



## WSAVA Animal Welfare and Wellness Committee

### Report to Assembly 2015

#### **AWWC Background and Vision:**

Animal welfare is enshrined as one of WSAVA's four key 'pillars'. Through the AWWC, WSAVA promotes advances in animal welfare and wellness around the world through enhanced veterinary care and the AWWC works closely with other committees within WSAVA to provide the resources to facilitate these advances. Our committee's vision statement is:

***To make welfare issues an everyday consideration for small animal practitioners and to ensure that WSAVA becomes a proactive and respected partner within international welfare circles providing an opinion that balances compassion with science and practical needs.***

#### **AWWC Strategic Goals**

##### **EDUCATE:**

Provide platforms for disseminating information of relevance to small animal practitioners.

- *Web presence, lecture streams, outreach opportunities*

##### **INFLUENCE:**

Address small animal welfare issues by forming alliances with other welfare organisations.

- *Select key issues for the membership and use the alliances to maximise the pace and impact of change*

##### **LEAD:**

Provide guidance and opinion to assist our member organisations in promoting welfare.

Formulate views, respected by member organisations & the global veterinary community;

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

## Members of the AWWC

Name	Profession	Country
Nienke ENDENBURG	<i>Psychologist</i>	Netherlands
Karyl HURLEY	<i>Veterinarian Internal Medicine specialist</i>	USA
Rod JOUPPI	<i>Veterinarian</i>	Canada
Tess KOMMEDAL	<i>Veterinarian Shelter Medicine specialist</i>	Norway
Melinda MERCK	<i>Veterinarian Forensic Veterinary Medicine specialist</i>	USA
John RAWLINGS	<i>Physiologist</i>	UK
Sheilah ROBERTSON	<i>BVMS Welfare Science, Ethics and Law specialist</i>	USA
John ROSSI	<i>Veterinarian Bioethicist</i>	USA
Shane RYAN	<i>Veterinarian</i>	Singapore

## WSAVA AWWC Sponsor

Since its inception the AWWC has been sponsored by WALTHAM®, Mars Petcare who has contributed USD 25,000 annually to enable the committee to fulfil its vision and goals.

## Declaration of Interests

Karyl Hurley is the Mars Petcare Sponsor and John Rawlings is an employee of WALTHAM®

## WSAVA AWWC Achievements during 2014

The current committee structure was developed during 2012 – 2014 and remains unchanged. A review of the committee membership will take place in 2015 to ensure that we are representative of WSAVA member organisations across the world and that we maintain the relevant expertise.

The committee met face-to-face in Orlando (NAVC) in January 2014 with the next meeting planned for WSAVA Bangkok in May 2015. Other meetings to address on-going activities are held on a monthly basis by pre-arranged teleconferences.

Membership Survey – what are the needs? The results from two surveys (2012 and 2013) of the membership to understand what their key welfare priorities are have been reviewed during 2014 and the findings were published on our website. The survey was published in English, Spanish and Japanese.

The main forums for providing educational resources are the NAVC Animal Welfare Lecture Stream, the WSAVA Animal Welfare Lecture Stream, and the WSAVA website. Preparation for the lecture streams and identifying key international speakers takes significant planning and resource commitments. A successful lecture stream was presented in Orlando (NAVC) in January and in South Africa (WSAVA) in September 2014 where the focus was on the subjects of *The Basics of Canine Rehabilitation* and *Experiences in the welfare of community animals – an international perspective*. The lecture stream for WSAVA 2015 is complete and plans for WSAVA 2016 are in progress.

The WSAVA Website is populated with key references, links to global and regional welfare organizations, and provides guidance on key topics. Some AWWC webpage stories are currently available in English,

Spanish, Chinese and Japanese. The AWWC, in collaboration with the One Health committee, initiated a rapid response to the Ebola outbreak of 2014 resulting in a joint press statement.

A new initiative for the committee to provide educational opportunities through hands on experience took place in South Africa in collaboration with IFAW's Outreach Experience. This example of forming an alliance with other organisations to maximise the impact of the AWWC in promoting animal welfare initiatives was attended by 8 veterinarians and non-veterinarians from across the world and contributed to their understanding of the welfare issues experienced by community dogs and the ways of working with the local community to help promote animal health. Based on the success of this, further outreach programmes have been organised for 2015.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between WSAVA and World Animal Protection (WAP) in 2014 to promote animal welfare globally. AWWC is following this up by supporting development of educational resources for companion animal veterinarians using the established Concepts in Animal Welfare educational tools developed by WAP.

The WSAVA Global Veterinary Oath was formally launched at WSAVA 2014 and published in 26 different languages. Attendees were able to sign the oath and it is currently available on the AWWC Facebook page

To help engage WSAVA members to become more involved with animal welfare the AWWC launched Friends of Animal Welfare. The concept is a simple one: for WSAVA to achieve our goals for animal welfare, funding is vital. So as an additional sponsorship source a small group (maximum 20) will be asked to donate to a fund for exclusive use by the AWWC for animal welfare related initiatives. In return, donors obtain registration for WSAVA and have a first-hand opportunity to engage with the AWWC to understand the work being done and to provide input to help shape the future strategic direction.