



WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION



2nd Global Webinar on Animal Welfare

The importance of new technologies to empower vets in the field of Animal Welfare

8th of December 2014

After a first successful Global Webinar on Animal Welfare in April 2014, WVA and the European Commission (EC) organized a second Global Webinar on Animal Welfare on 8th December 2014. The Webinar was entitled “*The importance of new technologies to empower vets in the field of Animal Welfare*” and representatives from Global Organizations presented and shared their knowledge and experience on how new technologies can empower vets in the field of Animal Welfare.

More than 100 Veterinaries, Veterinary students and Animal Welfare experts from all worlds’ regions participated in the Webinars discussions and had could exchange opinions and questions via the Webinar chat.

Short summary of presentations

Session I: New technology assisting Education and Training

- [Massive Open Access Course \(MOOC\)](#) - *Natalie Waran, University of Edinburgh*: In July 2014, the University of Edinburgh offered free online course on Animal Welfare. Experiences were very positive. The course will be repeated and disseminated in various languages.
- [WVA’s Global Online Veterinary Education Repository](#) – *Zeev Noga, WVA*: Presentation on the WVA and WCEA initiative to create the largest pool of Veterinary Continuing Education in the world.
- [EC BTSF eLearning tool on slaughter](#) - *Andrea Gavinelli, EC*: Indicative on eLearning tool on slaughter was launched in 2006. It is available online for free.

- [AVMA's online training resources](#) - **Gail Golab, AVMA**: Web page offers information on US and International related issues on Animal Welfare.

During the discussions, it was highlighted the importance of not only global resources of information but also finding local ways of dissemination. It was stated that the answer to the question, asked at the 1st webinar, "Are veterinarians the shepherd or the sheep regarding animal welfare?" is shepherd as the veterinarians have been the key players with a major responsibility on improving animal welfare. Other important priorities underlined were; the need for making the resources for free, ethical aspect of accessibility, necessity of partnership with investors and communication with animal owners.

- The poll asked: "Do you believe new technologies assisting training and education of vets can make a significantly impact in empowering vets in the field of animal welfare?"
- 44.2 % of the participants voted "Yes" and 15.4 % answered "Yes, but only partly".

Session II: New technology assisting daily practices

- [WikiVet project](#) - **Nick Short, Royal Veterinary College**: WikiVet is constantly developing project and in the short future more sections on animal welfare will be added.
- [AWIN's app to assess pain in horses](#) - **Andreia De Paula Vieira, AWIN**: Application that helps to interoperate horse grimace scale teaches users how to recognize different states of horses.
- [Use of mobile technology in the field](#) - **Andy Gibson, Mission Rabies**: Presentation of new application for better rabies control, especially in the area with dense stray dog population.

The discussions were focused mainly on how the mobile technology is extremely necessary especially in rural areas in under developed countries, importance of collaboration with private sector, transferring information to the animal owners, applications gaining more importance. It was also discussed how to engage older generation as well and providing info under other formats.

- The poll asked: "Do you believe new technologies assisting training and education can also be useful in providing knowledge and raising awareness to animal owners?"
- 67.30 % of the participants answered "Yes, but partly" and 19.50 % answered "No".

Session III: New technology assisting research: Big data

- [*Presentation by EFSA on the use of big data - Franck Berthe, EFSA*](#): Big data includes variety of information. We would describe it with terms velocity, variety, volume, validity and new V - v=vets should be added among terms relevant for usage of big data in Animal welfare.
- [*Use of big data to assess Animal Welfare - Miel Hostens, Gent University*](#): Presentation pointed out the sense of transparency and accessibility of the big data.
- [*Data collection and analysis of data in aquaculture - James Casey, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Ireland*](#): Presentation pointed out how the data of the post mortem inspections are used in order to improve fish welfare.

During the discussions it was stated that together with the studies' reports, the full data set should be made available for researchers for secondary analysis. It was also emphasized that the data, quantitative as well as qualitative should be valid to assure a meaningful use of it. Having useless data means there is no point in collecting it. About the OIE perspective, it was underlined that the countries should support evidence based veterinary medicine.

- Poll question asked: "Should the veterinary community invest more efforts in the research and development of apps that can assist daily practice?"
- 50 % of the participants agreed and 45.4 % of the participants partially agreed

In conclusions

- Participants see great opportunities in using new technologies in veterinary profession but stressed the need of adequate training.
- Participants did demonstrations of positive experiences of using new technologies and presented ideas on how tools can be used more effectively.
- Webinar helped building global network and empowering experts in a field of Animal Welfare.

The full Webinar recording on Animal Welfare can be found by clicking [HERE](#).