



**ACADEMY
OF
VETERINARY SURGICAL
TECHNICIANS
CONSTITUTION**

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ARTICLE I Title

The name of the organization shall be the Academy of Veterinary Surgical Technicians, hereinafter referred to as the “Academy”.

ARTICLE II Incorporation

SECTION 1

The Academy shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan as a nonprofit educational organization operated exclusively for purposes specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (aka the “Code”), or any corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

SECTION 2

The term for which it is organized shall be perpetual. However, in the event of dissolution of the Academy, all of the assets and property of the Academy remaining after the proper payment of expenses and the satisfaction of all liabilities shall be distributed to further the tax exempt purposes, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, of the Academy.

SECTION 3

The Academy is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, and shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. The Academy is not formed for pecuniary profit or for financial gain and no part of its assets, income or profit shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, directors, officers or other private persons, except that the Academy shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of one or more of its tax-exempt purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the Academy shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except to the extent permitted by the Code pursuant to an election under Section 501(h) of the Code or otherwise, and the Academy shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

SECTION 4

The names of the persons who are the initial trustees of the corporation are as follows: Heidi Reuss-Lamky, Kimberly Schmidt, Teresa Raffel, Tanya Niles, and Susan Holland.

SECTION 5

The fiscal and membership year shall be January 1 to December 31 of each year.

ARTICLE III Statement of Purpose

The primary objectives of the Academy shall be to advance veterinary surgical technicians and increase the competence of those who perform specialty duties as defined in the Bylaws. The Academy is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the

"Code"). The primary objective of the Academy shall be to advance veterinary surgical technicians and increase competence of those who perform specialty duties by:

- A. Promoting interest in and the advanced knowledge and practice standards of technicians in veterinary surgery
- B. Establishing prerequisite requirements for education and experience prior to recognition in the specialty of surgery for veterinary technicians
- C. Administering examinations and recognizing veterinary technicians as specialists in veterinary surgical care but not conferring any form of credit, degree or diploma
- D. Promoting continued professional development as an obligation of membership
- E. Promoting continuing education and dissemination of knowledge relating to veterinary surgery
- F. Ensuring the opportunity for veterinary technicians to demonstrate superior knowledge in the care and management of surgical cases when credentialed as a VTS (Surgery)
- G. Conduct any and all activities which may be useful in accomplishing the foregoing purposes

ARTICLE IV Membership

SECTION 1

A member of the Academy shall be a person who has fulfilled all the requirements of the specialty as stated in the Bylaws and who has been accepted for membership by the Executive Board.

SECTION 2

Members of the Academy shall be known as:

- A. Charter
- B. Active
- C. Inactive
- D. Retired
- E. Honorary

SECTION 3

Membership requirements, qualifications and privileges shall be defined in the Bylaws.

SECTION 4

Members meeting the requirements as defined in the Bylaws, shall be permitted to use the designation Veterinary Technician Specialist (Surgery) or the initials VTS (Surgery) after their name.

ARTICLE V Organization

SECTION 1

Executive Structure

- A. The Academy shall be governed by an Executive Board (aka the "Board"). The Board is responsible for setting policy and governing the Academy. The Board holds the power to conduct Academy business and to delegate that power as needed to an agent of the Board.
- B. The Board shall include: Past President, President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer and four Members-at-Large.
- C. The membership will elect Board members as per the Bylaws of the Association

SECTION 2

All members of the Board shall understand the volunteer, not-for-profit status of the organization and no funds in excess of budgeted amounts shall be allocated for any officer without a majority vote of all Board members.

SECTION 3

Terms of office, term limits, vacancy, resignation process and removal of office definitions are contained in the Bylaws of the Academy.

Article VI Committees

SECTION 1

The Academy shall have standing committees as specified within the Bylaws of the Academy and shall have ad hoc committees as determined by the Board.

SECTION 2

The President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, shall appoint chairs of all committees.

Article VII Academy Meetings

SECTION 1

The Academy shall hold an annual business meeting at such time and place as defined by the Bylaws.

SECTION 2

The Executive Board must meet at minimum quarterly as defined by the Bylaws.

SECTION 3

Committee meetings will be held as announced by the Chair of the committee and as needed to conduct the business of the committee.

Article VIII Amendments

Proposed amendments to the Constitution can be made by any member, and shall be submitted to the Board for study 90 days prior to a scheduled meeting of the Academy or the distribution of a mail ballot to the membership. The Board shall distribute proposed amendments to the entire membership, with recommendations, at least 30 days prior to counting of mail ballot or a voice vote of the eligible voting members. An affirmative vote shall require a simple majority vote of active members voting.