



# ANNUAL WSAVA COMMITTEE REPORT

## 2018



**WSAVA**  
Global Veterinary Community

## Annual Report for the WSAVA Hereditary Disease Committee

<i>Name of the Committee</i>	<b>Hereditary Disease Committee</b>
<i>Name of the Committee (Co-)Chair(s)</i>	Jerold S Bell
<i>Name of the Committee Members</i>	Helle Friis Proschowsky, Åke Hedhammar, Susan Little, Monique Megens, Cathryn Mellersh and Claire Wade

### Mission/Tagline of the Committee

Mission: To facilitate improvement of the genetic health of dogs and cats

Tagline: All cats and dogs deserve to live healthy lives.

### Committee Activities of 2018

- Departing Chair Dr. Giger organized a WSAVA Clinical Genetics tract at the VMX Conference in Orlando, FL in February.
- Dr. Hedhammar contributed to outlining the effects of extreme selection including brachycephaly on animal welfare, and the preparation of a position statement through FVE & FECAVA.
- Departing member Dr. Cole participated in published research identifying genetic disease variants in over 100,000 mixed and purebred dogs.
- Dr. Mellersh organized a Companion Animal Genetic Health Conference in the UK in May.
- Dr. Bell presented in the Clinical Genetics tract at the AVMA conference in Denver, CO in July.
- Under Dr. Giger's leadership, the Genetic Database continues to be maintained and kept up to date.

### Priorities for 2019

- Continue to disseminate detailed communications/articles regarding the importance of physical examination and genetic testing of breeding stock for health-conscious breeding.
- Contact and engage feline organizations regarding hereditary disease.
- Collaborate with International Partnership for Dogs regarding Harmonization of Genetic Testing as well as other items to improve the genetic health of dogs.
- Engage National and local VMAs to both understand local issues with hereditary disease, as well as to disseminate information on improving genetic health.
- Set up a veterinarian e-mail discussion group on hereditary disease.
- Maintain and enhance the WSAVA sponsored Genetic Testing Database at UPenn.
- Pursue initiatives to improve the teaching of clinical genetics and genetic counselling to veterinary students worldwide.
- Develop tools for practicing veterinarians to educate themselves on genetic testing and genetic counselling.
- Communicate via e-mail, have Skype meetings and meet as a group in the Spring at the or Dog Health Workshop (UK) and the 2019 WSAVA Congress (Toronto).
- Individual committee members will publish papers and present on hereditary disease at various National and International conferences.

### Sponsors of the Hereditary Disease Committee

Marcan and Purina