



WORLD VETERINARY
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World Veterinary Association Model Veterinarians' Oath

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Introduction

The World Veterinary Association (WVA) Veterinary Education Working Group first developed, and the Council approved, the following Model Veterinarians' Oath in 2019. The most common use of a Veterinarians' Oath is to swear in new veterinarians upon their entry into the profession at or immediately following graduation from a veterinary educational establishment.

The intent of the WVA is for this Model Veterinarians' Oath to be used as a template by veterinary organizations that have not yet developed an oath or by those associations considering revising an existing oath. It is not the intent of the WVA that this model language replaces existing oaths or that all veterinarians belonging to Member Associations be required to swear to the WVA Model Veterinarians' Oath. Instead, this Model Oath can be refined by an organization to emphasize those professional responsibilities of particular significance to any given country or region

Reference is made within the WVA Model Veterinarians' Oath to the principles of veterinary ethics. This refers to the system of moral principles, established within the country or region of each WVA Member Association, that apply values and judgements to the practice of veterinary medicine. For those Associations in a country or region without an existing set of principles, the following are provided as examples of principles of veterinary ethics that have been developed and adopted by several veterinary organizations around the world. These existing documents may serve as examples to aid in the development of specific principles by WVA Member Associations that have not yet adopted their own such document.

- Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA; www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Pages/Principles-of-Veterinary-Medical-Ethics-of-the-AVMA.aspx)

- Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA; www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/principles-of-veterinary-medical-ethics-of-the-cvma)

- Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Surgeons (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons [RCVS]; www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/)



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WVA Model Veterinarians' Oath

I, as a Member of the Global Veterinary Profession, do solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge, skill and training:

To prevent, diagnose, treat and manage pain and disease in all animal species to the best of my ability in keeping with the principles of veterinary ethics and relevant law.

To communicate and help prevent the impact of diseases in humans that originate directly from animals or via vector transmission, the use of animal products or environmental contaminants of animal origin.

To advocate for the sustainable use of terrestrial, aerial, and aquatic animals in their diverse ecosystems through stewardship to reduce environmental impacts.

To contribute to animal, human, and environmental health by continually developing my competencies as a health professional, acting with integrity, and promoting animal welfare.