



12 October 2016

Press Information

Animal Wellness and Welfare Guidelines to be Launched by the WSAVA

The [World Small Animal Veterinary Association's](#) (WSAVA's) [Animal Wellness and Welfare Committee](#) (AWWC) is developing a set of WSAVA Global Guidelines that will assist veterinarians in providing optimal companion animal welfare.

The new WSAVA Guidelines will set out recommendations for the veterinary team in the clinical setting, following every interaction with the pet to ensure that, in addition to providing the very best health advice and therapy, they offer evidence-based information and guidance to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the animal, the owner and themselves. The WSAVA already offers Global Guidelines in key areas of veterinary practice, including vaccination, nutrition and pain management.

Commenting, Dr Shane Ryan, Co-Chair of the AWWC, explained: "Animal welfare involves more than ensuring the animal's physical health. Veterinarians act as the pet's advocate – as the animal's voice in the consultation room - and we have the responsibility and the opportunity to help owners care for their pets in a way that optimizes their welfare and quality of life.

"Animal welfare science is a new and rapidly developing discipline and, as a result, many veterinarians may not be completely up-to-date with contemporary animal welfare concepts. Current and scientifically-supported information is necessary to enable them maintain the highest welfare standards and to be able to answer questions confidently, both from their clients and the public.

“Given the importance of the human-animal bond, our Global Guidelines will provide comprehensive and pragmatic advice on all aspects of welfare in the clinical setting, both from a veterinary and an owner perspective. We hope the Global Guidelines will enable veterinarians, wherever they are practicing, to demonstrate leadership in animal welfare to an increasingly knowledgeable pet-owning public, which expects the highest standards of care for its animals.”

He added: “The AWWC aims to make welfare issues an everyday consideration for small animal practitioners around the world. We are grateful to our sponsor WALTHAM® and to the WSAVA’s Friends of Animal Welfare donors for their generous support in enabling us to develop our WSAVA Global Guidelines. We intend to launch them at the WSAVA World Congress in Singapore in 2018.

“They will add to the other resources we offer, including our recently launched online welfare training modules, which are available for free download at <http://tinyurl.com/hfs6s3s>.”

The WSAVA is an umbrella organization focused on enhancing the clinical care of companion animals around the world. It represents more than 160,000 veterinarians globally through 100 member associations.

For further information, please contact:

Rebecca George, George PR

Tel: 01449 737281/07974 161108/ email: rebecca@georgepr.com