

2017-2018 ESS Membership Renewal

Dear ESS Members,

Your membership in ESS is now eligible for online renewal (<https://secure.fass.org/dues.asp>) for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. Please note the membership fee structure has changed to a 2-year cycle, and membership fees have increased to reflect this, as well as adjustments for cost of services (discussed more below).

Membership Type*	2017-2018 Fee Schedule	Includes JEVS subscription
Professional (Voting) Member	\$ 190.00	YES
General Member (non-voting)	\$ 190.00	YES
Student Affiliate Member (non-voting)	\$ 60.00	NO (<i>option to add</i>)
Corporate Member (voting)	\$ 400.00	YES
Distinguished Service Award Winner	\$ 0	YES
ESS Fellow	\$ 0	YES

**Refer to Articles III and IV in the ESS Constitution for description and rights of membership.*

The ESS Board has a fiduciary responsibility to maintain the financial solvency of the Society, and to set membership fees accordingly (Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution). After critical review of the financial history of ESS, adjustments to the membership structure and fee schedule were necessary for the Society to continue to move forward on sound financial footing. The reasons for the changes to membership fees are two-fold:

- 1) **Membership in ESS will occur on a two-year cycle, rather than an annual cycle.** Movement to a 2-year membership period was discussed at the General Business Meetings in New Mexico (2013) and Florida (2015). The Society experiences a 30-40% drop in professional members during even-numbered years when the ESS Symposium is not held. However, the Society still has significant operating costs in these “off” years associated with maintaining its membership, communications, financial services, and Symposium planning. Therefore, the Board of Directors has chosen to move forward with a 2-year membership, to begin in odd-numbered years (e.g., 2017-2018, 2019-2020). For individuals joining ESS for the first time, a one-time, 1-year fee will apply if their membership begins in an even-numbered year (e.g., 2018), but will otherwise be a 2-year membership if they join in an odd-numbered year.
- 2) **Membership fees have not changed since 2009; however, operating costs and subscription fees to the Journal of Equine Veterinary Science have continued to rise.** As a result, membership fees must increase to match the current cost of services. The recent membership survey indicated JEVS access was an important feature of membership in ESS. In order for the Society to be eligible for a discounted subscription rate, JEVS access (at a current cost of \$130 for 2 years) will continue to be a part of the membership fees for professional and corporate members. Student members will continue to have the option of adding JEVS access to their membership fees at an additional cost at the time of enrollment. In addition to the JEVS subscription, a portion of membership fees will continue to support the operating costs of ESS. General operating costs for the Society average \$10,000 per year, representing a cost of \$60 per member for 2 years. Additional operating expenses of about \$20,000 are incurred during years the Symposium is held. As these increased expenses are

associated directly with the Symposium, they will be offset by conference income rather than membership fees.

As a member of ESS, you will continue to receive JEVS access (optional for students), online access to the membership directory, posting of position announcements on the ESS job center at no cost, discounted registration fees for the ESS Symposium, publication of Symposium abstracts in JEVS, and fast-track review of manuscripts submitted to JEVS for research presented at the ESS Symposium. The Board is exploring ways to expand membership services, improve financial investment strategies, and reduce operating costs – all to add value to your membership in ESS. We thank you for your past membership and look forward to your continued involvement with ESS.