New WVA President

Dr. René Carlson
President

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A NEW DAWN, A NEW WVA – “HUDDLE UP!”

René A. Carlson, DVM
WVA President

With over 150 years of proud history, the WVA continues to be an influence on animal health, animal welfare and public health around the world. This is a new era, though, in world and WVA history. Challenges are great and expectations are high.

The WVA held its annual General Assembly in association with the Federation of Asian Veterinary Association Congress (FAVA) in November. Newly elected Officers and Council members were installed for the term 2014-2017. The speeches from both outgoing President Faouzi Kechrid and incoming President, myself, are copied for you in this newsletter.

The WVA has such great potential as “the global voice for veterinary medicine” representing over 500,000 veterinarians on six continents who are passionate about the important and many times difficult work they do to help animals and people. To further increase our influence and credibility, we must increase our capacity for communicating scientific-based Knowledge, use that knowledge to advocate for the issues that further our cause, communicate much better with our Members, and engage many more people with such excellent and varied expertise in our activities.

We will focus on the 4 Roles of Leadership at the WVA:
1. Focused Priorities
2. Alignment of Partnerships and Activities
3. Empowerment of our Members and
4. Building Trust with our Members, the Public, and our Partners.

There are many highlights from the last several weeks, from the General Assembly, and from our Council meeting in December that benefit our Members, which include:

- A clear understanding of the fiduciary responsibilities we have as members of your WVA Council.
- The World Veterinary Association/World Medical Association Global Conference on One Health Thursday, 21st May – Friday, 22nd May 2015 in Madrid, Spain. The theme is “Strengthening Collaboration between Human and Animal Doctors.”. Topics will include zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, natural disaster management – preparedness and vet-med collaboration, and environmental hazards exposure to humans and animals. More details regarding the conference and registrations will be published soon on WVA and WMA websites at www.worldvet.org and www.wma.net.
- A new online WVA Education Portal.
- Our Policy Committee with plans to establish Advisory Groups for additional expertise on specific topics, and making sure we use our policy statements to further advocate for animal health, welfare, and public health.

In March we will be focusing our priorities (Leadership Role #1 above), and then aligning our MOUs and partnerships with activities to further our goals (Leadership Role #2 above).

Please contact me and/or your regional representatives at any time. We are excited to be your global voice for veterinary medicine.
The WVA General Assembly (GA) 2014 took place on 29th November 2014 in Singapore. Around 60 delegates from 30 members associations participated in the WVA GA.

The delegates were informed on the past year activities of the WVA Council, Secretariat and the different Committees and Working Groups. One of the most interesting points on the agenda was the “Future of the WVA – Members perspectives, expectations and needs. Representative from different world regions presented the main veterinary issues in their regions, the members’ expectations from the WVA and how members can contribute to WVA.

With regards to the WVA Communications issue, the delegates were excited to hear about the WVA project with the World Continued Education Alliance (WCEA) to create a Global Online Veterinary Education Repository and expressed their strong support. The WVA Immediate past president, Dr Tjeerd Jorna announced the new elected WVA Council and the WVA outgoing President, Dr Faouzi Kechrid presented awards to the outgoing Officers and Councillors.

The outgoing President gave a short speech summarizing the last three year of its presidency and handed over the WVA Presidency to Dr René Carlson which will lead the WVA until September 2017. In her first speech as WVA President, Dr Carlson pointed out the need of improving Veterinary Medical Education, Animal Welfare, and promoting the veterinarians’ role in public health; the “One Health” concept. She continued by saying that in order to implement these objectives there is a need to develop more trust with WVA Members and key partners, to be knowledge-based and to have regular and frequent communications with WVA Members, targeted partners, and with the public using a multitude of media forms.

The WVA new Council will hold its first call conference early in December 2014 and will have a first physical meeting in March/April 2015.

Dr Carlson pointed out that her first goal of the new Council is to identify three WVA priorities in order to prepare a strategic and immediate task for the new WVA Council.
I am deeply humbled, deeply honored, and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity WVA has entrusted to me, to lead the WVA forward for the next three years, to help further increase our influence and to have even greater impact on animal health and welfare for the public good and overall welfare of the world. I stand here in awe of the responsibility as I am fully aware of the challenges we face as discussed today, yet I am excited about the many opportunities and great potential that exist for the WVA.

First, let me say how indebted we are, as members, to the many years of previous leadership, for the dedication shown by so many people over the last 150 years to take this organization from its infancy to its current status of representing more than 500,000 veterinarians across six continents.

However, today is another new beginning for WVA, a turning point. Our current Officers now represent four continents – Dr. Johnson Chiang as President-Elect from Asia, myself as President from North America, Dr. Faouzi Kechrid as Immediate Past President from Africa, and Dr. Tjeerd Jorna as our most recent Past President from Europe. We have a newly elected Council and a newly modernized governance structure. This is the time for WVA to take a giant leap forward in realizing increased visibility, credibility, member value, and influence. The WVA needs to be such a significant voice on animal and public health issues that our members, and those who aren’t members YET, as well as other allied organizations, want to be involved with WVA or they will “miss out” if they are not sitting at our table. This will require the highest standards of association management.

On my flight from Tokyo to Singapore I watched an old movie from 1989 called “Dead Poets Society” starring Robin Williams. How many of you have ever heard of it, and even seen it? I had seen it years ago but this time it had new meaning for me given my next role with WVA. It is about a professor at a boys’ private high school who teaches these young men to appreciate the symbolism and beauty of poetic expression. Mr. Keating, the professor in the movie, goes on to explain to them about the principle of Carpe Diem through the poem entitled To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time written by Robert Herrick in the 17th century. I am going to have Zeev play a short video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=veYR3ZC9wMQ Carpe Diem. Seize the day.) and as you watch, remember our WVA history and the people that came before us whom we have seen in our own historical photographs.

If we listen to the voices from our past, including Dr. John Gamgee’s, who also had such passion and hope for what would one day evolve into the WVA, these voices are telling us “We only have so much time to make a difference before we too are gone.

“The WVA is your organization. Our Members have the most authority. We need fully engaged Councillors and a fully engaged and broader membership.”

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and are fertilizing daffodils. So we must seize this day!

Mr. Keating goes on to tell them, as he shouts “Huddle up!!”, that words and ideas change the world. “We write poetry because we are members of the human race and the human race is filled with passion.” Veterinarians are filled with passion, filled with passion for what we do for the greater good. He goes on to quote Walt Whitman from his poem Leaves of Grass that reads, “The powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse.” Next, please watch this short video….

(www.youtube.com/watch?v=omveFR-2hm)

So we too must huddle up!! Together we must imagine that the future course of WVA is now “the powerful play that goes on”. “The powerful play goes on, and WE may contribute a verse.” What will our verse be from the WVA? What will we accomplish before we all move on to fertilizing daffodils?

Today we heard of the many challenges we face, and many ideas from regional representatives. I want to personally thank Clive Marwick, Gani Enanoro, Maria Baptista, Zoran Katrinka, and Ted Cohn for bringing the interests and needs forward from their four geographic regions. Now we need to identify the key principles issues that WVA stands for, the key messages WVA wants to voice, and we need to focus our time and resources on specific partnerships and activities to bring those goals to fruition. What will those 2-3 prioritized goals be? How will we generate consensus when there are so many possibilities? We have a mission that says we exist to promote animal health, animal welfare, and public health. So we should focus on those three issues.

If I were Queen for a day, which I am not, I might suggest:

• improving Animal Welfare;
• improving Veterinary Medical Education around the world with OIE recommended national service core competencies AND clinical medical practice core competencies; and
• promoting the veterinarians’ role in public health, the “One Health” concept, which includes detection and monitoring of zoonotic and emerging diseases, the responsible use of antimicrobial medicines, and contributing toward a safe and humanely produced food supply of animal origin for all people. Certainly, the WVA Congress and newly developed WCEA online education programs align with the Education aspect.

But I am not the Queen. I am the person who provides the leadership, the vision to the Council and General Assembly, who acts as your facilitator and as your WVA spokesperson. The General Assembly, YOU, are the highest authority. With your input, we must implement objectives and tactics to realize those goals. How does that happen? By three important ways:

• By developing trust with our Members and key partners; remember last year I quoted Stephen Covey when I said “Trust is the foundation of everything we do and the key leadership competency of the new global economy.” We must have a culture of Trust, transparency, and Accountability. I think that is very evident as we heard many comments today alluding to a lack of trust.
• By being knowledge-based, and Knowledge comes from our Members, so let’s get more members with their expertise directly involved with WVA; and
• By regular and frequent communication with our Members, targeted partners, and with the public using a multitude of media forms. “If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it still make a sound?” Our voice must be heard.

The Council cannot do this alone, nor should we. The WVA is your organization. Our Members have the most authority, not the Council. To do this, we need fully engaged Councillors and a fully engaged and broader membership. This is a new day. The powerful play (of WVA) goes on, and if we seize this day and work vigorously together, we will contribute a verse.”

Thank you!!
Dear Delegates, Dear Colleagues,

Today we organised the last meeting of our Council for the term 2011-2014.

It was an important moment to share and to keep in mind our friendship, conviviality and mutual recognition for the great efforts done by all the team. Together, we did a lot and we have to be proud to have contributed to the structure and the development of our association.

Since 2011, a lot of work has been done and especially the modifications and change the constitution and By Laws adopted unanimously by the 2013 Presidents Assembly organised in Prague in conjunction of the 31st WVC and the 150 years anniversary of our association. Since 2011 the WVA Council organised 2 World Veterinary Summits, the celebration of the VET 2011 and 250 years Anniversary of the first veterinary faculty in Lyon, France.

The WVA Council signed 15 MoU’s and collaboration plans with international organisations and partners and implemented most of them.

More than 30 missions for the WVA Council attending global conferences and events, 8 Council meetings and 6 telephone conferences.

These extensive activities conducted by our current council contributed largely for the promotion of our profession.

Dear Colleagues, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for the intense contribution and for the commitment and strong dedication for your noble mission to the WVA and to the profession. Sometimes you dedicated yourselves more than possible and you spent a long time on behalf your families, your health and your interests to serve well and properly the WVA.

I would like to recognize your efforts and your large contribution and the most important thing that we have kept very good relationship, friendship and respect to each other.

I cannot forget the great contribution brought by the 2 terms as Vice President that Duane Landals chaired the WVA Policy committee and did a wonderful and consistent work.

Dear Colleagues, all my sincere thanks and I am sure that the history of the WVA will recognize you for your valuable contribution.

Thank you all and I hope that we keep in touch even if our mission finished and to still constitute a real family for long time.

Closing address

After the closing of our meeting of the 2014 WVA General Assembly, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve the WVA as President and to chair the council for the term 2011-2014.

I appreciate your trust and your strong support to me and to the WVA.

I enjoyed working with a wonderful and experienced team and dedicated my time and efforts to better serve our profession.
I hope you appreciated our commitment and efforts to promote our profession. Thanks to the 2 Vice presidents Duane Landals and Johnson Chiang and all my colleagues of the 2011-2014 Board and while the handover of the WVA Council ceremony, I would like to congratulate my colleagues who were re-elected to be part of the 2014-2017 Council and especially to congratulate my dear colleague René Carlson for being elected President of the WVA and also being the first female president in the history of our association to chair the WVA.

I wish her and all the new elected Council members very great success and good luck and would like to assure them of my full support and dedication to serve in my new position as Immediate Past President.

### WVA Elections 2014 - Final results

**New elected WVA Council**

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>President</strong></td>
<td>Dr René CARLSON</td>
<td>(USA)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>President Elect</strong></td>
<td>Dr Johnson CHIANG</td>
<td>(Taiwan)</td>
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<td><strong>Councillors for Africa</strong></td>
<td>Dr Maria BAPTISTA</td>
<td>(Angola)</td>
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<td>Dr Oumar TOUNKARA</td>
<td>(Mali)</td>
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<td><strong>Councillors for America (North)</strong></td>
<td>Dr John DRAKE</td>
<td>(Canada)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr Lyle VOGEL</td>
<td>(USA)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Councillors for America (Latin)</strong></td>
<td>Dr Maria Nelly CAJIAO</td>
<td>(Colombia)</td>
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<td>Dr Guilherme COSTA</td>
<td>(Brazil)</td>
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<td><strong>Councillors for Asia and Oceania</strong></td>
<td>Dr Hur JUHYUNG</td>
<td>(Korea)</td>
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<td>Dr Achariya SAILASUTA</td>
<td>(Thailand)</td>
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<td><strong>Councillors for Europe</strong></td>
<td>Dr Zoran KATRINKA</td>
<td>(Serbia)</td>
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<td>Dr Rafael LAGUENS</td>
<td>(Spain)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Councillors for Middle East and North Africa</strong></td>
<td>Dr Farouk EL-DESSOUKY</td>
<td>(Egypt)</td>
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<td>Dr Khaled EL HICHERI</td>
<td>(Tunisia)</td>
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<td><strong>Councillor for International Regional Organizations</strong></td>
<td>Dr Sira ABDUL RAHMAN</td>
<td>(CVA)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Councillor for International Discipline-Centred Organizations</strong></td>
<td>Dr Patricia TURNER</td>
<td>(IACLAM)</td>
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WVA Presidential Award
Dr Teodulo M. Topacio, Jr.

During the WVA General Assembly 2014, a WVA Presidential Award was presented to Dr Teodulo M. Topacio, in recognition of his outstanding and exemplary services to veterinary science and the veterinary profession.

Dr. Topacio is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, cum laude graduate of the University of the Philippines, obtained his M.Sc. from Michigan State University and Ph.D. degree from Purdue University, U.S.A. specializing in microbiology. Currently, he is the Chairman of the National Advisory Committee for Animal Disease Control and Emergency (NAC- ADCE), a multi-agriculture sectoral Committee composed of representatives from private entities and government agencies that give advice to the Secretary of the Department (Ministry) of Agriculture. The recommendations helped in eradicating Foot and Mouth Disease in the Philippines and helped in keeping "Bird Flu" out of the country.

Dr. Topacio’s pioneering work (late 1960’s and 1970’s) in the zoonotic disease, leptospirosis, confirmed the presence in pigs through isolation of the organism, resulting in its treatment and control, thus, increasing swine production while assuring the health and safety of farmers and workers in the industry. His scientific leadership led in the formulation, drafting and passage of the Philippine Anti-Rabies Law (Republic Act No. 9482) in 2007, which aims to eradicate canine rabies, a fatal disease of humans and other warm blooded animals the Philippines. As Chairman of the Philippine Regulations Commission Board of Veterinary Medicine, the veterinary statutory body giving licensure examination to veterinary graduates in the country, he initiated the amendment of the obsolete Veterinary Practice Act and led the drafting and passage of Republic Act 9268 in 2004, An Act to Regulate the Practice of Veterinary Medicine in the Philippines.

Dr. Topacio became President of the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association. During his term in 1976, he conceptualized and initiated the formation of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA) which was chartered on February 22, 1978. Founded by 6 Charter Members, FAVA has grown to 19 members and several Congresses have been held since its existence testifying to its virility and growing strength. The Philippine College of Veterinary Public Health, a specialty group of veterinarians in Public Health, was also founded and initiated by Dr. Topacio in 1988.
As an educator, he acted as a teacher and adviser to generations of students offering dedicated service and motivating them to excel in their chosen profession, until he was appointed Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of the Philippines (1964-1969). In that position, he helped develop and uplift the discipline of veterinary medicine in the Philippines. This led him to the appointment of Professor Emeritus by the President of the University of the Philippines.

He lent his expertise in the veterinary pharmaceutical industry of the Philippines in the production of reasonably priced quality veterinary products affordable by the small food animal producers stakeholders. He further extended his veterinary service by helping the livestock industry of Bangladesh when he acted as Team Leader-Management Advisor in the production, quality control and distribution of animal vaccines in the country under the Asian Development Bank.

A patriot, he was drafted by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Again, he lent his expertise and reputation and was given the rank Reserved Major in the Veterinary Corps under Surgeon General. Eventually, he received the 1995 Outstanding Veterinary Corps Officer Reservist Award.

Dr. Topacio is a prolific writer having published several scientific articles and editor and author of veterinary books. He has presented several scientific papers in local and international scientific gatherings and conferences. He held several positions in private and government offices and professional organizations and was a recipient of several awards.

With all of these accomplishments and contributions to veterinary science and the profession, Dr. Topacio, was recommended by the National Academy of Science and Technology to the Order of National Scientist to the President of the Republic of the Philippines and was bestowed this highest award for a scientist on June 17, 2009.

Dr Teodulo M. Topacio with members of the General Assembly
Doctors, Dentists and Veterinarians keep on fighting against the alarming rise of antibiotic resistance in Europe

Antibiotic resistance has increased in the past years to the point that now constitutes a serious risk to public health. The lack of effectiveness of existing antibiotics combined with the lack of new antibiotic treatments raises serious concerns and demands a joint response.

In this context, primary prescribers play a crucial role. Being in direct contact with patients on a daily basis, they are best placed to advice on patients’ need for antibiotics. With seven simple recommendations, the European health professionals raise awareness to primary care prescribers on the prudent and responsible use of antibiotics.

FVE President, Dr. Christophe Buhot: “Veterinarians together with the other health professions are the gatekeepers of the public health. This is why it is so important to ensure that all of us – doctors, dentists and veterinarians - are equally committed to this goal and promote the same recommendations”.

CPME President Dr Katrin Fjeldsted: “It is crucial that healthcare professionals join forces to combat antimicrobial resistance. The joint recommendations issued today are part of this collaborative exercise and we will continue to closely work together to promote prudent use of antibiotics.”

CED President Dr Wolfgang Doneus: “Antibiotics need to be responsibly prescribed, correctly used and the outcomes monitored. We are counting on our Colleagues to help in making sure that antibiotics stay effective and to discuss the risks of self-medication with our patients”.

XXIV PANVET Congress - Havana, Cuba

On 6th – 9th October 2014, WVA President, Dr Faouzi Kechrid participated at the XXIV PANVET Congress which took place in Havana, Cuba.

More than thousand participants from 26 countries attended the Congress.

During the congress, the WVA President delivered presentations on the issues of One Health Concept and Animal Welfare.

Animal Welfare Symposium with Dr Temple Grandin

On 29th October 2014, the WVA Veterinary Policy Officers, Dr Zeev Noga and Dr. Nancy De Briyne attended a Symposium in Brussels, Belgium on the topic of Animal Welfare with Dr Temple Grandin.

The title of Dr Grandin’s lecture was “Animal Welfare in Slaughterhouses in the USA and Globally Insight/Findings, Experience and Recommendations”

Dr Grandin also presented her latest publication on Animal Welfare and Society Concerns: Finding the Missing Link

Temple Grandin is a worldwide known doctor of animal science and she was also listed in the Time 100 list of most influential people in the world in the "Heroes" category.

The WVA Education Portal

Now available. To study Veterinary Education from Educators around the world…

Learn more at: http://wva.learning.education/
CVMA is reviewing the Federal Government’s release on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Framework for Action

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is reviewing the “Antimicrobial Resistance and Use in Canada: A Federal Framework for Action” just released by the Federal Government; and will provide feedback to Minister of Health, The Honourable Rona Ambrose, on behalf of Canada’s veterinarians.

In the feedback that will be provided, CVMA intends to address matters such as own use importation (OUI) and active pharmaceutical ingredients (API), surveillance and international standards.

The responsible use of antimicrobials is a priority issue for CVMA. For almost two decades, CVMA has been supporting and encouraging veterinarians in the prudent use of antimicrobials, while advocating for regulatory changes and increased antimicrobial surveillance in Canada.

CVMA has developed several position statements that address responsible use of antimicrobials and veterinary drugs, along with antimicrobial prudent use guidelines for livestock and companion animals to help veterinarians with responsible antimicrobial decision-making.

CVMA representatives currently sit on several antimicrobial stewardship committees, providing input on behalf of the veterinary profession. Such committees include the Ad Hoc Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee, the Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee of the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council, and the Canadian Animal Health Products Regulatory Advisory Committee.

CVMA has also recently been involved with the World Organisation for Animal Health’s (OIE) regional focus group on antimicrobial resistance and use.
Annual CVMA Animal Welfare Committee Meeting

At the end of October, CVMA’s Animal Welfare Committee held their annual meeting at the University of Calgary’s Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) for discussions on a number of animal welfare issues.

Topics included new position statements on humane slaughter and transportation of pets on airplanes, revisions to the Kennel Code and updates to the large animal pain management poster, as well as the federal animal cruelty legislation update.

Animal Welfare Committee member, Dr. Michelle Lem, the founder of Community Veterinary Outreach, an organization that provides veterinary care for the homeless and vulnerably housed, delivered a noon-hour presentation at the university for students, faculty, and local veterinarians.

Dr. Lem’s talk focused on how practicing “One Health – One Welfare” at the community level improves the quality of life and welfare of marginalized people and their pets.

"Dr. Lem gave an interesting talk about the mutually beneficial relationship between the homeless and their pets," says Kelsey Chapman, a UCVM student, as well as a member of the Students of the CVMA Committee. “As veterinarians, and as humans, we should do our best to foster the human-animal relationship in each and every walk of life."

CVMA Joins Thought Leaders at 2014 International Summit for Urban Animal Strategies

CVMA joined nearly 100 industry thought leaders at the 2014 Summit for Urban Animal Strategies in Lake Louise, Alberta from October 22 to 25 to discover innovative solutions for creating healthy communities for pets and people. Chair of CVMA’s Emerging Leaders Program, Dr. Melodie Chan, delivered the Leaders Keynote, reflecting on the daily changing professional landscape as it pertains to economics and communication.
The British Veterinary Association (BVA) has urged Defra to give full and careful consideration to the role of vets in protecting animal and human health and ensuring food safety. BVA’s statement follows a report in the Guardian today of recommendations made to the Cabinet Office-led Red Tape Challenge by external consultants that included cuts to health inspections on farms and the use of “non-vets” to carry out bovine TB testing.

BVA President John Blackwell said: “BVA understands the pressures on public spending and the need for efficiencies and appropriate lessening of the regulatory burden on business, including the agriculture sector. However, we cannot overstate the importance of any cuts or changes being carefully considered from a fully informed perspective and with an eye to long term-consequences, not simply short-term expediency. Cuts cannot come at the expense of animal welfare and health, which if compromised can have serious consequences for human health and food production.

“Defra works closely with vets and is aware of the critical role vets play in disease surveillance - Defra’s own survey highlights that local vets are a trusted source of key information to their clients and this is fundamental to ensuring robust disease control and eradication strategies. If these reports are true, our message to Defra is don’t downgrade the role of vets in food safety and animal health and welfare. It is important to stress that any attempt to reduce regulation by government should not increase risk by reducing the pivotal role vets carry out in public health and food safety, alongside animal health and welfare.”

BVA welcomes latest Defra guidance on avian flu and biosecurity

Defra has issued updated guidance for poultry keepers after a shot wild bird tested positive for H5N8 in Germany.

BVA President John Blackwell said: “BVA welcomes Defra’s reinforcement of the guidance to poultry keepers following the confirmation of avian flu in a wildfowl in Germany.

“The advice emphasises the importance of maintaining the highest biosecurity standards during an outbreak of avian flu, including protecting domestic poultry flocks from the risk of contact with wild birds. Poultry should be housed where possible and kept away from standing water, with food and water supplies protected.

“BVA would encourage poultry keepers to work with their local vets and take their advice on appropriate biosecurity measures if in any doubt.”

Defra’s biosecurity guidance can be found at https://www.gov.uk/avian-influenza-bird-flu#biosecurity-guidance
9 in 10 vets fear antibiotic resistance means they won’t be able to treat infections in pets

The scale of vets’ concerns about the threat of antibiotic resistance and what this could mean for their ability to treat infections in pets is revealed in figures released by the British Veterinary Association (BVA).

91% of small animal vets are concerned that a consequence of antimicrobial resistance could be the inability to treat infections in pets, figures from BVA’s autumn 2014 Voice of the Veterinary Profession panel survey reveal. 78% of small animal vets are also concerned that antimicrobial resistance could affect their ability to control post-surgical infections. The survey results are released to coincide with European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) on Tuesday 18 November 2014.

Other statistics show:
• 9 out of 10 vets are concerned about antimicrobial resistance, with a third describing themselves as very concerned
• 72% of small animal vets cite poor owner compliance (such as not making sure a pet finishes a course of antibiotics or using antibiotics prescribed for one pet for another animal) as a main driver for antimicrobial resistance
• Almost 90% of small animal vets said they had come under pressure to prescribe drugs to pets from their clients
• 82% of small animal vets said their clients are not aware of antimicrobial resistance

Calling on pet owners to work with their vet to combat the threat of antimicrobial resistance, BVA President and veterinary surgeon John Blackwell said:

“The depth of our members concerns highlights the need for every one of us to do the right thing and take responsibility for combating antimicrobial resistance for the good of both human and animal health. This means owners working with vets and understanding that in some circumstances antibiotics may not be required to treat their pets.

“We need pet owners to help us. Just as people are ever more aware that they should not go to the doctor’s surgery with the expectation that they will be prescribed antibiotics, we would ask pet owners to not automatically expect antibiotics when their pet is not well.

“We need to better inform pet owners about the risks of not following their vet’s instructions precisely when antibiotics are prescribed, particularly about what the consequences can be for using antibiotics prescribed for one pet on another. On European Antibiotic Awareness Day I would urge owners to read the excellent BVA leaflet for pet owners on their role in relation to antibiotics and to take the pledge to become an Antibiotic Guardian. We are particularly pleased that there is a special pledge for pet owners and I would urge all pet owners to make that pledge.

“We know that owners love their pets and will often think that a course of antibiotics will be the best thing to help their pets when they are ill. But the inappropriate use of antibiotics could mean that in the long-term the companion animals that mean so much to so many of us may be at risk of very serious and life-threatening infections with no ability to treat them.”
Why match making matters for Max:
Over 90% of pet vets believe screening for inherited conditions would positively impact dogs’ health and welfare

New figures released at the start of National Canine Health Testing week (17-21 November) by the British Veterinary Association (BVA) reveal that 91% of companion animal vets believe more screening for inherited conditions, such as hip dysplasia and eye problems, will positively impact canine health and welfare.

BVA is highlighting that health testing and screening is not just for purebred pedigree dogs. Screening is also important for crossbreed dogs, such as Labradoodles and Cockerpoos, which are becoming increasingly popular.

BVA and the Kennel Cub (KC) run the Canine Health Schemes to screen dogs for certain inherited conditions before they mate. Owners and breeders can use the results from the Schemes to help make more informed breeding decisions to produce happy, healthy puppies and work towards eliminating debilitating inherited conditions. The BVA/KC Canine Health Schemes cover hip and elbow dysplasia, hereditary eye disease, and Chiari-malformation/Syringomyelia.

National Canine Health Testing week promotes the message of screening before breeding to both breeders and pet owners, so breeders can select dogs that will produce healthy pups and pet owners know the questions they should ask a breeder about the puppy’s and parents’ health. In addition to the BVA/KC Schemes there are a wide range of DNA tests available to test for inherited diseases. The results of tests and screening schemes are made available on the Kennel Club’s online health resource ‘Mate Select’.

Whether a potential owner is opting for a pedigree or crossbred puppy, BVA supports the use of the Animal Welfare Foundation/RSPCA Puppy Contract and Puppy Information Pack, which contains a section for the breeder to fill out about any health screening or DNA tests and results to give added reassurance to owners. In addition, for Kennel Club registered breeds, the Assured Breeder Scheme requires certain breed-specific health tests as part of registering puppies from Assured Breeders.

BVA President and veterinary surgeon John Blackwell said: “Vets in practice see cases of inherited conditions that are debilitating and distressing for dogs, however well-loved they are. That is why the vast majority of vets see the benefit of screening for inherited conditions.

“The good news is that we have schemes and tests in place that help breeders and owners make sound judgements about responsible breeding. Anyone thinking of breeding from their dog or thinking about buying a puppy should ask their vet about available health schemes and how they can be used to inform their decisions.

“For National Canine Health Testing Week we’re also reminding people that it’s not just pedigree dogs that can inherit these disorders. There is a misconception that crossbreed dogs are protected from hereditary problems but that’s not the case.

“Health matters to all dogs, particularly when it comes to mating, and it is vital that potential mates are not at risk of passing on inherited conditions. The BVA/KC Canine Health Schemes and Kennel Club DNA testing services are critical tools for breeders. My message at the start of National Canine Health Testing week is make sure the match is a good one and apply the relevant tests to both parents before they are mated.”
Responding to the Dogs Trust report ‘The Puppy Smuggling Scandal: An investigation into the illegal entry of dogs into GB under the Pet Travel Scheme’, BVA President John Blackwell said:

“The Dogs Trust report on the illegal trade in puppies highlights the serious concerns that BVA has raised with Defra over the level of controls and checks at our borders. A recent survey of our members found that 1 in 8 had reported concerns about non-compliant passports to Trading Standards in the last 12 months.

“We welcome the introduction of new pet passports at the end of this year, which are designed to be more tamper proof and improve traceability, but we remain concerned about the robustness of border checks, and the capability of Trading Standards to effectively deal with issues of non-compliance.

“When illegal activity is involved the risk of disease entering the country is increased. The UK is free of the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis*, which can have a very serious impact on human health. If passports are being altered and dogs are being brought into the UK under the radar we have no idea if they have been treated for the tapeworm. And even though the risk of incursion of rabies is low, if passports are being falsified we simply don’t know if animals are being effectively vaccinated.

“It is shocking to learn that veterinary surgeons within the EU are implicated in the Dogs Trust exposé and we call on the UK Chief Veterinary Officer to raise these concerns with the Hungarian and Lithuanian authorities as a matter of urgency.

“It is particularly distressing that this trade compromises both the welfare of the puppies and the breeding animals that are producing them.

“The report highlights the importance of only buying a puppy from a reputable breeder based in the UK. The best way to cut off the supply of these illegal puppies is to stop the demand. That means asking questions, using the AWF/RSPCA Puppy Contract and Information Pack, and never buying a puppy without seeing it with its mother.

“Legitimate breeders and sellers will always welcome questions about their puppies’ health and wellbeing, after all they have nothing to hide. Potential puppy owners can also ask their local veterinary surgeon for advice prior to purchase.”
Female leaders and entrepreneurs ask
“Can women vets have it all?” at BVA Congress hot topic debate

BVA has announced the ‘hot topic’ session at Congress. Setting the A-Gender: women as leaders and entrepreneurs, will tackle the challenges and opportunities for a veterinary profession increasingly dominated by women.

For the first time ever, this year more than half of the respondents to the RCVS Survey of the Veterinary Profession were women. With respondents working in clinical practice being 60% female and 40% male.

And new figures from the BVA Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey panel, released ahead of the Congress debate, reveal pronounced gender differences on a number of key issues:

- Amongst respondents who said they would not be a vet in 5 years’ time 85% of males said they would be retired as opposed to 45% of females, while five times as many women as men said they would leave the profession to pursue a different career.

- Female vets who had not followed their intended career path were also more likely than average to cite better working conditions (cited by 34% of female vets as opposed to 30% on average) or compatibility with family life (cited by 33% of female vets as opposed to 25% on average) as reasons

- While 61% of vets in general rated job-related stress as not very good or terrible, this rises to 67% of female vets and 74% of vets aged 26 - 34

Speaking in the debate Jacqui Molyneux will draw on her experience as the sixth female RCVS President in a year when no women stood for council elections.

Turning this around, Ms Molyneux saw a record number of women stand the following year. Ahead of BVA Congress, Ms Molyneux said:

“Even in today's society women are led to believe they 'can't have it all' - I believe we can but we need to plan well and be flexible. Women need to be encouraged to realise they have a very important role to play in shaping the future of the profession and that their voices are valued.”

Professor Colette Henry, editor of the International Journal of Gender & Entrepreneurship and Norbrook Chair of Business and Enterprise at the Royal Veterinary College from 2009-2012, will join Ms Molyneux to argue that corporatisation could open up more career opportunities and flexible leadership roles for women and men. Professor Henry commented:

“This BVA debate is particularly timely, and offers a fantastic opportunity to begin serious discussion around both the challenges and opportunities facing the increasingly feminised veterinary profession. Yes, we need more women to take up leadership roles in existing veterinary practices, and yes, we need more women to start new practices, but there is also considerable scope for innovative and entrepreneurial development beyond veterinary practice. If we do nothing, embedded masculinised stereotypes may well prevail, preventing women from taking up roles as veterinary small business leaders and entrepreneurs. This would undoubtedly have a very negative impact on the profession.”

Can, and should, women begin to shape the profession the way they want it to accommodate their lifestyle and career choices? And does this present a challenge or an opportunity for men?
An overwhelming majority of British vets believe consumers need to be better informed about slaughter methods and welfare at slaughter. Very few vets think the public understands the difference between stunned slaughter (where the animal is stunned to render it insensible to pain before having its throat cut) and non-stunned slaughter.

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) released new figures on vets’ attitudes to the slaughter of animals to coincide with a parliamentary debate on meat slaughtered in accordance with religious rites on Tuesday 4 November 2014.

BVA’s Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey reveals that 94% of vets believe UK consumers of meat and fish should be better informed about slaughter methods. Just 11% of vets believe the public understands the difference between stunned and non-stunned slaughter.

The survey follows BVA’s high-profile #stun4slaughter campaign, which calls for an end to all non-stun slaughter in the UK. Although EU and UK law requires all animals to be pre-stunned, non-stun slaughter is permitted for some communities. BVA’s e-petition to end non-stun slaughter makes clear that vets’ concern does not relate to religious belief but to the animal welfare compromise of non-stun slaughter. BVA’s e-petition is now close to 80,000 signatures.

Vets’ own preferences as consumers are clear: 9 out of 10 would NOT buy meat from non-stunned animals but almost all (97%) WOULD buy meat and fish labelled as “pre-stunned at slaughter”.

Labelling is one of the issues that will be discussed in Tuesday’s parliamentary debate secured by Neil Parish MP, chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Beef and Lamb. The Westminster Hall debate will not have a vote at the end. But BVA hopes that its e-petition, upon reaching 100,000 signatures, will trigger a full parliamentary debate where a vote will be recorded.

Speaking ahead of Tuesday’s debate, BVA President John Blackwell said:

“Vets’ commitment to the welfare of all animals throughout their lives, up to and including death, is clearly reflected in the latest findings from the BVA Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey. 97% of vets would choose to buy meat and fish that has been stunned before slaughter to render the animal insensible to pain. But there is much more to be done to educate the general public about welfare at slaughter. We know that UK consumers care about animal welfare but our members believe that there needs to be better understanding about methods of slaughter and how that impacts on welfare. We believe labelling that clearly explains the method of slaughter would help all consumers make informed choices about the products they wish to buy.

“We are working hard to ensure our e-petition reaches 100,000 signatures to show the strength of feeling on this important welfare issue that affects millions of animals every year.”
On behalf of Turkish Veterinary Medical Association and the Congress Organizing Committee, it is my great pleasure and honor to invite you to attend the 32<sup>nd</sup> World Veterinary Congress (WVC).

The 32<sup>nd</sup> World Veterinary Congress will be held in Istanbul from September 13<sup>th</sup> to September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

WVCs constitute an important forum and exciting venue for dissemination of advanced scientific knowledge and technological development in most veterinary fields such as animal health and welfare, one health, food hygiene and veterinary education.

In addition, the congress will provide an ideal platform for young and senior scientists and colleagues, animal health industry representatives from across the world to meet and discuss present and emerging problems of the veterinary medicine, to learn more about recent advances, likely future developments and potential research avenues and to exchange ideas and experiences in our -field- all within an unique environment.

Istanbul, which uniquely spans the two continents of Europe and Asia, acts as a bridge between Western and Eastern Civilizations, is a city that calmly combines the traditional with the modern.

Istanbul is one of the biggest cities in the world with its history of over 2500 years and wonderful natural scenery. Excellent social facilities and services being in the walking distance to the Congress Venue in the heart of the city, we would like to assure you that this beautiful city, with its spiritual and modern atmosphere, is going to fulfill the expectations and represent a great time for all the Congress participants.

We look forward to welcoming you in Istanbul. We are certain that you will greatly enjoy this major scientific and social event of our profession as well as Turkish culture, cuisine and hospitality.

Dr. Irfan EROL, DVM, Prof. Congress Chairman

Online registration is open now:

www.wvcistanbul2015.com/?page=registration

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/wvcistanbul2015
Save the date

WVA/WMA GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ONE HEALTH
Thursday, 21st May – Friday, 22nd May 2015
Madrid, Spain.

Drivers towards One Health
“Strengthening collaboration between medical and animal doctors”

The World Veterinary Association and the World Medical Association in collaboration with the Spanish Medical and Veterinary associations are preparing a Global Conference on ‘One Health’ Concept to be held on 21st and 22nd of May in Madrid, Spain. The Global Conference aims to bring together Veterinarians, Physicians, Students, Public Health Officials, NGOs and others from the different world regions to learn, discuss and to address critical aspects of the ‘One Health’ Concept.

The main objectives of the conference are to strengthen the links and communications and to achieve closer collaboration between Physicians, Veterinarians and all appropriate stakeholders to improve the different aspects of health and welfare of humans, animals and the environment.

The conference sessions will focus on the issues of:
- Zoonotic diseases
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Natural disaster management – Preparedness and vet-med collaboration
- Environmental hazards exposure to humans and animals

More details regarding the conference and registrations will be published soon on WVA and WMA websites

[www.worldvet.org](http://www.worldvet.org)  [www.wma.net](http://www.wma.net)
Master of Veterinary Medicine, Massey University – February 2015

Online continuing education for practicing veterinarians worldwide through the Master of Veterinary Medicine programme at Massey University. Massey University is an AVMA accredited veterinary school in Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Enrolments are open for the following courses starting in February 2015:

**Companion Animal:** Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, Endocrinology, Veterinary Clinical Reproduction

**Production Animal:** Ruminant Nutrition, Veterinary Clinical Reproduction

**Equine:** Veterinary Clinical Reproduction

For more information about the Master of Veterinary Medicine program and individual courses, visit [www.mvm.massey.ac.nz](http://www.mvm.massey.ac.nz) or email mvm@massey.ac.nz.

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Enrolments are now open for the following courses starting in July 2015:

**Companion Animal:** Neurology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedic Surgery

**Production Animal:** Cattle Lameness

**Equine:** Equine Lameness

**Epidemiology:** Principles of Veterinary Epidemiology

**Veterinary Business Administration:** Leadership & People

For more information about the Master of Veterinary Medicine program and individual courses, visit [www.mvm.massey.ac.nz](http://www.mvm.massey.ac.nz) or email mvm@massey.ac.nz.
Calendar of Events

8th Sudan Poultry Expo
25th - 28th February 2015
Khartoum International Fair Ground
E-mail: simsim362002@yahoo.com

2nd Conference on International Dog Population Management
3rd – 5th March 2015
Istanbul, Turkey
Website: www.dogpopulationmanagement2015.org

Vet Lectures and The International Union of Veterinary Cyclists
March 12th – 15th, 2015
Sedona, Arizona.
Website: www.vetlectures.com

3rd International One Health Congress 2015
15th – 18th March 2015
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Website: www.iohc2015.com

6th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference & 27th VAM Congress
23rd - 27th March 2015
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Website: www.cvaconference2015pcvc6.com
E-mail: secretariat@cvaconference2015pcvc6.com

Improving pig welfare – what are the ways forward?
26th - 27th March 2015
Copenhagen, Denmark
Website
www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/english/Animal/AnimalWelfare/DCAW/Pages/default.aspx

BSAVA Congress
9th – 12th April, 2015
Birmingham, UK
Website: www.bsava.com/Congress.aspx

International Conference on Diseases of Zoo and Wild Animals 2015
13th - 16th May 2015
Barcelona, Spain
Website: www.zoovet-conference.org

WVA/WMA Global Conference on One Health
21st – 22nd May 2015
Drivers towards One Health
“Strengthening collaboration between medical and animal doctors”
Madrid, Spain
Websites: www.worldvet.org and www.wma.net

XXII International Congress of Mediterranean Federation of Health and Production of Ruminants
17th - 20th June 2015
Sassari, Sardinia, Italia

2015 Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Convention
July 16th – 19th, 2015
Calgary, Alberta
Website: www.canadianveterinarians.net/science-knowledge/annual-convention

HSA International Symposium 2015: Recent Advances II
Food animal welfare during transport, marketing and slaughter
16th - 17th July 2015
Zagreb, Croatia
Website: www.hsa.org.uk/internationalsymposium

Future World Veterinary Congresses

32nd World Veterinary Congress
13th – 16th September, 2015
Istanbul, Turkey
www.wvcistanbul2015.com

33rd World Veterinary Congress
August, 2017
Incheon, Korea