



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the NATIONAL VETERINARY CLINICIANS GROUP of the SAVA, 24 July 2017

Venue: Birchwood, Johannesburg

Date and time: 24 July 2017, 15:10

1. Opening and welcome

Dr Ian Southern, Chairman opens the Meeting. The meeting is declared properly constituted as a quorum is present. Credo of the SAVA is read.

Current Committee members is: Jono Savadier, Charles Hayward, Tasho Makunike, Dave Miller, Keith Viljoen, Kerri Farlam, Ian Southern. All committee members was willing to remain with exception of dr Mark Shepherd - he will stand down and will have to be replaced. Dr Remo Lobetti did not give indication if he wants to remain on the committee.

Richard Smith was nominated to serve on the committee

Proposed: Mark Shephard, Seconded: Dave Miller

2. Attendance register and Apologies

Apologies: Dr. Jeanette van Dijken, Dr LO Bruggemann, Dr Colin van Rensburg, Dr Robert Campbell and Dr Jono Savadier. **Attendance register: Scanned attachment on file**

3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2017, held in Johannesburg was approved.

Proposer: Tasho Makunike, Seconder: Dave Miller

4. Chairman's Report: Dr Ian Southern

The NVCG has had another successful year representing the interests of the small animal clinician. Our membership numbers have remained constant at around 300 members and we are looking at increasing this number significantly by, amongst others, increasing student members. We need to appeal to younger members in order to stay relevant.

Continuing Education

It is becoming increasingly difficult to get quality international speakers for our CPD days due to these speakers being booked often two years in advance. Despite this we have been able to secure the services of Stan Marks (gastroenterology) for the pre-congress NVCG day as well as Ross Palmer from Colorado State (orthopaedics) for a course in September (the

latter in conjunction with the SAVA Wits branch). We are also proud to have secured a cardiology course by Etienne Cote co-author of the small animal clinician's bible "Ettinger" to be presented in March 2018.

KUSA

We continue to engage with KUSA and veterinary radiologists to improve the hip and elbow certification for breeding dogs. As a group of the SAVA we need to take a greater part in the process as SAVA certificates are issued, and at present the SAVA is bypassed to a great extent. We also need to ensure that the process is not open to corruption by implementing procedures such as random allocation of radiographs to the radiologist's panel.

This is a slow process as we wish to achieve consensus from all parties but we are hoping to finalise this soon.

Remuneration Benchmarking

A large portion of our resources (both time and financial) this year have been allocated to the benchmarking study to benchmark veterinary remuneration according to skills required to be a veterinarian. This was a request from our members at the 2015 AGM and was brought about, in part, by no longer having a regulated fee structure. The aim is to use this study as a way to determine fees to fulfil the obligations to remunerate ourselves in accordance with our skills.

The results of this study were to be presented at this congress but due to insufficient time allocation it will be presented to our members at Ross Palmer's course in September.

Techniques of implementing the recommendations will also be presented and discussed.

WSAVA

All NVCG members are also World Small Animal Veterinary Association members. All members are encouraged to visit the WSAVA website for an excellent presentation of amongst others: vaccination guidelines, global pain council, hereditary disease committee, video surgery library and free congress webcasts.

NVCG members serve on many committees of the WSAVA to ensure that our voices are heard on the international stage and to ensure that we continually benchmark our standards of practice to best international standards.

Ian Southern
Chairman

DISCUSSION

Focus for CPD remain to obtain a high quality international speaker for a course over two days, two centres. Dr Ross Palmer has been secured for 4 & 5 September 2017 in Cape Town and 6 & 7 September 2017 in Johannesburg. "Dr. Palmer, a native of Kansas, received his BS and DVM degrees from Kansas State University. He completed an internship at The Animal Medical Center in New York City and received his small animal surgical residency training and an MS degree (Physiology) from the University of Georgia. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. His veterinary career has spanned both academics (Texas A&M and Colorado State University) and private specialty practice (Silicon Valley/Monterey Bay region of California) as a staff surgeon and practice owner. Ross is Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Colorado State University. He is the author of multiple journal articles and book chapters on orthopedic topics. He is a board member of the North American Veterinary Conference and past member of the board of the Veterinary Orthopedic Society and editorial board of the Veterinary Surgery Journal."

The Johannesburg Branch of the SAVA will contribute an amount to get him out and their members will also receive a discounted rate for this course

Remuneration benchmarking study will be available – money received for WSAVA congress to benchmark Veterinary Remuneration. Study is almost complete. Will be available and presented at the course in September. Benchmarking against the skills and knowledge necessary

WSAVA – membership – visit the website. NVCG send on the newsletter etc. Also available for general public. NVCG has voting rights on the WSAVA

Dr Ian Southern will be stepping down as chairman as he was appointed as clinical director at a group in the UK.

5. Financial Report.

Dr Keri Farlam, Treasurer could not be present. The financial statements, audited by Consultus Auditors was handed out and submitted to meeting for approval
Decision is to use some surplus funds to subsidise attendance of members at CPD events next year eg. Cardiology course with Etienne Cote. Tremendous speakers also planned for 2019. Financial Statements approved as tabled.
Proposed: Mark Shephard, Seconded: Dave Miller

6. Closure and date of next meeting.

Next meeting to be held at the time of the Cardiology course with Etienne Cote. (April 2017)