

**RSPCA BYELAW V****ELECTION OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COUNCIL**

- (1) Each of the ten regions referred to in Society Rule VI.6 elects a representative to the Council who must, at the time of nomination, election and throughout tenure of office be normally resident within the region they represent.
- (2) For the purpose of electing a Regional Representative, each branch committee has one vote. Each branch committee must cast its vote in favour of one candidate only, in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the committee members present and voting at a branch committee meeting.
- (3) The election of Regional Representatives is held every three years and is conducted as follows:<sup>1</sup>
- (a) The [Chief Executive](#) of the Society issues notices to all branch secretaries notifying them that the election is to take place and enclosing a blank nomination form.
  - (b) The branch secretaries must bring the matter before their committees. If there is more than one candidate the voting of the committee will be by secret ballot. Completed nomination forms stating qualifications and signed by the Chair of the meeting must be returned to the [Chief Executive](#) not later than [twenty-eight](#) days from the date of the notice of the election.
  - (c) The retiring Regional Representative may be nominated for re-election.
  - (d) Where only one candidate is nominated within a Region no vote will be taken and the nominated candidate will be deemed to have been elected [with effect from the date that the Chief Executive issues the formal notice of the election results under Byelaw V.3\(h\) below](#).
  - (e) The [Chief Executive](#), within [seven](#) days of the closing date for the receipt of nominations, will send to all the secretaries of branches qualified to vote, a list of the nominees with their qualifications and the names of the branches nominating them, together with a voting paper.
  - (f) On receipt of the nominations and voting paper, each branch committee will meet and decide how its vote will be cast. Voting will be by secret ballot.
  - (g) The completed voting papers must be returned by recorded delivery post to the Society's auditors within [twenty-eight](#) days of their issue by the [Chief Executive](#), and will be opened, examined and counted by the auditors and the result notified in writing to the [Chief Executive](#).
  - (h) [When the election process has been completed for all the regions, the Chief Executive shall issue a formal notice of the election results. The term of office of the newly elected regional representatives shall take effect from the date that such notice is issued.](#)
- (4) A casual vacancy will arise in the event of a Regional Representative ceasing normally to reside within the Region for which they were elected.
- (5) If a casual vacancy occurs among the Regional Representatives, a bye-election will be held if more than six months of the previous Regional Representative's term remains.
- (6) [A person who resigns as a Regional Representative shall not be eligible to stand in any bye-election held under Byelaw V.5 to fill a casual vacancy caused by his or her resignation.<sup>2</sup>](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Amendments to Byelaw V.3 approved by Council 5 June 2013, minute 13/50

<sup>2</sup> Approved by Council 10 June 2009, minute 09/095