



# It pays to be a member of the Finnish Veterinary Association!

## Strength through unionizing: advocacy and advice for you

Together we veterinarians form a strong group, and it is through membership in the Association that we strengthen the common voice and clout of us veterinarians. The high membership rate, currently at 83 %, gives us the power to drive the interests of the profession and really make a difference – let's keep it up! Membership also gets you personal services and benefits.



*"I'm proud to be a member of the veterinary profession. Ethics and collegial loyalty are important to us veterinarians."*

Membership survey

*"Information on what the Association's insurance policies cover can handily be had from the Legal Counsels – glad I asked for details instead of just paying everything myself!"*

Member support Feedback

**The Association counts students, public servants, entrepreneurs, private sector employees, selfemployed persons, academics and pensioners among its members. Categorize us based on the work we do, and we're even more diverse than that!**

*"When applying for my first job as a vet, I remembered how the importance of a written contract had been emphasized at an Association student event. My request for a written contract before I started working was met with calm competence by my employer. Sticking up for oneself works! Saying that I'd have the Association go through the contract draft for me may also have made a difference."*

A 27-year-old member



SUOMEN ELÄINLÄÄKÄRILIITTO  
FINLANDS VETERINÄRFÖRBUND

Together we create healthy and thriving veterinarians!

# Advocacy | Advice | The Finnish Veterinary Journal | The Annual Veterinary Congress | ... and other member benefits

*The membership fee is deductible in your personal taxation.*

**The Association** actively promotes and safeguards our interests, and works for better working conditions for all of us as well as increased visibility and prestige for the profession. The association negotiates the salary and terms and conditions of employment of municipal veterinarians, and influences the collective bargaining agreements of the wage and salary earners of the government and the university.

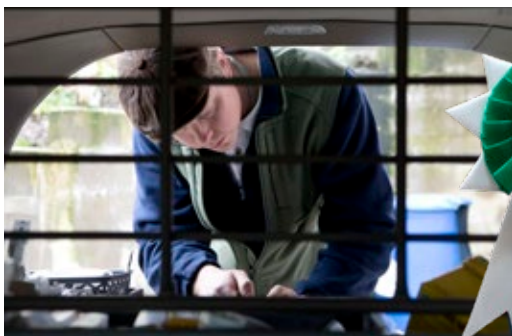
**Whatever** the twists and turns of your career – as a member, you can always count on the Association's support. The Association strives for veterinarians to be successful and thriving both professionally and privately.

**By actively influencing matters**, the association has improved the conditions of the profession. Examples include special maternity allowance, tax exemption for veterinary cars, the on-call duty arrangements of municipal veterinarians that are still being developed, recommendation for the terms and conditions of employment and other recommendations, promoting the occupational safety and health of veterinarians together with the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, and arranging continuing education.

**The Association actively participates** in the legislative drafting relating to the profession – from veterinary care, animal diseases and animal welfare to medicine and food safety.

The Finnish Veterinary Association is a member of Akava, the Confederation of Unions for Professional and Managerial Staff in Finland, the Negotiation Organisation for Public Sector Professionals JUKO and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE). Akava works for the improvement of salaries, vacation time, parental leave, employment legislation, occupational health and safety regulations, the pension system, salary-based unemployment benefits, as well as curtailing fixed-term employment and cementing the job alternation system. The FVE participates in legislative drafting on the EU-level.

**As a member you have the opportunity to actively participate and make an impact. Join us in the work done by the Association's committees, the Delegation and the Board.**



## Member benefits – bringing you security and information

**Advice:** The Association's Legal Counsels give members legal advice on employment matters, running a business and other issues pertaining to the profession. The Public Sector Negotiating Commission (JUKO) supports members working in the public and municipal sectors as well as at the universities. The Association publishes a veterinarian's tax guide annually. Members can also access on-line guides on job hunting, employment contracts and other matters in Finnish.

**Insurance:** The Association provides members with professional liability and legal expenses insurance as well as insurance for members serving in positions of trust in the Association.

**Keeping you informed and up-to-date:** The Association publishes the Finnish Veterinary Journal (Suomen Eläinlääkärilehti, eight issues annually) and an email newsletter (six issues annually). On the Association's web pages, members can read instructions and news concerning the profession, browse job ads and access the Fimnet-portal in Finnish.

**The Puhti** telephone prescription service – free for members.

**Trainings and themed get-togethers:** Participation in the Annual Veterinary Congress and in Fennovet trainings available at member prices. Keep track of scheduled trainings with the electronic event calendar. Seminars on bookkeeping and taxation as well as themed events. **Accounting services** at member prices.

**Student grants:** Travel grants are issued to students twice annually.

**Several commercial benefits** can be obtained through Member+ -service for all Akava members. Academic Entrepreneurs i.e. AKY benefits for members. Danske Bank's housing loan benefits for members of Finnish Veterinary Association – you can receive a housing loan more affordably. Danske Bank investment benefits. Benefits from Danske Bank for customers graduating as an BSc., Licentiate, PhD or Specialist in Veterinary Medicine in the last two years. Fondia's VirtualLawyer.

**Members may be granted** the right to use the Association logo (conditions apply).

The membership fee is tax deductible in your personal taxation. The membership fee is 1.35 % of your earned income and business revenue, i.e. 11–41 euros per month.

*"I'm glad I asked the Legal Counsels about the tax issues concerning my veterinary car. My car tax and VAT matters are now in order. I also know what to do should I wish to change the veterinary car back into a normal car."*

Member support feedback



Unemployment benefits as well as job alternation benefits are markedly better for unemployment fund members. Membership in an unemployment fund is not automatic, so do make sure to register with a fund of your choice. Employees may join the Physicians' Unemployment Fund (the membership fee is 21 euros in 2020). Entrepreneurs and self-employed members may consider the Yrittäjäkassa entrepreneurs' unemployment fund.

More information on member benefits can be accessed on the Association's web pages. We regret that the members-only web pages provide information only in Finnish but the staff is happy to answer any questions you may have!

**Veterinary students and registered veterinarians are eligible for membership in the Association. Membership application forms are available on the Association's web pages**