Proposal for WVA Constitution & Bylaws
Content

- Introduction
- Procedure
- Main Goals and objectives
- Significant proposed changes
- Summary and Conclusions
- Next Steps
Introduction

In 2010, the leadership of the World Veterinary Association began the process of reviewing current governance principles to ensure the effectiveness of the association and value to its members.
Introduction

Motions adopted PA 2011 Cape Town

At the Presidents Assembly of 13\textsuperscript{th} October 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa, the PA decided to \textit{postpone} the vote on the proposal to amend the WVA Constitution and By-Laws \textit{and to establish a WVA ad hoc Committee} to further develop such a proposal.
• Establishment of ad hoc Committee

- In March 2012, an ad hoc Committee was set up to deliver recommendations to the WVA EXCOM and Council by 31st December 2012.
- The Committee followed specific Terms of Reference prepared by the WVA EXCOM.
- Tasks, budget and strict timeline were established in order to prepare a report to be presented to the WVA EXCOM and Council in their meetings of January 2013.
Procedure (continue)

- The Committee was chaired by René Carlson
- The Committee had 7 members (1 per region plus 1 for the associated members)
- The Committee was supported by the WVA secretariat
- The Committee met twice and had several conference calls during 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>René Carlson - Chair</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr <strong>Pat Turner</strong> (N. America)</td>
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<td>Dr <strong>Josélio Moura</strong> (S. America)</td>
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<td>Dr <strong>Clive Marwick</strong> (Africa)</td>
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<td>Dr <strong>Khaled El Hichery</strong> (N. Africa/Middle East)</td>
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<td>Dr <strong>Vincent Ng Hooi</strong> (Asia)</td>
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<td>Dr <strong>Bob Stevenson</strong> (Europe)</td>
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<td>Dr <strong>Abdul Rahman</strong> (Associate Members)</td>
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<td>Dr <strong>Tjeerd Jorna</strong> (WVA Immediate Past President)</td>
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Procedure (continue)

- On 6th January 2013, the Chair of the Committee, Dr René Carlson presented the final report of the Council members.

- The Council members supported the report and made some changes in the draft Constitutions and By-Laws document.

- In 5th April 2013, the final proposal from WVA EXCOM and COUNCIL to change the WVA constitution and bylaws was adopted by the WVA EXCOM after legal and linguistic advice.

- WVA Councillors were requested to disseminate the final proposal among their region members and to explain them the new proposed rules in the light of the forthcoming vote in the PA 2013.
Procedure (continue)

In the Presidents Assembly of 19th September 2013, during the WVC 2013 in Prague, Czech Republic, the WVA EXCOM and Council will present to the PA the new proposal to change the WVA Constitution and Bylaws and a vote on this proposal is planned.
Main Goals EXCOM and Council wish to achieve with their proposal

The proposed amendments aim in:

- Raising the WVA profile.
- Strengthen WVA position as the voice of the united global veterinary profession.
- Develop global leadership.
Main Goals EXCOM and Council wish to achieve with their proposal

The proposed amendments including provisions for:

- Broaden membership
- Enhance dynamics and decision-making
- Improve communication (internal and external)
- Promote members involvement
- Simplification of the WVA rules
significant proposed changes

1. EXCOM and Council merge together
2. A change in Officers structure
3. A change in leadership terms for Officers and Councillors
4. Equal representation of Councillors
5. A change in Membership categories
6. “Presidents Assembly” changes to “General Assembly”
7. Changes for the WVC
8. Election of Council before meeting of GA
9. Constitution and By-Laws combined in one document
10. Administrative Procedures all in one, separate document
1. EXCOM and Council merge together

One Executive Body: **WVA Council** (Officers + Councilors)

- No redundancy of communications
- Better transparency
- Improved trust
- Policy and Finance chairs assigned by competency within Council
- Strengthen the Association’s internal cohesion and communication between Officers, Council, and member organisations.
- Reduce costs
2. Officers:

1. **President elect** (only nominate position)
2. **President**
3. **Past President**

- Better preparation for service as President
- Open nominations for qualified candidates with a Nomination Committee for credentialing process
- Clear leadership transition

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3. Leadership terms for Officers and Councillors

Two years term instead of three years (renewable once)

- Shorter time commitment
- More membership involvement in leadership
- More value and opportunities for leadership
- Infusion of new knowledge.
4. Membership categories

A decrease from the six current membership categories to only two categories of membership:

1. Constituent Members
2. Observers
4. Membership categories (cont.)

1. Constituent Members

“Veterinary professional organizations representing the profession in a country or customs territory, or representing an international regional or international discipline-centred organisation within veterinary medicine”.

The Constituent member organization shall have voting privileges and nomination rights.
4. Membership categories (cont.)

2. Observers

“Other organisations - whether or not they have veterinarians as members – and individual veterinarians provided that the goals and objectives of the organisation or individual are compatible with those of WVA”.

Observers have no voting or nomination rights; however they may provide comments about WVA activities and issues.
4. Membership categories (cont.)

- Simplification categories
- Open for multiple members per country
- Widen the range of veterinary professional organisations that could join the WVA, benefit from its activities and contribute to it
5. “Presidents Assembly” changes to “General Assembly”

• Purpose of the Assembly is WVA business, not President business.
• Any representative of the of a Constituent Member can attend the WVA Congress (pending on pre-registered official delegate).
• Enhance the Associations dynamics and decision-making processes
• Observers may participate in the discussion, without voting rights.
6. Proposed changes for the World Veterinary Congress

• **Goals:** improved continuity and better visibility for WVA.

• WVA is the **owner** and **organizer** of WVC.

• Organization together with an International Professional Congress Organizer (PCO) based on long term contract, which will cover multiple congresses.

• Local Veterinary Organization involved in the organization.

• WVC will be held **annually** at fixed moment in the year.
7. Elections of Council before meeting of GA

Electronic balloting for Officers and Councillors would take place before the GA with the following advantages:

- Accessible to all Members around the world and not limited to only those able to attend the GA
- Improves member participation and value
- More time for strategic priorities at the GA
- Ensures integrity
- Better preparation for newly elected leadership

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8. Equal representation of Councillors

- Equal representation of two Councillors per each of the six geographic regions
- One from an international organization
- One from international discipline/activity centred organisations

While maintaining the importance and fairness of allocated voting rights within the GA
9. Constitution and By-Laws combined in one document

- Concise document.
- Improve alignment between both documents.
- Make the document more clear and easy to understand.
- Clearly protects structure and integrity of the WVA.
- Modernization of governance trends.
10. Administrative Procedures all in one separate document

Separate Administrative and Procedures Manual to clearly define how the WVA functions within that structure
Summary and Conclusions

The proposed amendments aim in raising the WVA profile, to strengthen its position as the voice of the united global veterinary profession, and to develop global leadership.
Summary and Conclusions

The proposed changes intents in:

- serving the WVA well into the 21st century beyond the original recommendations made in October 2011.

- to provide a more knowledge-based, trustworthy, and nimble organization for continued relevance and value for its worldwide members and a global veterinary medical profession.
The new WVA Constitution and By-laws proposes:

- One Executive Body: WVA Council (Officers + Councillors).

- President elect ➞ President ➞ Past president

- Two years leadership terms for Officers and Councillors

- Two categories of membership: Constituent Members & Observers

- 14 Councillors (2 per region, 1 international org. and 1 for international discipline).
Summary and Conclusions (cont.)

The new WVA Constitution and By-laws proposes:

• Changes for the World Veterinary Congress

• General Assembly (GA).

• Electronic balloting for Officers and Councillors prior the GA

• Constitution and By-Laws combined document.

• Separate document for Administrative Procedures.
Next Steps

- In PA of 19th September 2013 the WVA EXCOM and Council will present the new proposal to change the WVA Constitution and Bylaws and a vote on this proposal is planned.

- If adopted, the new Constitution and Bylaws will enter into force on 20 September 2013 and will include a transitional period to allow smooth adaption to the new rules.

- First elections according to the new rules (Electronic balloting) will take place in autumn 2014.
Information package on new proposal to change the WVA Constitution and Bylaws

Please read carefully the information package which includes the:

- Proposal for new WVA Constitution and Bylaws
- Administrative and procedure manual
- Questions and Answers document
- Suggested Transition Timeline for Elected Representatives and Subsequent Elections

In order to make an informed vote
Information package on new proposal to change the WVA Constitution and Bylaws

The information package can be found:

- WVA Website: link
- WVA Secretariat: secretariat@worldvet.org
- Asking your region Councillor: email address
Thank you very much for your attention