

## Brazilian OTV Partners with VCOT

## Editorial

The societies that have adopted VCOT as their official journal share the common goal of advancement of the discipline of veterinary and comparative orthopaedics, and also trauma care in some cases. Members of these societies share a passion for orthopaedics and desire to improve the standard of care of animals with musculoskeletal injuries and disease. Until now, all of the societies supporting VCOT have their foundations in the northern hemisphere; either in Europe or the United States of America. We were delighted when the recently formed Brazilian Association of Veterinary Orthopaedic and Traumatology (OTV) also adopted VCOT as their official journal.

Though my involvement with AO, I was privileged to visit South America recently, and overwhelmed by the warmth and kindness of the Latin American veterinarians that I met and their enthusiasm for learning more about orthopaedics. Therefore it was wonderful to see this newly formed society in Brazil take a lead in promoting veterinary orthopaedics. Compared to some other regions of the world, attainment of specialty training and qualifications has up to now been relatively difficult and uncommon in Brazil. You might be surprised to know that Brazil is the fifth largest country in world; in both geographic size and population. Brazil occupies more than half of the South American continent and it is even larger in size than the Australian continent. Furthermore, in the American Veterinary Medical Association's list of veterinary colleges in the world, Brazil is near the top of the list with

42. These 42 colleges are officially recognized professional schools of veterinary medicine whose graduates are qualified to practice veterinary medicine within Brazil. Thus it would seem that the OTV has huge challenges and untapped potential ahead in their quest to promote our discipline in Brazil. I hope that they can draw inspiration, guidance and strength from closer contact now with their "sister" associations through VCOT. We welcome them to VCOT, and wish them every success in the future.

Another milestone for VCOT, beginning with this first issue for 2009, is an increase in frequency of publication with now six issues per year. Therefore, you will have a new issue of VCOT arrive in your letter box about every two months, helping you to keep up with new research and developments. We also hope this change will help to further reduce the interval from submission to "appearance in print", of submitted papers.

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that we have lost one of our most dear and loyal members of the VCOT team. Amanda Godsell who had been our Managing Editor at Schattauer Publishers, passed away suddenly after a short illness on Tuesday 18th November, 2008 while she was on holidays in Florida. Amanda made a huge contribution to the growth and elevation of VCOT in so many ways, and in such a short time. An obituary to Amanda is printed later in this issue of VCOT. She will be greatly missed by all of us, and we extend our sincere sympathy to her family.

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Editor-in-Chief*

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