



Student American Veterinary Medical Association Constitution

(Revised July 20, 2008)

ARTICLE I — TITLE

Section 1 — The Association shall be known as the Student American Veterinary Medical Association and shall be incorporated under the laws of the General Not for Profit Corporation Act of the State of Illinois.

Section 2 — The Association title may be abbreviated as Student AVMA (SAVMA).

Section 3 — The SAVMA shall forever remain a not-for-profit organization in fact, and its officers shall comply with the laws of the State in which the Student AVMA is incorporated.

Section 4 — Officially recognized Chapters shall be known as the (name of the college or school) Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Section 5 — A Chapter's name may be abbreviated as the Student Chapter of the AVMA. (SCAVMA)

ARTICLE II — PURPOSE

Section 1 — To introduce veterinary students to the concept of professionalism and organized veterinary medicine.

Section 2 — To promote contact and exchange of ideas between veterinary students, veterinarians and the American Veterinary Medical Association. (AVMA)

Section 3 — To promote, enhance and support veterinary medical education.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERS

Section 1 — Membership

Any full-time student enrolled in a program of study leading directly to a professional veterinary degree may be eligible for membership. Category of membership and rights are to be determined as specified in the SAVMA Bylaws.



Section 2 — Tenure

Members of the Association shall retain their membership only so long as they comply with the provisions of the Constitution, Operational Guidelines, and Principles of Ethics of the AVMA.

ARTICLE IV — RULES OF GOVERNMENT

Section 1 — This Constitution shall be the rules of government of the Student AVMA.

Section 2 — Operational Guidelines

The Bylaws, Digest of Official Actions, and the Manual of the House of Delegates are the Operational Guidelines and policy statements of the Student AVMA as adopted by the House of Delegates.

Section 3 — Whenever a provision of this Constitution is inconsistent with a provision of the related Operational Guidelines, the provision in the Constitution shall be controlling.

Section 4 — In all cases where the SAVMA Constitution and Operational Guidelines are found to be insufficient, the Student AVMA shall employ Robert's Rules of Order as a guide.

Section 5 — The Executive Committee shall, when necessary, interpret the SAVMA Constitution, Bylaws, Manual, or Digest.

Section 6 — All SAVMA official documents should not conflict with AVMA official documents.

Section 7 — No person(s) may solicit funds on behalf of the SAVMA or by using the Student AVMA's title without prior approval from the SAVMA Executive Committee or the House of Delegates.

Section 8 — All profits and losses from educational symposia and *The Vet Gazette* are the sole property and responsibility of the Student AVMA.

ARTICLE V — OFFICERS

Section 1 — The officers having immediate charge of the Student AVMA administrative affairs shall consist of President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, International Exchange Officer, Information Technology Officer, and *The Vet Gazette* Editor.

Section 2 - All officers, including the President, President-elect, Secretary, Secretary-elect, Treasurer, Treasurer-elect, *The Vet Gazette* Editor, *The Vet Gazette* Editor-elect, International Exchange Officer, International Exchange Officer-elect, Information Technology Officer, and



Information Technology Officer-elect; shall be active members of the Student AVMA until graduation or term of office is completed whichever comes last.

Section 3 — Prior to election, any candidate for a SAVMA officer position (with the exception of *The Vet Gazette* Editor and *The Vet Gazette* Editor-elect) must have served one full meeting as a SAVMA delegate.

Section 4 — Procedures for officer election will be according to the SAVMA Operational Guidelines.

Section 5 — Terms of Office

a) The term of office for the President, Secretary, Treasurer, *The Vet Gazette* Editor, International Exchange Officer, and Information Technology Officer shall be one year from installation.

b) The term of office for the Secretary-elect, Treasurer-elect, *The Vet Gazette* Editor-elect and Information Technology Officer-elect shall extend from election at the SAVMA House of Delegates meeting at the AVMA annual convention until installation at the next SAVMA House of Delegates meeting at the Educational Symposium.

c) “The term of office for the President-elect and International Exchange Officer-elect shall extend from election at the SAVMA House of Delegates meeting at the Educational Symposium until installation at the following SAVMA House of Delegates meeting at the Educational Symposium.”

Section 6 — Installation

Installation of officers will be according to the procedures outlined in the Operational Guidelines.

ARTICLE VI — ADVISORS

The advisors to the Student AVMA shall be the AVMA Vice President, an AVMA staff member(s) (as appointed by the AVMA Executive Vice President), the SAVMA Immediate Past President and a presidential advisor selected by the SAVMA President and endorsed by the SAVMA Executive Committee. Terms of office will be as specified in the Operational Guidelines.

ARTICLE VII — HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Section 1 — Purpose



a) The House of Delegates shall be the legislative body of the Association and shall, in principle, be the voice of its members.

b) The House of Delegates shall conduct and oversee all business of the Association except as is otherwise specifically stated in the Constitution and Operational Guidelines.

Section 2 — Composition

a) The House of Delegates shall be composed of delegates, officers and associate members who are SAVMA members in good standing (See SAVMA Bylaws Article 4)

b) Delegates shall be representatives of Student Chapters of the AVMA or representatives as allowed by the Operational Guidelines.

c) All Chapters and other veterinary schools or colleges meeting guidelines for representation as defined in the SAVMA Bylaws shall be represented by two delegates at each HOD meeting.

d) Delegates shall begin their term of office at the SAVMA Educational Symposium during their first year of veterinary school, unless granted an exception by the SAVMA Executive Committee.

e) Delegates should serve a two-year term of office.

f) Each delegate shall have one vote in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.

Section 3 — House of Delegates Meetings

a) Officially scheduled Student AVMA House of Delegate meetings take place during the annual Educational Symposium and the annual AVMA Convention in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.

Section 4 — Quorum

a) Representation from two-thirds of the all delegates shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in the House of Delegates.

b) Delegates must be registered with the Secretary in order to cast votes and establish a quorum for the house, during that day of meetings.

c) Reference to a “day” shall refer to an individual calendar day.

ARTICLE VIII — OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES



Section 1 — Only the following are eligible to represent the Student AVMA in an official capacity

- a) Officers, Delegates, and Advisors to the Student AVMA.
- b) Special representatives appointed by the President, Executive Committee, or House of Delegates to accomplish a specific task.

ARTICLE IX — COMMITTEES

Section 1 — Standing

- a) Standing committees shall be established or dissolved by amendment to the Constitution and shall report to the House of Delegates in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.
- b) The Standing Committees shall be
 - i. Executive
 - i. Budget
 - ii. Animal Welfare and Human Animal Bond
 - iii. Economics, Finance and Management
 - iv. Education and Licensure
 - v. Emerging Issues
 - vi. Government Affairs
 - vii. International Veterinary Exchange Committee
 - viii. Multicultural Student Outreach
 - ix. Native American Project
 - x. Public Relations
 - xi. Symposium

Section 2 — Ad Hoc Committees

- a) Ad hoc committees may be convened or dissolved as deemed necessary by the President or the Executive Committee.
- b) Ad hoc committees shall report to the House of Delegates at all meetings.

ARTICLE X — EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIA

Section 1 — The Student AVMA may sponsor educational symposia as per the specifications and guidelines established in the Operational Guidelines.



Section 2 — The SAVMA Educational Symposium shall be held annually in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.

Section 3 — These Symposia shall be designed to permit students in attendance to become familiar with phases of veterinary medicine that are not usually covered in their regular curricula.

Section 4 — It is recognized that there is great value in affording veterinary students the opportunity to meet and socialize together, and to gain an introduction to organized veterinary medicine.

ARTICLE XI — *The Vet Gazette*

Section 1 — The Student AVMA shall publish an official journal known as *The Vet Gazette* per the specifications and guidelines established in the Operational Guidelines.

Section 2 — The purpose of *The Vet Gazette* is to educate and inform veterinary students. *The Vet Gazette* will also serve to help build a sense of national community among veterinary students.

Section 3 — The goal is to provide articles by and for veterinary students. Information pertaining to veterinary schools, SCAVMA, the AVMA, and veterinary medicine shall receive priority.

Article XII — CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section 1 — The House of Delegates may amend this Constitution at any of its meetings by a two-thirds vote cast by the Delegates registered and voting at the meeting, provided the proposed amendment shall meet the following requirements.

Section 2 — The proposed amendment must be introduced at the preceding meeting and a copy must be filed with the Executive Committee at least ten (10) days prior to the beginning of said meeting. Introduction of properly filed amendments, indicating the exact words to be added or deleted, does not require action by the House of Delegates.

Section 3 — The proposed amendment must be approved by the AVMA Executive Vice President prior to final action. Amendments may be introduced by the SAVMA Executive Committee or any member of the SAVMA House of Delegates.

ARTICLE XIII — DISSOLUTION



Section 1 — Only an officer or Delegate may propose dissolution of the Student AVMA.

Section 2 —The House of Delegates may approve the dissolution of the Student AVMA by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by Delegates registered and voting at two consecutive House of Delegates meetings.

Section 3 — The written preceding dissolution must be introduced at the meeting preceding the first vote, and a copy must be filed with the SAVMA Executive Committee and the AVMA Executive Vice President at least ten (10) days prior to the beginning of said meeting.

Section 4 — AVMA Executive Board shall have the authority to dissolve the Student AVMA if no meetings of the House of Delegates are held for two consecutive years.

Section 5 — In the event of the dissolution of the Student AVMA the assets of the Association, after discharging all its obligations, shall be donated to the AVMA Auxiliary Student Loan Fund that is managed by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation.