Antimicrobials have revolutionised medical and veterinary practice since their introduction more than 60 years ago. Today they are essential tools for ensuring health and welfare of animals.

Loss of efficacy in antimicrobial treatment through resistance development is an ever-present risk both towards animal as well as public health. Especially in the context of the growing global demand for noble proteins along with the crucial need for sufficient and safe production of animal products such as milk, eggs and meat, the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in animals must be promoted.

That is why delivery of antimicrobials and treatment of animals should be done directly through well-trained veterinarians: WVA and OIE strongly advocate for the reinforcement of the good governance of Veterinary Services - both in their public and private components – for better control in registration, import, distribution and on-farm use of antimicrobials.

All parties involved must work together to harmonize national and international antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes as well as implement risk assessment measures.

World Veterinary Day was instigated by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in 2000 to be celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April. In 2008 the WVA and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) agreed on the creation of the World Veterinary Day Award aimed at rewarding the most successful celebration of the veterinary profession by national veterinary associations, alone, or in cooperation with any other selected veterinary body.

The 2012 Award will be delivered at the OIE 80th General Session to be held in Paris, France on 20-25 May 2012.

The prize: US$ 1,000 will be donated to the winner.
SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND CELEBRATIONS

The following are just a few examples of activities and shall be considered as an extendable list:

- Stage concerts or other public performances (runs, walks)
- Mark WVD in schools with awareness building activities
- Involve the media by working with local newspapers to publish editorials and articles on WVD theme. Broadcast radio and television discussion programs
- Hold seminars in universities
- Release studies, statistical data, surveys
- Celebrate the works of a notable researcher or veterinarian
- Run workshops and set up booths in the street to inform the general public
- Create a website containing general information about antimicrobial resistance
- Promote your activities through social media
- Find a spokesperson
- Distribute promotion materials.

For more information, visit our websites:
www.worldvet.org / www.oie.int