



WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION



INFONEWS

WHO-OIE Global Conference on Global Elimination of Dog-Mediated Human Rabies – The Time Is Now



On 10-11 December, the WVA President, Dr René Carlson and WVA Policy Officer, Dr Zeev Noga attended the [WHO-OIE Global Conference on Global Elimination of Dog-Mediated Human Rabies](#). Participants from Ministries of Health and Veterinary Services, national rabies coordinators, experts from the veterinary and the human health sectors and international organisations came together to prepare a **global framework to achieve zero human deaths from dog mediated rabies by 2030 worldwide**. WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan said in her opening speech that *“Rabies is 100% preventable through vaccination and timely immunization after exposure, but access to post bite treatment is expensive and is not affordable in many Asian and African countries; **If we follow this more comprehensive approach, we can consign rabies to the history books**”*. WVA President presented the [Role of Private Veterinarians in Rabies Elimination](#) underlining the reasons why Private Veterinarians must act and informed the audience about the WVA Community-based Rabies Prevention Project.

The conference also promoted the One Health inter-sectoral collaboration approach between the human and animal health sectors to fight rabies. In this regards, WVA Policy Officer, presented to the delegates a poster on the [World Veterinary and Medical Associations collaboration on One Health](#). (In the top picture, WHO DG, Dr Margaret Chan and OIE DG, Dr Bernard Vallat during the conference opening session. picture by WHO. in below picture, WVA President presenting the WVA strategy on Rabies).



Global elimination of human rabies – The time is now!

WVA and OIE meeting to follow up the organisations collaboration plan



During the above mentioned conference, the WVA President met with the OIE outgoing Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat and the incoming DG, Dr Monique Eloit to discuss the WVA-OIE collaboration plan for 2016. The meeting focused on World Veterinary Day 2016 Award, WVA Rabies projects, OIE Veterinary Education Core Curriculum and both WVA and OIE events to be held during 2016. WVA President concluded the meeting by congratulate Dr Vallat for his approaching retirement after 15

years in the leadership of the OIE and the outstanding achievements for the global veterinary community. She highlighted that the WVA is looking very much forward to continue the good collaborations with the succeeding OIE DG, Dr Monique Eloit. (in the picture, from right to left, Dr Bernard Vallat, Dr René Carlson and Dr Monique Eloit).

Published article by WVA Councillor on Zoonotic Diseases



In the December issue of the International Animal Health Journal, an article by Dr Zoran Katrinka, WVA Councillor for Europe, was published on *Zoonotic Diseases, the Global Ecosystem and the Human-Animal-Environment Interface*. Dr Katrinka took a comprehensive look at zoonotic diseases; how they occur and how our rapidly changing population is affecting their prevalence. The author advocates a 'One Health' approach in the treatment of zoonotic diseases – a collaborative, international, cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary mechanism to address threats and reduce risks of detrimental infectious diseases at the animal-human-ecosystem interface. The full article can be found [HERE](#).

WVA Activities – In short

WHO Recommends against International Control of Ketamine: The WVA President presentation at the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD), which was developed with the input of many WVA member associations, expressed strong opposition to the international restriction of ketamine. Six testimonial statements were made by representatives of the medical sector. The WVA represented the global veterinary sector at the hearing. The WHO subsequently published a recommendation that ketamine should not be placed under international control after review of the latest evidence by the WHO ECDD. The Committee concluded that ketamine abuse does not pose a global public health threat, while controlling it could limit access to the only anaesthetic and pain killer available in large areas of the developing world. This ECDD recommendation will be conveyed to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for its final decision in March 2016. **WVA would like to thank very much to all its members that helped and contributed to prepare the WVA position statement.**



Meeting with World Animal Protection: WVA President and WVA Policy Officer met with World Animal Protection Acting CEO, Steve McIvor to discuss the organisation action plan for 2016 on Animal Welfare issue focusing on support and promotion of continued excellence in veterinary animal welfare education and initiatives that support government veterinary services in understanding the issues affecting animals in communities, in farming, in disasters and in the wild.

Meeting with HealthforAnimals: WVA President and WVA Policy Officer met with HealthforAnimals Executive Director, Carel du Marchie Sarvaas to discuss future partnership and projects. HealthforAnimals will release soon their 2015 Report on Innovation in the areas of Vaccine Technology, Food Production, Lifestyle Diseases of Pets, and Zoonotic Diseases (including vector borne diseases). The two organisations discussed a proposal for a future project that will be developed further in the next months.



Meeting with World Continuing Education Alliance:



The World Continuing
Education Alliance

WVA President met with Graham Hellier, CEO of World Continuing Education Alliance to discuss the next steps to improve the [WVA online education portal](#). The Portal now has over 850 pieces of educational content provided by 75 associations and prominent veterinary education establishments (VEEs). It is an exciting platform of the future to access top quality continuing education for free by any veterinarian in the world. It gives Associations and Educators the opportunity for visibility for their organizations and institutions and to use a state-of-the-art platform to share educational content for a very reasonable fee.

Thank you for your membership. We need your expertise and participation for the world to hear our message about our role as veterinarians for the global public good. We need your input as Constituent Members or Observers for our discussions. Don't be left out of the process!

Please forward this info-news to your individual members

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