

# LIFE MEMBERSHIP POLICY

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>To: Droughtmaster Stud Breeders' Society (DSBS) Board</b> | <b>Date: April 2025</b> |
| <b>From: Bronwyn Betts / Director, South East Zone</b>       | <b>Pages:</b>           |
| <b>Subject: Life Membership Policy</b>                       | <b>Reference:</b>       |

## PURPOSE

To present to the Board, a draft DSBS Life Membership Policy for consideration.

## BACKGROUND

Life Membership is recognised by the DSBS as the highest recognition awarded to a member in acknowledgement of exceptional service to the breed, and the DSBS, over an extended period of time.

The Droughtmaster Stud Breeders' Society (DSBS) Constitution provides that a person may, by resolution of the Board, be awarded Life Membership of the Society (Clause 4.8(b)).

The process for nominating a member for consideration of the award of Life Membership, and the criteria against which such a nomination should be considered, have been recorded; however, a formal DSBS Life Membership Policy is yet to be finalised.

During the Board's recent consideration of a nomination for the award of Life Membership, the Board resolved to posthumously award Life Membership to the late Bruce Wilson and did so in the absence of any formal guidelines in this regard (**Resolution 174-8**). This decision resulted in **Action Item 174/4** which requires the Life Membership criteria to include language that would enable a future Board to approve the award of Life Membership to a member posthumously.

## COMMENTS

The implementation of **Action Item 174/4** has afforded the Board the opportunity to revise the Life Membership Award nomination process and selection criteria, and to formalise this information in a Life Membership Policy.

A copy of a draft Life Membership Policy is **attached** for consideration ('Life Membership Policy')

Also **attached** is a document that may provide additional direction to the Board when considering an application for Life Membership ('Guidelines for Board Consideration').

In addition to considering the content of the attached, the Board is urged to consider extending the financial benefits of Life Membership (waiving of annual stud/commercial membership fees) to the surviving spouse of a Life Member following their death.

If approved, this should only occur if the surviving spouse intended to continue to operate the stud or commercial operation that they and the deceased Life Member jointly owned.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Approve for implementation, the draft Life Membership Policy (attached).
2. Approve the implementation of the revised draft 'Guidelines for Board Consideration' (attached).
3. Consider extending the financial benefit of Life Membership (waiving of annual stud/commercial membership fees) to the surviving spouse of a Life Member following their death IF the surviving spouse continues to operate the stud or commercial operation that they jointly owned and operated.

Bronwyn Betts

Director

# **DROUGHTMASTER STUD BREEDERS' SOCIETY**

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

### **BACKGROUND**

Life membership is an honour bestowed on a Droughtmaster Stud Breeders' Society Limited (DSBS) member whose exceptional, loyal and outstanding service and contribution has provided significant benefit to the DSBS and the breed over an extended period of time.

Life membership is recognised as the highest honour that can be awarded by the DSBS to a member.

### **AUTHORITY**

The Constitution of the DSBS provides that a person may, by resolution of the Board, be awarded Life Membership of the Society (Clause 4.8(b)).

### **CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION**

- The nominee is a current member of the DSBS.
- The nominee has been a member of the DSBS for a minimum of 15 consecutive years.
- The nominee engaged in a minimum of 10 years of service in specific roles that have made a significant contribution to the DSBS and the breed. Examples may include service on committees, coordinator roles, fund raising activities, promotional activities, mentor roles.
- Nominee represented the DSBS with distinction.
- Nominee demonstrated an attitude and demeanour that reflects dedication to the values of the DSBS.
- Nominee provided valuable leadership and is considered a role model to others.
- The award of Life Membership can be made posthumously.

### **NOMINATION PROCESS**

- The nomination for Life Membership must be submitted by a current member of the DSBS and seconded by at least one other full member of the DSBS.
- A Life Membership cannot be nominated by or supported by an immediate family member of the nominee.
- The nomination must be submitted in writing.
- The nomination must include the nominator's detailed reasons in support of the nomination and include evidence that demonstrates the nominee's service to the DSBS.
- The nomination must be submitted to the Board of Directors of the DSBS through the Company Secretary at (insert email address).

### **ASSESSMENT**

- The nomination for Life Membership will be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration.
- The Board may appoint an individual or subcommittee to further research the nomination and report back to the Board.
- If the Board considers the nomination is worthy of Life Membership, the nomination will be approved, and Life Membership will be conferred on the individual.
- The nominator should be advised of the outcome of the Board's deliberation.
- Life Membership must be recorded in the DSBS official records.
- The granting of life membership and the recipient's service to the DSBS should be publicised in the DSBS media and any other communication tool considered appropriate.

# **DROUGHTMASTER STUD BREEDERS' SOCIETY**

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIP POLICY**

### **GUIDELINES FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION**

Life Membership is recognised by the DSBS as the highest recognition awarded to a member in acknowledgement of exceptional service and contribution; it should retain its prestige and not be awarded easily. It should also be recognised that life membership does not have to be awarded each year.

#### **Criteria for Nomination**

- The nominee is a current member of the DSBS.
- The nominee has been a member of the DSBS for a minimum of 15 consecutive years.
- The nominee engaged in a minimum of 10 years of service in specific roles that have made a significant contribution to the DSBS and the breed. Examples may include service on committees, coordinator roles, fund raising activities, promotional activities, mentor roles.
- Nominee represented the DSBS with distinction.
- Nominee demonstrated an attitude and demeanour that reflects dedication to the values of the DSBS.
- Nominee provided valuable leadership and is considered a role model to others.

#### **Decision Making Process**

Life Membership should not be considered as a competitive matter, and nominees must be considered individually and on their personal attributes and achievements and not in comparison to others. While it is inevitable comparisons will be made with past recipients, direct comparisons should not be made.

Granting Life Membership is a balancing exercise. Criteria are provided as guidance, but it is the overall contribution of the nominee that must be evaluated. There is necessarily some subjectivity in the granting of life membership and evaluation of the nominee's strengths against the various criteria will vary.

To assist with the nomination, some or all the following criteria should be considered.

- For any of the relevant criteria the nominee should have demonstrated an exceptional contribution beyond the ordinary for an extended period of time, which has a measurable benefit to the Society and membership.
- Has the nominee represented the Society or breed with distinction, such as with external bodies, or at events?
- Has the nominee demonstrated an attitude and demeanour that reflects dedication to the values of the Society?
- Has the nominee provided valued leadership around the Society and is considered a role model?

In the event the nominee is serving on the Board at the time of nomination, that person must be removed from any deliberation on the nomination.

A simple majority of a quorum of the Board is sufficient for the nomination to be pursued. If appropriate, at this time the Board shall appoint an individual or subcommittee to further research the nomination and report back to the Board.

In the event the individual or sub-committee believes the nomination is worthy of life membership a simple majority of a quorum of the Board is sufficient for the nomination to be approved and Life Membership to be conferred on the individual.

Life Membership must be recorded in the DMSB official records.

The granting of life membership and the recipient's service to the DSBS should be publicised in the DSBS media and any other communication tool considered appropriate.