



Federation of
Veterinarians
of Europe

Newsletter – July 2014

Contents

Animal Health

MEPs vote for regular farm visits	2
World Health Day	3
A New Spring for Bees	3

Animal Welfare

Horse welfare	4
Stray dogs: towards a sustainable solution	5
Animal welfare workshop	5

Public Health

Veterinarians play key role in meat inspection	5
Callisto preparing recommendations	6

Medicines

Prescription behaviour: which antibiotic when?	7
Zinc oxide	7
Antibiotic use: not correlated to veterinary dispensing	8

Education

VetCEE	9
Four veterinary schools approved	9

FVE & Professional matters

Taking a snapshot of the veterinary profession	11
--	----

3 Questions for.....	10
----------------------	----

Changing the Union?

Every 5 years, a new European parliament is elected. Last May all European Union citizens had the opportunity to cast their vote. Around 43 % of the citizens went to vote, 57% didn't.

As can be expected after a period of crisis and austerity measures, the European Union saw a growing polarization towards the sides of the political spectrum, more skepticism and strong outcries to re-focus the union. 'The union has to do more to promote growth and jobs, and to become more relevant to citizens', said François Hollande, the French president. "We must change Europe to save it," replied Matteo Renzi, the Italian prime minister.

How drastic will this change be? The European Treaty - laying down EU's remit and rules, as these are agreed by all member countries – remains unchanged. Although the four main pro-EU political groups in the Parliament together lost, they still hold a majority of about 70% of the seats. And while all EU leaders do agree that the main priority should be the promotion of growth, competitiveness and jobs, they have very different views on how to reach such goals.

Will we see any change? Yes, most likely there will be a strengthening of the principle of "subsidiarity" whereby the Union only can intervene if it is able to act more effectively than the Member States on their own. Also decision making is likely to become tougher, making legislative procedures more time consuming.

Will much change for the veterinary profession? Probably not, as issues of animal health, animal welfare of livestock, regulation of veterinary medicines and professional degrees are fundamental to free movement and free trade. Decentralization would mean a step backwards.

One thing often forgotten is that the European Union is not only about free movement of people, services and goods. As important is the goal of promoting peace and European values. These values include the health and wellbeing of all people and the recognition that animals are sentient beings. These values we are also committed to as veterinary profession.

Nancy De Briyne

Animal Health

Animal Health Legislation

MEPs vote for animal health visits

On 15 April, the European Parliament voted on the proposed regulations on Animal Health and Official Controls.

Regarding the Animal Health Regulation, members of the European Parliament (MEPs) adopted the definitions of veterinarian (as defined by the FVE) and official veterinarian. In particular, FVE welcomed the adopted provisions for animal health visits, “cornerstone of the ‘prevention is better than cure’

strategy and indispensable for the prevention and early detection of disease and welfare issues”. MEPs also called for mandatory identification and registration of dogs, and underlined the need to address antimicrobial resistance: micro-organisms developing resistance should be considered a disease. Furthermore, MEPs recalled the need for protecting animal welfare, as animals are sentient beings. They also identified the input of stakeholders as essential in the development of secondary legislation.

Regarding the Official Controls Regulation, important EP amendments include the recognition of the role and tasks of the official veterinarian, a definition of the official auxiliaries

and clarification of the role of border control posts. “*The responsibility for such controls must be entrusted to highly qualified staff able to identify the emergence of possible risks and threats to human health*”, FVE recalls. Amendments also include verification of compliance with animal welfare requirements according to specific welfare indicators. Although these votes in first reading are an important step in the legislative procedure, they are not final ones. The Commission proposals are also under discussion by the other co-legislator, the Council of the European Union.

Conclusions of the meeting include the recognition that health and wellbeing of people and of animals are strongly interlinked. One Health therefore “*requires applying a coordinated, multidisciplinary and cross-sectional approach*” to address the risks that originate at the animal-human-ecosystems interface. People and animals share a large number of pathogens. The advancement of the health and wellbeing of people and animals therefore “*depends on good collaboration between different professions and disciplines, in the public as well as in the private sector*” This calls for a global strategic approach, participants suggested.



World health day

Vets and doctors emphasise “prevention is better than cure”

On 7 April, on the occasion of the 2014 World Health Day, FVE organised a One Health conference advocating that “*prevention is better than cure*”, together with the European Doctors (CPME) supported by the Greek Presidency and the European Commission. Several speakers (see the picture) presented different aspects of One Health, and around 125 participants actively engaged in the discussion.

It is important to bring the One Health concept across to future health professionals, participants found. “*Closer collaboration between veterinary and medical schools will foster a broader view on One Health issues*”. Meeting participants also agreed on the importance of a collective approach of antimicrobial resistance and the responsible use of antibiotics “*both in human primary care and hospitals and in veterinary practice (farm and companion animals)*”. Finally, participants called upon EU member states to enforce the use of existing tools for detection and monitoring of health

1 http://www.fve.org/news/presentations/GR%20Conference_2014/Draft%20conclusions_One%20Health_FINAL.pdf

risks and encouraged joint research projects.

Equidae

Horse identification under revision

The horsemeat scandal last year revealed weaknesses of the equine identification system, which led the European Commission to revise the rules on the identification of horses².

Since July 2009, all horses born or imported into the EU need to be identified. The horse fraud scandals however showed the weakness of the legislation and therefore the EC is revising this Regulation to make it more robust and fraud-proof – a step welcomed by the FVE and the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (FEEVA). These organisations have indeed called for the requirement for Member States to have a centralised equine database and improved identification document standards for a number of years.

However, concerns remain over some technical details such as the possible liability given to veterinary surgeons and the poor applicability of certain articles. A special meeting was held end June between the European Commission and a delegation of FEEVA, the British equine Veterinary Association and World Horse Welfare to discuss this. A vote in the Standing Committee on the proposal, which has already undergone many revisions, is expected in the coming months.

Honey bee health

Conference: new spring for bees

On 2 April 2014, a conference in the European Parliament entitled “A New



Spring for Bees” was hosted by Gaston Franco MEP, in the framework of the third European Week of Bees and Pollinators³. Participants included several Members of European Parliament, Tonio Borg (Commissioner of Health) and Dacian Ciolos (Commissioner of Agriculture), Monique Eloit (OIE) as well as representatives of various European and international institutions. The conference assessed the current status of research on bee health and contributed to present concrete and effective strategies to improve the situation of the beekeeping sector. The current mortality rate of bee colonies is worrisome not only in terms of environmental preservation, but also in terms of food security since more than 35% of the world’s food production would be at risk.

Panellist Nicolas Vidal Naquet (FVE) (in the picture together with Ms. V. Luddeni) noted the lack of involvement of veterinarians in bee

health issues over the past. He stated FVE’s engagement in promoting bee health into veterinary programs across Europe, in order to better advise beekeepers, highlighting that veterinarians already do so for all other reared species.

Pigs & poultry

Online tool to evaluate biosecurity

A risk-based biosecurity scoring system for (conventional) pig and poultry herds was presented to the assembly of the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP) by professor Jeroen Dewulf from the University of Ghent (Belgium). His team had developed an online programme to assess the level of internal and external biosecurity, allowing comparison over time and between different herds. Ideally, the questionnaire should be filled in together with the veterinary advisor “to help farmers fill in what they are doing rather than what they should be doing”. The programme (www.biocheck.ugent.be) is anonymous, freely available and exists in several languages. He added that the programme was currently being used in EU research projects on the link between antimicrobial resistance and biosecurity.

² Council Directive 90/427/EEC and 2009/156/EC

³ http://www.ebcd.org/en/EP_Intergroup_CCBSD/A_New_Spring_for_Bees.html

Animal Welfare

Pig welfare

Ban on surgical castration: objective 2018

The ban on pig castration has still got a long way to go. The European declaration on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs, signed in 2010, had set as targets that, from 2012, *“surgical castration shall be performed with prolonged analgesia and/or anaesthesia with methods mutually approved”*, while from 2018, *“surgical castration of pig should be abandoned”*.

Unfortunately, the first target has not been achieved. Work towards the second target has started, *“but, now in 2014, halfway the deadline, we’re nowhere near halfway the target”*. Although good progress is made in certain countries (Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Germany...) little progress was made in others.

On 22 May, an Expert group meeting on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs was organised by DG Sanco. Gerard van Eijden, a pig practitioner from the Netherlands, attended on behalf of FVE.

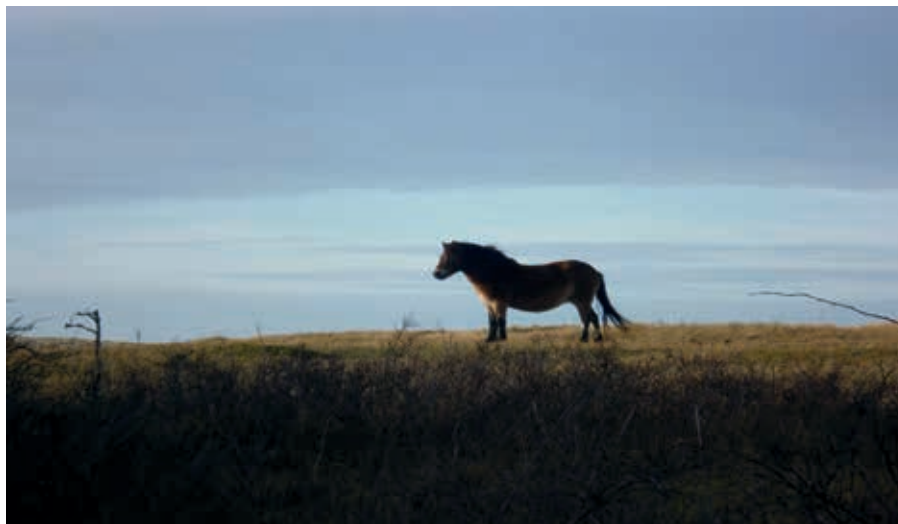
Horses

EU taking inventory

The welfare of horses was the topic of a meeting jointly organised by the European Commission, Eurogroup for animals and World Horse Welfare, on 7 May. Ben Mayes (UK), board member of the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (FEEVA). Meeting participants discussed critical problems concerning horse identification and registration,

slaughter and breeding conditions, import from third countries, welfare indicators and the legal complexity depending on the status of the horse (as food animal or companion / sports animal).

An EU Equine welfare report will be prepared by World Horse Welfare and Eurogroup for Animals, with the aim to take inventory of the state of horse welfare in the EU. This includes



defining the size of the equine market, economic drivers and sector structure, mapping the legislative context (and gaps) at member state and EU level and highlighting current ‘best practices’ of the equine sector. FEEVA will participate in drafting the report, which is expected by November 2014.

Responsible dog ownership

Stray dogs: towards a sustainable solution

Stray dogs are a huge problem in many countries, with dire consequences for the health and welfare

of both animals and people, recalled Monique Megens, president of the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations

(FECAVA), speaking at the general assembly of the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP), on 22 May. As an example, there were an estimated 65,000 stray dogs in Bucharest alone. Romania in particular had witnessed many dog bite incidents, and the killing of a four-year-old boy last September lead to new legislation in September. This included the killing of unclaimed stray dogs,

mandatory neutering and mandatory registration. A delegation of the European Parliament, which had visited the country twice last winter, had found evidence of poor implementation, including inhumane handling and killing of dogs and inappropriate conditions and care of dogs in shelters.

She also reported on the Expert Workshop on Stray Animals in Europe, organised in Brussels on 10 April by Vier Pfoten and the Ministry of Rural Space and Consumer Protection of Baden-Württemberg⁴. The meeting ended with a declaration stating that stray animals should no longer be treated as wild animals but as *“domesticated without owners”* and this should be borne in mind when controlling the situation.

⁴ <http://www.vier-pfoten.eu/conferences/2014-expert-workshop-on-stray-animals-in-europe/>

FECAVA is currently preparing a position paper on stray dog control, *“which should be based on an integrated science-based strategy”*.

The number of people bitten by dogs had gone down since the new legislation, reported Viorel Andronie (Romania), speaking at the FVE General Assembly. Bite incidents were down 40% from the average of the past 10 years, which he attributed *“to the positive effect of legislation”*. He described the legislative measures in detail, which could also be found online⁵, as well as the results of inspections regarding capture and transport, shelters, traceability, disease control and record keeping. Mandatory identification was linked to the RomPet ID database. At the time of speaking, over 1100 veterinary practices had registered some 33,000 dogs belonging to 25,000 owners. At the end of his talk, he invited a delegation of interested veterinarians to *“come and see for themselves”*.

On 24 May, the responsible dog ownership's CAROdog website published a *“special focus”*⁶, on stray dog population management in Romania, and a wide range of factual, legal and political information related to this topic. CAROdog is the knowledge management tool to promote *“sustainable and animal-welfare friendly, EU-wide, ethical solutions for stopping dog overpopulation”*. FVE is one of CAROdog's four project partners.

Education

Animal welfare workshops: 1100 vets trained

Lyon will host the next Animal Welfare Workshop on 13-14 October, organised by the FVE jointly with

the European Commission, the Lyon Veterinary School (VetAgro Sup) and the French Association of Veterinary Practitioners (SNVEL). This workshop in Lyon is mainly targeted at veterinarians from France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, and Luxembourg. The workshop, which aims to *“provide veterinarians with a deeper understanding of animal*



welfare”, will focus per species on the animal welfare legislation applicable, the critical welfare issues and species-specific welfare assessment schemes. The workshop will consist of both a theoretical and a practical on-farm session, where participants can bring their theoretical knowledge into practice. The two-day workshop will also have a practical session using welfare assessment tools in cattle farms, pig farms, an equine centre and the Lyon zoological garden, for veterinarians involved with wild animals in captivity. Participation is free but registration is mandatory due to the limited places available. Registration will open end June on the website of the European Commission⁷. This workshop is part of a series of workshops. Similar workshops were held in Budapest (Hungary), Barcelona (Spain), Riga

(Latvia), Sinaii (Romania), Lasize (Italy), Zeist (Netherlands) and Warsaw (Poland). So far, over 1,100 veterinarians from over 27 countries have been trained.

Public Health

Meat inspection

Key role of the vets

“The veterinarian plays a key role in ensuring the safety of foods of animal origin from ‘farm to fork’, through providing professional advice, and carrying out inspection, audit and enforcement tasks”. This is the main message of the FVE policy on the modernisation of meat inspection, which was adopted by the general assembly meeting in Biarritz, last month⁸. The policy paper contains a number of recommendations for the effective implementation. Particular attention should be given to the implementation of the Food Chain Information (FCI), which should be linked to herd health planning and harmonised epidemiological criteria, according to FVE. *“The FCI goes in both directions, from farm to the slaughterhouse but should also include feedback to the farmer and his veterinary practitioner”*, recalled Frank O’Sullivan, chair of the FVE working group on food safety and quality, made up of veterinary hygienists, practitioners as well as state veterinary officers.

“As vets, we have a helicopter view, and are able to consider the animal health and welfare, public health and environmental factors involved”.

5 http://www.cmvro.ro/#!__legislatie

6 <http://www.carodog.eu/>

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

8 http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/001_modernization_mi_draft_adopted_ga_may_14.pdf

Zonoses

Callisto preparing recommendations

To define targeted actions that contribute to reducing the risk of infectious disease transmission from companion animals to man and food animals – that is the focus of third

be to promote responsible pet ownership. With regard to health issues of the animal, the owner, and other animals and people, the veterinarian is an important source of advice. Strengthening the One Health approach is therefore another recommendation formulated by Callisto. Other recommendations include further data collection, both of general information on numbers of compan-

US-EU negotiations

Carcase decontamination cannot replace good hygiene

Negotiations on a new Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) were launched by the EU and US on 17 June 2013, to aim for a free



and last cycle of the Callisto project, the European think tank on zoonotic diseases. The recommended actions are based on the outcome of the previous cycle that identified knowledge and technology gaps in the management of such risks.

Although a number of transmissible diseases require pathogen-specific actions, a wide variety of issues can be approached through more general, horizontal measures, starting with the owner of the animal. Animal owners play an important role in improving benefits obtained from keeping companion animals and reducing risks associated with the interaction with these animals. One of the priority recommendations will therefore

ion animals in Europe and of data on the incidence of specific pathogens through monitoring is recommended.

The recommendations will be grouped and prioritized and during the 3-day conference from 22 to 24 October, where experts and invited guests will have the opportunity to discuss these. Finally, the recommendations will be presented to the European Commission and disseminated to other relevant stakeholders and the wider public.

trade agreement that aims to “harmonize” standards and regulations in both regions to expand corporate profits.

Discussions have been going on ever since – negotiations are currently in their 5th round – and agribusinesses on both sides of the negotiation table are pushing to ease regulations that hinder their interests. Some suggestions have a potential impact on food safety, farmers, consumers and animal welfare – such as cloning, ending the ban on growth-promoting hormones in food-producing animals or using chlorine in the decontamination of poultry carcasses, although not all suggestions have the potential of becoming reality.

FVE is closely following developments and will certainly speak out in case decisions are taken that could put the health or welfare of animals or the public at risk. Regarding the decontamination of carcasses, FVE stresses that such treatment “*can never replace Good Hygiene Practices on farms and in food producing establishments*” and should “*only be used under exceptional circumstances approved by the Competent Authority*”. Finally, all meat subjected to a decontamination process should be clearly labelled.

Medicines

European survey

Prescription behaviour: which antibiotic, when

Antibiotics are most regularly prescribed for mastitis in cattle, respiratory disease in pigs and skin diseases in horses, dogs and cats. Critical Important Antibiotics are cited to be used mostly to treat urinary disease in cats, respiratory disease in cattle, diarrhoea in cattle and pigs, locomotion disorders in cattle, post-partum dysgalactia complex in pigs and dental disease in dogs. Older antibiotics e.g. penicillins, tetracyclines, are cited as the most frequently prescribed antibiotic classes to treat animals. This were some of the outcomes of the survey conducted by FVE and the Heads of Medicine Agencies (HMA-V) which now have been published in the Veterinary Record. The paper also provides some country-specific data (Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden and UK).

This is the second paper that came out of the survey. An earlier paper, also published in the Veterinary Record, examined the antibiotic prescription behaviour and use sensitivity tests among European veterinarians⁹.

The authors would like to thank all practitioners who responded to the survey and the veterinary species experts who gave input in the species data. The information was published as an Open Access paper, freely available to all.

⁹ <http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/early/2014/06/04/vr.102462.full.pdf?keytype=ref&ijkey=5zx7DNZtMg9fHWY>

Production animals

Zinc Oxide: resolving an unfair market situation

Zinc oxide is back on the agenda, noted Rens van Dobbenburgh (Netherlands), chair of the FVE medicines working group (MWG), speaking at the FVE general assembly in May. The substance, widely used to prevent piglet diarrhoea, raises concern about environmental contamination and the contribution to zinc and antimicrobial resistance. While some European countries use it extensively, it is strictly forbidden in others, leading to an unfair market situation – especially when comparing data on the monitoring of antibiotic consumption in pigs, he noted.

The FVE medicines working group (MWG) has therefore suggested zinc oxide should be treated as any other veterinary drug, meaning a marketing authorisation should only be given after passing all quality, safety and efficacy tests. Its use should be monitored and if the product is fully licensed, FVE strongly promoted a single European market. The MWG is currently finalising a position paper.

Antimicrobial resistance (1)

Commission drafts guidelines for responsible use

The European Commission has drafted “*Guidelines for the prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine*” and has asked stakeholders for input. FVE welcomes the working document, as most of the general principles are in line with FVE guidance and actions.

In particular, FVE appreciates the emphasis on the role of the veterinarian in the diagnosis set out by the paper and applauds the recommended contractual veterinary herd health visits. *“Regular farm visits are the cornerstone of the ‘prevention is better than care’ strategy, and are indispensable for the prevention and early detection of disease”*, commented Christophe Buhot, FVE president.

Quoting the Heads of Medicines Agencies, FVE recalls that responsible use *“does not simply mean using less antimicrobials, it means justified use (based on a properly established diagnosis) of the most appropriate sensitive antimicrobial in a way optimis-*

ing its clinical efficacy in the specific clinical cases and taking reasonable steps to ensure the method of use (including dose regime) and precautions applied help limit the potential for resistance to develop.” The FVE comments have now been sent to the European Commission, who will consult with the Member States.

use of antibiotics in both people and animals.

The leaflet recalls that everyone has responsibilities when it comes to combatting the development of antimicrobial resistance (e.g. basic hygiene, no self-medication with antibiotics).

In 2012 and 2013, FVE published a total of six leaflets on the responsible use of antimicrobials – for veterinary practitioners, policy makers, pet owners, farmers, horse owners and the general public – to help raise awareness. The leaflets have been translated into all official EU languages by the European Commission.



Antimicrobial resistance (2)

Interprofessional advice on the use of antibiotics

In January 2014, the FVE joined forces with the European doctors (CPME) and dentists (CED), and published a leaflet with advice on the responsible

EU survey

Antibiotic use: not correlated to veterinary dispense

Data show that there is no link between sales of antibiotics by veterinarians and their low or high use. This means that separating veterinary prescription from sales, and restricting sales to pharmacies, would not necessarily lead to a lower use of antibiotics.

A survey among FVE members showed that, in 22 out of 29 countries that participated in the survey, the veterinarian has the right to sell the medicines he has prescribed. The revenues from these sales are of importance to the economic health of

veterinary practices – in particular in countries where there is no compulsory regular herd health visit. Interestingly, countries where herd health visits are mandatory and good practices prevail (e.g. Denmark, Slovenia) all belong to the lowest consumers. The Netherlands, which has recently introduced mandatory herd health visits, has observed an impressive 51% drop in antibiotic use since the time of introduction. In Belgium, poultry farms that received one-to-one veterinary management advice reduced their antibiotic consumption by 29%.

According to ESVAC data, the average consumption of veterinary antibiotics is 150 mg/kg of biomass. In the 22 countries where veterinarians sell antibiotics, consumption figures range from around 15 mg/kg to 370 mg/kg. Comparing these data to findings of the survey show that whether or not veterinarians sell the medicines they prescribe is not correlated to the level of consumption of antibiotics. Rather than a difference according to whether veterinarians have the right to dispense, a rough north-south divide can be observed, which also applies to human medicine, although differences are less extreme. Both in human and veterinary medicine, the southern countries are the highest consumers, those in the north the lowest.

The variations in prescribing patterns may be due to a number of factors, including the relative proportion of the various animal species and production systems (e.g. veal as opposed to extensive beef cattle farming), the availability and prices of veterinary antibiotics or the general situation with regard to infectious diseases.

Fish

List of medicines available for aquaculture

Together with the European fish producers' organisation (FEAP), FVE has now inventoried a list of available medicines for farmed fish. While there are a few products for the major spe-



cies (salmon, trout) almost none exist for minor species such as eel, tuna and shellfish. Many major disease threats such as fungal infections are limited to a single licensed product in only some EU countries, while for some species there are no licensed medicines at all, according to findings of the FVE Working group on aquaculture. There is no doubt about the enormous potential of the aquaculture sector in Europe – the EU currently imports some 60% of all (shell) fish it consumes. However, diseases of aquatic animal represent a major limitation to production and trade. This requires professionals with the knowledge, skills and competencies to diagnose diseases and treat aquatic animals – and medicines to address the diseases.

Education

Post graduate education

VETCEE: accrediting middle tier

VetCEE (Veterinary Continuous Edu-

cation in Europe) was officially established on 26 March, announced Despoina Iatridou of the FVE office. By creating VetCEE, veterinarians have paved the way for harmonised European standards of post-graduate professional development programmes, aimed at the improvement of veterinary care, she said. Minimum standards already exist at veterinary graduate and specialist level, but there is a lack of European standards for the intermediate (middle-tier) level for veterinary practitioners wishing to improve their skills.

VetCEE will validate the quality of these middle-tier programmes. It will agree on minimum standards, and accredit programmes – both new and existing – that meet these standards. It is now accepting requests for accreditation from suppliers of companion animal medicine and pig medicine programme organisers.

Two companion animal medicine programmes have already been evaluated and approved: those proposed by the BSAVA in collaboration with Nottingham Trent university and by Danish Small Animal Veterinary Association together with Copenhagen University. VetCEE expects to be able to accredit programmes in the fields of equine medicine and laboratory animal medicine shortly.

VetCEE is an independent organisation, created in collaboration with the European Board for Veterinary Specialisation and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education.

Andrew Byrne (UEVP) was appointed VetCEE Chair. The other board members are Valerie Beatty, Rafael Laguens (both FVE), Dominiek Maes and Thomas Blaha for the EBVS, Alois Necas and Stéphane Blot for EAEVE and Andrew Robinson for the UEPV. For more information, contact the VetCEE secretariat.

Specialization

New European Colleges

Veterinary specialists in aquaculture or in emergency and critical care now have their own European college. The European College of Aquatic Animal Health (ECCA) and the European College of Emergency & Critical Care (ECECC) were provisionally accepted by the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) during its annual general meeting, held in Brussels on 11 and 12 April. This brings the total number of Colleges to 25. An initiative to set up a European College of Veterinary Microbiology – including virology, bacteriology and mycology – was met favourably and a full proposal will be presented at the AGM next year.

Zoran Katrinka

Zoran Katrinka works as the Chief Inspector Assessor in an insurance company in Serbia; Risk Management in livestock production, Forensics and Epidemiology are daily part of his work. Past Executive Secretary of the Serbian Veterinary Society, Past President of the National Vet 2011 Committee, in the last three years he represents the Veterinary Chamber of Serbia in the World Veterinary Association. He is currently the candidate for WVA Councillor from Europe.

1. How much suffering did the floods cause to animals and veterinarians?

The recent flash-floods in Serbia affected around 40% of the territory. The preliminary assessment data show that up to 10 % of animals died in the two worst affected cities and seventeen municipalities, having impact on 75.000 families with livelihood based mostly on livestock production. Disaster took its toll on 22 veterinary practices that employ more than 70 vets. Almost all their medicine stock and equipment were lost; the buildings and vehicles were damaged as well. For this reason I asked for help from International Organizations. Details can be found on WVA, FVE and AVMA websites. Italian FNOVI also published the information. I contacted the World Animal Protection, which deployed their Disaster Management Team and sent the DM Expert from Costa Rica, Dr. Juan Carlos Murillo García to Serbia. Together with the Veterinary Directorate, we are currently finishing the relief project aimed at protection of animal and public health, help with starter kits to the 22 damaged veterinary practices, and the much needed capacity building process in disaster management.

2. From your experience, what went well and less well in the disaster management of this flood?

The Sector for Emergency Situations included the representative of Public Veterinary Services in the Crisis Team, which was commendable; however, veterinarians were not

actually able to work in the first week of the floods. They got involved only once the flooding diminished, in carcass safety disposal, field sanitation and animal health protection. Pets were left behind and their owners, once evacuated, were not allowed to take them. Only the private initiative of volunteers and veterinarians saved many pet lives.

3. From this experience, what suggestion would you give to improve disasters management in the future?

Early warning system, emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction and organised relief network should be established with Veterinary Services, both public and private; education and training should involve not only veterinary officials, practitioners and animal holders, but Government, Academia and general public. We will work on this in the following six months together with the World Animal Protection.



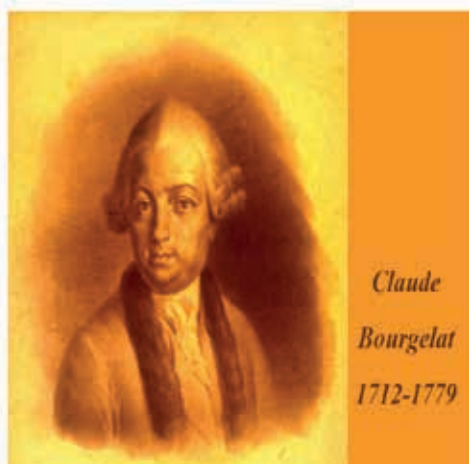
The EBVS executive committee was re-elected unanimously for 2014-2015, consisting of Stephen May (ECVS) – president; Linda Horspool (ECVPT) – secretary; Mona Aleksandersen (ECVP) – treasurer; Dominiek Maes (ECPHM) – vice-president and Peter O'Brien (ECVCP) – past president.

Veterinary schools

Ana Bravo new EAEVE president

During the last EAEVE general assembly, which took place on 21-22 May in Murcia, Professor Ana Bravo del Moral (Spain) was elected the new EAEVE President, succeeding Professor Laszlo Fodor (Hungary). The harmonisation of veterinary training, the simplification of the evaluation and accreditation process and the development of a strategic plan are among the priorities listed in her manifesto.

cation (ECOVE), Brno (Czech republic) was approved, Bari (Italy) was conditionally approved, and both Budapest and Oslo were approved and accredited. A number of schools that were conditionally approved will be revisited to verify if they have repaired their shortcomings. ECOVE is mandated by the FVE and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) to act as final arbiter in the evaluation system of veterinary schools.



In December 2013, the FVE signed a contract with a UK consultancy company specialised in performing surveys of professional groups, and the web-based questionnaire for veterinarians (in 10 languages) was launched on 15 May. The aim is to have a response rate of a representative sample of at least 10% per country. Most countries have already invited members of the profession to reply, but no response has been received so far from Bosnia, Cyprus, Greece, Iceland, Montenegro and Turkey.

The survey, which includes questions on education, work situation, economics and thoughts about the future, only takes 10-15 minutes to complete. Preliminary results will be presented at the November general assembly, with a final report expected for January 2015.

GA workshop

Corporate practice in Sweden

Corporate veterinary practice has taken Sweden by storm, Torsten Jakobsson, president of the Swedish Veterinary Association, reported during the workshop on statutory bodies at the FVE general assembly in May. Non-existent until 2012, corporate practices now represented some 50% of the market. Evidensia, the largest company, now owned some 90 animal hospitals throughout Scandinavia, with approximately 1,200 employees (500 veterinarians) and an annual turnover of more than €130 million. Anicura, the second largest (55 hospitals, 1,000 staff of which 400 veterinarians), looked after some 500,000 dogs, cats and other pets.

René Carlsson (American Veterinary Medical Association) reported on the three largest corporate practices in the USA, Banfield Pet Hospital (800+ clinics), VCA Animal Hospital (600+ clinics in 42 states) and National Vet-

ECCVT

Newsletter available

The European coordination committee on veterinary training (ECCVT) has just published its fourth newsletter¹⁰. The ECCVT is made up of representatives of FVE, EAEVE and EBVS (veterinary teaching establishments) and EBVS (specialists).

Evaluation

Four veterinary schools approved

At the recent meeting of the European Committee on Veterinary Edu-

FVE & Professional matters

Demography

Taking a snapshot of the veterinary profession

The FVE is undertaking a survey of the demography of the veterinary profession throughout Europe, announced FVE vice president Rafael Laguens at the FVE general assembly in May. National reports already exist in several countries, but they are all set up differently and do not always allow a direct comparison between countries.

¹⁰ http://www.fve.org/education/docs_to_download/ECCVT%20Newsletter/004%20ECCVT%20newsletter.pdf



erinary Associates, which are now buying up clinics. Economics of scale meant that Banfield currently had a 7 to 1 well-trained staff to veterinarian ratio. The reason for much of the success of these large practices was that many smaller practice owners were “financially illiterate”, Dr Carlson reported. “The good news is that sound business skills can be learned”, she said, adding that the AVMA veterinary economics division had set up numerous training courses. During the same workshop, delegates exchanged their experience with the involvement of laypersons in their country’s veterinary statutory body (VSB), the organisation regulating the profession, with disciplinary competences. While the UK, Ireland and some Nordic countries have had the involvement of laypersons for many years, others such as Germany and France do not. Certain countries are looking into the possibility, but others are content with their situation.

WVA

Website, elections, World Veterinary Day

New governance rules adopted in September 2013 aim help the WVA

to raise its profile as the voice of the global veterinary profession. One of the main developments is its new, user-friendly website. The WVA Elections 2014 will be conducted for the first time via electronic voting system in September 2014. The WVA Constituent members will choose a WVA President, President-Elect and 14 WVA Councillors. The list of candidates (29 applications) will be published by 1st July and the WVA electronic ballot will be opened on 1st September for a two weeks’ period. .

The World Veterinary Day (WVD) 2014 was celebrated on 26 April 2014, by local, regional and international veterinary associations in more than 30 countries from all world regions. The American Veterinary Medical Association was selected as the WVD Award winner for the creation of a comprehensive on-line hub dedicated to Animal Welfare and its launch on the World Veterinary Day 2014. During the Award ceremony in Paris on 25th May, the WVA and OIE announced the issue of Parasitic Diseases as the theme for the WVD 2015.

On the 29th of April, WVA organised a Global Webinar on Animal Welfare together with the European Commission. It gave the floor to representatives from AVMA, EFSA,

EC, FAO, FVE, IVSA, OIE, WAVMA, WSPA, WVA and the regions of Africa, Asia and Latin-America to present and discuss tools available for veterinarians in the different Animal Welfare fields. The scope of the webinar was to facilitate continuous dialogue and discussion between all global organisations and stakeholders in the fields of veterinary animal welfare. The next webinar on AW will take place in the autumn of 2014.

FVE

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe - AISBL

A. Tervueren 12

BE – 1040 Brussels

Tel +32 2 533 70 20

info@fve.org

<http://www.fve.org>

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.

Executive Director

Jan Vaarten

Deputy Executive Director

Nancy De Briyne

Veterinary Policy Officers

Francesco Proscia

Despoina Iatridou

OfficeManager

Ulrike Tewes

Reproduction of articles is authorised, except for commercial purposes, provided that the source is acknowledged. The views or positions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent in legal terms the official position of FVE.

Free lance editor K. de Lange

Acknowledgements photos:

Fran Proscia

To subscribe to the FVE Newsletter, send your name and email details to info@fve.org.