

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 Scholarship is an initiative to encourage practicing veterinary surgeons to travel to other European countries to gain knowledge through the visiting of international conferences or to visit other colleagues at their clinics or institutions.

The Scholarship will be granted once a year to two applicants and will be administered by FECAVA.

The funding of the Scholarship 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 applicants are to be awarded the annual Scholarship**
- **be allowed to advertise their sponsorship of the Scholarship in the national and international veterinary press**
- **have their sponsorship of and involvement with the Scholarship been advertised in all relevant FECAVA publications (FECAVA website, FECAVA social media etc.) with the potential reach of over 25000 veterinarians in Europe alone.**
- **have first refusal for future sponsorship agreements regarding this Scholarship.**

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

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

The application process is to be kept as easy and as straight forward as possible.

Applicants have to submit a form of proof that they are a qualified veterinary surgeon and a FECAVA member (= usually the case if they are members of their National small animal veterinary associations). In addition to this, applicants have to submit a 30-60 sec video clip in which they are introducing themselves, in which they give an impression of their day-to-day work and in which they are explaining where they would like to travel and what they would like to do. All applicants have to agree that their application details can be used in publications and social media 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 twelve 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 FECAVA's Awards Committee will choose two recipients for the Scholarship before each annual Euro Congress.

The recipients of the Scholarship will be announced at the Euro Congress and will receive 1000,- €* with the expectation to conduct their journey not more than 12 months after the date of the announcement.

(*A successful applicant will receive 500 Euros shortly after the official announcement and the second 500 Euros following the submission of a video diary of their visit which should last not less than 3 minutes and not more than 20 minutes. The applicant has to agree that all or parts of the video diary can be used for publication or social media purposes by FECAVA and the sponsor.)

Neither FECAVA nor the sponsor are the organisers of the 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, 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 successful applicant. It might for example be used towards travel expenses, for accommodation cost, for a joint dinner with colleagues or for a joint cultural event.

A FEW EXAMPLES HOW THE FECAVA TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP MIGHT WORK:

An applicant from Portugal would like to attend the FECAVA EuroCongress in Athens but doesn't have the financial means to do so. The applicant produces a short video of himself in his city with a brief introduction and an outline how he would use the funds to attend the congress and what difference this would make to himself and sends this together with proof of his national membership as an application to the FECAVA Head Office in Brussels.

An applicant from Norway would like to visit a colleague in the South of France to learn more about the diagnosis and treatment of vector borne diseases. She produces a short video at her practice in Norway and about her exact plans and submits these together with proof of her national membership.

A veterinary surgeon in Ireland wants to improve her skills of reading blood smears and finds a place at a veterinary laboratory in Austria where they have agreed to host her for a few days. The Irish colleague produces the video (may be with the Irish countryside in the back ground) with the necessary information and submits these together with proof of her VICAS membership.

The successful applicants receive 500 Euros immediately after the announcement of the recipients from FECAVA to part fund their travels, the applicants then keep a video diary of their visit and once they have submitted the second video (lasting between 3 – 20 minutes), they receive the second 500 Euros.