

## **Wessex Ferret Club Constitution & Rules**

1. The Club shall be known as "The Wessex Ferret Club" and shall herein after be referred to as "the Club".
2. The objects of the Club are:
  - a) To promote the general welfare of the ferret and to offer advice on housing, feeding, ailments and husbandry.
  - b) To promote a better image of the ferret and ferreters, by attending country shows, fetes etc. and by encouraging favourable media coverage.
  - c) To produce a quarterly newsletter for the interchange of news, views and information.
  - d) To encourage knowledge of and research into ferret ailments, through both local Veterinary Surgeons and other organisations.
  - e) To promote the correct and effective use of the ferret for rabbit control.
  - f) To promote the control of breeding in the light of current knowledge.
  - g) To engage in any other activity for the benefit of ferrets or ferreters as the Executive Committee shall from time to time determine as being necessary.
3. The Club shall be a non-profit making organisation wholly devoted to the securing of its objects. Any funds acquired by any means shall be used only in the furtherance of these objects.
4. Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone regardless of whether or not they are the owners of a ferret. Each full member shall have one vote at any Club meeting, save that no member under the age of eighteen years shall have a vote on matters of finance. For the purpose of these rules the expression "Member" shall include such family membership, as the Executive Committee shall permit. Membership of the Club will lapse with the expiry of the Member's current subscription.
5. The Executive Committee shall have absolute discretion to refuse to accept any person as a new member, without being required to give reasons for doing so. The Executive Committee shall have absolute discretion to refuse to renew any existing membership without being required to give reasons, except where a current member is subject of a current disciplinary procedure. In such cases the membership will be renewed pending the outcome of such procedure.
6. Members shall pay an annual subscription of such amount as shall from time to time be decided by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Club. **All subscriptions shall fall due in the first week of January in each year.**
7. The Treasurer shall maintain the funds of the Club in a bank account, or in an account of such other financial institution, as the Treasurer deems appropriate. Which institution or account shall be used shall be a matter within the discretion of the Treasurer, save that the Executive Committee shall have a right of veto. The trustees shall be authorised signatories to the account, with a requirement that any two shall sign every cheque or other negotiable document.
8. No funds payable to the treasurer under the provisions of the rules shall be refundable under any circumstances. This rule does not affect the principle that in exceptional cases refunds may be made in the absolute discretion of the Executive Committee.
9. Any current member of the Club shall have the right to inspect any Cash Book or other accounting record of the Club, subject to having given reasonable notice of his or her wish to do so to the Treasurer.
10. In the event that for any reason the Club ceases to operate, any balance of monies remaining to it's credit after payment of all debts shall be distributed to one or more other charitable bodies concerned with the welfare of animals. Such distribution shall be in the absolute discretion of the final Executive Committee.
11. The Club's officers shall consist of President, Vice President, Chairman, Secretary, Stock Controller, Treasurer and Publicity Officer. The President will be elected for life, the Vice President is an honorary position, the remaining officers together with four Committee members elected by the AGM shall form the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee encompasses the roles of Membership Secretary and Editor. Trailer & Show Equipment maintenance and duties pertaining to Ferret Welfare will be encompassed.
12. The Club shall additionally elect an Auditor and three Trustees.
13. All officers of the Club shall be elected annually at the AGM, save that the Executive Committee shall have authority to co-opt during the year in the event of a vacancy arising.
14. The quorum of the Executive Committee shall be **four**, including at least two voting elected officers.
15. The Executive Committee shall have unfettered discretion to delegate all or any of its functions to sub-committee as the need arises. Every sub-committee shall be Chaired by an elected officer and shall consist of members co-opted ad hoc to any sub-committee at the discretion of that sub-committee.

16. The Club shall hold an AGM in each calendar year. The date shall be within the discretion of the Executive Committee, and will be notified in the Club newsletter. Every member shall be entitled to attend. If, for any reason beyond the control of the Club, an AGM is not held in any year, the existing officers shall remain in their posts until such a meeting is held.
17. An Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Club may be called by the Executive Committee at any time. An EGM may be called by the demand of any group of ten members. Such demand shall be in writing and shall be signed by each of the ten members concerned. Such demand shall be delivered to the Secretary forthwith. Upon receipt thereof the Secretary shall call such EGM within six weeks at a location to be determined by the Executive Committee.
18. The Executive Committee reserves the right to expel from the Club any person who in their opinion had engaged in any conduct likely to bring the Club into disrepute. Upon receipt of a written proposal to expel, a member had the right to apply for a hearing before the Executive Committee and two Club members.
19. Voting at all or any proceedings of the Club shall be by a show of hands, save that a paper ballot may be taken upon passage of a motion to do so. Motions will pass by a simple majority except in the case of motions to change rules, where a majority of two-thirds of the members present will be required. In any vote to change a rule, an abstention will count as a vote against the motion.
20. In the determination of any Club matter by voting, the Chairman of any General Meeting shall have no vote. The Chairman shall be entitled to exercise a casting vote in cases where the meeting is equally split. The same rule shall apply to the Executive Committee and sub-committees.
21. For the purpose of these rules the expression "Chairman" means any person who is at that time chairing a meeting and is not limited to the elected Chairman of the Club.
22. The Club Rules shall only be changed at an AGM. Any member proposing a change of rule shall give six weeks notice in writing to the Secretary. Such proposal shall be signed by a seconder. The rule as it relates to the period of written notice shall not apply to changes proposed by the Executive Committee.
23. Motions to be moved at the AGM other than those originating from the Executive Committee shall be notified to the Secretary in writing six weeks before the date of the meeting and shall be signed by a seconder. Proposals for new officers shall be subject to the same procedure except where the candidate is an existing officer. In the event that no written proposals for officers are received the Chairman of the meeting may accept proposals from the floor.
24. It shall not be within the competence of an AGM to entertain any motion to suspend the operation of these rules.
25. The Club will not accept liability for any loss or injury suffered by any member during any Club activity.
26. The Club will not accept liability for any injury to ferrets, or for any contagious disease contracted by a ferret at any Club event. Every member or guest takes part in Club events, with or without ferrets, strictly at their own risk.
27. No Club officer or member has permission, right or authority to accept any legal liability on behalf of the Club in respect of any claims in tort or contract. Legal liabilities will only be accepted by the Executive Committee. Any officer or member who accepts liability other than in accordance with this rule will be deemed to have done so on his or her own behalf.
28. No member will purport to represent the policy of the Club on any issue, without the consent of a quorum of the Executive Committee. Members approached by the media should refer such enquiries to the Publicity Officer, who will be generally authorised to represent the views of the Club to the media.
29. Any member who organises, or who participates in organising, any Club event shall complete such documentation in respect thereof as is required by the Secretary or Treasurer. Any such documentation shall be completed forthwith and shall be forwarded to the Secretary or Treasurer within seven days of the completion of the event, or within such longer time as the Secretary or Treasurer in his or her absolute discretion shall determine.
30. Judging at any Club show shall be carried out by persons appointed for that purpose. The decision of Judges at Club shows is final. No appeals will be entertained in any event, members participate on this understanding.
31. Any breach of Club rules shall be deemed to be conduct likely to bring the Club into disrepute within the rules relating to discipline.
32. The Executive Committee reserves the right to determine any matter not covered by these rules.
33. It is a Condition Precedent of admission to the Club as a member, that the prospective member had read these rules and accepts them as binding in their entirety.