

Great Lakes Fancy Rat Association

Bylaws and Constitution

Mission Statement

We are an organization dedicated to improving the rat fancy through careful and responsible breeding, encouraging proper care and ownership, educating the public about the merits of rats as companion animals, and sharing ideas with others in order to broaden the collective knowledge of all fanciers.

Article I The Club

Section 1. The name of the Club shall be: Great Lakes Fancy Rat Association, also referred to as the GLFRA.

Section 2. The objectives of the GLFRA shall be:

- (a). Encouraging responsible ownership and breeding
- (b). Education
- (c). Promoting the rat fancy with publicity and ethical example

Section 3. This club shall not be operated for profit. No part of any profits or residues from dues or donation to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any one member.

Section 4. Bylaws shall be adopted and may be revised at any time by the members as required to carry out these objectives

Article II MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

Membership shall be open to all persons whose applications have been filled out completely and subscribe to the purpose of the GLFRA. There shall be two types of membership:

(a) Regular:

Any person who has reached the age of 18 shall be a regular member with full privileges from the date of membership.

Single: Open to all persons eighteen years of age or older who hold regular voting privileges.

Household: Household membership shall be defined as two adult persons residing at the same address. Each household member shall have individual voting rights.

(b) Junior:

Open to persons 5 -17 years of age. Junior members cannot vote or hold office. A junior member may convert to regular membership upon reaching his/her 18th birthday.

Section 2. Dues

As of January 31, 2005 the GLFRA will not be charging any dues. GLFRA reserves the right to change or revise these dues at any time, if deemed necessary.

Members must pay their own costs for attending meetings, gatherings, shows or other GLFRA events.

A collection may be taken up ahead of time for any persons attending a GLFRA event, to help cover costs for building usage, supplies or any other necessary cost(s). Donations are accepted and will be logged by the Treasurer. Such monies will only be used to pay for GLFRA events.

Section 3. Application for Membership

Each applicant for membership shall apply with a form approved by the President of the GLFRA and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this constitution, bylaws, and code of ethics. The application shall state the name and address of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of one member in good standing with the GLFRA. All applications are to be filed with the Secretary.

Section 4. Termination of Membership.

(a). by resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the GLFRA upon written notice to the President.

(b). by expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these bylaws

Article III MEETINGS

Section 1. General Club Meetings

GLFRA meetings are held quarterly or more often if needed. The clubs fiscal year will go from January 1 through December 31 of each year. The location of the meeting will be posted to the club web site under the Meetings and Events category and to Yahoo! group.

The meetings will be held the last Saturday, in the months of January, April, July and October, however, if events are not planned, meetings will be held on a vote. Usually this will be the fourth Saturday in the month. For months with five Saturdays in them, the meeting will be held on the fifth Saturday, except if the fifth Saturday falls on a holiday. If a holiday falls on a Saturday that the meeting would normally fall on, the meeting will be held the Saturday prior to the holiday, or the 4th Saturday.

The body responsible for calling club and board meetings is the Board of Directors. Written notice and information concerning GLFRA meetings will be posted on the web site at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.

The President must attend all meetings. If the Vice President is unable to attend, then the President must inform the Vice President of any information gathered. If the President is unable to attend by way of an unavoidable emergency, the Vice

President may fill in for the President and report all information gathered back the President.

The Secretary should attend all meetings. In such a case that the Secretary is unable to attend, then the President or Vice President must fill in for the Secretary.

All information gathered at the meetings will be posted on the web site under the Meetings and Events category or Yahoo! Group. Due to the number of members, individual e-mails will not be sent. Members must read the information on the web site or Yahoo! Group.

Section 2. Board meetings

Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held immediately prior to the regular quarterly meeting or more often as necessary. Written notice of such meeting shall be emailed by the President at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The President, Vice President and Secretary must attend all meetings.

Section 3. Voting

Each member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote at any GLFRA meeting at which that member is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any GLFRA meeting or election.

Article IV DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Board of Directors.

The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, all of whom shall be members in good standing with residency in the United States. General management of the GLFRA's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Officers.

GLFRA's officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to GLFRA and its meetings and the Board and its meetings.

a) The President shall preside at all meetings of GLFRA and of the Board and shall have the duties and powers normally pertinent to the office of the President in addition to those particularly specified in these bylaws. The President will also act as Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to GLFRA. He/she shall deposit the same in a bank approved by the Board, in the name of GLFRA. His/her books shall at all times be open to the inspection of the Board and he/she shall report to them at every meeting the condition of GLFRA's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported.

(b) The Vice President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death or absence.

(c) The Secretary shall record and publish minutes, keep a roll of the members of GLFRA, and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by GLFRA, and carry out

other such duties as are prescribed in these bylaws. If a Secretary has not been appointed by the Board of Directors, the role of Secretary may be assumed by the President or Vice President until a Secretary has been appointed.

(d) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to GLFRA. He/she shall deposit all monies in a bank approved by the board, in the name of the GLFRA. The books kept by the Treasurer shall be available for inspection at any time by the board and the state of the books shall be reported at every board meeting along with any receipt not reported prior.

Section 3. Vacancies.

Any vacancies occurring within the Board or among the offices during the year shall be filled by the remaining members of the Board until the position has been filled. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President, and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by the Board.

Article V GLFRA YEAR, VOTING, NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS

Section 1. Election.

The position of Officers and Directors shall be approved by the President. Positions may be applied for and the final decision is decided by the President.

Article VI COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Board may each year appoint standing committees, subject to their final authorization to advance the work of GLFRA in such matters as newsletters, expos, informational seminars, membership, and other fields which may well be served by committees.

Section 2. Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee, and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose service has been terminated.

Article VII DISCIPLINE

Section 1. Charges.

Any member may cite charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of GLFRA or the species. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at a Board Meeting; and the Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct detrimental to the best interests of GLFRA or the species.

If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of GLFRA or rats, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction.

If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall first attempt to resolve the grievance prior to a formal hearing by appointing an arbitrator who will seek to resolve the grievance to the mutual satisfaction of the parties involved.

If that fails within ten (10) days from the date that the Board entertained jurisdiction of the charges, the Board shall fix a date of hearing by the Board or a Committee of not less than two (2) members of the Board, not less than three (3) weeks or more than six (6) weeks after.

The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by certified mail, return receipt, together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his/her defense and bring witnesses if he/she wishes.

Section 2. Board Hearing.

Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board or Committee may by a majority vote of those present suspend the defendant from all privileges of GLFRA for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing.

And if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his/her fellow members at the ensuing club meeting which considers the recommendation of the Board or Committee. Immediately after the Board or Committee has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The President in turn shall notify each of the parties of the decision and penalty, if any.

Section 3. Expulsion

Expulsion of a member from GLFRA may be accomplished only at an official meeting of the entire Board following a hearing and upon the recommendation of the Board or Committee as provided in Section 3 in this Article. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his/her own behalf though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the findings and recommendations and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his/her own behalf. The meeting shall then vote by secret ballot (written) on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the suspension shall stand. The President cannot be expelled from the club.

Article VIII CLUB ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Section 1. When the GLFRA plans social activities or holds events for its members, pictures may be taken at such events and posted on the GLFRA web site for the purpose of promoting the organization or club, and as a form of visual communication between the membership.

If a member wishes to not participate in the picture taking process, they may request in writing, to any Board Member, to be excluded from the process or to not have their picture posted to the web site. This written request must be signed by the member.

If a written request is not received within fifteen (15) business days of an event, the GLFRA will own the rights to all pictures taken, and may use them to promote the interests of the organization or club without compensation for such use.

GLFRA also reserves the right to offer a written recap of each event or activity, to keep other members informed, who were unable to attend. These written communications will be posted to the GLFRA web site. For privacy purposes only first names will be used in the identification of each picture or write-up that is used.

Article IX AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be changed at any time by the President. A copy of these by-laws will be placed on the website for all members to view. Any updated copies of the by-laws must be placed on the website within one week of the update.

Section 2. The constitution and bylaws may be amended at any time by the President provided a copy of the amendment has been posted by the President on the website or the Yahoo! Group.

Article X DISSOLUTION

Section 1. GLFRA may be dissolved at any time by the President. In the event of the dissolution of GLFRA, other than for purposes of reorganization, none of the financial assets of the club shall be distributed to any members of GLFRA, but after payment of the debts of GLFRA its financial assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of rats selected by the Board of Directors.