



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

CONSTITUTION

July 2024

1 **Article 1. Name and structure**

2 1.1. The name of the organisation is "European College of Small Ruminant Health
3 Management", hereafter referred to as "College" and abbreviated as "ECSRHM".

4 1.2. The College is incorporated under the laws of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
5 Northern Ireland as a non-profit equal opportunity educational organisation.

6 1.3. The College is part of the general scheme for veterinary specialisation in the European
7 Union, EU, which is coordinated by the European Coordinating Committee on Veterinary
8 Training (ECCVT) and includes the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), the European
9 Association of establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), and the European Board of
10 Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS). Specialist Colleges are members of the EBVS.

11 1.4 The language of the College, including all oral and written exchanges, shall be English.
12

13 **Article 2: Duration**

14 2.1. The College is established for an unlimited period.

15 2.2. The College years run concurrently with calendar years. Especially the first College year
16 ends on the last day of December of the year of establishment of the College.
17

18 **Article 3. Objectives**

19 3.1. The College is a non-profit organisation and does not pursue commercial interests.

20 3.2. The Objective of the College is the advancement of veterinary knowledge in the field of
21 small ruminant (sheep, goats) health management by:

- 22 a. Acting as an institution to qualify members of the veterinary profession as
23 specialists in small ruminant health management by establishing and defining the
24 standard of qualification based on evidence-based medicine (EBM).
- 25 b. Developing graduate teaching programs in small ruminant health management.
- 26 c. Developing and supervising EBM continuing education programs for veterinarians
27 interested in small ruminant health management.
- 28 d. Encouraging its members to pursue original scientific investigations and to
29 contribute to the relevant literature.
- 30 e. Defining and describing the veterinary speciality of small ruminant health
31 management.
- 32 f. Ensuring that the professional activities of its members are guided by EBM.
- 33 g. Promoting collaboration with national veterinary associations, farmers'
34 associations, government institutions and international agencies.

35 h. Guaranteeing and maintaining the highest level of specialisation in Small Ruminant
36 Health Management, according to European Qualifications Framework (EQF) level
37 8.

38 3.3. These objectives will be achieved by:

39 a. Defining small ruminant health management as the promotion of health and
40 prevention of disease in sheep and goats within the economic / business framework
41 of the animal owner / industry, while recognizing the issues of animal welfare,
42 human safety, cultural compatibility, and economic impact.

43 b. Establishing guidelines and standards of training for postgraduate education and
44 experience, prerequisite to achieving specialist status in small ruminant health
45 management.

46 c. Examining and certifying veterinarians as specialists in small ruminant health
47 management, who will serve the health and welfare of animals, improve the
48 economic outcome of flocks / herds, and supervise the production of safe quality
49 products for consumers in a sustainable manner of animal production, by providing
50 expert veterinary care for small ruminants.

51 d. Encouraging research and contribution to the science and practise of small
52 ruminant health management.

53 e. Promoting communication and dissemination of knowledge in the field of small
54 ruminant health management.

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56 **Article 4. Membership**

57 4.1. Members of the College shall be the following:

58 a. Founding Diplomates

59 b. Certified Diplomates

60 c. Non-certified Diplomates

61 d. Retired Diplomates

62 e. Honorary Members

63 f. Associate Members

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65 4.2. Standards for admission to membership.

66 a. The College must only certify veterinarians who:

67 i. Have demonstrated fitness and ability to practise small ruminant health
68 management (i.e., the speciality) by meeting the established training and

- 69 experience requirements and by attaining acceptable scores on certifying
70 examination administered by the ECSRHM.
- 71 ii. Have a good moral and ethical standing in the veterinary profession.
72 iii. Practice scientific, evidence-based veterinary medicine that complies with relevant
73 animal welfare legislation.
74 iv. Have gained their veterinary degree at least 48 months previously.
75 v. Founding / *de facto* Diplomates were previously invited to become Diplomates and
76 were not required to sit the certifying examination. This route to certification is no
77 longer open.
- 78 b. Practice veterinary medicine in Europe or be eligible to obtain a licence or certificate to
79 practise veterinary medicine in Europe. This obligation may be waived by the Board.
- 80 c. The criteria for certifying members are specified in the Bylaws of the ECSRHM and are
81 in compliance with the EBVS model constitution and bylaws.
- 82 4.3 Each individual who has successfully passed the qualification procedure of the College
83 shall be designated Diplomat of the European College of Small Ruminant Health Management
84 (Dip. or Dipl. ECSRHM), and, if certain criteria are met (as shall be specified in the Bylaws
85 and/or the Policies and Procedures), is entitled to be awarded by the EBVS the title of European
86 Veterinary Specialist in Small Ruminant Health Management.
- 87 4.4. Each Diplomat is required to spend at least 60 per cent of their professional time (i.e.,
88 at least 24 h per week) devoted to aspects of small ruminant health management such as but
89 not limited to clinical practice, teaching, and research. Individuals who have not practiced at
90 this level for two continuous years or the equivalent of two years during the previous five years,
91 do not meet this requirement.
- 92 4.5. Each Diplomat is required to keep records of all clinical activities, such as flock/herd
93 health consulting or other involvement in flock/herd health management.
- 94 4.6. Each Diplomat is required to attend either virtually or in-person, the Annual General
95 Meeting of the College and to pay promptly the annual subscription fees. Failure to do so
96 renders a member subject to disciplinary action.
- 97 4.7. Diplomates of other European Veterinary Speciality Colleges may be admitted as
98 ECSRHM Diplomates if they spend 60 per cent of their professional time devoted to aspects of
99 small ruminant health management and related activities and provided there is clear scientific
100 and clinical compatibility between the two specialities.
- 101 4.8. Each Diplomat of the College is required to undertake recertification at intervals of five
102 years after firstly registering as a Diplomat. During this process, each Diplomat is required to
103 show evidence of their professional activities as described in the ECSRHM Bylaws and that they
104 are continuing:
- 105 a. To participate actively and to contribute to the affairs of the College.

- 106 b. To undertake professional development, by attending scientific meetings and
107 continuing education programs.
- 108 c. To be actively involved in the dissemination of knowledge related to small ruminant
109 health management, by contributing to continuing education programs and by training
110 veterinarians.
- 111 d. To publish peer-reviewed scientific articles in internationally refereed journals (within
112 the impact factor system) on topics of scientific research or clinical practice in the
113 speciality.
- 114 e. No credit points can be granted for education or training in non-scientific or non-
115 evidence-based medicine.

116 4.9. Diplomates who fail to meet any or all of the criteria set forth in article 4, paragraphs 2,
117 4, 5, 6 and 8 of the ECSRHM Constitution, may not be eligible for the title ECSRHM Diplomate
118 and instead will be awarded the title ECSRHM Diplomate (non-certified). Additionally, they
119 cannot use the EBVS title European Veterinary Specialist in Small Ruminant Health
120 Management.

121 4.10. Any Diplomate may be expelled, asked to resign, or otherwise disciplined for non-
122 professional or unethical conduct or other action against the best interest of the College by a
123 unanimous vote of the Board, following the recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee.
124 Final confirmation of the decision is taken at the subsequent annual general meeting for
125 immediate effect.

126 4.11. Voluntary cessation of registration requires notice in writing, to be received by the
127 Secretary three months prior to the meeting of the Board. It is thereafter confirmed by the Board
128 for immediate effect and published at the next Annual General Meeting. The cessation of
129 registration is permanent and irrevocable; the status of the Diplomate will be ECSRHM
130 Diplomate (Retired).

131 4.12 The annual subscription fees in Euro (€) or Pound Sterling (£) of each paying member for
132 the following year(s), shall be determined by the ECSRHM Board on proposal of the Treasurer.
133 The proposed dues will be presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting for
134 approval.

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136 **Article 5. Organization and officers**

137 5.1. The College holds responsibility for organising, approving, and administering all
138 scientific and general matters. The College is composed of all the Diplomates.

139 5.2. The Diplomates will elect the following to serve on the Board of the College for a period
140 of three (3) years:

- 141 a. President

- 142 b. Vice-President
- 143 c. Secretary
- 144 d. Treasurer
- 145 e. Two ordinary members

146 5.3. Election of members of the Board is carried out by secret ballot during an Annual
147 General Meeting. Only Diplomates with no dues in arrears (including the year during which
148 election takes place) shall be eligible to stand in the elections and to hold office. No-one can
149 stand again for election as President after a full term of office as President of the College.
150 Separate ballots are carried out: one for the President, one for the Vice-President, one for the
151 Secretary, one for the Treasurer and one for the two ordinary members. In each ballot, the
152 Diplomates choose from a list of nominees for the above posts. The President, the Vice-
153 President, the Secretary, or the Treasurer is the person who receives the most votes in the list
154 for the respective post. The two ordinary members are the two persons who receive the most
155 votes in the unique list for these two posts. See Article 6 for specifics on voting procedures at
156 the Annual General Meeting.

157 5.4. The Past-President, i.e., the President whose term has just expired, becomes an *ex-*
158 *officio* member of the Board for the term following her/his presidency. Up to two additional
159 Diplomates may be co-opted as members of the Board for a limited and for a period defined in
160 advance, following a unanimous decision of the Board.

161 5.5. The President, the Past-President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer
162 are the Officers of the College.

163 5.7. The Board shall represent the College.

164 5.8. A quorum of the Board and of all Committees of the College shall consist of a simple
165 majority of members.

166 5.9. Discharge of officers and their duties shall be as provided for by the Bylaws.

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168 **Article 6. Annual General Meeting, quorum and voting rights.**

169 6.1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the College will be held each year.

170 6.2. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the College can be called at any time by the Board
171 or shall be called by the Board at the written request of not less than 10% of the membership.
172 The request should contain the explanation for such a meeting, and the subsequent
173 Extraordinary Meeting should take place within a period of two (2) months of receipt of the
174 request. If not, the responsible members are empowered to summon the Extraordinary Meeting
175 themselves.

176 6.3. Quorum and voting procedures.

- 177 a. The quorum required for holding a meeting is greater than (>) 25% of Diplomates eligible
178 to vote.
- 179 b. Voting can be conducted in-person and/or using a secure virtual (on-line) platform. An
180 electronic ballot is only valid if a vote is registered on a secure website and using a
181 unique password or identifier assigned by the Secretary of the College.
- 182 c. The ECSRHM Officers decide if the vote is to be taken orally, by a show of hands, or by
183 recorded ballot either paper or electronic.
- 184 d. Unless otherwise stipulated, votes can be in favour, against or abstain.
- 185 e. Unless otherwise stipulated, all decisions are by simple majority, i.e., greater than fifty
186 percent (> 50%) of those Diplomates voting. For the decision to be valid, the number
187 voting must not be lower than quorum (i.e., > 25% of Diplomates eligible to vote).
- 188 6.4 Each paying Diplomat with no dues in arrears has the right to vote. They must be
189 present at the Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings to do so, except in case of postal or
190 electronic ballot. Each paying Diplomat has one (1) vote. Honorary Members who are not
191 Diplomates of the College, Retired Diplomates and Associate Members are not allowed to vote.
- 192 6.5 The Officers of the Board can hold an electronic or postal ballot at any time outside the
193 Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meetings. The same rules apply to
194 electronic ballots as to voting during the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary Meetings
- 195 6.6. The Secretary of the College must keep the minutes of every General Meeting. These
196 records must be signed by the Chairman of the meeting and the Secretary.

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198 **Article 7. Amendments to the Constitution**

199 7.1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution

- 200 a. Must be signed by at least five (5) Diplomates of the College with no dues in arrears
201 (including the year during which the proposal for amendment is submitted).
- 202 b. Must be submitted to the President at least three (3) months prior to an AGM.
- 203 c. Must be distributed to the Diplomates accompanied with a recommendation from the
204 Board, at least thirty (30) days prior to the AGM.
- 205 d. Should be brought to a vote of the Diplomates at the subsequent AGM.
- 206 e. To adopt the amendment, it is required to have an affirmative vote of greater than or
207 equal to (\geq) two-thirds (2/3 or 67%) of the Diplomates voting at the meeting with the total
208 number of votes cast greater than (>) 25% of Diplomates eligible to vote (i.e., quorum).

209 7.2. The Secretary is responsible for making the amendments in the Constitution and for
210 distributing a copy of the Constitution to all members of the College. The Constitution of the
211 College should always be available at the College's website.

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213 **Article 8. Dissolution and settlement**

214 8.1. The terms set forth in article 7 shall apply for a decision to dissolve the College.

215 8.2. In the case of dissolution of the College, all assets shall be spent for educational
216 purposes, as will be decided by the final general meeting of the Diplomates.

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218 **Article 9. Bylaws**

219 9.1. The College shall make and can change Bylaws, which regulate subjects not or not
220 sufficiently prescribed in this Constitution. A Bylaw must not contain provision(s) against
221 European or national laws, the rules of the EBVS, or against this Constitution.