



(dba) Aquatic Veterinary Association

AqVA Members Newsletter

June 2007

WELCOME – FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Founder Member,

Firstly on behalf of the interim Board of Directors of the Aquatic Veterinary Association (AqVA), welcome to the AqVA and what we all hope will be many further newsletters.

Perhaps the first task should be to inform you of what your interim directors have been up to and where the Association stands at present.

As some of you will be aware the history of the formation of this association stretches back several years and has involved informal discussions with many other veterinary groups. Towards the end of last year the interim Directors decided to push forward those ideas and the nucleus of the AqVA was formed. The task is far from complete but the concept is to create an international veterinary association representing all veterinarians involved in the practice of aquatic medicine from around the world.

At the start of this year the Directors set about drafting bylaws, designing a temporary website, raising funds and incorporating the association. The current mission and objectives of the association along with other documentation can be found on the website www.aquavets.org. You are encouraged to check the website frequently for any news or changes. The interim Directors would welcome any suggestions or constructive criticisms, as after all this association is for the benefit of its members and allied organisations. A principal aim is to promote the discipline of aquatic veterinary medicine, and those disciplines have many applications which will be reflected in the scope of its Membership.

In March a Press Release was distributed to around thirty veterinary organisations and publications around the world. This news was warmly received and the response very encouraging for us; it indicated that there is an international need for an organisation such as the AqVA. The publicity from the initial announcement is still continuing with further articles, based on the Press Release and Director interviews with journalists, some of which are due to be published this month.

Some immediate plans for AqVA membership ...

1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AqVA sought and kindly received assistance from the American Veterinary Medical Association to hold the inaugural Annual General Meeting in conjunction with the 144th AVMA Annual Convention in Washington, DC, USA. Not only does this allow us to meet in connection with a national veterinary organization that also attracts a large number of veterinarians throughout the world, it further affords current and potential Members of both groups the opportunity to take advantage of several days of international level aquatic veterinary continuing education.

THE AqVA's 1ST AGM

To make the AGM as significant as possible for members, numerous invitations were sent out to international and national veterinary organisations that in one way or another deal with aquatic veterinary medicine. We invited their leadership to participate and provide input on their issues and vision for the future of aquatic veterinary medicine.

As a result the tentative agenda for our 1st AGM developed (see below). The AGM follows the aquatic veterinary continuing education sessions. As you can see from the attached tentative agenda, the AqVA has managed to secure several veterinary luminaries to speak and it is expected that several other organisations will take the opportunity to address the AGM.

The interim Directors have worked extremely hard to bring together this group, holding numerous conference calls and corresponding almost daily through email. Hopefully, all the hard work will be reflected in the success of the AGM leading to the further development of the AqVA.

All Members who anticipate attending the AGM on July 18th are asked to please inform interim Director Tim Miller-Morgan. There is a registration form available on the website, and it is the intention of the interim Directors to hold a further meeting the next day along with the 2008 office bearers. The AGM is the first big event for the AqVA and it is important that it is a great success. So far it is shaping up for an excellent day. Not only will those attending have the chance to influence the direction of the association but also to hear talks on current veterinary issues and enjoy some good food, company and an opportunity to network with colleagues from around the world.

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YOU CAN PLAY A ROLE

Those of you unable to attend the AGM will be able to vote on issues raised and for officers via email. For those of you wishing to stand for election, further information has been placed on the website. All Founder Members will be eligible to vote and stand for election.

Having got you up to date on what is happening within the AqVA there are some issues that require your consideration. The deadline for input on the Bylaws has been extended to 9th June and suggestions will be collated and final versions for consideration posted by June 18th. Examples of items you may wish to have input on and which will be voted on at the AGM are:

- The Association name and logo
- The composition of the Executive Board
- The composition of committees and who has the right to promulgate and dissolve them.
- Whether committees in addition to Standing Committees should be written in to the bylaws or be formed from policy.

There are additional issues that will have an impact on the day to day running and direction the AqVA will take and this is your chance to influence this.

HELP PROMOTE YOUR ASSOCIATION

To keep up the publicity drive there is also a need for further Press Releases relating to AqVA and articles or letters to place in this Newsletter. Any contribution would be most welcome. Over the next couple of months you should receive several more communications as things develop (any volunteers for "Communications/Media officer"?) but please remember to check the website frequently as many documents will be placed there as things evolve.

Finally the interim directors look forward to meeting you in person at the AGM.

Sincerely,
Chris Walster, BVMS, MRCVS
Interim Secretary

Interim Directors

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Aquatic Veterinary Association (AqVA) Inaugural Annual General Meeting

July 18, 2007
 Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel
 Room TBA
 999 9th Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20001

07:30 – 16:00 Reception Table – staffed; new membership information & applications, copies of draft bylaws, bylaws & officer voting forms, etc, will be available

TENTATIVE AGENDA

| Time | Activity | Moderator/Speaker/Comments |
|---------------|---|---|
| 08:30 | Welcome, Introductions, Recognition of Sponsors | Dr. Peter Merrill (interim President) |
| 08:45 | “History, Needs & Concepts Behind the AqVA Formation” | Dr. Peter Merrill |
| 09:00 | “Issues, concerns and needs facing aquatic veterinary medicine” (Existing Veterinary Organizations Perspectives) | Moderator: Merrill Speaker Panel (5-10 min ea) Dr. Nick Blayney (BVA) Dr. Carol McClure (EAVA) Dr. Hamish Rodger (FVS) Dr. Leigh Clayton (ARAV) [representatives to be confirmed from AAVBC; AAZV; ACVS; AVA; CAAV; CVMA; IAAAM; ISAAE; WAVSFD; FVA; NZVA; PAAVS; SAV] |
| 10:15 | Tea/Coffee break | |
| 10:30 | Plenary Presentation – “WVA view of global veterinary roles in emerging, foreign and trans-boundary diseases.” | Invited speaker: Dr. Leon Russell – President World Veterinary Association |
| 11:00 | “What the AqVA Could or Should Be” – the Individual’s Perspective (open audience discussion) | Moderator: Merrill; Directors/Panel facilitating panel/audience interaction/input |
| 12:00 | Luncheon Presentation – “Future Needs and Directions for National Organized Veterinary Medicine” | Invited speaker: Dr. Greg Hammer – President American Veterinary Medical Association |
| 13:30 | Introduction to the AqVA Draft Mission, Structure & By-laws | Moderator: Merrill AqVA Interim Directors |
| 14:00 | Open discussion on AqVA Draft Mission, Structure & By-laws (open audience discussion) | Moderator: Merrill Directors facilitating audience interaction/input |
| 14:30 | By-laws Ratification (voting) | Voting called by Merrill |
| 15:00 | Tea/Coffee break | |
| 15:30 | Introduction of Officer Nominees for 2008 | Dr. Peter Merrill |
| 16:00 | Election of 2008 Officers (voting) | Voting called by Merrill |
| 16:30 | Closing Presentation – “Future Needs and Directions for Organized Aquatic Veterinary Medicine” | Invited speaker: Dr. Hamish Rodger – President, Fish Veterinary Society (UK) |
| 17:00 | Closing Remarks – “Future plans for the AqVA” | 2008 AqVA President Elect |
| 17:30 | AGM Closed | |
| 18:00 – 20:00 | Networking Reception | Hors D’oevres/Bar |