



WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION



INFONEWS

WVA President's message



For WVA to be the global voice, WVA must speak out on its priority issues. Last week, the WVA sent out a strategic questionnaire to all WVA Members and to each of the 17 Council members in preparation for the upcoming Council meeting in March in Brussels. It focuses on what has worked, what hasn't, what criteria we will use to determine our most important issues (because there are a lot of opinions out there) and how we will move that forward. I would urge all Members to return them after thoughtful consideration because we want diverse Member input, not just from the small number of people sitting on the WVA Council; rather we need input that will serve all regional interests about the most important roles we have as veterinarians for global concerns. Let's make this a highly participatory exercise so we get the best results!

World Health Day 2015



World Health Day is sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) each year on April 7. This year's theme is Food Safety. Currently 1 in every 8 people on earth is hungry and each year unsafe food is linked to the deaths of an estimated 2 million people. Veterinarians play a major role in assuring the safety of food of animal origin. They also have the responsibility to educate on good husbandry, instill preventive care principles, make sure medicines are used responsibly, and to help assure the health of animals intended for food, because "healthy animals make healthy food". The WVA fully supports this year's theme for World Health Day of Food Safety by the WHO. (See link at <http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2015/event/en/>.)

Increasing risk of global pandemics



WVA/WMA GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ONE HEALTH
21st and 22nd
May 2015
Madrid
Spain

Drivers towards One Health
Strengthening collaboration between medical and animal doctors

An area of major concern in the coming decades is the increasing risk of global pandemics. We know the vast majority of these infectious diseases are harboured in wildlife until the pathogens find an opportunity to “spill over” to other hosts, including humans. With the increased proximity of large populations of people near wildlife habitat (and as more habitat is lost), humans will become increasingly “vulnerable hosts.” Veterinarians and physicians worldwide must be well-educated and prepared for the diagnosis, reporting, and containment of these sporadic outbreaks. The recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa reminds us that we must have efficient animal and human surveillance and health care systems in place in all countries, and interdisciplinary cooperation to thwart such outbreaks much earlier in the process. Once an infectious disease seems “quieter” or successfully prevented with vaccines or other control methods, a lapse in its prevalence and public fear can result in complacency and recurrence. These disease-causing agents will take advantage of the opportunity to invade vulnerable hosts of other species very quickly, potentially including humans! The upcoming WVA/WMA Global Conference on One Health will provide excellent insight into how veterinarians and physicians can jointly prevent and contain future outbreaks by understanding the value and knowledge each of our professions contributes to the solutions. For more information regarding the conference, draft program and registration site, please click [HERE](#).

World Veterinary Day Award 2015



The WVA is delighted to launch the World Veterinary Day Award 2015. This year's theme is Vector-Borne Diseases with a Zoonotic Potential. Click [HERE](#) for the the announcement document (including the selection process) and the application form for the World Veterinary Day Award 2015 in English, French and Spanish.



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!

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