



CONSTITUTION

BC Society • Societies Act

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CAROL PREST

NAME OF SOCIETY: GREATER VANCOUVER CANARY & FINCH CLUB

Incorporation Number: S0043451

Business Number: 88122 4711 BC0001

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The name of the Society is GREATER VANCOUVER CANARY & FINCH CLUB

The purposes of the Society are:

1. To operate a Society for the purpose of promoting, keeping, breeding, and exhibiting Canaries and Finches.
2. To establish contact between breeders, fanciers, and the general public in the hobby.
3. To collect data and assist the progress of scientific knowledge.
4. To exchange ideas by publication of a Club Bulletin/Newsletter.
5. To establish and promote interest in the exhibition of Canaries and Finches as well as to sponsor, sanction and/or support the Canary and/or Finch divisions at various shows held by recognized Clubs or Associations.
6. To establish and maintain Canadian Standards for all aspects of the exhibition of Canaries and Finches.
7. To promote and help protect the high standards of ethics amongst Canary and Finch breeders, keepers, dealers, and exhibitors.
8. To assist all competent authorities empowered to formulate and enact laws relating to the keeping, breeding, and/or exhibiting of Canaries and Finches in Canada, in order to ensure the interests of the members and aviculturists are represented and to preclude the enactment of laws harmful to the interests of members and Canaries and Finches.
9. To hold meetings, shows, or any other acceptable function with the intention of promoting the aims/purposes of the Society.
10. To do all other things it may legally do which are necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of this Society and its Membership.
11. To raise and maintain a fund or funds from money in the Society, from earnings, donations, subscriptions, contributions, devices, or bequests, and to apply, from time-to-time, all or part of any capital or income for the purpose of the objects of the Society.



Greater Vancouver Canary & Finch Club

By-laws

ARTICLE 1: OPERATIONS

- 1.1. The operation of the Society shall be carried out in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia.
- 1.2. Clause 1.1 and this clause are unalterable.

ARTICLE 2: DISSOLUTION

- 2.1. In the event the Society should at any time, be wound up or dissolved, remaining assets after payment of all debts and or liabilities shall be turned over to a recognized charitable organization in the province of B.C. or in Canada, as directed by the members.
- 2.2. Clause 2.1 and this clause are unalterable in accordance with the Society Act.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. Terms under which a person may be admitted to the Society shall be in the following classes:
 - a. Individual
 - b. Commercial/Business/Corporation
 - c. Family - individual plus spouse or co-habitant.
 - d. Honorary - title or tribute bestowed upon an individual member for substantial contribution to the Club over a lengthy period of time. The member is obliged to continue to pay annual membership dues.
 - e. Life - applicable for the life of the member for a contribution such as a substantial financial donation. No annual membership dues are payable.
 - f. Honorary Life Member - to be conferred upon an individual member who has rendered service to the Club in its objectives over a period of not less than ten years, at the executive and the general levels, having given selflessly of his/her time and energy. An election for an Honorary Life Member shall take place at a Membership Meeting and notice of motion to confer Honorary Life Membership shall be distributed electronically at least one full month prior to the meeting. No annual membership dues are payable.
- 3.2. Application for new membership to the Society is by written or electronic Membership Application submitted to the Membership Chair.
- 3.3. The names of applicants will be distributed to the Membership electronically. An applicant shall be considered a fully accepted member of the Society unless two members in good standing object in writing to the application within 30 days of the communication. Objections will be received by the Membership Chair and brought to a vote at the next Membership Meeting
- 3.4. All membership renewal dues are payable January 1st unless this date is changed according to Article 3. 8.
 - a. New members joining between January 1 and June 30: full fee.
 - b. New members joining between July 1 and December 31: half fee.
- 3.5. No member in arrears in dues shall be eligible to vote or to purchase the official Society rings.
- 3.6. The Society may elect any person to an Honorary, Life or Honorary/Life Membership on a majority vote of the members.
- 3.7. Minors under 19 years of age may apply for an individual membership according to the terms and conditions set by the Board of Directors and the Society Act.

- 3.8. The membership fee for each membership class shall be determined by the Board of Directors subject to review by the members at a Membership Meeting.
- 3.9. The Board of Directors shall determine the day in each year when the membership fees, if any, shall be due.
- 3.10. It is the duty of each member to pay, when due, the fee for the current year membership.
- 3.11. All members are in good standing except a member who has failed to pay his or her current annual membership fee, or any other subscription or debt due and owing by the member to the Society, and the member is not in good standing so long as the debt remains unpaid.
- 3.12. All members shall be entitled to speak at any meeting of the Society and to vote as set out below:
 - a. Individual - one vote
 - b. Commercial/Business/Corporation - one vote
 - c. Family - one vote for each attending family member to a maximum of two votes
 - d. Honorary - one vote
 - e. Life - one vote
 - f. Honorary Life - one vote
 - g. Junior - no vote
- 3.13. Members are required to act honestly and with integrity, and to not cause friction/disruption nor discredit another member.
- 3.14. All members shall keep his/her birds in a clean, healthy, and humane manner.
- 3.15. All members shall conform to and abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society.
- 3.16. On being admitted to the Membership, each member shall be provided with an electronic copy of this Constitution.
- 3.17. Members may opt to receive copies of the Constitution and By-laws, Bulletin Newsletter, and show materials physically mailed to them at an additional fee. This fee will be set by the Board of Directors and based on current costs of printing and mailing.

ARTICLE 4: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1. Terms under which a member may terminate membership:
 - a. Voluntarily - any member may notify the Society in writing of their desire to terminate membership.
 - b. Failure to pay dues by the due-date set will result in the forfeiture of membership.
- 4.2. Expulsion:
 - a. Any member may be expelled from the Society by a special resolution of the members passed in a Membership Meeting. Confirmation of an expulsion will be sent by registered mail.
 - b. At this Membership Meeting, the member shall have the right to speak on his/her own behalf.

ARTICLE 5: PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

- 5.1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held during the Spring of each year at a fixed place within the operation of the Society.

- 5.2. Meetings shall be held as follows:
 - a. Membership Meetings shall be held a minimum of 4 times a year.
 - b. Special or Extra-Ordinary Meetings may be called by the Board of Directors or 10% of the Membership.
- 5.3. The rules of procedure during any meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors or, if any voting member should object, the "Robert's Rules of Order" shall apply.
- 5.4. A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Society shall be 25% of the Membership. If there are 20 members or less in the Society, then 50% of the Membership is required. When determining quorum, family and commercial/business/corporation memberships count as 1 and junior memberships will not be counted.
- 5.5. A member in good standing present at a meeting of members is entitled to vote as outlined in Article 3.12. Voting is by show of hands.
- 5.6. Voting by proxy is not permitted.
- 5.7. Electronic voting will not be regularly conducted. For important Society business (elections, motions, revisions to Constitution and By-laws, etc.) or emergencies, electronic voting may be conducted at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 6: MEETING NOTIFICATION

- 6.1. Notice of any Annual, Membership, or Special Meeting shall be deemed to be given to every member if e-mailed to the Membership. When possible, meeting dates will also be posted to the Society's website and social media.

ARTICLE 7: OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- 7.1. All elected Executive Officers of the Society are the Directors of the Society.
- 7.2. The elected Directors of the Society shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Ring Registrar, Show Manager, Communications Chair, and Membership Chair, plus such other Officers as may be determined at a meeting of the members of the Society.
- 7.3. The number of appointed Officers may be temporarily increased or decreased at any time by a resolution/motion passed at a Membership Meeting of which notice has been given. The number of Directors shall not at any time exceed eight and shall not at any time be less than four. Resolutions do not need to be passed when a position on the Board of Directors is vacant due to a lack of nominated or volunteer members. Permanent increases or decreases can only be made by revising the Constitution and By-laws.
- 7.4. No Officer or Director of another avian club shall be elected or appointed as an Officer or Director, or act in a representative capacity in this Society in order to avoid appearance of any conflict of interest.
- 7.5. Only elected or appointed Officers, Directors, and/or Committee Chairs shall act as a Society Representative, unless otherwise appointed by the Board of Directors.
- 7.6. The Directors and temporary Officers of the Society shall be familiar with and have in their possession the Constitution and By-Laws.

- 7.7. The Directors and temporary Officers shall all retire at the end of the year. All Directors are eligible for election or appointment to any position, including the position their term is ending for. Directors and temporary Officers may hold more than one position due to lack of nominees or special skill sets.
- 7.8. In the case of a vacancy in any office, the Society shall hold an election at its next Membership Meeting following such vacancy and the member elected shall immediately assume any duties of such office with the exception of the President. The Vice President shall assume Presidential duties in the case of a Presidential vacancy. If the position remains vacant for two meetings, the position will be declared vacant for the year, but members may volunteer for it at any meeting after.
- 7.9. Separate elections shall be held for each office to be filled. An election may be by acclamation. Otherwise, it shall be by majority vote.
- 7.10. Directors shall cease to hold office upon their ceasing to be members.
- 7.11. 10% of the Membership can require the Board of Directors to call a Special Meeting of the members of the Society for any purpose.
- 7.12. No Director or Officer shall be remunerated for being or acting as a Director or Officer except for expenses reasonably incurred on behalf of the Society.

Duties of the Elected Officers

- 7.13. The President shall be the CEO of the Society. He/she shall enforce a due observance of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order. The President shall make no motion or vote on any questions or motions with the exception of the annual elections or in order to cast a deciding vote. The President shall be the ex-officio member of all committees.
- 7.14. The Vice President shall assume the office of President upon the vacancy or absence of the President.
- 7.15. The Secretary shall keep an electronic record of all proceedings of the Society. The record shall record: attendance, meeting minutes, motions, meeting dates, and other business matters. The Secretary shall have access to the Society's e-mail and social media accounts for communication purposes. The Secretary shall be authorized to have and be accountable for \$25.00 petty cash for Society related expenses. At the conclusion of a term of office, all records shall be given to the successor.
- 7.16. The Treasurer shall keep suitable books of accounts and shall manage all money belonging and payable for the Society; shall deposit same in a registered financial institution to the credit of the Society; shall make out a record, in duplicate, in a suitable book of all money received and disbursed. The Treasurer shall provide a report for every Membership Meeting. All books are to be audited according to Article 8.1. At the conclusion of a term of office all money, accounts, books and records shall be handed to the successor. Up to two Treasurers may be elected/appointed at a time, in accordance with Article 11.1.
- 7.17. A Ring Registrar shall keep, distribute, and collect money for rings. The Ring Registrar shall keep an updated record of all ring numbers sold to members. Rings are for the exclusive use of the current members. Any transfer of rings between members must be reported to and be recorded by the Ring Registrar. Failure to comply with these rules may debar future purchases and void any bands previously registered by the transgressor.

- 7.18. The Show Manager, subject to the decisions of the Society, is responsible for planning and supporting exhibitions. It shall be the duty of the Show Manager to preside over a committee, which will arrange a suitable time and location. The committee will be responsible for receiving, benching, and the return of birds as well as the proper care of all exhibits, while on exhibition. The Show Manager will forward all receipts to the Treasurer and will keep current all records of all Society shows.
- 7.19. The Communications Chair acts as Editor for the Society's Bulletin Newsletter as well as Administrator for its website, e-mail, and social media accounts. The Bulletin Newsletter will be circulated to the Membership electronically a minimum of three times a year.
- 7.20. The Membership Chair shall maintain an official register of members, in accordance with the Society Act, and shall be the receiver of dues and fees. All funds received will be forwarded to the Treasurer for deposit. He/she shall ensure Membership Applications are completed in full and store this information in a database/registry. The Membership Chair will share the database/registry and any contact lists with the Board of Directors.
- 7.21. The Directors of the Society shall be responsible to carry out duties assigned to them by the President or Board of Directors. Duties would be, but; are not limited to: phoning, food/kitchen, librarian, assistant show manager, advertising, programs, etc.

Executive Powers

- 7.22. The duties of the Board of Directors shall be to conduct the affairs of the Society, generally and to provide for any circumstances and to report to the Society. Any decisions made by the Board of Directors shall be by a majority decision.
- 7.23. Directors of the Society may be temporarily removed from office by a vote of the Board of Directors. The Membership shall then decide, by majority vote, whether removal is warranted.

ARTICLE 8: AUDITS OF THE SOCIETY ACCOUNTS

- 8.1. At the beginning of the year, Directors shall present the Membership with a financial statement which will reflect the income, expenditures, assets and liabilities of the Society during the preceding year. This statement shall be signed by a minimum of two Directors and by the Society's auditor, if any.

ARTICLE 9: THE SOCIETY LOGO AND SEAL

- 9.1. The Society logo and seal is used to promote recognizable advertising and branding for all Society business and events. The Society logo and seal may be changed by the Board of Directors, with support from the Membership.
- 9.2. The seal and/or logo of the Society shall not be affixed to any document or instrument unless authorized by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 10: INSPECTION OF SOCIETY RECORDS

- 10.1. The Society books and records shall be open to inspection by the members at a reasonable time with a Director present.

ARTICLE 11: FINANCIAL

- 11.1. Banking accounts will be opened with a recognized financial institution and shall be operated on the signature of the Treasurer and any other one Director.
- 11.2. Except for expenditures authorized by the Membership, as contained in any budget approved by the Membership, the Directors shall be limited to the amount of \$200.00 per expenditure without prior consent of the Membership.
- 11.3. The Directors and Standing Committees will present all budgets as soon as possible after an election and no budgetary expenditure larger than \$200 may be incurred without authorization by the membership at a general meeting.
- 11.4. The Society has no borrowing powers.

ARTICLE 12: SHOW BY-LAWS

- 12.1. The Show Committee will formulate, monitor, update, and present to the Directors for approval by the Membership detailed By-Laws regulating the showing and exhibition of Canaries and Finches at any Society show. These By-Laws will address, but not be limited to the following matters:
 - a. Definitions.
 - b. Fraudulent practices.
 - c. Show standards.
 - d. Awards & Classes.
 - e. Judges and Stewards.
 - f. Cages (standards, colour & floor covering).
 - g. Disqualifications.
 - h. Protests.
 - i. Admission control and public access.
 - j. Status.
 - k. Entry fees.
 - l. Control of Exhibits.
 - m. Exhibit times.
 - n. Show catalogue.

ARTICLE 13: STATUS

- 13.1. Members who exhibit at the Society's show(s) shall, upon application, be granted a status for exhibition that shall be either:
 - a. Novice Status
 - b. Champion Statusand shall exhibit within that given status until varied.

ARTICLE 14: CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

- 14.1. Any part of this Constitution may be repealed, modified, altered or added to by special resolution provided such will not be in conflict with any legal statute by which this Society is bound.

- 14.2. A Notice of Motion to affect any such repeal, modification, alteration or addition must be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary at least 30 days prior to a Membership Meeting. It must be signed by at least 4 members or have support from the Board of Directors. The Notice shall be circulated by e-mail or Bulletin Newsletter as soon as possible as a special item on the next meeting's agenda.
- 14.3. No Notice of Motion to repeal, modify, alter or add to the Constitution shall be approved unless it is passed by a majority of at least 50% +1 of the voting members.