

## **Role of veterinarians in animal welfare and inter-sectorial collaboration**

René A. Carlson<sup>1</sup>, Zeev Noga<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>: President, World Veterinary Association (WVA), Avenue de Tervueren, 12, B-1040 Bruxelles, Belgium  
Email: [rcarldvm@gmail.com](mailto:rcarldvm@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>: Veterinary Policy Officer, World Veterinary Association  
Email: [zeev\\_noga@worldvet.org](mailto:zeev_noga@worldvet.org), [secretariat@worldvet.org](mailto:secretariat@worldvet.org)

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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.

As global understanding and concern for animal welfare continues to change, so must the role of the veterinary community evolve in this regard. Therefore, Animal Welfare is a core mandate of the veterinary community generally and veterinarians' individually. Veterinary engagement in animal welfare must encompass a wide range of activities going beyond prevention and treatment of diseases. Veterinarians shall play an active role in advocacy on animal welfare to animal owners, education and promotion of animal welfare to the wider public, to be involved in scientific research, in the drafting process of animal welfare legislations/standards and in animal welfare programs.

In this regard, the WVA promotes to veterinarians globally, the welfare and the protection of animals and the implementation of international standards. It's done throughout WVA position papers and fact sheets on different animal welfare issues, organization of global seminars and webinars on animal welfare and the integration of animal welfare components in the WVA Community-based Rabies Preventions Programs.

This presentation will highlight the WVA activities in the field of animal welfare via the WVA working group on animal welfare on projects, global events, global position papers and collaboration plans with partners where WVA emphasizes the importance of implementation of the OIE standards on Animal welfare. In addition, the presentation will also highlight the great potential, opportunity and responsibility of the veterinary profession to engage with a wide range of employment fields that deliver animal welfare services for the benefit of society and all animals.

Keywords: animal welfare – inter sectorial collaborations.