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 is therefore imperative that adequate surveillance systems are in place. We also 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 veterinary bond.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) have signed a memorandum of agreement to promote increased collaboration between the two organisations in the area of One Health – a movement which aims to encourage human health and veterinary professionals to work together to eradicate disease. Under the terms of the agreement, the WSAVA, an ‘association of associations’, representing more than 80,000 small animal veterinary surgeons from all over the world, has been granted full observer status at the annual OIE General Assembly. The OIE is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health and welfare worldwide and is responsible for the global surveillance of animal diseases, including zoonoses.

The organisations will collaborate on a range of activities, including the development of global standards and guidelines to improve companion animal health, and the continuing education of companion animal veterinarians. They will also implement practical measures including developing communication campaigns to increase awareness of infectious disease surveillance and reporting programmes.

WSAVA President Jolle Kirpensteijn said: “The agreement with the OIE confirms the WSAVA and its members’ commitment to One Health and working to our common goal of improving animal health and welfare worldwide. The influx of the WSAVA being granted full observer status in the OIE General Assembly will contribute to the implementation of the memorandum of agreement and increase awareness of the role companion animal veterinarians play in the prevention and reporting of zoonotic diseases.”
animal bond. I’d like to thank my colleagues 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.”

Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, added: “The One Health concept recognises that human and animal health are inextricably linked. As we work to promote, improve and defend the health and wellbeing 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 are delighted to sign this agreement and look forward to the insight, experience and expertise the WSAVA team will bring to our work on behalf of companion animals.”

WSAVA staged a global webinar as part of the development of its CE programme

WSAVA Senior Vice-President Grant Petrie was among those speaking at the WSAVA’s first global webinar on 31st May. This was a popular event, with over 300 delegates from around the world signing in. The 90-minute session was entitled ‘A Practical Approach to Feline Diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease’. The other speakers were Elizabeth Dill-Macky, a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and a member of the Australian College of Veterinary Specialists, and Sarah Caney, RCVS Specialist in Feline Medicine.

David Wadsworth, who chaired the webinar on behalf of WSAVA, commented “It was a novel experience to be in contact with such a large number of delegates while we were all sitting in the comfort of our own homes or clinics. No long journeys or registration queues, just CPD on demand!”

In addition to the speakers, I’d especially like to thank Dr Lidiya Alaverdova of Hill’s Pet Nutrition for providing the technical support and, in effect, running the show. She put a tremendous amount of background work into the webinar, making it the professional and successful meeting it was. It will be the first of many to come.”

The webinar was the result of the WSAVA’s annual sponsors’ CE meeting in February. Information on future webinars will be posted on the WSAVA website. If there are topics you’d like to suggest, please contact WSAVA at wsavasecretariat@gmail.com.

GET REGISTERED!

Don’t forget to register for the 2011 WSAVA-FASAVA World Congress, set to take place in Jeju, Korea, from 14–17 October. It will offer a comprehensive scientific programme delivered by global experts from around the world in a social atmosphere where you can share information and achievements and build a sense of fellowship. Full details and the registration form are available at www.wsava2011.org.

2011 WSAVA-FASAVA World Congress Secretariat

Contact details:
Tel: +82 2 3461 1160   Fax: +82 2 3461 1340
Email: wsava2011@unineo.com

CE in Asia

WSAVA’s Chairman for CE in Asia, Roger Clarke, presents an update to mark his retirement

As Chairman for WSAVA CE in Asia, I’ve been heavily involved with the WSAVA’s CE programme in Asia since 1999. During this period, we’ve made excellent progress and, as I hand over the reins to my successor, I’d like to update members on the current situation.

We started our work in Thailand and Malaysia back in 1999 and both of these countries now run their own courses. Thailand, of course, also hosted the 2003 WSAVA Congress and the 2009 Federation of Asian Small Animal Veterinary Association (FASAVA) Congress.

In India we host an annual CE seminar and, to facilitate this, Indian veterinarians have formed a national group of small animal associations called the Federation of Small Animal Practitioners Associations of India (FSAPAI), to simplify the process and to ensure that CE is rotated around this vast country.

In China we give CE courses in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou each year and we usually end up in Hong Kong. China has also progressed rapidly with small animal practice having become far more sophisticated since we commenced CE seminars. The Shanghai SAVA now actively promotes CE with the annual Chinese East/West Veterinary conferences.

CE commenced in Taiwan in 2003 and the country rapidly progressed to category three, which means we help to provide the speakers but the Taiwanese pay local costs and airfares. The situation is similar in Korea and, of course, that country will also host the joint WSAVA / FASAVA Congress later this year. In 2010 we held the first WSAVA CE programme in Vietnam and this is something we hope to repeat.

Sri Lanka has had a mixed history of CE and suffers from more financial restraints than the other countries. The ASAVA has helped tremendously here, providing funding to send scholars from all over the world. In 2007, the first FASAVA Congress was held in Australia in conjunction with the WSAVA and, in time, the Federation of Asian Small Animal Veterinary Associations may take over some of the management of CE in the Asian region.

This year I have decided to retire from the WSAVA Asian CE programme and hand over the reins to a successor. I have made many friends in Asia and hope to continue to help FASAVA as it grows. I’d like to thank all those who have helped me over the last 12 years to make this such a positive programme. Following my retirement I will continue to work in my private specialty practice in Melbourne but hope to remain active in CE and to give every support to my successor.”