

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



WSAVA
Global Veterinary Community

Welcome

What a year! In addition to hosting one of our most successful World Congresses ever, we launched several sets of Global Guidelines; campaigned on the global stage for increased access to veterinary medicines, and took huge strides in developing the continuing education (CE) we offer to companion animal veterinary teams.

We're fortunate to be experiencing both an expansion of our global veterinary community and a strengthening of the bonds within it. Our members are working together to overcome the common challenges we face so we can provide an ever-higher standard of care to our patients and create more rewarding careers for everyone working in our amazing profession.

On a personal note, it's been a privilege to be WSAVA President during this exciting and productive year. Hearing the difference our work is making to our members from around the world is humbling and inspiring.



Dr Ellen van Nierop
WSAVA President

Of course, none of it would be possible without the passion and dedication of the volunteers who make up the WSAVA's Executive Board and its clinical and standing committees. I thank them all for the outstanding contribution they have made to companion animal veterinary practice this year. I also thank our Industry Partners for their unstinting and generous support.

The WSAVA's Purpose

We aim to advance the health and welfare of companion animals and to advocate on behalf of companion animal veterinarians and the wider veterinary team globally. We do this through:

- Setting standards for companion animal veterinary practice
- Offering personal and professional development for the companion animal veterinary team
- Campaigning for change on important issues that affect our members
- Strengthening our WSAVA community

Our Vision

All companion animals worldwide receive veterinary care that ensures their optimal health and welfare.

Our Mission

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

In order to deliver our vision and mission, we focus in four strategic areas and we can report strong progress in each during 2023.

1 Setting standards for companion veterinary animal practice

We're working to raise standards where needed and to increase consistency to ensure optimal care for all of our patients. WSAVA Global Guidelines are a key tool as they offer tiered protocols and approaches to support veterinary teams wherever they are in practice. During 2023, we launched our new:

- Global Guidelines for Professional Development and Personal Wellbeing
- Global Guidelines for Reproduction Control

We also unveiled the fourth edition of our Global Vaccination Guidelines.

It's one thing creating Global Guidelines but, to be valuable, they must be accessible to our global membership so we've been working to translate them into a wider range of languages. We're also exploring how advanced artificial intelligence (AI) technologies can help us translate our resources into more languages, more quickly.

Dr Stefano Romagnoli, Chair of our Reproduction Control Committee, says: "For many years, our approach to reproduction control has been to routinely neuter dogs and spay bitches. However, in the light of emerging scientific evidence showing that gonadectomy could adversely impact the health of some animals, the WSAVA's Reproduction Control Committee was created to explore current reproduction control practice and develop Global Guidelines to set out the latest thinking and resulting best practice.

"Our Guidelines include detailed discussions of current practice, together with newer approaches, both surgical and non-surgical. We also look at the health benefits and drawbacks of each method and explore ethical questions. We hope WSAVA members find the Guidelines a valuable resource and that they will be a catalyst for change in reproduction control practice globally."

2 Personal and professional development for the companion animal veterinary team

We help our members develop their skills by offering CE in a range of formats. New for 2023 was our online Certificate in Pain Management. Based on our Global Guidelines, it contains modules for both veterinarians and veterinary nurses/technicians and enables them to achieve a certificate of completion.

We're passionate about making our profession more sustainable and rewarding. With this in mind, we introduced training and development in vital non-clinical areas, such as leadership, management and communication. Alongside our new Global Guidelines on Professional Wellbeing, we also introduced an online Certificate in Professional Development and Personal Wellbeing. The course offers veterinary team members a practical, structured learning experience and an opportunity to build a roadmap for success in both their personal and working lives.

WSAVA World Congress is our flagship CE event and our 2023 Congress in Lisbon was one of our largest and most diverse ever, with more than 3,700 delegates from 103 countries attending. We're now looking forward to the 2024 gathering of our global community in Suzhou, China, from 3-5 September and we're also exploring how World Congress needs to evolve in order to keep pace with the rapidly-changing needs of our members.

Dr Jane Armstrong, Chair of our Continuing Education Committee, says: "Companion animal veterinary practice is advancing rapidly, but opportunities for our members in many parts of the world to access the latest information and techniques in key areas of patient care can be limited. This is why we offer CE in a range of formats. An example is our 'Essentials of Canine and Feline Gastroenterology' course, created in 2023 with help from the British Small Animal Veterinary Association and the Comparative Gastroenterology Society. It was initially offered as a series of live webinars to members in East, West and South Africa and is now available to all WSAVA members on our learning platform, the WSAVA Academy, with subtitled translations into other languages.

"While online courses are highly effective, offering face-to-face learning remains a priority. We were able to return to offering some in-person programs in 2023, with successful programs including in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. We look forward to delivering even more in 2024, as well as developing several new online offerings."

3 Campaigning for change on important issues

We advocate vigorously for change on issues of concern to our members. Many struggle to obtain the veterinary medicines they need to provide a high standard of care so, in 2023, we took our campaign for global equity of access to veterinary medicines to the 90th Annual General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), where our message was well received.

We also launched the second edition of the Essential Medicines List, created by our Therapeutics Guidelines Group. This pioneering document helps our members to access the drugs they need by recommending the availability of drugs required for minimum standards of clinical practice.

Dr Siraya Chunekamrai, Immediate Past President, says: "Global inequities in access to veterinary medicines can only be resolved by governments and regulatory bodies so we campaign at the forums they attend. WOAH is a strong ally. It invited us to attend its Annual General Session in Paris in May, where we raised awareness of this problem and discussed related issues, such as the effective stewardship of antimicrobials. As a result, we're now included in WOAH's network of committees and working groups and have links with a number of key global welfare organizations.

"Advocacy is a multi-year endeavour so we continue to work towards our goals with our partners and other collaborators. Our campaign is beneficial to our members as it supports their own lobbying to increase access to veterinary medicines in their countries."



4 Strengthening the WSAVA community

Our community is based on shared goals, support and interaction. During 2023, we consulted our members on the development of our three-year strategy (2023-2025) and canvassed their opinion on a range of issues.

There is no substitute for learning from our members face-to-face, which we did during our General Assembly before WSAVA World Congress. We also held a regional Members' Forum in Bangkok, Thailand, in June, during which we discussed the benefits of hospital standards frameworks in improving quality in veterinary practice.

We were delighted to welcome six new WSAVA members to our global community during 2023 and look forward to supporting them and all of our members in 2024.

- *The Iran Small Animals Veterinary Association – Full Member*
- *Colegio Medico Veterinario de Chile – Associate Member*
- *The Albanian Veterinary Society – Associate Member*
- *The Algerian Veterinary Space Foundation – Associate Member*
- *Pride VMC - Affiliate Member*
- *The World Association for Veterinary Dermatology - Affiliate Member*

Executive Board Member and practitioner, Dr Nalinika Obeysekere says: "We speak for all of our members and their needs drive everything we do. When we consulted them on a range of important topics during 2023, we were grateful for their willingness to share their views and ideas.

"As a practitioner, I know that the WSAVA community always has my back. Whether I need expert advice on a clinical issue or just want to chat to a colleague on the other side of the world who shares the challenges I face, the WSAVA helps me. It's like being part of a worldwide family that stretches beyond the borders of our clinic, country or continent. We understand each other as we share the same objective in coming to work every day: to do our very best to make the human-animal bond as strong as possible for as long as possible to the benefit of our clients and patients alike."

5 Investing in our enabling factors

Progress in our four key strategic areas is powered by what we call our 'enabling factors' – the infrastructure and resources that underpin our activities and create an environment in which we can succeed.

During 2023, we updated our by-laws to ensure they comply with best practice and help us to operate in a more agile way. We also conducted a review of our approach to communications, to help us become better known, understood, loved and respected. This will involve a shift to more digital communication across the association and with our partners and global stakeholders.

With CE such an important focus, we also made a key appointment – that of our first Chief Learning and Development Officer, Debbie Gray. She is spearheading our work to bring high quality, accessible and topical CE to our members and ensuring that all of our work reflects our strategic objectives.

Executive Director Richard Casey, says: "Our educational activity spans the veterinary sector, from developing individuals working in the profession, to supporting new associations as they grow, to our work to raise standards and, of course, WSAVA World Congress.

"Debbie is reviewing of our educational work and working with stakeholders from across the association to determine their current and future learning needs. We'll then harness the latest technological advances and learning trends to ensure that we develop solutions that will fully meet these needs."



2023 in review

Working across key areas of companion animal veterinary practice, the expert volunteers on our clinical committees are passionate about sharing the latest thinking to support our goal of raising standards of veterinary care for companion animals around the world. Here are just some of their achievements this year:

Animal Wellness and Welfare Committee

- Prepared a position paper highlighting concerns about 'cosmetic alterations'
- Hosted a shelter medicine workshop in Peru

Continuing Education (CE) Committee

- Created further online courses for the thematic 'Essentials' series
- Held successful face-to-face CE programs in Eastern Europe and the Middle East

Global Dental Committee

- Supported members in South East Asia with lectures on veterinary dentistry
- Held 'train the trainer' sessions to grow expertise in dentistry across the region

Global Nutrition Committee

- Promoted the Global Nutrition Toolkit and online Nutritional Assessment course
- Refreshed tools in the Global Nutrition Toolkit and developed new ones

Global Pain Council

- Launched the online WSAVA Certificate in Pain Management
- Supported a survey on pain management approaches in Africa

Hereditary Disease Committee

- Launched a video on canine brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome
- Engaged with molecular genetic specialists and genetic testing companies

Oncology Working Group

- Collaborated with veterinary journals to facilitate WSAVA member access to oncology articles
- Continued to translate the WSAVA Oncology Glossary. It is now available in 16 languages

One Health Committee

- Held a workshop on Domestic Violence as a One Health issue and created a toolbox of resources
- Submitted the WSAVA's first Small Companion Animal Zoonoses Guidelines for peer-review

Professional Wellness Group

- Published the WSAVA's first Global Guidelines on Professional Wellbeing
- Supported the launch of an online WSAVA Certificate in Professional Development and Personal Wellbeing

Therapeutics Guidelines Group

- Launched the second edition of the WSAVA's Essential Medicines List
- Hosted the Shaping the Future session at World Congress on approaches to improve antimicrobial prescribing

Reproduction Control Committee

- Surveyed WSAVA members to assess current reproduction control practice globally
- Published the WSAVA's first Global Guidelines on Reproduction Control

Vaccination Guidelines Group

- Published the fourth edition of the WSAVA Global Vaccination Guidelines
- Launched a project to boost understanding of the importance of vaccination of dogs and cats across Sub-Saharan Africa



Members of the Reproduction Control Committee previewing their new Global Guidelines during the General Assembly



Members of the Vaccination Guidelines Group running a CE session in South Africa

Meet some of our team



Dr Ellen van Nierop, President

Ellen owns a small animal clinic with her veterinarian husband in Quito, Ecuador. Originally from the Netherlands, Ellen is a qualified accountant and auditor, as well as a veterinarian, and is heavily involved in the management of their practice.



Dr Jim Berry, President Elect

Canadian veterinarian Jim co-owned an animal hospital in New Brunswick until 2022, and continues to work there. His interest in chronic pain management and lameness led him to qualify as a certified companion animal chiropractor, a veterinary acupuncturist - a canine rehabilitation therapist and a certified veterinary pain practitioner.



Dr Andreja Kastelic Hrcek, Member of the Therapeutics Guidelines Group (TGG)

Andreja is a small animal general practitioner from Slovenia, who set up a Facebook group for veterinarians in Slovenia to highlight CE opportunities, such as scholarships and to offer a safe space in which colleagues could support each other.

She joined the WSAVA's TGG in 2022 and plays a key role in running the Group and promoting its activities.



Dr Mary Marcondes, Chair of the Vaccination Guidelines Group (VGG)

Mary joined the VGG in 2015 and became its Chair in 2023. Recently retired from her role as Associate Professor of Small Animal Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at São Paulo State University, Brazil, she ensures that VGG projects are delivered on schedule and manages the day to day running of the Group's activities.



Dr Jean Claude Manirambona, Member Representative for the Burundi Small Animal Veterinary Association

Dr Manirambona is a small animal practitioner in Burundi and also teaches at the veterinary school in the neighbouring country of Rwanda. He helped to found the Burundi Small Animal Veterinary Association in 2019 and is its President. The association became an associate member of the WSAVA in 2020 and was accepted into full membership in 2023.

Thank you

We could not deliver our work without the generous support of our Industry Partners. Whether long-term collaborators or those which have joined the WSAVA community more recently, we are indebted to all of them for their enthusiasm and commitment to the global veterinary profession and we thank them for enabling us to make such excellent progress during 2023.

WSAVA Diamond Partner:



WSAVA Platinum Partners:



WSAVA Gold Partners:



WSAVA Silver Partner:



WSAVA Bronze Partners:



We thank all of our Partners for their fantastic support in 2023. We look forward to working with them and with our new Industry Partners in 2024. They are:

- The Farmer's Dog
- Boehringer Ingelheim
- IDEXX

What's next?

If 2023 was a busy year, then 2024 will be even more exciting as we continue to push forward in each of our key strategic areas.

Setting standards for companion veterinary animal practice

We look forward to launching the WSAVA's first Small Companion Animal Zoonoses Guidelines during World Congress in September. Prepared by our One Health Committee, Part 1 will cover dogs and cats; Part 2, exotic and non-traditional pets.

We'll continue to focus on the accessibility of our Global Guidelines. In addition to enhancing our translation capabilities, we'll be developing a consistent format and offering a range of digital tools that will transform them into highly practical resources.



Dr Ellen van Nierop updating members of the American Veterinary Medical Association on the WSAVA's work

We'll also be working to understand the learning needs of our members more closely with the creation of three new working groups:

- To support the creation of essential standards for companion animal veterinary practices
- To explore what the veterinary team of the future will look like
- To inform our priorities in non-clinical areas of veterinary practice.

An update on their discussions and recommendations will be available in due course.

Personal and professional development for the companion animal veterinary team

We're looking forward to launching our new Learning and Development Strategy, which will include a refreshed WSAVA Academy, featuring a wider range of modular courses, a continuation of our webinar series on new and emerging topics in companion animal practice, and a series of courses aimed specifically at some of our more recently-created member associations. They will help them to grow sustainably by highlighting the importance of skills such as leadership and management.

Of course, we're also excited about 2024 World Congress in Suzhou, China. The country has one of the largest and most rapidly growing veterinary markets in the world and many thousands of veterinarians and veterinary team members hungry to share their experiences and to learn from their global

colleagues. The scientific and social programmes look fantastic and the annual coming together of our global community in this historic but stunningly modern city will undoubtedly be the highlight of the year.

During Congress, we will also reveal our 'new look' for World Congress, which will be implemented fully in 2025.

Campaigning for change in important issues

Our members must have access to the veterinary drugs they need so we will drive forward our campaign during 2024. We will build on our relationship with WOH and look forward to playing an active role in relevant WOH committees and seeking out additional partners to help us reach governments and regulators. We will also promote the latest and updated edition of the Essential Medicines List for Cats and Dogs. We are determined to bring about the change that is so urgently needed.



Promoting our campaign for equitable access to veterinary medicines during the WOH General Session

Strengthening the WSAVA community

Having updated our by-laws in 2023, we'll continue to review our policies to ensure that we remain a

diverse and inclusive community - a community in which each of our members feels able to participate fully as their true self.

We'll also continue to talk to our members directly and to canvass their feedback and ideas. We're holding a Members' Forum in Kenya in March and look forward to meeting many of our current and future members from Africa there.

To support new members so that they can quickly begin to play an active part in the association and share the benefits with their own members, we'll launch an induction programme to ensure that every new WSAVA volunteer, whether a committee member or a member representative, is fully briefed on how WSAVA works and how they can get the best out of their WSAVA experience.

Investing in our enabling factors

A strong visual identity is critical for any association so look out for our refreshed brand early in 2024. Our new identity will highlight not just the clinical expertise of our profession, but also the passion of our community. We'll launch a new digital communications strategy with, at its heart, a new, fully optimized website, harnessing the latest technologies to make it easier for you to find what you need quickly.

A growing global community needs a strong and secure digital infrastructure to support it so this will be a priority for 2024 as we roll out Microsoft Teams across the association and introduce a state-of-the-art customer relationship management system to enable us to engage with our members in a more personalized way.

2024 will be a milestone year for the WSAVA. We hope you'll be there with us.

Who's who at the WSAVA

Executive Board



Dr Ellen van Nierop
President



Dr Jim Berry
President Elect



Dr Siraya Chunekamrai
*Immediate Past
President*



Dr Oscar Umaña
Treasurer



Dr Jerzy Gawor



Dr Nalinika Obeyesekere

Clinical Committees



Dr Heather Bacon
*Animal Wellness and
Welfare Committee, Chair*



Dr Jane Armstrong
*Continuing Education
Committee, Chair*



Dr Brook Niemiec
*Global Dental
Committee, Chair*



Dr Marge Chandler
*Global Nutrition
Committee, Co-chair*



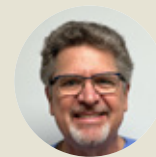
Dr Cecilia Villaverde
*Global Nutrition
Committee, Co-chair*



Dr Jo Murrell
*Global Pain Council,
Co-chair*



Dr Paulo Steagall
*Global Pain Council,
Co-chair*



Dr Jerold Bell
*Hereditary Disease
Committee, Chair*



Dr Ann Hohenhaus
*Oncology Working
Group, Chair*



Dr Michael Lappin
*One Health Committee,
Chair*



Dr Nienke Endenburg
*Professional Wellness
Group, Co-chair*



Dr Elli Kalemzaki
*Professional Wellness
Group, Co-chair*



Dr Stefano Romagnoli
*Reproduction Control
Committee, Chair*



Dr Fergus Allerton
*Therapeutics Guidelines
Group, Co-chair*



Dr Jennifer Granick
*Therapeutics Guidelines
Group, Co-chair*



Dr Mary Marcondes
*Vaccination Guidelines
Group, Chair*

Standing Committees



Dr Guillermina Manigot
*Congress Steering
Committee, Chair*



Dr Oscar Umaña
*Financial Advisory
Committee, Interim
Chair*



Dr Mike Topper
*Membership and
Nomination Committee,
Chair*



Dr Jane Sykes
*Scientific Committee,
Chair*

Secretariat



Richard Casey
Executive Director



Liat Geller
Operations Manager



Debbie Gray
*Chief Learning and
Development Officer*



Joyce Dao
Finance Officer



Rebecca George
*Media Relations
Consultant*

Support us

If you would like to know more about our work, get involved or support us, we would love to hear from you.

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