



World Small Animal Veterinary Association Animal Wellness and Welfare Committee (AWWC) Terms of Reference

Animal Welfare is one of the four pillars of the WSAVA. The committee mission is to make welfare issues an everyday consideration for small animal practitioners and to ensure that the WSAVA becomes a proactive and respected partner within international welfare circles by combining advocacy with mutual respect and consensus-building amongst partners.

Committee Membership

Members come from all regions of the world with a background related to animal welfare. The composition of the Committee shall consist of:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- WSAVA Board member liaison
- Other veterinary membership
- Non-veterinary members may be considered based on animal welfare expertise

The committee Chair is to be selected by the AWWC and approved by LNC per current protocols. To support the work of the committee, experts in the field of animal welfare and ethics or affiliated fields related to the work of the committee may be invited to contribute to priority areas and will be designated as advisors. All other positions are selected by AWWC. Committee members serve a 3-year term with one 3-year renewal option.

In addition to requirements established by the LNC, considerations for AWWC Membership selection will include:

- Animal welfare related expertise and/or background such as animal welfare experts, behaviourist or ethicist.
- Representation of veterinary practitioners, clinicians (academia and research), and related NGO's positions
- Regional representation
- Demonstrable collaborative work and leadership on other committees, boards, organizations
- AWW Committee Strategic Plan

WSAVA AWWC Committee Member Roles and Responsibilities

The committee members work collaboratively to identify and carry out projects and opportunities to promote animal welfare and wellness. These include projects in conjunction with the annual WSAVA Congress and additional online trainings, guidelines and resources. AWWC provides speaker tracks on animal welfare annually for NAVC VMX in Orlando, Florida and the WSAVA Congress.

Member roles and responsibilities include:

- Attending 1-hour teleconference meetings held every other month or as needed
- Attending annual in-person committee meeting held at WSAVA Congress
- Contributing innovative ideas to advance AWWC mission
- Responding to emails in timely manner
- Continuously assess and identify opportunities and animal welfare issues for the AWWC to respond to
- Actively participate both in the input of information to the committee and the output coming from the committee

Extent of Authority

The AWWC is authorized to:

- Provide platforms for disseminating information of relevance to small animal practitioners.
- Address small animal welfare issues, for example by forming alliances with other welfare organisations.
- Provide guidance and opinion to assist our member organisations in promoting welfare.
- Provide animal welfare expertise and review of WSAVA offerings, projects, and efforts including the work of other committees and working groups.
- Produce texts, tools and guidelines that enhance animal welfare and promote these to WSAVA members and the public in general.

Objectives and Aims of the Committee

Establish a web-based presence that is current, informative and meets the needs of the member organisations. Provide a physical presence at relevant veterinary forums, including the WSAVA Congress, where information on topical issues can be presented and debated.

Identify key membership issues and form alliances with other committees or organisations to maximise the pace and impact of change to address these issues.

Review state-of-the art thinking and provide a WSAVA perspective that recognises regional, economic and cultural needs.

Other rights and obligations of the Committee

The committee shall report on its activities and recommendations or suggestions to the WSAVA Executive Board by way of minutes and additional written and oral reports and then as determined to the General Assembly.

Provide an annual budget for consideration by the WSAVA Treasurer during the compilation of the WSAVA annual budget.

The committee will seek to make decisions based on consensus in the first instance, followed by a majority vote consisting of agreement by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the committee membership.

Arrangements for meetings

The committee shall meet a minimum of quarterly by teleconference. At least one face-to-face committee meeting shall be held each year at the WSAVA annual World Congress with additional or alternative meetings as deemed necessary.

Minutes of the meeting shall be recorded and agreed upon by the committee prior to presentation to the WSAVA Executive Board.

Minutes of the final decisions reached after presentation to the Executive Board shall be presented as a written report to the General Assembly annually.

The presence of greater than 75% of AWWC members during a teleconference or face-to-face meeting shall constitute a committee quorum.

Date of original adoption by the AWWC: 25th March 2013

Date of any amendment:

December 2016 – inclusion of experts to support the work of the committee

October 2019 – revision of TOR