS as described in Article VIII, Section A.

Article IV – Membership and Sponsorship Rights

Section A - Each Member and Sponsor in good standing shall have the right to vote in ARS officer elections and when other issues are brought before the membership.

Section B - Each Member and Sponsor in shall have the right, in conjunction with four other Members and/or Sponsors, to request the ARS President bring an issue up before the general membership.

Section C - Each Member and Sponsor shall receive the ARS newsletter and/or other material developed to promote TVR and advance the goals of ARS. This may be in paper form or electronic form as determined by the Editor and Executive Committee.

Article V - Fiscal Year and Dues

Section A - The fiscal year shall be from January 1 through December 31. Annual dues shall be due and payable at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Section B - The annual dues for Members and Sponsors shall be set prior to the beginning of each fiscal year by the Executive Committee and shall reflect current account balances and anticipated budgets for expenditures. The monies collected from dues shall be used only to further the purposes of the ARS. An accounting of the funds collected and how/where funds were expended shall be reported to the Members at least annually.

Section C - The dues are payable on January 1st of each year except in the case of new Members whose initial dues are payable with their application for Membership and may be prorated according to the time left in the fiscal year. Dues are not refundable in whole or in part.

Article VI – Meetings and Communication

Section A – The majority of the communication will be electronic via e-mail and/or web-based forums.

Section B – The President may convene a face-to-face meeting of Members or the Executive Committee as opportunities arise. Minutes of all such meetings shall be recorded by the Secretary or the President and these minutes shall be distributed to all Members and Sponsors.

Section C – As a minimum, each year the Members and Sponsors shall receive:

- 1) call for nominations and seconds for elected office in the upcoming year,
- 2) request for voting on same,
- 3) results of elections,

- 4) a fiscal accounting of income and expenses, and
- 5) results and summary of the Annual Show.

Article VII - Voting

Section A - A Member or Sponsor in good standing shall be entitled to one vote.

Article VIII - Officers and Elections

Section A - The Executive Committee are elected officers of ARS and their term in office shall be:

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) President | elected by Members for 2 years |
| 2) Vice-President | elected by Members for 2 years |
| 3) Secretary-Treasurer | elected by Members for 2 years |

Section B - The appointed officers of ARS and their term in office shall be:

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|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1) Editor | appointed by Executive Committee for 1 year |
| 2) Webmaster | appointed by Executive Committee for 1 year |
| 3) Show Committee Chairperson | appointed by Executive Committee for 1 year |
| 4) <i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee Chairperson | appointed by Executive Committee for 1 year |

Section C – Nominations and seconds for elected officers will come from Members who are not themselves elected or appointed officers. There will be at least two nominations for each elected office. Every Member and Sponsor will be notified of the nominations and given two weeks to vote. The nominee receiving the largest number of votes in the two-week window is elected. The elected offices of ARS cannot be held for more than three consecutive terms. No Member may hold more than one elected office at a given time.

Section D – Editor, Webmaster and Chairpersons are appointed by and report to the Executive Committee. The Editor, Webmaster, a Chairperson, Member, or Sponsor of ARS shall not execute a contract or agreement in behalf of ARS without the prior approval of the Executive Committee.

Article IX - Duties and Authority of Officers

Section A - The duties and authority of the President shall be:

- 1) preside at meetings, initiate and/or approve communications to the Members.
- 2) appoint Appointed Officers in concert with the other Executive Committee.
- 3) approval of expenditures by Committee Chairpersons in concert with the other Executive Committee.
- 4) create *ad hoc* committees, as necessary.

Section B - The duties and authority of the Vice-President shall be:

- 1) assume all duties of the President during an absence or upon request by the President, in addition to other duties which may be assigned,
- 2) assist the President and Committee Chairpersons as requested,
- 3) provide information to the Editor and Webmaster regarding programs and meetings.

Section C - The duties and authority of the Secretary shall be:

- 1) keep records of meetings and communication to Members,
- 2) handle ARS correspondence, as requested by the Executive Committee,
- 3) collect dues and maintain a roster of Members and Sponsors along with their contact information,
- 4) pay bills approved by the Executive Committee,
- 5) prepare an annual accounting of income and expenditures,
- 6) maintain an updated copy of the ARS Bylaws and furnish copies as requested by other officers, Members and Sponsors,

Section D - The duty of the Editor shall be to develop newsletter and/or other material used to promote TVR and advance the goals of ARS. The Editor shall submit a budget for any needed expenditures to the Executive Committee for approval prior to doing the work.

Section E - The duty of the Webmaster shall be to create a web site for ARS and update it with news and material developed by the Editor and Executive Committee. The Webmaster shall submit a budget for needed expenditures to the Executive Committee for approval prior to doing the work.

Section F – The duty of the Show Committee Chairperson shall be to appoint committee members, organize the show and assign tasks as needed for its successful execution. The Show Committee Chairperson shall submit a budget for any needed expenditures to the Executive Committee for approval prior to doing the work.

Section G – The duty of an *Ad Hoc* Committee Chairperson shall be to appoint committee members and assign tasks as needed in order to execute a special project as envisioned by the Executive Committee. The *Ad Hoc* Committee Chairperson shall submit a budget for any needed expenditures to the Executive Committee for approval prior to doing the work.

Article X - Amendments to the Bylaws

Section A - These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Members. The full text of the Bylaws and proposed amendments thereto must be provided to each Member at least two weeks prior to closing the voting on the amendments.

[draft for review – August 1, 2009]