“Improving animal welfare: a practical approach”

Workshops organised by the European Commission and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

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PRACTICAL ANIMAL WELFARE WORKSHOPS FOR VETERINARIANS
What is behind EU animal welfare policies?

- Human/animal relationship
- Citizens expectations
- Impacts of animal welfare on food safety, market trends, sustainable agriculture, trade etc.
- Better animal welfare gives better production
The EU Animal Welfare Strategy 2012-2015 emphasized the importance of education and information

- Lack of knowledge among stakeholders is one of the key drivers affecting the welfare of animals in the EU
- Competence of personnel handling animals is essential and is already included in specific animal welfare legislation
- The Commission will launch in 2013 a study on animal welfare education
- Veterinarians can act as vector to pass knowledge

- IS THE VETERINARY PROFESSION READY TO CONSIDER THIS TASK?
Veterinary profession:

“Veterinarians are, and must continually strive to be, the leading advocates for the good welfare of animals in a continually evolving society.” (FVE/AVMA, 2011)

- Vets shall **promoting** and **assure** the health & welfare of animals
- Vets shall provide **expertise and knowledge** to general public, animal keepers and policy makers
- Vets are important actors in ensuring proper **implementation & enforcement**

- VETS ARE READY TO TAKE THIS TASKS BUT NEED TRAINING
FVE strengthens animal welfare education

-Historically vet education focus on animal health and public health
-Animal welfare science and laws multiplied in last decade
-FVE works to strengthen both undergraduate as CPD training
-Stimulated development Specialist Animal Welfare College
-Developing a model Animal welfare Curriculum

Workshops for practitioners together with the European Commission - DG SANCO
Characteristics

Regional, bottom up approach (low budget)
Very practical, interactive workshops
Jointly organised: coordinated by DG Sanco and FVE together with local organisers:

- Veterinary Association(s) or Chamber
- Ministry of Health/Agriculture
- Veterinary Services, Veterinary Faculty or Institutes
Locations

- Budapest, Hungary
- Barcelona, Spain
- Riga, Latvia
- Sinaii, Romania (Romanian)
- Lasize, Italy

Target audience:
Veterinary practitioners & zoo vets
(and also: official vets, vets working into industry, etc)
AW workshop for vet practitioners
Outcomes

- Proved very successful with more than 5 workshops done and > **700 vets trained, from > 20 European countries**
- Train the trainer format with focus on regional approach -)
- Trainings targeted to vet practitioners
- All materials available + several filmed
- Stimulated debates & collaborative solutions between all actors concerned
Feedback participants:

1. Did you manage to disseminate the knowledge and skills acquired during the workshop?
   - Spread the report/presentations or discussed it within my organisation: all
   - Organised a similar event: 15%

2. Did you manage to use any of the animal welfare aspects discussed during the workshop in your daily work?
   - 76% Yes, 24% Not yet, but intend to do so, 0% No

3. Would you wish any follow-up information or event to take place?
   - 90% answer yes

4. Would you advise your colleagues to attend a similar meeting?
   - 100% Yes
What's next?

- Next workshop in Netherlands (Sept 2013) and Poland (Nov 2013)
- Many other countries applied
- Focus on lasting result -) follow up network in country
Improving animal welfare: a practical approach

This workshop aims to provide veterinarians 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 be true to the slogan "prevention is better than cure".

The health of animals is as important as their well-being. Health and welfare cannot be seen as separate issues. A weakened health status will affect the animals' welfare and when welfare is compromised, the animals will be more susceptible to infections and disease.

The veterinary profession – as knowledgeable and accountable professionals - has an important responsibility in promoting and assuring the health and welfare of animals. This will not only benefit the animals concerned but also to their owners as happy healthy animals are profitable animals.

In addition, veterinary surgeons have an important role in providing expertise and knowledge to the general public and animal keepers as well as to policy makers.

The workshop will consist of both a theoretical as a practical on-farm session, where participants can bring their theoretical knowledge in practice.

This workshop is part of a series of workshops. Similar workshops were held in Budapest (Hungary), Barcelona (Spain), Riga (Latvia), Sinai (Romania). This workshop in Italy is mainly targeted at veterinary farm animal practitioners and official veterinarians from Italy, Austria, France, Greece, Malta, Cyprus and Slovenia. Some places will be reserved for veterinary or animal health related students and producers. A specific working group will be formed for veterinarians involved with wild animals in captivity.

Want to see how the previous workshops went? Have a look at: http://animalwelfare.onetec.eu
Very grateful that we have been given the change to organise this together

Thank you for your attention!