“Contributing to the Millennium Development Goals through the One Health Concept”

Welcome to the 2nd 2010’s Newsletter!
We are glad to see that as we live and work, and built bridges of friendship together, the work becomes easier and fructiferous. This Newsletter reflects that reality and shows the rising of veterinary public health groups linked to the different universities. It is worth noting the Peru group dynamism, the vigorous rising of Santa Catharina’s University group in Brazil as an example and motivation for the rest of the universities. We hope that further Newsletter may reflect an even greater growth.

Thanks to all that contribute to the achievement of the project goal’s.

I would like to welcome our new two members, Sofia Arroube and Ângelo Custódio who together with Natalia Cediel made this Newsletter happen.

Manuela Vilhena
SAPUVETNET III Project Coordinator
Between September, 6th and 10th of 2010, SAPUVETNET group gathered in Lima-Peru for its 4th coordination session. Guillermo Leguía and Néstor Falcón, doctors of the University Cayetano Heredia, organized this session with success. It was significantly important since all the American academic veterinarian community was present in PANVET, Pan-American Veterinary Sciences Congress, where this session took place. There it was presented the curriculum proposal thought by SAPUVETNET group “Minimal contents to teach Veterinary Public Health between Latin America and Europe”. Dr. Luis Carlos Villamil was chosen to represent the group and did a lecture in September 4th in the forum of veterinarian education. It was, therefore, achieved one of the main goals of our project, which was the contribution to a common language between Latin America and Europe, when proposing equal accreditation rules and similar curriculum of Veterinary Public Health (VPH) between participant veterinary schools.

Several other activities were done in this session, including:

- Presentations of research works of SAPUVETNET Peru members about characterization of dog bite in Lima; dog tuberculosis whose owners are positive for M.tuberculosis; knowledge, behaviours and practices of preventing toxocariasis (For further information contact favez.sapuvetperu@oficinas-upch.pe);

- Once again doubts were cleared and knowledge was updated about the use of moodle platform, since this is a central tool to our project and being used for every member country, contributes for its sustainability;

- The discussion about planning a VPH e-learning course in 2011 was retaken as an important step for this project;
• DVD’s on the slaughter of poultry and rabbits made by Universidade de Turim were given to all participants and copies were available to be distributed in all participant countries;

• The planning work of the Journal “One Health: SAPUVET journal of Public Health” continued, being the first number expected in December 2010. To see the electronic version: http://www.sapuvetnet.org/EN_frameset.html;

• Were also discussed the main aspects of the electronic conference “Antimicrobial Resistance: Solution or Utopia?”, which held between the 25th and the 30th of September, 2010. You can have access to the resume of this conference with the following link: http://www.sapuvetnet.org/EN_frameset.html;

• We went forward with the chapters of VPH’s Manual made to offer the Veterinary Medicine and other sciences students, the fundamental concepts about their role in Public Health. The subject-matters of the Manual are: emergent, re-emerging and forgotten zoonoses, strategies to control resistances, good practices and prudent use of antimicrobials, new responsibilities of VPH in the food chain, risk analysis, influence of climatic and environment changes in remerging of emerging diseases, protection of environmental well-being and animal welfare.

SAPUVET welcomed two new members in this session, Dr. Jessica Sheleby of the Universidad de León in Nicaragua and Dr. Lohendy Muñoz of the Universidad Nacional in Costa Rica, Heredia. With this session the group made several progresses in achieving its goals.

Beyond the professional reasons, it was also an excellent opportunity to enjoy exotic dishes as Cuy, which was prepared by experts!
Activities of World Rabies Day 2010

The SAPUVETNET III institute members took actively part of the World Rabies Day initiative in September 28th of 2010. Universities like La Salle in Colombia, Autónoma de Baja California in Mexico or Republica in Uruguay, among others, performed several activities such as:

- Free rabies vaccination for dogs;
- Lectures about the epidemiology, prevention and control of rural and urban rabies;
- Agility dog demonstration;
- Stand up comedy about rabies.

Must be mentioned the designing of innovative educational material for the rural population about preventing rabies by students of the Universidad de la Salle oriented by Dr. Diego Soler.

SAPUVETNET supported and promoted activities in all American countries since its beginning, and each year there is a higher participation in health educational activities by the academic and the general community.

Because we can do with Rabies, History together!
Activities of World Rabies Day 2010

Activities in Uruguay.

Agility dog show, National Colombian Police – Universidad de la Salle.
The University of Santa Catarina, Brazil developed the program Veterinary Public Health Network (SAPUVET), as a member of SAPUVETNET III project, to contribute in achieving the goals both have proposed. The program includes four different projects which common objectives are to contribute for the development of a global health concept, leading to improve the population life’s quality; to decrease the transmission of zoonoses; and to encourage the public discussion and society’s awareness about animal’s welfare subjects and about the responsible ownership. Furthermore, the inclusion and active participation in the project of veterinary students also contributes to develop in these future professionals an interdisciplinary thinking and more awareness of their social role, allowing them to act efficiently later on in searching resolutions, with the population and other health professional, for several problems.

It follows a small resume of the projects we intend to develop:

- **Extension project, Adopt Lages:** This project focuses the current problem of high number of errant animals (cats and dogs) in urban areas and in seeking solutions to fight it back, since it has huge consequences in Public Health matters. We will sensitize the population with the help of the Veterinary academic community;

- **Extension project, Teaching in health for hospital class at Hospital Infantil Seara do Bem em Lages, Santa Catarina (SC):** In this project we intend to work with hospitalized children who attend to teaching classes at the Hospital Infantil Seara do Bem health, located in Lages city, SC bringing awareness to health general contents, zoonoses, responsible ownership and animal’s welfare;
• Extension project, Responsible ownership, Animal’s welfare and Zoonoses: Health in family and school: This focuses the close contact between families, particularly children, with companion animals or errant animals, who have been increasing in suburbs. Being the lack of information on zoonoses and the little awareness of animals welfare, with subsequent abuse and abandonment of animals, a problem mostly present in poor populations with low education, the project proposes to work with professors, parents and students of primary school. Consists of a project to be done in public schools located around Lages;

• Research project, Concepts and teaching practise for primary teachers about health education and zoonoses’s care: The study aims to understand the teaching practise of primary teachers concerning to diseases transmitted by animals and to understand how they work with their students inside the classroom. Will be explored the applied methods in health teaching inside the classroom, in order to find education barriers. The collected information will allow preparing more successful teaching methods.
On November 12th, 2010, took place at LVMU the solemn opening session of LVMU academic year 2010/2011 in which was celebrated the 180th anniversary of the teaching in veterinary medicine in Portugal and 100 years of the LVMU students association. The Professor Jorge Torgal, from Lisbon Medicine University, participated in the thematic session: “Animals + Humans = One single Health” and referred to his collaboration with SAPUVETNET III project, contributing with his perspective as a doctor for the importance of the interdisciplinarity and cooperation between both human and animal health professionals, in order to achieve the millennium goals.
On the past day 29th November the Authority for economic and food security (ASAE) organized a workshop themed “Antimicrobials Resistance – Progress Report in Portugal”. The workshop occurred in a fully interdisciplinary environment counting with the presence and intervention of different health professionals including doctors, pharmaceuticals and veterinarians. Several speakers from several areas their experiences, studies, facts and opinions about the antimicrobials resistance problematic and questions related with the use implications of antimicrobials in both veterinary and human medicine for both were discussed. Another questions debated were the actual situation of education and awareness of these matters to future professionals at related health universities, including veterinary medicine and which measures one should take to minimize the emergence of new resistances.

There was general acceptance that awareness campaigns of the society, future and actual professionals are fundamental and must continue and that the lack of cooperation between different entities and different health areas must be overcome.

It was made the challenge for everyone to outline measures to fight this problematic.
Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) it’s a therapeutic modality in which an animal, in this case we talk about dogs, that fulfil certain requirements, works as an integrant and fundamental part of a project. In this kind of therapies multidisciplinary teams are used and are composed by health professionals (ex. psychologist, occupational therapist) who are responsible for setting each patient’s individual therapeutics goals and follow their evolution, a canine guide who is responsible for controlling the animal, for evaluating his behaviour during the sessions and verifying his adequacy to the defined programmatic goals and a professional dog trainer, that although may not be present, has played an important role in the dog’s education and training. It is a new world worth to know and develop.

Évora’s University (Portugal), through SAPUVETNET III Project, is giving its first steps towards AAT by acquiring skills through the training of one of its project assistant. The training occurs in Zaragoza, under the supervision of CANEM Therapy Assistance and Education company, based in Zaragoza and with delegations all over Spain and Portugal. We hope her experience can be useful in the development and collaboration in the field with other universities that make part of the group SAPUVETNET.
NW SAPUVETNET III team

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