

# **Constitution of the Texas Livestock Guardian Dog Association**

Adopted this \_\_11th\_ day of \_November\_\_, 2020

## **Article I – Name**

The name of this organization shall be the **Texas Livestock Guardian Dog Association**, hereinafter referred to as the “Association” or “Texas LGD Association”.

## **Article II – Purpose and Mission**

### **Section 1. Purpose**

The Association is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting, promoting, and advancing the effective and sustainable use of livestock guardian dogs (LGDs) by farmers and ranchers in Texas.

### **Section 2. Mission**

The mission of the Texas LGD Association is to support, promote, and advance the sustainable use of effective livestock guardian dogs by farmers and ranchers.

### **Section 3. Vision**

The vision of the Association is to increase the effective use of livestock guardian dogs by Texas farmers and ranchers.

### **Section 4. Values**

The Association is guided by the following core values:

- Livestock guardian dogs are a cost-effective means to protect livestock and crops.
- Honesty, integrity, and professionalism within the livestock guardian dog community and the agriculture industry.
- Responsible stewardship of natural resources and land critical to the long-term sustainability of livestock agriculture.

## **Article III – Nonprofit Status and Compliance**

### **Section 1. Nonprofit Operation**

The Association shall be operated exclusively for nonprofit purposes under applicable Texas state law and United States Internal Revenue Code provisions applicable to nonprofit organizations. The Association is organized as a **501(c)(3) nonprofit organization**.

### **Section 2. Limitations**

No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of any individual member, director, officer, or other private person, except as reasonable compensation for services rendered. The Association shall not engage in political campaigning on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. All activities shall be consistent with applicable nonprofit regulations.

## **Article IV – Membership**

### **Section 1. Eligibility**

Membership shall be open to individuals and entities supportive of the mission and objectives of the Association. Membership may include, but is not limited to:

- Producers and ranchers
- LGD breeders
- Livestock and animal professionals
- Students and educators
- Others supportive of LGD advocacy and outreach

### **Section 2. Membership Classes and Dues**

The Association may establish membership classes (e.g., Full, Associate, Junior, Breeder) with associated dues. Current examples include:

- Full Breeder Membership
- Full Membership
- Associate Membership
- Junior Membership  
with dues and benefits established by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 3. Membership Benefits**

Membership benefits may include:

- Listing and marketing of pups, dogs, or stud services on the Association's website
- Networking with breeders and fellow LGD users
- Participation in Association-sponsored events, workshops, and presentations
- Representation of LGD interests at local and state levels

### **Section 4. Voting Rights**

Voting rights, if any, shall be defined in the Association's Bylaws.

### **Section 5. Termination of Membership**

Membership may be suspended or terminated for conduct detrimental to the Association, following procedures set forth in the Bylaws.

## **Article V – Board of Directors**

### **Section 1. Authority**

The Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors (“Board”), which shall be responsible for the strategic direction, fiduciary oversight, and policy decisions of the Association.

### **Section 2. Composition**

The Board shall consist of the following officers and directors:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Agrilife Representative
- Directors at Large representing defined regions and constituencies, including out-of-state representation

### **Section 3. Duties of the Board**

The Board shall:

1. Establish organizational policy and strategic direction.
2. Oversee financial management, assets, and annual budgets.
3. Appoint officers and committees as needed.
4. Ensure legal and ethical compliance.

## **Article VI – Officers**

### **Section 1. Officers**

The officers of the Association shall include at minimum:

- President
- Vice President

- Secretary
- Treasurer

The Board may establish additional officer positions as necessary.

## **Section 2. Duties of Officers**

Officers shall perform duties as prescribed in the Bylaws and customary to their roles.

## **Section 3. Term and Election**

Terms of office and processes for officer election or appointment shall be specified in the Bylaws.

## **Article VII – Committees**

The Board may establish standing and ad hoc committees (e.g., education, outreach, membership, advocacy) as needed to support the mission and operations of the Association.

## **Article VIII – Meetings**

### **Section 1. Annual Meeting**

An annual meeting of the membership shall be held at a time and place determined by the Board.

### **Section 2. Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called by the President or a majority of the Board as provided in the Bylaws.

### **Section 3. Quorum**

Quorum requirements for member and Board meetings shall be defined in the Bylaws.

## **Article IX – Fiscal and Ethical Standards**

The Association shall adopt fiscal policies, conflict-of-interest policies, and ethical standards to ensure responsible stewardship of funds, transparency, and accountability.

## **Article X – Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors, subject to any ratification requirements established in the Bylaws.

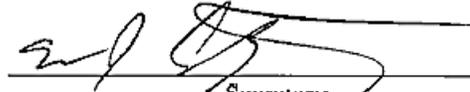
## **Article XI – Dissolution**

Upon dissolution of the Association, assets shall be distributed to one or more nonprofit organizations dedicated to livestock protection, education, animal welfare, or similar charitable purposes consistent with the mission of this Association and with applicable law.

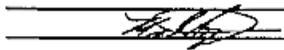
**Certification**

This Constitution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Texas Livestock Guardian Dog Association.

EXECUTED effective 11-18-20.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman