Training and diffusion of good handling practices are key points in reducing animal abuse. Three aspects are considered in the development of education in Animal Welfare: a) introduction of animal welfare in curricular education, nevertheless, this has not been applied in the Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad de la República de Uruguay (sole University offering this career); b) promotion of permanent education for graduates and c) development of plans for diffusion, follow up, assessment and continuous improvement on animal welfare affairs. Aiming to obtain information about the knowledge of veterinarians on animal welfare during the practice of their professional duties, in September 2016, we sent an on-line questionnaire to the veterinarians who were in Educación Continua database. The questionnaire had 4 sections, a general one gathering information on the year of entry to the faculty, the number of animal welfare courses taken, knowledge of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas (RAWS). Three additional sections where included, one for each work area (large animals medicine/production, small animals health and food industry). From 1804 questionnaires sent 388 answers were obtained 69% attended at least one animal welfare course, 89.9% are willing to attend again, 63.5% considered the information received to be very useful for their daily activities. 95% considers that animal welfare should be included in the veterinary studies curriculum. 53.3% de clared not having knowledge about the RAWS. The majority of the veterinarians considered the acquired knowledge very useful and are eager to obtain more information. On the other hand, there is a lack of knowledge about the RAWS. It is necessary to keep working to include animal welfare in the veterinary studies curriculum as well as continuing with the diffusion of good practices and animal welfare principles, based on the national and international norms.

Key words: veterinary curricula – veterinary education.