

WSAVA Global Nutrition Committee (GNC)

Terms of Reference

modified

July 6, 2020

- Justification for establishment of a Global Nutrition Committee:
 - Research has shown that over 90% of pet owners would like nutritional advice but fewer than 15% feel they receive it. In some parts of the world, pet malnutrition remains a major challenge, while in many other countries, pet obesity is an increasing problem. In addition, there is more confusion about optimal nutrition due to the role of the Internet and marketing. This presents an opportunity for the WSAVA GNC to provide tools and support to the veterinary healthcare team so that clients and their pets can benefit from the valuable and trusted nutritional information from them, and in turn, help pets live longer, healthier, and happier lives.
- Goals of the GNC
 - To enhance awareness among the veterinary healthcare team and the public for nutrition's vital role in optimum pet health.
 - To advocate for nutrition as a key component in all veterinary and veterinary nurse/technician curricula.
 - To promote the importance of performing a nutritional assessment on every animal at every visit, and to make specific nutritional recommendations for each patient as an integral component of patient care
 - To advance the central role of the veterinary healthcare team as the expert source of information for optimal pet nutrition
- Committee Membership:
 - Due to the global nature of the WSAVA and world importance of nutrition, it is recommended this committee consist of geographically and professionally diverse individuals interested in nutrition. Nominations for membership will come from within the existing committee membership and other sources. All candidates to be "vetted" by the LNC as part of the selection process. GNC Chair/co-chairs will provide the committee's preferred candidate to the WSAVA EB for review and/or ratification.
 - To maintain credibility within the profession and public community, individuals employed within the pet-food industry may not be committee members.
 - To maintain continuity and professional diversity, membership will be comprised of a core group of 3-4 individuals and an additional term-limited number of members with overall observance of geographical and professional diversity.
 - The core group members will be comprised of at least 1 board certified nutritionist and the co-chair(s)
 - Membership to include at least 2 current general practitioners
 - Term-limited membership will be from 3-5 years, with extensions by request of the Executive board or chairs. The membership will be reviewed yearly for diversity, participation, and productivity; with changes based on these factors.
 - Composition of the GNC shall consist of:
 - WSAVA Executive Board Liaison
 - Chair or Co-Chair(s)

- At least 2 boarded nutritionists (ACVN or ECVN) NOT employed with the pet-food industry
 - Individuals selected on skill set, background, and geographic representation
 - At least 1 certified veterinary nurse or technician in practice or teaching
- Advisory Board:
 - A separate advisor group will consist of former GNC members, industry representatives and individuals with expertise in a needed area.
 - These members will be available for specific consultations or projects
- Extent of Authority:
 - The GNC is authorized to provide recommendations, tools and web content in the areas of global nutrition after the blessing of the Executive board
- Obligation of Committee:
 - To determine the needed skill sets and experience required for each committee seat or leadership position
 - To maintain communication with the Executive Board either through the liaison or direct communication.
 - To set strategic goals and plans and tactics to achieve them in a timely manner
 - To guide the leadership for opportunities and challenges surrounding the nutritional education needs of the membership and the global companion community
 - To provide an annual budget to the Executive Board for review
- Committee Meetings:
 - The committee shall meet at one face to face meeting a year during the annual Congress, budget allowing.
 - The majority of meetings will be via electronic communications. Members are expected to participate actively in these exchanges

Current GNC Members:

- Gregg Takashima, DVM, Co-Chair (United States) 2010-2020
- Rachel Lumbis, MSc (VetEd), BSc (Hons), PG Cert (MedEd), RVN, Cert SAN, FHEA. Lecturer in Veterinary Nursing, Royal Veterinary College, UK. 2012-2022
- Minna Rinkinen, VMD, PhD, Adjunct Prof University of Helsinki (Helsinki, Finland). 2012-2022
- Marge Chandler; DVM, MS, MANZCVSc, DACVN, DACVIM, DECVIM-CA, MRCVS. Co-Chair. 2013-2023
- Martin de Scally, BVSc, BVSc (Hons), BVSc (MMed), Hilton Veterinary Hospital, South Africa. 2013-2023
- Adriana López Quintana, DVMT, Clinical Director of a Small Animal Clinic in Maldonado, (Private practice, Uruguay, South America) 2013-2023
- Ping-Chih (Ben) Teng, BVM (National Veterinary Hospital, Taiwan). 2013-2023
- Cecilia Villaverde Cecilia Villaverde Haro, BVSc, PhD, DACVN, DECVN. 2014-2024
- Lisa P. Weeth, DVM, Dipl. ACVN. 2015-2025