

# **AHVMA Constitution (as modified May, 2016)**

## **ARTICLE I – Name**

1. This Association incorporated as of August 8, 1985, shall be known as the AMERICAN HOLISTIC VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
2. The Association has been organized and shall be operated as a nonprofit organization as set forth in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1984, as amended.
3. The principal office of the Association shall be at a location determined by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE II – Objectives**

1. The objectives of the Association shall be:
  - A. To advance and educate in the science and art of integrative/holistic veterinary medicine.
  - B. To promote the health and welfare of all species of animals and to extend to the agricultural community and to the community at large the benefits of sound and progressive leadership in the care and treatment of animals.
  - C. To foster, maintain and enlarge public understanding of the nature of veterinary integrative/holistic medicine.
  - D. To function as a forum to explore all the modalities considered to be in the field of veterinary integrative/holistic medicine.
  - E. To do all things necessary and desirable to further high standards in the care and the treatment of animals and continuing education of doctors of veterinary medicine.

## **ARTICLE III – Membership**

1. The membership of this Association shall consist of the following:
  - A. General Membership – General Membership shall consist of doctors of veterinary medicine. This is the only membership class with voting privileges.
  - B. Student Membership – Student Membership consists of those students enrolled in a school of veterinary medicine.
  - C. Technicians and Support Staff Membership – This class consists of technicians and support staff in the veterinary profession.
  - D. Associate (Corporate) Membership – This class consists of companies and other organizations supportive of the AHVMA.

## **ARTICLE IV – Officers**

1. The Officers of the Corporation shall be President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President. The eligibility, tenure, duties, and method of election or appointment of the officers shall be described in the Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE V – Board of Directors and the Executive Board**

1. The governance and operation of the affairs and property of the Corporation shall be vested in the Board of Directors, which shall meet at such times and places as determined by the President but shall meet at least once a year at the annual meeting.
2. The number of members of the Board of Directors, their terms of office, the method of choosing them and the filling of vacancies shall be provided in the Bylaws.
3. Six members of the Board of Directors shall constitute the Executive Board, which shall have charge of the administrative affairs of the Association. It shall be composed of the President, the President-Elect, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Immediate Past President. It shall transact routine business meetings of the Board of Directors and shall act in emergencies.

#### **ARTICLE VI – Meetings**

1. There shall be a general membership meeting of the Association once a year, convened in accordance with the Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE VII – Amendments**

1. The Constitution may be amended, altered, or repealed by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes received from voting members of the Association. Voting may be via written or electronic media provided that the proposed change shall have been presented to all voting members at least thirty (30) days prior to the counting of the vote according to the preference articulated by the member on the latest membership form.
2. Any amendment or change to this Constitution shall become effective immediately after an affirmative vote.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – Fiscal Year**

1. The fiscal year of this Association shall be January 1 through December 31.

*The Constitution was updated, voted by the Board of Directors and approved by the Membership, May 2016.*