

**BYLAWS OF THE  
ANIMAL LAW SECTION  
OF THE STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN**

**ARTICLE 1  
NAME AND PURPOSES**

**SECTION 1. SECTION NAME.** This Section shall be known as the ANIMAL LAW SECTION (hereinafter the Section) of the State Bar of Michigan.

**SECTION 2. PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Section shall be to promote the particular interests of lawyers practicing in the field of animal law, to plan and carry out programs, publications and activities of interest to lawyers practicing in the field of animal law and to coordinate programs for such lawyers with national and local bar associates.

**SECTION 3. GOALS.** The goals of the Section shall be to:

3.1 Educate members of the State Bar and of the public about laws relating to the protection of animals and animal rights, including the development and modification of existing law.

3.2 Promote legislation to advance animal protection and animal rights.

3.3 Maintain and operate a referral service for and among attorneys practicing in the area of animal protection and animal rights.

3.4 Promote animal protection and animal rights in Michigan through use of the legal system.

3.5 Coordinate programs for lawyers practicing in the area of animal law with national and local bar associations.

3.6 Cooperate and share information with other groups within the State Bar which have an interest in legal issues of interest to lawyers practicing in the area of animal law related topics.

**ARTICLE II  
MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1. CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP.** The membership of the Section shall consist of Active Members, Affiliate Members, and Law Student Members as described below. Dues shall be payable in advance at the beginning of each fiscal year of the State Bar of Michigan. Any member of the Section whose annual dues shall be more than six months past due shall cease to be a member of the Section. Members enrolled and whose dues are timely paid shall constitute the membership of the Section.

## **SECTION 2. MEMBERS**

2.1 ACTIVE MEMBERS of the State Bar of Michigan may join the Section by paying annual dues to the State Bar of Michigan in the amount of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00), or an amount as determined by the Section Council.

2.2 Newly admitted members of the State Bar of Michigan, upon written request, shall become members of the Section for the balance of the fiscal year in which application is made, without payment of dues to the Section, if such written request is made to the State Bar during the first year of membership in the State Bar of Michigan.

2.3 AFFILIATE MEMBERS of the State Bar may join the Section by paying annual dues To the State Bar of Michigan in the amount of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00), or an amount as determined by the Section Council. Affiliate members shall not be eligible to vote or hold office.

2.4 LAW STUDENT SECTION MEMBERS of the State Bar of Michigan may join the Section by paying annual dues to the State Bar of Michigan in the amount of Five Dollars (\$5.00). Law Student members shall not be eligible to vote or hold office.

## **ARTICLE III COUNCIL AND OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1. OFFICERS.** The Officers of the Section shall be a Chair, a Chair-Elect, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and the Immediate Past Chair of the Section. All officers must be Active Members of the Section.

**SECTION 2. COUNCIL.** There shall be a council of the Section consisting of the Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer, together with ten (10) at-large members to be elected as provided within this Article. The Immediate Past Chair shall remain as a member of the Council the year following his/her service as Chair of the Section. The Immediate Past Chair shall be included in determining whether a quorum is present at any meeting and shall have the right to vote on matters brought before the Council. All Council Members must be Active Members of the Section. The Immediate Past Chair shall remain as a member of the Council the two years following his/her service as Chair of the Section.

**SECTION 3. SELECTION OF OFFICERS.** The Chair-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer shall be nominated and elected at each annual meeting of the Section, to hold office for a term beginning at the close of the annual meeting at which they have been elected, and ending at the close of the next succeeding annual meeting of the Section, when their successors shall have been qualified and elected.

**SECTION 4. TERMS OF OFFICE.** At the organizational meeting in 1995, ten (10) at-large members of the Council shall be nominated and elected to serve as four (4) members for three (3) years; three (3) members for two (2) years; and three (3) members for one (1) year. Members of the Council shall be elected to fulfill expired terms at each subsequent annual meeting of the Section following the expiration of any term. All subsequent terms shall be for a period of three (3) years. ("Years" defined as a term beginning at the close of the annual meeting at which the Council members shall have been elected and ending at the close of the succeeding annual meeting of the Section).

#### **SECTION 5. TERM LIMITATIONS**

5.1 No Council member shall be eligible for re-election to the Council (other than as an officer) if she/he has served without interruption for two (2) consecutive terms preceding the term for which the election is held.

5.2 No person who has served as an officer without interruption for two (2) consecutive terms shall be eligible for re-election to that office.

**SECTION 6. VACANCIES.** The Council may appoint any member of the Section as an officer or council member to act until the next election in the event of death, disability, removal or resignation of any officer or Council member.

### **ARTICLE IV ELECTIONS**

**SECTION 1. NOMINATIONS.** At the last scheduled meeting of the Council prior to the annual meeting, or at such other time as shall be convenient, but not later than six (6) months prior to the annual meeting, the Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members of the Section, at least two (2) of whom are appointed from the Council.

**SECTION 2. ELECTIONS.** All elections shall be by voice vote unless otherwise ordered by resolution duly adopted by the Section at the Annual Meeting at which the Election is held.

### **ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1. CHAIR.** The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Council. The Chair shall formulate and present at each annual meeting of the State Bar of Michigan a report of the work of the Section for the current year. The Chair shall perform such other duties and acts that pertain to the office.

**SECTION 2. CHAIR-ELECT.** In the absence of the Chair, the Chair-Elect shall perform the duties of the Chair. The Chair-Elect shall automatically succeed to the office of the Chair the year following his/her election to Chair-Elect. The Chair-Elect shall be responsible for the public relations activities of the Section, including acting as a liaison with the State Bar of Michigan's Communications Committee, and for such other duties as the Chair may designate.

**SECTION 3. SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall cause to be kept all books, papers, documents, and other property of the Section except money. The Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and of the Council. With the Chair, the Secretary shall prepare a summary or digest of the proceedings of the Section for presentation at the annual meeting and for publication in the Michigan Bar Journal. In conjunction with the Chair, the Secretary, as authorized by the Council, shall attend generally to the business of the Section.

**SECTION 4. TREASURER.** The Treasurer of the Section shall:

- 4.1 Cause to be kept a record of all monies received and disbursed
- 4.2 Submit regular financial reports to the Council
- 4.3 Annually provided for the presentation of a financial report to the membership of the Section and to the Board of Commissioners; and
- 4.4 Sign any application for and execute any bond as may be requested by any officer of the section or pursuant to a resolution duly adopted by the Council for the purpose of protecting the monies of the Section. Any cost or premium for such bond shall be an expense of the Section and be paid from the funds of the Section.

## **ARTICLE VI DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE COUNCIL**

**SECTION 1. GENERAL.** The Council shall have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section, subject to the Supreme Court Rules Concerning the State Bar of Michigan and the bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan and the bylaws of the Section. It shall especially authorize all commitments or contracts, which entail the payment of money and shall authorize the expenditure of all monies appropriated for the use or benefit of the Section. It shall not, however, authorize commitments or contracts, which entail the payment of more money during any fiscal year than the amount, which has been appropriated to the Section for that fiscal year.

**SECTION 2. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT.** The Chair will appoint committees and their Chairs from section members, to perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Council may direct. The Council shall remove any committee chair or committee member for cause, and fill vacancies created by such removal or resignation.

**SECTION 3. VACANCIES.** The Council shall, between annual meetings of the Section, fill vacancies in its own membership or in the offices of the Secretary or Treasurer. In the event of a vacancy in both the office of Chair and Chair-Elect, the Council shall fill the office of Chair. Officers and members of the Council so selected shall serve until the close of the next annual meeting of the Section, at which time the vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of their respective terms by a special election conducted concurrently with the regular elections as provided in Article IV.

**SECTION 4. QUORUM.** A quorum of the Council shall consist of five members. A quorum being present, the Council shall act on the affirmative vote of a majority of those present at any meeting.

**SECTION 5. MEETINGS.** The Council shall designate the time and place of its regular meetings, but shall schedule no fewer than four (4) meetings per fiscal year. Special meetings may be called upon notice by the Chair or upon written request to the Secretary of any five (5) members of the Council. Council members shall receive three (3) days notice of a Special meeting. Notice of Special meetings shall include the topic for which the meeting was called.

SECTION 5.1 The council shall designate the time and place of its regular meetings, but shall schedule no fewer than four (4) meetings per fiscal year, of which at 3 shall be in-person meetings; one such meeting shall be the Annual Meeting. Special meetings may be called upon notice by the Chairperson or upon written request to the Secretary of any five (5) members of the Council. Council and committee meetings may be held by a telephone conference or by other similar communications equipment through which all persons participating in the meeting may communicate with the other participants. All participants will be advised of the communications equipment, and the names of the participants in the conference will be divulged to all participants. Such participation will constitute presence in person at the meeting.

SECTION 5.2 Members of the Council may participate in person, by telephone or by other conferencing methods.

SECTION 5.3 Emergency Votes. When the Chair deems there is insufficient time for a needed decision to be made at a regular or special meeting, the Chair may, upon notice to all Council members, conduct a vote on proposed action via telephone, e-mail or other similar communication means.

**SECTION 6. ABSENCES.** Any member of the Council who shall be absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Council shall be deemed to have resigned and the vacancy created shall be filled by the Council.

## **ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES**

**SECTION 1. STANDING COMMITTEES.** The Standing Committees of the Section shall be Nominating, Clearinghouse, Ordinance Handbook and legislation.

**SECTION 2. NOMINATING.** The Nominating Committee shall recommend nominees to the Section for the offices of Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and the members of the Council on an annual basis. This report shall be submitted in writing to the Chair no later than two months prior to the annual meeting of the Section; nominations shall be published to Section members no later than 30 days prior to the annual meeting of the Section. Other nominations may be made from the floor. The Nominating Committee shall consider the diversity of Council membership, including race, gender, and geographic diversity.

**SECTION 3. CLEARINGHOUSE.** The Clearinghouse Committee shall maintain and coordinate a referral service, the purpose of which shall be to make available to members of the State Bar and members of the public the names of Section members who are available to provide advice and/or representation in areas of the law relating to animal protection and animal rights.

**SECTION 4. ORDINANCE HANDBOOK.** The Ordinance Handbook Committee shall compile, maintain and publish a collection of all local ordinances that relate to animals.

**SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE.** The Legislative Committee shall review legislative and agency activity of concern to lawyers practicing or with an interest in the area of animal law, make periodic recommendations to the Section Council which request the Section adopt a legislative position, disseminate information to Section members, and advocate in legislative and other public forums on matters of interest to lawyers practicing or with an interest in the area of animal law.

**SECTION 6. COMMITTEE MEETINGS.** Committee meetings will be called as necessary by the Section or Committee Chairs. Meetings may be held in person or via telephone conference.

**SECTION 7. REPORTS.** The Chair of each committee shall submit a written report of Committee activities during the preceding year to the Council. This report is due thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Report required to be submitted by the Chair to the State Bar Representative Assembly.

## **ARTICLE VIII SECTION MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1. ANNUAL MEETING.** The annual meeting of the Section shall be held during the Annual Meeting of the State Bar of Michigan, in the same city or place, with such programs and order of business as may be arranged by the Council.

**SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS.** Special meetings of the Section may be called by the Chair upon approval of the Council, at such time and place as the Council may determine.

**SECTION 3. QUORUM.** The members of the Section present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## **ARTICLE IX MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 1. FISCAL YEAR.** The fiscal year of the Section shall be the same as that of the State Bar of Michigan.

**SECTION 2. DISBURSEMENTS.** Any bills incurred by the Section to be forwarded to the State Bar Fiscal Officers for payment shall first be approved by the Chair, Chair-Elect, Treasurer, or otherwise, as the Council shall direct.

**SECTION 3. COMPENSATION.** No salary or compensation shall be paid to any Officer, Council, or Committee member; however, officer, council and Committee members may be reimbursed for actual expenses for Section business.

**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.** These Bylaws shall become effective upon approval by the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar of Michigan, and by the membership at the organizational meeting.

**ARTICLE X  
AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1. VOTE.** These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Section at which a quorum is present, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Section present and voting, provided such proposed amendment shall first have been submitted to the Council for its recommendation. No amendment so adopted shall become effective until approved by the Board of Commissioners.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT FORM.** Any proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Council in the form of a petition by at least ten (10) members of the Section. The Council shall consider the proposed amendment, prepare recommendations, and publish a complete and accurate text of the proposed amendment either in the Section Newsletter or in a special mailing to all Section members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of the Section at which it is to be considered.

Created 1995

**Amended 11/18/05**

Amended 6/10/95

Amended 9/14/01