



WVA NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE WVA PRESIDENT: DR. PATRICIA TURNER



A Powerful Voice - United

Dear Colleagues,

By now, many of you will be aware of the recent [result from the European Parliament vote](#) on September 15 to limit veterinarians from using certain antimicrobial agents in clinical practice. Following intense petitioning, coordination and collaboration by numerous veterinarians and veterinary associations from within and outside the EU, including the FVE and the WVA,

Members of Parliament were persuaded to reject the proposed ban. As we have noted previously, while this may have seemed like an issue happening ‘somewhere else’ for veterinarians outside of the EU, this proposal would have set a dangerous precedent for similar bans in other regions of the world. This demonstrates the importance for the veterinary profession, as a whole, to be aware of global issues that may potentially impact the practice of veterinary medicine as well as the power of acting together with one voice.

On a related note, the SARS CoV-2 global pandemic has served as a strong reminder to governments around the world about the interconnections between animals, people, and their environment. The WVA is working on behalf of member associations to ensure that governments haven’t forgotten about the need to improving the global veterinary workforce and animal health systems through its membership in the [Action for Animal Health Coalition](#) (A4AH), an international advocacy group administered by Brooke that promotes strengthening of animal health systems globally by governments. A4AH will be hosting a [Civil Society Summit](#) on October 6 as a side event in the G20 Civil Society Summit, which is held in advance of the G20 Leaders Summit in October in Italy. The session will emphasize the need for global leaders to invest in a One Health approach to tackle emerging global health threats.

The WVA Council and Strategic Focus Groups have been working diligently on several projects. Of note, the WVA’s Pharmaceutical Stewardship Strategic Focus Group together with Brooke launched the Essential Medicine List for Food-Producing Animals project in September with the support of Ms Lisa Buren, a WVA intern and final year veterinary student at Utrecht University. Food animal veterinary experts from around the world are working together in 8 working groups to identify core essential medicines for each of the major species. It is hoped that the final model list will assist countries in ensuring global medicine availability, particularly in countries or regions in which the lack of access to veterinary medicines hampers the provision of quality animal health care. Proper use of and access to high-quality pharmaceuticals and therapeutics, and appropriate oversight of ordering, prescribing and

dispensing of medicines are common concerns for all animal health stakeholders. Please stay tuned for more information about this project in the coming months.

As always, we are keen to hear from our member associations. Please feel free to reach out if you are interested in more information about ongoing WVA activities or if you have other comments.

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

WVA Welcomes a new Policy Officer

WVA welcomes a new Policy Officer, Emma van Rooijen, who has a bachelor's degree in Veterinary Medicine and a master's degree in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare. Emma has impressive experience in supporting international organizations and she was the President of the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA). Emma will start on 1st October and among her secretarial tasks, Emma will be the WVA coordinator of the [WVA/FAO/H4A VPP Project](#).



WVA Elections 2022

On 27th September, the WVA launched the WVA Elections 2022 process by calling the WVA Constituent Members to nominate their candidates for the positions of WVA President-Elect and Regional/international Councillors.

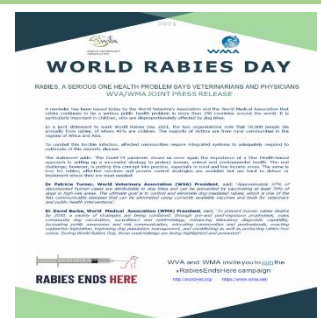
To continue the excellent successes the WVA achieved in recent years, WVA must have a fully committed Council. It is a tremendous privilege to serve on the WVA Council, nevertheless, it also requires engagement and incredible work by the WVA Council members to advance the WVA mission.

The WVA would like to ask its Constituent Member Associations to consider seriously the best candidates for the WVA Council to represent their regions and looking forward to receiving applications from all its member by 29th November 2021. For any additional information regarding the WVA Elections 2022, please contact secretariat@worldvet.org.



World Rabies Day 2021

On 28th September, the World Veterinary Association and the World Medical Association published a joint statement reminding that rabies continues to be a serious public health problem in more than 150 countries around the world. It is particularly important in children, who are disproportionately affected by dog bites. The two organisations note that 59,000 people die annually from rabies, of whom 40% are children. The majority of victims are from rural communities in the regions of Africa and Asia. Dr Patricia Turner, World Veterinary Association (WVA) President, said; 'Approximately 97% of documented human cases are attributable to dog bites and can be prevented by vaccinating at least 70% of dogs in high-risk areas. The ultimate goal is to control and eliminate dog-mediated rabies, which is one of



the few communicable diseases that can be eliminated using currently available vaccines and tools for veterinary and public health interventions. Read the full joint press release [HERE](#).

37th World Veterinary Association Congress – WVA members benefit from a reduced registration fee

The [WVAC2022](#) organizing committee is putting great efforts and passion to deliver an extraordinary scientific and practical program by several high-level speakers from all over the world, focusing on veterinary best practices and innovative technology for the veterinary profession. In addition, the local organisers are putting together an exciting social program to give the congress delegates a test of the magic of the region. In this regard, I'm pleased to inform you that the 37th WVAC host, the Emirates Veterinary Association is kindly offering to the **WVA Members** a reduced registration fee of 200 US\$.



37th WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION CONGRESS
ABU DHABI, UAE
29 - 31 MARCH 2022

More information regarding the WVA Congress and registration can be found here: www.wvac2022.com. We are looking forward to welcoming you to the 37th World Veterinary Association Congress.

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

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