



## Policy on the use of animals in WSAVA sponsored events

Last reviewed: April 2019

The focus of the WSAVA sponsored events is primarily and ultimately to promote the health and wellbeing of animals. While it may be necessary for such events to include animals to demonstrate how their health and wellbeing may be promoted, it would be inconsistent to inflict physical or mental suffering on those animals taking part in such activities.

The WSAVA sponsored events also provide for social and networking activities for veterinarians and veterinary affiliated staff. While there is a tendency to introduce an animal-related theme to these social events, it would once again be inconsistent with the aims of WSAVA to support activities where the health and wellbeing of animals used in entertainment has the potential to be compromised. It is important to respect the dignity of animals involved in such events by evaluating the interests of the animals with the interests of those who stand to benefit from such events. There are also diverse cultural perspectives on what constitutes entertainment and the use of animals.

The Animal Welfare and Wellness Committee of the WSAVA strongly recommend that all activities involving the use of living animals at the WSAVA sponsored events are risk assessed for the potential to cause physical or mental suffering to the animals, and that the event respects the dignity of those animals taking part. Risk assessments should:

- 🐾 Include an assessment by suitably qualified people of the likelihood of physical or mental suffering occurring
- 🐾 Include appropriate mitigating actions for any risks
- 🐾 Include an assessment of the interests of the animals versus the interests of those people attending the event
- 🐾 Consider the cultural diversity of those attending the event and the likelihood of causing offense to people
- 🐾 Be available for review by any interested party to demonstrate transparency

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