



WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION



THE ROLE OF VETERINARIANS IN ANIMAL WELFARE

The World Veterinary Association (WVA) represents over 500,000 veterinarians through its member associations across six continents. WVA supports and promotes best practices and education about animal welfare to its member associations and to the wide public.

WVA Animal Welfare Working Group Objectives:

- ❖ To raise awareness of current and ongoing animal welfare issues globally.
- ❖ To promote animal welfare education and training within the veterinary curriculum and as a critical component of veterinary continuing professional development.
- ❖ To develop and maintain key partnerships with other global AW advocacy groups.

As global understanding and concern for animal welfare continues to change, so must the veterinary community evolve to incorporate these changes and reflect societal expectations. Therefore, Animal Welfare is a core mandate of the veterinary community generally and of veterinarians individually.

Veterinary engagement in animal welfare must encompass a wide range of activities, including, but not limited to:



Traditional veterinary roles in disease detection, prevention, and treatment of sick animals.



Enhanced understanding and recognition of pain and its mitigation, and implementation of good veterinary practice standards that support improved animal welfare.



Educating, informing and influencing animal owners, handlers, producers, and caregivers in regards to best practices for animal care.



Engagement in scientific endeavours that lead to an improved understanding of animal welfare and application of this knowledge into practice.



Educating and informing the public at large about good animal welfare practices.



Influencing policy makers to further protect and improve animal welfare.



Engaging in the development of animal welfare policies, legislation and the application of their principles.



Engaging in animal welfare assessments and oversight in animal production activities.



Encouraging those assurance schemes that promote the best of animal welfare.

Veterinarians must be engaged, knowledgeable, and prepared to use their skills and expertise in Animal Welfare to assist and support animal caregivers, industry, policy makers, and the public to ensure best practices are in place that promote good animal welfare.

