



HealthforAnimals News

Issue nr 1

July 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- IFAH rebrands as HealthforAnimals
- Microsite: Our contribution
- We want your feedback: A survey on innovation in animal health
- 4th Global Animal Health Conference: regulatory convergence
- World Veterinary Day: Raising awareness of vector-borne diseases
- World Zoonoses Day: Time to take the bite out of deadly Rabies
- New Infographic: World Zoonoses Day
- Animation: One World, One Health

IFAH rebrands as HealthforAnimals

On 1 June 2015 IFAH announced its new name and visual identity. The not-for-profit organisation is now known as HealthforAnimals.



The name change better reflects our vision to communicate the important contribution the animal health sector brings to society, and broadens our influence and impact as the global voice of veterinary medicine.

Newly elected President George Heidgerken, Global Head of Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, outlines his thoughts on the new identity and vision for HealthforAnimals in a [video message](#).

[Read the full press release](#)

Microsite: Our contribution



Alongside the new change HealthforAnimals launched a microsite outlining the contribution to society of the animal health sector in areas such as: emerging diseases, zoonoses, safe and secure food for the future, new technologies, vaccines and innovation, pets and antibiotics.

[Visit the microsite](#)

We want your feedback: A survey on innovation in animal health

The animal health sector is formed of a mix of hugely varied people, roles and skill sets, ultimately all working towards the common purpose of improving both animal and human health worldwide.

Historically it is a sector which has seen remarkable innovation, breakthroughs and developments that have shaped the modern world. However, as with any aspect of society there are obstacles which hinder progress; it is important for continued growth and development to clearly establish where these challenges lie, in order to effectively break down these barriers.

In support of this HealthforAnimals has created a survey to establish what those who work within the various areas of the animal health sector believe to be its current status, and to gain their opinion and insight into where the animal health sector can, should and is going.

Keeping the perspective representatively broad, the survey is intended for professionals working within the animal health sector in a variety of different capacities from a veterinary professional, to a manufacturer, to those involved in research.

HealthforAnimals, in partnership with the World Veterinary Association, would therefore like to invite you to take part in this survey, and provide your own insight into the animal health sector and its future. The survey, which will be live until 31st July 2015, can be accessed here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VV35LX2>

4th Global Animal Health Conference: regulatory convergence



The 4th Global Animal Health Conference held on 24-25 June in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania was organised with the support of an Organising Committee, facilitated by HealthforAnimals and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The focus of the conference was on developing countries and on how to enable the widest availability of high quality, safe and efficacious products in these markets, with an emphasis on Africa, and East Africa in particular.

The conference was opened by HealthforAnimals President George Heidergerken and was attended by more than 100 regulators and veterinary medicines manufacturers from all parts of the globe who gave examples of existing harmonization projects in their regions. Delegates agreed that a mutual trust must be created between all parties involved in approving new veterinary medicines, in order to boost harmonization and make efficient use of resources. One specific objective was to further the ongoing collaboration of regional organisations within Africa with a view to mutual recognition of authorised products.

Complications in the regulatory process such as: lengthy product registration timelines; workload overlap amongst multiple regulatory agencies; variations in regulatory requirements; counterfeit products; misinterpretation of guidelines; etc. all combine to create a very prominent barrier against making veterinary medicines available on the continent as well as globally.

HealthforAnimals Executive Director, Carel du Marchie Sarvaas concluded that he hoped the conference debates would lead to further improvements in market control and market access, and that African regional organisations will continue to discuss and implement predictable science-based regulatory processes complying with intergovernmental standards.

[Read the conference press release](#)

[For more info on the conference](#)

World Veterinary Day: Raising awareness of vector-borne diseases



HealthforAnimals (at the time IFAH) commended World Veterinary Day (25 April), which was created to highlight the lifesaving work performed by vets around the globe, for raising awareness of vector-borne diseases (VBDs) with zoonotic potential. The association has had a strong focus on VBDs for the last 12 months, acknowledging the significant and growing potential for these diseases to affect both animal and human health and had published an industry-first white paper on the topic in 2014.

With support from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation the white paper entitled, 'The growing threat of vector-borne disease in humans and animals' formed the basis of a roundtable discussion, where a group of world experts from all areas regarding vector-borne diseases considered the key challenges that prevent these diseases from being tackled effectively.

[Read the full press release](#)

Download the full white paper: [The growing threat of vector-borne disease in humans and animals](#)

World Zoonoses Day: Time to take the bite out of deadly Rabies



To mark the fourth annual World Zoonosis Day on 6 July, HealthforAnimals joined leading voices to highlight the economic paradox of the Rabies crisis and call for urgent action to halt the spread of Rabies and other zoonotic diseases once and for all.

To address the global zoonotic threat, HealthforAnimals promote the use of preventive veterinary medicines and the widespread use and development of vaccines. These play an increasingly important role in the effective control of a variety of diseases but there are often barriers to

implementing these technologies and the animal health industry must urgently work closely with NGOs, inter-governmental bodies, governments and regulators around the world to encourage access to medicines, in order to overcome solvable disease challenges.

HealthforAnimals Executive Director Carel du Marchie Sarvaas was interviewed by the BBC ahead of World Zoonoses Day where he said that the most cost-effective and efficient way to beat Rabies is to vaccinate dogs.

Prof. Louis Nel, Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Rabies Control concurred that Rabies can be made history if international institutions invested more in mass canine vaccinations. He said that society has come a long way since the first discovery of a vaccine for Rabies but the disease still hasn't been beaten in some parts of the world. Canine vaccines are not only less expensive than injections for people; they are far less expensive than the critical care treatment of a human Rabies case.

[Read the full press release](#)

[Read the BBC interview](#)

New Infographic: World Zoonoses Day



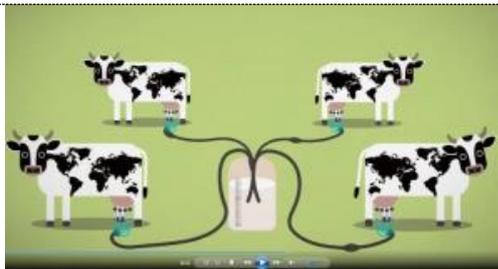
To help raise awareness of the growing risk zoonotic diseases, including Rabies, pose to human life, and animal health and welfare, HealthforAnimals has created an infographic that highlights the economic impact and global threat of these diseases.

Set out in four sections the infographic provides insight into:

- Key facts on zoonoses
- A history of the most notorious zoonotic diseases
- Global examples of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases
- The economic impact of recent zoonotic disease outbreaks

[Download the full infographic](#)

Animation: One World, One Health



To celebrate the One Health initiative and highlight its key achievements to date, HealthforAnimals launched a new animated video called One World, One Health.

[View the video on our YouTube channel](#)