



# FVE's Strategy 2015-2020



Veterinarians: caring for  
animals *and* people



Federation  
of Veterinarians  
of Europe

## to the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe's 2015-2020 strategy

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**T**he FVE Board is delighted to present our new strategy for the next five years. It follows five years of great success promoting the interests of veterinarians throughout greater Europe while strengthening our own organisation.

Now we face new challenges – and new opportunities. Veterinarians have a key role in many high profile areas, including animal health, animal welfare, food safety, environmental protection, the sustainable keeping of animals and antimicrobial resistance. We are in a perfect position to influence on all these issues.

Furthermore, we represent and protect the political, social and economic interests of Europe's veterinarians – so they can continue to care for animals, people, the economy and the environment.

Our strategy sets out how we intend to go about this, as well as how we will strengthen the Federation so it remains robust for years to come.

We'd like to thank the many member organisations and other stakeholders who contributed to this strategy. Now begins the hard work of making it a reality. We look forward to working with you to achieve our ambitious goals.

### **The Board**

*Federation of Veterinarians of Europe*





## the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

**K**eeping animals healthy. Protecting people. Boosting the economy. Safeguarding the environment.

Veterinarians play a vital part in society. And we play a vital part in making sure veterinarians can do their jobs well – for everyone’s benefit. We work to:

- \* Bring our members together and give them a strong, united voice they can use to influence the issues that matter. We lobby politicians, institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other important stakeholders at European level, focusing on our priority issues: promoting the profession, animal health, animal welfare and public health.
- \* Look after the interests of Europe’s veterinarians, making sure they are respected and appropriately rewarded for their expertise.

### OUR MISSION

The European veterinary profession, embodied by FVE, strives to enhance animal health, animal welfare, public health and the protection of the environment by promoting the veterinary profession.

Together with its members, FVE aims to support veterinarians in delivering their professional responsibilities to the best possible standard, and ensure that this expertise is recognised and valued by society.

- \* Provide the information our members need to perform well in their jobs – and take action on important issues – through forums, events and publications.
- \* Develop the very best Europe-wide standards for the veterinary profession, so veterinarians all act according to best practice.
- \* Enhance the quality of pre- and post-graduate veterinary training, including life-long learning, to make sure veterinarians are equipped to do the best job possible throughout their careers.
- \* Promote the importance of the veterinary profession, making sure people understand its huge contribution to society.

Founded in 1975, FVE represents veterinary organisations from 38 European countries and includes four vibrant sections, each representing a key group in the veterinary profession: the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP); the European Association of State Veterinary Officers (EASVO); European Veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry (EVERI); and the Union of European Veterinary Hygienists (UEVH).



## veterinarians are vital



### **VETERINARIANS CARE FOR ANIMALS**

Every animal deserves a good life. Veterinarians are there to take care of Europe's 157 million pets and 360 million farm animals – not to mention zoo and wild animals, aquaculture and bees – when they are sick, in pain, or need treatment, preventing the spread of disease.

### **VETERINARIANS ENHANCE PEOPLE'S HEALTH**

Veterinarians' work goes much further than just looking after animals. It's crucial for people's health too.

Did you know that fatal diseases like Salmonella, E. Coli and Campylobacter commonly come from animals? Indeed, three-quarters of newly-discovered human diseases and 61%\* of all human infectious diseases come from contact with animals.

Veterinarians test and monitor animals for diseases like these, reducing transfer to humans and lowering the risk of them entering the food chain.



### **VETERINARIANS BOOST THE ECONOMY**

Trillions of Euros. That's what the work of veterinarians contributes every year to the European economy. They certify meat, dairy and fish products so the continent's 14 million farmers can sell them within Europe and to other countries, strengthening national and international economies.



### **VETERINARIANS PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT**

Farm animals can be contributors to climate change – but veterinarians guide farmers to minimise the damage. They support farmers to use animal medicines and chemicals responsibly and treat waste so it doesn't harm the environment.

### **VETERINARIANS STOP DISEASE OUTBREAKS**

Outbreaks of diseases like Foot and Mouth, Salmonella and BSE can cost billions and devastate the farming industry, not to mention killing thousands of animals and harming people too.

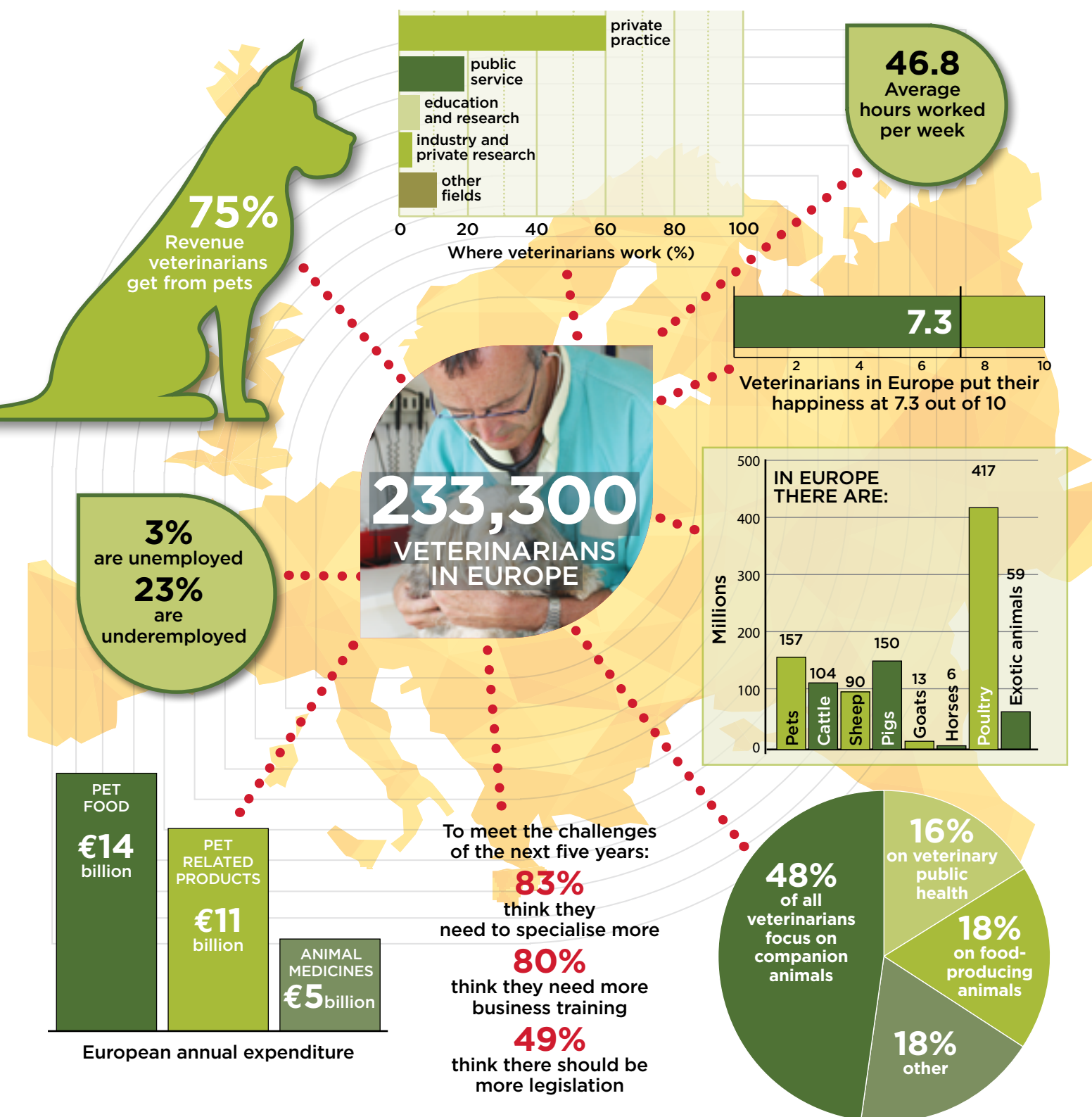
Veterinarians work day in, day out on farms and in slaughterhouses to detect these diseases and stop them in their tracks.



\*[http://www.who.int/neglected\\_diseases/diseases/zoonoses/en/](http://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/diseases/zoonoses/en/)

# Veterinarians

## in Europe: the facts\*



\*All figures come from The Veterinary Profession in Europe, our 2015 survey of 13,000 veterinarians across 24 European countries

## Our aims

**W**e have achieved a lot since we launched our last strategy in 2010. Just some of the successes we're proud of include:

- \* Raising our profile as a stable, well-established, well-known, respected, and influential partner at European and international level in all matters related to animal health, animal welfare and public health.
- \* Helping to create an understanding of the vital role of veterinarians.
- \* Strengthening the role of veterinarians in European legislation and taking significant steps forward in getting decision makers' support for our positions.

At the same time we recognise there is more to do. New challenges lie ahead and there is room for improvement in the areas where we are already active. There are many opportunities too.

Our new strategy includes five main aims:

### 1. IMPROVING THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

We'll continue to support veterinarians to deliver their professional responsibilities to the highest possible standards. As well as demanding high standards from veterinarians themselves, we'll make sure the profession is properly supported with resources, education, training and research.

To strengthen the position and quality of the veterinary profession, and the services that veterinarians provide, we'll focus on:

- \* Communicating veterinarians' professionalism – we want everyone to understand that this is a regulated profession, and that every veterinarian is accountable for his or her professional conduct.
- \* Promoting responsible use of antimicrobials – veterinarians have an important role to play in controlling the use of antimicrobials, medicines that have to be used correctly to avoid them becoming ineffective, so they can continue to protect animal and human health now and in the future.

- \* Promoting high-quality, science-based veterinary education at both pre- and post-graduate level – we want veterinarians to have the best possible education at all stages of their career so they can have maximum positive impact on animal and human health.

### 2. PROMOTING THE ROLE OF VETERINARIANS

The role of veterinarians is crucial, and often underappreciated. We'll continue to promote the importance of the veterinary profession to society, the economy and the environment. At the same time, we'll encourage veterinarians to rise to new challenges and changes.

To secure and support the role of veterinarians in society, we'll focus on:

- \* Increasing public understanding of the different roles veterinarians play in the areas of animal health, public health and animal welfare.
- \* Promoting the 'One Health' concept – showing how, by looking after the health of animals, veterinarians also look after the health of people.
- \* Doing more work around household pets/companion animals – 60% of veterinarians work with dogs and cats, but most EU regulations, and a lot of FVE's work, focuses on farm animals. We want to do more to improve the health and welfare of companion animals, looking at issues such as micro-chipping and pet identification, breeding issues and strays.
- \* Defending the role of veterinarians – for example in work on food hygiene, which in some countries is increasingly being outsourced to less specialised technicians.
- \* Exploring new opportunities in areas such as fish farming, animal welfare and new sources of animal protein.
- \* Promoting careers in the veterinary profession – we'll work with our partners in universities to make students more aware of the diverse roles and job opportunities in the veterinary profession.

\* Encouraging veterinary leadership – we want our members to take a lead on issues that society cares about in their country. We'll encourage and support them to make their opinions known and to bring people together to discuss the issues and find solutions.

### 3. EXTENDING OUR NETWORK

Veterinarians frequently work with other professions and sectors, and it's essential that we engage and collaborate with other groups on relevant issues. These include public health and food safety bodies, farmers, pharmaceutical companies, governments and NGOs. We aim to further enlarge our collaborative network with strong multi-disciplinary alliances.

In doing so, we'll focus on:

- \* Showing veterinary leadership in these alliances.
- \* Remaining true to our veterinary principles, vision and mission.

### 4. PROMOTING VETERINARY INTERESTS

We'll continue to speak up for veterinarians and to look after their interests, making sure they are satisfied, valued and rewarded in their jobs. To do this more effectively, we need to work more effectively with our member organisations and to strengthen key relationships.

We'll focus on:

- \* Better aligning the promotion of our interests on a European level and at a national level.
- \* Building stronger relations with both the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

\* Building on the strength of FVE national members.

### 5. STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANISATION

We want to make FVE stronger from within, getting all members involved and using their full potential so they can lobby on the issues that are important to us in their countries. Our goal is to have all our members satisfied with Federation's performance, engaged, motivated and committed to achieve the same goals.

To make FVE a more stable, strong and effective organisation, we'll focus on:

- \* Having the biggest impact with the resources we have available – recognising what our strengths are, being realistic about what we can achieve, and not duplicating the efforts of other organisations.
- \* Improving the way we engage with our members – encouraging them to use our resources, allowing us to use their resources, and working with them on common issues, without duplicating efforts.
- \* Strengthening our internal communications – extending our network of translators (including by working with multi-lingual people within member organisations) and looking at new ways to communicate with our members.

We will only be successful if we work together. We need the help of all our members to achieve these aims – alongside all other stakeholders in veterinary medicine.

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Find out more about how to get involved at [www.fve.org](http://www.fve.org)







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