

Role of the veterinary profession

Welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices
12 November 2015

*Rafael Laguens,
FVE President*



Federation of
Veterinarians of Europe



www.fve.org

Federation of veterinarians of Europe

46 national associations
38 European countries

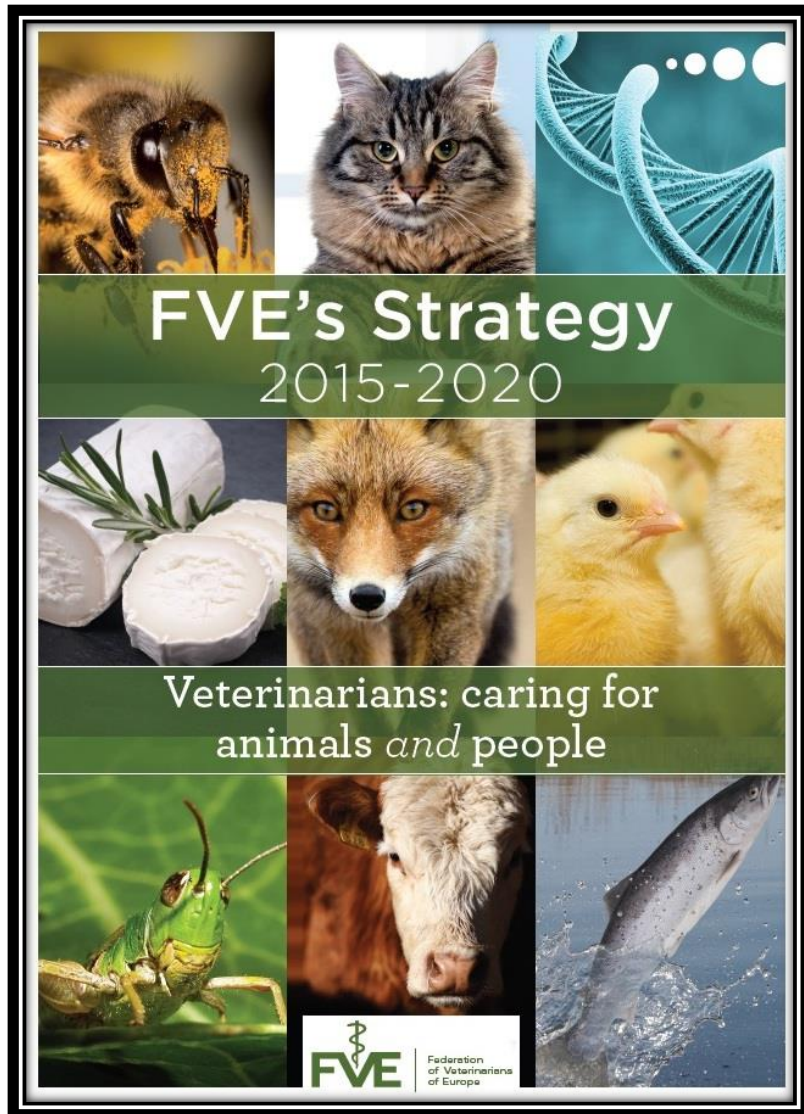
FECAVA

4 FVE Sections

- UEVP (*Practitioners*)
- UEVH (*Hygienists – Public Health Officers*)
- EASVO (*Veterinary State Officers*)
- EVERI (*Education, Research, Industry*)

“One Profession-One Vision -One Voice”





www.fve.org

FVE strategy 2015-2020

- Mission
- Special reference to work on Companion Animals:

'We want to do more to improve the health and welfare of companion animals, looking at issues such as micro-chipping and pet identification, breeding issues and strays'

New FVE Board

2

Andrew Robinson is Board member specially responsible for companion animal dossiers

www.fve.org





75%
Revenue
veterinarians
get from pets

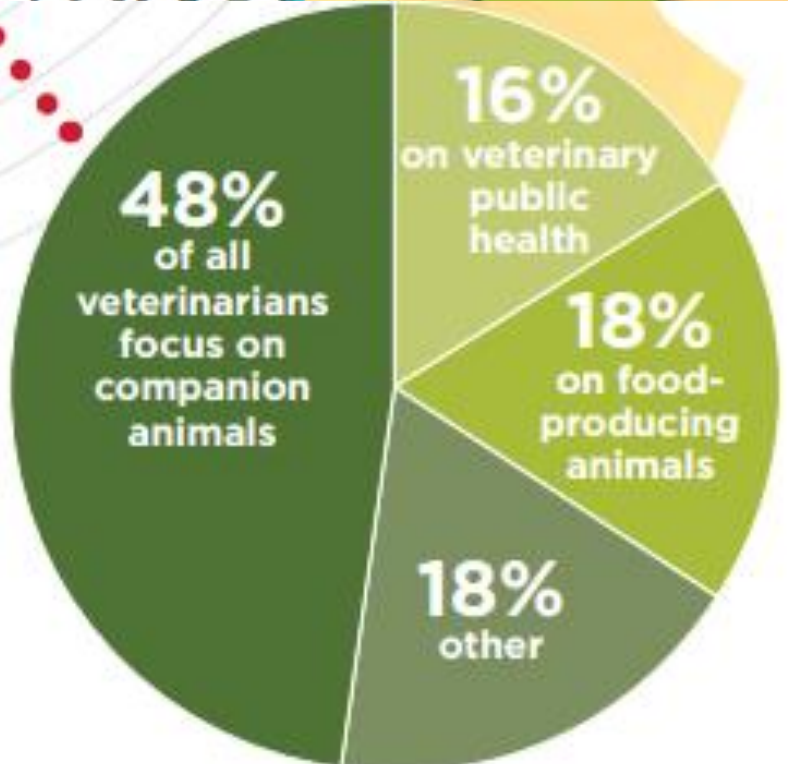


THERE ARE
233.300

60%
of veterinarians work in private practice,
19%
in public service,
6%
in education and research,
4%
in industry and private research and
11%
in other fields

Veterinarians
work an
average of
46.8
hours a week

On a scale of 1-10,
veterinarians in Europe
put their happiness
with their
professional life at
7.3.
The happiest veterinarians
are in Denmark,
Finland, Romania
and Sweden



Veterinary Code of Conduct/ Veterinary Oath



www.fve.org

FVE definition of a veterinarian (adopted 2012):

“Veterinarian: a professional with a comprehensive scientific education, licensed by the legal authority, to carry out, in an independent, ethical and personally responsible capacity, all aspects of veterinary medicine, in the interest of the health and welfare of animals, the interest of the client and of the society.”



Veterinary Code of Conduct/ Veterinary Oath



www.fve.org

- Only persons **licensed and registered** by the competent authority (directly or through the statutory body) are authorized to work as a veterinarian.
- The veterinarian needs to follow the **Code of Conduct** and in some countries need to take a **veterinary Oath**.

*'I promise and solemnly declare that I will pursue the work of my profession with integrity and accept my responsibilities to the public, my clients, the profession and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and that ABOVE ALL my constant endeavour will be to **ensure the health and welfare of animals committed to my care.** (UK Veterinary Oath)'*

- Improper professional behaviour and misconduct can lead to **disciplinary actions** such as a penalty or even withdrawal of the license.

Most important welfare issues identified by vets do not all relate to commercial practices



www.fve.org

WELFARE ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

- Owners' lack of awareness of welfare needs; irresponsible ownership;
- Inherited disease or exaggerated physical features;
- Intensive and unregulated puppy rearing; inappropriate socialization;
- Poor health due to obesity;
- Inappropriate training and lack of mental stimulation often leading to behavioural problems

FVE/UEVP/FECAVA paper on stray dogs



- *This joint paper titled “Every dog deserves a caring owner” was adopted in 2014*

- *It is a joint paper of:*
 - *FVE*
 - *FECAVA (Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations)*
 - *UEVP (Union of European Veterinary Practitioners)*

The image shows the cover of a document. At the top, it features the logos for FVE (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe), UEVP (Union of European Veterinary Practitioners), and FECAVA (Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations). Below the logos, the text reads: "Date adoption : 22nd of May 2015". A grey bar contains the text: "PROMOTING VETERINARY LEADERSHIP IN STRAY DOG CONTROL IN EUROPE". Below this, another grey bar contains the title: "‘EVERY DOG DESERVES A CARING OWNER’: THE VETERINARY VISION ON STRAY DOG MANAGEMENT". The main text of the cover lists the organizations: "FECAVA, the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations, UEVP, the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners, and FVE, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe". At the bottom, a grey bar contains the text: "CONSIDERING THAT:".



Responsible ownership of pets

- *FVE and FECAVA involvement in Carodog and Carocat*
- *Aim is to promote responsible ownership of pets and to disseminate reliable information*
- *Special focus on*
Identification & Registration

The screenshot shows the CAROdog website interface. At the top left is the logo for CAROdog, which includes the text 'COMPANION ANIMAL RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP' and 'CAROdog responsible ownership'. To the right of the logo is a search bar and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Below the logo is a horizontal navigation menu with the following items: ABOUT US, DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT, LAW AND SCIENCE, EDUCATION, DOG OWNERS, TAKE ACTION!, and NEWS/EVENTS. The main content area features a large green banner for 'CALLISTO' with a blue silhouette of a hand holding a dog. Below the banner is a text block: 'CALLISTO- healthy and safe human-animal relationships in Europe*: brochure is online : CALLISTO (Companion animal multisectorial interprofessional and interdisciplinary strategic think tank on zoonoses) presents its project final brochure, where [continue reading ...](#)'. To the right of the banner is a section titled 'SPECIAL FOCUS: Identification and Registration' with a photo of a dog being scanned by a handheld device. Below the photo is the text 'IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION' and 'Special Focus' in a stylized font. At the bottom of the page, there is a 'QUICK ACCESS' section with two buttons.



Q&A: new rules for pet travel and pet passports

- *FVE, FECAVA with support of the European Commission released a document to answer the main questions owners may have regarding the new rules.*
- *Document in all EU languages is available on FVE website:*



**Questions and Answers
new rules for pet travel and pet passports
for EU citizens travelling inside or outside the EU**

Introduction

From 29 December 2014, the legislation will change in respect to pet travel rules and pet passports. The underneath document tries to answer the main questions you may have regarding these changes. This document has been made in collaboration with the European Commission. Nevertheless, please note that for the most up-to-date information, it is best to contact the competent authorities of the country of origin and destination.

Q&A in respect to new rules for pet travel and pet passport

GENERAL.....	3
1. On 29 December 2014 new pet passports will be required? What does this mean for my dog, cat or ferret?	3
2. I am living in the EU. Where can I get the pet passport?	3
3. Which animals need a pet passport?	3
4. How much will I need to pay to get a pet passport?.....	3
5. How long before travelling should I contact my veterinarian?.....	3
6. What if I am travelling with more than 5 pets?	4
7. What are the main requirements to travel with my pet within the EU?	4
9. Do I (the owner) need to accompany my pet when travelling?.....	4



www.fve.org

Need for 'One health' perspective

- *Animal Health, Welfare, Human well-being is related: need to look at human- animal relationship*
- *Need to also take into account socio-economic considerations*
- *Animal cruelty and human cruelty is related*



The veterinary profession can contribute: how?



www.fve.org

- *By increasing the **education and awareness** for responsible ownership, breeding and trade of dogs and cats.*
- *Practitioners can **advise owners before buying an animal** on how to choose a healthy, well-socialized animal from a reliable breeder which fits well in their family.*
- *Also when practitioners see the pup or kitten the first time, they can check the health records and in case they see **irregularities** (e,g, ID not correct, pup younger than in records) they can warn the competent authorities.*

The veterinary profession can contribute: how?



www.fve.org

- We need a **reliable system of identification and registration** to make fraud more difficult.
- We need to **enforce legislation** and protect animal welfare standards in dog breeding and trading establishments across Europe.
- **Harsh penalties** should be put on breaching the rules, as smuggling puppies is a highly lucrative business
- Need a governmental **hotline** for vets and owners to notify irregularities
- **False certification** by vets or others cannot be tolerated and lead to disciplinary actions by the Statutory Bodies.

CONCLUSION



*Improving the health and welfare of companion animal **must and can be done,***

BUT needs an integrated, comprehensive, long-term approach, aiming at responsible ownership and breeding and looking at it from the ‘One Health’ perspective.

The effectiveness will largely depends on a good coordination of all initiatives and measures taken. Good collaboration and communication between all actors is needed.

The veterinary profession is committed to this.



www.fve.org

**Thanks you for
your attention**

