A MESSAGE FROM THE WVA PRESIDENT:
DR. PATRICIA TURNER

Preserving Veterinary Access to Lifesaving Antimicrobials

Dear Colleagues,

The ability to responsibly and judiciously prescribe and use antimicrobials to treat specific infections in animals is a critical means by which veterinarians can heal and safeguard the health and welfare of animals in their care, and promote food security. This essential activity is recognized by both the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the FAO, and many veterinary associations around the world have published statements on the necessity of self-monitoring this practice to minimize the development of antimicrobial resistance (see for example the WVA statement and the joint AVMA-CVMA-FVE statement on this topic). A potential blow to the continued use of antimicrobials by veterinarians was recently struck by the European Parliament’s Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, which in July, passed a motion to significantly restrict when and how antimicrobials may be used by veterinarians in the 27 Member States as well as which antimicrobials may or may not be used in animals. This motion will be voted upon in September by the European Parliament and could set a dangerous precedent of restricting aspects of veterinary practice if passed. The WVA seeks to support the FVE in their opposition to this resolution and more information will follow regarding whether and how veterinary associations may be able to register their concern.

Yours respectfully,
Dr Patricia Turner
World Veterinary Association, President

AVMA wins World Veterinary Day Award 2021 recognizing the veterinary response to the COVID-19 crisis

The World Veterinary Day is celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April to recognize the work of veterinarians around the world and their contributions to improving animal health and welfare, as well as public health. This year, the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and HealthforAnimals
recognised the contributions of the veterinary profession to protect animal and human health during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

On 29th July 2021, the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and HealthforAnimals presented the World Veterinary Day Award to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to recognise their immediate response to meet the new challenges arising from the emergence of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Integral to the AVMA’s response was the development and implementation of an impressive multi-tiered internal and external communications program anchored by a dedicated online COVID-19 Resource Center that was made available to veterinarians around the world in February 2020—three weeks before the WHO’s global pandemic declaration. Read the full press release HERE.

OIE and WVA Joint Statement
Countries must prioritise veterinarian access to COVID-19 vaccines

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and WVA unite in encouraging countries to prioritise COVID-19 vaccination access for veterinary professionals.

On 9th July 2021, the OIE and WVA published a joint statement calling on countries to include veterinarians as priority professionals for COVID-19 vaccination within their national strategies and vaccination campaigns. Veterinarians serve the health community by working at the animal-human interface. They need priority access to vaccination services to pursue their work which is central to safeguarding public health. Through the inclusion of veterinarians in priority vaccination access groups, countries support a coordinated One Health response to the COVID-19 crisis. This heightened collaboration between animal and human health professionals is key to overcoming the current pandemic as well as to preventing future outbreaks. Click hereafter to read the full WVA/OIE Joint statement in English, French and Spanish.

37th World Veterinary Association Congress – 29-31st March 2022 – Abu Dhabi, UAE
The WVA is delighted to announce that the 37th World Veterinary Association Congress (WVAC2022) will take place in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates on 29 – 31 March 2022. Given the continuing uncertainties of the global COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being planned to accommodate both in-person and virtual participation. More information regarding the WVAC2022 scientific program and registration will be published soon.

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