Application of SAVAK (Small Animal Veterinary Association Kerala) for Full Membership of WSAVA

History:

- SAVAK was formed informally in 2015 and was formally registered in 2017. All districts in Kerala were invited to join and members came initially from 14 districts. 90% of its over 200 members are solely small animal practitioners.
- Discussions were held between SAVAK and the Indian Veterinary Association (India’s national association) regarding the formation of a small animal association in Kerala.
- SAVAK applied to be a member of FSAPAI (Federation of Small Animal Practitioner Associations of India which is a member of WSAVA) in 2017 but was rejected. This was due to the application of another association in Kerala, CAPAK (Companion Animal Practitioner Association of Kerala) having been submitted to FSAPAI a few days prior to the submission from SAVAK, which was accepted. FSAPAI bylaws stipulate that only one association from each state can be a member of FSAPAI.
- According to information from SAVAK, CAPAK was started in only one district of Kerala and members were mainly large animal focussed. Discussions between SAVAK and CAPAK were initiated in 2017 but unfortunately were not fruitful.
- SAVAK contacted WSAVA in 2017 requesting to be considered as full members of WSAVA and intended to submit their application in 2018 at the Singapore Congress. SAVAK was advised by WSAVA that the association needed to have been in existence for a minimum of 3 years and that it was preferred that they join with the WSAVA member, FSAPAI, rather than apply alone. As per above, SAVAK applied for membership of FSAPAI but were unsuccessful.
- SAVAK is affiliated with FASAVA (Federation of Asian Small Animal Veterinary Associations).
- FSAPAI (comprising of 13 full member associations from 20 states of India) decided at their last meeting not to admit SAVAK as a full member but has indicated that it will reconsider possible associate membership at their next meeting. SAVAK is requesting full membership of FSAPAI and hence, WSAVA.
- SAVAK seems to be pro active in supporting small animal practitioners in Kerala and providing CPD.
- As SAVAK has been unsuccessful in their attempt to join FSAPAI, they are applying for full WSAVA membership on their own.
- SAVAK has an amicable relationship with FSAPAI.
Ideally WSAVA permits only a single association from each country to become a member of the association. However, in cases where an association is applying for WSAVA membership when there is already an association member from that country, there are criteria on which the Assembly can examine the application and base their decisions.

- Associations are encouraged to join with the WSAVA member association in their country if possible. This has been attempted by SAVAK.
- Associations must have a minimum of 50 members and comply with the WSAVA membership category criteria. SAVAK complied with these criteria.
- Does the new association from the same country represent a different region or language group? Not in this case.

1. Does the number of veterinarians in the country justify more than one national association? FSAPAI is not the national association of India but is the group representing a number of small animal practitioner associations in that country. India has a large population so it could be argued that there is justification for the admission of more than one representative association to WSAVA.

2. Do the members of FSAPAI and SAVAK have <25% overlap? This seems to be the case.

3. Is there no channel in place for the new association to be part of the existing association due to eg legal/by law restrictions, lack of capacity within the existing association. FSAPAI only allows one association per state to be member.

4. Have there been requests from the new association for affiliation with the existing association, and have these requests been rejected? Yes, SAVAK has requested to join FSAPAI but has been rejected.

5. Are the activities of the new association for the development of companion animal practitioners? Yes, they are.

6. Does the existing association (FSAPAI) support this new application? Not at this time.

7. Is the existing association ceasing to represent companion animal practitioner interests? No, FSAPAI is the association representing a large number of small animal practitioner associations in India at present.

8. Has the existing association (FSAPAI) given reasons for objecting to the application to WSAVA of the new association? FSAPAI has advised that their bylaws prohibit SAVAK becoming a member of their association. No other objections have been received.

9. Has the existing association (FSAPAI) stated the untoward effects this new membership could have on its local membership or the WSAVA community at large? No, though it may be argued that having a number of regional associations from one country rather than a single body as members of WSAVA could diminish the benefits of WSAVA membership for the veterinarians in that country.

Recommendations from the LNC:
1. The Assembly is to consider the application for full WSAVA membership from SAVAK.
2. SAVAK represents a considerable number of small animal practitioners in Kerala who, at present, cannot become members of WSAVA or receive the benefits of that membership.
3. SAVAK has attempted to comply with the requirement of membership of FSAPAI but have been unsuccessful.
4. SAVAK demonstrates ongoing commitment to improving and supporting small animal practitioners in Kerala.
5. India has a large, diverse population and has many veterinarians who should be able to be part of WSAVA.
6. Applications from associations where there is already a WSAVA member association in their country must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Acceptance or not of these applications does not set a precedent for future applications.
7. If in the future, SAVAK is able to become a member of FSAPAI (and has been granted WSAVA membership in the meantime), its separate WSAVA membership will be recommended to the Assembly for withdrawal.

Application of AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) for Affiliate Membership of WSAVA

The LNC has reviewed the AAHA application for Affiliate membership and all documentation is in order. The organisation will be a great asset to WSAVA and the LNC recommends the membership.

Application of TASAVO (Tanzania Small Animal Veterinary Organisation) for Full Membership of WSAVA

TASAVO (Tanzania Small Animal Veterinary Organisation) - applying for Full Membership of WSAVA

1. has been an associate member of WSAVA since 2019, with an early extension to this membership granted in 2021
2. was registered as an association in 2018
3. has 150 members of which 75% are focussed on small animals
4. have provided the required documentation except minutes of last meeting
5. its 2021 report indicates the organisation has been active within its region in providing CPD to its members, participating in World Rabies Day, starting a spay/neuter clinic, participating in the AFSCAN congress, lobbying for importation of veterinary drugs, supported WSAVA CPD seminar held in the region and has given out a scholarship to one of its members to attend a 6 month Teach-the-Teacher course in Canada, which was supported by the WSAVA GPC.
TASAVO is to be commended for its commitment to supporting and encouraging small animal veterinary practice in its region, and for quickly moving from WSAVA Associate membership to Full membership. The LNC supports the application.

**Application of AMVEPE (Asociación de Médicos Veterinarios de Pequeñas Especies en Panamá) for Full Membership of WSAVA**

The LNC review and recommendations for the AMVEPE (Panama) application for full membership of WSAVA are:

All required documentation has been provided. As most of these documents are in Spanish, Jordi Franch, an LNC committee member has kindly reviewed them and advised the committee.

1. the association is registered in its country of residence
2. the association was created in 1991
3. the constitution/bylaws/charter has been provided and is in order
4. a copy of the most recent general meeting minutes has been provided
5. details of the vision/mission/goals of the association and what is provided for members has been provided
6. a letter of intent has been provided
7. the association has over 100 members who are 100% small animal
8. AMVEPE advises they are a national association and the only small animal association in their country
9. they are active in organising activities for their members.

The LNC recommends the application for full WSAVA membership is accepted.

**UGMVT (Tunisian General Union of Veterinarians) for an extension of current Associate Membership of WSAVA**

UGMVT (Tunisian General Union of Veterinarians) - applying for an extension of current Associate Membership of WSAVA.

1. this is the second extension application by this association. It has already held associate membership for 6 years
2. the application indicates that its members are suffering financial stress due to Covid 19 over the last 2 years, and the association was largely inactive during that period
3. the association has restarted activities in 2022
4. a WSAVA One-Care meeting was held in Tunisia in May 2022, which was attended by over 35 countries in the region
5. the application advises the association will be pushing for full WSAVA membership in 2024
WSAVA needs to continue to encourage and support small associations from countries with financial difficulties and regions that would benefit from WSAVA membership. The LNC recommends that UGMVT is granted one more extension of its Associate Membership status but should be required to apply for Full Membership once this next 3 year period has ended.