



WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION



34th

WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION CONGRESS

Barcelona, Spain | May 5 - 8, 2018

34th World Veterinary Association Congress 5-8th May 2018, Barcelona, Spain



Short summary of WVA activities during WVC2018

The 34th World Veterinary Association Congress took place on 5th- 8th May 2018, in Barcelona, Spain, under the Honorary Presidency of the Spanish Royal Family. With participation of delegates from 67 countries, this new edition delivered an excellent scientific program covering different fields of veterinary medicine from innovation and research, veterinary public health to vast aspects of clinical practice.

The Opening Ceremony of the WVAC2018 was opened by the presidents of the College of Veterinarians of Barcelona, General Council of the Spanish Colleges of Veterinarians and the World Veterinary Association welcoming the delegates. The Opening Ceremony continued with presentations by the Secretary General of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Minister of Health, Social Services and Equality, Mrs. Dolors Montserrat i Montserrat. Both highlighted the importance of the One Health concept and the major role of the veterinary profession for the Spanish and European society. Those topics were also highlighted by Vytenis Andriukaitis, the EU Commissioner for Health & Food Safety who also emphasized the

importance of the profession in Europe for the wellbeing of society and welfare of animals and the need for collaboration with other health professionals. The Opening Ceremony was concluded with the announcement of the names of 41 winners of the MSD/WVA [Veterinary Students Scholarship program](#) 2017 and a key note speech by Chief Executive Officer of Zoetis, Juan Ramón Alaix on “*the forces shaping the future of animal health*” and how the role of veterinarians will evolve to address the world’s most important animal health issues.



As part of the new WVACs structure, the Scientific Committee has made great efforts to select quality contents and the best speakers to attract specialist veterinarians from different fields. The WVAC2018 focused on three distinct subject areas: Innovation and Research, Veterinary Public Health, and Clinical Practice. Please find hereafter the [congress proceeding booklet](#) that includes the abstracts of all the congress lectures.

In addition to the congress scientific program, WVA organized the 5th **One Health Summit** in collaboration with FAO, OIE and WHO to discuss the issue of *Global Biosecurity* and the **Global Seminar in Animal Welfare** to understand better the concept of One Health (a short summary of these meetings can be found in pages 3 and 5 of this report).



The WVAC2018 Congress was accompanied by a special publication; *WVAC Journal* that was prepared by the General Council of the Spanish Colleges of Veterinarians and covers many of the congress features, history of the WVA, World WVA Map, WVAC’s scientific program, speakers profiles and many more. Click [HERE](#) to read the WVAC Journal.



WVA ONE HEALTH SUMMIT

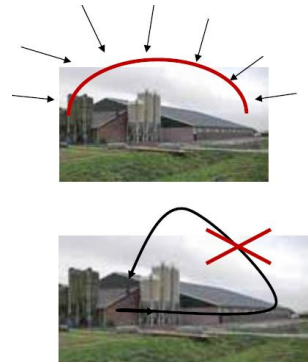
With the high level support of the OIE, FAO and WHO Tripartite

Theme: Biosecurity



On 7th May 2018, the WVA with the high support of the OIE, FAO and WHO held the 5th One Health Summit focusing on the theme of “Biosecurity”. WVA Councilor for Europe, Dr Maaïke van den Berg moderated the meeting and facilitated discussions with the participants.

After a short welcome speech by the WVA President, Dr Jeroen Dewulf gave a keynote lecture about [Biosecurity in animal production: from theory to practice and back](#). He pointed out the different definitions of biosecurity (e.g. internal and external biosecurity) and how to quantify the relation between biosecurity measures and their effects. He continued by explaining the general principles of biosecurity to avoid direct and indirect contact, ranking of risks, size of farm etc.). He highlighted the difference between what is really important to enhance biosecurity and what could be perceived as being important but actually not. He concluded by emphasizing that increasing biosecurity is a joint venture, to be undertaken by all parties involved.



FAO representative, Dr Henk Jan Ormel, gave a presentation on [How FAO supports veterinarians to improve global biosecurity](#) and started by giving a broader definition of biosecurity: *A strategic and integrated approach that encompasses the policy and regulatory framework for analyzing and managing relevant threats to human, animal and plant life.* He continued by introducing the FAO mandate and overall goals to eliminate hunger, fight poverty and to increase good health. He concluded by speaking on Global biosecurity in a continuing changing world (e.g. growth population, climate change, urbanization, geopolitical changes, interconnections etc.) and underlined the need for an integrated approach, with different actors; *“we (veterinarians) are not alone”*.

OIE representative, Dr Christine Uhlenhaut presented the OIE perspectives on [Strengthening Global Biosecurity](#) introducing the work done by OIE on biosecurity highlighting the data collection and dissemination of information regarding the global animal health situation. She continued by mentioning the OIE guidelines for the investigation of suspicions of bio-threats and said that 80% of agents with potential bioterrorist use are zoonotic.





WHO representative, Dr Eric Bertherat presented the [WHO role on Health Security Interface](#) and also focused on bioterrorism differentiating **biosafety** (keeping the bad bugs away from people) from **biosecurity** (keeping people away from the bad bugs). Furthermore, he made clear that the border between natural outbreaks and non-natural outbreaks is not always very clear and can be blurred. He concluded by introducing the “Health Security Interface” which involves many different professional fields and organizations (e.g. Interpol, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, UN, FAO, OIE etc.).

Finally, WVA Councilor for Africa, Dr Gani Enahoro, gave a presentation on some [case studies from Nigeria](#). He explained the current biosecurity plans and existing measures and the work done by the Nigerian Center of Disease Control. He explained the challenges the country faces keeping up with biosecurity and mentioned the difficulties with implementing good practices and specific rules. He clearly showed that biosecurity standards are not fool-proof everywhere giving two examples of the recent Avian Influenza and Ebola outbreaks in Nigeria. In conclusion, Dr Enahoro said that *measures exist but they are not always implemented and the country really learns how to deal with outbreak only when they faced them.*



After the presentations, a panel discussions with all the speakers took place responding to questions and comments from the participants. WVA Secretary General concluded the WVA 5th Summit by saying that there are many definitions of biosecurity but Prof. Dewulf’s generic definition was still very relevant. There is a need to see biosecurity as a tool and not as a goal by itself. Also, as veterinarians, we have an important role to play but we are not alone, we have to work with other health professionals, para-professionals and the global organizations to fight new threats like bioterrorism.

The 6th WVA One Health Summit with the high support of the FAO, OIE and WHO Tripartite will take place during the WVAC2019 in San Jose, Costa Rica.



WVA GLOBAL SEMINAR ON ANIMAL WELFARE

Theme: One Welfare

The WVA selected the theme One Welfare with the aim of discussing and analyzing in depth with animal welfare experts the meaning of One Welfare concept from different aspects (e.g. scientific, academic, political, social etc.) and to evaluate if One Welfare is a complement to the One Health concept or shall be dealt separately.

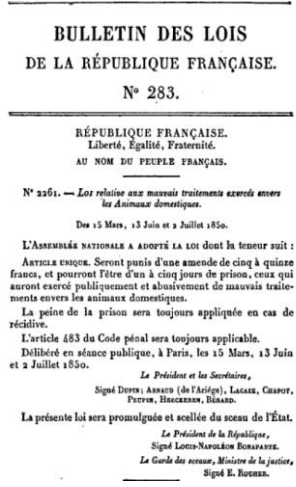
WVA president, Dr Johnson Chiang opened the seminar pointing out that Animal Welfare is one of the five priorities of the WVA and it is closely interconnected with human welfare and consumer wellbeing as “good animal welfare make better protein quality”.

Dr Rebeca García Pinillos, the founder of the One Welfare Framework Project presented her [framework to improve animal welfare and human wellbeing](#). She introduced the One Welfare Umbrella which encompasses animal welfare, human wellbeing and environment conservation. She continued by saying that One-Welfare recognizes that Animal Welfare, biodiversity and the environment are all connected with human well-being. One Welfare includes the following areas; Animal and human abuse and neglect, Socio-economic aspects, AW of livestock, food safety, productivity and food security, Improved life of people and animals and biodiversity and conservation. She gave some examples where preventing animal abuse and neglect can support a reduction in violence and neglect to vulnerable humans, improved animal welfare relates to better food safety, animals’ contribution to humans, such as prisoner’s rehabilitation or animals helping people with post-traumatic stress disorders. She concluded by saying that animal welfare has also an impact on the economy since good welfare practices help to improve livestock production, food security and sustainability.

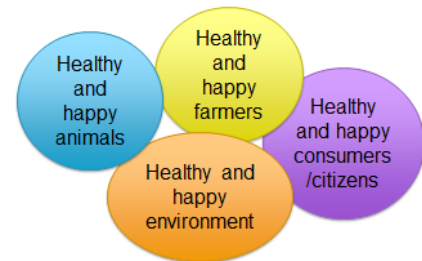


Dr Teresa Villalba, representing the Animal Welfare sector at the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment gave a presentation on [Animal Welfare throughout history – from the protection against cruelty to One Welfare](#).

She started by saying that “We need to understand history to understand the presence.” Teresa divided the history of AW in three parts: 1863 to 1966; 1966 to 2005; and 2006 to now. She showed that the welfare discussion has more been driven by religious considerations than political ones. Initially the focus was on the protection or raising moral standards of people, rather than on the suffering of animals. Only in relatively recent decades the animal itself, as a sentient being that can suffer, has been brought more to the center of the discussion. Equally, it is only since 1990th that the veterinary profession is identifying its role in the protection of Animal Welfare.



Dr Lotta Berg, a professor in animal environment and health at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and one of the WVA Animal Welfare 2018 Awards winners gave a presentation on [**“Animal Welfare and the Interconnections with Antimicrobial Resistance”**](#) explaining that if animals’ basic behavioral needs are not met, it will create frustration which affects the immune competence of the animals. Increased risk for infection and the need to use antibiotics. Keeping animals under substandard conditions is made possible with antibiotics. However this is not sustainable. In general, the more antibiotics are used; there are higher risks for the development of AMR. Therefore, the key is to improve animal husbandry practices, to keep animals under proper conditions they can cope with, to prevent disease and to reduce the needs to use antimicrobials, to the benefit of the health and welfare of animals and people and the eco-system. She concluded by saying that *“One Welfare is not only about keeping the animals happy and healthy, but also to keep the farmers, consumers and the public happy and healthy”*.



Nadine Tod representing the International Veterinary Students’ Association presented the [**students’ perspective of One Welfare**](#) pointing out that often animal welfare is not a priority at university and the One Welfare concept is totally new for veterinary students. In addition, with overloaded curricula those students are often facing and need to deal with, create also human well-being issue. She went on by highlighting the need for more knowledge and understanding of animal abuse including bestiality, fighting, hoarding, puppy mills, animal smuggling and the link between violence against animals and people. She concluded by saying *“the earlier we (students) learn about it, the better”*.



Finally, Daniela Battaglia, representing the FAO presented [**Animal Welfare Good Practices in Agriculture Development - Applying the One Welfare approach**](#) and highlighted the importance of the animal

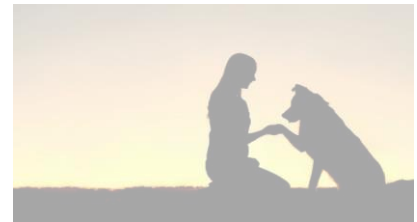


welfare for the animal health and productivity and for achieving the UN sustainable developments goals. She mentioned an initiative aiming at taking welfare into consideration in all policies and practices developed by FAO. She asked the participants a number of questions in order to launch the panel discussions sessions. The following points were raised:

- No much sense in trying to set generic standards for animal welfare. The context needs to be taken into consideration. It is better to focus on what can be done in different situations than to strive for overall standards.
- Animal welfare needs to be better taught in the vet schools. It appeared that there are differences between the schools.

- Politicians have difficulties to address AW issues (e.g. bull fighting). There is a need for a strong public awareness and concern. Once it starts shifting it can accelerate rapidly.
- Concept of a happy animal? Is there a definition of a happy animal? Is it something we can recognize or score? It probably more an expression that is useful in discussions than a factor that can be measured.
- There is a real need to educate Veterinary students but also the citizens about the animal welfare which is the prerequisite for One Welfare.

WVA Executive Director, Jan Vaarten, concluded the seminar by saying that One Welfare is a new emerging field that is critical for human animal well-being and for the ecosystem. All the stimulating presentations and interesting discussion about this new topic deserves to be further developed and spread, in the interest of animals, people and the environment.



The next WVA Global Seminar on Animal Welfare with the theme of Disaster Management will take place during the WVAC2019 in San Jose, Costa Rica.





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WVA ANIMAL WELFARE AWARDS Supported by Ceva Sante Animale

On 6th May 2018, the 2nd WVA Animal Welfare Awards Ceremony took place during the WVAC2018 in Barcelona. The WVA AW Awards supported by Ceva and was presented 5 veterinarians from Brazil, Canada, China, Senegal and Sweden to recognize their exemplary work in protecting and promoting Animal Welfare. WVA president, Johnson Chiang thanked CEVA for their support to recognize and emphasize the important work done by veterinarians globally to protect animals and to increase the public awareness by promoting best practices in animal Welfare. Ceva representative, Mr Martin Mitchell said that the WVA AW Award is an outstanding opportunity to raise the public awareness about AW concern; “Animal Welfare it is a central part of our life, not only an issue”. Please click [HERE](#) for a short video of the WVA Animal Welfare 2018 Awards Ceremony.



The WVA is looking very much forward to welcoming you at the 35th World Veterinary Association Congress that will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica



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San Jose, Costa Rica | April 27 - 30, 2019

Life connects all - Pura Vida