

## **Constitution – March 2015**

### **1) Charity Name**

The charity shall be called “8 Below Husky Rescue”

The charity name may be changed if all Trustees agree on it, and assuming the new name is approved by The Charity Commission

Charity Address: 23 Brackendale Road, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF2 8WA

### **2) Charity Objectives**

The objectives of the charity shall be to promote humane behaviour towards animals and in particular Sled dog breeds, by providing education to owners and potential owners, to prevent neglect and suffering to animals. Also by providing security, protection and care appropriate for such dogs which are in need of care and attention by reason of sickness, maltreatment, poor circulation or ill-usage.

### **3) Powers**

The Charity Trustees have the following powers, to enable them to achieve the objectives;

\* To raise funds via donations from the general public, and from selling donated and purchased items in online auctions and approved fundraising events.

\* To apply for grants and sponsorships to be used for purchasing assets which will be used in furtherance of the objectives, such assets will be agreed by all Trustees and can include but are not limited to;

A van for transporting dogs and/or fundraising equipment safely.

Kennels for safely holding ‘emergency’ dogs for which there is no immediate space in foster care.

Land to be used for safely socialising and exercising dogs off lead, or for behavioural rehabilitation.

\* To purchase goods such as stationary, printed materials and equipment which is required at approved fundraising events and used for general promotion of the Charity.

\* To contact media organisations and other promotional outlets, in order to promote the objectives and achievements of the Charity in the relation to its objectives.

### **4) Trustees**

Trustee’s may step down from their post at any time by resigning in writing, giving 30 days’ notice, and the remaining Trustees will appoint a new Trustee within a period of three months, they may take nominations from Charity Members during this period.

There will be no set time limit for appointment of Trustees to office, however any member of the Charity may suggest a change to the Trustees at any time. A vote will be taken on the suggestion as well as any nominated replacement during the holding of the following Annual General Meeting

Any trustee who is in serious or persistent breach of any legal Act, or is proven to be acting fraudulently or illegally regardless of whether such actions are in relation to Charity business, and on the agreement of not less than three members of the Committee shall be removed from the Committee with immediate effect.

No persons under 16 years of age can serve as a Trustee.

#### 4.1) Trustees Personal Interest

No trustee shall be in a salaried position; however any Member of the charity may at the discretion of the Trustees be reimbursed for out of pocket expenses on provision of receipts.

Except with the prior written approval of the Charity Commission no trustee may: Receive any benefit in money or in kind from the charity.

Have a financial interest in the supply of goods or services to the charity.

Acquire or hold any interest in property of the charity (except in order to hold it as trustee of the charity)

#### 5) Committee Procedures

The management of the charity shall be in the hands of the Trustees, which shall be known collectively as The Committee.

A quorum for Committee meetings shall be three.

Committee meetings will be held as often as deemed necessary but at least every six months.

Emergency Committee meetings will be convened when requested by any member of the Committee, no later than twenty eight days after the meeting request.

The Committee members shall have full voting rights, however the Chairperson has a casting vote in the event of a tie.

The Committee shall have the right to co-opt no more than three additional Committee Members in any one year. Co-opted Members shall retire at the next election, but shall be eligible to be co-opted back on to the Committee during the elections at the AGM.

A Chairperson can only be appointed upon unanimous agreement by all other Committee Members.

The Secretary shall keep minutes of all business transacted at official Committee meetings. Items for Committee meeting agenda must be received by the Secretary not later than fourteen days prior to the meeting.

Notices convening such meetings with an agenda shall be issued by the Secretary to Committee Members at least seven days prior to each meeting.

## 6) Membership

Volunteers of the Charity shall be known as Members, and will include the following posts:

Foster Carers

Fundraisers

Home Checkers

Transporters

Anyone can apply to become a Member by physical or electronic written request, or by filling in the appropriate form on the Charity website. There are no fees of any kind. Foster carers must agree to being 'home checked' to confirm suitability for the role.

Members may step down from their post at any time by resigning in writing. They will be removed from any relevant mailing list or online social media group immediately upon receipt.

Members may be forcibly removed from their post upon unanimous agreement of the Committee. They will be informed of the decision and any pertinent reasons for it, and removed from any relevant mailing list or online social media group immediately.

The exception to a Member being removed immediately upon such a decision being made is when said member is currently caring for a dog, in which case their removal will happen as soon as the dog is out of their possession and under the care of another member or Trustee. The Members shall have full voting rights at the AGM.

## 7) Finance

Banking accounts shall be held in the name of the Charity into which all revenue of the Charity shall be paid and from which withdrawal shall only be made on the signature of either one of the following Trustees:

The Treasurer

The Chairperson

None of the association's assets may be distributed or otherwise applied (on being wound up or at any other time) except to further its charitable purposes.

Charity trustees shall comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011, with regards to:

The keeping of accounting records for the charity.

The preparation of annual statements of account, for the charity.

The auditing or independent examination of the statements of account of the charity.

The preparation of an Annual Report and the sending of it together with the statements of account to the Charity Commission.

In particular:

The Treasurer will keep and maintain an accurate system of accounting showing a complete record of all income and expenditure.

The Accounts and Balance Sheet of the Charity shall be certified annually by one

Qualified Accountant or two unqualified individuals with accounting experience other than the Treasurer, and presented to the members of the Committee at the Annual General Meeting.

#### 8) General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held within three months of the end of the financial year to which each Committee Member shall be entitled to attend, and each Member shall receive notice in writing (physical or electronic) at least twenty eight days prior as to the time and place of the meeting.

An agenda shall be issued to each Committee Member at least fourteen days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.

Items for inclusion on the agenda must be submitted to the Secretary twenty-one days prior to AGM.

The business transactions shall include:

The Chairpersons Report

Secretaries Report

The Treasurers Report and certified Balance Sheet

To elect Trustees where necessary

For outgoing Trustees to suggest co-opted Committee Members for the incoming Committee to vote on

Any other business

Only items included on the agenda can be voted on at the Annual General Meeting.

#### 9) Alterations to Constitution

Any request to alter or amend the constitution must be received by the Secretary twenty-one days prior to the AGM to be included on the agenda.

The Trustees may vote to alter or amend the provisions of this constitution provided that no alterations or amendments are made to the following clauses without the prior written of the Charity Commission;

Clause 2; the objectives of the Charity.

Clause 4.1; Trustees not to have a personal interest

Clause 9; alterations to the Constitution.

Clause 11; dissolution of the Charity

No alteration or amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the Charity cease to be a Charity at law.

In the case of alterations or amendments being made, the Trustees must do both of the following;

Promptly send to the Charity Commission a copy of any alterations or amendments made  
Keep a copy of any such amendment with this Constitution

10) Heritable Property

The title to all and any heritable property which may be acquired by or for any purpose of the Charity shall be taken and thereafter stand in the name of the Charity.

11) Dissolution

The dissolution of the Charity may be determined in either of the following manners;  
Unanimous recommendation of the Trustees  
Requisition of not less than two thirds of the Members of the Committee

An Emergency Committee meeting shall be called by the Secretary in writing giving not less than twenty-one days' notice of the date and purpose of the meeting, and such dissolution shall be effective only when a resolution is decided upon. Carried by a majority of not less than two thirds of the Members present at the meeting.

Upon dissolution of the organisation, after all Trustee liabilities have been cleared, all remaining financial and material assets shall be given or transferred to such charitable organisation or organisations having a purpose similar to 8 Below Husky rescue, who have agreed to honour support of the dogs under the care of 8 Below at time of dissolution. A final audited statement shall be provided



Timothy Wicks

Trustee



8 Below Husky Rescue  
Registered Charity No. 1156670  
[www.facebook.com/8BelowHuskyRescue](https://www.facebook.com/8BelowHuskyRescue)  
[www.8belowhuskyrescue.co.uk](http://www.8belowhuskyrescue.co.uk)  
[info@8belowhuskyrescue.co.uk](mailto:info@8belowhuskyrescue.co.uk)

23 Brackendale Road, Thornes,  
Wakefield, WF2 8WA.