World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) 
Professional Wellness Group (PWG)

Help us to increase well-being within the global veterinary profession 
Sponsorship Opportunities – 2020-2021

The WSAVA Professional Wellness Group

Reports of a link between a career in veterinary medicine and an elevated risk of mental health issues have become increasingly frequent in recent years. Indeed, preliminary findings from the first global study into veterinary wellness undertaken by the WSAVA’s Professional Wellness Group in 2018/19, indicate that stress and diminished well-being are widespread, affecting all members of the veterinary team, in all areas of the world.

The PWG aims to improve the health and well-being of all veterinary professionals. In developed countries, it works in partnership with national associations already active in this area, including AVMA and BSAVA. In countries where veterinarians lack ready access to sources of help and advice, the PWG aims to support WSAVA member associations by offering relevant well-being resources.

The PWG is co-chaired by human psychologist Dr Nienke Endenburg, who works at the University of Utrecht Veterinary School in the Netherlands, and Dr Derick Chibeu, a veterinarian in practice in Kenya and Member Representative to WSAVA for the Kenya Small and Companion Animal Veterinary Association. Building on momentum created by its 2018 study of global veterinary wellness, the PWG has ambitious plans to inspire veterinary professionals and veterinary employers around the world to make well-being their number one priority and to equip them with the tools and resources they need to do so.

Dr Nienke Endenburg
Co-Chair of the WSAVA PWG

Dr Derick Chibeu
Co-Chair of the WSAVA PWG
Our Audience

The WSAVA is a fast-growing, dynamic, global community of companion animal veterinarians and their veterinary teams. Our members include 113 national or regional member associations, between them representing more than 200,000 individual veterinarians and veterinary technicians/nurses from around the world. More associations are applying to join us in 2020.

WSAVA members are highly engaged with our community, particularly those in regions of the world where companion animal practice is still emerging. WSAVA’s bi-monthly bulletin has 21,210 subscribers while its Facebook page has 23,000 likes.

WSAVA’s flagship annual congress is attended by 3,000+ veterinarians, including expert speakers and stakeholders from across the profession and the association’s activities are widely reported in media around the world.
The high profile of WSAVA and the growing interest in veterinary well-being present an ideal opportunity for veterinary businesses to build their brands globally and show their commitment to this important cause by supporting the work of the PWG. Details of its program of activity for 2020-2021 are below and we would be very happy to discuss tailoring a range of these activities – or indeed to include additional activities – to meet individual sponsor requirements through our Partnership Program.

**Plans for 2020-2021**

**Publication of Global Veterinary Wellness Survey**

The interim results of the survey were presented during WSAVA World Congress 2019. The full findings are to be submitted to a peer-reviewed veterinary journal with anticipated completion of peer-review and publication in 2020.

**Collation of a Wellness Library on the WSAVA website**

The PWG is carrying out a literature review and collating studies pertinent to veterinary mental health and well-being in order to provide a comprehensive list of resources for those
interested in researching or learning more about these subjects. The Wellness Library will be launched on the WSAVA website during 2020.

**Creation of the WSAVA Global Professional Wellness Guidelines**

WSAVA Global Guidelines relating to key areas of veterinary practice are indispensable and highly regarded resources to support the raising of standards of veterinary care worldwide. They are already offered in areas of clinical practice including vaccination, animal welfare, nutrition and pain management.

With the PWG’s work, the WSAVA is turning its attention from the animals in its members’ care to the members themselves. The WSAVA’s Global Professional Wellness Guidelines will aspire to enhance the wellbeing of WSAVA members globally and to ensure that they enjoy higher levels of satisfaction with their chosen career. The Guidelines will be created during 2020 and published during 2021.

**WSAVA Professional Wellness Conference Stream**

The PWG is charged with organizing a high-level full-day lecture stream at WSAVA 2020. Content will include a range of issues relating to veterinary mental health and well-being with participation from leading experts from around the world.

**Creation of the WSAVA Wellness Resource Hub on WSAVA Website**

This microsite within the main WSAVA site will be a repository of the latest thinking on veterinary wellness, together with practical tools and educational resources, including videos, for WSAVA members to use. It will also offer links to global partner websites. The website will be updated regularly to ensure that it is current, informative and is meeting the needs of our global audience. It is expected to go live in 2021.

**Interested in partnering?**

Through its well-established Partnership Program, the WSAVA is seeking support for the PWG from veterinary businesses in order to help it deliver on its ambitious program to enhance veterinary wellness and well-being around the world. Facilitating the PWG’s work will enable
partners to build their brand within our membership and to demonstrate their commitment to developing the practical solutions so urgently needed in this area.

WSAVA enjoys a close relationship with our partners and works to ensure that they receive full recognition and an excellent return on investment.