

THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE
CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
(Current to October 2020)

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We, the veterinarians of California, because we believe in the science and art of veterinary medicine, because we believe in the humane and scientific treatment of all sick and injured animals, because we believe that a highly trained and ethical veterinary profession is vital to the needs of society and its general welfare, and because we believe constant effort is needed to assure that veterinary medicine remains a career which will attract the most competent individuals in our society, do hereby establish this Constitution of the California Veterinary Medical Association.

ARTICLE II

Mission Statement

The CVMA is committed to serving our membership and community through innovative leadership and to improving animal and human health in an ethically and socially responsible manner.

ARTICLE V

House of Delegates

Section 1

There shall be an advisory body known as the House of Delegates of the California Veterinary Medical Association which shall be composed of delegates from officially designated constituent associations. The number, selection, tenure, voting power, duties, and authority of the members of the House of Delegates shall be described in the Bylaws. The House of Delegates shall elect a chairman from among its members to chair its meetings.

ARTICLE II

Section 3. House of Delegates Meetings

- A. The House of Delegates shall meet at least one time in each calendar year and at this meeting reports of the proceedings of the Board of Governors and other offices and committees may be received.
- B. The Chairman of the House of Delegates, or the President of the Association, may call more frequent meetings of the House of Delegates as deemed necessary provided that all members of the House of Delegates are given fifteen (15) days written notice of such meetings and their particular objectives.

ARTICLE IV

Association Groups

Section 1

Upon adoption of these Articles the following association groups, with their indicated boundaries, shall be designated as constituent associations of the California Veterinary Medical Association. Other non-geographic constituent associations shall be officially designated by the Board of Governors.

Geographic

Constituent Associations

Boundaries

Alameda	Alameda County
Antelope Valley	Those portions of Los Angeles and Kern Counties referred to as Antelope Valley
Central California	Fresno and Madera Counties
Contra Costa County	Contra Costa County
Delta	Those portions of San Joaquin County and Sacramento County that include the cities of Stockton, Lodi, Lockeford, and Galt
Eastern Sierra	Inyo and Mono Counties
Humboldt-Del Norte	Del Norte and Humboldt Counties
Kern County	Kern County
Marin County	Marin County
Mendo-Lake	Lake and Mendocino Counties
Merced-Mariposa	Merced and Mariposa Counties
Mid-Coast	Northern Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties
Monterey Bay	Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties
Mother Lode	El Dorado and Placer Counties
Napa-Solano	Napa and Solano Counties
North Valley	Butte, Colusa, Nevada, Plumas, Sutter and Yuba Counties
Northern California	Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity Counties
Northern San Joaquin	Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties
Orange Belt	Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties
Peninsula	San Mateo County
Redwood Empire	Sonoma County

Sacramento Valley	Sacramento and Yolo Counties
San Diego County	San Diego County
San Francisco	San Francisco County & City of San Francisco
Santa Barbara-Ventura	Southern Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties
Santa Clara Valley	Santa Clara County
Southern California	Los Angeles and Orange Counties
Tulare-Kings	Kings and Tulare Counties

Non-Geographic Constituent Associations

Registered Veterinary Technicians	All Registered Veterinary Technicians certified by the State of California as such, who are CVMA members.
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Equine Veterinarians	Those veterinarians employed in the study or practice of equine medicine who do not choose to affiliate with one of the other constituent associations shall be considered Equine Veterinarians.
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CVMA members residing in a geographic constituent association may choose to assign their vote to a non-geographic constituent association.

Food Animal Veterinarians	Those veterinarians employed in the study or practice of food animal medicine who do not choose to affiliate with one of the other constituent associations shall be considered Food Animal Veterinarians.
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CVMA members residing in a geographic constituent association may choose to assign their vote to a non-geographic constituent association.

Holistic Veterinarians	Those veterinarians employed in the study or practice of holistic medicine who do not choose to affiliate with one of the other constituent associations shall be considered Holistic Veterinarians.
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CVMA members residing in a geographic constituent association may choose to assign their vote to a non-geographic constituent association.

Lab Animal Veterinarians	Those veterinarians employed in the study or practice of lab animal medicine who do not choose to affiliate with one of the other constituent associations shall be considered Lab Animal Veterinarians.
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CVMA members residing in a geographic constituent association may choose to assign their vote to a non-geographic constituent association.

Public Service Veterinarians

All veterinarians employed by federal, state, city or county governments, including military veterinarians on active duty, who do not choose to affiliate with one of the geographic constituent associations listed above, shall be considered Public Service Veterinarians.

CVMA members residing in a geographic constituent association may choose to assign their vote to a non-geographic constituent association.

Shelter Veterinarians

Those veterinarians employed in the study or practice of shelter medicine who do not choose to affiliate with one of the other constituent associations shall be considered California Shelter Veterinarians.

CVMA members residing in a geographic constituent association may choose to assign their vote to a non-geographic constituent association.

AVMA Accredited Veterinary School Veterinarians in California

Veterinarians employed at any AVMA accredited veterinary school in California who do not choose to affiliate with another constituent association.

CVMA members residing in a geographic constituent association may choose to assign their vote to a non-geographic constituent association.

Veterinary Students

Any student regularly enrolled in professional Veterinary curriculum at any school within the State of California, which is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association to confer the degree of Doctor of Veterinary medicine or an equivalent degree in veterinary medicine, and whose ethical and moral qualifications comply with this Constitution and Bylaws, and who are CVMA student members.

Section 2

A geographic constituent association shall be bounded by a county or combination of adjacent county boundaries, or shall be bounded by as may otherwise be designated by the Board of Governors upon the advice of the House of Delegates.

Section 3

The California Veterinary Medical Association encourages the formation of non-geographic constituent associations that are consistent with the California Veterinary Medical Association's purpose of furthering the science and art of veterinary medicine. In order to facilitate that purpose, all non-geographic constituent associations shall be constituted based upon a professional veterinary

practice area subset or similar professional, employment, or student designation. Groups that are constituted on a social, recreational, lifestyle, ethnic, religious, or similar basis shall not be considered by the California Veterinary Medical Association for status as a non-geographic constituent organization.

Section 4

Any individual member of the California Veterinary Medical Association may be affiliated with one or more constituent associations of the California Veterinary Medical Association as the member chooses. However, if a member belongs to more than one constituent association, that member must certify in writing to the Executive Director of the California Veterinary Medical Association to which association the member wishes his/her vote to be assigned insofar as representation with the House of Delegates is concerned.

Section 5

Any group that wishes to join the California Veterinary Medical Association as a constituent association must first petition the California Veterinary Medical Association for approval through its Board of Governors, in writing, of its intent. In conjunction with that petition, the group must then submit a list of no less than twenty-five (25) existing individual members of the California Veterinary Medical Association, each of whom is required to personally sign a letter indicating desire for the formation of the new constituent association.

Section 6

Notwithstanding the language of the second sentence of Section 5 above, a new geographic constituent association may be formed with fewer than twenty-five (25) members within the boundary of a multiple-county contiguous association, provided this proposed constituent association totally encompasses the boundaries of two or more counties and maintains a minimum of ten (10) individual members of the California Veterinary Medical Association. This type of association would have a minimum of one (1) vote in the House of Delegates.

Section 7

Upon receipt of a conforming petition under Section 5 (and, if applicable, Section 6), the Board of Governors shall conduct a vote to determine whether to grant constituent association status to the petitioning group. If a simple majority of the members of the Board of Governors vote to grant such status, then the petitioning group shall be recognized as a constituent association, and be accorded the rights and privileges associated therewith, effective immediately.

Section 8

In order to continue designation as a constituent association, that association must maintain at least twenty (20) bona fide voting members of the California Veterinary Medical Association except as noted in Section 6 above.

Section 9

Veterinarians of any AVMA accredited veterinary school(s) in California shall be represented by their own constituent association Delegate or Alternate Delegate in the House of Delegates and shall have voting rights in the House of Delegates as hereinafter defined.

The Public Service veterinarians shall be represented by a constituent association Delegate or Alternate Delegate in the House of Delegates and shall have voting rights in the House of Delegates as hereinafter defined.

Registered Veterinary Technicians shall be represented by a constituent association Delegate or Alternate Delegate in the House of Delegates and shall have voting rights in the House of Delegates as hereinafter defined.

California Equine veterinarians shall be represented by a constituent association Delegate or Alternate Delegate in the House of Delegates and shall have voting rights in the House of Delegates as hereinafter defined.

California Food Animal veterinarians shall be represented by a constituent association Delegate or Alternate Delegate in the House of Delegates and shall have voting rights in the House of Delegates as hereinafter defined.

California Holistic veterinarians shall be represented by a constituent association Delegate or Alternate Delegate in the House of Delegates and shall have voting rights in the House of Delegates as hereinafter defined.

California Lab Animal Medicine veterinarians shall be represented by a constituent association Delegate or Alternate Delegate in the House of Delegates and shall have voting rights in the House of Delegates as hereinafter defined.

California Shelter veterinarians shall be represented by a constituent association Delegate or Alternate Delegate in the House of Delegates and shall have voting rights in the House of Delegates as hereinafter defined.

The veterinary students of each AVMA accredited veterinary school in California shall be represented by their own constituent association Delegate or Alternate Delegate in the House of Delegates and shall have voting rights in the House of Delegates as hereinafter defined.

ARTICLE V

House of Delegates

Section 1

There shall be an advisory body to the Board of Governors of the Association known as the House of Delegates.

The House of Delegates shall be composed of representatives elected from constituent associations within the State of California, which are recognized by the Association.

The number, selection, and tenure of the members of the House of Delegates shall be specified in the Bylaws of the Association.

Section 2

The House of Delegates shall serve as an advisory body to the Board of Governors on matters of local and regional interest to members of the Association and on matters of policy affecting the practice of veterinary medicine and its branches.

Section 3

The House of Delegates may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members, initiate recall proceedings against one or more members of the Board of Governors for good cause shown.

Section 4

The House of Delegates shall serve as liaison between the members of the Association and Board of Governors for purposes of the communication of suggestions relative to the rules and regulations which the Board of Governors may promulgate on matters of professional responsibility and ethics.

Section 5

The House of Delegates shall have the right, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members to veto, overrule, challenge or recommend revisions of any and all decisions made by the Board of Governors at any regular or special meeting.

Section 6

The House of Delegates may meet at least once each year with the Board of Governors to discuss and consider matters of general or extraordinary interest to the members of the Association.

Section 7

The recommendations of the House of Delegates are advisory and not binding upon the Board of Governors except as otherwise set forth in Article V, Section 5 of these Bylaw.

Section 8

The Board of Governors may call upon the House of Delegates for assistance in the performance of the Board's duties and in such event, the House of Delegates shall be deemed a committee of the Association and subject to the provisions of the Bylaws.

Section 9

Each constituent association Delegate, in addition to being a member of the House of Delegates, will also represent his/her constituent association as an advisor to the Board member or members serving his/her particular area.

Section 10

The House of Delegates is, in principle, the voice of the constituent associations. Its vote on any other matter relative to the practice of veterinary medicine, carried out in accordance with customary parliamentary procedure, shall be deemed a recommendation to the Board of Governors calling for

implementation thereof, provided that the implementation thereof is consistent with the best interests of the people of the State of California.

ARTICLE VI

House of Delegates Representation

Section 1

- A. Each of the constituent associations granted representation in accordance with Article IV, Section 1, of the Bylaws shall be represented by Delegates and Alternate Delegates as follows:
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|-----|-----------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1. | 20-150 | CVMA members | 1 Delegate | 1 Alternate Delegate |
| 2. | 151-300 | CVMA members | 2 Delegates | 2 Alternate Delegates |
| 3. | 301-450 | CVMA members | 3 Delegates | 3 Alternate Delegates |
| 4. | 451-600 | CVMA members | 4 Delegates | 4 Alternate Delegates |
| 5. | 601-750 | CVMA members | 5 Delegates | 5 Alternate Delegates |
| 6. | 751-900 | CVMA members | 6 Delegates | 6 Alternate Delegates |
| 7. | 901-1050 | CVMA members | 7 Delegates | 7 Alternate Delegates |
| 8. | 1051-1200 | CVMA members | 8 Delegates | 8 Alternate Delegates |
| 9. | 1201-1350 | CVMA members | 9 Delegates | 9 Alternate Delegates |
| 10. | 1351-1500 | CVMA members | 10 Delegates | 10 Alternate Delegates |
- B. Veterinary students at UC Davis and Western University shall have one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate Delegate representative for each class.
- C. Should constituent associations become larger, they shall be represented at the ratio of one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate Delegate for each one hundred-fifty (150) Association members.
- D. The number of delegates and alternate delegates representing a non-geographic constituent association shall not exceed the number representing the largest geographic constituent association.

Section 2

Delegates shall be elected or appointed by the constituent associations for membership in the House of Delegates for no more than three (3) terms of two (2) years each. The three (3) terms limitation provided for herein is applicable whether such terms were consecutive or otherwise. Exception to this limitation may be made when proposed by the constituent association and approved by the Board of Governors.

Alternate Delegates shall be elected or appointed by constituent associations for membership in the House of Delegates for no more than three (3) terms of two (2) years each. The three (3) terms limitation provided for herein is applicable whether such terms were consecutive or otherwise. Exception to this limitation may be made when proposed by the constituent association and approved by the Board of Governors.

Section 3

The number of Active Members in each constituent association shall be determined on a current basis from the records of the Association and shall be certified by the Executive Director sixty (60) days before the next recognized meeting of the House of Delegates.

Association members are limited to affiliation with only one (1) constituent association for purposes of representation as stated in Article IV, Section 3.

Section 4

Each Delegate representing a constituent association shall have a weighted vote determined as follows:

- A. One (1) vote for each 15 (fifteen) Association members or major fraction thereof.
- B. No single Delegate or Alternate Delegate shall represent more than one hundred-fifty (150) Association members nor have more than 10 (ten) votes.
- C. Alternate Delegates shall vote only in the absence of the Delegate for whom he/she is the Alternate Delegate, or as otherwise provided.
- D. When the delegation from a constituent association consists of more than one Delegate, the weighted vote of each Delegate of that delegation shall be apportioned as equally as possible among the delegation on the basis of one (1) vote for each fifteen (15) members or major fraction thereof.

Section 5

Delegates representing sixty percent (60%) of the total weighted votes of the House of Delegates, as designated in these Bylaws, of the House of Delegates shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6

All Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be members in good standing of the Association.

Section 7

- A. Special meetings shall be held upon written petition of five percent (5%) of the members of the Association presented to the presiding officer of the House of Delegates and filed with the Executive Director stating the place, time of the meeting, and the purpose for which such meeting is called.
- B. Special meetings shall also be held on the written petition of twenty-five percent (25%) of the members of the House of Delegates in accordance with the procedures described immediately above. The time of said special meeting and the notice given to the members of the House of Delegates shall be in conformance with the applicable California Nonprofit Corporations Law provisions.
- C. The Executive Director shall issue a special bulletin to the entire House of Delegates membership not less than fifteen (15) days before the meeting, outlining the reason for the

special meeting and the proposed business specified in the petition. Only business specified in the petition shall be considered at a special meeting.

- D. All meetings of the House of Delegates shall be open to all CVMA members and invitees unless a majority of the Delegates present and voting or the House of Delegates executive committee determine that the meeting shall be either a closed or an executive meeting as hereinafter defined.
- E. Closed meetings may be attended only by members of the Association and members of its staff and any invitees as determined by the House of Delegates Chairman and/or the President of the Association.
- F. Executive meetings are those which are attended only by Delegates, Officers, and Governors and by such employees of the Association and of the House of Delegates and Board of Governors who, in the opinion of the chairman, are necessary for the functioning of the House.
- G. All meetings of the House of Delegates shall be conducted as specified in Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition.
- H. Upon installation as Chairman, a new Delegate shall be elected to complete the term on the House of Delegates as representative of the constituent association formerly represented by the Chairman.

Section 8

The voting members of the House shall convene as needed as a Nominating Committee for the purpose of nominating candidates for the office of Chairman-Elect to succeed or perform the duties of the Chairman in the event of the Chairman's absence or inability to serve or conduct the affairs of the House of Delegates.

It shall also be the duty of the Chairman-Elect to succeed the out-going Chairman of the House of Delegates and assume the duties of that office for a term of two (2) years. The Chairman-Elect candidate shall have a minimum of 18 months remaining in his/her term in order to be eligible for the position of the House of Delegates Chairman-Elect.

The term of office of the House of Delegates Chairman shall be limited to one two-year term.

Section 5

- A. The voting members of the House of Delegates shall convene as needed, to fill a vacancy for the office of Chairman-Elect of the House of Delegates.
- B. A Delegate of the House of Delegates shall be nominated for offices of the Chairman and Chairman-Elect of the House of Delegates unless otherwise prohibited by these Bylaws.
- C. The nomination of a Delegate as candidate for the office of Chairman-Elect shall be by oral declaration. At least two (2) Delegates must sponsor the nomination of a Delegate for said office. Upon closing of nominations, the election shall proceed immediately by secret ballot.

- D. In the event that there is only a single nominee for said office, and said nominee has been nominated in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Director or her/his designee shall be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot.
- E. In the event that there is more than one (1) nominee for the elective office, the election shall proceed in the House of Delegates by secret ballot and the results shall be canvassed by the Executive Director or her/his designee.
- F. To be declared elected, a nominee must receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast.
- G. In the event that no nominee receives more than fifty percent (50%) of votes cast, a new election shall be held between the two (2) nominees receiving the highest numerical vote.
- H. Election results shall be published in the first issue, subsequent to the balloting, of the official publication of the Association.
- I. Installation of the Chairman and the Chairman-Elect shall take place at the first regular meeting following election.
- J. The House of Delegates shall, in the event that the Chairman-Elect is unable for any reason whatsoever to perform the duties of office, elect a successor from the membership of the House of Delegates.
- K. Upon installation as Chairman-Elect, the Association which the Delegate represents shall elect a new Delegate who shall assume the term of office when the Chairman-Elect is installed as House of Delegates Chairman.

Section 6

- A. In the event that any member of the House of Delegates is unable to serve a full term, the constituent association shall elect or appoint a Delegate to fulfill the vacancy.
- B. This election shall be accomplished within 60 days from the date of the creation of the vacancy.

Section 7

- A. The American Veterinary Medical Association delegate and alternate delegate shall be elected by the Board of Governors at the meeting prior to the AVMA annual meeting and shall serve for a term of four (4) years to expire immediately after the AVMA annual meeting of that calendar year, or until a successor has been elected and qualified. No delegate or alternate delegate shall each serve more than two (2) consecutive complete terms of office, except as necessary to satisfy this section. After serving such a maximum term, a one-term break in service is required before a person may be considered for election as delegate or alternate delegate.
- B. Nominees shall apply in writing to the Executive Director's office not less than seven (7) days prior to the regular meeting at which such elections are held.

- C. In the event that there is only a single nominee for the office of Delegate or Alternate Delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association, and said nominee has been nominated in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Director shall be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot.
- D. In the event that there is more than one (1) nominee for such elective office, the election shall be determined by secret ballot and the results shall be canvassed by the Executive Director.
- E. To be declared elected, a nominee must receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast by the Board of Governors.
- F. In the event that no nominee receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast, a new election shall be held between the two (2) nominees receiving the highest numerical vote.
- G. Election results shall be published in the first issue, subsequent to the balloting, of the official publication of the Association.

ARTICLE XIV

Section 5

- A. The voting members of the House of Delegates shall convene as needed, to fill a vacancy for the office of Chairman-Elect of the House of Delegates.
- B. A Delegate of the House of Delegates shall be nominated for offices of the Chairman and Chairman-Elect of the House of Delegates unless otherwise prohibited by these Bylaws.
- C. The nomination of a Delegate as candidate for the office of Chairman-Elect shall be by oral declaration. At least two (2) Delegates must sponsor the nomination of a Delegate for said office. Upon closing of nominations, the election shall proceed immediately by secret ballot.
- D. In the event that there is only a single nominee for said office, and said nominee has been nominated in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Director or her/his designee shall be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot.
- E. In the event that there is more than one (1) nominee for the elective office, the election shall proceed in the House of Delegates by secret ballot and the results shall be canvassed by the Executive Director or her/his designee.
- F. To be declared elected, a nominee must receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast.
- G. In the event that no nominee receives more than fifty percent (50%) of votes cast, a new election shall be held between the two (2) nominees receiving the highest numerical vote.
- H. Election results shall be published in the first issue, subsequent to the balloting, of the official publication of the Association.
- I. Installation of the Chairman and the Chairman-Elect shall take place at the first regular meeting following election.

- J. The House of Delegates shall, in the event that the Chairman-Elect is unable for any reason whatsoever to perform the duties of office, elect a successor from the membership of the House of Delegates.
- K. Upon installation as Chairman-Elect, the Association which the Delegate represents shall elect a new Delegate who shall assume the term of office when the Chairman-Elect is installed as House of Delegates Chairman.

Section 6

- A. In the event that any member of the House of Delegates is unable to serve a full term, the constituent association shall elect or appoint a Delegate to fulfill the vacancy.
- B. This election shall be accomplished within 60 days from the date of the creation of the vacancy.

Section 7

- A. The American Veterinary Medical Association delegate and alternate delegate shall be elected by the Board of Governors at the meeting prior to the AVMA annual meeting and shall serve for a term of four (4) years to expire immediately after the AVMA annual meeting of that calendar year, or until a successor has been elected and qualified. No delegate or alternate delegate shall each serve more than two (2) consecutive complete terms of office, except as necessary to satisfy this section. After serving such a maximum term, a one-term break in service is required before a person may be considered for election as delegate or alternate delegate.
- B. Nominees shall apply in writing to the Executive Director's office not less than seven (7) days prior to the regular meeting at which such elections are held.
- D. In the event that there is only a single nominee for the office of Delegate or Alternate Delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association, and said nominee has been nominated in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Director shall be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot.
- D. In the event that there is more than one (1) nominee for such elective office, the election shall be determined by secret ballot and the results shall be canvassed by the Executive Director.
- E. To be declared elected, a nominee must receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast by the Board of Governors.
- F. In the event that no nominee receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes cast, a new election shall be held between the two (2) nominees receiving the highest numerical vote.
- G. Election results shall be published in the first issue, subsequent to the balloting, of the official publication of the Association.