



WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



INFONEWS

## Message from the WVA President



Dear WVA members,

This was a very sad time for the WVA Council and for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region with the passing of Prof. Dr. Farouk El Dessouky. Dr. El Dessouky was a highly respected and passionately dedicated veterinarian to his work, his profession, and to organized veterinary medicine. He will be dearly missed by the WVA and his many friends and colleagues who knew him best. The WVA extends our sincerest sympathies to his family during this difficult time.

## Revision of the WVA Policy Statements



WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

World Veterinary Association  
Policy on the Role of the Veterinarian in Animal Welfare

**INTRODUCTION**

It is widely acknowledged that animal welfare science is a dynamic and multi-disciplinary field of endeavor. Its application includes scientific and ethical obligations to the physical and mental wellbeing of animals, and it also has ethical implications in regards to human social and cultural needs.

Ensuring good animal welfare is a core mandate of individual veterinarians as well as the veterinary community generally. This concept is articulated by many veterinary organizations in their Code of Practice, Veterinary Oath or other statements of commitment. Such statements centre on the common theme that "a veterinarian should be dedicated to the benefit of society, the conservation of animal resources and the relief of suffering of animals and to promote animal wellbeing".

As scientific knowledge in the field of animal welfare expands, and the expectations of society change regarding animal care, so the concepts and accepted definitions of animal welfare have evolved. A global example of this comes from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), which defines animal welfare in their Terrestrial Animal Health Code. This definition concludes by indicating that animal welfare can be assessed by examining how an animal is coping with its living conditions. Further, an animal can be said to be in a positive state of welfare if it is healthy, comfortable, well-nourished, safe and able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states, such as pain, boredom, and distress.

This definition is reflective of the "Five Freedoms" that are widely accepted as the foundation of good animal welfare. Accordingly, it has been recognized that good animal welfare also includes consideration of animal affective state (i.e., how the animal feels) as well as an emphasis on natural living (i.e., consideration of whether the animal can express behaviours that are specific to that species).

The WVA dedicated working groups on the WVA priorities issues with the grateful help of the WVA experts and comments from the WVA members are revising all the WVA Policy Statements. The WVA Council adopted recently the WVA Policy Statements on the [Role of the Veterinarian in Animal Welfare](#) and on the [Control of Inappropriately Aggressive Dogs](#).

In this regards, the WVA Policy Committee together with the WVA Working Group on Zoonotic Diseases would like to invite you to express your opinion regarding the **WVA draft position on Dog-Mediated Rabies** (click [here](#) for the word document). The deadline for WVA members' inputs is 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016. The WVA would like to thank you in advance for your kind contributions.

## AAVMC Annual Conference



2nd GCOH in Japan in November 2016.

The WVA President was invited to give a plenary presentation at 50th Anniversary Conference of the American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) in Washington DC focusing on One Health, specifically the outcomes and recommendations from the 1<sup>st</sup> WVA/WMA Global Conference on One Health in Madrid last May. There was an emphasis on moving toward a more preventive and inter-professional Approach which will be further explored in the

## WVA Year for Veterinary Continuing Education



XXV Congreso  
Panamericano  
de Ciencias  
Veterinarias

PANAMÁ PARA EL MUNDO: UNA SOLA SALUD  
Ciudad de Panamá 3-7 octubre de 2016

PANVET



The WVA Year for Veterinary Continuing Education is getting ready for a very busy fall with two major continuing education meetings.

[PANVET 2016](#) (PANVET is a WVA Member) Congress will be held from 3-7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in Panama. The WVA Council and General Assembly will be held in Latin America for the first time in association with the PANVET Congress. Come enjoy everything Panama has to offer, including the new Panama Canal.



The second event is [2nd Global Conference on One Health](#) that will take place in Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan on 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The 2GCOH is following the successful GCOH that was held in Madrid in May 2015. The WVA and WMA in close collaboration with the Japan Medical Association (JMA) and the Japan Veterinary Medical Association (JVMA) are looking forward to welcoming you in Japan.

**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**

**WVA • Avenue de Tervueren 12 • 1040 Brussels • [secretariat@worldvet.org](mailto:secretariat@worldvet.org)**

**[Follow the World Veterinary Association on Facebook](#)**