CONSTITUTION

OF THE

EUROPEAN COLLEGE

OF

POULTRY VETERINARY SCIENCE

(ECPVS)

November 2008
Name and Structure

Article 1.

1.1. The name of the organisation shall be: The European College of Poultry Veterinary Science, hereafter referred to as the "College".

1.2. The College shall be a part of the transnational structure for veterinary specialisation in the European Union (E.U.), as recommended by the Advisory Committee for Veterinary Training (ACVT) of the European Community, set up by the Board Decision 78/1028/EEC of 18 December 1978 and OJ No L 302 of 22 December 1978, in its report document III/F/5285/3/91. The structure includes the Co-ordinating Committee for Veterinary Specialisation (CCVS), the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS), the Supervisory Committees for the specialty, and the Colleges of Specialists.

Duration

Article 2

2.1. The College shall be established for an unlimited period.

2.2. The College year shall run concurrently with the calendar year, subject to the first college year ending on the last day of December of the year in which the College is established.
Objectives

Article 3

3.1. The primary objective of the College shall be to advance poultry veterinary science in Europe and increase the competency of those who practice in this field by:

a) Establishing guidelines and prerequisite standards of postgraduate education, training, contributions to the field and experience to become a Recognised Specialist in the specialty of poultry veterinary science.

b) Examining and authenticating veterinarians as Recognised Specialists in poultry veterinary science to promote the health and welfare of poultry, the production of safe and high quality products for consumers and the economic profitability of the sector by providing expert care, taking into account respect for the environment in view of a sustainable agriculture.

c) Encouraging research and other contributions to the knowledge and practice of poultry veterinary science, and promoting the communication and dissemination of these.

3.2. The College is a non-profit organisation and does not pursue commercial interests. The finances of the College may only be spent in accordance with the constitution. Members or officers of the College shall receive no payment from the funds of the College, except reimbursement of expenses.
Definition of Specialty

Article 4

4.1. The specialty poultry veterinary science is oriented towards poultry kept for commercial production purposes, primarily including the galliformes but also waterfowl, ratites and pigeons. The medicine of pet and wild birds within the specialty of poultry veterinary science is restricted to their role in the epidemiology and pathogenesis of diseases in poultry.

4.2. The Specialist in poultry veterinary science will have a good knowledge and understanding of the aetiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and control of infectious and non-infectious diseases directly or indirectly affecting poultry and the maintenance of healthy poultry flocks. Poultry veterinary science also includes production control systems, quality of poultry products, significance of poultry and poultry products for public health, national and international legislation, disease control programs, and management. The Specialist shall furthermore have working knowledge on zootechnical issues, ethology and welfare, nutrition, husbandry and genetics of poultry.

4.3. The Recognised Specialists shall spend > 50% of their time working at the Specialist level in poultry veterinary science, which shall constitute not less than an average of 20 hours / week.

4.4. The Recognised Specialists shall have adequate facilities for conducting the specialty within their practice or organisation.
Article 5.

5.1. The College shall have the following members:

a) Founder Diplomates
b) Diplomates
c) Honorary Members
d) Non-practising Diplomates

5.2. Founder Diplomates shall be:

a) Invited Specialists as defined in the general scheme of veterinary specialisation. They will be approved by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) on nomination by the Initial Interim Credentials Committee appointed by the First General Meeting, upon the following criteria:

- to be well-known Specialists in the field of poultry veterinary science at the time of invitation
- to be uncontroversial for the majority of future ECPVS members and leading European members of the World Veterinary Poultry Association
- to have substantially contributed to poultry veterinary science by research, peer reviewed publication, practice and lectures
- to have at least 10 years experience in poultry veterinary science, spending ≥75% of the time working at the Specialist level, i.e. at least 30 hours / week.
- to have regularly participated in post graduate courses for purposes of continuing education in the field of poultry veterinary science
- to be author of at least 10 national or international peer reviewed publications from research or practice in the specialty, in journals listed in the Science Citation Index.
- to have presented original work, reviews or practice experiences at scientific and/or educational meetings for an audience of veterinarians at least 10 times
- to work within a professional capacity in Europe
b) Specialists appointed De Facto by the Invited Specialists.

The De Facto appointed Diplomates must fulfil the following criteria at the moment of application:

- to have substantially contributed to poultry veterinary science by research, peer reviewed publication, practice and lectures, and
- to have at least 7 years of experience in poultry veterinary science, spending ≥ 60% of the time working at the specialist level, at least 24 hours / week, and
- to have regularly participated in post graduate courses for purposes of continuing education in the field of poultry veterinary science, and
- to be author of at least 6 national or international peer reviewed publications from research or practice in the specialty in journals listed in the Science Citation Index, at least three of which as first author, and
- to have presented original work, reviews or practice experiences at scientific and/or educational meetings for an audience of veterinarians at least 5 times, and
- to be professionally active as a Specialist in Europe

Selection will be made by the Credentials Committee, comprised of the invited specialists on the basis of a submitted curriculum vitae including evidence of satisfying the above mentioned criteria, and also indicating how the candidates have achieved their expertise.

All persons known to be interested in the College of Poultry Veterinary Science shall be invited to apply for De Facto registration by means of a personal letter outlining the above mentioned requirements. Furthermore relevant information shall be published in appropriate scientific journals.

Applications for de facto recognition must be received in writing by the College within 5 years of the legal registration of the constitution of the College.
5.3. To qualify for membership, Diplomates shall meet the following criteria:

a) Have a good moral and ethical standing in the profession.
b) Be allowed to practice veterinary medicine in a European country, unless relieved of this obligation by the Board.
c) Have successfully passed the Diploma examination procedure of the European College of Poultry Veterinary Science.

5.4. Individuals elected as a Diplomate of the College shall be registered as such and shall be authorised to use the designation of “Diplomate of the European College of Poultry Veterinary Science”, abbreviated as Dipl. ECPVS.

5.5. Each Diplomate shall be required to keep records of his/her activities related to poultry medicine or health management.

5.5. Each Diplomate is expected to actively participate in the affairs of the College. Repeated unexcused absences from the Annual General Meeting or failure to pay annual subscription fees within six (6) months of the due date, and following a recorded delivery written reminder from the Treasurer, may render a member subject to disciplinary action by the Board of the ECPVS.

5.6. Any Diplomate may be expelled, asked to resign or otherwise disciplined for non-professional or unethical conduct or other action contrary to the best interest of the College by unanimous vote of the Board following the recommendation of an ECPVS Disciplinary Committee and pending confirmation by the College at the next Annual General Meeting.

5.7. The College may confer Honorary Member status on persons who have made exceptional contributions to poultry veterinary science. Nomination for Honorary Member Status shall be made through the sponsorship of two Diplomates. The sponsors shall furnish the Executive Secretary with such
information concerning the nominee as is required by the Board of the ECPVS, i.e. a curriculum vitae. Election of an Honorary Member shall be accomplished by a two-thirds vote of the Board and by a two-thirds vote of the General Meeting of the College. Honorary members shall not be required to pay fees.

Honorary Members do not have the right to vote or hold office in the College. They may however be invited to attend (part of) business meetings of the College. Honorary members can not use the Diplomate title.

5.8. The registration ceases by default when the specialty is practised at a level of < 50% of the time or < 20 hours a week devoted to aspects of poultry veterinary science and related activities such as teaching, research and the preparation of publications, or when the specialty has not been practised for two continuous years or the equivalent of two years during a period of five years. These Diplomates are awarded a Non-Practising Diplomate status. They are bound to use the designation of Non-Practising Diplomate. A non-practising Diplomate seeking to revert to full Diplomate status needs to satisfy the Credentials Committee of the ECPVS that he/she satisfies all the above criteria.

5.9. Diplomates of the College will be required to undertake re-accreditation at intervals of five (5) years. During this process they will have to show evidence of their professional activities and that they are continuing to:
- work in a professional capacity in Europe
- undertake appropriate levels of Continual Professional Development
- be actively involved in the dissemination of knowledge related to poultry veterinary science through publication and presentation at continuing education meetings and courses for poultry and general practitioners
- present original work at scientific meetings
- publish scientific articles in peer reviewed national and international journals
They must also satisfy the requirements laid down in section 5 and section 8 of this article. The format of submitted evidence is according to a 100-point system approved by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation and will be evaluated by the members of the Credentials Committee. Negative evaluation may lead to cessation of Recognition. These Diplomates are awarded a non-practising Diplomate status, unless the cessation was for reason of temporary or permanent suspension. They are bound to use the designation of non-practising Diplomate. A non-practising Diplomate seeking to revert to full Diplomate status needs to satisfy the Credentials Committee of the ECPVS that he/she satisfies all the above criteria.

5.10. Cessation of registration must be approved by the Board of the College and requires twelve months to effectuate.

**Organisation and Officers**

**Article 6**

6.1. The College shall have responsibility for organising, approving and administering all scientific and general matters.

6.2. The College shall be composed of all the Diplomates and Honorary Members.

6.3. Diplomates will elect the following officers by secret ballot to serve on the Board of the College:
- President
- Vice-President
- Four Ordinary Board Members

After the election, the Board Members decide on who of the 4 Ordinary Board members will act as Treasurer and who will act as Secretary.
The Past-President, being the outgoing President, shall be a member of the Board for the two years immediately following his/her Presidency.

6.4. The Board shall represent the College.

6.5. A quorum of the Board shall consist of a simple majority of that Board.

6.6. The election and discharge of officers and their duties shall be as provided for by the Bylaws of the College.

6.7. The President and Vice-President or the President’s nominee will act as representatives in the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation. If necessary, the Board may unanimously nominate another Diplomate to present the ECPVS in the EBVS.

**General Meetings and Symposia**

**Article 7**

A General Meeting of the Diplomates will be organised each year, preferably in conjunction with an annual Symposium to which all interested parties will be invited.
Amendments

Article 8

Proposed amendments to this Constitution, which must be signed by at least three (3) members in good standing, shall be submitted to the President in writing at least two (2) months prior to the Annual General Meeting. Any proposed amendment shall be distributed to the membership with a recommendation by the Board, at least thirty days prior to the Annual General Meeting and shall be brought to a vote of the Diplomates at the next Annual General Meeting. An affirmative vote of at least three fourths (75 %) of the Diplomates voting shall be required for adoption, with immediate effect.

Dissolution of the College

Article 9

The terms set forth in Article 8 shall be equally applied in the event of a decision to dissolve the College.

In the case of dissolution of the College, all assets shall be expended for educational purpose as decided by the last membership meeting.

Bylaws

Article 10

The Board can make and change one or more bylaws, which regulate subjects not or not sufficiently prescribed in the constitution, subject to an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the Diplomates voting at a General Meeting.

A bylaw may not contain any provision that violates the law or this Constitution.