Information Package about WVA Membership

Including documents on:

- About the WVA
- Benefits of WVA Membership
- WVA Membership categories including links to:
  - Application of Interest Form for Constituent Membership and Observer Membership of the WVA.
  - WVA Constitution and By-laws and Administrative Procedures Manual
  - WVA fees calculation model.
- WVA On-line Education portal
About the World Veterinary Association

The WVA represents around 500,000 veterinarians around the world through its member associations and is a broad global veterinary community that offers advocacy, support, and education with a variety of partners for focused global veterinary issues. Through its international, regional and local member associations of veterinarians working in different areas of veterinary medicine, the WVA brings together veterinarians, to share experiences, to exchange ideas and to join forces for the promotion and development of veterinary medicine. The WVA defends the interest of the health and welfare of animals and people as well as the interest of its member organisations and their members (learn more about the WVA from our President, Dr René Carlson by clicking on the attached video).

WVA Vision

World Veterinary Association is recognized and respected as the trusted and influential voice of global veterinary medicine.

History of the WVA

In April 1863, Professor John Gamgee (1831-1894) from the college of Edinburgh, UK took the initiative to invite professors of veterinary medicine and veterinarians from all over Europe to a general meeting in Hamburg, Germany 14-18 July 1863. This meeting became the first International Veterinary Congress later known as The World Veterinary Congress (WVC). The aim of the meeting was mainly to discuss a system to combat epizootic diseases and to devise common rules for the trade of cattle and to recommend adoption of the rules by all European countries. The main topic was Rinderpest, a devastating disease that has been eradicated worldwide throughout targeted veterinary action. At the 16th WVC in Madrid, Spain in 1959, the World Veterinary Association was founded as a continuation of the Permanent Committee for the International Veterinary Congresses. Today, 152 years after the first International Veterinary Congress, the WVA continues the ambition of Dr Gamgee to bring veterinarians from all over the world together, to share experiences, to exchange ideas and to join forces for the promotion and development of veterinary medicine.

WVA governing bodies

- **WVA General Assembly**
  The General Assembly (GA) is the Association’s most important platform for discussion and policy making. It is attended by representatives of all WVA Member Associations.

- **WVA Council**
  The Council comprises the President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, and 14 elected Councillors from different world regions and International Organizations members.

- **WVA Secretariat**
  The WVA secretariat is based in Brussels, Belgium. The secretariat is responsible for daily management of the Association, communication, maintenance and development of Membership.

Partnerships

WVA believes in working in partnership. WVA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding and effectively collaborates with relevant global partners such as World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organisation (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), World Medical Association (WMA), World Animal Protection, International Veterinary Students’ Association (IVSA), World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA), Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) and many others.
Policy areas
In its strategy for 2015-2017, the WVA focuses mainly on 5 priority issues:

- Animal Welfare
- Pharmaceutical Stewardship
- Veterinary Education
- Zoonotic Diseases
- Organizational Growth and Partnerships

WVA Policy Statements
The WVA has and continues to produce policies and positions which focus on the top global veterinary issues. These policies and positions are conveyed within the veterinary profession as well as towards major decision making institutions and authorities and include policy statements on the Role of the Veterinarian in Animal Welfare, One Health concept, identifying a Veterinarian, Rabies Control, Responsible Use of Antimicrobials and many others.

WVA Mission
To assure and promote animal health and welfare and public health globally, through developing and advancing veterinary medicine, the veterinary profession as well as public and private veterinary services.

World Veterinary Day
The World Veterinary Day (WVD) was initiated by the WVA in 2000 to be celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April with the aim to promote the veterinary profession to a large audience, including the general public and to attract the attention of mass media. The WVD gives veterinarians the opportunity to highlight the important contribution of the veterinary profession to the benefit of society and all animals. Since 2008, the WVA and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) are organizing World Veterinary Day Award rewarding the most successful celebration of the contribution of the veterinary profession to society.

The WVA Online Veterinary Education Portal
The WVA and World Continuing Education Alliance continue to develop the most comprehensive global online resource for continuing education for veterinarians. The WVA Education Portal is available to Veterinary professionals all over the world on the WVA website (more information on the portal can be found in page 5 of this document).

Learn more about WVA, its policies, news and events on the WVA website and Facebook page.
1. The WVA provides leadership and policy statements on key veterinary issues to support the advocacy and influence of Veterinary Associations in their own areas of interest.

2. The WVA provides a supportive global veterinary community and connects veterinarians around the world through its vast veterinary network.

3. The WVA has official relationship with intergovernmental organisations of influence and acts as the main link between the veterinary profession and the global veterinary policy-making bodies such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organisation (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). In addition, WVA collaborates effectively with other non-governmental organisations like World Medical Association (WMA), World Animal Protection, Global Alliance for Rabies Control and HealthforAnimals and many others on various veterinary and health issues and ensures that its views are heard at the highest level across world.

4. In this era of globalization, the WVA focuses on global health threats that affect all parts of the world such as zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance and transboundary diseases. WVA represents and leads the veterinary profession to take actions against these threats.

5. WVA promotes the Veterinary profession globally via global events and its annual World Veterinary Day to highlight the important contribution of the veterinary profession to the benefit of society and all animals. WVA members are invited to celebrate the World Veterinary Day each year with a relevant veterinary theme and to participate in the World Veterinary Day Award.

6. As WVA Members, you:
   - Have a direct voice at the World Veterinary Association and with the WVA leadership, through regional Councillors and Officers.
   - Have a seat in the General Assembly with a voice and a vote on major global veterinary issues and WVA governance.
   - Can receive assistance with a vast network of impressive speakers for your educational conferences.
   - Receive the WVA Info-news twice a month with news from the WVA and other informational links on important veterinary events and activities.
   - May submit information to be added to the WVA Website and Facebook page.
   - Can benefit from preferential terms on branded Learning and Content Management Systems as well as access to the central resource of the WVA Continuing Veterinary Education Portal.

7. As WVA Members, individuals within those associations are eligible for:
   - Appointment to WVA Standing Committees and Working Groups for direct influence on establishing WVA policies and WVA activities.
   - Leadership positions, such as nomination for Officer and Councillor Positions.
   - A special rate to attend the World Veterinary Congresses and WVA events.
WVA membership consists of Constituent Members and Observers:

**I. Constituent Members**
Veterinary professional organisations representing the profession in a country or customs territory, or representing an international regional or international discipline-centered organisation within veterinary medicine.

*The Constituent member organisation has voting privileges and nomination rights.*

**II. Observers**
Other organisations whether or not they have veterinarians as members and individual veterinarians provided that the goals and objectives of the organisation or individuals are compatible with those of WVA.

*Observers have no voting or nomination rights; however they may provide comments about WVA activities and issues.*

**Applications for Membership**
Complete application form for membership shall be submitted to the WVA Council (via the WVA secretariat) for consideration. Following a positive decision by Council, Membership shall be deemed as effective from the date of payment of subscription to the Association.

Click [HERE](#) to download the Application of Interest Form for Constituent Membership of WVA and [HERE](#) for the Application of Interest Form for Observer Membership.

**Method for calculating WVA membership fees**
To help to decide in a fair, consistent and transparent way the height of the fee for each of the member organisations, the WVA uses the model for the calculation of WVA membership fees which is based on:

1. The number of veterinarians that are member of the WVA member organisation;
2. A reduction of the fees is applied for organisations with a large number of members;
3. An additional reduction of the fees is applied for less developed countries, based on the UN Human Development Index (HDI).

Click [HERE](#) for the model for the calculation of WVA membership fees.

**WVA Governance Rules**
To learn more about the WVA Governance Rules, click [HERE](#) for the WVA Constitution and By-laws and [HERE](#) for the WVA Administrative Procedure Manual.
The WVA Online Education Portal is now available to all veterinary professionals around the world to assist with their regulated online Continuing Education (CE) needs and to stay up-to-date with the latest innovations and thinking. Education material are uploaded by universities, training organisations, associations and individual experts from around the world to create one central resource of veterinary CE.

You can access the Education Portal from the WVA website [www.worldvet.org](http://www.worldvet.org)

WVA in partnership with the World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA) continues to develop the most comprehensive global online resource for continuing education for veterinarians. By now, around 800 pieces of e-learning were uploaded on the WVA Education Portal and more than top 10 Universities signed up to upload their veterinary e-learning pieces to the WVA portal. In addition, 20 Veterinary Associations (reflecting over 200,000 vets) around the world already signed-up to the portal.

The WVA and WCEA offer educators around the world a central platform to which they can upload their educational materials. In addition, Veterinary Associations are offered a free Education Portal which is branded with the association’s logo and colours for customized programs of interest.

Veterinary Associations that are members of the WVA are offered preferential terms on branded Learning and Content Management Systems as well as access to the central resource of Veterinary Education.

Learn more about the Learning Management System and its numerous benefits at [www.wva.learning.education](http://www.wva.learning.education)
The WVA is looking forward to welcoming you to the WVA Family

Please feel free to contact the WVA Secretariat at secretariat@worldvet.org for any additional information you may require

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