



## **The essential role of veterinarians in protecting animal, human, public and environmental health**

The public has a strong appreciation for the important role of veterinarians in the United States and Europe who are engaged in clinical practice caring for the health and well-being of companion and farm/ranch animals. The myriad other roles veterinarians play in protecting and advancing human, public, and environmental health are less recognized by the public, yet are essential to the continued well-being of people and animals at the local, national, regional, and international levels.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA; [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)) represents more than 84,000 individual veterinarians across the U.S.A, and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE; [www.fve.org](http://www.fve.org)) represents 46 national veterinary organizations across 38 European countries. The AVMA and FVE collaborate on issues of importance to both of its members, working cooperatively to promote animal and human health, support veterinarians in delivering their professional responsibilities at the highest level, and advance the veterinary medical profession.

The AVMA and FVE recognize that the clinical veterinary practitioner is often at the forefront of protecting human health through the diagnosis and treatment of animal disease. This is not only true for veterinarians working in communities in which the economic well-being of the human population is dependent on animals for transportation, labor, or food, but also in communities in which the emotional well-being of the human population is strongly impacted by the human-animal bond.

The AVMA and FVE are committed to promoting both the more commonly recognized role veterinarians play as clinical practitioners in ensuring animal health and welfare and the less-recognized but equally essential roles veterinarians play in protecting and advancing public and environmental health. Examples of these roles include, but are not limited to:

- Investigating animal and human disease outbreaks and developing and implementing programs to enhance epidemiologic understanding, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and eradication of such diseases.
- Building global surveillance systems to enhance early detection of, and response to, disease threats.
- Ensuring the safety and nutritious value of all food of animal origin - from the farm to the fork.

- Teaching the next generation of veterinarians, other medical professionals, and other scientists.
- Conducting research to advance animal, human, public, and environmental health and welfare.
- Evaluating the safety and efficacy of medicines, medical products, animal foods, and food additives.
- Building and rebuilding health infrastructures and helping communities around the world recover from manmade and natural disasters such as war, political unrest, hurricanes, and tsunamis.
- Protecting the environment through programs that manage animal agricultural waste, dispose of pharmaceuticals in a safe manner, and promote sustainable development.
- Working with captive and free-ranging wildlife to protect biodiversity and advance species conservation efforts.

Given the breadth and depth of veterinary medicine, the AVMA and FVE believe the profession is an essential component of **One Health**. **Veterinarians are integral to missions at the human-animal-environment interface. Further, the veterinary profession is** a global public good as defined by the [World Organization for Animal Health](http://www.oie.int) (OIE). Because of these beliefs, both organizations will actively promote all roles that veterinarians play through public outreach campaigns and advocacy at the national and international levels. In so doing, the FVE and AVMA are committed to working together to ensure that necessary resources are available to advance the veterinary profession on a global level.

For more information on the AVMA and FVE, visit the AVMA website at [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org) and the FVE website at [www.fve.org](http://www.fve.org).

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Founded in 1863 and now more than 84,000 members strong, the AVMA is one of the oldest and largest veterinary medical organizations in the world. Join us as we celebrate 150 years of education, science and service.

The FVE is an umbrella organization of 44 veterinary organizations from 38 European countries, representing approximately 200,000 veterinarians.