

# WORLD VETERINARY DAY 2011



World Veterinary Day was instigated by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in 2000 to be celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April. In 2008 the WVA and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) agreed on the creation of the **World Veterinary Day Award** aimed at rewarding the most successful celebration of the veterinary profession by national veterinary associations, alone, or in cooperation with any other selected veterinary body.

The 2011 Award will be delivered at the 30<sup>th</sup> World Veterinary Congress to be held in Cape Town, South Africa on 10-14 October 2011.

The prize: US\$ 1,000 will be donated to the winner.

## SELECTED THEME 2011: "RABIES"

### KEY FACTS

- ▶ One person dies from rabies every ten minutes.
- ▶ Each year, rabies claims nearly 55, 000 victims throughout the world, most of them are children.
- ▶ 99% of human cases are caused by bites from infected dogs.
- ▶ Rabies is the most fatal infectious disease in the world.

Prevention at the animal source is the key strategy in dealing with a prevalent and perennial zoonotic disease like rabies. Upstream control of rabies infection in dogs, including the control of stray dog populations should rank high on the agenda of developing countries' national health and veterinary authorities for efficient prevention of both human and animal mortalities.

Today only 10% of financial resources used to treat people after a dog bite would suffice to national Veterinary Services of the world to eradicate rabies in animals and stop virtually all human cases.

Animal vaccination remains the method of choice to control and eradicate rabies. For ethical, ecological and economic reasons the killing of potential infected animals should not be considered to be the sole method for control and eradication of rabies. As a matter of fact all successful rabies eradication campaigns in the developing world have combined population control of in-excess stray dogs and systemic vaccination of owned dogs.



**RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL,  
GET INVOLVED IN WORLD VETERINARY DAY!**

# WORLD VETERINARY DAY 2011 WVA-OIE



WITH THE  
SUPPORT OF



## SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE AWARD

### Criteria

The 2011 Award will reward the veterinary association who will best publicise the theme “rabies” by involving all stakeholders in the organisation of events along with all other stakeholders such as the media and the general public.

### Eligibility

National veterinary associations that celebrate World veterinary day alone or in cooperation with others can participate in the competition of being selected WVD award winner of the year.

### Nomination of candidates

All fields in the application form shall be properly filled out and emailed at [secretariat@worldvet.org](mailto:secretariat@worldvet.org)

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR THE WORLD VETERINARY DAY CELEBRATIONS

The following are just a few examples of activities and shall be considered as an extendable list:

- Stage concerts or other public performances (runs, walks)
- Mark WVD in schools with awareness building activities
- Involve the media by working with local newspapers to publish editorials and articles on WVD theme. Broadcast radio and television discussion programs
- Hold seminars in universities
- Release studies, statistical data, surveys
- Celebrate the works of a notable researcher or veterinarian
- Run workshops and set up booths in the street to inform the general public
- Create a website containing general information about rabies
- Promote your activities through social media
- Find a spokesperson
- Distribute promotion materials.

## 2011: A CRUCIAL YEAR FOR THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

2011 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the veterinary profession and has been declared “World Veterinary Year”.

Apart from their well-known role of animal doctors, veterinarians conceive prevention and control programmes against infectious diseases, including those transmissible to humans.

Much more than that, be it for food security, poverty alleviation, prevention and management of risks at the animal-human interface, animal welfare, scientific research or political commitment, veterinarians operate in all sectors of the society. The veterinary profession has never deserved greater visibility than today!

OIE and WVA strongly support the World Veterinary Year. Join the campaign at [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int) and [www.vet2011.org](http://www.vet2011.org)