

World Small Animal Veterinary Association

Reproduction Control Committee

Terms of Reference

Context

At the time of its creation, There was no widely recognized, centralized platform where veterinarians worldwide can access, discuss, and update best practices on small animal reproductive health. While important position papers exist—such as those developed by international panels on early spay-neuter—they remain largely unknown to many practitioners, even within regions where they were created. The absence of a unified, globally accessible repository and the inconsistent inclusion of reproductive health tracks in continuing education events have left significant gaps in knowledge, awareness, and application of optimal practices.

Main Focus Areas

To address these gaps, the committee will focus on:

1. Reproductive procedures and surgical approaches – Including early spay-neuter timing, choice between ovariectomy and ovariohysterectomy, and evaluation of alternatives to surgical gonadectomy.
2. Development of global minimum standards of care – Establishing clear guidelines for anesthesia, pain management, surgical techniques, and both immediate and long-term post-operative care in companion animal spay-neuter programs.
3. Balanced approaches to reproduction control – Promoting decision-making that considers breed, lifestyle, activity level, and living conditions, recognizing that gonadectomy may not be the optimal choice for all client-owned pets.
4. Ethical communication and informed consent – Creating tools such as a WSAVA Spay-Neuter Code of Conduct and Sterilization Informed Consent statement to ensure veterinarians provide transparent, comprehensive information on risks and benefits to clients.
5. Education and cultural change in reproductive practices – Encouraging evidence-based surgical choices (e.g., promoting ovariectomy where appropriate), integrating reproductive health content into WSAVA events, and producing accessible educational materials for global dissemination.
6. Centralized repository of resources – Establishing a well-known, accessible online platform where veterinarians worldwide can find authoritative position papers, discuss reproductive issues, and access expert guidance.

Committee Membership

The WSAVA Global Reproduction Control committee will be composed of individual academicians or veterinary team members in private/specialty practice who show a demonstrable interest and experience in animal reproduction.

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.

Obligations of the Reproduction Committee

1. To develop Reproduction Control arena-related guidelines and clinical tools for the global veterinary community for all small animals, beginning with the dog and cat, but then expanding to other domesticated small animals.
2. To ensure these Guidelines take into account regional variation in availability and access to various analgesic modalities, equipment availabilities etc.
3. To work towards broad dissemination and acceptance of the Guidelines throughout the world.
4. To assist with the development and/or implementation of WSAVA position statements and/or lobbying efforts.
5. To coordinate within the committee the time needed for each task and division into doable parts by different members of the committee.
6. To produce communications from the WSAVA Reproduction Control committee to its members, including but not limited to: e-bulletin, guidelines when finalized, press releases, questionnaires and other information that is deemed important.
7. To use tools that make this process more efficient, such as google translate or others, always controlling the output before sending in final translations.
8. To keep a log of documents and tasks achieved both on a personal level per member as on a committee level. A copy of all original documents and their translations to desired language/s should be kept either by the chair or at the central secretariat for future referral.
9. To liaise with committees and projects within the WSAVA to make its services known.
10. Providing lectures as requested at each annual WSAVA Congress.
11. Liaising with the WSAVA Clinical Committees on areas of shared interest.
12. Liaising with the WSAVA Reproduction Control sponsors – providing regular reports on activity.
13. Providing an annual report to the WSAVA Assembly.
14. To 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.
15. The committee shall report on its activities and recommendations or suggestions to the WSAVA EB by way of minutes and additional written and oral reports through the Chief Community Officer and the EB Liaison.

Arrangements for Meetings

- The Reproduction Control Committee shall meet as needed by teleconference, at minimum 4 times per year. If WSAVA funding permits, and such a meeting is deemed

desirable, the committee will meet in person, ideally at the WSAVA World Congress, but other venues that better reflect the needs of the Committee will also be considered. At least one member of the Reproduction Control Committee, 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 Reproduction Control Committee members present during a teleconference or face-to-face meeting shall constitute a committee quorum.