SECTION 6. VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

CHAPTER 6.2.

INTRODUCTION TO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

Article 6.X.1.

Veterinary public health is a component of public health that focuses on the application of veterinary science and includes all actions directly or indirectly linked with animals, their products and by-products, so long as they contribute to protect and improve the physical, mental and social well-being of humans.

Veterinary science has a rich history of contributions to public health, especially with regard to the provision of safe and adequate food, prevention, control and eradication of zoonoses, animal welfare and biomedical research.

Veterinary Services play a key role in preventing, mitigating and controlling risks to public health at origin or sources of infection. In particular, Veterinary Services contribute to public health in several areas such as food safety (with respect to foodborne diseases as well as residues and pollutants), control of zoonoses and responses to natural disasters and bioterrorism.

Furthermore, a number of anthropogenic factors influence the occurrence of emerging diseases. These factors include population growth and eating habits and their consequences such as increasing food demand and intensification of production systems; increased movements and trade of animals and their products and derived products; the misuse of antimicrobial agents generating resistance; the disruption of ecosystems; and climate change, among others.

In this context, Veterinary Services are integrated into the “One Health” approach to the prevention of contagious diseases and preservation of the integrity of ecosystems for the benefit of human and animal health, including domestic animals and wildlife, and biodiversity.

Veterinary training and education should take into account the development of these capabilities in the local, regional and global context.