



Constitution of the
American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians
Revised 2025

ARTICLE I - TITLE

The Association shall be known as the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians hereafter referred to as the Association.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Association are:

Objective 1 - To enhance the contribution of veterinary medicine to the health, conservation, and welfare of wildlife.

Objective 2 - To encourage an increased emphasis throughout the veterinary profession relative to the health, conservation, welfare, and management of free-ranging species.

Objective 3 - To encourage the recognition of wildlife disease / health syndromes in their broadest sense as potentially influenced by environmental threats.

Objective 4 – To educate and collaborate with governmental agencies, legislators, and other stakeholders about the importance of free-ranging animal health and the services which can be provided by wildlife veterinarians.

Objective 5 – To stress the importance of the inherent, interdependent relationships among people, domestic animals, wildlife, and the environment.

Objective 6 - To help establish and encourage educational programs for students and veterinarians interested in the management and health of wildlife.

Objective 7 - To promote diversity, equity, and inclusion at all levels of the veterinary medical profession, and throughout the field of wildlife health, management, and research.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERS

Section 1

Veterinarian Members - Membership is open to graduates of colleges or schools of veterinary medicine who support the objectives of the Association and who have paid their annual dues in the current calendar year.

Section 2

Student Members - Membership is open to students currently enrolled in a college, university, or a school of veterinary medicine whose professional programs support the objectives of the Association and who have paid their annual dues in the current calendar year. Veterinarians currently enrolled at least half-time in a post-graduate degree program, internship, or residency program who support the objectives of the Association and who have paid their annual dues in the current calendar year are also eligible.

Section 3

Subscribing Members - Membership is open to individuals who do not qualify for Veterinarian or Student membership but support the objectives of the Association and have paid their annual dues in the current calendar year.

Section 4

Other Members - The Bylaws may also provide for and/or be amended to specify qualifications for other classes of membership in the Association.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1

Number - The officers of the Association shall be a President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as the Bylaws may specify.

Section 2

Qualifications - All officers shall be Veterinarian Members of the Association and have paid their annual dues in the calendar year.

Section 3

Election and Terms - A President, President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected for two-year terms and shall serve until the end of the end of the calendar year in which their successor was elected, unless unable or unwilling to fulfill the responsibilities specified in the Bylaws as determined by a majority of the Board of Governors.

Section 4

Successor to the President - If the President dies, resigns, or is otherwise removed from office, the President-elect shall immediately become President and shall serve in such capacity until the next regularly scheduled election. If more than 6 months remain in the President-elect's term, the Board of Governors may temporarily assign the President-elect's duties to another member and hold a special election.

ARTICLE V - BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors shall consist of the President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Advisory Council Chair (immediate Past-President) and shall be the administrative body of the Association.

ARTICLE VI - ADVISORY COUNCIL

Section 1

Duties - The Advisory Council shall be the advisory group to the Board of Governors.

Section 2

Qualifications and Appointment - The Advisory Council shall be chaired by the immediate Past-President. The Chair will appoint an additional three to seven members-at-large, one of which being the Student Representative. All Advisory Council members shall be members in the Association.

Section 3

Term - The term of the Chair shall be two years or until a new Past-President is designated by election. Advisory Council members shall serve by appointment through the presidential term during which they were appointed, unless otherwise outlined in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII - STUDENT CHAPTERS

A student organization in a college or school of veterinary medicine may be granted affiliation with the Association by the Board of Governors upon fulfillment of the requirements outlined in the "Guideline for Student Chapters" and receipt of a written request from the organization's designated faculty advisor and Chapter representative (current Student member). The number of students in the chapter that are required to be members in the Association shall be outlined in the "Guidelines for Student Chapters".

ARTICLE VIII - ANNUAL MEETING

The Association shall convene annually in accordance with provisions of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

The membership may amend this Constitution by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by eligible members at an annual meeting, or by two-thirds majority of an anonymous electronic ballot distributed to all eligible members, provided that the proposed amendment(s) have been introduced at the preceding annual meeting or sent to eligible members at least 60 days prior to the closing date of the vote. Voting eligibility across classes of membership shall be outlined in the Bylaws.