

World Small Animal Veterinary Association

Dental Committee

Terms of Reference

Context

Dental diseases comprise the most common issue facing small animal veterinary patients. They create significant pain and infection and are considered the number one animal health and welfare concern. Despite these facts, dentistry is not adequately covered in the veterinary curriculum in some countries. Thus, the dental guidelines committee was formed to improve dental knowledge worldwide as well as create minimum standards of care.

Goals

Improve the dental health of small animal veterinary patients worldwide.

Main Focus Areas

Areas covered by the Committee, as they pertain to small companion animals include but are not limited to:

1. Educating veterinarians as to the importance of dental care for small animal veterinary patients.
2. Establish minimum standards of care for veterinary dentistry
3. Advocate for the use of anesthesia in dentistry
4. Create recommended minimum equipment lists for all tiers of the WSAVA.
5. Advocate for the inclusion of dentistry in organized veterinary medicine and veterinary curricula
6. Correct the myths and misconceptions surrounding veterinary dentistry

Committee Membership

The core committee will be comprised of specialists and enthusiasts to provide a high level as well as an everyday practical approach to veterinary dentistry, ideally representing the different regions reflected in the WSAVA membership, as well as the different species encompassed by the association's "small animals" designation. The membership of the DC will be comprised largely of individuals with a predominant clinical background. Membership numbers are to be recommended by the committee based on need, informed by budgeting realities. The committee shall not be less than 5 members at any time.

Nominations for membership must comply with the Nominations and Selection Process for Membership of WSAVA Committees, Working Groups and Specialist Committees. Member terms will be for 3 years with the ability to be re-appointed once. Members will be updated on every 3 years basis, with the ability to be re-appointed once.

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Obligations of the Dental Committee

The primary mission of the dental committee is to regularly publish dental guidelines. Following this, toolkits and other educational initiatives will be developed. The updates shall take place approximately every 5 years.

The work of the committee includes:

- To develop dental guidelines and clinical tools for the global veterinary community for all small animals.
- To ensure these Guidelines consider regional variation in availability and access to various equipment as well as the socioeconomic constraints of the member country.
- To work towards dissemination and acceptance of the Guidelines throughout the world.
- To assist with the development and/or implementation of WSAVA position statements and/or lobbying efforts with respect to proper orodental pain assessment and management globally.
- Convening scientific symposia in Veterinary Dentistry.
- To act as an advisory body to the WSAVA Executive Board where issues of dentistry arise.
- Liaising with other WSAVA Clinical Committees on areas of shared interest, specifically Welfare, Anesthesia, and Nutrition
- Providing an annual report to the WSAVA Assembly.
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- Actively promoting and publicizing its work via press releases and contributions to WSAVA publications.
- Develop continuing education lectures/ programs that are targeted and relevant to a range of audiences and stakeholders, based on the WSAVA educational needs and under the direction of the WSAVA Chief Learning and Development Officer.
 - Providing a lecture stream and/or lectures as requested at each annual WSAVA Congress.
 - To create and maintain the content of the dental course and to work with the education committee to help maintain the course on the WSAVA Academy website.

Arrangements for Meetings

- The committee has a WhatsApp group for continual communication.
- The Committee shall meet as needed by teleconference, at minimum, at least once every three months.

- An in person meeting will be held approximately every third year in conjunction with the WSAVA congress.
- At least one member of the DC, preferably the chair, must be present at committee events held at the World Congress
- Minutes of the meeting shall be recorded and agreed upon by the committee prior to presentation to the WSAVA EB.
- A majority of Committee members present during a teleconference or face-to-face meeting shall constitute a committee quorum.