

WORLD VETERINARY YEAR 2011



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Hammamet – Tunisia
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2011 marks the 250th anniversary of the veterinary profession and has been declared “World Veterinary Year”

- The veterinary profession has never deserved greater visibility than today. Looking beyond the animal doctors, veterinarians should reach out to the general public as no less than the safeguards of both animal and public health.
- By keeping farmed animals healthy veterinary action on agriculture contributes to countries’ economic development, this is especially true in the poorest quarters of the earth. Also responsible for detecting health hazards all along the food chain, veterinarians are at the forefront of animal disease prevention and control. Knowing that 60 per cent of human epidemics are caused by animal pathogens found in the wild or in domestic flocks, veterinary epidemiological research, vaccines and drugs development take added importance. Eventually the health of wild animals also depends on veterinary endeavour worldwide.



Dr. Bernard Vallat
Director General
World Organisation for Animal Health

Introduction

The year 1761 signs the creation of the veterinary education and the veterinarian profession, and 2011 has been declared the " World Veterinary Year ". The world's first veterinary school was founded in Lyon, France, in 1761, shortly followed by the Alfort Veterinary School, near Paris, in 1764, both of them at the initiative of Claude Bourgelat.

In the context of the World Veterinary Year, Alfort Veterinary School had the honor to organise the official Opening Ceremony, the 24th of January 2011. Versailles was chosen as the place where the king Louis the 15th has approved the creation of the two first Veterinary Schools.

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Bourgelat

The Man of Science



On June 3rd, 1764, the Royal Council of State decreed that the Lyon institution be given the title 'Royal Veterinary School'. It would later become the 'Imperial School', before becoming the National School.

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Paris Veterinary School, Bourgelat's final creation

- In 1765, Bertin ordered Bourgelat to create a school in Paris. The new school was set up in Alfort, located just at the junction of the rivers Marne and Seine.



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The Role of Veterinarians in the World

- The role of veterinary medicine has an ever increasing global responsibility
- Veterinary medicine is a highly respected and compassionate profession.
- Global tranquility requires emotional harmony and full stomachs. Companion and draft animals provide the harmonious relationships, and livestock and poultry provide the protein to prevent starvation.
- Veterinary medicine activates the tranquility components of world peace by supporting the human-animal bonding and companion and draft animal health and welfare; by combating emerging, exotic, and foodborne diseases; and by promulgating livestock and poultry health and food safety.

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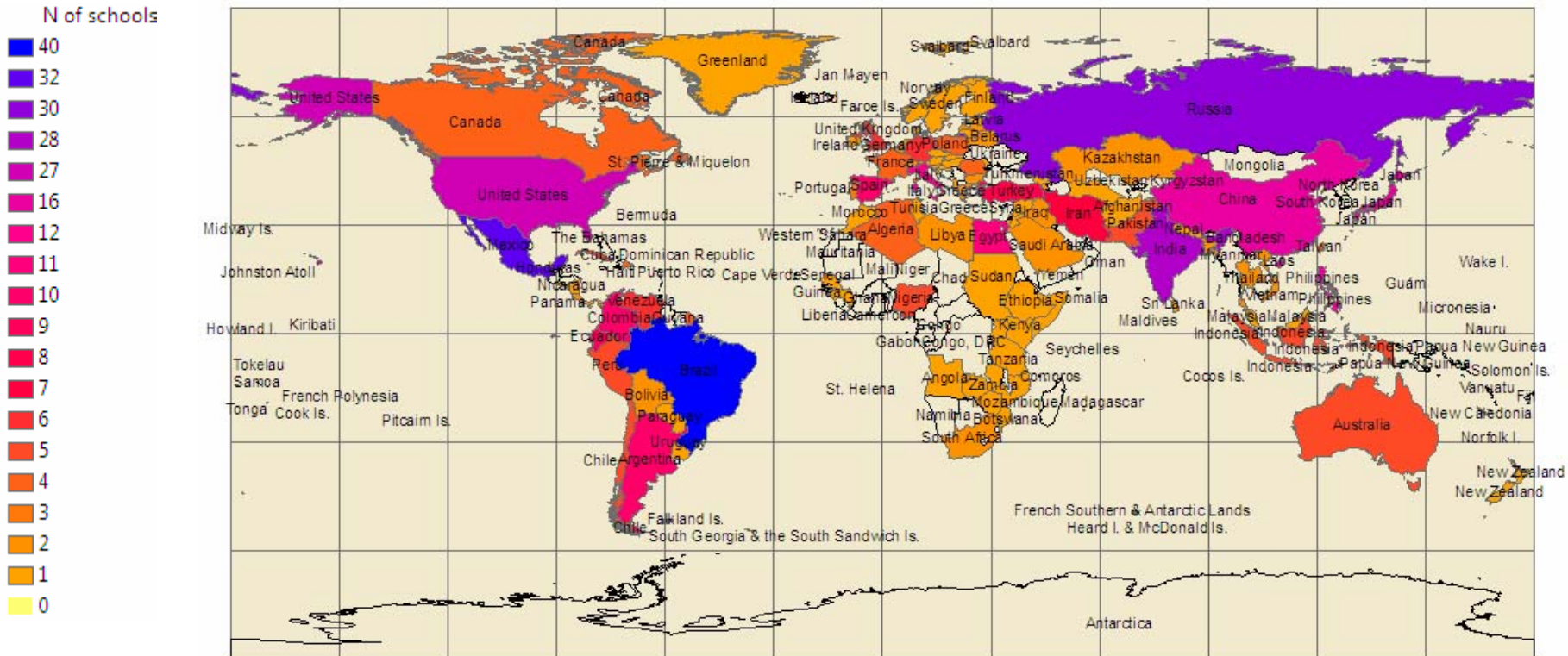
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Veterinary Schools distribution

According to the statistics of http://www.avma.org/education/cvea/coe_pp.asp. as of 8 March 2011.



Veterinary Institutes



Toulouse



Hama - Syria



Ohio - USA



Budapest

Veterinarians for the planet

- We live in nature and we depend on nature. If we abuse nature, it will abuse us. Nature teaches us that we should show care and compassion for each others, our animals and our environment. The human population is at its highest ever. Because of inequalities of food production and its distribution, famine and malnutrition occur regularly. Thus the production of wholesome human food, and its distribution to people in need is an ongoing problem that needs international attention.
- Respect, love, compassion, wisdom, care and directed intention to heal are the other essential components of good veterinary medicine.
- Disease increases mortality, pain or suffering in animals. It also increases the cost of production of animal derived food and other products, and decreases the income from the breeding/rearing enterprise.
- Disease in companion and working animals decreases their ability to perform to optimal capacity.
- The causes of animal diseases are legion, they include infections, parasitism, toxicity, metabolic, nutritional, allergic and genetic disorders. In many cases, the etiology is multifactorial and may include poor animal management, environmental/climatic factors, stress and immunosuppression. Prevention, control and treatment of animal diseases will remain an essential component of animal productivity and welfare

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THE ROLE OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES IN FOOD SAFETY

- Historically, the *Veterinary Services* were set up to control livestock diseases at the farm level. There was an emphasis on prevention and control of the major epizootic diseases of livestock and of diseases that could affect man (zoonotic diseases).
- The role of the *Veterinary Services* has traditionally extended from the farm to the slaughterhouse, where *veterinarians* have a dual responsibility
 - epidemiological surveillance of animal diseases and
 - ensuring the safety and suitability of meat.
- The education and training of *veterinarians*, which includes both animal health (including zoonoses) and food hygiene components, makes them uniquely equipped to play a central role in ensuring food safety, especially the safety of foods of animal origin.

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THE ROLE OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES IN FOOD SAFETY

- Veterinary involvement in food safety activities throughout the food chain may encompass food safety, zoonoses and animal health. Most veterinary involvement is currently focused on meat hygiene defined as all conditions and measures necessary to ensure the safety and suitability of meat at all stages of the food chain.
- However, generic areas of veterinary activity also include:
 - development of the public health policy of the competent authority
 - scientific evaluation of food-borne hazards and risk assessment
 - design, implementation and verification of food controls at appropriate points in the food chain, including primary production
 - monitoring of biological and chemical hazards at appropriate points in the food chain
 - specialised veterinary inputs, e.g. evaluation and control of antimicrobial-resistant zoonotic bacteria that may be transmitted by food
 - risk communication.

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The concept of the food production continuum

- Food safety and quality are best assured by an integrated, multidisciplinary approach, considering the whole of the food chain.
- Approaches to food safety have evolved in recent decades, from traditional controls based on good practices (Good Agricultural Practice, Good Hygienic Practice, etc), via more targeted food safety systems based on hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) to risk-based approaches using food safety risk analysis.

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At the farm level

- Through their presence on farms and appropriate collaboration with farmers, the *Veterinary Services* play a key role in ensuring that animals are kept under hygienic conditions and in the early detection, surveillance and treatment of animal diseases, including conditions of public health significance.
- The *Veterinary Services* may also provide livestock producers with information, advice and training on how to avoid, eliminate or control food safety hazards.
- The *Veterinary Services* play a central role in ensuring the responsible and prudent use of biological products and veterinary drugs, including antimicrobials, in animal husbandry. This helps to minimize the risk of developing antimicrobial resistance and unsafe levels of veterinary drug residues in foods of animal origin.

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Meat inspection

- Slaughterhouse inspection of live animals (*ante-mortem*) and the carcasse (*post-mortem*) plays a key role in both the surveillance network for animal diseases and zoonoses and ensuring the safety and suitability of meat and by-products for their intended uses.
- Control and/or reduction of biological hazards of animal and public health importance by *ante-* and *post-mortem* meat inspection is a core responsibility of the *Veterinary Services* and they should have primary responsibility for the development of relevant inspection programmes.

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Certification of animal products for international trade

- Another important role of the *Veterinary Services* is to provide health certification to international trading partners attesting that exported products meet both animal health and food safety standards.
- Certification in relation to animal diseases, including zoonoses, and meat hygiene are a major responsibility of the *Veterinary Authority*.

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Other roles of the Veterinary Services

- Most reported outbreaks of foodborne disease are due to contamination of foods with zoonotic agents, often during primary production.
- The *Veterinary Services* play a key role in the investigation of such outbreaks all the way back to the farm and in formulating and implementing remedial measures once the source of the outbreak has been identified.

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Other roles of the Veterinary Services

- In addition, *veterinarians* are well equipped to assume important roles in ensuring food safety in other parts of the food chain, for example through the application of HACCP based controls and other quality assurance systems during food processing and distribution.
- The *Veterinary Services* also play an important role in raising the awareness of food producers, processors and other stakeholders of the measures required to assure food safety.

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Animal health

- Animal health surveillance and monitoring allow Veterinary Services to identify and control significant endemic or exotic diseases within their territory, and substantiate reports on the animal health situation in their country. Both functions provide essential inputs to animal health import risk analysis.
- policies and standards applied for the purposes of animal health surveillance and monitoring should be risk based and should be feasible and practical .

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Animal Welfare

- The importance of welfare standards for food-producing animals is widely recognised by Veterinary Services. Animal welfare on the farm, during transport and at the time of slaughter can have an impact on food safety, and is also of increasing concern to consumers in terms of the 'acceptability' of foods of animal origin.

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Other Functions

- Increasingly, veterinarians are developing multidisciplinary skills that extend their activities well beyond the farm and initial processing of food. Preventing degradation of the environment by contamination with animal wastes and animal products is one example.

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The National Role of the Veterinarian

- THE TEACHINGS of veterinary science and the work of veterinary practitioners are essential to the well-being of the livestock industry.
- A veterinary practitioner in these days should be proficient in every branch of veterinary work .
- There is much work to be done (1) in the control of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and contagious abortion, (2) in the control of parasitism, (3) in the control of non-infectious diseases, and (4) in raising the level of animal husbandry practices.
- The practitioner in the country should be the backbone on which the whole structure of veterinary service should be built. He is the trained observer who quickly discovers an outbreak of some infectious disease which if uncontrolled might bring disaster.
- He is the man with the intensive local knowledge which is so essential and valuable in disease control measures.

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THE ROLE OF VETERINARIAN IN THE CARE AND USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING

- Veterinarians play a central role in biomedical , wildlife and farm animal research.
- The comprehensive nature of veterinary training equips veterinary graduates to handle a diverse range of professional responsibilities relevant to the use of animals for scientific purposes and animal welfare.
- Veterinarians in scientific institutions may be divided into two main categories: 1- those involved in the production, medicine and surgery of animals used for scientific purposes; 2- and those involved on Institutional Animal Ethics Committees, and, of course, there are many veterinarians whose duties involve elements of both categories.

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THE ROLE OF VETERINARIAN IN THE CARE AND USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING

- Veterinarians also play a major role in the development of institutional and regulatory policy, codes of practice, regulation and monitoring.
- Although, qualification as a veterinarian also provides a strong base for veterinary graduates to embark upon a scientific research career in such diverse fields as immunology, molecular biology, physiology, biochemistry, virology, pathology, bacteriology, parasitology, animal management, wildlife research, agricultural animal research, and exotic disease research, and indeed there are Australian veterinary graduates currently working as investigators in all these fields.

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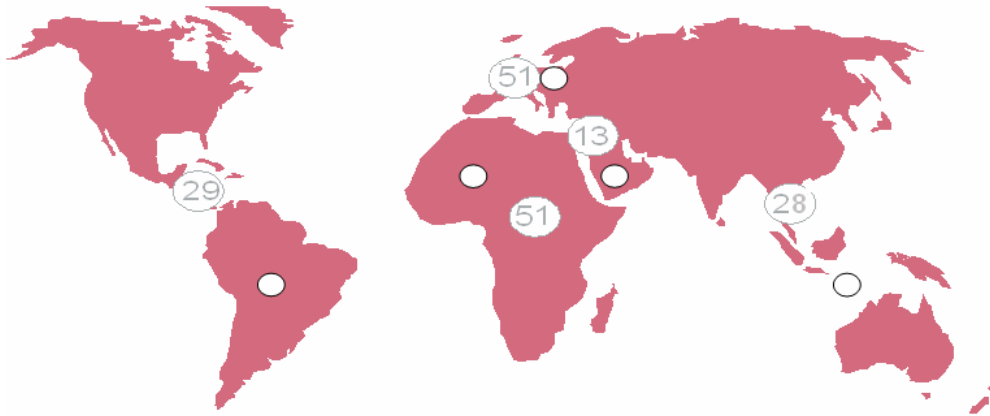
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World Organization for Animal Health (1924) 177 Members (2010)

- **Five permanent Regional Representations: Bamako, Buenos Aires, Tokyo, Sofia and **Beirut****
- **Two Sub-regional Offices: Bangkok, Gaborone**
- **Five Regional Commissions: Africa, America, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Middle East**



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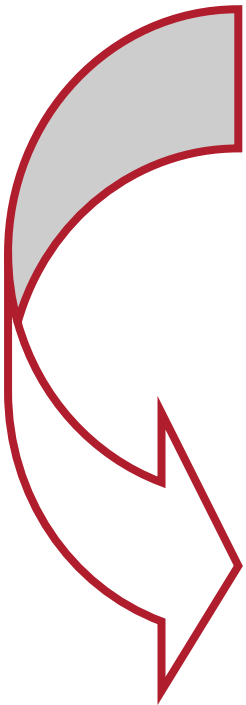
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THE OIE'S GLOBAL OBJECTIVE

- the OIE was created in 1924 **to prevent animal diseases from spreading around the world**

- the 4th Strategic Plan (2005 – 2010) is one step further and extends the OIE's global mandate to **“the improvement of animal health all over the world”**



Objectives of the OIE

1. To ensure transparency in the global **animal disease and zoonosis situation**
2. To collect, analyse and disseminate **scientific veterinary information**
3. To provide expertise and encourage international solidarity **in the control of animal diseases**
4. Within its mandate under the WTO SPS Agreement, to safeguard world trade by publishing **health standards** for international trade in animals and animal products
5. To improve the legal framework and resources of **national Veterinary Services**
6. To provide a better guarantee of the **safety of food of animal origin** and to promote **animal welfare** through a science-based approach

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OIE International Standards

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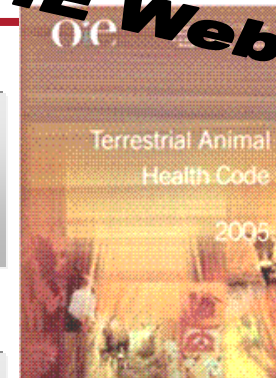
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OIE International Standards

available on the
OIE Website

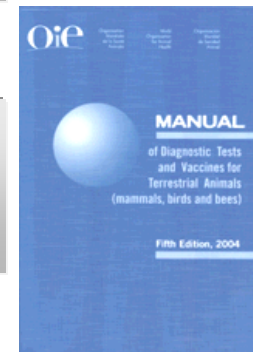
**Terrestrial Animal Health Code – mammals,
birds and bees**



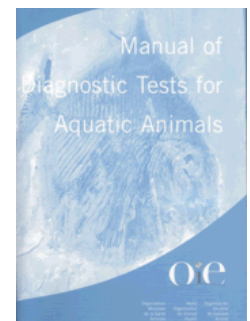
**Aquatic Animal Health Code – fish, molluscs
and crustaceans**



**Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for
Terrestrial Animals**



**Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic
Animals**



OIE and Food Safety

- Traditionally, the primary focus of the OIE Codes was on global animal health protection and transparency.
- Under its current mandate, the OIE also addresses animal production food safety risks. The Code includes several standards and guidelines aimed at protecting public health (such as Appendix 3.10.1 on the Control of Biological Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance through Ante- and Post- Mortem Meat Inspection)
- Work is underway developing new standards to prevent the contamination of animal products by *Salmonella* spp. and *Campylobacter* spp. The OIE and Codex collaborate closely in the development of standards to ensure seamless coverage of the entire food production continuum.
- The recommendations of the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission on the production and safety of animal commodities should be read in conjunction.

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Veterinarians are a Global Public Good



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