About the World Veterinary Association

The WVA represents around 500,000 veterinarians around the world through its member associations and is a broad global veterinary community that offers advocacy, support, and education with a variety of partners for focused global veterinary issues. Through its international, regional and local member associations of veterinarians working in different areas of veterinary medicine, the WVA brings together veterinarians, to share experiences, to exchange ideas and to join forces for the promotion and development of veterinary medicine. The WVA defends the interest of the health and welfare of animals and people as well as the interest of its member organisations and their members.

WVA Vision

World Veterinary Association is recognized and respected as the trusted and influential voice of global veterinary medicine.

History of the WVA

In April 1863, Professor John Gamgee (1831-1894) from the college of Edinburgh, UK took the initiative to invite professors of veterinary medicine and veterinarians from all over Europe to a general meeting in Hamburg, Germany 14-18 July 1863. This meeting became the first International Veterinary Congress later known as The World Veterinary Congress (WVC). The aim of the meeting was mainly to discuss a system to combat epizootic diseases and to devise common rules for the trade of cattle and to recommend adoption of the rules by all European countries. The main topic was Rinderpest, a devastating disease that has been eradicated worldwide throughout targeted veterinary action. At the 16th WVC in Madrid, Spain in 1959, the World Veterinary Association was founded as a continuation of the Permanent Committee for the International Veterinary Congresses. Today, 152 years after the first International Veterinary Congress, the WVA continues the ambition of Dr Gamgee to bring veterinarians from all over the world together, to share experiences, to exchange ideas and to join forces for the promotion and development of veterinary medicine.

WVA governing bodies

- **WVA General Assembly**
The General Assembly (GA) is the Association’s most important platform for discussion and policy making. It is attended by representatives of all WVA Member Associations.

- **WVA Council**
The Council comprises the President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, and 14 elected Councillors from different world regions and International Organizations members.

- **WVA Secretariat**
The WVA secretariat is based in Brussels, Belgium. The secretariat is responsible for daily management of the Association, communication, maintenance and development of Membership.

Partnerships

WVA believes in working in partnership. WVA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding and effectively collaborates with relevant global partners such as World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organisation (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), World Medical Association (WMA), World Animal Protection, International Veterinary Students’ Association (IVSA), World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA), Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) and many others.
Policy areas
In its strategy for 2015-2017, the WVA focuses mainly on 5 priority issues:
- Animal Welfare
- Pharmaceutical Stewardship
- Veterinary Education
- Zoonotic Diseases
- Organizational Growth and Partnerships

WVA Policy Statements
The WVA has and continues to produce policies and positions which focus on the top global veterinary issues. These policies and positions are conveyed within the veterinary profession as well as towards major decision making institutions and authorities and include policy statements on the Role of the Veterinarian in Animal Welfare, One Health concept, identifying a Veterinarian, Rabies Control, Responsible Use of Antimicrobials and many others.

WVA Mission
To assure and promote animal health and welfare and public health globally, through developing and advancing veterinary medicine, the veterinary profession as well as public and private veterinary services.

World Veterinary Day
The World Veterinary Day (WVD) was initiated by the WVA in 2000 to be celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April with the aim to promote the veterinary profession to a large audience, including the general public and to attract the attention of mass media. The WVD gives veterinarians the opportunity to highlight the important contribution of the veterinary profession to the benefit of society and all animals. Since 2008, the WVA and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) are organizing World Veterinary Day Award rewarding the most successful celebration of the contribution of the veterinary profession to society.

The WVA Online Veterinary Education Portal
The WVA and World Continuing Education Alliance continue to develop the most comprehensive global online resource for continuing education for veterinarians. The WVA Education Portal is available to Veterinary professionals all over the world on the WVA website.

Learn more about WVA, its policies, news, education portal and events on the WVA website and Facebook page

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