

NATIONAL SILVER RABBIT CLUB CONSTITUTION

(Revised and Adopted on November 2, 2014)

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the National Silver Rabbit Club; hereafter noted as NSRC.

Section 2. It shall be understood that the Silver Rabbit is the rabbit so described in the Standard of Perfection that has been accepted by the American Rabbit Breeders Association (hereafter noted as ARBA).

ARTICLE II OBJECT

The purpose of the NSRC shall be as stated below.

Section 1. To maintain, promote, and improve the breeding of the various Silver rabbit varieties.

Section 2. To maintain a sweepstakes system for the promotion of Silver rabbits and encourage the exhibition of Silver rabbits.

Section 3. To distribute reliable and authentic information to the public and rabbit breeders regarding the Silver rabbit, its uses by the commercial breeder, the fur fancier and the showman.

Section 4. To affiliate and cooperate with other organizations in the advancement and promotion of rabbit breeding in general.

Section 5. To develop and create greater interest in, and demand for, the Silver rabbit.

Section 6. To provide for Sweepstakes Sanctions at authorized shows and offer special awards to members of the National Silver Rabbit Club (NSRC) for specimens exhibited.

Section 7. To hold annual conventions for its members, and other meetings of its members, Officers, and Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III AFFILIATIONS

Section 1. The NSRC shall be affiliated with the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. (hereafter noted as ARBA).

Section 2. Any local, state, or district organization chartered by the ARBA may affiliate with the NSRC upon making application to the Secretary-Treasurer of the NSRC along with a copy of their Constitution, By-Laws, Show Rules, and a list of their Board of Directors; and provided the Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations, or Show Rules of such organization do not conflict with the Constitution, By-Laws, or Show Rules of the NSRC, and provided all officers of the applying organization are members of the NSRC and the ARBA.

Section 3. Each such organization becoming so affiliated shall pay an initial fee of twenty (\$20.00) dollars and a renewal fee of fifteen (\$15.00). Renewals are due on January 1st of each year. If renewal is submitted after March 1st, the club must pay the initial fee of twenty (\$20.00).

Section 4. The organization's affiliation with NSRC is subject to the Constitution, ByLaws, Authority, and Discipline of the NSRC and the ARBA.

Section 5. Each such organization shall be allowed one delegate at any meeting of the NSRC.

Section 6. Any delegate may cast the votes of the organization as authorized, in writing and signed by the President and Secretary of the organization which he/she represents.

Section 7. Affiliated Silver clubs should be listed in each issue of the Silver Bullet and shall be entitled to a free 1/8 page advertisement in the Silver Bullet for any of their shows.

Section 8. An Annual Report of the affiliated organization shall be filed with the NSRC by September 1st of each year. Failure to do so shall warrant a fine by the Executive Board. Repeated failure and membership may be revoked. The Annual Report shall be made up of the requirements of Article IV(3)(A)(12) of the ByLaws.

ARTICLE IV **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Any person may become a member of the NSRC by making application, and upon the payment of dues as provided in the ByLaws, and by agreeing to comply with all rules, regulations and mandates of NSRC and the ARBA.

Section 2. Application for membership shall be made in writing or electronically to the Secretary-Treasurer; shall be accompanied by at least one year's dues as provided in the By-Laws.

Section 3. The Executive Board reserves the right to accept or reject, for just cause, any application for membership.

Section 4. New membership shall be acknowledged by the issuance of a NSRC Membership Card and/or Certificate dating from the time of such acknowledgement and terminating after one year or three years, as applicable, unless renewed within 30 days of membership expiration.

Section 5. All adult members shall have the right to vote in person at the meetings of the Association.

Section 6. All adult members shall have the right to vote by mail or electronically for election of officers or upon any other matters submitted by the Executive Board.

Section 7. Members may not vote by proxy.

Section 8. A Life Membership shall be awarded upon application to any member at the age of 65 who has held a NSRC membership for at least twenty (20) consecutive years. A Life Membership can be purchased pursuant to the By-Laws.

Section 9. The Board of Directors may, by vote, award a Life Membership to any deserving person.

Section 10. The Board of Directors may, by vote, award an Honorary Membership to any person distinguished for his/her political, scientific, industrial, or administrative capacity.

Section 11. Honorary Members shall be exempt from all dues, fees, or subscriptions, and shall not have the right to vote at any meeting of the NSRC, or on any vote by mail or electronically, unless also a regular paid member of the NSRC and the ARBA.

Section 12. Any youth through eighteen (18) years of age may become a member of the NSRC by making application and forwarding membership dues to the NSRC Secretary-Treasurer as per Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution.

Section 13. Youth members shall abide by the Constitution and ByLaws of the NSRC and the ARBA.

Section 14. Youth members shall have all the rights and privileges of an adult member, except the right to vote on NSRC affairs.

ARTICLE V **OFFICERS**

Section 1. The officers of the NSRC shall consist of an Executive Committee (made up of the NSRC Officers) and an elected Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of five (5) other members not on the Executive Committee. All Officers, except the President, shall have full voting rights. The President shall vote only in the case of a tie vote. All Officers and Directors must be current members of the ARBA and NSRC.

Section 2. The term of office for the President, Vice-President, who shall constitute the Executive Committee, and five (5) elected Directors shall be two (2) years. The Secretary-Treasurer shall hold office for three (3) years. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and all five (5) Board of Directors. All officers and directors of this club must be a member of the ARBA and the NSRC or obtain membership before taking office. Failure to obtain or renew such membership shall require them to automatically vacate the office.

Section 3. The Officers shall be elected from and by the NSRC membership by mail or electronic ballot. To be eligible for an office any member must be an owner and active breeder of Silver Rabbits; and must have been a member of NSRC at least one full year just prior to nomination.

Section 4. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership. The term of office for the Secretary-Treasurer shall be three (3) years. The Secretary-Treasurer's performance and account records shall be evaluated annually by the Executive Board. Unsatisfactory performance may result in removal from office if approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Board. A summary of the performance evaluation will be given to the Secretary-Treasurer and the President.

Section 5. The term of office for the President and Vice-President shall be two (2) years. The President and two (2) Directors shall be elected on even numbered years; the Vice-President and three (3) Directors on odd numbered years. Terms of office shall begin on January 1st after elected.

Section 6. All Officers, except the Secretary-Treasurer, shall not hold the same office for more than three (3) consecutive terms each.

Section 7. Vacancies shall be filled by the President with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board. When an officer fills a vacancy, if the officer serves for more than half the term in office, this shall qualify as a full term in office.

Section 8. Officers will be automatically removed and replaced if they do not renew their NSRC membership within thirty (30) days of the renewal date. Officers must maintain good standing with both the ARBA and NSRC.

Section 9. The duties of the Officers and Board of Directors shall be those set forth in the NSRC ByLaws, Article IV, Sections 1 - 4.

ARTICLE VI **ELECTIONS**

Section 1. Any member wishing to become a candidate for the Executive Board shall submit a petition to the Secretary-Treasurer. Said Petition can be found on the "Members Only" page of the NSRC website or from the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. The member seeking to run for office shall have the Petition signed by three (3) members in good standing in the NSRC. In addition the Petition must bear the candidate's signature, the office he/she wishes to be a candidate for, and attest to the fact that said candidate is a bona-fide Silver rabbit breeder; then submit the completed Petition to the Secretary-Treasurer so that it is in the possession of the Secretary-Treasurer BEFORE June 1st.

Section 3. When the properly completed Petition is received by the Secretary-Treasurer, the member's name shall be placed on the election ballot.

Section 4. The official election ballot shall be issued by the Secretary-Treasurer on or before June 10th, and shall contain the names of those qualifying for the respective office for which they have petitioned. All adult members in good standing will be allowed to vote and the polls will remain open until August 25th.

Section 5. The Executive Board shall be elected by mail or electronic ballot, and shall serve until their successors are elected or appointed.

Section 6. In the case of an uncontested election, the Secretary-Treasurer shall cast a lone ballot and the election will be official.

Section 7. The ballots shall be opened and the votes counted by the Election Committee who shall, after counting the ballots, certify the results to the President and Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 8. The highest number of votes received for any office shall constitute election to that office. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 9. All candidates shall be notified by September 1st of the results of the newly elected Executive Board and shall take office as provided for in Article V, Section 5 of the Constitution.

Section 10. The election results shall be published in the Fall (Sept./Oct.) issue of the Silver Bullet and on the Silver Rabbit social media pages (Facebook, websites, etc.).

Section 11. Whenever a vacancy in an office occurs, from any cause whatsoever, said vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the President, approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 12. No person may hold more than one elected office at a time.

Section 13. Any candidate defeated for any office of the NSRC and requesting a recount of ballots shall make application for such recount to the Secretary-Treasurer within thirty (30) days following the election.

ARTICLE VII **INTERPRETATION AND DISCIPLINE**

Section 1. The interpretation by the NSRC Board of Directors of the Constitution, ByLaws, Regulations, Notices, Resolutions, Properties, and of the NSRC documents and Orders shall be binding upon all members of the NSRC.

Section 2. All notices required to be sent to any member of the NSRC shall be sent by regular mail or included in the Silver Bullet, prepaid to the member's address as it appears on the books of the NSRC. Such mailing shall be presumptive evidence of the service thereof. Any member's change of address must be sent promptly to the Secretary-Treasurer of the NSRC.

Section 3. The Executive Board may impose penalties upon any member of the NSRC for conduct which, in its judgment, warrants such action. Such penalties include but are not limited to expulsions, suspensions, and fines.

Section 4. Charges of misconduct of a member, or Executive Board member, shall be made in writing pursuant to Article VI of the NSRC Bylaws to the Secretary-Treasurer; they shall be considered with the defense of the offender by the Executive Board. The expelled or suspended offender may appeal to the NSRC membership at the next regular meeting.

Section 5. The Executive Board may conduct routine or special business, hold hearings on all matters regarding interpretation, reach decisions and report as explained in Article VI, Section 5 of the NSRC ByLaws.

Section 6. If a complaint alleging matters affecting the NSRC is made against another member or an affiliated organization, the provisions of Article VI, Section 5 shall be followed, except that the Executive Board shall have sole and absolute discretion whether to consider the complaint and implement the procedures set forth in Article VI of the ByLaws. In the event the Executive Board elects not to consider the complaint, it shall return one hundred dollars (\$100) of the fee.

Section 7. Any recount of voting shall be made pursuant to Article III and Article VI, Section 7 of the ByLaws.

Section 8. An appeal may be taken from any ruling of the Executive Board to the next annual business meeting of the members of the NSRC.

ARTICLE VIII **MEETINGS**

Section 1. The Annual NSRC membership meeting shall be held in conjunction with the annual ARBA National Convention, such place to be designated by the Executive Board. Notice of time and place

for holding such meetings shall be set forth in writing by the NSRC at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such meeting and given to the membership by way of the Silver Bullet, mailed, and placed on the NSRC social media pages. In addition to the Annual Convention held in conjunction with the annual ARBA National Convention.

Section 2. The NSRC may also hold a meeting at the National Silver Show, with such place to be designated by the Executive Board. Notice of such meeting shall be set forth in writing by the NSRC at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such meeting and distributed to the membership as explained in Article VIII Section 1 of the Constitution.

Section 3. In the absence of such an Annual meeting, as described in Article VIII Section 1 club business shall be conducted and acted upon by the Executive Board by mail or a recorded means of communication if deemed advisable. This recorded means of communication can include but is not limited to electronic correspondence, teleconference, and video conference. Decisions and votes are to be reported in the Secretary's minutes, in the Silver Bullet, and on the NSRC social media (Facebook, website, Twitter, etc.).

Section 4. Other specifications regarding the NSRC Meetings shall be found in and are incorporated herein within Article II of the NSRC ByLaws herein.

ARTICLE IX **ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Any alteration of, or amendment to, the Constitution, ByLaws, or Sweepstake Show Rules, shall be made by a resolution via one of the following methods ninety (90) days prior to the NSRC Annual meeting so that it may be posted for the required thirty (30) days before the NSRC Annual meeting:

- A) Resolution in writing signed by five (5) or more members in good standing of the NSRC and delivered to the Secretary and Executive Board; or
- B) Resolution by the Constitution and ByLaws Committee with approval by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Any proposed Resolution shall be confined to one (1) subject.

Section 3. All proposed Resolutions shall be printed in the Silver Bullet at least one issue prior to being voted upon and on the NSRC website with notice given on the NSRC social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

Section 4. All members shall be notified in writing of the proposed amendment and furnished a ballot at least sixty (60) days prior to the NSRC Annual meeting and thirty (30) days prior to the closing of the polls.

Section 5. Ballots will be mailed, preferably in the next Silver Bullet, and the Constitution, ByLaws, Sweepstakes Show Rules may be amended by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members casting ballots.

Section 6. Ballots will be returned and counted by the Executive Board.

Section 7. Any member in good standing of the NSRC requesting a recount of ballots on a change in the Constitution, ByLaws, or Sweepstakes Show Rules, shall make application for such recount to the Secretary-Treasurer of the NSRC within sixty (60) days following the close of the balloting as per Article VI, Section 4 of the Constitution.

Section 8. A Resolution adopted shall take effect sixty (60) days after certification by the Executive Board unless otherwise specified in the Resolution.

**ARTICLE X
AUTHORITY**

Section 1. The NSRC shall have the authority to make such laws, establish such rules and adopt such regulations as may be necessary for the government of its members.

Section 2. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be considered as the final authority for the NSRC on all questions not specifically covered by the Constitution and ByLaws.

Section 3. The NSRC shall require its members to obey its mandates in all matters pertaining to the Standard of Perfection and ethics peculiar to the industry, and to inflict such punitive or monetary penalties as it may deem necessary for the disobedience of its will, provided that its members shall not be required to commit any act which would make them amenable to the laws of the United States of America or any political subdivision thereof.

Approved and agreed upon this 2nd day of November, 2014 by the majority body of the NSRC Membership and attested to by the NSRC Executive Board as indicated by our signatures below.

President

Director #2

Vice President

Director #3

Secretary-Treasurer

Director #4

Director #1

Director #5