Welcome to the second Newsletter of the SAPUVETNET III Project

Thank you for your interest in the second newsletter of the SAPUVETNET III Project. As you can see, we are catching up from the delays suffered as we initiated the project. This is highlighted by the creation of a common space for research and education (Platform Moodle), by the joint activities that have taken place, and by the programs that will stimulate the interest of students in the area of public health. One of the main problems that we encounter is the perception of many students and of the general public that a veterinarian is essentially a clinician, forgetting the role of the veterinarian of promoting human welfare through the preservation of the environment and biodiversity.

Help us reach our goals by participating with opinions, articles and videos.

Manuela Vilhena
SAPUVETNET Coordinator III

Second Meeting of the SAPUVETNET III Project

The second meeting took place at the headquarters of the Federal Council of Veterinary Medicine in Brasilia and was opened by the Professors Paulo Cesar de Souza and Manuela Vilhena. Professor De Souza worked the past 20 years toward the creation of the Commission National Veterinary Public Health (CNSPV) and gave a presentation about this commission. In this commission the concept of “One World, One Health” is successfully integrated, resulting in the organization of seminars and national and state conferences on this subject with the active participation of both professions (physicians and veterinarians). Subsequently, Professor Luis Carlos Villamil gave a presentation about the progress and the high impact of the involvement in the SAPUVETNET Project for the Salle University. During the 4 days of the meeting each of the 6 groups within the network discussed and worked to create a Veterinary Public Health Manual, in which all the contents are constructed as described below:

1. Desirable skills in the area of the subjects of the groups;
2. Scientific concepts;
3. Glossary of technical terms;
4. Didactical materials (case studies, games, simulations, drama or theater).
The other main themes at this meeting were: 

1. Electronic Conference on Rabies;
2. Creating the web page SAPUVETNET III;
3. Production of audiovisual materials (didactic videos about the food chain);
4. Usage of the Moodle platform for internal communication within the group;
5. Reports of Irma Sommerfelt (ALFA vertebral meeting between Latin America and the Caribbean - European Community) and Silvana Górniak (advisory meeting for Brazilian universities and international affairs, ALFA and Europe Aid);

Project members of SAPUVETNET III participated in the following conferences and round tables in the
FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH in Bonito, Brazil.

Conferences:
- Katinka de Balogh: FAO Policy for Veterinary Public Health;
- Luis Carlos Villamil: One health and the millennium development goals: challenges and perspectives for Veterinary Public Health;
- Manuela Vilhena: The Project SAPUVETNET as a promoter of the politics for the teaching of veterinary public health;
- Jaime Romero: Methods of controlling rabies in Latin America/Europe. Results of the conference;
- Nestor Falcon: The problem of antibiotic resistance in Public Health;
- Liny Keessen: Clostridium difficile, the responsibility of the Veterinarian?
- Ligia Quiros
- Miguel Torres

Round tables:
- Márcia Pfuetzenreiter: New teaching methods in Veterinary Medicine;
- Patricia Baltasar: Initiation to research as a teaching method;
- Daniele de Meneghi: Zoonoses transmitted by ticks as an example of collaboration between different networks / projects / professionals and base of educational.
New Partner for the SAPUVETNET III Project

The Federal Council of Veterinary Medicine, Brazil (CNMV) joined the project SAPUVETNET III. During the second Project Coordination Meeting, held in the facilities of CNMV in Brasilia, the Secretary General of the CNMV, Dr. Joaquim Lair, spoke about the public usefulness of projects like SAPUVETNET, which are dedicated to Veterinary Public Health. Dr. Lair expressed his availability for future collaboration and praised the work thus far developed by the other participants. As a representative of the CNMV and also of the National Committee of Veterinary Public Health of Brazil (CNSPV), Prof. Dr. Paulo Cesar de Souza was an active participant in all the activities related to SAPUVETNET III.

Virtual Library of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine University of São Paulo offers resources for the SAPUVETNET III

The Virtual Library of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry (BVSVet) made available on-line support for all those who, through the Project website SAPUVETNET III, want to access various publications and events related to different areas of public health. This cooperation was possible through the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of São Paulo and was one of the results of the recent mobilization of Brazil to the coordination team SAPUVETNET III, with the objective to participate in the Second Coordination Meeting of the Project.

The BVSVet includes the areas of veterinary medicine and animal husbandry in a project initiated in
1998 by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Information and Health Sciences (BIREME). This project tries to facilitate access to information on health and promote sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean. The project is called the Virtual Health Library (VHL), and created conditions for different areas to implement their programs. Several institutes, such as the Instituto Adolfo Lutz, FAPESP, Fiocruz already have operational Virtual Libraries in different subjects and professions such as nursing, public health and psychology (…). In 2008, with financial support from the Regional Council of Veterinary Medicine, São Paulo (CRMV-SP) the areas of veterinary medicine and animal husbandry were included in the virtual library. Each virtual library processes, organizes and catalogs information generated by cooperating centers, consisting of universities, research institutes, hospitals and societies (Info CRMV-SP, 2009, n.41, p.13). You can check this page at http://regional.bvsalud.org, and http://www.sapuvetnet.org. We will be updating the page!

**September 28: World Rabies Day**

**Colombia**

On 28 September 2009, the World Rabies Day was celebrated in the Facilities of the University of La Salle, Bogota. The CISAHE organized a day with various stakeholders in Colombia to meet and discuss activities directed toward prevention and control of this important disease. The program was as follows:

1. **Forum and teleconference:**
   - Evaluation of the post-exposure rabies treatment in the Americas. – Dr. Andrea Vicari, PAHO-WHO, Colombia
   - Complete picture of rabies from the Human Health perspective. – Dr. Carlos Agudelo, Universidad Nacional of Colombia

2. **Rabies room** Educational arrangement to show animals that can transmit the disease, how the disease is transmitted, how bats hunt, how the vaccine is made, how you can observe the neurological symptoms, how the disease can be prevented.

This was attended by 120 people, among them delegates of the Ministry of Social Protection, Project SAPUVETNET, University Corporation Lasallian District Secretary Health, Museum de la Salle, research centers CISAHE and CIMRA, WSPA and Syspvet.
Portugal

Évora University commemorated the World Rabies Day through a series of activities organized by AEMVUE (Association of Students of Veterinary Medicine, University of Évora). With the theme "Animal + Human = ONE Health", these activities were supported by the European Commission and extended for several days.

On the 28th of October, the World Rabies Day, children of the pre-primary school of Valverde were invited to be vets for a day, with the aim of trying to explain the importance of veterinarians in disease prevention, children were able to visit the "Herdade da Miltra" and the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Evora, where some activities were simulated that are part of everyday work for the professionals who are active there.

During the week, there were some training activities targeted at students: Prof. Dr. Manuela Vilhena gave a lecture with the following title "New Perspectives on Veterinary Public Health" and Professor Dr. Eduardo Potes gave a lecture about "Role of the Veterinarian in Food Safety." The City Council supported Évora, on the last day of the events with the "Cãominhada AEMVUE" where owners and their pets gathered at the Eco-trail of Évora. During the walk various activities took place.

In Évora, over two hundred people participated in the activities of the World Rabies Day and therefore, the celebration was considered a success. AEMVUE aims to organize other events with the same theme "Animal + Human = ONE Health" during 2010.
Peru

During the week of September 21 to 26 the DISA Lima Sur II scheduled a series of activities for the global day of the fight against rabies. On Friday, September 25 there was a Veterinary Fair with information on Rabies in Humans and in Wildlife in the Campo de Marte. The group SAPUVETNET-PERU supported the MV. Henry Hernandez Islas of the National Institute of Child Health in the activities of World Rabies Day. On Saturday, September 26 the group took part in a campaign for health of companion animals in the district Los Olivos. The Department of Health V Lima City with help of the Executive Director of Environmental Health organized this activity. Activities took place, directed at antiparasitical treatment for internal and external parasites, vaccination, ear cleaning and nail trimming.

Nicaragua

On September 30 the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN) in Leon, together with PAHO / WHO, organized the National Day of Anthopozoonoses, commemorating the World Rabies Day with academics and students from last year of Veterinary Medicine of all the universities of the country. The program of the event was developed with participation of public institutes of animal health and human health. The following topics were discussed: the situation of Rabies in the Americas and in Nicaragua, the International Health Regulations, Chagas disease, the progress in controlling
Brucellosis, Taeniasis / cysticercosis and the current health situation, diagnosis and control of Leptospirosis, tuberculosis and rotavirus in Nicaragua, and the role of veterinarian in Veterinary Public Health, by Dr. William Jiron, a member of the SAPUVETNET III Project. The event took place at the home of UNAN in Leon. This university also created the days of clinic and surgery—which have been conducted for quite some time—when sterilization of cats and dogs takes place. By creating this support group (directed by Dr. Daniel Morales), the aim is to perform 15 to 20 sterilizations per day and attempt to control the population growth of dogs and cats.

**Reino Unido**

Although no UK specific activities were held for World Rabies Day, the Royal Veterinary College, London, carried out an activity for the World Veterinary Week. It was a competition among veterinary students in which they had to submit an essay on the theme “One Health” (theme of the World Veterinary Week 2009). A student from Liverpool won the prize and she went home with 500 pounds! The awards ceremony was attended by the Chief Veterinary Officer and other members of government and universities, working in Veterinary Public Health.

**Itália**

Although rabies in Italy is currently not a health issue because the country is free of the disease, it’s obviously still an important disease, which is underlined by the recently reported cases of rabies in wildlife in Friuli and the cases of import of dogs with rabies in France, risking the health of both animals and humans. Because of this, the Veterinary Faculty of the University Torino, extended an invitation to disseminate information on the activities of the World Rabies Day to the President of the Italian Veterinary Medical Colleges, the President of the National Federation of the Veterinary Order, and to the Union of Veterinary Public Health in Italy.

**Brasil**

Rabies is an important zoonosis in this country and the population still has a lot of wrong ideas about the disease. In order to know the conceptions and help create better knowledge, an activity was
developed by an extension project entitled “Responsible animal keeping, animal welfare and zoonoses: school health and family “, of the University of the State of Santa Catarina - UDESC, Brazil. The action of the extension took place in the School of Basic Education Rubens de Arruda Ramos, in the city of Lages, Santa Catarina. The school is a public institution where children from different socio-economic situations attend classes. The academics of the course of Veterinary Medicine Daiane Luise Mengarde, Cristiane Lopes and Coral Thaiza Savaris, carried out the work under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Márcia Regina Pfuetzenreiter. About 170 students were to participate in the project and they were enrolled in the initial series of school students, with ages ranging between 8 and 10 years. To start the activities on rabies, a questionnaire was given on 20 and 23 October. The questionnaire was composed of simple questions that were answered only with yes or no. Following are some examples:

- Do all puppies that are drooling and growling have rabies?
- All aggressive animals have rabies? Every puppy has rabies?
- Are puppies the only animals that can transmit rabies to humans?
- Can cats also transmit rabies?
- Does a person become ill whenever an animal bites?
- Should you wash a wound after a bite? After a bite, do you need to go to the doctor?
- Does vaccination of animals prevent rabies?

This questionnaire was aimed to understand the conceptions of children and serve as a guide for the classes, which took place on 3 and 6 November. For the summary of the case, the guide followed the questionnaire itself, promoting a discussion between the academic and children in school. On 17 and 20 November, the same questionnaire was distributed again to assess whether the conceptions of the children was changed. After evaluation of the obtained data, it was clear that children were able to present conceptions of rabies more consistent with the reality of the disease and scientific knowledge. For example, before the class almost 60% of children believed that all snarling and salivating dogs have rabies, but after the class this number was reduced to about 30%.

Between 7 and 11 December 2009, SAPUVETNET III organized the 2nd Electronic Conference entitled "A New (Veterinary) Public Health: Strategies and interactions between Animal Health and Human Medicine." 210 Students, teachers and researchers from various countries discussed the interface of human and animal health, the "One Health" concept and specific themes, such as university education, scientific research and institutional models in the participating countries.

The participants made contributions to the following questions:

- Should the same topics be introduced in veterinary public health studies and public health medicine to give a more complete vision of these issues? If yes, what issues?
- Would it be useful if in undergraduate and graduate programs joint activities take place with veterinary and medical students with a common vision of One World One, One Health?
- During the training of veterinary and medical students, how should the addressing of complementary issues and sharing knowledge and experiences be promoted?
- In the field of Education for Population Health, regarding the information to the general public, how should One World, One Health be promoted?
- How can joint research projects with joint publications, with a focus on One World One Health, be promoted?
- What would be the main areas to develop a strengthening of the competence of both professions?
- What is the role of public and private organizations at national, regional and international level, with participants from different fields (associations and professional associations, Providers of Health services, scientific societies, etc), and how might they contribute to achieving the One World One Health goal? What kind of actions should be developed in this direction?
- Which public and private institutional structures are already working together and how do they interact? Are there examples that we can choose as a model?

The main conclusions of the conference were:

1. The actions of multi-and interdisciplinary cooperation, although easier to implement at post-graduate, should also be implemented at the undergraduate level;
2. Every available tool should be used, including discussion forums, joint classes, workshops and scientific meetings, to encourage students to inter-disciplinary practice.
3. A reference was made regarding the importance of students to be linked to the reality of work, having contacts with professionals working in the field, being aware of relevant legislation, of the responsibilities of the health authority, of the methodology of financing of
actions and government programs and resources needed for the performance of public health activities in the context of each country;

4. A change of attitude should be promoted among the teachers themselves, in order to articulate public health and veterinary public health, directed primarily towards prevention;

5. The recognition of the importance and growth of Conservation medicine as an area of important research on problems of human and animal health and influence of the environment with the participation of professionals from different areas of knowledge;

6. The importance of communication for transferring knowledge about health. The failing of many education programs for the general public through conventional methods was discussed. In addition to early childhood education, district areas, hospitals, churches and nursing homes were identified as places for education of the community, with emphasis on females and their role in education of children and family care, using different teaching materials as videos, photos, slides and use of social networks;

7. It has been shown that the integration of multidisciplinary research groups is able to generate proposals with high impact at low cost, with new technological developments and social and ethical commitment;

8. The crucial role of institutions and public sector organizations in the promotion of the concept "One World, One Health" was recognized, meanwhile it was highlighted that there is a need for greater inclusion and participation of medical doctors to strengthen this initiative, which thus far seems to be more a veterinary concern;

9. It was noted at the conference that interdisciplinary collaboration functions better, and is more evident in Latin America than in Europe.

Creation of the SAPUVET – PERU Group

The group SAPUVET - PERU was created in 2009 through the initiative of a group of students, graduates and advice of the teachers of epidemiology and public health at the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry (FAVEZ) of the University Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH) and was inspired by the SAPUVETNET project.

This group has 3 main objectives:

1. Develop training in the area of public health through courses, lectures, workshops and/or conferences to improve the knowledge and skills of its members and the interested.

2. Expand the activities of the Veterinarian animal husbandry in the area of public health through participation of its members in various activities of expansion and projection of communities in coordination with different institutions related to veterinary public health.

3. Develop research proposals in the area of veterinary public health to apply for funding at the UPCH and other students.
Although quite young, this enthusiastic group has already developed excellent activities demonstrating quality and commitment to fulfilling its objectives. Last year a social outreach campaign and two cycles of conferences were conducted.

The conferences that were held had the following themes:

- Impact of dog bite accidents in child populations;
- Activities related to avian influenza surveillance in Peru;
- The veterinarian in local development;
- Municipal responsibility related to zoonotic diseases and responsible ownership of pets;
- Geographic Information Systems: application to the study of diseases such as Echinococcus granulosus: can we control its consequences on animals and humans?
- Leptospirosis: an emerging disease.

The Social outreach campaign was held on April 19, 2009 in the urbanization of Infantas and included the registration and de-worming of pets and talks about responsible pet ownership.

If you want a copy of any of the conferences you can apply to the following email: sapuvetperu@yahoo.com. Visit: http://www.equipu.pe/upch/equipos/ver.php?id=241