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**EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF
SMALL RUMINANT
HEALTH MANAGEMENT
(ECSRHM)**

CONSTITUTION

June 2016

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Article 1: Name and structure

1.1. The name of the organisation is "*European College of Small Ruminant Health Management*", hereafter referred to as "*College*" and abbreviated as "*ECSRHM*".

1.2. The College is incorporated under the laws of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as a non-profit equal opportunity educational organisation.

1.3. The College is part of the general scheme for veterinary specialisation in the European Union, EU), which is coordinated by the European Coordinating Committee on Veterinary Training (ECCVT) and includes the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), the European Association of establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), and the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS). Specialist Colleges are members of the EBVS.

Article 2: Duration

2.1. The College is established for an unlimited period.

2.2. The college years run concurrently with calendar years. Especially the first college year ends on the last day of December of the year of establishment of the College.

Article 3: Objectives

3.1. The College is a non-profit organisation and does not pursue commercial interests.

3.2. Objective of the College is the advancement of veterinary knowledge in the field of small ruminant (sheep, goats) health management.by:

- a) Acting as an institution to qualify members of the veterinary profession as specialists in small ruminant health management by establishing and defining the standard of qualification based on evidence-based medicine (EBM);
- b) Developing graduate teaching programs in small ruminant health management;
- c) Developing and supervising EBM continuing education programs for veterinarians interested in small ruminant health management;
- d) Encouraging its members to pursue original scientific investigations and to contribute to the relevant literature;

- 66 e) Defining and describing the veterinary speciality of small ruminant health
67 management;
- 68 f) Supervising the professional activities of its members and ensuring that such
69 professional activities are guided by EBM;
- 70 g) Promoting collaboration with national veterinary associations, farmers'
71 associations, government institutions and international agencies.
- 72 h) guaranteeing and maintaining the highest level of specialisation in Small
73 Ruminant Health Management, according to European Qualifications
74 Framework (EQF) level 8”

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76 **Article 4: Membership**

77 4.1. Members of the College are the following:

- 78 a) Founding Diplomates
- 79 b) practising Diplomates
- 80 c) Non-practising Diplomates
- 81 d) retired Diplomates
- 82 e) Honorary Members
- 83 f) Associate Members

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85 Veterinarians elected as Founding Diplomates or Diplomates of the College (thereafter:
86 referred to as "Diplomates") are registered as such and are authorised to use the
87 designation of "*Diplomate of the European College of Small Ruminant Health*
88 *Management*", abbreviated as *Dip.ECSRHM*.

89 4.2. Founding Diplomates (article 4, paragraph 1, clause a) are either invited
90 specialists or *de facto* appointed specialists. These are not required to sit the certifying
91 examination and are to be elected by meeting the relevant criteria set forth in the
92 Bylaws.

93 4.3. Diplomates (article 4, paragraph 1, clause b) are veterinarians meeting all the
94 following criteria:

- 95 a) Have a good moral and ethical standing in the veterinary profession;
- 96 b) Practice veterinary medicine in a European country or be entitled to obtain a
- 97 licence for practicing in Europe (unless this obligation is waived by the Board);
- 98 c) Have successfully passed the certifying examination procedure of the College.
- 99 4.4. All Diplomates are expected to spend at least 60 per cent of their professional
- 100 time (i.e., at least 24 h per week) devoted to aspects of small ruminant health
- 101 management. Active Diplomat status is suspended in individuals who practice the
- 102 speciality for less than 60 per cent of professional time (i.e., less than 24 h per week)
- 103 devoted to aspects of small ruminant health management and related activities, such
- 104 as teaching or research, or in individuals who have not practiced the speciality for two
- 105 continuous years or the equivalent of two years during the previous five years.
- 106 4.5. All Diplomates are required to keep records of all clinical activities, such as
- 107 flock/herd health consulting or other involvement in flock/herd health management.
- 108 4.6. All Diplomates are expected to attend the annual general meeting of the College
- 109 and to pay promptly the annual subscriptions. Failure to do so renders a member
- 110 subject to disciplinary action. Their further involvement and contribution in the affairs
- 111 of the College (e.g., membership of the Board and the various Committees) is also
- 112 encouraged.
- 113 4.7. Diplomates of other European Veterinary Speciality Colleges may be admitted
- 114 as ECSRHM Diplomates if they spend 60 per cent of their professional time devoted to
- 115 aspects of small ruminant health management and related activities and provided that
- 116 there is clear scientific and clinical compatibility between the two specialities.
- 117 4.8. All Diplomates of the College are required to undertake re-certification at
- 118 intervals of five years after registering as such. During this process, all Diplomates are
- 119 required to show evidence of their professional activities and that they are continuing:
- 120 a) To participate actively and to contribute in the affairs of the College;
- 121 b) To undertake professional development, by attending scientific meetings and
- 122 continuing education programs;
- 123 c) To be actively involved in the dissemination of knowledge related to small
- 124 ruminant health management, by contributing to continuing education
- 125 programs and by training veterinarians;
- 126 d) To publish peer-reviewed scientific articles in internationally refereed
- 127 journals (within the impact factor system) on topics of scientific research or
- 128 clinical practice in the speciality.

129 4.9. Diplomates, who do not meet the criteria set forth in article 4, paragraphs 4, 6
130 or 8, are suspended from active Diplomate status and are considered as non-
131 practising Diplomates. Non-practising Diplomates may neither act as supervisors for
132 training programs, nor vote at the general meetings of the College. Non-practising
133 Diplomates seeking to revert to active Diplomate status must satisfy the requirements
134 of the Credentials Committee concerning criteria for Diplomate status.

135 4.10. Any Diplomate may be expelled, asked to resign or otherwise disciplined for
136 non-professional or unethical conduct or other action against the best interest of the
137 College by a unanimous vote of the Board, following the recommendation of the
138 Disciplinary Committee. Final confirmation of the decision is taken at the subsequent
139 annual general meeting for immediate effect.

140 4.11. Retired Diplomates are, permanently and irrevocably, deleted from membership
141 of the College. This voluntary cessation of registration requires notice in writing, to be
142 received by the Secretary three months prior to the meeting of the Board. It is
143 thereafter confirmed by the Board for immediate effect.

144 4.12. Scientists of international reputation with at least seven years of experience,
145 who have contributed significantly to research and advancement of knowledge in small
146 ruminant health management, can apply to become Associate Members. Associate
147 Members have no right to vote at the annual general meeting of the College or hold
148 office of the College.

149 4.13. The College may confer Honorary Member status on persons who have made
150 exceptional contributions to the speciality of small ruminant health management.
151 Honorary Members have no right to vote at the annual general meeting or hold office
152 of the College.

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154 **Article 5: Organization and officers**

155 5.1. The College holds responsibility for organising, approving and administering all
156 scientific and general matters. The College is composed of all the Diplomates.

157 5.2. The Diplomates will elect the following to serve on the Board of the College for a
158 period of three (3) years:

- 159 a) President;
- 160 b) Vice-President;
- 161 c) Secretary;
- 162 d) Treasurer;

163 e) Two ordinary members.

164 5.3. Election of members of the Board is carried out by secret ballot during an
165 annual general meeting. Only Diplomates with no dues in arrears (including the year
166 during which election takes place) shall be eligible to stand in the elections and to hold
167 office. No-one can stand again for election as President after a full term of office as
168 President of the College. Separate ballots are carried out: one for the President, one for
169 the Vice-President, one for the Secretary, one for the Treasurer and one for the two
170 ordinary members. In each ballot, the Diplomates choose from a list of nominees for
171 the above posts. The President, the Vice-President, the Secretary or the Treasurer is
172 the person who receives the most votes in the list for the respective post. The two
173 ordinary members are the two persons who receive the most votes in the unique list
174 for these two posts.

175 5.4. The Past-President, i.e. the President whose term has just expired, becomes an
176 *ex-officio* member of the Board for the term following her/his presidency. Up to two
177 additional Diplomates may be co-opted as members of the Board for a limited and
178 defined in advance period of time, following a unanimous decision of the Board.

179 5.5. The President, the Past-President, the Vice-President, the Secretary and the
180 Treasurer are the officers of the College.

181 5.7. The Board shall represent the College.

182 5.8. A quorum of the Board and of all Committees of the College shall consist of a
183 simple majority of members.

184 5.9. Discharge of officers and their duties shall be as provided for by the Bylaws.

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186 **Article 6: General meeting**

187 6.1. A general meeting of the Diplomates of the College is organised every year.

188 6.2. All decisions during an annual general meeting are taken with an absolute
189 majority (50.1%) of the Diplomates present at the meeting, unless specific clauses are
190 mentioned elsewhere in the Constitution or the Bylaws.

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192 **Article 7: Amendments**

193 7.1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution must be signed by at least five (5)
194 Diplomates of the College with no dues in arrears (including the year during which the
195 proposal for amendment is submitted). The proposal for amendment must be
196 submitted to the President at least three (3) months prior to an annual general

197 meeting. All proposed amendments should be distributed to the Diplomates
198 accompanied with a recommendation from the Board, at least thirty (30) days prior to
199 the annual general meeting. The proposals should be brought to a vote of the
200 Diplomates at the subsequent annual general meeting. An affirmative vote of at least
201 two-thirds (2/3) of the Diplomates voting at the meeting is required for adoption of any
202 amendment.

203 7.2. The Secretary is responsible for making the amendments in the Constitution
204 and for distributing a copy of the Constitution to all members of the College. The
205 Constitution of the College should always be available at the College's website.
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207 **Article 8: Dissolution and settlement**

208 8.1. The terms set forth in article 7 shall apply for a decision to dissolve the College.

209 8.2. In the case of dissolution of the College, all assets shall be spent for educational
210 purposes, as will be decided by the final general meeting of the Diplomates.
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212 **Article 9: Bylaws**

213 9.1. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws or proposed new Bylaws must be signed
214 by at least three (3) Diplomates of the College with no dues in arrears (including the
215 year during which the proposal for amendment is submitted). The proposal for
216 amendment should be submitted to the President at least three (3) months prior to an
217 annual general meeting. Amendments to Bylaws should concern issues not or
218 insufficiently described in the Constitution. All proposed amendment to the Bylaws or
219 any new Bylaw should be distributed to the Diplomates accompanied with a
220 recommendation from the Board, at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual general
221 meeting. The proposals should be brought to a vote of the Diplomates at the
222 subsequent annual general meeting. An affirmative vote of at least one-half (1/2) of
223 the Diplomates voting at the meeting is required for adoption of any amendment.

224 9.2. Bylaws must not contain provision(s) against European or national legislation
225 or against this Constitution.
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