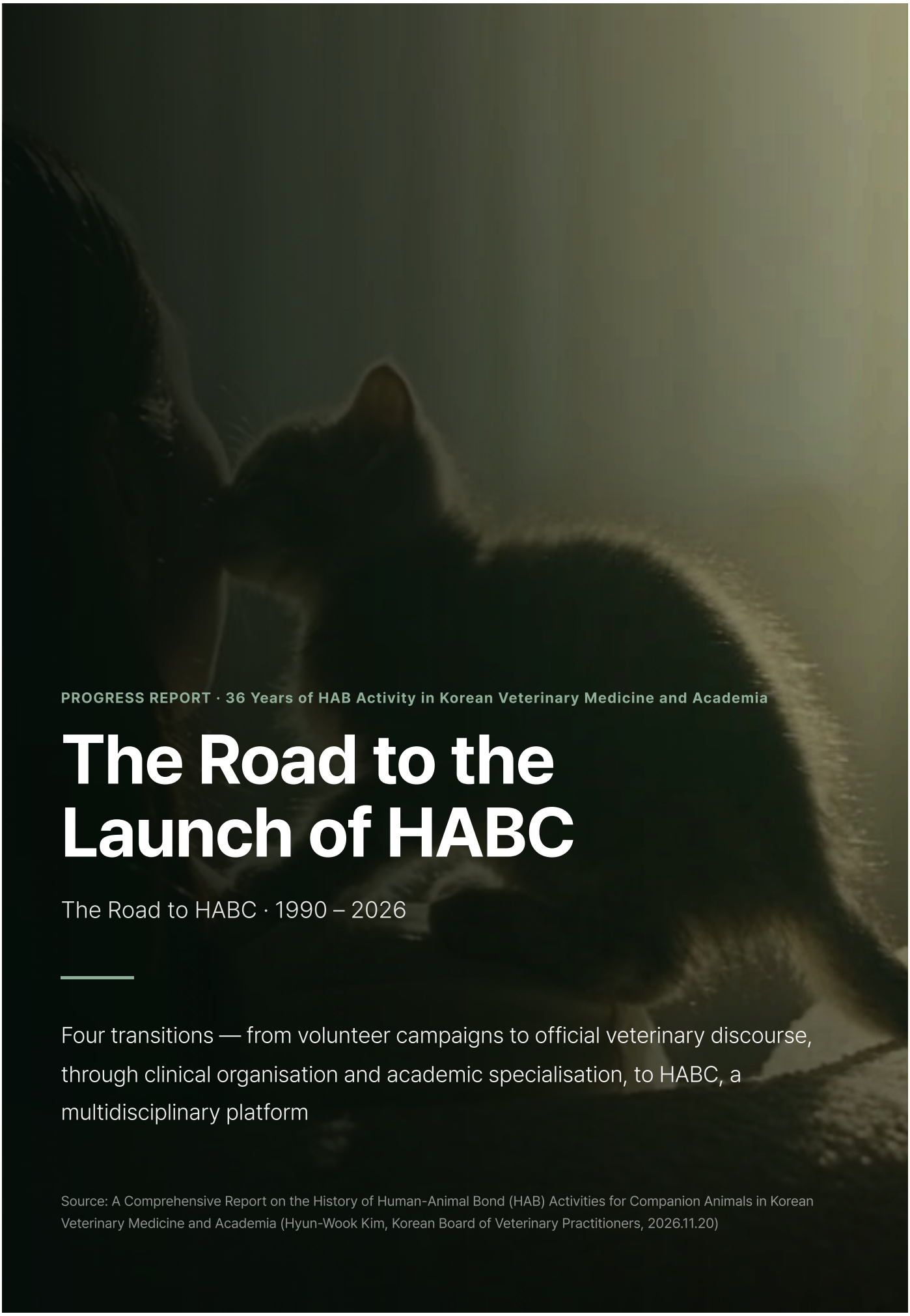

PROGRESS REPORT · 36 Years of HAB Activity in Korean Veterinary Medicine and Academia

The Road to the Launch of HABC

The Road to HABC · 1990 – 2026

Four transitions — from volunteer campaigns to official veterinary discourse, through clinical organisation and academic specialisation, to HABC, a multidisciplinary platform

Source: A Comprehensive Report on the History of Human-Animal Bond (HAB) Activities for Companion Animals in Korean Veterinary Medicine and Academia (Hyun-Wook Kim, Korean Board of Veterinary Practitioners, 2026.11.20)

36 years and four transitions to arrive at HABC

Volunteer campaigns → **Clinical organisation** → **Institutional embedding** →

Multidisciplinary platform

01 1990 – 2005

Emergence · Introduction of the Concept

- 'Animals Are My Friends' campaign
- 1994 KVMA HAB Symposium
- 2003 International HAB Symposium

02 2006 – 2016

Clinical Organisation · Academic Specialisation

- 2007 KAHA HAB Project Group
- Wonkwang Univ. major · Konkuk Univ. 3R
- 2016 IAHAIO full membership

03 2017 – 2025

Reflection · Institutional Embedding

- 2020 HAB One Health Forum
- 2023 Code of Ethics fully revised
- 2024 Behaviour Instructor certification

04 2026

Multidisciplinary Governance

- Pet-loss support centre opens
- Veterinary students' Code of Ethics enacted
- **11.20 HABC officially launched**

Source: A Comprehensive Report on the History of Human-Animal Bond (HAB) Activities for Companion Animals in Korean Veterinary Medicine and Academia (Hyun-Wook Kim, 2026)

02 01 1990 – 2005 · Emergence

How a volunteer campaign became 'HAB', an official veterinary discourse

> Starting from clinical veterinarians' volunteer work in the field, formalised at the 1994 veterinary conference and the 2003 international symposium

1990 — **'Animals Are My Friends' campaign begins**

The origin of animal-assisted activities in Korea, run by the predecessor of the Korean Animal Hospital Association (KAHA) · Japan's CAPP model adopted in 1994

1993 — **Samsung Fire & Marine Insurance Guide Dog School founded**

Korea's first guide dog, 'Bada', graduates in April 1994 · veterinary experts support the health and behaviour assessment system

1994 — **Korean Veterinary Medical Association introduces the HAB concept for the first time**

Symposium at the National Veterinary Conference: 'Nurturing Human Emotional Well-being through Animals'

2003 — **1st International HAB Symposium held**

2 November, Yongin · Delta Society (US) and CAPP (Japan) invited · presentations by Nam-Sik Shin and Yoon-Ju Choi · Korean Society of Animal Welfare founded

HAB

Human-Animal Bond

A concept named in 1977 by the American veterinarian Leo Bustad. The 2003 symposium redefined animals as 'beings with dignity and consciousness' and established the distinction between AAA (animal-assisted activities) and AAT (animal-assisted therapy) in Korean veterinary medicine.

Source: Chuksan Sinmun (2003) · DailyVet · Journal of the Korean Veterinary Medical Association Vol. 39 No. 11 · Comprehensive Report (Hyun-Wook Kim, 2026)

02 02 2006 – 2016 · Institutionalization

Standing committees and degree programmes emerge, and international standards arrive

> Beyond one-off volunteering — expanding into dedicated organisations · university majors · professional societies · global networks

2007 — **KAHA HAB Project Group launched (1 April)**

Now the HAB Committee · training of dog etiquette instructors · hospital-visit CAPP made permanent · 1st HAB DAY in 2014

2007 — **Wonkwang University Animal-Assisted Psychotherapy major · society founded**

Korea's first graduate major (2008) and the Korean Society of Animal-Assisted Psychotherapy · Konkuk University 3R Animal Welfare Research Institute founded in 2008

2014 — **The beginning of veterinary behavioural medicine**

VIA Animal Behavior Clinic opens · Korean Society of Veterinary Behavior (KSVB) founded in 2015 · behavioural problems established as 'medical conditions'

2016 — **KAHA becomes a full member of IAHAIO (10 July)**

Korea's third full member · Prof. Yoon-Ju Choi represents Korea on the IAHAIO White Paper task force (2013–2018)

IAHAIO

International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations

Founded in 1990, the most authoritative network in the HAB field, with some 90 multidisciplinary member organisations worldwide. Korea embraced global standards by taking part in the adoption of the 2014 White Paper and its 2018 revision (sessions limited to 30–45 minutes, veterinary preventive care made mandatory).

Source: DailyVet · Daily Gaewon · Wonkwang University · IAHAIO White Paper (2014/2018) · Comprehensive Report (Hyun-Wook Kim, 2026)

02 03 2017 – 2025 · Reflection & Policy

Through a code of ethics and national certification, HAB takes its place within institutions

> Reflection in veterinary humanities and social sciences leads to the first revision of the code of ethics in 31 years, national R&D and statutory certification

2019 — **Seoul National University Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital opens a Behavioral Medicine Clinic**

Prof. Seong-Chan Yeon · referral and back-referral system with primary-care hospitals · Human-Animal Studies Network (HAS) formed the same year

2020 — **HAB One Health Forum (20 November, KINTEX)**

Co-organised by the Korean Animal Hospital Association and the Korean Board of Veterinary Practitioners · raised the need for research on the socio-economic effects of HAB in Korea

2023 — **Veterinarian's Code of Ethics fully revised for the first time in 31 years (28 February)**

VCPR · duty to explain and obtain consent · minimising pain · public One Health responsibilities codified · Korean Society for Veterinary Humanities and Social Sciences launched in 2021

2024 — **National certification for Companion Animal Behavior Instructors · Temperament Assessment Committee**

634 certified in two years · statutory joint assessment by veterinarians and behaviour instructors · Korean Association of Companion Animal Behavioral Medicine (KABA) launched in July 2025

Six years earlier, same day, same place

20 Nov 2020 · KINTEX, Ilsan

The direct predecessor of HABC. It brought together in one place presentations on coexistence with cats, HAB effects across the life stages, walking together and health, and clinical reports on animal-assisted therapy — and left 'the absence of a multidisciplinary research organisation' as an open challenge.

Source: DailyVet · Bemypet (2020) · Korean Veterinary Medical Association · Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs · Comprehensive Report (Hyun-Wook Kim, 2026)

04 2026 · On the Eve of HABC

2026: three strands — care, ethics and scholarship — converge in a single year

> In the year before the launch, change unfolded at the same time in clinical practice, education and scholarship

2026 · January

Dedicated pet-loss psychological support centre opens

Haemaru Animal Hospital's 'Banryeo Maeum (Companion Heart) Center' · Korea's first psychological support space inside an animal hospital · extended to outside guardians from September · a veterinarian–counsellor collaboration model

2026 · February

Code of Ethics for Veterinary Students enacted

Enacted 28 February, proclaimed 14 March · Korea's first code of conduct for future veterinarians · specifies One Health · One Welfare and the veterinarian–guardian–patient triangle

2026 · June

World Association for the History of Animal Health (WAHAH) congress held in Seoul

47th congress, the first in Asia · some 100 participants from 19 countries · SNU Department of Veterinary Humanities and Social Sciences · Seoul Metropolitan Government launches an animal-assisted healing programme

The language of regulation
Regulation

→

The language of value
Science-based Value

The year it became clear that, beyond accident-prevention policy, a multidisciplinary organisation was needed to prove the public-health and social-welfare value of HAB with scientific evidence

Source: DailyVet (2026) · Hankook Research & SNU Laboratory of Veterinary Humanities and Social Sciences (2026.5) · Comprehensive Report (Hyun-Wook Kim, 2026)

Industry funds it, science builds the evidence: HABRI in the United States

> Founded 2010, Washington DC · non-profit research and education institute · a virtuous cycle of science → education → policy advocacy

What kind of organisation is HABRI?

Founded	2010 · co-founded by APPA · Zoetis · Petco
Mission	Proving the health value of HAB through science, education and advocacy
Research	HABRI Central, the world's largest HAI research library
Funding	More than US$3 million awarded to research projects (children · ageing · mental health)

2026 HAB Benchmark Survey (representative sample of US adults)

74% Pet ownership among Americans	98% Owners who have experienced health benefits
97% Aware of benefits shown by research	62% Prefer a veterinarian who explains HAB

Implications for HABC

Implication

Industry (pet food · pharmaceuticals · retail) provides the funding, universities and research bodies produce the evidence, and that evidence changes policy.

Source: HABRI, About / Mission & Vision (habri.org) · HABRI 2026 Human-Animal Bond Benchmark Survey of Americans (2026.10.19)

20 Nov 2026 · KINTEX, Ilsan · Human-Animal Bonding & Interaction / Connection Forum 2026

HABC Officially Launched

Human Animal Bonding Connection

Thirty-six years of volunteering and clinical practice, scholarship and institutions come together as a multidisciplinary research and communication platform for the human-animal bond, connecting veterinary medicine · complementary and alternative medicine · psychology · social welfare

Veterinary Medicine	Complementary and Alternative Medicine	Psychology	Social Welfare
수의학	보완대체의학	심리학	사회복지학

Host: Korean Board of Veterinary Practitioners · Organiser: Leaders Forum Co., Ltd. · Launch led by Dr. Hyun-Wook Kim (PhD, Veterinary Medicine) · Speakers: Cheol-Yong Hwang · Mina Yu · Yoshio Koshimura

REFERENCE · Source report for this document

Reference

A Comprehensive Report on the History of Human-Animal Bond (HAB) Activities for Companion Animals in Korean Veterinary Medicine and Academia

Date	20 November 2026
Research	Dr. Hyun-Wook Kim, President, Korean Board of Veterinary Practitioners (Chairman, Leaders Forum Co., Ltd.)
Method	Gemini 4.0 Carbon Deep-Research · 147 references
Scope	1990–2026, veterinary clinical organisations · universities and academic societies · ethics, national policy and multidisciplinary governance
Format	Google Docs (read online, in Korean)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NBgUld9i26cC1EmTIVz8mLw_j9ObSXpFVVchv0ZRfhc

This progress report excerpts and summarises the key turning points of the report above. The detailed chronology, the people involved and the 147 sources for each event can be found in the original. Points of caution in interpreting the historical sources, such as the debate over 1990 as the starting point, are also set out in the original.

View the original via QR code

Scan with your camera to open the original in Google Docs

Source: Kim, Hyun-Wook (2026). A Comprehensive Report on the History of Human-Animal Bond (HAB) Activities for Companion Animals in Korean Veterinary Medicine and Academia [in Korean]. Korean Board of Veterinary Practitioners.