

To: Executive Board
American College of Veterinary Dermatology

From: Sheila Torres, DVM
American College of Veterinary Dermatology
WSAVA Representative

Subject: Report – The ACVD as an Affiliated Member of the WSAVA

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Background

The purpose of the [World Small Animal Veterinary Association](#) (WSAVA) is to advance the quality and availability of veterinary medicine and surgery relating to small animals on a global basis. The association's stated primary mission is: *“To advance the health and welfare of companion animals worldwide through an educated, committed and collaborative global community of veterinary peers.”*

Membership in the WSAVA is open to **veterinary associations** concerned with the medicine and surgery of small animals. Each member association must have a minimum membership of 100 veterinarians. **Affiliated Membership** is open to specialist colleges or organizations related to a particular area of small animal medicine and surgery. The WSAVA is essentially an association of associations. Individual veterinarians cannot join the WSAVA, but receive various membership benefits; which are stated below.

WSAVA is currently composed of 114 member associations representing more than 200,000 veterinarians globally. Each year, an annual WSAVA World Congress is held in a different part of the world hosted by a member association under the auspices of the WSAVA.

The ACVD joined WSAVA in 2002 - The ACVD membership bid was accepted at the 2002 WSAVA World Congress in Granada, Spain. The ACVD became the first specialty college to become an affiliated WSAVA member organization.

Voting in the WSAVA: The Representatives of member associations have votes related to the number of veterinarians they represent:

1 - 500 veterinarians:	1 vote
500 – 1500 veterinarians:	2 votes
1500 – 5000 veterinarians:	3 votes
>5000 veterinarians:	4 votes

Therefore, the ACVD has one vote.

Potential Goals of ACVD Membership in the WSAVA

The goals of ACVD membership in the WSAVA are to help advance veterinary dermatology on a global basis, to increase global awareness of the ACVD, to advance veterinary dermatology as a specialty discipline, to increase awareness of specialty medicine in general, and to offer the expertise of the ACVD to the WSAVA and the international veterinary community.

At the NAVDF in 2011, I (Sheila Torres) presented to the ACVD board the idea of forming a group of dermatologists interested in helping achieve the above goals. The board fully supported this initiative and the group was formed and named: Global Veterinary Dermatology Education Group (GVDEG). The members represent different regions of the world and include: Lowell Ackerman (USA), Jeanne B. Budgin (USA), Chiara Noli (Italy), Jesica Grandinetti (Argentina), Veronica Pareja (Ecuador), Chi-Yen Wu (Taiwan) and Sheila Torres (USA). The GVDEG group works closely with the WSAVA but it is an independent organization. The WSAVA is an important partner as it helps identify the underdeveloped places around the world where our group can act.

ACVD representation at the WSAVA

In 2023, the Assembly meeting took place on September 26th in Lisbon, Portugal. I attended the Assembly and voted on behalf of the ACVD.

WSAVA membership benefits ([Find out more](#))

- ✓ Opportunity to join one of the WSAVA's Clinical Committees, which provides members with the opportunity to work with colleagues from all over the world.
- ✓ Opportunity to nominate members for WSAVA awards.
- ✓ Opportunity to join the WSAVA Executive Board.
- ✓ Discounted World Congress registration for members and free access to the proceedings and webcasts of the congress.
- ✓ The opportunity to create or participate in a WSAVA Global Outreach program.
- ✓ The opportunity to submit a joint bid with a full member to co-host a future WSAVA congress.
- ✓ Free access to previous WSAVA World Congress presentations.
- ✓ Free access to WSAVA high quality online courses and resources.
- ✓ Members of WSAVA's Member Associations receive a discount on the personal subscription rate for an online subscription of the Journal of Small Animal Practice (JSAP). JSAP is the WSAVA's official scientific journal. Published monthly, it covers all aspects of medicine and surgery relating to dogs, cats and other small animals.
- ✓ A free online subscription of the Global Edition of Clinician's Brief newsletter is available to all members of WSAVA member associations. Its digital Global Edition is rated #1 by practitioners for its content, which promotes best practice in the care of companion animals. Clinician's Brief is the WSAVA's official clinical practice publication.
- ✓ A 14-day free trial and a discounted subscription to "The Timeless Vet Drug Index", an evidence-based veterinary drug formulary app.
- ✓ A discounted online subscription to Vetlexicon from Vetstream, the world's largest clinical veterinary reference tool.
- ✓ A discounted online subscription to Vetfolio, an educational platform developed by NAVC.
- ✓ A discounted registration for "Fear Free Certification".
- ✓ A discounted registration to "The Webinar Vet", the world's largest online veterinary congress.
- ✓ Free subscription to the WSAVA e-bulletin published twice a month. It provides information on clinical tips, CE for practitioners, member activities and updates on WSAVA news.
- ✓ Ability to participate in the WSAVA Continuing Education Program.
- ✓ Ability to utilize the work of the WSAVA Committees and Standardization projects.

- ✓ Member associations can be involved with the development of global WSAVA guidelines and their endorsement.
- ✓ The following resources are available for download at the WSAVA website:
 - Global Dental Guidelines
 - Global Veterinary Vaccination guidelines for dogs and cats
 - Global Nutrition guidelines for dogs and cats
 - Gastrointestinal guidelines
 - Animal Welfare guidelines
 - Global Pain guidelines for the assessment and management of pain in animals
 - Liver Disease guidelines
 - Hereditary Disease guidelines
 - Renal Standardization guidelines
 - WSAVA microchip identification guidelines
 - Global Principles of Veterinary Collegiality
 - Professional Wellness Resources
 - Veterinary Oncology Resources
 - COVID-19 Advice and Resources

2023 highlights

- ✓ The 48th WSAVA World Congress took place on September 27-29, 2023, in Lisbon, Portugal. More than 3,700 delegates from 103 countries attended the Congress.
- ✓ The WAVD became an affiliate member of the WSAVA. Dr. Susan Paterson, the current WAVD President, delivered an inspiring presentation at the Lisbon Congress, highlighting how the WAVD can contribute to the WSAVA mission and vice versa.
- ✓ WSAVA's Educational Partner, the [International Partnership for Dogs \(IPFD\)](#), provides resources on a specific breed and highlights their potential diseases among other things. In 2023, the IPFD published information on the Chihuahua ([Get a GRIHP! On the Chihuahuas](#)) and Beagle ([Get a GRIHP! On Beagles](#)) dogs.
- ✓ The Global Nutrition Committee is one of the oldest long-standing WSAVA's committees. In 2023, it focused in promoting the use of their toolkit and the nutritional assessment modules to all members of the veterinary healthcare team including veterinary technicians and students. Check the following useful resources: [Global Nutrition Guidelines](#); (ii) [Selecting Pet Foods](#) and, (iii) [Raw Meat Based Diets For Pets](#).
- ✓ The WSAVA One Health Committee has been working in collaboration with external experts to complete the new WSAVA Global Guidelines on Small Companion Animal Direct Zoonoses, which will include information on dogs, cats, exotic, and other non-traditional pets. The guidelines will eventually be published in the Journal of Small Animal Practice. In addition, the committee plans to have the guidelines in an app for easy access by both veterinarians and family physicians.
- ✓ The WSAVA's Professional Wellness Group created the Global Guidelines on Professional Wellness with the ultimate goal of supporting veterinary wellness around the world. Access the guidelines [here](#). In addition, an online Certificate in Professional Development and Personal Wellbeing was introduced.
- ✓ The WSAVA launched a webinar series with the ultimate goal of helping all members of the veterinary healthcare team build communication, leadership and management skills that are essential to the sustainability of the veterinary profession. Register [here](#) to watch the series on demand.

- ✓ The Reproduction Control Guidelines were created by the WSAVA's Reproduction Control Committee with the goal of helping veterinarians make science-based decisions in the management of their patients while safeguarding animal welfare. The guidelines will be available at the [WSAVA site](#) soon.
- ✓ The WSAVA Therapeutic Guidelines Group launched the second edition of its Essential Medicines List for Cats and Dogs. This document is an important initiative that supports companion animal veterinarians in many regions of the world to have access to drugs required for minimum standards of clinical practice. You can review the document [here](#).
- ✓ The WSAVA Vaccination Guidelines Group launched the Sub-Saharan Africa Vaccination Guidelines project in South Africa. For more information on this four-year project visit [here](#).
- ✓ The WSAVA, with the support of Zoetis, launched a Certificate in Pain Management to improve the recognition, assessment and treatment of pain by the veterinary healthcare team. Register [here](#) if you are interested in the Certificate.
- ✓ The WSAVA Oncology Working Group facilitated member access to oncology scientific articles. In addition, the Group continues to translate the WSAVA Oncology Glossary, which is currently available in 16 languages.
- ✓ The WSAVA Hereditary Disease Committee launched a video on canine brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome.
- ✓ Check the [WSAVA Academy](#) for a series of courses and recordings of Congress lectures. These materials are free of charge and cover various areas of interest to the veterinary healthcare team.
- ✓ The WSAVA Oncology Working Group has developed a series of [relevant educational tools and resources](#)

2024 highlights

- ✓ The 49th World Congress is expected to take place in Suzhou, China, on September 3-5, 2024.
- ✓ In 2024 WSAVA will focus in the following key strategic areas: (i) Setting standards for companion veterinary animal practice; (ii) Personal and professional development for the companion animal veterinary team; (iii) Campaigning for change in important issues (e.g. build on the relationship with WOAHA to ultimately reach governments and regulators etc.); (iv) Investing in enabling factors (e.g. launch a new communication strategy, revamp the website to make it easier to navigate etc.); and (v) Strengthening the WSAVA community.