

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
“INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL HYGIENE” (ISAH)  
Suggested revision 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2011**

**Article 1**

Name, location, official language, logo, stamp and tag line of the Society

- 1.1 The name of the Society: International Society for Animal Hygiene (acronym ISAH).
- 1.2 The Society is a non-profit organisation for scientific purposes only.
- 1.3 The location of the ISAH office is determined by the Executive Board.
- 1.4 The official language of the ISAH is English.
- 1.5 The emblem and stamp (logo): a round form and graphic representation of the Goddess Hygeia and the God Asklepios framed by the words:  
**“INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL HYGIENE”**  
with a tag line (placed under the lower part of logo):  
**"PROMOTING ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE, BIOSECURITY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE SUSTAINABILITY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY"**

**Article 2**

Purpose, responsibilities and missions of the ISAH

- 2.1 The field of animal hygiene includes scientific analysis of interactions between domestic animals and any abiotic and biotic factors in their direct and indirect environment with the aim to develop optimisation and intervention measures for preventing diseases (including zoonoses and food safety relevant infections and contaminations), promote animals' health and their species-specific welfare needs whilst maintaining a secure and sound environment.
- 2.2 The ISAH is an association of veterinarians and other professional scientists, practitioners and students working or studying in the field of animal health and welfare, animal husbandry, safety of food of animal origin, environmental protection in relation to sustainable animal production and related areas within the scope of the following ISAH missions.
- 2.3 The ISAH declares the following missions:
  - Improve and promote scientific knowledge of:
    - Both the pathogens and on the epidemiology of infectious and non-infectious diseases including those that pose a risk to human health, with particular attention being paid to measures of prevention.
    - Measures which will optimise animal welfare.
    - Measures to minimize the potential adverse effects of animal production on the environment including those that pose a direct and/or indirect risk to human health.
  - Promote the creation of interdisciplinary networks of scientists working in the field of animal hygiene and related areas.
  - Transfer “cutting-edge” knowledge and information on animal hygiene to veterinarians, animal scientists, agricultural engineers, animal producers, physicians and public health professionals as well as to decision makers in agribusiness and politics.

**Article 3**

Means to achieve the purpose and complete the missions

- 3.1 Organising a scientific ISAH Congress every two years, at which new and important scientific results relevant to the field of animal hygiene can be presented, discussed and published in the ISAH Congress Proceedings.

- 3.2. **Encourage country and regional representatives to organise ISAH in-between congresses on specific topics of scientific and applied relevance in the respective fields of animal hygiene.**
- 3.3 Creating ISAH scientific expertise groups whose members organize workshops in their respective field of expertise in order to exchange scientific results and educational programmes in special fields of animal hygiene and make suggestions for the scientific programme for the ISAH congress.
- 3.4 Organising seminars or workshops for young scientists in order to exchange working methods and experience of postgraduate studies.
- 3.5 Publishing on issues of animal hygiene under the auspices of the ISAH in refereed journals and/or through other media.
- 3.6 Developing and maintaining contacts and co-operation agreements with appropriate relevant societies, authorities and institutions that are of importance for animal hygiene.

#### **Article 4**

##### Financial means

- 4.1 Annual membership fees are the main financial means to fulfil the routine tasks of the Society. The fee is subject to adjustment due to economic conditions. Any change in the fee is a decision of the General Assembly.
- 4.2 Other financial means such as congress fees and sponsorship have to be utilised to finance the congresses, workshops etc. Any surplus will be used for activities within the scope of the missions of the ISAH.
- 4.3 The financial risks of the organisation of congresses, workshops etc. remains fully with responsibility of the organiser(s).

#### **Article 5**

##### Bodies of the Society

- 5.1 The major bodies of the Society are:
  - ❑ General Assembly (GA)
  - ❑ Extended Executive Board (EEB)
  - ❑ Executive Board (EB)

#### **Article 6**

##### Members of the Society

- 6.1 The members of the ISAH are:
  - ❑ Full members
  - ❑ Honorary members
- 6.2 Full membership is open to individuals and corporate bodies who work and/or do research and education in the field of animal hygiene. They can apply in writing for full membership of the ISAH. The EB decides upon the application. Full members pay the regular membership fee. An application for membership can be rejected without statement of reasons.
- 6.3 A person who has performed in the ISAH in an outstanding way can be appointed as honorary member after proposal of the EB at any meeting of the EEB. The honorary membership must be announced at the next GA of the Society. The honorary member gets a diploma signed by the President and is exempted from the membership fee.
- 6.4 Membership ends by death, voluntary leaving or exclusion.
- 6.5 Each full and honorary member is entitled to take part in the work and all arrangements of the ISAH (congresses, working sessions, symposia etc.) and to propose and encourage new members. All full members have one vote at the GA. A full member can be elected for any official position within the ISAH. Full members are expected to promote the aims of the

ISAH and are registered by paying the annual membership fee proposed by the EB and decided by the GA.

## **Article 7** General Assembly

- 7.1 The GA, taking place at two year intervals **at the bi-annual congresses**, is composed of the full members and the honorary members. It is the highest decision making body of the ISAH and is responsible for:
- ❑ The election of the President with a term in office of 4 years (**elections take place always during the bi-annual congresses**). One re-election for a further 4-year term is possible.
  - ❑ The election of the other members of the EB of the ISAH with a term in office for 4 years (re-election is possible). **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president, who organises the next bi-annual congress, is elected for the period until the next congress and can stay member of the EB until the next bi-annual congress (two years later) to help the incoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president by giving advice in organisational questions.**
  - ❑ The election of the EEB. The members of the EEB are proposed by the members of the ISAH in their countries.
- 7.2 The invitation for the GA should be sent to all members four weeks prior to the meeting, together with the agenda, the President's report, the Treasurer's report and other relevant documents. The agenda should include at the least topics on:
- ❑ The discussion and approval of the President's report on the activities of the ISAH since the previous GA meeting.
  - ❑ The discussion and approval of the Treasurer's report on the finances of the organisation and proposals about adapting the membership fee.
  - ❑ The possible modification of the constitution. Applications concerning any modification of the constitution can be directed to the President by a group of at least five full members with a written resolution at least four months before the GA session. The Secretary General will distribute the resolution to the members of the ISAH at least four weeks before the GA meeting. A two-third majority of present full members is necessary for approval of any modification of the constitution.
  - ❑ Discussion of documents presented by the EB.
  - ❑ Consultation and passing a resolution about applications by full members.
  - ❑ Discussion and approval of the amount of the membership fee for the next presidency upon the appeal forwarded by the EB.
  - ❑ Discussion and voting on any other identified issue of importance for the ISAH.
- 7.3 The GA decides with a simple majority of votes of the present full members, the casting vote of the President decides in the event of a tie.
- 7.4 If at least half of the EB or at least a quarter of the members of the EEB request an agenda item **in case of emergency (e.g. constitutional matters, urgent financial items, or similar)**, an extraordinary GA has to be called. In this case the President or his/her deputy convenes the meeting within three months. It can be organised as a virtual or written procedure.

## **Article 8** The Extended Executive Board

- 8.1 One representative ISAH member from every country or region of origin should be a member of the EEB. The members of the Society should nominate the person, who is to be delegated, from the respective country or region of origin.
- 8.2 The EEB, as a rule, meets during the congresses before the GA and is chaired by the President of the Society. The members receive an invitation with the agenda before the meeting.

- 8.3 Any meeting convened by the EEB has the right to pass resolutions independent of the number of members present. Resolutions can be passed by simple majority of votes, the casting vote of the President decides in the event of a tie.
- 8.4 Minutes of the meetings must be taken and sent to all members of the EEB within three months after adjourning the meeting. Objections against these minutes and/or amendments, corrections and additions must be presented to the Secretary General in written form within four weeks after the draft is issued. If there are no objections, minutes are considered to be approved and the President will sign them.
- 8.5 Resignation of members of the EEB should be announced through an official letter sent to the EB. The resignation letter should be sent three months prior to the resignation. It should indicate the main reasons for the resignation.
- 8.6 The EEB members have the following duties:
- ❑ Implementing the resolutions of the previous GA in the respective member countries.
  - ❑ Make preparations for the next tasks of the ISAH.
  - ❑ Implementing the plan of activities for the ISAH for the next presidency.
  - ❑ Promoting ISAH and recruiting new members in their country or region of origin.
  - ❑ Supporting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president in the preparation of the next congress and other scientific activities in the respective countries.

## **Article 9**

### The Executive Board

- 9.1 The EB leads the matters of the ISAH. Members of the EB take part in the meetings of the EEB. The five members of the EB are:
- ❑ The President
  - ❑ The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president
  - ❑ The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president
  - ❑ The Secretary General
  - ❑ The Treasurer
- 9.2 The EB decides based on a consensus (voting based on simple majority, only if necessary). The casting vote of the President decides in the event of a tie.
- 9.3 The EB makes proposals to the ISAH representatives to organize the next ISAH congress, reviews applications received and decides upon the proposal of the next organiser for the GA.
- 9.4 The EB presents election proposals for the incoming president to the GA, after consultation with the EEB.
- 9.5 The EB can be increased by a maximum of two Members at Large whenever the EB considers feels it useful. Their role will be to help the other EB members to carry out the tasks of driving the Society.

## **Article 10**

### The President

- 10.1 The President is elected by the GA; he/she is the official representative of the ISAH and leads the Society according to the constitution.
- 10.2 The President convenes and chairs the GA, the sessions of the EB and the EEB.
- 10.3 The President represents the ISAH and is responsible for the accomplishment of the conclusions of the GA, of the EEB, and of the EB.
- 10.4 The President:
- ❑ Operates as the chief executive officer and official spokesperson of the ISAH.
  - ❑ Presides over the Board and business meetings and assumes overall responsibility for the affairs of the ISAH.

- Appoints the chairpersons of the Society's working groups and temporary committees as may be desirable; appoints members of working groups in consultation with the Board.
- Signs and executes, in the name of the ISAH, all authorised deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts or other instruments, except where the signing and execution thereof shall have been expressly delegated to some other officer or agent of the ISAH and is stated and approved in Minutes of the EB.
- Performs any other duties from time to time as may be requested by the EB.
- Presents the President's report to the GA.

### **Article 11**

#### The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president

- 11.1 The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president is elected by the GA and he/she supports the President in his/her work and takes over the tasks and responsibilities of the President in case of his/her inability to serve the Society.
- 11.2 The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president is responsible for the scientific expertise groups such as for Animal Health, Veterinary Public Health, Herd Health and Husbandry, Animal Welfare, Environmental Protection, Waste Management etc., coordinates the scientific work of the ISAH, supports the President in his/her work and takes over his/her responsibilities in case of his/her inability to serve.

### **Article 12**

#### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president

- 12.1 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president is elected by the GA and he/she should support the President in his/her work and takes over his/her responsibilities in case of his/her and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president's inability to serve.
- 12.2 The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-president undertakes the supervision and responsibility of the organisation of the next following main ISAH congress.

### **Article 13**

#### The Secretary General

- 13.1 The Secretary General supervises internal (members of the ISAH) and external (press, politics, public, other societies etc.) affairs.
- 13.2 The Secretary General is in charge of the publications and website of the ISAH. He/she is responsible for keeping Minutes from the meetings of the GA, the EB, the EEB and other meetings.

### **Article 14**

#### The Treasurer

- 14.1 The Treasurer is responsible for the collection and administration of the membership fees and he/she manages the financial affairs of the Society and reports to the GA.
- 14.2 Upon delegation by the President, the Treasurer has access to the account(s) of the ISAH.

### **Article 15**

#### Different determinations

- 15.1 The ISAH is independent of any organisation or governmental body.
- 15.2 The ISAH can join other organisations as a member. This decision, however, requires at least a two-third majority of the GA.

**This constitution is based on the text approved on the XII ISAH Congress 2005 in Warsaw, Poland. Amendments were added in May 2011 and should be authorised by the General Assembly on 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2011.**