

# WSAVA Congress News

Sunday 19th – Thursday 23rd August 2007

**vetCONTACT**  
THE VETERINARY MEETINGPOINT

The picture gallery from this conference will be available online. Please check the website [www.vetcontact.com](http://www.vetcontact.com) in September!



## WELCOME TO SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA



As Chair of the Congress Organising Committee for the 32nd WSAVA Congress I would like to send a warm welcome to all that are attending this congress in Sydney, Australia.

Sydney and the surrounding areas have a great deal to offer

visitors from its fantastic beaches to the outback with a variety of wildlife experiences to enjoy.

The committee have put together a varied and interesting program with something to delight and intrigue everyone.

Various events have been organised during the four days incorporating Australian customs to encourage you to meet up with new and old friends.

The two halls of trade exhibitors will also give you plenty of opportunity to wander around area when not attending lectures.

I hope that you will leave the congress with fond memories of Sydney, Australia.

Enjoy!

**Diane M Sheehan**  
Chair WSAVA  
Congress Organising  
Committee



### Page 1

Welcome to Sydney  
Australia

### Page 2-5

Speakers Corner

### Page 6-8

Newsflash

### Page 9-10

Tissue Viability Nursing



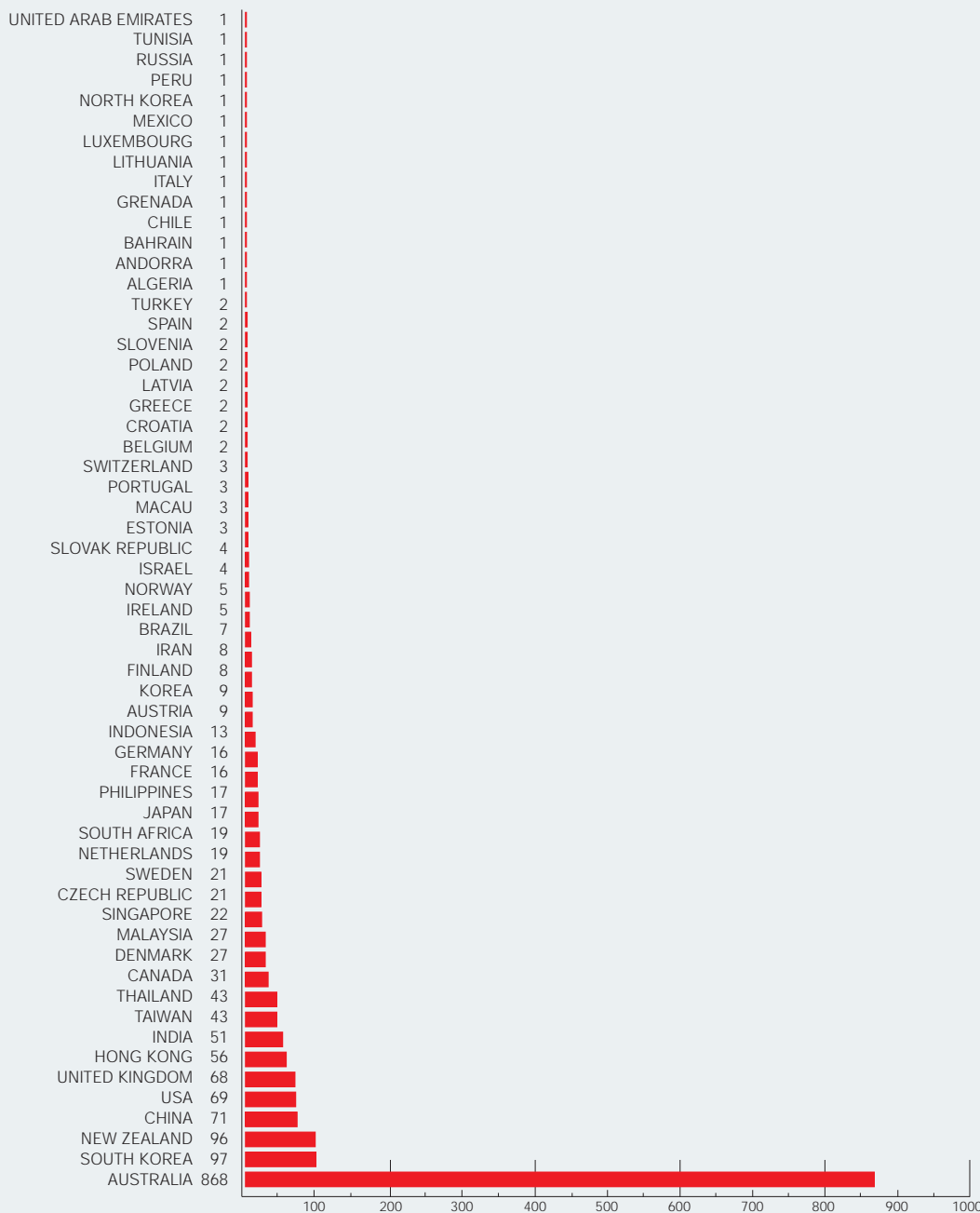




# Speakers Corner

## WSAVA Sydney 2007

### WSAVA Congress Delegates by Country



### Speakers Day 1 & 2

(Monday, Tuesday):



*It's in the genes:* **Alan Wilton (AUS)** from the School of Biotechnology and Bio-molecular Sciences at the University of New South Wales, Australia, is a geneticist who works on disease gene identification in dogs and humans. He has been involved in the international dog gene mapping effort and has

applied comparative genomics to identify two different genetic defects in Border collies, a storage disease, and an immune dysfunction. He intends to use high throughput genomics to identify disease genes in other dog breeds, such as ataxia in kelpies, and to try to conserve the Australian dingo. He spends his free time 5 minutes from University on Coogee Beach, Australia, playing beach volleyball. At this year's WSAVA he will lecture on:

**Tuesday, 21 August 2007**

**DNA methods of diagnosing disease in animals**

*Animal Welfare 11.00-11.50*



*Insides out:* **Ed Hall (UK)** is Professor of Small Animal Internal Medicine at the University of Bristol, UK, where he is Head of the Division of Companion Animal Studies which runs first-opinion and referral practices for dogs, cats, and horses. A Cambridge graduate, he trained in Philadelphia and Liverpool,

and is a Diplomate of the ECVIM. He has clinical and research interests in canine gastroenterology and his current interests are German shepherd GI diseases, inflammatory bowel disease, and antibiotic resistance in the canine GI tract. He is BSAVA Vice President, and co-editor of the BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Gastroenterology.

In what little spare time he has, he enjoys walking his Irish setter Fin, and occasionally running or going to the gym. His wife, Marie, and teenage son, Sam, are accompanying him to the WSAVA 2007. After the congress the family is planning to stop by on the Fiji islands before returning home to UK. But before they leave take the chance to hear Ed's lectures on

**Monday, 20 August 2007:**

**Mucosal immunology – why it's important**

*Medicine 08.30-09.20*

**Investigating GI disease without an endoscope**

*Medicine 11.00-11.50*

**SOTAL – Genetics of GI disease**

*Medicine 17.30-18.20*

**Immune-mediated intestinal disease**

*Immunogenetics 15.00-15.50*

*A devoted business man:* **Wayne Fitzgerald (AUS)**



Recently, the Reservoir Veterinary Clinic and staff were awarded the winner of the Australian Customer Service Excellence Award for Small Business – Victoria; and the CSIA

award for Australian Service Excellence. Both prizes (state and national) are awarded by the Australian Customer Service to recognize, promote, and reward excellence, professionalism, and outstanding achievement and have never been awarded to a veterinary clinic before.

Aside from his admirable business achievements Wayne is also lecturing at the WSAVA 2007 on

**Monday, 20 August 2007**

**Oral trauma repair**

*Dentistry Stream 17.30-18.20*



### Opening Ceremony including awards presentations followed by Welcome Reception

Sunday 19 August 2007

Time: 1800 - 2030

Exhibition Hall

Entry via valid name badge or ticket.







An "exotic" dermatologist: **Linda Vogelneustadt (AUS)** has worked at the University of Sydney, Australia, during the last 19 years, with a special interest in dermatology for much of this, and as a Specialist Veterinary Dermatologist since 2003. Patients include large and small animals, and exotic species. Her husband Larry being Senior Veterinarian at Sydney's Taronga Zoo, Linda is regularly called to see

dermatology cases, and so has developed significant experience in zoo and exotic-pet animals. Linda will be involved in the panel discussion sessions on both dermatology days, and will be talking on

**Tuesday, 21 August 2007**

**Itchy Exotics**

*Dermatology Stream 14.00-14.50*



**Ethical research: Mark Fisher (NZ)** A farming background, 25 years in the science of animal reproduction and behaviour, and an interest in philosophy and ethics has lead Mark to establish Kotare Bioethics, a consultancy specialising in ethical evaluations in science and farming. Projects have

ranged from the use of innovative bio-controls to manage possum pests to justifying tail docking in sheep.

Find out how flying fish, Frankencats and frogfish are part of ethics and genetics:

**Tuesday, 21 August 2007**

**The ethical justification for using animals in genetics research**

*Animal Welfare Stream 9.30-10.20*



**Dr Diane Frank (Canada)** is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behavior and associate professor (behaviour) at the Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire, Université de Montréal. She will share numerous videoclips to

illustrate how she selects which patients will require psychotropic medication, and how she deals with cases of interdog aggression or separation anxiety.

**Thursday, 23 August 2007**

**Drugs and behaviour – what, when and why**

*Behaviour Stream 9.30-10.20*

**Interdog aggression**

*Behaviour Stream 12.00-12.50*

**Separation anxiety in dogs**

*Behaviour Stream 17.00-18.20*



**There and back again: Ralph Mueller (D)** graduated in Munich/Germany, and worked in several large and small animal practices before completing a residency in veterinary dermatology at the University of California/Davis in 1992. In 1992 he moved to Melbourne to marry his favorite Australian, Dr. Sonya Bettenay. However, in 2004, sweet home called again and he accepted a

position as chief of the veterinary dermatology service at the University of Munich/Germany. If he is not working, he takes his family hiking, climbing and skiing. At the WSAVA Congress 2007 his lectures comprise:

**Monday, 20 August 2007**

**In house testing**

*Dermatology Stream 8.30-9.20*

This lecture describes techniques and interpretations of in-house testing including lots of dermatologic tests.

**Monday, 20 August 2007**

**Immunopathology of atopy (advanced)**

*Dermatology Stream 11.00-11.50*

This lecture covers the reasons why so many dogs, cats and humans are presented with itchy skin.

**Tuesday, 21 August 2007**

**Update on diagnosis and treatment of fleas and mites (advanced)**

*Dermatology Stream 8.30-9.20*

What is new in the diagnosis and treatment of ectoparasites? What could we do different in our practices? Old and new insights about fleas, demodicosis, scabies and ear mites.



**20/20 vision: Robin Stanley (USA)** is a Veterinary Eye Specialist, and principal of Animal Eye Care based in Melbourne. He is a visiting lecturer at the Veterinary School at the University of Melbourne,

and also runs the Distance Education course for the Post Graduate Foundation, University of Sydney.

Recently Robin has been involved in treating Koalas that have been burnt in the recent bushfires. Over the last 18 months, a number of Koalas have had surgery, and have had vision restored. In his spare time he flies light aircraft, and is training to become a commercial pilot.

Over the years Robin has given a number of lectures and presentations to Veterinarians around the world. His WSAVA 2007 presentations will be on third eyelid problems and the management of corneal ulceration on

**Monday, 20 August 2007**

**Cherry eye-surgery – what to do when to do it and when to refer**

*Ophthalmology Stream 14.00-14.50*

**Medical and surgical management of corneal ulceration**

*Ophthalmology Stream 15.00-15.50*



**Dental health crosses species: Tony Caiafa (AUS)** is one of only a few in the world who practice in both the human and animal dental fields. He is a Member of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (ACVSc) in both Small Animal Surgery and Veterinary Dentistry. He works as the principal dentist at Acland

Street Dental Group, lectures at the University of Melbourne, runs the Veterinary Dental Unit at the Veterinary Clinic and Hospital and also runs a human dental practice in Melbourne. Currently he is finishing a postgraduate course in Oral Implantology.

It is hard to believe but somehow he also made time to lecture at the WSAVA Congress on the use and the diagnostic benefits of intra-oral radiography in small animal practice:

**Monday, 20 August 2007**

**Dental radiology for practitioners**

*Dentistry Stream 11.00-11.50*



**Dentist of passion: Mary Hernandez (USA)** is a Faculty Consultant in Dentistry at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine in the USA. She has been practicing advanced dentistry for 12 years and very much enjoys teaching. In the past two months she has been travelling around Australia with her daughter, but now

she is eager to get back to her passion, Veterinary Dentistry, as she is very excited to have been chosen to speak at the WSAVA 2007.

Her dynamic lectures provide practical information that can be taken back home and utilized in the daily practice. We are looking forward to hear what she will share with us on

**Monday, 20 August 2007**

**Identification of oral pathology and dental charting**

*Dentistry Stream 08.30-09.30*

**Dental cleaning and home care products**

*Dentistry Stream 09.30-10.20*

**Extraction techniques for canines and carnassial teeth**

*Dentistry Stream 14.00-14.50*

**Alternatives to extraction**

*Dentistry Stream 16.30-17.20*



**Speakers Day 1, 2 & 3**  
(Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday):



**The swimming surgeon: Geraldine Briony Hunt (AUS)** is an Associate Professor of Small Animal Surgery at the University of Sydney. Her main interests are congenital cardiovascular disease and reconstructive

surgery. She graduated in 1983 and has lived and worked in Australia all her career, but has travelled extensively and always tries to combine her travels with visits to international veterinary schools. She has presented talks in many of the world's veterinary colleges and counts a number of her international colleagues as friends. Away from work, Geraldine is a keen participator in a variety of sports; most of them on, in or under the water. She swims, sails, and kayaks most weekends. This is no accident as she lives next to the most beautiful harbour in the world! Geraldine swam across Lake Argyle in Australia's Kimberley region, as part of a team of 6 who swam the 60 km lake for the first time and raised \$100,000 for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. 2007 she has also participated in the South Head Roughwater Swim from Bondi to Watson's Bay – through Sydney Heads and past Sydney's infamous cliff known as "The Gap".

But back to WSAVA 2007: Geraldine organised the Soft Tissue Surgery Stream of WSAVA 2007 and has invited a number of her counterparts from overseas to share the program. The main themes of the Soft Tissue Surgery program will be new developments in surgery, and practical solutions to perennial problems. In addition, there will be a number of panel sessions attended by all the speakers; including surgical disasters, miracle moments, changes in surgical practice and surgical emergencies. Geraldine will be presenting lectures on



**Monday, 20 August 2007**

**What's new in surgery (1)? New surgical products**

*Surgery 08.30-09.20*

**Tuesday, 21 August 2007**

**Practical solutions to perennial problems (1):**

**Perineal hernia**

*Medicine 08.30-09.20*

**Wednesday, 22 August 2007**

**Strategies for dealing with oronasal fistulae (NAVC Session):**

*Standards of care 15.00-15.50*

**Speakers Day 3**  
(Wednesday):



**"Cat woman": Jacquie Rand (AUS)** graduated from Melbourne University, Australia, in 1975 and worked in private practice for 8 years before completing a residency and doctorate at the University of Guelph (Canada). She is currently Professor of Companion Animal Health at the University of Queensland. Jacquie is recognised internationally as a

leader in feline diabetes and nutrition research, authoring many journal articles, abstracts, and book chapters. Her book "Problem-Based Feline Medicine" has also just been published. She currently has a team of postgraduate students working in diabetes, obesity, and nutrition research in companion animals. Jacquie is also Director of the Centre for Companion Animal Health which is committed to improving the health and welfare of companion animals and increasing the contribution they make to our lives. At this year's congress Jacquie will be lecturing on:

**Wednesday, 22 August 2007**

**Feline obesity**

*Feline Stream 08.30-09.20*



# Speakers Corner

WSAVA Sydney 2007



**The matchmaker: Alain Fontbonne (F)** Diplomate of the European College of Animal Reproduction, is specialised in canine male and female infertility.

As President of the European Veterinary Society of Small Animal Reproduction (EVSSAR), one of his main professional aims is to create a European network of vets involved in canine Artificial Insemination. At the WSAVA 2007 join in at his lectures on

**Wednesday, 22 August 2007**

#### **Antiprogestine compounds in reproduction**

*Reproduction Stream 14.00–14.50*

#### **Hormones and antibiotics in canine and feline reproduction**

*Reproduction Stream 15.00–15.50*

#### **Approach to infertility in the bitch and in the dog**

*Reproduction Stream 16.30–17.20*

#### **Infertility in cats (advanced)**

*Reproduction Stream 17.30–18.20*



**No emergency case: Luis Tello (RCH)** from the University of Chile currently lives and works in Oregon, USA. When he is not working he likes to spend time with his family: wife Beatriz, daughters Catalina, Maite and Rocío, cats Lucas and Simon and dog Scott. He also likes to bike, hike, swim, going to the movies and cooking Sushi.

Luis main research interest focuses on emergency care, but when preparing BBQs for family and friends everything is under control – as Luis can always count on the professional help of his daughters!

At the WSAVA 2007 he will lecture on sepsis in small animals:

**Wednesday, 22 August 2007**

#### **Septic Shock**

*Anaesthesia/E&CC Stream 15.00–15.50*

## Speakers Day 2 & 3

(Monday, Thursday):



**For man's best friend: John Houlton (UK)** has had an interest in veterinary orthopaedics for more than 35 years. After graduating from Cambridge University in 1970, John spent six years in general practice

before returning to the University for 22 years. During this time he was responsible for the clinical teaching and referral service of small animal orthopaedic cases, was the author of over 50 peer reviewed papers, wrote numerous chapters, and edited several books.

He is past Chairman of the British Veterinary Orthopaedic Association, Senior Vice President of AO/Vet International and of the European Association of Veterinary Orthopaedics and Traumatology and a Board Member of the European College of Veterinary Surgery. He is also Senior Scrutineer of the BVA/KC Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Schemes. In 2005 John became President-Elect of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons.

However, his real passion is working Labradors and – of course – lecturing at the WSAVA:

**Wednesday, 22 August 2007**

#### **Lameness diagnosis and specific injuries in gun dogs**

*Surgery Stream 16.30–17.20*

**Thursday, 23 August 2007**

#### **Cruciate injuries: an overview**

*Surgery Stream 15.00–15.50*



**Pharmacologist with heart and soul: Mark Papich (USA)** currently is a Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, and Supervisor of the Clinical Pharmacology Laboratory in the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Clinical

Pharmacology (ACVCP), and has served as president of ACVCP. He is also a Fellow in the American Academy of Veterinary

Pharmacology and Therapeutics. He is a Member of the Council of Experts and Chairman for the Veterinary Drugs Expert Committee for the United States Pharmacopeia (USP), member of the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI, formerly NCCLS), member of the Veterinary Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing subcommittee (VAST) and current member of the Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

He has taught veterinary pharmacology for over 20 years, authored, co-authored, and edited books on veterinary pharmacology, 58 book chapters, and review papers and is one of the editors of the next edition of "Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics".

He has delivered presentations on veterinary pharmacology at many national and international veterinary meetings, conferences, and symposia and this year he is here in Sydney. Don't miss his lectures on

**Thursday, 23 August 2007 Pharmacology Stream**

#### **Rational antimicrobial therapy: what works where and why?**

*08.30–09.20*

#### **SOTAL – Bacterial resistance and its management in the 21st century**

*09.30–10.20*

#### **Analgesic drugs in animals – why animals are different to people (advanced)**

*11.00–11.50*

#### **Drug interactions in animals: what happens when we mix drugs**

*15.00–15.50*



**On air: Phil Padrid (USA)** earned his DVM from Cornell University in 1985. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine and was a postdoctoral fellow in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at UC Davis. From 1990 to 2000 he was on the faculty of the University of Chicago, where he was section chief of the Animal Resources Center. A world-renowned authority on pulmonary disease in dogs and cats, Dr. Padrid introduced the use of inhaled medications that has revolutionized the treatment of asthma and bronchitis in dogs and cats. Phil is married with two adult children, 2 German shepherds, a pug and 5 cats. Aside from his University career he is "one of those that have crossed the line" – as he jokingly says about himself – being the official veterinarian for a national public radio show (NPR) called "DogTalkTheRadioShow".

All his lectures at the WSAVA 2007 include video presentations and take place on:

**Thursday, 23 August 2007**

The lecture on feline bronchial disease is based on greater than 10 years experience treating feline patients with inhaled medications, and includes experience treating more than 500 feline patients with this disorder:

#### **Diagnosis and treatment of feline bronchial disease**

*Feline Stream 09.30–10.20*

The lectures on diagnosis and approach to patients with respiratory disease will be highlighted with videos of actual patients, and will include novel/new methods to diagnose these patients in general private practice:

#### **Diagnostic tests and approach to patients with respiratory disease (part 1)**

*Medicine Stream 12.00–12.50*

#### **Diagnostic tests and approach to patients with respiratory disease (part 2)**

*Medicine Stream 14.00–14.50*

The lectures on upper airway disorders will include new methods to treat patients including balloon bougenage, tracheal stenting and bipolar radiofrequency thermal ablation of long soft palates (minimally invasive surgery, no cutting involved), as well as new approaches using equipment and medications available at any private veterinary practice:

#### **Diagnosis and therapy of upper airway disease (1)**

*Medicine Stream 15.00–15.50*

#### **Diagnosis and therapy of upper airway disease (2)**

*Medicine Stream 16.30–17.20*



**Get on moving: Simon Roe (AUS/USA)** earned his PhD in Biomedical Engineering at University of New South Wales. and is Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. His specialties include total hip replacement, interlocking nails

for fracture repair, cruciate ligament surgery, cerclage wires, and external fixators. Despite having been in North Carolina, USA, for 16 years, Simon is excited about speaking "at home". He's looking forward to catching up with friends from the past. His only regret is that this is a quick winter trip (without the family), and he may not get to surf. He will combine his surgery and engineering experience to talk about osteoarthritis, hip luxation, cruciate ligament injury and hip dysplasia management on:

**Thursday, 23 August 2007**

#### **The rationale for surgery in hip dysplasia (advanced)**

*Surgery Stream 08.30–9.20*

#### **Hip luxation (advanced)**

*Surgery Stream 14.00–14.50*

#### **Cruciate ligament disease: why I do what I do (advanced)**

*Surgery Stream 16.30–17.20*





Chris Preston (AUS) is excited to have the opportunity to present three lectures in the small animal surgery program this year. He is the only private practice specialist out of the 8 speakers and hopes to use case material from his clinic in Melbourne to illustrate points. Having completed a University residency in North America he now runs a boutique stand alone private practice and sees mostly advanced orthopaedics.

The first lecture on complications after fracture repair is on Wednesday and showcases many of the things which unfortunately can develop despite our best intentions. He feels that this is the most important lecture he is giving as it covers the issues of stress, financial impact and discusses the principles of each style of complication so that you can learn knowing more about how to avoid problems in your own clinical setting. On Thursday, Chris is pleased to provide the latest information about shoulder, elbow and knee arthroscopy as well as overview both cemented and cementless hip replacements. Finally he will share his recent experience as Australia's first elbow replacement surgeon.

Wednesday, 22 August 2007

**Orthopaedic complications and how to avoid them**  
Surgery Stream 11.00-11.50

Thursday, 23 August 2007

**Advances in joint replacement for hip and elbow dysplasia (Advanced)**  
Surgery Stream 9.30-10.20

**Arthroscopic surgery for shoulder, elbow and stifle problems (Advanced)**  
Surgery Stream 12.00-12.50

## Media Release!

In a world of furry, four-legged friends a Melbourne small business wins a national 'People' award.

and...

Vet clinic wins national service excellence award.



Reservoir Veterinary Clinic are proud to join some of the nation's most prominent businesses such as ANZ, St George, Westfield and ING in being awarded a prestigious **Customer Service Institute of Australia, National Service Excellence Award**.

As winners in the small business category, Reservoir Veterinary Clinic demonstrated to judges that they deliver consistently high levels of service in line with the International Customer Service Standard (ICSS).

Against all comers, the veterinary practice from the northern suburbs of Melbourne progressed from winner of the Victorian section, and went on to be named as the national winner at a glittering awards ceremony in Sydney.

In the company of hundreds of guests, head nurse: Lauren Patterson accepted the award on behalf of the clinic last week during the gala event held at Star City, Sydney. The whole team from Reservoir Veterinary Clinic, flew to Sydney to be a part of the presentation.

"The clinic's submission for the Awards highlighted, amongst other things, our passion for customer service excellence demonstrated by high scores in mystery shopping, personalised reminder cards and new client cards. Janelle Parkinson one of the nursing team recently scored 100% for a mystery shopping visit to the clinic."

"Everyday we celebrate the amazing bond between humans and their pets, something we refer to as the human-animal bond. The human-animal bond drives our approach to customer service, and this award represents the hard work, and passion of our team," Lauren said.

"In an industry first, we are very proud to receive this award in recognition of the wonderful work being done by veterinary care teams across Australia."

Practice principal Dr Wayne Fitzgerald said the awards reflected the efforts the entire team at the clinic put in on a daily basis; they passed all tests from the independent panel with flying colours. The panel judged on a number of criteria including assessments of customer service by all team members as well as clinic presentation, training and community involvement," said Dr Fitzgerald.

For more information on the 2007 CSIA awards visit: <http://www.csia.com.au/awards/Customer%20service%20awards%202007.doc>

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### Anaesthesiology



**Traumatized patients who need sedation or anaesthesia** are seen daily in small animal practices and for the right choice of drug many factors need to be taken into account. The transition from the waking to the anaesthetized state is a huge imposition on the physiology of animals. Rapid, "crasha" induction of anaesthesia should be avoided in hypotension-prone animals and slow, prolonged induction should be avoided in animals with respiratory disorders. It is not recommended to implement an unfamiliar protocol in critical patients, even if it might be pharmacologically preferable. Familiarity with an anaesthetic drug is a very important reason for its selection.

### Behaviour



**Age-related behavioural changes in dogs** associated with cognitive impairment are progressive and may be predictable: over a period of 6 to 8 months the veterinarian may determine signs of dysfunction in different behavioural categories and use them to predict further impairment. Behavioural categories to be examined include orientation in the home and yard, social interaction with human family members, house training, and sleep-wake cycle.

Not elephants but **doves and baboons have the best memory**; this was found out in a long-term study by American and French researchers. Baboons and doves were shown several colour pictures; while showing the picture a mark to the left or right side of it was lit. When the pictures were shown to the animals again at a later point in time they had to answer by pressing or pecking a switch on the correct side. The doves could memorize 800 to 1200 different pictures; the baboons even significantly more, between 3500 and 5000 after more than three years.

### Cardiology

**Dogs with congestive heart disease** proved to have a significantly higher sodium intake than healthy animals: findings in 100 patients evaluated in a prospective study conducted via an owner survey showed that the food intake of dogs with cardiac disease varies extremely and is often not optimal: the daily sodium intake varied between 14 and 384 mg/100 kcal – the minimum determined by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) guidelines is 17 mg/100 kcal. According to the survey, fed table scraps and treats amounted to an average of 25% of the daily sodium intake!

**Stem cell implantation:** a trial to be performed in Bristol, UK, will test whether the stem cells will repair heart muscle cells damaged by the heart attack, by preventing late scar formation and hence impaired heart contraction. The trial persons will be injected with selected stem cells from their own bone marrow during routine coronary bypass surgery. The Bristol trial has been awarded a grant from the British Heart Foundation.

### Dermatology

Zinc oxide is very popular on **open-wound healing in rabbits** and is often arbitrary applied by owners. But there is something better: compared to zinc oxide, treatment with **topical tripeptide-copper complex** results in better revascularization and the average time to complete wound coverage with granulation tissue is significantly shorter.

**Acral lick dermatitis (lick granuloma) in dogs** is a common problem, especially in large and sensitive dogs. Often it is thought to be of psychogenic origin, but organic diseases should always be excluded before the animals are treated with psychotherapeutic drugs: various diseases may also cause lesions on the distal legs, mimicking acral lick dermatitis: lymphoma, an orthopedic pin, deep pyoderma, mast cell tumor, leishmaniasis, and (presumptive) sporotrichosis.

**Sugars in surface microbe-host interactions:** sugars are the molecules most commonly involved in cell recognition and communication. In skin, they are essential to epidermal development and play important roles in microbial adherence, colonization, bio film formation, and virulence. These characteristics might promote an additional treatment option for bacterial skin infections. A promising approach is the use of a panel of carbohydrate derivatives with anti-adhesive efficacy against bacteria frequently involved in diseases affecting skin and other epithelia.

**Pyotraumatic dermatitis:** especially in summer time many cases of pyotraumatic dermatitis (hot spot) are seen in veterinary practices. The aim of a recent study was to investigate correlations among clinical pyotraumatic dermatitis, histopathology of the lesions and possible predisposing causes. Most impressive insights were that males exceeded females ( $P = 0.0348$ ), lesions were more common in dogs aged 4 years or less ( $P < 0.0001$ ) and that eosinophils, which have not previously been recorded in pyotraumatic dermatitis, were seen in 29 cases!

### Diagnostic Imaging



**The imaging appearance of wooden foreign bodies** is variable; however, imaging can be quite specific, and when taken in the appropriate clinical setting, the imaging should reliably suggest the diagnosis, e.g. wood is highly echogenic and reveals pronounced acoustic shadowing on sonography this imaging technique proves most helpful for the evaluation of retained wooden foreign bodies.

When performing **abdominal ultrasonography in dogs**, the right aspects of various inner organs are often not fully visible from a ventral or subcostal approach. A right lateral intercostal plane is an alternative approach that allows evaluation of these structures and may prove most useful in large- and giant-breed dogs; deep-chested dogs; dogs with gas distention of the stomach, duodenum, and colon; dogs with microhepatia, and those with abdominal effusion and pain.

**Ventrodorsal (VD) and dorsoventral (DV) radiographic views of the canine thorax:** one view may be preferred over another because of how it portrays different areas of interest or different disease conditions. The VD view is indicated for evaluation of the cranial and caudal mediastinum, the caudal vena cava, the accessory lung lobe, and in cases of pleural effusion. Indications for the DV view include assessment of a consistent cardiac silhouette, evaluation of the pulmonary lobar vessels, and evaluation of the structures of the dorsal thorax, such as hilar lymph nodes, the caudal dorsal lungs, trachea, mainstem bronchi, and left atrium.

### Internal Medicine

**Infections associated with intravenous catheters:** the concerning result of a recent US study indicates that a high number of intravenous catheters in dogs and cats in intensive care units are contaminated. Bacterial cultures were taken from 151 previously applied catheters' tips and every fourth (24,5%) was found to be contaminated, 46% of these with enterobacter spp. Type of catheter, type of administered substance or the duration of catheter application proved not to be associated with an increased risk of contamination.



**Feline acromegaly:** according to a retrospective study, increased insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF-1) can indicate an acromegaly – reversely, normal values may not exclude an indication. Even though a really effective therapy does not exist at the moment, proper control of the clinical symptoms of diabetes mellitus seems to be the key – despite the high doses of insulin necessary.

**Hepatopathies** are commonly diagnosed in dogs and much functional liver tissue can be damaged or destroyed before clinical signs may be seen. An earlier diagnosis may be possible by measuring plasma L-carnitine concentrations: recent investigations showed that liver disease is accompanied by elevated plasma L-carnitine concentration, which also appears to be influenced by the severity of the disease.

### Neurology

**Atlantoaxial subluxation** is seen mostly in small or toy breeds, and the severity of the mechanical problem and the associated neurological deficits may vary. Often surgical stabilisation is the therapy of choice, but not every surgery is effective: the type of surgery or grade of joint reduction seems not to affect the odds for a successful outcome as much as certain risk factors including age at onset, duration of clinical abnormalities and preoperative neurologic status.



## Nutrition



**Weight reduction with DAG:** Obesity in dogs and cats has been increasingly recognized in recent years. Because obesity underlies various diseases, pet owners and veterinarians have an important responsibility to help animals lose weight and maintain their health. Results of a recent evaluation indicate that diacylglycerol could be a substance that helps in weight reduction: obese dogs fed a diacylglycerol (DAG) diet show a statistically significant reduction in body weight averaging a 2.3% reduction within 6 weeks.

## Oncology

**Chemotherapy in cats with lymphoma:** many chemotherapy protocols are described for dogs suffering from lymphoma, e.g. the very popular University of Wisconsin-Madison chemotherapy protocol. Its effectiveness was now recently evaluated in felines and 47% of cats responded to the treatment with complete remission! Results suggest therefore that a high percentage of cats with lymphoma will respond to treatment with the University of Wisconsin-Madison chemotherapy protocol.

**Magnetic nano-particles improving cancer therapy:** nano-particles are increasingly used in the past years in various economic areas, such as the textile industry. Now they are supposed to also conquer medicine: German researchers were able to employ cancer medications more accurately with the help of nano-particles, which could considerably decrease side effect rates of cytostatics.

**Epileptic seizures** that occur in middle-aged or old dogs for the first time are often of secondary origin. Metabolite disorders and brain tumours are the most frequent causes that should be taken in consideration. An examination conducted on dogs with epileptic seizures showed that the seizures were caused by multiple intracranial tumours. The most frequently affected breed is Golden Retriever.

**Nonsplenic hemangiosarcoma in dogs:** a retrospective US-study was conducted to determine therapeutic success in dogs with nonsplenic hemangiosarcoma treated with palliative radiation therapy. It was investigated which factors influence the response to the therapy and the survival time. Results showed that the localisation of the tumour was the only significant invariant prognostic factor regarding the survival time thus determining therapeutic success. Dogs with retroperitoneal tumours proved to have the longest survival time.

**Anal approach for the excision of rectal tumours:** a very difficult surgery but it may be a viable option in some tumours of the caudal rectum – if performed by an experienced surgeon. In a study on 23 dogs, excision was accomplished through the anus after rectal prolapse. Outcome beyond the immediate postoperative period was known for 18 dogs, including 2 dogs still alive. The mean postoperative disease-free interval for these dogs was 36.8 months. This suggests that an anal approach facilitated by rectal prolapse should be considered for the surgical treatment in selected cases of rectal tumours.

## Ophthalmology

**Ocular histiocytic sarcoma in dogs** is a rare localisation. The Comparative Ocular Pathology Laboratory of Wisconsin (COPLOW), first detected, described, and characterized histiocytic sarcoma in the eyes of dogs. Findings conclude that histiocytic sarcoma must be considered in the differential diagnosis of dogs with intraocular masses, especially in Rottweilers and Retriever breeds. Because it carries poor prognosis, it must be distinguished from melanoma.

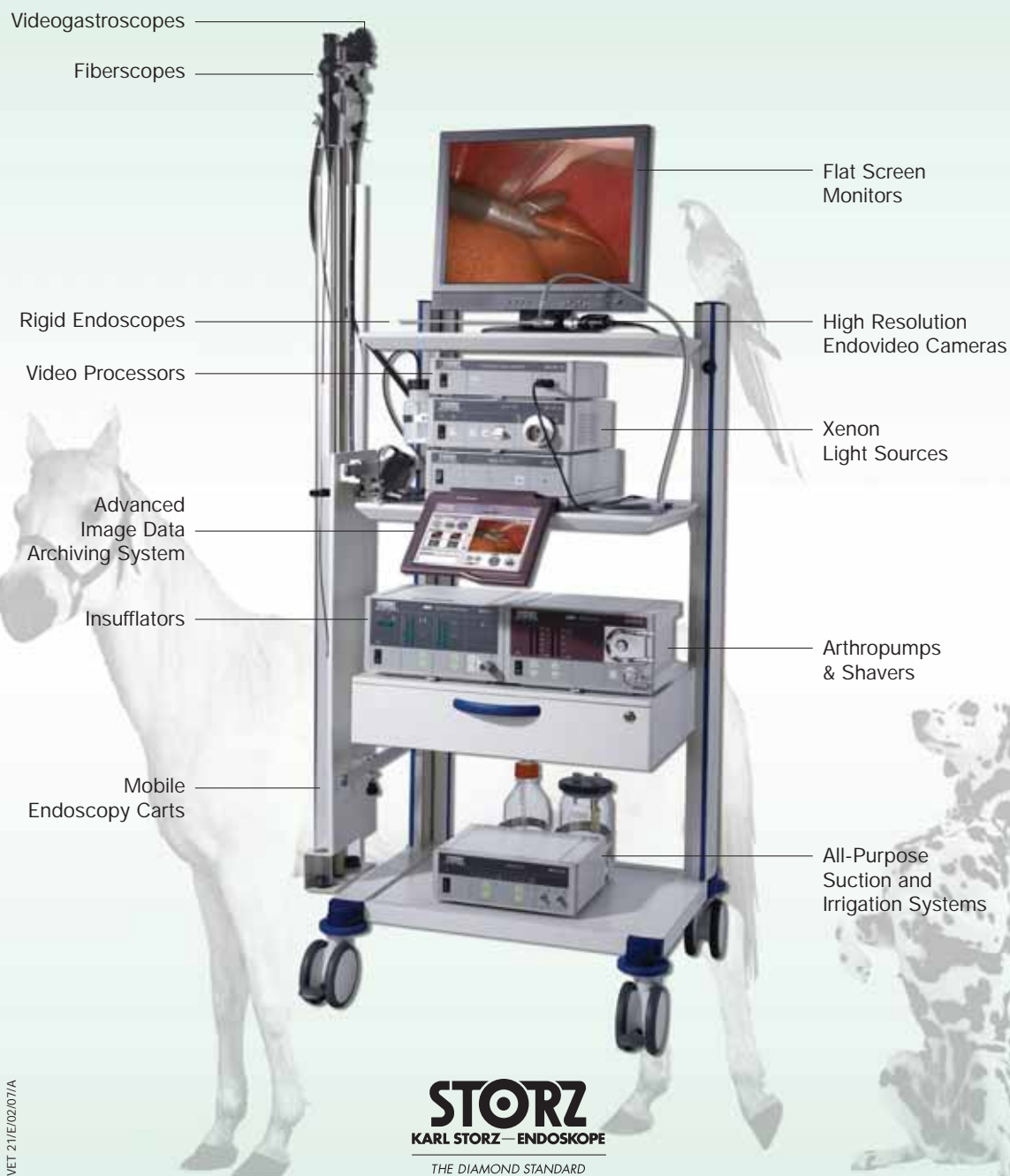
**In vivo confocal microscopy:** in a study from Germany, the applicability of in vivo confocal microscopy (IVCM) in veterinary ophthalmology was evaluated and the morphology of living, healthy cornea of 37 dogs, 34 cats, and 5 birds was analyzed – with a non-invasive diagnostic technique. The study concluded that non-invasive IVCM allows accurate detection of corneal sub layers, corneal pachymetry, endothelial cell density, and corneal innervations in various animal species. For clinical usage, patients must be under general anaesthesia. The confocal images provided anatomic reference images of various healthy corneal structures in dogs, cats, and birds.

**Corneal ulcers in cats** are less common than in dogs. To determine which therapy should be recommended in felines, the mean healing times after debridement, debridement with grid keratotomy, and superficial keratectomy in cats with non-healing corneal ulcers were compared: the combination of superficial debridement and grid keratotomy did not decrease mean healing time, compared with superficial debridement alone. Grid keratotomy may predispose cats with corneal ulcers to develop a corneal sequestrum.

## Profession and Business

Only as big as a quarter-dollar coin is the **miniature laboratory on a micro chip** patented by the „Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia“. The mini lab is not only able to identify bio molecules in a very short time span but can also calculate their exact amount, which makes its application useful in various areas such as medical diagnostics, food safety and pollution control. A corresponding prototype was developed by the National Nanotechnology Laboratory of the National Research Council in Lecce, Italy.

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**Otoscope cone cleaning and disinfection procedures:** with the otoscope being an instrument of frequent use in the daily veterinary practice proper disinfection of the cones is highly important to avoid transfer of pseudomonas from one animal to the next. A pilot study published in the US now indicates that disinfectant procedures commonly used in veterinary practices may not at all be sufficient. In some cases, the test cones wiped with 70% isopropyl-alcohol solution or scrubbed with a special speculum-cleaner such as cetylaldehyde II solution still showed growth of *ps. aeruginosa*. Only the cones that were immersed for 20 minutes either in cetylaldehyde II or 2% chlorhexidine digluconate solution showed no bacterial growth.

### Reproduction

**Peritonitis due to semiperitoneum** is a very rare though life-threatening emergency. Owners and breeders must be aware that a rupture of the uterus can not only occur during pregnancy and birth but also after traumatic breeding. Peritonitis because of traumatic seeding of the abdominal cavity with bacteria from the urogenital tract, with or without seminoperitoneum, should be considered for bitches presented with appropriate history, signalment, and clinical signs.

**Contraceptive implant for male dogs:** surgical removal of the testicles is currently the therapy of choice to stop male dogs from breeding or to curb aggressive behaviour. But these days may be numbered since a contraceptive implant has been developed in Australia:

The implant contains the substance deslorelin, which binds to GnRH receptors and over stimulates them and thus making them desensitised to the hormone. The dogs become temporarily infertile, deslorelin blocks testosterone production, curtailing aggressive behaviour but there is still the option to breed with the animals later. The possibility of long-term side effects however can not be excluded yet.

### Surgery

**Liposuction in dogs:** Liposuction is routinely performed in humans – mostly for cosmetic reasons. In a special case this method was used in an extremely obese, mixed breed dog with severe bilateral hip osteoarthritis that was presented with progressive hind limb lameness and additionally diagnosed with three giant lipomas. Minimally invasive liposuction was performed and resulted in weight loss of 10 % of the dog's bodyweight. Thus, liposuction of lipomas may be considered as an alternative to traditional surgical resection in cases where seroma formation and delayed wound healing may be expected.

**Effect of hypothermia on recovery from general anaesthesia in dogs:** the influence of the anaesthetic protocol and body-temperature on the recovery after surgery was investigated. The pre-medication was found to be crucial: intramuscular administered acepromazine and morphine prior to surgery significantly prolonged the recovery time whereas the choice of inhalation anaesthetics proved to have no influence. A low

oesophageal temperature during the operation also effects recovery time.

**Bipolar sealing device versus carbon dioxide laser,** both are very popular techniques to resect the soft palate. Eighteen dogs were used to compare findings following excision of the soft palate using either a bipolar sealing device or a carbon dioxide laser. Histopathological comparisons were done at 48 and 96 hours after resection; results showed that the bipolar sealing device was significantly faster and less traumatic than the carbon dioxide laser, although both techniques were fast.

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THE VETERINARY MEETINGPOINT

Congress News was created and published by VetContact GmbH in close collaboration with the WSAVA 2007 Congress Organizing Committee.

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**Printing:** Pressworks Printing Group  
www.pressworksprinting.com.au

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# Tissue Viability Nursing: A specialism for the veterinary nurse?

Georgie Hollis BSc (assoc) MBVNA, MVWHA



Nurses are in a position to complement the surgeon to ensure appropriate follow up care including selection of advanced dressing materials for complex wounds.

(Photograph courtesy of A.Hotston Moore, Bristol University Veterinary Hospital.)

In 2006 the UK Tissue Viability Society celebrated its 25th year. Originally set up by a group of nurses with a general interest, the tissue viability nurse (TVN) has since become an influential and recognised contributor in all aspects of non surgical and palliative wound and tissue management in human medicine. Groups now influence the management and development of techniques within human medicine and have real authority amongst consultant professionals as experts in their field

## What is Tissue Viability?

The term "Tissue Viability" is an umbrella term, which refers to the prevention and management of tissue damage, which includes both acute and chronic wounds<sup>1</sup>. Defining the remit of the role has been an issue suggesting that it has been open to interpretation based upon the local demands of the nurse. Not until 1999 did a sub-group of the National Association for Tissue Viability Nurse Specialists (Scotland) lead the development of a competency framework to enable a level of consistency in education and practice: A result of the growing and crucial role being undertaken by the specialism.

The tissue viability nurse is often the main point of contact and coordinator for patients with, or at risk of, chronic and complex wounds. Managing incoming and follow up cases, evaluating, debriding and overseeing all aspects of treatment by secondary intent as well as delayed primary closure. Charged with running their own caseload and the initial assessment of the patient the nurse will take responsibility for compliance and ongoing management as well as appropriate and timely referral for surgical consultation should the case require.

Additionally their role is to be the point of contact to appraise established and new techniques, educating staff, being a champion for infection control procedures and evidence based practice. Ultimately their role is as a driver for better outcomes, effective non-invasive treatment and improving standards in care.

## Key aspects of Tissue Viability Nursing:

- Caring for patients with tissue viability needs.
- Development of practice standards and procedures to enhance outcomes and patient care.
- Promoting the development of tissue viability skills and knowledge in the clinical setting.
- Developing education that enables the use of evidence-based practice, shared knowledge, critical analysis and leadership.
- Supporting and educating staff and patients (Clients).
- Evaluation of new and established products to determine clinical and cost-effectiveness and suitability for use.
- Development of tissue viability links and professional networking.
- Continued learning and professional development.
- Audit of services and outcomes.



The evaluation, treatment and follow up of less complex wounds could be adopted by the nurses in veterinary practice.



As wound management products become more advanced the evaluation of new and established products is required to determine clinical and cost-effectiveness as well as suitability for use.

## The Origins of Tissue Viability Nursing:

As with many issues within the NHS, money saving can be suggested as a key motivator in the development of this role. After all, It is less costly to have a nurse specialist managing the time consuming cases such as non-healing or problem areas than a vascular consultant who may prefer more urgent and 'challenging' surgical procedures. It may even sound as though the tissue viability role was developed at the expense of the nurse to fulfil the surgeon's agenda, but, this is not the case. The role was developed by nurses who felt their role fell short of its full potential and has not only raised the profile of



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the nurse to specialist, but, has also produced significant evidence and development in the art and science of wound management in human medicine. The Tissue viability nurse is now either referred to via the surgeon for ongoing, post operative management, or via upward referral from less informed colleagues. As a result patients now benefit from more in depth management either when surgery is not appropriate, or when other non-invasive methods would be equally or better suited.

A network of over 1000 tissue viability nurses in Britain alone now command a scientific and technical research base recognised widely by medicine and industry at all levels. The evidence and opinions provided by these specialist nurses is now taken very seriously and it is not unusual for consultation between nurse and surgeon to occur when considering treatment plans for patients.

#### An enhanced role for the veterinary nurse?

The level of responsibility of veterinary nurses may depend upon the interests and specialisms of the veterinary surgeon. Complex cases may be referred to those with specialist facilities or knowledge of advanced techniques and the nurse may never get the opportunity to get involved in depth.

Veterinary patients are unlikely to exhibit the incidence of chronic ulceration and pressure ulcers that are seen in human cases and therefore animals may not present enough of a need to justify a specialism. Equine wounds,



In small animal practice, high incidences of up to 22% of animals presenting with dermatological issues warrant a combination of wound management and dermatology skills.

particularly of the lower limb, are similarly challenging to the human chronic wound. However, in the case of the veterinary patient, particularly in small animal practice, high incidences of up to 22% of animals presenting with dermatological issues<sup>2</sup> would suggest that incorporation of a dermatological role would be a natural addition to a veterinary tissue viability role not currently reflected in the human equivalent.

The biggest challenge likely to face any focus on a veterinary nurse specialist role is practice 'politics' and a potential clash with the role of the veterinary surgeon. With clear guidelines for the remit of the 'specialist' nurse role, as has been the case in human medicine, both nurse and surgeon have been able to compliment each other successfully within medical guidelines to the benefit of all parties. Nurse led clinics are an effective triage for surgeons and greatly improve the profitability of a surgeons workload, the patient experience and the profile of the specialist nurse.

It is well within the capabilities and within nursing guidelines for the veterinary nurse to mirror the practices of the tissue viability nurse with the additional role of evaluating dermatological issues when supported by a veterinary surgeon. There is real potential to develop a similar role to that of tissue viability nursing in veterinary practice with advanced nurse led clinics and wound triage relieving the surgeon for more profitable work. Embracing the core aspects of tissue viability nursing could give the veterinary nurse a pathway to an enhanced role within veterinary practice; working as a key contributor to practice standards and taking a real responsibility for patient outcomes.

It took just a handful of nurses to form the initial group that developed what is now the UK 'Tissue Viability Society' over 25 years ago. With some careful thought and considerable courage, could there could be a role for the specialist nurse in veterinary practice in the years to come.

<sup>1</sup> Flannagan, M., *Wound Management*, Churchill Livingstone, 1997, Y

<sup>2</sup> P. B. Hill, A. Lo, C. A. N. Eden, et al. Survey of the prevalence, diagnosis and treatment of dermatological conditions in small animals in general practice. *The Veterinary Record* 158:533-539 (2006)

## Invitation to the 10th Annual Scientific Meeting of Veterinary Wound Healing Association, Estrel Convention Centre in Berlin, Germany, November 15th 2007



The Veterinary Wound Healing Association is pleased to announce that the 10th Annual Scientific Meeting of the VWHA will be held at the Estrel Convention Centre in Berlin, Germany, on November 15th 2007 in conjunction with the 53rd DGK-DVG Congress of the German Veterinary Association (DVG). The official VWHA meeting language will be in English.

The meeting will include plenary lectures from Steven Swaim, USA, on the subject of hard-to-heal wounds. Techniques for local transposition flaps in problems wounds, M. Pavletic, USA, and the latest research into the differing healing abilities in dogs and cats. M. Bohlin, USA.

There will also be free paper sessions and the opportunity to discuss the most recent developments in wound healing research and techniques including leading wound technology providers.

For further information please visit [www.vwha.net](http://www.vwha.net)

# 34<sup>th</sup> World Congress

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São Paulo • Brazil



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## Schedule on your diary!

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**Sao Paulo** is the world's fourth largest and Latin America's biggest city, is also a strategic business capital within **Mercosul** and is linked directly with all the other world capitals. It commands the country's **third largest budget** and is the **city in Brazil in which things happen first!** Brazil has today **190 millions of inhabitants** is a booming economy with a rapidly growing number of pet owners and pets.

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## 33rd Annual World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress DUBLIN, IRELAND 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> August 2008

In just a year's time the Veterinary Ireland Companion Animal Society (VICAS) will host the World's companion animal veterinarians to the 33rd WSAVA Congress and 14th European, FECAVA Congress in 2008 in Dublin, Ireland.

The scientific programme includes state of the art lectures and more than 200 lectures from 70 different speakers. The lectures are designed to provide the most recent information on current topics of clinical interest from World renowned veterinary scientists and clinicians in more than 20 different disciplines.

Lectures will be delivered at three different levels; advanced/specialist, general companion animal and new to/refresher companion animal medicine. Renowned international speakers include:

- Simon Platt (neurology)
- Michael Schaer (Canine and Feline Medicine)
- Margie Scherk (Feline Medicine)
- Peter Ihrke (Dermatology)
- Jerzy Gawor (Dentistry)

FECAVA hosts the first symposium at a WSAVA/FECAVA congress on 'Suicide in the Veterinary Profession'. The guest speaker is Dr. Richard Mellanby, an expert researcher on this topic. FECAVA is looking into further research by Dr Mellanby on the causal factors of the alarmingly high incidence of suicide in our own profession.

There will also be two days of free communications and one day of pre congress CE events; feline medicine, emergency care and avian medicine.

The wide range of continuing education opportunities offered will not only be educational but also the Congress will provide a venue for renewal of old acquaintances and the creation of new collaborations and friends.

### WSAVA 2008 - Opening Ceremony - Thursday 21st August

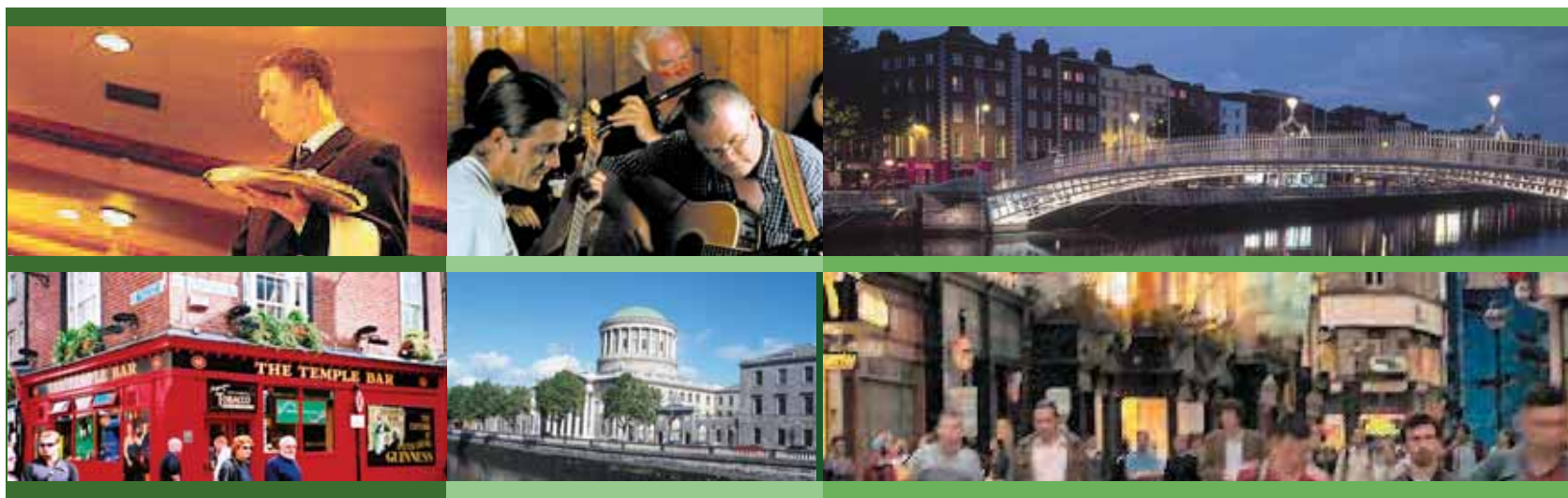
There will be something for everyone at the WSAVA 2008 Opening Ceremony, which will take place on the evening of Thursday 21st August in the RDS Conference Centre. The dynamic Irish musical group Anúna will open the Congress with their pure and haunting melodies, evoking the mystique and traditions of Ireland's Celtic heritage. This will be followed by food and drink, before delegates will be given the opportunity to witness the excitement of live sheepdog trials and a display from the Irish Pony Club in the outdoor areas of the Conference Centre.

### WSAVA 2008 - WSAVA 2008 Dinner - Friday 22nd August

In the leafy surrounds of University College Dublin campus, the WSAVA 2008 Dinner will take place on Friday 22nd August. The five-course banquet in the O'Reilly Hall will be preceded by a champagne reception in the airy conservatory overlooking the campus lake. The evening will conclude with a performance by "Boogie Nights", Ireland's Number 1 Party Band, who are guaranteed to get the pulses racing, and the dance floor heaving! Tickets will be strictly limited, so be sure to book early to ensure your place at this prestigious event.

### WSAVA 2008 - Traditional Irish Céilí Night - Saturday 23rd August

The Traditional Irish Céilí Night on Saturday 23rd August will be a party night to remember at WSAVA Ireland 2008. The host venue will be Trinity College Dublin, the oldest university in Ireland. The College stands on a self-contained site of architectural riches, cobbled squares and green spaces in the very heart of Dublin City. Tickets for this event include a spread of the finest Irish cuisine, an all-you-can drink bar and a fabulous array of Irish musicians with fiddles, flutes, tin whistles, accordions and bodhráns who are sure to keep the crowd dancing all evening long. On your own or with your partner you will enjoy great fun learning Irish dancing, joining in the music or having a chat with a new found friend.





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