VACCINATION GUIDELINES GROUP

WORLD SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT - 2020
CHAIR VGG
Professor Richard Squires

MEMBERS
Professor Mary Marcondes
Professor Nat Whitley
Professor Cynda Crawford

The VGG is generously supported by:

MSD Animal Health
Overview of activities in 2020

2020 was a tumultuous year for the VGG, not just because of COVID-19, but because of the untimely and deeply saddening death of our former chairman, Michael J. Day. Richard Squires took over the role of VGG chair shortly before Michael’s death. Nat Whitley joined the committee mid-year. Mary Marcondes and Cynda Crawford continued as members.

The Latin American (LATAM) regional project was successfully completed in 2019. The resulting “Recommendations on vaccination for Latin American small animal practitioners” paper was published in the Journal of Small Animal Practice in early 2020. The full paper was translated into Spanish and Portuguese and then Mary Marcondes worked to produce a summarized version, which was published in a local LATAM journal (Revista Clinica Veterinaria).

Members of the VGG created and delivered multiple vaccination-related webinars during 2020.

Updating of the full vaccination guidelines document was postponed from 2020 to 2021. Instead, the VGG, in collaboration with the Third Term Learning team in Buenos Aires, commenced work on “online vaccination educational modules” in the second half of the year. This work has been time-consuming but is starting to bear attractive fruit that will hopefully be educationally valuable.

Analysis of the vaccine hesitancy dataset generated from a WSAVA online survey of members began in the last 6 weeks of 2020.

Plans and priorities for 2021

Plans for the first four months of 2021 include completion of our work on the online educational modules. Further analysis of the vaccine hesitancy dataset will follow that. Preliminary data on vaccine hesitancy will be presented by Richard Squires in March, at the WSAVA online conference. In the third and fourth quarters of 2021, VGG will tackle the updating of the main vaccination guidelines document. Unfortunately, this work will almost certainly need to be done online, at a distance from one another. In 2021 VGG will also do some planning for the next regional project, scheduled to begin in the second half of 2022, in Eastern European.