

## Session 3:

# Veterinary public health and 'Veterinary Services' concept

## The role of WHO

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Infectious diseases in humans cause significant worldwide morbidity and mortality, social and economic disruption. Health services that can hardly cope with 'chronic' infectious issues are put into a state of shock when unheralded outbreaks of disease occur. New diseases continue to emerge and most come from animals. The prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases requires multisectoral and cross-disciplinary approaches. The veterinary and human medical professions have to collaborate but also have to understand each others culture and practices to plan and execute joint programmes and policies. Different approaches to disease control and risk assessment can challenge relationships at the individual, institutional and government levels. Research into diseases of animals affecting humans which is necessary to develop control policies, must also cross sectoral boundaries. Veterinary and human health professionals must also learn to understand the analyses of other bio-medical sciences but also social sciences including politics, economics and anthropology. When the professions work together in partnership they can be a powerful force to promote political will, networking and data sharing, capacity building, risk communication and community engagement. Preparation for collaboration and coordinated work as exemplified in a One Health or One World One Health approach should become second nature in future professional practice.

