

SECTION 2:

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For any questions regarding California Department of Fish and Wildlife Rules, please visit their website at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/>

Any questions beyond what is printed here in the CAT manual can be found at the website above.

SECTION 2:
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TAXIDERMISTS
BY-LAWS

These proposed bylaws, if adopted by the CAT Administrative Board, will revise and completely replace all previously approved bylaws. Including those adopted in August of 1992, amended in April of 2002, and amended in 2019.

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section A. The official name of this organization is the “California Association of Taxidermists”. The organization may also be known by the acronym CAT. The “California Association of Taxidermists” may be referred to herein as CAT.

Section B. The official name was adopted by the Officers, Board and the general membership on May 26th, 1994.

Section C. CAT is a US Code 501c Registered Taxidermy Trade Organization. CAT inherited its parent organization, the “Taxidermists Education Political Action Society”, also known as “TEPAS” (IRS-TIN: 68-0263478).

ARTICLE II. LOGO

Section A. The official CAT logo is circular in design, a circle within a circle. The outer circle has the organizations name printed within it, “California” and “Taxidermist” along the upper left and right borders and “Association” along the bottom border. Below the words “California” and “Taxidermists” are prints of cat’s paws. The inner circle is two parted. On the left is an outline of the State of California with the letters “CAT” running from top to bottom within the outline. To the right is the left profile of a snarling mountain lion head.

Section B. The Board and the membership adopted this official logo on May 26th, 1994.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE

Section A. To unite persons interested in the taxidermy industry into an organization for the advancement of the art of taxidermy and the betterment of the circumstances of taxidermists.

Section B. To provide educational opportunities in taxidermy techniques, procedures and methods through newsletters, product reviews, seminars, Competition and Art Show Conventions.

Section C. To represent the best interests of the taxidermy industry to the California Fish and Game Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Governor of California, both houses of the California State Legislature and the general public.

Section D. To collect and expend monies in order to achieve the purposes enumerated in the Article.

ARTICLE IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Section A. The CAT membership's authority to elect CAT's Administrative Board Members (herein referred to as Board) shall not be usurped, except by official Board action to fill unexpected Board vacancies pursuant to *ARTICLE IV*, Section H., and I. or *ARTICLE V*, Section F., G., and H.

Section B. Board members shall be elected from the rolls of the current CAT membership, by the current CAT members who are in attendance at the annual CAT Art Show Convention.

Section C. In order to assure an orderly rotation of Board Member's term expiration, (excluding the Immediate Past President) the twelve (12) members CAT Board shall be arranged into three (3) groups of four (4) members each. Each group's term expiration shall be staggered by one year from the preceding group's term expiration. Every year, one group of four (4) Board positions shall expire and be up for election. Rotated in and out as required.

Section D. CAT members who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected to fill the immediately impending (due to term expiration) Board vacancies.

Section E. The Board may consist of up the thirteen (13) individual persons.

Section F. The Board shall consist of four (4) Officers, the immediate Past President, and may consist of up to eight (8) or nine (9) Directors.

Section G. The Officers of the Board shall consist of a President, a Vice President, and Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section H. CAT Officers and Directors shall maintain their individual CAT membership in full force at all times. Any failure to comply with this Section is cause for immediate removal from Office. All vacancies arising from the Section shall be filled as per *Article V*, Sections F., or G.

Section I. The CAT Board has the authority and power to, by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, remove any Officer or Director from the board for cause, and to declare the same position vacant. Vacancies arising pursuant to this section shall be filled as per *ARTICLE V*, Sections F., or G.

Section J. Any current Officer or Director may be removed from Board membership for any of the following reasons: Obtaining membership in CAT by false or misleading statements; Any cause or conduct that is contrary to or in violation of CAT Bylaws; Any conduct disruptive of the orderly operation of CAT in the pursuit of its goals; willfully making false statements or misrepresentations about CAT or any of its elected representatives; Habitual dereliction of one's obligation to attend CAT Board meetings or fulfill duties of the position.

Section K. When needed, the CAT Administration Board has the authority to appoint current CAT members to fill voluntary positions of: Social Media, Food, Seminars, Judges, Merchandise, Facility, Awards, and Donations. These appointments are temporary and without a predetermined duration. They are revocable by the Administrative Board at any time, for any good cause. These appointed volunteers are distinct from the Administrative Board. They have no authority over or vote on any matter that comes before the Administrative Board, and no responsibility for decisions or actions of the Administrative Board. These

appointed volunteers shall work at the pleasure of the Administrative Board. The Administrative Board shall determine and define the duties and responsibilities of each voluntary position. These appointed volunteers may resign their voluntary position at any time for any reason without retribution from CAT. These voluntary positions are without stipend. The appointed volunteers shall not receive any wage of salary. These appointed volunteers shall receive reimbursement for their reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their assigned duties and responsibilities. All reimbursements shall be approved by the Administrative Board. Requests for reimbursement shall be detailed, in writing and accompanied by original paid receipts.

ARTICLE V. TERMS OF OFFICE

Section A. Board Members shall serve Two (2) year terms. One year is from a CAT art show convention to the very next art show convention.

Section B. Newly elected board members shall not take office and shall not have any administrative powers until they have officially been sworn to their oaths of office.

Section C. Newly elected board members shall be sworn in and their terms of office shall be in as the last order of business of the outgoing board during the last board meeting of the annual CAT Competition and Art Show Convention.

Section D. A president, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer shall be appointed, from among members of the newly composed board, by a majority vote of the newly composed board. Officers appointed pursuant to this section may serve, in their appointed capacity, until their two (2) year term on the board expires.

Section E. An incumbent officer who is not re-appointed may assume the office of director in order to complete their two (2) year term on the board.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD DUTIES

Section A. The president shall direct and supervise all activities of CAT, appoint committees, preside at all meeting of the Board and cast the deciding vote in cases of tie vote on any matter brought before the board. "The president's decision" may be reviewed by the board, and overridden by a 2/3 majority vote of the board.

Section B. The Vice President shall assist the president in his/her duties and shall temporarily assume the position of President in case of the President's absence, or disability, or resignation.

Section C. The Secretary shall take minutes at all board meetings, and may keep CAT official records.

Section D. The treasurer shall receive monies on behalf of CAT and shall deposit all said monies in financial accounts assigned only to CAT. The treasurer shall make a specific and detailed financial report to the CAT board members during the board meeting at the board meeting at the annual CAT taxidermy show art show. The report shall list a beginning and ending balance and each credit and debit to CAT financial accounts. See *ARTICLE X*, Section B.

Section E. The officers and directors shall assist the president in every way in order to accomplish the purpose for which CAT was formed.

Section F. Only the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be authorized signatories on CAT financial accounts. One authorized signature is required to draw on CAT financial accounts.

Section G. All expenditures from CAT financial accounts shall be approved by the board and subject to annual review. The board shall have the authority to initial legal actions, to the fullest extent of the law in order to recover any unapproved expenditures from CAT financial accounts. See *ARTICLE X.*, Section B.

ARTICLE VII. BOARD MEETING AND VOTING

Section A. The board shall meet one or more times during the annual CAT Art show convention.

Section B. Board meetings held during the annual CAT art show convention shall be open to all current CAT members.

Section C. When necessary, the president may call special meetings of the board. Such special meetings may be held at the mid-year seminars or may be held telephonically or through the Zoom platform if the president so deems necessary.

Section D. Monthly meetings will be held either by conference call or the Zoom platform. Meetings are currently held on the first Wednesday of each month.

Section E. At all board meetings a board quorum shall be required to conduct any officially-binding business.

Section F. A board quorum shall be a majority of the then-sitting board members and must include the President, (or V.P. in the President's absence), and the secretary or treasurer. In other words, in order for CAT board meetings to have a quorum, the meeting must consist of seven (7) board members total including the president and one other CAT officer.

Section G. Matters brought before the board shall be approved or rejected by a simple majority vote, except in the case of proposed bylaws amendments which are handled as per *ARTICLE XV.* of these bylaws.

Section H. Each board member shall be allowed to cast one vote in each matter that is brought before the board, excepting that the President (or the V.P. in the president's absence) will be allowed to cast one vote only in the case of ties. No proxy voting shall be allowed.

ARTICLE VIII. PRINCIPAL OFFICE

Section A. The Principal Office for the transaction of the activities and affair of CAT is located at: P.O. Box 1569, Chester, CA 96020.

The board may change the Principal Office from one location to another as officer's change and the need arises.

ARTICLE IX. LIMITATIONS

Section A. The property, assets, profits and net income of CAT are irrevocable dedicated to the purposes set forth in *ARTICLE III* of these bylaws. No part of the profits or net income of CAT shall be inuring to the private personal benefit of any board member, any CAT member or any private individual.

Section B. In order to avoid confusion and to ensure accuracy in CAT financial record keeping, all board approved debts, obligations and liabilities incurred by CAT shall be paid by a check, credit card or Venmo, drawn in a CAT financial account. If a person voluntarily pays a CAT board approved debit, obligation, or liability incurred by CAT, that person shall submit to CAT an itemized reimbursement request statement including all original, paid reports. Charging of the voluntarily paid CAT board approved orders, obligations or liabilities incurred by CAT, against a sum a person owes to CAT is not allowed. All sums owed to CAT shall be paid by cash, check, money order, credit card or venmo.

Section C. Upon the winding up and dissolution of CAT, after paying or adequately providing for the payment of debts, obligations, and liabilities of CAT, all remaining assets of CAT shall be donated to the Internal Revenue Service Code section 501(c) non-profit hunter's or fishermen's association or other sportsman's 501c non-profit as approved by the board.

ARTICLE X. MEMBERSHIPS

Section A. Membership in CAT may be open to interested persons who will support the purposes of CAT and who will pay annual membership dues and or fees set by the Board.

Section B. Membership in CAT shall be from opening day of the CAT Competition and Art Show Convention to opening day of the very next CAT Competition and Art Show Convention, approximately from April of one year to April of the next year. If dues are paid late, any time after the show, it is only valid until the following years show. If dues are paid any time other than at the Annual Competition, payment is considered late and will be due again at the next year's competition.

ARTICLE XI. MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES

Section A. Membership dues and fees shall be set by the Board and may be adjusted as necessary.

Section B. Each CAT member must pay within the time and on the conditions set by the Board and the dues and /or fees in amounts fixed by the board.

Section C. All membership dues, fees and other monies collected by CAT shall be expended to further the purposes of CAT and to benefit the taxidermy industry.

ARTICLE XII. MEMBERSHIP VOTING

Section A. All current CAT members who attend the appropriate annual show shall be entitled to one vote in the board member election.

Section B. All current CAT members shall be entitled to vote in any election to dissolve CAT.

ARTICLE XIII. ANNUAL TAXIDERMY ART SHOW CONVENTION

Section A. An annual taxidermy art show convention will be held, preferably in the month of March or April.

Section B. The board shall select the date and site of the annual show.

Section C. The board shall set all fees and conditions required for attending the show.

Section D. The annual show shall be open to all current members who are interested in promoting the taxidermy industry and who pay all fees required.

Section E. The board may authorize the paying of cash award prizes to winners of certain show competition categories.

ARTICLE XIV. LIABILITY INSURANCE

Section A. The board shall have the authority to purchase and maintain insurance to the fullest extent permitted by law on behalf of the officers, directors, employees, and other agents, against all liability asserted against or incurred by an officer, director, employee, or agent acting in such capacity or arising out of the officers, directors, employees or agents status as such.

ARTICLE XV. BYLAWS AMENDMENTS OR (REVISED BYLAWS).

Section A. All proposed amendments to the bylaws or revised editions of the bylaws must be distributed in two (2) consecutive issues of the CAT newsletter and such newsletter issues distributed to all current CAT members via posting on the CAT Facebook, Instagram and Website before these same proposed amendments can be officially acted upon by the board.

Section B. All newsletter distributions required by Section A. of this article shall be distributed in two (2) consecutive issues of the CAT newsletter and such newsletter issues distributed to all current CAT members via posting on the CAT Facebook, Instagram and Website.

Section C. Proposed amendments to the bylaws or revised edition(s) of the bylaws shall be adopted only upon an affirmative vote of at least two thirds (2/3) of the then-sitting board members.

Section D. The CAT secretary shall keep a true and correct copy of all amendments to the official CAT bylaws which are officially adopted by the board. These amendments shall be attached to the official CAT bylaws and maintained with the other official records of CAT at the principal office.

ARTICLE XVI. BYLAWS VALIDITY

Section A. If a court of competent jurisdiction shall hold a portion of these bylaws to be invalid, the remainder of the bylaws not so held invalid shall be considered in full force and effect.

ARTICLE XVII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER
 - a. Done by the President or V.P. in Presidents absence.
2. ROLL CALL
 - a. Secretary shall take roll call.
 - b. Quorum call shall be required to conduct official business.
3. READING OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
 - a. Secretary shall review the minutes.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AS READ OR AS CORRECTED
5. TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT
 - a. Treasurer shall review the report.
6. ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURERS REPORT AS READ OR AS CORRECTED
7. BILLS
8. REPORT OF COMMITTEES
 - a. For standing and special committees.
 - b. If any committees have been organized or appointed, their business would now be shared and reviewed.
9. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Old business is now conversed and reviewed by/with the entire board that is present during meeting.
10. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. New topics/discussions are now presented to the present board.
 - b. Voting will occur, if topics so require a voting decision, as long as a quorum is present, at this time. A board member must make a proposal and another second, and then majority vote rules.
11. GENERAL DISCUSSION FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAT
12. ADJOURNMENT
 - a. Meeting adjourned by the President or Vice President in the President's absence.