Bylaws for Freedom Ride Rescue

Article I — Name, Purpose, and Mission

- **Name —** The organization shall be known as Freedom Ride Rescue (FRR).
- **Purpose —** Freedom Ride Rescue brings together individuals who share a love for dogs and a dream to see a no-kill state. Our foster-based network brings in dogs of all ages, sizes and breed mixes. We help to rehabilitate these animals – providing security, love, medical, and behavioral training as needed – until they can be adopted to their "fur-ever" homes (or deemed 'hospice' so live out their final days in comfort).

  The rescue operates exclusively for **charitable and educational purposes** under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act.

- **Mission —** Reduce the burden on overcrowded shelters by rescuing dogs to foster homes until adopted.
- **Approach**
  - We target shelter dogs, unclaimed strays, and owner-surrendered dogs.
  - We prioritize dogs previously adopted through FRR that need to come back into our care; however, we must have a long-term foster home available.
  - FRR is not able to bring in dogs who are people or dog aggressive, including dogs who were adopted from our rescue.
  - We can bring in dogs of all ages, sizes, breed mixes, and medical conditions (as funding allows).
  - Provide guidance and/or assistance to the public concerning options for unwanted dogs.
  - We educate the public on proper care of dogs, including medical/veterinary care and the need for year round heartworm and flea prevention in North Carolina, as as the importance of spaying and neutering
- **Activities** — Intake, foster care, adoption programs, community outreach, fundraising, and public education.

🐾 Article II — Offices

- The principal business will be run from the founders' home at 615 Monroe Dr, Raleigh, NC, until such time as a facility/retail space is available/approved by the Board.

🐕 Article III — Board of Directors

- **Authority —** The Board governs the rescue, oversees finances and fundraising, sets policy, and ensures mission alignment as presented in the bylaws. The Board is responsible for overall policy and direction of the organization and delegates' responsibility for day-to-day operations to the Executive Director and other staff members.
- **Number of Directors —** Three to five directors. Given the size of the board, there are not designated roles. The board functions as a team taking on functions as required.
- **Terms —** Directors serve one to two year terms on the rescue's anniversary date: running August 1 to July 31, annually. Directors may stay on for multiple terms.
- **Qualifications —**
    - Commitment to animal welfare.
    - No felony convictions involving animals, violence, or financial misconduct.
    - Willingness to participate in fundraising and community engagement.
- **Duties —** The Board members will:
    - Attend meetings.
    - Approve budgets and major expenditures.
    - Oversee rescue operations and animal-care standards.
    - Ensure compliance with NC nonprofit law.
    - Support fundraising and outreach.
- **Resourcing —**The Board is responsible for the financial health of FRR, and should actively participate in the fundraising process, including seeking support from other individuals and organizations. They should also oversee the overall budget of the rescue.
- **Removal** — A Board member may be removed by majority vote for misconduct, negligence, or violation of rescue policies or by resignation in writing.

🐾 Article IV — Meetings

- **Annual Introductory Meeting:** Each August, the board will hold a meeting to set the year's calendar and set priorities.

- **Meetings —** The Board will also schedule and attend at least four business meetings annually.
- **Special Communications —** Each Board will decide the best means to communicate for discussion of timely matters which cannot wait for the next scheduled meeting *(i.e., for urgent funding requests for medical needs).*
- **Voting —** Majority vote unless otherwise stated.

🐾 Article V — Teams

These volunteer teams will be managed/supervised by Freedom Ride Rescue staff members and other volunteers.

- **Foster & Intake —** Oversees intake of dogs placed with approved FRR fosters.
- **Vet Team** - Ensures all dogs in foster care are up to date with medical care/vaccines and will make appointments for care. Schedules/communicates with adopters to ensure all dogs are spayed or neutered by age 1 *(unless written request from adopter's vet to delay the surgery).*
- **Adoptions —** Screens adopters and manages placements.
- **Events —** Plans events: finding venues, requesting donations, getting RSVPs from fosters and makes sure volunteers attend, providing professional communications/interactions with the general public.
- **Volunteer —** Manages volunteer onboarding and training as well as matching volunteers with the rescue's main needs.
- **Marketing and Social Media —** Promote Freedom Ride Rescue in the best light publicly on various social media platforms; produce monthly newsletter to donors, adopters and volunteers.
- **Turkey Day —** Manage our annual 5K: from hiring the timing company and photographers, securing sponsorships, recruiting volunteers to assist
- **Special Events —** Administer/host large events in a professional manner with three main goals: promoting adoptable dogs; fundraising; general promotion of FRR's need for volunteers, fosters, donors and adopters.

🐕 Article VI — Animal Care, Foster, and Adoption Policies

- **All dogs must receive:**
    - Age appropriate vaccinations
    - Spay/neuter dogs over 6-months prior to adoption (*if too young for the surgery; the adoption contract requires dogs be altered by age 1*).

    - Microchip
    - Monthly flea and heartworm prevention for all dogs over 8-weeks of age
    - Heartworm test if over age 1 (*the rescue will cover heartworm treatment at our partner vets, even for adopted dogs which test positive for heartworms within six months of* adoption *with proof of the dog being on consistent prevention year round*)
    - Professional training if there are behavioral concerns
- **Fosters**
    - Must complete an application
    - Must sign a foster contract
    - Must follow medical and behavioral protocols
    - Must have foster dog attend at least two events monthly *(transportation can be provided by volunteers)*
- **Adoptions**
    - Decisions on who adopts which dog are based on prioritizing the dog's welfare
    - Adopters must complete an application, interview and home check
    - Adoption fees support medical and operational costs

🐾 Article VII — Financial Management

- All funds must support the mission
- No part of net earnings may benefit private individuals
- Annual financial reports must be presented to the Board
- Medical expenditures over $1000 require Board approval

🐶 Article VIII — Conflict of Interest

- Directors and officers must disclose conflicts
- Individuals with conflicts must abstain from related votes
- The rescue shall maintain a written conflict-of-interest policy

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🐾 Article IX — Volunteers

- Volunteers must complete applications and training
- Volunteers must follow safety protocols for dog handling
- Volunteers may be removed for misconduct or policy violations

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🐕 Article X — Records & Privacy

- The rescue shall maintain:
    - Adoption records
    - Foster agreements
    - Veterinary records
    - Financial documents
    - Board meeting minutes
- Personal information of adopters, fosters, and donors must be protected.
