**GSCA BY-LAWS**
**ARTICLE I**

**Section 1.** There shall only be three types of membership, open to all persons eighteen years of age or older who are members in good standing of the American Kennel Club and subscribe to the objects of this Club.

1. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP: All persons who are U.S. residents and/or U.S. citizens 18 years of age and older. Regular members shall enjoy all the privileges of the Club, including one vote and the ability to hold office if all other requirements are fulfilled.
2. HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP: Two (2) persons of the same household, eighteen years of age or older, each of whom comply with the same requirements as that of Regular Membership shall be defined as Household Members. Each shall have one vote and each shall have the ability to hold office if all other requirements are fulfilled. However, persons residing in the same household may not concurrently be nominated, elected, or serve as an officer or director.
3. INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: A person 18 years of age or older, who is both not a resident and not a citizen of the United States, but who has interests parallel to those of the GSCA and who desire to subscribe to the Club's publication. International Members shall enjoy all privileges except voting or holding office. International Members will not count in determining a quorum.

**Section 2.** Membership shall not exceed $100.00 per year, and shall be payable on or before the 1st day of January of each year. On or before November 1st, the Membership Chair shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. If the annual dues are not paid by January 31st, it will be considered lapsed. The member will need to re-apply, including sponsors to be re-instated. The Board of Directors may review the dues once, in even number years. If a change in the annual fee is recommended, it cannot be more than $5.00 for individual memberships and $10.00 for household and international.

**Section 3.** Election to Membership. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by these Constitution and By-Laws and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, phone number, email address and occupation of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of at least two members who are in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective members shall submit an administrative fee and dues for the current year. Prospective members applying on or after the first day of June shall submit the administrative fee plus one-half of the annual dues that would otherwise be required. The name, address, telephone number and email address of the applicant, together with the name of the endorser or endorsers shall be published in the Club’s newsletter within a reasonable time after the application is received. Any member who objects to the granting of membership to an applicant may file his objection in writing, together with reasons for such objection, with the Secretary within a period of time specified by the Board of Directors for all applications for membership. The Secretary shall notify the entire Board of such objection before an application is approved or rejected. Applicants may be elected at any meeting of the Board of Directors or by written vote of the Directors by mail or email provided that a minimum of 30 days have elapsed after the applicant/applicants name appeared in either Giant Steps or the Club Newsletter. Affirmative votes of 2/3 of the Directors shall be required to elect an applicant.

**Section 4.** Administrative fee. There shall be one fee of $25.00 which shall cover an application for individual, household, or international membership.

**Section 5.** Termination of Membership. Membership may be terminated by;

 **A) By resignation**. Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the Club; dues are considered a debt to the Club and become incurred from the first day of the fiscal year. The Secretary, upon receipt of the member’s resignation, will send a GSCA letter of acceptance of such resignation by certified mail. Anyone who resigns from the Club and wishes to rejoin at some later date cannot be reinstated, but must go through the process of a new member.

 **B) By lapsing**. A membership shall be considered lapsed and automatically terminated if such member’s dues remain unpaid after January 31st. In no case may a member vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. A person who was in time past a member of the G.S.C.A. upon application shall state that fact stating their name and previous dates of membership and must go through a regular application for new membership.

 **C) By expulsion**. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of this Constitution and By-Laws.