AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY BEHAVIORISTS
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I
Name
Section 1 The name of this organization shall be: The American College of Veterinary Behaviorists, hereafter referred to as the "College" or "ACVB".

ARTICLE II
Incorporation
Section 1 The American College of Veterinary Behaviorists shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas as a not-for-profit educational organization.

ARTICLE III
Objectives
Section 1 The primary objectives of the College shall be to advance veterinary behavioral science and increase the competency of those who practice in this field by:
   a) Establishing guidelines for post-doctoral education and experience prerequisite to certification in the specialty of behavior.
   b) Examining and certifying veterinarians as specialists in behavior to serve the public by providing expert care for animals with behavioral problems.
   c) Providing leadership and expertise to the veterinary profession in behavioral therapy, psychological well-being and welfare of animals, and other appropriate areas of animal behavior.
   d) Encouraging research and other contributions to knowledge relating to etiology, diagnosis, therapy, prevention, and control of behavior problems, and promoting communication and dissemination of this knowledge.

ARTICLE IV
Membership
Section 1 Members of the College shall be:
   a) Charter Diplomates.
   b) Diplomates.
   c) Honorary Diplomates.
   d) Retired or Disabled Diplomates.

Section 2 Diplomates must have the following general qualifications:
   a) Be a graduate of a veterinary school or college of veterinary medicine accredited or approved by AVMA, or possess an Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) certificate, or be legally qualified to practice veterinary medicine in some state, province, territory or possession of the United States, Canada or other country.
b) Meet the requirements established by this College for education, training, and experience.

c) Demonstrate unquestionable moral character and impeccable professional behavior.

Section 3 Charter Diplomates shall:

a) Meet the general requirements as set forth in Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution.

b) Meet one or more of the following requirements:

1) Be a professor of the specialty in a college or department of veterinary medicine, or

2) Be an author of significant publications resulting from research or practice in the specialty, or

3) Have at least 10 years experience in the specialty, and by teaching, research, or practice have contributed significantly to the development of the specialty, or

4) Have advanced training in the specialty and have demonstrated competency through teaching, research or practice in the specialty to which the individual devotes most of his or her professional time.

Section 4 Diplomates shall:

a) Meet the general requirements as set forth in Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution and Article I of the By-Laws.

b) Successfully pass the examination given by the College. The examination may be taken 3 or more years after becoming a veterinarian.

c) Be accepted for membership in the College by the majority of the Board of Regents.

Section 5 Hereinafter both Charter Diplomates and Diplomates shall be referred to as Diplomates.

Section 6 The College may confer Honorary Diplomate status on persons who have contributed significantly to clinical animal behavior. Honorary Diplomates shall have all the rights and privileges of members except the right to vote or hold office.

Section 7 Retired or Disabled Diplomates

a) ACVB members desiring the attainment of a "retired" or "disabled" status within the College are required to petition the Board of Regents. Using the guidelines set down by the AVMA in establishing its retirement and
disability policy, the Board will rule on each application individually.

b) The AVMA Constitution defines a retired member as "one who has ceased all regular employment and whose annual earnings from occasional professional activity or other employment do not exceed the maximum earning limit established by the U.S. Government to remain qualified for social security retirement benefits: (as defined in the AVMA Directory) and a disabled member as "one who certifies that he is permanently disabled and can no longer engage in veterinary activity as a full-time occupation." A "retired" or "disabled" ACVB Diplomate is subject to the following "limited membership privileges":

1) No longer required to pay dues.
2) Will continue to receive ACVB mailings.
3) May not vote or hold an ACVB office.
4) Must pay regular registration fees for College-sponsored functions except when the Board of Regents specifically provides a special retired Diplomates fee for a College function.

ARTICLE V
Officers
Section 1 Officers of the College shall be: President, President-elect, and Secretary-Treasurer.

ARTICLE VI
Amendments
Section 1 Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted to the Board of Regents for study 90 days before a scheduled meeting of the College or before the distribution of a mail ballot to the membership. Proposed amendments shall be distributed to the entire membership with a recommendation by the Board at least 30 days prior to counting of a mail ballot or a voice vote of the Diplomates. An affirmative vote shall require that at least 1/2 of the members in good standing vote, and that at least 3/4 of the members voting approve the proposal.