Minutes of EAZWV 20th General Assembly
16th May 2015 Barcelona

**Corrigendum.** To be formally proposed and voted on at the 21st GA in Atlanta, July 2016.

A correction is required to item 15. The 2017 and 2016 dates were in the wrong order. (original is crossed out, correction is in bold and red)

**15) Determination of annual subscription for 2017 (Treasurer)**

Sabine explained that as discussed previously (2014) there is a need for the membership fee to increase, to cover the new CEO and associated expenses. The proposal is for no changes to the fee for 2016, but in 2017 there will be changes as follows: Full members €120 (from €50); students €60 (from €30) and a new retired category €60 (from €0). The subscription to the JZWM will remain unchanged: €30 for online access, €60 for printed.

The minutes of the 19th GA in Warsaw correctly state the increase in fee would be in 2016. The proposal that the board were to present at the 20th GA was to keep fees the same was for 2017 not 2016 – unfortunately the wrong thing was said in the meeting. This error was explained to the membership in an email dated 9th October 2015. No objections were received and the correction was put into immediate effect.

1) **Welcome, adoption of the agenda, & Apologies (President)**

This meeting took place at the International Conference on Diseases of Zoo and Wild Animals, 13-16 May 2015. It was chaired by the President of EAZWV, Stephanie Sanderson. Other Board members present were:

- **Vice President:** Hanspeter Steinmetz
- **Immediate Past President:** Alexis Lécu
- **Secretary:** Hugo Fernández Bellon
- **Treasurer:** Sabine Öfner
- **Vice Treasurer:** Kim Gruetzmacher

The president opened the meeting at 13.00. The agenda was shown with the meeting divided into sections: normal business and decisions to be made. Reports from the sections and the introduction to next year’s meeting had been given earlier in the conference. Acceptance of the agenda was proposed by Christian Wenker, seconded by Maya Kummrow and confirmed by a show of hands.

2) **Valete:** It was noted that two Honorary members passed away in 2014: Prof em. Dr Murray E Fowler 18th May 2014 and Prof em. Dr Dr h.c. mult. Heinz-Georg Klöß, former director of Zoo Berlin, 28th July 2014. Additionally, Andries van Foreest, former veterinarian of Ouwervonds, and Prof em. Dr Ernest M Lang, former Director and zoo vet of Basel Zoo and coauthor of the well-known book by Klos & Lang, *Zootierkrankheiten* (English title *Handbook of Zoo Medicine*), died on October 21, shortly after his 101st birthday. A minute’s silence was held to honour them.

3) **Appointment of rapporteurs (President)**

Debra Bourne was appointed as rapporteur, assisted by Michael Fielding. This was formally proposed by Arne Lawrenz and seconded by Gudrun Wibbelt. There were no objections to these appointments.

4) **Adoptation of the minutes of the 19th General Assembly**
The President asked if there were any comments regarding the minutes of the 19th meeting of the General Assembly of the EAZWV, which had previously been circulated in the Newsletter, 2014/3 - Nr 63, pages 2-9. None being received, she asked that the minutes be accepted. This motion was formally proposed by Arne Laurence, seconded by Christian Wenker and agreed by a show of hands. The minutes were therefore accepted as a true record of the meeting.

5) Matters arising not covered in the Agenda (President)
There were no matters arising from the minutes not already covered by the agenda.

6) Annual report 2014 (immediate Past President Alexis Lecu)
The meeting in Warsaw last May was a great success, with a nice scientific programme. During the conference the decision was made by the members to move the Association to a more professional level to ensure that EAZWV can provide more for its members; this followed from the Master Planning initiated by Christian Wenker in 2012 when he was President of EAZWV. There was a successful Summer School in September 2014 at Nuremberg Zoo, also in September there was a special EAZWV session at EAZA in Budapest, on the theme “prevention is better than cure”. In October at AAZV in Orlando, Florida, there was preparation for the first joint meeting of AAZV and EAZWV in 2016. In November at the Board meeting in Chester Zoo the Iberian Section applied for official recognition. The European College of Zoological Medicine (ECZM) grew rapidly in 2014; there are more than 20 de facto members and three active residencies have already been set up. This year has been important and set the ground for improvements in the years to come, ensuring that EAZWV will continue to be a key actor when zoo and wild animal health is being discussed. Alexis thanked the Board for all their hard work during his time as President.

Stephanie presented Alexis with a gift in appreciation of his work. The President thanked all those who had been involved in the master planning.

7) Membership report (Dollinger, EAZWV Secretariat)
In Peter Dollinger’s absence, Sabine Öfner reported. The membership had increased slightly, by 3%, from 660 to 680 by 31st December 2014. There had been a significant increase in members from Spain, from 33 in 2013 to 43 in 2014. The number of free members increased by two to 46: Dr Alessandro Salvelli and Dr Rainer Schneider, both from Italy.

During 2014, 22 colleagues had withdrawn their membership, and 138 were excluded from membership for not paying their fees in 2014 (including 46 who applied in 2014 but never paid, and 31 who had been new members in 2013). In the long term, membership is fairly stable, as shown on a bar chart displayed to the meeting. As of 31-12-2014, there were 454 full members, 154 Student members, 48 Free, 17 Collective, five Associate and two Honorary members. Geographically, members are from: Germany 187, Switzerland 57, France 56, Italy 49, UK 48, Spain 43, Austria 38, Netherlands 28, Portugal 23 and other countries 151. Dr Bernhard Lazarz, from Duisberg, Germany was the only new free member as of January 2015.

74 applications for membership have been received and published in the newsletter 1/2015 (up to March 1st 2015) with a further 28 received to 1st May 2015. Sabine thanked Peter Dollinger and Silvia Nanni-Geser, who are presently responsible for managing the memberships, very much.

8) Outcome of the Warsaw Conference 2013 (Steven Seet)
At the Warsaw conference there were 305 participants including 86 students, seven in the organising team and four plenary speakers. Participants came from 41 countries. There were 24 new memberships in 2014 (9 full and 15 students) associated with the conference (compared with 36 in 2013, 32 in 2012 and 22 in 2011). The conference was very successful with more delegates than the previous year. Conference costs and income were displayed: €107,988.50 income total, expenses €108,316.05, giving a negative balance of €327.55, which was filled by the EAZWV cushion fund, as agreed in Paris. Note that the costs included €4,991 to the cushion fund, transfer of the profits from the proceedings and of
membership fees, so that this included a total of €9,193.00 to EAZWV. The optional carbon emission fee raised €570 which was donated to the Rhino and Forest Fund for reforestation.

9) Financial report 2014 (Treasurer: Sabine Öfner)
The profit and loss account was shown on the screen, with the estimated budget for 2014 and actual costs displayed. It was a good report; there were more actual members than estimated so better income. There were no questions.

10) Auditors' report (Liesegang, Silinski-Mehr)
Annette reported that she and Sandra had checked the bank accounts of EAZWV for 2014 and they thanked Sabine Öfner (Treasurer) and Silvia Nanni (Berne account) for their good work. All had gone very smoothly and the auditors were very happy to recommend that the Board and Treasurer be discharged for the accounts. The audience indicated their appreciation with applause and the President thanked both for this work. Acceptance of the auditors’ report was proposed by Sjaak Kaandorp, seconded by Arne Lawrence and general agreement was indicated by a show of hands.

11) Discharge of the board (President/Assembly)
Discharge of the Board was formally proposed by Javier López and seconded by Christian Wenker. The board was formally discharged.

12) Budget for 2016 (Treasurer Öfner)
Sabine Öfner displayed the budget for 2016 including €45K for the Bern secretariat including the CEO. She requested that people please continue their memberships even with the increase in membership fees, which had been agreed at the AGM in 2014. It was noted that next year would be the third and final year of the current agreement working with the Zebra Foundation for veterinary zoological education, and the Board would then decide whether to continue with that agreement. Simon Rugger asked about the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine Costs and Fees as these were both listed, and this was explained. Acceptance of the budget was proposed by Sabine Öfner, seconded by Annette Liesegang and accepted by a show of hands. It was therefore adopted by the meeting.

13) Change of constitution (Sanderson)
The proposed changes to the constitution had been published in February 2015. The most important changes were the provisions to allow employment of a CEO (paid) and to strengthen the wildlife and welfare aspects: to make it clearer that the organisation was supporting wildlife and wildlife conservation, and that the importance of welfare was included. Additionally, there were refinements of membership categories to make these easier to understand. There had been a proposal from students, already veterinary graduates doing postgraduate work, for a change in voting rights to include students who were veterinary members with more that two years of continuous membership. The change proposed to Article 8 was displayed: after two years of continuous active EAZWV membership, full members, retired members, honorary members and student members would be entitled to vote and to hold office. The Board and the Advisory Board recommended the acceptance of the changes. The changes to the constitution were therefore officially proposed by Stephanie Sanderson and seconded by Alexis Lecu (and Sjaak Kaandorp and many others). Acceptance by the members present was unanimous, as indicated by a show of hands, with none against and no abstentions.

14) EAZWV Secretariat: proposals for the future (President) (Future of the Secretariat)
The current Secretariat arrangement with Berne Zoo will end 1st January 2016 as Peter Dollinger is stepping down. There will be a need to recruit a part time executive officer (CEO). A job description for a
CEO has been produced and (subject to the constitutional changes being approved), the recruitment process will commence in the summer/early autumn. The Board can now go ahead and start the recruitment process.

15) **Determination of annual subscription for 2017 (Treasurer)**

Sabine explained that as discussed previously (2014) there is a need for the membership fee to increase, to cover the new CEO and associated expenses. **The proposal is for no changes to the fee for 2017 but in 2016 there will be changes as follows:** Full members €120 (from €50); students €60 (from €30) and a new retired category €60 (from €0). The subscription to the JZWM will remain unchanged: €30 for online access, €60 for printed.

Stephanie reminded everyone that these increases were as discussed and agreed at the GA in 2014 [when there was considerable discussion]. There was a query regarding the amount paid to the CEO (as a figure of €45K had been displayed); it was clarified that this includes not only salary, but travel, office expenses etc. Additionally, the actual salary will depend on the person recruited and if the appropriate salary is lower than budgeted the additional income will go to funding other EAZWV activities. There was some disquiet, mainly from members who had not been present for the thorough discussions last year. Acceptance of the increases was proposed by Sabine Öfnner, seconded by Annette Liesegang and passed by majority acceptance, with 22 abstentions, and was therefore adopted. Stephanie noted that members were welcome to give further comments to the Board regarding this.

16) **Approval of Iberian section (President) Miguel Casares**

Asociacion Iberica de Veterinarios de Zoo y Fauna Salvaje (Iberian Section of the EAZWV). The core group of the Iberian section started at this conference in 2014, in Warsaw. The first meeting of the Reunion Iberica de Medicine Zoologica took place 7-8 November 2014 in Madrid Zoo with 45 attendees: 37 from Spain and eight from Portugal, including 18 EAZWV members. Languages were Spanish and Portuguese. There were 13 scientific papers and two roundtables. Everyone was very positive about becoming a Section of EAZWV, so the request was handwritten at the meeting, signed and sent to the EAZWV Board! Membership is open to Spanish and Portuguese graduate vets and ‘expats’ working elsewhere, others working at zoos, wildlife centres etc., and postgraduate students and researchers working at zoos and proposed by two members. So far there are more than 125 vets on the database. It was noted that Spanish and Portuguese zoos have improved a lot over last 20 years. The group therefore asked for acceptance as a Section of EAZWV, and had met the requirements for a section. Acceptance was proposed by Heike Weber and seconded by Baptiste Mulot, and adopted with general enthusiastic applause and no objections.

17) **Elections and appointments (President)**

It was stated in the last newsletter that certain positions (Treasurer, vice-Treasurer and Auditors) were coming up for election and that anyone who was interested should put their names forward by seven days before the Board Meeting (which had been held on Monday). Sabine Öfnner and Kim Grutzmacher had offered to stand again as Treasurer and vice-Treasurer respectively. No other names had been put forward, therefore Stephanie officially proposed Sabine and Kim, Arne Lawrence seconded these and they were agreed by a general show of hands.

For the auditors, it was noted that this used to be a difficult task but Sandra and Annette had been working hard with the Treasurers to make it much easier. Sandra Silinski-Mehr and Annette Liesegang were willing to take on this role again, with two ex-SWORG members, Tina Riesch and Eva Wehrmeister as juniors. These appointments were officially proposed by Stephanie, seconded by Christian Wenker and agreed by a general show of hands.

18) **SWORG elections**
Julia Reiners and May Hokan have stepped down. The new board is a mix of new and old members: Javier Martinez (who has been a newsletter editor previously) is the new president, aiming to increase student participation, with Vice-president Johanna Kasberg, Students’ education coordinator Rafaela Fiuza, Newsletter Editor Julia Soch, Scientific Corner Raquel Palma and Proofreader Lara Hueston; all are postgraduate students and they come from a variety of countries. Julia and May were thanked for their efforts and given a token of appreciation.

19) Honorary member

Three new Honorary members were proposed: Eric Miller has been a great friend to the organisation and instrumental in the development of good partnerships with AAZV and the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine. He has also worked hard with Murray Fowler on editions of Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine, including ensuring that European authors were included. Peter Dollinger was one of the founders of EAZWV and has run the secretariat for most of the organisation’s 20 years of existence. He has done a lot for the profession, including as one of the key people ensuring that nondomestic animals were included in EU law, in the Balai Directive. Sjaak Kaandorp has provided fantastic support to this organisation, including as our representative with EAZA and the EU commission; he has done a huge amount for the organisation and given good advice. Acceptance of these three as Honorary members was formally proposed by Stephanie Sanderson and seconded by Marja Kik (and many others raised their hands to second this as well). It was generally approved with a standing ovation.

20) Arrangements for the 21st General Assembly (Secretary)

The 21st General Assembly of EAZWV will take place on Wednesday 20th July 2016, in the evening, at the joint meeting with AAZV in Atlanta, USA. Since it is expected that a lower than usual percentage of members will be attending, some sort of method for electronic voting will be set up, with information sent out in advance, hopefully well before so that all members who want to can actively participate in decision making. Stephanie reminded everyone to check their emails because the new website will have individual login for each member; do register so that EAZWV can keep in touch with you better!

21) AOB (President)

Maya Kumrow noted that the workload Sara had put in for new website had not previously been properly recognised. She recommended that Sara should be given a free conference or free membership for a year as an indication of appreciation; the members indicated their agreement with general applause. Michael Fielding said this could be granted at the Board’s discretion and the Board will take that forward.

Stephanie thanked the assembly for their great replies to the EAZWV interest survey so far (about 100 have been received), but asked for those who had not yet responded to please do so. She added that the whole membership would also be contacted to give members not present at the conference a chance to comment.

22) Closure of the meeting (President)

Stephanie thanked the Board and Advisory Board and closed the meeting at 2.20pm

D. Bourne
Dear fellow EAZWV members,

I am writing to you all to own up to a mistake we, the board, have made and to ask you please to overlook it.

As you know the membership have voted in favour of increasing the annual fees to enable the development of our organisation. Unfortunately, the minutes of the AGM and board meetings demonstrate confusion as to when the membership fees will increase.

To set the matter straight:

- our current organisation procedures are that the membership fees for two years’ time are presented to the vote at the AGM.
- We did it right at our 2014 AGM in Warsaw and voted in the 2016 fees. We discussed the masterplan and the considerable growth in the organisation over the last 20yrs and the need to increase the fees to 120 Euro for full members and 60 Euro for students in order to continue our development. The vote was 74+ in favour, zero against and six abstaining.
- We strayed from this procedure at our 2015 AGM in Barcelona. We did vote in the 2017 fees as we were supposed to (full members 120Euro and students 60 Euro) and this was passed by majority with no votes against and 22 abstentions. Unfortunately however we also suggested that the 2016 fees would stay the same as 2015 – this was wrong – we had already voted on 2016 at the Warsaw AGM and our 2016 budgets and work plans are all written on the basis of this agreement.

Please accept our sincerest apologies for this error – none of us (board members & advisory board members) noticed it at the time – if we had, we would have corrected it immediately. We have no excuse; we were just not paying close enough attention. We are putting steps in place to ensure that we can’t make such mistakes again.

To clarify the membership fees for the next two years are:

- 2016: 120 Euro for full members and 60 Euro for students. (voted in at 2014 AGM in Warsaw)

We will formally propose the correction to the Barcelona minutes at our AGM in 2016, but we will start using the 2016 fees as agreed at the 2014 Warsaw AGM with immediate effect both on the website and in the membership renewal notices that we will start sending out soon.

I hope you will accept our apologies for this unfortunate error.

Yours
Steph
On behalf of the EAZWV board.

Stephanie Sanderson
MA, VetMB, MSc(WAH), MRCVS
President European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians
www.eazwv.org