



FECAVA

The Federation of European Companion
Animal Veterinary Associations

Newsletter
July 2009
nr. 7

Who should lead FECAVA?

The new FECAVA Board is to be elected at the next Council meeting in Lille in November this year. The national associations should thus start to think about who they would like to see on the new FECAVA Board.

Please contact FECAVA Honorary Secretary Simon Orr if you have any questions regarding the constitutional requirements and the timeframe that needs to be met.

Astrid Bjerckås
Executive Assistant to FECAVA



The current FECAVA Board. From the left: Jerzy Gawor (Honorary Treasurer), Andrew Byrne (President), Johan van Tilburg (Vice President) and Simon Orr (Honorary Secretary).



FECAVA works to improve the hygiene standards in veterinary practice

At the Council meeting in Istanbul in 2007 the Swedish Small Animal Veterinary Association (SSAVA) suggested that there was a need for a FECAVA Policy Statement on Hygiene Standards and the Use of Antimicrobials in Veterinary Practice, due to the fact that MRSA (methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) and MRSP (methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*) and other resistant bacteria are emerging and becoming a major medical and veterinary healthcare concern.

A FECAVA working group was then set up with the aim to:

- review what has been published on this topic both in human and in veterinary medicine
- develop a FECAVA Policy Statement and guidelines on antimicrobial use that should be translated in to all European languages



FECAVA works to improve the hygiene standards in veterinary practice through developing a policy statement and guidelines on antimicrobial use. Photo: Pixeilo.de

Alexandra Vilén (SSAVA/Sweden) is chairing the working group. The other members are Katerina Loukaki (HVMS/Greece), Didier Carlotti (FECAVA Past President), Peter Murphy (VICAS/Ireland), Prof. David Lloyd (Royal Veterinary College, London, UK) and PhD student Ana Mateus who is carrying out research on the use of antimicrobials in small animal practice in the UK.

The group will most likely present its final report at the WSAVA/FECAVA/SVK/ASMPA Congress, in Geneva in 2010.

In the EJCAP special issue on Zoonoses there is an article about Methicillin-resistant staphylococci in companion animals. Log on to www.fecava.org to download the article free of charge.

Astrid Bjerkås
Executive Assistant to FECAVA

Have you read the EJCAP special issue on zoonoses?

The European Journal of Companion Animal Practice (EJCAP) has recently published a special issue on zoonoses. The articles are written by some of the leading experts in Europe. The EJCAP special issues are online issues only. Log on to www.fecava.org and download the articles free of charge.

The topic of the EJCAP special issue in 2009 is dermatology. In 2007 it was ophthalmology.

Astrid Bjerkås
Sub Editor of EJCAP
responsible for the third issue





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FECAVA recognises the importance of animal assisted therapy and activities

Katerina Loukaki (HVMS/Greece) gave a presentation on animal assisted therapy and animal assisted activities at the recent FECAVA Council meeting in Baden Baden.

She suggested that the veterinary profession has little involvement in this area and they should be advocates for the welfare of animals in the context of their roles in family and social life. A recent questionnaire to Directors has indicated there is no official national veterinary association in Europe, which is involved.

It was unanimously agreed by Council that a Sub- committee for “AAT & AAA and Vets” should be formed under the working group looking at the Socio-economic Importance of Companion Animals.

The role of FECAVA should be:

- To produce guidelines for all European countries about:
 1. Developing a health plan for animals in AAT and AAA programs
 2. The role of vets in these programs
- To encourage cooperation with European Societies for AAT and AAA and Institutes for Social Learning with Animals
- To encourage co-operation with Doctors', Psychologists' and Nurses' Societies
- To actively promote the introduction of some projects in this field in the European Veterinary Schools and in Continuing Education programs
- To encourage scientific presentations in co-operation with doctors, nurses, psychologists and others during the Congresses.

Astrid Bjerås
Executive Assistant to FECAVA



The FECAVA Council has decided to form a working group on animal assisted therapy and animal assisted activities. Photo: Pixelio.de



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FECAVA President elected Vice-President of the UEVP Board

FECAVA President Andrew Byrne has been elected Vice-President of the UEVP Board. UEVP is the section of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) that represents practitioners. UEVP is in other words the European umbrella organisation for national veterinary practitioners' associations.

Marc Buchet past president of FECAVA retires from the UEVP board this year, after six years of service. Marc was a member of the FECAVA Board for ten years and has made an enormous contribution to the work of both FECAVA and UEVP for which everyone in FECAVA is truly grateful.

Astrid Bjerås
Executive Assistant to FECAVA



FECAVA President Andrew Byrne has been elected Vice-President on the UEVP Board. UEVP is the section of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) that represents practitioners.

FECAVA develops a new website

FECAVA has decided to develop a new website. At the recent Council meeting in Baden Baden a new Website Working Group was set up with Ian Mason (BSAVA), Stein Dahl (NSAVA), Katia di Nicolo (LAK) and Johan van Tilburg (Vice President) to help the FECAVA Executive Assistant to develop a proposal that will be presented to the FECAVA Council at the next meeting in Lille in November this year..

The next steps to be taken should;

- Agree on the goals and on the target groups
- Agree on the time line. Astrid's suggestion was

that the website should be finished before the next Council meeting in Lille.

- Form a working group to lead the project.
- Finish the specifications for a new content management system.
- Contact potential providers.
- The Directors will be involved as the work progress in order to develop the best possible FECAVA website.

Astrid Bjerås
Executive Assistant to FECAVA



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FECAVA report on the socio-economic importance of companion animals

Traditionally the main focus of the European Union and other stakeholders with regard to veterinary medicine has been on production animals and food safety, but what actually is the importance of companion animals to humans? Is there a socioeconomic value of companion animals? The answer is yes, FECAVA Senior Vice President Bjerkås and Directors Katerina Loukaki (HVMS/Greece), Monique Megens (NACAM/Netherlands) said at the recent FECAVA Council meeting in Baden Baden. The three have produced a report for FECAVA called "Health Benefits (Socioeconomic Value) of Companion Animals". The report is a review of recent literature on the value of companion animals to humans.

According to the group the reports shows that there is indeed an important socioeconomic value of companion animals. This can in part be calculated directly as reduced number of medical consultations and more rapid recovery after surgery for pet owners, and indirectly by improved quality of life and thus better function in society.

In order to make the report easier to the reader, it has been divided according to age groups:

- Children preschool – end of high school (babies are not included)
- Adolescents
- Adults
- Elderly

Then each group is divided according to

- Social and health benefits
- Disadvantages and dangers

At the end of each part there is a list of relevant literature. In addition, the reader is directed to the following websites:

www.americanhumane.org

www.deltasociety.org

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/services/companions/research.htm>

FECAVA encourages Directors to inform their national organisations about the report and to use it in their communication with policy makers and the public in their countries.

The report can be downloaded from www.fecava.org

If you have any questions or comments on the report, please contact FECAVA Senior Vice President, Ellen Bjerkås, by e-mail ellen.bjerkas@veths.no

Astrid Bjerkås

Executive Assistant to FECAVA



FECAVA has produced a report on the socio-economic importance of companion animals. The report is a review of recent literature on the value of companion animals to humans. Photo: Pixelio.de



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New Directors



Stein Dahl is the new Director
from Norway.



Katia Di Nicolo is the new Director
from Luxemburg.



Hanne Werner is the new Director
from Denmark.



Janne Orro is the new Director
from Estonia.



Linda Jakusonoka is the new Director
from Latvia.



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Congress programme with a true European feel



**15th EUROCONGRESS FECAVA - AFVAC
LILLE 2009 - 27-28-29 November**



Welcome to the Lille 2009 FECAVA EuroCongress 27th-29th November! The congress is designed to attract general veterinary practitioners and final-year students. A main goal of the Congress is to promote contacts among generalists, students, and specialists, and AVFAC (France), the two SAVAB Associations (Belgium) and LAK (Luxemburg) have worked hard to create an appealing programme with a true European feel.

The following is a list of the major scientific offerings presented at this first-rate veterinary event:

- a general programme focused on feline illnesses and exotic pets. The majority of renowned speakers come from all over Europe, and conferences will be presented in French or English. Each conference level (State of the art, refresher, advanced) will be indicated clearly.
- short communications, including brand new sources of information and discoveries from talented speakers
- a residents' forum for those promoting the future of scientific knowledge
- interactive workshops that lead to better use or interpretation of complementary examinations
- symposiums: places to exchange ideas and share summaries, organised either by FECAVA (chosen theme: pain), by the Scientific Committee (a variety of subjects including specialization, animal protection, medication etc.) or by the main partners of the Congress
- Finally, a veterinary nurse programme with one room in English, and the other in French.

The Scientific Committee diligently followed the recently modified FECAVA protocol.

The Social Programme and all other practical aspects of the Congress, coordinated by the Organisational Committee under the direction of the new president of AFVAC, Eric Guaguère, will allow all Congress delegates to meet, network, and enjoy a great weekend together.

Help us to promote the Congress in you country

One final step remains: the promotion of this Congress, as it belongs to all European Member Associations of FECAVA. This includes encouraging registrations.

The success of the FECAVA Congress is guaranteed only with a veritable mobilisation of its bureau, its journal EJCAP, and its directors.

The organisational team is available to each member country to help promote and publicise the EuroCongress or to better explain the scientific and social programmes offered.

We look forward to more than just a simple meeting of directors from across Europe. This time, we hope it will be the reunion of a strong "FECAVA" team that has put together a successful Congress.

Log on to <http://www.fecavalille2009.com/> to find out more about the Congress!

*Jean François ROUSSELOT
On behalf the Scientific Committee of the FECAVA
EuroCongress Lille 2009*



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Upcoming FECAVA Congresses

15th FECAVA EuroCongress

Lille, France 27th - 29th November 2009

FECAVA, Association Française des Vétérinaires pour Animaux de Compagnie (AFVAC), and Small Animal Veterinary Association Belgium (SAVAB) and the Letzeburger Associatioun vun de Klengdeiere – Praktiker (LAK, Luxemburg)

35th Annual WSAVA and 16th FECAVA EuroCongress

Geneva, Switzerland 2nd - 5th June 2010

WSAVA /FECAVA/SVK/ASMPA

17th FECAVA EuroCongress

Istanbul, Turkey 2011

FECAVA and the Turkish Small Animal Veterinary Association (TSAVA)

35th Annual WSAVA and 18th FECAVA EuroCongress

Birmingham, England 2012

WSAVA/FECAVA/BSAVA

Bringing the companion animal practitioners of Europe together

The Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) represents the interests of the companion animal veterinarians in Europe. FECAVA has 36 Member Associations. In addition 12 Specialist Groups are Associate Members.

Through FECAVA the members of the national companion animal veterinary associations receive the FECAVA journal EJCAP and can take advantage of discounts on publications from selected Member Associations. The members pay reduced congress fees at larger congresses throughout Europe including the European FECAVA congresses. FECAVA works to defend the interest of the companion animal veterinarians at a European level.

Find out more on www.fecava.org

