

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY NUTRITION
CONSTITUTION

(Last amended June 2020)

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 a dissolution of the organization 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 Members at Large, together comprise the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the “Board”.

Section 2: Standing committees of the College shall consist of the Nominating Committee, the Examination Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, the Education Committee, the Appeals Committee, the Marketing Committee, and the Training and Credentials 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 Members
- d. Retired Diplomates (referred to previously as Emeritus Diplomates; see V.8.c)

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 Diplomates or Diplomate 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, Charter Diplomates 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 Members

- a. Honorary Member 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 Member status; and
 2. Election of the nominee to Honorary Member status shall require approval by at least two-thirds of those College members eligible to vote.

- b. Honorary Members 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: Retired Diplomates

- a. A Diplomat petitions the ACVN to request a retired status within the College. The decision to grant retirement status rests with the Board of Regents and is based on the Diplomat meeting the following two criteria:
 - 1. The Diplomat has been an Active Diplomat of ACVN for 25 years or more, has reached the age of 65, or both
 - 2. The Diplomat has retired from employment in which the individual's ACVN credentials are a requirement for employment
- b. Income-generating professional activities that require ACVN credentials such as part-time consulting, teaching, writing, or continuing education are acceptable provided the total annual income from these activities does not exceed the exempt amount for receiving full US Social Security retirement income for those below normal retirement age (as defined by US Social Security).
- c. Hereinafter, Emeritus Diplomates shall be referred to as Retired Diplomates.
- d. The following benefits and restrictions apply to a Retired Diplomat:
 - 1. Exempt from payment of annual dues;
 - 2. Receive all mailings of the College;
 - 3. Is listed in the ACVN Diplomat Directory on the Member's Only page but not listed on public website;
 - 4. May serve on a Resident Advisory Committee but cannot act as a program director or primary advisor;
 - 5. Not exempt from applicable registration fees for College-sponsored functions;

6. No longer be a voting member or a member of the ACVN Board but may serve on (non-voting) committees.

Article VI

Officers and Governance

Section 1: Officers

- a. Officers of the College will consist of the Past President, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- b. The representative of the College to the Veterinary Specialty Organizations Committee (VSOC), if not already an Officer of the College, will be an Officer.
- c. Each person on the Board is entitled to one vote.

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 VSOC, if not already an Officer; and
 3. Three Members-at-Large as elected by the voting membership.

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 Diplomat.

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.