A MESSAGE FROM THE WVA PRESIDENT - DR. PATRICIA TURNER

A Resilient Profession Safeguarding Human and Animal Life

Dear Colleagues,

It is almost October – six months since the last WVA General Assembly - and your new Council members have been hard at work on several initiatives, including consideration of the continuing education of veterinary professionals around the world. In a survey conducted as part of WVA Strategic Planning, one item that members from all regions indicated that they appreciated is coming together as a community to engage and share common experiences with other veterinary colleagues. To this end, the WVA will be hosting a free webinar on 29th October that will deal with the resiliency of veterinary professionals in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. Speakers from a range of backgrounds will provide information on regional and global challenges in the practice of veterinary medicine over the past 9 months as well as in the delivery of quality education to veterinary students. A series of short talks will be followed by a panel discussion on how the veterinarians will continue to adapt to these challenges. Please watch for registration information coming soon from the WVA Secretariat.

The end of September is also associated with World Rabies Day (September 28) and reminds us all of the important roles of veterinary professionals in protecting communities and safeguarding the welfare of dogs through participation in community vaccination and diagnostic and monitoring programs. Dog-mediated human rabies remains an important preventable disease that afflicts over 59,000 people annually – predominantly children. Certainly, it is important for veterinarians to celebrate World Rabies Day within their communities; however, eradication of dog-mediated human rabies should remain a goal for veterinarians every day – to alleviate the suffering of both humans and animals.
Finally, with the onset of October, the WVA also celebrates World Animal Day (October 4). World Animal Day reminds veterinary professionals of the need to safeguard animal life because of their important role in global ecosystems and because of human interdependence on animals for life. Climate change, habitat erosion, pollution, and other human-related events and activities have created a significant strain on many animal species, and these are areas that veterinarians need to continue to discuss at national, regional, and international levels as part of our One Health focus. Celebrating the remarkable diversity of animal life on World Animal Day can also remind us of the underlying wonderment and passion that led many of us to this field – whether recent or many years ago. I would encourage you to mark this day by learning something new about an animal that you are unfamiliar with – be it an insect, bird, fish or other animals. Please share your World Animal Day stories or photographs with other colleagues on the WVA’s Facebook page!

I wish you a safe and healthy month and look forward to ‘seeing’ many of you 29th October, at the WVA webinar!

Yours truly,
Dr. Patricia Turner
World Veterinary Association, President

The WVA needs your expertise and opinion in preparing a cohesive global message on our role as veterinarians for the global public good. As Constituent & Observer Members of the WVA, we welcome your input in our discussions! Don’t be left out of the process!

PLEASE FORWARD THIS INFO-NEWS TO YOUR MEMBERS

If interested in learning more, please contact:

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