Future of Animal Welfare Education in the Veterinary Profession

International Veterinary Students’ Association (IVSA)

33rd World Veterinary Congress 2017
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Malcolm Chong Kwok Wei
President, 2016-2017
Table of Contents

• What is IVSA?
• Definitions
• Animal Welfare Goals
• What is Being Done?
• How to Get Involved
• Conclusions
What is IVSA?
Introduction to IVSA

Founded in 1953 – Germany

Non-profit
Run by volunteer efforts of veterinary students

Largest veterinary students’ association worldwide
Mission Statement

“IVSA exists to benefit the animals and humans of the world by harnessing the potential and dedication of veterinary students to promote the international application of veterinary skills, education and knowledge.”
Member Organizations (MOs)

± 30,000 members of more than 100 different universities in over 60 countries
IVSA Projects

- Exchanges: Individual & Group
- Committees and Working Groups – Animal Welfare, One Health, Veterinary Education, Wellness, Policies & Alumni
- Development Fund
- Annual Congress & Symposium
- Collaborations / Partnerships International Organizations
Definitions

Animal Welfare means “how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.”

IVSA Policy

- Based on 5 Freedoms:
  - From Hunger/Thirst
  - From Discomfort
  - From Pain, Injury, or Disease
  - To Express Normal Behaviour
  - From Fear or Distress
Animal Welfare Goals

- We believe that:
  - It is possible to improve not just the lives, but the quality of life for animals.

- We like to see:
  - An increase in global standards of Animal Welfare
  - An improved standardization of Animal Welfare
  - Better transparency and legislation in the field of Animal Welfare
  - Better modules and education about the importance of Animal Welfare

- Struggles?
  - Cultural differences and sensitivities
    - Open discussions
    - Education is key!
What is Being Done?
Committees

- **Standing Committee on Animal Welfare (SCAW)**
- Standing Committee on One Health (SCOH)
- Standing Committee on Veterinary Education (SCoVE)
- **Standing Committee on Wellness (SCoW)**
- Working Group on Policies (WGP)
- Working Group on Alumni (WGA)
Standing Committee on Animal Welfare (SCAW)

• To promote animal welfare amongst veterinary students worldwide

• This Week in Welfare

IVSA Animal Welfare Week
8th - 12th May 2017

• Animal Welfare Week
Standing Committee on Animal Welfare (SCAW)

• Toolkits and training (case studies, etc.) to prepare students for Animal Welfare issues that they may face in the future.

• Partnerships and working together with organizations dedicated to Animal Welfare work (such as World Animal Protection, Wild Welfare, etc.)

• Organizing events (workshops, lectures, seminar, etc.) at IVSA events, promote local events on global scale, and support local engagement work.

Munich, Germany (19th – 22nd October 2018)
How Can I Get Involved?

• SHARE!
• Experience – Guide our steps and help direct us
• Knowledge and Understanding – Share understanding on where issues stem from. Support research endeavours
• Support – Enable students to go and do what is necessary to improve Animal Welfare (contacts, finances, encouragement, mentorship, etc.) or just be a good example!
Conclusion

• CHANGE!
  • Change the way we think by changing the way we learn
  • True progress will begin when people have a true realization that AW is an important issue – comes by EDUCATION
  • Lead by example and with passion, and others will follow!
The key to an improved world and improved Animal Welfare lies not in law, punishment, and rewards, but rather by words, textbooks, and action, which will convince the hearts and minds of tomorrow that there is more work to be done.
Thank you!

www.ivsa.org
@ivsa_global
@ivsa_global
info@ivsa.org