

American Ferret Association, Inc.
Bylaws Summary For New Members
updated 2005

ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Section 1. The purposes of the organization are:

- A. to promote the ferret as a companion animal.
- B. to enhance the welfare and the quality of life of the ferret through support of scientific research, good breeding practices, and competition where judging guidelines promote these goals.
- C. to protect the ferret against harm, destruction, or impairment from any endeavor (e.g., breeding practices, unnecessary research) which will lower health status or decrease survival or survival potential of the species.
- D. to promote the free and public exchange of knowledge regarding the ferret and other members of the family Mustelidae.
- E. to encourage proper husbandry of the ferret by providing support to hobbyists, breeders, veterinary health professionals, rescue organizations and other concerned parties.
- F. to address unjust discrimination of the ferret preventing open and free acceptance of the ferret as a companion animal.
- G. to achieve the above goals through education and information dissemination and through example, guidance and support.

ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The AFA is an independent 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization. It shall be comprised of a Governing Board, Executive officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer), committee Directors, other Officers appointed by the President and the Members.

ARTICLE IV: AFA OFFICERS

Section 1. The AFA shall be managed by the Governing Board, the President, and the Vice-President.

Section 2. Criteria for Selection: Each Officer shall meet the following criteria:

- a. Be an Active Member of AFA in good standing.
- b. Be at least 21 years of age.
- c. Have been an Active Member for a minimum of 3 months.
- d. Be devoid of Conflict of Interest that would hinder or negate his/her ability to serve as an Officer.

Section 3. Governing Board

- a. Members of the Governing Board shall elect the Governing Board members for 4 year terms, after which they may be rotated off by unanimous vote of the remaining Governing Board members if they are deemed no longer active in the field. Otherwise they may serve indefinitely on the Board. Elections of new or re-election of current Governing Board members will occur as the first item of business at the first Governing Board meeting each year. Members will be elected by a majority vote of the current Governing Board members.
- b. The duties of the Governing Board shall be to establish the general governing policies and the overall direction of the organization.
- c. The Governing Board shall consist of at least 4 and not to exceed 10 persons.
- d. The Governing Board delegates responsibility of the day-to-day operations to the President.
- e. The Governing Board receives no compensation other than reasonable expenses as outlined in AFA policy.
- f. The Governing Board maintains control and responsibility over the AFA endowment.

Section 4. Executive Officers

- a. The AFA Executive Officers shall consist of the following: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- b. Removal of an Executive Officer other than President will be carried out by the President, in writing, stating cause, and sent by certified or return receipt requested mail.
- c. Removal of the President will be carried out by the Governing Board, by 2/3 vote in writing, stating cause, and sent by certified or return receipt requested mail.
- d. The functions of the Executive Committee Officers shall be, as follows:

President is appointed by the Governing Board and shall:

1. Act as the Chief Executive Officer of the organization.
2. Determine what Committees are needed and appoint Directors.
3. Act as a non-voting ex-officio member of all AFA Committees.
4. Preside over all meetings of the Executive Officers and committee Directors, and public meetings.
5. Have final approval or "issue authority" over press releases, other official statements of policy or information released by the American Ferret Association and its Representatives, except where the Governing Board exercises issue authority for the AFA.
6. Have the authority to sign such papers and financial documents as is required to fulfill the Office.
7. Fulfill the duties of this Office as outlined in the job description policies.

Vice President is appointed by the President and shall:

1. Perform the functions of the President in his/her absence or inability to perform in office.
2. Oversee special projects of the AFA as it carries out its purposes and will assist the President as necessary in fulfilling these purposes.
3. Perform all duties as assigned by the President.
4. Fulfill the duties of this Office as outlined in the job description policies.

Treasurer is appointed by the President and shall:

1. Fulfill the duties of this Office as outlined in the job description policies.

Secretary is appointed by the President and shall:

1. Fulfill the duties of this Office as outlined in the job description policies.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

- 1 Membership in AFA shall be open to the public, regardless of age, sex, race, creed, religion, national origin, or political convictions. Any individual under 15 years of age must be sponsored by a family member or guardian over 21 years of age.
- 2 Memberships shall be ACTIVE or HONORARY. A membership shall be extended to the entire legal family or corporate unit.
- 3 Any ACTIVE member shall have the following RIGHTS and PRIVILEGES:
 - 3.1 To participate in all public AFA meetings, functions, special events.
 - 3.2 To provide one (1) vote per membership on issues presented by the AFA Executive Committee.
 - 3.3 Provide recommendations and commentary to the Executive Committee and AFA Directors.
- 4 ACTIVE members shall have the following RESPONSIBILITIES:
 - 4.1 To uphold the principles and policies of the AFA, as set out in the By-Laws, Amendments and Policy Statements.
 - 4.2 To conduct oneself and one's family in a sportsmanlike manner when representing AFA or at AFA-sponsored events.
 - 4.3 To provide and maintain healthful and safe conditions for ferrets.
 - 4.4 To maintain a current membership, by paying on or in advance of the renewal date of the membership.