

Constitution April 2005

Name, place of establishment, language and registration

Article 1

1. The name of the association is: European Board of Veterinary Specialisation, hereinafter also to be referred to as “the Board”.
2. The Board is established in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The Executive Committee (Board of Directors) can decide to locate the office elsewhere.
3. The language within the board shall be English (British).
The articles of association and other documents relating to the Board have been drawn up in English. These articles of association are the Dutch version of a sworn English translation, which translation is attached to this deed as an appendix. All oral and written exchange of information shall take place in English.
4. The Board is registered in the register of associations held by the Chamber of Commerce and industry for Utrecht and district in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Duration

Article 2

1. The Board is formed for an indefinite period.
2. The association’s year shall run from the start of January to the end of December of each year.

Objective/Resources

Article 3

1. The Board’s objective is the promotion of specialisation in veterinary medicine in Europe through:
 - a. The definition of guide lines for the recognition and registration of specialists in branches of veterinary medicine in Europe.
 - b. The recognition and supervision of organisations of veterinary specialists (“Colleges”) in Europe.
 - c. The endowment of the title “European veterinary Specialist in (name of the specialisation)” to – veterinary specialists who comply with the Board’s guidelines.
 - d. The maintenance of a register of specialists recognised by the Board.
 - e. The provision of information on veterinary specialisation in Europe to government bodies, private organisations, veterinary and animal owners.
 - f. The employment of all other resources which may contribute to the realisation of the association’s objectives.
2. The Board is a non-profit-making association and does not pursue any commercial interests.
3. Financial resources may only be committed in concordance with the articles of association and accompanying rules
4. No member of the Board, the Executive Committee or any other body belonging to the association shall receive any payment from the Board’s funds, with the exception of expenses payments.

Membership, Observers and Elections

Article 5

1. The Board has members and observers. The members are obliged to pay the Board an annual fee set by the Board.
2. The members are organisations of veterinary specialists recognised by the Board (“Colleges”). Each of these organisations is entitled to delegate one representative and one deputy representative. The organisation which supplies the President is entitled to delegate a second deputy representative.
3. The representatives and deputy representatives referred to in Paragraph 2 are chosen by the Organisation they represent. The term of office is three years and commences on the first Annual General Meeting of the Board following the election. The term of office can be extended once.
4. Observers are recognised as such by the Board. Each of these organisations is entitled to delegate one representative. The Executive Committee can invite other organisations to function as observer.
5. Representatives of the observers are chosen by the organisation they represent. The term of office is three years and commences on the first Annual General Meeting of the Board following the election. The term of office can be extended once.

6. New members and observers are proposed by the Executive Committee. This proposal is voted on by the Annual General Meeting. Membership requires a simple (absolute) majority of the validly cast votes. The membership or capacity of an observer is terminated if the Board's recognition of the organisation in question is withdrawn and if the organisation in question is dissolved. Withdrawal of recognition takes place by means of a proposal of the Executive Committee. The chairperson and secretary of the organisation for which withdrawal of recognition has been proposed shall be notified of this no later than thirty days before the meeting at which this withdrawal is to be discussed, not including the date of notification and the date of the meeting. The proposal to withdraw the recognition will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting. Withdrawal of recognition requires a two-thirds majority of the validity cast votes.

Executive Committee

Article 6

1. The Board members elect the Executive Committee from the membership. Each member of the executive committee must be re-elected every year. The maximum term of office of the Treasurer and Secretary is 6 years, and the maximum term of office of the President and Vice-President is 2 years. The Executive Committee consists of the President, a Past-President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Board.
2. The President chairs the meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee, maintains order, chairs debates, announces the results of elections and fulfils every obligation legally attached to the office of president. The president has no voting rights at the Annual General Meeting. A candidate for President should have been a member of the executive committee for at least 2 years.
3. The Past-President, usually the immediate Past-President, accedes to this position after their term as President has come to an end. The term of office is usually two years.
4. The Vice-President fulfils the President's duties in his or her absence or incapacity.
5. The Secretary oversees all correspondence of the Board and the Executive Committee, oversees the notification to new members of the Board and the Executive Committee of their election and oversees the minutes of all meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee. These minutes are signed by the president and the secretary. They remain the property of the Board and shall be accessible at any time and place, within reason.
6. The Treasurer manages the financial resources of the Board and keeps full and meticulous accounts, which contain an overview of all financial receipts and expenditure. The accounts are the property of the Board and are available for inspection by authorised bodies at any time and place, within reason. The treasurer oversees collection of contributions and membership fees. The treasurer oversees collection of contributions and membership fees at the moment these are due, and oversees the notification to any members who remain in default. Additionally, the treasurer presents a written financial report during the Annual General Meeting for the Board's approval.

Meetings

Article 7

1. The Board meets at least once a year. The Annual General Meeting is held in the spring, no later than six months after the end of the association's year.
2. The Executive Committee can call an Extraordinary General Meeting at any moment. The Executive Committee must call an Extraordinary General Meeting if it receives a written request to do so from at least ten percent (10 %) of the Board members. This request must state the reason for calling an Extraordinary General Meeting. The meeting in question must be held within four weeks of receipt of the request. If this does not occur within fourteen days of the request being submitted, the members are entitled to call the meeting themselves.
3. Convocation is made in writing to the addresses of the Board members within a period of thirty days, not including the days of convocation and meeting.
4. All travel and accommodation expenses incurred by Board members and observers attending the Annual General Meeting and the Extraordinary General Meeting shall be paid for by the organisation which they represent.

Quorum and voting rights

Article 8

1. The quorum required for holding a meeting is two-thirds of the voting members. If no quorum is present, no legally binding decisions can be taken.
2. Each Board member has one vote. Votes can be yes or no. The voting rights of the members are vested in the representatives. If these are absent or unable to vote, voting rights pass to the deputy representatives. Members abstaining are considered as having no opinion and are counted as non-voting. Observers do not have any voting rights.
3. In the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings, voting shall take place in person. The executive Committee decides if the vote is to be taken orally or on paper.
4. The Executive Committee can hold a postal or electronic ballot at any time outside the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings. The same rules apply to postal ballots as to voting during the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings. A postal ballot is only valid if a signed voting slip is received from at least two-thirds of the voting members and an electronic ballot is only valid if a vote is registered on the secure section of the the EBVS website, with unique passwords, by at least two-thirds of the voting members.
5. Amendments to these articles of association require a two-thirds majority of the members present. For all other decisions, in as much as these do not belong to the exceptions listed below, a simple (absolute) majority of the voting members is sufficient. Proposals from the members to amend these articles of association must be submitted to the Executive Committee before the thirty-first of December of each year for inclusion on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting. All proposed amendments shall be circulated among the members at least thirty days before the Annual General Meeting, along with the Executive Committee's recommendation. The proposals shall be voted on at the Annual General Meeting.
6. Those persons who have called on the General Meeting to attend to a proposal to amend the articles of association must deposit a copy of this proposal, containing a verbatim rendition of the proposed amendment, at a location suitable for this purpose, for inspection by the members at least five days before the meeting until the end of the day on which the meeting is held.
7. Any amendment to the articles of association comes into effect only after a notarial deed of the amendment has been drawn up.

Policies and Procedures

Article 9

1. The Board sets the Policies and Procedures. These may not be conflict with the law or with these articles of association.
2. Any amendment to the Policies and Procedures is subject to the same provisions as those stated in Article 8 Paragraph 5 for amendments to these articles of association.

Dissolution of the Board

Article 10

1. Any decision to dissolve the Board is subject to the same provisions as those stated in Article 8 Paragraph 5 for amendments to these articles of association; in the event of dissolution, Executive Committee is charged with settlement.
2. In the event that the Board is dissolved or that the Board loses its status as a non-profit-making organisation, all assets shall be divided equally among the members of the Board.