

THE HANTS & BERKS FERRET CLUB

Promoting the welfare of working, domestic and rescued ferrets.



CONSTITUTION & RULES

Effective from April 2018 (Year 20)

1. Name

The Hants & Berks Ferret Club shall be referred to below as the Club.

2. Objectives

1. To promote the general welfare of the ferret and to offer advice on housing, feeding, ailments and general husbandry.
2. To promote a better image of the ferret and ferreter, by attending country shows, fairs and fetes, and by encouraging favourable media coverage.
3. To provide a Club newsletter for the interchange of news, views and information.
4. To encourage knowledge of, and research into, ferret ailments both through local veterinary surgeons and national organisations.
5. To promote the correct and effective use of the ferret for rabbit control.
6. To promote the effective control of breeding in the light of current knowledge.
7. To engage in any other activity for the benefit of ferrets or ferreters as the Executive Committee shall from time to time determine as being necessary.

The Club shall be a non-profit making organisation wholly devoted to the securing of its objectives. Any funds acquired by any means shall be used primarily in the furtherance of these objectives.

3. Officers

1. The Club's officers shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer. These officers, together with six Committee members elected by the Annual General Meeting, shall form the Executive Committee.
2. The Club shall have the option to elect a President. The President shall be elected by the Club every three years at the A.G.M. save that the Executive Committee shall have the authority to co-opt during the year in the event of a vacancy arising. The position of President shall be a ceremonious position only carrying no functional responsibilities, no attendance requirements and no voting rights.

4. Executive Committee

All officers of The Club shall be elected every three years at the Annual General Meeting, save that the Executive Committee shall have authority to co-opt during the year in the event of a vacancy arising. There shall be a suitable hand-over period for Club officer positions.

1. The handover of any Committee position shall include delivery to the Secretary of all information and records relevant to the operation of the post(s) held (including updated Terms of Reference).
2. The quorum of the Executive Committee shall be six, including at least two Club officers.

5. Membership

1. Membership of the Club shall be open to anyone whether or not they are the owner of a ferret.
2. The Executive Committee shall have the right of discretion to refuse Club membership or the renewal of such membership to any person without being required to give reasons for so doing.
3. The Executive Committee reserves the right to expel, any member who in their opinion has engaged in any conduct likely to bring The Club into disrepute. Upon receipt of such notification a member has the right to apply for a hearing before the Executive Committee and two Club members.

6. Subscriptions

All members shall pay an annual subscription of such amount as shall from time to time be decided by the Annual General Meeting upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee. All subscriptions shall fall due on 7th April in each year, and must be renewed within 30 days. Failure to do so will cause membership to lapse.

7. Financial Administration

1. The Treasurer shall maintain the funds of the Club in a bank account agreed by the Executive Committee. The Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be authorised signatories to the account, with a requirement that any two shall sign every cheque or other authorisation.
2. No funds shall be refundable except at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
3. Any current member of The Club shall have the right to inspect any cash book or other accounting record of The Club, subject to having given reasonable notice.
4. The Executive Committee shall elect an Auditor or Assessor for the purpose of an annual auditing of financial accounts. The Auditor or Assessor shall not be a member of The Club.

8. Annual / Extraordinary General Meetings

1. An Annual General Meeting to receive Committee reports and audited accounts is to be held each year on a date decided by the Executive Committee. This date will be notified to members by the Club newsletter and web site at least eight weeks prior to the meeting date.
2. Extraordinary meetings may be held at the request of the Committee or may be called by the signed demand of fifteen members by notification to the Secretary. The requested meeting must then be held within six weeks.
3. Voting at any Club meeting shall be by a show of hands. One member one vote. Motions will be passed by a simple majority except in the case of a proposed change to the rules where a majority of two thirds will be required. In any vote to change a rule an abstention will be counted as a vote against the motion.
4. Each family membership shall have two votes only at any Club meeting. Voting rights may only apply after a membership of six months and are not available to members under eight years of age. No-one under eighteen years may vote on matters of finance.
5. In the determination of any Club matter by voting, the Chairman of any meeting shall have no vote. The Chairman shall be entitled to exercise a casting vote in cases where the meeting is equally split.
6. In the event of voting for a new Chairman at the Annual General Meeting those proposed for that position shall have no vote.
7. The Club Rules shall only be changed at an Annual Meeting. Any ordinary member proposing

a change of rule shall give six week notice in writing to the Secretary. Such proposal shall be signed by a seconder.

8. At the Annual General Meeting, motions to be moved and proposals for new officers other than those originating from the Executive Committee shall be notified to the Secretary in writing six weeks before the date of the meeting, and shall be signed by a seconder. In the event that no written proposals for officers are received the Chairman of the meeting may accept proposals from the floor.
9. It shall not be within the competence of an Annual General Meeting to entertain any motion to suspend the operation of these Rules for that meeting.

9. Club Liabilities

1. The Club will not accept liability for any loss or injury suffered by any member during any Club activity.
2. The Club will not accept liability for any injury to ferrets, or for any contagious disease contracted by a ferret at any Club event. Every member or guest takes part in Club events, with or without ferrets, strictly at their own risk.
3. No Club officer or member has permission, right or authority to accept any legal liability on behalf of The Club in respect of any claim. Legal liabilities will only be accepted by the Executive Committee.
4. No member will represent the policy of The Club on any issue without the consent of the Executive Committee. Members approached by the media outside of shows should refer such inquiries to the PR Officer who will be generally authorised to represent the views of The Club.

10. Event Administration

1. Any member who organises or participates in an event requiring the completion of paperwork requested by the relevant person must complete this within seven days or as agreed with that person.
2. Judging at any show shall be carried out by persons appointed for that purpose. The decision of judges at shows is final. No appeals will be entertained.
3. Members under the age of 18 must be accompanied at Club events by a parent or designated guardian.

11. Club Constitution and Rules

1. A copy of Constitution and Rules may be found on The Club website and new members should be advised as such. In the event of a hard copy being required this may be obtained from the Secretary. It is a condition of Club membership that these rules have been read and accepted in their entirety.
2. Any breach of Club Rules shall be deemed to be conduct likely to bring The Club into disrepute (see 5.3 above).
3. The Executive Committee reserves the right to determine any matter not covered by these Rules.

12. Dissolution of the Club

In the event that for any reason The Club ceases to operate, any balance monies remaining to its credit after payment of all debts shall be distributed to one or more other charitable bodies concerned with the welfare of ferrets. Such distribution shall be in the absolute discretion of the final Executive Committee.