Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

Back from a successful OIE General Assembly and sharing the celebration of the 90th birthday of the World Organization for Animal Health. I was very glad to see how was the important asset the WVA brought to the veterinary profession through a hard work in an authentic and warm environment.
This year the celebration of the World Veterinary Day Award was very special and very good applications were received and it was very hard for the two organisations (WVA and OIE) to select the winner.

The winner was the American Veterinary Medical Association with an excellent contribution from the veterinary profession to society and for the creation of a comprehensive on-line hub dedicated to animal welfare and its launch on the world veterinary day 2014 and for the massive promotion of the WVD via more 265 mentions in press releases and more than 300 media outlets worldwide.

The participants appreciated this ceremony and I received many thanks and congratulations on behalf the WVA for the excellent initiative initiated by the WVA EXCOM in 2000 during its EXCOM meeting held in Tunis and in which I was associated with our President at this time Jim Edwards.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for this visionary idea and also to all the WVA members for their support and precious contributions to promote the WVD every year.

Also, I was delighted to hearing from the OIE members and participants at this memorable general assembly that the WVA is now as a driver of the future of veterinary medicine with more visibility and by signing MoUs and Collaboration plans with many international organisations and partners.

In a few months, the election of the new WVA board seems to be attractive and has comprehensive objectives with sincere commitments are shown by candidates. I would like to wish all the best to all candidates.

I hope that all the measures taken by the current board to assure a high and relevant continental representation in order to guarantee mutual benefits to all our members and to energize and empower the voice of veterinary medicine worldwide and to give careful consideration to the needs of the veterinary community.

The WVA belongs to its members and needs strong leadership, continued energy and enthusiasm.

Good Luck for all and thanks to the efforts and support of our members.

Sincerely yours

Dr. Faouzi Kechrid
President
World Veterinary Association
WVA at FVE General Assembly

I had a recent opportunity to participate in the General Assembly of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) in Biarritz, France. While I was not representing the World Veterinary Association (WVA) at this event, I must say that I was very impressed at how well represented the WVA was.

WVA past President, Dr. Tjeerd Jorna brought greetings on behalf of the WVA President. Obviously Tjeerd is well known among his colleagues in this assembly and was warmly received as he provided a brief overview of current WVA activities. His representation reinforced WVA Councils desire to explore the continuation of the contract for secretariat services for the WVA by the FVE. A successful five year contract is finishing and there is a desire to negotiate another five year agreement. Both organizations are interested in pursuing this option as there is obvious benefit to both parties achieved by the arrangement.

Also on the agenda, WVA executive secretary, Dr. Jan Vaarten informed the audience about the upcoming WVA election for president, president elect and council. He described the changes in the governance of WVA, indicating that the European region now has an opportunity to elect two council members as well as vote for the president elect and this year, also for the president. The FVE also has an opportunity to nominate and vote for one of two council members representing international organizations. Many WVA members are part of the FVE general assembly and consequently this group has significant interest in the future of the WVA as will be determined by the election. Jan’s presentation was very effective in clarifying the procedure and time frame of the election process. (Please read this information elsewhere in the WVA Newsletter)

Duane Landals B. Sc. Ag. DVM
WVA Vice President, Policy

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World Veterinary Day Celebrations

The OIE celebration
The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) joined the celebration organised by the WVA and dedicated to the veterinary profession.

Numerous events around the world will give the opportunity to a large audience to discover or rediscover the different facets of the work being done by veterinarians all over the world.

The activities of the Veterinary Services are recognised as a global public good because of their role in protecting animal health and welfare, and as key players in ensuring food security through the primary production of animals, safeguarding public health and ensuring food safety (milk, eggs, meat, etc.) and the sanitary safety of international trade.

They also contribute to reducing poverty among rural populations in developing countries by helping them to preserve their precious livestock capital, so crucial to their survival.

The OIE has as its mandate and goal the improvement of animal health and welfare worldwide, regardless of the cultural practices or the economic situations in member countries. In addition to its activities aimed at developing health standards for disease control methods and international trade in animals and animal products, collecting, analysing and disseminating veterinary scientific information, and guaranteeing transparency of the world animal health situation, the OIE has set up support programmes for countries seeking to improve the capacities of their public and private components of national Veterinary Services.

World Veterinary Day Award
On 25th May 2014, the OIE and WVA will announce the country winner of the World Veterinary day award during the opening ceremony of the OIE 82nd General Session, that will receive the WVD 2014 Award with a price of 1000 US$.

Vets lead on animal welfare for World Veterinary Day
This year’s theme of Animal Welfare was chosen by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to highlight the role of veterinarians in animal welfare in line with OIE standards and the great contribution of the veterinary profession to animals and society around the globe.

In celebrating World Veterinary Day, BVA President Robin Hargreaves commented: “On World Veterinary Day 2014 it is fitting to recognise the part played by the veterinary profession in leading the way in animal welfare advocacy and calling for effective animal welfare legislation to be developed and enforced around the world.

“The skills, knowledge and compassion of the veterinary team place us in a unique position in society and we should never be afraid to speak out on animal welfare issues.

USA
The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) launched the online Animal Welfare hub on April 25, 2014 in celebration of World Veterinary Day. The AVMA chose to reorganize its animal welfare resources into an easy-to-navigate online hub housed on the AVMA website at www.avma.org/animalwelfare.

Dr. Gail Golab, Director of the AVMA’s Animal Welfare Division, participated in the Global Webinar on Animal Welfare, and encouraged participants to visit the new hub and review the wealth of animal welfare resources for veterinarians and other members of the animal health care team as well as for the general public. At the same time, the AVMA launched a LinkedIn group for members of the AVMA and Student AVMA (SAVMA), as well as veterinarians in the international community, to continue discussions initiated during the 2013 AVMA-sponsored intra-professional conversation about animal welfare titled “Can You Hear Me Now? The Conversation.”
Canada

**Shepherd or sheep? World vets take charge on welfare**

A news release was published regarding the Global Webinar on Animal Welfare. Canada was well represented at an innovative global forum on the role of veterinary leadership in the field of animal welfare.

A lead player in the event was Canada’s own **Dr. Duane Landals, current Vice President of WVA**, responsible for policy. Landals has been closely involved in the development of WVA’s recent position papers on the "One Health" concept and the role of the veterinarian in animal welfare. He served as a panelist during the webinar was also selected to provide a viewpoint in response to a presentation on the focus on animal welfare in veterinary schools.

"Leadership in animal welfare is a priority for our organization and for our profession," says Landals. "As global understanding and concern for animal welfare continues to evolve, so to must the role of the veterinary community."

Quebec

The Small Animals Veterinary Medical Association of Quebec celebrated the WVD 2014 in Montreal on the occasion of their 25th Annual Meeting.

Nearly 1,250 veterinarians and animal health technicians participated. One day of the congress was dedicated to Animal Welfare where the delegates shared and enhanced their knowledge of the health and welfare of cats and dogs. **WVA President, Dr. Faouzi Kechrid** participated in the WVD celebrations in Montreal.

WAVMA

The World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association (WAVMA) launched the Fish Welfare Global Dialogue leading into the 1st International Fish Welfare Conference in September 2014. This webinar was held in celebration of World Veterinary Day and the beginning of a six-month international conversation (the “Fish Welfare Dialogue”) on numerous issues concerning the human-animal relationship with aquatic animals. It introduced current issues ranging from science and philosophy to implementation of the concept in practice, that affect how non-governmental organisations, governments, animal owners and society at large, might view and address the welfare of aquatic animals.

The aim of Fish Welfare Dialogue is to engage veterinarians, industries, regulators and other stakeholders, throughout the world, in discussions on ethical, practical and science-based alternatives to promote awareness of, and offer for realistic alternatives and approaches for optimal aquatic animal welfare that will benefit industries and society at large.

The free global webinar will be followed by 6 months of web-based discussions and periodic webinars on current thinking on identifiable welfare and other issues, and culminating in an International Fish and Aquatic Animal Welfare Conference (September 2014 in Munich, Germany) to present the current findings and workshops that outline optimal approaches and offer recommendations for implementing these around the world.

Cadiz, Spain

This year the Cadiz Veterinary Association summoned the whole population to this event. So they have organized what they have called “The Veterinary Week”.

This campaign opened with a public press conference to introduce the Cadiz Veterinary Association’s President and its Secretary; Federico Vilaplana and Cristina Velasco, respectively, who explained to the public all the details of this initiative, born to have continuity and this year focused around the motto “‘Vets and Animal Welfare”’. The Cadiz Province Vets have been developing informative actions in order to stress the key and vital role of this profession in the relationship between men and animals and their never ending work in favor of animals and the society as a whole.
This is an information campaign in which all the province vets have taken part. The “partner vets” have been delivering leaflets in health centers, schools and markets as they have been answering people’s questions and giving information about this campaign. These leaflets have been also delivered to municipalities, county agricultural offices, health districts and other government related entities and veterinary competences.

**Himachal Pradesh**

Celebrations in India by Himachal Pradesh State Veterinary Officers Association included declamation contest, slogan writing and designing contest of school children on Animal Welfare.

This event was organized with the aim of taking the feedback on the awareness in the public about Animal Welfare as a whole. It was also aimed to proliferate and to create awareness about Animal Welfare among the school children, their teachers, their parents, general public and the farmers as a whole. In this contest seven number of renowned schools of this region participated and all the participant children gave their exhaustive views about the Animal Welfare. The target audience listened to their point of views very carefully and analytically. The participants were judged by the experienced retired veterinarians and 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes were given to the best three school participants.

In the Slogan Writing and Designing Contest, the artistic presentation and slogan writing skill of the children about the Animal welfare was tested. This contest was organized to extract the best views of the contestants and their presentation of the same. In this contest 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes were also given to the best three school participants after carefully judging by the retired veterinarians.
**Georgia**

The Georgian Veterinary Doctors United Association (GVDUA) celebration in Ekana’s local breed conservation farm focused on the welfare of indigenous species such as the Georgian mountain cow, Caucasian Brown, Georgian pigs, Closing goats, sheep and chickens. GVDUA declared on that occasion that Georgian Veterinarians are willing to improve animal’s welfare and they are ready for future cooperation in order to reach this goal. In addition, a one minute film prepared by GVDUA on the welfare of companion animals was transmitted on National TV. (link to the short film: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9tKHGakA8I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9tKHGakA8I))

**West Bengal**

The Eastern Regional Station of National Dairy Research Institute (ERS-NDRI), Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, India celebrated the theme of “Animal Welfare” to create awareness on the importance of animal health and its welfare. The programme was organized at the ERS-NDRI campus with seminars, exhibition and “farmers-scientists” interaction on animal welfare issues prevailing at this region.

Approximately 100 people including dairy farmers, Students, Trainees, Scientists and Technicians attended the celebration. Various programmes like expert lectures on animal welfare issues in relation to breeding, feeding, management and health care of livestock, quiz competition on dairy cattle and distribution of prizes and technical folders to dairy farmers were organized throughout the day. Women farmers’ have shown their active participation in learning the welfare issues for better management of livestock.
**Gujarat State, Gandhinagar**
The Gujarat Veterinary Association celebration included lectures, poster making competitions and slogan on animal welfare making competitions.

Dr. H.J. Pandit, Retired Deputy director and welfare activist gave the guest of honour speech and message of animal welfare and memories the past glorious years of the college and congratulated the achievement of the college in last 50 years. He gave message to the students for sincere and hard work for becoming a successful veterinary doctor. Dr. A.V. Savani, Director of Mukpreeti Seva Trust, Anand in his guest speech delivered a message for animal welfare and services needs to be extended for unproductive and pack and wild animals also.

The undergraduate and post graduate students of the college of Veterinary Science & A.H., Anand participated in poster making event with a theme of animal welfare. Total 12 posters and 35 slogans with different thoughts were highlighted by the students. The top three poster makers were appreciated with certificate and prize by the guest.

**Bangladesh**
The Veterinary Students Association (VSA), Faculty of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine of Patuakhali (PSTU), Bangladesh, celebrated with a 3 day long program. The program was started in presence of DVM students, faculty members and stuffs with a colorful and gorgeous Rally which was started from the academic building of the faculty and moving the rally all over the campus road including local Babugonj Upazilla road and finished at auditorium of the faculty. In the rally, Festoons, Placards and Replica of various species of animals were beautifully placed and participants were wore T-shirts and Caps to make the rally successful.

After completion of the rally, a seminar was held in the faculty Auditorium on “The theme of the year: Animal Welfare”. After the seminar, a delicious lunch box was provided to every participant in the rally and seminar. At evening, an amazing cultural night was performed by the members of the Veterinary Students Association (VSA).

The second and third days saw an Animal Health Campaign from 8am to 4pm at the Faculty Veterinary Clinic run by faculty members and senior DVM students. A huge number of animals including cattle, goats, dogs and birds were treated with free medicine. Finally a few medicinal trees were planted in the faculty and the program closed through flying of beautiful Fanush in the sky.

**Bangladesh Livestock Society**
The Bangladesh Livestock Society (BLS) observed World veterinary day with an Animal Exhibition at Rajshahi Kamaruzzaman
Square. The Mayor opened the festivity by freeing the pigeon to the air. The exhibition used the rescue wild animals and birds with the help of wild animal management and nature conservation division, Rajshahi, Bangladesh. About 300 leaflets about awareness of animal ethics and management were distributed.

**Haryana**
The Kurukshetra Veterinary Association (Haryana, India) celebrated by organizing a celebration program for 7 days. There was a well organised seminar on “animal welfare”. Other activities included a deworming and FMD vaccination camps for large animals at the government veterinary hospitals (GVH) in Sunaria, Thol, Mathana, and Thaska Miraji.

There were public awareness camps at schools by GVH Sunaria, GVH Mathana and GVH Kharindwa; poultry farmer awareness camps by GVH Mathana and GVH Sunaria; a special Brucellosis testing camp at the district diagnosis laboratory at Kurukshetra; a deworming and FMD vaccination camp for pigs at GVH Pindarshi; and special awareness campaigns in different villages by organizing different teams.

**Kangra**
The Himachal Pradesh Veterinary Council, Shimla celebrations included workshops on Animal Welfare and an Animal Birth Control camp.

**Kenya**
The Kenya Veterinary Association celebration activities included street procession accompanied by a band to observe the World Veterinary Day with the theme of “Animal Welfare” education and training seminars, field day on clinical work and exhibition by stakeholders.
Turkey
The Turkish Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) activities included a celebration event with 400 persons, horse racing and dissemination of posters and CDs.

Egypt
The Egyptian veterinary Medical Association (EVMA) in collaboration with the Society for the Protection and Welfare of Donkeys and Mules in Egypt (SPWDME) celebrated by organizing different activities such as campaigns, conferences, play and brochures marathon and sports day.

Uganda
The Uganda Veterinary Association celebrations were reported in the Uganda National newspaper.
Serbia
Veterinarians in Serbia celebrated by organizing the CPD program, this year dedicated to animal welfare. This event gathered more than 300 members of the Veterinary Chamber of Serbia, in the Congress Center in Vrnjačka Banja.

Respecting the importance of animal welfare and the role veterinarians play in it, the VCS invited the guest speaker from WSPA International. Dr. Joe Anzuino, the WSPA Veterinary Liaison Manager, presented the concept and science of animal welfare, bioethics, animal behavior and legislation.

Dr. Anzuino presented the WSPA approach to animal welfare, and its four main program areas. He described the educational resources WSPA makes available, like the Advanced Concepts in Animal Welfare, and various possibilities of online training.

Dr. Anzuino spoke about the Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare, the support it gets from the global and regional veterinary organizations and a number of national governments.

WSPA established the partnership with OIE and WVA through signing the Memorandums of Understanding, with the perspective of even more productive cooperation in the field of animal welfare.

Dr. Anzuino's presentation, and the translation by Dr. Zoran Katrinka, was done in a form of a dynamic dialogue, which enticed the audience to participate actively by asking questions and involving in discussion.

At the end of presentation, Dr. Joe Anzuino congratulated the World Veterinary Day to all the veterinarians.

Kashmir
The Faculty of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry of University of Agriculture Science and Technology of Kashmir celebrated.

Myanmar
The Myanmar Veterinary Association (MVA) celebrations included presentations about the roles of veterinarians and animal welfare which the participants discussed. The MVA documented the events and Myanmar Television media interviewed the speakers. This enabled the MVA to share animal welfare with the public. Celebrations were also held at Mandalay and Taung Gyi City.
The Winner of the World Veterinary Day Award 2014

On 25th May 2014, the OIE and WVA announced the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) as the winner of the World Veterinary Day (WVD) Award 2014.

The World Veterinary Day 2014 was celebrated by local, regional and international veterinary associations in more than 30 countries from all world regions. The celebrations events under the 2014 theme of Animal Welfare included concerts, public performances, media involvement, seminars and workshops, education sessions for public and children, release studies, and surveys, creation of websites and many more activities.

The WVA and OIE selected the AVMA as the winner of the WVD Award 2014 for

the creation of a comprehensive on-line hub dedicated to Animal Welfare and its launch on the World Veterinary Day 2014.

The AVMA’s hub includes numerous animal welfare resources that are available to veterinarians and the general public. These resources include policies and position statements, literature reviews, animal welfare newsletters, and access to educational materials and programs etc. The hub covers vast areas which sorted by species (e.g., companion animals, laboratory animals), user audience (e.g., the profession, students), general topics (e.g., people, education), and opportunities (volunteer).

The WVD 2014 celebrations by AVMA were widely covered by more than 265 mentions in press releases and more than 300 media outlets from North and Latin America, Europe, Asia and Oceania. The AVMA hub on Animal Welfare is a great tool for prompting Animal Welfare and especially, promoting veterinarians as authorities and advocates for Animal Welfare.

WVD 2014 Award for non-WVA members

The WVA and OIE received numerous applications for the WVD Award 2014 from non-WVA members. This year, the WVA decided to reward a non-WVA member for their WVD celebration event by giving them a free WVA membership for a year. The winner is Gujarat Veterinary Association, Gujarat State, India.

WVD Award 2015 - Parasitic Diseases

Before concluding the WVD Award ceremony, the OIE and WVA announced the issue of Parasitic Diseases as the theme for the World Veterinary Day 2015.
Summary

Following the success of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) Global Seminar on Animal Welfare (held in Prague in September 2013), the WVA and the European Commission (EC) agreed to keep "alive" the global platform on Animal Welfare and to facilitate participation of veterinarians from all over the world by organising a follow up event via a webinar (on-line seminar).

The Webinar on 29th April 2014 was entitled “Veterinary leadership: “Empowering tools for vets in the field of Animal Welfare”. It gave the floor to representatives from AVMA, EFSA, EC, FAO, FVE, IVSA, OIE, WAVMA, WSPA, WVA and the regions of Africa, Asia and Latin-America to present and discuss tools available for veterinarians in the different Animal Welfare fields. The Webinar was attended mostly by veterinarians and veterinary students from 56 countries.

Scope of the global webinar on animal welfare

• To facilitate continuous dialogue and discussion between all global organisations and stakeholders in the fields of veterinary animal welfare.
• To allow veterinarians from all over the world to participate in these discussions
• To develop and promote the veterinary profession engagement in all animal welfare fields worldwide.

The webinar was structured around 5 cases. Participants and panel members exchanged comments and ideas on the presentations and replied to poll questions on various issues related to the Webinar topics. In the end of each session, the moderator announced the poll results.

Case 1: presentation by AVMA on Animal welfare tools available for veterinarians. The poll asked if veterinarians have the necessary tools to deliver services in the field of animal welfare. 20% of the respondents replied yes while 80% replied that it depends on the region.

Case 2: presentation by OIE on OIE standards in animal welfare. The poll asked if OIE standards are well recognised and applied in the world regions. 63% replied that the standards are recognised but poorly applied, 23% replied that OIE
standards are not recognized, and 13% replied that the standard are well recognized and applied.

**Case 3**: presentation by WSPA on WSPA concepts in animal welfare.
The poll asked what are the most important aspects that shall be strengthened in order to empower veterinarians in the field of Animal Welfare? 86% of the respondents selected the education and knowledge option while 14% selected influences and resources option.

**Case 4**: presentation by WAVMA on Animal welfare in aquaculture.
The poll asked if animal welfare tools cover the needs of aquaculture. 86% of the respondents said that the available animal welfare tools do not cover the needs of aquaculture, 5% replied yes and 9% replied that it varies for the different species.

**Case 5**: presentation by IVSA on Focus on animal welfare in veterinary schools.
The poll asked if enough attention is given to animal welfare in veterinary schools. 59% of the respondents said no, 32% replied “only partially” and 8% replied that the theoretical knowledge is sufficient but there is lack of practical training.

**Conclusions**
• The webinar was successful in discussing animal welfare on an international scale.
• There is a great deal of interest in animal welfare and there had been a lot of reactions from participants around the world.
• This initiative will be repeated.
• The poll questions could be the focus of future webinars, particularly in aqua-culture, animal welfare educators in veterinary schools and the role of veterinarians in Animal Welfare.

The full Webinar recording on Animal Welfare can be found at: [https://asibemea.adobeconnect.com/_a836107716/p3h6joe9jc/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal](https://asibemea.adobeconnect.com/_a836107716/p3h6joe9jc/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal)

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**WSPA Consultation on Global Standards of Animal Welfare in Veterinary Education**

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) is launching a global survey on suitable standards of excellence in applying animal welfare principles in vet schools, with support of the WVA.

The standards will be voluntary, to help veterinary schools show good practice in animal welfare and support the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines for new veterinary graduates Day 1 competencies in animal welfare. The draft standards cover ten key areas of teaching, research and organizational culture, listed in the survey.

WSPA would like to hear from all vets, vet educators and veterinary students on what they think about the proposals. The online survey only takes 10-12 minutes: please follow this link: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/QCMN7RX](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QCMN7RX)

The survey is open to all veterinarians, vet educators and students. It is also available in Chinese, French, Korean, Indonesian, Spanish, Portuguese, Thai, Vietnamese and other languages.

It will run until 1 Sept 2014.
Policy Paper Development

This issue of the WVA Newsletter highlights two recent policy papers that have been approved by WVA Council. These two documents, entitled “One Health Concept” and “The Role of the Veterinarian In Animal Welfare” were drafted by the WVA policy committee and were circulated to members for feedback and input. I am pleased to say that there was a very strong response from member organizations and a number of amendments and improvements were made to the policies, incorporating the many good suggestions received. It is important to remember that WVA policies need to reflect the opinion of the global veterinary community, taking into consideration the wide range of local factors that may impact different members in different ways. It is rewarding when the feedback is sufficient to develop a policy statement that can be widely accepted.

During this last round of consultations I was asked who the audience is for WVA policy statements. This is an important question that needs to be considered when formulating the content. I think the question might be expanded to “who is the audience and what is the expected use of these statements.” I believe the answer to this is quite broad. The audience might be anyone who wishes to consider them. So we can expect that they might be viewed by: individual veterinarians, veterinary associations (both WVA member and non-member), policy makers and members of the public. This necessitates the current format of being aimed at a very high level of discussion of a general nature. In order to be useful at a global level the policies need to be considerate of the diversity of WVA membership and the wide demographic difference within the veterinary community.

The general nature of these discussions make them more useful as a catalyst for individual debate by any of the target audience groups. Hopefully they can highlight current issues facing the veterinary profession and continue to provide a platform for continuous improvement in these key areas.

Please take a minute to read and consider the papers on the next four pages.

Duane Landals B. Sc. Ag. DVM
WVA Vice President, Policy
World Veterinary Association
Position on One Health Concept

The One Health Concept is a widely discussed worldwide strategy for expanding interdisciplinary collaborations and communications to improve all aspects of the health and welfare of humans, animals and the environment.

**Background:**

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. It is the outcome of a complex of several inter-dependent medical, economic, socio-cultural, environmental and ecological factors. People’s health and wellbeing, and equally animal health and welfare are strongly interlinked. Both also influence and are impacted by the health of the environment. Health is a precondition for wellbeing and respectively welfare. Wellbeing and welfare reinforce health.

Animals, domesticated and wild, play a key role in the wellbeing of people and the future of our planet. They provide working power, food, protection, companionship and enjoyment, facilitate the advancement of biomedical research, and are a crucial part of healthy ecosystems. Keeping animals healthy is essential for the health and well-being of people and the environment.

Addressing animal health and welfare, public health, and environmental and zoonotic issues as separate professions, disciplines or entities has limited long-term impact on solving global problems. To make lasting progress, a broad inter-sectorial and interdisciplinary, holistic approach is essential to develop effective interventions that fully address One Health issues and concerns. The One Health Concept recognizes that the health and wellbeing of humans, animals and ecosystems are interconnected. It involves applying a coordinated, collaborative, multidisciplinary and cross-sectorial approach to address potential or existing risks that originate at animal-human-ecosystem interfaces.

**WVA Position:**

The advancement of the health and well-being of people and animals depends on effective and sustained collaboration between varied professions and disciplines, both in the public and private sectors.

The World Veterinary Association (WVA) recognizes and supports the Tripartite Concept Note titled “Sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystem interfaces” jointly developed and adopted by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2010. The tripartite note clearly recognizes that addressing health risks at the human-animal-ecosystem interface requires strong partnerships among all stakeholders.
**Education**

Pre and post-graduation, is key for the quality of services delivered by health professionals. Given the importance of One Health to the enhancement of human, animal and environmental health, it is essential to embed the One Health Concept into the curricula at colleges, schools and faculties educating animal, human, and environmental health professionals. Closer collaboration between veterinary schools and medical schools will foster a broader view on One Health issues. Student-driven initiatives to address One Health concerns are effective and deserve to be promoted. New communication technologies provide excellent opportunities to spread information and engage people in postgraduate education.

**Veterinary Services**

The services provided by the combined community of public and private animal health workers - are global public goods. Together with good governance practices, well-functioning veterinary services are essential for translating policies into practical strategies, implementing those strategies and achievement of sustainable results in the field.

**Communication**

Communication at different levels is crucial for achieving the veterinary profession’s aspirations and societal needs.

Effective communication needs to occur between:
- individual, private and public sector veterinarians and animal owners and keepers;
- veterinary professional organizations and stakeholder organizations and policy makers; and
- the profession and society at large.

The veterinary profession needs to foster good relationships. It needs to be clear about its goals, to make its goals known and to take responsibility for achieving those goals.

The One Health Concept mirrors the special responsibilities and outstanding position of the veterinary profession in serving both animals and human society. In accomplishing the One Health mission, veterinarians are:
- enhancing the health and welfare of animals (e.g., through treatment and prevention of diseases and promotion of animals’ physical and mental wellbeing);
- improving the health of people (e.g., through detection and prevention of zoonotic diseases);
- ensuring safer animal products for human consumption (e.g., through preventing foodborne diseases and food frauds; and overseeing best practices for use of animal medicines);
- ensuring sufficient food (e.g., through technological and management advances);
- protecting the environment (e.g., through conservation, prudent use of medicines, and chemicals, and the careful disposal of waste);
- demonstrating effective stewardship in the use of antimicrobials and thus insuring their effectiveness in both animal and human medical practice;
- improving communities livelihoods through improvements in animal and public health.
World Veterinary Association
Position on the Role of the Veterinarian in Animal Welfare

It is widely acknowledged that animal welfare science is a dynamic and multi-disciplinary field of endeavour. Its application includes scientific and ethical obligations to the physical and mental wellbeing of animals, and it also has ethical implications in regards to human social and cultural needs.

Background:

Animal welfare is a core mandate of the veterinary community generally and veterinarians individually. This concept is articulated by many veterinary organizations in their Code of Practice, Veterinary Oath or other statements of commitment. Such statements centre on the common theme “a veterinarian should be dedicated to the benefit of society, the conservation of animal resources and the relief of suffering of animals and to promote animal wellbeing”.

As scientific knowledge in the field of animal welfare expands and the expectations of society change in regard to animal care, so the commonly accepted definitions of animal welfare have evolved. One of the global examples is the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) definition for animal welfare in their Terrestrial Animal Health Code. This definition concludes that animal welfare is an assessment of how an animal is coping with the conditions within which it lives. Further, an animal is in a good state of welfare if it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe and able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress.

This definition is reflective of the “Five Welfare Freedoms” that are widely accepted as the foundation of good animal welfare and which are supported by the World Veterinary Association (WVA). The concept of “Freedom Five” is paraphrased as:

- Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition.
- Freedom from discomfort.
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease.
- Freedom to express normal behaviour.
- Freedom from fear and distress.

Traditionally, the veterinary community has engaged in providing the means to accomplish good animal welfare. These activities encourage: disease prevention and veterinary medical treatment, provision of appropriate shelter, good management, proper nutrition, humane handling, humane transportation and humane killing.

The Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare, drafted by the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA) and supported by the World Veterinary Association (WVA), recognizes the importance of proper animal welfare, not only to the animals but also to people. It is well recognized that good animal care can have far reaching and positive benefits in a number of areas, including human physical and psychological health, social development, poverty and hunger reduction, disaster management and environmental sustainability.

As global understanding and concern for animal welfare continues to change, so to must the role of the veterinary community evolve in this regard.
WVA Position:

The WVA holds the position that the veterinary community generally, and veterinarians individually, must maintain our commitment to animal welfare and fulfil our duties as animal advocates and leaders in the field of welfare, while recognizing the concepts of One Health and the multidisciplinary nature of animal welfare science.

Veterinary engagement in animal welfare must encompass a wide range of activities, including, but not limited to:
- Traditional veterinary roles in disease prevention and treatment of sick animals.
- Enhanced understanding of pain and stress mitigation and implementation of good standards in veterinary practice that support better welfare.
- Educating, informing and influencing animal owners, handlers and caretakers in regards to best practices regarding welfare improvement.
- Engagement in scientific endeavours that lead to better understanding of animal welfare and application of this knowledge into practice.
- Educating and informing the public at large about good animal welfare practices.
- Influencing policy makers to further protect and improve animal welfare.
- Engaging in the development of animal welfare policies, legislation and the application of their principles.
- Engaging in animal welfare assessments and oversight in animal production activities.
- Encouraging those Assurance Schemes that promote the best of animal welfare.

The WVA supports the visible integration of animal welfare and animal welfare science into veterinary undergraduate education. Day one competencies of all veterinary graduates should be adequate to allow new veterinarians to engage in the discipline of animal welfare. Furthermore the entire veterinary profession needs to integrate relevant evolutions of animal welfare in its future educational and vocational development.

News

WVA and WSAVA sign a Memorandum of Understanding

WVA and WSAVA signed a Memorandum of Understanding
On 4th April 2014, the World Veterinary Association (WVA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA).

Following the signature, the two organizations discussed future collaboration paths in the fields of animal welfare, one health, antimicrobial resistance, veterinary medicinal products and contributions in each-other congresses.

WVA president, Dr Faouzi Kechrid and WSAVA president, Dr Colin Burrows signing the MOU between WVA and WSAVA.
Calendar of Events

13\textsuperscript{th} Annual Congress of European Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (EVECCS)

13\textsuperscript{th} - 15\textsuperscript{th} June 2014
Prague, Czech Republic
Website: [www.eveccs2014.org/eveccs_en](http://www.eveccs2014.org/eveccs_en)

26\textsuperscript{th} VAM Congress

[First Announcement](http://www.worldvet.org/uploads/events/docs/brochure_vam_edit_622014.pdf)

Challenges of Globalisation Veterinary Services & Livestock Industries: Beyond 2020
20\textsuperscript{th} - 22\textsuperscript{nd} June 2014
Palm Garden Hotel, IOI Resort, Putrajaya Malaysia
Website: [www.worldvet.org](http://www.worldvet.org)

BIT's 4\textsuperscript{th} Annual World Congress of Microbes

26\textsuperscript{th} - 29\textsuperscript{th} June 2014
Dalian, China

World Buiatrics Congress

[32\textsuperscript{nd} World Veterinary Congress](http://www.wvcistanbul2015.com)
13\textsuperscript{th} – 16\textsuperscript{th} September, 2015
Istanbul, Turkey

27\textsuperscript{th} July 2014 to 1\textsuperscript{st} August 2014
Cairns Convention Centre
Australia
Website: [http://wbc2014.com](http://wbc2014.com)

First Latin American Congress of Veterinary Medicine, Traumatology, Orthopaedics and Radiology.

SOCHITOV

11\textsuperscript{th} – 14\textsuperscript{th}, September, 2014
Santiago, Chile
Website: [www.congresosochtov2014.cl](http://www.congresosochtov2014.cl)

WSAVA 2014 Congress

26\textsuperscript{th} – 19\textsuperscript{th} September, 2014
Cape Town, South Africa
Website: [www2.kenes.com/wsava/pages/home.aspx](http://www2.kenes.com/wsava/pages/home.aspx)

3\textsuperscript{rd} International Conference on Responsible Use of Antibiotics in Animals

29\textsuperscript{th} September – 1\textsuperscript{st} October 2014
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

FAVA 2014 Congress

[33\textsuperscript{rd} World Veterinary Congress](http://www.fava2014.com)
28\textsuperscript{th} – 30\textsuperscript{th} November 2014
The Rise of the Asian Veterinary Profession - Emerging Global Player
18\textsuperscript{th} Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations
Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
Website: [www.fava2014.com](http://www.fava2014.com)
Includes WVA President’s Assembly 2014

Future World Veterinary Congresses

32\textsuperscript{nd} World Veterinary Congress
13\textsuperscript{th} – 16\textsuperscript{th} September, 2015
Istanbul, Turkey
Website: [www.wvcistanbul2015.com](http://www.wvcistanbul2015.com)

33\textsuperscript{rd} World Veterinary Congress
August, 2017
Incheon, Korea