

# AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY NUTRITION

## CONSTITUTION

(as amended, June 2018)

### Article I

#### **Name**

The name of this organization shall be the American College of Veterinary Nutrition, hereinafter referred to as the "College."

### Article II

#### **Organization**

Section 1: The College shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois as a non-profit educational organization, operated exclusively for one of the purposes specified in Section 501 (c) (6) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 2: The term for which it is organized shall be perpetual; however, if dissolution of the corporation should occur, its property shall be distributed to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

### Article III

#### **Objectives**

Section 1: The primary objectives of the College shall be to advance the specialty area of veterinary nutrition and increase the competence of those who practice in this field by:

- a. Establishment of requirements for veterinary postdoctoral education and experience for certification in the specialty of veterinary nutrition;
- b. Examination and certification of veterinarians as specialists in veterinary nutrition in further recognition of such qualified specialists;
- c. Encouragement of veterinary nutritionists to pursue a program of continuing education for professional advancement throughout their careers;
- d. Promotion of research and other contributions to knowledge relating to the nutritional needs and to the diagnosis, therapy, prophylaxis and control of nutritionally related diseases of animals; and

- e. Enhancement of the dissemination of new knowledge of veterinary nutrition through didactic teaching and postgraduate programs.

Section 2: For the purposes of the College, veterinary nutrition will be considered to comprise all aspects of knowledge relating to the nutritional needs of animals, including practical aspects of animal feeding as well as the diagnosis, therapy, prophylaxis and control of nutritionally related diseases of animals.

## **Article IV**

### **Organization**

Section 1: The College shall be composed of Diplomates and shall have a central administration consisting of a group of Officers and a Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the “Board”.

Section 2: Standing committees of the College shall consist of the Nominating Committee, the Credentials Committee, the Examination Committee, the Scientific Program Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Education Committee, and the Training Program Evaluation Committee.

Section 3: The College will hold at least one annual business meeting and one annual scientific meeting of the membership.

## **Article V**

### **Membership**

Section 1: Members of the College shall be designated under one of the following categories:

- a. Charter Diplomates
- b. Diplomates
- c. Honorary Diplomates
- d. Emeritus Diplomates

Section 2: Members of the Organizing Committee shall be Charter Diplomates. Additional Charter Diplomates may be appointed by the Organizing Committee during, but not after, the provisional approval process.

Section 3: A Charter Diplomat or Diplomat shall have graduated from a college or school of veterinary medicine accredited by the AVMA; or possess a certificate issued by the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG); or be legally

qualified to practice veterinary medicine in some state, province, territory, or possession of the United States, Canada, or other country.

Section 4: In addition to the requirements under Article V, Section 3, of the Constitution, a Charter Diplomate shall meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a. Have spent at least 75% of their professional time during the last ten years in the specialty area of veterinary nutrition, in practice, teaching or research, and have demonstrated competence in and have contributed significantly to the knowledge in veterinary nutrition;
- b. Be or have been a professor of veterinary nutrition in an accredited college of veterinary medicine, in a department of veterinary science, or in veterinary extension;  
or
- c. Be a primary author of important contributions to the literature in veterinary nutrition, these contributions resulting from practice or research in veterinary nutrition.

Section 5: In addition to the requirements under Article V, Section 3, of the Constitution, a Diplomate shall:

- a. Successfully pass a Diplomate Certification Examination given by the College. The Diplomate Certification Examination may be taken three or more years after a candidate has received a DVM or equivalent degree, and
- b. Be accepted for membership in the College by a majority vote of the Board.

Section 6: Hereinafter, both Charter Diplomates and Diplomates shall be referred to as Diplomates.

Section 7: Honorary Diplomates

- a. Honorary Diplomate status may be conferred on a person who has distinguished himself or herself in some way as to be deserving of special recognition by the College, under the following provisions:
  1. Nomination by at least two Diplomates shall be required for consideration of Honorary Diplomate status; and
  2. Election of the nominee to Honorary Diplomate status shall require approval by at least two-thirds of the voting membership of the College.
- b. Honorary Diplomates shall:

1. Be exempt from payment of annual dues;
2. Receive all mailings of the College;
3. Have all rights and privileges of Diplomates, except for the rights to vote or hold office; and
4. Not be exempt from applicable registration fees for College-sponsored functions subject to alteration by the appropriate committee or committees.

Section 8: Emeritus Diplomates

- a. After reaching age 65 or upon retirement, whichever comes first, a Diplomat may be elected to Emeritus Diplomat status upon:
  1. The Diplomat's request; and
  2. A majority vote of the Board in favor of the request.
- b. Emeritus Diplomates shall:
  1. Be exempt from payment of annual dues;
  2. Receive all mailings of the College;
  3. Have all rights and privileges of Diplomates, except for the rights to vote or hold office; and
  4. Not be exempt from applicable registration fees for College-sponsored functions subject to alteration by the appropriate committee or committees.

**Article VI**

**Officers and Governance**

Section 1: Officers

- a. Officers of the College will consist of the Chair of the Board, President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.
- b. The representative of the College to the ABVS, if not already an Officer of the College, will be an Officer.

Section 2: Board of Regents

- a. The Board shall be the governing body of the College.
- b. The Board shall be composed of the following members:
  - 1. The Officers as defined in Article VI, Section 1 of the Constitution;
  - 2. The College representative to the American Board of Veterinary Specialties, if not already an Officer;
  - 3. Three Members-at-Large as elected by the voting membership; and
  - 4. The Chair of the Examination Committee, who shall be an ex-officio member of the Board without vote.

Section 3: Executive Director

- a. At the discretion of the Board, an Executive Director may be retained as a contracted employee to facilitate the functioning of the College as directed by the Board.
- b. It is not required for the Executive Director to be a Diplomate.

**Article VII**

**Amendments**

Section 1: Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Board through the Secretary no later than 90 calendar days before a scheduled meeting of the College, or before a mail or electronic ballot. Proposed amendments, with the recommendation of the Board, shall be sent to the membership no later than 30 calendar days before a meeting of the College or the counting of a mail or electronic ballot.

Section 2: Voting shall be at a meeting of the College or by mail or electronic ballot as specified in Article VII, Section 1.

Section 3: An affirmative vote on an amendment shall require that no less than two-thirds of the eligible membership vote, and that no less than three-fourths of those voting approve the proposed amendment.