

WVA-OIE

World Veterinary Day

AWARD 2009



World Veterinary Day was instigated by the World Veterinary Association in 2000 to be celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April. In 2008 the WVA and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) agreed on the creation of the World Veterinary Day Award aimed at rewarding the most successful celebration of the veterinary profession by national veterinary associations, alone, or in cooperation with any other selected veterinary body.

TOOLKIT FOR APPLICANTS

Events could be public events organised with support of the media, open days, competitions or any event that could create attention and get messages out to a large number of people in an interesting, entertaining and stimulating way (using, for example, musical and gastronomic events as a support).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION

The application for the award must include:

- Name of the individual veterinarian representing the veterinary association involved
- Country and e-mail address
- Number of veterinarians members of the applicant association
- Subject addressed to celebrate the event, the specific audience for which it was organized and the attendance rate
- Press coverage received
- Number of non veterinarians and veterinarians attracted to the event
- Number of livestock farmers involved in the organisation of the event and number of livestock farmers attending the event
- Proposed actions to be taken as a follow up
- Supporting materials: when applying provide copies of posters, stickers, photographs, press releases, TV spots, etc.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications should be submitted by 1 May 2009 to the World Veterinary Association: BS@ddd.dk

The 2009 Award will be delivered at the 77th OIE General Assembly to be held in Paris, France on 24-29 May 2009.

The prize: US\$ 1,000 will be donated to the winner.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

National veterinary associations that celebrate World veterinary day alone or in cooperation with others can participate in the competition of being selected WVD award winner of the year by sending in a completed application form (see instructions).

THEME FOR THE YEAR 2009

Veterinarians and livestock farmers, a winning partnership

Today more than ever, outbreaks of some animal diseases, particularly those harmful to humans (zoonoses) can cause considerable economic and social upheaval and send a wave of panic at national, regional or global level. Recent crises have shown how a serious health event for the animal kingdom can have a global impact on the rural economy and consumers and constitute a threat to public health. An early warning associated with a rapid response is key to fight contagious animal diseases at source, through the integration of all relevant stakeholders in the prevention and disease control mechanisms.

Veterinarians play a key role in all countries as guarantors of animal health and public health. But the effectiveness of their action is strongly linked to and dependent on their relationship with farmers. Livestock farmers all around the world are the first sentinels of animal disease events and a rapid response in the fight against animal diseases cannot leave aside their crucial role. They are also the first to suffer from animal diseases through important losses in their livelihood. Experience has shown the importance of organisational and economic factors in enabling the world's 600 million livestock farmers to fulfil their role in the chain of protection. Improvement of their animal health training through the support of veterinarians must be considered central to the risk anticipation and risk mutualisation strategies that the international community will increasingly have to initiate.

The 2009 Award will reward the veterinary association who will best publicise the theme by involving the livestock farmers in the organisation of events along with all other stakeholders such as the media and the general public.