About the WVA

In 1863, Dr. J. Gamgee convened the first International Veterinary Congress. This initiative ultimately grew into the World Veterinary Association (WVA) as it is known today: a global association that represents over 500,000 veterinarians worldwide through its 95 member associations. The WVA continues to build on Dr. Gamgee’s ambition to unite veterinarians from around the world to share experiences, exchange ideas, and to unify for the advancement of the veterinary profession. The WVA defends the interest of its member organizations and their general body members, and holds the need for international consonance in veterinary medicine to be self-evident. Disease control and prevention, food safety and security, animal welfare, the availability of medicinal products, and the ecological impact of human and animal health systems, are all issues that necessitate a global approach. Through promotion and practice of the One Health concept, the WVA strives to protect the health and welfare of humans, animals, and the environment. The WVA partners with relevant organizations and authorities to offer advocacy, support, and education on global veterinary issues.

Mission

To provide **global leadership** for the veterinary profession and promote animal health and welfare and public health, through advocacy, education, and partnership.

Vision

*The World Veterinary Association is recognized and respected as the trusted and influential voice of global veterinary medicine.*
WVA Core Values

**KNOWLEDGE**

The WVA provides evidence-based statements and guidelines on relevant veterinary and public health issues.

**COMMUNITY**

The WVA provides its members with valuable resources, a global veterinary network, a unified voice in the global veterinary arena, and is a reliable partner for issues relating to international veterinary medicine and education.

**NIMBLENES**

The WVA is proactive and responsive to member issues.

**TRANSPARENCY**

WVA activities are carried out in an independent, ethical, and professionally responsible manner, in the best interest of WVA members, partners, and society.

**RESPECT**

The WVA fosters a conscious and inclusive environment wherein each individual is accepted, valued, and treated with dignity.
WVA Strategy 2020-2025

In March of 2020, the WVA Council adopted the WVA Strategic Planning Working Group’s (SPWG) proposal for the 2020 – 2025 WVA Strategy. Understanding there are limitless issues of importance, and taking into consideration the input received from Constituent Members, key partners, and the WVA Council in the pre-meeting surveys, the WVA elected to focus on four priority areas:

- Animal Welfare
- Pharmaceutical Stewardship
- Veterinary Education
- One Health

The SPWG also identified an ancillary point of focus for the Association – to improve WVA operations and to promote visibility and key partnerships.

The WVA believes that each of the priority areas holds intrinsic value to WVA Members, WVA partners, and global public interest. The WVA priority areas are strongly dependent on a WVA with sound governance, financial stability, and the ability to collaborate with key stakeholders on areas of mutual interest and benefit.

The WVA continues its work in the aforementioned priority areas through the efforts of the WVA Council, WVA Committees, and the WVA Strategic Focus Groups (SFGs), which include a vast network of external experts who support the WVA in its endeavors. Through collaborative partnerships with intergovernmental agencies, NGOs, industry leaders, and other relevant stakeholders, the WVA ensures effective cooperation in advancing the veterinary profession and the standards of human and animal health worldwide.

Strategic Goals 2020-2021

The WVA aims to provide leadership, advocacy, and support to its Member Associations in their own areas of interest, and to promote the veterinary profession globally while focusing on the following goals:
### Veterinary Education
- Develop a common self-assessment tool for veterinary colleges.
- Review the MSD-WVA Veterinary Student Scholarship applications.
- Conduct regional surveys regarding accreditation standards in use.
- Work with member associations to leverage opportunities for WVA members to access existing veterinary well-being programs.

### Pharmaceutical Stewardship
- Advocate for the availability and access to quality pharmaceuticals and biologics for veterinarians worldwide.
- Develop a list of essential veterinary pharmaceuticals that should be available for use by food animal practitioners.
- Contribute to global AMR discussions as they pertain to veterinarians and their access to and use of antimicrobials.

### One Health
- Provide education on One Health topics at the WVA Global Summit.
- Develop a position statement on the global climate emergency.
- Celebrate the 2020 World Veterinary Day Award, with focus on the environment.
- Continue policy work and activities on food safety and security.

### Animal Welfare
- Develop a food animal pain statement.
- Develop guidelines for keeping horses for eCG (PMSG) production.
- Develop animal welfare content for annual veterinary CE.
- Develop AW factsheets on emerging areas of interest and concern.

### Operations, Visibility & Partnerships
- Introduce WVA, Council, and President to member associations and regional CVO offices, as needed.
- Formalize a strategy for communications and leadership development.
- Prepare monthly news communications to highlight activities and members.
- Introduce an ad hoc Executive Committee to promote nimbleness in decision-making.
- Initiate a review and update of the Constitution and Bylaws.
- Solicit new members, partners and sponsors.
- Ensure accountability of Committees and Strategic Focus Groups (SFGs).