



WSAVA Animal Welfare and Wellness Committee

Report to Assembly 2014

AWWC Background and Vision:

The AWWC was formed in 2009 thanks primarily to the efforts of Drs Roger Clarke of Australia and Ray Butcher, a UK-based veterinarian, who dedicated their careers to advancing animal welfare and had the foresight to ensure that animal welfare was enshrined as one of the WSAVA's four key 'pillars'. We aim to promote advances in animal welfare and wellness around the world through enhanced veterinary care and work closely with other committees within the WSAVA to provide the resources to facilitate these advances. Our 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>Veterinarian 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

The current committee structure was developed during 2012 – 2014.

Terms of reference were developed and adopted by the committee in March 2013. The committee met face-to-face in Orlando (NAVC) in January 2013 and January 2014. Other meetings are held on a monthly basis by pre-arranged teleconferences.

Membership Survey – what are the needs? The AWWC has conducted two surveys (2012 and 2013) of the membership to understand what their key welfare priorities are. The survey was published in English, Spanish and Japanese. The data are being reviewed and the results will enable us to focus our resources on those areas that are most relevant to the membership.

Educate – 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.

Educate - WSAVA Website – populated with key references, links to global and regional welfare organizations, and provided guidance on key topics.

Educate/ Influence - A new initiative for the committee is to provide educational opportunities through hands on experience with the first IFAW Outreach Experience in Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa in 2014. This is an example of forming an alliance with other organisations to maximise the impact that the AWWC can have in promoting animal welfare initiatives.

Influence – we are working with other WSAVA Committees (One Health, Global Nutrition Committee, Global Pain Council) to ensure we have one aligned voice on best animal welfare practices, e.g., representation at the OIE-WSAVA Symposium on Diseases of Free Roaming Dogs in November 2013; representation within ICAM.

Lead - WSAVA Global Veterinary Oath – following a survey of veterinary oaths from across member organisations we realized that there are many countries that do not have veterinary oaths that encompass welfare as a key statement. We developed an oath that has been published on the WSAVA website and we are actively enlisting vets to take the oath. This is facilitated through a social media Photo Competition on “How do you live the oath?”

Lead – Overpopulation of companion animals is a key member issue that impinges on animal welfare and One Health. We have produced an opinion paper reflecting our stance on this issue.

Lead – Animal research is a highly contentious issue and WSAVA meetings are a key forum for researchers in the veterinary community to present their work for the advancement of animal health and wellbeing. The AWWC has produced an Animal Research Policy that is intended to inform authors of our expectations when submitting abstracts for presentations at WSAVA meetings. This is a progressive policy that is intended to set a world leading example.