RESOLUTION No. 27

The “One Health” Approach to Address Health Risks at the Animal–Human–Ecosystem Interface

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The concept of “One Health” is necessarily broad and flexible, as it is intended to encompass the many facets of the relationships between humans, animals, and the ecosystems in which they co-exist. Within “One Health” the control of diseases at the animal-human-ecosystem interface is important;

2. The health of humans and animals is interlinked, and that both populations affect and are affected by the environment in which they co-exist;

3. A majority of existing and emerging human infectious diseases are caused by pathogens that also affect animals;

4. Good governance underpins the prevention, surveillance, timely detection, transparent notification and rapid response to animal diseases, and also to animal-related threats including zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance and those that may have an impact on human health through food security and food safety;

5. Control of zoonotic diseases, including those caused by foodborne pathogens, at their source has the greatest benefit for human and animal populations and that Veterinary Services are in the frontline to achieve this objective;

6. The concept or practice of “One Health” reflects the intersectoral collaborative approach to protecting animal, human and environmental health and includes the collaboration among stakeholders, institutions and systems at all levels that support positive health outcomes;

7. Animal production contributes in important ways to food security and human health through nutrition and poverty reduction; and furthermore that emerging, re-emerging, and endemic diseases of animals can have additional implications for human health through food security and safety concerns;

8. OIE Member Countries recognise that the achievement of major public health outcomes through the protection and promotion of animal health is a fundamental part of competent Veterinary Services;

9. Zoonotic diseases, especially rabies, and other issues, such as antimicrobial resistance, are recognised as a high priority by OIE Member Countries for which “One Health” approaches should be taken;

10. Member Countries reported that guidance on intersectoral collaboration and capacity building on implementing intersectoral approaches is needed;

11. OIE Member Countries endorsed the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan (2011–2015), in which the application of the “One Health” concept for the reduction of risks of high impact diseases at the animal–human–ecosystem interface was a new major element, and mandated the OIE to implement this plan;
THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General and the OIE Delegates advocate to governments and regional and international organisations for the fundamental role of Veterinary Services in the protection of animal, human and ecosystem health and the application of “One Health” approaches.

2. The OIE continue its initiative of evaluating Veterinary Services through the application of the PVS tool, the PVS gap analysis and PVS follow-up evaluations to further strengthen the ability of OIE Member Countries to practise good veterinary governance.

3. The OIE promote activities to build trust among the concerned professions, institutions and individuals and encourage a deeper understanding of the cultural and ethical challenges to collaboration.

4. The OIE standards and guidance provide support for Member Countries to implement “One Health” approaches, and that the OIE work through its Specialist Commissions, Working Groups, and ad hoc Groups to review existing standards and develop evidence-based guidance on issues related to health risks at the animal–human–ecosystem interface.

5. The Director General encourage relevant OIE Reference Centres to further develop the “One Health” concept and approaches to animal disease detection, prevention and control, including economic studies, and further develop and provide capacity building programmes on implementing “One Health” approaches.

6. The OIE maintain and expand training and capacity building in the area of “One Health”, including components within the PVS Pathway, to strengthen the skills of and provide information to OIE Delegates, national focal points, and Veterinary Services in general.

7. The Director General continue to work closely with the World Health Organization to negotiate and ensure harmonisation of the OIE international guidance and standards for good governance of Veterinary Services with guidance from WHO for good governance of human health services, and with other international organisations providing guidance relevant to good governance of ecosystems.

8. Veterinary and medical institutions and faculties worldwide be encouraged to incorporate relevant “One Health” approaches within their undergraduate and postgraduate curricula, including within continuing professional education programmes.

9. The FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Concept Note be used as a basis for the cooperation of the OIE with WHO and FAO, and this also serve as a framework for the work of the OIE with other key partners such as the World Bank and European Union, civil society, the private sector and the many other supporters of the “One Health” approach.

10. The OIE and Member Countries consider rabies as a model for the application of the principles of the “One Health” approach and identify the control of dog rabies as a “One Health” priority in the context of implementation of the OIE Fifth Strategic Plan (2011–2015).

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 24 May 2012)