Proposed amendments
to the AVMA Constitution and Bylaws

In compliance with Constitution Article X and Bylaws Article X XIII, the following amendments are submitted. Type that has a continuous line through it is proposed for deletion. Proposed new wording is underlined. The 2002 revision of the AVMA Constitution and Bylaws is in the 2003 AVMA Directory and Resource Manual, pages 22-34. Members are encouraged to review the AVMA Executive Board’s actions and recommendations regarding proposed amendments in this issue of JAVMA and in the January 15, 2003 JAVMA.

Amendments 1 and 2 are amendments to the Constitution that were introduced to the House of Delegates during its 2002 session. These amendments are presented for final action during the 2003 session of the House of Delegates.

Constitution Article V—Executive Board, Section 4—Board of Governors, to change the term chairman to chair. (Final Action)

Present and Proposed Wording
Section 4—Board of Governors
The Board of Governors shall be composed of the president, president-elect, and the chairman of the Executive Board. It shall act for the Executive Board between its regular meetings and shall hold meetings at such times and places as the chairman of the Executive Board may direct. In case of a vacancy on the Board of Governors, the Executive Board shall designate one of its members to fill the remainder of the term resulting from the vacancy.

Constitution Article IX—Annual Sessions, to indicate that the annual session is the official annual business meeting of the House of Delegates. (Final Action)

Present and Proposed Wording
Article IX—Annual Sessions
The words “annual session” mean the official annual business meeting of the House of Delegates of the Association convened and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws and the Manual of the House of Delegates.

Amendments 3 through 12 are amendments to the Bylaws that will be voted on by the House of Delegates during its 2003 session.

Amend Bylaws Article I—Members, Section 1—Active members, subsection (a) and Section 6—Dues, subsection (b), to eliminate the need for individual student applications for membership.

Present and Proposed Wording
Section 1—Active members
a) A veterinarian who meets the requirements set forth in Article III of the Constitution may become an active member of the Association by making application on the approved form, including certificate of membership in good standing in an organization represented in the House of Delegates and paying dues as provided in Section 6 of this Article. Certification of membership shall be by a responsible officer of an organization represented in the House of Delegates. A graduating member of a student chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association shall automatically be granted active membership if such graduate has been a member in good standing since the date of graduation. A veterinarian who is within two years from graduation but who has not been a member in good standing of the Association by making application on the approved form including a certificate of membership in good standing in the student chapter. Certification of student chapter membership shall be by the faculty advisor of the student chapter.

Section 6—Dues
b) A graduating senior student who has been a member in good standing of the Student Chapter of AVMA of the school of graduation will be granted AVMA active membership and, upon application for active AVMA membership, be granted exemption from the payment of dues until January 1 of the year following graduation, and will be granted reduced dues at $100.00 per annum for a period of two years, starting January 1 of the year following graduation.

A veterinarian who is within two years from graduation but who has not been a member in good standing of the Student Chapter of the AVMA will, upon application for active AVMA membership, be granted reduced dues, prorated from $100.00 per annum, until December 31 of the year of application, and will be granted reduced dues at $100.00 per annum for a period of one year, starting January 1 following the year of application.

Amend Bylaws Article I—Members, Section 6—Dues, subsections (a-c), to provide for a dues increase in 2004.

Present and Proposed Wording
Section 6—Dues
a) Dues for active members shall be payable for each calendar year on or before the first day of January and shall be $225.00, $250.00 per annum effective for the calendar year 2002-2004. Dues for associate and affiliate members shall be $225.00 per annum.

b) A graduating senior student who has been a member in good standing of the Student Chapter of AVMA of the school of graduation will, upon application for active AVMA membership, be granted exemption from the payment of dues until January 1 of the year following graduation, and will be granted reduced dues at $100.00, $110.00 per annum for a period of two years, starting January 1 of the year following graduation.

A veterinarian who is within two years from graduation but who has not been a member in good standing of the
Student Chapter of the AVMA will, upon application for active AVMA membership, be granted reduced dues, prorated from $100.00 $110.00 per annum, until December 31 of the year of application, and will be granted reduced dues at $100.00 $110.00 per annum for a period of one year, starting January 1 following the year of application.

c) An active or associate member who is pursuing a full-time program of graduate study, postgraduate study, internship, or residency at an accredited college or university; or is pursuing an internship listed by an accredited organization in the House of Delegates; or a residency program approved by an AVMA-recognized veterinary specialty board or college will, following application and approval, and for current and future dues years, be granted reduced dues at $100.00 $110.00 per annum. For programs that begin on or before March 31, the reduction in dues will be effective in the year of admission into the program. For programs that begin on or after April 1, the reduction in dues will be effective on January 1 of the year following admission into the program. The chief advisor of the individual requesting reduced dues shall certify to the AVMA that the individual is enrolled in the full-time program. Reduction of dues under the provisions of this paragraph shall be limited to a total of not more than seven years for any individual.

Amend Bylaws Article V—Councils, Special Committees, and Trusts, Section 3—The Council on Education, subsection (c) iii, to reflect changes in the accreditation standards.

Present and Proposed Wording
Section 3—The Council on Education

c) The Council shall:

iii) Recommend standards for accredited schools/colleges offering professional degrees in veterinary medicine. These standards shall pertain to students, faculty, curriculum, physical facilities and equipment, research programs, continuing education, organization, finances, clinical resources, library and learning resources, and admissions, organization, finances, physical facilities and equipment, clinical resources, library and information resources, students, admissions, faculty, curriculum, research programs, and outcomes assessment.

Amend Bylaws Article V—Councils, Special Committees, and Trusts, Section 3—The Council on Education, subsection (c) iv, to reflect accreditation practices.

Present and Proposed Wording
Section 3—The Council on Education

c) The Council shall:

iv) Without review or influence by any other entity of the AVMA, evaluate each school/college offering a professional degree in veterinary medicine according to the established standards, make accreditation decisions, and assign a classification of accreditation to each such school/college.

Present and Proposed Wording
Section 5—The Council on Veterinary Service, subsection (a), to change the number of at large members from three to two and add a new category for a recent graduate.

Present and Proposed Wording
Section 5—The Council on Veterinary Service

a) The Council on Veterinary Service shall consist of ten active or honor roll members elected by the House of Delegates for terms of six years. Members shall represent the following areas of veterinary medical activity:

i) Private practice, exclusively small animal (two members)

ii) Private practice, exclusively equine (one member)

iii) Private practice, exclusively food animal (one member)

iv) Private mixed practice, predominantly food animal or equine (two members)

v) Academic clinical science (one member)

vi) At large (these two members)

vii) Recent graduate (one member)

Amend Bylaws Article V—Councils, Special Committees, and Trusts, Section 5—The Council on Veterinary Service, subsection (b) iv, to clarify one of the charges to the council.

Present and Proposed Wording
Section 5—The Council on Veterinary Service

b) The Council shall:

i) Assemble, make available facts, data, and opinions and recommendations with respect to timely and adequate rendition of service to the veterinary profession and to the public.

ii) Study and suggest means for the delivery of high quality veterinary service to the public.

iii) Investigate matters pertaining to the economic and social aspects of veterinary service.

iv) Advise and assist committees on veterinary service of organizations represented in the AVMA House of Delegates on matters concerning veterinary service.

Amend Bylaws Article V—Councils, Special Committees, and Trusts, Section 8—Council on Public Relations, subsection (b), to redefine the charges to the council.

Present and Proposed Wording
Section 8—The Council on Public Relations

b) The Council shall:

i) Study and analyze the perception of AVMA and veterinary medicine by AVMA members, animal owners, non-animal owners, and other professionals.

ii) Recommend projects that will improve relationships between the veterinary profession and its publics.

iii) Study and analyze the marketing needs of AVMA and AVMA members.
 Amend Bylaws Article VII—Committees of the House of Delegates. Section 1—House Advisory Committee, subsection (e)—Duties, to add the duty of acting as the constitution and bylaws committee for the House of Delegates.

Present and Proposed Wording
Section 1—House Advisory Committee

e) Duties:—The Committee shall:
   i) Consider all developments relating to veterinary medicine from a long-range viewpoint, be alert to the changing needs for and demands upon the profession, both private practice and government and institutional work, and make recommendations to the House of Delegates and the Executive Board as to how these changing requirements can be best met for the overall welfare of the profession.
   ii) Act in an advisory capacity to the House of Delegates on all matters referred to the House reference committees in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of this Article.
   iii) Make a detailed study of the reports from the councils and special committees in advance of the annual sessions of the House and make recommendations to the House on such reports, if so requested.
   iv) Act, through its chair, as the voice of the House of Delegates in presenting resolutions from the delegates to the Executive Board.
   v) Meet sufficiently in advance of the annual session of the House so that its recommendations can be prepared for presentation to the delegates prior to or at the time the House convenes.
   vi) Review and approve the credentials of candidates for President, President-Elect, Vice President, councils, and the House Advisory Committee.
   vii) Act as the constitution and bylaws committee for the House of Delegates.

Amend Bylaws Article VIII—Annual Convention, Section 2—Location, subsections (b) and (c), to change the staff member involved with convention site selection.

Present and Proposed Wording
Section 2—Location

b) A site for a future AVMA annual convention may be recommended by a city’s Convention and Visitor’s Bureau or Chamber of Commerce, a constituent or allied group represented in the AVMA House of Delegates, the AVMA Convention Management and Program Committee, AVMA staff, or other veterinary interest groups. The recommendation must be delivered, in writing, to the AVMA Convention Manager—Director of the AVMA Convention and Meeting Planning Division no later than December 31 of the year prior to the Executive Board meeting at which the site for the future convention is to be determined.

c) The city within the convention zone in which the annual convention for a specific calendar year is to be held shall be determined, not less than four years preceding the year under consideration, by a vote of the AVMA Executive Board, based on recommendations from the House Advisory Committee and the Convention Management and Program Committee that, in turn, are based on recommendations and suggestions from the AVMA Convention Manager—Director of the AVMA Convention and Meeting Planning Division.

Amend Bylaws Article XI—Student Organization, Section 1—Student Chapters, subsection (a), to refer to accredited versus approved schools/colleges of veterinary medicine.

Present and Proposed Wording
Section 1—Student Chapters

a) An organization of students in a school/college of veterinary medicine accredited or approved by the Council on Education of the Association may be affiliated with the Association as a student chapter if it has the endorsement of the dean of the school/college and has at least 60% of the eligible students of veterinary medicine as members. Eligible students shall include all full-time students of veterinary medicine who are enrolled in a program of study leading to a professional veterinary degree to be granted by that school/college. Affiliation shall be recognized by an official charter signed by the President, the Executive Vice President, and the Chair of the Executive Board of the Association.