Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

2012 is approaching to its end and our profession is welcoming a new year, very important for the future with the celebration of the 150th Anniversary and the organisation of the 31st World veterinary congress and the 2nd WVA Summit in Prague from 17th to 20th September 2013. The WVA has been more and more visible during these last months and I have attended some important events to better promote the veterinary profession in these countries and strengthen the links and close collaboration with its members.
The participations at the BVA Congress in Liverpool, the CVMA conference in Québec, the AVMA annual convention in San Diego associated with WVA EXCOM meeting, the Asian Pacific Veterinary Conference coupled with the World Medical Association’s General Assembly in Bangkok, the PANVET Congress in Cartagena, Colombia, the third Chinese veterinary medical Congress in Suzhou, Shanghai, the OIE global conference on animal welfare in Kuala Lumpur, the German veterinary bpt congress associated to the great Eurotier exhibition in Hannover and the international congress of Portuguese speaking countries in Lisbon, were very interesting and gathered veterinarians and partners from over the World.

The WVA more than ever was associated and welcomed to these events to give more visibility and better promote the future of our profession.

The WVA, through well educated veterinarians, aims to strengthen the veterinary profession and increase the quality of services they provide to the society.

During most events attended, animal welfare was with animal health and veterinary education were the most interesting topics for the profession. The WVA focused about the role veterinarians play every day in enhancing the welfare of animals. Many of these contributions are taken for granted or go unnoticed and should be better recognized and highlighted.

On October 13th, at the General Assembly meeting of the World Medical Association (WMA) meeting in Bangkok, the World Medical Association (WMA) and the World Veterinary Association (WVA) signed an historic collaborative One Health Memorandum of Understanding. The WMA has existing policy to cooperate with the veterinary profession and this effort is in furthering that policy.

I had the honour and the privilege to sign it on behalf of the WVA with Dr. Cecil B. Wilson, the President of the WMA.”

The two associations will collaborate in the One-Health concept, which is a unified approach to veterinary and human medicine in order to improve Global Health.

While the ad-hoc WVA working group looking at the WVA Constitution and By-laws, has made excellent progress and the draft revised Constitution and By-laws were sent to all the WVA members and to the past presidents for comments before their review by the EXCOM and Council during our meeting in January in Taipei, we have to be very careful and make relevant proposals to the Prague President’s Assembly in due time in order to keep the need of a cohesion in our profession.

As promised during the Cape Town President’s assembly, I would like to increase the number of our members and the WVA is always seeking to increase and strengthen communication with members, partners and friends to build a close collaboration for the benefit of the humanity.

I would like to take the opportunity at the end of this year to wish you all a rightful end of the year celebration of holidays and a Happy New year 2013.

Dr. Faouzi Kechrid
President
World Veterinary Association
WVC 2013, Prague

The scientific programme committee introduced the **preliminary programme** recently. The famous researchers and university based speakers with independent and less known scientists from elsewhere have been included in the programme. The scientific committee has been working on and balancing the programme very hard. The invited speakers have been selected and most of them have already confirmed their participation.

The abstract submission has been opened, and the on-line form is available on the website of the congress. The first papers sent by the most eager authors have been already registered. The deadline for paper submission ends up at the end of March 2013.

The ambitious scientific programme covers broad branch of vets. There are **eleven streams**, including small, large, exotic animals; surgery and internal medicine; food safety, animal welfare and One Health programme; last not least the aquatic medicine stream broadened the list of species included. Some sections are planned for four days (Canine and Feline Medicine and Surgery, Equine Medicine, Bovine Medicine, Porcine Medicine and Exotic Animals) and some of them for two days (Animal Welfare, Food Hygiene, Epidemiology, Aquatic Medicine and Poultry Medicine).

Also the World Summit, organized directly by WVA with co-operation with OIE, is going to be included on Wednesday, September 18.

Detailed information as well as the time schedule is available on the website: [www.wvc2013.com](http://www.wvc2013.com).
The WVC 2013 Congress was promoted at the BPT Congress (Bundesverband praktizierende Tierarzte) and trade fair for veterinary medicine in Hannover on November 16-17.

A booth was located at the exhibition area and experienced broad interest of large and small companies, exhibiting the products and services along with EuroTier in Hannover. Many of the visitors expressed the interest to come to Prague on September 17-20.

BPT President Hans-Joachim Götz, BPT Office Manager Heiko Färber and Jan Bernardy, the chair of WVC 2013 scientific programme, made a draw and selected three people who will get the free registration for WVC 2013. Nobody was surprised that all of them are from Germany.
Dear colleagues,

may we bring to your attention that parallelly with the 31st World Veterinary Congress in Prague, Czech Republic, (September 17-20, 2013) the 1st World Veterinary Golf Championship will also be organized for registered Congress participants?

We believe that 1st World Veterinary Golf Championship will be a top class sport event for all and any veterinary golf player from 14th to 17th September 2013.

We would highly appreciate if you could also spread this information to veterinarians, professional experts, members of your organization and all persons within your hierarchy and within your reach that might be interested to participate.

If interested, please join www.vetgolf.eu, leave your details and we shall contact you back in due time.

Yours sincerely,

Organizers of the 1st World Veterinary Golf Championship

[Signature]
on behalf of WVCPR2013.
At the moment, WVA is putting more and more emphasis on being the voice of the global veterinary profession. Therefore, different WVA working groups (WG) and Committees are working in order to revise and strengthen different aspects of the WVA.

The Constitution and By-laws Committee under the leadership of Dr. René Carlson is drafting a proposal to revise the WVA Constitution and By-laws.

The WVA Policy Committee chaired by Duane Landals is working on the revision of the WVA policy and position papers and on the WVA Strategy Plan.

WVA Activities and Working Groups

A WVA WG is working on the Future of the World Veterinary Congress (WVC). Other WGs are working on the WVA Veterinary Education Conference in Bangkok in May 2013, the WVC Global summit and Global Veterinary Seminar on Animal Welfare during the WVC 2013 in Prague. All the above mentioned work includes an increase of WVA members’ involvement.

Requests for WVA members opinion were sent recently, such as the request for opinion on the work done by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (deadline for comments 15th November 2012) and two draft policy papers; Control of Inappropriately Aggressive Dogs and Identifying a Veterinarian (deadline for comments 15th December 2012).

Memorandum of Understanding between WVA and WMA

On 10th October 2012, during the meeting of the General Assembly of World Medical Association (WMA) in Bangkok, WVA President, Dr. Kechrid and WMA President, Dr. Wilson signed the WVA-WMA Memorandum of Understanding. WVA and WMA agreed to collaborate in the One-Health concept, which is a unified approach to veterinary and human medicine in order to improve Global Health.

On that occasion, the WVA President gave WMA president a trophy in recognition of the collaboration between the two organizations.

In addition, an extensive article on WVA was published in the World Medical Journal of May 2012 (vol. 58) introducing the WVA and also focusing on WVA’s perspective regarding the use of antimicrobials. Read the article at: http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/20journal/pdf/wmj38.pdf (page 58 to 63).

WVA/WHO Collaboration plan for the period 2012-2014

The WVA is working together with the WHO officials on drafting a collaboration plan between the two organizations for the period of 2012 – 2014. The collaboration plan is focusing on zoonotic diseases, increasing food safety and improving the global health status.
WVA Council

An important body in WVA’s policy making is the WVA Council. The Council acts on behalf of the Presidents Assembly (PA) between meetings (every 2 years). The Council meets once or twice per year and has phone conferences at least three times per year.

The main Council’s tasks are to advise the PA on any matters submitted to it, to make recommendations regarding the items to be discussed by the PA, to discuss and approve policy and position statements produced by the WVA technical committees and to implement policies defined by the PA.

Councilors serve for one term of three years and re-election can take place twice. The main responsibilities of councilors are to represent and promote the WVA in their regions, and to maintain regular contacts with the veterinary associations of their regions.

At this moment, the WVA Council comprises 13 councilors from the regions and from group of specialist associate members. WVA Executive Committee (EXCOM) members: WVA President, Vice presidents and Immediate past president are also members of the Council.

The next WVA Council meeting will take place in Taipei, Taiwan on 6-7 January 2013. The WVA secretariat will keep the WVA members informed on the WVA Council meeting and its outcomes.

If you would like to receive more information and clarification or you would like to give suggestions regarding the WVA Council, please feel free to contact the WVA secretariat or the Councilors of your region.

Third OIE Global conference on Animal Welfare

On 6th – 8th November 2012, WVA president, Dr Faouzi Kechrid and WVA Policy Officer, Nancy De Briyne attended the third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The main objective of the Conference was to support the implementation of Animal Welfare standards by OIE Members with a special focus on addressing regional specificities and expectations.

During the conference the Malaysian government launched the Malaysian Animal Welfare Strategy. The conference presentations and conclusions have been published on the OIE website.
A Progress Report on the Activities of the
WVA Constitution & ByLaws Working Group

Your WVA Constitution & ByLaws Working Group has been diligently working on the charge given to us by the WVA ExCom and Council since March 2012. We previously submitted an Interim Report in May which was published in an earlier issue of the WVA e-newsletter and on the WVA website. We have since submitted a second Interim Report in September to the ExCom and Council which is attached here for your reference. There are a number of updates since that report was written which I will include at this time.

In October 2012, the September Interim Report was distributed to the five most recent WVA Past Presidents which included Dr. Apostolos Rantsios, Dr. Jim Edwards, Dr. Herbert Schneider, Dr. Leon Russell, and Dr. Tjeerd Jorna. This was done as part of our charge directed by the WVA Council in our Terms of Reference, and also because these five individuals have tremendous experience with the organization of the WVA and a previous review of the WVA governance documents several years ago. In addition, the report was distributed to all WVA members’ Executive Directors/CEOs and current Presidents for input on the suggested proposals for change to the governance documents. The deadline for all comments was November 15, 2012.

The Working Group convened by conference call on October 29, 2012 to review the submitted comments from the Past Presidents. We continued our discussion on key concepts and refined our draft for the combined Constitution and ByLaws governance document. On November 20, 2012 we had another conference call to consider comments submitted from member associations and to further refine our recommendations.

The Working Group is currently in the process of finalizing our report and recommendations for the WVA ExCom and Council by December 15, 2012 as stated in our Terms of Reference. These proposals will be considered by the WVA ExCom and Council at their next meeting in Taipei, Taiwan in January 2013. Depending on those discussions, we will begin the process of communicating the full report and recommendations to the WVA membership over the next several months in preparation for full consideration at the Presidents’ Assembly in Prague at the 2013 World Veterinary Congress.

WVA – WSPA Memorandum of Understanding

In the occasion of the Third OIE Global conference on Animal Welfare, WVA President, Dr. Kechrid and WVA Policy Officer, Dr. De Briyne, met with D. Bayvel, Chief Veterinary Advisor and M. Baker, Executive Director of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) in order to discuss the agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WVA and WSPA. One of the main goals of the MoU is the promotion of animal welfare globally on specific goals and actions. A preliminary draft text has been put forward. The draft will be discussed in the next WVA EXCOM and then will be forwarded to the WVA Council (the meeting is scheduled for January 2013) for further discussions and possible adoption.

WVA Secretariat - move into a new office

On 23rd November 2012, after three years in Rue Defacqz 1, the WVA secretariat is moving together with the FVE secretariat to a new office in Brussels, Belgium. The new address is Avenue de Tervueren 12. The office is located in the city center nearby to the European Union institutions edifices.

WVA members are most welcome to visit us in our new office in their next visit in Brussels.
Speech from the President of WVA at the 3rd Chinese Veterinary Medical Association Congress

Dear President,
Dear Deans and Professors
Dear Delegates, Dear Colleagues

It’s a privilege and a great honor for me to attend today with you the 3rd Chinese Veterinary Medical Association Congress in the beautiful city of Suzhou.

On behalf of the WVA and all our members, I would like to thank you very much for your kind invitation and giving me the opportunity to share with you this important Event.

The history of our organisation, the World Veterinary Association, goes back to 1863, when Dr Gamgee took the initiative to organise the International Veterinary Congress. Six years later the first World Veterinary Congress was held. The following foundation of a Permanent Committee led to the establishment of the World Veterinary Association.

Since these years much has changed and our predecessors, how visionary they might have been, could never imagine our world of today: all medical and technological innovations, the massive international movements of animals and animal products, people travelling to the other end of the world within 24 hours, the enormous demand for animal proteins to mention a few.

What not has changed over all these years, is the relevance of animal health, disease prevention and control, food safety and food security, to mention a few. On the contrary, with the growing recognition of issues like One Health and Animal Welfare, the importance of veterinary medicine has only grown.

More than ever, veterinary issues require a well coordinated, global approach, involving all stakeholders. With this in mind the World Veterinary Association putting more and more emphasis on international policy making. Our ultimate goal is to provide veterinary global leadership in the fields of Animal Health, Animal Welfare and Public Health.

Last year a revision of our structure and our decision making procedures was initiated. The objectives of this action include: raising our profile, an increased visibility, strengthening the internal cohesion, and a more efficient decision making process.

First results of the on-going exercise became visible at the 2011 World Veterinary Congress in Cape Town (South Africa), where WVA successfully organised the formal closure of the World Veterinary Year Vet-2011.

On the same occasion in Cape Town WVA, together with OIE, FAO and WHO also organised a successful global summit on the use of antimicrobials.

Conclusions we have drawn for this summit comprise:

- Antimicrobials must never be a default for poor animal husbandry;
- Both animals and humans require treatment with all available classes of antimicrobials;
- Responsible use of antimicrobials is pivotal both for humans and animals. Raising awareness and education on the responsible use of antimicrobials.
The second edition of the global summit is already in preparation. It will be held at the next World Veterinary Congress in September 2013 in Prague (Czech Republic).

The responsible use of antimicrobials also was the theme for the 2012 World Veterinary Day Award, an initiative of WVA. The large number of good quality applications from all over the world for this award underline the positive effect World Veterinary Day competition has on education and raising awareness about the responsible use of antimicrobials.

I also would like to draw your attention to the position and policy papers WVA has developed on many issues varying from Animal Health and Welfare to One Health, Professional Ethics, Veterinary Education, and Environmental Health. They are all available on our website. Comments that might help us to improve these documents are certainly welcome.

Other initiatives currently in WVA’s pipeline are the organisation of a global conference on Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Veterinary Education the WVA and TVMA decides to organize in Bangkok, Thailand the 3rd Global Conference on veterinary education from to 2 to 4 May 2013. It goes without saying that a collaborative approach of WVA and OIE will provide synergy and more success for both organisations. The date and Venue of this combine global conference have been decided in Brazil in December 2013.

For both topics, which are so closely linked together and which affect public as well as private interests, a balanced input from all partners is needed.

Regulators and official veterinarians together with animal keepers and private veterinarians are all part of one and the same system; the global system to assure the health and welfare of animals and people. This system will only be a strong as its weakest part. Together we have to join our forces and to move forward shoulder on shoulder.

Last week in Bangkok, the WVA was invited at the World Medical Association’s General Assembly WMA and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two world associations to strengthen the One Health Concept and the close collaboration to promote together antimicrobial resistance, prudent use of antimicrobials, control of zoonosis and food safety.

A mutual beneficial relationship and the need of establishing working arrangements and collaborate in the One Health initiative.

The World Veterinary Association much appreciate, and wishes to thank OIE, FAO, WHO,WMA and all international organizations and NGO’s for the collaboration and partnership.

Dear Colleagues, being 149 years young, the World Veterinary Association is full of energy and commitment; commitment to the promotion of Animal Health, Animal Welfare and Public Health. In this spirit we look forward to work with you to face the current challenges and those that lay ahead.

Next year WVA will celebrate its 150th Anniversary in Prague. It will be my pleasure to welcome all of you at this occasion and to see more and more members joining WVA.

I take this opportunity to thank the CVMA for their great consideration to the WVA and hope to more collaboration in order to encourage you to offer the profession a high level veterinary future.

Finally I would like to invite CVMA to take part actively at the future WVA events in Bangkok (May 2013), Prague in September 2013 and Brazil December 2013.

You are all the most Welcome.

God Bless our Profession.

Dr. Faouzi Kechrid
President
World Veterinary Association.
Suzhou,October 28th, 2012
Successful FVE General Assembly
Medicines, meat inspection, communication and many more items on agenda

Around 125 delegates, representing over 30 FVE member countries gathered mid-November in Brussels at the bi-annual meeting of the Federation’s General Assembly. FVE President, Christophe Buhot, also welcomed representatives of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) the World Veterinary Association (WVA) the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and several international European veterinary organisations.

In his opening speech, President Buhot reflected upon some of the Federation’s strengths and weaknesses. In his view, the Federation holds much knowledge and expertise on veterinary issues, but faces difficulties in linking these to the needs and concerns of our societies. Having good veterinary technical arguments is not the same as translating these in clear and convincing arguments, he said. This is something we all - the Federation, its members and in fact every veterinarian - should work on.

One of the most important topics for discussion at the meeting of the General Assembly concerned the use of antibiotics in animal health. In recent years FVE paid a lot of attention to the responsible use of medicines and the role the veterinary profession plays here. There is a lot to gain in optimizing husbandry and housing conditions of animals, which will prevent them from contracting infections that need to be treated. Also for this reason regular veterinary presence on farms is vital. Veterinarian and animal keeper together are a strong team for optimizing the health and welfare of the animals and for reducing the need for pharmaceutical interventions. Veterinarians are part of the solution. The often heard suggestion that the issue of inappropriate use of medicines could be solved, simply by decoupling prescription of medicines from sales, is an oversimplified and false perception of the issue. For FVE it is unacceptable, and the Federation will fight against it where-ever and when-ever it can. This was also part of the message President Christophe Buhot gave at the 2012 European Antibiotic Awareness Day, organised by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on the very same day in Brussels.

The FVE General Assembly adopted a new version of the list of subjects that should be taught during the veterinary curriculum. This list goes hand in hand with the so-called veterinary day-1 competences. These are the minimum competences that make a person a veterinarian, and every veterinarian must have these competences at the start (day 1) of his or her career. Clearly, there are many more, more general competences and skills that will help a veterinarian to be successful, such as communication and organisation skills, etc. However being less critical for being a veterinarian, these are not taken up in the list of minimum competences.

The General Assembly also adopted the FVE definition of a veterinarian. This definition is meant to clarify who is a veterinarian, and what rights and responsibilities are conferred upon the veterinarian in order to adequately fulfill his role.
During Friday afternoon delegates took part in three different, interactive workshops: one about the effectiveness of guidelines for the use of antimicrobials, one about the veterinary labor market and a third one about the future of meat inspection. In the one about meat inspection it became apparent that there is room to modernize current inspection procedures, but only if and when breeding and farming practices are ready for it. Clearly, there are enormous differences between different animal sectors and between different countries. Where in some cases a change could be made in the near future, other sectors and countries will need many more years to get ready. Maintaining high standards of food safety and consumer protection can only be achieved through a gradual and step by step change over.

Dr Alberto Laddomada, European Commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection SANCO, provided delegates with an update on the development of a community Animal Health Law. The official Commission proposal is to be expected early 2013, but it is unlikely that this will be adopted by before the end of the mandate of the European parliament. Probably this will be in 2015.

All power point presentations, including the recommendations made by the sections and conclusions emerging from the workshop are available on the FVE website. A full report of the meeting will follow in the coming weeks.

Swedish Veterinary Association awards
MEP Mrs. M. Paulsen, “Silver Linnaeus Medal”

The founder of veterinary medicine in Sweden 152 years ago was Peter Hernquist, a student of Carl Linnaeus. In his memory the Swedish Veterinary Association gives out honorary medals to deserving persons.

This year on the occasion of the meeting of the General Assembly of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, the delegation from the Swedish Veterinary Association awards a silver Linnaeus medal to Mrs. Marit Paulsen, Member of the European Parliament. Mrs. Marit Paulsen has dedicated herself for very many years to several issues such as animal welfare, prudent use of antibiotics, food safety, animal transports, conditions at slaughter, and public welfare that are of great importance to the veterinary profession.

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe congratulates Mrs. Marit Paulsen and thanks her for the fruitful collaboration and for the constant efforts she has made in raising awareness on animal welfare across Europe.
Antibiotic resistance is a true ‘One Health’ issue, and veterinarians are part of the solution as gatekeepers of antimicrobial use in animals, said Dr Christophe Buhot, president of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE).

Speaking at the press conference held on the occasion of 5th edition of the European Antibiotic Awareness Day, on 18 November, he added that the FVE is a long-standing advocate of responsible use of antimicrobials, and had been very active in this field.

Recent initiatives included active membership of EPRUMA, the organisation of an international conference on Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and a European-wide survey on veterinary prescription behaviour (in collaboration with the Heads of Medicines Agencies in Europe).

Education and information were the cornerstones of fighting AMR, he said, not just of veterinarians and farmers, but also of citizens and pet owners, “who should realise that antibiotics are not an ‘automatic’ solution to all ailments”. For this purpose, FVE had published two leaflets – one for veterinary practitioners and one for policy makers – to increase the awareness of AMR and to give guidance for the responsible use of antimicrobials. Leaflets for pet owners and for farmers are currently in preparation.

When asked to comment on the resolution on antimicrobial resistance that had been recently adopted by the European Parliament’s ENVI committee, and in particular on the suggestion ‘to separate the right to prescribe from the right to sell antimicrobials in order to eradicate economic incentives to prescribe’, Dr Buhot said:

“Antimicrobial resistance is a complex issue for which there is no simple, one-size-fits-all solution such as ‘decoupling’ of prescription and dispensing, but which requires rigorous action from all players and at multiple levels. In the Netherlands, where there is no ‘decoupling’, veterinarians have greatly contributed to decrease the antibiotic consumption by over 50% over the past 3 years, and also in France a reduction of 30% is realised.”

In other countries, such as Denmark, the compulsory monthly herd health visit by the veterinary practitioner had also contributed to a more responsible use.

“We fully agree with the vision of the EU upcoming Animal Health Law that prevention is better than cure, and such a preventive herd health scheme would certainly help to ensure a more responsible use of antibiotics. Veterinarians are part of the solution to keep antibiotics effective.”

Data collected by the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) show that over the past few years, there has been a Europe-wide increase of antibiotic resistance and of multidrug resistance in Gram-negative bacteria such as Klebsiella pneumoniae and Escherichia coli. ECDC data also show that the consumption of carbapenems, a major ‘last-line’ class of antibiotics – increased significantly in human medicine in Europe between 2007 and 2010.
The 80th General Session of the OIE: many milestones have been reached

The 80th anniversary of the World Assembly of National Delegates of Member Countries of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was an opportunity to take stock of the path travelled since the very first General Session, which took place on 8 March 1927. Twenty-six national Delegates attended this first session, during which Professor Emmanuel Leclainche was elected the first Director General of the organisation, then called the International Office of Epizootics.

The 26 Delegates that gathered together in Paris at the end of that winter in 1927 were visionaries, but could they ever have suspected back then that the 80th annual meeting of Delegates would assemble more than 600 participants? These participants included official representatives of 178 Member Countries, as well as many high-ranking authorities (including numerous Ministers), international organisations, intergovernmental organisations such as the FAO, WHO, the World Bank and WTO, and dozens of other governmental and non-governmental organisations, both regional and national.

This record participation of high-level authorities from all Member Countries is an indication of the global reach of the OIE. The annual General Session has become recognised as a world forum for exchange and reflection by all national and international actors – from both the private and the public sectors – who are involved in animal production and welfare, animal health, and veterinary public health, throughout the world.

Indeed, the standard-setting activities of the Assembly have extended beyond the initial mandate of the OIE, which centred on animal health, in such a way as to place the Organisation at the very heart of questions of animal welfare and veterinary public health, which encompass food safety and security and the development of the ‘One Health’ concept.

The most conclusive example of this pivotal role was the notable participation, at the 80th General Session, of Mr Robert Horsch, senior official of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, who presented ‘Livestock Overview and Approach’. This strategy, developed by the Gates Foundation, concerns global support for the livestock sector. It specifically places at its forefront the importance of cooperation between the Foundation and the OIE in the areas of improving animal health and welfare, and highlights the role of Veterinary Services in the aim of contributing to the global reduction in poverty.

Of equal importance in the programme of the Assembly was the concept of ‘One Health’. A study based on a questionnaire submitted to all Member Countries of the OIE demonstrated that the use of this concept has gained ground over recent years; particularly in highlighting the need to strengthen a collaborative, inter-sectoral approach to the prevention, detection and control of animal and human diseases. Veterinary Services are now recognised by all as essential partners in public health, as a result of their role in the fight against diseases of animal origin.

In addition, this year, the Delegates adopted new guiding principles on setting generic standards for animal welfare in the sphere of animal production systems. They also adopted a new chapter on the welfare of beef cattle, thus opening the way to other standards which will be applied to other branches of animal production.

The OIE published the first international standards on animal welfare in 2005. They dealt with the transport of animals by land, sea and air, the slaughter of animals intended for human consumption and the elimination of animals for disease control purposes. Next came standards concerning the welfare of laboratory animals and the control of stray dog populations.

The adoption of standards related to animal welfare is progressing rapidly. The ratification system used by the OIE is now well-established and is used every year by Delegates at the General Session, as each standard-setting adoption is passed by consensus or – much more rarely – by a two-thirds majority, each country having its own voice. It is surely this mechanism that should be celebrated above all – thanks to this system we have experienced 80 years of an efficient, rapid and democratic process of setting
standards that is unrivalled anywhere in the world.

In addition, during this General Session, the Delegates elected or re-elected eight members of the Council (the equivalent of the administrative board), as well as the members of five Regional Commissions and four Specialist Commissions, paying rigorous regard to the OIE criteria of scientific excellence and geographic distribution.

This 80th General Session also made its contribution to women’s involvement in key positions, since Dr Karin Schwabenbauer (Germany) was elected President of the World Assembly of Delegates, thereby becoming the first woman to occupy this position in the history of the Organisation.

It only remains for me to wish the World Assembly of OIE Delegates many more such productive General Sessions in the future, which will allow the Organisation, as has been the case this year, to develop positions shared by 178 countries on subjects of major importance for the future of humanity.

3rd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare
‘Implementing the OIE standards - addressing regional expectations’

The Conference confirmed the will of Member Countries to promote OIE international standards on animal welfare adopted by 178 countries. Considering the economic, cultural or social differences between countries the organisation is committed to supporting countries, especially developing ones, in the implementation of OIE standards.

In order to efficiently address the different paces of standard implementation, the OIE advocates for regional strategies which have to rely on efficient national Veterinary Services as the key players in establishing appropriate and sustainable legislation and to ensure its efficient implementation and respect.

In her first intervention as OIE Goodwill Ambassador HRH Princess Haya, President of Fédération équestre internationale (FEI) commented: “The OIE approach takes into account the difficulty in implementing its standards at differing speeds in regions and countries that vary greatly.” All participants welcomed this pathway for the correct implementation of animal welfare standards in all countries worldwide.

The organisation pledged to continue providing support to all its Members, particularly through the PVS Pathway and capacity building programmes directed to Veterinary Services as well as the engagement of the organisation’s Regional Representations. Discussions also pointed out the need for more research in animal welfare and for raising the profile of the discipline in initial training of veterinarians globally.

“This third conference is the necessary next step in facilitating the process of implementing animal welfare standards worldwide,” Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat, said. “Differences in perception, needs and capacity of our Member Countries stand at the core of the challenge,” he further explained.

Talks on OIE’s successful efforts to coordinate with religious authorities for advancing animal welfare standards were an important highlight. The Conference emphasized that OIE standards are compatible with the requirements of Islamic law given that the humane slaughter of animals is supported in both the Islamic principles and OIE standards.

Opening the event Malaysia’s Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, the Honourable Datuk Seri Noh Bin Omar said: “by hosting this event the government of Malaysia marks its definite support to advancing animal welfare practices and the work of OIE in the field”.

High-Level representatives of OIE Members, including OIE national Delegates and national animal welfare focal points, but also Deans of veterinary education establishments, heads of national animal welfare research institutes, representatives of partner international organisations, lawyers, and representatives of international organisations, non-governmental and farmers’ organisations participated in the event. The Conference was supported by the European Commission and the governments of Malaysia, Australia and Germany.
The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) played an important part in the Pan-American Congress of Veterinary Medicine (PANVET 2012), held from 24\textsuperscript{th} to 27\textsuperscript{th} October in Cartagena. The significant WSPA involvement was a clear demonstration of the good relationship WSPA has managed to achieve with the Latin American Veterinary Community over recent years.

As part of this event, WSPA was in charge of the Animal Welfare programme, led by Dr. David Bayvel, WSPA’s new Chief Veterinary Adviser and former Chair of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare.

The programme included issues such as animal welfare in the veterinary profession, bioethics, research, and others of great interest to the veterinary professional and academic community. Furthermore, the issue of alternatives to the use of animals in experimentation took special attention to the development of the First Pan American Forum of Innovation, Bioethics and Alternative Methods in Veterinary Education and Research and a permanent display of alternatives to animal use in Education offered by WSPA and allied organizations InterNICHE, CRIAA and Autonomous University of Mexico State, actively attended by deans, professors and researchers from different countries.

Dr David Bayvel’s presentation “The Contribution of International Organisations to the Incorporation of Animal Welfare in Veterinary Education” described WSPA’s goal as “to improve the knowledge of veterinary lecturers and students around the world in the science of animal welfare to create the positive attitudes necessary for improving the lives of animals and for giving advice on welfare to clients”.

In order to achieve this goal WSPA provides an excellent teaching and learning tool, developed with the University of Bristol, that enables lecturers to gain expertise in the field of animal welfare and educate their students with the appropriate content. WSPA’s approach is comprehensive in targeting professional bodies and deans of faculty, and ensuring that lecturers are well trained and supported as they embark on the implementation process. As a result of these efforts and the raised profile provided by organisations such as the WVA, OIE and the FAO, increasing numbers of veterinary schools and animal science faculties are incorporating animal welfare as a mandatory subject.

WSPA was also co-organizer of classroom climate and pre congress offered a course on humane slaughter of food animals, attended by about 100 veterinarians from 5 different countries. Among the attendees were several decision makers’ breeders’ associations, academics and representatives of FAO in Latin America.

WSPA also launched the Spanish version of “Animal Mosaic” (www.animalmosaic.org/sentience). This website provides information, resources and forums to enable people from diverse backgrounds to learn, interact and work together towards a better future for both humans and animals.

The campaign for a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW) also took place at the meeting and about 500 veterinarians are already supporting this initiative.

WVA Past-President and WVA Communications Director, Dr Jim Edwards was invited to present his “Global Perspectives of Animal Welfare Related to
Increased Food Production” in which he urged the veterinary profession to continue to rise to the challenge of managing animal welfare as the World increases the food supply to meet the rapidly increasing human population. The challenge is to not only increase food production, but also to manage the intensification required, to educate consumers about the management of production and animal welfare, and defend production systems. Veterinarians will need to actively participate and take the lead in animal welfare or see their role usurped by animal welfare organizations. The veterinary profession is unique with its knowledge and expertise in animal health and welfare and public health. There is a societal obligation for the profession to be the managers and arbiters of animal welfare.

David Bayvel, Luis Miguel Romero (Colombian Veterinary Students Association), Jim Edwards

Both David and Jim participated in a forum and panel discussion on the contribution of international organizations to the incorporation of animal welfare in veterinary education and as a strategy to strengthen veterinary services.

News Feeds from the WVA website

Following feedback about the advertisements that accompany the FeedBlitz daily news feeds with the updates from the WVA website, we have now changed the system.

To access the new system, please go to www.worldvet.org/rss.xml

You will be prompted (Subscribe to this feed) and if using Mozilla Firefox about whether you want to subscribe to the Live Bookmarks, and the default is to put it on your Bookmarks Toolbar. When you agree, you will have a button in your toolbar that lists all the front page story headlines, making it easy to click to go read any that you are interested in.

The www.worldvet.org/rss.xml file is a standard format - it can be imported to all sorts of readers, depending on what you use. It then gives that same advantage of not having to actually visit the site to see what is new and only go there to download the article if you want to read more ...

The FeedBlitz subscription box below the left hand menu on the WVA page has now been removed, so it will now longer be possible to subscribe. You can stay subscribed with FeedBlitz and will do until you “unsubscribe”.

To “unsubscribe” from FeedBlitz, you will need to use whatever details you used (especially the same email address) to subscribe. There is information (Click here to safely unsubscribe from “World Veterinary Association.”) at the bottom of each FeedBlitz posting that you can use to unsubscribe.
As the only veterinary national multi-species CE event, the CVMA Convention remains the “hub” for national and, from time to time, some international meetings.

The following is a list of some of the meetings that took place in Montreal: CVMA Executive and Council and meetings, the Summit of Veterinary Leaders, the CVMA AGM and Awards Luncheon, the Emerging Leaders Program, the North American Veterinary Leaders Meeting (USA, Mexico, Canada), a North American CPE Head Examiners’ Training Session, a meeting of CVMA Council with regulatory body Presidents and Registrars, a meeting of the NEB with regulatory body Registrars, an NEB meeting, a meeting of Registrars, a meeting of Veterinary College Deans, CVMA meetings with Deans, CAAHTT, CAHI, a Presidents’ meeting, the Provincial Forum, CAAHTT’s 2012 AGM.

The preceding meetings were either organized by or hosted by the CVMA.

North American Veterinary Leaders’ Meeting
Back row, left to right: Mr. Jost am Rhyn, CVMA E.D., Dr. Luis Zarco, President, PANVET, Dr. Francisco Trigo, UNAM, Dr. Beth Sabin, Assistant Director, Education and Research, Staff Coordinator, International Affairs, AVMA, Dr. Jean Gauvin, CVMA Executive Member, Dr. James Berry, CVMA Vice-President, Dr. Douglas A. Roberts, CVMA Immediate Past-President, Dr. Barry Stemshorn, CVMA Treasurer, Dr. Jim Nave, Director of International Affairs, AVMA, Dr. Lyle Vogel, US Councilor to the WVA, Dr. Theresa Bernardo, AVMA Rep to the PANVET Directive Council, Dr. James Fairles, CVMA President-Elect, Dr. Elizabeth Stone, Dean, OVC (for AAVMC), Dr. Ron DeHaven, AVMA Executive Vice-President

Front row, left to right: Dr. Jorge Vallejo, President, Mexican VMA, Dr. René Carlson, AVMA President, Dr. Lloyd Keddie, CVMA President
CVMA Convention

From July 11th to 14th, 2012, Montreal welcomed veterinarians from across Canada and the world to the 64th annual Convention of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). This meeting, held in the attractive setting of old Montreal, offered practitioners from coast-to-coast with a multi-species continuing education program and attracted approximately 640 attendees. The Canadian Association of Animal Health Technologists and Technicians (CAAHTT) has been an ongoing partner in this event, demonstrating the importance of continuing education for the entire veterinary practice team.

Emerging Leaders Program
This year’s CVMA Emerging Leaders Program, entitled: “Leadership: The Secret Ingredient for Good to Great”, was facilitated by Dr. Rick DeBowes, co-founder of the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Experience. Thirty veterinarians and student veterinarians participated in this experience. Council had the opportunity to spend some time with the emerging leaders to learn more about “What can the CVMA do for me?” and “How do you envision the profession’s contribution to “one health” and society?” Thank you to the initiator and Chair of the CVMA’s Emerging Leaders Program, Dr. Melodie Chan, to the co-sponsors Hill’s Pet Nutrition Canada Inc., Merck Animal Health and Pfizer Animal Health and the provincial VMAs which co-funded this program along with the CVMA.

Summit of Veterinary Leaders
The theme of the CVMA’s 2012 Summit of Veterinary Leaders was: Member Wellness – “The Art of Maintaining Your Sanity”. This gathering of veterinary leaders and CVMA members, attended by approximately 120 individuals, was chaired by Dr. Jim Fairles.

Presenters included Drs. Clayton MacKay, Lisa Miller, Anne-Marie Lamothe, Terry Whiting, Erin Fraser, Trisha Dowling, Barb Horney, Ms. Crystal Riczu, Dr. René Carlson, AVMA President and Dr. Mark Russak, AAHA President.
Camel Festival in Cholistan, Pakistan
June 20 will be observed as the World Camel Day

By Shahzad Ashraf Khan.
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The Islamia University of Bahawalpur will organize an International Camel Conference here at IUB next year to boost the camel farming in Cholistan for better economic conditions of this area’s inhabitants as well as to improve the livestock sector for productive results.

Bahawalpur is quite rich in agriculture and livestock sector as the camel, cow, goat and sheep are famous animals of this area which can be introduced at larger scale through this international camel conference in which foreigners will too participate and we can find big international markets through this conference for our livestock but we have to properly reorganize whole set-up of farming according to the international standards.

This was stated by the Vice-Chancellor, Islamia University, Bahawalpur, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar in his address at a milk giving camel competition conducted by the Punjab Livestock and Dairy Development department at Jugait Pir Livestock Farm, Cholistan under the Punjab Chief Minister’s Youth Festival Programme-2012 in which a number of Cholistanis and the representatives of the dairy and livestock industry took part.

He announced the IUB is going to launch various research programmes with the collaboration and consultation of the Agriculture University, Faisalabad and the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore to utilize the available resources of these universities for the development of Dairy and Livestock sectors. He remarked that media can play a vital role in this regard which will be quite helpful for the introduction and marketing of our livestock products in the world.

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore, Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha appreciated the inhabitants of Cholistan and underlined the need to provide them all possible guidance, support and assistance for the growth and care of their animals for the promotion of their livestock. He disclosed that June, 20 will be observed as the World Camel Day every year onwards to develop awareness and interest among the people about this much valuable animal of desert.

The Director General, Livestock and Dairy Development, Punjab, Muhammad Nawaz Saeed, Chief Coordinator, Rana Zubair Ehsan and Agriculture University, Faisalabad’s Prof. Dr. Sajjad Akram Cheema also addressed on the occasion. Later a competition of more milk giving camels was held which was won by the camel of Toba Lakharr, Yazman’s Rao Ather Qadeer with 17.10 liter milk. He also received the second prize of the competition as his other camel gave 15.7 liter milk while Shahbaig Ahmed Khan of Channar Pir got third prize as his camel gave 13.10 liter milk.

The Vice-Chancellor, IUB, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar and the Vice-Chancellor, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore, Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha gave away prizes to the winners on the occasion.
VeV in Sri Lanka 2012

Report by Dr. Geeta Saini
Sri Lanka, September 2012

“Vets educating Vets”, the brainchild of Dr Shane Ryan (SVA, AOVG), saw 3 Australian veterinary practitioners, Drs. Bill Ryan, Peter McCourt and Geeta Saini, travelling to Sri Lanka to give a series of seminars and workshops to small animal veterinarians.

The focus was on practical tips and information accrued in over 30 years of practicing as veterinarians, rather than specialist procedures. Sri Lanka, like many Asian countries, has dedicated, highly skilled vets who are working in environments often lacking in the most basic facilities. Equipment and drugs that we take for granted in the west are often not available. Access to referral for specialist treatment is impossible in most cases.

This is what practice was like in the west when we were new graduates! We often had to make do and think outside the square in order to try and give our patients and clients the best possible treatment. The aim of these VeV seminars was to hopefully give our Sri Lankan colleagues some tools with which they could improve their services with the facilities they already have.

A workshop was held at Pet Vet Clinic in Colombo, which saw Dr Bill Ryan demonstrating how to do external fixateurs using readily available equipment. We all then demonstrated basic cruciate repair techniques, femoral head osteotomies (using chisels purchased from a hardware store) and lateral ear resections. The seminars over the next 2 days focused on cruciate repair and aural resections, corneal ulcerations, dermatology, pyothorax and wound management. We attempted to keep the information practical and useful to a general practitioner.

Dr McCourt entertained the audience with some unusual case studies (with photos) from his rural practice in Victoria, Australia. We then travelled to Kandy, where Dr McCourt gave a series of lectures on dairy cattle & performing field caesareans at the beautiful University of Peradeniya.

We were very impressed with the level of pet care in Sri Lanka. We were made to feel very welcome by all the veterinarians and veterinary students and we hope that they found the lectures useful and informative.

The VeV concept is one which is extremely rewarding for both the lecturers and the attendees and we hope to continue to be involved in the future. And we would like to encourage like-minded vets to think about donating some of their time to assist colleagues in Asia - & have a great time in the process.

Geeta Saini
Well, it’s been two weeks since I landed back in Australia from my whirlwind trip to Sri Lanka.

Back in May, I had presented some lectures on rehabilitation at the Australian Veterinary Association Conference. A colleague of mine based in Singapore, then signed me up to present some rehabilitation lectures to the local Sri Lankan veterinarians on a pro bono basis. I had always wanted to do some charity work but couldn't see how my skills were useful in de-sexing and vaccinating street dogs. It was pointed out to me that the work I did required very little in the way of expensive equipment, I could teach vets how to improve their diagnostic palpation skills and treat their patients with simple, low cost techniques. No MRIs, cat scans or expensive surgeries needed!

They also had a rich culture in using traditional herbs and spices to treat various ailments in a similar vein to Chinese herbal medicine. It was a real pleasure to talk to such a receptive and enthusiastic audience. The souvenir koala prizes helped with question and answer sessions but we have been told to bring chocolate next time as chocolate is taxed at 300%! Caramello Koalas it is next time!

The Sri Lankan hospitality was excellent. They were always smiling, full of positive energy, friendliness and ready to help with our crazy ideas and requests. Actually, all I wanted was some postcards and stamps. Elaine however, decided we needed to see Kandy even if we had to fly back in a helicopter! Anyway, our wonderful hosts were able to come to our rescue and we managed to see the most beautiful university in the world in Kandy as well as the elephant orphanage and I satisfied my taste for Durian. It took us five hours to travel about 90 km from Colombo to Kandy, we got stuck in a rain storm coming back so it took seven hours to get to the airport but I got there in plenty of time to catch my flight home!

Dr Shane in Singapore is now talking about sending us to Vietnam and beyond....

Kim Lim
Australian veterinary school AVMA-accredited

The University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science has received full accreditation for the next seven years. That makes the institution the fourth in Australia to be recognized by the council and the 18th foreign veterinary school, including five in Canada.

Read more at: https://www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/121201.aspx
Calendar of Events

2012

International Symposium on One Health
December 13th - 14th 2012
School of Public Health and Zoonoses
Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University
Ludhiana, Punjab
Website: www.iavphs.org

2013

17th FAVA Congress 2013

January 4th – 6th, 2013
The Grand Hotel, Taipei, Taiwan
Conference Theme: Asian Veterinarians for Global Health
Website: www.2013favacongress.com

6th European Equine Health and Nutrition Congress

"Feeding horses for Gastrointestinal Health"
1st – 2nd March, 2013
Website: www.equinecongress.com/en/programme

World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress

6th – 7th March 2013
Auckland, New Zealand
Website: www.wsava2013.org

4th International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance

February 15th-18th, 2013
Vienna, Austria
Website: http://imed.isid.org/

The Regional Animal Welfare for African and Arab countries Conference

30th March – 1st April 2013
Luxor, Egypt

6th International Sheep Veterinary Congress

18th – 22nd February 2013
“Connecting Science and Sheep”
Website: www.conference.intsheepvetassoc.org

1st International Conference on Avian, Herpetological and Exotic Mammal Medicine

April 20th – 26th, 2013
Wiesbaden, Germany
Website: www.icare2013.eu

ICLAP 2013

27th – 28th February, 2013
Tehran, Iran
Website: http://iclmap.ir/abstract/index.php

Medical Library Association Annual Meeting

May 3rd – 8th, 2013
Boston, MA, USA
Website: www.mlanet.org/am/am2013/
International Conference on Diseases of Zoo and Wild Animals 2013

8th – 11th May 2013
Vienna, Austria
E-mail: 2013@zoovet-conference.org
Website: www.zoovet-conference.org

CVMA Convention

10th – 13th July, 2013
Victoria, British Columbia
Website: https://canadianveterinarians.net/

Africa Vet Experience course

4th – 15th August 2013
Website: www.facebook.com/africavetexperience

Petfood Forum China

August 23rd, 2013
Shanghai, China
Website: www.petfoodindustry.com

Website: www.wvc2013.com/en/

9th International Veterinary Behaviour Meeting

“All different, all the same: from behaviour to welfare”
26th to 29th September, 2013
Lisbon, Portugal

2nd International Workshop on Dairy Science Park

16th – 20th November, 2013
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Agricultural University
Peshawar-25120, Pakistan
Website: www.aup.edu.pk/dairy-science-park2013.php

2014

16th International Congress on Infectious Diseases

2nd - 5th April 2014
Cape Town, South Africa
Website: www.isid.org/icid/

World Buiatrics Congress

27th July 2014 to 1st August 2014
Cairns Convention Centre
Australia
Website: http://wbc2014.com

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