



Newsletter of the ESVCE

European Society of Veterinary Clinical Ethology

February
2002

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Table of contents

President's message	1
Newsletter Editor Message	1
European Journal of Veterinary Psychiatry	2
First Aggression Symposium in Vancouver	3
Let's play together	4
Call for Candidates for the ESVCE Board	7
ESVCE Annual Meeting – Granada (Spain) Oct. 2, 2002	8
Diary	9
"Emerging issues in behaviour and welfare"	10
Renew your membership	11

ESVCE on the Web:

www.esvce.org

This Newsletter is sent to 251
members.

President's message

Happy New Year.

This year 2002 is a key year for the
ESVCE. It is an election year. All the
officers of the Board must step down
but may be re-elected. So the ESVCE
Board will be renewed following your
wishes. I am calling on candidates (full
members) to stand for election on the
Board. I'm stepping down and will not
be a candidate for re-election.

This year 2002 will also be a key year
for the European College of
Veterinary Behavioural Medicine (and
Applied Ethology). The European
Board of Veterinary Specialisation
should meet in April and decide if the
ECVBM&AE may obtain a
provisional recognition. Then the next
step would be to recognize and create
education programs and develop
exams to certify Diplomates.

I would also like to remember you that
it is time to renew your membership
by paying the dues – no later than
April - via your national organisation
or independently (see application
forms). The fees have increased as
decided at the General Meeting in
Birmingham (April 2002).

The question is: "what do you get for
your fees?".

The answer is: being a member of a
250 people association focused on
behaviour and behavioural medicine,
having access to the ESVCE site, to
the ESVCE Yahoo e-mail list, and –
new in 2002 – having a free access to
the new European Journal of
Veterinary Psychiatry (restricted access
by password), having a reduction on
the annual meeting fee.

I will recall that publishing a
Newsletter is impossible without you
being involved in sending information,
letters, proposing articles, asking
questions, etc.

Make the ESVCE an operational reality
and create a network of colleagues is
your job, too.

Joël Dehasse
President ESVCE 1998-2001.

Newsletter Editor Message

Once again, you receive a newsletter and
once again, maybe, you don't imagine
how difficult it is to have genuine and
interesting material to put in. The
Newsletter has to be the voice of the
whole association and sometimes the
silence sounds terrible...

So I have to thank in a particular way Dr
Muller for his very interesting and
original focus on the robot.

Read also the thrilling project of Dr
Sabine Schroll and Dr Joel Dehasse
about the new on-line European Journal
of Veterinary Psychiatry.

EsVce Granada Meeting and so many
others can fill your agenda of exciting
congresses

Many of us changed their currency on
January 1st and today we share the Euro.
I hope that tomorrow, we'll share our
ideas, concepts and science with the
same easiness.

This election year will bring new people
to take their part and to work with those
who put our association on the right way
to be recognised and to organise the
College.

Building Europe in our field is a
fascinating project

Let's do it together !

Claude Beata
Newsletter Editor 1998-2002

European Journal of Veterinary Psychiatry

www.vetpsy.org

The **European Journal of Veterinary Psychiatry** is the first online international scientific journal dedicated to veterinary behavioural medicine. In 1993, Joël Dehasse (with Patrick Pageat, Bart Knol, André Dallaire and Bonnie Beaver in the Editorial Board) created the Bulletin on Veterinary Clinical Ethology. It was the first attempt to establish a scientific journal for the field of veterinary behavioural medicine. After 2 years, the journal had to stop publishing ... the Journal was way before its time... Eight years later the domain of veterinary behavioural medicine is still growing into a significant division of veterinary medicine. The European College for Veterinary Behavioural Medicine and Applied Ethology will become a reality and will be a very important step in the global acceptance of this speciality within the profession. A scientific journal is the second crucial step in the recognition of a new professional field. There is no way to publish quickly in the classical journals where editorial boards are handicapped by their lack of knowledge of the specialty. And there are so many behavioural papers to publish. The need of an expert journal is the proof of the existence of the new specialty. The quality of a journal depends on two main elements: (1) the editors and the scientific editorial board and (2) the number and quality of articles submitted by the authors. Neither can do this job alone – they will always be interdependent. The editors and the members of the editorial board are highly motivated to give you with the VetPsy a platform and to establish a high quality scientific journal. But the really unique way

to make it a real journal is by publishing articles !

What is VetPsy ?

The European Journal of Veterinary Psychiatry is an international, English language, peer-reviewed, online only, scientific Journal. It covers all parts of Veterinary Psychiatry (Behavioural Medicine) as well as relevant topics on Animal Welfare and the Human-Animal-Bond.

The Journal features high quality original articles including relevant basic research, review and educational papers, point of view articles, commentaries, short communications, didactical case reports, etc.

Who is behind VetPsy ?

The journal is edited by Joël Dehasse and Sabine Schroll. It is an independent venture at our own responsibility and risk.

How can I receive VetPsy ?

The access to VetPsy is free. The articles of the Bulletin on Veterinary Clinical Ethology are now accessible in the archive of VetPsy.

How can I publish in VetPsy ?

Papers can be submitted in electronic format only (email, diskette, zip-diskette or CD Rom) to the editors. Detailed guidelines for authors are available on the website. VetPsy aims to publish quickly.

First Aggression Symposium in Vancouver

Beside the Third World Congress of Ethology, the first Aggression Symposium was held in Vancouver to gather veterinary behaviourists from all over the world and try to define a common attitude in front of aggressive dogs and the laws set up by different governments.

Dr Debbie Horwitz and Dr Petra Mertens organised a very friendly and interesting meeting.

Sixteen specialists from different locations have exchanged during the morning their point of view first about the reality in their country. Dr Lockwood from the "Humane Society of the USA" gave us some terrible numbers: 4.5 millions of bites, more than 330 000 with emergency treatment and between 15 to 20 dog aggressions related deaths in one year. We could perceive that situations were extremely different between countries: some have very severe laws (France, USA, Germany), others have mild ones (United Kingdom, Spain,), and some have no law (Switzerland, Israel, Belgium, Italy). It is encouraging to see that vets, when they have been a propositional force, have prevented demagogical and stupid laws.

After lunch, the goal was to define what we have to do, by now, to help governments in choosing the right attitude.

The first step is obviously to have strong studies to have a true image of the situation: how many dogs, how many bites in each country, from what kind or what breed of dog? Even for this simple thing, difficulties arose: do we want to count each bite or only medically attended ones or "legal" ones (when there is a declaration at the police or so...).

Hours have been spent on that topic and it has been a good job. Everybody could go back with a lot of homework to do.

But we can say that a new force is born. We have to help it and to enhance it to take our place in the future when laws dedicated to pets have to be done.

Claude Beata

Let's play together

G.Muller

According to La Recherche, February 2002



One of the best way to understand other's thoughts is to try their behaviour. Do it yourself you will feel it.

If we give a rapid glance, a robot, even if it is a dog like Aï bo, should not interest behaviourists and the only thing we can say is that it will not help us to have many consultations...

However, Aï bo is not a very simple robot and the way it choose its behaviour is quite interesting.

Nothing would surprise you in the fact that this automatic dog can walk, since it is very light. This machine can see, I mean this machine is able to discover something in its environment like a ball or a biscuit. In a very close future (ho! sorry, it is already done by now) this plastic dog will be able to ear and to distinguish when a voice is soft and gentle or if the voice is punishing. This dog is not really able to feel with its skin...but it can distinguish when you are petting it or when you are snapping it. And it will remember the situation!

But what is surprising is how this toy can have an autonomous behaviour. For example when Aï bo see a red ball in the room, it can move toward this red ball,

explore it and wave its tail and then it can play with this ball, even if it is the first time it sees it (I would say he sees it).

How does it work ?

Three different circuits will lead to this :

Reflex circuit
Emotional circuit
Motivational circuit

The reflex circuit allows any part of the body to have its own reaction. For an example it exist a reflex for the head when something is moving in front of the eyes : the head will turn to follow the movement. When Aï bo stayed quit for a long time, legs will decided to walk and the dog will go around just in a reflex way.

The second level which induces decision is an emotional level. Aï bo feels six different emotions : sadness, joy, anger, surprise, fear and dissatisfaction. This way, when Aï bo see the ball, the joy pattern is increased and we could say Aï bo is happy. Of course several emotion can be modified together. When Aï bo see the ball for the first time it can feel happy but fearful...

The third level which help the decision is the motivational circuit. Five items are considered in this circuit which are linked to the normal needs of the artificial dog. These basic instincts (nothing to do with any peroxid blond) are affection, curiosity, need of exercise, appetite and sleep. These instincts are matched with needs which can be more or less satisfied. When the balance is far from the middle, then the dog is very motivated to do something which will compensate this imbalance. For example, when Aï bo sees the ball, it feels curious and it will move towards the ball. But if it is very tired, then the motivation for rest would be stronger.

But this very perfect toy would not be interesting for a long time if it would be impossible to modify its behaviour. Its fathers give it a possibility to have a real "personality" which depends on its own history. Two different principles are used to set a personal reactivity.

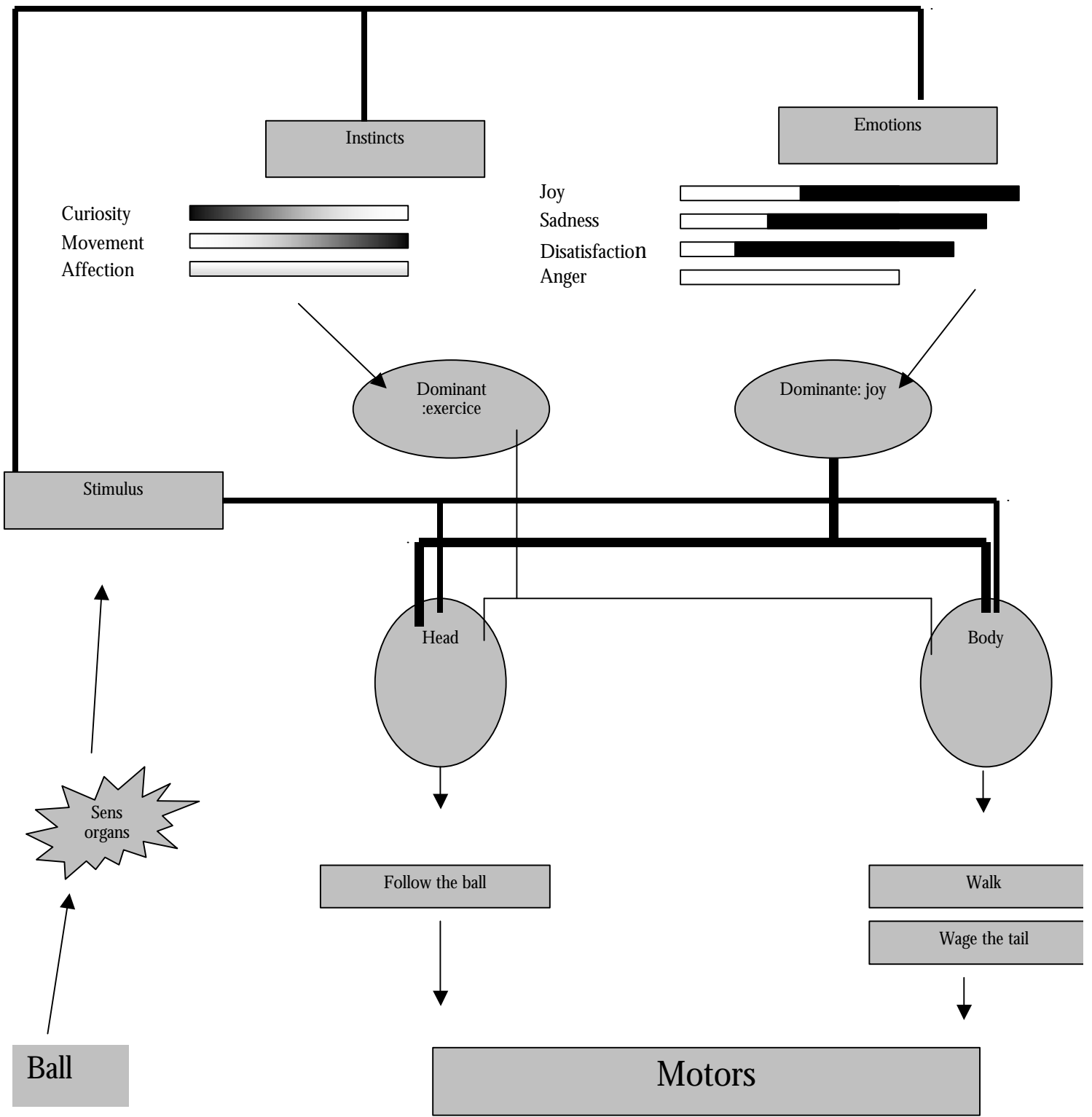
First one is a predefined maturation diagram. This diagram will set up a personal reactivity in the first hours of utilisation of the toy. These hours will be a critical period and will determined the future characteristics of the toy. For example if during the first day you shake a lot the dog, it will become quick-tempered and active.

The second principles which help Aï bo to behave in a specific way is the possibility to learn what the owner like or dislike. When the owner snap Aï bo when doing something, then Aï bo will do it less an less often. In the opposite hand, Aï bo is able to increase a behaviour that it has been pet and congratulate for.

Of course this story is just useless for us! Nothing to do with toys , even if they are doggy toys, but ...

Maybe in a few years we could understand better our "flesh dogs" with the help of this plastic one ?

The following diagram (next page) explains how the robot functions and is going to "decide" what movement and what mood it is going to express



Call for Candidates for the ESVCE Board

The ESVCE Board should have been renewed in 2001. The General meeting in Birmingham (April 2001) has decided to postpone this election by one year. The reasons were that it was important not to have turbulence in the ESVCE management during a key year of the creation of the College. This postponement has no reason to be continued. The ESVCE Board has to be renewed in 2002.

All the officers of the Board must step down but may be re-elected.

There are 6 positions to be filled: President, Vice-President, Newsletter Editor, Secretary, Treasurer (and Membership Secretary), and Meeting Secretary.

We are calling on candidates to stand for election on the Board. The elected persons will decide among themselves who will take which function in the Board.

To be a candidate, one has to be a full member (veterinarian), be in order of payment for the 2001 and 2002 membership fee, and have the support of two full members.

If you feel that you would like to be more involved in the running of ESVCE, that you have something to offer to the organisation, please put yourself forward for a position in the Board.

The duties of the Board officers are defined by their position. They are also asked to attend at least one Board meeting a year, generally during the ESVCE meeting day. There are also phone Board meetings and the officers are in constant contact by e-mail. So an Internet access and e-mail facility is needed.

Candidates have to send their application to Dr. Joël Dehasse, acting as coordinator of the Nomination Committee, before the 1st of April 2002. The application can be sent by

- mail : 3 avenue du Cosmonaute, B-1150 Brussel, Belgium
- e-mail: joel.dehasse@advalvas.be
- fax: +32.2.770.40.08.

Please give all your references, so I can send you a receipt of application. If you do not receive any receipt, please contact me again.

Requisite information:

NAME:

FIRST NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

COUNTRY:

TEL:

FAX:

E-MAIL:

SHORT PRESENTATION: maximum 250 words: please describe here who you are, what you do, what you would intend to do if elected – any ideas, plans, etc.

SUPPORTING MEMBERS: the two supporting members have to send me a letter, e-mail, fax certifying they support the candidate.

These informations will be sent to every member with the vote documents.

Timetable:

- February: Sending a call for candidates
- April: gathering of information on candidates
- June: elections by post

Joel Dehasse.

ESVCE Annual Meeting – Granada (Spain) Oct. 2, 2002

Theme: anxiety

The call for papers was sent by e-mail (several time) and posted on the ESVCE site in July 2000. This way may be unfair for the members who do not have an internet access or e-mail box. But actually, most people doing research have this kind of access.

The scientific committee received 32 propositions and selected 18 papers as speeches and 12 as posters. Here are the papers selected as speeches:

Adaptation of adopted cats to their new home – a retrospective study.

Edith Beaumont Graff

Aetiology of anxiety states as a model to diagnose behavioural problems.

Miguel Ibanez

Aggression, fear and anxiety problems in dogs: samples from a behavioural practice.

Barbara Schoening.

Anxiety and attachment in dogs : new theories for an old story.

Claude Beata

Anxiety in cats.

Sarah Heath

Anxiety related disorders in dogs and cats: a comparative analysis of plasma catecholamine concentrations. Cristina Osella

Behavioural changes in cats infected by FIV
Jean-Pierre Beaufile

Canine genomics, problem behaviours, and application of assessment tools. Karen Overall

Overall

Dog aggression: an inquiry on the frequency of dog bites towards children in Flanders.

Rudy De Meester

Double-blind, placebo controlled trial on the use of clomipramine hydrochloride for feline psychogenic alopecia

Petra Mertens

Effect of a synthetic Equin Appeasing Pheromone in a fear eliciting test.

Emmanuel Gaultier, Patrick Pageat

Factors influencing people in their choice of cat from a rescue shelter .

S. Vandenbussche

First experiences with the use of the anxiolytic Phyto-Psychotropic Kava-Kava in Veterinary Behavioural Medicine - Overview and case reports.

Sabine Schroll.

Modelling anxiety.

Joel Dehasse

Pica in Siamese cats: association with other behavioural abnormalities.

J.W.S. Bradshaw & alii.

Presentation of a bio-psycho-social model of functional analysis

Thierry Paris

Treatment of separation anxiety in dogs with a synthetic Dog Appeasing Pheromone Pheromone – Preliminary results. Patrick Pageat, Emmanuel Gaultier

Use of a vegetal feed supplement in the treatment of behaviour problems in dogs.

Yannic Ongena, Joel Dehasse)

As several proposals are identical for the CABTSG April 2002 Birmingham meeting, we wait for the authors to decide before drafting the provisional program.

Authors have until the 31th of March to send their 2 pages extended abstracts.

Applicants whose abstracts are selected for talks or posters will receive complimentary registration to the meeting.



Other registrants will be able to attend this meeting for a fee that covers the cost of attendance, coffee and tea breaks and lunch.

Members AMEVE & ESVCE	Euro 100,00
Non-members	Euro 150,00
Students	Euro 30,00

The venue will be defined later on.

Diary

March 9-10	Schloß Wolfsburg (Germany)	Verhaltenstherapeutische Gesprächskreise. Download document (doc) Contact: E-mail: Tiere-u.mehr@t-online.de
March 24	Brussels (Belgium)	GERC one day meeting on Dog Aggression expertise and management (in French).
April 3	Birmingham (U.K.)	CABTSG & AWSELVA meeting day on "Emerging issues in behaviour and welfare" Contact: Sarah Heath & Pauline Appleby .
April 2-6	Strasbourg (France)	Adaptation et auto-organisation. Colloque conjoint de la Société d'Ecophysiologie et de la Société Française pour l'Etude du Comportement Animal. Plus d'information at: http://rana.uqam.ca/sfeca2002/
July 31-August 4	Muenster (Germany)	First European Conference on Behavioural Biology. Theme: Conflict and resolution. More information at http://www.behaviour2002.de/
August 6-10	Egmond aan Zee (The Netherlands)	Congress ISAE 2002. More info at http://www.isae2002.org/
September 21-22	Salzburg (Austria)	Annual meeting of VOEK: "Feline Medicine II" with a seminar and workshop on cat behaviour (by Sabine Schroll). More info at http://www.voek.at
October 2	Granada (Spain)	8th ESVCE meeting in association with 27th WSAVA , AVEPA & 8th FECAVA meetings (3-6 October) Provisional program .
October 24-26	Nice (France)	Meeting of GECAF "Behaviour Disorders in the young dogs" with lectures and Workshops. Two levels – Standard and Advanced Contact: claud.beata@wanadoo.fr

	COMPANION ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR THERAPY STUDY GROUP / ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE, ETHICS AND LAW VETERINARY ASSOCIATION STUDY DAY 2002	
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DATE:	Wednesday 3rd April 2002
ORGANISER:	Miss S.E. Heath BVSc MRCVS 11 Cotebrook Drive, Upton, Chester, Cheshire, CH2 1RA Tel: (44) 01244 377365 Fax: (44) 01244 399228 Email: heath@vetethol.demon.co.uk
PROGRAMME/ REGISTRATION /DETAILS:	Mrs P. Appleby, CABTSG Study Day Organiser, Interface, Hillside, Upper Street Defford, Worcs, WR8 9AB Tel: (44) 01386 750534 Fax: (44) 01386 750743 Email: pauline.interface@virgin.net
VENUE:	The Council House, Birmingham

"Emerging issues in behaviour and welfare"

09.30 10.15	The Dangerous dogs issue - implications of temperament testing as a measure of aggressive behaviour. Barbara Schoning Dr. med.vet. MSc, Hamburg, Germany
10.15- 11.00	Electronic training devices - the welfare implications Kersti Seksel BVSc (Hons) MRCVS MA (Hons) FACVSc Dipl ACVB, Seaforth, Australia
11.00	Coffee
11.30- 12.15	The Battered-Pet Syndrome Helen Munro BVMS MRCVS, Edinburgh, Scotland SPONSORED BY INTERVET UK LIMITED
12.15 - 13.00	Research into veterinary use of psychoactive medication – the ethical and scientific considerations – speaker to be confirmed
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch and poster session
14.00	CABTSG AGM
14.30 - 15.30	Short paper session - Emerging issues in behaviour and welfare
15.30	Coffee
16.00 - 17.00	Short paper session - Advances in treatments for behaviour disorders in companion animals
17.00 - 17.30	Short paper session - Free communications
COST:	£70.00 members of CABTSG or AWSELVA £90.00 non-members of CABTSG or AWSELVA £25.00 full time students and VN students - on production of evidence from their institution

Renew your membership

The treasurer has to emphasise the need to pay your **annual fee** to become or stay a member of the ESVCE.

Following the ESVCE Constitution, membership is cancelled if the member has not fulfilled his monetary obligations.

You can pay your annual fee in two ways:

1. Individual application

You will have to fill in the individual application form and pay an annual fee of **40 Euros** (see below).

The ESVCE proposes a special rate for students, 1st and 2nd year veterinarians, veterinarians from East-Europe, or anybody who has a low income (and can prove it): the annual fee is **10 Euros**.

2. Collective application via a national veterinary ethological / behavioural association. See below.

Your individual rate fee is only **20 Euro**.

The ESVCE treasurer will not accept individual applications at the special rate (exception for point 1 before). The

association treasurer will not send separate sheets with individual applications to the ESVCE treasurer. For a collective application, the ESVCE treasurer will receive 1 (one) collective application file and 1 (one) payment by bank transfer, Eurocheque, Visa / Mastercard.

If the ESVCE treasurer receives a stack of individual application sheets, these applications will be individually proceeded with the 1600 BEF (40 euros) fee.

If you need more information, please contact the ESVCE treasurer.

See in annex for the model of the collective application file.

3. Application collective pour les membres du GECAF et ZOOPSY (France).

Veuillez faire un virement bancaire de **20 Euro** au compte 2934 166 439 00200 intitulé ESVCE-France, ouvert auprès du Credit du Nord.

ESVCE Collective (re)application form

Collective application via a national veterinary ethological / behavioural association.

The treasurer of your national group will have to fill in a document with the application of all members wanting to join the ESVCE, and send it on a diskette (Excell^R sheet or WORD^R table) or by e-mail with the payment - only in Belgian Francs - of all members by bank transfer to the bank account of the ESVCE:

001-1143526-69

(without any cost for the ESVCE !) or by Visa / Mastercard / Eurocard

Your application fee is only **20 euro** each.

The data sheet has to contain the following columns, in order:

1. F or A: Full member (veterinarian) or Affiliate member (non veterinarian)
2. dvm or/and PhD, ...
3. Name and surname
4. Address
5. ZIP code
6. Town city
7. Country
8. Telephone
9. Fax
10. E-mail

Payment by Visa / MasterCard / Eurocard

Name & first name on card:

.....

Card number

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Please check the number carefully

Expiry date:

Signature:

