

WSAVA



News Bulletin April 2011

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Photograph by J. Fama



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The WSAVA – our mission

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) is dedicated to the continuing development of companion animal care around the world. We aim to achieve this through fostering the exchange of scientific information between individual veterinarians and veterinary organizations.

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President Jolle Kirpensteijn on Twitter - @WSAVAPrez

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WSAVA
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Welcome from the President

The past few weeks have seen tragedy befall two of our member association countries - Japan and New Zealand. Both encountered the devastation of an earthquake with Japan's situation made all the more worse through the ensuing tsunami and stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant.

The death and destruction caused is almost unimaginable and the WSAVA Executive Board extends its condolences and deep sympathies to all of those caught up in these disasters. We hope that they will receive the support they need and, in time, find the strength to start to rebuild their lives.

As it happens, I was Christchurch with Mark O'Byrne from Hills Pet Nutrition when the earthquake occurred on 21 February. It is an experience I will never forget.

We'd decided to have lunch just outside of Christchurch instead of in the city centre. This turned out to be a fortunate decision. The earthquake itself was unnerving. Nature, when unleashed, is violent and unpredictable. I recall an almost 'out of body' experience – I knew what was happening but felt paralyzed. Once the tremor had passed, we snapped back into reality and got out of the building as quickly as we could.

Later we walked back towards the city and witnessed the destruction at first hand. As an aftershock struck, we felt the sudden violent movement of the earth beneath us. Cracks opened in the road and we were surrounded by pools of water. A woman asked us if we could help a woman who'd lost both her dogs. We tried to reassure her, saying that if the dogs had escaped and run away, they would probably return later.

Minutes later a car drove up to us and Mark's friend Ngaire jumped out. Her new clinic in Christchurch was in ruins but her team and the animals had had a lucky escape. She'd been on the way out of the city when the quake occurred but, instead of fleeing, came back to check we were OK. We spent that night with friends of hers some way out of Christchurch and, watching the news on TV, I realized how lucky we'd been. We offered to help, of course. I'm a pretty good surgeon - but the priority in the immediate aftermath was the search and rescue operation, being run with great efficiency by highly professional teams.

In the end, the Christchurch quake was small compared to the tragedy unfolding in Japan, though equally devastating for those whose lives were changed forever.

In the midst of both of these disasters and at the scene of future acts of nature, I am confident in the knowledge that vets will be there on the front line, working in a dedicated way to help people and animals in distress. We work in a wonderful profession and are truly one big family. We know that wherever we go, we will meet colleagues who are happy to see us and eager to help. This is what One World is all about.

Meanwhile, our thoughts and prayers are with our colleagues and their countrymen during this difficult time and the WSAVA family extends an offer of assistance in any way that we can.

Jolle Kirpensteijn

WSAVA Executive Board meets in Orlando

The WSAVA's Executive Board met in Orlando, Florida in January, to discuss strategies and focus areas for 2011 and beyond. Among ideas discussed were suggestions for a range of additional WSAVA standardization projects and an expanded central secretariat service to assist the organization with the increasing administrative burden of its activities.

As the meeting coincided with the North American Veterinary Conference (NAVC), the WSAVA's board members also took the opportunity to meet with the NAVC's directors to share ideas on continuing education (CE) and training within the veterinary profession. Many of our committees also held inaugural meetings while in Orlando. A special meeting of the WSAVA Executive Board, committees and our sponsors was then convened to provide them with a comprehensive update on our key initiatives and to discuss common areas of interest and goals going forward.

Commenting on the meetings, Walt Ingwersen, Secretary of the WSAVA, said: "With our board members dispersed around the world, NAVC provides an excellent opportunity to bring them together to agree on plans and priorities, discuss new ideas and deal with problems quickly and effectively. The meetings were very productive and the respective committees are now working to implement their plans for the year."



WSAVA Executive Board members and NAVC colleagues at the NAVC in Orlando (left to right) Drs Richard Le Couteur (NAVC board), David Wadsworth, Professor Peter Ihrke, Laurel Kaddatz (NAVC President), Walt Ingwersen, Professor Jolie Kirpensteijn, Earl Ripple Jr (NAVC Secretary Treasurer), Shane Ryan, and Colin Burrows (NAVC Executive Director)

WSAVA V5 Global Nutrition Guidelines Launched

We're delighted to announce a major step forward with one of the WSAVA's key campaigns – to ensure that a nutritional assessment and recommendation is made on every patient during every visit to the veterinarian.

We want this to become known as the **5th Vital Assessment (V5)**, following the four vital assessments of temperature, pulse, respiration and pain, which are already routinely taken.



V5 Global Nutrition Guidelines

After a year of development work led by Dr Clayton MacKay, a Canadian veterinary consultant, the WSAVA Guidelines Development Committee has now finalised and launched its V5 Global Nutrition Guidelines which are aimed at helping veterinarians and pet owners design a nutrition plan which is tailored to the needs of their specific dog.

The V5 Guidelines are consistent with those produced by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) last year. We're actively promoting their availability via member associations and the media. It is our goal that every teaching institution in the world should formalise this approach in their curricula as soon as possible.

Now that the V5 Guidelines have been published, the committee is working on the next phase of activity. It has formulated a plan to build an alliance of global veterinary organizations to help healthcare teams and pet owners begin implementing the guidelines together on an international basis. These efforts will be coupled with the Veterinary Companion Animal Nutritional Consortium founded by AAHA of which WSAVA is a charter member.

"We believe this project to be important given the influence of nutrition on every patient, whether to treating illness, preserving health or preventing future health problems," comments Professor Jolie Kirpensteijn, President of the WSAVA. "It's vital for companion animals as they're often fed the same diet at every meal with little attention paid to the quality or suitability of the nutrition they are receiving."

Just as we led a global effort to elevate pain to become the fourth vital assessment, we also see the need to elevate a nutritional assessment to become the fifth vital assessment in a standard physical exam. We believe a sound nutritional recommendation from a veterinarian is crucial because pet owners are exposed to a myriad of nutritional myths that if acted upon can actually be harmful to their pets.



Dr Clayton McKay

To help ensure the WSAVA V5 Global Nutrition Guidelines are assimilated worldwide, we'll be working towards getting the guidelines published and encouraging other stakeholders to get involved. We hope that global veterinary organizations will join forces with us to encourage veterinary healthcare teams and institutions in their respective geographies to make nutrition a routine part of their recommendation procedures."

The guidelines can be viewed on the WSAVA website at www.wsava.org. For further information on this project, contact wsavasecretariat@gmail.com.



New awards launched as the WSAVA's One Health Committee gets down to business

The WSAVA's One Health Committee (OHC) is leading the way in ensuring that companion animals are strongly represented during global discussions on the subject with a range of activities already under way.



Michael Day

Its first initiative is the launch of a new WSAVA Global One Health Award that will be made to an individual judged to have made particular progress in an aspect of One Health related to companion animals. The inaugural award will be presented later this year at WSAVA Congress and accompanied by a One Health lecture from the recipient.

A second award will be aimed at encouraging younger members of the profession to contribute in this vital area and will be made to the individual who gives an oral or poster presentation at Congress which best encapsulates the One Health philosophy.

In addition, the OHC has published a review (Veterinary Record 2010 167: 847) and has another paper scheduled to appear in the journal Parasites and Vectors. The chairman of the committee, Professor Michael Day, also presented two papers at the first International One Health Conference which took place in Melbourne, Australia, in February.

Commenting on the launch of the awards and his participation at the One Health Conference, Michael Day said: "Our presentations were the first opportunity in a major global forum to highlight the role of small companion animals in One Health."

It was clear from the enthusiastic reception to both lectures that companion animals had been missing from discussions of this area. The One Health community now clearly appreciates the significance of these animal species that so closely share the human environment.

He continued: "During the year the OHC also aims to provide high quality information on areas such as zoonotic infectious disease; the human-companion animal bond and comparative and translational medicine to global practitioners. It will deliver this through its own web-page, accessible from the WSAVA website and has registered the first One Health facebook page."

The One Health movement is all about the unification of the medical and veterinary professions with the establishment of collaborative ventures in clinical care, surveillance and control of cross-species disease, education, and research into disease pathogenesis, diagnosis, therapy and vaccination. Within the WSAVA OHC, we're working to ensure that small companion animals have a prominent role in the global One Health agenda.

We welcome input and feedback from WSAVA members so urge them to check our new website for the latest information and to interact with us directly through facebook."

For further information on this project, please contact wsavasecretariat@gmail.com

Moving forward with Pain Management – Introducing the Global Pain Council

Diagnosing pain and suffering in companion animals and prescribing appropriate measures to manage and relieve it is one of the most vital functions a veterinarian can perform but, as in many areas of veterinary care, the range of approaches and techniques varies dramatically across the world.

The WSAVA, under the chairmanship of Professor Karol Mathews, is now moving ahead with an initiative to promote higher standards of pain management at a global level. The first step was the creation of a Global Pain Council (GPC) which has identified two initial activities:



Karol Mathews

- The collation of pain assessment and management information into a 'Global Pain Treatise'
- The compilation of an inventory of pain management needs in regions around the globe.

Once these pieces of work have been completed, they will be used as a basis to help the GPC design and deliver targeted and customised educational (CE) programs. The CE will be delivered in the regions, at the WSAVA Congress, as part of WSAVA member association CE events and through online CPD.

Further phases of activity for the GPC are also planned but will be dependent on industry sponsorship. They include:

- The creation of a marketing plan and promotional materials to support the Global Pain Management Treatise and the CE program
- Further work with regional academic institutions and associations to ensure progress towards self-sufficiency/reliance on continued regional Pain Management CE
- Further implementation of the CE program with a particular focus on academic institutions
- Regional lobbying for access to needed pain management medication
- Expansion into pet owner education/awareness

For further information on this project, please contact wsavasecretariat@gmail.com.



Some words of appreciation – Professor Peter Suter



Image of Peter Suter

We've been saddened to hear of the passing of our illustrious colleague, Peter Suter. His family have prepared a brief eulogy which we thought you would like to share. He was a wonderful man and an exceptional veterinarian.

Professor Dr. med. vet. Peter F. Suter, aged 80, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 12th, 2011, in his home town of Affoltern am Albis following a brief

but intense battle with pancreatic cancer.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 51 years Evelyn, his sons Martin, Chris and Roy, two daughters in law, five grandchildren and many close friends.

Born and raised in Switzerland, Peter initially assumed he would step into the shoes of his father and take over the family farm. However at the age of twenty he decided to become a veterinarian and graduated from the University of Zurich in 1955. He met his wife while working at his uncle's flower shop to help fund his studies. They married in 1959 and moved to Hedingen to raise a family. In addition to working as a veterinarian at the Tierspital of the University of Zurich, Peter opened his own small animal practice during evenings and weekends. He soon became a favorite point of call for local families and farmers.

Impressed with his academic achievements, teachers and colleagues encouraged Peter to pursue a full time academic career in Veterinary Medicine. He was fascinated by the field of radiology, and soon moved his family to the United States of America to pursue his dream. He initially worked as an

Assistant Professor in the radiology department at the Animal Medical Center in New York between 1967 and 1969. He then moved to California to join the radiology department of the University of California, Davis, Veterinary School, where he worked as a Professor from 1969 until 1981.

His ground-breaking research, publications and passion for teaching cemented his reputation as one of the world's leading radiologists. In 1981 Peter returned to Switzerland where he took over the position of Director of the Clinic for Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zurich. During the following fifteen years until his retirement in 1995, Peter was a key driving force helping to establish Zurich as a veterinary school and clinic of international stature.

Throughout his career, Peter was a prolific author, publishing numerous text books, many of which have become "classics" with both veterinary students and practicing veterinarians alike around the world. A few examples include "Canine Cardiology" published together with Stephen J. Ettinger in 1970, "Thoracic Radiography: A Text Atlas of Thoracic Diseases of the Dog and Cat" published in 1984, and "Praktikum der Hundeklinik" republished over many years in numerous languages together with Hans Georg Niemand.

Peter Suter has been honoured with life-time achievement awards for his significant contributions to the field of veterinary medicine by many international veterinary associations, among them the American Animal Hospital Association, the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, and the European Association of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging.

Peter was an avid gardener all his life, spending hours planting and tending his flowers, vegetables and fruit trees. Since his retirement, he has spent a large part of his time with his beloved horse Bingo, riding a horse-drawn carriage together with his wife Evelyn in the forests and fields where he grew up.

Get Registered for the 2011 WSAVA Congress

The dreadful events in Japan have potential implications for our 2011 and 2013 Congresses. While these pale in comparison to the human tragedy which continues to unfold, the WSAVA and the respective Congress 2011 and 2013 Local Organizing Committees have already been in contact with each other and discussed potential contingency plans should the need arise.

Currently, we are relieved to say that no structural or environmental damage has befallen Jeju, Korea, and time is still on the side of 2013 preparations. We will keep our members fully abreast of developments.

If all goes well, five thousand delegates are expected to gather at Jeju for the 2011 WSAVA-FASAVA-KAHA Congress. It takes place on October 14-17 and will offer a

comprehensive scientific program delivered by global experts from around the world in a social atmosphere where veterinarians from around the world can share information, achievements and build a sense of fellowship.

We encourage delegates to register early to take advantage of the early bird rate which is available until 30 April 2011.

Full details and the registration form are available at **www.wsava2011.org**

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