

WVA NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE WVA PRESIDENT: DR. PATRICIA TURNER



Communicating about Uncertainty

Dear Colleagues,

While it may be disappointing to see mask mandates reinstated (or never fully lifting), new or continued travel restrictions, closures of certain venues and businesses, and other community setbacks from the delta SARS CoV-2 variant, these need to be viewed through the lens of our experiences and what we have learned over the past 18 months. This is also a time for veterinary professionals to become comfortable about communicating about uncertainty. For clients, staff, family members, and others, we can be clear about what is known and what is unknown about the virus and the global pandemic, and this can be very helpful in ensuring that people with whom we work understand our actions and our expectations to ensure that veterinary medicine can continue to be practised safely.

There is much that we do not know about the novel SARS CoV-2 coronavirus – including aspects about the duration of immunity post-vaccination, efficacy of different vaccines against viral variants, what percentage of a community needs to be fully vaccinated for ‘herd immunity’, etc. While I do not doubt that these issues will be addressed in the not-too-distant future based on ongoing research around the world, I can’t provide answers to these questions to the people with whom I work. It is preferable to indicate uncertainty rather than building false hopes.

It is also important to be confident about what we know. For example, a tremendous amount has been learned in the past 9 months about the importance of vaccination. Recently, the U.S. National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases published an excellent blog that summarized the [importance of animal research in COVID-19 vaccine development](#). This article should serve as a reminder to everyone about the critical nature of the research being done each day around the world and why this work must continue. In less than a year, almost 5.3 billion doses of vaccine have been administered globally – resulting in one-third of the entire human population being fully vaccinated against the SARS CoV-2 virus (see the [world map](#) for specific country information). It is truly awe-inspiring to see what can be accomplished in times of great need, and as trusted members of their communities, veterinarians can be confident in recommending vaccination to others as a means of promoting public health and safety.

We also can be very confident that we can continue to protect our loved ones, ourselves, and our co-workers – through vaccination, hand hygiene, and simple PPE principles. While we can’t predict the future with certainty, we can control our actions and behaviours. As part of developing and maintaining

our resiliency, we should acknowledge to ourselves and others how far we have come since this pandemic began a year and a half ago.

**Yours respectfully,
Dr Patricia Turner
World Veterinary Association, President**

Petition against banning antimicrobials for animals

The new EU Veterinary Medicines Regulation allows the reservation of specific antimicrobials for human use only. Contrary to what the European Parliament proposed motion claims, according to the Regulation, these antimicrobials will then be banned completely for use in animals, with no exceptions for individual treatment or between pet and farm animals. This would greatly endanger animal health, welfare, and even public health. Veterinarians from all over Europe are asking members of the European Parliament to vote AGAINST this dangerous motion. Already more than 230 000 veterinarians and animal owners signed the German Veterinary Association petition against this far-reaching ban on antibiotics proposed. Also in Belgium (Wallonia), a successful petition is ongoing.

To also sign:

- BPT petition in German: <https://bit.ly/3gtj3B5>
- UPV petition in French: <https://bit.ly/3iZHszO>

Any reservation should be done in a science-based ‘One Health’ approach. Animals deserve treatment too.

• **VETERINARIANS KNOW, CARE AND CONTRIBUTE** •



**BANNING
AUTHORISED
ANTIMICROBIALS**

FOR ALL ANIMALS WITHOUT
SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE WILL CAUSE
ANIMAL SUFFERING AND WILL
ENDANGER PUBLIC HEALTH

FVE Federation of Veterinarians of Europe
FECAVA Federation of European Countries Animal Veterinary Association

37th World Veterinary Association Congress – 29-31st March 2022 – Abu Dhabi, UAE

The WVAC2022 website and the registration site are now available at www.wvac2022.com



The WVA needs your expertise and opinion in preparing a cohesive global message on our role as veterinarians for the global public good. As Constituent & Observer Members of the WVA, we welcome your input in our discussions! Don't be left out of the process!

PLEASE FORWARD THIS INFO-NEWS TO YOUR MEMBERS

If interested in learning more, please contact:

WVA

Avenue de Tervueren 12, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

Website: www.worldvet.org Email: secretariat@worldvet.org

