



# Statutes

*(modified and accepted in Dublin, Ireland, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016)*

## General Provisions

### Paragraph 1

1. The World Association for Buiatrics (WAB) is an independent international association and legal entity.
2. The World Association for Buiatrics is incorporated as a private company limited by guarantee in England and Wales – Company Number 9978397
3. Seal of the WAB: a cow-horn silhouette with a link above it and with the legend "World Association for Buiatrics".
4. The official organ of the WAB is the WAB website ([www.buiatrics.com](http://www.buiatrics.com)). The information about the WAB should be published in veterinary journals such as The Bovine Practitioner and other national bovine veterinary journals.

### Paragraph 2

1. The official working language of the WAB is English
2. To encourage the international flow of information to members of the WAB other world-wide languages may be used as well.
3. Local organisers are required to provide simultaneous translations at World Buiatrics Congresses in at least three auditoriums because during the World Buiatrics Congresses the official languages are the following: English, French, German and Spanish.
4. The World Association for Buiatrics has a legal identity and as such can acquire rights and assume obligations in its own name.
5. The World Association for Buiatrics is an open, democratic, non-party non-governmental, non-profit organization.

## Objectives of the WAB

### Paragraph 3

1. To organise meetings on diseases and production of cattle (buiatrics) in order to report the results of research work and other practical experiences in buiatrics.
2. To discuss these topics in an international forum and thus promote all aspects of buiatrics in both science and practice.
3. Even though the emphasis is on buiatrics, small ruminants and other "non-domestic" ruminant species (such as zoo and exotic animal species) are also considered as species of interest to the association.
4. To provide an organization for qualified individuals who dedicate a significant part of their professional activities to research, educational or clinical aspects of buiatrics to exchange ideas.
5. To issue, in compliance with the pertinent regulations, occasional or regular publications (circulars, conference proceedings, reminders, periodicals, newsletters) including materials of the topics outlined above.



6. To promote international research on ruminant animals and to keep veterinary practitioners and all interested agricultural specialists informed about the results achieved around the world.

### **Affiliation to Other Bodies**

#### **Paragraph 4**

1. The WAB may be affiliated to the World Veterinary Association (WVA) or to any other Association as an independent associated member. The Secretary General of the WAB may liaise and correspond with the WVA on behalf of the WAB and will inform the WVA of the date and venue of upcoming meetings at least three years in advance.
2. In order to attain its objectives, the WAB may conclude an agreement (not necessarily attaining membership status) with other organizations. The President of the WAB is authorized to conclude an agreement if such is approved and passed by the Executive Committee.

### **Members of the WAB**

#### **Paragraph 5**

1. All Buiatrics or Veterinary Associations who have a bona fide structure within their country or region have an opportunity to become members of the WAB.
2. The membership categories of the WAB are:
  - a. Full Membership: national buiatrics associations
  - b. Associate Membership: multi-national associations or federations
  - c. Observer Membership: where no national buiatrics association exists, veterinarians or scientists working with cattle may apply for Observer Membership. Applications must be made to the Secretary General and will be decided by the Executive Committee.
3. The General Assembly of the WAB will approve all Full or Associate Memberships of the WAB.
4. National buiatrics associations who have been accepted as members of the WAB at the time these statutes are adopted shall be deemed members of the WAB.
5. Full Members will appoint one to three representatives or correspondents whose responsibility will be to liaise with the WAB Secretary General, reporting on their national activities and relevant events and to be the national contacts for the Secretary General.
6. Each Full Member association will have one vote at the General Assembly that is held at the biennial congress. The spokesperson for the member organisation should be one of the contact people registered with the secretary general or another person nominated by the respective organisation and recognised by the executive committee.
7. National buiatrics associations should keep the WAB Secretary informed about the activities and other relevant events in their associations in order to enable the WAB Secretariat to maintain an up-to-date flow of information to all WAB members.



## **Establishment of membership**

### **Paragraph 6**

Any Buiatrics or Veterinary Association wishing to join the WAB should submit their applications to the Secretary General of the WAB. Such applications will be considered for eligibility for membership by the Executive Committee and the General Assembly of the WAB held at the time of the biennial buiatrics congress. Decisions will be by majority vote. In the case of the votes being equal the President will have a casting vote. The individual membership of national buiatrics associations applying for full membership must be predominantly veterinarians.

## **Rights and liabilities of the member associations**

### **Paragraph 7**

1. Each Full Member through its representative of the WAB
  - a. has voting rights in the general Assembly and its representative may be elected to any of the functions or offices.
2. Individual members of national buiatrics associations which are Members of the WAB
  - a. may participate in all programmes organized by the WAB;
  - b. shall have access to all publications issued by the WAB.
3. All individual members of national buiatrics associations which are Members of the WAB are liable to
  - a. abide by the rules specified in the statutes of the WAB and the decrees passed by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee;
  - b. support with his or her voluntary work the activity of the WAB in order to attain its objectives.

## **Bodies of the WAB**

### **Paragraph 8**

1. The WAB is administered by the Executive Committee consisting of 10 - 20 members elected from the representatives (correspondents) endorsed from national buiatrics associations which are Full Members of the WAB.
2. The members of the Executive Committee should also be broadly representative of the different regions of the world.
3. The Executive Committee is elected by the General Assembly, which is convened on the occasion of the biennial scientific meeting.
4. The term of office for members of the Executive Committee is 4 years, with an option to be re-elected for a further term of 4 years. In exceptional cases a committee member may be elected for a third term of 4 years, but no member of the committee shall serve more than 3 terms.
5. The Executive Committee will elect the following officers from its membership;
  - a. President,
  - b. President Elect,
  - c. Vice Presidents (two) representing regions of the world not represented by the President, President Elect, Secretary General or Treasurer,
  - d. Secretary General,



- e. Treasurer.
6. It is expected that the President Elect;
  - a. will have served on the Executive Committee for at least 4 years,
  - b. will serve for 2 years as President Elect, then become President for 4 years and then become Past President for 2 years.
7. All officer positions are to be ratified every 2 years by the Executive Committee.
8. The Congress organiser shall become an Observer of the Executive Committee if the representative of the organising country of the next buiatrics congress is not a member of the Executive Committee.
9. The administrative bodies of the WAB are;
  - a. the General Assembly;
  - b. the Executive Committee;
  - c. the Auditing Committee;
  - d. the Membership and Nomination Committee
  - e. other committees.
  - f. the Auditing Committee and the Executive Committee report to the General Assembly.

## **The General Assembly of the WAB**

### **Paragraph 9**

1. The supreme body of the WAB is the General Assembly, to which the representative of all Full and Associate Member buiatrics associations are entitled to submit any matters concerning the WAB. All proposals and submissions should be presented to the Secretariat in writing at least 3 months before the biennial congress.
2. The General Assembly must approve any reports presented and any of the following at the biennial meeting;
  - a. the biennial report of the General Secretary;
  - b. the biennial Treasurers Report;
  - c. modification of the statutes;
  - d. changes to the attendance fee;
  - e. election of the Executive Committee and the Auditing Committee;
  - f. foundation of orders, distinctions, memorial medals etc. that can be conferred by the WAB, and determination of the conditions under which they are awarded;

### **Paragraph 10**

1. The General Assembly will be convened during the biennial meeting and at least 30 days notice will be posted on the official web page of the WAB. All Full and Associate Member buiatrics associations will be notified.
2. In the General Assembly, each Full Member present has one vote.
3. The place, time and agenda of the general assembly shall be made public at least one month before the appointed date; when an extraordinary meeting is convened, this period may be shortened to 15 days.
4. An extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) will be convened if the Executive Committee or if more than 25 % of the Full Member associations put a motion in writing to the Secretariat at least 3 months before the EGA is called, explaining the reason and object of the motion. Voting on the motion will be made by each



Full Member after due consideration. The motion will be carried if two-thirds of Full Member associations vote for the motion. Voting is via a representative from the Full Member, by proxy or by an e-mailed ballot paper.

### **Paragraph 11**

1. The General Assembly is capable of making a decision and the required quorum is present if more than 50% of the representatives of the Full Members are present.
2. If half of the representatives as specified in Point (1), fail to attend a convened general assembly, a second general assembly shall be convened with the same agenda within 30 minutes. This repeated general assembly will be capable of making a decision irrespective of the number of representatives attending.
3. The General Assembly passes its resolutions by a simple majority vote; in the case of an even number of votes being cast, the President has the casting vote.
4. Points (c) and (d) of Point (2) of Paragraph 9 will require at least a two-thirds majority vote of the Full Member buiatrics associations present.

### **Paragraph 12**

1. The General Assembly is presided over by the President of the WAB.
2. There is open voting at the General Assembly.
3. The minutes of the General Assembly shall be kept and shall be signed by the President of the WAB and the keeper of minutes, and confirmed by two individuals appointed by the General Assembly.
4. The attested minutes shall be kept for 5 years.

### **Executive Committee**

### **Paragraph 13**

1. The Executive Committee shall be convened as required but at least every two years.
2. The President may convene the Executive Committee at any time. The President, through the Secretary General, convenes the Executive Committee in writing, publishing the agenda at least thirty days before the date of the Executive Committee meeting. An Executive Committee meeting can be held without a written invitation, if all the members of the committee are present.
3. The Executive Committee is capable of making decisions if the majority of the members are present. Resolutions are passed by simple majority.

### **Paragraph 14**

1. The Executive Committee will be required to meet at each of the WAB congresses.
2. The Executive Committee is authorized to make a decision on issues concerning the activity of the WAB, except issues mentioned in Point (2) of Paragraph 8.9. Among other responsibilities, the Executive Committee;
  - a. determines the venue of the World Buiatrics Congresses and elects the Congress Organiser at least 4 years in advance. The Congress Organiser shall become an Observer Member of the Executive Committee. Local Congress Organisers shall take full responsibility for organising the Biennial World Buiatrics Congress and ensuring full financial viability. Lecturers get no



- fee for their papers but expenses may be paid at the discretion of the Organising Committee;
- b. supervises the execution of resolutions passed by the General Assembly;
  - c. consents to the Statutes and Rules of the WAB;
  - d. determines the rules of management and finance;
  - e. is regularly given a full account of the finances by the representatives of the WAB Auditing Committee. This finance report should be made available on a two-yearly basis and presented at the biennial congress;
  - f. takes measures and passes resolutions in all matters which have not been assigned to some other body or organ by the Statutes;
  - g. accepts the biennial budget to cover the expenses of the secretariat until the next WAB congress. If this contribution is insufficient, the Executive Committee may decide upon subscriptions to be received from the affiliated members.
3. The Executive Committee shall pass its resolutions by a simple majority vote; in the case of an even number of votes being cast, the President has the casting vote.
  4. The Executive Committee will nominate and select an Auditing Committee to oversee the finances of the WAB.
  5. The Executive Committee will nominate and select a Membership and Nomination Committee to oversee membership of buiatrics associations to WAB and make recommendations on new members of the Executive Committee.
  6. All Executive Committee meetings will be minuted and the minutes will be retained by the Secretary General, signed by the President and the Secretary General. These minutes will be distributed to the Executive Committee and confirmed at the next executive meeting.
  7. The Executive Committee can make recommendations to the General Assembly for their approval.

### **The President**

#### **Paragraph 15**

1. The President shall act as chairman at the General Assembly and Executive Committee meetings and see to it that the resolutions passed by the Executive Committee are carried out.
2. The President shall be the official representative and spokesperson for the WAB.
3. The resolutions shall be signed by the President.
4. The President shall be supported in his work by members of the Executive Committee. If the President is unable to chair the meeting, then the President Elect or one of the Vice-Presidents will chair the meeting.
5. The President shall be an ex-officio member of every committee of WAB

### **The Secretary General**

#### **Paragraph 16**

1. The Secretary General
  - a. shall take charge of drafting the minutes of the General Assembly meetings and the meetings of the executive committee. The minutes are to be presented at the next meeting for approval;





- b. the Secretary General shall take responsibility for the running of the secretariat and liaise with the Treasurer regarding financial transactions associated with the appointment;
  - c. The Secretary General takes part in the preparation and forwarding of the WAB Newsletters containing any relevant information about the WAB, in order to make this information known to the Members and their respective Groups or Bodies;
  - d. shall exercise the employer's rights over employees of the WAB;
  - e. shall exercise distance meeting of the General Assembly and voting, based on electronic media, if needed.
2. The Secretary General is responsible to the General Assembly and, in the period between two general meetings, to the Executive Committee.
  3. If the Secretary General is unavailable then the President may appoint one of the officers or one other member of the Executive Committee to deputise.

### **The Treasurer**

#### **Paragraph 17**

1. The Treasurer
  - a. shall take responsibility for all financial transactions associated with the association including;
    - i. all accounts, documents and inventories relating to the administration of assets and funds of the WAB
    - ii. the final accounts and the budget prepared for the next two-year period
    - iii. providing all the information as required by the Auditing Committee, and
    - iv. reporting the audited accounts to the General Assembly, the Executive Committee, the President and the Secretary General.
  - b. shall undertake other duties as assigned by the Executive Committee

### **Auditing Committee**

#### **Paragraph 18**

1. The Auditing Committee consists of two members and is elected for 4 years by the General Assembly. During the period of their mandate, they shall not hold any other offices in the WAB. The Chairperson of the Auditing Committee is elected by the Committee itself.
2. The Auditing Committee may check all accounts, documents and inventories relating to the administration of assets and funds of the WAB at any time they wish to. The Committee is liable to do so at least once a year.

### **Membership and Nomination Committee**

#### **Paragraph 19**

1. The Membership and Nomination Committee consists of three members and is elected for 4 years by the Executive Committee. The members of this committee



can be nominated for a second term. The Chairperson of the Committee is elected by the Committee itself.

2. The Membership and Nomination Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Executive Committee only
3. The Membership and Nomination Committee is responsible for the auditing of all applications from buiatrics associations who wish to apply for membership of the WAB
4. The Membership and Nomination Committee is responsible for consideration of the membership of the Executive Committee to ensure fair and equitable representation of skills and characteristics.

## **Committees**

### **Paragraph 20**

1. For the time of its mandate, and in order to attain the objectives of the WAB, the Executive Committee may form boards or standing committees to specify and discuss the tasks to be undertaken and to make proposals. When necessary, outside specialists may also be invited to join these boards or committees.
2. The function and sphere of activity of the boards and committees are specified by the Executive Committee and their working order is decided upon by the boards themselves.
3. The boards and committees shall submit their proposals to the Executive Committee for decision-making. The resolutions may be carried into effect only after having been passed by the Executive Committee.

## **The Assets of the Association**

### **Paragraph 21**

1. The assets of the Association consist of the congress participation fees provided by the national organising committee of the biannual World Buiatrics Congresses and the donations and contributions of the members and other persons. To accept the donations, the endorsement of the Committee is necessary.
2. The Association can carry out supplementary business activity in accordance with its objects. The Association can use any surplus funds only to achieve the objectives mentioned in the statutes.

## **Extinction of the Association**

### **Paragraph 22**

1. The World Association of Buiatrics becomes extinct:
2. In case of extinction by the General Assembly the assets of the Association can be used only for similar objectives as the Association has in its statutes;
  - a. by dissolution with the agreement of the General Assembly.
  - b. by merging with another non-governmental organisation with similar objectives.

## **Attendance fees**

### **Paragraph 23**





**WORLD  
ASSOCIATION  
FOR BUIATRICS**

ASSOCIATION MONDIALE DE BUIATRIE

ASOCIACION MUNDIAL DE BUATRIA

WELT-GESELLSCHAFT FÜR BUATRIK

An attendance fee of 10 EUR (or 10 USD depending on the higher rate) per two-year period will be collected by the respective Organising Committee of each Biennial World Buiatrics Congress from each full or reduced registrant attending the congress. Day registrants shall pay one quarter of the fee, while two-day registrants shall pay half of the fee and so on. Retired members, students and exhibitors shall not be expected to pay an attendance fee. When justifiable, the Executive Committee may grant an exemption from paying the attendance fee. A change to the membership fee can be proposed by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Assembly at least four years in advance.

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