

Session 1:

Prevention/control of transboundary
diseases, zoonoses and emerging infections

The need for educating wildlife health professionals

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The recognition of the importance of effectively diagnosing, preventing and managing the health of wildlife is rapidly growing around the world, as is the need for skilled veterinarians to provide leadership to face the challenges. Wildlife and wildlife disease control are closely linked to a number of important areas of concern in veterinary medicine because diseases are shared among wild species, domestic species, and humans; wild animals are increasingly being recognised for their social, cultural, and economic value and in some cases production systems are developing to meet these needs; there is a growing concern for animal welfare and well-being issues for wild species both free-ranging and in captivity, and the international trade in wildlife and wildlife products is growing to be of great significance. Wild animals can serve as sources of disease, victims of disease, and as valuable sentinels of both disease occurrence and environmental disruption and currently few veterinary training programmes around the world are providing the skills needed for the next generation of wildlife veterinarians.

