



The WVA Strategy 2015 – 2018

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Introduction

In 1863, Dr J. Gamgee convened a first International Veterinary Congress. This initiative grew into the World Veterinary Association (WVA) today. A global association that represents 500.000 veterinarians around the world through its 94 member associations. The WVA continues the ambition of Dr Gamgee to bring veterinarians from all over the world together, to share experiences, to exchange ideas and to join forces for the promotion and development of veterinary medicine. WVA offers advocacy, support, and education with a variety of partners for focused global veterinary issues. WVA defends the interest of the health and welfare of animals and people as well as the interest of its member organizations and their members.

More than ever, veterinary medicine is a global matter. Disease prevention and control, food security and food safety, animal welfare and availability of medicinal products, have all become global issues that need a global approach. Regardless of all achievements made over the years, international veterinary collaboration is increasingly crucial for the promotion of the health for human, animal, and the environment under the One Health Approach.

WVA Vision

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

Mission

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

WVA Values

❖ **Knowledgeable:** WVA provides science based statements and guidelines on various veterinary issues.

❖ **Trustworthy:** WVA provides its Members with valuable resources, a global veterinary network, a unified global voice in the global veterinary arena, and a reliable partner for issues relating to international veterinary medicine.

- ❖ **Transparency:** WVA activities are carried out in an independent, ethical and professionally responsible manner, in the interest of WVA members, partners and society.
- ❖ **Nimbleness:** WVA is primarily proactive and promptly responsive when necessary.

WVA Strategy for 2015-2018

On 12-13 March 2015, the WVA Council had a Strategic Planning meeting to define the WVA strategy for 2015-2018. Understanding there are almost unlimited issues of importance, and taking in consideration the input received from Constituent Members and Councilors in the pre-meeting survey, WVA narrowed that focus down to Four Priority Issues that promote better Animal Health and are associated with the One Health concept:

- ❖ **Animal Welfare**
- ❖ **Pharmaceutical Stewardship**
- ❖ **Veterinary Education**
- ❖ **Zoonotic Diseases**

WVA believes that each of these priority issues has real value to WVA Members, International Partners and to a global public society at large.

WVA also identified a 5th area of priority to be the WVA **Organizational Growth and Partnerships**. The WVA focused priorities are strongly dependent on a WVA with sound governance, financial stability, and the ability to collaborate with others on areas of mutual interest and benefit.

WVA continues its activities on its Priority Issues through the work of the WVA Council, WVA Committees and Working Groups (including a vast network of external experts to support the work of the WVA on its position papers and projects) and its collaboration plans and activities with International Organizations, NGOs, Industry and relevant stakeholders to strengthen the veterinary profession on its wide aspects and to have effective communication and collaboration mechanisms implementing the One Health Concept and Approach.

Goals for 2015 – 2018

The WVA provides leadership, support and advocacy to its Veterinary Associations in their own areas of interest and promotes the veterinary profession globally focusing on the WVA priority issues:

Animal Welfare

- Raise awareness of current and ongoing animal welfare issues globally.
- Develop and maintain key partnerships with other global AW advocacy groups.
- Promote animal welfare education and training within the veterinary curriculum and as a critical component of veterinary continuing professional development.

Pharmaceutical Stewardship

- Advocate for the availability and access to good quality medicines for veterinarians worldwide.

- Promote continuing education in the responsible use and disposal of medicines.
- Support research on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and collaboration in the global networks and framework to decrease the development of AMR.
- Support the development of new vaccines and medicines to prevent disease and more effectively treat disease.

Veterinary Education

- Promote its Online Education Portal as the most comprehensive global online resource for continuing education for veterinarians.
- Develop and consistently review policy and position statements to support associations in advocacy on issues of importance to the veterinary profession.
- To expand the WVA role related to veterinary accreditation and core competencies to bring all VEEs around the world up to the basic competency standards.

Zoonotic Diseases

- Develop further the WVA Community-based Rabies prevention and control program in Gambia according the One Health approach as a model for other such initiatives in the global goal to eliminate dog-mediate human rabies in the world.
- Attract the attention and the contribution of local, regional and international authorities, organizations and NGOs to the WVA Community-based Rabies project.
- To develop educational resources and/or projects relating to Cysticercoids and Leishmaniosis.

Organizational Growth and Partnerships

- Assure that the WVA is financially healthy, annual income and expenditures are in balance and there is a reasonable financial reserve to cover unforeseen events, ensuring the long-term viability of the WVA.
- Increase the number of WVA Constituent Members by continuing to raise WVA's profile and actively recruiting new members.
- Explore partnership opportunities between WVA and major animal health companies.
- Collaborate effectively with relevant global partners such as OIE, WHO, FAO, WMA, World Animal Protection and Health for Animals that act as the main link between the veterinary profession and the global health policy-making bodies to ensure that its views are heard at the highest level across the world.
- Communicate effectively with its member organisations as well as with external parties. This strategy includes elements such as: World Veterinary Association Congress, World Veterinary Day and other WVA conferences, an interactive website, Info-news, press releases and participation in social media and other communication activities.