



WVA Position Statement on One Health Education

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WVA POSITION

Pre-veterinary One Health Activities

WVA encourages veterinary schools to

- ensure student applicants are familiar with One Health by posing topic-related questions during entrance exams, entrance essay(s), during oral interviews or other similar activities, where appropriate
- disseminate One Health informational material to prospective students.

One Health in Veterinary School One Health Curricula

WVA encourages veterinary schools to

- instruct with a One Health mind-set throughout the curriculum, where appropriate
- promote active student One Health programmes such as participation in the International Student One Health Alliance and establish students' One Health clubs and similar voluntary ad-hoc groups
- conduct multidisciplinary student learning opportunities in partnership with schools outside of veterinary medicine, e.g., medical, environmental, biodiversity management and social sciences schools
- put in place flexible policies that promote and support educators in the integration of One Health interdisciplinary training.¹⁻¹⁰

Accreditation Bodies

WVA encourages

- development of One Health educational standards to assess the degree to which schools include One Health in veterinary education
- establishment of benchmarks and a scheme for recognition of achievements amongst veterinary institutions and other relevant One Health-related institutions.

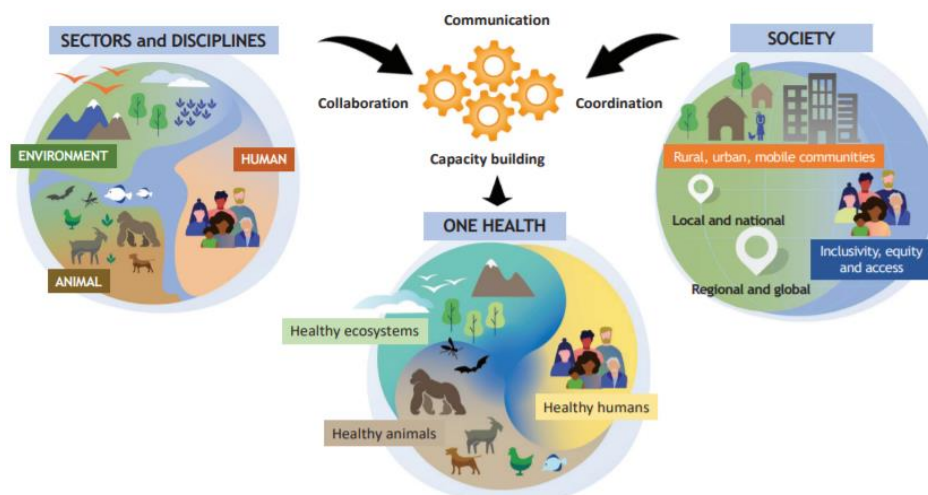
Continuing Professional Development

WVA encourages

- veterinarians, in collaboration with physicians, public health practitioners, environmental scientists and other relevant professionals, to advance their One Health knowledge in interdisciplinary settings
- associations and organizations to create harmonized One Health-related continuing education programmes¹¹
- competent authorities or statutory bodies to create frameworks⁸ to recognize such training and respective qualifications for all professionals involved in One Health actions.

BACKGROUND

“One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent. The approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development”¹²



One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) definition of One Health, 2021. UN Quadripartite

VVA believes a fully-functioning One Health veterinarian possesses efficient and effective management and communication skills used to promote the collective health and well-being of animals, people and their environment. Meeting the broad objectives of One Health will require close collaboration between veterinary, medical and environmental professionals and professional associations at a minimum.

The VVA recognizes that education is key to effective One Health management systems necessary in the prevention of and response to zoonotic disease outbreaks, reduction and management of risks including antimicrobial resistance (AMR), food safety and security, disaster management, climate change, and more.^{13, 14}

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