

Minutes for the AGM of the Veterinary Wound Healing Association

May 4th 2017, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

1. Apologies for absence: Elin Skärlina., Loni Loftus
2. Minutes of the 2016 AGM: minutes had been sent out via e-mail to the members prior to the 2017 AGM, as they had not been made available at the homepage as stipulated in the VWHA regulations
3. Matters arising from the minutes of the 2016 AGM: none
4. Correspondence: none
5. President's report: Similar to last year, a call for abstracts for the VWHA Annual Meeting at the EWMA Conference in Amsterdam was made. VWHA approached all research groups known to us, invited them for abstracts and asked them to inform us if they knew more groups working on veterinary wounds. In this way we increased our database of active wound researchers. The call was very successful: we had more abstract than slots for presentations, so we had to select. Finally we chose 8 abstracts from 7 countries over the world (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, UK, USA) and in this way we bring research groups together. This certainly fills of the main objectives: "to promote research into the scientific basis and the clinical management of wounds of whatever aetiology in the veterinary science". We should certainly continue this! The theme of this year's conference "The (non)sense of antimicrobials during wound treatment" is fully supported by the Royal Dutch Veterinary Association with mailings, blog, advert in the journal etc. Additionally, as president, I have used my own databases to approach over 5000 vets in Belgium and the Netherlands personally. So this year, we have the opportunity for good promotion. Nevertheless, we would have hoped to attract more attendants for the Annual Meeting. Some reasons for the unsatisfactory attendance may be: date (May4th, which is Memorial day and within holidays), timing (just after giant Veterinary Spring Conference 2 weeks ago attended by many vets), and the general issue that spring is busy period equine vets. Attracting sponsors was successful this year in the Netherlands, probably because of the president's (Woumarec) network. Plans for 2017/18: collaborate again with EWMA, even if the board have some doubts about organizing an Annual Meeting in Poland. The board is seriously concerned that we will not be able to attract veterinarians from Poland, as veterinary science is not very highly developed there. On the other hand, it would fit in our aim: spread knowledge. If we would do, we would need a local organizer, otherwise it is impossible to proceed. We have to discuss with EWMA what they want us to do: either a Veterinary Conference within EWMA, or a scientific program within EWMA (without the aim of attracting extra delegates). We plan to have a Skype meeting with CAP-EWMA after they have recovered from Amsterdam and to decide than. Points to focus on in 2018: 1) Attracting more members, 2) What to do with Poland?, 3) Building on continuity with sponsors.
6. Treasurer's report: the balance (April 2017) was approx.. 11.500 euros. The main income was from sponsors, as no membership fees had been claimed in 2016-2017. The main costs in 2016-2017 was council reimbursement (approx.. 1250 euros).
7. Election of council members: Elin Jørgensen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, was elected secretary. Vincenzo Miragliotta, University of Pisa, Italy was elected council member. Jacintha

Wilmink (president), Stine Jacobsen (vice-president), Michael Braun (treasurer), and Mirja Nolf (council member) continue in the board.

8. Scientific courses and meetings 2017-2018: potential courses in equine and small animal wound management were discussed. Olivier Lepage (France) has expressed interest (equine), as has Matthias Kuhn (Germany, small animal). At the time of the AGM, no courses were under concrete planning. The board agrees that courses are an important part of VWHA mission. The annual meeting in VWHA will take place during the EWMA in Poland. The board members have few/no contacts in Poland, so getting in touch with veterinary practitioners will be a challenge. VWHA will evaluate this year's annual meeting with the EWMA organizers and plan the meeting in Poland based on this.
9. Issues to be discussed
 - a. Strategy for the future of VWHA: The board would like to maintain current activities (annual meeting in conjunction with the EWMA, courses). It is desirable that more activities relating to small animal wound management are planned. The coming year, focus will be on planning the annual meeting, getting the homepage to run smoothly (Michael Braun takes over after Elin Skärlina) and identifying options for VWHA educational courses.
10. Any other business: none