



**VPH-601**

**‘ELEMENTS OF VETERINARY PUBLIC  
HEALTH’**

**(Credit Hours-1+1)**



# Veterinary Public Health

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5/31/2021

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- ❖ The relationship between animal health and human health has been recognized since ancient times
- ❖ During 18<sup>th</sup> century the medical authorities both in the UK and on continental Europe were instrumental in developing the disease control measures to combat rinderpest.....
- ❖ **Rudolph Virchow (1821–1902)**  
“**Between animal and human medicine there is no dividing line –nor should there be.**”
- ❖ During 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century there was continued interest in linking human and veterinary medicine **based on the discoveries that there were similar disease processes in both animals and humans.**
- ❖ In mid 20<sup>th</sup> century collaboration between human and veterinary medicine **declined** to such an extent that there was hardly any collaboration between the two professions.

First Veterinary  
School....Lyon  
France





- ❖ **Reasons** include the **degree of specialization** which occurred in both professions and also the **different objectives** placed on human and veterinary medicine.
- ❖ In 1951, FAO defines “**Veterinary Public Health** comprises all the community efforts influencing and influenced by the veterinary medical arts and sciences applied to the **prevention of diseases, protection of life, and promotion of the well being and efficiency of man**”.
- ❖ **Public health:** The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health and efficiency through organized community efforts (WHO, 1952)
- ❖ In 1975, the FAO/WHO joint technical report modified the earlier definition as:  
  
“**VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH** is a component of public health activities devoted to the application of professional veterinary skills, knowledge and resources for the protection and improvement of human health”.
- ❖ WHO defines **HEALTH** as "Health is the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.“



❖ The currently accepted definition of VPH endorsed by the **WHO, FAO and OIE** was the output of a 1999 WHO consultation on “**Future trends in veterinary public health**”:

“**Veterinary Public Health is the sum total of all contributions to the physical, mental and social well being of humans through an understanding and application of veterinary science**”.

❖ It recognizes that the animal itself, animal health and veterinary science are related to the physical, mental and social well-being of humans and the contribution of veterinary public health in this field is considered fundamental.



## Components of Veterinary Public Health

- ❖ The 1999 WHO report considered veterinary science as a core discipline that performs essential public health functions.
- ❖ The report also indicated that veterinary science emphasizes preventive, economic and population aspects of animal health and production, as they relate to human health and well-being.

### ❖ The main components of VPH can be :

- Zoonosis
- Food Hygiene
- Environmental Hygiene
- Biomedical research
- Epidemiology and population medicine

- ❖ In order to contribute effectively to activities covered by VPH the veterinarian will need to draw on the expertise, knowledge and resources gained from the five components

