Ensuring Health & Sustainability in Europe: Doctors and Veterinarians emphasize “prevention is better than cure”

One Health debate

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FVE – CPME
Christophe Buhot - Katrín Fjeldsted
Explain what ‘One Health’ means for your profession. Why is it so important to think through this approach?
What doctors say

➢ Improve communication and exchange among health professionals

➢ ‘Health in all policies’; opening up to a more holistic way of thinking about health and health care

➢ Creating opportunities for exchange
What veterinarians say

Animal Health have a direct impact on Public Health

All organisms on earth
- consist an interdependent ecosystem,
- share the same microorganisms,
- animals and humans are equally affected by their environment and the current life-style

The real understanding of that link is crucial for our profession that “strives to promote animal health, animal welfare and public health”
Do you think your profession does enough in ‘One Health’?

If not which are the challenges?
What doctors say

➢ ‘One Health’ Bodies already exist in some countries

➢ More can be done
  o Communication and cooperation structures
  o Promotion of the patient-centered healthcare system
  o Interaction among professionals
What veterinarians say

- Undergraduate veterinary training is focused on a more holistic approach, rather than specialisation, e.g. group examination, diagnosis and treatment, interaction between different species, etc.

- More can be done, e.g.
  - finding ways to strengthen the interaction of the two professions in practice
  - adapting veterinary education (pre and post graduated) in order to understand and work in a global environment
  - enforcing joint research
  - need to learn how to deal with risk communication to the other health professions and the society
How the ‘other’ profession can assist you, so you together can achieve the desired goal of the ‘One Health’ concept?
What doctors say

- Join forces on specific policies
- Use share messages in communication to multiply the outreach to the public
- Strengthen cooperation among health professionals at all levels, starting from the practitioner
What veterinarians say

- Strengthen close collaboration of the health professions constantly
- Help change the way we educate all future health professionals
- Educate the society and set up appropriate legislation
- Help develop local, regional and global networks
- Need for enhanced communication and transparency between the professions
“Prevention is better than cure”: What do you think would be the added value of ‘One health’ initiatives in bringing the message around?
What doctors say

- Bringing the message to the politicians and engaging them to invest more on prevention in both human and veterinary sector
- Engaging more doctors and veterinarians in monitoring of diseases
- Facilitating exchange of experience between health professionals

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What veterinarians say

❖ “Prevention is better than cure” can be equally applied to both sectors and have the same positive results
❖ Avoiding disease ensures the health and welfare of animals and people and the financial sustainability for animal keepers and healthcare systems.
❖ Health professions need to speak through one voice to make our message to come across. In particular we need to present strong cases, showing the socio-economic impact of prevention in practice, in order to engage the society and the policy makers.
❖ Policy makers and all stakeholders need to embrace any cooperative initiative in the concept of ‘One Health’ and support it by all means.
What are the major fields we could start working collaboratively and investing on common public health campaigns through a ‘One Health’ approach?
What doctors say

- **Infectious diseases, e.g. pandemics, zoonoses, etc**
- **Antimicrobial resistance**
What veterinarians say

- Education of the all health professionals and education of the society.
  - Promotion of hygiene rules
  - Responsible use of medicines in animals and people
  - Strengthening of the relationship of the vet with animal keeper and med with patient
  - Etc.

- Prevention and monitoring of infectious and non-infectious diseases through Surveillance, Detection and Monitoring Systems

- Development of rules for trade and/or safe movement of animals, people and safe food.

- Preparation of contingency plans in order to be ready to respond immediately to any threat and at all levels.

- Tackling of environmental risks.