

# WSAVA



News Bulletin December 2011

**2011 – a record year  
for new members**

**WSAVA endorses AAHA  
Practice Accreditation Scheme**

**WSAVA CE – from strength  
to strength**

**Meet President  
Elect Peter Ihrke**



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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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## Welcome from the President

Christmas is in the air! Mind you, Dutch people always find it strange to talk about Christmas before 5 December – because this is the day of the Sinterklaas festival which is very important in the Netherlands.

Sinterklaas (or St Nicolaas) is a traditional Winter holiday figure. He arrives by sea, arriving in a Dutch harbour three weeks ahead of his festival in his bishop's robes - the original St Nicolaas was a Spanish bishop - and with his many helpers called Zwarte Pieten (Black Peters). They spend the next few weeks travelling the country, Sinterklaas on a white horse, parading through towns and checking out how well the children have been behaving.

On 4 December, children sing Sinterklaas songs and leave out a wish list and perhaps a carrot in their shoe by the chimney when they go to bed. While they sleep the Zwarte Piet comes down the chimneys delivering presents. They get very dirty in the process so that's why they're called Black Peters.

Of course, you only get presents if you're good. If you've been naughty, you might find nothing in your shoe or perhaps a bunch of sticks for you to be beaten with. If you still don't start to behave, Sinterklaas just might come later in the day to take you with him to Spain to a 'bootcamp.' We at the WSAVA have been blessed with some wonderful presents this year; a doubling of our membership; a memorandum of understanding with the OIE; many active committees and a committed team driving our work forward.

By the time you read this, you'll be thinking of Christmas and Sinterklaas will be on his boat back to Spain (taking with him all the naughty Dutch children.) I hope that I will still be here in the Netherlands and able to send to you, wherever you are in the world, the WSAVA's greetings and the hope that you have a wonderful and relaxing festive season and a very happy new year.

If Sinterklaas has taken me, I'll wish you the same from a relaxing beach bootcamp in Spain.

**Jolle Kirpensteijn**





## WSAVA endorses AAHA practice accreditation scheme

The WSAVA has announced its support for the American Animal Hospital Association's accreditation program and is working with the organisation to raise awareness of the help it can offer to veterinary professionals around the world.

The AAHA's program, currently unique to North America, accredits practices based on their adherence to standards covering, for instance, the physical environment they provide, the type of equipment they offer and the clinical standards they adhere to. Specific standards have been developed for a range of practice settings including a general clinic, an emergency clinic and a specialty practice. Practices have to submit to a detailed inspection and those completing it successfully are awarded a certificate of accreditation. Re-inspections are arranged based on the accreditation on a periodic schedule.



For further information contact Debbie at [Debbie.gadomski@aahnet.org](mailto:Debbie.gadomski@aahnet.org)

Debbie Gadomski, RVT, National Field Operations Manager at the AAHA comments: "Each year we receive many calls from veterinarians around the world who want to become AAHA accredited in order to optimize their hospital procedures and patient care. While we can't expand our own program beyond North America, we can help other associations develop accreditation programs which are appropriate to their needs so this is where we are now focusing our efforts with the support of the WSAVA.

Earlier this year, for instance, we had the privilege of working with a group of veterinarians and educators from the Veterinary Practitioner Association of Thailand (VPAT), including Siraya Chunekamrai, DVM, PhD, a member of the WSAVA's Executive Board, to explore the best way of developing accreditation schemes for Thailand and other countries in South East Asia.

WSAVA President Jolle Kirpensteijn adds: "The promotion of best practice guidelines for treating conditions with global relevance is one of the WSAVA's key focus areas so we share a common vision with the AAHA in this respect. Its work complements our approach to diagnostic and therapeutic guideline setting and we're delighted that they are receiving such a strong level of interest globally in their practice standards. We are great supporters of the AAHA's work and look forward to working with the organization collaboratively during 2012 and beyond.

## 2011 - a record year for new members

We're delighted to announce that 13 new member associations have joined the WSAVA this year. Between them, they represent around 65,000 new companion animal veterinarians, bringing the total number we represent globally to around 180,000. This is a great achievement and reflects the hard work carried out by our existing members to demonstrate the value and effectiveness of the organisation in enhancing the clinical care of companion animals globally.

### Full members:

- The American Veterinary Medical Association
- The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
- The Society of Japanese Companion Animal Practitioners
- The Japanese Board of Veterinary Practitioners
- The St Petersburg Veterinary Society

### Associate members:

- The Albanian Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons
- Ghana Private Veterinary Medical Association
- The Society of Companion Animal Practitioners of Sri Lanka
- The Mongolian Veterinary Medical Association
- The Vietnam Small Animal Veterinary Association

### Affiliate members:

- The Veterinary Society of Surgical Oncology
- The Western Veterinary Conference
- The World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association

We'd like to extend a big welcome to all our new members associations. We look forward to working with you in 2012 and beyond!

## William 'Bill' F Jackson, D.V.M. 1927 - 2011

We were saddened to hear the recent announcement by the Florida Veterinary Medical Association that FVMA Past President William 'Bill' F. Jackson died at home on 14 December 2011.

Dr Jackson was president of the FVMA in 1978 was also a past president of the AVMA and the WSAVA. He served as editor of the American Animal Hospital Association Journal, was on the AVMA Council of Education; was a charter Diplomate for Examination of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons; a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmology and a founder and an honorary Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. He earned his DVM degree in 1947 from Michigan State University.



William 'Bill' F Jackson D.V.M

Photographer - D.E.A. Barnick

We are keeping him and his family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

## From strength to strength

Now in its 19th year, the WSAVA's global CE program for graduate veterinary surgeons continues to be a key focus for us and is, I'm delighted to say, going from strength to strength. By the end of 2011 we'll have supported thirty meetings globally and helped 4,000 veterinarians improve their skills – a great achievement!

Looking round the world, it's noticeable that our need to provide training in Europe is reducing as most countries here now have veterinary associations capable of providing their own meetings. This is a welcome development, enabling us to devote more resources to other regions.



A CE session in Peru

Our Asian section is growing fast for instance. While we've continued to serve the needs of our established partners– India, Sri Lanka and Nepal - under the stewardship of Dr Umesh Karkare from India, we've also started to reach out to countries including Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines. Our coordinator for these countries is Dr Clement Anthony from Malaysia. You can expect more progress in this region during 2012.

Dr Louis Liu from China has also taken over as our coordinator in China and we're delighted to welcome him. The three meetings in this vast country were lectures by Dr Michael Day who also chairs the One Health committee.

Our activities in Latin America are also continuing to grow under the direction of Dr Luis Tello from Chile / US. We undertook ten meetings across the continent during 2011 – a continuing year on year increase.

Meanwhile, Dr Lawson Cairns has taken our program to sub Saharan Africa. Running meetings in Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya, he's succeeded in engaging practitioners in the health of small animals rather than the food producing or game animals that we all assume are the norm

there. This program is sponsored entirely by donations from the UK's BSAVA and NACAM from the Netherlands, two veterinary associations with a long term view of veterinary education that extends beyond their borders.

Our CE program would not be possible without the long term commitment of our partners Bayer Animal Health, MSD Animal Health and Hill's Pet Nutrition. I'd like to thank the representatives from these companies: Drs Meyer, Siebert and Renard for their personal involvement and for the energy that they put into driving our CE program forward. Special mention must also be made of Dr Lidiya Alaverdova from Hill's, who, mainly in her own time, worked on the successful first WSAVA webinar which 400 participants 'attended' from around the world. We plan a follow up during 2012.

I'd also like to thank my colleague, Dr Roger Clarke who, after many years overseeing the Asian section, is stepping down in April 2012. Dr Julian Wells is also stepping down after carrying out sterling work in Europe as is Dr Luis Tello in South America.



CE in Tirana, Albania

I will also be retiring in April 2012 and passing the CE baton to my colleague Dr Jill Maddison. Jill is currently working at the Royal Veterinary College in London and we're looking forward to her guidance and expertise as the CE program continues to develop. It's been a privilege working with so many of my colleagues to build our CE program in recent years and I wish them all every success in the future.

**Dr David Wadsworth**



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## Around the WSAVA:

### Meet the Executive Board

Peter Ihrke

Dr Peter Ihrke is President-Elect of the WSAVA and begins his Presidency in April 2012. Here he talks to the WSAVA e-bulletin team:

**WSAVA:** Tell us about your career to date and your 'day job'  
**Peter:** I taught in the Philippines for two years as part of the US Peace Corps before attending the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, where I pursued a residency in dermatology and became a junior faculty member. I then moved to the West Coast to become a faculty member at the University of California (UC Davis). I've been there ever since. I juggle the typical responsibilities of clinical and class room teaching, research and committee work. I've also tried to serve the national and international veterinary community.

**WSAVA:** What do you most enjoy about your role and what's most challenging?

**Peter:** My first loves are the clinical teaching of residents and students; classroom teaching and continued professional development for veterinarians. The most challenging part of a career in academic medicine is balancing the varied aspects of the role. It requires constant multi-tasking. I've always tried to make a difference by giving back to the profession I love so much. This has included serving my specialty college; national and international dermatology organizations and teaching around the world.

**WSAVA:** When and how did you first become involved in the WSAVA?

**Peter:** I was first involved with the WSAVA World Congress in Barcelona at the start of my career. I recall being so excited by the energy created by enthusiastic veterinarians from so many countries! I became more heavily involved 11 years ago when I helped the American College of Veterinary Dermatology (ACVD) join as an affiliate member and became its first assembly representative. I've attended every WSAVA World Congress since then.

**WSAVA:** What have you learnt through your own involvement?

**Peter:** The WSAVA has reinforced my belief in the importance of organized veterinary medicine, locally, nationally and globally. Our members are all striving to elevate veterinary medicine at all levels and to help us become key players in developing the concept of One Health.

**WSAVA:** What are your plans for your presidency?

**Peter:** I'm privileged to be part of a wonderful group of committed people, serving the WSAVA in many ways. I'd like to continue the



Dr Peter Ihrke teaching

strides already made to be more responsive to all of our constituents – our assembly members, our member associations and veterinarians globally. I'm looking forward to involving more young veterinarians and want the rest of my career to focus on driving the global development of veterinary medicine and the links to all medicine.

**WSAVA:** What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

**Peter:** I'm yet another veterinarian who works too many hours in a week! When I'm in California, I love reading, listening to music, swimming, staying in shape, exploring and good food and wine. I've always loved travel and enjoy learning about other cultures.

**WSAVA:** What would you like to say to WSAVA members?

**Peter:** The WSAVA is about thinking globally but, at the same time, being responsive to the needs of member associations. Without the membership, there is no WSAVA!

#### Peter Ihrke's biography

Peter graduated from and completed a Residency in Dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania. He was a Diplomate of the ACVIM (dermatology) and then became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology (ACVD). Currently, he is Professor of Dermatology at the University of California, School of Veterinary Medicine. He also is an Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology at Stanford University School of Medicine. His interests include all skin diseases in all species with emphasis on infectious skin diseases and immunologic skin diseases.

In addition to his role with the WSAVA, Peter has served as President and other positions on the executive boards of the ACVD, the American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology (AAVD), the Academy of Veterinary Allergy (AVA), the 4th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology, and the American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS).

His most meaningful honors include the Faculty School-wide Distinguished Teaching Award at UC Davis, the AAHA (American Animal Hospital Association) 'Veterinarian of the Year Award', Honorary Life Member in the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology (ESVD), 3 school-wide student teaching awards at Davis, the ACVD Award for Excellence, being named an Honorary Foundation Diplomate in the Asian College of Veterinary Dermatology, and receiving the WSAVA Hill's Excellence in Veterinary Healthcare Award.



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Global Veterinary Development





## Looking forward to **WSAVA/FECAVA/BSAVA World Congress 2012:** April 11-15, 2012 in Birmingham, UK

Preparations are well underway by the WSAVA and its Congress partner FECAVA and host BSAVA for the WSAVA/FECAVA/BSAVA World Congress 2012. Held at the ICC/NIA in Birmingham, World Congress 2012 will be the largest international veterinary event ever held in the UK. It will offer more than 40 streams of veterinary CPD lectures featuring 300 lectures by world-class speakers spread over four days, a world-class exhibition space showcasing the latest industry advances from over 250 exhibitors.

With a vibrant social program running alongside it, the event will cater for all levels and abilities of veterinary practice staff and includes extended management streams.

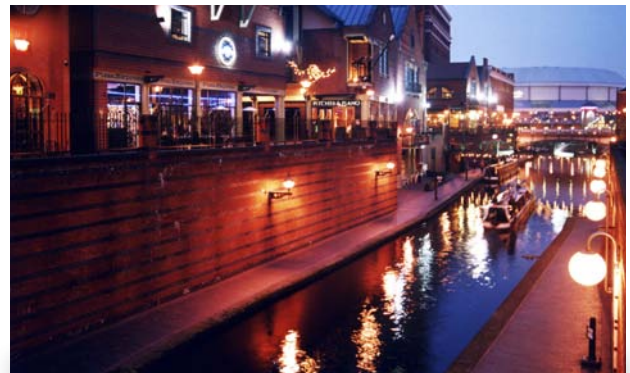
Reminder: Early-bird registration extends until 11 January 2012. For further information go to:

[www.bsava.com/BSAVACongress/Registration/OnlineRegistration/tabid/86/Default.aspx](http://www.bsava.com/BSAVACongress/Registration/OnlineRegistration/tabid/86/Default.aspx)

## A message to delegates from Andrew Ash, **President of BSAVA:**

Preparations are well underway by the WSAVA and its “The first WSAVA Congress took place in London in 1961, and 2012 will be the fifth time we’ve played host. Much has changed in the profession over these five decades and we owe a debt of thanks to our predecessors who have used these occasions to advance scientific knowledge in our profession. I count it as a massive privilege to find myself President during a WSAVA/FECAVA World Congress in Britain.

All involved have put on an impressive effort to make sure that delegates, whether travelling from just a few miles away or from the other side of the world, will return home knowing more and feeling inspired. I am confident that the science will impress and that the warmest welcome will be waiting for each of the 8,000 or more people coming through our doors. We look forward very much to seeing you.”



Birmingham, UK

**Andrew Ash**

<p>It's already time to start thinking about <i>World Congress 2012</i> which takes place from <b>11-15 April</b> in Birmingham, UK. More details will be provided in the next issue</p>	
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For further information on any of the stories in this ebulletin, please contact the **WSAVA Secretariat** at [wsavasecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:wsavasecretariat@gmail.com)

