ETERINARY ERVICES



HAT ARE THEY



WORKING COMMUNITY WHICH, IN EVERY COUNTRY OF THE WORLD, PROTECTS THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF ANIMALS.

This community primarily comprises public service veterinarians responsible for preparing and enforcing the laws governing disease control and food safety and contributing to the safeguard of biodiversity and, all other categories of public sector personnel who support this work (administrative staff, communication officers, legal experts, etc.).

The community also includes self-employed and salaried veterinary practitioners in the private sector who work in the field.

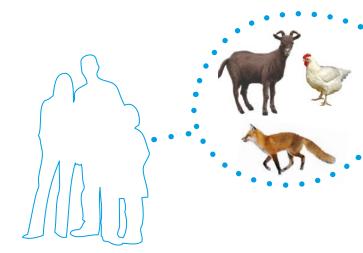
HAT ARE THEY FOR

TO SAFEGUARD PUBLIC HEALTH

Tracking animal diseases transmissible to humans

Today, we know that **60%** of human pathogens are of **animal origin**, 75% of emerging animal diseases can be **transmitted** to **humans** and 80% of pathogens that could potentially be used for bioterrorism are of animal origin.

There is a direct link between public health and the work of Veterinary Services in protecting animal health, since by **eliminating** the pathogens that cause diseases in animals one can **prevent** subsequent emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases in humans, and at the same time ensure an adequate supply of good quality, safe food for all.

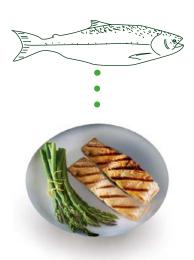


TO ENSURE FOOD SAFETY

Protecting consumers from food-related health risks

Many pathogens (parasites, bacteria, viruses, toxins) have the potential to contaminate food at the various stage of production and render it dangerous for consumers.

Veterinary Services operate **from the farm to the fork**, in other words during production at the farm, then during processing (at the abattoir, dairy, etc.) and even during the transport and distribution of products.



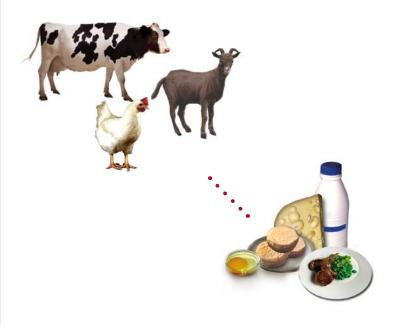
TO PROMOTE ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Reducing losses caused by animal diseases

It is estimated that world demand for animal protein (milk, eggs, meat) will increase by **70%** by the year **2050**.

This demand will only be met if Veterinary Services can **provide** a suitable level of sanitary surveillance to cope with the complexity of the animal production systems of the future.

It is estimated that more than 20% of animal production worldwide is lost as a result of disease. Greater support for the work of Veterinary Services would enable these losses to be considerably **reduced**.



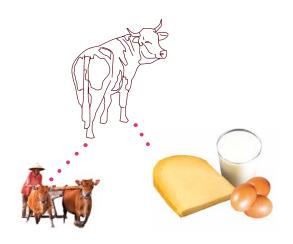
TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY WORLDWIDE

Helping poor countries that wish to gain access to export markets

In many countries of the world, animals are not only a source of dietary protein but also provide draught **power** (traction, ploughing, and irrigation), a regular cash income and precious natural fertilizer.

All the actions of Veterinary Services have positive impacts throughout the agricultural production chain by protecting and maintaining animal production, on which the livelihoods of a billion poor livestock farmers throughout the world depend.

Poor countries freed from animal diseases thanks to the work of Veterinary Services may, if they wish, gain **access** to more lucrative **export** markets.



TO ENSURE

THE SAFETY OF WORLD
TRADE IN PRODUCTS
OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

Protecting countries at their own borders

When an importing country becomes aware of a potentially dangerous animal disease event in an exporting country, it may decide to halt trade in animals and animal products between the countries, to protect itself and to avoid any international spread of pathogens of animal origin.

Decisions of this kind can **impact heavily** on the local, national or even regional economy, and have wideranging negative social repercussions.

Veterinary Services play a vital role in ensuring the sanitary safety of world trade by **Supervising** and **protecting** animal production and issuing the sanitary certificates that accompany exports.



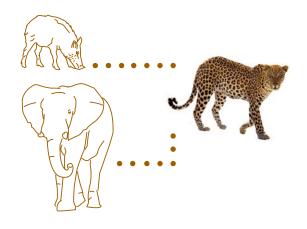
CONSERVING ANIMAL SPECIES

Safeguarding and protecting wildlife

Disease surveillance in wildlife

needs to be just as stringent as the surveillance and control of diseases in domestic animals, since the exchange of pathogens between these two populations is **increasing** throughout the world.

Conserve biodiversity while at the same time avoiding the transmission of diseases to domestic animals and humans.



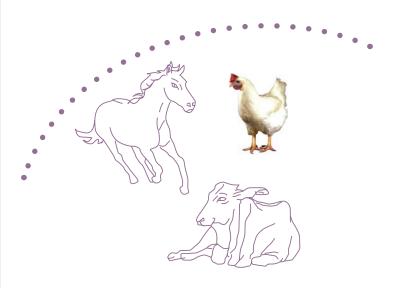
TO DEFEND ANIMAL WELFARE

Protecting animals through well-enforced laws and regulations

Animal health is a vital component of **animal welfare**.

Animal welfare is a complex concept encompassing scientific and ethical aspects as well as economic, cultural and political aspects.

Animal protection requires being able to **CONTRO** the conditions in which animals are raised, transported and slaughtered. Veterinary Services are the best qualified community to prepare **legislation** on animal welfare and see that it is enforced in the field on a daily basis.



TO SUCCEED
IN THESE MISSIONS,
ANIMAL HEALTH
SYSTEMS MUST BE
FOUNDED ON

GOOD
GOVERNANCE

National Veterinary Services, which lie at the heart of the global public good represented by animal health systems, cannot fulfil their mission without the appropriate legislation and the necessary means to enforce it.

This forms the basis of good veterinary governance, which must include:

- suitable legislation, effectively applied thanks to adequate human and financial resources;
- a network covering the whole of the country, based on a "tripod" composed of official veterinarians, private veterinarians and animal producers, which ensures effective surveillance;

- early detection of outbreaks to enable a rapid response to potentially serious health events;
- biosecurity and biocontainment measures for infected farms, to prevent pathogens from spreading and enable them to be eliminated;
- rapid and fair financial compensation measures for producers whose animals have had to be culled for health reasons;
- vaccination of healthy animals whenever appropriate;
- good initial training and continuing education for all professionals involved;
- continuous applied research on control methods, since pathogens are constantly adapting.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) provides guidance for the world's Veterinary Services through the adoption by all countries of standards designed to support them both scientifically and in the fields of sanitary certification and good governance.

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12 rue de Prony 75017 Paris - +33 (0)1 44 15 18 88 - www.oie.int

