



The World Veterinary Association (abbreviation WVA) is a federation of national veterinary medical associations throughout the World. Founded in 1863 in Hamburg, Germany it is now recognized as the global representative of the veterinary profession.

The Mission of WVA is:

*"The veterinary profession,
assembled in the World Veterinary Association,
seeks to assure and promote animal health,
public health and animal welfare at the global
level."*

It aims to support its member organisations and their members - being veterinarians in all disciplines and all over the world - to deliver their responsibilities in the best possible way, through constantly optimizing the preconditions required for fulfilling their tasks.

The WVA has collaborative agreements with several international organisations such as the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Office (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Executive Committee

President

Dr Tjeerd Jorna (The Netherlands)

Vice-presidents

Dr Faouzi Kechrid (Tunisia)

Dr Duane Landals (Canada)

Immediate Past President

Prof Leon Russel (USA)

Councillors

Africa

Dr Yassir Yousif Alian

Middle east / North Africa

Prof Nouredine Ben Chehida (Tunisia)

America (North)

Dr John Drake (Canada)

Dr Lyle P. Vogel (USA)

America (Latin)

Dr Luis Zarco (Mexico)

East Asia and Oceania

Dr Jakob Malmo (Australia)

Dr Pratuang Sudsakorn (Thailand)

Europe

Dr Heidemarie Coreth (Austria)

Dr Marc Janssens (Belgium)

Dr Robert M. Stevenson (U.K.)

Dr Karin Östensson (Sweden)

Associate Members

Dr Jean Hokayem (EAVA)

Dr Patricia V. Turner (IACLAM)



World Veterinary Association

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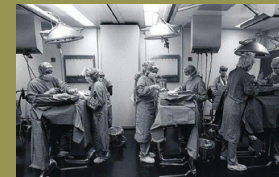
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one world - one profession - one vision - one voice

WVA Policies and Actions

The three main issues of WVA are animal health, animal welfare and public health. It also supports the One World-One health concept.

Animal health, animal welfare and **public health** are closely linked, and together they form the basic objectives of veterinary medicine. Almost always they will go hand in hand. The health of an animal influences, its welfare and vice versa. At present it is estimated that 75% of all diseases emerging in people originates from animals, and 60% of all animal diseases are zoonotic, which means that they can also cause disease in man. Moreover animals and animal products can act as a vector for transmissible diseases. Through the many contacts between animals and people, the health of animals is a key factor for public health. Influenza, mad cow disease, rabies, and SARS are just a few examples of diseases in animals that also affect people.

Veterinary medicine matters to everyone. Animal owners and keepers have a direct interest in the health and welfare of their animals. But in fact every citizen has an interest in it.

In order to protect animals, their owners and keepers, and the society at large from inadequate veterinary services, the access and the exercise of the profession is controlled by competent authorities. They keep an eye on the training of future veterinarians and look after their technical skill and professional behaviour. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) considers the well functioning of the Veterinary Services as a global public good.



Education

WVA is committed to the quality of both undergraduate and postgraduate education. All undergraduates should have the Day-One Competencies needed by a veterinarian to perform all duties to the society.

Veterinary Medicinal Products

For optimal prevention and treatment of diseases, the availability of veterinary medicines is essential. The use of medicinal products should always be based on examination of animals and diagnosis and done in a prudent and responsible manner; respecting the list of "Critical human antimicrobials".

World Veterinary Day

An important annual activity of the WVA is World veterinary Day [WVD] celebrated on the last Saturday of April. The WVD objective is to publicize that veterinary medicine encompasses a majestic array of experts that contribute widely throughout the world.

World Communication

External and internal communication is a strategic priority for WVA. The WVA Website (<http://www.worldvet.org>), Newsletter and press messages are the most important communication tools. In addition, WVA aims to actively participate in all relevant international conferences.

WVA Structure

Members

WVA is composed of national veterinary associations and international associations of veterinarians working in different areas of veterinary medicine. The main bodies in the structure of the WVA are the Presidents Assembly, the Council and the Executive Committee.

WVA Presidents Assembly

The Presidents Assembly (PA) is the Association's most important platform for discussion and policy making. It is attended by all Presidents of WVA Member Associations.

WVA Council and Executive Committee

The Council comprises of about 20 representatives from the regions and from groups of Specialist Associate members. The Executive Committee comprises the President and the two Vice-Presidents and is responsible to the Council.

World Veterinary Congress (WVC)

At regular intervals WVA holds a World Veterinary Congress [WVC]. In October 2011 the WVC is in Cape Town, South Africa. In 2013 WVA will celebrate its 150th anniversary at the WVC in Prague, Czech Republic.

WVA Secretariat

WVA has a permanent office in Brussels, which supervises the day-to-day activities and reports to the WVA Executive Committee and Council.



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