



**WORLD ASSOCIATION
for the
HISTORY of VETERINARY MEDICINE**

CONSTITUTION

2008

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for the
HISTORY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

also known as:

Welt-Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Veterinärmedizin,
Association Mondiale de l'Histoire de la Médecine Vétérinaire,
Asociación Mundial de Historia de la Medicina Veterinaria.

CONSTITUTION

INTRODUCTION

In 1964, German scientists interested in the history of veterinary medicine were invited to a symposium on this discipline in Hanover, Germany. The symposium was organized under the auspices of the German Veterinary Medical Association by the Institute (Fachgebiet) for the History of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary College, Hanover, which was established in 1963.

Five more symposia were organized by the Head of the Fachgebiet in Hanover between 1965 and 1969. From 1969 onwards the symposia were announced as "International Symposia on the History of Veterinary Medicine" because of international participation. In the same year, the "World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine" (WAHVM) was founded. The Association received an observer-status of the World Veterinary Association in 1970 and became an associate member in 1976.

ARTICLE 1 - NAME and SEAT

The name of the Association shall be "World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine" (WAHVM), hereafter called "Association".

The seat of the Association is the country and city where the Secretariat is established.

ARTICLE 2 – CHARACTER

The Association is based on the principles of equality and mutual respect between all members and without prejudice against race, sex, colour, religion

or political opinion.

ARTICLE 3 - AFFILIATION

The Association is an associate member of the World Veterinary Association (WVA), in accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution of the WVA. The Association has one vote at the General Assembly meetings of the WVA.

The General Assembly of the WVA has to approve the Constitution of the Association and to be kept informed about any changes within the Constitution.

The Executive Organ of the WVA shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Association. The Association shall inform the secretariat of the WVA of the date, place and agenda of any meeting which it intends to hold and shall report annually to the Executive Organ on its activities.

ARTICLE 4 - OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Association are: to bring together people with interest in the history of veterinary medicine, to encourage young scientists to undertake research in the field of veterinary history, to promote and coordinate research and education, and to exchange and disseminate information on the history of veterinary medicine throughout the world by providing a common forum for National Societies for the History of Veterinary Medicine, other national and international organizations and individual persons interested in this field.

The Association tries to reach these objectives by:

- 4.1. supporting the establishment and activities of National Societies for the History of Veterinary Medicine;
- 4.2. promoting and coordinating international research and study, research cooperation and research standards in the field of veterinary history and related topics;
- 4.3. encouraging education and the development and distribution of educational materials on the history of veterinary medicine;
- 4.4. encouraging the exchange and dissemination of information of interest between National Societies, individual members and other interested organizations;
- 4.5. assessing the historical role of the veterinary profession, veterinary schools, veterinary institutions, commercial enterprises and

- individual veterinarians in society and studying their impact on animal and human medicine and scientific research;
- 4.6. promoting the organization of international meetings, symposia and/or congresses and the selection of the theme(s) for these sessions;
 - 4.7. publishing a newsletter and/or journal for the National Societies, individual members and other interested organizations;
 - 4.8. promoting the preservation, cataloging and security of veterinary archives and historical collections;
 - 4.9. serving as a resource for persons and organizations seeking information about veterinary history;
 - 4.10. contributing to the promotion of the standing and image of the veterinary profession;
 - 4.11. establishing and maintaining relations with other organizations whose interests are related to the objectives of the Association.

ARTICLE 5 - MEMBERSHIP

The membership shall be open to:

- 5.1. Active members being:
 - 5.1.1. National Societies for the History of Veterinary Medicine. Each country can only be represented by one organization. The Boards of the member-Societies undertake to disseminate to their individual members information on matters of general interest concerning the Association. Members of a member-Society are automatically non-registered member of the Association;
 - 5.1.2. Individual persons from countries where a National Society does not exist;
 - 5.1.3. Individual persons from countries where a National Society does exist, but who prefer an individual membership, irrespective if their National Society is a member of the Association.

Member-Societies and individual members of the Association under the provision of the previous Constitution retain their membership rights.

- 5.2. Honorary members, including any honorary president, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the promotion of the history of veterinary medicine and/or service to the Association;
- 5.3. Associate members such as veterinary schools, scientific institutions, professional organizations, libraries, museums and boards of scientific journals;

5.4. Affiliated members such as private enterprises with interest in the history of veterinary medicine;

5.5. Application for membership shall be sent to the secretariat of the Association by letter, which should include:

- for a National Society: name and mailing address of the Society as well as a list of names and addresses of its Board members and the number of its full members;
- for individual members: name and address, profession and position;
- for associate and affiliated members: name, address and objectives of their organizations.

Applications will be considered by the Board at its earliest convenience. Accepted membership becomes effective after receipt of the annual subscription by cheque or other proof of payment.

5.6. Membership shall expire:

- in case of dissolution of a member-Society, associate or affiliated member-organization; in case of death of an individual member;
- by declaration of withdrawal in writing to the secretariat of the Association, at least three months before the ending of the financial year of the Association;
- by not abiding by the Constitution of the Association;
- by exclusion decided at a General Assembly meeting, with a two thirds majority of the authorized voting rights present. A vote of termination may only be taken after the member under discussion has had the opportunity to defend his case;

Re-admission of a member may be considered by the General Assembly, provided that the member has met all his outstanding obligations to the Association.

5.7. Subscription:

- Each member shall pay an annual subscription, the rate of which shall be determined by the General Assembly, based on the recommendation of the Board. The subscription shall be paid before the 1st April of the current financial year, which runs from 1st January to the following 31st December;
- The subscription of a National Society shall be based on the number of full members of that Society; therefore, each Society shall submit annually to the Treasurer of the Association, the number of full members on the 1st January of the current financial year, together with the payment of its subscription;
- If in arrears with payment of subscription, a member loses his voting-rights at die General Assembly meeting or may be suspended by the Board for a given period;
- Exemption of payment may be permitted to members at the discretion of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 6 - ORGANS

The organs of the Association are:

- the General Assembly of members;
- the Liaison Committee;
- the Board.

Each of these organs may decide to set up subcommittees when considered necessary.

ARTICLE 7 - THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

7.1. The General Assembly of members is the highest organ of the Association, both in terms of legislation and decision making. The Assembly is composed of active members, honorary members and representatives of associate and affiliated members.

The General Assembly shall decide whether non-members of the Association may be permitted to be present at the meeting in an observer-status.

The General Assembly shall meet at least every two years. In those years, in which a World Veterinary Congress takes place, a meeting of the Association may be held at the same time and place as the Congress.

Each General Assembly meeting shall be preceded by a meeting of the Liaison Committee under the guidance of the Board.

The President of the Association shall preside over the General Assembly meeting; in case of his absence, this task will be carried out by the Vice/Incoming President. In the absence of the Vice/Incoming President, the Secretary will replace the President.

In his or her absence, the duties of the Secretary/Treasurer will be carried out by any other board member present.

- 7.2. The General Assembly shall receive and approve reports of the Board, among these the annual report(s) of the Association.

The General Assembly has to adopt the agenda of the meeting which has been prepared and distributed at least one month in advance by the Board and which should also include proposals made by any number of members.

- 7.3. The minutes of the previous meeting of the General Assembly shall be discussed for adoption and subsequently be signed by the President and Secretary. A copy of the minutes shall be sent to the secretariat of the World Veterinary Association.

- 7.4. The General Assembly shall receive and has to approve the financial reports of the previous year(s), the accounts and the budget submitted by the Board. For this purpose, the General Assembly appoints in advance two auditors to review the accounts of the financial year(s), preceding the General Assembly meeting. Each auditor shall be in office for two consecutive meetings; one of them shall be newly elected at each meeting. The auditors shall report the results of the auditing to the General Assembly and shall propose the exoneration of the

Treasurer, there being no objections.

- 7.5. The General Assembly shall discuss the workplan of the Association for the coming year(s), as prepared by the Board.
- 7.6. The General Assembly shall determine the subscription of the various classes of membership for the following financial year(s).
- 7.7. The General Assembly shall elect the Board members of the Association and the individual members of the Liaison Committee.
- 7.8. The General Assembly may elect an individual person to become Honorary President or an Honorary Member of the Association, either at the proposal of the Board or at the substantiated proposal of a member of the Association. A proposal from a member shall be addressed to the secretariat at least two months prior to the next General Assembly meeting. Election as Honorary President / Honorary Member requires a two thirds majority of the authorized voting rights present.
- 7.9. The General Assembly meeting shall determine the time and place of the next General Assembly meeting(s).
- 7.10. In the interval between two General Assembly meetings, the General Assembly authorizes the Board to conduct all business of the Association.
- 7.11. An International Congress or any other type of international scientific meeting shall be held in conjunction with a General Assembly meeting. The main theme(s) of the congress / meeting shall be selected in advance, preferably during a previous General Assembly meeting. The organization and administration of the congress / meeting is the responsibility of the National Society or National Veterinary Organization of the host-country, in consent with the Board.
- 7.12. The General Assembly shall deal with any other business listed on the agenda.
- 7.13. An extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall be held upon request of the Board, or when at least one third of the member-Societies with a minimum of three submits a motion by registered mail to the secretariat, stating the topic(s) of deliberation.

- 7.14. The National Societies shall, within the framework of the General Assembly / International Congress, present a report on their activities in the preceding period.

ARTICLE 8 - THE LIAISON COMMITTEE

- 8.1. The Liaison Committee shall consist of:
- 8.1.1. One representative nominated by each subscribing National Society;
 - 8.1.2. Individual active members of the Association, elected by the General Assembly. They will serve for a term of four years. Re-election for one more term is permissible.

Immediately after nomination or election has taken place, a newly appointed member of the Liaison Committee shall take office.

- 8.2. The Liaison Committee is responsible for the promotion, initiation and coordination of scientific activities and/or other assignments of the Association under the authority of the General Assembly.

Other duties of the Liaison Committee are:

- to prepare the forthcoming General Assembly meeting;
- to nominate new members of the Bord when vacancies arise;
- to nominate individual active members of the Liaison Committee.

- 8.3. In addition, any member of the Association has the right to propose a person as individual active member of the Liaison Committee. Such a proposal shall be addressed to the secretariat of the Association, at least two months prior to the next General Assembly meeting.
- 8.4. The Liaison Committee shall meet at regular intervals but at least preceding a General Assembly meeting.
- 8.5. An extraordinary meeting of the Liaison Committee shall be held upon request of the Board, or when at least one-third of the members of the Liaison Committee with a minimum of three members submit a motion by registered mail to the secretariat, stating the topic(s) of deliberation.
- 8.6. The President of the Association or his/her representative shall preside at all meetings of the Liaison Committee.

The Secretary of the Association or his representative serves as Secretary of the Liaison Committee.

ARTICLE 9 - THE BOARD

- 9.1. The Board shall consist of a maximum of eight members. The Board is the executive and administrative organ of the Association and shall consist of:
- 9.1.1. The President;
 - 9.1.2. The Vice/Incoming President;
 - 9.1.3. The Past President;
 - 9.1.4. The Secretary/Treasurer,
 - 9.1.5. One to three Board members,
 - 9.1.6. One representative of the country hosting the next Congress / General Assembly meeting.

The Secretary/Treasurer preferably originates from the same country or region as the President. One of the Board members preferably serves as Incoming Secretary/Treasurer.

- 9.2. Not more than three representatives of a National Society and/or nationality shall be appointed to the Board of Directors.
- 9.3. A representative of the National Society or National Veterinary Organization of the country in which the next General Assembly meeting / International Congress or meeting will be held, may be elected to the Board on a temporary basis. His/her membership ends after the specific event has taken place.
- 9.4. The President, Vice/Incoming President, Secretary/Treasurer and Board members shall be elected by the General Assembly to serve for a term of four years. The former President may be elected by the General Assembly as Past President for a four years term. Re-election for one more term in the same function is permissible.
Nominations for new Board members will be presented by the Liaison Committee and/or the Board.
In addition, any active member of the Association has the right to nominate new Board members to the secretariat when vacancies arise, at least two months prior to the meeting in which the voting takes place.
- 9.5. If a Board member withdraws before his/her term is up, a by-election at

the next General Assembly meeting shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

- 9.6. Immediately after an election has taken place, the Board in its new composition will take office. Retiring Board members shall be relieved of their duties. In case the Secretary/Treasurer retires, he/she shall be relieved after completion of all his/her secretarial and financial responsibilities for the previous period, to the satisfaction of the Board.
- 9.7. The Board of Directors is responsible
- to conduct all business of the Association in the interval between two General Assembly meetings;
 - to execute the decisions of the previous General Assembly meeting, while reporting the results to the next meeting;
 - to prepare the General Assembly meetings. Members have to be informed by letter at least six months prior to a scheduled meeting about date and place, while the agenda has to be distributed at least one month in advance,
 - to take any appropriate step and/or decision on matters concerning the Association, which arise in between two General Assembly meetings, the Board shall inform the members about these steps/decisions as soon as convenient;
 - to prepare the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Liaison Committee for distribution at least one month in advance.
- 9.8. The President or his/her nominee shall represent the Association.
- 9.9. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Liaison Committee and the Board. The Vice/Incoming President shall replace the President in the event of the latter being unable to act.
- 9.10. The Secretary shall perform all secretarial duties, execute the decisions of the Liaison Committee and/or Board and prepare the annual reports of the Association.
- 9.11. The Secretary shall forward documents to the members in order to keep them informed about the activities of the Association, the Liaison

Committee and/or the Board and conduct correspondence on all matters of concern to the Association.

- 9.12. The Treasurer shall act as cashier of the Association, collect the annual subscriptions, render an annual account of the income and expences of the Association and pay the expences of the secretariat. He/she elaborates an annual budget of income and expenditures in accordance with the items approved by the General Assembly and reports on the results of the previous financial year(s).

ARTICLE 10 - VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTIONS

- 10.1. Voting rights are restricted to

- member-Societies which are officially represented at the General Assembly meeting in which the voting takes place;
- individual active members of the Association who are not a member of an officially represented member-Society;
- honorary members.

- 10.2. Unless otherwise determined in this Constitution, decisions are made by simple majority. In case of equality of votes, the President shall have a casting vote.

Voting shall take place by a show of hands; voting about persons shall always be done by secret ballot. A postal ballot may be carried out when required.

- 10.3. Official delegates representing member Societies have the following number of votes, depending on the number of full members which they represent:

Number of members	Number of votes
1 - 25	1
26 - 50	2
51 - 100	3
101 - 150	4
151 - 200	5
more than 200	6

- 10.4. A National Society loses its voting rights at a General Assembly meeting when it has not paid its annual subscription and/or has not submitted the number of its full members for the financial year in which the voting is held, and/or for any previous financial year.
- 10.5. Members of a member-Society which is not officially represented at the General Assembly meeting or has lost its voting rights, together have one collective vote.
- 10.6. Individual members of the Association from a country where a National Society does not (yet) exist, or when in existence, is not a member of the Association, together have one collective vote.
- 10.7. The quorum for elections in a General Assembly meeting shall be the number of authorized voting rights present, with a minimum of one quarter of the total number of actual voting rights within the Association.

ARTICLE 11 - OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

- 11.1. The official language of the Association is the English language.
- 11.2. Contributions to an International Congress and/or scientific meeting may be presented in another language than English, provided that the speaker offers an English translation of his/her paper for distribution to the audience. Speakers who wish to speak in another language than English should inform the organizing committee of the congress / meeting upon registration.

ARTICLE 12 - AMENDMENTS ON THE CONSTITUTION

- 12.1. This Constitution can only be amended at a General Assembly meeting.
- 12.2. Any change of the Constitution has to be agreed by a two thirds majority of the authorized voting rights present. The Board must give at least four months notice in advance of the proposed amendment(s) of the Constitution.
- 12.3. Any member has the right to propose an amendment of the Constitution; the proposal should be substantially argued and

submitted to the secretariat by registered mail, not later than six months prior to the next General Assembly meeting.

ARTICLE 13 - DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 13.1. A decision to dissolve the Association can only be taken by the General Assembly.
- 13.2. The dissolution of the Association requires a three quarters majority of the authorized voting rights present. The Board must give at least four months notice of the proposal.
- 13.3. Any member has the right to propose the dissolution of the Association; the proposal should be substantially argued and submitted to the secretariat by registered mail, not later than six months prior to the next General Assembly meeting.
- 13.4. When dissolution has been decided, the assets and financial reserves of the Association shall be handed over to the Executive Organ of the World Veterinary Association, unless the General Assembly determines another destination.

ARTICLE 14 - FINAL ARTICLE

In circumstances not provided for in this Constitution, the Board shall take the appropriate decisions and/or steps. In such circumstances, the Board shall inform the members of the Association of the decisions/steps taken.

This Constitution is based on the 1998 Constitution (President: Drs. A. H. H. M. Mathijssen; Secretary: Dr. P. Leeflang), was amended and adopted by the General Assembly during their meetings on 24th September 2006 at León, Spain, and on 12th September 2008 at Engelberg, Switzerland, and takes precedence over all former Constitutions of the Association.

Prof. Dr. G. Forstenpointner,
President

Prof. Dr. G. Weissengruber,
Secretary