



WSAVA

Global Veterinary Community

Committee/Project Annual Report Template

Name of Committee/Working group	WSAVA Hereditary Disease Committee
Chair	<p>Urs Giger, Prof. Dr. med. vet., MS, FVH Dipl. ACVIM & ECVIM (Internal Medicine) Dipl. ECVCP (Clinical Pathology) Charlotte Newton Sheppard Professor of Medicine School of Veterinary Medicine University of Pennsylvania 3900 Delancey Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010 USA Phone 215-898-8830 Fax 215-573-2162 Email: giger@vet.upenn.edu http://research.vet.upenn.edu/penngen</p>
Committee members	<p>Jerold S. Bell, DVM Cynthia Cole DVM, PhD, DACVCP Urs Giger, Prof. Dr. med. vet., MS, FVH Åke Hedhammar, DVM Cathryn Mellersh, PhD</p>
Industry/Member Association Sponsors (if applicable)	The Hereditary Disease Committee has been sponsored by Mars Veterinary for over a decade.
Committee tagline or mission statement	As shown on website
A brief history	<p>As its major project, the HDC under Dr. Giger's guidance has formulated the Genetic Database: Diseases, Tests and Testing Facilities website hosted on the PennGen website. In addition, individual committee members have published articles and presented lectures at national and international venues on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of hereditary disease in companion animals.</p>
Opportunities and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Engaging National and local VMAs. -Educating practitioners on the proper use of genetic tests and genetic counseling. -Cooperation with other WSAVA committees on overlapping topics, including the animal wellness and welfare committee. -Collaboration with involved groups including; International Partnership for Dogs, International Cat Care, kennel and cat clubs, and other companion animal advocacy groups concerning hereditary disease.
Key activities this year	-Dr. Giger organized a WSAVA Clinical Genetics tract at the VMX

	<p>Conference in Orlando, FL in February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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. -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/Calendar for next year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Engage National and local VMAs to both understand local issues with hereditary disease, as well as to disseminate information on improving genetic health. -Formulate educational tools for practitioners on genetic testing and genetic counseling. -Maintain the Genetic Database housed at PennGen. -Communicate via e-mail, have Skype meetings and meet as a group in the Spring at either the Dog/Cat genomics meeting (Switzerland) or Dog Health Workshop (UK). -Individual committee members will publish papers and present on hereditary disease at various National and International conferences.
Press mention/articles/publications	<p>http://www.wsava.org/WSAVA/media/PDF_old/Urs-Giger-WSAVA-work-on-hereditary-diseases-Companion.pdf</p>
Contact details for further information	<p>Chairman-Elect: Jerold S Bell, DVM Adjunct Professor of Clinical Genetics Dept. Clinical Sciences Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine N. Grafton, MA 01536 USA E-mail: Jerold.bell@tufts.edu Webpage: http://vetprofiles.tufts.edu/faculty/jerold-bell</p> <p>Practice Owner: Freshwater Veterinary Hospital 151 Hazard Avenue Enfield. CT 06082 USA Phone: 860-749-84348 Fax 860-749-4760</p>