



Setting the Global Standard in Veterinary Acupuncture Since 1974

March 17, 2020

Dear IVAS Members,

Countries around the world are dealing with the Covid-19 and the impact it is having on health and businesses. Many of our Members are already feeling these impacts. It is predicted to get worse before it gets better. The Executive Committee on Monday, March 9, 2020 had an emergency online discussion about the upcoming IVAS Congress in Glasgow, Scotland and the current state of Covid-19 and Congress. The health and safety of our membership is our highest priority.

This emergency Executive Committee discussion was held for the following reason. Under the cancellation clause in our contract with the Hilton Glasgow, IVAS had until Friday, March 13, 2020 to cancel the IVAS Congress without financial penalty. After this date IVAS is responsible for 90% of the hotel room costs in our room block, and 65% of Food and Beverage costs. This amounts to with the exchange rate of approximately US\$75,895.00 in damages owed to the hotel if IVAS had to cancel the IVAS Congress after March 13, 2020 due to the Covid-19. Under the Impossibility Clause in the Terms and Conditions of our contract with the Hilton Glasgow, pandemics or epidemics are not covered under these clauses.

IVAS asked the Hilton Glasgow to extend the cancellation deadline without penalty of owed damages to the hotel until June 1, 2020 due to Covid-19. This would have allowed IVAS and the Hilton Glasgow more time to assess the global outcome of the Corona Virus in a few months before making a final decision. The Hilton Glasgow denied any cancellation extension deadline without financial penalty for the IVAS Congress in September.

The IVAS Board of Directors supported the Executive Committee's recommendation to cancel the IVAS Congress contract with the Hilton Glasgow on March 13, 2020 to avoid financial damages owed to the hotel after this date. This was a very difficult decision to have to cancel the IVAS Congress so early. IVAS was not willing to risk having to owe the Hilton Glasgow damages should the IVAS Congress have to be cancelled later due to the Covid-19.

We appreciate your support and dedication to IVAS, and we wish you all health and safety.

Sincerely,

Kim Samuelsen
President