International Society for Animal-Assisted Therapy (ISAAT)
Non-profit association (ASBL)
13, rue de Bastogne, L-8818 Grevels, Luxembourg
RCS Luxembourg: F11664

Constitution of the "International Society for Animal-Assisted Therapy" c/o ISAAT Secretariat

General Provisions:
(1) The Society's logo is protected by copyright.
(2) Electronic communications (e-mail, fax, etc.) shall also be deemed 'written' within the meaning of these Articles of Association.
(3) The official language of the Articles of Association, the Rules of Procedure, correspondence and proceedings shall be English.

Article 1 – Name, Registered Office, Areas of Activity and Legal Form of the Association
(1) The name of the Association shall be: International Association for Animal-Assisted Therapy (here in after referred to as ISAAT), an association for the recognition and promotion of the therapeutic, educational and salutogenic effects of human-animal relationships.
(2) The registered office of the Association is situated in the municipality of Grevels, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The Association's administrative center is located at the Secretariat. The Association's activities are carried out both globally and regionally through its regional branches (Europe, North and South America, Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East and Africa).
(3) The Association endeavors to be recognized as a charitable organization under the tax law of the country in which it has its registered office. Members shall not receive any payments from the Association's funds.
(4) The Association is a non-profit association (association sans but lucratif - ASBL) and is governed by the amended Luxembourg Law of 7 August 2023 on non-profit associations and foundations, as well as by these Articles of Association.

Article 2 – Objectives of the Association
The objectives of the Association are:
1. Quality control of institutions (public and private) and associations that offer further training and professional development in animal-assisted therapy, animal-assisted education and animal-assisted activities (support measures) through accreditation.
2. Promotion of the official recognition of
a) animal-assisted therapy as a viable therapeutic measure
b) animal-assisted education as a valuable method, and
c) animal-assisted activities as valuable specialized methods, particularly with regard to salutogenesis

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3. To promote the official recognition of individuals who have completed such further training/education at accredited institutions and organizations, either as animal-assisted therapists/counsellors, animal-assisted educators or specialists in animal-assisted support measures.
4. To support all activities that contribute to the achievement of the Society's objectives.

Article 3 – Activities to fulfil the Society's objectives
The objectives of the Association shall be achieved by both non-material and material means.
(1) The non-material means are:
1. Establishment of (minimum) criteria for the subject matter and duration of continuing education and training programmes in the fields of animal-assisted therapy, animal-assisted education and animal-assisted activities, for approval by the Association
2. Establishing (minimum) criteria for trainers in such programmes
3. Establishing (minimum) criteria for admission to such continuing professional development programmes that are field-specific (therapy, education, specialist in animal-assisted activities)
4. Establishment and appointment of an external accreditation council, whose members are nominated by the association and are experts in various areas of the interdisciplinary curriculum
5. Enabling ISAAT membership for those institutions and associations that have been Accreditation Council and have been recommended for full membership
6. Drawing up proposals for the recognition of the aforementioned interventions and methods as well as negotiations with the relevant authorities, professional bodies of other professions and social security and health insurance providers.

(2) The necessary financial resources for the above-mentioned activities shall be raised in the following ways:
1. Annual membership fees (from institutions and organizations)
2. Application fees for review by the Accreditation Council
3. Allocation of funds by funding bodies and grants
4. Donations, bequests and other contributions
5. Fees for participation in events
6. Income from commercial enterprises of the association which are permitted under the relevant regulations, as well as interest on capital funds.
The Association is obliged to use all its resources exclusively to fulfil its charitable purposes and to carry out only those activities without which the objectives cannot be achieved. These activities must not, to any greater extent than is unavoidable for the fulfilment of the association's purpose, compete with those of taxable companies operating in the same or a similar sector. Any profits arising from these activities must be used exclusively and within a reasonable period to support the association's charitable objectives. The members of the Association shall receive no share of profits and no other payments from the association's

funds, unless they receive them in the course of carrying out a task on behalf of the Association. The same applies upon a member's withdrawal from the association, as well as in the event of the association's dissolution or winding-up. No person may benefit from expenditure unrelated to the association's purpose, or from disproportionately high remuneration.

Article 4 – Membership

The members of the Association are:

1. Full members:

Institutions (public and private) and associations which offer further training programmes in animal-assisted therapy, animal-assisted education and/or animal-assisted activities, and which have been recommended by the ISAAT Accreditation Council ISAAT and approved by the ISAAT Executive Board.

2. Associate members:

Societies and organizations with objectives that align with ISAAT's activities in the field of animal-assisted therapy/education/activities may join as associate members. Furthermore, associate members may include alumni and/or lecturers from ISAAT full-member institutions and societies, from founding members, and from university degree programmes in the field of human–animal relationships.

3. Honorary members:

Individuals who have made a significant contribution to the fields of animal-assisted therapy, education and activities or to the founding or operations of ISAAT.

4. Founding members:

Institutions and organizations that planned the founding of ISAAT and drafted the founding statutes. These are: the Society for Animal-Assisted Therapy and Activities (GTTA, Switzerland); the Institute for Applied Ethology and Animal Psychology (I.E.T./I.E.A.P., Switzerland); the Institute for Social Learning with Animals (Germany); Recherche en Education et Thérapie Assistées par l'Animal (RETAA, Luxembourg); and the Human Animal Bond Laboratory, Azabu University Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Japan.

(5) The minimum number of members of the Association is two. The amount of the annual membership fee shall be determined by the General Assembly and shall not exceed 300 Euros per member per year.

Article 5 – Admission

(1) With the exception of the founding members, institutions (public and private) and organisations must apply for membership in writing. The ISAAT Executive Board then draws up a formal application. Once the application has been completed, returned and payment made, the Executive Board forwards it to the Accreditation Council. The Accreditation Council submits its recommendation to the ISAAT Executive Committee, on the basis of which the ISAAT Executive Committee makes its decision.

(2) If an application is rejected, the applicant receives constructive feedback on how they can improve their chances of admission when submitting a renewed application. In the event of a dispute, the General Assembly shall make the final decision.
(3) The ISAAT Executive Committee may propose individual
persons for honorary membership to the General Assembly, which shall decide on the matter.

Article 6 – Review of the Qualifications of Current Members
(1) At least every five years, the ISAAT Executive Committee must review the qualifications of member institutions and societies to ensure that they fulfil the current criteria for membership. Member institutions and societies are obliged to provide the necessary information on a form sent by the ISAAT Executive Committee. In cases of doubt, the ISAAT Executive Committee must refer the matter to the Accreditation Counciland charge a fee for recertification.
(2) This procedure applies to full members, associate members and founding members; if the founding members have a training program accredited by ISAAT, it also applies to them. In the event of an appeal by the member, the Executive Board shall decide on the matter in accordance with 5 (2).

Article 7 – Termination of Membership
(1) Termination of membership is only possible on 31 December of each year
. The member must inform the ISAAT Executive Committee (for the attention of the President) of their resignation, in writing at least two months prior to this date. If the notice is submitted late, it shall only take effect at the next scheduled date for resignation. The decisive factor for determining whether the notice is timely is the date on which the notice is received.
(2) The Executive Committee shall terminate a member's membership if a member is more than six months in arrears with their membership fees and a written reminder with a 30-day grace period has been issued. The obligation to pay remains in force until the payment has been made.
(3) A member may be expelled from the Association by the General Assembly for good cause. Good cause shall include, in particular, a gross breach of the member's obligations or the Association's Articles of Association, as well as failure to comply with the required recertification.
The decision on expulsion shall be taken by the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Luxembourg law.
(4) The Executive Committee may propose the termination of a person's honorary membership on the grounds set out in paragraph (3). The resolution shall be passed by the General Assembly.

Article 8 – Rights and Obligations of Members

(1) All members are obliged to support the interests of the Association to the best of their ability.

Members are obliged to comply with the Articles of Association and the resolutions of the Association. They are obliged to comply with the Articles of Association, the Rules of Procedure and the resolutions of the Association, which shall be communicated in writing to their offices/secretariats as required. Full members, associate members and founding members are obliged to pay the annual membership fee set by the General Assembly in good time.

(2) Full members and founding members each have one vote at the General Assembly. Associate members and honorary members have no voting rights.

Membership and the associated voting rights relate to the respective member institution or member organization and not to individual training programmes offered by it. Each member institution or member organization entitled to vote therefore has one vote, regardless of the number of its programmes.

Each member institution or organization entitled to vote shall appoint a natural person to represent it at the General Assembly and to exercise its voting rights.

Membership of the ISAAT Executive Board does not confer any additional or independent voting right in the General Assembly. However, a member of the Executive Board may exercise the voting right of a voting member institution or organization if they have been appointed as a representative by that institution or organization.

A voting member institution or organization may delegate its voting right by written proxy to the representative of another voting member.

(3) Only full members of ISAAT may state in their public communications and on their certificates/diplomas for graduates of their programmes that:

“This course (or program) has been assessed and approved by the International Society for Animal-Assisted Therapy and is delivered in accordance with its standards” and only this text. Other members may only mention their membership category in ISAAT only in public information and in a manner that does not imply that their training programmes have been approved by ISAAT, but not on their certificates/diplomas awarded upon completion of their programmes.

(4) Irrespective of the number of representatives present, each voting member institution or member organization shall have one vote. The right to vote shall be exercised by the authorized representative designated in accordance with paragraph 2. Executive Board members shall not have any additional voting rights by virtue of their position on the Executive Board.

(5) Participation in the General Assembly via Skype or other video conferencing options is permitted. Full members who have not attended the General Assembly for a period of five years shall be excluded from membership at the next possible date.

(6) All members of the member institutions and societies may be invited to special events organized by the Society.

Article 9 – Governing Bodies of the Society and Auditors
The official bodies of the Association are the General Assembly (Articles 10 and 11), the ISAAT Executive Board (Articles 12–14), the Curriculum Committee (Article 15), the Accreditation Council (Article 16) and the Auditors (Article 17).

Article 10 – General Assembly
(1) The ordinary General Assembly shall take place once a year. The financial year is the same as the calendar year.
(2) An extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened if the ISAAT Executive Committee or the General Assembly so decides, if at least one-fifth of the members entitled to vote request this in writing, or if the auditors so request.
(3) Members (full, associate, founding and honorary members) must be invited in writing to the ordinary and extraordinary General Meetings at least four weeks in advance. Advance notice. The General Meeting shall be convened by the President, stating the proposed agenda and noting that, should a second meeting take place 15 minutes later, the meeting with the members present shall constitute a quorum.
(4) Motions for the General Assembly must be submitted in writing to the ISAAT Executive Committee at least 14 days in advance and shall be included in the agenda. The final agenda shall be sent to the members prior to the meeting.
(5) Resolutions shall only be passed on items on the agenda, with the exception of motions to convene an extraordinary General Assembly. No resolutions shall be passed on items under the agenda item 'Any other business'.
(6) The General Assembly shall constitute a quorum if half of the members entitled to vote are present or represented, provided that the law or these Articles of Association do not provide for any different requirements for specific resolutions. If the General Assembly does not constitute a quorum at the scheduled time, a second General Assembly with the same agenda shall take place 15 minutes later, which shall constitute a quorum regardless of the number of members entitled to vote who are present or represented.
Any special attendance or voting quorums required by law, in particular for amendments to the Articles of Association, remain unaffected by this provision.
(7) The provisions of Article 15 of the Luxembourg Act of 7 August 2023 apply to amendments to the Articles of Association. This means, in particular:
• The proposed amendments to the Articles of Association must be notified to the members prior to the General Meeting.
• At the first General Meeting, at least two-thirds of the members must be present or represented.
• An amendment to the Articles of Association generally requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.
• If the required attendance quorum is not met, a second General Meeting may be convened in accordance with the statutory
a second General Meeting may be convened.

• Special statutory requirements apply to any change in the association's purpose.
(8) The President shall chair the General Meeting; in the event of his or her absence, the Vice-President shall chair it. If the Vice-President is also absent, the member of the ISAAT Executive Board present with the longest seniority.
(9) Members who are unable to attend the General Meeting in person may participate via live voice or video communication and shall have the same voting rights as if they were present in person. The Executive Committee shall endeavour to facilitate this method of participation.
However, it cannot be held responsible for unforeseeable communication problems during the Annual General Meeting. Anonymous voting cannot be conducted via this method of communication, but members attending virtually may, by sending an immediate email to the President or the Secretary, waive their right to anonymity or cast their vote.
(10) Selection of the venue for the ISAAT AGM. The Executive Board shall decide on the time and place of the Annual General Meeting. Members may apply to host the Annual General Meeting by sending a written notification to the President. It must be possible to participate via live voice/video communication.

Article 11 – Duties of the General Meeting
The General Assembly is responsible for the following tasks:
1. Receiving and approving the President's report
2. Receiving and approving the Treasurer's report
3. Receiving and approving the Auditor's report
4. Granting discharge to the ISAAT Executive Committee
5. Drawing up the budget for the coming year
6. Setting the annual membership fees for full members, associate members and founding members.
7. Electing, appointing and removing the President, the other members of the ISAAT Executive Committee and the auditors. The handover of duties shall take place at the start of the next financial year; in the event of removal from office and the election of a successor, it shall take place immediately.
8. Confirmation by the Accreditation Council and the Curriculum Commission upon recommendation of the ISAAT Board.
9. Granting and termination of honorary membership.
10. Adoption of the rules of procedure, amendment of the Articles of Association and dissolution of the Association.
11. Deliberation and resolution on all agenda items with the exception of those listed under 'Any Other Business'.

Article 12 – The ISAAT Executive Board
(1) The ISAAT Executive Board is the administrative body of the Association. It consists of at least three board members. The board members are elected by the General Assembly by a simple majority.

(2) The Executive Board may co-opt a qualified person if a member leaves the Executive Board before the end of their term of office. A replacement member for the departing member shall be elected by the next General Assembly for the remainder of the term of office.
(3) The term of office is two years. The Board of Directors remains in office and in its capacity until the election of a new Board of Directors. The re-election of office-holders is permitted.
(4) Meetings of the Board of Directors are convened in writing in advance by the President or, if the President is unable to do so, by the Vice-President, as and when required.
(5) The Board of Directors has a quorum if all members have been convened and at least half of the Board of Directors is present.
(6) The Chairperson presides over meetings of the Board of Directors; in the event of the Chairperson's absence, the Vice-Chairperson shall act in their stead.
(7) Resolutions are passed by a simple majority; in the event of a tie, the Chairperson has two votes.
(8) In addition to death and the expiry of the term of office (paragraph 3), the tenure of a member of the Executive Board may be terminated by dismissal (Article 11, paragraph 7) or resignation (paragraph 9).
(9) Members of the Executive Board may submit their resignation in writing at any time. The notice of resignation must be addressed to the Executive Board c/o the President; in the event of the resignation of all members of the Executive Board, it must be addressed to the General Meeting. Until a successor is elected, an appointed substitute from within the Executive Board shall assume the duties of the departing member on an interim basis.
(10) The liability of the members of the Executive Board towards the Association is governed by the relevant civil law.

Article 13 – Duties of the ISAAT Executive Board
The Executive Board manages the day-to-day affairs of the Association. It shall assume all duties which are not assigned to other bodies of the Association by the Articles of Association. In particular, the following matters fall within the remit of the Executive Board:
1. Drafting the annual activity report and the annual financial report. The General Assembly shall be informed of the Society's financial position.
2. Proposing the budget for the coming year
3. Preparing the General Assembly
4. Preparing and distributing in good time (together with the invitation to the) proposals for amendments to the Articles of Association and/or the Rules of Procedure.
5. Management of the Society's funds
6. Nominations for the Accreditation Council
7. Nominations for the Curriculum Commission
8. Admission to and termination of membership of the Society on the basis of the recommendation of the Accreditation Council.
In the event of an objection by the Society/institution concerned, the General Assembly shall make the final decision.

9. Appointment and dismissal of the Society's staff.

Article 14 – Duties of the members of the ISAAT Executive Board

(1) The President holds the highest office in the Society. He or she represents the Association externally; in the event of the President's absence, the Vice-President is authorized to do so. He or she chairs the General Assembly and the ISAAT Executive Board and convenes at least one Executive Board meeting annually, the number of which, however, must be sufficient to conduct the Association's business properly. Resolutions of the Executive Committee may be transmitted electronically to all members of the Executive Committee by way of a circular resolution. In urgent cases, the President may also act on his or her own authority in matters which fall within the remit of the General Assembly or the entire ISAAT Executive Committee. Such measures must be approved retrospectively by the relevant body as soon as possible. The President is personally liable if this body does not agree with his or her actions.

(2) The Secretary shall assist the President in the conduct of all the Association's affairs. He or she shall draw up accurate minutes of the General Assembly and of the ISAAT Executive Board meetings for distribution and subsequent approval. Where required under civil law the Secretary shall inform the relevant authorities of changes to the composition of the Executive Board, including names, addresses, roles and terms of office.

(3) The Treasurer is responsible for the management of the company's finances in accordance with the approved budget and other regulations.

At the end of the financial year, he or she shall submit to the Executive Board an audited balance sheet and an overview of the company's overall financial position (capital and liabilities).

(4) Documents and notices issued by the Society, in particular those which bind the Society externally, shall be signed by the President and the Secretary, and, in financial matters, by the President and the Treasurer.

(5) In the absence of the President, the Vice-President may sign on the President's behalf.

Article 15 – The Curriculum Committee

(1) The ISAAT Executive Board shall appoint five (5) persons from the member institutions and organizations to serve on the Curriculum Committee for a term of two years. With the exception of the first Committee, the General Assembly must confirm the Executive Board's nominations to the Committee.

(2) The Curriculum Commission shall make recommendations to the ISAAT Executive Board, which in turn shall instruct the Accreditation Council to establish criteria for the approval of:

a) the subject matter and duration of continuing professional development and further training programmes in the fields of animal-assisted therapy, animal-assisted education and animal-assisted activities;

b) the study and examination regulations;

c) the trainers on these programmes; and

d) admission to study on these degree programmes at the appropriate level.

Article 16 – The Accreditation Council
(1) The ISAAT Executive Board shall invite individuals of impeccable character and reputation to become members of the Accreditation Council and to represent the various fields included in the curricula defined by ISAAT as essential to the sector.
The General Assembly must confirm their appointment by the Executive Board. Their task will be to assess the content, duration, quality of teaching and admission requirements for students, as laid down by ISAAT, but independently from the Association.
(2) They shall be remunerated by the Association for their work, with the costs to be covered by the accreditation fees payable by applicants or by the fees for the recertification of current members every five years.
(3) Their assessment (signed by the Chair and another member of the Accreditation Council) shall be in writing; it may – at the discretion of the ISAAT Executive Board – be forwarded in full or in part to the applicant and shall form the basis for the ISAAT Executive Board's decision on the acceptance or rejection of an application for membership.
(4) The term of membership of the Accreditation Council is two years, with the possibility of renewal for up to three terms of office.

Article 17 – The Auditors
(1) Two auditors shall be elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years. They may not be members of the ISAAT Executive Committee and must duties independently and impartially. They need not be members of a member association. Re-election is permitted.
(2) The auditors shall examine the expenditure of funds in relation to income and in accordance with the objectives set out in the Articles of Association, and shall carry out an audit within four weeks of the financial report being drawn up. They shall report to the General Assembly on the results of their audit. The ISAAT Executive Committee shall assist the auditors in their examination.
(3) The provisions set out in Article 12, paragraphs 3, 9 and 10, shall also apply to the auditors.
(4) The General Assembly shall decide when a professional auditor is required under civil law and shall select such a firm.

Article 18 – Regional Branches of the Association
(1) The regional branches of ISAAT are responsible for coordinating the membership and activities in their region in accordance with the criteria laid down by ISAAT.
(2) The European Society for Animal-Assisted Therapy (ESAAT) may serve as the regional branch of ISAAT for Europe. As new full members are admitted, over time other regional branches will be established, but until then their needs will be addressed by the ISAAT Executive Board.
(3) At least one representative of a full member from each ISAAT regional branch must attend the General Assembly each year.

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Article 19 – Dissolution of the Association

(1) The dissolution of the Association shall take place in accordance with the provisions of Article 25 of the amended Luxembourg Law of 7 August 2023 on non-profit associations and foundations.

(2) In the event of dissolution, the General Assembly shall decide on the allocation of the remaining assets of the Association. These shall be transferred to a non-profit organization or another body permitted under Article 25 of the Act whose purpose corresponds as closely as possible to the objectives of ISAAT.

(3) Upon dissolution of the association, the association's remaining assets shall not revert to the members and shall not be used for their benefit, but shall be used exclusively and in full for charitable purposes in the form of a donation to a related international organization. The funds shall be transferred to a specific, tax-recognized, charitable legal entity whose statutory and actual purpose most closely aligns with the objectives of the Association (Article 2). The last Executive Board shall make this decision by a majority resolution as described above, and the person elected to wind up the Association's affairs shall carry out this transfer.

Articles of Association approved and adopted on 21 September 2026 at the 3rd Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) 2026 by the ISAAT General Assembly.

ISAAT – Record of Resolutions
Extract from the minutes of the 3rd and 4th Extraordinary General Meetings of 21 September 2026 for submission to the Luxembourg Business Register (LBR)

Purpose of this document: to provide evidence of the resolution regarding the amendments to the ISAAT Articles of Association discussed on 21 September 2026. The attendance lists, tables, charts and the agenda items from the full minutes that are not required for this record of resolutions are not included in this extract.

I. 3rd Extraordinary General Meeting
Date / Time: 21 September 2026, 19:00–19:39 CET
Format: Online via Zoom
Determination of a quorum
At the start of the meeting, the members present and represented, as well as the proxies submitted, were recorded.
It was established that the required attendance quorum for the proposed amendments to the Articles of Association had not been reached. A resolution on the amendments to the Articles of Association was therefore not possible at this meeting.
During the determination of the quorum, it became apparent once again that the attendance quorum required for an amendment to the Articles of Association had not been reached. The 3rd extraordinary General Meeting was therefore adjourned.
In accordance with the Articles of Association, a further 4th Extraordinary General Meeting with the same agenda was convened following a 15-minute adjournment.

II. 4th Extraordinary General Meeting
Date / Time: 21 September 2026, 19:55–21:21 CET
Format: Online via Zoom
Re-verification of voting rights
Following the 15-minute adjournment, the 4th Extraordinary General Meeting was opened at 19:55. The members present and represented, as well as the proxy votes submitted, were verified once again. Voting rights were taken into account during the respective votes in accordance with the number of members present or represented.
The meeting continued on the basis of the provision in the Articles of Association applicable to a second meeting. According to this provision, the General Meeting, having been reconvened, was able to pass resolutions on the announced amendments to the Articles of Association regardless of the number of members present or represented. This had also been clarified beforehand with Mr Vogelmann-Kopf, a solicitor.

Note: 21 persons entitled to vote (including delegated votes) were present; each person entitled to vote has 1 vote.

Presentation and discussion of the amendments to the Articles of Association

The nine proposed amendments to the existing ISAAT Articles of Association were presented and explained. The aim of the amendments is, in particular, to adapt the Articles of Association to the applicable Luxembourg law for the transitional phase and thereby to create the legal conditions for the next steps.

Among other things, amendments relating to voting rights, the requirements for amendments to the Articles of Association and General Meetings, as well as further necessary adjustments to current Luxembourg law, were explained. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed amendments to the Articles of Association and to discuss them.

Resolution on the amendments to the Articles of Association

A vote was then taken on the nine amendments to the Articles of Association that had been presented earlier.

Voting result:

Yes: 19 votes (21 participants/proxies)

No: 0 votes

Abstentions: 0 votes

Resolution: The nine proposed amendments to the Articles of Association were thus unanimously approved.

The amended Articles of Association are to be submitted to the relevant Luxembourg register.

This record of the resolution sets out, in summary form, the relevant content of the current minutes of the 3rd and 4th Extraordinary General Meetings held on 21 September 2026 relating to the amendment to the Articles of Association.

Signed:
Minutes Secretary
Candela Hüsgen

President of ISAAT
Bianca Beham

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