

ECVCN CONSTITUTION

Amended at the Annual General Meeting, September 22nd 2017

Preamble

In reflection of the practical situation in a number of European Veterinary Schools and other research and training facilities, a combined approach to establish a specialisation program for Veterinary Nutrition is presented. Upon request of the European Society of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition (ESVCN) an amended constitution is presented, directed to the inauguration of a single college, the European College of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition (ECVCN), devoted to this discipline and sharing a joint credentials/education system.

Introduction

The College shall be a part of the general scheme for veterinary specialisation in the E.U., as has been defined by the Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training (ACVT) of the European Committee, set up by the Council Decision 78/1028/EEC of 18 December 1978 and OJ No L 302 of 22 December 1978, in its report doc. III/F/5285/3/91. This scheme involves the European Coordinating Committee on Veterinary Training (ECCVT), the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS), and the Speciality Colleges. The integrated approach was initiated by the European Society of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition in consideration of a growing demand for veterinary specialists in nutrition in veterinary and agricultural institutes, universities and public institutions, animal health services, veterinary administration, environmental matters, feed industry, pet food industry, large poultry or pig breeding enterprises, pharmaceutical industries and their research and development centers and in private practice. The initiating society the European Society of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition (ESVCN) was founded in 1991 with the aim to advance education and research in Veterinary Nutrition.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Name, language and registration

Article 1

The name of the College shall be: the European College of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition (ECVCN) - hereafter referred to as the College. The college is officially registered (ZVR-Zahl 563427217; Date 14/09/2001) in Vienna, Austria, on the address below: 1210 Wien, Veterinärplatz 1, Austria. The office address may be changed through the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Duration

Article 2

Section 2.1.

The College shall be established for an unlimited period.

Section 2.2.

The College year shall run concurrently with the calendar year, subject to the first society year ending on the last day of December of the year in which the College is established.

Objectives / Resources

Article 3

Section 3.1

The primary objectives of the College shall be to advance the quality of animal health care in Europe by increasing the competency of those who are active in the field of Veterinary Nutrition. These objectives will be achieved by:

- a) Establishing guidelines for post-graduate education and experience prerequisite to become a specialist in the speciality of Veterinary Nutrition
- b) Examining and authenticating veterinarians as specialists in Veterinary Nutrition to serve the veterinary patient, its owner and the public in general, by providing expertise in this discipline.
- c) Encouraging research and other contributions to the knowledge related to Veterinary Nutrition including nutrition physiology, comparative aspects of nutrition, clinical nutrition and dietetics, knowledge on feedstuffs, feed hygiene and feeding management and promoting communication and dissemination of this knowledge.

Section 3.2

The College is a non-profit-making organisation and does not pursue commercial interests.

Section 3.3

College funds may only be spent according to the constitution. Members or officers of the College receive no payment from the funds of the College, except reimbursements.

Section 3.4

No member or officer of the College may be by expenditures or excessively high compensations, which are not according to the purposes of the College.

Section 3.5

The language of laws, by laws, correspondence, negotiations and examinations of the College is English.

Membership

Article 4

Section 4.1

The members of the College shall be the following:

- a) Founding Diplomates
- b) Diplomates
- c) Retired Diplomates
- d) Non-practising Diplomates
- e) Honorary Members
- f) Associate members

Section 4.2

To qualify for membership, candidates shall meet the following criteria:

- a) Have a good moral and ethical standing in the profession.
- b) Be licensed to practise or are eligible to be licensed to practise veterinary medicine and surgery in Europe, unless relieved of this obligation by the Education and Residency Committee and the Executive Committee.
- c) Have successfully passed the certifying examination procedure by ECVCN and have paid the relevant fees.

Section 4.3

Each individual who has successfully passed the qualification procedure of the College shall be designated Diplomat of the European College of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition and shall be authorized to use the designation of Diplomat of the European College of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition (Dip. or Dipl. ECVCN: European Veterinary Specialist in Nutrition), with the exception of section 4.6) of this Constitution.

Each Diplomat shall be required to keep records of his/her professional activities.

Section 4.4

Each Diplomat is expected to actively participate in the affairs of the College. Repeated, unexcused absences from the ECVCN meetings may render a member subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee of the ECVCN.

Section 4.5

Any Diplomat 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 unanimous vote of the Executive Committee of the ECVCN, pending confirmation by the College at the next Annual General Meeting.

Section 4.6

All practising Diplomates must undergo the re-certification requirements as described in the Bylaws. The registration ceases by default when a Diplomat does not satisfy the re- certification requirements, when the speciality is practised at a level of less than 60 per cent (i.e. <24 hours a week, including overlap to related specialities) devoted to the speciality, or when the speciality has not been practised for two continuous years or the equivalent of two years during a period of five years. These Diplomates are awarded a non-practising status, unless the cessation was for reasons of temporary or permanent suspension. They are bound to use the designation of non-practising Diplomat. A non-practising Diplomat seeking to revert to full Diplomat status needs to satisfy the Credentials and Executive Committees.

Section 4.7

Cessation of registration requires twelve months to effectuation. Voluntary cessation of registration requires notice in writing to be received by the Secretary twelve months prior to the College's Annual General Meeting and will be published at the Annual General Meeting. The annual dues (Euro) of each active member for the following years shall be determined by the Annual General Meeting.

Organisation and officers

Article 5

The College shall be composed of all the Diplomates. The officers of the College shall be: President,
Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer,
and one College member (past-president).

The term of office is three years. The Diplomates will elect every three years, by secret ballot, the following officers: - President - Vice-President - Treasurer - Secretary

The officers will compose the Executive Committee of the College. The President may not be re-elected in the same office for the following election period. Usually, the President is succeeded by the Vice-President. The other officers may be elected to only one additional term up to 3 years. The Executive committee may co-opt up to 3 non-voting members. The President and/or Vice-President will, in general, act as representatives in the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation. The Secretary will act as deputy of the President and the Treasurer will act as deputy of the Vice-President.

Annual General Meeting, Quorum and voting rights

Article 6

Section 6.1

The Annual General Meeting of the College will be held each year.

Section 6.2

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 General Meeting should take place within a period of three months of receipt of the request. If not, the responsible members are empowered to summon the Extraordinary General Meeting themselves.

Section 6.3

Each 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 6.5). Each Diplomat has one (1) vote. Non-paying diplomats have no voting rights.

Section 6.4

The quorum required for holding a meeting is one fourth (25%) of the voting members of the College. Voting must be in person except in the case of electronic ballot. The Executive Committee decides if the vote is to be taken orally or on paper. Votes can be: in favor, against

or one can abstain. For all decisions, except as designated elsewhere, a simple majority of the voting members present or participating in an electronic vote is sufficient.

Section 6.5

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 or postal ballots as to voting during the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings. An electronic ballot is only valid if a vote is registered on the secure section of the ECVCN website, using unique passwords.

Section 6.6

The Secretary of the College has to keep the minutes of every Annual General Meeting. These records must be signed by the Chairman of the Annual General Meeting and the Secretary.

Amendments

Article 7

Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted to the President for study prior to the 31st of December. Any proposed amendment shall be distributed to the membership with a recommendation by the Officers, at least 30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting and shall be brought to a vote of the Diplomates at the next annual meeting. An affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting Diplomates present or participating in an electronic vote shall be required for adoption. The officers may also organize a postal or electronic ballot.

Future Developments

Article 8

Future developments may necessitate remodelling of the College to be able to adopt a subspecialty specialisation and/or specialisation concerning i.e. other species. Amendments for such an adoption need an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Diplomates voting.

Dissolution of the College

Article 9

In the event of dissolution of the College, or the College losing its status as a non-profit-making 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.