



WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION



HealthforAnimals
global animal health association

2021 WORLD VETERINARY DAY AWARD

The Veterinary Response to the Covid-19 Crisis

World Veterinary Day (WVD) is celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April to recognize the work of veterinarians and their contributions to the advancement of animal health, welfare, and public health worldwide. Instead of an annual theme, the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and HealthforAnimals used the 2021 World Veterinary Day Award to recognize **the contributions of the veterinary profession to protect animal and human health during the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

At the end of 2019, the emergence of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2/Covid-19) rapidly turned into a global pandemic. This required an immediate response from veterinarians, as well as other health care professionals, to meet the new challenges arising from a rapidly increasing caseload worldwide. As countermeasures were taken both nationally and internationally, veterinarians around the globe were faced with the difficult task of safeguarding both human and animal health amidst a global pandemic. Many questions about protecting animals and owners in the daily veterinary business arose, while circumstances grew direr.

Now, in 2021, the continuing COVID-19 pandemic changed life as we know it and significantly affected global human and animal populations. And yet, through this challenging time, veterinary medicine has meaningfully and rapidly evolved, demonstrating veterinarians' abilities to cope, adjust, and adapt; and to continue in their role as leaders of animal health and welfare and public health.

The WVA and HealthforAnimals received several project submissions from Member Associations around the world, each one highlighting impressive work by veterinarians as a response to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. The candidates were assessed based on how they aided to protect both human and animal health during the crisis and how they showed professional leadership during these unforeseen circumstances.

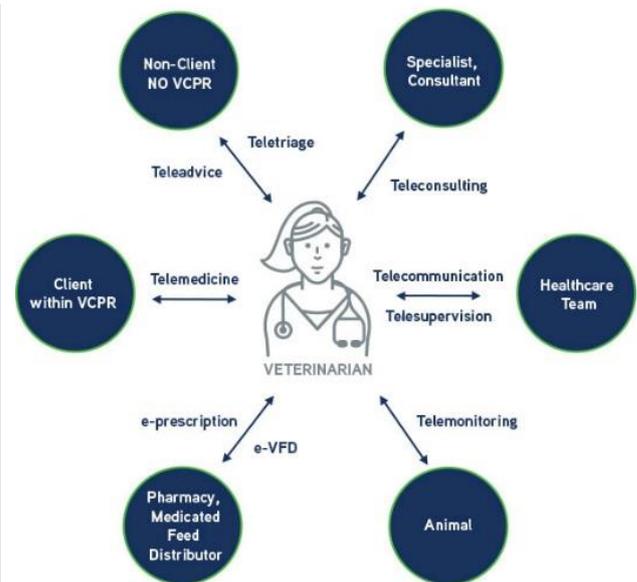
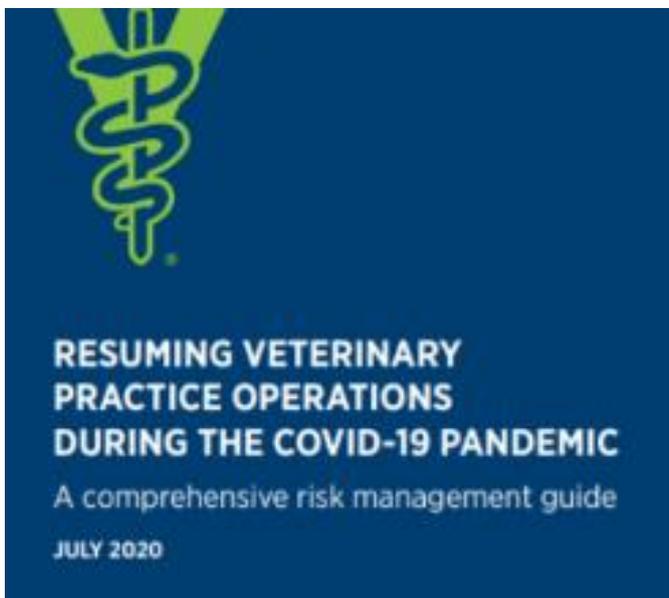
After careful consideration of the materials submitted by all applicants, we are delighted to announce the winner of the 2021 World Veterinary Day Award:



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. The AVMA has kept its Resource Center up-to-date throughout the pandemic with critical information for veterinary professionals about keeping themselves, their clients and their patients safe – including scientific summaries, short videos, risk assessment summaries, various online tools, blogs and other practical resources. The full WVD Award 2021 virtual ceremony can be watched [HERE](#).



Dr Janet Donlin, AVMA CEO, and Dr Douglas Kratt, AVMA President, accepting the WVD Award on behalf of the AVMA



Our gratitude goes out to the AVMA for their ongoing efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic!



WORLD VETERINARY DAY

The AVMA's more than 97,000 veterinarians rose to meet the challenges of COVID-19. Did you know? Veterinarians helped millions of pet owners by providing essential care for those pets while simultaneously taking precautions to protect pet owners and other veterinary team members from exposure to the virus. Faced with isolation during the pandemic, many pet owners acquired pets for the first time. Veterinarians provided care and advice that will help ensure pet owners' bonds with their pets transcend the challenges of COVID-19.



What veterinarians need to know

Health officials across the U.S. and all over the world are working hard to control COVID-19. The AVMA is committed to providing factual up-to-date information and assistance to support the veterinary community in obtaining services during the pandemic. This work includes providing care for pets, horses, livestock (including supporting the sector's food supply), laboratory animals, and exotic, exotic, and wild animals – all work that is essential and helps protect both animal and human health.

Including this material, the AVMA is a regular contact with federal agencies, such as the CDC, FDA, and USDA, other state, national, and international veterinary and public health expert groups, intergovernmental organizations such as the WHO and OIE, lawmakers, and

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- About COVID-19:**
- Veterinarians as vaccinators
 - Vaccines and vaccination
 - Ethical: Meeting the challenge
 - COVID-19 data centers

World Veterinary Day 2021 Nominees

The WVA would like to thank all of the veterinary organizations and associated veterinary professionals around the world for their active participation in World Veterinary Day. In recognition of their efforts, please see below for highlights of selected nominations submitted by veterinary professionals around the globe:



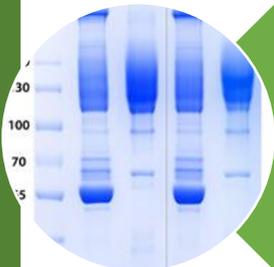
Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association: set up nation-wide advocacy programmes, environmental decontamination of animal related premises and donation of personal hygiene materials.

Emirates Veterinary Association: made a Veterinary Services Continuity Plan to continue veterinary care during the Covid-19 crisis together with local agencies and stakeholders.



South African Veterinary Association: kept a community feeding scheme and organized door-to-door veterinary services during the hard lockdown in Clarens & Fouriesburg, Free State, South-Africa.

Society of Veterinary Scientist and Academicians, India: organized a variety of (online) activities for veterinarians and vet students during two months to celebrate WVD 2021.



Colegio de Médicos Veterinarios de Costa Rica: an interdisciplinary team of researchers did [pre-clinical trials](#) for the production of SARS-CoV-2 hyper immune plasma in horses to find a potential treatment for Covid-19.

Uganda Veterinary Association: made a community outreach program and organized a week-long event for veterinarians to raise awareness about Covid-19. Alongside this, they put extra effort into wildlife conservation.



Indian Veterinary Association - Kerala: held a 50 day long celebration of WVD 2021 with programs and (online) activities at state and district levels for veterinarians and the local communities.

FECAVA-FVE: created [informative posters and infographics](#) to be used around the world by companion animal practitioners and to help companion animal owners during the Covid-19 crisis.



World Veterinary Day is celebrated each year on the last Saturday of April, and will take place next year on April 30th 2022. Keep an eye on the [WVA website](#) for the release of the 2022 theme.