

South Carolina Association of Veterinarians Constitution

ARTICLE I

NAME

This association shall be known as the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Association shall be to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine by providing opportunities for professional education and development and by enhancing the relationships between veterinarians, agriculture, pet owners, government and the public at large; and to protect the public health by promoting proper involvement in human and animal health care by the veterinary profession.

ARTICLE III

INCORPORATION

Section 1: The South Carolina Association of Veterinarians shall be incorporated under the South Carolina Code of Laws as a nonprofit educational organization.

Section 2: The term of the organization shall be perpetual; however, in the event of dissolution of the corporation, its properties shall be transferred to the AVMA Foundation.

Section 3: The Association shall not be operated for profit and no part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any member or other private individuals.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Active Members: Active members in the Association shall be those graduates of colleges and schools of veterinary medicine who meet the qualifications specified by the Bylaws of the Association.

Section 2: Student Membership: All South Carolina residents enrolled in the professional curriculum of veterinary medicine at the University of Georgia, Tuskegee, or other school of veterinary medicine that accommodates students from South Carolina shall be eligible for Student Membership. Student Members shall be non-voting members, ineligible to hold office, and exempt from payment of dues.

Section 3: Affiliate Member: Affiliate members in the Association shall be practice managers who are employed by SCAV Active or Life Members and who devote at least 75% of their time in the direct management and overall operation of one or more veterinary hospitals. Affiliate members shall pay annual dues and receive affiliate membership listing in the SCAV Annual Membership Directory as well as opportunity to offer practice manager session tracks at SCAV conferences.

Section 4: Industry Partner: Industry partner members in the Association shall be companies that offer products and services to veterinarians. Industry partner members shall pay annual dues and receive benefits as specified in the Bylaws of the Association.

Section 5: Other Members: Retired members, Life members and honorary members may be elected by the Executive Committee in accordance with criteria specified by the Bylaws of the Association.

Section 6: Tenure: Members of the Association shall retain membership only so long as they comply with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and the Principles of Ethics of the Association and remain current in the payment of annual dues.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

The officers of the association shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Immediate Past President. The terms of the officers shall be for one year and shall commence January 1. The President will automatically succeed from the office of Vice-President and the Past President will automatically succeed from the office of the President.

ARTICLE VI

EXECUTIVE Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of Association officers, one large animal veterinarian, one specialty practice veterinarian, and one

representative from each of the seven SCAV districts in the state. These SCAV districts shall be the same as the Congressional Districts of South Carolina.

ARTICLE VII

MEETINGS

Section 1: The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held each year at a time and place selected by the Executive Board.

Section 2: The Summer Meeting of the association shall be held each year at the time and place selected by Executive Board.

Section 3: All meetings shall be conducted according to appropriate Parliamentary Procedure with Roberts Rules of Order as the standard reference.

Bylaws

ARTICLE I

ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

Section 1: Election of Officers:

Officers for each of the offices of Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected for a term of one year at the Annual Meeting by a majority of the votes cast. The Treasurer and Secretary may serve up to three successive terms of office. No other officer may hold successive terms in the same office. If, for whatever reason, the Vice President is unable to assume the office of the President, a President shall be elected and installed at the next annual meeting. Vacancies in the office of Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by Executive Committee appointment. Vacancy during the term of office of the President shall be filled by the Vice President

Section 2: Election of Large Animal and Specialty Practice Representatives to the Executive Board:

A large animal veterinarian and a specialty practice veterinarian shall be elected to a two-year term of office by a majority of the ballots cast by members at the Annual Meeting.

Section 3: Election of District Representatives to the Executive Board:

One representative from each of the SCAV districts in the state shall be elected to a three-year term of office by a majority of the ballots cast by members at the Annual Meeting. Terms shall be staggered so that the districts rotate. These districts will be elected together in the following rotation: I and IV; II and V; and III, VI and VII. This rotation provides that the terms of the three representatives to the Executive Committee shall expire each year.

Section 4: Election of Alternate Delegate to the AVMA:

Every four years, or as needed, the Alternate Delegate to the AVMA shall be elected to serve up to four years. The Alternate Delegate is to automatically become the Delegate to the AVMA at the termination of the Delegate's service for four years or upon the Delegate's resignation or death.

ARTICLE II

DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: President

The President shall be the chief executive officer and shall preside over all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee. It shall be the duty of the President to administer the affairs of the Association in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws and report annually to the Membership on the Association's affairs. The President shall appoint members to serve on committees or *ad hoc* committees. The President will also serve as a member of the Nominating Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee and the Awards Committee.

Section 2: Vice President

The Vice President shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee and shall become President at the end of the current President's term of office. The Vice President shall plan and implement the program for the Annual Conference in coordination with the Large and Small Animal Academy Chairpersons, as well as the Chairperson of the Southeast Veterinary Conference program. The Vice President also serves as a member of the Nominating Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee.

Section 3: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall serve as a member of the Executive Board and shall be Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall report details of the Association's finances to the Membership at each meeting of the Association and shall direct an annual audit of the Association's finances by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Section 4: Secretary

The Secretary shall serve as a member of the Executive Board and shall ensure minutes are taken of all Executive Board and Association meetings. These minutes are to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association and at each Executive Board meeting. The Secretary will be a member of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Section 5: Immediate Past President:

The Immediate Past President shall serve as a member of the Executive Board, will serve as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee and will serve on the Awards and the Budget and Finance Committees.

Section 6: Large Animal Representative and Specialty Animal Representative

The Large Animal Representative shall serve as a member of the Executive Board, the Southeast Veterinary Conference Committee and the Large Animal Academy Committee. The Specialty Animal Practice shall serve as a member of the Executive Board, the Southeast Veterinary Conference Committee and the Small Animal Academy Committee.

Section 7: SCAV District Representatives

The seven District Representatives of the Executive Board shall represent their respective districts in matters of the Association. They shall also serve as members of both the Membership and Emergency Preparedness Committees.

Section 8: The Executive Board shall be the administrative board of the Association.

- a. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to carry out the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws.
- b. The Executive Board shall have charge of the property and financial affairs of the Association and be responsible for all publications of the Association.
- c. The Executive Board may enter into contract with an Executive Vice President or management firm who shall perform administrative duties including collecting and disbursing funds as directed by the Executive Board.
- d. The Executive Board may enter into contract with an individual or firm to act as Legislative Counsel or Monitor for the Association.
- e. The Executive Board may enter into contract with an individual or firm to provide accounting services for the Association, to include an annual audit of the Association's finances.
- f. The Executive Board may enter into contract with an individual or firm to provide services, other than those services specified above, as deemed necessary for the Association.
- g. The Executive Board or the President shall recommend special or *ad hoc* committees as needed to accomplish the objectives of the Association.
- h. The Executive Board shall designate time and place of all meetings of the Association.
- i. The Executive Board shall review a budget prepared by the Budget and Finance Committee. The budget will then be presented to the Membership for approval at the Annual Meeting.
- j. The Executive Board, as needed, shall recommend changes in the annual dues. Membership approval by a majority of votes cast at the Annual Meeting will be needed to institute the change.
- k. The Executive Board shall establish and change, as needed, the fee associated with membership application.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: General membership, otherwise known as active members, shall consist of graduates of schools of veterinary medicine approved by the South Carolina Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners or by graduates of foreign schools, who possess an AVMA Educational Commission on Foreign Veterinary Graduates Certificate.

Violation of the Principles of Ethics or conviction of a felony shall constitute grounds for dismissal from active membership. Charges must be filed with the President in writing. The President shall furnish copies of the charges to the defendant together with notification to appear before the Executive Board at the specified time and place. The defendant may appear in person, by counsel or by written defense. The findings and decision of the Executive Board shall be final. The member dismissed may reapply after one year for membership with appropriate application fee and the payment of one year's dues. Reinstatement of the member also must be approved by unanimous consent of the Executive Board.

Section 2: Retired members shall receive all the privileges of an active member and a reduction in active membership dues of 50%. To qualify for retired membership, veterinarian must have been an SCAV member for at least 5 years consecutively, be a minimum of fifty-five (55) years of age, be permanently retired from veterinary medicine, and not be employed by a company that is classified as a vendor or consultant. Retired membership status ends upon the veterinarian's return to veterinary medicine.

Section 3: Life members shall receive all the privileges of an active member and shall be exempt from dues. Life membership may be awarded by the Executive Board, upon application, provided the following requirements have been met:

The individual has retired from practicing veterinary medicine, is at least 65 years of age, has been an active member of any state veterinary association for at least 35 years with a minimum of 25 years active membership in the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians and is a South Carolina resident.

Section 4: New graduates from an accredited college of veterinary medicine may become members of the Association for the remainder of the year in which they graduate by submitting an application to the Executive Board. New graduates shall be exempt from dues for the remainder of the year in which they graduated. The following year they shall receive a 50% discount on the annual membership dues.

Section 5: Affiliate Member: Affiliate members in the Association shall be practice managers who are employed by SCAV Active or Life Members and who devote at least 75% of their time in the direct management and overall operation of one or more veterinary hospitals. Affiliate members shall pay annual dues and receive affiliate membership listing in the SCAV Annual Membership Directory as well as opportunity to offer practice manager session tracks at SCAV conferences. Affiliate members shall be non-voting members, ineligible to hold office. SCAV President will appoint a member of the Executive Board to serve as a liaison to the affiliate members.

Section 6: Industry partner members in the Association shall be companies or organizations that offer products and services to veterinarians. Industry partner members shall pay annual dues and receive listing in the SCAV Annual Membership Directory, discounts to exhibit at SCAV Conferences and Academies, discounts to advertise in SCAV publications, and recognition and link on the SCAV website. Each Industry Partner shall identify a company representative who will have a seat and vote on the Industry Council. Industry partner members shall be non-voting members, ineligible to hold office. SCAV President will appoint a member of the Executive Board to serve as a liaison to industry partner members.

Section 7: Honorary membership of the Association may be conferred upon an individual who has rendered outstanding service to the veterinary science. Honorary membership shall be conferred by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board casting ballots. An honorary member shall be recognized by presentation of an appropriate certificate. Honorary members shall not vote nor hold office in the Association.

ARTICLE IV COMMITTEES

The President with the SCAV Board of Directors will identify committees and their responsibilities as needed. These committees and responsibilities will appear in the SCAV Policies Manual.

ARTICLE V BUSINESS MEETINGS

Section 1: The Annual Business Meeting of the Association shall be held at the Annual Conference. Members must be notified at least thirty days prior to the meeting.

Section 2: Additional business meetings of the Association may be held at the summer meeting and special meetings called by the President.

Section 3: A special meeting about a specific topic may be held upon written request of 10 or more members; no other business may be conducted at a special meeting requested by the Membership.

Section 4: Twenty-five percent of the active members shall form a quorum for the transaction of business; a quorum shall always be presumed at the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 5: All questions of order not specifically provided for shall be decided by the appropriate Parliamentary procedure with Roberts Rules of Order as the standard reference.

ARTICLE VI SOUTH CAROLINA ACADEMIES OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

The Association shall maintain a division for the purpose of continuing veterinary medical education for large and small animals to be known as the South Carolina Academies of Veterinary Medicine. The Large Animal Academy and the Small Animal Academy shall be chaired by the elected Large Animal Representative and the Specialty Practice Representative and recommend topics for large and small animal tracks held at conferences.

ARTICLE VII AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Independent organizations which are affiliated with the SCAV include:

The Political Action Committee of the SCAV; The Auxiliary to the SCAV, consisting of spouses and friends of the SCAV; The State Veterinarian, representing the State of South Carolina and the Clemson University Division of Livestock and Poultry Health; The South Carolina Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, and the South Carolina Veterinary Technician Association. These affiliated organizations have a significant impact and influence on the mission of the SCAV, and are encouraged to provide periodic reports to the membership through the Executive Committee meetings and the Annual meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII PRINCIPLE OF ETHICS

The South Carolina Association of Veterinarians shall adopt *in total* the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics as published in the annual Directory of the American Veterinary Medical Association. It shall be the obligation of the members of this association to conduct their general and professional affairs in conformity with these standards for ethics. Violation of these Principles may subject the violator to expulsion from the Association as described in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Alterations or amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws shall be by two-thirds vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting,

provided the alterations and amendments had been proposed in writing to the Executive Board at least thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting and to the Membership at least ten days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Amended 1/2007: Article IV, Section 2: Student Member

Amended 10/2010: Article VII, Section 1: Annual Meeting

Amended 11/2011: Article III and Article III, Section 4 of the Constitution: Affiliate Member

Amended 10/2012: Article IV of the Constitution: Industry Council

Amended 10/2012: Article I Section 2: Election of Large Animal and Specialty Practice Representatives to the Executive Board:

Amended 10/2012: Article I Section 3: Election of District Representatives to the Executive Board:

Amended 10/2012: Article II Section 6: Large Animal Representative and Specialty Animal Representative

Amended 10/2012: Article II Section 7: SCAV District Representatives

Amended 10/2012: Article III Section 2: Life Members

Amended 10/2012: Article III Section 5: Industry Council

Amended 10/2012: Article IV: Committees

Amended 11/2016: Article IV Section 4 of the Constitution

Amended 11/2016: Article III Section 2: Membership