

Newsletter – December 2013

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Excellence & ethics

“Ensuring Excellence and Ethics of the Veterinary Profession” was the theme of the global OIE conference held early December in Foz do Iguazu (Brazil). While winter had already arrived in Europe, some 1000 people from over 135 countries gathered in tropical Brazil to discuss the core values of the veterinary profession: education and professional ethics. The conference revealed that many countries regulate the veterinary profession. This is not without reason: the interests at stake – the health and wellbeing of animals and people – are too important to be left in the hands of unqualified laypersons.

Education and ethics are therefore two essential criteria for obtaining a veterinary license. Without knowledge of the health and welfare of animals or skills to assess these, the veterinary profession would not exist. Regular assessment of the quality of veterinary education is essential. In Europe, veterinary schools are regularly visited and assessed jointly by the EAEVE and FVE; the number of schools approved by this evaluation system is steadily increasing (currently 54/75). Ethics and professional behaviour are equally important. Animals, their owners and

society at large must be able to trust a veterinarian to offer independent advice and to act professionally. And veterinarians should be held accountable if this trust is betrayed. To ensure that professional standards are met, the profession is regulated by so-called Veterinary Statutory Bodies. These VSBs are independent organisations established by law. They are composed of professional peers, experts and stakeholders who verify if veterinarians meet these standards. If yes, the person can be licensed to practice; if not, the license can be refused or withdrawn.

While VSBs exist in many European countries, their functioning varies and their role is not always clear – and they may not have the level of impact required to truly safeguard animal and public health. In this era of increasing market liberalization and deregulation, it would not harm to think about the role and active contribution of VSBs to the quality and credibility of the veterinary profession. Perhaps a good New Year's resolution?

Jan Vaarten, FVE Executive Director

Animal Health

Legislative proposals

FVE calls for clearer definitions and close stakeholder involvement

The FVE welcomes the aims of the EU Animal Health Strategy: placing greater emphasis on preventative measures and on the “*One Health*” aspect, in particular through the introduction of regular farm visits by veterinarians, and the inclusion of companion and wild animals in the proposed legislation.

Proposals for the new community Animal Health Law (AHL), published by the EU Commission in May are now being discussed by the Council and the European Parliament (EP). The draft report by Marit Paulsen, the EP rapporteur, was warmly welcomed by FVE. Many of amendments she proposes are in line with earlier comments made by FVE.

While discussions are underway, the Federation reiterates that the Regulation should focus on the prevention and the control of diseases that can be transmitted to other animals and to people (zoonoses). There is also a need to better pin down the different roles veterinarians play, and FVE recommends introducing definitions of a Veterinarian and an Official Veterinarian.

Furthermore, FVE is concerned about the reference to “*Aquatic Animal Health Professionals*” who would be allowed to prescribe medicines – this would seem in contradiction with the policy of reducing antimicrobial use. In contrast to these unregulated and undefined professionals, veterinarians are qualified, regulated and can



be held accountable to the regulatory authorities.

A key point of the draft Regulation is the recognition of the importance of regular animal health visits to assure animal health, welfare and public health. This visitation system is indeed a “*cornerstone*” of the “*prevention is better than cure*” strategy. FVE calls for the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including veterinarians, in the drafting of the secondary legislation related to this system.

FVE also welcomes the risk-based approach for the categorisation of diseases. However, it stresses that the list of diseases should also take into account companion animals, wild animals and the environment. As such a list is part of legislation and it is crucial that its drafting is done transparently and after consultation of all stakeholders including the veterinary profession.

Finally, in order to prepare a smooth implementation FVE recommends investing in practical communication and a transposition plan ensuring the commitment of all stakeholders. Regarding the draft Regulation on Official controls, FVE recommends a clearer definition of its scope, which should include the control of products of animal origin. Other terms

also need clarification, such as “*other official activities*”, “*specific official tasks*” and “*under the supervision of a veterinarian*”. Furthermore, since the new Regulation will repeal the existing one on official controls, the key tasks of Official veterinarians, which are described in the annexes, will be put at risk. It is therefore vital to define a timeline and a procedure to re-adopt the existing annexes.

Legislative proposals for the AHL and Official controls are now being discussed by Council and the European Parliament (EP), with rapporteurs Marit Paulsen¹ (AHL) and Mario Pirillo² (Official Controls). Amendments were tabled early December and the vote in the EP ENVI (environment) committee is expected in March, with a plenary vote in April 2014.

New food sources

Edible insects, a food source with great potential

During the UEVP General Assembly meeting in Brussels, guest speaker

1 <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARL&mode=XML&language=EN&reference=PE514.757>

2 <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARL&mode=XML&language=EN&reference=PE522.944>

Arnold van Huis (Wageningen University, the Netherlands³) gave a presentation on edible insects as a food source for humans and animals. Insects had a very favourable feed conversion efficiency compared to other food-producing animals, he said. This is important, as *'we are currently facing problems with space and the environment – meadows and feed crops make up 70% of the total agricultural area.'* Furthermore, many insects could be grown on organic waste.

Insects had a particular potential for the livestock feed industry. He cited the Black soldier fly (*Hermetia illucens*), which was allowed in fishmeal since 1 June 2013. The protein content was similar and the fat content was higher than conventional fishmeal, and in several European countries, pilot studies were underway using this insect as a feed source. But also the pet food industry *'is looking at insects with renewed interest'*. Although there were many advantages, such as easy reproduction (1 kg of house fly eggs turn into 380 kg of larvae in 72 hours) and feeding (the Black soldier fly feeds on compost and manure), the *'six-legged livestock'* industry also faced a number of challenges. Production is very labour intensive and it was not easy to produce a constant supply, which currently made reared insects too expensive for human consumption. So far, there are no industrial codes and welfare regulations may needed to be adjusted.

Food safety risks are rather limited and most examples of food poisoning occur when insects get contaminated when not reared under hygienic circumstances (similar to common food). Allergy risks are currently being investigated, as cross reactivity may occur when people are allergic to house dust mites and would start eating insects. Disease management,

on insect farms is another challenge. Not that those pathogens are dangerous for humans but they can wipe out a whole colony. For example, the house cricket (*Acheta domesticus*) is highly susceptible to Densovirus. Veterinary experts were urgently needed, he said, as pathogens were the greatest fear of producers.



In developing countries, the challenges were rearing and sustainable harvesting of insects that were already on the menu, while in developed countries, the hurdles concerned rules and regulations and automation – as well as a cultural challenge. *'Eating insects is a matter of education,'* he stressed. He also announced that an international conference *'Insects to feed the world'* would be organised in Wageningen (NL), in collaboration with the FAO⁴ on 14-17 May 2014.

Exotic animals

FVE calls for the establishment of 'suitability lists'

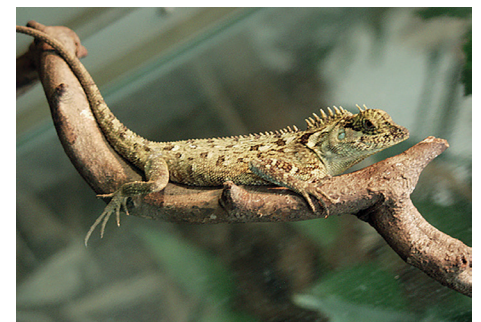
Crocodiles, chimpanzees, cobras - preliminary results of a recent survey show there has been an increase in the number of wild animals and other exotic species kept as companion animals. This trend raises concerns about animal health and welfare as

well as public health and the environment, according to the FVE, which is of the opinion that some species are 'completely unsuitable' for being kept by the general public.

The Federation calls for the principle of drafting so-called *'suitability lists'*, which specify the species that can (or cannot) be kept by private individuals. FVE calls for competent authorities to work towards the establishment of such lists⁵, based on a thorough scientific assessment of the risks to the animal itself, its owners and the society, as well as the potential impact on the indigenous species and ecosystems should the animal be released or escape.

FVE President Christophe Buhot commented: *'The establishment of positive lists in European countries represents a manageable, proportionate and effective regulatory process'* and urged European countries to follow their example. In collaboration with the Born Free foundation, the FVE organised a survey on Exotic animals in veterinary practice, to assess the degree of exposure to exotic companion animals by veterinary practitioners. Over 2,800 replies have been received so far, and are currently being analyzed.

In the UK, a similar initiative has lead to an assessment tool called EMODE⁶, classifies animals as Easy, Moderate, Difficult or Extreme in terms of how challenging they are



3 <http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/show/Insects-to-feed-the-world.htm>

4 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3253e/i3253e.pdf>

5 http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/006_fve_position_on_positive_lists_of_exotic_species_final.pdf

6 <http://emergentdisease.org/assets/documents/emode-brochure-screen.pdf>

to keep . EMODE, which has been published in the independent and peer-reviewed Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics⁷, is a user-friendly tool designed for use both by national and local government personnel and by anyone thinking of acquiring any type of pet.

Honey bees

FVE working group calls for increased availability of bee medicines

Challenges for the medical treatment of honeybees in Europe are numerous, recalled Nicolas Vidal-Naquet (FR, in the picture), chair of the FVE working group on honeybees. Speaking at the FVE General Assembly in November, he listed: limited availability, use of unlicensed or illegal products, antimicrobial resistance, caused by the illegal or uncontrolled use of antibiotics and residues in bee's wax and honey. The working group therefore urged legislators to facilitate the licensing of a greater variety of bee medicines and to increase availability through mutual recognition.

Regulations on bee disease control programmes should be harmonised, he added, while legislators should *'ban the use of substances in hives that were no veterinary medicines'*. Also, the use of antibiotics in the bee sector should be strongly discouraged, as this would contribute to antimicrobial resistance and residues in honey. The working group had also identified the main disease threats to bees. Together with FVE, the working group has produced a booklet *'Tackling Europe's bee decline – The role veterinarians*



*can play*⁸. Upcoming initiatives of the working group include drafting proposals for honeybee certification, good beekeeping guidelines and the rearing of edible insects.

Stray dogs

Romania: mandatory neutering of all common-breed dogs

The stray dog population in Romania is estimated at 1.2 million, according to Liviu Harbuz, speaking at the November FVE General Assembly meeting, which has led to an increased risk of rabies and other zoonoses. Although Romania has had specific legislation to contain stray dogs since 2002, this has so far failed to solve the problem. A fatal bite incident involving a pack of stray dogs in September led to new legislation which includes identification and registration but also the mandatory neutering of all common-breed (non pedigree) dogs. Captured stray dogs that are not claimed or adopted after 14 days at shelter will be euthanased.

Questions during the General Assem

bly showed that there are still many open questions. *'Euthanasia should always be a last-resort decision, and should never be undertaken lightly,'* FVE president Christophe Buhot commented. *'Furthermore, it is not an effective long-term solution.'*

FVE is a project partner of CaroDog for responsible dog ownership, which has dedicated a special focus on the Romanian stray dog problem. CaroDog calls for a multifaceted approach, including veterinary prevention with vaccination, systematic sterilisation, mandatory identification and registration as well as raising awareness among citizens

Rabies control

WSAVA and OIE call for global action

The recent cases of rabies in the Netherlands and France highlighted the importance of the high level symposium held by the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in Paris early November to explore strategies to manage and eliminate canine rabies. The outcome of the meeting is a joint

⁷ <http://emergentdisease.org/assets/documents/EMODE.pdf>

⁸ http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/fve_bro_bees__corrigenda_09_2013.pdf

statement⁹ that sets out the course of action that is required to make real progress in rabies control.

The Symposium, entitled 'One Health: Rabies and Other Disease Risks from Free-Roaming Dogs' was jointly chaired by Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, and Professor Michael Day, Chairman of the WSAVA One Health Committee. Speakers from around the world shared their experiences of managing free-roaming dog populations, the main source of human rabies and hundreds of mil-

Bernard Vallat added: *'Rabies still causes up to 60,000 human deaths every year. More than 95% of human rabies cases are transmitted by dogs. Yet, rabies can be prevented at animal source; vaccination of dogs remains the most cost-effective, single intervention that protects humans from contracting the disease. A global dog vaccination campaign could be funded with just a small fraction of the funds currently used in post-exposure prophylaxis in humans.'*



lions of dog bites worldwide, which require post-exposure treatment.

"Rabies causes the deaths of 150 people every day, kills numerous animals and threatens several endangered species, including the Ethiopian Wolf", recalled Sarah Cleaveland, Professor of Comparative Epidemiology (University of Glasgow). Professor Michael Day commented: 'the scale of human misery caused by this canine vaccine-preventable infection should not be tolerated in the 21st Century. We urge political leaders in countries where the disease is endemic to take action by establishing disease control programmes.'

⁹ <http://www.oie.int/for-the-media/press-releases/detail/article/wsava-and-oie-call-on-political-leaders-for-action-on-rabies/>

Animal Welfare

Companion animals

1st EU conference on pet welfare

'Building a Europe that cares for companion animals' was the title of the very first conference on the welfare of dogs and cats in the EU. The conference, held on 28th October 2013, was hosted by the European Commission and the Lithuanian Presidency, with the support of Eurogroup for Animals, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe and Vier Pfoten.

The proceedings highlighted the need for action to combat poor breeding practices, which cause significant harm to many breeds and individual animals; to attempt to control the abuse of the European Pet Passport system which was not intended for the commercial trade of companion animals; and to reduce, if not eradicate, the illegal trade which causes so much suffering to the animals involved and which increases the risk of spread of serious zoonotic diseases throughout Europe. The population of owned dogs and cats in the European Union is estimated at more than one hundred million animals.

Puppy farms reach 'alarming proportions'

FVE Executive director Jan Vaarten presented the Callisto project and the FVE leaflet on advice to pet owners regarding the responsible use of antibiotics, which is now available in all official EU languages¹⁰. In his presentation, Simon Orr, past president of Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) warned against the consequences of so-called puppy farms. *'Illegal trade of puppies has reached alarming proportions, with profits comparable to drug smuggling, attracting organised crime.'* This had a great impact on the welfare and health conditions of such puppies. *'One in three puppies are bought via such outlets and nearly one in five die before reaching 6 months of age.'* The whole conference was recorded audiovisually and is available on the conference website¹¹.

European study launched

The conference also saw the launch of a study into the welfare of dogs

¹⁰ <http://www.fve.org/veterinary/medicines.php#18>

¹¹ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/information_sources/ahw_events_en.htm



and cats involved in commercial practices. Based on the outcome of the study and this conference's proceedings, the Commission will consider what further action is necessary in order to improve animal welfare and to increase transparency and adequacy of information to consumers. Results of the study are expected by end 2014.

Puppy trade

Raising awareness and improving traceability

'Puppy Trade in Europe: A lack of traceability, threat to the European Market and Public Health' was the title of a lunch debate organized in Brussels by Vier Pfoten on November

26¹². Over 50 participants attended the event. Keynote speakers included members of the European Parliament Marit Paulsen and Elisabeth Jeggle and Commission representatives Alberto Laddomada (Head of the Animal Health Unit) and Andrea Gavinelli (Head of the Animal Welfare Unit), as well as Sven Hütter (Planet ID) and Jacques Grimaldi (EuroPetNet). It was also the occasion of the launch of the Four Paws report on Puppy trade in Europe, which had studied the impact of illegal businesses on the market, on consumers, on the one-health concept and on animal welfare.

While meeting participants agreed that an EU-wide traceability system of all animals was needed, the current system makes traceability impossible. Although an EU wide mandatory identification and registration system is feasible, rules on identification and

¹² <http://www.vier-pfoten.eu/conferences/2013-ep-lunch-debate-on-puppy-trade-in-europe/>

registration of pets will not be included in the upcoming EU Regulation on Animal Health but shall be integrated in other EU legislation.

N. De Briyne, FVE Deputy Executive Director, took part in the discussion by explaining the Callisto project and by stating that FVE is in favour of the mandatory identification of companion animals. She also stressed the need for more collaboration and an EU strategy on puppy trade.

Public Hearing

Slaughter without stunning: FVE calls for labelling

A meeting on labelling of meat from ritually slaughtered animals was held on 5 November, at the European Parliament. The initiative came from MEP Morten Messerschmidt.

Speaking at the meeting, Nancy De Briyne FVE Deputy executive director, reiterated that *'FVE is of the opinion that the practice of slaughtering animals without prior stunning is unacceptable under any circumstances.'* However, in countries that do practice slaughter without stunning, this should only apply to the animals designated for the consumption of the specific religious community. Currently, many more animals are slaughtered without stunning than needed by these communities, she added, and the FVE requests that the meat derived from animals slaughtered without stunning should be labelled as such.

She also presented the results of an EU-wide online survey undertaken by Sarah Persie, an FVE intern, which showed that 71% of a total of 1,492 respondents said they would want to know more about the method by which the animals are slaughtered. Animal welfare was cited as an im



important decisive factor when buying meat product together with origin, price and slaughter method. *'Consumers want to know – and have a right to know,'* Ms De Briyne concluded.

Other speakers included Jean-Luc Meriaux (UECBV), Michel Courat (Eurogroup) and Denis Simonin (DG Sanco), who gave further information on a study regarding labelling of slaughter methods. The study will be finalised in April 2014. The European Parliament asked a written question on labelling of meat and poultry products from ritually slaughtered animals, possibly followed by a written declaration.

the Standing Committee of Medical Doctors (CPME, the representative body of European doctors). Topic of the conference is "Prevention is better than cure"¹³, and will focus on zoonotic disease and the economics of prevention vs. cure. The conference will be divided into four sessions, with speakers from both the medical and veterinary sectors: Prevention is better than cure, what statistics say; Ensuring health and welfare of people and animals in a globalised environment; Collaboration of Health professionals in practice; and One Health, how to improve communication, both towards the public and between the medical and veterinary profession. Registrations will open end of January.

the European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECVB). Bernard Van Goethem (DG Sanco) gave an update on the state of play. For pigs, the amended rules will be applicable from June 2014 onwards¹⁴. The new legislation is aimed at strengthening the hygiene criteria for salmonella on pig carcasses, while *Trichinella* tests will apply to outdoor pigs only. The proposal on the postmortem inspection of pigs was submitted to the Council and the European Parliament on 31 October. The Commission has also started to work on the draft for poultry, in particular regarding a possible *Campylobacter* process hygiene criterion. Four additional EFSA opinions were published in June 2013 for beef, sheep and goats, horses and farmed game. The Commission is examining them and intends to table concrete legislative proposals in the first half of 2014 for each of these four animal species.

Michael Scannell (Director, Food and Veterinary Office) listed a number of shortcomings of the ante-mortem and post-mortem meat inspection that had been identified by the FVO. These included a variable access to records of on-farm controls, variable quality of animal ID and traceability and inaccurate information supplied to the Food Chain Information. He also identified antemortem inspection as a *'critical step'* for which veterinary presence was *'fundamental'*.

Speakers from different countries (UK, Italy, France) provided feedback on their country's experience with the Food Chain Information (FCI). They agreed that the FCI was working most effectively in integrated farming systems such as the pig and poultry sectors, but that much improvement was needed in the ruminant sector.

Public Health

Meat safety

Save the date: 7 April

One Health event organised jointly by European vets and doctors

A One Health conference will be organised on 7 April by the FVE, together with the Greek presidency and

Improving meat inspection throughout the food chain

'How to make meat official controls work for all?' was the title of a conference organised by the Lithuanian presidency in collaboration with

¹³ <http://www.fve.org/news/index.php?id=116#116>

¹⁴ COM REG (EU) No .../.. of XXX amending Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the specific requirements for post-mortem inspection of domestic swine (doc 16701/13)

Good communication, electronic FCI documentation, improved enforcement and common requirements throughout the EU were listed as the main challenges.

Food safety & quality

FVE working group to draft FCI guidelines

Species	Main biological hazards
Swine	<i>Campylobacter</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>ESBL-AmpC carrying E. Coli</i> and <i>Salmonella</i>
Cattle	<i>Verocytotoxin-producing Escherichia coli (VTEC)</i> , <i>Salmonella</i>
Sheep and goats	VTEC, <i>Toxoplasma</i>
Solipeds	<i>Trichinella</i>
Farmed game (Deer)	<i>Toxoplasma</i>
Farmed game (Wild boar)	<i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Toxoplasma</i>
Farmed game (reindeer, ostriches, rabbits)	None

Christophe Buhot, FVE president, and Sean O'Laoide, UEVH President, underlined the key role played by veterinarians for improvement of the FCI, and insisted on the importance of feedback to practitioners at farm level. *'Food chain information is the cornerstone of modern official controls on food of animal origin,'* he stressed. Food chain information (FCI), obtained from livestock farmers through regular health visits and (ante and post mortem) inspections at slaughter are *'inseparable parts of one coherent food safety, animal health and welfare assurance system.'* In its 2 October position paper¹⁵, the FVE reiterated that complete and reliable FCI on the health and welfare status of the animals is *'essential for risk-based, targeted inspections at slaughter and will contribute to improving farming practices.'*

Drafting guidelines on the Food Chain Information was at the top of the agenda during the 9 December meeting of the FVE Food safety and quality working group. Chaired by Frank O'Sullivan (Ireland), the group started working on a framework for guidelines on the FCI for Official veterinarians, veterinary practitioners and farmers. The group will closely monitor Commission proposals on this issue. The working group also discussed the Official Controls proposal currently under debate in the European Parliament and the Council.

Medicines

Antimicrobial resistance

European Antibiotic Awareness Day 2013

'Everyone is responsible' was the title of the 2013 Antibiotic awareness day¹⁶. *'Decrease of antimicrobial use is a must,'* stressed Paola Testori Coggi (DG Sanco) during her opening address. She recalled that the European Commission published legislation making antimicrobial resistance (AMR) monitoring programmes mandatory throughout the EU. She also mentioned that the recent Eurobarometer showed an increased awareness of AMR, but that antibiotic use in humans had only decreased by a few percent points.

Rens van Dobbenburgh, speaking on behalf of the FVE, stressed that the veterinary profession in Europe had AMR at the top of its agenda. *'At this moment about a quarter of FVE time is dedicated to this topic. Responsible use of antimicrobials is always on our veterinary minds,'* he stressed. He also mentioned the numerous FVE initiatives, including conferences, leaflets and presentations on AMR. *'Several of our member states have already established well-organised monitoring systems of antimicrobial use, and more are to follow.'* He added that the veterinary profession was convinced of the necessity to cooperate with other stakeholders such as farmers and human doctors, and added that FVE was a founding member of the European Platform of the Responsible Use of Medicines in Animals (ERPUMA). *'Veterinarians are dedicated to fight antimicrobial resistance. We are part of the solution.'*

¹⁵ http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/13_005_pig_meat_inspection_rev_13_10.pdf

¹⁶ <http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/EAAD/Pages/Home.aspx>

For the British Veterinary Association (BVA), EAAD was the occasion to remind animal owners that the rules for safeguarding antibiotics in humans also apply to animals, and had produced a poster in collaboration with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), aimed at pet owners. BVA also produced two client leaflets aimed at farmers and pet owners to explain antibiotic resistance, similar to the FVE leaflets.

Antimicrobial resistance

Benelux to collaborate in the fight against AMR¹⁷

Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg held a joint symposium to tackle antibiotic resistance together.

'Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to humanity,' stressed Herman Goossens, a human epidemiologist. And although Gram-positive resistance was more or less under control, resistance among Gram-negatives and particular against carbapenems was *'very problematic'*. In Greece, carbapenem resistance was *'endemic'*.

Jaap Wagenaar (Wageningen University, the Netherlands) explained the efforts done by the NL to reduce the antibiotics used for animals. Together with the stakeholders, it was decided to reduce antibiotic use in the animal production sector from 2009 to 2011 (-20%), to 2013 (-50%) and to 2015 (-70%). For cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones, a zero % target was set. Currently, the country has reached -56% of the 2009 level. In addition, farmers need to have a 1-1 relation with their vet and all antibiotic use is recorded. Ludo Hellebrekers (KNMvD) added that this put the veterinarians in a stronger position and prevented farmers from 'shopping around'

France

Veterinarians protest against 'decoupling'

Early November, an estimated 9,000 French veterinarians held a protest march in the streets of Paris, demonstrating against the legislative proposal to decouple critically important antibiotics. In France, a new antibiotic strategy plan is currently being discussed, including requirements such as no gifts, a fixed margin without profit (15%) for a number of antibiotics. There was a strong reaction from the whole veterinary sector and the march was very successful. More than 90% of the veterinary practices were closed on the day of the manifestation. The proposal has now been withdrawn but it can be introduced again via the Parliament.

Joint conference on AMR

Leaflets for the medical and dental professions

An FVE delegation participated in the Joint – medical & veterinary – Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). This meeting was aimed at

sion, with a view to identify limitations and possibilities in both sides.

After presentations by representatives of the European Commission and of international organisations, three panel discussions were held (Research and risk assessment; Challenges for risk managers; Challenges for stakeholders). During the panel discussion, Jan Vaarten (FVE executive director) presented two new FVE leaflets for the responsible use of antibiotics, aimed at medical professionals (doctors and dentists) and farmers. Leaflets have been translated by the European Commission into all official EU languages. There are also leaflets for veterinary practitioners, pet owners and the general public¹⁷ Leaflets for horse owners are currently in preparation. The publications aim to increase the awareness of antimicrobial resistance and to give guidance for the responsible use of antimicrobials. Hans-Joachim Götz (FVE vice president) underlined the need for farm visitation programmes, veterinary prescription and post-treatment evaluation as part of the system.

Conclusions of the meeting highlighted the need for closer collaboration between the veterinary and medical sectors, rapid and affordable diagnostic tests, international coordination of actions and the regulation of the internet sales of antibiotics.



Federation
of Veterinarians
of Europe



COMITÉ PERMANENT DES MÉDECINS EUROPÉENS
STANDING COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN DOCTORS



COUNCIL OF
EUROPEAN DENTISTS

Health professionals care for animals and people

Doctors, Dentists and Veterinarians advise
"How to use antibiotics responsibly"



reviewing the action plan of EU Commission and its implementation in both medical and veterinary profes-

¹⁷ <http://www.fve.org/veterinary/medicines.php>

René Carlson

René Carlson is currently the Director for International Affairs for the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). She was previously in small animal clinical practice for 34 years. She is a Past President of the AVMA, past member of the AVMA's Council on Education, chaired the World Veterinary Association's Constitution and Bylaws Working Group, and is currently a candidate for President of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) for 2014-2017. She lives and works in northern Wisconsin in the United States.

1. What are the commonalities and the differences between the veterinary medical profession in North America and Europe?

Even though our daily lives are mostly focused locally, veterinarians are part of a complex, interconnected global macrocosm. The European and North American veterinary professions have more common interests and concerns than different ones. Examples are 1) urban vs. rural practice needs, 2) workforce balance across disciplines, 3) education quality, 4) animal welfare, 5) control of infectious and zoonotic diseases, like rabies, and 6) the need to market our profession so that both private and public sectors understand the broad and complex knowledge and skill sets that allow veterinarians to make significant contributions to animal and public health.



There are some differences, though. In North America, we are three large countries with two significant borders. There are three basic languages (Spanish, English, and French), and three basic currencies. Europe has so many borders, currencies (even with the

EUR) and languages, and a much longer history of cross-border conflict. I am amazed at the collaboration and success of the FVE in uniting the European veterinary profession.

2. What is the success of an AVMA and FVE collaboration and why is it important?

The AVMA and FVE started working together a few years ago and developed joint position statements on animal welfare, veterinary education, responsible use of antimicrobials, and most recently the value of veterinary services for the public good. Because together we represent approximately 250,000 veterinarians, these joint statements carry a lot of weight with members, policy makers, and the public. Both organizations are also highly respected, with good leadership, staff support, and resources. Ours is a valuable and productive relationship because the more we can work together to generate attention on topics impacting the veterinary profession, the more we can influence and improve standards and policies on these issues.

3. What are the biggest challenges and opportunities for veterinarians in the next 10-20 years?

We do have major global challenges: defeating hunger, managing the impact of climate change, and improving animal health and welfare which will improve human health and welfare. The opportunities are almost endless: continued improvement in veterinary and public health education, communication, and trusted collaborative partnerships. The time is now to expand organizational collaboration and visibility for the benefit of animal and human health. This is in part why the AVMA and FVE are members of the WVA. I believe the recently approved changes to the WVA governance documents will make it a stronger association more able to achieve its potential as the credible and respected global voice of veterinary medicine. I'm excited about the possibilities within the WVA, and this is why I have announced my candidacy for President of the WVA for 2014-2017. I would appreciate your participation and support.

Antibiotic use

FECABA publishes presentations and posters

"Not all infections are caused by bacteria: some are viral and do not respond to antibiotics. Also, not all bacterial infections require antibiotic therapy." This is one of the tips for pet owners on the new waiting room poster, produced by FECABA in collaboration with the Bella Moss foundation. The current issue of FECABA's official journal, the European Journal of Companion Animal Practice¹⁸, is dedicated to the appropriate use of antimicrobials. Christina Greko (Sweden) explains the successful fight against antimicrobial resistance in her country, while Luca Guardabassi (Denmark) gives tools for choosing the best antibiotic – if any! The working group has also produced a poster with an overview with twenty most common infectious conditions and their approach¹⁹.

18 <http://www.fecava.org/ejcap>

19 <http://www.fecava.org/content/guidelines-policies>

FVE & Professional matters

November 2013

FVE General Assembly

The FVE General Assembly, held in Brussels on 15 and 16 November, was attended by 130 delegates from over 30 European countries. The new Animal Health Law, Medicines, with a particular focus on antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare, and the veterinary role in aquaculture and bee health care were among the main agenda items (see elsewhere in this newsletter). But professional topics were also discussed.

Lynne Hill, chair of the recently renewed Veterinary Statutory Bodies Working Group, gave an update on the Professional Qualification Directive, national jurisdiction of veterinarians & para-professionals, the charter for liberal professions, liberalization of the professions and FVE's 12 principles for certification.

Regarding the Professional Qualification Directive, Council's final vote mid-November meant that FVE will now focus on providing input on the delegated acts that will now be drafted, in particular the minimum training requirements for veterinarians and Day-one competences.

Laszlo Fodor, president of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) gave an update on the steadily increasing number of European veterinary schools that are approved and accredited. Of the 75 EAEVE member schools in the EU, the large majority (78.3%) were either accredited, approved or conditionally approved.

Guest speaker professor Jonathan Rushton (Royal Veterinary College, UK) gave a presentation on economics in veterinary education. He ex-

plained the EU Lifelong Learning Project NEAT: *"Networking to enhance the use of economics in animal health education, research and policy making in Europe"*, while guest speaker Emanuela Galeazzi, European Commission DG AGRI (Agriculture and Rural Development) gave a presentation on the European Innovation Partnership. Work-related psychological problems among veterinarians were highlighted in a joint presentation by Peter Jones (British Veterinary Association) and René Carlsson (American Veterinary Medical Association). They stressed the need for possibilities to share difficult issues with peers and for an early detection of signals indicating that something was going wrong. A specific workshop dedicated to this topic at the next General Assembly, which will take place in Biarritz (Fr) on 23 and 24 May 2014.

Three of the four Sections had held elections. The UEVH Board was largely re-elected: Sean O'Laoide (Ireland) - president; Hennig Knudsen (Denmark) - senior vice president; Emilian Kudyba (Poland) - vice president; Günter Klein (Germany) - treasurer and Jason Aldiss (UK) - secretary-general.

The EVERI board is now as follows: Sabine Schueller (Germany) - president; Ellef Blakstad (Norway), Massenzio Fornasier (Italy), Jean-Louis Pellerin (France) and Valda Sejane (Latvia) - board members.

Finally, the EASVO board is composed of: Veronique Bellemain (France) - president; Hans-Petter Bugge (Norway) - secretary general; Ray Finn (Ireland) - treasurer; Cornelia Rossi Broy (Germany), Andreas Wunsch (Austria) - vice-presidents.

Joining forces

FVE adopts Charter for Liberal Professions

On 24 October, the FVE adopted the "Charter for Liberal Professions"²⁰ along with the representative European organisations of doctors (CPME), dentists (CED) and engineers (ECEC). Despite their growing importance, the social significance of liberal professions is still not sufficiently acknowledged at EU level. The Charter therefore proposes a definition of the term 'liberal professions', which is understood differently in different Member States. It also aims to issue recommendations for the European Institutions to consider the implications for liberal professions of any new or amended legislation and policies.

FVE survey

Veterinary Demography in Europe

What is the ratio of veterinarians employed in the different veterinary fields of activity? And how does it compare between European countries? How many veterinarians are unemployed or underemployed in the different countries? These and many others are questions FVE often is asked and to which it currently has no factual reply, therefore decided to set up a survey on the demography of the veterinary profession in Europe. The aim is to produce one European report and a factsheet per country. The European report will contain information on veterinarians in Europe (numbers, profile, gender, employment...), the labour market (number of practices, animal ownership, transactions, market size...) and informa-

tion different fields of employment. It is expected that the data will become available in 2014.



Obituary

M. Fenlon (1938-2013)

Michael Fenlon, who served as Registrar of the

Irish Veterinary Council for 10 years, passed away on 17 November 2013. Michael qualified as a veterinary surgeon in 1963 and worked in practice until 1967 in Tullamore and Keady, Co Antrim. In 1968 he began working for the Department of Agriculture in the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Abbottstown, Dublin, moving to Limerick as Senior Research Officer in the Regional Veterinary Laboratory two years later. He was President of both the Irish Veterinary Officers Association 1986–1987 and of the Irish Veterinary Association 1994–1995. In 1995, he was appointed Registrar of the Veterinary Council where he stayed until he retired at the end of 2004. During his time as Registrar he oversaw the first major change since 1931 in the legislation on veterinary regulation, culminating in the Veterinary Practice Act in 2005.

Michael also had a major interest in veterinary education and organised Veterinary Council visitations to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in University College Dublin. He was also a member of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) Education Committee and attended FVE General Assemblies as one of the Irish delegates. Michael was also a very keen golfer and committed rugby supporter both at regional and national level.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam (May his soul be at God's right hand).

FVE

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The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of 46 veterinary organisations from 38 European countries and 4 Sections, regulated by the law on international societies in Belgium.

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Free lance editor K. de Lange

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M. Fenlon by Veterinary Council/
Veterinary Ireland, F. Proscia

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²⁰ http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/charter_for_liberal_professions_fin.pdf