Dear colleagues and friends of the veterinary profession,

In this last Newsletter of the year 2008 I would like to pay attention to the next year 2009. It will be the first full year of my Presidency, but also for the EXCOM and the Council, to work hard for the benefit of WVA. This is only possible with the full cooperation of the members all over the world.

The first issue we have to work out is a new strategic plan for the next five years. We will do this bottom up, so you as members have to act together to bring this to realization. In the beginning of next year all members and some stakeholders will get a questionnaire about the main issues on which we have to act. In some of the continents the members have already their plans that we can be informed about. In other continents we will organize a meeting with delegates of the members. The EXCOM will get the materials to make a proposal for the strategic plan 2009-2014.

The second issue is the recruitment of a new Secretariat following the procedure in the Green Book and adopted in the Presidents’ Assembly in Vancouver. It is the duty of the President to invite the members to make a bid. The Danish Veterinary Association has to fulfill the task by contract till the end of 2009.

As president of WVA, supported by the EXCOM and the Council, I would like to professionalize the Secretariat. For the WVA is not only a scientific organization to organize congresses, but also a professional organization for the interest of the veterinarians all over the world. The importance of the WVA for the profession has to do with issues that are covered by all
worldwide organizations. The in-depth knowledge of what they are involved with is of great importance for the daily work of the veterinarians. An intensive relationship with the OIE, FAO, WHO and others, is only possible with a Secretariat that is actively in contact with these organizations.

I would like to mention and to respect the great involvement in duty of Lars Holsaae and Birgitte Sorensen of the DVA during all their 14 years of work with WVA. It is impossible for them to carry out the new duty and they fully agree and support the new professionalizing.

The third issue of the next year is to strengthen the cooperation with all world organizations we are involved with. The Council has adopted the new Memorandum of Understanding with FAO and we can start acting together new projects. With the OIE we are preparing the global education project with the meeting on 12-14 October 2009 in Paris. We will have contacts with WHO and other world organizations like IFAH and IFAP [farmers].

The last issue I would like to pay attention to is the upgrading of all WVA policy papers of the last ten years. Our veterinary profession has to follow the developments in the main issues of animal health, animal welfare and public health.

At the end of the year I wish you all the best for the year 2009

Tjeerd Jorna, WVA President

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**Short report of the Council meeting in Hanover [Germany] on 16&17 November 2008 and the EXCOM meeting in Guadalajara [Mexico] on 13 October 2008.**

The president of WVA was very pleased to welcome all Councillors, EXCOM members and Lars Holsaae and Birgitte Sorensen of the Secretariat when they assembled in Hanover from all over the world.

Before the meeting started we had a pleasant and friendly luncheon hosted by the Board and Secretariat of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe [FVE]. I would like to thank the FVE for their hospitality. Also I would like to thank the German Veterinary Practitioners [BpT] for their hospitality to invite the WVA delegates to the FVE gala-dinner. Human interest is of great importance to functioning well.

At the beginning of the meeting all Councillors were informed about their tasks as Councillor as is written in our rules. Some of the Councillors were immediately appointed as members of the Financial or the Policy Committee. Other Councillors were involved in preparing meetings for the strategy planning, education projects and upgrading the policy-papers.

The Council adopted the proposal to have two currencies [US-dollar and Euro] to pay the membership fee. The advantage is to prevent exchange rate expenses. Together with the account of the membership fee the members will get an explanation of the payment in one of the currencies.

The Council decided to upgrade all the policies of WVA of the last ten years with the support of experts in the different fields of animal health, animal welfare, public health and education. To start immediately with new policy is very time consuming and not effective.

The issue of education for veterinarians needs an analysis of all global accreditation and evaluation systems. The differences between the systems have to be discussed. As a professional organization we decided to draft a paper about education as well the minimum requirements and the day-one skills for veterinary education and to
circulate this paper as a working document for the schools and the profession. The document will be sent formally to the OIE asking them to emphasize WVA-OIE cooperation.

The external evaluation of WVA Governance Report written by LaBranche could be the lead for the future strategic planning. The Council agreed to sample strategy proposals by questionnaire and to organize meetings when necessary. All members and a selected group of stakeholders should take part in the discussion. The professionalizing of the Secretariat was part of the discussion and after the conclusion that the WVA needs an internationally oriented Secretariat. The president was asked to send a letter of invitation to the members and associate members, to bid to become the WVA Secretariat.

A lot of discussion took place in the Council about the WVA 150th Anniversary History Project. An overview of the status was given by the Secretariat. The President explained to the Council about the proposals from the WVA History Committee and WVA Associate member, the WAHVM. The Council agreed to the production of the history of the WVA. The limited edition of this book is intended to be a gift to the participants at the WVC in 2013 and to be available for sale.

The EXCOM decided that Dr Leon Russell stay in contact with the World Rabies Day Foundation. He gave an explanation about the status and the Council agreed.

The Council decided to send out a tool kit about the World Veterinary Day and Award in cooperation with OIE in early 2009 and to determine the award winner in May. The theme for World Veterinary Day would be “Healthy animals + healthy people = One health”.

In preparing the WVC 2011 in Cape Town and the WVC 2013 in Prague the Council discussed the status and decided to negotiate the involvement of OIE and FAO as participants in the congress. Special interest associations would also be invited. The Council asked the EXCOM to provide more leadership in this way in negotiating with the congress-organizers.
Communication is another main issue for discussion in the Council. In order to involve the WVA members we need, besides the website, to communicate more directly to the members. The President will send presidential news to the members directly. The Council also decided to distribute the newsletter not only by the website, but to sent it as well by WVAPA list. Members would be able to read more by using both these methods.

The Council also discussed the possibility of an open and closed part of the website. The members can get knowledge of the activities of the EXCOM and the Council by placing the minutes of the meetings on the closed part.

At the end of the meeting, the President expressed his great satisfaction about the involvement of all in the fruitful discussions. The business like, but always friendly, discussions have led to decisions, proposals and recommendations to act ahead.

The President thanked the Secretariat for the well organized meeting.

Tjeerd Jorna, WVA President

15th Congress of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations

The Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA) celebrated the 30th Anniversary of FAVA at its very successful 2008 Congress held in Bangkok, Thailand 27-30 October.

Significant support for the Congress had come from the OIE, FAO and WSPA. There was also support from the Thai business sector, especially the food safety and Thai Livestock production department.

Congress registrations were 300 international veterinarians from 34 countries and more than 500 Thai veterinarians.

The next FAVA Congress in 2010 will be hosted by the Philippines Veterinary Medical Association.

The FAVA Council met twice during the Congress. There were representatives from Myanmar, Mongolia, Thailand, Australia, Japan, Korea, India and New Zealand.

The Council considered that rabies, animal welfare and education were priority activities. A working group was established to develop recommendations to the Council on the FAVA activities and subscriptions.

The Council agreed to support the Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare in principle in the same way that had been agreed during the Presidents Assembly of the World Veterinary Association in July 2008.

Dr Pratuang Sudsakorn was confirmed as the new President and Dr Achariya Sailasuta was appointed the new FAVA Secretary. The KVMA would continue to administer the finances.

Pictured from left to right are: Dr Yean-Chul Woo, Dr Achariya Sailasuta, Dr Pratuang Sudsakorn, Dr Jim Edwards and Dr Yong-Ho Park.
WVA Executive Committee Meets in Mexico

The EXCOM held its first formal meeting since the 2008 Presidents Assembly, in Guadalajara, Mexico, October 13, 2008. The decision was made to meet at this location subsequent to an invitation from the WVA’s new council member from the Latin American region, Dr. Luis Zarco Quintero. Held in conjunction with the XXI Pan American Veterinary Congress, our visit to Mexico presented many opportunities as well as completing the normal committee business. In addition to renewing acquaintances within the Mexican veterinary community, there was an extended opportunity to meet with a wide range of veterinary representatives from numerous Latin American countries. We were very pleased to be invited to a meeting with the PANVET representatives and receive an opportunity for president, Dr. Tjeerd Jorna to deliver an address to the assembly encouraging them in their engagement with the WVA.

On behalf of the executive committee, I would like to extend sincere appreciation to Dr. Luis Zarco Quintero and Dr. Francisco Trigo Tavera and their colleagues for the warm hospitality and friendship they extended to us during our stay. The opportunity to visit a beautiful country like Mexico in the companionship of fellow veterinarians of such professional stature is an experience never to be forgotten.

Dr. Duane Landals, Vice President

Vice President European Veterinary Week successfully launched

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of 43 veterinary organisations from 36 European countries, representing a total of around 200,000 veterinarians.

The European Veterinary Week was officially launched Monday 10 November with a high level conference in Brussels, entitled “Animals + Humans = One Health”.

Mrs. Androula Vassillou, EU Commissioner for Public Health, Food Safety, Animal Health and Welfare highlighted the "integral role played by veterinarians in protecting us from threats posed to animals by diseases such as avian influenza, foot and mouth disease and bluetongue". However, she added, veterinarians alone cannot ensure that the objective of One Health is achieved. "For this, we need the active involvement and support of a number of other actors in the food chain, particularly, farmers".

The events goals to stimulate dialogue on information diffusion and cooperation between the different stakeholders in the animal health field for the implementation of effective biosecurity measures at border and farm level were successfully achieved.

Dr. Bernard Vallat, Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health presented the positive impacts of animal health standards on human health and consumer well being, and Walter Winding, President of FVE, stressed the need for good co-operation and partnership between authorities and stakeholders.

The 'One health' website: [www.one-health.eu](http://www.one-health.eu), has been developed in all EU official languages.

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This edition of the Newsletter introduces the Executive Committee (EXCOM) members

President Dr Tjeerd Jorna qualified in 1967, from Utrecht, the Netherlands. His early career was in the Department of Internal Medicine Large Animals in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Utrecht. He completed his PhD on the renal blood flow in ruminants in 1978. Dr Jorna then worked as a bovine veterinarian in a Regional Herd Health Centre and received his diploma in bovine herd health management.

President Jorna was Secretary General of the Dutch Veterinary Association from 1990-2004 and President of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) 2003-2007. He has continued as the Netherlands National Representative and participated in all WVA Presidential Assemblies and World Veterinary Congresses in Rio de Janeiro, Yokohama, Lyon, Tunis and Minneapolis.

Dr Duane C. Landals from Alberta, Canada has Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Alberta, and became a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan. Dr Landals is president of the Sturgeon River Veterinary Group Inc.; a past president of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. He is currently a vice president of the World Veterinary Association, and was Chair of the 29th World Veterinary Congress.

Dr Landals has been a rural mixed animal veterinary practitioner in Alberta, Canada for 25 years and is currently the Registrar and CEO, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association. He is a non practicing owner Morinville Veterinary Clinic, companion animal practice, Morinville, Alberta, Canada.

Dr. Faouzi Kechrid has more than twenty-seven years experience in the fields of Veterinary Medicine, Animal and Public Health, Livestock, Food Hygiene and Safety. As a Consultant for the World Bank, FAO and OIE, Dr. Kechrid conducted assessments on Avian Influenza in the Middle East and North Africa. He is also coordinating activities on behalf of the World Veterinary Association, the Euro-Arab Veterinary Association, and the African Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Kechrid was Chair of the organizing committee of the 27th World Veterinary Congress. He is a recipient of the French Ministry of Agriculture’s professional designation known as “Chevalier dans l’Ordre du Mérite Agricole” for advancing Franco-Tunisian cooperation in research. Since February 2007, Dr Kechrid has been regional manager of the animal health centre for North Africa based in Tunis, to coordinate the regional programme on High Pathogenic Avian Influenza in North Africa and Egypt and other transboundary animal diseases under the FAO Emergency Centre of Transboundary Animal Diseases, the FAO sub-regional representation in Tunisia and the other United Nations international organizations, international donor community and multilateral agencies.

Immediate Past President Dr Leon H. Russell from College Station, Texas, USA was educated at the University of Missouri, Tulane University and the Texas A & M University where he still works. Dr Russell holds numerous memberships: the American Veterinary Medical Association, Diplomate of the American College of Preventive Medicine- Specialty Epidemiology-Distinguished Member, National Academies of Practice in Veterinary Medicine-Distinguished Scholar, Texas Veterinary Medical Association – Distinguished Member, American Veterinary Epidemiology Society, Honorary Diploma, International HACCP Alliance, Board of Directors, American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians, US Animal Health Association, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.
WVA to Commemorate the 150th Anniversary at 2013 World Veterinary Congress in Prague
2011 Veterinary World Cup of Cricket

On 7-11 February, 2011, New Zealand will be hosting the Veterinary World Cup of Cricket in Palmerston North, a city in the lower half of the North Island of New Zealand.

This event follows on from a very successful Veterinary World Cup hosted by South Africa in 2007. While the cricket is heartily contested, it is an opportunity for colleagues from around the globe to fraternise. We will provide opportunities for sight-seeing for partners of players and for the players themselves. A tour of the Massey University Veterinary Teaching Hospital will be organised as will some continuing professional development. Of course, there will be many opportunities for socialisation!

Further information is on their website: www.vetcricket.com. The contact is Dave West at: D.M.West@massey.ac.nz.

Canadian Veterinarians Present another International Educational Event

Following on the success of the 29th World Veterinary Congress in Vancouver last summer, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association will pursue another partnership event. The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association are pleased to announce the 2009 ACVIM Forum and CVMA Convention in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, June 3-6, 2009. “Summer is the season, Montreal is the place and discovery is the theme.”

Promoted as North America’s largest happening in veterinary internal medicine, the event promises:

- the most informative and educational advances in your field
- hundreds of exhibits providing new ideas and approaches for your work
- Montreal, an urban North American city with a distinct French flair and incomparable gourmet cuisine

If you had an opportunity to visit Canada last summer in Vancouver, please consider returning to visit our eastern side. If you were not available to come last year, this event provides you with another chance. Why not “Rendezvous with Discovery: Rendezvous in Montreal”?

Dr. Duane Landals, Vice President WVA

Conferences and Congresses

First OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability
«From Farm to Fork»
Buenos Aires (Argentina), 23 - 25 March 2009
For further information, please contact the OIE Headquarters:
E-mail:traceability-2009@oie.int
Telephone: +33 (0)1 44 15 18 88

World Veterinary Day
25th April 2009
“Healthy animals + healthy people = One health”.

Evolving veterinary education for a safer world
This worldwide conference will take place at the Maison de la Chimie in Paris from 12-14 October 2009.
For more information please contact:
s.suarez@oie.int

Vet 2011
2011 will be the 250th anniversary of veterinary education, marking the world’s first veterinary school in Lyon, France. For more information please contact:
staff@vet2011.org or www.2011vet.org

WVA OFFICERS
PRESIDENT: Dr Tjeerd Jorna (The Netherlands)
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Dr Duane Landals (Canada); Dr Faouzi Kechrid (Tunisia)
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Prof Leon Russell (USA)
SECRETARIAT: Dr Lars Holsaae (Executive Secretary); Mrs Birgitte Sørensen (Secretary)
Newsletter Editors: Dr Jim Edwards, Mr Bob Stevenson