

CONSTITUTION OF THE ESSC WELFARE & RESCUE

1 NAME

The name of the organisation is The English Shetland Sheepdog Club Welfare & Rescue (formerly ESSC Contingency Fund), hereinafter referred to as the ESSC Welfare & Rescue.

2 AREA OF OPERATION

The purposes and activities of the ESSC Welfare & Rescue shall be restricted to the United Kingdom.

3 THE PURPOSES OF THE ESSC WELFARE & RESCUE ARE:-

To provide the English Shetland Sheepdog Club with the ability to respond to the needs of Shetland Sheepdogs when the unexpected arises. This may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Rehoming - for whatever reason sometimes the need will arise for a Shetland Sheepdog to be rehomed. The ESSC Welfare & Rescue Co-ordinator and volunteers will check the suitability of the new home, possibly boosting/neutering/micro-chipping or providing medical treatment for the dog before it is placed with new owners. Ownership of all dogs rehomed by the ESSC Welfare & Rescue remains with the ESSC Welfare & Rescue, and registration papers are only passed to the new owner at the discretion of the ESSC Committee.
- (2) Private rehoming arrangements - the ESSC Welfare & Rescue may also help by providing members with names of people wishing to provide a Shetland Sheepdog with a home, but without the services described above in a formal rehoming process.
- (3) Working with other clubs, dog rescue or welfare organisations to provide for Shetland Sheepdogs which may require assistance. It should be noted that the ESSC Welfare & Rescue has no legal powers to rescue dogs suffering from cruelty or maltreatment, but may in some circumstances help those organisations which do have such powers.
- (4) Assisting with the costs of Shetland Sheepdogs' medical treatments in cases of financial hardship at the discretion of the ESSC Committee.
- (5) Temporary boarding - in the case of owners who are ill or have passed away the ESSC Welfare & Rescue may help with costs involved with caring for Shetland Sheepdogs until a permanent arrangement can be made.
- (6) Assistance for Shetland Sheepdogs in need shall not be restricted to only those belonging to members.
- (7) Promoting the health and wellbeing of the Shetland Sheepdog through education, by supporting research into hereditary conditions affecting the breed, and encouraging owners to perform health testing on their Shetland Sheepdogs. This may include, but is not limited to, the donation of funds to relevant research projects, or subsidising the cost of health tests to improve the quality of data on diseases/defects which may be identified from time to time.

4 ADMINISTRATION

The ESSC Welfare & Rescue shall be administered by the Officers and elected Committee Members of the English Shetland Sheepdog Club (ESSC) who are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Club.

5 CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

In order to carry out the purposes of the ESSC Welfare & Rescue, the ESSC Committee has the power to:

- (1) raise funds, receive grants and donations
- (2) apply funds to carry out the work of the organisation
- (3) co-operate with and support other organisations with similar purposes
- (4) do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes

6 MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the ESSC Welfare & Rescue shall be limited to the Officers and Committee Members of the English Shetland Sheepdog Club and the Club's paid up members. The ESSC Welfare & Rescue Co-ordinator shall be appointed by, and be a member of, the ESSC Committee.

7 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGM

- (1) The ESSC Welfare & Rescue AGM must be held every year in conjunction with the ESSC AGM, with 14 days notice given to all members telling them what is on the agenda. Minutes must be kept of the AGM.
- (2) There must be at least 30 members present at the AGM.
- (3) Every member has one vote - proxy votes are not allowed.

- (4) The ESSC Committee shall present the annual report and accounts.
- (5) Any member with 5 or more years membership of the English Shetland Sheepdog Club may stand for election to the ESSC Committee which manages the ESSC Welfare & Rescue.

8 MEETINGS

- (1) The ESSC Committee must hold at least 3 meetings each year relating to ESSC Welfare & Rescue. The ESSC Committee may act by majority decision.
- (2) At least 5 members of the ESSC Committee (which should include 2 or more Officers, the ESSC Welfare & Rescue Co-ordinator and two or more other Committee members) must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
- (3) If members of the ESSC Committee have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.
- (4) The ESSC Committee may make reasonable additional rules to help run the ESSC Welfare & Rescue. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

9 MONEY AND PROPERTY

- (1) The funds belonging to the ESSC Welfare & Rescue shall be applied only to further the aims of the ESSC Welfare & Rescue.
- (2) A current record of all income, funding and expenditure will be kept. The most recent annual accounts may be seen by any member on request.
- (3) The ESSC Committee cannot receive any money or property from the ESSC Welfare & Rescue funds, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses, or payment of the ESSC Welfare & Rescue Co-ordinator's annual honorarium.
- (4) The funds of the ESSC Welfare & Rescue including all donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into account(s) operated by the ESSC Committee. All cheques drawn on, or payments from, the account must be authorised by at least two members of the ESSC Committee.
- (5) The ESSC Committee shall set a maximum figure (currently £500) which the ESSC Welfare & Rescue Co-ordinator is authorised to spend in cases of emergencies without reference to the ESSC Committee. This maximum figure shall be reviewed annually.

10 GENERAL MEETINGS

If the ESSC Committee considers it is necessary to materially change the constitution, or wind up the ESSC Welfare & Rescue, it must call a General Meeting so that the membership can make the decision. The ESSC Committee must also call a General Meeting if it receives a written request from at least 30 members. All members must be given 14 days notice and told the reason for the meeting. Minutes shall be kept.

- (1) **Winding up** – the ESSC Welfare & Rescue may be wound up at any time if agreed by a simple majority of those members present and voting at any General Meeting. Proxy votes are not allowed. In the event of winding up, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall return to the English Shetland Sheepdog Club or be given to another Group with similar aims to the ESSC Welfare & Rescue.
- (2) **Changes to the Constitution** - any changes to this Constitution must be agreed by a simple majority of those members present and voting at any General Meeting. Proxy votes are not allowed
- (3) The ESSC Committee may also call a General Meeting to consult the membership

11 This constitution was adopted at a General Meeting of the English Shetland Sheepdog Club on

_____ [date]

Signed by:

Chairperson:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Other ESSC Committee members: