



WORLD VETERINARY  
ASSOCIATION



## 2020 WORLD VETERINARY DAY AWARD

### *Environmental Protection for Improving Animal and Human Health*

World Veterinary Day is celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April to recognize the work of veterinarians and their contributions to the advancement of animal health, welfare, and public health worldwide. The World Veterinary Association (WVA) and HealthforAnimals worked together to organize the 2020 World Veterinary Day Award to reward the most successful contribution by members of the veterinary profession on the selected annual theme: ***Environmental Protection for Improving Animal and Human Health.***

As an integral component of the One Health tripartite and advocates for the One Health concept, veterinarians know that environmental, human, and animal health are inextricably linked. Negative changes to the environment complicate the prevention and control of a growing number of public health threats at the human-animal-ecosystem interface. Veterinarians have the responsibility as well as opportunity to safeguard our environment for future generations through better animal and public health. Their actions help mitigate the effects of climate change, ensure proper disposal of medical waste, and support responsible use of natural resources (such as water and feed) necessary in raising livestock and maintaining livelihoods.

The WVA and HealthforAnimals received several project submissions from Member Associations around the world, each one highlighting impressive work by veterinarians in the areas of environmental protection and sustainability. The candidates were assessed based on their ability to raise awareness of the 2020 WVD theme and advance the underlying goals.

After careful consideration of the materials submitted by all applicants, we are delighted to announce the winner of the 2020 World Veterinary Day Award:



***Indian Veterinary Association – Kerala***

# Indian Veterinary Association – Kerala

For 20 years, World Veterinary Day has been an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of veterinarians to society. The application submitted by the Indian Veterinary Association – Kerala (IVA Kerala) truly captures the spirit of World Veterinary Day and underlines the strong commitment of Indian veterinary professionals to the advancement of the profession. Despite the



restrictions imposed by the SARS-CoV2 pandemic, IVA Kerala displayed impressive resilience. The association shifted activities online so they could virtually and safely raise awareness on the theme, Environmental Protection for Improving Animal and Human Health, and the important role that veterinarians play in environmental protection.



Through sound partnership and engagement with veterinarians and para-veterinary professionals, veterinary students, farmers, Kerala governmental authorities, and the general public, IVA Kerala promoted the 2020 WVD theme while rising to the challenge of the SARS-CoV2 pandemic – providing critical resources and support to their local communities.

Among the **75 TOTAL World Veterinary Day activities** submitted by IVA Kerala in support of their application, a few activities stood out the most:

- Adoption of a World Veterinary Day Pledge
- 4-day national online seminar
- A series of publications and competitions
- Tree planting campaign
- Implementation of televeterinary services for farmers
- Development of an android app
- Distribution of livestock feed to farmers in need
- Distribution of PPE to healthcare workers
- A series of social media campaigns
- One Health art exhibition
- Development of educational programs for farmers
- Women's veterinary convention with a focus on equality



***Congratulations to IVA Kerala for their tremendous efforts in observance of World Veterinary Day!***

# 2020 World Veterinary Day Activities

The WVA would like to thank all of the veterinary organizations and associated veterinary professionals around the world for their active participation in observance of World Veterinary Day. In recognition of their efforts, please see below for highlights of selected WVD celebrations submitted by veterinary professionals around the globe.



**British Veterinary Association:** Publication of a *One Health in Action* report, including a section on the environment and climate change.

**Thai Veterinary Association under Royal Patronage:** Exotic animal rescue, marine conservation, sea turtle rehabilitation, and animal-assisted therapy for autistic children.



**Society of Veterinary Scientists and Academicians:** Organization of a webinar series, student contests, telemedicine services, and publication of WVD activities in a variety of sources.

**Zimbabwe Veterinary Association:** Social media campaigns, WVD themed articles, and video challenges in partnership with their national student association (ZVSA)



**Indian Veterinary Association:** Organization of an international veterinary webinar series.

**Uganda Veterinary Association:** Environmental cleanup & management of veterinary drug waste, tree-planting events, national policy initiatives, vaccine campaigns, and radio shows on the WVD theme.



**Bangladesh Livestock Society:** Organization of webinars, publication of newspaper articles, tree planting, and providing aid to rural farmers.

**Turkish Veterinary Medical Association:** Social media campaigns, promotional videos, and national advocacy efforts.



World Veterinary Day is celebrated each year on the last Saturday of April, and will take place next year on **April 24<sup>th</sup> 2021**.

Keep an eye on the WVA [website](#) for the release of the 2021 WVD theme.

