

THE NEED FOR SOUND AND SUSTAINABLE POLICY IN AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD: SCIENCE BASED GUIDANCE FOR THE FUTURE

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As we increase our understanding of the relationship between wildlife and domestic animals, and between these animals and the humans co-existing in their ecosystems, we also recognize the complexity of these relationships. Changes in land use related to animal production, including the expansion into new geographic areas and the intensification of production to meet increasing needs for animal-based products, have altered the equilibrium between domestic animals and wildlife – and their interactions have changed both in frequency and in nature. At the same time, the growth and heightened urbanization of the human population pose additional pressure on the biodiversity of wildlife. The relationship of wildlife and domestic animals has been recognized for a long time by the OIE, and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases is the longest standing Working Group of the OIE. Founded in 1994, this Working Group informs and advises the OIE on all health problems relating to wild animals, whether in the wild or in captivity. The Working Group, comprising world-leading scientific experts in their subject areas, has prepared recommendations and oversees numerous scientific publications on the surveillance and control of the most important specific wildlife diseases. Perhaps even more so than for any other area of OIE’s work, issues related to the species biodiversity, particularly related to the biodiversity of wildlife, necessitate and benefit from the broadest level of intersectoral collaboration.

