

# IFR Constitution

On 16 May 1969 representatives of the Rottweiler Clubs from Germany, Denmark, England, Finland, Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Schweden, Switzerland and the USA got together to form an organization which goals are to promote the Rottweiler breed on an international level.

This organization is called the International Federation of Rottweiler Friends (IFR).

The tasks and objectives are summarized in a convention.

On the occasion of the IFR Congress in ESPOO, Finland, this Convention was revised on 7 June 1988.

Experience and carefulness were the reason to revise the Convention at the IFR Congress on 24 August 1995 in Ruck, Austria and again at the IFR Congress in Mexico-City on 06-07.07.2006, in Diest (Belgium) on 21.05.2009 and on 14.05.2015 in Roudnice nad Labem (Czech Republik).

## **IFR Constitution OF THE International Federation of Rottweilerfriends**

### **1. Name, location, business year, validity**

1.1 The organization is called International Federation of Rottweiler Friends (IFR).

1.2 The seat of the IFR is located at the address of the First President.

1.3 The business year is the calender year.

1.4 This convention will be effective 14.05.2015. All previous versions are not valid any longer.

### **2. Purpose and Tasks**

2.1 The goal of the IFR is to worldwide align the breeding of the Rottweiler with the requirements of human and animal living together, this both with respect for the demands proper to modern and future society and yet without loss of the original physical characteristics and traits of character of the Rottweiler as defined by the FCI-breedstandard. These traits of character consist in a high confidence of character, a sociable behavior in the family and society and the aptitude of a utility dog.

The IFR considers it of prime importance to introduce, continue or intensify efforts, in order to breed exclusively with dogs that are healthy in body and mind, with a self-assured nature, a well-balanced nervous condition and a sufficiently high stimulus threshold. For this, all members of the IFR commit themselves to :

- introduce and organize tests of social acceptable behavior.
- introduce and impose breeding regulations to ensure that a minimal conformation of all breeding dogs to the FCI breedstandard is guaranteed. These breeding regulations must concern the health of the dogs and their physical and mental conformation to the FCI breedstandard. Part of these regulations must be the successful participation of all breeding dogs to breedsuitability tests. The memberclubs will decide themselves on the form and content of the test but these must be directed toward the definition of the Rottweiler as mentioned in the FCI-breedstandard.

2.1.2 To attain its goals, the IFR will amongst other efforts attentively follow all development in the fields of canine sport and training and will timely try to influence all such developments to ensure the preservation,

in casu the keeping and breeding, of the Rottweiler as the strong utility dog defined by the FCI-breedstandard whose breed specific character allows him to function in a social acceptable manner. In doing so, particular attention must not only be given to traditional defense training but also to other canine (FCI-accepted or acceptable) activities which are also suitable to recognize, preserve and put to use the traits of a strong utility breed.

2.1.3 To attain its goals, a close cooperation between the breeding associations of the respective countries, especially those organs that have the most responsibilities on breeding (breed specialized judges, breed wardens) shall be organized, both at international and at regional or national level, in order to improve the health of the Rottweiler population, to ensure homogeneity in the worldwide interpretation of the breed-standard and to agree on the setting of priorities in the keeping and breeding of the Rottweiler.

2.1.4 When new findings concerning the Rottweiler breed exist, the convention of the IFR and/or its regulations should be revised.

2.1.5 The continuous dealing with specialized questions on breeding and keeping as well as compliance with FCI regulations must be guaranteed in the member countries.

2.1.6 The IFR can and will organize all activities deemed necessary and/or useful to attain its goals, inclusive the organization of dogshows, canine sportive activities, seminars, lectures, publications, etc. ... . To ensure a more direct and effective organization and influence at regional levels, regional structures can be established or recognized.

### **3. Membership**

3.1 Only the national Rottweiler Club of the respective country, whose national cynologic association is also a member of the FCI or is associated with the FCI, can become a member of the IFR.

However, should the national cynologic association to which the Rottweilerclub is affiliated not be a member of the FCI or would only be associated to the FCI and would impose another breed-standard than the FCI-breedstandard, then the meeting of the Delegates can still agree to accept a Rottweilerclub from that country as a member of the IFR on condition that it not only has a national structure and workingfield but especially that it constitutionally accepts and respects the FCI-breedstandard as the sole binding breed-standard of the Rottweiler and aims at the breeding and preservation of the breed according to the FCI-breedstandard in every aspect.

3.2 Only one national club per country can be a member of the IFR. If more than one national club is recognized by the respective national cynologic association and should they be accepted as members of the IFR, than they shall each nominate a delegate for the General Meeting or will nominate a common delegate that will represent them all. However, the national clubs from one country will have only one common vote and in case of disagreement they will be assumed to abstent.

3.3 Each member commits itself to active cooperation in all that matters to the IFR, by example to communicate all information (at least within 3 months of the request) that it is being asked for. This information can concern all matters related to the Rottweiler, its breeding, training, showing, etc. ... .

3.4 An application for membership must be submitted to the 1st President in a written form. Preliminary admission may be granted if 2/3 of the Executive Board vote in favour. Final acceptance may only be granted at the first general assembly of the delegates after the application for membership has been submitted.

3.5 The membership is terminated, if :

- a written notice of the withdrawal from the IFR is given. The withdrawal has to be addressed by registered mail to the 1st President or the Secretary and can only become effective to the end of the calendar year when it is not later received than 30 September.
- membership dues are 2 years in arrears,
- membership in the FCI has been terminated
- a deviation from the FCI-breedstandard is tolerated in the Memberclub. In particular all member clubs commit themselves to see to it that their members do not dock the tails of the Rottweiler and / or do not buy dogs with a tail in unnatural state.
- a lack of interest is shown by the member country for its relation with the IFR and its cooperation towards the goals of the IFR. Only the meeting of the delegates has the power to decide to terminate the membership for this reason.

#### **4. Membership Fees**

4.1 The member clubs shall pay an annual fee, based on the number of members in their organization.

The level of the contribution is determined at the General delegates meeting for the following period.

4.2 The fee is due by 31 March of each year and is to be calculated on the basis of the number of members on 31 December of the previous year.

4.3 If membership dues are in arrears, the right to vote as well as participation to all IFR-activities are suspended.

#### **5. Liability**

IFR liabilities shall be limited to the amount of the property consisting of the membership dues.

#### **6. Organs**

The organs of the IFR are :

- Meeting of the Delegates
- The Executive Board

6.1 The Meeting of the Delegates.

Each member country can appoint one person as its delegate to represent the member club at the Meeting of the Delegates and/or in its dealings and communications with the IFR.

6.2 The Executive Board

The executive Board shall consist out of the :

- IFR-president
- IFR-vice-president
- 4 board-members, amongst whom the board members will appoint one or two members to be secretary and / or treasury-keeper.

If deemed necessary or useful, the Meeting of the Delegates can decide to appoint one or more Delegates as additional members of the board. These will have no vote but an recommending vote but will be invited to all board-meetings in the same way as the other members of the board.

All members of the Executive Board are to be elected and such for the time period between two Meetings of the Delegates. Re-election will be possible.

Can be elected as members of the executive board : Delegates of a Memberclub or those persons that are appointed as candidates for the election by a Delegate of a Memberclub and who are a member of the Memberclub concerned. The Memberclub concerned must have voting right according to 4.3.

The Executive Board can validly meet and decide if at least 50 % of its members, excl. the first president, in office are present.

There must have been a written invitation to the meeting and an agenda, 6 weeks before the meeting, unless all board members agree to another means of discussion and decision. Decisions sought for and reached by exchanging votes by writing and/or electronic and/or digital manner are allowed.

Decisions are reached by normal majority (50 % + 1). In case of a tie vote, the vote of the President will decide.

6.3. To ensure a close connection to the country of origin of the Rottweiler and on condition that the concerned German Rottweilerclub is a member of the IFR, its first president will automatically be invited as honorary president of the IFR.

This function is for protocol, is personal and cannot be transferred to another person and does not give a right of vote in the Meeting of Delegates and/or Executive board.

However, whenever an issue arises that demands for a decision that may concern and/or influence the preservation of the breed's characteristics, the prior advice of the honorary president must be sought for.

Should more than one German Rottweilerclub exist and be accepted as a member of the IFR, then the honorary presidency will be shared.

#### 6.4 Two Auditors

The auditors shall have to report to the delegates on the financial activities which happened between the period of the delegates meeting.

### **7. Delegates Meeting**

7.1 At the delegates meeting, each member club is represented by its delegate and has one vote. The decision of the Meeting of the Delegates is final and is to be executed by the Executive Board.

7.2 Unless otherwise specified in the IFR constitution, all decisions are reached by a simple majority of the votes (50 % + 1). Abstentions are not taken into account, nor as a vote nor to determine the number of votes.

7.3 In the event of a tie, the vote of the IFR-President will be decisive.

7.4 Voting by proxy is possible. The authority to represent a member at an election must be proven by a written authorization by the member country that cannot send its delegate. Only one proxy per delegate shall be allowed.

7.5 The respective delegates shall be, if not expressed otherwise in writing, the persons to turn to in all questions concerning the IFR.

7.6 An extraordinary delegates meeting can be held at the request of the executive board or at the request of 2/3 of the members of the IFR. An extraordinary meeting has to be held at a place centralized in Europe at the latest 4 months after receipt of the request.

7.7 At the delegates meeting, motions not listed in the agenda shall not be discussed, except if these motions were sent to the executive board and to all of the IFR-members at least 1 month in advance of the meeting. An exception on this rule, as well as in the case of a vote necessary because of an urgency, can be made if at least 2/3 of the present delegates vote in favor of discussing the motion.

## **8. Responsibilities of the Meeting of Delegates and of the Executive Board**

8.1 The agenda for the Delegates Meeting shall contain the following points:

8.1.2 Opening of the meeting by the IFR-President. If present, the Honorary President(s) will be given right of speech at the opening of the meeting.

8.1.3 Confirmation of the presence and the validity of the delegates

8.1.4 Election of the chairman and his deputy

8.1.5 Approval of the agenda

8.1.6 Decision of Admittance of new members

8.1.7 Treatment of the proposals of the members

8.1.8 Report of the executive board for the expired period

8.1.9 Report of the auditors

8.1.10 Discussion on the reports

8.1.11 Relief of the Board

8.1.12 Determination of the host country for the next activities of the IFR (Congress, World Championship, World Show and other).

8.1.13 Presentation of the candidates for the election of the executive board.

8.1.14 Discussion and decision on the activities to be executed by the executive board that is to be elected.

8.1.15 Election of the executive board :

- a) election of the President
- b) election of the Vice-President
- c) election of 4 members of the board
- d) possible election of additional members of the board.
- e) election of two auditors

8.1.16 Determination of the Membership fees

8.2. It is the responsibility of the executive board to carry out the decision of the delegates, to prepare meetings of the Executive Board, to prepare the agenda of the delegates meeting, to supervise all activities for the next festival and to deal with all matters that concern the IFR and that do not fall under the exclusive competence of the Delegates Conference.

The executive board shall, if so especially decided within the limits and/or budgets decided on by the meeting of the delegates and otherwise within reason of the good housefather, undertake all measures and activities deemed necessary or useful to fulfill the purpose of the IFR.

The executive board shall meet on request of the IFR president or on request of the vice president and also when half of the board members so demand.

8.3 In cases of urgency the President shall be authorized to make decisions which come within the sphere of competence of the organs of the IFR. Such decisions are to be reported to the concerned organs promptly in writing.

8.4 By April 30 of every year a treasury report (all costs and revenues) must be sent to all member countries which have fulfilled their obligations to the IFR including having paid their fees.

8.5 In the case of gross offence against the convention of the IFR, each member of the Executive Board can be immediately suspended from office by simple majority vote of the Executive Board. The member concerned shall have to be given, if possible, the chance to defend himself at the next delegates' meeting. Until the next delegate meeting, a substitute can be appointed by the Executive Board. A new election shall be reserved for the next delegates meeting.

8.6 The occupation as a member of the executive board as well as carrying out tasks or assignments given by the IFR organs, are honorary and thus unsalaried.

Only expenses which occur in connection with their task can be reimbursed. The reimbursement of travel expenses will be decided by the Executive Board.

### **9. Amendment of the convention**

Only the Meeting of Delegates is competent to amend the constitution. For this, the consent of 2/3 of the present members is required.

### **10. Dissolution**

For the dissolution of the IFR, the consent of ¾ of the members is required. Existing net surpluses of the membership fees paid shall be allotted to the members on the basis of their contribution.

Decided upon in Roudnice nad Labem by the Meeting of the Delegates dd. 14.05.2015.