

VETERINARY
SERVICES

WHAT ARE

THEY ?



ABOVE
ALL

**VETERINARY SERVICES ARE A
WORKING COMMUNITY WHICH, IN
EVERY COUNTRY OF THE WORLD,
PROTECTS THE HEALTH AND
WELFARE OF ANIMALS.**

This community primarily comprises public service veterinarians responsible for preparing and enforcing the laws governing disease control and food safety and contributing to the safeguard of biodiversity and, all other categories of public sector personnel who support this work (administrative staff, communication officers, legal experts, etc.).

The community also includes self-employed and salaried veterinary practitioners in the private sector who work in the field.

WHAT ARE

THEY FOR?

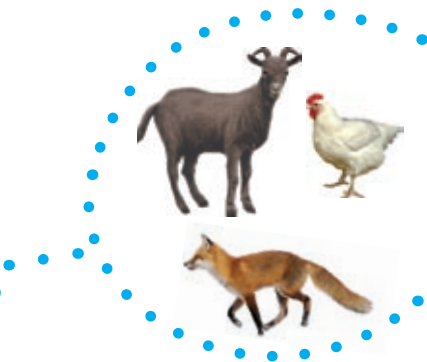
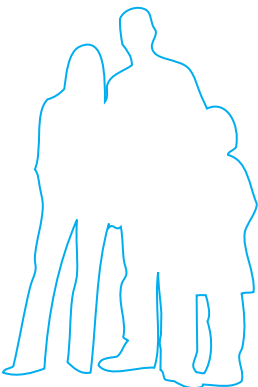


TO SAFEGUARD PUBLIC HEALTH

**Tracking animal
diseases transmissible
to humans**

Today, we know that **60%** of human pathogens are of **animal origin**, 75% of emerging animal diseases can be **transmitted to humans** and 80% of pathogens that could potentially be used for bioterrorism are of animal origin.

There is a direct link between public health and the work of Veterinary Services in protecting animal health, since by **eliminating** the pathogens that cause diseases in animals one can **prevent** subsequent emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases in humans, and at the same time ensure an adequate supply of good quality, safe food for all.



TO ENSURE FOOD SAFETY

**Protecting consumers
from food-related
health risks**

Many pathogens (parasites, bacteria, viruses, toxins) have the potential to contaminate food at the various stage of production and render it **dangerous** for consumers.

Veterinary Services operate **from the farm to the fork**, in other words during production at the farm, then during processing (at the abattoir, dairy, etc.) and even during the transport and distribution of products.



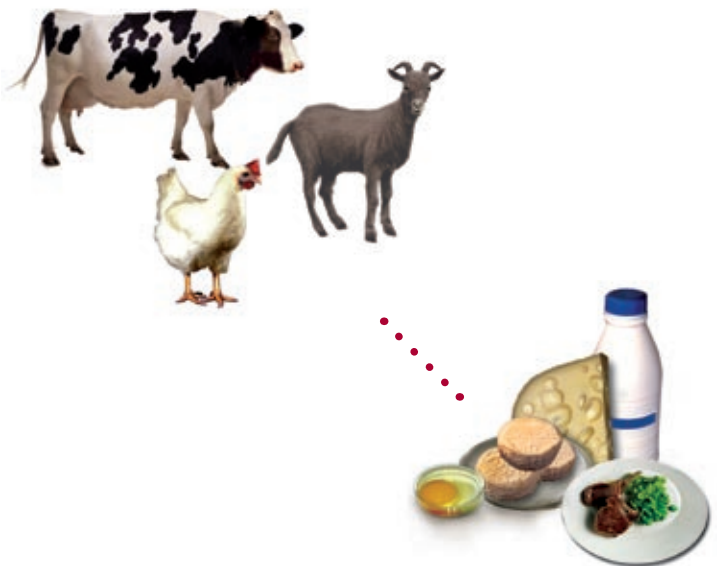
TO PROMOTE ANIMAL PRODUCTION

**Reducing losses caused
by animal diseases**

It is estimated that world demand for animal protein (milk, eggs, meat) will increase by **50%** by the year **2030**.

This demand will only be met if Veterinary Services can **provide** a suitable **level of sanitary surveillance** to cope with the complexity of the animal production systems of the future.

It is estimated that more than **20%** of animal production worldwide is lost as a result of disease. Greater support for the work of Veterinary Services would enable these losses to be **considerably reduced**.



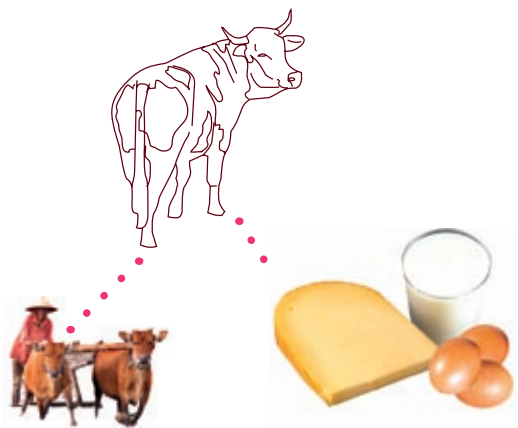
TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY WORLDWIDE

**Helping poor countries
that wish to gain access
to export markets**

In many countries of the world, animals are not only a source of dietary protein but also provide **draught power** (traction, ploughing, and irrigation), a regular cash income and precious natural fertilizer.

All the actions of Veterinary Services have positive impacts throughout the agricultural production chain by protecting and **maintaining animal production**, on which the livelihoods of a billion poor livestock farmers throughout the world depend.

Poor countries freed from animal diseases thanks to the work of Veterinary Services may, if they wish, gain **access** to more lucrative **export** markets.



**TO ENSURE
THE SAFETY OF WORLD
TRADE IN PRODUCTS
OF ANIMAL ORIGIN**

**Protecting countries at
their own borders**

When an importing country becomes aware of a potentially dangerous **animal disease event** in an exporting country, it may decide to halt trade in **animals and animal products** between the countries, to protect itself and to avoid any international **spread** of pathogens of animal origin.

Decisions of this kind can **impact heavily** on the local, national or even regional economy, and have wide-ranging negative social repercussions.

Veterinary Services play a vital role in ensuring the sanitary safety of world trade by **supervising and protecting** animal production and issuing the sanitary certificates that accompany exports.



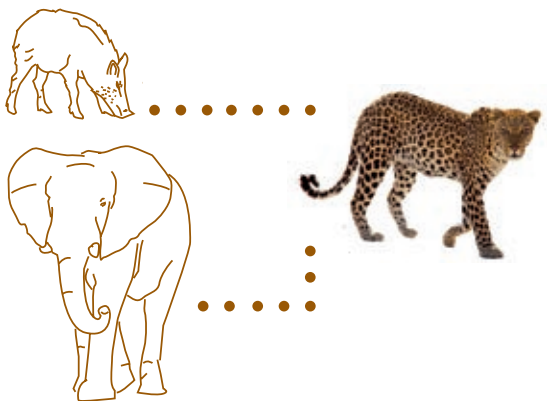
CONSERVING

ANIMAL SPECIES

**Safeguarding and
protecting wildlife**

Disease surveillance in wildlife needs to be just as stringent as the surveillance and control of diseases in domestic animals, since the exchange of **pathogens** between these two populations is **increasing** throughout the world.

Protecting the health of wildlife helps to **conserve** biodiversity while at the same time avoiding the transmission of diseases to domestic animals and humans.



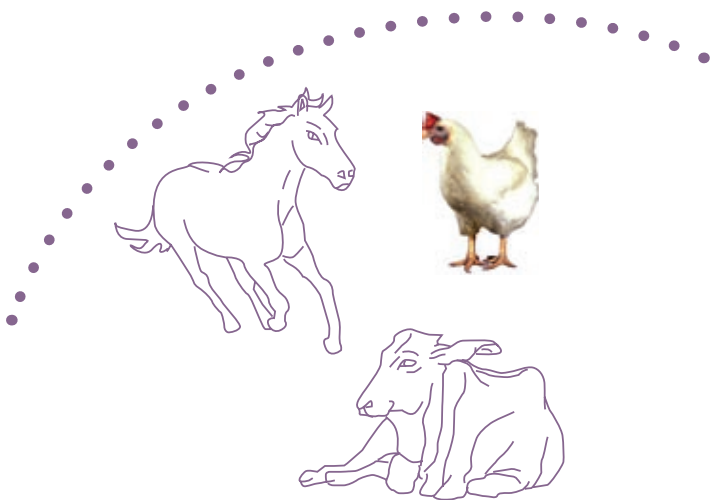
TO DEFEND ANIMAL WELFARE

**Protecting animals
through well-enforced
laws and regulations**

Animal health is a vital component of **animal welfare**.

Animal welfare is a complex concept encompassing scientific and ethical aspects as well as economic, cultural and political aspects.

Animal protection requires being able to **control** the conditions in which animals are raised, transported and slaughtered. Veterinary Services are the best qualified community to prepare **legislation** on animal welfare and see that it is **enforced in the field** on a daily basis.



**TO SUCCEED
IN THESE MISSIONS,
ANIMAL HEALTH
SYSTEMS MUST BE
FOUNDED ON**

**GOOD
GOVERNANCE**

National Veterinary Services, which lie at the heart of the global public good represented by animal health systems, cannot fulfil their mission without the appropriate legislation and the necessary means to enforce it.

This forms the basis of good veterinary governance, which must include:

- suitable legislation, effectively applied thanks to adequate human and financial resources;
- a network covering the whole of the country, based on a “tripod” composed of official veterinarians, private veterinarians and animal producers, which ensures effective surveillance;

Created by the Communication Unit of the OIE

**Organisation
Mondiale
de la santé
Animale**

**World
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for Animal
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