I
no surprise that One Health (see page 4) companion animals. With this in mind, it’s been transferred by, or hosted in, we see around the world today have either where it had previously been regarded as companion animal health, even in areas meeting new colleagues and promoting a useful week at the OIE Congress, their health within OIE, the global political formally recognised as the definitive step for WSAVA as it means it is now official observer at the OIE. This is a huge and to Paris, where the WSAVA became an Assembly Meeting and World Congress in Korea and New Zealand, hosts of the 2011 this year, travelling around the globe for your plans. Flights are filling up! the stops, so book your tickets and make

Message from the President

Professor Jolle Kirpensteijn reflects on the WSAVA’s recent achievements

can hardly believe it’s time for another report but I’m delighted that the next two issues will be packed with achievements and initiatives ahead of the forthcoming Assembly Meeting and World Congress in Jeju, Korea. I can promise you that the local organising committee is pulling out all the stops, so book your tickets and make your plans. Flights are filling up!

Speaking of flying, I’ve done my share this year, travelling around the globe for WSAVA events. Highlights include a visit to Korea and New Zealand, hosts of the 2011 and 2013 World Congresses, respectively, and to Paris, where the WSAVA became an official observer at the OIE. This is a huge step for WSAVA as it means it is now formally recognised as the definitive representative of companion animals and their health within OIE, the political and governing body dealing with animal health. Professor Michael Day and I spent a useful week at the OIE Congress, meeting new colleagues and promoting companion animal health, even in areas where it had previously been regarded as a lesser priority. We must remember that many of the infectious diseases in humans we see around the world today have either been transferred by, or hosted in, companion animals. With this in mind, it’s no surprise that One Health (see page 4) was one of the key topics on the agenda for the week. Should a severe outbreak affect our beloved cats and dogs, we must be ready to act proactively, effectively and collaboratively. This is the strength of our partnership with the OIE – we represent over 80,000 veterinarians globally and the OIE spans the globe in its efforts to promote animal welfare and health.

New Zealand is, of course, still recovering from the deadly earthquake in Christchurch and my family there was recently shaken by a new tremor, which brought further destruction to this beautiful city. In view of the situation, the local organising committee has decided to switch the venue of the 2013 World Congress to Auckland. I saw the new site and was very impressed. Planning is already well under way and I’d like to congratulate the organising committee on coping with such a difficult situation.

Last but not least, the WSAVA Global Nutritional Guidelines have now been published in the Journal of Small Animal Practice (JSAP) and the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery (JFMS). Did you know that JSAP is actually the WSAVA’s official journal? We are delighted to be in partnership with a key clinical journal.

As for the Guidelines, they are freely downloadable for everyone; simply go to www.wsva.org for more information on this exciting initiative and the Guidelines links, including translated versions. I’d like to again thank Hill’s Pet Nutrition for its donation of the educational grant which enabled us to develop them. The next step will be a global consortium, supported by the entire pet food industry, to help us drive implementation of the Guidelines in practice.

More on this soon!

2011 is proving to be one of the WSAVA’s most successful years in terms of initiatives, activities and progress towards our global goals. It’s a privilege to be working closely with so many of you who are striving to take veterinary care to a new level. The sky really is the limit!

Jolle Kirpensteijn

Countdown to Korea

Don’t forget to register for the 2011 WSAVA-FASAVA-KAHA Congress which takes place in Jeju, Korea 14–17 October

The 2011 WSAVA-FASAVA-KAHA Congress will offer a comprehensive scientific programme delivered by global experts and provide a social atmosphere where veterinarians can share information, achievements and build a sense of fellowship. Don’t miss it.

Full details of the clinical programme and the registration form are available at www.wsva2011.org.

The World Congress is, of course, more than an outstanding clinical experience – it also gives you an opportunity to explore a unique part of the world so, as you reach for your guidebook, here are some key facts to what your appetite.

Jeju is the largest island in South Korea, at 73 km wide and 41 km long. A self-governance province, it was formed from a series of volcanic eruptions and is dominated by Mount Halla, which rises to 1,950 metres above sea level. The island slopes down from its summit and is covered in soil laden with volcanic ash. Walk along its coast and you’ll see fantastically shaped grey rocks. Isolated from the rest of the world, Jeju’s environment is well preserved and features many rare species of flora. It basks in a mild climate – the average temperature in October is around 17°C.

The many Dotharbatgung have become symbols of Jeju. ‘Dol’ means stone, and harubang (harbang) is a sculpture made of the black volcanic rock. The Stone Guardian, found only on Jeju, is a kind of totem pole positioned in front of castles and believed to repel evil. Look out for the Oreum (small mountains) in Jeju dotted – small volcanic cones which litter the island. Among the 386 oreum, the best known are Abuoreum and Daranshi-oreum. The Jejuorang-mal is a small horse, usually brown, maroon or milky white which is native to Jeju. Adults typically stand 112 cm at the shoulder and they are characterised by a broad face, well balanced frame and mild temperament. While there were once more than 25,000, their numbers have reduced dramatically with only 1,000 remaining. Fortunately, they have now been designated a precious national treasure by the Korean government.

Jeju is famous for its female divers known as haenyeo or ‘sea women’, who dive in the sea without scuba gear or special tools. All they use is a float to mark their location when they surface, a weeding hoe to dig up abalone and other shellfish and can stay submerged for minutes at a time. They use their location when they surface, a weeding hoe to dig up abalone and other shellfish and can stay submerged for minutes at a time. You may spot them swimming among the black rocks on Jeju’s coastline.

How does it carry out its work?

Ellen: Because of the geographical challenges, we conduct much of our work by email, discussing issues and sharing our thoughts and ideas. We also hold conference calls when we need to discuss urgent issues or key topics as a group. If the FAC is asked for its opinion on a particular topic, we present a written report of our discussions and recommendations to the Executive Board.

Do you have regular meetings during the year?

Ellen: Face-to-face meetings are expensive and time-consuming but we meet once each year at the General Assembly. The meeting’s minutes are recorded and agreed by the committee prior to presentation to the Executive Board meeting which takes place after the FAC meeting.

What is most challenging about the FAC’s work?

Ellen: The work of the FAC is not easy but it is vital for the success of the WSAVA. My fellow FAC members are inquisitive, creative and dedicated, working hard to ensure the financial rigour of the WSAVA.