The WSAVA Oncology Working Group (WOW) was set up during 2021 under chairmanship of Dr Martin Soberano, a veterinary oncologist working in Mexico City. The WSAVA represents more than 200,000 veterinarians worldwide through its 115 member associations and works to enhance standards of clinical care for companion animals. Its core activities include the development of WSAVA Global Guidelines in key areas of veterinary practice, including pain management, nutrition and vaccination, together with lobbying on important issues affecting companion animal care worldwide.

The results of the survey will help the WOW Group prioritize its efforts to educate and support WSAVA members globally in raising standards of care for veterinary oncology patients.

Cancer is increasingly common in companion animals, with almost 50% of dogs over 10 years of age developing the devastating disease. To support WSAVA members effectively in treating oncology patients, we wanted to know where they needed help most urgently. Our survey is the largest the WSAVA has ever conducted and shows the reach of this well-respected association, which works to share best practice in companion animal veterinary care around the world.

Dr Jolle Kirpensteijn, former WSAVA President and Member of the WOW Group

The WSAVA Oncology Working Group (WOW) Survey Highlights

**MOST COMMON TUMOR TYPES SEEN IN PRACTICE**

- Skin tumor: 81%
- Abdominal tumor: 40%
- Malignant lymphoma: 39%
- Mammary tumor: 75%
- Other tumors: 5%

As limited numbers of North American, African, and Oceanic VCHTs participated in the survey, this result may not fully reflect regional differences. For instance, in parts of the world, mammary tumor incidence is lower because of a culture of early neutering.

**RESPONDENTS**

- 1,825 veterinary professionals from around the world
- 95% of survey respondents were veterinarians and 5% other VHCT members
- 10 languages

**MOST COMMON THERAPY USED IN PRIVATE PRACTICE**

- Surgery: 55%
- Surgery and adjuvant therapy: 30%
- Chemotherapy: 7%
- Palliative care: 4%
- Immediate euthanasia: 1%

Approximately, two-thirds of the respondents were female, one third male, with 0.2% indicating that they were non-binary.

Survey responses were skewed towards Western Europe (48%), followed by Eastern Europe and Russia (22%), Asia (15%), the Americas (11%). Fewer than 1% of respondents were from Africa and Oceania.

**EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS MOST VALUABLE TO RESPONDENTS**

- Chemotherapy protocols: 82%
- Information on tumor staging: 53%
- Support with cytology: 51%
- Information on treatment side-effects: 38%
- Advice on surgical margins: 36%
- Radiation therapy: 51%
- Palliative care: 6%

Chemotherapy is only currently used by 7% of respondents

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