

Approved Date: September 1, 2021

Review Date: September 1, 2024

1. Purpose:

As an association with both a regulatory and member advocacy mandate, the MVMA wants to ensure that members have space to engage and discuss issues facing veterinary professionals. Advocacy Groups are established with the following principles:

Collegiality

Advocacy Groups provide spaces for members to connect and establish collegial relationships.

Member Engagement

Advocacy Groups provide a venue for members to engage with other members and the MVMA throughout their career.

Communication

Advocacy Groups will enhance communication between the MVMA and Advocacy Groups members.

Grass Roots Organizing

MVMA members are in the best position to identify and solve problems. Advocacy groups provide the space and limited resources to organize from the bottom up.

Advocacy Groups may want to:

- Make recommendations on MVMA by-laws or policies
- Make recommendations on MVMA initiatives
- Make recommendations on CE opportunities
- Make recommendations on member benefits

2. Procedure:

3.1 Established Groups

3.1.1 The MVMA Council establishes the following advocacy groups:

- a. Small Animal
- b. Large Animal
- c. Equine
- d. Animal Welfare
- e. Business Owner/Manager
- f. Students
- g. Rural (Non-Winnipeg) practices

3.2 Membership

- 3.2.1 All MVMA members are eligible to join an advocacy group.
- 3.2.2 MVMA members may invite staff/employees to attend advocacy group meetings.
- 3.3.3. The MVMA Council will appoint a Chair for each advocacy group.

3.3 Meeting Events

- 3.3.1 Advocacy Groups are entitled to establish their own meeting procedures.
- 3.3.2 Advocacy Groups are entitled to host meetings and events.
- 3.3.3 Each Advocacy Group meeting must be chaired by the council appointed chair or their designate.

3.4 Reporting

- 3.4.1 Each Advocacy Group must provide an annual report to membership about the Advocacy Groups activities.
- 3.4.2 Each Advocacy Group will provide a report upon request of the MVMA Council.

3.5 Finances

- 3.5.1 The MVMA Council will set an annual budget for the Advocacy Groups.
- 3.5.2 MVMA staff will keep a statement of account for each Advocacy Group.
- 3.5.3 The MVMA will reimburse advocacy groups to a maximum of the money set in the annual budget.
- 3.5.4 Money spent by the advocacy groups must be directly related to the purpose of Advocacy Groups.

3.6 Prohibited Activities

- 3.6.1 An Advocacy Group cannot purport to speak on behalf on the MVMA without permission of the MVMA Council.
- 3.6.2 An Advocacy Group cannot enter contracts.