**STUDENT VETERINARY EMERGENCY AND
CRITICAL CARE SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I: NAME of ORGANIZATION**

* Section 1: Name
* This organization will hereafter be known as the Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society; hereafter referred to as "SVECCS".
* Section 2: Incorporation
* SVECCS is a nonprofit organization operated under the guidance of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society; hereafter referred to as "VECCS". VECCS is incorporated under the laws of the Sate of Washington as a non-profit corporation.
* Section 3: Structure
* This organization will be a sub-organization of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society and will adhere at all times to the guidelines and bylaws set forth by that organization. The SVECCS will exist as a parent organization for individual student chapters, established at the various colleges and schools of veterinary medicine.
* Section 4: Logo
* The SVECCS will have as its logo that emblem displayed above. The symbol shall possess a veterinary caduceus and shall bear the words "Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society."

**ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

* The purpose of this organization will be the advancement of knowledge to students of veterinary medicine and students of veterinary technician training, and the promotion of the specialties of emergency medicine and critical care, both for the awareness of the members and in the community. To this end the SVECCS will function in the following capacities:
* Dissemination of information about the functioning of the VECCS to its membership, particularly in regards to policy changes, activities, symposiums, etc. To this end a newsletter will be published and distributed to all student members.
* Dissemination of information about the various student chapters for the purposes of informing the VECCS and the SVECCS of the activities therein, and for the chapters to garner information and enthusiasm from the activities of others. To this end a newsletter will be published and distributed to all student members.
* Provide the elected officers of the VECCS with a yearly report detailing the activities and finances of the SVECCS.
* Encourage the inclusion of emergency medicine and critical care topics in the curriculum for those colleges of veterinary medicine having student chapters.
* To make available to the individual chapters a comprehensive list of those veterinary clinics across the United States specializing in emergency medicine and or critical care and whom are willing to make preceptorships available to the membership of the SVECCS. This list will be maintained on the SVECCS web page.
* Encourage the pursuit of internships or residencies in emergency medicine and critical care by the SVECCS members.
* To encourage the membership to pursue activities related to emergency medicine and critical care, such that the membership is able to gain exposure and experience in this important topic prior to graduation.

**ARTICLE III: COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

* Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, SVECCS shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. SVECCS shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University’s regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

**ARTICLE IV: UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

* Section A. Non-Discrimination

SVECCS agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act.

* Section B. Sexual Harassment

SVECCS agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment

* Section C. Hazing

SVECCS agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization.

* Section D. Responsibility to Report

If this organization becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, SVECCS will report it immediately to Student Activities and Involvement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, or the University’s Title IX Coordinator.

**STUDENT VETERINARY EMERGENCY AND CRITICAL CARE SOCIETY BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP**

**Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-enrolled students, spouses, faculty, and staff may be associate members; however, they may not vote or hold office. All members and associate members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.**

**ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS**

* Section 1: Elected Officers

The elected officers of the SVECCS will consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Recorder, a Treasurer, a Fundraiser, and an Externship Coordinator. Election will be carried out by ballot, either by mail and/or electronically by those members in good standing. Only members in good standing are eligible for election.

* Section 2: Term of Office and Nominations

Term of office for all elected officers will be one calendar year. Election will be held in March of each year. Officers will assume their elected position starting on June 1 and terminating on May 31 of the next calendar year. Elections will be held in accordance with Article VI, Section 5 under the guidance of the nominating committee.

Section 4: Removal of an Officer

The removal of an officer may occur through a written request by at least three voting members of SVECCS submitted to any acting officer. A written notification must then be sent to the officer in question asking them to be present at the following meeting and respond to the removal request. A two thirds majority vote of the present voting members is required for removal of the officer.

* Section 3: Vacancies

Any vacancy left when an officer is unable to complete his/her term of office will be filled by the decision of the President. In the event that the office of the President is left vacant, the Vice-President shall assume that office and shall appoint a new Vice-President for the remainder of the term.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

* Section 1: President

The President shall serve in the capacity of administrator of the SVECCS, subject to the policies and bylaws of that organization. The President shall serve as spokesman for the organization, both to the VECCS and to the general public, shall conduct meetings of the officers of the SVECCS, shall be empowered to call meetings to discuss policy change, and shall carry out all other responsibilities as required by the office. It is the duty of the President to oversee the activities of the officers.

* Section 2: Vice-President

The Vice-President shall carry out those duties necessary to assist the President, shall fulfill the temporary office of President in the event that the elected President is temporarily unable to conduct that office, and shall oversee the responsibilities of the Treasurer and Recorder. It is the duty of the-Vice-President to oversee the activities of the student chapters and to supervise the yearly SVECCS elections.

* Section 3: Recorder

The Recorder shall have the duty of compiling, editing, publishing, and sending to each student chapter the SVECCS newsletter "Vital Signs". To this end he/she shall be in frequent communication with the chapter officers and shall stay aware of the activities of each chapter. The Recorder shall also produce the yearly report to the officers of the VECCS as to the activities of the SVECCS.

* Section 4: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have the duty of overseeing the financial assets of the organization and shall be responsible for coordinating accounts payable and or due. To this end the Treasurer shall maintain an open line of communication with the VECCS official supervising the SVECCS National account, shall keep accurate records as to the dispensing of funds, and shall furnish both the officers of the VECCS and the SVECCS with a report detailing these expenditures. At the end of the term of office it will be the responsibility of the Treasurer to provide a comprehensive report detailing the financial activities for the year to the outgoing officers and to the newly elected treasurer.

* Section 5: Members-At-Large

The two members-at-large shall be appointed by the President and be approved by the unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. The term of office for these members shall be one calendar year, concurrent with the term of office of the elected officers.

* Section 6: Fundraiser

The position of Fundraiser shall have the duty of selecting, selling, maintaining, and/or organizing merchandise and/or events to present to the UF CVM community in order to raise funds to run monthly meetings and hold hands on wet-lab opportunities for SVECCS members.

* Section 7: Externship Coordinator

The Externship Coordinator shall have the duties of collecting, organizing, and publishing externships, preceptorships, and other similar opportunities available in emergency medicine.

* Section 8: Board of Directors National Level

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for carrying out the business of the SVECCS. To this end the Board shall function in the following capacities:

* + - Directing the policies and management of the SVECCS.
		- Providing guidance to the various committees and providing membership in their composition.
		- Determining the time, place, and content of meetings.
		- Controlling the financial matters of the SVECCS.
		- Voting and producing decisions upon the recommendations of the various committees.
* Section 8: Composition

The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers (President, Vice-President, Recorder, and Treasurer), two members-at-large, the National SVECCS advisor, and the immediate past-president.

**Article VII: Elections**

* Section 1: Scheduling of Elections

Elections for the chapter officers will be held in March of each calendar year.

Section 2: Eligibility

Any member may nominate another voting member for an office. The member may also nominate himself or herself for a particular position. Nominations can take place before or during the election meeting up until the closing of nominations.

Section 3: Balloting

The vote will be taken by secret ballot. Members hoping to gain an officer position must receive majority vote.

Section 4: Run-Off Procedure

In the event that an office has more than two candidates and not one of those candidates receives the majority vote, the top two candidates from the first vote will participate in a run-off vote during the same meeting. A run-off election will also occur between two candidates with a tied vote. In the event of a tie, however, that run-off election will occur during the next general body meeting.

Section 5: Term limitation

A member cannot exceed two consecutive terms in the same officer position.

Section 6: National Nominations

Nominations for the various national offices will be due to the nominating committee on or before the second Friday of October of each year. Ballots will be distributed to the chapters by the third Friday of October. Each individual student chapter in good standing will receive one vote per candidate. The National Recorder must receive the ballots, either by mail, electronic mail, or by phone, within 2 weeks of receiving the ballots. The results will be announced via phone calls to those nominated and to the individual chapters by electronic mail the following business day.

**ARTICLE VIII: FACULTY ADVISOR**

The faculty advisor shall serve as a resource person and provide advisory support for the officers and

members of the organization. The faculty advisor should attend executive and general meetings; however, the faculty advisor may not vote in any SVECCS matters. The faculty advisor shall be nominated by the officers and confirmed by a majority vote of the members. Replacement of faculty advisor can be achieved by nomination of new advisor and election of him/her by at least two thirds of the total vote at the yearly officer elections. The faculty advisor does not have a term limitation and may serve in the position until replaced or choosing to step down.

**ARTICLE IX: FINANCE**

SVECCS will not require membership dues; however, it will raise funds for travel to IVECCS conferences and the purchase of supplies for labs and speakers. Members are expected to participate in fundraising activities. Gator Leaders will also apply for Student Government funding.

**ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION**

In the event this organization dissolves, all monies left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims

have been paid, shall be donated to “The University of Florida Shelter Medicine Program.”

**ARTICLE XI: CHAPTER AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

* Section 1: Chapters

Chapters shall be approved by the unanimous decision of the Board of Directors. Chapter status will be reviewed on a yearly basis and chapters will be notified if they are not eligible and have 30 days in which to fulfill membership requirements. Any activity carried out by a chapter that is in variance with the bylaws of the VECCS or the SVECCS will jeopardize the membership of that chapter. To be considered as a chapter in good standing chapter bylaws must be on file.

* Section 2: Members

Members in the SVECCS will be those members in good standing with one of the approved chapters. Members will be required to follow the bylaws of the VECCS, the SVECCS, and their individual chapter to be considered in good standing. Variance to any of the above stated bylaws will be cause for discipline by the organization whose bylaw was violated. To qualify for any awards or promotions sponsored by VECCS or SVECCS members must be in good standing at their individual chapter and their chapter must be in good standing with SVECCS and VECCS.

**ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

Amendments to this constitution can be made by presentation to the officers and unanimous vote of the amendment by those officers. Amendments will be reviewed within two weeks of receiving the proposal and voted on at the next meeting.