

Session 3:

Veterinary public health and 'Veterinary Services' concept

Introduction to veterinary public health

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In recent years there has been an increased recognition of the importance of veterinary public health which has expanded to cover a multitude of aspects related to the animal – human interface. Veterinary public health is a fundamental component of public health where the main objective is to enhance human health and well being. This objective is reflected in the currently accepted World Health Organization (WHO) definition of veterinary public health which encompasses a whole range of issues linked to the human - animal interface. The wide scope of this definition can create some difficulties in determining the precise role of veterinary public health from a practical perspective. The key components of veterinary public health are described along with the practical applications of veterinary public health. Understanding these issues will enable the development of the curriculum for both undergraduate and postgraduate training in veterinary public health. This will ensure that the veterinary profession is able to meet its increasing obligations in this discipline both at a national and international level.

