



WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION

WVA NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW WVA PRESIDENT - DR PATRICIA TURNER



Dear WVA Members,

In the approach to World Veterinary Day (April 25), there has been panic and confusion in communities around the world regarding the role of pets in the transmission of the SARS CoV-2 virus. Several reports have emerged from Hong Kong, Belgium, and most recently, the United States, about positive tests in a handful of cats and dogs, some with concurrent evidence of mild respiratory disease. In all of these cases, animals were living in homes with COVID-19 positive patients. To date, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other public health organizations have emphasized that there is no evidence that pets can directly transmit this virus to the people with whom they live. Prospective trials are ongoing to objectively examine the prevalence of transmission of the virus from infected patients to household companion animals. In the long run, having more objective evidence will allow the veterinary community to discuss this risk with more clarity with our clients and others.

During this crisis, veterinarians have a responsibility to speak up within their practices, communities, and to the public at large to protect animals. Reports have occurred of increased numbers of abandoned animals, increased animals relinquished to shelters (both because of concerns about virus transmission as well as an inability to care for these companions due to the concurrent economic crisis), increased toxicoses from home attempts to clean or 'sterilize' pets' coats, and worse forms of abuse, arising from ignorance or intention. Social isolation during this time also increases risks for abuse of animals in households with ongoing domestic violence. Clear communication is required to inform clients and others that animal welfare must be protected during this pandemic. Animals continue to need safe shelter, nutritious food, clean water, companionship and exercise, regardless of how this novel virus is impacting our communities. Communication should also emphasize that individuals sick with COVID-19 should distance themselves from their pets to minimize virus transmission, wash their hands before and after touching animals, keep cats indoors, maintain appropriate physical distances from other people when exercising their pets outside, and develop an emergency plan for how care will be provided for their pets in the event of serious illness.

World Veterinary Day was created by the WVA 20 years ago to celebrate the work and

diversity of roles of veterinarians around the world. Protecting animal welfare is a critical and universal role of veterinarians, wherever we live and however we may practice. As WVA President, I encourage all veterinarians to come together with a common voice to promote clear messaging to the public to protect animals.

With sincere regards,
Dr Patricia Turner
World Veterinary Association, President

WORLD VETERINARY DAY AWARDS 2020

The World Veterinary Day (WVD) will take place globally on 25th April 2020. The theme for the WVD this year is *Environmental protection for improving animal and human health*.

For 20 years, WVD has been an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of veterinarians to the health of animals and society. As One Health advocates, veterinarians know that environmental, human and animal health are inextricably linked. Negative changes to our environment will ultimately harm ourselves and the animals in our care. The WVA and HealthforAnimals are conducting the World Veterinary Day Award to honour one WVA Member's activities to celebrate the work of veterinarians to protect our environment. All the necessary information and application forms can be found [HERE](#). The WVA wishes you a Happy World Veterinary Day.



WVA PRESIDENT PRESENTS MESSAGE DURING ROYAL CANIN'S 2020 WORLD VETERINARY WEEK IN CHINA

WVA President, Dr Patricia Turner, provided a virtual talk to veterinarians in China on the 'Impact of the Global COVID-19 Pandemic on Companion Animal Practice' on the occasion of World Vet Day. The talk emphasizes the importance of protecting your health and that of clinic staff by embracing good biosecurity and hand hygiene practices, developing a communication plan for your client base, embarking on telehealth, where appropriate, looking out for animal welfare issues, and taking care of your mental health during the crisis. Listen to Dr Turner's talk [HERE](#).



DARETOCARE - ANIMAL WELFARE PODCAST

When the two WVA/Ceva 2019 Animal Welfare Award Winners met in Costa Rica during the WVAC2019 in the occasion of the AW Award Ceremony, they soon realised their shared passion not only for animal welfare but also for veterinary students. Mrs Aimée Lieberum, a student winner and Dr Anette van der Aa, a European winner of the AWA2019, launched recently an [Animal Welfare Podcast – DareToCare](#). The two AWA2019 winners thought about what they could do for veterinary students on the topic of animal welfare and came up with the idea of making podcasts – ideal for study breaks. The podcasts aim to speak to people from different backgrounds and thereby raise awareness of different animal welfare issues. They also aim at giving students ideas about possible career paths connected to animal welfare.



ONLINE 36TH WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION CONGRESS

Following the cancellation of the 36th World Veterinary Association Congress (WVAC) that was supposed to be hosted in New Zealand by the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA), the WVA, NZVA in partnership with The Webinar Vet agreed to deliver an [on-line festival of veterinary learning](#) starting internationally on 25 April to coincide with World Veterinary Day.

The virtual WVAC2020 will include over 54 speakers and 100 hours of continuing professional development either live or as recorded lectures. While the festival lasts for three weeks, the information will remain available online for six months. The Congress is for all veterinary professionals around the world including veterinarians, veterinary nurses, large animal veterinarian technicians, practice managers and other veterinary staff. WVA Members benefits from access to free live streams on [One Health](#) and [Animal Welfare](#) and [20% reduction](#) to access the full program of the virtual congress.



The WVA is looking forward to welcoming you to the Online WVAC2020.

The WVA needs your expertise and participation for the world to hear our message on our role as veterinarians for the global public good. We need your input as Constituent Members or Observers for our discussions. Don't be left out of the process!

Please forward this info-news to your members

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