INTRODUCTION TO SAVC
PRINCIPLES IN ANIMAL WELFARE

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Introduction

- Animal welfare science is a dynamic and multi-disciplinary field
- Including scientific and ethical obligations to the physical and mental wellbeing of animals
- Involves ethical implications in regards to human social and cultural needs
Ensuring good animal welfare

- Core mandate of individual veterinarians
- As well as the veterinary community in general
- Stated in their code of conduct, Veterinary Oath and other statements of commitment

1. A veterinarian should be dedicated to the benefit of society
2. Conservation of animal resources
3. Relief of suffering of animals
4. Promote animal wellbeing
The role of the veterinarian in animal welfare

The ever changing nature of Animal welfare

- Scientific knowledge in the field of animal welfare is expanding
- Expectations of society changes regarding animal care
- This lead to the definition of animal welfare as stated by the OIE in their Terrestrial Animal Health Code

1. How is the animal coping with its living conditions?
The ever changing nature of Animal welfare

2. Is the animal

- Healthy
- Comfortable
- Well Nourished
- Safe
- Able to express innate behaviour
- Not suffering from pain, boredom and distress
The role of the veterinarian in animal welfare

The five freedoms

▪ Foundation of good animal welfare
▪ Should be supported by all organisations involved in animal welfare
  1. Freedom from thirst, hunger, and malnutrition
  2. Freedom from discomfort
  3. Freedom from pain
  4. Freedom to express normal behaviours
  5. Freedom from fear and distress
The Veterinary Community has traditionally focused on animal health and production as indicators of animal welfare.

- However, it is increasingly apparent that good animal welfare includes:
  1. Consideration of the animals affective state – how does the animal feel?
  2. An increasing emphasis on natural living – consideration of whether the animal can express behaviour that are specific to that species.
The role of the veterinarian in animal welfare

The veterinary community in general and the veterinarian individually must remain committed to animal welfare and fulfil duties as animal advocates and leaders in animal welfare

- Disease detection, prevention and treatment
- Understanding and recognising pain and its mitigation
- Educating, informing and influencing animal owners on best practice regarding animal care
- Engagement in scientific endeavour around animal welfare
The veterinary community in general and the veterinarian individually must remain committed to animal welfare and fulfil duties as animal advocates and leaders in animal welfare.

- Educate the public on good animal welfare practice
- Influence policy makers to protect and improve animal welfare
- Engage in animal welfare policies, legislation and apply these principles
- Engage in animal welfare assessment and oversight in animal production activities
The role of the veterinarian in animal welfare

- SAVC recognises the importance of:
  - Proper animal welfare
  - Not only to the animal but also to people
  - Good animal care has far reaching and positive benefits in a number of areas:
    - Human physical and psychological health
    - Social development
    - Poverty and hunger reduction
    - Disaster management
    - Environmental sustainability

As global understanding and concerns for animal welfare continue to change, so must the education and the role of the veterinary community evolve in this regard.
Thank you