



# Association of Veterinary Consultants

## Constitution

### 1 – NAME, SEAT, OBJECTIVE, DURATION

#### *Article 1*

The Association, named AVC (Association des Vétérinaires Consultants or Association of Veterinary Consultants), is a non-profit association, and is composed of independent, experienced consultants with a veterinary qualification.

#### *Article 2*

The seat of the Association is located at:  
La Maison des Veterinaires, 10 place Léon Blum, 75011 Paris, France.

#### *Article 3*

The aims and objectives of the Association are:

- to ensure professional standards of its members are maintained at a high level by following a Code of Practice.
- to inform the outside world of the existence of experienced veterinarians able to provide expertise to industry, governments, agencies and other organisations.
- to assist and advise its members on all matters pertaining to the execution of their professional duties.
- to promote the image of the veterinary profession to the public and the world at large.
- to encourage close relationship between its members and all branches of the veterinary profession.
- to promote the acquisition and dissemination of published information concerning veterinary issues related to the members' declared interests and activities, including the action and use of veterinary medicinal products, feed additives, animal feed and nutrition, agricultural products and food safety.
- to provide a forum to assist its members in keeping abreast of scientific and veterinary progress in matters relating to the pharmaceutical, animal feed, human food and animal health industries and other areas relating to members' interests.

#### *Article 4*

The AVC decided at the meeting of 20 October 2012 in Vienna, Austria, to create the Association in France as a constitutional assembly. The association is of unlimited duration, unless it is decided to terminate it in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

## 2 - MEMBERS

### *Article 5*

The Association consists of legal members only. The AVC in France accepted all members of the “AVC VWZ”, registered in Belgium in 2009. The number of members is unlimited. Following any agreed future change in the structure of the Association and/or the Constitution, all active members at the time of the change will automatically transfer to the new organisation.

### *Article 6*

The Association is open to veterinary consultants involved in advising governments and agencies, providing consulting services to or assisting research institutes, companies associated with the pharmaceutical/feed additives and in general animal health or animal production related industries, in ensuring a high quality/safety of products for the treatment and prevention of animal disease and ensuring good health and food chain safety. Members must be independent veterinarians.

Applications for membership must be proposed and supported by at least two members of the Association and will be ratified by the Board via a simple majority vote. The decision of the Board is without appeal.

### *Article 7*

Membership shall be terminated by the Board in case of serious professional misconduct as defined in the Code of Practice, but only after giving an opportunity to the member concerned to justify his/her actions.

Membership will be terminated by:

- written notification from the individual to the Secretary of the Association. In that case, membership will terminate at the end of the current Association year, provided the notification is received by the Secretary before 1 June.
- death of the member.

Removal from the membership list will take place:

- automatically when the membership fee has not been paid within the time stated by the Treasurer in the invoice, and in the case of no response to a reminder.
- automatically if the member ceases to be an independent veterinarian or ceases to meet the qualifications for membership.

The member then must settle his/her debts with the Association and cannot ask for refund of any credit.

### *Article 8*

The entrance fee and annual membership fee is decided by the Annual General Assembly. Persons that become members after March 1 will pay half the annual fee for that current year. Members that reach the age of 65 years pay half the annual fee, beginning from the year after they have reached that age, and provided they have notified the Board prior to the end of the AVC fiscal year (31 August). Honorary Members do not pay any fees.

### *Article 9*

The fiscal year of the association runs from 1 September to 31 of August.

### **3 - GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### *Article 10*

The General Assembly (GA) is held once per year, preferably physically or, if not possible, on-line. All Members may join physical AVC GA meetings via on-line connections. The GA can be attended by Members with current fees paid. Members are allowed to vote by proxy only if in good standing with payments. No Member shall hold more than 1 proxy vote per agenda item, issued in writing (electronic or hard copy) and accepted by the Board. Members may vote in writing provided this vote is received by the Secretary before the opening of the meeting.

#### *Article 11*

The General Assembly deals with the following items, as relevant:

- annual report by the President
- annual report by the Secretary
- annual report by the Treasurer
- report of the financial Auditor
- approval of the financial report of the previous year
- appointment of new Auditor
- proposed next year budget and approval
- election of Board
- annual membership fee
- other agenda items, as relevant

#### *Article 12*

The decisions of the General Assembly and other relevant documents will be available for the members and published on the Association web site in the members reserved area.

The AVC Board informs the members of the date, place and agenda of any meeting of the Association at least 4 weeks before the date of the meeting by suitable means.

### **4 – THE BOARD**

#### *Article 13*

The Association shall be governed by the Board, consisting of at least four members, of which one is the President. The Board is elected at the General Assembly by and from the members of the Association. The Board shall serve for a period of two years and be eligible for re-election. The President is elected for two years after which time the Vice-President will become the proposed President. The Board may fill vacancies occurring during its period of office by co-option.

#### *Article 14*

The Board will make decisions by a simple majority vote. In case of parity, the vote of the President will be decisive. The Board shall make decisions in accordance with the Constitution of the Association and Code of Practice.

*Article 15*

In cases not mentioned or covered by the Constitution the Board decides, informing the members of its decision at the next meeting or earlier if necessary. These decisions may not be in conflict with the Constitution/Code of Practice or other decisions taken by the members of the Association.

*Article 16*

Changes to the Constitution may be proposed by the Board or any member to the General Assembly for agreement.

**5 - TERMINATION**

*Article 17*

The Association may be terminated by a proposal submitted to the Annual General Assembly, provided 2/3 of the Members eligible to vote are present. The excess funds will be donated to a charity decided by the Members.

16 October 2020

Signed by:

Dr Elinor McCartney, President

Dr Birgit Roser, Secretary

Dr Rimma Ishimbaeva Ivanov, Treasurer