

Keynote Speech

World Veterinary Association's Initiative of One Health and the Future Prospective

Rafael Laguens
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Graduated from the University of Zaragoza (Spain), Dr Laguens started his veterinary career as a large animal practitioner in the province of Soria; after 11 years, he became Veterinary Public Health Officer of the Junta de Castilla y León, where he worked from 1990 to 2017. He has a Diploma in High Specialization in Food Technology for the "Instituto de Agroquímica y Tecnología de Alimentos (C.S.I.C.)". He was a member of the Advisory Board of the Spanish Food Safety Agency (AECOSAN) from 2003 to 2007. He worked in the design, advice and management of several Internet databases to register pets and horses. At the national and European level, he has been involved in different projects related to Veterinary Continuing Education, like the Evaluation Committee of the Spanish Ministry of Health (MSPS), the Institute for Health Sciences of Castilla y León and the initiative Veterinary Continuous Education in Europe (VetCEE). He has been webmaster of a veterinary web portal and editor of the veterinary public health journal "Hygia" 2019-2020. He has had different positions in the Spanish Veterinary Statutory Body (Organización Colegial Veterinaria Española) at provincial, regional, national and international level. He was Councilor for Europe of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) from 2011 to 2017. He served as President of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) from 2015 to 2019. He was President Elect of WVA from 2020 to 2022, chairing the Standing Committee for the Organization of the WVA Congresses. Currently, he is President of the "Colegio Oficial de Veterinarios de Soria", works as a consultant on communication, education and technology.

Dr Rafael Laguens took the office of World Veterinary Association President on March 30th, 2022.

One Health is an essential priority for WVA for its transverse condition, interconnection with professional areas, and interdisciplinarity beyond veterinary medicine. The WVA Governing Bodies and its One Health working group strive to move One Health from a theoretical concept to the daily practice of collaborative effort between the different sectors and disciplines involved in addressing the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment. WVA agrees with the OHHLEP proposal "to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development". To move forward, improving multisectoral and multilateral collaboration is necessary, emphasizing information gathering and sharing, increasing communication at different levels, and developing appropriate training and education at pre- and post-graduate levels and in continuing education and professional training.