

COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN

THE WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

AND

THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

CONSIDERING the objectives of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), whose statutory name is Office International des Epizooties, in particular,

- to safeguard world trade by publishing science-based health standards for international trade in terrestrial and aquatic animals and animal products
- to promote the competency and capacity of national veterinary services (including public and private sector components) and
- to provide veterinary public health assurances including on food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach,

CONSIDERING the mission of the World Veterinary Association ("WVA")

- to assure and promote animal health, animal welfare and public health globally, through developing and advancing veterinary medicine, the veterinary profession as well as public and private veterinary services,

CONSIDERING the agreement between the WVA and WOAH , adopted on May 29th 2002, and revised on 26 May 2015 and on 27 May 2019 (the "2019 Agreement") encouraging collaboration on issues of common interest, including commitments to invite each other to participate as observers in relevant activities and international conferences, and to share points of view,

CONSIDERING the importance of strong public – private partnership, wherein WOAH and WVA are complementary and create synergies for achieving their mutual goals and objectives,

NOW THEREFORE, WOAH and WVA (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individually referred to as a "Party") are interested in continuing their collaboration and therefore have agreed to enter into this Cooperation Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement"), which supersedes and replaces the 2019 Agreement and prior versions.

ARTICLE 1 - MODALITIES OF COOPERATION

The Parties will extend to each other invitations for participation in all meetings, seminars and conferences during which matters of common interest are to be discussed and where observers are allowed.

The Parties agree to further strengthen their collaboration in particular in the following areas of activity, where both Parties share strong mutual interests:

1. 'ONE HEALTH'

The key objectives corresponding to broad cross-cutting areas are to:

- (i) encourage and assist the veterinary profession to communicate and collaborate with the medical and other health and environment related professions;
- (ii) help countries to develop and articulate formal collaboration arrangements between human health, veterinary and environmental services;
- (iii) support the operationalisation of One Health in countries, including activities outlined under the six action tracks of the One Health Joint Plan of Action¹ ;
- (iv) advocate for better integration of veterinary services in One Health projects and initiatives at all levels, including legal frameworks to reduce the risk of, and prevent future pandemics;
- (v) facilitate collaboration and networking with experts, partners and other relevant actors for the One Health approach, as appropriate;
- (vi) undertake joint advocacy and awareness to increase Member Countries awareness of the One Health approach and of the activities for work conducted collaboratively under this agreement.

The above list is not exhaustive.

The following areas are of particular focus of collaboration under the One Health approach:

1.1 'Antimicrobial resistance'

The objectives of the WOA-H-WVA collaboration regarding antimicrobial resistance are to:

- (i) give specific attention and raise awareness to antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- (ii) advocate that antimicrobials are a global public good and AMR should be considered as a global threat;
- (iii) promote the leading role and responsibility of the veterinary profession in the prudent use of antimicrobials for animal health, and to promote the WVA Global Basic Principles² on the responsible Use of Antimicrobials; and

¹ <https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2022/04/one-health-joint-plan-of-action-final.pdf>

² http://www.worldvet.org/uploads/docs/wva_revision_2_-_position_on_the_use_of_antimicrobials_2018.pdf

- (iv) help countries to progressively comply with WOAH international standards that relate to antimicrobial resistance, namely chapters 6.7 to 6.11 of the WOAH [Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#) and section 6 of the WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Code as well as the list of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance.
- (v) Encourage WVA Member Organisations and WOAH Member Countries to be involved in the development and implementation of [National Action Plans \(NAP\)](#) against Antimicrobial Resistance.

The objectives of the WOAH-WVA collaboration regarding availability of high quality Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs) are to:

- (i) ensure veterinary access to a broad range of safe and effective VMPs
- (ii) promote proper veterinary use of VMPs, and appropriate oversight of ordering, prescribing and dispensing of VMPs
- (iii) support the development and use of species-specific treatment guidelines and the establishment of a global database
- (iv) develop a species-specific list of essential veterinary medicines (in partnership with other animal and veterinary associations) to aid in veterinary medicinal products availability.

1.2 'Rabies'

The objectives of the WOAH-WVA collaboration in rabies prevention and control are to:

- (i) promote the role and responsibility of the veterinary profession in the control and elimination of rabies in animals, particularly in dogs;
- (ii) promote³ the Zero by 30: The Global Strategic Plan to End Human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030
- (iii) promote the availability of quality veterinary medicinal products and rabies prevention and control;
- (iv) urge political leaders in countries where the disease is endemic to take action by establishing rabies control programmes; and help countries, Veterinary Services and the veterinary profession to implement appropriate rabies prevention and control methods in accordance with Chapter 8.14 of WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

³ http://www.worldvet.org/uploads/docs/wva_position_on_rabies_2016.pdf

2. 'Continuing Education for Veterinarians and Veterinary Paraprofessionals'

The objectives of the WOA-H-WVA collaboration in this area are to:

- (i) improve veterinary medicine competencies in the private and government sector through continuing education and information sharing
- (ii) ensure that we have competent veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals.

2.1 GOOD GOVERNANCE OF VETERINARY SERVICES

The WVA and WOA-H recognise the importance of developing sustainable public-private partnerships that include the public and private sector components of Veterinary Services, and promote the roles of veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals and Veterinary Statutory Bodies. Of particular importance is the requirement for sustainable field veterinary networks able to recognise, report and respond appropriately to any significant veterinary epidemiological event (from natural, accidental or intentional origin). The key objectives of the WOA-H-WVA collaboration in this area are to:

- (i) promote the key roles of the Veterinary Services, including veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals and Veterinary Statutory Bodies, in the fields of animal health, animal welfare, food security and food safety, thereby helping to protect and improve public health;
- (ii) promote the role of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals as well-educated professionals, bound by a professional oath⁴, working according to a professional code of conduct and codes of Good Veterinary Practice, licensed and supervised by a veterinary statutory body (or equivalent);
- (iii) promote the prevention and control of animal diseases including zoonoses – and by extension the Veterinary Services – as Global Public Goods;
- (iv) help countries to comply with the WOA-H Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the WOA-H Aquatic Animal Health Code on the quality of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services through the [PVS Pathway](#);
- (v) support PVS missions and Veterinary Services workforce assessments by encouraging countries to share census information on private veterinarians and VPPs, and

promote the World Veterinary Association Position Statements on Veterinary Statutory Bodies

2.2 VETERINARY EDUCATION

The key objectives of the WOA-H-WVA collaboration in this area are to:

- (i) help countries to develop modern veterinary educational facilities, curricula and methods, based on the WOA-H Recommendations on the Competencies of Graduating Veterinarians ('Day 1 Graduates'), and the accompanying Veterinary Education Core Curriculum;

⁴ [WVA Global Veterinarians Oath](#)

- (ii) promote the WVA position statements on Global Veterinary Day-One Competencies⁵, on Implementing Veterinary Continuing Education and Professional Development⁶, and on Preparation of veterinary educators to innovate veterinary medical instruction;
- (iii) promote the development of objective and reliable methods for quality assurance in veterinary education and the accreditation of veterinary education establishments.

2.3 VETERINARY PARAPROFESSIONAL SKILLS TRAINING

The WVA and the WOAHA recognise the importance of veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) to assist veterinarians performing their duties.

One of the main reasons for insufficient veterinary care, especially in remote areas, is the absence of appropriately trained veterinarians, where primary level services are provided by veterinary paraprofessionals. WOAHA PVS Pathway reports have noted that VPPs training often lacks proper practical training, resulting in VPPs not having the necessary practical skills to deal with specific animal health challenges and to provide proper solutions. WOAHA and WVA strive to reinforce the capacity development of VPPs by way of training to improve their necessary practical and business skills to enhance animal health, public health and wellbeing.

The key objectives of the WOAHA-WVA collaboration in this area are to:

- (i) help countries and WVA members to develop training mechanism to provide practical and business skills to veterinary paraprofessionals.
- (ii) Promote the WOAHA Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals and the WOAHA Curricula Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals⁷
- (iii) Promote the definition of VPPs according to the WOAHA Terrestrial Animal Health Code
- (iv) Promote the WVA Position Statement on Veterinary Paraprofessionals⁸

ARTICLE 2 - LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Nothing in this Agreement shall give rise to financial obligations upon either Party.

To the extent any activity may give rise to financial obligations, a separate agreement shall be concluded subject to the Parties' respective internal rules and policies, prior to such activity being undertaken. When invited to meetings, seminars and conferences, the Parties shall be exempt from registration fees but will cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.

The Parties will mutually agree on preparation and issuance of any publications resulting from this Agreement. If a Party (the "Publishing Party") prepares and issues publications on its own, the other Party shall be given the opportunity to comment on the content before the

⁵ http://www.worldvet.org/uploads/docs/wva_policy_on_day_one_competences_march_2017_new.pdf

⁶ http://www.worldvet.org/uploads/docs/wva_position_on_cepdcnov2018.pdf

⁷ <http://www.rr-africa.oie.int/docspdf/en/2018/NL-2018-05-OIE-Competency-Guidelines-Veterinary-Paraprofessionals.pdf>

⁸ http://www.worldvet.org/uploads/docs/wva_position_on_veterinary_para-professionals.pdf

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publication is issued and the Parties will agree on any further amendment to the text. The copyright to the publication shall remain with the Publishing Party. The copyright of any contribution made to the publication by the other Party (the "Contributing Party") will be retained by the Contributing Party who hereby grants to the Publishing Party a worldwide, non-exclusive, sub-licensable, royalty-free license to use such copyright for purposes of publication.

The collaboration of the Parties shall be duly acknowledged in any publication resulting from this Agreement unless a Party notifies that it does not wish to be associated with the publication. The wording of the acknowledgement shall be agreed between the Parties.

ARTICLE 3 - USE OF THE PARTIES' NAMES AND EMBLEMS

Except as provided in this Agreement, neither Party shall use the other Party's name, acronym and/or emblem, without the prior written consent of the other Party.

ARTICLE 4 - LIABILITY

Each Party shall be solely responsible for the manner in which it carries out its part of the collaborative activities under this Agreement and/or any subsequent agreement. Thus, neither Party shall be responsible for any loss, accident, damage or injury suffered or caused by the other Party, or that other Party's employees, consultants or sub-contractors, in connection with, or as a result of, the collaborative activities under this Agreement and/or any subsequent agreement, unless such loss, accident, damage or injury suffered by one Party results from gross negligence or willful misconduct of the other Party.

ARTICLE 5 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

This Agreement will enter into force upon signature by the Director General of the WOA and the President of WVA.

This Agreement shall have a four-year term which may be renewed in writing by mutual consent of the Parties, subject to a review of the Parties' collaborative activities.

This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent expressed in writing.

Either Party may terminate this Agreement by giving six months' notice to the other Party. Termination will not affect the implementation of ongoing activities which have been decided by the Parties prior to the date of termination, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties in writing.

Nothing in or relating to this Agreement shall be deemed a waiver of any privileges which WOA and its staff enjoy.

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of the provisions of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the Parties.

The Parties agree that this Agreement will be concluded electronically via email exchange of scanned signed copies and that the signed copies exchanged in this manner shall be treated as originals.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health and the President of the World Veterinary Association have signed the present Agreement in duplicate, in English, on *23 May* 2023.



Rafael Laguens

President of the World Veterinary Association



Monique Eloit

Director General of the World Organisation
for Animal Health