

# WSAVA



News Bulletin July 2011



**In this edition...**

**OIE and WSAVA work together for One Health**

**'Around the WSAVA' –  
meet some of the team**

**Countdown  
to Congress**

The volcanic coastline of Jeju



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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.

Follow us on facebook (WSAVA or One Health One Medicine) or keep up with WSAVA President Jolle Kirpensteijn on Twitter - @WSAVAPrez

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## Welcome from the President



I can hardly believe it's time for the next WSAVA Bulletin but I'm delighted that it's packed with achievements and initiatives to prepare you for the forthcoming Assembly Meeting and World Congress in Jeju, Korea. I can promise you that the local organizing committee is pulling out all the stops to make it a highly memorable event so book your tickets and make your plans. Flights are filling up!

Speaking of flying, I've done my share this year, travelling around the globe for WSAVA events. Highlights include a visit to Korea and New Zealand, hosts of the 2011 and 2013 World Congresses respectively, and to Paris, where the WSAVA became an official observer at the OIE. This is a huge step for us as it means we are now formally recognised as the definitive representative of companion animals and their health within OIE, the global political and governing body dealing with animal health.

Professor Michael Day and I spent a useful week at the OIE Congress meeting new colleagues and promoting companion animal health, even in areas where it had previously been regarded as a lesser priority. We must remember that many of the infectious diseases in humans we see around the world today have either been transferred by or hosted in companion animals. With this in mind, it's no surprise that One Health was one of the key topics on the agenda for the week. Should a severe outbreak affect our beloved cats and dogs, we must be ready to act progressively, effectively and collaboratively. This is the strength of our partnership with the OIE – we represent over 80,000 veterinarians globally and the OIE spans the globe in its efforts to promote animal welfare and health.

New Zealand is, of course, still recovering from the deadly earthquake in Christchurch and my family there was recently shaken by a new tremor, which brought further destruction to this beautiful city. In view of the situation, the local organizing committee has decided to switch the venue of the 2013 World Congress to Auckland. I saw the new site and was very impressed. Planning is already well underway and I'd like to congratulate the organizing committee on coping with such a difficult situation.

Last but not least, the WSAVA Global Nutritional Guidelines have now been published in the *Journal of Small Animal Practice (JSAP)* and the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery (JFMS)*. Did you know that the JSAP is actually our official journal? We are delighted to be in partnership with a key clinical journal and all WSAVA members are entitled to a discounted subscription.

As for the Guidelines, they are freely downloadable for everyone; simply go to [www.wsava.org](http://www.wsava.org) for more information on this exciting initiative and the Guideline links, including translated versions. I'd like to again thank Hills Pet Nutrition for its donation of the educational grant which enabled us to develop them. The next step will be a global consortium, supported by the entire pet food industry, to help us drive implement of the Guidelines in practice. More on this soon!

2011 is proving to be one of the WSAVA's most successful years in terms of initiatives, activities and progress towards our global goals. It's a privilege to be working closely with so many of you who are striving to take veterinary care to a new level. The sky really is the limit!

**Jolle Kirpensteijn**

### OIE and WSAVA join forces

We're delighted to announce a link-up between the WSAVA and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) with the signing of an agreement to promote increased collaboration between us in the area of One Health. The OIE is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health and welfare worldwide and for the global surveillance of animal diseases, including zoonoses.

We've been granted full observer status at the annual OIE General Assembly. We'll also be collaborating on activities including the development of global standards and guidelines to improve companion animal health and the continuing education of companion animal veterinarians. In addition, we're exploring how to implement practical measures including developing communication campaigns to increase awareness of infectious disease surveillance and reporting programs.

WSAVA President Jolle Kirpensteijn says: "The agreement with the OIE confirms the WSAVA and its One Health Committee as the appointed voice for companion animals and their veterinarians worldwide. Companion animal veterinarians play a significant role in the One Health concept because of their strategic position in reporting the emergence or re-emergence of zoonotic infectious diseases at the companion animal-human interface. It's therefore imperative that adequate surveillance systems are in place. We see major benefits for human health from comparative research into spontaneously arising disorders of companion animals and believe there is a wider societal aspect because of the human-companion animal bond.

I'd like to thank Dr David Wadsworth and Professor Michael Day, Chairman of the WSAVA One Health Committee, for their hard work which has paved the way for this agreement and we look forward to working together to achieve our common goal."



(left to right) Professor Michael Day (Chairman of the WSAVA One Health Committee), Professor Jolle Kirpensteijn, President of the WSAVA, Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of OIE and Dr Alex Thiermann (President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the OIE)

Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, adds: "The One Health concept recognises the link between human and animal health. As we work to promote, improve and defend the health and well being of all species and to detect and report diseases at the human-animal interface, greater collaboration with all specialties of the veterinary profession is essential.

The WSAVA represents an important segment of practicing veterinarians, who until now have not been closely linked with the OIE. We look forward to the insight, experience and expertise the WSAVA team will bring to our work on behalf of companion animals."

### WSAVA Foundation launched

A WSAVA Foundation has been launched with a remit to improve global companion animal care through science and education. It held its first meeting early in 2011 and is identifying potential projects, including:

- initiatives to educate veterinarians and the public globally about disease prevention and improvement of health in companion animals
- supporting standardization projects in key areas of companion animal health and welfare
- supporting the development of innovative clinical approaches for the diagnosis and treatment of clinical diseases in companion animals

The Foundation is also identifying sources of funding, grants and partnerships with the veterinary pharmaceutical and pet nutrition sectors and other potential donors.



Dr Larry Dee

Dr Larry Dee, WSAVA Foundation President and former WSAVA President, says: "The WSAVA Foundation gives global veterinary medicine a wonderful opportunity to utilize the networking resources and global 'connectivity' of the WSAVA to deliver on its goal of improving companion care everywhere. We'll be announcing details of our first initiatives shortly."

### Communication survey update

We're grateful to the 37 member associations which have completed the online questionnaire to guide us in the content and format of information that we provide about our work. We're analysing the findings in detail to help fine-tune our communications but have already picked up some useful data which we'd like to share with you:

An initial review of responses indicates that our members don't want 'more' communication, just 'better' and 'convenient' communication. With this in mind, we were pleased to receive largely positive feedback on the e-bulletin. Our next project will be to redevelop the website. Expect more on this shortly.

If you'd like to tell us what you think, there's still time.

**By clicking on this link**

**<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22CF8RU76C8/>**  
**you will be taken to the WSAVA online survey.**





## Globe-trotting guidelines

As more and more national associations endorse our recently launched Global Nutritional Guidelines, Dr Clayton MacKay, a Canadian veterinary consultant who led the development work, has been spreading the word during a series of lectures in New Zealand. The lecture tour, which took place during May and which visited nine cities in New Zealand, was attended by over 700 veterinarians and members of their veterinary health care teams. It was endorsed by the New Zealand Companion Animal Society and supported by an educational grant from Hill's Pet Nutritional New Zealand.

"The WSAVA Global Nutritional Guidelines were enthusiastically received," says Clayton. "Every lecture was sold out and some potential delegates had to be turned away because there was no room. Following the tour, we hope many clinics in New Zealand will start including nutritional assessments on every patient during every visit."

The WSAVA Global Nutritional Guidelines have been endorsed by the following associations and can be viewed through links and translations available via the WSAVA website – [www.wsava.org](http://www.wsava.org).



Clayton MacKay during the lecture in Palmerston North, New Zealand

### Endorsing associations:

- USA - American Animal Hospital Association
- USA - American Association of Feline Practitioners
- Sweden - Swedish Society of Veterinary Medicine
- New Zealand - Companion Animal Society of the New Zealand Veterinary Association
- Iran - Iran Small Animal Veterinary Association
- Singapore - Singapore Veterinary Association
- Norway - Norwegian Small Animal Veterinary Association
- Poland - Polish Small Animal Veterinary Association

- International Society of Feline Medicine
- Netherlands - Netherlands Association for Companion Animal Medicine
- France - AFVAC
- China - Beijing Small Animal Veterinary Association
- China - Shanghai Small Animal Veterinary Association
- Argentina - AVEACA
- Brazil - ANCLIVEPA-Br
- Peru - AMVEPPA

To add your association's name to this list, please email [wsavasecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:wsavasecretariat@gmail.com)

## Around WSAVA Assembly Member Profile

In this occasional series, we'll profile individuals who play a key role in running the WSAVA. For this issue we've talked to Professor Ellen Bjerkås, a member of the WSAVA's Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) for the last two years:

### What is the role of the Financial Advisory Committee?

**Ellen:** The FAC oversees the financial management of WSAVA on behalf of the Executive Board. It also ensures that our financial affairs are run in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, standards and best practice guidelines. We review the annual budget and management strategy and monitor our accounting policies and principles. We report to the Executive Board and the General Assembly.

### What is your 'day job'?

**Ellen:** In the WSAVA General Assembly I represent the Norwegian Small Animal Veterinary Association (NSAVA). My day work is being an ECVO Diplomate and Professor in the Department of Companion Animal Clinical Sciences at the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science in Oslo.

### Who are your fellow Committee members?

**Ellen:** The FAC has five members – three are drawn from the General Assembly and two are from the Executive Board. The Executive Board members are Shane Ryan, the Treasurer and WSAVA President Jolle Kirpensteijn. The General Assembly members are Julian Wells from BSAVA ; Pieter Verhoek from NZVA-CAS and me.

### How does it carry out its work?

**Ellen:** Because of the geographical challenges, we conduct



Professor Ellen Bjerkås

much of our work by email, discussing issues and sharing our thoughts and ideas. We also hold conference calls when we need the opportunity to discuss issues as a group. If the FAC is asked for its opinion on a particular topic, we present a written report of our discussions and recommendations to the Executive Board.

### Do you have regular meetings during the year?

**Ellen:** Face-to face meetings are expensive and time-consuming but we meet before each annual meeting of the General Assembly. The meeting's minutes are recorded and agreed by the committee prior to presentation to the Executive Board meeting which takes place after the FAC meeting.

### What is most challenging about the FAC's work?

**Ellen:** The work of the FAC is not easy but is vital for the success of the WSAVA. My fellow team members are thorough and dedicated, working hard to ensure the financial rigour of the WSAVA.

## Adriana López Quintana, WSAVA Assembly Member from Uruguay, says involvement brings great challenges but also great rewards!

"When the WSAVA's e-bulletin editor asked me to write about my experience as an Assembly member, my first thought was what my message should be. It is quite simple – we must all get more involved!

I graduated in June 1996 but have been involved in the veterinary profession since I was born. Both my parents are retired vets. I'm proud to say they were pioneers in many aspects of animal and public health improvement in my country Uruguay, South America.

My father used to say that the fact that he and his wife were able to produce the first pasteurized milk in Maldonado (one of Uruguay's 19 regions); perform the first surgery for diaphragmatic hernia in Uruguay or create the Maldonado Veterinary



Adriana López Quintana

Association to share knowledge and best practice was because they happened to be in right place at the right time.

This is partly true but there's more to it than this. If you want to make changes, you must be prepared to invest in continuing education and, more importantly, you must be prepared to step forward – to be proactive; to share acquired knowledge and even perhaps to sacrifice some family and leisure time in the interests of furthering

the profession we all feel so passionately about.

I am the mother of two wonderful boys, 20 year old Martin and 12 year old Nicolas. I am also an amateur long distances adventure racer (open water swimming, canoeing, trekking, mountain bike, compass orientation, triathlons and half-ironmen), the chief professor of small animal medicine at a private veterinary school and President of the Maldonado Veterinary Association a non-profit organization that brings together veterinary practitioners of all specialties in the region. I work with one assistant in a small animal veterinary clinic where we do everything from vaccinations to major surgery. I'm available and on call 24 hours a day as my colleagues know of my interest in emergency work – much of which seems to take place at night!

In the WSAVA Assembly I represent the Latin American Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (LAVECCS). This non-profit organization was founded on 1 April 2007 by a group of like-minded friends and colleagues who shared a common dream to improve the level of emergency and critical care medicine throughout Latin America through education and the exchange of experiences.

Four years on, we are proud to have made great progress. We have, for instance, implemented the ABC LAVECCS continuing education program which so far includes two separate two and half day courses involving both theory and practical work which have been held several times in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay. The next step is to run them in Paraguay, Argentina, Chile and Venezuela and then go from there...

The first course – ABC Trauma - teaches veterinarians safe, reliable methods for assessing and initially managing emergency patients. The second course - ABC Critical Care - covers the fundamental principles which should be observed during the first 24 hours' care of critically ill patients. On 28 July 2011, the fourth Latin American Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Congress will open in Santiago de Chile. It will run for three days in two simultaneous rooms and offer both a general program and eight workshops.

Recently, I've been honored to be invited to work with the WSAVA Foundation to help it meet its goal of 'improving animal care through science and education'. This is a wonderful concept and a challenge requiring commitment not just from its board directors but from the entire profession. We have developed our web page [www.wsavafoundation.org](http://www.wsavafoundation.org) and are now looking for funding so that we can start evaluating and granting projects which reflect our goals.

Personally, I think that our major goal for the forthcoming Assembly meeting in Jeju is to secure the support and buy in of the profession. Accomplishing major global projects requires participation from many of us. Without massive support and involvement they may remain merely unfulfilled dreams...

So, how can you help? Please spread the word. Make suggestions. Persuade your clients to contribute. Even 25 cents for every sale at your clinic can become thousands of dollars invested on education and better care for our patients. Dare to make the difference, dare to become involved

**...The WSAVA needs you!"**



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## Countdown to Congress

Don't forget to register for the 2011 WSAVA-FASAVA-KAHA Congress which takes place in Jeju, Korea 14-17 October. It will offer a comprehensive scientific programme delivered by global experts and provide a social atmosphere where veterinarians can share information, achievements and build a sense of fellowship. Don't miss it!

Full details of the clinical programme and the registration form are available at [www.wsava2011.org](http://www.wsava2011.org).

Congress is, of course, more than an outstanding clinical experience – it also gives you an opportunity to explore a unique part of the world so, as you reach for your guide-books, here are some key facts to whet your appetite:

- Jeju is the largest island in South Korea at 73 km wide and 41 km long. A self-governing province, it was formed from a series of volcanic eruptions and is dominated by Mount Halla, which rises to 1,950 metres above sea level. The island slopes down from its summit and is covered in soil laden with volcanic ash. Walk along its coast and you'll see countless fantastically shaped gray rocks. Isolated from the rest of the world, the Jeju's environment is well preserved and features many rare species of flora. It basks in a mild climate - the average temperature in October is around 18°C.



One of the many Dolharbang on Jeju

- The many Dolharbang have become symbols of Jeju. 'Dol' means stone, and harubang (harbang) is a sculpture made of the black volcanic rock. The Stone Guardian, found only on Jeju, is a kind of totem pole positioned in front of castles and believed to prevent evil.
- Look out for the Oreum ('small mountain' in Jeju dialect) – or small volcanic cones which litter the island. Among the 386 oreum, the best known are Abu-oreum and Daranshi-oreum.
- The Jejuorang-mal is a small horse, usually brown, maroon or milky white which are native to Jeju. Adults typical stand 112 cm at the shoulder and they are characterised by a broad face, well balanced frame and mild temperament. While there were once more than 20,000, their numbers have reduced dramatically with only 1,000 remaining. Fortunately, they have now been designated a 'precious national treasure' by the Korean government.
- Jeju is famous for its female divers known as 'haenyeo' or 'sea women,' who dive in the ocean without scuba gear to special tools. All they use is a float to mark their location when they surface, a weeding hoe to dig up abalone and other shellfish that cling to the rocks and a net to hold their catch. Wearing a lead-weighted vest and goggles, they plunge up to 20 meters and can stay submerged for minutes at a time. You may spot them swimming among the black rocks on Jeju's coastline.

## WSAVA 2012 Awards – Closing date approaching!

You have until **1 September 2011** to enter nominations for the **WSAVA's 2012 awards** which will be presented during **WSAVA World Congress** to be hosted by the **BSAVA in Birmingham from 12-15 April 2012**.

Full details of the awards, entry criteria and how to enter are on the WSAVA website or available from [wsavasecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:wsavasecretariat@gmail.com). You can also request further information on any of the stories featured in this issue of the WSAVA e-bulletin at this email address

