



FLATCOATED RETRIEVER SOCIETY

K.C. No. 4012



Revised March 2026

Affiliated to



**THE ROYAL KENNEL CLUB
THE FIELD TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL
THE BASC and THE NATIONAL GAMEKEEPERS ORGANISATION
AND INTERNATIONAL GUNDOG LEAGUE RETRIEVER SOCIETY**

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

1. Name

The Society shall be called "The Flatcoated Retriever Society" (hereinafter referred to as "the Society").

2. Objects

The Objects for which the Society is established are:-

- (a) To encourage the breeding of a type of Flatcoated Retriever conforming to the approved Breed Standard.
- (b) To encourage responsible dog ownership.
- (c) To encourage the training and working of the breed and running Field Trials and Working Tests.
- (d) To run shows.
- (e) To ensure, where possible, Rescue, Rehousing, and Welfare is provided for any Flatcoated Retriever requiring assistance.

3. Interpretation

For simplicity, the masculine pronoun is used throughout this Constitution and Rules, but the provisions apply equally to males and females.

4. Officers

The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Field Trial Secretary, an Honorary Show Secretary, an Honorary Working Test Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, and an Honorary Rescue, Rehousing and Welfare Scheme Secretary. All Officers shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election by ballot at the Annual General Meeting. All Officers shall ex-officio be members of the Committee and have full voting rights.

5. Maintenance of Title

The Officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year a Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to The Royal Kennel Club whether by the Secretary or by Direct Debit, for the continuance of registration and that by the 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in The Royal Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and Maintenance of Title of the Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities, will be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform The Royal Kennel Club of any change of Secretary of the Society which may occur during the course of the year.

6. Committee

The business and affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the Officers and nine ordinary members, which may regulate the conduct of its business in such manner as it thinks fit.

Each ordinary Committee member shall be elected for a term of three years. Three of the ordinary members shall retire annually from the Committee in rotation, retiring members may seek re-election. Five, including at least one Officer, shall form a quorum. The Chairman of the meeting shall, in the event of an equality of votes, have a casting vote only. Any member wishing to stand for election to Officer or Committee must declare in their pre-ballot profile, any relationship or partnership they have with any existing Officer or Committee member. Similarly, they must declare any relationship or partnership with any other member standing for election at the same election.

The Committee shall appoint Sub-Committees which are accountable to the General Committee. The relevant Secretary/Officer may invite members to join their Sub-Committee but must have the Committee's ratification before any such invitation can be confirmed. The Sub-Committee so appointed shall include a minimum of one other member of the Committee over and above the relevant Secretary/Officer.

Current sub committees are the Field Trial Sub- Committee, Judges and Show Sub-Committee, Health Sub-Committee, Rescue, Rehoming and Welfare Sub- Committee and Finance- Sub Committee. All monies held by the aforementioned Committees are the responsibility of the General Committee.

If any member of a Sub-Committee is absent from three consecutive meetings without a satisfactory explanation the invitation to that member may be rescinded.

Members of the Society shall not be eligible to stand for election to the Committee until they have been fully paid-up members for a minimum of three consecutive years.

If any member of the Committee shall have been absent from three consecutive meetings of the Committee without satisfactory explanation, his name shall be struck off the list of Committee members and the Committee may appoint a replacement until the next Annual General Meeting.

Vacancies in the Committee caused by resignation, retirement, death or other reasons shall be filled at the next Annual General Meeting except that the person so selected will only serve for the term of the person he replaces.

The Committee should have the power to co-opt Members to fill any casual vacancies in its number until the next A.G.M.

It shall be at the sole discretion of the Committee to invest any surplus income of funds of the Society or disburse same in whatever manner it decides for the benefit of the Society. At each Committee Meeting, the provisional date of the next meeting will be given. This date will be confirmed by notice given not less than fourteen clear days before the chosen date unless exceptional circumstances demand it.

The Committee shall have power to make bye-laws and regulations, consistent with the terms of the Constitution and Rules, as it may from time to time deem necessary.

No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee or hold any other office or appointment within a Royal Kennel Club Registered Society.

The proposal of a member for the position of Patron is at the discretion of the Officers and Committee but their choice must be approved at the AGM. The Patron automatically becomes a Life Member.

Honorary Vice-Presidents and Honorary Members may be elected for life at an Annual General Meeting on the recommendation of the Committee. Notice of a proposal to elect an Honorary Vice-President or Honorary Member must appear on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting. Honorary Vice-Presidents and Honorary Members shall have all rights and privileges of membership. They will not normally attend Committee or Sub-Committee Meetings, but if they are invited to do so, they will have no vote. They shall not be liable to pay subscriptions.

7. Constitution and Rules

The Constitution and Rules of the Society shall form the basis of membership and may not be altered except at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting, notice of which includes details of the proposal to alter the Constitution or Rules. Such alterations may not be brought into force until the Royal Kennel Club has been advised and has given its approval to the

alteration. New Rules or amendments introduced specifically to meet Royal Kennel Club requirements shall be adopted immediately and be included in the Society's Constitution with effect from the Society's Annual General Meeting.

8. Membership

The Society shall consist of an unlimited number of members, all responsible persons interested in the Flatcoated Retriever, being eligible for membership. Junior membership shall be available, without voting rights, from 8 to 18 years of age. These members may, if over 16, on payment of the full subscription, enjoy the rights and privileges of full membership. Joint Members have equal rights in all activities.

Candidates for election to the Society must be proposed and seconded by two fully paid-up members of the Society and shall be elected by the Committee, or, to avoid delay, by the Secretary and four other members of the Committee. No member shall be entitled to be present, to take part in any proceedings or vote in any General Meeting, or to nominate, to be nominated, to be elected, or if elected take office as a member of the Committee if or while he is due to the Society any subscriptions or other debt due to the Society which has remained due for a period of more than TWO MONTHS after the same became due and payable.

If the Committee feel there are valid and sufficient grounds to refuse an application for Membership their decision is final and no reason need be given.

The Society must maintain an up to date list of members and their addresses, and those of branch members where appropriate, and, if so requested, make the list available for inspection by the Royal Kennel Club and members of the Society. A declaration of the number of members of the Society must be made with the Annual Returns.

9. Subscriptions

The annual subscription shall be as decided by the Annual General Meeting and shall be categorised as follows:

Ordinary Membership

Joint Membership is to a maximum of two persons per application.

Gamekeeper and his spouse or partner

Senior Citizens

Junior Members

Bona fide gamekeeper members and senior citizens shall benefit from a reduced subscription and they shall have the rights and privileges of membership including voting rights.

Subscriptions shall be payable in full on January 1st each year. No personal reminders will be sent out, but reminders will go out with the Annual General Meeting Notices each year.

Membership and Society privileges and rights shall lapse when a full subscription is three calendar months in arrears. This also applies to Members only paying a partial subscription.

10. Voting Rights

Each member shall be entitled to one vote immediately upon acceptance of membership. Each member of a joint membership is entitled to one vote. Junior members have no voting rights until they achieve full membership status.

In the event of there being more than one nomination for an Officer or Committee Member a secret ballot will be held. Ballot Papers will be posted to members with the Annual General Meeting Papers and can be either brought to the Annual General Meeting if attending or be returned to the Secretary in an envelope which is clearly marked "AGM Ballot" in the top LEFT hand corner. All ballot forms will be handed to the tellers at the Annual General Meeting. THERE WILL BE NO BALLOT FORMS ISSUED AT THE AGM.

No member shall vote with regard to any matter in which he has a financial interest and shall declare any such interest he may have.

11. Expulsion of Members

If the Canine Section expels any member for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, Dog Shows, Trials, or Competitions, the organisation will report the matter in writing to the Royal Kennel Club within seven days and supply any particulars if required.

Any member who shall be disqualified under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.j.(5) and/or Royal Kennel Club rule A11.j. (9) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Society.

If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee of the Society, be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Society the Committee of the Society may, at a meeting the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Society shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him.

Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused member, giving the particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the meeting that he may attend and offer an explanation. If at the meeting, a resolution to expel is passed by a two thirds majority of the members present and voting, his name shall forthwith be erased from the list of members and he shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a member of the Society except that he may, within two calendar months from the date of such a meeting, appeal to The Royal Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as The Royal Kennel Club may impose.

12. Notices

A notice may be given by the Society to any member:-

- (a) By intimation in the dog press
- (b) Personally or
- (c) By sending it by post to him at his registered address.

Where a notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, pre-paying and posting it and to have been effected at the expiration of five clear days after it was posted for members within the United Kingdom. For overseas members, a period of fourteen days shall be deemed equivalent.

13. Financial Year

The financial year of the Society shall be from 1st January until 31st December.

14. Society Accounts

The Society shall have a banking account (or a number of accounts as the Society sees fit) in the name of the Society into which all revenue of the Society shall be paid and from which withdrawals shall only be made on the signature of two or more Officers of the Society.

When utilising online banking the Treasurer is authorised to transfer internal monies at the same bank on behalf of the Flatcoated Retriever Society without any second authorisation being required. When transferring monies and making payments to any other bank (other than the Flatcoated Retriever Society's own accounts), then a second authorisation will be required online from one of the Officers of the Society in accordance with bank mandate.

Signatories on the Society cheques may not be members of the same family/partner.

15. Reporting Accountants

Accountants, independent of the committee, shall be elected at the AGM Meeting: they shall not be members of the Committee and will provide an accountants' report annually on the Accounts of the Society.

The Accounts will include a Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Accounts and any other information relevant to the understanding of the Accounts. The certified accounts will be made available on request to members fourteen days prior to the AGM.

16. Annual General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting shall be held by the 31st March and shall be after the accounts are available.

At least twenty-eight clear days notice shall be given to all members of an Annual General Meeting, the agenda being available fourteen clear days prior to the meeting. The purpose of the Annual General Meeting shall be:-

- (a) To receive the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
- (b) To receive the report drawn up by the Honorary Secretary on the proceedings of the Society and the signed Accounts of the Society.
- (c) To elect the Officer-bearers, members of Committee and Reporting Accountants
- (d) To discuss any resolutions or other items placed on the agenda of which prior notice has been given. Such resolutions or other items shall be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary by 31st January each year. No business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those which, in the opinion of the Chairman, are urgent.

Should any member at the Annual General Meeting of the Society wish to appeal against a ruling of the Chairman, he shall make a formal proposal to that effect immediately, stating the grounds for this action. This proposal shall be seconded by another member. The Chairman shall then be entitled to make a statement, should he so choose, explaining the grounds for this ruling. No further discussion shall take place.

17. Extraordinary General Meetings

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee at any time, or on the requisition in writing of not less than five per cent of the membership of the Society, addressed to the Honorary Secretary and stating the business to be discussed.

Notice of such meetings shall be circulated to the members, stating the business to be transacted, not less than fourteen clear days before the date of the meeting. No business other than that specifically stated in the notice should be considered at such a meeting.

The Chairman of the meeting shall, in the event of an equality of votes, have a casting vote.

18. Royal Kennel Club the Final Court of Appeal

The Royal Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Society in all cases relative to canine or society matters.

19. Winding-up or Dissolution of the Society

The Society may be dissolved and wound up provided that a resolution to that effect has been passed by a majority of three-fourths of the members present and voting at a General Meeting of which notice to propose the resolution has been duly given.

In the event of the Society ceasing to exist, the property of the Society shall, where possible, be returned to the donors, their heirs, executors or assigns. Cash assets shall be distributed by decision of a General Meeting and a final Statement of Audited Accounts with a record of the disposal of the property of the Society shall be forwarded to The Royal Kennel Club within six months and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the Society on the last return furnished to The Royal Kennel Club will be held responsible by The Royal Kennel Club for the proper winding up of the Society.

20. Indemnity

The members of the Committee and of any Sub-Committee thereof, the Officers of the Society and the Auditors shall be indemnified out of the funds of the Society against all loss,

costs and charges which they may respectively incur or be put to on account of any contract, deed, act, matter or thing done, entered into, executed or permitted by them respectively on behalf of the Society and each of them shall be chargeable only for so much money as he may actually receive and they shall not be answerable for the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of each other, but each of them for his own acts, receipts, neglects and defaults only. Neither they nor their heirs, executors or administrators shall be liable for any loss or expense happening to the Society through the insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired for or on behalf of the Society or for the insufficiency or deficiency or any obligation or security in or upon which any of the funds arising from the bankruptcy, insolvency or wrongful act of any person with whom monies, securities or effects shall be deposited or for any loss, damage or misfortune whatsoever which shall happen in the execution of duties of his office or in relation thereto unless the same shall happen through his own fraud, wilful neglect, defaults, breach of duty or breach of trust.

21. Federation

The Society shall not join any Federation of Societies or Clubs.

22. Breed Standard

The Royal Kennel Club Breed Standards may only be amended by The Royal Kennel Club's General Committee. The Society may propose alterations to The Royal Kennel Club for consideration. The Royal Kennel Club requires evidence that such proposals have the approval of the Society and that proposals for amendments have been agreed by the membership at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose.

BREED STANDARD

General Appearance

A bright, active dog of medium size with an intelligent expression, showing power without lumber, and raciness without weediness.

Characteristics

Generously endowed with natural gundog ability, optimism and friendliness demonstrated by enthusiastic tail action.

Temperament

Confident and kindly.

Head and Skull

Head, long and nicely moulded. Skull, flat and moderately broad with a slight stop between eyes, in no way accentuated, avoiding a down or a dish-faced appearance. Nose of good size, with open nostrils. Jaws long and strong, capable of carrying a hare or pheasant.

Eyes

Medium size, dark brown or hazel, with a very intelligent expression (a round prominent eye highly undesirable). Not obliquely placed.

Ears

Small and well set on, close to side of head.

Mouth

Jaws strong with a perfect, regular and complete scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping lower teeth and set square to the jaws. Teeth sound and strong.

Neck

Head well set in neck, the latter reasonably long and free from throatiness, symmetrically set and obliquely placed in shoulders, running well into the back to allow for easily seeking the trail.

Forequarters

Chest deep and fairly broad, with well defined brisket, on which elbows should move cleanly and evenly, forelegs straight, with bone of good quality throughout.

Body

Fore ribs fairly flat. Body well ribbed up showing a gradual spring and well arched in centre but rather lighter towards quarters. Loin short and square. Open couplings highly undesirable.

Hindquarters

Muscular. Moderate bend of stifle and hock, latter well let down. Should stand true all round, cowhocks highly undesirable.

Feet

Round and strong with toes close and well arched. Soles thick and strong.

Tail

Short, straight and well set on, gaily carried, but never much above level of back.

Gait/Movement

Free and flowing, straight and true as seen from front and rear.

Coat

Dense, of fine to medium texture and good quality, as flat as possible. Legs and tail well feathered. Full furnishings on maturity complete the elegance of a good dog.

Colour

Black or liver only.

Size

Preferred height: dogs: 59-61.5 cms (23-24 ins); bitches: 56.5-59 cms (22-23 ins). Preferred weight in hard condition: dogs: 27-36 kgs (60-80lbs); bitches: 25-32 kgs (55-70 lbs).

Faults

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree.

Note

Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.

