



**Constitution**

**of the**

**Wildlife Disease Association**

Approved by the Membership in 2004  
For Implementation Beginning  
3 September 2004

# **Wildlife Disease Association**

## **Constitution**

**2004**

### **ARTICLE I. NAME AND MISSION**

- Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be the Wildlife Disease Association hereinafter referred to as the Association.
- Section 2.** The mission of the Wildlife Disease Association is to acquire, disseminate, and apply knowledge of the health and diseases of wild animals in relation to their biology, conservation, and interactions with human and domestic animals.

### **ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1.** Persons interested in accomplishment of the mission of the Association may become members by payment of current dues to the current business office.
- Section 2.** The Council shall establish the categories of membership and shall determine the dues and rights and privileges of each category of membership.
- Section 3.** The Council may also establish membership subdivisions entitled "Sections" for members who have common scientific interest or common geographical boundaries and who desire to establish a Section. The Council shall determine rules governing the establishment and operation of Sections.

### **ARTICLE III. OFFICERS AND COUNCIL**

- Section 1.** The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Section 2.** The government and operation of the Association shall be vested in a Council.
- Section 3.** The Council shall consist of the President, Past President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, seven Members-at-Large (i.e., six regular members and one student member), the Editors of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases, the Supplement to the Journal of Wildlife Diseases and of the Association's web page and an elected representative from each Section given Council representation according to the rules governing Sections. Two regular Members-at-Large shall be elected annually. The Student Member-at-Large will be elected biennially. Should a Member-at-Large for any reason be unable to fulfill Council membership obligations, the unexpired portion of his/her term shall be served by a duly elected substitute. All members of Council shall be members of the Association.
- Section 4.** The officers and Council Members-at-Large shall be elected by anonymous ballot prior to the annual meeting of the Association. In the event of tie votes for any elected position, the selection shall be made by a majority of Council. In balloting for officers and Student Member-at-Large, the person receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. In balloting for regular Members-at-Large, the two persons receiving the highest number of votes for each position shall be elected. The official terms of the newly elected officers and Members-at-Large begin at the close of the annual meeting. The President, Vice-President and Student Member-at-Large shall serve terms of two years and be ineligible for immediate reelection to their respective offices. The Secretary, Treasurer and regular Members-at-Large each shall serve terms of three years. The Past President shall continue as a member of the Council for two years after the end of his/her term as President.
- Section 5.** The Council is empowered to act on all matters pertaining to the Association, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution. Action shall be governed by majority vote of the Council.
- Section 6.** The Council may acquire and hold, either in its name or in the name of its nominee, any property or other assets suited to further the interests of the Association.

## ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

- Section 1.** An annual meeting of the Association shall be held at such time and place as determined by the Council.
- Section 2.** The President shall call a Council meeting to be held at each annual meeting of the Association and have the power to call additional meetings including teleconference meetings of Council at any time. Council may establish and vote on motions between annual meetings.
- Section 3.** The Council shall make, or cause to be made, all necessary arrangements for each annual meeting.
- Section 4.** Geographic and other Sections may organize their own meetings and, at their earliest convenience, will notify Council of the time and place of those meetings.

## ARTICLE V. FINANCES

- Section 1.** Annual dues shall be payable in advance on or before the first day of January. Failure to pay dues can result in suspension of the privileges of membership as determined by the Council.
- Section 2.** Auditing. Financial records of the Business Manager shall be audited at minimum every three years by a Public Accountant or an Auditing Committee of three members, the method to be determined by the Council.
- Section 3.** The Association shall be a nonprofit organization with funds expended only in support of the mission as stated in Article I, Section 2.
- Section 4.** The President and/or Treasurer of the Association are authorized to sign checks for the Association.

## ARTICLE VI. PUBLICATIONS

- Section 1.** The Association may sponsor publications that further the mission as stated in Article I, Section 2.
- Section 2.** The Council shall be authorized to appoint editors and editorial boards as necessary.

## **ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1.** An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed by any member, by letter addressed to the Secretary, who shall submit such proposal to the Council for consideration and vote.
- Section 2.** Any proposed amendment of the Constitution which six members of the Council deem worthy of consideration shall be submitted to the Association for vote by ballot.
- Section 3.** Any amendment that shall have been proposed and approved for ballot as herein provided shall be adopted if approved by a two-thirds majority of those returning the ballot within 90 days.

## **ARTICLE VIII. DATE OF EFFECT**

- Section 1.** This Constitution shall be adopted as in full force and effect at the close of the next annual meeting following approval by two-thirds of the ballots returned by the general membership.

## **ARTICLE IX. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS**

- Section 1.** Upon dissolution of the Association, all funds, assets and property shall be given as an outright donation to one or several not-for-profit organizations representing biological or medical research. The Council of the Association shall elect the recipient organizations(s), as its last official action.

## **ARTICLE X. BYLAWS**

- Section 1.** The business of the Association is to be conducted in accordance with the duly approved Bylaws.