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### **One World - One Health**

One World – One Health emphasises the cooperation between veterinarians and medical doctors in controlling zoonotic diseases. It is well known that 70 to 80% of human infectious diseases originate in non-human animals. Pathogenic agents from domestic and non-domestic animals can cause seriously incapacitating and fatal diseases in people.

The veterinary profession is in a key position for controlling animal diseases including the zoonotic ones. We need healthy domestic animals to have healthy people. When zoonotic diseases infect people, medical doctors have to control the situation. With cooperation between the veterinary and medical professions, we can prevent a lot of harm. For example rabies is 100% preventable. Yet, every year 55 000 humans, mostly children, die of rabies. Rabies prevention is not well organized. With better cooperation, we could eradicate rabies from the world.

### **Antimicrobial Resistance**

Imprudent use of antimicrobials drugs by farmers and veterinarians causes the development of microbial resistance. The severity of the problem is such that the World Health Organisation is considering restrictions to the use of veterinary antibiotics. This could lead into the inability of veterinarians to treat animals effectively for infectious diseases.

WVA is discussing in the WHO/FAO task force group about the problem and possible solutions. Next year the task force group will finalise a report about measures, solutions and recommendations. As veterinarians, we can help to solve this problem by prudent and responsible use of antibiotics. In addition, we have to convince the farmers that the antimicrobial treatment of animals only must be done on the basis of a diagnosis and under veterinary control. Free sale of antibiotics to the farmers must be prohibited. With good cooperation, farmers and veterinarians can solve the problem of antimicrobial resistance.

### **Influenza**

Autumn is the time for the seasonal influenza. In many countries people on risk are vaccinated. Influenza prevention works well, although many humans get the flu and some die.

For a few years we have had to deal with the avian flu, which is a great problem especially in countries where people live in close contact with backyard birds. This is the case in for instance Indonesia. Avian flu is presently more or less under control all over the world.

In the beginning of this year a new type of influenza started to spread in Mexico. This disease was first called swine flu, but later named the Mexican flu and now H1N1 flu. It has become a pandemic. The expression of disease is mostly mild, although some affected people die.

Prevention of H1N1 influenza by vaccination will start soon. Antiviral treatment is effective. The disease is best prevented with proper hygienic measures. While the flu is mostly of interest to the medical profession, veterinarians have to be alert for the situation of farmers infecting their pigs. Meanwhile, calling the disease swine flu is totally inappropriate.

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