

WVA NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE WVA PRESIDENT: DR. PATRICIA TURNER



Animal welfare remains a key priority

Dear Colleagues,

The AVMA just wrapped up its 2021 virtual Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest – an event that attracted participants from 28 universities in 8 countries. Participants included undergraduate, graduate, and veterinary students, veterinary technicians, and licensed veterinarians – all keen to learn more about animal welfare and to hone their skills in assessing animal welfare scenarios. The event has grown over the past 21 years into an important networking activity for veterinary professionals and students from around the

world who are passionate about animal welfare.

One of the speakers for the Educational Forum that was part of the event, Dr Nina von Keyserlingk from the University of British Columbia, reminded attendees that animal welfare is a ‘wicked problem’. That is a complex problem involving many stakeholders with no single obvious and correct solution, and one that is constantly evolving. Addressing these types of issues seems daunting at first glance, given that a range of acceptable solutions need to be generated to cover the breadth of social, political, economic, and cultural permutations that exist around the world. It is clear from events such as this international animal welfare judging competition that veterinarians are ready to roll up their sleeves to work on these issues. However, others* have recommended that adaptive, participatory, and transdisciplinary approaches are needed for tackling significant animal welfare-related problems. This suggests that veterinarians and professional organizations must look for the right partners to bring about impactful changes to improve animal welfare.

To provide talking points for veterinary professionals in these discussions, the WVA’s Animal Welfare Strategic Focus Group has continued to draft several Position Statements this year, including on the Use of Horses for Production of Biologics and Therapeutics; Recognition and Management of Pain in Food Animals, Depopulation of Animals; and the Humane Use of Research Animals, in addition to preparing a factsheet on welfare issues associated with brachycephalic dogs. Please ensure that your association reviews and provides any needed comments to ensure a realistic representation of the associated welfare issues where you live. We would also invite members to suggest topics for other pressing international animal welfare issues that they feel deserve broader attention and emphasis by the WVA.

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

*Fernandes J, Blache D, Maloney SK, Martin GB, Venus B, Walker FR, Head B, Tilbrook A. Addressing Animal Welfare through Collaborative Stakeholder Networks. Agriculture. 2019; 9(6):132. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture9060132>

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:

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