

# **CASCADE ICELANDIC HORSE CLUB**

## **BY-LAWS**

### **Mission Statement:**

To enjoy, promote and learn with the Icelandic horse while at the same time preserving its uniqueness and integrity.

### **Article I**

#### **Name and Objective**

The name of the association shall be The Cascade Icelandic Horse Club. Its objective shall be to provide a venue in which owners of Icelandic Horses or those interested in the Icelandic Horse can socialize and communicate in order to learn about, promote and enjoy the talents and characteristics of this breed.

### **Article II**

#### **Membership**

##### **Section 1: Classes of Membership**

There are four classes of membership: Individual Membership, Family or Farm Membership, Associate and Junior Membership. Individual membership (\$20.00) carries one vote and newsletter privileges. A Family or Farm membership (\$30.00) allows a maximum of four people (maximum three adults over age 18), all of which must be at the same residence or mailing address. A Family or Farm membership is allowed one vote and newsletter privileges. Associate Members are those that have not paid dues but participate via the Cascade Club E-mail list. They may attend meetings and events but do not have a vote and might not receive Club mailings. A Junior membership (\$10.00) carries no vote, but Juniors will receive the newsletter.

All members must meet the following requirements:

- a) Must be interested in learning about and enjoying the Icelandic Horse
- b) Must be interested in furthering the aims of this association in accordance with the Mission Statement and By-Laws.
- c) All but Associate members must be current on dues.
- d) Agree to adhere to the Code of Ethics.

##### **Section 2: Annual Dues**

The amount of annual dues will be determined by the Officers. Dues shall be payable on the first day of December of each year. Failure to pay dues by March 1st will result in dropping to Associate Member status. For new members only, application for membership received after July 1<sup>st</sup> will be half price and will be good for the remainder of the calendar year. Persons that were members the previous year will be required to

pay the full dues amount up until December, when dues will be applied to the following year.

### **Section 3: USIHC Members**

This Club shall have at all times five (5) dues-paying members who are also members of the United States Icelandic Horse Congress.

## **Article III** **Officers**

### **Section 1: Offices and Terms**

The officers of the Club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The same person shall not be Secretary and Treasurer. Such officers shall hold 2-year terms, and elections will be held in June of the appropriate year. Officers shall hold office for their full two year term or until the respective successor is chosen.

The Membership Chair will also be elected every other year and shall vote in Board decisions.

Two Members at Large will be elected each year, to serve one year terms, and each shall have one vote in Board or governing body decisions.

### **Section 2: The Governing Body**

The Officers, Membership Chair and two Members at Large shall be the governing body of the Club and shall determine all questions of policy which may arise during the interval between meetings; accept and discipline members; prepare the budget; set dues; and approve all disbursements.

### **Section 3: The President**

The President presides over all meetings, is responsible for maintaining decorum at the meetings, and is the primary spokesperson for the Club and liaison with the United States Icelandic Horse Congress. The President arranges and submits the agenda for all Club meetings. The President shall be responsible for arranging and organizing entry to paid participation events and demonstrations, and shall make an effort to attend the majority of club events. The President performs such other duties and functions usually in conformity with the office of the President.

### **Section 4: The Vice President**

The Vice-President shall preside over meetings and maintain decorum in the absence of the President. The Vice-President will also act as a liaison between Members and the Officers. The Vice-President also should make an effort to attend club events, especially those not attended by the President. The Vice-President shall also be in charge of nominations for the next election. (See Article V Section 1)

### **Section 5: The Treasurer**

The Treasurer will keep the financial records of the Club, collect dues, and report expenses on a quarterly basis. The Treasurer will receive, deposit, and disburse all monies for the Club, maintain an accurate accounting of all financial transactions and submit a written report of all financial activity for presentation at the Annual Meeting in January of each year. The treasurer also maintains the current Membership list including keeping track of which members are also USIHC members.

### **Section 6: The Secretary**

The Secretary will keep accurate records of every meeting and is responsible for getting these meeting minutes to the membership. The Secretary also writes necessary correspondences, including a report on club activities to the USIHC Quarterly. The Secretary also coordinates the volunteers who organize, publish and mail the Cascade Club quarterly newsletter.

### **Section 7: The Membership Chair**

The membership chair will seek out Icelandic Horse owners and encourage them to become Cascade Club members. In addition, this position will work to maintain contact with members via the E-mail list, phone, or mail as required. The Membership Chair will serve to clarify membership benefits and event information, and will also be responsible for Club-related materials at any event in which the Club is represented.

### **Section 8: The Member at Large Positions**

The Member at Large representatives will discuss club activities and decisions with members and represent those members on Board decisions. The Member at Large positions will be held for one year.

### **Section 8: Vacancies**

The Officers may fill a vacancy in any office occurring for any reason whatsoever. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall remain an officer or a Director until a successor has been elected by members at the next annual meeting or at any regular meeting during the year.

### **Section 9: Officers' Meetings**

The Officers should attempt to meet at least once a year independently of membership. This meeting could be in person, by phone, or by E-mail conference. Two or more meetings would be ideal.

## **Article IV** **Meetings**

### **Section 1: Regular Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Membership will take place at least twice per year. The annual meetings shall be in January and June. The dates will be selected by the President.

Additional meetings may be called and may coincide with Club events. There must be at least two officers and three voting members present for a meeting to be official.

### **Section 2: Meeting Agenda**

The order of business at all meetings shall be as follows:

- a) Attendance
- b) Reading of minutes from the previous meeting
- c) Treasurer's report
- d) Additional reports
- e) Unfinished business
- f) New business

### **Section 3: Quorum**

At all official meetings of membership (see Article IV Section 1), there will be no quorum. Business, including officer elections, may be conducted by any number of voting members in good standing in attendance.

## **Article V**

### **Elections**

#### **Section 1: Nominations**

Elections for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair are held every odd numbered year at the Annual Meeting in June. Board Members at large elections are held each year at the June meeting. During the few months prior to the election, the Vice-President will solicit nominations for each office. The Vice-President is responsible for making sure that each person nominated has had the opportunity to accept or decline the nomination. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting by any member in attendance, providing the person nominated does not decline when his or her name is proposed. There are no term limits.

#### **Section 2: Voting**

The manner of voting for Officers shall be by balloting through the mail. The ballots shall go out with the newsletter following the meeting where changes or election discussions were held. Members shall have 30 days from the newsletter postmark to mail in their ballots to the Membership Chair. The Membership Chair and another member of the club will count the ballots and report results to the board to be communicated to the club.

#### **Section 3: Assuming Office**

The officers take possession of their office effective immediately after the voting has determined a winner.

**Article VI**  
**Rules of Order**

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for matters of procedure not specifically provided for by the Constitution.

**Article VII**  
**Amendments**

Amendments of these By-Laws may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members of the Club, provided ballots were mailed and received with 30 days of mailing. There shall be no voting by proxy in the aforesaid matter.

**Article VIII**  
**Dissolvement**

If for any reason the Cascade Icelandic Horse Club should dissolve, all monies remaining in the Treasury after dissolvement shall be donated to a non-profit organization for use in matters relating to the Icelandic Horse.

**Article IX**  
**CASCADE ICELANDIC HORSE CLUB CODE OF ETHICS**

Owners, Breeders and Handlers of horses have much to gain by observing good ethics and sportsmanship.

All members of the Cascade Icelandic horse club agree to and shall be bound by this Code of Ethics during their membership in the club.

In every situation possible, the welfare of the horse shall be paramount. The best interest of the horse must be the criterion in all equine related transactions/activities.

Mistreatment and/or neglect of any horse under the control of a Cascade Club member is prohibited.

**Mistreatment** includes every act or omission, which causes, or unreasonably permits the continuation of, unnecessary or unjustifiable pain or suffering.

**Neglect** includes failure to provide good quality food, clean water, protection from the elements, opportunity for exercise, or other care which is normal, usual or proper for the horse's health and well-being.

Members shall handle their horses responsibly in public places and shall do everything possible to minimize the risk of trauma or danger to any human being or animal.

Members shall condition and train horses naturally and to a level appropriate for the horse's age, physical condition and maturity.

They shall avoid using any methods which could be harmful to the horse physically or mentally. This also includes the *excessive* or improper use of artificial appliances and training aids.

Members should keep extreme weather conditions in mind at events or competitions if the welfare or safety of the horse may be compromised.

If there are reasonable grounds to believe an infraction of the CIHC Code of Ethics exists, this complaint, in writing, should go before the Ethical Practice Review Board. The Ethical Practice Review Board (EPRB) shall consist of the current elected club board members for that term. (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair and two Members-at-large.)

**First Infraction:** If a member is found to have violated the Code of Ethics, a written warning shall be sent to that member, signed by the CIHC BOD. This letter shall outline the issue at hand and ask that the member cease/desist said behavior.

**Second infraction:** If the same member is found to continue to violate the COE, he/she will be removed from the membership by the BOD, be prohibited from participation in future club events and forfeit any awards given at the event in question where the behavior was noted. The member shall be notified of these actions by an additional letter drafted and signed by each member of the BOD.

In every aspect of participation in the CIHC, good sportsmanship and fair treatment of our horses is acknowledged to be of utmost importance.

We ask that each and every member take it upon himself/herself to encourage and exhibit positive behavior in all aspects of horse ownership.