

**APDT**  
**Proposed Bylaws Amendments**  
**August 9, 2023**

**ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP**

2.1 **Eligibility.** Individuals who agree to abide by the Code of Professional Ethics and meet the criteria established by the Board are eligible for membership.

2.2 **Membership Classifications.** There shall be ~~four~~ **five** categories of membership.

2.2.1 **Premium Professional.** Any individual actively engaged full-time or part-time in the dog training and/or behavior profession that has attested that they are in compliance with LIMA principles. Members in this category are eligible to vote and to serve on the Board, Committees and Task Forces. Additional benefits are available to members in this category that are not provided to other membership classes.

2.2.2 **Professional.** Any individual actively engaged full-time or part-time in the dog training and/or behavior profession that has attested that they are in compliance with LIMA principles. Members in this category are eligible to vote and to serve on the Board, Committees and Task Forces.

2.2.3 **Supporting.** Any individual that is a supplier of products or services to Premium Professional and Professional members, in addition to any individual that is a veterinarian, **student**, retired trainer, groomer, **shelter employee** or individuals that have an interest in dog training. Members in this category are not eligible to vote or serve on the Board but are eligible to serve on Committees and Task Forces.

2.2.4 **Student & Volunteer** Any student, high school or college level, interested in dog training, any volunteer or staff member of an animal rescue or shelter group. Members in this category are not eligible to vote or serve on the board but are eligible to serve on committees and task forces.

2.2.5 **Lifetime.** The Board, in its discretion, may grant lifetime membership to Premium Professional or Professional members who, in the opinion of the Board, deserve such status. Lifetime members shall have all rights of Professional membership, may vote, may serve on the Board and hold office, but shall be exempt from payment of membership dues.

2.3 **Membership Dues.** Dues for Premium Professional, Professional, Supporting, and Student & Volunteer memberships shall be established by the Board at its discretion.

2.4 **Termination of Membership.** Members may voluntarily terminate their membership by providing notice of cancellation or by not providing payment of dues in the time prescribed by the Association. Subject to the requirements of applicable law, any member may be suspended, removed or expelled from membership for cause by a two

thirds (2/3) vote of the Board at a duly convened meeting, including but not limited to the terms of the Code of Professional Ethics. During any suspension period, a member shall not be entitled to exercise any of the rights and privileges of membership, including without limitation the right to vote and representation of membership. All rights and privileges of membership shall cease upon the expulsion or termination of a member. After a period of 2 years, a member who has been suspended, removed, or expelled for membership by cause may petition to the Board for the right to re-apply for membership, which request the Board may grant, in its sole discretion.

**2.5 No Transfer of Membership.** Association membership rights and privileges are not transferrable.