



YANKEE GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB Membership Policy and Procedures

This is meant as a clarification of YANKEE GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB (YGRC) membership benefits, member application process, subscriber status, lapsed memberships, and terminated memberships.

Adopted by vote of the YGRC Board of Directors on June 8, 2010.

Membership benefits: YANKEE members in good standing enjoy the following benefits:

- Receive the newsletter (*Finish Lines*) and all club mailings and announcements
- Vote in club elections
- Apply for annual club trophies and receive club awards/trophies
- List wins and other news items in *Finish Lines*
- List litters with Breeder Referral (see litter listing guidelines)
- Receive reduced pricing at certain club-sponsored events

Subscribers. Subscriber status is available to those who are interested in club activities but not in active participation or all the benefits of membership. Subscribers receive the newsletter and all club mailings, including notices of club meetings and programs, but do not receive other benefits of membership. To become a Subscriber complete the front page of the membership application and send it with the annual fee of \$30 to the YGRC Membership Chair.

Membership application: Membership in YANKEE is open to anyone at least 18 years of age and in good standing with the American Kennel Club and Golden Retriever Club of America. The application procedure to become a member of YGRC is as follows:

1. **Written application:** Applicants must submit a completed membership application, signed by two YANKEE members (see below) in good standing, and also submit the membership dues for one year to the Membership Chair. Applicants have Subscriber status until they have completed all requirements and have been voted in.
 - In lieu of signing the application, a YGRC member in good standing may sponsor an applicant by writing a letter or sending e-mail to the Membership Chair.
 - New applicant names and information will be read at the next board meeting, next club meeting and published in the next newsletter to allow for comments from the membership. Only written comments sent to the Membership Chair by mail or e-mail are acceptable.
 - From the date the application is received, applicants have one year to complete the membership requirements. Applicants are responsible for notifying the Membership Chair upon completion of the requirements. If applicants fail to complete the requirements in the allotted time, they must submit a new application and a new check for dues if they still wish

to become members. No refund will be made for dues submitted if the membership requirements are not met within the allotted time period.

2. **Participation requirements:** After submitting an application, applicants must complete the participation requirements by a) attending two YGRC meetings, or b) attending one meeting and working at one YGRC event, or c) working at two events.
 - YANKEE club meetings and programs are held the fourth Tuesday of odd-number months, earlier in November, usually in Acton MA. The club event calendar is online (www.yankeegr.org). Copies of the club constitution and bylaws are available at each meeting.
 - Applicants may submit an application at their first meeting or first event worked, and that meeting or event will count as one of the participation credits. Events worked or meetings attended prior to submitting an application do not count towards completion of the participation requirement except in very unusual circumstances. In such cases approval of the YGRC Board of Directors is required.
 - Only one mini-meeting (held at club events) may be used toward the participation requirement. Working at an event and attending a mini-meeting at that same event counts as one participation credit.
3. **Being voted in:** After reading the application at a club meeting, publication of the application in the newsletter, and receiving notification of completion of all requirements, the Membership Chair will present the application for a vote at the next regularly scheduled YANKEE club meeting.

Renewals: During November, a dues statement for the next club year is sent to all YGRC members. No members may vote who have not paid their dues for the current year.

- **Lapsed memberships:** A membership will be considered as lapsed if the membership dues are not paid by February 1. Lapsed members receive none of the benefits of membership.
- **Renewal of Lapsed membership / Late fee:** A lapsed membership can be renewed after February 1 and before April 1 by paying the annual dues plus a \$10 late fee. Lapsed members who renew but do not pay the late fee will have Subscriber status until the late fee is paid. At the discretion of the YGRC Board of Directors late fees may be waived in unusual circumstances.
- **Terminated memberships:** A lapsed membership will be considered automatically terminated if the membership dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year, i.e., April 1. To re-join the club after April 1 a lapsed member whose membership has been terminated must complete the Membership Application procedure described above.