

Session 1:

Prevention/control of transboundary
diseases, zoonoses and emerging infections

Zoonoses: the animal/human interface

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It is well documented that a significant percentage of diseases do not respect species borders any more than they do political borders. Doctor's of Veterinary Medicine (DVM's) are truly Doctors of Very Many Species (DVM's). As such, the interface between animal populations, whether terrestrial or aquatic, (including animals for food production, companionship, sport, entertainment or education) with the human population is one which requires veterinary practitioners to exercise a number of competencies. The absence of such competencies can have profound negative social and economic consequences. It is incumbent that veterinary education provide the fundamental horizontal complex problem solving abilities, diagnostic proficiency and communication skills to not only effectively limit the health impacts of zoonotic diseases on the animal population but to contribute to similar outcomes in the human population. With many newly emerging and re-emerging zoonoses, the impact on the animal owner or their family may well be as severe as or even more so than on the animal. This therefore requires an expanded consideration of risk and an expanded definition of consequence for diagnosis, treatment and integrated disease reporting. In such a reality, DVM's are therefore also Doctors of Very Many Situations and Determinators of Very Many Scenarios.

