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Overview of activities in 2021

As in 2020, the activities of the Continuing Education Committee (CEC) were confined by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike in 2020, however, the committee had time to plan a series of online continuing education (CE) programs rather than needing to pivot mid-year from traditional face-to-face CE offerings. The committee decided to focus on developing short, foundational courses focused on specific topics, applicable globally, with the goal of bringing all attendees to a common level of knowledge on the subject matter rather than offering individual webinars. The committee felt these “Essentials” courses fit well with the CEC’s mission of providing practical, relevant and inspiring CE to assist general practitioners in solving clinical problems, regardless of the size and sophistication of their practice.

The overarching goal of the Essentials courses is to ensure the attendees acquire the essential knowledge to be able to diagnose and manage common diseases of dogs and cats. Additionally, these foundational courses prepare registrants for future programs they may attend on more focused topics, including possible in person programs offered in their region by the CEC in the future. Registrants engaging with the full course were eligible to request a WSAVA certificate of completion, and plans are underway for future courses to offer a competency certificate based on a quiz at the end of the course. The response to these courses to date has been positive. We continue to collect feedback, and data on registration and completion.

Three Essentials courses were developed in 2021 and used to try different formats for offering the courses to assess the best way to meet the needs of our target audiences. These first Essentials courses allowed us to gain experience with synchronous (“live”) presentations to target audiences in specific regions, as well as with an asynchronous course that was developed and recorded specifically with a global audience in mind. Both synchronous and asynchronous courses were recorded to be made available on the WSAVA Academy site in several languages.

- Essentials of Clinical Decision Making: A synchronous (“live”) modular course with Drs. Jill Maddison and David Church in July and August in conjunction with the VPAT - Veterinary Practitioners Association of Thailand targeted to veterinarians in SE Asia; offered weekly for 6 weeks in English with live translations in different Zoom rooms. The recorded version was subsequently translated into Mandarin and offered on a Chinese app in conjunction with partners at the Duoyue Education and Technology Group in Beijing.

- Essentials of Canine and Feline Ophthalmology: A synchronous 6-hour modular course offered in English in August-September with Drs. Antony Goodhead and Izad Venter from South Africa to a target audience of veterinarians in East and West Africa.

- Essentials of Canine and Feline Dermatology: A 9-hour asynchronous (pre recorded) course in English developed in conjunction with six international members of the Global Veterinary Dermatology Education Group.
Other programs offered by the CEC in 2021 were:

South America: Weekly synchronous endocrinology webinar series in January; offered every other week for 3 weeks in Spanish, and recorded to be made available on the WSAVA Academy.

Ukraine: Identified and sponsored two speakers in an 8-hour stream at the Ukrainian Veterinary Association virtual annual meeting in September; Dr. Leslie Sharkey (clinical pathology) and Dr. Lowell Ackerman (practice management)

Angola: Webinars in Portuguese weekly in August-September in conjunction with APMVEAC; four speakers asynchronously presented a variety of canine internal medicine topics weekly.

Ecuador: Dental guidelines face-to-face event in November with Dr. Brook Niemiec, Chair of the WSAVA Dental Guidelines Committee.

**Plans and priorities for 2022**

1. To develop a new course, Essentials of Canine and Feline Gastroenterology, and deliver it synchronously to veterinary audiences in Africa while recording it for the WSAVA Academy site and obtaining translations into Portuguese, French and Arabic.

2. To coordinate with the Dental Guidelines Committee to develop an asynchronous Dental Guidelines/Essentials of Dentistry course for the Academy and to offer interactive face-to-face “next level” courses in Latin America.

3. To offer face-to-face programs, conditions on the ground permitting, in each region.

4. To obtain translations of the Essentials courses developed in 2021 and promote all translated versions via the Academy platform.