



Annual Report 2022



WSAVA
Global Veterinary Community



WSAVA
Global Veterinary Community

World Small Animal Veterinary Association

72 Melville Street, Dundas, Ontario, Canada, L9H 2A1 | admin@wsava.org

www.wsava.org

Welcome

Welcome to the first annual report from the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA). We hope you enjoy reading about the progress we made in 2022 as we worked to deliver our mission:

'To advance the health and welfare of companion animals worldwide through an educated, committed and collaborative global community of veterinary peers.'

2022 was a year of global challenges. COVID-19 continued to affect life in many regions; the war in Ukraine was devastating for its people, as well as impacting the economies of many other countries, while the effects of the climate crisis continued to be felt through extreme weather events around the world.

We are proud to say that, despite ever greater pressures on the companion animal veterinary profession worldwide, the WSAVA's more than 200 volunteers still found the time and energy to further our mission. Thanks to them and our Industry Partners, we reached several milestones during the year and initiated some important projects. Our achievements included:

- Publishing an updated set of peer-reviewed Global Guidelines on Pain Assessment and Management
- Launching a range of educational resources, including an online vaccinology course and our online 'Essentials' series, which covers key areas of companion animal veterinary medicine
- Stepping up our campaign to secure equitable access to veterinary medicines for all companion animal veterinarians
- Reaching agreement on a range of important issues during our annual Assembly meeting. These included revisions to our membership categories and a strategy to help our members develop important non-clinical skills, such as leadership and management skills, in addition to strengthening their clinical education
- Supporting and energizing some of our more recently-formed members in Asia, Eastern Europe and North Africa through the WSAVA One Care initiative.

On a personal note, I am grateful to have been elected WSAVA President. It is an honor to represent such a dynamic association, whose volunteers commit wholeheartedly to our mission, even in the most difficult times. It is also an exciting time for the association as we prepare to embark on a range of new projects to help our members achieve our goal of bringing good health and veterinary care to companion animals worldwide



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Ellen van Nierop'.

Ellen van Nierop
WSAVA President

During 2022, I had the privilege of working with the WSAVA's leadership team, together with our members and Partners on the development of our new 2023-2025 strategy. Our new direction will build on the association's achievements to date and ensure that we increase the positive impact we have on our members around the world and on companion animal veterinary practice globally.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone in the WSAVA and in our wider community who welcomed me into my new role with such generosity in early 2022. I am excited to play my part in its important next chapter.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Richard Casey in black ink.

Richard Casey
Executive Director

The WSAVA's Purpose

The WSAVA aims to advance the health and welfare of companion animals and to advocate on behalf of companion animal veterinarians and the wider veterinary team globally. It does this through:

- Setting standards for companion animal veterinary practice
- Personal and professional development for the companion animal veterinary team
- Campaigning for change
- Strengthening the WSAVA community.

Highlights of 2022

Setting standards for companion animal veterinary practice

Clinical standards

Standards of companion animal veterinary care vary around the world because of differences in veterinary education and CE; the availability of therapeutics and, sometimes, simply cultural norms. WSAVA Global Guidelines help to address these inconsistencies, offering tiered protocols, tools and other guidance to support veterinary team members wherever they are in practice.



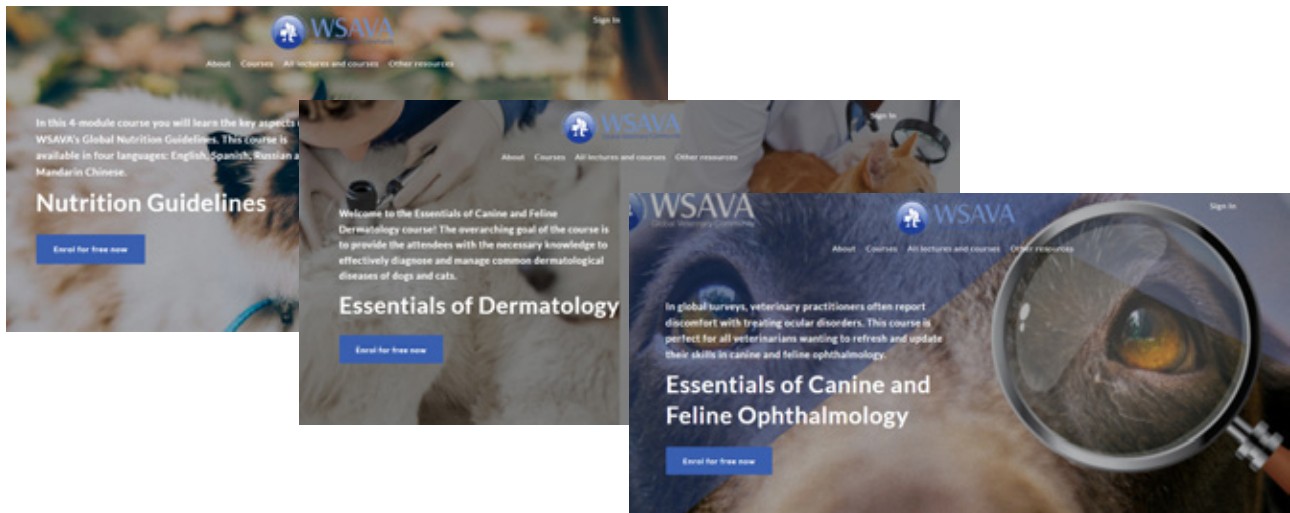
During 2022, the WSAVA Global Pain Council launched an updated set of Global Guidelines for the Recognition, Assessment and Treatment of Pain, incorporating advances in knowledge and novel evidence. The peer-reviewed Guidelines, available in three languages so far, were launched during WSAVA World Congress in Lima. They had already been downloaded more than 34,000 times from the Journal of Small Animal Practice (the WSAVA's official scientific journal) by the end of January 2023. They are available for free download from the WSAVA website.

During 2022, several other WSAVA Committees continued the development of new WSAVA Global Guidelines in subjects including vaccination and veterinary wellness, for launch during 2023.

“Despite advances in pain management, pain still occurs more commonly than it is treated and this is a significant breach of animal welfare. We hope that these Guidelines will help colleagues to optimize their approach to pain management in their patients.”



Dr Bea Monteiro
Chair, WSAVA Global Pain Council



Personal and professional development for the companion animal veterinary team

Creating globally-relevant continuing education (CE) is one of the most effective ways we can both support our members and advance practice, particularly in regions of the world where companion animal practice is still emerging. Our aim is to offer CE that is engaging and available in a range of languages and formats in order to increase its accessibility.

Continuing education courses

During 2022, the WSAVA CE Committee worked with our clinical committees to deliver a range of CE. With COVID-19 still a problem in some regions, we delivered primarily online education and resources, including:

- A four-module online nutrition course based on the WSAVA Global Nutrition Committee's Global Nutrition Guidelines
- A three-module online course on vaccines and vaccinology, offering foundational learning on all aspects of vaccine practice
- A glossary of terms used in veterinary oncology to give pet owners a clearer understanding of the choices facing them in terms of the diagnosis and management of their pet's disease

- 'WSAVA Essentials': a series of modular, thematic courses on various systems and clinical topics. Available so far are:

- o Essentials of Clinical Decision-making
- o Essentials of Canine and Feline Ophthalmology
- o Essentials of Canine and Feline Dermatology

"We're delighted at the positive response to the online CE and resources produced during 2022 and continue to collect feedback to help us identify the priority topics of interest to our members."



Dr Jane Armstrong
Chair, WSAVA Continuing Education Committee

The Michael J. Day Scholarship



Michael Day

The year also saw the launch of a WSAVA Scholarship providing financial assistance to a veterinary student to carry out research into an aspect of companion animal infectious disease, clinical vaccinology or immunology. The Scholarship was created to recognize the contribution made by the late Emeritus Professor Michael Day in his role as Chair of the WSAVA's Vaccination Guidelines Group (VGG) from 2009 until March 2020.



Somnath Aryal

A Nepalese veterinary student, Somnath Aryal, was the inaugural recipient. His project to study the prevalence of canine tick-borne diseases in the dog population of Nepal was selected from more than 30

submissions. He has received a grant of US\$15,000 towards his research, which will support the diagnosis and treatment of canine tick-borne diseases in the country.

The Scholarship is generously supported by MSD Animal Health.

“We were delighted to receive so many high-quality submissions in this first year of the Michael J. Day Scholarship. It made selecting our first Scholar very difficult but our expert panel was particularly impressed by Somnath Aryal’s project and felt that supporting it would enable the WSAVA to play an important role in enabling an excellent, well-conceived, pertinent research project in a country which would really benefit from this funding.”



Dr Richard Squires
Chair, WSAVA Vaccination Guidelines Group

WSAVA World Congress

Our 47th WSAVA World Congress took place in Lima, Peru from 29-31 October 2022. Our flagship CE event, during which global experts explore cutting-edge thinking and new trends in companion animal veterinary care, it was attended by more than 1,500 delegates from 80 countries.



As usual, our prestigious annual awards were presented during the World Congress. The recipients demonstrated veterinary excellence and achievement globally and we were delighted to present them with their awards and we were privileged to learn from some of them during the Awards lectures.

“WSAVA World Congress is much more than an excellent congress.

It is an opportunity to learn, share experiences and socialize with colleagues from around the world to create the contacts and friendships that go on to enrich our delegates’ careers and lives.”



Dr Jim Berry
WSAVA Vice President

2022 WSAVA Award recipients



The WSAVA Award for Global Meritorious Service

Dr Faouzi Kechrid, in recognition of his contribution to the One Health movement and to the veterinary profession in Tunisia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe.



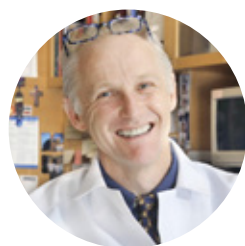
The WSAVA Award for Companion Animal Welfare

Dr Silvina Muñiz, in recognition of her work to educate pet owners about responsible pet ownership and her campaigning on animal welfare issues.



The WSAVA Future Leader Award

Dr Muhammad Hasan Mahrous, in recognition of his contribution to association building in Egypt and to increasing access to CE for Egyptian veterinarians.



The WSAVA Award for Scientific Achievement

Dr Kenneth Simpson, in recognition of his outstanding contribution, particularly in the areas of internal medicine and veterinary gastroenterology.



The WSAVA One Health Award

Dr Filipe Dantas-Torres, in recognition of his work to educate veterinarians and stakeholders across Latin America that leishmaniasis should be controlled by community-wide use of repellents and vaccination rather than by the culling of affected dogs.



The WSAVA President's Award

Drs Nicola Neumann and Gregg Takashima in recognition of their exceptional service to the WSAVA.

Campaigning for change

As the global association of companion animal veterinarians, the WSAVA advocates on behalf of its members on issues that affect them and the patients they care for. Our aim is to work with our members and wider stakeholders to create practical solutions to the challenges they face, raising standards of companion animal veterinary care and ensuring that all of our members have the opportunity to build a rewarding and fulfilling career.

Campaigning for equity of access to veterinary medicines

A 2016 survey of our members revealed that 75% faced obstacles in accessing some even essential drugs and that this severely affected their ability to provide optimal care to their patients. In this situation, it's not just the animals that suffer. Our members experience deep frustration when they are unable to provide the standard of veterinary care they have been trained to deliver. For a profession already facing serious mental health problems, this is an unnecessary additional burden.

To address this problem, in 2020, the WSAVA's Therapeutics Guidelines Group launched the world's first Essential Medicines List for Cats and Dogs in 2020. Its aim was to support the availability of drugs required for minimum standards of clinical practice and facilitate the regulatory oversight of pharmaceuticals. The List, available for free download from the WSAVA website, has been hailed as a step forward in improving access to veterinary medicines globally. It underwent its first three-year audit between January-March 2023.

We continued our campaign by highlighting the issue during the 'Shaping the Future' session at WSAVA World Congress in Lima. This session addresses a key or emerging issue for companion animal veterinarians. Following the session, we held a stakeholder meeting at Congress, to discuss the

problem and potential solutions in more detail. A range of actions agreed at that meeting are now underway and we hope to report more progress on this issue during 2023.

"The WSAVA List of Essential Medicines for Cats and Dogs is already supporting regulatory decision-making around licensing, registration and approval, as well as assisting with pharmacovigilance. We look forward to working with our colleagues and stakeholders during 2023 to make further progress in resolving this challenging issue."



Dr Paulo Steagall
Co-chair, WSAVA Therapeutics
Guidelines Group

Campaigning for diversity, equity and inclusion in the veterinary profession

During 2022, we signed up to the Gender Identity Bill of Rights (GIBOR) created by the Pride Veterinary Medical Community as part of its campaign to address inequalities and inequities faced by the LGBTQ+ veterinary community. We also called on our member associations and individual members to show their support for diversity and inclusion by signing up to the GIBOR.

The document sets out minimum civil rights expectations for gender diverse individuals, as well as commitments to equal and fair treatment for LGBTQ+ individuals right across veterinary medicine.

“All WSAVA members have a role to play in building a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion. By joining together, we ensure that the veterinary profession harnesses the talents of all of its individual members and has a firm foundation on which to build a successful and sustainable future.”



Dr Siraya Chunekamrai
WSAVA Past President



Strengthening the WSAVA Community

We believe that membership of the WSAVA offers benefits and opportunities to our member associations – large and small – and to individual companion animal veterinary team members. We also believe that building and strengthening the WSAVA's growing community enables us to be more effective in driving progress in companion animal medicine and in campaigning for change. During 2022, a number of activities helped us to strengthen the WSAVA's community.

One Care workshops

Countries in which the veterinary profession is well-developed are often those in which it is backed up by a strong veterinary association. Our One Care initiative supports our recently-formed members as they start their association journey. To help them achieve an agreed goal – for instance, to plan a sustainable future for their association - its leadership team, partners and stakeholders participate in a collaborative workshop run by a WSAVA One Care facilitator. We then support them as they work to deliver the agreed action plan.

During 2022, One Care workshops were held for members in Eastern Europe, North Africa and Japan. Our members from Indonesia (Indonesian Small Animal Practitioner Association); Tanzania (Tanzania Small Animal Veterinary Association – TASAVO) and Vietnam (Vietnam Small Animal Veterinary Association) participated in lively workshops to create plans for the development of their associations. Several of our member associations from Eastern Europe and Africa attended sessions to learn about One Care and how it could help them in the future. We also used a One Care approach to support the Japanese chapter of our affiliate member the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA). The topic of this workshop was Leadership



“During the One Care workshop we explored the opportunities and challenges facing small animal practice in Tanzania. It stimulated our thinking and helped us to develop a clear strategy to meet our objectives. It also helped us to bond as a team.”



Dr Alex Chang'a
Chair, TASAVO

and Association Development. It was attended by veterinary students and the IVSA team from Japan. The resulting action plan is now underway.



Members' Forums

Maintaining an active dialogue with all of our members is essential and we thank our member representatives for their commitment to managing their association's membership of the WSAVA and sharing our news and resources among their own memberships.

Engaging with our members face-to-face is always important and becoming more possible again now that the impact of COVID-19 is waning. During 2022, we held Members' Forum sessions in Bangkok, Thailand, in June and Lima, Peru, in October. These sessions enable WSAVA member representatives to meet with a WSAVA Executive Board member to discuss the WSAVA's work and how they would like to see it develop in order to support them more effectively.



New members

We were delighted to welcome two new members during 2022:

- The Asociación Médicos Veterinarios de Pequeñas Especies from Panamá was accepted as a full member.
- The American Animal Hospital Association was accepted as an Affiliate member.

Some important thank you's

We thank all of the dedicated volunteers who gave generously of their time to support the WSAVA's work during 2022. Members of the Executive Board; our many Committee members and our Association Member Representatives all make a huge contribution to the development of the WSAVA's global community and to the resources and support we provide to our individual members.

We also thank our committed Industry Partners. Whether long-term supporters or those which have joined us more recently, we are indebted to all of them for their enthusiasm and support of the veterinary profession globally, and for enabling us to achieve what we set out to do during 2022.



Our plans for 2023

While the WSAVA has achieved a great deal, there is always much more to do and we are now working on the delivery of an ambitious three-year Strategy for the association for the years 2023-2025. This Strategy is based on a detailed review of the association's activities, together with an analysis of current trends and issues both in companion animal veterinary medicine and in professional membership associations. WSAVA members were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the Strategy before it was approved by the WSAVA Executive Board in February 2023.

Setting standards for companion animal veterinary practice

WSAVA Global Guidelines already set standards for clinical care in key areas of veterinary practice. Downloaded by thousands of veterinarians every year, they are the cornerstone of our educational work. We will continue to create and update them regularly and will focus on providing them in more user-friendly formats, making them more accessible to companion animal team members in practice.

Personal and professional development for the companion animal veterinary team

Supporting the personal and professional development of our members remains a key priority and we hope to resume face-to-face CE in some regions of the world during the year. We are also working to enhance our clinical online CE offering, delivered through the WSAVSA Academy, and will introduce a range of new certification courses over the next few years. The first, based on the recently launched WSAVA Guidelines for the Recognition, Assessment and Treatment of Pain, is already in development and will be launched later in 2023.

The long-term sustainability of the veterinary profession globally is reliant on more than clinical skills. Exceptional leadership and management, highly developed client and public relations skills, together with a strong understanding of the value of digital tools for all veterinary team members are also essential. With this in mind, we will also introduce training on business and HR-focused topics, such as leadership and management.

Finally, we are working on a detailed review of our congress strategy to ensure that WSAVA World Congress and our other events are engaging, accessible and affordable to as many of our members as possible.

Campaigning for change

During 2023, we will increase our campaigning capabilities to reflect the increasing importance of this aspect of our work. We will also create resources to help our members campaign on issues specific to their own countries or regions.

We will continue our campaign for all veterinarians to receive equitable access to veterinary medicines and for a diverse and inclusive profession. We will also campaign on additional issues of global relevance to our members as they arise.

Strengthening the WSAVA Community

We are constantly exploring how advances in technology can enable us to bring our global veterinary community together more effectively online, enabling members to work together, to share experiences, to network and even to mentor each other.

A key focus is the development of a new online 'WSAVA Village' which we aim to launch

during 2023. It will offer enhanced opportunities for tailored communication and engagement between individual members, member associations, WSAVA committees, as well as our partners and wider stakeholders.

We will also expand our association building work, through the One Care initiative by training additional facilitators to help us increase the level of support we can offer to developing associations.

Support us

If you like what you've read and would like to learn more about a specific WSAVA activity, get involved or support us, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact:

Richard Casey, Executive Director

WhatsApp +44 7432 221538

E-Mail Richard.Casey@wsava.org



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