

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
EUROPEAN COLLEGE
OF
POULTRY VETERINARY SCIENCE
(ECPVS)

Version 4: September 2017

Name and Structure

Article 1

- 1.1. The name of the organisation shall be: The European College of Poultry Veterinary Science, hereafter referred to as the "College".
- 1.2. The College shall have its registered office in Attleborough, United Kingdom. The office address may be changed through the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 1.3. The College shall be a part of the general scheme for veterinary education in the European Union (EU), which is coordinated by the European Coordinating Committee on Veterinary Training (ECCVT) and includes the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), the European Association of establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), and the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS). Specialist Colleges are members of the EBVS.
- 1.4. The language of the College, including all oral and written exchanges, shall be English.

Duration

Article 2

- 2.1. The College has been set up for an unlimited period.
- 2.2. The College's year, for financial and audit purposes, shall run from the start of January to the end of December, subject to the first society year ending on the last day of December of the year in which the College is established.

Mission – Objectives - ResourcesArticle 3

3.1. Mission

The mission of the College is to contribute significantly to the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of European Veterinary Specialists in Poultry Veterinary Science across all European countries at the highest possible level so as to ensure that improved veterinary services will be provided to the poultry industry and the public.

3.2. Objectives

The primary objectives of the College shall be the promotion of study, research and practice of Poultry Veterinary Science in Europe, and increase the competency of those who practise in this field by:

- a. establishing guidelines for post-graduate education and training as a prerequisite to become a specialist in the speciality of Poultry Veterinary Science.
- b. examining and authenticating veterinarians as specialists in Poultry Veterinary Science to serve the veterinary patients, its owner and the public in general.
- c. promote health and welfare of poultry, the production of safe and high quality products for consumers and the economic profitability of the sector by providing expert care, taking into account respect for the environment in view of a sustainable agriculture.
- d. encouraging research and other contributions to knowledge in all aspects of Poultry Veterinary Science and promoting communication and dissemination of this knowledge.
- e. the development, supervision and assessment of continuing education programmes in Poultry Veterinary Science.
- f. committing itself to the development of a culture, which recognises the importance of quality, and quality assurance, in its activities, and to this end, the College should develop and implement a strategy for the continuous enhancement of quality.
- g. guaranteeing and maintaining the highest level of specialisation in Poultry Veterinary Science according to European Qualifications Framework (EQF) level 8.

- h. apply the proper methods, which assure the quality of all its procedures.

3.3. Resources

- a. The College is a non-profit organisation and does not pursue any commercial interests.
- b. College funds may only be spent according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the College. Members or officers of the College receive no payment from the funds of the College, except of expenses payment.
- c. No member or officer of the College may be favoured by expenditures or excessively high compensations, which are not according to the purposes of the College.
- d. The College may enlist the services of a secretariat who will be responsible for the operational management of the Executive Committee and support of the College.

Definition of Specialty

Article 4

- 4.1. The specialty poultry veterinary science is oriented towards poultry kept for commercial production purposes, primarily including the galliformes but also waterfowl, ratites and pigeons. The medicine of pet and wild birds within the specialty of poultry veterinary science is restricted to their role in the epidemiology and pathogenesis of diseases in poultry.
- 4.2. The Specialist in poultry veterinary science will have a good knowledge and understanding of the aetiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and control of infectious and non-infectious diseases directly or indirectly affecting poultry and the maintenance of healthy poultry flocks. Poultry veterinary science also includes production control systems, quality of poultry products, significance of poultry and poultry products for public health, national and international legislation, disease control programs, and management. The Specialist shall furthermore have working knowledge

on zootechnical issues, ethology and welfare, nutrition, husbandry and genetics of poultry.

- 4.3. The Recognised Specialists shall spend at least 60% of their time working at the Specialist level in poultry veterinary science, which shall constitute not less than an average of 24 hours / week.
- 4.4. The Recognised Specialists shall have adequate facilities for conducting the specialty within their practice or organisation.

Membership

Article 5

- 5.1. The College shall have the following members:
 - a. Founder Diplomates
 - b. Certified Diplomates
 - c. Non-certified Diplomates
 - d. Retired Diplomates
 - e. Honorary Members
 - f. Associate Members
- 5.2. Standards for admission to membership
 - a. The College must only certify veterinarians who:
 - Have demonstrated fitness and ability to practise the speciality by meeting the established training and experience requirements and by attaining acceptable scores on comprehensive examinations administered by the College.
 - Have demonstrated satisfactory moral and ethical standing in the profession.
 - Practise scientific, evidence-based veterinary medicine, which complies with animal welfare legislation.

- Have gained their veterinary degree at least 48 months previously.
 - b. The College may also certify veterinarians who have passed the College examinations, which they were allowed to sit as judged to be internationally recognised in the College's field, by the Credentials Committee and the Executive Committee.
 - c. The criteria for certifying members shall be specified in the Bylaws of the College, in line with the Policies and Procedures of the EBVS.
- 5.3. Each individual who has successfully passed the qualification procedure of the College shall be designated Diplomate of the European College of Poultry Veterinary Science (Dipl. ECPVS), and, if certain criteria are met (as it shall be specified in the Bylaws and/or the Policies and Procedures), is entitled to be awarded by the EBVS the title of EBVS European Specialist in Poultry Veterinary Science.
- 5.4. Each Diplomate is expected to actively participate in the affairs of the College. Repeated, unexcused absences from the College-meetings may render a member subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee of the College.
- 5.5. Each Diplomate shall fulfil the re-certification requirements of the College.
- 5.6. Each Diplomate shall be required to keep records of his/her activities with respect to practising the specialty.
- 5.7. Any Diplomate may be expelled, asked to resign or otherwise disciplined for non-professional or unethical conduct or other action against the best interest of the College by a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee of the College, pending confirmation by the College at the next Annual General Meeting.
- 5.8. Voluntary cessation of registration requires notice in writing to be received by the Secretary three months prior to the College's Annual General Meeting and will be published at the Annual General Meeting.

5.9. The annual dues (in Euro) of each paying member for the following year(s) shall be determined by the Executive Committee on proposal of the Treasurer. The proposed dues will be presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting for approval. Failure to pay annual subscription fees within six (6) months of the due date, and following a recorded delivery written reminder from the Treasurer, may render a member subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee of the ECPVS

Organisation and Officers

Article 6

- 6.1. The College shall be composed of all the Diplomates and Honorary Members.
- 6.2. The Diplomates of the College will elect the following officers by secret ballot :
- President
 - Vice-President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Two Ordinary Board Members

Those officers, including the immediate Past-President, will compose the Executive Committee of the College. Usually, the President is succeeded by the Vice-President. Only the Secretary and Treasurer may be elected to one additional term.

The total number of voting persons within the Executive Committee must be uneven. Additional Diplomates, without a right to vote, may be co-opted as observers or advisors to the Executive Committee if its members agree unanimously.

- 6.3. The President, or any other member of the Executive Committee designated by the President or, in the absence or inability of the President, by the Executive Committee, will act as representative of the College.

- 6.4. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of a simple majority of that Executive Committee.
- 6.5. The election and discharge of officers and their duties shall be as provided for by the Bylaws of the College.
- 6.6. The President and Vice-President or the President's nominee will act as representatives in the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation. If necessary, the Executive Committee may unanimously nominate another Diplomat to present the ECPVS in the EBVS.

Annual General Meeting, Quorum and voting rights

Article 7

- 7.1. The Annual General Meeting of the College will be held each year.
- 7.2. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the College can be called at any time by the Executive Committee, or shall be called by the Executive Committee at the written request of not less than 10% of the membership. The request should contain the explanation for such a meeting, and the subsequent Extraordinary Meeting should take place within a period of two months of receipt of the request. If not, the responsible members are empowered to summon the Extraordinary Meeting themselves.
- 7.3. The quorum required for holding a meeting is more than 25% of the total number of the members of the College who have the right to vote. Voting must be in person. The Executive Committee decides if the vote is to be taken orally, by a show of hands, or in writing. Votes can be: in favor, against or one can abstain. For all decisions, except as designated elsewhere, a simple majority of the members participating in the vote is sufficient.

- 7.4. Each paying Diplomat has the right to vote. He/she has to be present at the Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings to do so, except in case of postal or electronic ballot (section 7.5). Each paying Diplomat has one (1) vote. Honorary Members who are not Diplomates of the College, and Associate Members are not allowed to vote.
- 7.5 The Executive Committee can hold an electronic or postal ballot at any time outside the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings.
The same rules apply to electronic ballots as to voting during the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary Meetings.
- 7.6 The Secretary/Secretariat of the College has to keep the minutes of every Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting.

Amendments

Article 8

- 8.1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted to the President at least 2 months prior to the AGM. Any proposed amendment shall be distributed (by letter or electronic mail) to the membership with a recommendation by the Executive Committee, at least 30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting and shall be brought to a vote of the Diplomates at the Annual General Meeting. An affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Diplomates participating in the vote (including those who abstain) shall be required for adoption.
- 8.2. Registered versions of this Constitution include:
- Version 1: November 2008
 - Version 2: December 2015
 - Version 3: October 2016
 - Version 4: September 2017

Dissolution of the College

Article 9

In the event of dissolution of the College, or the College losing its status as a non profit-organisation, the distribution of all assets shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting, as far as possible consistent with the objectives of the College.

Bylaws

Article 10

The College shall make and can change Bylaws, which regulate subjects not or not sufficiently prescribed in this Constitution. A bylaw shall not contain any provisions, which violate the law, the rules of the EBVS, or this Constitution.