The American Animal Hospital Association’s accreditation programme, 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.

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 optimise their hospital procedures and patient care. While we can’t expand our own programme beyond North America, we can help other associations develop accreditation programmes 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...”

WSAVA has announced its support for AAHA’s accreditation programme and is working to raise awareness of the help that similar programmes can offer to veterinary professionals.

WSAVA endorses AAHA practice accreditation scheme

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An active year for the WSAVA's One Health Committee

Michael Day reports on a busy 2011 as the OHC progresses towards its goals

2011 was a busy year for the new WSAVA One Health Committee (OHC) as we work towards our mission of ‘ensuring the prominence of the small companion animal-human interface in the global One Health agenda’. We’ve reported previously our participation in the first international One Health Conference in Melbourne, Australia, an achievement built on with the signing of a formal memorandum of agreement with the OIE in May, making WSAVA the official voice for small companion animals in this global forum. We followed this in September with Sarah Cleaveland, Professor of Comparative Epidemiology at the University of Glasgow, representing the OHC at the OIE-World Health Organization conference on rabies eradication in Seoul, Korea.

Of course One Health was also prominent at the WSAVA Congress in Korea in October and the first WSAVA Global One Health Award was presented to the OIE and was accepted on behalf of the organisation by Dr Tomoko Ishibashi, Deputy Director of the OIE in the Asia-Pacific Region.

In addition to attending these key events, the OHC has published two scientific papers in the open access journal Parasites and Vectors during the year and is currently working on a series of further review articles. We have identified global rabies eradication as a focus for attention and will announce exciting new initiatives to support ongoing programmes in this area next year.

Just recently on 30 November and 1 December, we attended a meeting at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. During the session, we were privileged to be able to visit the Emergency Operations Center at CDC, the operational hub for the co-ordination of global infectious disease outbreaks. We also attended a lecture on the new One Health programme emerging from the US Department of Agriculture and met with numerous CDC Subject Matter Experts to discuss topics as diverse as issues surrounding the global transport of exotic animal pets and the role of dog walking in tackling human obesity.

All in all, it was a busy and productive first year for the OHC with much more planned to help us move towards our goal in 2012.

Professor Michael Day