



WSAVA
Global Veterinary Development

1959 - 2009
The History of
WSAVA





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1959
2009



Early history of the world small animal veterinary association (1959 -1978)



This review of the origin and early years of the WSAVA is made possible combining the reflections and publications of its primary organiser and first Secretary, W. B. Singleton, by subsequent Secretaries L. Touratier and V. Sokolosky and by myself. The papers referred to include: Singleton, W.B., 'The WSAVA, Br. Vet. J., 123 (1967); Magrane, W.G., 'The World Small Animal Veterinary Association and You', JAAHA, 5, #1, (1969); Touratier, L., 'The WSAVA Origin, Aims, Achievements and Perspectives', J. Sm. Anim. Pract. 20, (1979); Singleton, W.B., 'Early History Of the WSAVA', Vet. Record. March 25, 1989. Minutes of the early meetings have been reviewed. Only items of historical importance are included. Copies of international correspondence plus biennial progress reports submitted to the executive board of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) by the writer have also been helpful in preparing this report.

Veterinarians of the United Kingdom must be given the credit for the original conception and impetus to organise a group to embrace small animal medicine. At a meeting of the Permanent Committee of the World Veterinary Association in May of 1956, a decision was made to sectionalise the World Congresses and grant affiliation to specialist associations. The purpose was to encourage closer contact and collaboration with colleagues working in the same field. As a specialist association, they were to take the initiative for organising the scientific programme of their sections of the World Veterinary Congresses in consultation with the WVA Secretariat.

The main principles established at the time included:

1. Representation on the WVA Permanent Committee with one vote per Association.
2. Such associations to hold a meeting at the same place and time as the World Veterinary Congress.

3. The World Specialist Associations to be self-supporting and autonomous.

4. The facilities during a World Congress with regard to meeting rooms, translators, etc., to be arranged through the Organising Committee of the Congress.

In the view of these actions by the WVA, the late Dr. W. R. Wooldridge, British representative on the Permanent Committee, seized this opportunity to propose to S.F.J. Hodgman and W. Brian Singleton of the Small Animal Centre, Animal Health Trust, that they do the following. First organise a small animal specialist group in the United Kingdom similar to the AAHA which had been established for some time. Then, by encouraging other European countries to follow similar lines, a world association could be formed. Aside from the AAHA, other countries of the world had been remiss in establishing species specialisation organisations. This was probably because of the prior negative attitude of the WVA to the forming of ancillary groups and the just-emerging trend away from mixed practices to that of either large or small animal practice. In its early years, the AAHA had also met resistance in the AVMA because of the fear of "splinter groups" being established.

Thus realising that the first step was to organise what was later to become the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA), an announcement was made in The Veterinary Record in the autumn of 1957 for interested veterinarians to meet at what was then the National Veterinary Medical Association headquarters. About 30 people attended, this resulting in the founding of the BSAVA. C. E. Woodrow assumed the presidency at its first meeting at the Shaftesbury Hotel, London, in March, 1958. Thus the stage was set for selected small animal veterinarians in countries with representation on the WVA Permanent Committee to be contacted about the idea of setting up an international group.



Interest was aroused and provisional Statutes were formulated to be presented at the World Veterinary Congress in Madrid, Spain, 1959.

A meeting, chaired by W. B. Singleton, did then take place in Madrid with 30 veterinarians representing Denmark, France, Holland, Italy, Germany, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom and the United States in attendance. A discussion period followed the presentation of the proposed Statutes. The writer recalls that one person objected to the establishment of the proposed International Association of Small Animal Specialists (IASAS) – a fear expressed that the WVA would experience competition and separatism.

Subsequently, Dr. Olaf Norling-Christiansen from the United States proposed a motion that the IASAS or its equivalent be created. With the motion's nearly unanimous passage, Dr. G. N. Henderson of the United Kingdom nominated Dr. Wayne Riser of the United States (AAHA) as the first President. W. B. Singleton was elected as Secretary-Treasurer. A temporary Executive Committee was chosen consisting of one representative from each country. The twelve AAHA members in attendance selected Dr. W. G. Magrane to represent their Association. Since some countries had only one or few persons attending the meeting, they simply assumed a position on the Executive Committee, or agreed among themselves as to who would represent their country. This original committee consisted of Drs. Moltzen (Denmark), Meynard (France), Westerman (Holland), Montavani (Italy), Berg (Norway), Dall (Britain), Wolker (Germany), Alexander (Mexico), A. de Almeida (Portugal), and Magrane (USA). Other representatives were subject to the approval of countries without a formal small animal association. This situation seemed awkward at the time, but was short lived. Associations were quick to form throughout Europe. In the years to follow they, in turn then selected their representatives to the WSAVA.

At the conclusion of the Madrid organisation meeting, a \$10 per person contribution was solicited to subsidise secretarial expenses prior to the projected first formal Congress. At the invitation of the British, this was to be held in London two years hence. The Officers and Executive Committee met immediately. It was agreed that the proposed Statutes should be considered by each representative and returned to the Secretary within six months with comments and suggested amendments. Thus, the WSAVA (so named in 1961) became one of its first affiliates to come into existence following the decision in

1955 by the WVA to sectionalise the World Congress and grant association to specialist organisations.

1961- London, England

The first formal meeting of the WSAVA was sponsored by the BSAVA and was well supported by members from Europe and America. A truly international atmosphere was established. This Congress was outstanding for the quality of scientific contributions, closed circuit colour television, simultaneous translation, and a unique feature – a transatlantic radio link between this Congress and the AAHA meeting being held in St. Louis, Missouri. Speakers on both sides of the Atlantic were able to function as a panel discussing the subject at hand.

The business meeting of the WSAVA attracted approximately 180 people, including 70 from countries other than Britain. Dr W. G. Magrane (USA) assumed the chair as the appointed deputy of President Riser, who was obliged to participate in the simultaneously-held AAHA meeting. One of the first items of business was to choose between the titles “International Society of Small Animal Veterinary Specialists” or “World Small Animal Veterinary Association” for the organisation's name. The title WSAVA was chosen with only two opposite votes. The Constitution and Rules (Statutes) were presented and adopted. Briefly, the objectives established were: (1) Organise meetings, encourage research and promote exchange of information between individuals and small animal associations throughout the world, and (2) Establish and maintain liaison with other bodies with related interests.

Formal affiliation with the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and representation on the Permanent Committee of the WVA was established. The purpose here was to gain recognition and exert influence as regards establishment of a small animal section and programming within the WVA (at a four yearly Congress).

Four categories of membership were established:

1. Veterinarians from countries whose national organisation is represented on the Permanent Committee of the WVA, but whose country has no small animal specialist association.
2. Veterinarians from countries whose national organisation is represented on the Permanent Committee of the WVA, and whose country has a

small animal specialist association. In such instances, the veterinarian may become a member of the Association by virtue of the group membership of his specialist Association.

3. Association veterinarians from countries whose national organisation is not represented on the Permanent Committee of the WVA.
4. Non-veterinarians may be elected as associate members provided: (a) Their number does not exceed 10% of full membership. (b) they are directly engaged in research, advisory work, or teaching concerned with small domestic animals and/or cage birds, and (c) they are university graduates.

As laid down by Article 6 of the Statutes, the routine business of the Association was to be transacted by the Executive Committee which is formed by the WSAVA Officers and national representatives.

Dues were set at two shillings (or equivalent) for each member if the individual is a member of a national small animal association. This is to be paid on a per capita basis by the Association concerned. The subscription for individuals not belonging to the national animal association was set at 15 shillings.

Information about WSAVA activities was to reach members via the Journal of Small Animal Practice and through representatives of each country (via reports and/their respective Journals).

The Officer category was established as follows: President, Senior Vice President (Past President), Junior Vice-presidents (2), Hon Secretary and Hon. Treasurer.

1963- Hanover, Germany, World Congress (WVA)

An objective achieved was the active cooperation with the Organising Committee of the World Veterinary Congress. This resulted in the establishment of a Small Animal Section (Sec. 9). Although, in the beginning, this liaison with the programme committee of the WVA did not seem to present a problem. In later years the WSAVA experienced difficulty in remaining autonomous with regard to selecting speakers and subject matter for the one-day Small Animal Section of the WVA. But the WSAVA remained loyal to the parent organisation and proceeded to conduct a business meeting



of its own at each WVA Congress. New Officers were elected for the two-year period preceding the next WSAVA independent Congress. Thus, the WSAVA did meet every two years - once with the small animal association of a host country, where a complete small animal programme and business meeting was held, and the two years later with the WVA.

At the business meeting of the WSAVA, conducted by the President Wayne Riser, it was learned that the number of new countries had started small animal associations and had affiliated with the WSAVA. Also, 22 foreign journals were being received for review by the Journal of Small Animal Practice (now the official Journal of the WSAVA) for translated summaries of papers as well as news of the Association's development. All small animal papers published in these foreign journals were being listed under the appropriated reference titles.

The separation of the Secretary-Treasurer office resulted in Ken Evans of the UK being elected Treasurer - a position he held with great esteem for many years.

1965 - Washington, D.C. USA

The AAHA was the host for the biennial meeting of the WSAVA. An attendance of over 100 foreign visitors again gave the meeting an international flavour and an insight into small animal medicine in the United States.

At the business meeting, President H. Molzen of Denmark presiding:

1. The financial resources of the Association were shown to be improving and the best means of serving the membership was considered.
2. The newly-formed small animal associations of Venezuela, Finland and Spain were admitted to membership, bringing the total to 14 countries.
3. The proposed small animal programme for the World Veterinary Congress Paris (1967) was discussed.
4. A resolution was passed expressing thanks to the AAHA for organising and hosting this meeting.
5. Dr. A. B. Fenton of the AAHA spoke of the great advantages resulting from family and professional exchanges between countries through the WSAVA.
6. A resolution was passed that appropriate steps be taken on a national and international basis for the study and elimination of hip dysplasia.

7. Cash in the treasury was £577.

1967 - Paris, France - World Veterinary Congress

Professor Dr. R. Volker of Germany, President of the WSAVA, presided at the business meeting. The membership now stood at 15 countries. Portugal was admitted to membership. Up to £500 was made available to help subsidise the next meeting of the WSAVA to be hosted by the BSAVA in London, 1969. This action established a precedent for the future. If the host association experienced a deficit in the conduct of the Joint meeting, they could rely on a subsidy. Recommendations were made to the Permanent Committee of the WVA regarding selection of speakers and time allocation for the Small Animal Section (Sec. 9) of the WVA World Congresses. Considerably more time was requested and the maximum responsibility for organising the programme should be that of the WSAVA.

It was decided that breed standards should not include requirements and recommendations that hinder physiological function of organs and parts of the body and that the WSAVA establish a committee to study the standards of every registered breed and report upon those which hinder physiological function of organs or parts of the body.

The relevant report was established by a special WSAVA committee and was published in the *Journal of Small Animal Practice* (1969). Careful comments were made with regard to many breeds and in the conclusion of the report, it seems interesting to quote the following: "whilst most of the criticisms related to physical features which can be recognised by experienced breeders and Judges, there are others which are of equal, if not greater, importance which can only be recognised by a veterinary surgeon using sophisticated diagnostic aids. It is appreciated that reference to these cannot be made in breed standards, but, nevertheless, the increasing incidence of Progressive Retinal Atrophy and hip dysplasia needs urgent investigation in all breed in which the conditions have been reported."

The *Journal of Small Animal Practice* continued to be the official publication of the WSAVA. The increase to monthly issues promised an even more valuable contribution to the success of the WSAVA.

1969 - London, England

The BSAVA hosted this meeting of the WSAVA. President J. A. Meynard of France presided at the business meeting. Excerpts



from:

1. A report of the WSAVA Committee on Breed Standards. This report was published in the Journal of the AAHA.
2. Establishment of a new World Committee on Internal and International Shipment of Animals.
3. The Treasurer reports £1,400 and 3,822 members.
4. The small animal programme for the WVA Congress in Mexico City was discussed.
5. The 1973 WSAVA meeting to be in Italy.
6. Due to the financial success of the London meeting, it is unlikely the £500 allocated by the WSAVA will be needed.
7. Dr. Peter Bartels of Frankfurt, Germany, was elected the new Secretary, replacing Brian Singleton who asked to be relieved of the responsibility.
8. As retiring Secretary and founder of the WSAVA, Brian was honoured with an inscribed George III Silver Skewer and a Presentation Plaque. In further recognition of his tremendous input into the Association, he was selected as WSAVA representative to the WVA Permanent Committee.

Progress Summary of the WSAVA Since Its Inception 10 Years Ago.

New small animal associations and their members continue to become a part of the steady growth. This has been largely due to the efforts of the organiser and first Secretary, Brian Singleton.

The objectives, as stated in the Statutes, are being fulfilled. Plans for the future include the establishment of other important international committees, and, hopefully, the accumulation of sufficient funds to enable the WSAVA to budget for and finance autonomous Congresses.

Money collected from dues over the years has been used only for printing stationery, postage, translation, and programme subsidy when needed. Officers including the Secretary and Treasurer, have been received no reimbursement in the form of travel allowance or salary. The

travel expenses of the Secretary has been paid (London to Paris) on the occasions that he represented the WSAVA at the Permanent Committee of the WVA.

An income report ending Dec. 31, 1968, shows the participation of major countries by members:

United States	1412	(majority are mixed practitioners)
Great Britain	951	
France	466	
Germany	260	
Netherlands	222	
Italy	100	
Sweden	84	
Denmark	80	
Belgium	60	
Norway	58	
Finland	53	
Spain	33	
Venezuela	21	
Portugal	17	

Other countries without a formal animal association, but represented by individuals include: Switzerland, South Africa, India and Brazil.

1971 – Mexico City, Mexico – WVA Congress

President M.A.J. Verner of the Netherlands was unable to be at the meeting for reasons of health. W.G. Magrane, President-Elect, presided in his absence.

The Committee on International Transportation of Dogs and Cats presented their recommendations which were to be relayed to the member countries.

1972 – 1973

Considerable correspondence between secretary Sokolovsky of the WSAVA and Secretary Leunenberger of the WVA transpired. The WSAVA wished to clarify its position regarding the preparation of the programme for the Small Animal Section (Sec. 9) of the World Veterinary Congresses.

A request was made by the WSAVA to prepare the entire

programme for Section 9 of the XXth WVA Congress in Thessaloniki, Greece (1975). The programme would be submitted for approval to the WVA. The procedure in the past had led to complications which this request was meant to correct.

The WVA “hesitated to put the full responsibility of the programme in the hands of an associate member, mainly because a likely imbalance of representation from member countries would occur.” After many interchanges between the two Secretaries, President Magrane (WSAVA) received a letter from President W.E. Beveridge (WVA) indicating that the WVA Advisory Committee was recommending that the specialist associations would have more independence for organising sectional meetings at WVA Congresses, but “many of the members were reluctant to give carte blanche to the specialists since they, the members provide all the funds for the WVA.”

1973 – San Remo, Italy

The Italian Small Animal Veterinary Association hosted the Congress. Approximately 1,000 participants from 16 countries were in attendance. The Congress Hall (San Remo Casino) proved to be too small to accommodate the unexpected number of attendees and “standing room only” was, unfortunately, necessary in the Seminars.

The WSAVA was “coming of age.” From a modest beginning, there were over 5,000 members. Four new countries were admitted to membership: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and South Africa. This brought the country representation back to 16. Some countries had been previously dropped from membership for non-payment of dues and lack of participation. Simultaneous translation into the WVA Congress languages was now becoming commonplace and attendance was increasing dramatically at each succeeding Congress since the WSAVA inception in 1959. As advances in small animal medicine and surgery occurred, individuals from more member countries appeared on the programmes, making it truly cosmopolitan. As their number increased, exhibitors continue to add to the flavour and financial success of each Congress. Well planned social activities and post Congress trips also contributed to the interest shown in attending a world meeting.

President Magrane presided at the business meeting. The new Secretary, who had succeeded Dr. Bartels at the WVA Congress in Mexico City, was Dr. V. Sokolovsky (USA). He had been most instrumental in planning the outstanding



San Remo Congress. Principal committee activity continued to be that of International Transportation of Animal and on Hereditary Diseases. The role of the WSAVA remained that of holding an independent Congress every four years and the planning of the programme of the WVA Congress. This however, was not always working to the satisfaction of the WSAVA and there was thought to be given to the holding of more frequent independent Congresses.

1974

The executive Board of the AAHA asked that a \$2,000.00 dues limit to the WSAVA be imposed. The AAHA also objected to the individual per capita dues, membership being based on other than Hospital Director members. In the past they had been charge for affiliated, commercial and honorary members. This total sum far exceeded that of other countries in relation to representation.

Of interest and importance at this time, the American Veterinary Medical Association voted to cease their affiliation with the WVA. This action related to the dues structure and voting apportionment of the WVA.

1975 – Thessaloniki, Greece – WVA Congress

At the initial Executive Committee meeting of the WSAVA, presided over by President Dr. Leone Taglia of Italy, Dr. W. F. Jackson (USA WSAVA representative) announced that he had just been notified of the withdrawal of the AAHA from membership in the WSAVA. This had come as a complete surprise to Drs. Jackson and Past President Magrane. Neither had knowledge of this even being considered since it was thought that retaining membership would be contingent upon action taken on the AAHA dues ultimatum. Needless to say, this action from the AAHA was quite disturbing since they had not waited for a decision by the WSAVA regarding the dues limit and apportionment proposal.

Thus with the withdrawal of the AVMA from the WVA in 1974 and the AAHA from the WSAVA in 1975, the two largest affiliated dues-paying members were lost to organised world veterinary medicine. However, later in 1975, the AAHA Executive Board voted to reinstate their membership after the WVA accepted dues limit and apportionment voting.

At the business meeting, the WSAVA sub-committee report on international transport of pet animals was presented to the membership in its final written form. It was to be communicated to all Member-Countries through the Nation Representatives, to international airlines as well as to

the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA). There had been little concern regarding pet transport by sea and land, but transport by air remained the major source of anxiety. The criteria for safe air transportation was quite explicit concerning age, pregnancy, exotic species, brachycephalic breeds and special requirements.

1975 – 1977 – Interim Period

The Executive Committee of the WSAVA accepted the proposal of dues limitation and apportion voting. The AAHA renewed their membership before 1977 General Meeting in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

1977 – Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The WSAVA met with the tenth annual Voorjaarsdagen Congress. President Brian Singleton presided at the business meeting. The membership passed the motion for dues and voting that had been approved by the Executive Committee.

Special sub-committees were set up to study specific subjects of international concern. These included hereditary diseases, the problem of stray dogs and cats, international certification of dogs and cats, comparative oncology and international interpretation of electrocardiographs. An international directory of WSAVA members was to be compiled. Dr. W.G. Magrane (USA) was made the first Honorary member of the WSAVA “in recognition of the immense contribution he has provided to veterinary science and his outstanding services to the WSAVA ever since its formation.”

Late in 1977, the WSAVA participated in the World Health Organisation meeting on some veterinary public health problems. Attention was drawn particularly to: preventing pets from running at large; pollution of the environment from faecal and urine deposits; the keeping of exotic and dangerous pets; and the hazards of zoonoses transmitted or carried by synanthropic animals.

SUMMARY

At the WVA Congress (Madrid) in 1959, 30 veterinarians from 10 countries voted to establish what became the WSAVA. In the formative years, progress was slow and sometimes painful. Several factors were responsible. A long time elapsed between General Meetings (every four years)

and a minimum of WSAVA business was conducted in the interim meetings at WVA Congresses. The procedure for selecting National Representatives was not well established and communication and cooperation from Member Countries was lacking. This was due to language differences and to indifference itself. The Statutes needed to be revised from time to time to satisfy the requirements for growth. Problems arose with the WVA as regards programme planning for their interim Congresses. There was disinterest in maintaining membership in the WSAVA by members of the BSAVA and the AAHA. The British Veterinary Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association both, at one time during this period, dropped membership in the World Veterinary Association. This created a temporary situation as it concerned WSAVA affiliation with the WVA. The AAHA in turn, dropped its membership from the WSAVA. All of this was resolved when dues structure and voting apportion were corrected by both the WVA and the WSAVA.

With each succeeding meeting, more countries were added to the membership list, attendance increased, simultaneous translation became commonplace and committee function improved. The Journal of Small Animal Practice was designated as the official Journal and was instrumental in disseminating information between the countries.

By the end of 1977, there were eighteen WSAVA Member Countries representing approximately 8,000 small animal veterinarians originating from following national groups: Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and the U.S.A.

Thus, this specialist body, organised on an international basis reflected not only the growing significance of specialisation within the veterinary profession of the world, but gave rise to the formation of national groups in many countries.



FURTHER HISTORY OF THE WORLD SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (1978-1994)

By Dr. Andrew T B Edney - WSAVA Past President and Honorary Member

Introduction

The early history of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) was reviewed by Dr. W G Magrane. That document covered the years from the founding of the Association in 1959 to 1977. The work was based on the records, recollections and publications of Drs. Singleton, Sokolovsky and Touratier, as well as Dr. Magrane himself. Of the publications of this group, the following merit examinations: Singleton W B (1967), Magrane W G (1969), Touratier L (1979) and Singleton W B (1989). This work will continue to record the main events of historical interest during the years which followed, up until 1994. It must be remembered that what is recorded here is but a fragment of WSAVA activity over the years. Only the main points of historical interest are listed. Anyone wishing to study WSAVA history in greater depth is advised to consult the archives currently held at the Headquarters of the BSAVA in the United Kingdom. Each Presidential term will be taking in turn:

1977-1980 -Saki Paatsama- Amsterdam and Barcelona

The tradition of WSAVA Congress being held as stand-alone events every four years, alternating with a combined Congress with the WVA every four years was beginning to falter. There was no WSAVA Congress held alongside the WVA Congress in Moscow in 1979, although there was a General meeting; Professor Jan Gajentaan became President and Dr. W.B Singleton was elected as an Honorary Member. Plans to hold a WSAVA Congress in Helsinki were dropped and Barcelona was to be the venue for a Congress in 1980. A round-table meeting on Canine Parvovirus Disease was held at that event. The virus had become the topic of the moment as it had created havoc in most of the WSAVA member countries.

Professor Saki Paatsama's lasting contribution to the work of

the WSAVA centred around the control of inherited conditions, continues more than twenty years later. The International Society for Veterinary Ophthalmology (ISVO) was accepted as an affiliate member of the WSAVA at the Barcelona Congress. Sub-Committees on the subjects of Comparative Oncology; Stray Dogs and Cats and Animal Welfare; and the Transport of Animals were also active at this time.

After 15 years as Honorary Treasurer, Dr Ken Evans was elected to Honorary Membership of the WSAVA at the Barcelona Congress. Dr Luis Pomar became President.

In April 1980 the first major collaboration between the WSAVA and the World Health Organisation (WHO) was set up in San Marino. As a result of this, a working party was formed to produce a joint report on 'WHO/WSAVA Guidelines to Reduce the Human Health Risks Associated with Animals in Urban Areas'.

1980-1982-Luis Pomar- Las Vegas USA

The WSAVA World Congress returned to the USA in April 1982. It was hosted by the American Animal Hospital Association which was holding its 50th Annual Meeting in the city of Las Vegas. There were between 13 and 17 concurrent sessions for the six days of the Congress. Simultaneous translation into Spanish and Japanese was available in some of them. The commercial exhibition established itself as an important part of the meeting. Over 200 booths attracted large crowds from the 1,800 plus delegates for three days of the Congress. The contribution of the many pharmaceutical, surgical instrument, publishing and food companies had now become vital to the success and development of the WSAVA education programme.

The WSAVA/WHO project came to fruition as WHO publication VPH/81.29 'WHO/WSAVA Guidelines to Reduce the Human Health Risks Associated with Animals in Urban Areas'. A much-quoted



sentence from this report crystallised its general finding 'Whilst irresponsible attitudes easily result in problems of surplus and straying animals, environment pollution and an increased risk of zoonotic disease, companion animals which are properly cared for bring immense benefits to their owners and to society and are a danger to no-one'.

As Professor Carl Osborne took over the position of President, the WSAVA said farewell to Dr Louis Touratier who had done much noble work as Secretary of the Association for 5 years. His post was to be occupied by Dr Andrew Edney for the next four years.

1982-84 - Carl Osborne- Perth and Hamburg

A baffling condition of cats emerged in Europe at this time. Originally called Feline Dilated Pupil Syndrome, it was eventually found to be a polyganglionopathy. It was properly named Feline Dysautonomia (FD). A WSAVA survey showed that it was mainly seen in the United Kingdom, although many cases were reported elsewhere in Europe and occasionally beyond (Edney & Gaskell 1985). The cause remains a mystery and the condition subsequently became rare.

WSAVA/WHO projects continued. In June 1982 a joint Working Group met in Cyprus to study problems of dog control in Mediterranean countries. As a result a 'WHO Manual of Dog Control', WH publication No MZCC/SDS/82:2.1 was published by the WHO Mediterranean Zoonosis Control Centre in 1982.

A monograph on 'Salmonellosis, Prevention and Control', WHO publication No VPH/83:43 1983 was published by the WHO in Geneva. The WSAVA Secretary was invited to contribute a chapter on 'Salmonellosis and Companion Animals'.

Unease between the WSAVA and the WVA grew, although a successful joint Congress took place in Perth, Western Australia. Three main points emerged as the principle issues:- it was felt that putting together the small animal programme should be the responsibility of the WSAVA; speakers should not have to be members of the WVA and the scientific programme should be made up of the best authorities available, whoever they were. The fact that speakers still had to pay to register was contrary to WSAVA policy. It was however, decided that attempts to find a solution to these differences should continue.

1984-86 - Hans-Otto Schmidtke - Tokyo and Paris

Professor Carl Osborne handed over the Presidential chain of office to Dr Hans-Otto Schmidtke at the WSAVA International Congress in Hamburg in what was then West Germany. In many ways 1984 was a turning point for the WSAVA. Professor Osborne had instituted two major WSAVA International awards in 1984. One was to be for Scientific Achievement, Dr. Robert Kirk from the USA was the first recipient and Dr. Brian Singleton of the United Kingdom was the first to receive the other which was an Award for Service to the Profession. The purpose was to recognise work 'fostering and enhancing the exchange of scientific and cultural ideas throughout the world'.

The WSAVA Officers were elected Honorary Members of the Venezuela Small Animal Veterinary Association. Other changes brought about as a result of Professor Osborne's initiatives were that the WSAVA would in future be made up of Small Animal Veterinary Associations, rather than representatives of national organisations. This meant that some countries such as Japan and Italy could have more than one member association. In addition, specialist organisations such as the International Societies of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ISVO) and of Veterinary Ear Nose and Throat (IVENTA) were able to become full members of the WSAVA.

The WSAVA Congress had become attractive enough to justify it being an annual event. In spite of the fact that some Congresses were only a few months apart and others were separated by some eighteen months, they have continued to be very successful occasions.

The 'WSAVA/WHO Guidelines to Reduce the Human Health Risks Associated with Animal in Urban Areas' was published in French under the title 'Guide de L'OMS et de la WSAVA visant a reduire les risques pour la sante publique lies a la presence d'animaux en zone urbaine', WHO publication number VPH/81:29 (Français).

As a clear indication of things to come, Solvay Duphar provided sponsorship to pay for all WSAVA postage and stationery for 1984/85.

The 1985 WSAVA International Congress was hosted in Tokyo by the Japanese Small Animal Veterinary Association (JSAVA). The Association was honoured to have the Opening Ceremony carried out by Prince Hitachi, the son of the Emperor of Japan.



Dr P G C Bedford joined the Board of WSAVA Officers as Assistant Secretary (ex officio). The Secretary moved into the modern era with access to computer word processing facilities and a FAX machine. The result of the WSAVA Survey of Feline Dysautonomia were published in the Veterinary Record (1985) 117 395.

The WSAVA International Awards were presented to Dr James Archibald of Canada for Scientific Achievement and to Dr William F Jackson from USA for Service to the Profession.

The last WSAVA International Congress under the Presidency of Dr Hans-Otto Schmidtke was held in Paris, hosted by the CNVSPA. It returned to the French Capital where the fourth WSAVA Congress had been held in conjunction with the WVA in 1967. The financial health of the WSAVA had continued to improve following generous contributions from the Japanese Small Animal Veterinary Association and the Japanese Ophthalmological Association.

The subject of the continuing participation of the WSAVA with the WVA was discussed at length. The conclusion of the membership was that the WVA had not made significant progress in understanding and recognizing the role of the specialist organisations. A motion was passed by the General Assembly to the effect that 'If this situation is not corrected to our satisfaction, the WSAVA will withdraw from formal association with the WVA by the end of the XXIrd WVA World Congress'. This became known as the 'Paris resolution'.

Dr W F Jackson succeeded Dr Jan Gajentaan as Treasurer. Dr Gajentaan was elected as Honorary Member of the WSAVA immediately afterwards. Dr Peter Bedford succeeded Dr Andrew Edney as Secretary. The latter moved on to be Junior Vice-President.

Dr Peter Suter of Zurich was presented with the WSAVA International Award for Scientific Achievement and Dr William Magrane of the USA the WSAVA Award for Service to the Profession.

The General Meeting closed with Dr John Holt taking over the Presidency, the first Australian to do so in the history of the WSAVA.

1986-88 -John Holt-Montreal and Barcelona

Tension continued to grow over WVA's stance on small animal matters. The XXVIIIth International WSAVA Congress was held in conjunction with the WVA in Montreal, Canada but the areas of disquiet remained. In addition to the matters of concern already identified, the WVA Congress represented a considerable financial burden for the WSAVA. Although discussions continued, little progress was made in reaching agreement. The General Assembly agreed to allow dialogue on the subject to continue for another year, on the understanding that the matter had to be resolved by the time the WSAVA met again in Barcelona in October 1988.

Dr Stephen Ettinger was presented with the WSAVA Award for Scientific Achievement and Dr Sten-Erik Olsen the Award for Service to the Profession.

When the WSAVA International Congress met in Barcelona, Spain the following year it was the view of the General Meeting that there had been a 'lack of constructive activity concerning the WSAVA's proposed withdrawal from formal association with the WVA'. Apart from the lack of control over the small animal programme, the financial strain was considerable. The Montreal Congress had cost the WSAVA some £10,000. The WSAVA's proposal for World Congress Organisation had not been considered by the WVA and the Executive Committee (i.e. the Officers) recommended an amended version of the 'Paris resolution' which was passed nem con. It was notable that informal contact with the WVA would remain.

Before handing over the Presidential medallion of office to Dr Jacques Drapé from France, Dr John Holt presented the WSAVA International Awards. Dr Carl Osborne received the Award for Scientific Achievement and Dr Jan Gajentaan the Award for Service to the Profession. Dr Akira Takeuchi from Japan became Junior Vice-President.

1988-90 -Jacques Drapé - Harrogate and San Francisco

In 1989, the WSAVA International Congress returned to the United Kingdom. The meeting was held in the city of Harrogate which lies close to countryside made famous by the writer known as James Herriot. The Association had the great good fortune to have Dr J A Wight, the writer James

Herriot himself, open the Congress.

The Hellenic Veterinary Society from Greece and SCIVAC from Italy were admitted to the WSAVA and the Association tie was launched and a WSAVA flag flew from the mast.

The WSAVA Award for Scientific Achievement was presented to Professor Oswald Jarrett from Scotland and that for Service to the Profession to Dr Wade Brinker from USA.

Among the decisions made at the Harrogate Congress, it was agreed that bids to host the World Congress could be accepted up to four years before the proposed dates. WSAVA Award winners would be asked to give a lecture at future Congresses where appropriate. Representatives of WSAVA Associations would get free registration as would all speakers in the main programme. Up to 10 State of Art Lectures could be presented, each being 'an overview of progress within the subject area, presented by a speaker who was an international authority'. A capitation fee of US\$ 10 per registered delegate was to be payable to the WSAVA following each Congress. It was also agreed that demonstrations involving live animals at WSAVA Congresses could only be carried out with written permission from the WSAVA Board.

There was considerable activity in the various Working Group which reported on such matters as Inherited Defects, The Right to Prescribe and Specialisation.

The WSAVA International Congress returned to the USA in 1990 for a memorable meeting hosted by The American Animal Hospital Association. This event was launched by one of the best known American heroes. The opening ceremony was conducted by pioneer astronaut Neil Armstrong.

Meetings of related organisations were now being held on days preceding the main Congress to take full advantage of the facilities and the Congress organisation. Dr Stephen Ettinger took over as WSAVA Secretary from Dr Peter Bedford who moved on to Junior Vice-President. The WSAVA Award for Service to the Profession was presented to Dr Jean Meynard of France and that for Scientific Achievement to Past President Professor Saki Paatsama.

A debate on the frequency of WSAVA Congresses resulted in a vote to maintain the status quo. Among a number of constitutional changes it was agreed that free communications presenters could be offered free



registration at the discretion of the host organising committee. At the end of the Congress, Dr Jacques Drapé handed the Presidential chain of office to Dr Andrew Edney from the United Kingdom.

1990-1992 - Andrew Edney- Vienna and Rome

In 1991, the Austrian Small Animal Veterinary Association (VOK) was host to a WSAVA Congress which attracted 2,040 delegates from 39 countries. This was a splendid achievement in view of the fact that the Austrian Association had but 470 members. The meeting was opened by Prince Otto von Hapsburg in the glorious Hofburg Palace. The main events took place in the Spanish Riding School, The Rathaus and The Goldenes Halle of the Wiener Musikverein.

The work of the WSAVA was extended by the Animal Welfare Committee chaired by Dr Roger Clarke of Australia. It was agreed that the WSAVA Congress for 1995 would be hosted by the Japanese Small Animal Veterinary Association and would be held alongside the WVA Congress in Yokohama.

The International Society for Veterinary Nephrology and Urology (ISVNU) joined the WSAVA. A formal proposal to change the name of the WSAVA to the World Companion Animal Veterinary Association would be formulated.

Following in the style of recent WSAVA Congresses, the 1992 Congress hosted by Italian Small Animal Veterinary Association (AIVPA) invited former Miss America, a veterinarian Dr Debbye Turner to open the Congress in Rome.

The Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) agreed to donate half a page of the European Journal of Companion Animal Practice for the WSAVA to use for advertising international events.

Dr Maggie Gething of New Zealand became WSAVA Secretary as Dr Ettinger's term of office came to an end. Dr Edney then passed the Presidential chain of office to Professor Akira Takeuchi from Japan.

1992-1994 - Akira Takeuchi- Berlin and Durban

In 1993, the WSAVA International Congress was held in recently reunited Germany as guests of the German Small Animal Veterinary Association (FKDVG). A formal vote was taken on the proposed change of the name of the Association to the World Companion Animal Veterinary Association. Although there was a reasonable amount of support for the idea, it failed to gain the 75% majority for it to be accepted. Another motion proposing proxy voting was also rejected.

It was reported that the Rome Congress of the WSAVA had broken even financially but had no additional funds to pass on to the WSAVA. It was decided that a more detailed financial statement for the Association would be prepared and that the financial year would end with the calendar year.

As sponsorship had been obtained for five years, the further education programme for Eastern Europe became a reality with a lecture tour of Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary and Poland.



Hurricanes and fires in the USA prompted attention towards disaster management as it relates to veterinary medicine. A topic which was to develop significantly in the following years.

The new WSAVA International Lecture was given by Professor Neil Gorman from the United Kingdom. Committees were formed to formulate a strategic plan and operating procedures for the WSAVA and the World Congress Protocol were finalised. A European Fact-Finding Project surveyed the state of the veterinary profession and its needs in the countries of Eastern Europe.

The social events in Berlin were impressive, including a dinner with the dinosaurs at Humbolt University Museum!

The first WSAVA International Congress to be held in Africa took place in October 1994 in the city of Durban. There was a strong emphasis on wildlife and conservation of natural resources in the Congress Programme. The event was opened by WSAVA lecturer John Hanks, a leading authority in this area of study. There followed a keynote address by

Dr Colin Cameron, Director General of the Department of Environmental Affairs. Over 1,600 delegates from 42 countries attended the Congress where 200 papers were given in the main programme. An impressive commercial exhibition included a clutch of ostrich eggs due to hatch. By the end of the meeting they had transformed into sizeable and lively birds!

The Officers of WSAVA and FECAVA met to discuss microchip identification and certification of companion animals. New member Associations joining the WSAVA in Durban were from Hong Kong (HKVA) Poland (PSAVA) Portugal (APMVEAC). Dr. Hans-Klaus Dreier from Austria joined the WSAVA Board as Vice-President.

Before handing over the Presidential chain of office to Professor Peter Bedford from the United Kingdom, President Dr Akira Takeuchi presented the WSAVA International Award for Scientific Achievement to Professor Brian Farrow of Australia and the WSAVA International Award for Service to the Profession to Dr Desmond Thompson of the United Kingdom. Both award recipients gave Award Winners Lectures.



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CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF WSAVA

Jan Gajeentan DVM PhD- WSAVA Past President and Honorary Member

After being the National Representative of the Netherlands to the WSAVA for several years, I became a Board Member in 1975. I was elected Junior Vice-President at the meeting during the WVA World Congress in Thessaloniki, Greece. My fellow Board Members were Dr Brian Singleton, President; Leone Taglia, Senior Vice-President; Saki Paatsama, Vice-President; Louis Touratier, Hon. Secretary and Dr Ken Evans, Hon. Treasurer.

The WSAVA meeting in Thessaloniki was a disaster. There were very angry discussions between the U.S. and English Representatives, especially between Drs Brian Singleton and V Sokolowosky, the (U.S) Hon. Secretary. The feud culminated in a completely unexpected withdrawal of the AAHA, worded in a disturbing way by the U.S. Representative, William (Bill) Jackson.

Without the membership of the AAHA, the WSAVA was hardly a 'World' association anymore. However, it was decided that Dr Saki Paatsama would organise a WSAVA World Congress in 1977 in Helsinki (since 1959 when WSAVA was founded during the WVA World Congress in Madrid, WSAVA organised section IX – small animal medicine & surgery – at WVA World Congresses, and WSAVA World Congresses halfway between the four yearly WVA Congresses).

During 1976 it became evident that Dr Saki Paatsama was unable to organise a WSAVA World Congress in Helsinki, mainly because of lack of support by the Helsinki Veterinary Faculty. It was decided that instead the 1977 WSAVA Congress would be held in Amsterdam, in conjunction with the annual international Congress of NACAM, called 'Voorjaarsdagen', and so I became Chairman of the Organising Committee.

The four-day World Congress in Amsterdam was quite successful, with more than 800 registrations, an impressive number in those days. There was outstanding simultaneous translation of the main programme in English, French, and German. Although AAHA still was no longer a member of WSAVA, there were many leading American speakers, already invited by NACAM before it was decided that the meeting would be a WSAVA World Congress. Princess Beatrix (now Queen Beatrix) of the Netherlands attended the opening ceremony, and met with the WSAVA Board thereafter.

The Congress in Amsterdam was, for reasons never explained, erroneously called the sixth WSAVA World Congress. A fifth WSAVA Congress was never held!

In 1979 I became WSAVA President in Moscow during the WVA World Congress. The main developments during my presidency were:

- A new WSAVA Constitution was written by Dr Hans-Otto Schmidtke and me. One of the most important issues was a new constitution structure.
- It was decided to organise a WSAVA World Congress each year, with the exception of the years when a WVA World Congress would be held, and WSAVA would continue to organise Section IX during the WVA Congresses. Due to the short time of preparation it was not feasible to start an annual WSAVA Congress immediately. Therefore, in the first interim period between WVA World Congresses (Moscow 1979 – Perth in 1983) only two WSAVA World Congresses were held: 1980 Barcelona, Spain, and 1982 Las Vegas, U.S.A. The Barcelona meeting was very successful, but

in Las Vegas WSAVA was somewhat drowned in the massive AAHA Conference. From 1984 on, a WSAVA World Conference was held every year.

- The AAHA joined WSAVA again thanks to the new contribution structure, and also through my personal contacts with the AAHA President at that time.

I was WSAVA President for one year only (1979 – 1980) for two reasons. Firstly, I was relocating from the Netherlands to the U.S.A., and in the beginning I was unable to travel outside the U.S.A. due to obtaining an immigration visa.

Secondly, Dr Ken Evans had decided to end his term (of more than 14 years!) as Hon. Treasurer, and no one was willing to take on this position. So I became Hon. Treasurer for many years after being President.

In 1987, I organised Section IX of the WVA World Congress in Montreal, Canada. WSAVA spent a great amount of its financial reserves to invite top speakers to Montreal, and thanks to these efforts WVA was able to attract a large number of registrations, mainly companion animal veterinarians from the U.S.A. and Canada, but from overseas countries as well. However, there was very little to no recognition or acknowledgement of WSAVA Montreal. WSAVA even had to pay the registration fees of the invited speakers. This was the main reason WSAVA withdrew from WVA soon afterwards.

Since then, WSAVA World Congresses have been held every year.





WSAVA



PRESENT OF THE WORLD SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



WSAVA
Global Veterinary Development





Who would have thought that fifty years could pass so quickly! I think that the WSAVA has met and exceeded all the thoughts and aspirations that the small group of visionaries who met in 1959 could ever have envisaged. Currently over 70000 veterinary surgeons from over 70 countries are represented in the WSAVA Assembly.



WSAVA reaches out to developing countries with the unique WSAVA CE programme which in combination with our long term partners, Bayer Animal Health, Hill's Pet Nutrition and Intervet – SP provides a day's lectures to over 5000 veterinarians in 30 countries.



One of the first roles of the founding fathers was to stage a WSAVA Congress in combination with one of the national association members. Initially the congress was a biennial event but its popularity soon meant that it was held annually. 36 Congresses have been held in 19 countries and the vision of the current Assembly means that the next three congresses will be held in Brazil, Korea and the UK emphasising the diversity and global nature of the Congress. WSAVA is proud to work closely with our Prime Partner, Hill's Pet Nutrition, in the staging of these unique congresses which take cutting edge veterinary science to veterinary surgeons around the world.



The WSAVA Standardisation projects are a relatively recent addition to the portfolio. There are currently three projects dealing with hepatic, gastro intestinal and renal disease along with a standardisation project for vaccination regimes. Groups of experts from all parts of the world meet and discuss regularly the histological symptoms of the various diseases and agree on a standardised terminology which will be the benchmark for all future veterinary diagnosis within these fields. Hill's

Pet Nutrition have generously funded the hepatic and GI projects and together with Bayer Animal Health have funded the Renal project. Intervet-SP are the sponsors of the vaccination guidelines.

Hereditary Defects have been part of the veterinary world for even more years than WSAVA has existed and in combination with WALTHAM the Hereditary Disease committee is now looking at the genetic base for these problems and hopeful of providing guidelines for the future in a lecture to be given in Sao Paulo. The original WSAVA members were at the forefront of science in developing hip and elbow dysplasia schemes and the genetic detail now examined shows just how far and how quickly veterinary science is developing.

Animal welfare in the veterinary world goes without saying - and often without much thought being given to it. The WSAVA takes this aspect of veterinary science most seriously and currently sponsors programmes at regional congresses and makes it obligatory that any WSAVA Congress includes an animal welfare stream.

There have been many famous veterinary names associated with WSAVA - there is no space to include them all but Wayne Riser, Jean Maynard, Bill Magrane, Brian Singleton, Saki Paatsama, Jan Gajentaan, Carl Osbourne and John Holt are giants who led the WSAVA and the profession for the first twenty five years and founded what surely will be a legacy in the veterinary world for ever.







THREE IMPORTANT STEPS TO STRENGTHEN OUR FUTURE

By Jolle Kirpensteijn - President-Elect of the WSAVA

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) has evolved from an organisation of friends to a global enterprise with more than 70,000 companion animal veterinarian members. They are united to strengthen the WSAVA's goals to raise the standards of companion animal care around the world, to promote animal welfare, to support scientific standardisation projects and to educate veterinarians globally.

For this we will need a healthy organisation that can face the future without worrying about finances, boundaries or personal limitations.

The future needs to be secured by assuring the following key elements:

- 1) A professional organisation**
- 2) A sound financial backbone**
- 3) An army of dedicated volunteers in combination with a main office of paid well-trained staff**

A professional organisation is able to perform well in these times if there is a solid vision statement and a clear strategy. The WSAVA will have to develop these short and long term strategies, implement and live by them. Change is not just part of it - change is it. The resulting changes will translate into improvements in the way we accomplish our goals so as to maintain and to better reflect our identity.

The financial ramifications of such a plan are obvious. Budgets need to be implemented and followed, money needs to be spent wisely and goals need to be measurable and achievable. The future is only guaranteed if the financial resources can be guaranteed. Major decisions will need to be made, including the re-evaluation of revenue sources, including Congress income and how we manage that revenue.

This includes sponsor money, with a focus on prioritisation and maximisation of resource allocation.

An organisation like this fuels on dedication of an army of volunteers. They are essential for the progress of the Association and bring valuable input on how to reach our goals. But they alone cannot accomplish all these tasks. We will need to call in professionals to take over tasks that otherwise will not be fulfilled, for administrative jobs we really have no time for and to ensure we keep the promises we make. The WSAVA needs a professional office to release us from duties that prevent us from doing what we are good at; that is caring for animals and the people who love them.

All these measures will ensure the future of the WSAVA for the next 50 years.





WSAVA
Global Veterinary Development



Member Associations



WSAVA
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North America

British Columbia (Canada)
Jamaica
Quebec (Canada)
U.S.A.

South America

Argentina
Brazil
Columbia
Ecuador
Peru
Uruguay

Europe

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| Albania | France | Norway |
| Austria | Germany | Poland |
| Belgium | Greece | Portugal |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | Hungary | Romania |
| Bulgaria | Ireland | Serbia |
| Croatia | Italy(AIVPA) | Slovak Republic |
| Czech Republic | Italy(SCIVAC) | Slovenia |
| Denmark | Latvia | Spain |
| Estonia | Lithuania | Sweden |
| Finland | Luxembourg | Switzerland |
| | Montenegro | Turkey |
| | Morocco | Ukraine |
| | Netherlands | United Kingdom |

Asia

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| Beijing - China | Philippines |
| Guangdong - China | Russia |
| Hong Kong | Shanghai - China |
| India | Singapore |
| Japan | Sri Lanka |
| Korea | Thailand |
| Malaysia | Taiwan |

Africa

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| Namibia |
| South Africa |
| Tunisia |

Middle East

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| Israel |
| Lebanon |

Oceania

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| Australia |
| New Zealand |





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