

**August 2009**  
**HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY ANATOMISTS (WAVA)**

***HISTORY***

WAVA began as a "suggestion" made by Prof. Clement Bressou (Alfort) in 1955 at the International Anatomical Congress held in Paris. The proposal to form an International Association of Veterinary Anatomists came in response to the Paris revision of the (human) **Nomina Anatomica** (NA). The revision deliberately ignored the problems of comparative anatomy so that the NA was of little use to veterinary anatomists. In the same vein, the International Commission for Veterinary Education laid down international standards completely ignoring the views of veterinary anatomists and the needs for the teaching of veterinary anatomy.

The International Association of Veterinary Anatomists was founded in September 1957 in Freiburg (Germany) at the 54th Congress of the **Anatomische Gesellschaft**; twenty-two veterinary anatomists were present at the 1st General Assembly.

WAVA met in conjunction with the Congresses of the **International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA)** which meets every five years (1980 Mexico, 1985 London, 1989 Rio de Janeiro, 1994 Lisbon, etc.) and with the World Veterinary Congress held by the **World Veterinary Association (WVA)** which meets every four years (1979 Moscow, 1983 Perth [Australia], 1987 Montreal, 1991 Rio de Janeiro, etc.). This is why our General Assemblies were held at irregular intervals. The election of officers took place every four years at the meeting held with the World Veterinary Congress.

At the 5th General Assembly in Vienna (1961), the name was changed to World Association of Veterinary Anatomists and the American and Japanese Associations of Veterinary Anatomists became the first two collective members of WAVA. (The formation of a European Association of Veterinary Anatomists was being contemplated.) Professors Bressou and Barone, the first President and Secretary-General, were charged with writing a Constitution and Bylaws which, after repeated discussions at the first four General Assemblies, were adopted and published in 1961.

**COLLECTIVE MEMBERS in 1990**

1961	American Association of Veterinary Anatomists	(AAVA)
1961	Japanese Association of Veterinary Anatomists	(JAVA)
1965	European Association of Veterinary Anatomists	(EAVA)
1979	Canadian Association of Veterinary Anatomists	(CAVA)
1985	Korean Association of Veterinary Anatomists	(KAVA)
1987	Mexican Association of Veterinary Anatomists	(MAVA)
1989	Indian Association of Veterinary Anatomists	(IAVA)
1989	Anatohistoembryological Society of the Chinese Association of Veterinary Sciences	
2008	Asian Association of Veterinary Anatomists	(AsAVA)

**HONORARY PRESIDENTS AND MEMBERS**

The following members were elevated to honorary membership since the founding of WAVA:

1963: Prof. Bressou (France) (Honorary President)

1965: Prof. Schreiber (Austria) and Prof. Meyling (The Netherlands)  
1967: Prof. Grau (Germany) (Honorary President)  
1979: Prof. Barone (France)  
1980: Prof. Habel (USA) and Prof. Preuss (Germany)

## **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

WAVA's Constitution and the Bylaws appended to it were adopted by the 5th General Assembly in Vienna (1961), four years after the Association was founded. The Constitution was amended at the 8th General Assembly in Paris (1967) with regard to nominations and election of the Executive Committee, and at the 10th General Assembly in Thessaloniki (1975) to make us comply with the requirements of the World Veterinary Association as an Association Member of Veterinary Specialists. At the 12th General Assembly in Mexico City (1980) a committee (Profs. Pierard, Montreal (Chairman); Barone, Lyon, and Aja-Guardiola, Mexico City) was appointed to revise the Constitution. The revised document was presented to the 13th General Assembly in Perth (1983). Further changes were made by the committee following the Perth meeting, and the resulting present Constitution was adopted by the 14th General Assembly in North Mymms (London) in 1985. It was translated into the three other official languages by Profs. Habel, Sack, and Aja-Guardiola.

**CONSTITUTION** (Ammended August 19, 2009, Cape Town) (Translated from the French by Prof. R.E. Habel, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA.)

### **Article 1: Name and Duration**

- 1.1. The name of the Association is: "World Association of Veterinary Anatomists". There is no limit to the life of the Association.
- 1.2. In this Constitution and in the Bylaws the World Association of Veterinary Anatomists is referred to as "the Association".
- 1.3. The Association shall not be organized or operated for profit.

### **Article 2: Objectives**

The objectives of the Association are:

- 2.1. to gather together all persons who work physically or theoretically in the field of anatomy of domestic animals, whether gross, microscopic or ultrastructural.
- 2.2. to encourage the organization of meetings for the study of the anatomy of domestic animals
- 2.3. to promote research and the dissemination of new knowledge of veterinary anatomy.
- 2.4. to encourage the teaching of veterinary anatomy by modern methods of instruction.
- 2.5. to promote a better knowledge of anatomy in the fields of the applied sciences, especially in veterinary practice.
- 2.6. to encourage exchange of information and contacts with all interested persons and organizations, particularly with specialists in human anatomy and comparative anatomy, and notably with the International Federation of Anatomy and the World Veterinary Association.

The Association is affiliated with the World Veterinary Association and is represented on its Permanent Committee by one veterinarian whose national veterinary organization is a member of the World Veterinary Association. The Association shall inform the Permanent Committee of the date and agenda of any meeting it intends to hold and report annually on its activities.

### **Article 3: Members**

The Association comprises collective members, active members, associate members, and honorary members. All members must provide the Secretary-General with a current email address.

- 3.1. **Collective members** are the constituents of national or regional associations or groups of Veterinary Anatomists who have requested admission to the Association and obtained it as organizations. Admission of collective members is announced by the General Assembly.
- 3.2. **Active members** are recruited from the veterinarians of those countries represented in the World Veterinary Association or in the International Federation of Anatomy, who actively pursue the objectives of the Association. They enjoy all the rights and privileges of the Association, including the right to vote and to hold office. Applications for membership should be sent to the Secretary-General and voted on by the Executive Committee. New members will be announced at the General Assembly. Active members who have informed the Secretary-General of their retirement from their academic position pay no further dues.
- 3.3. **Associate members** are recruited from the countries represented in WAVA or IFAA, who are not veterinarians but actively pursuing the objectives of the Association. Total number of associate members cannot be greater than 30 percent of the Association membership. Applications for membership should be addressed to the Secretary-General, and their admission is by the Executive Committee and is announced at the General Assembly. They have the same rights and privileges as active members. Associate members who have informed the Secretary-General of their retirement from their academic position pay no further dues.
- 3.4. **Honorary members** are elected during the General Assembly of the Association by virtue of their qualifications for the title. Honorary members enjoy all the rights and privileges of the Association except the right to hold office in the Executive Committee. They do not pay dues.
- 3.5. Membership in the Association can be revoked by voluntary resignation or by expulsion. Expulsion cannot be declared by the Executive Committee, except for non-payment of dues for three years or for a very serious cause. Expulsion must be reported at the next General Assembly together with the reasons. Expulsion will not become effective until it has been decided upon by the General Assembly.

### **Article 4: Procedures of the Association**

The administration and the operation of the Association are the responsibility of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.

- 4.1. The General Assembly is composed of all the members present or represented at the meetings of the Association. Collective members may be represented by one or more delegates. The Association holds regular meetings in conjunction with meetings of one of the Regional Associations of WAVA, the World Veterinary Congress or the Congress of the

International Federation of Anatomy. A General Assembly shall be held at least every two years.

A General Assembly may make any decision it considers useful concerning the activities of the Association. It approves the accounts and the actions of the Executive Committee. It gives an opinion on the admission of collective members. It announces the election of the members of the Executive Committee. It takes note of admissions and resignations and makes the final decision on expulsions.

During a General Assembly the members present constitute a quorum; in an email or mail vote the number of those responding. Decisions of the General Assembly are taken by a majority vote. Every active or associate member is entitled to one vote. Each collective member has the right to one vote for every ten members or fraction of ten members for whom dues have been paid. Any member unable to attend a General Assembly may be represented by another member of the Association bearing a written proxy which must be presented at the time of the vote.

The membership may be polled at any time by email or mail vote on any question considered important by the Executive Committee. Eligibility to vote in such a poll is the same as in a General Assembly. The organization of an email or mail vote is the responsibility of the Secretary-General who must provide the members, along with the ballot, with the justification the vote, and a complete and pertinent documentation of the matter in question. An email vote must be conducted with the appropriate software to assure anonymity of the voter, as well, a mail vote must be sent in two envelopes (the outer one bearing the name of the voter for verification and the inner envelope without any mark of identification). The envelopes must be opened in the presence of the General Assembly.

- 4.2. The Executive Committee is composed of President, four Vice Presidents of equal rank, Secretary-General, and Treasurer. With the exception of the Treasurer, the term of office of the Executive Committee shall be four years. All of the officers may be elected to succeed themselves once, with the exception of the President who may not succeed himself. Members of the Executive Committee are elected by vote of the active and associate members in accordance with article 4.1.

One Vice President Region 1 is elected by the members from the countries of Europe and Africa, including the countries of Western Asia (Turkey, Syria, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Persian Gulf countries, Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Arab Republic of Yemen). On the Executive Committee, he represents the members of those countries and consults them directly when necessary.

One Vice President is elected by the members from the countries in Region 2: North America, Central America, and South America. On the Executive Committee, he represents the members of those countries and consults them directly when necessary.

One Vice President is elected by the members from the countries in Region 3 forming the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) that, with the exception of the three Baltic States, succeeded the former USSR. On the Executive Committee, he represents the members of those countries and consults them directly when necessary.

One Vice President is elected by the members from the countries in Region 4: from Eastern Asia, including Afghanistan and Pakistan. On the Executive Committee, he represents the members of those countries and consults them directly when necessary.

The number of Vice Presidents will remain fixed at four. Therefore, according to the demogeographic changes in membership, the boundaries of the geographic zones assigned to each Vice President may be modified by means of a Bylaw adopted by the General Assembly.

The Executive Committee carries out the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the membership arrived at by an email or mail vote, prepares the budget, and organizes its activities in accordance with the objectives of the Association. It makes the necessary decisions between General Assemblies. It reports its actions for the approval of the General Assembly. Its decision may be reached by correspondence or by any other method that it deems practicable.

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#### **Article 5: Representation**

5.1. The President and the Secretary-General are the representatives of the Association. Such official representation can, in exceptional circumstances, with the agreement of the Executive Committee, be delegated temporarily to any member of the Association.

#### **Article 6: Official Languages**

6.1. English, French, German and Spanish are the official languages of the Association.

#### **Article 7: Funds of the Association**

The funds of the Association are derived from dues of the members, subsidies from governments, public authorities, universities and various other organizations and private persons, as well as exceptional receipts resulting from the activities of the Association.

7.1. The amount of the dues is fixed by the General Assembly. The dues of the collective members are equal to the dues of one regular member for every ten members or fraction of ten members belonging to the collective.

7.2. The President orders the expenditures. The Treasurer keeps an account of expenditures and receipts, and if necessary, an inventory of property. The President will appoint two members to audit the Treasurer's report before it is presented at the General Assembly.

#### **Article 8: Amendment of the Constitution**

- 8.1. Any amendment of the present Constitution must be approved by a two-thirds majority of those voting.
- 8.2. An email or mail vote is obligatory in this case. The proposed amendment or change must be submitted to the members at least three months before the date fixed for the General Assembly. The organization of the email or mail vote is the responsibility of the Secretary-General, who must also furnish pertinent and complete documentation to the members. The method of voting described in Article 4.1 must be followed in its entirety.
- 8.3. Any member may propose an amendment to the Constitution by submitting it to the Executive Committee who will decide when to put the proposed amendment to a vote.

### **Article 9: Headquarters**

- 9.1. The headquarters of the Association shall be in Paris.

### **Article 10: Dissolution of the Association**

- 10.1. The decision to dissolve the Association can be made only by the procedures and under the conditions defined in Article 8.
- 10.2. Dissolution of the Association shall not be effective until 90 days after it is decided upon, provided that all of its obligations have been discharged. The Executive Committee shall designate three receivers to liquidate the assets of the Association.

### **Article 11: Bylaws**

- 11.1 The General Assembly, if necessary, may adopt by a simple majority vote one or more Bylaws regulating the operations of the Association or the various activities that it may organize.

## **BYLAWS**

### **Bylaw 1: Method of Election of the Executive Committee**

- B 1.1. A notice shall be added at the end of the minutes of each General Assembly informing the members of the date of the next election.
- B 1.2. One year before the date of the election, the Secretary-General shall remind the Presidents of the collective members, by email, of the date of the election and solicit nominations. Nominations may be made by the collective members or by any group of ten individual members in good standing who have obtained the written consent of their nominee. Except for new members, only members in good standing may be nominated for office. Except for new members, a member in good standing has paid dues for the preceding year.
- B 1.3. The nominations will be closed five months before the election.
- B 1.4. The Secretary-General will compile the nominations for each office and inform the Executive Committee.
- B 1.5. Four months before the General Assembly, the Secretary-General will send one ballot via email to each active and associate member in good standing. All members in good standing may vote for the President, Secretary-General, and Treasurer. On the ballot the candidates for Vice President will be segregated by region and the members will vote for only one Vice President candidate of their region.

- B 1.6. Completed ballots must be received by the Secretary-General at least 21 days before the General Assembly. The ballots will be opened during the General Assembly.
- B 1.7. The candidate for each office who receives the most votes shall be declared elected by the General Assembly. Tie votes shall be decided by ballot of the members present at the General Assembly.

**Bylaw 2: Additional Duties of the Secretary-General**

- B 2.1. The Secretary-General shall distribute a newsletter to the membership every year.

**Bylaw 3: Additional Duties of the Treasurer**

- B 3.1. The Treasurer shall send dues notices during the first three months of every year to all individual and collective members except to those who are exempt from paying dues.

**Bylaw 4: Lifetime Paid-up Membership Status**

- B 4.1. Any individual member who is required to pay annual dues may elect to obtain lifetime paid-up membership status by making one final dues payment according to the following formula: Age below 30: thirty times the current annual dues; Age between 30 and 50: twenty times the current annual dues; Age above 50: ten times the current annual dues.