



1. Financial Gain
 - a. The VSSO is a non-profit organization.
 - b. Committee positions are on a volunteer basis, with no accompanying stipend or salary.
 - c. VSSO will never sell member information to external parties.

2. Endorsements
 - a. The VSSO does not endorse the views of members on the listserv.
 - b. If members provide support for a product on the listserv, any financial interests or conflicts (e.g. paid advisor, board member, employee, or ownership stake) must be clearly stated.

3. Solicitation
 - a. Members are welcome to post a short announcement regarding continuing education opportunities, conferences, jobs related to veterinary surgery and oncology, and research collaborations (see below), but not other types of advertisements.
 - i. All that is needed is a brief introduction and a contact for how to find more information.
 - ii. If any members have any questions regarding whether emailing is appropriate, they should contact the secretary (currently Maureen Griffin; magri@vet.upenn.edu) and president (currently Michelle Oblak (michelle.oblak@gmail.com)).
 - b. Email solicitation on the listserv from non-members is prohibited as default, with the following caveats:
 - i. Notifications from VSSO partners (e.g. conference sponsors or collaborating learned societies) will be permitted. These should be kept to a minimum to limit email load by batching sponsor notifications whenever possible.
 - ii. Exemptions to this policy considered in the general interest of society may be allowed but must be approved by the executive committee. Approval should be an exception and will only be considered under the following circumstances:
 1. The notification could advance the treatment of cancer in animals, whether directly or by improving the skillset of members.
AND
 2. The primary beneficiaries of the notification are VSSO members and/or patients with cancer. Notifications primarily benefitting the external entity will not be approved.
 - iii. Non-members wishing to seek approval for solicitation should contact the secretary (currently Maureen Griffin; magri@vet.upenn.edu) and president (currently Michelle Oblak (michelle.oblak@gmail.com)). The president will decide whether to advance the enquiry to the committee.

4. Online CE Events and Podcasts
 - a. Online continuing education events (e.g. Pub Sessions) and The Margin podcast are educational initiatives for the VSSO membership.
 - i. Opinions aired of commercially available products or commercial entities do not constitute an official position of the society.
 - b. Session chairs and podcast hosts should work to limit any perceived conflict of interest.
 - i. Potential conflicts of interest of guests must be clearly stated at the beginning of any event/podcast.

- ii. If a conflict of interest is known, hosts should make every effort to ensure that content is balanced and unlikely to be perceived as explicitly promotional by members. For example, the scientific basis of commercially available products could be explored, and weaknesses or gaps in the evidence base raised for response.
- iii. In addition, as these topics are announced in advance of the event, member solicitation are encouraged to reach out to the session chair or podcast host with any specific/relevant questions they wish to be discussed.

5. Conferences

- a. Sponsored Events
 - i. Sponsored events, such as sponsored talks or social events, are not required to be impartial; however, sponsorship ties must be clearly stated in signage and verbally at the start of the event.
- b. Email information and membership status of conference registrants may be shared with conference partners, such as the Veterinary Cancer Society, as needed for conference administration; however, information shared should be as restricted as possible.

6. Research

- a. VSSO members may email the listserv to raise the profile of their research and solicit collaboration; however, it **MUST** be stated whether all projects are VSSO affiliated or independent.
 - i. No association with the society must be implied or stated for studies that are not approved by the VSSO Research Committee.
 - ii. Any pertinent financial interest or other conflict must be disclosed at the time of solicitation.

7. Enforcement

- a. Members
 - i. Breaches of this policy by members will be initially managed with a warning.
 - ii. Repeated breaches may result in cessation of membership.
- b. Non-members
 - i. If non-members breach this policy, the executive committee will review the event and determine the next step; this may range from a notification for mild or unintentional breaches through to suspension of ties with the society for more egregious or repeated breaches.