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Welcome to IFAH News: A word from our Executive Director



Dear reader,

Welcome to the first edition of IFAH News! For those of you not familiar with IFAH - the International Federation for Animal Health – we represent companies and national/regional associations engaged in research, development, manufacturing and commercialisation of veterinary medicines, vaccines and other animal health products in both developed and developing countries across the globe.

Covering approximately 80% of the global market for animal health products IFAH strives to

promote a predictable, science-based regulatory environment facilitating the supply of innovative, quality products that contribute to the provision of safe, healthy food, and to high standards of health and welfare for both animals and people.

IFAH News will keep you up-to-date on our latest dialogues with major international bodies, provide expertise on emerging diseases and highlight major developments within the global animal health industry.

I hope you will enjoy this first issue of IFAH News and look forward to sharing our news with you on a regular basis in the new year.

Barbara Freischem
IFAH Executive Director

IFAH hosts roundtable to promote international collaboration on effective disease control

As a launching point for wider collaborative discussions with international stakeholders on future efforts required to establish effective disease control and prevention whilst considering the socio-economic impact, IFAH hosted a roundtable event at the London Zoo in October 2012 bringing together stakeholders from a number of global organisations.

Prior to the event IFAH commissioned global analysis and advisory firm Oxford Analytica to compare international social and economic impacts of three well-documented animal health diseases – foot-and-mouth disease, salmonella and rabies - and produce a report with the findings. This report which was also supported by a group of independent experts in animal health was used at the roundtable as the basis of what proved to be a very fruitful discussion.

The roundtable concluded that with a rapidly expanding global population the need to meet the rising global need for high-quality animal protein is becoming increasingly urgent and the sustainable supply of wholesome animal produce begins with healthy animals. The direct connection between healthy animals and healthy people in terms of zoonoses is also abundantly clear. Animal disease costs change as societies evolve, so it is important to keep monitoring these changes to ensure that all stakeholders are in a position to respond to outbreaks in a timely and proportionate manner.

A further roundtable event to continue this collaboration is planned for 2013.

IFAH publishes white paper underlining the economic and social costs of animal diseases



The Costs of Animal Disease



A report produced for the International Federation for Animal Health
October 2012

On 5 October 2012 following the roundtable event with international stakeholders IFAH published a white paper on the social and economic impacts of animal diseases globally. The report highlights that improved data collection, surveillance and infrastructure are key requirements for effective and proportionate disease control measures. A better understanding of the institutional frameworks and responses to regulation needs to be integrated in control programmes, and a better co-ordinated effort among the various international bodies, health organisations and governments is essential.

In its conclusion the paper outlines that animal diseases have economic impacts much beyond the direct costs caused by disease itself. Although we are already seeing patterns of successful animal disease management and, in some cases, the eradication of well-known disease agents, further investments and continued efforts are needed in capacity building, infrastructure development, governance of food safety, good veterinary legislation including appropriate regulation of animal health products, and consistent application of guidelines relevant to animal health and trade.

To download the full white paper visit the [IFAH website](#).

The outcome of IFAH's Global Benchmarking Survey on the animal health industry



Taking place on a five-yearly basis, the IFAH Benchmarking Survey examines interactions between industry and regulatory systems, particularly the impact of regulations on the animal health industry's ability to be innovative, competitive, and effective. This fourth edition of the survey received input from 21,000 individual data points and up to 400 free-text responses from member companies and some local member companies of IFAH's member associations in Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan and the USA in 2011.

Coming at a time when governments around the world are weighing the direct and indirect

costs of regulatory policies for veterinary medicine the findings can play an important role in supporting informed policy decisions during this review period and provide an opportunity to analyse and learn from best practices across regions.

While there has been progress since the last survey in 2006, significant concerns and challenges remain. Crucially, the survey shows that the most important measures – time and cost to market – have continued to increase in all key regions with the exception of Canada, while zero-risk regulatory mandates have continued to slow product development and innovation. A realistic risk assessment approach within a benefit:risk evaluation framework is essential in order to manage and improve this impediment to animal health.

A concise summary as well as a PowerPoint overview of the global findings can be downloaded from the [IFAH website](#).

Follow us on @health4animals

IFAH has been active on Twitter since July this year under the handle @health4animals with regular posts about issues such as animal health and welfare, food safety and security, veterinary medicines and more. We now have more than 80 followers including international organisations such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (@FAOAnimalHealth), the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (@WSAVA), the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (@RabiesControl) and GALVmed (@GALVmed).

For all of our latest news and interests follow us on on Twitter - [@health4animals](#)

Job opening at IFAH

IFAH is currently looking for a Technical Manager - Europe. Reporting to the IFAH-Europe Technical Director the Technical Manager will assist in Scientific and Regulatory Affairs.

For the full job description please [click here](#).

If you are interested in this position, please send your letter of motivation and a full curriculum vitae by 18 January 2013 to the Technical Director, IFAH-Europe, rue Defacqz 1, B-1000 Brussels, fax: + 32 2 541 01 19, e-mail: ifah@ifahsec.org

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