



WSAVA
Global Veterinary Community

One Assembly 2016

Member's Forum

**Hotel Las Americas Resort Spa and Convention Centre, Cartagena Colombia
September 26, 2016**

Session I: Member's Forum

President's welcome

The meeting started at 9:00 am. Colin Burrows welcomed everyone and said how good it was to be in Colombia at such an historic time. He extended a special welcome to all new Assembly members and those who were attending for the first time.

Presentation of format of the day

Shane Ryan explained the format of the morning session:

Members were put into groups and asked to identify the top four issues they believe are affecting the industry. After discussion and elimination voting, the four top issues were identified as:

Mental Health, Drug Accessibility, One Health and Animal Welfare.

Members were split into four groups to discuss one issue per group, breaking it down into the following three sections:

- Problem
- Root cause analysis
- Proposed plan of action that ties into WSAVA current strategic plans

Key points from each topic group are as follow:

MENTAL HEALTH

Problem

High levels of stress and mental health issues experienced by large number of the profession

Root cause(s)

1. Lack of peer support and mentorship
2. Unrealistic expectations
3. Burn outs
4. Stress from administrative tasks and practise management
5. Competitive atmosphere
6. Long working hours

Action plan

1. Delegate to other veterinaries
2. Use technology more
3. Increase training around soft skills
4. Co-operation between clinics (emergency clinics)
5. Support groups in veterinary community
6. Encourage work-life balance
7. Clinic protocols to include input from everyone
8. More involvement from veterinary associations
9. Educating the community

ACCESSIBILITY TO DRUGS

Problem

1. Government policy
2. Economics
3. Laboratories do not want to put drugs
4. Drug abuse
5. Education
6. Manufacturer
7. Fake medications
8. Drug resistance

Root causes

1. Less involvement of vets in government policy
2. Lack of rational drug use
3. Cost of drugs due to small market
4. Lack of education
5. Lack of control
6. Drugs used by non veterinarians

Action plan

- Harmonization (i.e. for regulation)
- WSAVA to provide a common policy of drugs
- i. To OIE
- ii. To Create Veterinary pharmaceutical department
- iii. To promote an accessible cost of drugs

ONE HEALTH

Problem

1. Definition
2. Engagement/Barriers
3. Implementation
4. Governance/organization
5. Legal barriers/restraints
6. Inclusive cooperation

Root Causes

1. Turf battles/egos
2. Lack of education
3. Large/abstract problem
4. Bureaucracy
5. Resources (ie financial)
6. Lack of Forum – communication between stakeholders
7. Who has ownership

Action Plans/Solutions

1. Definition/clarify
2. Develop interdisciplinary forum
3. Education – of all age groups, between stakeholders, help rethink mindset
4. Public awareness
5. Governmental engagement/resources
6. Public relations of showcase projects/demonstrate/Just Do it! (Nike slogan)

ANIMAL WELFARE

Problems

1. There is no real ownership of the animal welfare issue (both in governments and veterinarians)
2. There is not necessarily any international agreement on what companion animal welfare is and how to achieve it.
3. Additionally, there are other issues that can affect animal welfare such as culture, poverty, lack of policy or application of that policy, etc.

Root causes: Our conclusion is that there is lack of education in all levels and with all stakeholders including their specific role in Animal Welfare. For example:

1. lack of education in dog and cat owners as to what responsible pet ownership is
2. lack of education in veterinarians as to what companion welfare is and their role in it
3. lack of education in governments as to what their role in companion animal welfare should be (policy and application of that policy, as one example)

Action plan:

WSAVA to develop AW guidelines

1. Scientifically based. In other words, that align with the scientific research and knowledge that is already out there
2. That captures the human-animal bond
3. That are globally relevant with regional flexibility (in other words, being sensitive that there are great cultural differences between regions)
4. That engages and informs all key stakeholders including government, vet associations, NGO's, general public, etc, on their role and responsibilities in AW
5. That capture that education is key in managing AW issues

What happened at last forum and implementation of action items raised

Walt Ingwersen explained that following the success of the Members Forum in Bangkok 2015, the 'Getting them to Congress' initiative has been instigated. Representatives from Kenya, Cuba and Montenegro were here because of this new grant system. He updated the expansion of the RMA to now include advocates for all WSAVA regions, asked the RMA members present to introduce themselves, and reinforced the role of the RMA as being there to improve communications and member engagement regionally. The Members' Forum concept was expanded to include regional meetings of WSAVA members attending key regional veterinary Congresses. Additionally, input regarding the Assembly business meeting voting process was implemented to include secret ballots for officer elections, Congress host selection, and new member applications. He asked everyone to provide their input to shape the future of the WSAVA and to help make the community stronger.

Future steps

The meeting concluded with agreement that the outcomes from the forum would be analysed and plans formulated for prioritizing and addressing the issues raised.