

Dr Juan Lubroth



Dr. Juan Lubroth is currently the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Dr. Lubroth previously served for seven years as the Senior Officer of FAO's Animal Health Service and Head of the Infectious Diseases Group/Emergency Prevention System in charge of worldwide surveillance, capacity building, and progressive control of transboundary animal diseases. As US national raised in Spain, Dr. Lubroth received his bachelor's degree (biology) from Whitman College in Washington State and worked as a wildlife biologist before continuing studies at the University of Georgia, USA where he earned both a master's degree in medical microbiology and DVM in 1985. After a stint as a wildlife veterinarian with the South-eastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, University of Georgia, Dr. Lubroth joined the diagnostic services section of the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Plum Island Animal Disease Center, US Department of Agriculture. He was stationed in Mexico at the Mexico-US Commission for the Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other Foreign Animal Diseases, returning for advanced studies in the United States. In 1992 he received a M Phil degree (arbovirology and epidemiology of infectious diseases) and in 1995 his PhD, both from the School of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Yale University School of Medicine, Yale University, USA. Dr. Lubroth was posted at the Panafosa/Pan American Health Organization as a Visiting Scientist in Brazil before being named Head of Diagnostic Services and Head of Reagents and Vaccines at Plum Island.

In 2002, Dr. Lubroth joined the Animal Health Service of FAO. He has worked extensively throughout Latin America, North Africa and the Middle East. He has initiated several major initiatives for the control of transboundary animal diseases in Central Asia, South Asia, southern Africa, and has served on the Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics Advisory Committee. He was the driving force behind several key cooperative initiatives of FAO with the World Health Organization (WHO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), including the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases, the Global Early Warning and Response System for major animal diseases including zoonoses (GLEWS), and the establishment of the Crisis Management Centre for Animal Health. As an expert on animal health and infectious disease transmission, Dr. Lubroth is often called to assist in bringing animal production and health perspectives to the work of the WHO on issues related to zoonoses, biological safety of laboratories, and matters regarding bioterrorism and agroterrorism.

On 1 October 2009, Dr. Lubroth was appointed as Chief of the Animal Health Service (Chief Veterinary Officer of FAO), Headquartered in Rome, Italy, where he now resides with his wife, Adriana, a journalist, and a coterie of dogs and cats of all sizes.