



### Name

#### *Article 1*

The Association has been named Association of Veterinary Consultants, non-profit abbreviated as AVC VZW

### Official Seat

#### *Article 2*

The Association's seat is located at Kerselarendreef 80, 9170 De Klinge, Belgium, resorting under the juridical arrondissement Dendermonde is of unlimited duration, unless it is decided to terminate it in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

### Purpose

#### *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 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 and, human food safety and production.

## Constitution



Association of Veterinary Consultants

- 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' declared interests.
- the association can carry out commercial activities that directly or indirectly are in accordance with the aim of the association.

### Duration

#### *Article 4*

The Association is of unlimited duration, unless it is decided to terminate it in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

### Members

#### *Article 5*

The Association consists of legal members only. The newly registered association will accept all current members of the "Association of Veterinary Consultants", founded in 1995.

#### *Article 6*

The number of members is unlimited and is open to independent veterinary consultants with a fully registered veterinary qualification in one of the Member States of the European Union and from any other country at the discretion of the Board, involved in advising government service or research institutes, companies associated with the pharmaceutical and animal health or animal production related industries. Members must be independent.

Applications for membership must be proposed and supported by at least two members of the Association and will be decided upon by the Board by a simple majority vote.





The decision of the board on the membership is without appeal and should not be challenged, their decision is full and final.

Following any agreed 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 without penalty.

### *Article 7*

The termination and exclusion of a member will be in accordance to the Belgian law of 27 June 1921. Such members have to settle all accounts with the association and can only request the payment back of an eventual credit.

Membership shall be terminated by the Board in case of serious professional misconduct but only after giving opportunity to the member(s) concerned to justify his/her actions.

The membership will be terminated by:

- written notification from the individual to the secretary. In that case the membership will terminate at the end of the current association year, provided the notification is received by the secretary before June 1.
- Death of the Member.

Removal from the membership list will take place:

- automatically when the membership fee has not been paid for two successive years within the period stated by the treasurer on his or her invoice



- automatically if the member stops being an independent veterinarian or ceases to meet the qualifications for membership.
- on the proposal of the Board in the case of professional and ethical misconduct in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

### Fees

#### *Article 8*

The entrance fee and annual membership fee is decided by the Annual General Meeting. Persons that become members after March 1 will pay half the annual fee for that current year. The entrance fee and the annual membership fee may not exceed 1000 Euro. Members that reach the age of 65 years pay half the annual fee, beginning from the year after they have reached that age. Honorary Members do not pay any fees.

### The general assembly

#### *Article 9*

The general assembly consists of the Members. Members are allowed to vote by proxy. No Member shall hold more than 1 proxy vote per agenda item, issued in writing and accepted by the Board. Members may vote in writing provided this vote is received by the General Secretary before the opening of the meeting.

#### *Article 10*

The way of deliberation and the authority of the general assembly are defined in the Belgian law of 27 June 1921.



At the Annual General Meeting the following subjects shall be dealt with, where relevant,

- annual report by the General Secretary
- annual report by the Treasurer
- report of the financial auditors
- approval of the last year financial report
- appointment of new auditors
- proposed next year budget and approval
- election of board
- annual membership fee
- Other agenda items, as appropriate

### ***Article 11***

The decisions of the General assembly will be bundled and kept at the seat of the association or at the seat of the General Secretary of the association. They will be available for the members. On request they can obtain a copy.

The General Secretary shall inform 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 e-mail or letter.

### ***Article 12***

Each change in the constitution will be sent for publication within a month to the Official Journal. The same will hold true for the appointment, the dismissal, the retrieval and the re-election of the board-members. At least once per year the board will report to the necessary publications and fulfil its fiscal obligations.



### 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 by and from the membership of the Association. The Board shall serve for a period of two years and be eligible for re-election. The President shall serve 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 take its decisions by a simple majority vote. In case of parity, the vote of the President will be decisive. The Board shall take its decisions in accordance with the Constitution and the Internal Rules of the Association.

### Termination

#### *Article 15*

The Association may be terminated on a proposal submitted to the Annual General Meeting in accordance with article 12, provided 2/3 of the membership which is eligible to vote is present. If this is not the case the Board shall call a new meeting at which the proposal will be dealt with in accordance with article 12. In an emergency Article 12 applies.

#### *Article 16*

In cases not mentioned or covered by the Internal Rules or 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 Statutes or other decisions taken by the members of the Association.





*Article 17*

Where necessary, further clarification of internal rules will be provided in byelaws to this constitution. These will be agreed upon by the board.

*Article 18*

The fiscal year of the association runs from 1 September to 31 of August. However by exception the first year will run from 1 July 2009 until 31 August 2010

For anything that has not been foreseen the Belgian law of 27 June 1921 will apply.

Agreed by the Annual General Meeting of the AVC in Rome October 2009.

