

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF POULTRY VETERINARIANS**  
**CODE OF ETHICS**

Diplomates of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians have met rigorous requirements and examination to gain membership to the College. Exemplary professional conduct by the membership upholds the dignity of the College and the poultry veterinary profession. Conduct by Diplomates deemed as unprofessional is subject to investigation, possibly leading to a hearing resulting in dismissal of charges or disciplinary action up to and including cancellation of membership.

**Principles of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians Medical Ethics**

1. A Diplomat shall be dedicated to providing competent poultry veterinary medical care with respect for poultry health, welfare, food safety, and public health.
2. A Diplomat shall provide veterinary care under the terms of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship.
3. A Diplomat shall uphold and adhere to laws and regulations appropriate to the jurisdiction.
4. A Diplomat shall be honest in all professional interactions and must report members of the college who are observed to be deficient in character or competence or who intentionally and/or knowingly violate laws and regulations.
5. A Diplomat shall respect the rights of clients and professionals to safeguard confidential information within the confines of the law.

**Ethics Committee**

The Ethics Committee will be comprised of 3 Diplomates nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board of Governors to serve a 3 year term. One member will rotate off the committee each year. The three members of the committee will elect the chair of the committee by vote or acclamation.

When two or more Diplomates make allegations of unprofessional conduct by a Diplomat of the College, this information will be referred to chair of the Ethics Committee for investigation to be completed within 90 days. The Diplomat being investigated will be notified by the committee of the allegations and any pending charges. If a majority of the Ethics Committee membership determines that the allegations represent a legitimate departure from the Principles of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians Medical Ethics, they must report this finding to the Board. The Board, in consultation with the Ethics Committee, will schedule a hearing of the Ethics Committee to consider the allegations. The Board will notify the accused Diplomat and he/she will be given the opportunity to attend the hearing.

Based on the evidence presented and after consultation with the other members of the Ethics Committee, the Chair recommends one of the following to the Board of Governors:

1. Take no action
2. Letter of Censure to the Accused Diplomat
3. Suspension of the Accused Diplomat from the College, pending remedial actions
4. Cancellation of membership as a Diplomat in the College

### **Hearing to consider allegations of Diplomates of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians**

The hearing will take the form of a trial, following Robert's Rules of Order Revised, 1915 Version, Article XIII. – Legal Rights of Assemblies and Trial of Their Members, 75. Trial of Members of Societies. The hearing will be scheduled within 90 days following referral by the Ethics Committee.

### **Appeals**

Appeals are referred to the Appeals Committee as described in section 4-7 of the ACPV Procedural Manual