

# CONSTITUTION OF THE SHEEP VETERINARY SOCIETY

1. The Society shall be called '*The Sheep Veterinary Society*'.
2. The Society shall be a Division of the British Veterinary Association.
3. The objects of the Society shall be:-
  - (a) To provide a forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas on matters pertaining to the health, disease, welfare and productivity of sheep.
  - (b) To advance education and disseminate the results of research in the veterinary science of sheep.
  - (c) To lead on the prevention of disease and promotion of welfare of sheep.

## 4. Membership

### 4.1 There shall be five classes of membership

- I. **Full Membership** shall be open to all persons holding veterinary degree recognised by the Royal College of veterinary surgeons (RCVS) who have been nominated and approved by the membership of the Association in accordance with 4.2 below
- II. **Associate membership** shall be open to all other persons interested who hold a degree, diploma or other relevant professional qualifications or experience that is considered acceptable to the Executive Committee. Where this qualification is not in an animal science, membership will be dependent on the proposed member being in relevant employment and shall be suspended or terminated if they leave this position. Nomination and approval by the membership of the Association in accordance with 4.2 below
- III. **Student membership and first year after graduation** Student membership shall be open to undergraduate veterinary students studying in the UK or Eire for a degree registrable with the RCVS. Student Members shall receive benefits of membership, the terms of which are to be decided by the Executive from time to time, with the exception of voting rights. Student membership is also open to postgraduate students who are registered on a full time degree course relevant to the aims of the Society. Nomination and approval for membership of the Association in accordance with 4.2 below
- IV. **Honorary membership** shall be open to all persons who are eligible for full or associate membership and who have been nominated to the secretary by a full member of the Association and approved by the committee in accordance with 4.3 below

- V. Retired membership** Retired membership shall be open to veterinary surgeons who are “retired”; which is to say that they derive no income from their membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and are registered as such and retired associate members. Retired Members shall receive all the privileges of membership of the Society with the exception of voting rights.

#### **4.2 Election to membership**

A candidate for membership shall have a proposer and seconder, both of whom must be Full Members of the Society. Candidates for election should complete and sign a proposal form on the Society’s website <https://www.sheepvetsoc.org.uk/> and return it to [secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@sheepvetsoc.org.uk). The candidate must make provision for payment as directed on that site.

The list of candidates for membership will be circulated to the Executive and if Executive approves the nomination by a majority vote, the candidate will immediately be given access to the facilities of the category of membership for which they have applied. Names of new members will be circulated at the next AGM

#### **4.3 Election of an honorary member shall be as follows:**

A candidate’s name shall be proposed to the secretary by an existing full member of the society. The secretary shall then nominate the candidate for approval by the committee at the next committee meeting and if approved (by a simple majority) the appointment of the candidate will be announced to the membership by the secretary at the next annual general meeting of the society.

An honorary member will normally be an existing member of the SVS.

She/he will be a person, who in the opinion of the executive committee has given long and valuable support to the Society.

This support may have been through one or more of the following:

- a) Significant scientific contributions to the Society’s meetings and publication.
- b) Distinguished services as a member of the Society’s executive.
- c) Prominent and distinguished contributions to the promotion of good health and welfare of sheep.

**4.4 Full, Retired and Honorary members who do not belong to the BVA** and all Student Members and Associate members shall not be entitled to vote for the appointment of representatives to the Council of the BVA or to serve thereon and shall not be eligible to be an Officer of the Society but may be elected as members of the Executive Committee. Members elected to the Executive Committee who do not

belong to the BVA shall have the right to vote on all matters except those directly pertaining to the BVA.

## **5. Annual subscription**

5.1 An annual subscription shall be paid by each Member in advance from the first day of January in each year in a suitable form as deemed by the Society. The amount shall be decided at an AGM by a simple majority. Persons joining the association after January shall be liable for a full subscription. Membership runs from January 1st to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Categorisation of membership for subscriptions is in annex one

## **6. Resignation**

6.1 Resignation of membership shall be notified in writing to the secretary with the member resigning being liable for the payment of the annual subscription for the current year with any arrears up to the date of tendering his or her resignation

## **7. Termination or suspension of membership**

7.1 The committee shall have the right to remove any member who subscription is one year in arrears after due notification served upon the members last known address recorded in the register of members.

7.2 Membership is terminated if:

- (a) The Member dies;
- (b) The Member resigns by notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the Society;
- (c) The Member has failed to pay his subscription for the preceding financial year.

7.3 The Executive Committee shall have the right to suspend or terminate the membership of any Member where the Executive Committee resolves unanimously that it is in the best interests of the Society that his, her or its membership is terminated or suspended. A resolution to remove or suspend a Member from membership may only be passed if:

- (a) the Member whose removal is in question and all Members of the Executive Committee have been given at least twenty-one days' notice in writing of the meeting of the Executive Committee at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;
- (b) The individual Member or, at the option of the Member, the Member's representative (who need not be a Member of the Society), has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

7.4 Where an individual is suspended from membership the Executive Committee shall specify in advance the proposed terms and / or duration of the suspension. A suspended Member will have the right to appeal to a panel of mutually agreed

independent persons. After the specified period of suspension a Member can apply to be reinstated.

7.5 No Member of the Society is entitled to any refund of subscription or membership fee on ceasing to be a Member for any reason.

## **8. Finance**

8.1 The funds of the Society shall be administrated by an Honorary Treasurer appointed at the annual general meeting (AGM). The Honorary Treasurer shall receive, for the use of the Society, all money payable to the Society. The Honorary Treasurer shall be deemed to have authority to make all usual payments but shall refer to the President of the Society for authority to discharge accounts which are unusual in their nature or amount. The Honorary Treasurer shall keep account of all such receipts and payments in a manner directed by the Executive Committee. All money received by the Society shall be paid into such Bank as may be decided by the Executive Committee of the Society and in the name of the Society and Honorary Treasurer. All cheques shall be signed by the Honorary Treasurer or Honorary Secretary or by such other persons as the Executive Committee shall decide.

8.2 One Honorary Auditor shall be appointed by the Committee.

8.3 An Accounts Report will be prepared by the Honorary Treasurer annually and shall be submitted for approval at the AGM. The annual Accounts and the balance sheet shall be circulated to members attending the AGM or be available on request from the Honorary Secretary. All or any of the accounts of the Society shall be open to inspection by any Member on written request to the President.

8.4 Reasonable and proper remuneration or payment to any Officer, Executive Committee, Society Member or servant shall be paid out of the Society's funds for any time, travel, accommodation or out of pocket expenses incurred whilst acting on behalf of the Society. Claims shall be made to the Honorary Treasurer with supporting documentation. The rates will be determined annually by the Society's Executive Committee. Members may only represent the Society on official business with the approval of the President.

8.5 The income and property of the Society where ever derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Society and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the Members of the Society.

## **9. Office Bearers**

9.1 Only Full members who are also members of the BVA shall be eligible to become Officers of the Society. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, Junior Vice President, Senior Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Junior Vice President,

President and Senior Vice President shall hold office for one year from the time of their election. The Secretary and the Treasurer will be subject to annual re-election at the AGM.

## **9.2 Relationship with the British Veterinary Association**

- I. the following officials must be members of the BVA
  - President
  - Senior Vice President
  - Junior Vice President
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
- II. The appointment of the secretary shall be notified to the BVA
- III. the SVS committee May nominate one or two representatives who must also be a member of the BVA to serve on the Council of the BVA, normally one of the officials

Retiring representatives shall be eligible for re-election to represent SVS at BVA council meetings providing they are still members of the BVA.

## **10. Committee**

10.1 The Executive Committee of the Society shall consist of the Officers of the Society and six other elected Full Members.

10.2 Elected members shall hold office for three years from the date of their election at the AGM and two members shall retire annually, these being the members who have completed their third year of service. On retirement they shall not be eligible for re-election for a further period of one year, but they may be eligible for election as Officers and may be invited to join any of the sub-committees.

10.3 A quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be six members.

10.4 A maximum of three ex officio members may be asked to serve on the Committee at the discretion of the President. Ex officio members may be nominally a non-veterinary representative, and international veterinary representative and a conference organiser. Ex officio members hold their term for a period of one year, with the option of extension by the current President to a maximum of three consecutive years.

10.4 An ex officio student representative will be invited to join the committee.

.

## **11. Sub committees**

11.1 Each Officer or elected Member may form and chair a sub-committee to support them in their allocated responsibilities

11.2 Each sub-committee may have up to five members. Sub-committees will report to the President, Officers and other members of the Executive Committee through their chairperson. It is expected that this will be a minimum of four times a year. Sub-committees may be suspended if workload reduces.

11.2 Sub committees may include:

- Welfare
- Education
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Parasitology & Anthelmintic resistance
- Surveillance

11.3 The membership of these sub-committee will be recorded on the SVS website

11.5 The sub-committee chair will report back to the committee at each of the committee meetings.

## **12. Election**

12.1. The election of Office Bearers, Representatives and Members of the Executive Committee shall take place by ballot at each Annual General Meeting (AGM). Nominations for such elections, including proposer and seconded to be submitted to the Secretary seven days prior to the AGM and election will be by ballot or show of hands. Officers will take office immediately after their election.

12.2. If any Officer or Executive Committee Member prematurely vacates office, an election to fill the vacancy shall be held at the following Ordinary General Meeting; the Member elected shall fill the office for the unexpired term of the vacancy.

## **13. Meetings**

13.1. Ordinary General Meetings (OGM) of the Society shall be called at the discretion of the Officers and held not less than twice yearly, these are normally the executive committee meetings held to conduct the routine business of the society. A quorum at a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be six members.

13.2 The annual general meeting will normally be held in conjunction with an OGM at one of the society conferences. The annual general meeting shall be convened by notice sent to the last known address of each Member not less than three weeks before the meeting. No business shall be transacted at the annual general meeting unless a quorum is present. Twenty one full Members of the Society entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting shall constitute a quorum.

13.2. The committee will hold regular communications via email, teleconference or other means at the request of the President.

## **14. SVS collaborations and award of financial support**

14.1 SVS collaborations and award of financial support is to be considered for:

- Collaborative ventures
- CPD proposals
- Research Proposals
- Survey requests
- Logo use

14.2 Approval by a quorum from the officials and executive committee and must include Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer.

14.3 Consideration and recommendation/decision to be advised to the committee and Documented/Minuted/Archived

### **14.4 Guiding principles:**

#### **14.4.1. Objectives A**

- To be of direct relevance and benefit to membership
- To be of direct relevance and benefit to the sheep sector
- To be available to all (SVS members).
- Does not require SVS to enter into exclusivity arrangements

#### **14.4.2 Objectives B:**

- To be mindful of reputational risk
- To be mindful of perceived bias within membership
- To be mindful of potential officials and committee member conflicts of interest

### **14.5 Financial review of proposals:**

14.5.1. A project must have clear, defined and limited costs that can be considered by the committee. Cost may include direct financial contribution, or time and travel expenses of committee members whether claimed or not.

14.5.2. A project must have:

1. A defined 'costed' contribution or intellectual input (should not be nominal) and the maximum extent of this clearly agreed or be financially beneficial to SVS.
2. If there are commercial aspects to the project then where SVS is contributing to the project rewards should accrue proportionally with the contribution of a given party.

## **14.6 Guidelines for Review:**

14.6.1 In order for the committee to approve a project it is a likely requirement to meet:

- All of Objectives A
- To require 2/3 of Objectives B to be met and to fully consider potential conflicts of interest

14.6.2 Record assessment of Objectives B and both financial points where they apply to ensure SVS can rebut any challenge.

## **15. Guest and Publication of Proceedings**

15.1 Guests are welcome to attend scientific meetings of the Society, provided permission is requested from the President when registering for the meeting. Such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld. The attention of guests shall be drawn to the requirements of 15.2

15.2 The activities of the meetings and Proceedings of the Society shall be circulated to Members only and shall not be reported in whole or in part without the permission of the President. Papers given must not be reproduced or quoted from, except by permission of the author, and a statement to this effect shall be made in the reproduction. This shall not prevent Members attending a meeting from reporting the proceedings of that conference verbally or in writing to fellow colleagues on a private basis.

15.3 The Executive Committee may arrange, from time to time, meetings to which Members may invite guests without prior approval. Such meetings shall be designated 'open' meetings and so described in all announcements. The proceedings of meetings designated 'open' may be reported provided the text of the intended publications are scrutinised by and agreed by the executive committee.

## **16. General**

16.1 The annual general meeting shall be convened by notice in the '*Veterinary Record*' not less than 21 days before the meeting and by circular not later than 14 days before the meeting.

16.2 A copy of this constitution shall be available to all members on application to the Secretary.

16.3 No alteration shall be made to these Rules except by a two-thirds majority of those Ordinary Members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting of the Society and then only if notice of intention to alter the Rule or Rules concerned shall have appeared in the notice convening the meeting, provided that no amendment shall be made which will cause the Society to cease to be a charitable body.



16.4 A quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be 6 members. The Executive Committee may make, add or alter rules (not inconsistent with this Constitution) for the conduct and regulation of their meetings and the administration of the Society.

16.5 A proposal to wind up the Society shall be put to a General Meeting of the Society which may in this case be an Extra Ordinary General Meeting called for the specific purpose of considering the termination of the Society. The quorum shall be the same as for an Ordinary Meeting. A resolution to wind up shall be carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the ordinary members present and voting. Any assets remaining on dissolution of the Society after satisfying any debts shall not be distributed amongst the members of the Society but will be given, as decided by the Executive Committee, to some other body which is exclusively charitable at law.

*First drafted: 24 June 1985*

*Revised 2020*

## Annex 1

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Full members £75.00</p>                           | <p><i>open to all persons holding veterinary degree recognised by the Royal College of veterinary surgeons (RCVS) Evidence should be produced annually of each full members BVA membership where applicable there is no provision for part-time membership</i></p>   |
| <p>Associate members<br/>£75.00</p>                  | <p><i>other persons interested who hold a degree, diploma or other relevant professional qualifications or experience that is considered acceptable to the Executive Committee. Where this qualification is not in an animal science, membership will be dependent on the proposed member being in relevant employment</i></p>   |
| <p>Student &amp; New graduate members<br/>£10.00</p> | <p><i>Student membership shall be open to undergraduate veterinary students studying in the UK or Eire for a degree registrable with the RCVS. Student Members shall receive benefits of membership, the terms of which are to be decided by the Executive from time to time, with the exception of voting rights. Student membership is also open to postgraduate students who are registered on a full time degree course relevant to the aims of the Society</i></p>  |
| <p>Honorary members</p>                              | <p><i>those awarded an honorary lifetime membership for outstanding services to the sheep veterinary Society and / or sheep health and welfare</i></p>   |
| <p>Retired members<br/>£45.00</p>                    | <p><i>Retired membership shall be open to veterinary surgeons who are “retired”; which is to say that they derive no income from their membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and are registered as such. Retired Members shall receive all the privileges of membership of the Society with the exception of voting rights.</i></p> <p><i>retired associate membership is available to those previously associate members having retired from gainful employment in the sheep industry by agreement of the executive</i></p> |

## PRESIDENTS OF THE SHEEP VETERINARY SOCIETY

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1967 – 1968 | W T Rowlands     |
| 1968 – 1970 | L E Hughes       |
| 1970 – 1972 | J T Stamp        |
| 1972 – 1974 | J A A Watt       |
| 1974 – 1976 | T Boundy         |
| 1976 – 1978 | D Buntain        |
| 1978 – 1980 | A O Mathieson    |
| 1980 – 1981 | A F Baldry       |
| 1981 – 1983 | W B Martin       |
| 1983 – 1985 | K A Linklater    |
| 1985 – 1986 | R N Spedding     |
| 1986 – 1987 | M J Clarkson     |
| 1987 – 1988 | Mrs A C Winter   |
| 1988 – 1989 | A J Madel        |
| 1989 – 1990 | J L Rodger       |
| 1990 – 1991 | J Hindson        |
| 1991 – 1992 | I Aitken         |
| 1992 – 1993 | D Henderson      |
| 1993 – 1994 | C Lewis          |
| 1994 – 1995 | D Brown          |
| 1995 – 1996 | M Prettijohn     |
| 1996 – 1997 | M Sharp          |
| 1997 – 1998 | C Trower         |
| 1998 – 1999 | J Earl           |
| 1999 – 2000 | Mrs J G Charnley |
| 2000 – 2001 | J Barley         |
| 2001 – 2002 | I Gill           |
| 2002 - 2003 | F Malone         |
| 2003 – 2004 | Ms K Hovers      |
| 2004 – 2005 | B Hosie          |
| 2005 – 2006 | Mrs L Lowseck    |
| 2006 – 2007 | P Roger          |
| 2007 – 2008 | C Macaldowie     |
| 2008 – 2009 | S Mansley        |
| 2009 – 2010 | D Thompson       |
| 2010 – 2011 | M Colston        |
| 2011 – 2012 | I Davies         |
| 2012 – 2013 | N Sargison       |
| 2013 – 2014 | Ms F Lovatt      |
| 2014 – 2015 | J Wilson         |
| 2015 – 2016 | T Bebbington     |
| 2016 – 2017 | Mrs K Dun        |
| 2017 – 2018 | I Richards       |
| 2018 - 2019 | Y Alony Gilboa   |

2019 – 2020  
2020 – 2021

N Hart  
A Carson