

# **ACADEMY of INTERNAL MEDICINE** **for VETERINARY TECHNICIANS**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE I – Title**

The name of the organization shall be the Academy of Internal Medicine for Veterinary Technicians, hereinafter referred to as the “Academy”.

### **ARTICLE II – Incorporation**

Section 1. The Academy shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington, County of King, as a not-for-profit educational organization operated exclusively for educational purposes specified in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or any corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 2. The term for which it is organized shall be perpetual. However, in the event of dissolution of the Academy, all of the assets and property of the Academy remaining after the proper payment of expenses and the satisfaction of all liabilities shall be distributed to further the tax exempt purposes, within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Code, of the Academy.

Section 3. The Academy is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, and shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Code. The Academy is not formed for pecuniary profit or for financial gain and no part of its assets, income or profit shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, directors, officers or other private persons, except that the Academy shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

No substantial part of the activities of the Academy shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except to the extent permitted by the Code pursuant to an election under Section 501 (h) of the Code or otherwise, and the Academy shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Section 4. The names and addresses of the persons who are the initial trustees of the corporation are as follows:

Name: Linda Merrill, LVT	Address: 6543 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave NE; Seattle, Washington 98115
Name: Robin Sereno, BS, CVT	Address: 4706 American Ash Dr.; Madison, Wisconsin 53704
Name: Shirley Sandoval, RVT	Address: PO Box 116; Palouse, Washington 99161
Name: Darlene Riel, RVT	Address: 1544 Rialto Lane; Davis, CA 95616
Name: Ann Wortinger, LVT, VTS (ECC)	Address: 45760 Dunn Rd; Belleville, Michigan 48111

Section 5. The fiscal and membership year shall be January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

### **ARTICLE III – Statement of Purpose**

The primary objectives of the Academy shall be to advance veterinary technicians working within the disciplines included in veterinary internal medicine and increase the competence of those who perform specialty duties as defined in the Bylaws.

The Academy is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). The primary objective of the Academy shall be to advance veterinary technicians working within the disciplines included in veterinary internal medicine and increase competence of those who perform specialty duties by:

- (a) Promoting interest in and the advanced knowledge and practice standards of technicians in veterinary internal medicine;

- (b) Establishing prerequisite requirements for education and experience prior to certification in the specialties of internal medicine for veterinary technicians;
- (c) Administering examinations and certifying veterinary technicians as specialists in Veterinary Internal Medicine;
- (d) Promoting continued professional development as an obligation of membership.
- (e) Promoting continuing education and dissemination of knowledge relating to veterinary internal medicine;
- (f) Ensuring the opportunity for the veterinary technician to demonstrate superior knowledge in the care and management of cases within the selected discipline of the specialty of Internal Medicine when credentialed as a VTS (Internal Medicine); and
- (g) Conduct any and all lawful activities which may be useful in accomplishing the foregoing purposes.

In furtherance of the foregoing purposes, the Academy shall have all the general powers permitted by the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act and such other powers now or hereafter permitted by law for a corporation organized for the foregoing purposes, including the power to solicit grants and contributions for any corporate purpose.

In any taxable year in which the Academy is a private foundation as described in Section 509(a) of the Code, the Academy shall distribute its income for said period at such time and manner as not to subject it to tax under Section 4942 of the Code, and the Academy shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Section 4941 (d) or the Code, retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943(c) of the Code, make any investments in such manner as to subject the Academy to tax under Section 4944 of the Code, or make any taxable expenditures

as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Code or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws.

## **ARTICLE IV – Membership**

Section 1. A member of the Academy shall be a person who has fulfilled all the requirements of the specialty as stated in the Bylaws AND who has been accepted for membership by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Members of the Academy shall be known as:

- A. Charter Members
- B. Active Members
- C. Lifetime Members
- D. Honorary Members
- E. Foreign members

Section 3. Membership requirements, qualifications and privileges shall be defined in the Bylaws.

Section 4. Members meeting the requirements as defined in the Bylaws, shall be permitted to use the designation Veterinary Technician Specialist (Internal Medicine) or the initials VTS (Internal Medicine) after their name. The name of the specialty in internal medicine will be further defined in the parenthesis as follows:

- A. VTS (Internal Medicine - Small Animal)
- B. VTS (Internal Medicine - Large Animal)
- C. VTS (Internal Medicine - Cardiology)
- D. VTS (Internal Medicine - Oncology)
- E. VTS (Internal Medicine – Neurology)

## **ARTICLE V – Organization**

Section 1. Organizational structure

- A. The Academy of Veterinary Internal Medicine shall be divided into the following areas of specialty:

- 1) Small Animal Internal Medicine
  - 2) Large Animal Internal Medicine
  - 3) Cardiology
  - 4) Oncology
  - 5) Neurology
- B. Each area of specialization shall be under the jurisdiction of the Academy and shall meet all of the requirements set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Academy.
- C. Each area of specialization will be autonomous in its portion of examination as defined in the Bylaws.
- D. Additional areas of specialization for inclusion can be added by 2/3 vote of the Executive Board and majority vote of active members voting under the following conditions:
- 1) The area be recognized as a distinct specialty in the field of veterinary technology
  - 2) That it be appropriate to the Internal Medicine Academy
  - 3) That it be subject to the approval of the Committee on Veterinary Technician Specialties(CVTS) of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA)

## Section 2. Executive Structure

- A. The Academy shall be governed by an Executive Board. The Board is responsible for setting policy and governing the Academy. The Board holds the power to conduct Academy business and to delegate that power as needed to an agent of the Board.
- 1) The Board shall include: Past President, President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and the Directors at Large (one from each specific specialty area).
  - 2) The number of Directors at Large will increase if there is an addition of specialty areas as defined by the Academy.

3) The membership will elect Board members as per the Bylaws of the Association.

B. The position of Executive Director shall be appointed by majority vote of the Executive Board. The term of appointment shall be annual. The position of Executive Director shall be a non-voting position except during the first year, when the Executive Director shall assume the position of Past President.

C. The Executive Council shall include the Executive Director, Past President, President, President-Elect and the Secretary. The Executive Council shall be empowered to make certain decisions as defined in the Bylaws of the Academy.

Section 3. All on the Board shall understand the volunteer, not-for-profit status of the organization and no funds in excess of budgeted amounts shall be allocated for any officer without a majority vote of all Board members.

Section 4. Terms of office, term limits, vacancy, resignation process and removal of office definitions are contained in the Bylaws of the Academy.

## **Article VI – Committees**

Section 1. Authorization. The Academy shall have standing committees as specified within the Bylaws of the Academy and shall have ad hoc committees as determined by the Board.

Section 2. Appointments. The President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, shall appoint chairpersons of all committees.

## **Article VII – Academy Meetings**

Section 1. The Academy shall hold an annual business meeting at such time and place as defined by the Bylaws.

Section 2. The Executive Board must meet quarterly as defined by the Bylaws.

Section 3. Committee meetings will be held as announced by the Chair of the committee and as needed to conduct the business of the committee.

## **Article VIII Amendments**

Proposed amendments to the Constitution can be made by any member, and shall be submitted to the Board for study 90 days prior to a scheduled meeting of the Academy or the distribution of a mail ballot to the membership. The Board shall distribute proposed amendments to the entire membership, with recommendations, at least 30 days prior to counting of mail ballot or a voice vote of the eligible voting members. An affirmative vote shall require a simple majority vote of active members voting.

Adopted November 1, 2004

Revised December 2005

Revised December 2009

Revised January 2010