



WSAVA Animal Welfare and Wellness Committee

Report to Assembly 2017

AWWC Background and Vision:

The AWWC was formed in 2009 thanks primarily to the efforts of Drs Roger Clarke of Australia and Ray Butcher, a UK-based veterinarian, who dedicated their careers to advancing animal welfare and had the foresight to ensure that animal welfare was enshrined as one of the WSAVA's four key 'pillars'. We aim to promote advances in animal welfare and wellness around the world through enhanced veterinary care and work closely with other committees within the WSAVA to provide the resources to facilitate these advances. Our vision statement is:

To make welfare issues an everyday consideration for small animal practitioners and to ensure that WSAVA becomes a proactive and respected partner within international welfare circles by combining advocacy with mutual respect and consensus-building amongst partners.

AWWC Strategic Goals

EDUCATE:

To disseminate relevant information on companion animal welfare and wellness to a global audience

- Maintain a digital presence and a media outreach that is current, informative and meets the needs of a global audience
- Provide a physical presence at relevant veterinary and companion animal welfare forums where information on topical issues are presented and debated.

INFLUENCE:

To address companion animal welfare issues by partnering with global welfare organisations and WSAVA committees. To provide guidance and opinion on animal welfare and wellness to a global audience

- We will partner with key global organisations in animal welfare to maximise the pace and impact of change.
- Align ourselves with other WSAVA committees to ensure one voice.

LEADERSHIP:

Deliver credible, evidence-based, ethical positions respected by member organisations & the global veterinary community.

- To provide a perspective through contribution to the scientific body of knowledge and state-of-the art thinking that recognises regional, economic and cultural needs.

Members of the AWWC

Name	Profession	Country
Nienke ENDENBURG	<i>Psychologist Ethics and Welfare</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>
Karyl HURLEY	<i>Veterinarian Internal Medicine specialist</i>	<i>USA</i>
Rod JOUPPI	<i>Veterinarian</i>	<i>Canada</i>
Tess KOMMEDAL	<i>Veterinarian Shelter Medicine specialist</i>	<i>Norway</i>
Melinda MERCK	<i>Veterinarian Forensic Veterinary Medicine specialist</i>	<i>USA</i>
John RAWLINGS	<i>Physiologist Ethics and Welfare</i>	<i>UK</i>
Sheilah ROBERTSON	<i>Veterinarian Welfare Science, Ethics and Law specialist</i>	<i>USA</i>
Shane RYAN	<i>Veterinarian</i>	<i>Singapore</i>

Declaration of Interests

Karyl Hurley is the Mars Petcare Sponsor and John Rawlings is an employee of WALTHAM®, Mars Petcare.

WSAVA AWWC Sponsor, Funding and Budget

Since its inception the AWWC has been sponsored by WALTHAM®, Mars Petcare who has contributed USD 25,000 annually to enable the committee to fulfil its vision and goals. In July 2017 the committee had a positive balance of \$76,000 which is sufficient to fund its activities for the coming 12 months.

WSAVA AWWC Achievements during 2016/17

The committee met face-to-face at WSAVA Cartagena in September 2016 and again in Orlando (NAVC) in January 2017 with the next meeting planned for Copenhagen (WSAVA) in September 2017. Other meetings to address on-going activities are held on a monthly basis by pre-arranged teleconferences.

In recognition that there is a significant amount of work that the AWWC could potentially contribute to, in December 2016 the committee updated the Terms of Reference to include the following: *To support the work of the committee, experts in the field of animal welfare and ethics or affiliated fields related to the work of the committee may be invited to contribute to priority areas.*

A list of experts interested in participating has been compiled and the committee has started to draw upon them for specific projects.

The main forums for providing educational resources are the NAVC Animal Welfare Lecture Stream, the WSAVA Animal Welfare Lecture Stream, and the WSAVA website. Preparation for the lecture streams and identifying key international speakers takes significant planning and resource commitments. A successful lecture stream was presented in Orlando (NAVC) in January 2017 with topics on the themes of 'When Bad becomes Normal' and 'End of Life Issues and Euthanasia'. In Cartagena (WSAVA) in September 2017 the programme was more wide ranging and included talks on the welfare of pet fish to domestic violence and animal abuse. The lecture stream for WSAVA 2017 (Copenhagen) is complete.

The WSAVA Website is populated with key references, links to global and regional welfare organizations, and provides guidance on key topics. Some AWWC webpage stories are currently available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese and Japanese.

The objective of providing educational opportunities through hands on experience, which started in South Africa in 2014, continues to be a major initiative. Supporting veterinarians attending the WSAVA 2016 Congress in Cartagena, an outreach was repeated Curitiba, Brazil and consisted of spay / neuter clinics attended by international and local veterinarians. This is also supported by an Educational Grant that we have funded to provide individuals with an opportunity to attend these activities and the WSAVA Congress.

A work group has been established to develop animal welfare guidelines that will form a basis for all member associations to follow. The WSAVA Board has approved this project and the project has been funded. The committee, which includes AWWC members and a group of external advisors meets regularly and had a face-to-face meeting in Bangkok in August 2017 and expect to have an initial draft by the end of the year.

The committee members have continued to liaise with other groups on a range of subjects and developed position papers when thought appropriate:

- Attendance at ICAM meetings
- WSAVA Dental task force
- WSAVA Global Pain Council
- The dog meat trade position paper