State of the Association: WSAVA in 2022
Dr. Siraya Chunekamrai (WSAVA President)

Today I am happy to report to our assembly the State of the Association, in person, at the world congress in Lima, Peru.

We entered the new unknown world of the pandemic in 2020 and faced challenges both foreseen and unforeseen. We all knew that the only way forward was for us to embrace change and have courage to disrupt ourselves to grow and develop. And I am proud to report that we have done this successfully.

Our O2O plight - Offline to Online
Changing to become an online community changed the way we communicated and worked together dramatically. This made many internal working groups more in touch with one another, we were able to respond to immediate issues, garner global input from our members, address immediate changes that required rapid decisions and made changes that would otherwise take many more years to achieve. So below will be some headlines of where we are in 2022.

Communications: It is true that we changed the way that we communicated, but it was not only about going online to provide information on an already inundated digital landscape. Content was therefore curated to be timely and relevant. We also ensured to make all communications an evidence of our core values, and to highlight equality, diversity and inclusivity as a platform for global engagement.

- One Health issues of public concerns have continued in regular e-shots
- Important issue responses on Health Focused Breeding was issued in February and a special video is prepared on Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome to be launched within 2022
- There are increased call to action and opportunities to be involved through transparent open nominations and application processes. This year we have announced for
  - 13 volunteer positions in 4 committees as well as on the Executive board
  - 2 scholarships
  - 6 awards
- Diversity, Equality and Inclusivity, a key issue affecting our community worldwide was addressed in our PWG webinar in February. This was followed with signing of the Pride VMC “Gender Identity Global Bill of Rights” that was a global version relevant to all countries in July 2022.
- The bi-weekly WSAVA Bulletin was refreshed in early 2022 and divided into alternate clinical and news-based issues with an increase in open rates compared to 2021. The average open rate across both Bulletins is now 41%.
- Our website had close to a quarter million visitors over the last calendar year, while this year we have already suppressed the 200,000 users mark!
Our Community: The highest investment of time and finances in 2022 were in our association structure and integrity. This was deemed necessary for a stable and sustainable future that all volunteers and members feel happy to be a part of. Key changes and activities are as follows;

1. To enable us to expand under international legal compliance, our secretariat is now fully contracted under a professional association management company, Kenes Association Management. We have appointed Liat Gellar as our Operations Manager in January and Rich Casey as our chosen Executive Director in April 2022.
2. A full association governance review was performed and completed. Results of this review can be found here. Recommendations on relevant by-law changes and policies will be shared with our general assembly for voting and consent in due course.
3. Ensuring our core values are met is a new revised Code of Conduct and relevant policies in place for the management of conflicts and complaints
4. We opened up for more volunteer engagement and student opportunities through our member association IVSA
5. Membership task force recommendations were taken into consideration and our new proposed by-laws and membership policy reflects these deliberations.

One Care: Output from our volunteer committees are generated based on our membership input. All Global guidelines groups create guidelines with clinical relevance and also position statements that are updated regularly. The recent highlights in 2022 are:

• New Global Pain Guidelines 2022 which are announced in Lima, Peru
• New Veterinary Oncology Glossary
• New WSAVA Certificate courses on the academy
  o Nutrition guidelines (4 modules)
  o WSAVA vaccination guidelines for dogs and cats (3 modules)
  o Global Dental guidelines (9 modules)
  o AWWC Shelter medicine (6 modules)
  o WSAVA CE Essential series: Essentials in Dermatology, Essentials in Canine & Feline Ophthalmology
- Hereditary disease “Using genetics, genetic testing & genetic counseling to improve patient health” (2 week course)
- GPC Special Pain Assessment Practical techniques

Apart from clinical committees the WSAVA One Care Initiative also provides participatory workshops in leadership/association development and strategic planning for member associations. In 2022 our activities spanned globally to include 6 sites; Indonesia, Slovenia, Tunisia, Vietnam, Brazil and Tanzania engaging 13 member associations. Three member associations achieved its goal in creating a comprehensive strategic plan for their association utilizing the “WSAVA Roadmap for Association Development” participatory workshops.

One Voice: One of the key advocacy needs raised from our membership worldwide was on the issue of accessibility of essential veterinary therapeutics. The WSAVA aims to promote equitable access to veterinary therapeutics for companion animal practitioners worldwide through the work of our Therapeutics Guidelines Group (TGG). The WSAVA Joint Position Statement on Regulatory Harmonization and the OIE letter of support to this statement and finally the WSAVA "List of Essential Medicines in Dogs and Cats" document can all be found on our TGG webpage.

To continue this work in 2022 we have engaged our member associations and key stakeholders through a regional members’ forum in Bangkok, Thailand and conducted a comprehensive global survey on the essential medicine availability within the WSAVA community. Results of these activities along with open dialogue will be the focal point of our special session; “Shaping the Future: Addressing the Global Inequity in Access to Veterinary Medicines” at our World Congress in Lima, Peru. This is followed by a focal group meeting of key stakeholders in regulatory, industry and veterinary sectors as well as Inter-governmental bodies to garner input in order to assemble a suitable task force to see this through to a successful resolution.
Animal welfare is the second key advocacy topic important to all members. The Hereditary Disease Committee continues to work on advocacy of responsible breeding and an important public messaging on the problem of BOAS will be launched in 2022.

The third item on our members’ priority list was our professional wellness. The Professional wellness group (PWG) will be completing the WSAVA Professional Wellness Guidelines with key highlights presented at the World Congress in Lima this year.

**Our future:** Despite the economic downturn of many industries, our association carries a healthy financial status as seen in our Treasurer’s report. Investments of 2022 were to build a stronger foundation for our association in all aspects. The aim is to create a space that is inviting and inclusive for ongoing engagement of our community of volunteers and membership, our greatest asset.

The current strategic plan of 2019-2022 is being reviewed and carried forth towards completion and a new strategic plan proposal will be made to assembly in 2023.

As a result of years in building and representing a global community, the WSAVA positioning has become our main strength and voice. We aim to use this in advocating for the profession’s needs which we endeavor to continue to satisfactory resolutions. This goes hand in hand with the continued initiatives to support growth of groups and associations worldwide to serve the local profession and become a part of our global community.

In closing, I am confident to state that we do not represent singular activities, but we represent a community that can touch move and inspire veterinarians globally to take part in working for the greater good.

Dr Siraya Chunekamrai  
WSAVA President

*Please find “State of the Association” here on the website*