

MidAtlantic (or Mid-Atlantic) Lop Club

Constitution and Bylaws

Article I. Name.

This organization shall be known as the Mid-Atlantic Lop Club. (MALC)

Article II. Location.

Membership in this organization will include residents of Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Article III. Affiliation.

This organization shall be chartered with the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. (ARBA) and shall operate as a regional specialty club. This organization shall also be affiliated with the Lop Rabbit Club of America, Inc. (LRCA). All officers and directors of this organization must be members of good standing of the ARBA and the LRCA.

Article IV. Object.

The object of this organization shall be to develop, improve, and promote the breeding of French and English Lop rabbits by using pedigreed stock, encouraging the registration of stock with the ARBA, and discouraging cross breeding of animals for the purpose of sale, exhibition, or breeding.

Article V. Membership.

Adult Membership: Any person, 18 years of age and older, in good standing with the ARBA and the LRCA, residing in one of the Mid-Atlantic states listed above, may become a member of this organization upon submitting a membership form, paying annual dues, and subscribing to the rules and objectives of the club. The failure of a member to abide by the objectives of this club may result in termination of the membership with no refund of dues.

Youth Membership: Any person under 18 years of age, in good standing with the ARBA and the LRCA, residing in one of the Mid-Atlantic states listed above, may become a member of this organization upon submitting a membership form, paying youth annual dues, and subscribing to the rules and objectives of the club. The failure of a member to abide by the objectives of this club may result in termination of the membership with no refund of dues. A youth member may not serve as President, Vice President, or Secretary/Treasurer.

Youth memberships are defined in accordance with the American Rabbit Breeders Association. Multiple Open is defined as two adult members residing at one household/ mailing address.

Article VI. Dues.

Dues shall be determined annually by the membership at the first annual meeting and will take effect at the beginning of the new club year. Individuals joining the club after May 1 shall be responsible for only one-half of the annual dues. Dues are payable on February 1 of each new year. Dues not paid by March 30 shall be considered as lapsed and those individuals dropped from the membership list.

Article VII. Club Year.

The club year shall be from January 1 – December 31.

Article VIII. Officers.

The officers of this organization shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three directors.

- a. To be eligible for office, a candidate shall be: A current member for at least three (3) years.
- b. At least nineteen (19) years of age.
- c. An active breeder and exhibitor of French or English Lops.
- d. A resident of their respective state.

If a candidate is a current member but for less than three (3) years, fulfills the remaining requirements and is the only qualified candidate to fill an office, a special vote can be taken by the membership, for this exception.

The officers and directors shall comprise the Executive Committee. The general supervision and conduct of the affairs of the organization shall be vested in the Executive Committee.

The President shall preside over all meetings, and act as chairman of the Executive Committee. He/she will appoint all committees/chairpersons, except the Nominating Chairperson, and perform other duties as needed. The President shall fill any vacancy occurring in office by appointment within ninety (90) days of receiving the incumbent's resignation, removal, or death subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the president in his/her absence, or in case of his/her inability to act. The Vice President shall appoint the Nominating Chairperson prior to the first annual meeting of the club.

The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the organization, keep a record of the membership list, notify members of meetings, and keep a record of the minutes of all meetings. The Secretary can preside at a meeting in the absence of the President and Vice President.

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the finances of the organization. They shall collect dues and pay organization bills upon receiving a proper receipt up to the amount of \$100.00. Bills over \$100.00 must be approved by a majority of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall issue a financial statement at meetings, showing an accurate record of all income and expenditures. There shall be two signatures on all club bank accounts: the Treasurer's as well as another officer. The banking institution should be one that is accessible to both signers.

Audits – An outside auditor will be used to perform a review of the MidAtlantic Lop Club books and records. An audit shall be performed when a new Treasurer is appointed OR two years after the last such audit/review was conducted, whichever comes first.

Directors (3) shall carry out the decisions of the club and transact all necessary business for the welfare of the club. They also should approve appointments and expenditure when deemed in the club's best interest. Voting taken place during virtual meetings will be recorded by the secretary and noted in the Executive Committee minutes.

Article IX. Meetings.

The annual General meeting will take place at the first Lop specialty show as close to January 1 as possible, at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Committee assignments will be made at this meeting.

Five members plus one officer and one director shall constitute a quorum for a General meeting.

The Executive Committee will hold virtual or in-person meetings at least once per quarter/year.

For the Executive Committee, at least two officers and two directors shall constitute a quorum to conduct business at an Executive Committee meeting.

Virtual or in-person General Membership meetings will be announced on the Club's Facebook page. If the meeting is to be virtual, a link will be sent to the member's email.

Article X. Voting Eligibility

All individual members nineteen (19) years of age and older shall have the right to vote in all elections.

A member registered as a youth member cannot vote.

Individual members may NOT vote by proxy.

Votes are cast at in-person meetings by a verbal acknowledgement or secret ballot. For virtual meetings, votes are cast by verbal acknowledgement or hand raising. All results of motions are recorded by the Secretary and noted in the minutes.

Article XI. Elections.

Nominating Chairperson: Shall communicate and present to the membership a candidate for each office and the directors after having received agreement from each of the candidates. This slate will be communicated to the membership at the first meeting. Nominations for each position can be taken from the floor, if the member meets the MALC requirements.

If there is a contested office, silent ballots will be handed out by the secretary during the meeting and will be collected and tallied at the meeting. If there is a single slate, the secretary is authorized to cast one ballot to elect the slate. The new slate will assume their positions immediately after the ballots are counted.

Article XII. Terms of Office.

All officers and directors shall be elected for a two-year term at the annual meeting.

The President, Secretary and two Directors (Directors # one (1) and two (2)) shall be elected on odd years.

The Vice President, Treasurer and one Director (Director #3) shall be elected on even years.

All officers and directors may succeed themselves in one office not to exceed two consecutive terms unless voted special by the membership and agreed upon by the officer.

Article XIII. Amendments.

Proposed amendments are to be submitted to the President to be discussed with the Executive Committee. On approval from the Executive Committee, the amendment is presented at the next General Membership meeting, and the vote is taken.

This constitution and by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 voice vote at a meeting, whether in-person or virtual.

Article XIV. General Provisions

The Mid-Atlantic Lop Club shall have the authority to establish such rules and regulations and adopt regulations as may be necessary for the governing of its members.

Roberts Rules of Order shall dictate the parliamentary procedure of this organization and be considered the final authority of the club on all questions not specifically covered by the Constitution and Bylaws.

The Constitution and Bylaws for the Mid-Atlantic Lop Club shall be reviewed every two years.

Article XV. Dissolution.

This club may be dissolved any time by a 2/3 vote of the voting membership. All club property will be sold, and the assets of the club will be donated to a charity to be determined by the voting membership.

Revised 2/2/2008

Revised 2/2/2025