

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
INDIANA BRANCH
OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE**

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name

This organization shall be known as The Indiana Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, herein referred to as The Branch and/or IN-AALAS. The Branch is affiliated with the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, herein referred to as AALAS. Affiliation with AALAS entitles The Branch to use the name AALAS in The Branch name.

ARTICLE II

Affiliation

- A. The Branch shall be affiliated, as a Member Branch, with the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) of Indiana, incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana as a national, nonprofit, educational association.
- B. The Branch reserves all rights and privileges granted by AALAS to its branches.
- C. The Branch shall supply AALAS with a copy of its current Constitution, Bylaws, and Amendments as they are adopted.
- D. The affiliation of The Branch with AALAS is affected under the Constitution and Bylaws of AALAS and identifies The Branch as an organization committed to accomplishing the goals and mission of AALAS within the geographical area of Indiana. Under this affiliation, AALAS and The Branch will cooperate in promoting and carrying out the programs of each. However, both organizations are financially independent, and neither is authorized to act as agent for, or in any way commit the other, unless specifically authorized and directed to do so.

ARTICLE III

Mission Statement

The Branch supports AALAS at the local, regional and national level. The goal is to advance responsible care and use of laboratory animals to benefit both animals and humans.

Objectives

1. To promote the mission, goals, and interests of AALAS.
2. To promote fellowship and cooperation among those in Indiana and surrounding areas with an interest in the care and wellbeing of laboratory animals.
3. To cooperate with other branches in the exchange of information and coordination of efforts related to the care and health of laboratory animals and to assist in the solution of concerns related to laboratory animals.
4. To support the annual District 5 and National AALAS meetings and host when appropriate.
5. To sponsor and promote education and training in a variety of areas of interest to its members through regularly scheduled meetings, workshops, and other educational venues.
6. To provide recognition for branch members who have excelled in the laboratory animal field.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

- A. Membership in the Branch shall be open to any persons with interest in furthering their knowledge in the responsible production, care, and use of laboratory animals.
- B. Applications for membership shall be made upon an official form furnished by The Branch.
- C. The membership period will be from January 1st to December 31st of each year.
- D. Individual members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of The Branch, including participation in meetings, voting, and holding office as provided in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- E. The privilege of membership may be withdrawn for cause by majority vote of the Executive Committee followed by a concurring majority vote of the general membership at a business meeting.

Voting Privileges

The privilege of voting shall be limited to members in good standing.

ARTICLE V

Officers

1. President
2. Immediate Past President
3. President Elect
4. Secretary
5. Treasurer

Executive Council

- A. The Executive Council consists of 4-6 council members. All members of council must be in good standing.
- B. One member of the council will serve as The Technician Branch Representative.

Board of Directors

- A. The Board of Directors shall have general control over the affairs of The Branch. It will determine policies and budgets as deemed necessary and has the power to fill any vacancies that may occur in the offices.
- B. The governing body of the Indiana Branch of AALAS will be composed of the officers listed above and the executive council.

ARTICLE VI

Terms of Office

- A. The president will be elected to a 3-year term consisting of President Elect, President, and Immediate Past President. Each term is 1 year consecutively.
- B. The Secretary will be elected for a 1-year term.
- C. The Treasurer will serve a 3-year term.
- D. Executive Council members will be elected for a 2-year term.
- E. The Technician Branch Representative will be elected for a 2-year term that coincides with the Executive Council term.
- F. Each position is eligible for re-election upon completion of term.

Election by Ballot

- A. The election of officers will be conducted by mail or electronic ballot by the end of October each year.
- B. The candidate for each office who receives the greatest number of votes will be declared elected, with the exception of The Executive Council, where the candidates with the greatest number of votes relative to positions available will be declared elected.
 - a. In the case of a tie vote for any office, a subsequent vote by the Board of Directors will determine which candidate will be declared elected.
 - b. If a Council Member who is not at the end of their term is chosen to fill another officer position due to vacancy, The Board of Directors may approve a temporary member position until an additional election can be held, as applicable.

ARTICLE VII

Quorums

- A. Twenty (20%) percent of members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for consideration of any business at a Branch meeting.
- B. For the conduct of business through mail or electronic mail, no quorum shall be required. A four-week period shall be allowed for the return of ballots and/or business reply-by-mails. A two-week return period shall be allowed for the return of ballots and/or business reply-by-electronic mails.

ARTICLE VIII

By-Laws

The Branch shall establish by-laws and may amend them as herein provided.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

An amendment to the constitution may be proposed by the Board of Directors, by a majority vote, or by a petition signed by at least ten active members of the Branch. If the proposed amendment is approved by the Board of Directors, a copy shall be sent to each member of The Branch together with a ballot and an abstract of the discussion. An amendment will be considered adopted if it receives an affirmative vote of a simple majority of the members voting. An amendment will become effective immediately upon adoption, unless specified in the amendment or motion.

ARTICLE XII

Conflicts of Interest

When an Officer or Council Member feels there may be a Conflict of Interest between the one's personal interests and those of the Branch regarding a matter under consideration, they must disclose that potential conflict to the Executive Committee.

A disinterested majority of the Executive Committee determines if a conflict does exist. The person with the possible conflict of interest does not make or participate in this decision.

If a Conflict of Interest exists, the person with the conflicting interest must not participate in any further deliberations and decisions regarding the matter under consideration.