May 28, 2020

WSAVA Secretariat and Executive Board:

I am writing this letter to express my interest in applying for the upcoming Board Member vacancy on the WSAVA Executive Board. I have been involved with the WSAVA as the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association representative since 2011 when the CVMA became a member organization of WSAVA. Since that time I have watched as WSAVA grew in membership, outreach, influence and relevance to the veterinary community.

With the current restructuring of the executive board, development of strategic alliances, the emphasis on committee member turnover and activity, and the drive to promote education, WSAVA has become an international organization with even greater potential. During my tenure on the executive board of the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management, the board developed a strategic plan involving a re-organization of the executive, committees, continuing education, membership drives and global outlook. This restructuring was driven by the underlying desire to improve veterinary team understanding and treatment of animal pain to improve welfare and treatment outcomes. This same emphasis on education, improvement in animal welfare, and responsive governance is currently happening at WSAVA on a broader scale.

Throughout my veterinary career, I have had many opportunities to engage with the organizational and political side of veterinary care at the local, regional, national and international levels. One of the common themes I have seen is a desire to actively encourage new members to join organizations, and to engage current members to become more involved in the organization. A second common theme is that veterinary team members globally share a common ideal of supporting animal welfare and appropriate care. I believe WSAVA shares these goals and has the added challenge of doing this on a global scale.
I would very much appreciate the opportunity to play a larger role in this organization.

Respectfully,

Jim Berry, DVM