The World Veterinary Day is celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April to recognize the work of veterinarians around the world and their contributions to improve animal health and welfare, as well as public health. This year, the World Veterinary Association (WVA) partnered with HealthforAnimals to organize the World Veterinary Day Award to reward the most successful contribution by the veterinary profession on the selected annual theme. For 2019, the theme was “Value of Vaccination”.

Vaccination is an essential tool for preventive veterinary medicine, promotion of animal health and welfare, and reducing the risk of human exposure to many zoonotic pathogens.

Historically, immunization practices and vaccination protocols have contributed to significantly reduce the prevalence of many life-threatening diseases. The risks of not vaccinating can be significant to individual animals and populations, and can have consequences on livelihoods of rural livestock producers in economically developed and emerging regions.

Effective vaccination programs, broadly implemented, are likely to reduce the need for antimicrobials, which in turn can help reduce the risk of emergent antimicrobial resistance.

The World Veterinary Association and HealthforAnimals believe it is essential for the global veterinary profession to educate the public, particularly animal owners and producers, about the benefits of vaccination for animal, human, and public health.

By the indicated deadline, the WVA and HealthforAnimals received 13 project applications. The WVA review committee assessed the quality of the projects and related activities, the ability to raise awareness on the 2019 theme and actions taken contributing to the achievement of the theme goals.

The winner of the 2019 World Veterinary Day Award is Uganda Veterinary Association (UVA). It is the first time that the WVD Award is given to the same organisation in consecutive years.
The UVA’s application underlines the strong commitment of the Ugandan veterinarians to promote the World Veterinary Day and to celebrate the veterinary profession in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and the local government of Buyende district. Through its numerous activities, UVA raised awareness about the theme “value of vaccination” and the role of veterinarians in this field. UVA organized a number of vaccination campaigns in different animal species and prepared public events to promote the WVD2019 theme and the veterinary profession in the country.

The official presentation of the WVD Award will take place in Kampala, Uganda on 14-15th November 2019 during the UVA annual symposium and general assembly meeting.

Hereafter, the list of UVAs activities to celebrate the World Veterinary Day 2019:

- Vaccination campaigns against foot and mouth disease, Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia, Rabies and Newcastle Disease.
- Radio and TV interviews to highlight the value of vaccination and the role of veterinarians in safeguarding animal and public health.
- Whatsapp conference on Vetforum on the theme “value of vaccination”.
- Veterinary march to celebrate the WVD 2019.
- Recognition of a researcher; Prof. Vinand Nantulya for developing the “KUKUSTAR”, a thermostable vaccine against Newcastle Disease.
- Publications of news items in leading national journals (e.g. The Daily Monitor and The New Vision).
- Publication of articles on Vet and Livestock magazine in honour of the WVD 2019 giving focus to the WVD 2019 theme.
- Organisation of a One Health seminar focusing on WVD2019 theme.
- Organisation of a One Health Workshop together with the Food and Agriculture Organization, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and the Buyende District Local Government.
- School and career guidance programs.
- Exhibition by farmers and pharmaceutical companies.
The World Veterinary Day 2019 will take place on Saturday 25th April 2020.

The theme for the WVD Award 2020 will be published soon on the [WVA website](#).

The WVA would like to thank all the veterinary associations and other entities that celebrated the WVD 2019, recognizing their efforts and preparations to celebrate the veterinary profession under the WVD 2019 theme. Please find hereafter short summaries of the celebrations and activities around the world, promoting the veterinary profession.

**Bangladesh Livestock Society**

BLS Initiated awareness campaign on the WVD2019 theme with veterinary executives, private medicine companies and ROVAR-2019. A *Human Chain* took place in Grand rally to emphasis the importance vaccination in animals and people.

**Veterinary & Animal Sciences Teachers’ Association (VASTA) and College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences CSK HPKV Palampur**

Veterinary and Animal Sciences Teachers Association (VASTA) together with students, pharmaceutical companies and laboratory equipment suppliers celebrated the WVD2019 with a number of activities including:

- A theme-based lecture by a faculty member.
- Theme based poster making, slogan and poetry competition for College students.
- Science quiz competition for the school children.
- An awareness Bike rally / Half Marathon by College students.
- Clinical activities: Anti-rabies vaccination and deworming.
- Blood Donation by College students.
- Traditional Dham / Lunch.
- Mega event “Cultural Night” in University Auditorium.

**Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir**

Animal Husbandry Department, Kashmir celebrated the WVD2019 theme ‘Value of Vaccination’ by formally launching the first round of FMD-CP vaccination of 2019 from Block Office Batapora (Hazratbal). The drive was launched by Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir Ms. Purnima Mittal (KAS). The worthy Director accompanied by senior officers of the department, speaking on the occasion emphasized on the significance of timely Vaccination and follow ups while interacting with the farmers. Medicines and feed supplements were also distributed among the farmers at the event.

Mass Vaccination Drive was being undertaken in all districts of the valley. Later in the day vaccination drive for small animals and birds was also conducted at Central Veterinary Hospital Srinagar (Gaw Kadal). Many animal owners thronged the spot for participation in the vaccination drive. While vaccinating the animals, Veterinary Doctors also made aware the owners about improving the health of their animals by being cautious about timely vaccination.

An interactive program with newly recruited Veterinary Assistant Surgeons was also scheduled at main hall of the Directorate, Gaw Kadal. The session was chaired by worthy Director, Ms. Purnima Mittal who formally welcomed the newly recruited Veterinary Doctors and implored them to use their knowledge and skill for upliftment of the farming community and rural economy of the state.
Birds and Pet Animal Clinic organized a colorful rally with veterinarians, animal owners different veterinary companies. During the event, rabies vaccines, anthelmintic, veterinary treatments and medications were given for free to animals.

Pashu Chikitsak Mahasangh (PCM) and Indian Veterinary Association (IVA)

Pashu Chikitsak Mahasangh (PCM) and Indian Veterinary Association (IVA) with active collaboration of State Veterinary Associations, State Veterinary Councils and Veterinary Institutions organized:

- Seminars and conferences
- Anti-Rabies Camp
- Deworming Camps
- Pet Shows threw out the Country

Livestock office Tehsil Kallurkot District Bhakkar Punjab - Pakistan

World veterinary day 2019 was celebrated at the Deputy Director Livestock Office Tehsil Kallurkot District Bhakkar punjab Pakistan.
Karnataka Veterinary Association - Karnataka State, Republic of India

Vaccination campaigns were organized with involvement of farmers in addition to publications of WVD items on journals and tv news.

Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association

NVMA organized lots of activities ranging from seminars, public lecture, radio and TV programs, awareness campaign on the need to ensure timely vaccination of animals against endemic vaccinable diseases in the country.

Tanzania Veterinary Association (TVA)

TVA organised the following activities:

- **Seminars and workshops for veterinarians/physicians/public health workers on WVD 2019 theme**
- **Education sessions for the general public on WVD 2019 theme**
- **Media involvement such newspaper articles, radio and television discussion on WVD theme, etc.**
- **Promote activities on WVD 2019 theme through social media**
Veterinary Association Malaysia

- Promotion on World Veterinary Day 2019 celebration was done through Television Malaysia (Selamat Pagi Malaysia, Al-Hijrah), Radio and social media.
- Oath taking ceremony during opening ceremony of WVD 2019
- Public engagement day involving stake holders such as farmers, pet owners, pharmacist, pharmaceutical companies, veterinarians, vet students, relevant ministries and the public
- Mobile Vet Clinic provided by Department of Veterinary Services (DVS). Vaccination and deworming program and free physical examination and consultation for pets.
- Open dialogue session with farmers, stakeholder and DVS officers.
- Static exhibition by government agencies, associations, local entrepreneurs - 40 booths.
- Petting Zoo and Livestock exhibition.
- Nipah Disease Episode Exhibition by Veterinary Research Institute – to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Nipah virus outbreak, which killed more than 100 people in year 1999.
- Agriculture and agro-based product exhibition and product promotion by agropreneurs under Ministry of Agriculture & Agro Based Industry (MOA) and DVS.
- Concurrent open seminar on value of vaccination and animal welfare. And more...

Nepal Veterinary Association

All celebrations were around the theme “Value of Vaccination”, the slogan put forward by World Veterinary Association for 2019, Several activities organized in different areas of Nepal such as anti-rabies vaccination campaign, educating school students on the value of vaccination and mass awareness rallies with slogans
highlighting the importance of vaccination and mass media campaign were conducted with active participation from more than 5,000 Veterinarians, Paraprofessionals, veterinary students and stakeholders.

**Bangladesh Veterinary Association**

The WVD 2019 celebrations include a day long program through the World Veterinary day rally, inaugural session, scientific seminar, discussion with policymakers and the Vet Executive Award Ceremony.

**Emirates Veterinary Association**

The EVA organized an event to celebrate the WVD2019 hosting several veterinarians and doctors from all around the world. Posters on four selected topics were displayed and discussed during the event. The event was covered by the media.
Kenya Veterinary Association

Kenya Veterinary Association celebrated the 53rd Annual Scientific Conference and The World Veterinary Day on the 24th -26th April with the theme of “Value of Vaccination”. The program included:

- Scientific presentations and workshop covered by media
- A Concert and an educative performance with key messages on world veterinary day and its theme
- Livestock producer’s exhibitions and more.

The Marocan National Veterinary Association

Project Hayat: vaccination against rabies, treating for parasites, neutering, and tagging of stray dogs and cats in Tangier, the project also conducts education activity program in local primary and secondary. This project involves the whole community. Over 30,000 students and locals have learned about this project to date. This is a continuous long-term project, there are an estimated number of 30,000 stray dogs and even more cats in Tangier. The project covered by Social media, TV and newspaper.

Kurdistan Veterinary Syndicate/Branch Duhok

World Veterinary Day 2019 Activities:

- Vaccination of DHPPI+LR of Shepard dogs for the first time during Iraqi history.
- Education and awareness of owners (shepherds): this project will help 50 shepherd dogs to become healthier and safer from viral diseases, especially Rabies.
- Educate and raise awareness among the public to know about Rabies by organizing seminars, slide shows, fun quizzes and interactive games in kindergarten, schools and children centres, introducing zoonotic disease articles into the educational system, Inform and interact with the public via social media (newspaper, magazine, T.V Radio, FB etc.)
Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

Seen the declining vaccination rates in Europe through vaccine hesitation, FVE decided World Veterinary Day 2019 would be the ideal opportunity to put the benefits vaccination has given to people and animals over the years into the picture. As such, FVE did a great number of activities this year for WVD. FVE’s main campaign was run through social media in collaboration with many partner organisations side activities to promote vaccination such as:

- Infographic together with AnimalHealthEurope and FECAVA.
- EPRUMA position paper & Best-practice framework for the use of vaccines in animals.
- Lobbying European Policy makers to underline the role and added value of vaccination in animals.
- AVMA, CVMA, WVA position paper on the added value of vaccination and FVE position paper on veterinary vaccination = veterinary act.
- FVE contribution to WVA Summit on vaccination.

The World Veterinary Day 2019 will take place on Saturday 25th April 2020.

The theme for the WVD Award 2020 will be published soon on the WVA website