

Executive Board Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date	16 October 2025
Time	14:00/16:00 UTC

Participant	Position
Jim Berry	Meeting Chair, President
Ellen van Nierop	Immediate Past President
Jerzy Gawor	President Elect
Oscar Umana	Treasurer
Julie Stafford	Ordinary Board Member
Natasha Lee	Ordinary Board Member
Nalinika Obeyesekere	Ordinary Board Member
Veronica Leibaschoff	Ordinary Board Member
Roula Shaaban	Ordinary Board Member
Richard Casey	Executive Director
Liat Geller	Chief Community Officer
Cecilia Westerdahl	Chief Communication Officer

Consent	
C1	Minutes of August 2025 EB Meeting
C2	Report of Early Career Mixer/Social at Rio Congress
C3	Summary of Congress Event Design Workshop July 2025.pdf
C4	Future Leader Program Status Update.pdf
C5	Letter to the editor JSAP from Pain Committee.docx
C6	General Assembly 2025 Member Vote Results
C7	Data and Research Project Status Report.pdf
C8	Interim Congress Report Rio.pdf
C9	Schedule of EB Meetings 2026 - please review for any date / time conflicts
C10	Draft Schedule for 2026 EB Elections
C11	Manila March 2026 - Schedule
C12	Poland October 2026 – Schedule (draft)

Strategy	
S1 Strategic Advisory Committee	JB/JG/RC
<p>1. Finalised Report Following 1st Committee Meeting</p> <p>Motion for the President-Elect to be the standing EB liaison to the Strategic Advisory Committee. Carried unanimously.</p> <p>2. SAC Recommendations</p> <p>The EB then discussed recommendations made by the SAC to form 4 new subcommittees and working groups:</p> <p>1. <i>Committee wide dashboard to increase alignment and cross committee collaboration.</i></p> <p>It was noted that a version of this dashboard exists now as a result of the project plans submitted by the committees. It was agreed that once all reports have been submitted, the secretariat will create a dashboard compiled of those, and SAC will be invited to comment on content and format.</p> <p>2. <i>Crisis Response Plan</i></p> <p>The EB agreed that while proactive planning is important, establishing a standing operational response team would not be feasible due to logistical, financial, and jurisdictional constraints. Instead, the EB supported developing a concise guidance document or SOP outlining decision pathways, communication protocols, and key partner linkages. SAC was asked to review existing internal materials, consult the Animal Welfare Committee (which may already be working on related guidelines), and provide a refined, practical proposal focused on preparedness and communication rather than field operations.</p> <p>3. <i>AI Usage Ad Hoc Committee</i></p> <p>The EB prioritized AI as a strategic focus area. The EB endorsed establishing a time-limited AI working group under SAC to prepare a short position statement and practical guidance for clinicians. Ensuring diverse representation was emphasized, and it was recommended that collaboration with external partners and potential sponsorship opportunities will be considered as well.</p> <p>4. <i>Global Telemedicine & Digital Pet Care Committee</i></p>	

It was recommended that this is deferred to a later stage due to the current amount of projects. This will be explored as part of the conversations in the WSAVA Summit in 2026, and it was also recommended that SAC explore cooperation with a 3rd party working in this area.

**Motion to accept points 1, 2 and 3 as proposed by the SAC and amended.
Carried unanimously.**

Governance	
G1	<p>Use of Animal Images in Communications and Next Steps</p> <p>JB</p> <p>The EB discussed the lack of formal and complete image use policy for WSAVA. It was agreed that WSAVA should adopt a concise position statement discouraging the use of images depicting animals with extreme conformations or welfare concerns, and refer to existing external guidelines (e.g., from BVA and ICEC) for detailed standards. It was emphasized that the statement should include clear signposting to these references rather than creating a redundant standalone policy.</p> <p>Statement draft, once created and post consultation with HDC and AWC, will be brought before the EB for circulation and ratification.</p>

AOB	
AOB1	<p>Future Leader Program – Call to Action</p> <p>The Future Leader Program call for applications has been launched and is gaining positive responses from member associations.</p> <p>Translation of the program to further languages will be considered after assessing the pilot's success and demand.</p>
AOB2	<p>Travel Policy</p> <p>The EB reviewed the travel policy in order to ensure alignment across all committees. The</p>

Consent Agenda ratified unanimously.