

SOP for the FECAVA Travel Scholarship

To reflect the fact that modern companion animal veterinary medicine has to be seen in a global and no longer in a regional or national perspective, the FECAVA Travel Bursary is an initiative to support two regional groups of practicing small animal veterinary surgeons from two different parts of Europe to visit each other for a few days to see how their colleagues are practicing, to see and appreciate the different culture of their colleagues and to participate ideally in a joint CE event.

The bursary will be granted once a year and will be administered by the FECAVA.

The funding of the Scholarship (6000.- € for a period of three years (2000.-€/exchange)) will require the cooperation with a commercial sponsor, who will

- gain the right to be named alongside FECAVA in the title of the Scholarship in all publications (“The FECAVA XXXX Travel Scholarship”)
- have equal rights to decide which exchange pairing is to be awarded the annual bursary
- be allowed to advertise their sponsorship of the Scholarship in the national and international veterinary press
- have their sponsorship of and involvement with the bursary been advertised in all relevant FECAVA publications (FECAVA website, FECAVA Facebook site, EJCAP Online etc.) with the potential reach of over 30000 veterinarians in Europe alone.
- have first refusal to sponsor CE events associated with the exchange and the right to object to the involvement of other CE event sponsors

The recipients of the Scholarship will be announced once a year at the FECAVA Euro Congress.

A deadline for applications will be set two months before the Congress to give the representatives of FECAVA and the sponsor sufficient time to choose the recipients.

Interested regional groups of practicing companion veterinarians would have to send an initial Application to the FECAVA Head Office, stating their interest in the program, describing the members of their group and identifying two or three regions in Europe they would like to visit. FECAVA with the help of the national directors will endeavour to find a suitable group of colleagues in these regions another part of Europe who are interested to host their visitors for a few days and who are willing to travel to their guests on a return visit.

The two parties would have to submit a joint application as an e-mail in English to the FECAVA Secretary. The application has to detail in not more than 500 words who is going to take part in the exchange (names and personal backgrounds) , how the applicants are planning to organise the exchange , how the initial contact had been made between the groups and what the participants are hoping to learn from the exchange. The applicants might have to submit further details or information on request by the awarding committee. All applicants have to agree that their application details can be used in publications of FECAVA or in promotional material of the sponsor of the Scholarship.

All applications will be collected by the FECAVA Secretary or by an appointed FECAVA Director, who will draw up a short list of not more than six joint applications.

A joint committee of the commercial sponsor (ideally consisting of an international marketing manager and a national representative of the company in the Euro Congress country) and the FECAVA (consisting ideally of the Secretary and another director who is not the national director of a shortlisted party) will choose a recipient for the Scholarship before each annual Euro Congress.

The recipient of the Scholarship will be announced at the Euro Congress and the winner will receive 1000,- € with the expectation to conduct the first exchange visit in not more than 6 months and the return visit in not more than 12 months after the date of the announcement.

In order to receive the second part of the Scholarship the winning pair has to submit a report of 300-500 words in English and photographic documentation of the exchange which again has to be made available for publication by FECAVA and the sponsor.

Neither FECAVA nor the sponsor are the organisers of the exchange journeys nor can they be held responsible for any damage, injury or loss that might occur during the program. The Scholarship is merely meant as a financial support for a privately organised and conducted undertaking.

The cooperation between FECAVA and a sponsor is fixed for a period of three years for this project, but can be renewed if both parties are in agreement. The three year sponsorship has to be paid in advance by the sponsor and the funds will be ring fenced within the FECAVA accounts.

The Scholarship will be advertised in all FECAVA publications and promoted directly to the FECAVA members through their national FECAVA Directors. The Scholarship can additionally be advertised in the veterinary press and in all publications the sponsor might find suitable.

The exact use of the funds of the awarded Scholarship is subject to the judgement and decision of the exchange organisers. It might for example be used towards travel expenses, for accommodation cost of the visitors, for a joint dinner or a joint cultural event.

An example how the FECAVA Travel Scholarship might work:

A group of veterinarians from Copenhagen would like to visit colleagues in Athens. They are sending an initial application to the FECAVA Head Office. FECAVA together with the Greek FECAVA director find a group of colleagues from Athens who are happy to host the Danish visitors.

Both parties agree on a couple of programmes for the individual visits and apply for the FECAVA Travel Scholarship with four colleagues from each town. They write in their application who they are, how they met initially and how they are planning to organise their visits.

Shortly after having been granted the bursary the group of Greek veterinarians is travelling to Copenhagen where they stay for a long weekend with their hosts. On Friday they spend the whole day together with their hosts in their clinics, observing how a range of different cases is treated in Denmark. On Saturday morning all hosts and visitors meet at one clinic and take part in a workshop

about Feline Dermatitis. In the evening they explore the Danish capital and have a joint visit to the Tivoli. The next morning is spend with more sightseeing before the Greek visitors are heading home.

The funds of the Scholarship were spent on flight expenses and on the cost for the visits of the sights in Copenhagen.

Three months later the small group of Danish visitors arrives in Athens, where they in turn stay at their hosts. A joint dinner at a restaurant in the Plaka gets everybody off to a good start. The next morning is spent at the clinics of the Greek hosts and the whole group meets again in the afternoon for a visit of the Acropolis. The next morning is again spend with the observation of daily small animal practice at the hosts' clinics and in the afternoon the national branch of the Scholarship's sponsor has arranged a talk about new developments in Feline Internal Medicine, which is followed by another joint meal. The final morning is used for some more sightseeing in Athens.

The two parties write up a short summary of their visits, add a few photos and submit these to the FECAVA Secretary to have the second part of the Scholarship released.

These funds were again used for some of the flight expenses, for the dinner on the first night and for the entrance fees for the historical sights.

Photos and the summary of these visits are published in the FECAVA media and in publications of the Scholarship sponsor, to encourage other colleagues to apply for the Scholarship the following year.