

American Sable Rabbit Society

Constitution

ARTICLE 1: Name

Section 1 - This association shall be known as the American Sable Rabbit Society (ASRS).

Section 2 - The American Sable Rabbit Society shall be incorporated as a non-profit organization.

ARTICLE 2: Objectives

The objectives of this association shall be:

Section 1 - To promote American Sable rabbits as an American Heritage Breed, and encourage the production of purebred animals for, in recognition of the original intent of ARBA, the purpose of "Food, Fur, and Fancy".

Section 2 - To provide information to all interested persons on all matters pertaining to the American Sable rabbit.

Section 3 - To improve the Standard of Perfection of the American Sable rabbit and to revise said Standard whenever necessary through the efforts of a standing Standard of Perfection committee.

Section 4 - To have an active publicity program through the holding of shows, booth exhibits at the ARBA Convention and spring National Show each year, as well as other educational and community functions whenever possible.

ARTICLE 3: Affiliation

Section 1 - The American Sable Rabbit Society shall affiliate with the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. (ARBA).

Section 2 - Any local, district, or state American Sable Specialty Club chartered with the ARBA and whose organization is in accord with that of this club is strongly urged to affiliate with the ASRS. Officers of all clubs affiliated with the ASRS must be members in good standing with the ARBA as well as the ASRS.

By -Laws

ARTICLE 1: Membership

Section 1 - Any person may become a member by submitting an application, along with the yearly dues.

Section 2 - Membership dues shall be stated and defined in the Club Standing Rules.

Section 3 - Membership shall be acknowledged by a membership card issued by the American Sable Rabbit Society and signed by the Secretary. Membership shall become active on the date the payment is postmarked or hand delivered.

Section 4 - All memberships shall run from July 1st until June 30th of the following year. New members joining after March 31st shall be considered paid through the following year.

Section 5 - Members shall be notified thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of their membership. Members who do not pay their dues by the expiration date forfeit their right to vote and any sweepstakes points earned after said expiration.

Section 6 - Members who do not renew within thirty (30) days of the expiration date on their card shall be dropped from the active membership roster. Those dropped must apply for a new membership.

Section 7 - Non-members at the time of judging are ineligible for ASRS Convention and National Show awards.

ARTICLE 2 : Officers and Directors

Section 1 - The elected officers of this Club shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. There shall also be four (4) elected Directors. These officers and Directors shall compose the Executive Board.

Section 2 - All officers shall be elected for a two (2) year term. Election for the positions of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one (1) Director shall be held in the odd numbered calendar years. Election for the offices of President and three (3) Directors shall be held in the even numbered calendar years.

Section 3 - All elected officers and directors shall take office on July 1st following the election.

Section 4 - Any vacancy which may occur in an unexpired term may be filled for the remainder of the term by the majority, polled vote of the entire Executive Board.

Section 5 - In the event that any office becomes vacant due to an elected member declining to accept the office, that office shall be filled by the majority, polled vote of the entire Executive Board for an interim officer until a special election can be held. This special election shall take place within ninety (90) days of the beginning of the term.

Section 6 - All members of the Executive Board must attend at least one of the four (4) bi-annual meetings during their term of office. Failure to do so will render them ineligible for re-election for the following two-year term.

ARTICLE 3: Meetings

Section 1 - There shall be two (2) meetings of the general membership each year: (1) at the annual Convention of the American Rabbit Breeders Association and (2) at the annual National American Sable Rabbit Show in the spring. These meetings shall be preceded by a meeting of the Executive Board.

Section 2 - There shall be nine (9) eligible voting members present, two who are members of the Executive Board, to constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, no business may be conducted during the meeting. However, a meeting may take place and minutes shall be recorded and reported in the Sable Cable.

Section 3 - Order of Business The order of business at all meetings of the ASRS or Executive Board shall be as follows:

- Roll Call,
- Reading of minutes of previous meeting,
- Report of Executive Board,
- Report of Secretary,
- Report of Treasurer,
- Report from Committees,
- Reading of communications,
- Unfinished business,
- New business,
- Discussion for the good of the club,
- Adjournment

ARTICLE 4: Duties of the Executive Board

Section 1 - The President shall preside at all club meetings, act as chairperson of the Executive Board, appoint all Committees listed in the By-Laws with approval of the Executive Board, and perform other duties pertaining to the office. In the case of a tie in any person-present vote, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 2 - The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence at meetings or in case of his/her inability to serve.

Section 3 - The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Club, notify the members of meetings, keep an accurate record of all minutes and membership rosters, notify members of expiring memberships, and collect all dues and fees. Minutes of all meetings, both Executive Board and membership, shall be published in the following edition of the Sable Cable.

Section 4 - The Treasurer shall keep an active ASRS checking account, accurate records of all incomes and expenditures, and pay all claims as properly approved by the club or the Executive Board, submit a financial statement to the membership annually and to the Executive Board quarterly.

Section 5 - The Executive Board shall carry out the decisions of the club and transact all necessary business for the welfare of the club that may occur between the annual meetings of the general membership within the confines of the Constitution and By-Laws. The Executive Board has the authority to interpret the Constitution & By-Laws.

Section 6 - The Executive Board cannot over rule any majority vote decisions made by the membership.

ARTICLE 5: Elections

Section 1 - Any member wishing to hold an office position in ASRS through election process or appointment must meet the following qualifications:

- a) Must have been a continuous ASRS member for the two (2) previous years,
- b) is a current member in good standing of ASRS and the ARBA,
- c) Must be at least nineteen (19) years old before the date of assuming office on July 1,
- d) Must not have resigned nor been removed from any ASRS office in the last four (4) years,
- e) And must not have been expelled nor suspended in the last four (4) years from ASRS or the ARBA.

The member shall obtain an official ASRS nominating petition from the Secretary. A signed petition will be submitted to the Secretary for validation and will require the signatures of three (3) additional ASRS members in good standing. The names of qualified candidates shall be placed on the ballot. The petition for the office of Secretary/Treasurer shall be submitted to the President for validation.

Section 2 - Because of the validation process required by Section 1, no write-in candidate may be elected and any ballot returned with a write-in vote shall be counted as an illegal ballot for that candidate vote. No write-in provision shall be provided.

Section 3 - All petitions must be in the Secretary's hands by December 15th preceding the election year, with the exception of special elections.

Section 4 - An election ballot for all contended offices shall be mailed to all qualified members, as defined by ARBA definition, postmarked no later than January 25th. In the event all positions up for election have only one candidate for each position then these candidates will be declared the winner by acclamation and no paper ballot will be mailed. All mailed ballots must be marked and returned to the Election Chairman postmarked no later than March 1st. An envelope addressed to the Election Chairman and having that same address as the return address shall be included with the ballots and should be used to return the marked ballots.

Section 5 - No person whose name appears on the election ballot or any member of their immediate family may serve on the Election Committee.

Section 6 - The official ASRS newsletter, the Sable Cable, shall publish a list of all qualified candidates and include a personal biography as supplied by the candidate. Each candidate shall be notified by the Editor within thirty (30) days of the deadline for submission. A sample ballot shall be published in the Sable Cable.

Section 7 - The ballots shall be opened and counted in the presence of at least three (3) of the Election Committee members and the recorded results will be conveyed to the current President and Secretary within fifteen (15) days of the date required for return postmark. The President will then notify the

candidates and the Executive Board within five (5) days of the report. The results shall be published in the next Sable Cable and posted on the club's official web site within ten (10) days. Special election results shall be published via email or post card within 21 days of the required return postmark date and posted on the club's official web site within twenty-five (25) days.

Section 8 - Ballots shall be retained by the Secretary for one (1) year. Ballots received with a postmark later than the stated deadline shall also be retained, unopened.

Section 9 - Petitions for office in special elections must be submitted to the Secretary within 45 days. Those names will appear on the special election ballot. There will be a statement from the Secretary included with the ballot explaining the reason for the special election. No other communications may be included with the ballot. Returned ballots must be postmarked no later than forty-five (45) days after the ballot mailing postmark and must be mailed in the provided envelope to the Election Chairman. Election results will be reported as outlined in the general election. These ballots must be retained by the Secretary for one (1) year. Ballots received with a postmark later than the stated deadline shall also be retained, unopened.

Section 10 - In the event of a tie between candidates for an office, selection shall be made by runoff election within thirty (30) days of the ballot count.

ARTICLE 6: Standing Committees The President shall appoint, with Executive Board approval:

Section 1 - an Auditing Committee to audit the Treasurer's records annually, prior to July 1st each year.

Section 2 - an Election Committee consisting of a Chairman and three (3) other committee members, one (1) of whom shall act as an alternate. These four (4) appointees should reside within commuting distance from each other to facilitate the performance of their duties. These committee members must agree, at their appointment, to meet in a central location when necessary to perform their duties. No person whose name appears on the election ballot or any member of their immediate family may serve on the Election Committee. This committee shall serve for two (2) years and may be reappointed.

Section 3 - a Show Committee. The annual spring National Show date and location shall be recommended by the Show Committee based upon host club bids, approved by the Executive Board, and presented for membership vote at the bi-annual meeting. The Membership at each spring National Show meeting shall vote on and determine the date and location for the next year's spring National Show.

The Show Committee shall, throughout the year and before Convention, poll the general membership for their recommendations and approach nominated Judges for their availability to judge American Sables at the annual ARBA Convention. The Committee shall present such verified names at the bi-annual fall meeting for a selection of a first and second choice Judge to be submitted to the Convention Host Club for the following Convention. This selection will be made by the general membership at the Convention each year for the following year. This committee shall serve for one (1) year and may be reappointed.

Section 4 - a Standards Committee of five (5) actively showing members to propose and present any needed changes in the breed standard to the general membership for vote. The Committee shall present any recommended and membership approved changes to the American Sable breed standard to the Secretary, who shall present them in a timely manner to the ARBA Standards Committee. This committee shall serve for five (5) years and may be reappointed.

Section 5 - a Merchandise Committee to design, secure, and present for sale, for the profit of the club, such items as may relate to or promote the American Sable rabbit or the ASRS and its members. The Committee shall work within the budget approved by the Executive Board. This budget may be amended by the general membership at any bi-annual meeting. This committee shall serve for two (2) years and may be reappointed.

Section 6 - an Awards Committee to select, secure and present to each of the bi-annual shows the awards to recognize all achievements as stated in the Sweepstakes Rules. The Awards Committee shall work within

the budget approved by the general membership vote, and maybe amended at any bi-annual meeting. This committee shall serve for one (1) year and may be reappointed

Section 7 - a Convention Booth Committee to design, decorate, and schedule the manning of the ASRS Booth at Convention and, when appropriate, at Spring Nationals. The Committee shall work within the budget set by the general membership of \$200 and may be amended at any bi-annual meeting. This committee shall serve for one (1) year and may be reappointed.

Section 8 - a Hospitality Committee to plan, organize, announce to the general membership, and host the club banquet to take place in conjunction with each of the scheduled bi-annual shows. The Committee shall work within the budget approved by the general membership, and may be amended at any bi-annual meeting. This committee shall serve for one (1) year and may be reappointed.

Section 9 - a Raffle Chairperson to secure donations for the generation of income for the club and coordinate the raffle event with the Booth Chairperson for theme, advertising, and space at each bi-annual show. This individual shall serve for one (1) year and may be reappointed.

Section 10 - a Guidebook Committee to secure material and information to produce the Official ASRS Guidebook to be published every five (5) years.

Section 11 - a Club Historian to maintain the ASRS Scrapbook and hold it until its display each year at the Annual ARBA Convention and Spring National Show.

ARTICLE 7: Parliamentary Authority

Section 1 - The most recent published edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be considered as the final authority for this organization and shall govern all questions of procedure where not otherwise specified by the ASRS Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2 - All decisions at the bi-annual meetings shall be final, unless altered by a majority vote on a new motion by the membership at a future bi-annual meeting, or by mailed ballot if the vote is on some constitutional matter.

Section 3 - Club Standing Rules shall be established as deemed necessary by the Executive Board or membership and shall be followed after acceptance.

Section 4 - Club Standing Rules and Sweepstakes Rules may be amended as the club sees fit. Any and all rules, guidelines, or policies established by the membership or the Executive Board that hold any jurisdiction over the ASRS or its affiliates shall be made readily available to the membership, with the date on which said rule, guideline, or policy was put into place, under the appropriate documents known as Club Standing Rules or Sweepstakes Rules.

Section 5 - These continually updated documents shall be posted on the website, published annually in the fourth quarter Sable Cable, published in the Guidebook, and shall be submitted to the ARBA to be maintained in the ASRS file.

ARTICLE 8: Disciplinary Action

Section 1 - Complaints and charges of misconduct against any member shall be presented in writing to the Secretary who will forward the complaint within five (5) business days to each member of the Executive Board for action. If the complaint is against the Secretary in office the written complaint shall be presented to the President for distribution to the Executive Board.

Section 2 - Any written complaint must be accompanied by a \$40.00 fee to cover cost of administration.

Section 3 - The accused must reply to the Executive Board within thirty (30) days. The Executive Board must reach a decision within fifteen (15) days of the reply postmark. The final decision must be relayed to the two parties within five (5) days of the final decision. Appeals may be submitted within fifteen (15) days to the Secretary for a written vote of the general eligible membership. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the eligible general membership shall be considered final.

ARTICLE 9: Disbanding of the Organization

In the event that the ASRS is disbanded as this exact organization, all liquid assets shall be equally divided among any ASRS chartered regional American Sable Specialty Clubs having been recognized by the National ASRS for a period of more than twelve (12) months. All other assets shall be liquidated at auction at the next calendar ARBA Convention with proceeds going to the ARBA Youth Scholarship fund.

ARTICLE 10: Amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws

Section 1 - An amendment may be presented to the ASRS Secretary for consideration and membership vote, if signed by five (5) eligible voting members in good standing as defined by the ARBA Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2 - Any amendment to the Constitution or By-Laws is to be voted on by the general eligible membership. The vote shall be accomplished by the use of written, mailed ballots. These ballots should be postmarked within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the proposal by the Secretary. These ballots will be accompanied by a copy of the proposed amendment. There shall be a minimum of forty-five (45) days from the postmarked date on the outgoing ballots and the stated deadline for the postmark on returned marked ballots. These amendment ballots shall be returned to the Secretary.

Section 3 - A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast is required for the adoption of the amendment.

Section 4 - Any number of amendment proposals may be included in an amendment mailing, but no more than two (2) such mailings may be posted in one (1) calendar year. The deadline for the submission of a second amendment for a second mailing shall be published in the Sable Cable, and the deadline date shall be set as fifteen (15) days from the publish date of the Sable Cable.

Club Standing Rules

ARTICLE 1: Parliamentary Club Standing Rules shall be established as deemed necessary by the membership and shall be followed after acceptance. They shall not be considered part of the By-Laws and may be amended as the Club sees fit by a two-thirds majority vote of eligible voting members at a bi-annual membership meeting.

ARTICLE 2: Membership Dues Membership dues shall be:

Adult - \$10.00 per year, \$25.00 for 3 years

Youth - \$8.00 per year, \$20.00 for 3 years

2 members in the same household - \$12.00 per year, \$30.00 for 3 years

Family - \$14 per year (If more than 2 children add \$3.00/child), \$35.00 for 3 years.

(If more than 2 children add \$5.00/child)

ARTICLE 3: Sanctions

The following fees shall be collected from any club desiring to sponsor an official ASRS sweepstakes event at an ARBA sanctioned show: Open \$8.00, Youth \$5.00. Youth is free if requested with a paid Open sanction.

1. The club hosting a show must contact the American Sable Rabbit Society requesting permission to sanction American Sables at least thirty (30) days prior to the show.

2. The full name of the club, show location (the town & state) and date(s) must be given, as well as the ARBA sanction number(s). E-mail address and/or phone number of show secretary must be included.

3. Sanction fee must be forwarded: Open sanction \$8.00; Youth sanction \$5.00. Youth sanction is free when requested with an Open sanction. If no American Sables are shown, the host club may request a free sanction for their next show. A free sanction request card will be mailed or e-mailed to the club after the show report is received.

4. The club hosting the show must offer \$5.00 for Best of Breed American Sable, \$3.00 for Best Opposite Sex American Sable and \$1.00 for Best Breed Fur (or awards of equal or greater value), provided ten (10) or more

American Sables are shown in Open or Youth competition. If less than ten (10) are shown, payment of these specials will be at the discretion of the sponsoring club.

ARTICLE 4: Special Recognition American Sable Rabbit Society recognizes the following special awards:

Section 1 - Hall of Fame Nomination to honor Outstanding Service and Contribution to the ASRS and American Sable Rabbit:

1. Nominations may be made by any member or officer of the ASRS, signed by a total of five (5) ASRS members, and submitted to the Secretary.
2. Nomination must be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to a national meeting (spring National Show or ARBA Convention).
3. Secretary shall inform and poll the Officers and Directors for approval by a majority vote.
4. Candidate must be a member of the American Sable Rabbit Society for at least five (5) years or have been a Charter Member.
5. Candidate must have contributed significantly to ·
The cause of the Sable rabbit ·
And the American Sable Rabbit Society ·
And be active in both (or recently deceased)
6. Hall of Fame membership is to be accompanied by: ·
Awarding of a suitable plaque and ·
Lifetime Membership in the ASRS
7. Hall of Fame to be represented by a scrapbook held and maintained by the Club Historian.
8. Hall of Fame recipient to be listed in any future Guidebook of the ASRS.

Section 2 - Sable Spirit Award

1. Awarded to the person who has, for the previous year, best exemplified enthusiasm for the American Sable Rabbit Society and the American Sable rabbit by encouraging new breeders, supporting above and beyond the norm the ASRS activities and events as well as local clubs and shows by the giving of their time, talents, and finances for the betterment of the ASRS and the American Sable rabbit breed.
2. Nomination forms are available from the office of the Secretary. Nominations are sent directly to the President no later than thirty (30) days prior to the National Banquet and one (1) winner shall be selected from these nominations by the President.
3. Award shall be presented at the spring National Show banquet.
4. Recipient must be a current member of ARBA and ASRS at time of nomination and at time of presentation.
5. A framed certificate shall be given as the award, actual monies not to exceed \$5.00 except by special donation.

ARTICLE 5: Travel Allowance

A sum of no more than One hundred dollars (\$100.00) shall be paid to the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer toward travel expenses to attend each ARBA Convention and the spring National Shows. A sum of (\$50.00) to be paid to each Director attending these meeting. Copies of receipts for such expenses must be given to the Treasurer. The recipient must attend the full meeting at that event to be eligible to receive this reimbursement. (Adopted April 9, 2011)

Sweepstakes Rules

An American Sable Sweepstakes system stimulates interest and competition among American Sable breeders nationally. A member is granted points for regular classes, Best of Breed and Best Opposite Sex American Sable, and Best Fur.

The total number of points earned by a member at each sanctioned show is tabulated and totaled during the year by the Sweepstakes Secretary. The Sweepstakes year shall run concurrent with the dues year. The top five members at the end of the year shall receive awards from the American Sable Rabbit Society. The top five members shall be decided by the highest total points. Awards shall be presented at the ARBA Convention.

1. The sweepstakes offer must be stated in the show catalog or premium list, showing the name of the national specialty club, the Secretary and address, the yearly dues.
2. The report form provided must be filled out completely and returned to the Sweepstakes Secretary within thirty (30) days after the show. Names and addresses of exhibitors must accompany the show reports. Incomplete reports will be returned.
3. A separate Sweepstakes will be conducted based on the points earned competing in paid American Sable (Breed) fur class.
4. Sweepstakes points shall be calculated on the first five (5) places in each of the four (4) regular classes and the fur competition. First place in class earns six (6) points times the number of rabbits in the class. Second earns four (4) points times the number of rabbits in the class. Third place earns three (3) points times the number of rabbits in the class. Fourth place earns two (2) points and fifth place earns one (1) point on the same basis. One (1) point times the total number of American Sables exhibited will be earned for a Best of Breed win, and one-half (½) point times the total number of American Sables shown for Best Opposite Sex.
5. Specialty shows will count as double class points. (Adopted October 30, 2011)
6. Best Four Class or Reserve In Show, Best of Group or equivalent by an American Sable at an ASRS official sweepstakes show will be awarded two hundred (200) points. Best In Show will be awarded five hundred (500) points.
7. ARBA Conventions and the spring National Sable Show shall count as double class points to encourage attendance and competition at these events.
8. The American Sable Rabbit Society has the following awards in conjunction with the Sweepstakes Awards: the Best Dressed Award-winner of the most breed fur classes during the sweepstakes year; the Syble Award-winner of the most Best of Breed wins during the sweepstakes year; and the Able Award-winner of the most Best Opposite Sex of Breed wins during the sweepstakes year.
9. Sweepstakes awards shall be presented at each ARBA National Convention (or after the Convention if more feasible) to the first through fifth place winners in the Open and Fur Sweepstakes. Youth shall receive awards for first through fifth place in Youth Sweepstakes and Fur. Value and style of the awards shall be set by the Awards Committee.

Youth Sweepstakes Rules

1. An American Sable Sweepstakes system is provided to stimulate interest and competition among the American Sable Youth Breeders nationally. A youth member is granted points for regular classes, fur class and for Best of Breed and Best Opposite Sex American Sable on the same basis as the Open adult classes.
2. The American Sable Rabbit Society has the following awards in conjunction with the Sweepstakes Awards: the Best Dressed Award-winner of the most breed fur classes during the sweepstakes year; the Syble Award-winner of the most Best of Breed wins during the sweepstakes year; and the Able Award-winner of the most Best Opposite Sex of Breed wins during the sweepstakes year.
3. To benefit Youth participants, when Youth sanctions are requested with Open sanctions, there will be no additional charge for the Youth sanction. In order to encourage Youth entries and participation, Youth points gained while exhibiting in regular Open show classes will be automatically tabulated and sent to the Youth Sweepstakes Chairperson.