

Executive Board Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date	16 July, 2026
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Participant	Position
Jim Berry	Meeting Chair, President
Richard Casey	Executive Director
Oscar Umaña	Treasurer
Liat Geller	Chief Community Officer
Cecilia Westerdahl	Chief Communications Officer
Lolita Bizune	Chief Partnerships Officer
Ellen van Nierop	Immediate Past President
Natasha Lee	Ordinary Board Member
Julie Stafford	Ordinary Board Member
Nalinika Obeyesekere	Ordinary Board Member
Veronica Leibaschoff	Ordinary Board Member
Derick Chibeu	Ordinary Board Member

Consent	
C1	Ratify Franck Peron as Animal Welfare Committee Chair
C2	Minutes of the 30 June 2026 EB Meeting
C4	Mid-Year 2026 Chief Community Officer Report
C5	Mid-Year 2026 Chief L&D Officer Report
C6	Mid-Year 2026 Committee Activity Tracker
C7	Ratify New Chair of Hereditary Disease Committee
C8	Ratify Zoonoses of Cats and Dogs Guidelines for Submitting to JSAP
C9	Monthly Update on Warsaw Congress Preparation

Consent Agenda ratified unanimously.

Governance

G1 Reproduction Guidelines – Consensus Paper

RC

RC presented the Working Group Complaint Report and a revised Terms of Reference composed with input from Heather Bacon, chair of Animal Welfare Committee.. The proposed ToR introduce an independent, paid chair to mediate the group, with clearer expectations for transparent, documented decision-making and a distinction between population-management recommendations and individual clinical guidance.

The approved ToR will be used as a template for future consensus and collaborative groups and will be sent to the working group for review, with responses requested by 31 July.

Motion to endorse the Working Group Complaint Report as written.

Moved by JB.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Terms of Reference in the latest version, incorporating HB's and NL's corrections and EN's addition referencing the complaints-process policy guidelines.

Moved by NL. Seconded by OU.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

G2 Outstanding Dues & Invoices

RC / LG

RC and LG presented a summary report on outstanding membership dues and invoices. The Board reviewed the current status and endorsed the Secretariat's proposed next steps for associations in arrears, including formal correspondence where needed.

G3 Strategy 2027+

JB/ RC

JB and RC gave a verbal update on feedback received to date on Strategy 2027+, including from AVMA and event sponsors. Feedback has been positive, with minimal changes expected before the window for comments by member associations closes.

G4 General Assembly 2026
RC

RC confirmed that the draft General Assembly agenda is largely finalized, with time reserved for member-requested items. Board members are welcome to submit a written report on the past year's activities via the standard online form ahead of the General Assembly pre-read.

Operations
O1 Future Leader Program – Verbal
RC

RC gave a verbal update on the Future Leaders Program. Engagement remains positive, with most participants attending consistently; one participant has been removed for non-attendance. Small group feedback sessions are being held with participants in August. Subject to approval next month, the next cohort application process is expected to open in September, with the first module moving to March given Congress falling later in the year.

Motion to require payment in full for the program completion certificate, and to remove any participant who has not paid outstanding fees by the next session.

Moved by JB.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

O2 Warsaw Update - Registration and Communications - Verbal
LG

LG gave a verbal update on Warsaw Congress for registration and communications. Registration is exceeding expectations; unpaid registrants and exhibitors are being contacted to confirm or release their spots, and the team is exploring additional capacity and ways to reduce first-day queues. RC reported that the Congress budget remains on track for a record surplus, with sponsorship targets already exceeded.

AOB
1 Ratification of Jolle Kirpensteijn as Oncology Committee Chair
JB

JB reported interviewing Jolle Kirpensteijn in the United States regarding the Chair of the Oncology Committee.

Motion to ratify Jolle Kirpensteijn as Chair of the Oncology Committee for a

one-year term.

Moved by JB.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

2 Invited Guests to Executive Board Meetings

JB

Following a request from Mike Topper, the EB discussed inviting the three incoming Board members, Heather Bacon, Mike Topper, and Soukaina Azib to attend the August and September meetings as non-voting, non-participating guests ahead of their terms starting in October. The Board agreed the invitation would make clear that discussions are confidential and that they won't take part in confidential/in camera discussions.

Motion to invite HB, MT, & SA to attend the August and September Executive Board meetings as non-voting, non-participating guests.

Moved by JB.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

3 Scheduling 2027 In-Person Board Meetings

RC

RC is collecting Board members' availability for the first half of 2027's in-person meeting and will follow up individually where flexibility on dates is needed.

4 World Pet Day

CW

CW gave a brief update on World Pet Day. WOA has confirmed its support, and WSAVA is well placed to take the lead; a specific proposal will follow once the Welfare Committee has met.

Next Board Meeting: 20 August 2026