

Veterinary Wound Healing Association

"Advancing knowledge of veterinary wound healing"

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**Minutes for the 2021 AGM of the Veterinary Wound Healing Association held
by Zoom conference, 17th May 2021**

Please address any correspondence to:

VWHA Membership Secretary and Treasurer

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Minutes for the 2021 AGM of the Veterinary Wound Healing Association held by Zoom Conference 17th May 2021

1. Apologies for absence: None
2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM
Minutes of the 2020 AGM were made available to members over 2020-2021 via a dedicated section within the VWHA website.
3. Matters arising from the minutes 2020: None
4. Correspondence: None
5. President's report:

2020

2020 was in the grip of the Covid 19 pandemic. We were well prepared for the VWHA Conference 2020 in London May 15th with the theme "Wound and surgical site infections in the modern veterinary clinic: prevention and treatment". Speakers were organized, a call for abstracts was sent and abstracts were received, and we had an extensive plan for advertisement and involved Georgie Hollis, a former VWHA council member and owner of the Veterinary Wound Library, because she has an extensive network in UK. However, in February and beginning of March the situation around Covid became very serious, and later in March, EWMA decided to postpone their congress including the VWHA conference to November. As the council of VWHA was not sure whether a live congress in November would be a realistic option, we decided not to join the conference in November and to move the entire 2020 program to the next EWMA congress, April 15-16th 2021. Simultaneously to our decision, the EWMA had decided to go virtual in November and they could not host all programs, so our decision fitted well.

Additionally, all initiatives for organizing practical courses were postponed.

As alternative for the conference we organized 2 webinars in 2020, which worked out very well.

- July 1st : theme "Antiseptics in veterinary Medicine"

- December 15th : theme "Bandage and pressure sores: how to prevent and treat" including preparation for Christmas "How to stitch the turkey"

2021

The EWMA congress of April 14-16th was further postponed to July 7-9th, which appeared to be exactly the same dates as the ECVS congress. Both VWHA and ECVS target similar audience, speakers, and several council members had obligations for ECVS (which is seen as more important by universities). We explained the issue to EWMA and they understood that we better had to withdraw because of the major competition between ECVS and VWHA and chance on failure, irrespective whether the conferences would be live or virtual. That means that VWHA for the second year on row will not be able to hold an annual conference. Because the situation around Covid 19 remains uncertain, it is also not likely that we can organize a

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practical course in 2021. We hope to focus now on live events in 2022. At the present time, it has not yet been decided by EWMA when and where the next EWMA congress 2022 will take place. VWHA will have her 25th anniversary in December 2021, and it would be nice if we could celebrate this during the next live conference!

This year we will organize again some webinars for our members, and we will make a poll to decide on dates and subjects.

6. Treasurer's report:

INCOME			COSTS	
Balance May 2020	14.382,01 €		Homepage & Web Hosting	-988,60 €
Membership dues 2020/2021	840,00 €		Bank costs	-146,92 €
Refunds	1.047,86 €		Council Reimbursements	-1.980,55 €
Webinar Registrations	140,00 €			
SUM	16.409,87 €		SUM	-3.116,07 €
Total balance	13.293,80 €			

7. Election of council members and replacement of officers

2021: Michael announced that he is not available for the treasurer tasks anymore. A search has been made for a new treasurer, and Susann Adehed from Sweden is available. A voting will be held.

Michael was thanked for his longstanding great work in the association. Subsequently Susann was voted in as new treasurer.

2021: a new webmaster is found: Neeltje Drijfhout from the Netherlands. She will also try to focus on social media (Facebook) etc. A voting will be held.

Neeltje was voted in as new webmaster/social media expert, and will help Mirja with FB/Instagram etc.

2021: Jacintha's president term of 2 years is over. She is available to continue but any idea's about a new president are welcome. A voting will be held.

Jacintha was voted in for another period, the council highly appreciates Jacintha's willingness to continue.

8. Scientific meeting/ courses 2021-2022

- VWHA conference during EWMA Paris July 7-9th 2021 is canceled for 2 reasons: the competition with ECVS which would be hold on exactly the same dates, and because of all uncertainties around Covid 19. A life conference still seemed not realistic at the time of decision (February 2021) but even if we would

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join virtual, half of the council would have obligations for ECV and the target audience of both ECVS and VWHA is similar.

- Practical courses to be decided: Equine course planned in collaboration with university of Liverpool is on hold
- VWHA conference during EWMA 2022: date and location is not yet decided, but EWMA/VWHA hope that it will be a life conference again somewhere in Europe. Perhaps even a hybrid conference (life and virtual), which would be an opportunity for VWHA to attract more participants.

9. Issues to be discussed

a. Strategy for the future of the VWHA

We hope to be able to return to more normal activities within the next half year (courses and conference) and plan on giving to webinars in 2021, first one in June.

Webinars for members and for interested non-members for small fee. Next webinar before summer holidays to be decided.

We brainstormed topics for upcoming webinars, which will be used for upcoming webinars:

- Equine cases
- Small animal cases
- Research abstracts
- Burn wounds (EQ + Small)
- Simple bandaging techniques
- New EU legislation - how to treat (Michael might be able to find presenter)
- Determining viability of skin flaps (EQ + small - Dean)
- Skin expanders
- Wound myiasis (Fiorella)
- Pyodermatitis case (Fiorella - could be abstract?)
- Hypoalbuminemia (potentially as part of burn wounds)

10. Any Other Business: None

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