



## **WSAVA Therapeutic Guidelines Group (TGG)** ***Strategic plan 2019-2020***

### **Purpose**

One of the core goals of the WSAVA is to develop guidelines promoting standards of care that often encompass appropriate use of nutritional, chemical, pharmaceutical, and biological products. There are contemporary and evolving issues common to these products that would benefit from appropriate stewardship. Currently, the two most important issues are antimicrobial resistance and medicine accessibility and quality. The primary remit of the TGG will be to monitor and address these issues as they become relevant to the global companion animal community, and to provide guidance through continuing education, stewardship and stakeholder engagement.

### **Mission**

The mission of the TGG is to ensure best practices for the selection and use of medicines including their quality, availability and responsible use in companion animals while engaging participation of stakeholders and the WSAVA Global Community under the concept of One Health.

### **Vision**

All companion animal veterinarians have access to high quality essential medicines that are selected, prescribed and used to ensure optimal animal health and welfare while minimizing impact on human and environmental health

### **Goals**

- i) Develop minimum standards for veterinary hospital pharmacies to ensure each pharmacy supports the veterinarian's ability to provide an appropriate standard of care.
- ii) Promote and facilitate access to pharmaceutical products that are required for proper patient care.
- iii) Enhance global dissemination and understanding of the existing antimicrobial use guidelines and OIE standards including the OIE List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance among general practitioners.
- iv) Maintain an active role in antimicrobial therapy and AMR issues that is supportive to the One Health Committee, looking to broaden awareness through the sharing of information available (based on work done within and outside of WSAVA) as well as the generation of information where gaps exists.
- v) Actively monitor emerging issues related to the TGG's remit and based on relevance to the WSAVA Global Veterinary Community and implications for companion animal care bring these to the awareness of the WSAVA leadership with recommendations on how these should be prioritized and addressed.
- vi) Actively engage stakeholders to create broader awareness as well as a collaborative approach to the issues concerned.
- vii) Implement the recommended next steps stemming from the WSAVA Position Statement on Access to Veterinary Therapeutics and the WSAVA joint position statement.
- viii) Periodically review these goals to ensure the TGG remains relevant to the developing needs of the WSAVA Global Community related to the remit of the TGG.



- ix) Provide inputs into the OIE global data collection on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals

### **TGG structure and composition**

The TGG is composed by a Core Group and two Advisory Groups, one for each of the two priority topics: antimicrobial use guidelines (Advisory Group A) and medicine availability and quality (Advisory Group B). The Core Group includes experts in key scientific disciplines who are linked to relevant stakeholder groups (see Table 1). The two Advisory Groups will be established within the end of 2019 and their functions will include i) gathering information at the regional level, ii) providing feedback to the Core Group's work, and iii) broadening network for dissemination.

**Table 1. Composition of the TGG Core Group**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Expertise</b>	<b>Liaison</b>
Luca Guardabassi	Denmark	Chair	Microbiology	ESCMID, JPIAMR
Paulo Steagall	Canada	Co-chair	Anaesthesiology	Global Pain Council
Guille Manigot	Argentina	Secretary	Dermatology	
Scott Weese	Canada	Voting member	Internal Medicine	ISCAID
Ludovic Pelligand	UK	Voting member	Pharmacology	EAVPT/EUCAST
Stephen Page	Australia	Voting member	Therapeutics	AVA
Melissa Bourgeois	US	Voting member	Drug Safety	AVMA
Devon Dublin	Japan	Voting member	Environmental management	WAVMA, Conservation International
Carel du Marchie Sarvaas	Netherlands	Non-voting member	Regulatory Affairs	Animal Health Industry
Jorge Pinto Ferreira	France	Non-Voting member	Animal Health	OIE

### **Background and strategic plan for priority topic A (antimicrobial guidelines)**

AMR is an emerging problem in small animal veterinary practice because of the increasing frequency of difficult-to-treat infections (animal health issue) and the potential for resistant bacteria being transmitted from companion animals to owners and veterinary staff (public health and occupational issues). The magnitude of the problem is still poorly understood, mainly because of the lack of surveillance systems for monitoring AMR and antimicrobial use in companion animals. However, small animal practitioners are not exempt from the increasing societal pressure to reduce antimicrobial consumption in the veterinary sector. Beside an overall reduction of antimicrobial consumption, a specific reduction is expected in the use of Highest Priority Critically Important antimicrobials, especially high priority drugs in human medicine such as extended-spectrum cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones, which are widely used in companion animals and in some situations may be of critical importance for animal health. In this context, the use of alternative products such as pre/probiotics and herbal medicines is likely to increase in the near future, even though the clinical efficacy and safety of many of these products remain unknown. International antimicrobial use guidelines have been developed for common disease conditions, but they are not effectively implemented on a global scale because of geographical, cultural, economic and language barriers. Tools that provide guidance and



facilitate understanding of the existing guidelines are needed for a more effective implementation of antimicrobial stewardship in day-to-day clinical practice.

The strategic objectives for 2019-2020 for priority topic A are the following:

1. Release a yearly newsletter in correspondence with the annual WSAVA Congress to update veterinary practitioners on the most important news regarding AMR and antimicrobial therapy in companion animals.
2. Complete and analyse a survey to outline antimicrobial use practices and access to guidelines among WSAVA members.
3. Collate all the available guidelines pertaining to antimicrobial use in companion animals and make them publicly available on the TGG homepage.
4. Develop practical summaries with flow charts of the ISCAID guidelines for superficial pyoderma, respiratory and urinary tract infections, and translate them into a wider range of languages in collaboration with WSAVA Translation Committee.
5. Publish a position paper addressing the methodology for developing and implementing evidence-based antimicrobial use guidelines, the importance of national guidelines, priority topics for future guidelines, and research needs to improve the quality of evidence.
6. Link the projects with ongoing activities in other global veterinary and animal health organisations.

### **Background and strategic plan for priority topic B (drug availability and quality)**

Most veterinarians across the globe have little or no access to drugs required for basic veterinary practice and standard of care, including sedatives, anaesthetics, analgesics, and antibiotic, antiparasitic, anticonvulsant, antiarrhythmic and chemotherapy drugs, among others. The number and type of medicines that are not accessible or available vary between geographical regions. This issue is particularly challenging in developing countries and countries with strict regulatory and bureaucratic constraints, where medicines authorized for human use are not accessible by veterinarians. This problem leads to suffering for thousands of animals, compassion fatigue for veterinarians and the emergence of illicit buying drug systems (i.e. 'black market') that avoid government regulation. In addition, there is also a growing concern associated with the quality of medicines. The latter problem is due to the occurrence of falsified medicines that deliberately misrepresent their identity, composition or source, as well as substandard medicines that fail to meet quality standards for different reasons (e.g. poor manufacturing, shipping or storage conditions, or drug expiration).

The strategic objectives for 2019-2020 for priority topic B are as follows:

1. Launch a list of essential medicines at the WSAVA Congress in July 2019
2. Establish a global network to collect data at the regional level, contribute to OIE global data collection on antimicrobial agents intended for use in animals, identify short-term/acute shortages and barriers to drug access or proper drug use, and resolve them using a collaborative approach with the relevant stakeholders.
3. Generate a checklist to guide users in assessing ethical and safety implications for products purchased from online pharmacies.



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4. Perform a pilot study to assess the quality of selected essential medicinal products on a global scale.
5. Arrange an inaugural TGG meeting in 2019 to further develop these strategic objectives as well as implementation strategies, deadlines, responsibilities, and meeting schedules for the TGG Core Group and both Advisory Groups.