

## **Conflict of Interest Policy**

This policy applies to board members and certain volunteers of the MAGDRL. A volunteer is covered under this policy if that person has been granted significant independent decision making authority with respect to financial or other resources of the organization, which includes the Chapter Coordinators. Persons covered under this policy are hereinafter referred to as “interested parties.”

### **Determining a Conflict of Interest**

A conflict of interest may exist when the interests or concerns of an interested party may be seen as competing with the interests or concerns of the organization. There are a variety of situations that raise conflict of interest concerns including, but not limited to, the following:

Financial Interests - A conflict may exist where an interested party or a relative or business associate of an interested party directly or indirectly benefits or profits as a result of a decision or transaction entered into by the organization. Examples include situations where:

1. the organization contracts to purchase or lease goods, services, or property from an interested party or a relative or business associate of an interested party;
2. the organization purchases an ownership interest in or invests in a business entity owned by an interested party or by a relative or business associate of an interested party;
3. the organization offers employment to an interested party or a relative or business associate of an interested party, other than a person who is already employed by the organization;
4. an interested party or a relative or business associate of an interested party is provided with a gift, gratuity, or favor of a substantial nature from a person or entity which does business or seeks to do business with the organization;
5. an interested party or a relative or business associate of an interested party is gratuitously provided use of the facilities, property, or services of the organization.

Other Interests - A conflict may also exist where an interested party or a relative or business associate of an interested party obtains a non-financial benefit or advantage that he/she would not have obtained absent his/her relationship with the organization, or where his/her duty or responsibility owed to the organization conflicts with a duty or responsibility owed to another organization. Examples include:

1. an interested party seeks to obtain preferential treatment by the organization for her/himself, a relative, or business associate;
2. an interested party seeks to make use of confidential information obtained from the organization for her/his own benefit or for the benefit of a relative, business associate, or other organization; or

3. an interested party seeks to take advantage of an opportunity or enables a relative, business associate or other organization to take advantage of an opportunity which s/he has reason to believe would be of interest to the organization.

### **Disclosure of Actual or Potential Conflicts of Interest**

An interested party is under a continuing obligation to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest as soon as it is known or reasonably should be known.

An interested party shall complete a questionnaire, in the form attached hereto as Appendix A, to fully and completely disclose the material facts about any actual or potential conflicts of interest. The disclosure statement shall be completed upon his/her association with the organization, and shall be updated annually thereafter. An additional disclosure statement shall be filed at such time as an actual or potential conflict arises.

For board members, the disclosure statements shall be provided to the Treasurer of the Board. The Treasurer's disclosure statement shall be provided to the Secretary of the Board.

In the case of staff or volunteers with significant decision-making authority, the disclosure statements shall be provided to the Treasurer of the organization.

The Treasurer of the Board shall file copies of all disclosure statements with the official corporate records of the organization.

Whenever there is reason to believe that an actual or potential conflict of interest exists between the Nonprofit Organization and an interested party, the board of directors shall determine the appropriate organizational response. This shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, invoking the procedures described in Section IV, below, with respect to a specific proposed action or transaction.

### **Procedures for Addressing Conflicts of Interest - Specific Transactions**

Where an actual or potential conflict exists between the interests of the Nonprofit Organization and an interested party with respect to a specific proposed action or transaction, the Nonprofit Organization shall refrain from the proposed action or transaction until such time as the proposed action or transaction has been approved by the disinterested members of the board of directors of the organization. The following procedures shall apply:

- An interested party who has an actual or potential conflict of interest with respect to a proposed action or transaction of the corporation shall not participate, in any way, in, or be present during, the deliberations and decision making of the organization with respect to such action or transaction. The interested party may, upon request, be available to answer questions or provide material factual information about the proposed action or transaction.
- The disinterested members of the board of directors may approve the proposed action or transaction upon finding that it is in the best interests of the corporation. The board shall consider whether the terms of the proposed transaction are fair and reasonable to the organization and whether it would be possible, with reasonable effort, to find a more advantageous arrangement with an entity that is not an interested party.

- Approval by the disinterested members of the board of directors shall be by vote of a majority of directors in attendance at a meeting at which a quorum is present. An interested party shall not be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present, or for purposes of determining what constitutes a majority vote of directors in attendance.
- The minutes of the meeting shall reflect that the conflict disclosure was made, the vote taken and, where applicable, the abstention from voting and participation by the interested party.

### **Violations of Conflict of Interest Policy**

If the board of directors has reason to believe that an interested party has failed to disclose an actual or potential conflict of interest, it shall inform the person of the basis for such belief and take the appropriate action.

**Appendix A**

**Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League, Inc.  
Conflict of Interest Policy Annual Affirmation of Compliance  
and Disclosure Statement**

I have received and carefully read the Conflict of Interest Policy for board members and volunteers of the Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League, Inc. (MAGDRL) and have considered not only the literal expression of the policy, but also its intent. By signing this affirmation of compliance, I hereby affirm that I understand and agree to comply with the Conflict of Interest Policy. I further understand that MAGDRL is a charitable organization and that in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities that accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Except as otherwise indicated in the Disclosure Statement and any attachments, I hereby state that I do not, to the best of my knowledge, have any conflict of interest that may be seen as competing with the interests of MAGDRL, nor does any relative or business associate of mine have such an actual or potential conflict of interest. If any situation should arise in the future which I think may involve me in a conflict of interest, I will promptly and fully disclose the circumstances to the President of the board of Directors of MAGDRL, or to the Chief Executive Officer, as applicable.

I further certify that the information set forth in the Disclosure Statement and any attachments is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Disclosure Statement

Please complete the questionnaire below indicating any actual or potential conflicts of interest. In answering these questions, please refer to any current relationship or transaction, or any which have taken place in the last twelve months. If you answer “yes” to any of the questions, please provide a written description of the details of the specific action or transaction in the space allowed. Attach additional sheets as needed.

Financial Interests - A conflict may exist where an interested party, or a relative or business associate of an interested party, directly or indirectly benefits or profits as a result of a decision made or transaction entered into by the organization.

Has the organization contracted to purchase or lease goods, services, or property from you or from any of your relatives or business associates?

*If yes, please describe:*

Has the organization purchased an ownership interest in or invested in a business entity owned by you or owned by any of your relatives or business associates?

*If yes, please describe:*

Has the organization offered employment to you or to any of your relatives or business associates other than a person who was already employed by the organization?

*If yes, please describe:*

Have you or have any of your relatives or business associates been provided with a gift, gratuity, or favor of a substantial nature from a person or entity which does business or seeks to do business, with the organization?

*If yes, please describe:*

Have you or any of your relatives or business associates been gratuitously provided use of the facilities, property, or services of the organization?

*If yes, please describe:*

Other Interests - A conflict may also exist where an interested party or a relative or business associate of an interested party obtains a non-financial benefit or advantage that she/he would not have obtained absent his/her relationship with the organization, or where his/her duty or responsibility owed to the organization conflicts with a duty or responsibility owed to some other organization.

Did you obtain preferential treatment by the organization for yourself or for any of your relatives or business associates?

*If yes, please describe:*

Did you make use of confidential information obtained from the organization for your own benefit or for the benefit of a relative, business associate, or other organization?

*If yes, please describe:*

Did you take advantage of an opportunity, or enable a relative, business associate or other organization to take advantage of an opportunity, which you had reason to believe would be of interest to the organization?

*If yes, please describe:*