

GENEVA AND SVK/ASMPA host the World

Hopes were high when Geneva and SVK/ASMPA were selected to host the 35th WSAVA/16th FECAVA/5th FAFVAC Congress. The severe world financial crisis caused some anxiety to the organisers in the Autumn of 2009 and Spring 2010, but under the firm leadership of Christophe Amberger and Frédéric Gaschen the Congress turned out to be a big success. The principal sponsor, Hill's together with main sponsors, Nestlé Purina, Novartis and Pfizer Animal Health and a large number of commercial exhibitors were instrumental in ensuring that the difficult financial times did not prove a disaster.



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There were a staggering 2000 plus delegates. 156 were invited (As a % of the total delegation 2.5 % were officials from WSAVA and 1.1% from FECAVA)
Analysis of delegates was interesting. Seventy four countries were represented! – a truly World event. As is usually the case the highest percentage (35%) of delegates came from the host country, Switzerland. More remarkable is that 65% were from other countries, attesting to the massive efforts in promoting the meeting by SVK. This high proportion of non resident delegates is remarkable.



“Some of the happy 2000 plus delegates”

No less than 75% of delegates were from FECAVA member countries. France and the UK provided the highest percentage of non Swiss delegates, closely followed by Germany. Denmark, Romania and The Netherlands were well represented. From non FECAVA countries the highest numbers were from the USA, Australia, Canada, China and Korea

One of the principal reasons for this success was the excellent scientific programme for both Vets and Nurses. There were 79 speakers from no less than 15 countries, and delegates were able to hear lectures in English, French and German in one of the 8 simultaneous streams.



“Dr Laurent Finji receives the prize for the best reprint article published in EJCAP for his paper Folded flap palatoplasty for the treatment of elongated soft palates in 55dogs From L>>R Johan van Tilburg, FECAVA President, Laurent Finji, Keith Davies ,Editor EJCAP”



“Dr. Alessandra Bergadano receives the prize for the best original article published in EJCAP for her paper Diagnosis of chronic pain in small animals. Awards were presented by FECAVA, WSAVA and FAFVAC at the Opening Ceremony. EJCAP readers will be especially interested in the two FECAVA Awards for best papers in this Journal.

The social highlight was probably the cruise and banquet on Lake Geneva enjoyed by 550 delegates-



“Senior Vice President of WSAVA, Brian Romberg, greets his old friend Heinz Heinemann, a FECAVA founding father”



Under the firm leadership of Frédéric Gaschen and Christophe Amberger the Congress turned out to be a big success.

Keith Davies, Editor of EJCAP

New FECAVA Directors



Dr. Asier Basurco

AVEPA (Spain)



Dr. Oili Gylden

FAVP (Finland)



Dr. Vytautas Macijauskas LSAVA (Lithuania)



Dr. Erkut Goren TSAVA (Turkey)

**THE 9th HVMS CONGRESS ON COMPANION ANIMAL PRACTICE
BEGINS WITH A FECAVA DAY.**



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΤΗΝΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ (ΕΚΕ)
HELLENIC VETERINARY MEDICAL SOCIETY (HVMS)

The 9th Hellenic Veterinary Congress on Companion Animal Practice took place at the Athens Hilton on 19th – 22nd March 2010. There were 900 participants, a record number compared with previous congresses, of which 250 were veterinary students.

Once more, the HVMS/Branch of Companion Animals proved its unique and active presence in the field of companion animals.

The Congress was attended by 54 distinguished invited Greek and foreign speakers. There were 250 free communications and for the first time 22 oral poster presentations. Scientific topics, like toxoplasmosis were of great interest, both for veterinarians and the public. In a special Round Table, there was participation from eminent scientists both from the veterinary and medical community.

On Friday 19th March 2010 and for the first time, HVMS organized a Pre-Congress Conference in English as FECAVA'S DAY. Forty-four colleagues from Rumania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Serbia, Croatia and Cyprus attended.

HVMS was honoured to have the President of FECAVA, Dr Johan van Tilburg, to open the Congress, followed by a very interesting address on rabies from the Vice President of The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) Dr Stephen Ware. Also among the invited guests was Dr Jolle Kirpensteijn, President of WSAVA, whose message was read by our WSAVA representative Prof. Alexandros F. Koutinas.



The President of Fecava, Dr. Johan Van Tilburg, presents his welcome speech during the Opening Ceremony.



The Chairwoman of the Organizing Committee, the General Secretary of HVMS and Director of FECAVA, Mrs. Katerina Loukaki, the President of HVMS and Member of the Academy of Athens, Prof. Spiros K. Kyriakis, the President of FECAVA, Dr. Johan Van Tilburg and the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Prof. Alexandros F. Koutinas, open the Congress.

Today, HVMS has 1100 regular members, of which 520 belong to the branch of companion animals.

Katerina Loukaki (FECAVA Director, HVMS Greece)

Ukrainian Small Animals Veterinary Association – working for a better future

The idea of establishing a Ukrainian association came up at the end of the nineties in Kiev and Odessa and the USAVA was established in 1998 with the mission to take care of animals and humanity. It now has 650 members, led by its President, Vladlen Ušakov

The USAVA joined WSAVA in 2002 and FECAVA in 2005 and is represented in both bodies by Vladimir Tšarkin. The USAVA has organized 93 seminars and 8 international conferences and also 6 continuing education events organized with WSAVA.

USAVA is cooperating with official bodies working on new legislation regulating veterinary medicine and giving advice to members of the association because, presently, veterinary legislation is somewhat chaotic. In the future, the Association is going to organize an internet system for the education of veterinarians and would like to organize a centre of media to collect, coordinate and translate information and get experience from the best clinics in the world as well as to learn about new techniques and treatments.

It recently held a meeting in Černiovci, attended on behalf of the FECACA Board by Jerzy Gawor (Honorary Treasurer). At this congress, there were 250 delegates from seven countries (Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Belorussia, the Czech Republic and Estonia). During the three days of the congress, there were lectures from more than 20 speakers. The first day was sponsored by FECAVA and started with a lecture about the value of FECAVA given by Dr. Gawor. Participants were particularly interested to hear from him about the plans for discounted registration to the next FECAVA Eurocongress in Istanbul. He also presented a lecture on dentistry. His colleague from Poland, Piotr Derkowski, gave a lecture on orthopaedics. The FECAVA Day continued with speakers from Estonia – Katrin Magi (urology) and Tiina Toomet (dermatology). The second day was organized by the Russian Small Animal Veterinary Association (RSAVA) and hopefully marks the beginning of a developing trend. In 2009, one day of the RSAVA Congress was organized by Estonian lecturers and in 2010, Ukrainians repeated this in Moscow. Now it was RSAVA's turn at the USAVA Conference. There are rumours that similar plans have been made for the Moscow and Ukraine Congresses next year. On Sunday morning, there was a quiz about FECAVA and a prize draw. The winners received registrations for the Polish and/or Estonian annual conference.



From left: Vladlen Ushakov (President of USAVA) , Katrin Magi, Jerzy Gawor (holding the Diploma), Tiina Toomet, Piotr Derkowski

During the meeting, FECAVA received a diploma as a valued partner in the development of Ukrainian science and small animal medicine.

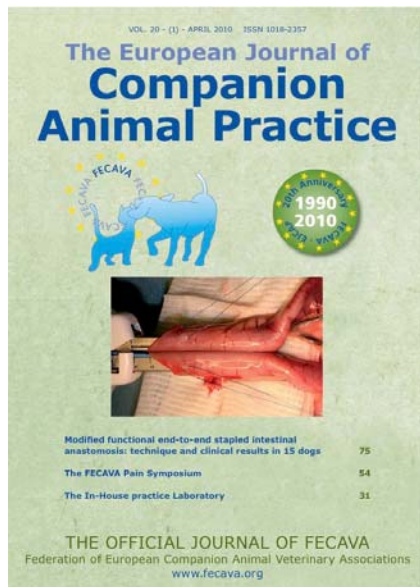
The future looks good for the development of the profession in Ukraine.

Dr. Jerzy Gawor (FECAVA Treasurer) and Dr. Tiina Toomet (Former Estonian FECAVA Director)

FECAVA MUSEUM PIECES? – OUR JOURNAL AND WEBSITE

Certainly not! But there are big changes on the horizon and those changes came a step closer following decisions taken by the FECAVA Council in Geneva at the beginning of June.

The FECAVA website is in urgent need of a significant update – in fact, it is not going too far to say that its standard is a bit of an embarrassment to a Federation, which wishes to represent its member associations professionally in Europe.



When it was decided, last year, that the Federation’s journal – the European Journal of Companion Animal Practice – was to go on-line instead of being produced in hardcopy, it was realised that there would be an opportunity to develop the website as a flagship for FECAVA’s activities in Europe.

The proposal, accepted by the Council, gives a company called DigiRedo the green light to develop a strategy plan a business model and a cost-benefit calculation and to produce a pilot on-line journal for consideration. This all will have to be finished at the Council meeting in November.

The Honorary Secretary suggested that we could have a multilingual journal, which will open many opportunities: more members will be able to read the journal and it offers great possibilities for advertisements and sponsors. Often companies do not have a European budget, but they all have a national budget which may be available

to our member associations at a national level. Translation will probably have to be paid for by sponsorship arranged for by the national association.

So exciting times are ahead and we look forward to seeing the results in the not-too-distant future.

Simon Orr (FECAVA Vice President)

Animal Assisted Therapy, Animal Assisted Activities and Resident Animal Programs - The Role of FECAVA

FECAVA recognizes that the human animal bond is important to human and community health. The bond has existed for thousands of years and has major importance for veterinary medicine. As veterinary medicine serves society, it fulfills human and animal needs.

Animal assisted activities, animal-assisted therapy and resident animal programs are included and endorsed by human healthcare providers as cost effective interventions for specific patient populations in various acute and rehabilitative care facilities.

Animal assisted activities (AAA) provide opportunities for motivation, education, or recreation to enhance quality of life. Animal assisted activities are delivered in a variety of environments by specially trained professionals, paraprofessionals, or volunteers in association with animals that meet specific criteria.

Animal assisted therapy (AAT) is a goal-directed intervention in which an animal meeting specific criteria is an integral part of the treatment process. Animal assisted therapy is delivered and/or directed by health or human service providers working within the scope of their profession. Animal assisted therapy is designed to promote improvement in human physical, social, emotional, or cognitive function. Animal assisted therapy is provided in a variety of settings, and may be group or individual in nature. The process is documented and evaluated.

Resident animals (RA) live in a facility full time, are owned by the facility, and are cared for by staff, volunteers, and residents. Some RA may be formally included in facility activity and therapy schedules after proper screening and training. Others may participate in spontaneous or planned interactions with facility residents and staff.

All AAA, AAT, and RA programs should include a veterinarian as a key participant so the health and well being of humans and animals involved are protected and an appropriate risk assessment plan for the program to be established

Veterinarians, as individuals and professionals, are uniquely qualified to provide a community service via such programs and to aid in scientific evaluation and documentation of the health benefits of the human animal bond. AAA, AAT and RA programs should be governed by basic standards, be regularly monitored, and be staffed by appropriately trained personnel

FECAVA is drafting guidelines which will form the basis of a policy statement. FECAVA would then promote these guidelines in the WSAVA (Human–Animal

Bond Interaction Committee) and other European and International Organizations and prepare draft special guidelines for veterinarians of AAA, AAT and RA programs.

For information, the 5th International Symposium for Animal Assisted Therapy “Animals help heal – Prevention, Salutogenesis and Resilience” takes place on October 1st to 2nd, 2010

Katerina Loukaki (FECAVA Director, HVMS Greece) and Simon Orr (FECAVA Vice President)

FECAVA becomes a partner in EPRUMA

EPRUMA, the European Platform for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals, aims to ensure **best practice** in the responsible use of medicines in disease prevention and control. It does this by facilitating and promoting a **co-ordinated and integrated approach**, involving all stakeholders, i.e.

- veterinarians
- farmers
- manufacturers of animal medicines
- feed manufacturers
- professionals working in animal health, sanitary security and sustainable agriculture.

EPRUMA was established in 2005 to **promote the responsible use of medicines** in animals in the EU (as defined in Directive 2001/82/EC as amended by Directive 2004/28/EC).



For more information, please visit the EPRUMA website, www.epruma.eu.

Simon Orr (FECAVA Vice President)

FECAVA CONSULTED ON THE REGULATION OF VETERINARY PHARMACEUTICALS



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission has issued an on-line consultation with the title:
“Better regulation of veterinary pharmaceuticals: how to put in place a simpler legal framework, safeguarding public and animal health while increasing the competitiveness of companies.”

Explaining the purpose of the consultation, the circulated document states:
"The Commission is aware of concerns expressed by citizens, veterinarians, Member States and the animal health industry as regards the directive laying down the rules for the authorization of veterinary medicinal products, in particular the importance of addressing existing problems linked to the availability of veterinary medicinal products and the use of medicinal products in species for which they are not authorized and any disproportionate regulatory burden hampering innovation, whilst ensuring a high level of consumer safety with respect to food of animal origin. The Commission points out those positive steps are being taken in this direction such as the simplification of the rules on variations of veterinary medicinal products and this review of the legislation on maximum residue limits in food. In addition, in order to address the objectives of consumer safety and animal health protection, competitiveness of the veterinary industry including SMEs and reduction of administrative burden, the Commission will present in 2010 an assessment of the problems in the application of the veterinary medicinal products directive with a view to making, where appropriate, legal proposals".



The purpose of this consultation paper is not to outline detailed legal amendments. The paper provides a basis for discussion on key issues and key items where a need and/or possible amendments of the legal framework have already been identified by stakeholders (see sections 3 and 4). However, stakeholders are asked to comment on all issues related to the current legal framework for veterinary medicinal products, and to submit any general or detailed comment or proposal to change the legal framework.

The consultation paper is structured as follows:

- Section 1 relates to the consultation (explaining how and by when to submit consultation responses and the next steps).
- Section 2 provides a brief guide to the legal framework for veterinary medicinal products, as well as a summary of strengths and weaknesses of the current framework as pointed out by stakeholders.
- Section 3 sets out the main objectives and options for a review of the legal framework in relation to the Commission's declaration.
- Section 4 presents the key issues where possible amendments of the legal framework have been already identified by stakeholders.
- Section 5 relates to the general information as requested of submitting parties.

Based on the results of the public consultation, among others, the Directorate General for Health and Consumers will prepare a report of the impact assessment on a revision of the veterinary legal framework.

FECAVA has been able to respond to this consultation through its relationship with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe.

Simon Orr (FECAVA Vice President)