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WSAVA Global Pain Council Aims to Raise Standards of Pain Management in Small Animals

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) has launched a Global Pain Council (GPC) to raise the standard of pain management in small animals. The Council, comprising leading veterinarians from around the world, aims to develop easily accessible practical guidelines on pain management for veterinary staff and to create a CE programme which can be rolled out around the world.

The WSAVA is an umbrella organisation focused on enhancing the clinical care of companion animals around the world. It represents 180,000 veterinarians globally through 92 member associations.

The Global Pain Council has been set up in response to challenges faced by the profession in diagnosing and managing pain in small animals and because of the unavailability of various analgesic agents around the world. Its members are:

Karol Mathews DVM, DVSc, DACVECC- Canada, Chair

Peter Kronen DVM, DECVA - Switzerland

Duncan Lascelles BSc, BVSc, PhD, DSAS, DECVS, DACVS - USA

Sheilah Robertson BVM, PhD, DACVA, DECVAA - USA

Andrea Nolan MVB, DVA, PhD, DECVA, DECVPT - Scotland

Paulo Steagall MV, MS, PhD, DACVA – Canada and Brazil

Bonnie Wright DVM, DACVA - USA

Kazuto Yamashita DVM, MVM, PhD, DJCVS – Japan

Walt Ingwersen DVM, DVSc, DACVIM - WSAVA Honorary Secretary

Commenting on the creation of the Global Pain Council, Dr Karol Mathews, Professor Emerita of Emergency and Critical Care Medicine at the Ontario Veterinary College, said:

“Assessing and managing small animal pain is an issue of global significance.

Pain accompanies many of the common ailments affecting these animals but its treatment has not kept pace with its incidence, leading to what we believe to be a ‘treatment gap’.”

During 2012, the Council will conduct research into existing pain assessment and management procedures. Based on this, in early 2013, it will produce a ‘Global Pain Treatise,’ for veterinarians around the world. The Treatise will provide a comprehensive resource on pain management and will be designed to be of daily clinical relevance. Later in 2013, pain management CE programmes will be developed and rolled out globally.

WSAVA President Professor Jolle Kirpensteijn added: “The Global Pain Council will help us to raise awareness of the importance of pain management and to deliver on our vision of an empowered, motivated and unified profession, which effectively recognises and minimises the prevalence and impact of pain.”

We would like to thank the generous sponsors which are supporting the work of the GPC. They are: Boehringer Ingelheim, Elanco, Novartis Animal Health, Pfizer Animal Health and Vetoquinol.”

The next WSAVA World Congress takes place in Birmingham, UK, from 11-15 April 2012, running alongside BSAVA Congress. For more information on the WSAVA visit www.wsava.org.

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Picture shows: Dr Karol Mathews, Chair of the WSAVA’s Global Pain Council

For further information:

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