Proposed Bylaws Amendment 10 — 2011
Regular Annual Session

Submitted by
Puerto Rico Veterinary Medical Association
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association
North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association
Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association
Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association
Florida Veterinary Medical Association
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association
Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association

VETERINARIAN’S OATH

Amend Bylaws ARTICLE VII—HOUSE OF DELEGATES, Section 1. Authority and Responsibility. Additions are underlined, deletions are struck through.

Present and Proposed Wording

The House of Delegates shall be the principal body within the Association responsible for establishing policy and providing direction for matters relating to veterinary medicine and shall be the representative body of the Principal and Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations of the Association. In addition to such other duties set forth in these Bylaws, the House of Delegates shall:
a. Approve all changes to the Association’s Articles of Incorporation;
b. Amend, alter, or repeal the Bylaws in accordance with Article XV of these Bylaws;
c. Approve all changes to the Veterinarian’s Oath
d. Vote on all matters properly brought before the House of Delegates;
e. Solicit, process, and communicate membership needs to the Executive Board;
f. Participate in the Association’s strategic planning;
g. Elect members to serve on the Association’s councils;
h. Elect the President-Elect and Vice President, and, when necessary, President; and
i. Elect members to the committees established by the House of Delegates.

Statement about the Bylaws Amendment

The Veterinarian’s Oath is a powerful, concise statement expressing the commitment of all graduating U.S. veterinarians upon entering the veterinary profession. The AVMA is the author of the Veterinarian’s Oath and should take ownership of this pledge in its bylaws and establish the method for which the Oath can be revised. The House of Delegates authored the original Oath and should be the body to approve any future revisions. Prior to their approval our constituents should have an opportunity to review any proposed changes in open and direct dialogue with their delegates.

The Veterinarian’s Oath should reflect our lifetime commitment as one of the health professions and any revisions should only be undertaken with an approval vote by the HOD.
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