CHAIR AWWC
Dr Melinda Merck

CO-CHAIR AWWC
Dr Tess Kommedal (until Sept 2019)

MEMBERS
Dr Susan Hazel
Dr Tess Kommedal (from September 2019)
Dr Natasha Lee
Dr Abdul Rahman
Dr Katherine Polak

The AWWC is generously supported by:

PURINA Institute
Advancing Science for Pet Health
Overview of activities in 2019

Committee membership: The recommendation of Dr. Katherine C. Polak from USA based in Thailand and Dr. Susan Hazel from Australia as Members of the committee effective Toronto were recommended to the Board and approved.


WSAVA Companion Animal Welfare Award: the recipient of the award was announced in March 2019.

Capacity Building Programmes: Shelter Medicine Workshops in India during the Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Association Congress at Bangalore, India in March, and during the WSAVA Congress at Toronto were successfully completed. Animal welfare stream during the main Congress in Toronto.

Animal Welfare Charter: prepared by AWWC and approved by the WSAVA board.

Challenges
The AWWC faces a series of changes over the next 18 months as members retire from the committee. An action plan was developed to ensure a smooth transition from existing members to new members. This has provided an opportunity to broaden the geographical representation of the committee.

We are often asked to comment on specific welfare issues raised by WSAVA members. Rather than comment on specific cases we have decided that, where possible, we will develop and maintain a generic position on a welfare issue that can be applied more generally. Often other veterinary associations have taken a position and where this is consistent with our views we may endorse that position.

Planned activities for 2020

Animal Welfare Guidelines
- Raise awareness of the guidelines – translations, podcasts, social media posts, executive summary
- Resource and tools – Slides for speakers, self-assessment checklists, posters on basic info e.g. animal handling, body language, surgery dos and don’ts
- Engaging with members to act – identify leaders to promote the guidelines, publicity at events
- Train the trainers program
- Animal Welfare Friendly Practice certificate (2021 onwards)

Maintain online presence – Keeping website up to date, social media postings, WSAVA newsletters

Capacity building for animal welfare
- WSAVA Congress AW stream
- Shelter medicine workshop – post WSAVA congress, Poland.
- Planning for Outreach projects: Hyderbad, India (2021)
- Domestic Violence workshop (with One Health Committee)
  - Develop a position statement
  - Conduct workshop in Poland together with One Health committee

Animal welfare issues
- Identify issues through membership survey
- Developing position statements and work on animal welfare issues: Mutilations / cosmetic surgeries, Disaster management, Domestic violence and pets, Early-age neutering, DPM, dog meat trade, online trade and puppy mills
- Forming alliances with other WSAVA Committees: Pets and Domestic Violence (with OHC), Breeding (HDC), Humane euthanasia drugs (TGG), train the trainer initiatives (CE)
- Forming alliances with international partners: Enhance welfare in practice (Fear Free), Disaster management (WAP), dog/cat population management (ICAM)