

Executive Board Monthly Meeting Minutes

Date	30 June, 2026
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Participant	Position
Jim Berry	Meeting Chair, President
Ellen van Nierop	Immediate Past President
Jerzy Gawor	President Elect
Oscar Umana	Treasurer
Natasha Lee	Ordinary Board Member
Veronica Leibaschoff	Ordinary Board Member
Julie Stafford	Ordinary Board Member
Roula Shaaban	Ordinary Board Member
Derick Chibeu	Ordinary Board Member
Nalinika Obeyesekere	Ordinary Board Member
Rochelle Low	Chair – Standards Steering Committee – present for first agenda item only
Richard Casey	Executive Director
Liat Geller	Chief Community Officer
Debbie Gray	Chief Learning & Development Officer
Cecilia Westerdahl	Chief Communications Officer
Lolita Bizune	Chief Partnerships Officer
Ana Muñoz	Project Manager – present for first agenda item only

Strategy	
S1 Hospital Standards Development and Accreditation Platform RL presented a comprehensive hospital standards framework and self-assessment tool, structured around four components: ▪ People and Team, ▪ Delivery of Care, ▪ Environment, and ▪ Documentation and Tools. The framework draws on feedback from four global focus groups and places emphasis on team communication and safety culture alongside clinical care. Self-assessment sits at the centre of the model, letting clinics evaluate and improve themselves ahead of formal accreditation, and early feedback suggests clinics are willing to pay for accreditation as a market differentiator. The programme will prioritise regions of greatest need, including Latin America, Africa, and parts of Asia, while remaining globally applicable. RL also proposed a digital platform to host the standards, resources, and data collection, with a year-one cost of USD 21,350, within budget, a year-two cost of USD 18,000, and ongoing annual hosting fees of approximately USD 1,000. The platform will let clinics worldwide complete self-assessments, upload supporting evidence, and track accreditation progress in multiple languages, with data capture identified as a major benefit that will reduce reliance on separate surveys and enable benchmarking by region and clinic. The design allows for future expansion, including continuing education tracking and integration with other initiatives such as the advanced practitioner accreditation pilot, though a project manager and marketing support will be needed to sustain updates, user support, and visibility. The standards themselves will launch with a realistic “basic” tier of 32 requirements, with more advanced tiers to follow, so that clinics are not asked to meet unattainable requirements from the outset. Specialty topics such as dentistry and pain management will be distilled into concise, tier-specific resources. Self-assessment will remain open to all clinics for gap analysis, but formal accreditation and its associated marketing benefits will be reserved for WSAVA members, balancing broad global access with the sustainability of the association.	RL / RC

The Board discussed operational challenges, including language coverage (the platform will launch in the top five languages) and the governance needed for updating standards, defining committee roles, and supporting users, given the reputational risk attached to accreditation. Virtual accreditation using document and video evidence was favoured over in-person audits for cost and geographic reasons, with in-person site visits remaining an option for well-resourced associations that want them. JB noted that the project aligns closely with WSAVA's strategic goals and that its data collection could help attract future sponsorship.

Motion: To approve the Hospital Standards Development and Accreditation Platform, including the proposed year-one and year-two platform costs, and to proceed to implementation.

All in Favor

Motion has passed.

Strategy

S2 **Advocacy Toolkit and World Companion Animal Health Day**

CW

The Secretariat presented plans for an advocacy toolkit to support member associations with ready-to-use, branded content for social media, newsletters, and advocacy, tailored to different regions and languages and timed to key global animal health dates such as World Veterinary Day and World Rabies Day. The goal is to make advocacy easier for member associations, with feedback mechanisms planned to track usage and impact.

Alongside the toolkit, the Secretariat proposed a new World Companion Animal Health Day to give WSAVA a distinct, recognisable annual moment separate from general veterinary advocacy days. Members discussed the need for a short, memorable name and agreed the day should be aimed primarily at the general public to maximise awareness and action, with suggestions to keep the name or acronym simple for global recall. The Board noted that both the toolkit and the day depend on member associations as the delivery channel, and that weak regional dissemination capacity in some regions may need sponsorship support, viewed as a helpful partner rather than a core dependency.

Motion to approve the concept of the advocacy toolkit and the World Companion Animal Health Day, delegating the final name, date, and target audience definition to a subsequent meeting, with care taken to avoid clashing with existing global and regional observance dates.

Approved.

Governance	
G1 Board Elections	LG
LG confirmed that Board elections will launch on 1 July via a secure, user-friendly digital voting platform giving voters access to each candidate's photo, CV, letter of intent, and video statement. Voting will close on 8 July, with a potential second round in Asia if required. Only designated member representatives will receive a unique voting link by email to protect the integrity of the process, and the Secretariat will manage all election-related queries centrally to avoid any conflict of interest.	
G2 Onboarding Courses, Secretariat	LG
The Secretariat presented new onboarding courses for committee chairs, committee members, the Executive Board, and member associations, intended to standardise governance knowledge and improve participation. The courses are short and visually led, covering governance, operational tasks, and strategic context. Completion will be mandatory for Board and committee roles and recommended, though optional, for member associations. Content is drawn from existing WSAVA policy and procedure but repackaged for easier use, which should also reduce the volume of administrative queries reaching the Secretariat. Rollout is phased, with the committee chair modules ready for upload shortly and the Executive Board modules to follow in time for onboarding new members. Updates will be limited to an annual cycle and tracked through a change log, and Board members and the Secretariat have reviewed the content for completeness and clarity.	
G Association Management Company Contract (in camera)	Board
The Board moved in camera to discuss the existing contract with KENES Association Management Company (AMC), with the Secretariat excused from this portion of the meeting. The discussion focused on reviewing and managing the ongoing AMC services that support WSAVA's operations.	

Consent	
C1	Minutes from the May 2026 EB Meeting
C2	Ratify x2 Pain Committee Members (previously ratified by email)
C4	Mid-Year 2026 Chief Communications Officer Report
C5	WSAVA Annual Report 2025 - Final version.pdf
C6	Pod Cast Report
C7	Status Report for Warsaw 2026 - Registrations as of 25 June: 1,891. When taking into account group bookings being processed, we are over 2,000.
C8	Status Report for India 2027
C9	Ratify Audit Results and Financial Statements 2025 (previously ratified by email)
C10	Revised WSAVA Congress 2025 Summary Report
C11	Minutes from May FAC Meeting
C12	Strategic Advisory Committee June Meeting - Summary of Meeting - Summary of Initial Strategy Feedback
C13	Europe Member Forum - Warsaw
C14	Mid-Year 2026 Chief Partnerships Officer Report

Consent Agenda ratified unanimously.