



WAWV
Associate Member
World Veterinary Association

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF
WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS WILDLIFE SESSIONS

AT THE

27TH WORLD VETERINARY CONGRESS,
TUNISIA, 2002

Compiled by

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مركز دبي لصحة الطيور
Created under the direction of His Highness
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Foreword

I was honoured to have been asked to open the wildlife sessions of the 27th World Veterinary Congress in the heart of the Mediterranean, on the North coast of the African continent, in magnificent Tunisia.

Wildlife medicine is a vast and varied field of science and the types of animals that members of the World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (WAWV) have to work with are innumerable - from elephants, the largest of land mammals, to creatures as small as the dormouse and smaller. Many of the animals we study and try to help are endangered, in remnant populations in shrinking habitats. Some such as the Golden Lion tamarin are being bred in captivity and act as pioneers in release projects for the conservation movement that strives to protect both the animals and their environments. Avian species are common on the list of patients of many wildlife veterinarians and studies and work on ectothermic animals such as reptiles and amphibians are beginning to shed light on many of the ailments that are affecting our planet. Fish too, fall within the remit of the wildlife veterinarian and they can be important indicators of environmental degradation as well as being important as a major protein source worldwide.

There is much work being carried out in this field and much more needs to be done. In the past the widespread nature of the field has made it difficult sometimes to appreciate the relevance of the varied interests but we have much in common to share as scientists.

Sharing (be it problems, information, solutions or new discoveries) is the essence of the WAWV. We have some unique, mysterious and beautiful environments and animal species to protect and it is by coming together and combining our efforts that our aims are more likely to be achieved.

In 1985, the World Veterinary Association appointed Dr Basil Pappin from the Republic of South Africa to work on a policy with regards to the area of wildlife medicine. Dr Pappin received help from many veterinarians throughout the world and in 1989, an Interim Executive Committee was established with the remit to gain sufficient interest from wildlife veterinarians to establish a World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians as an Associate Member of the WVA.

The WAWV was thus established at the World Veterinary Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1991 with over 100 members. Since then the WAWV has continued to grow and now has over 300 members from over 50 countries worldwide. Since 1991 the WAWV has assisted in coordinating the wildlife sessions at World Veterinary Congresses in Brazil, Japan, France and now Tunisia.

Interim scientific meetings have been held in the Republic of South Africa, the USA, Mexico and Australia on many occasions in conjunction with local zoo and wildlife groups.

Scientific meetings are not the only function of the WAWV – the organisation produces and distributes many publications such as Newsletters, Proceedings, Directories of Educational Opportunities and Registers of members that indicate fields of interests and contact addresses for members worldwide.

It was a scientific meeting that brought us together in Tunisia. The occasion presented us with the first opportunity to join with our colleagues in the Northern part of the African continent and neighbouring regions. These proceedings represent the majority of papers submitted for presentation at the Tunisian meeting and it is hoped that in a small way they will help to further fulfil some of the aims of the WAWV.

Francis Scullion
President, WAWV

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Further this publication contains some translations from French to English. This service was provided by Drs Tom and Katja Kelly, Ireland, for the proceedings in order to assist readers and we are very grateful for their help. The original French papers are also included for completeness.

Dr F. Scullion

Dr T. Bailey

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