

# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS ETHICS POLICY

Adopted 27 June 2009

## **Guiding Principles**

The objectives of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) shall be the promotion of the interests of mammalogy by holding meetings, issuing serial or other publications, aiding research, and engaging in such other activities as may be deemed appropriate to the objectives.

As set forth in the Society bylaws, the Society shall not be organized or operated for profit, and no part of the Society's net income nor any of its assets shall inure to the benefit of the Officers, Directors, Trustees, or Members, except as scientific publications, Honoraria for research, special recognition, or service rendered, as approved by the Board of Directors. No substantial part of the Society's activities will consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, or of participating in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

The law provides the basic framework for Society operations as a nonprofit organization. The Society complies with applicable local, state, and federal laws. The Society however, acts not only legally, but also ethically. It takes affirmative steps to establish and maintain its integrity so as to warrant the confidence of its membership. The Code of Ethics is a tangible expression of the ethical principles that govern the Society's actions.

## **Ethical Responsibility Of The Governing Authority**

The Society's governing authority—the Board of Directors—ensures that policies are articulated, prudent oversight is practiced, and professional standards and practices inform and guide the Society's operations. They ensure that the Society is responsive to and represents the interests of its membership. The Board is elected by an open vote in which all registered members are eligible to vote.

The Society expects all of its Officers, Directors, Committee Members, and Editors to conduct themselves ethically at all times and to promote and support that behavior in their fellow Officers, Directors, Committee Members, and Editors. Further, the Society expects each Officer, Director, Committee member and Editor to treat members, vendors and fellow Officers, Directors, Committee Members, and Editors with respect and honesty. This includes providing information that is accurate, complete, objective, relevant, and understandable. Finally, the Society expects compliance with its *Conflict of Interest Policy*.

Failure to observe these expectations may lead to removal from any role of responsibility within the Society as described within the ASM Bylaws.

## **Programs**

The American Society of Mammalogists serves society by advancing the scientific understanding and appreciation of mammals through research, scholarship, publication, and educational activities. These programs support the Society's mission and are responsive to the concerns, interests, and needs of society.

The Society ensures that its programs are founded on scientific scholarship and marked by intellectual integrity.

## **Membership**

Membership in the American Society of Mammalogists will be accessible to all individuals without discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preference, marital status, military service, or any other basis protected by federal, state, or local laws.

## **Compliance With Laws, Rules, And Regulations**

While conducting business on behalf of the American Society of Mammalogists, Officers, Board Members, Trustees, Committee Chairs, and Editors and all others must respect, obey, and comply with the laws, rules, and regulations of the cities, states, and countries in which the Society operates. All members representing the Society should be aware of and comply with federal, state, and local tax laws.

## **Resolution Of Membership Concerns**

The Office of Ombudsperson is intended to hear and to respond appropriately to complaints of unprofessional behavior by any member of the ASM in which the person or people involved are acting as representatives of the ASM.

Selection of appointees and duration of appointment are the prerogative of the President. Selection criteria emphasizes the possession of specific skills, common sense, sensitivity to gender and minority issues, discretion, possession of the respect of the membership in general, and a willingness to serve.

Creation of the Office of Ombudsperson in itself is meant to discourage any and all inappropriate behavior on the part of the membership of the ASM, and all issues brought before the appointed individuals will be resolved as discreetly as possible. The Ombudspersons are entrusted to deal with each situation as they best see fit.

## **Fundraising**

Donations will not be sought or accepted from any donor where such a donation would compromise the integrity or image of the Society or its mission or which restricts the Society in its ability to present any side of an issue. The Society controls the content and integrity of its publications and committee activities in order to fulfill its responsibility to the membership and the scientific community.

### **Record Keeping And Protection Of Assets**

Where a Society member is required to make a record of or report on any form of information relating to the conduct of business for the Society, such record/report must be made honestly and accurately in order to make responsible decisions. Members will adhere to the American Society of Mammalogists' archives retention policy as published in the *Document Retention and Destruction Policy*.

### **Professionalism**

Professional standards and practices inform and guide all Society operations. Members are expected to conduct all activities on behalf of the Society in accordance with the highest professional standards of the discipline.

### **Animal Care And Use**

Information and guidelines concerning the ethical handling of mammals are published and regularly updated in the ASM Animal Care and Use document with the approval of the Board of Directors. No manuscripts shall be accepted for publication by the Society in which violations of these guidelines are found to have occurred.

### **Publication Sales And Other Commercial Activity**

Revenue-producing activities undertaken by the Society will not violate or compromise the integrity of the Society's mission, the ability of the Society or its members to maintain professional standards, or the Society's not-for-profit status.

The activities and offerings of the Society are further guided by the following principles

- It protects the privacy of personal data collected by the Society or its representatives.