



Conference Announcement & Call for Abstracts

Ethics and the future Veterinary Professional

Utrecht, 19-20 May 2016

Veterinary professionals operate in a changing world and across many different issues and levels of decision-making related to animals, clients and society, for example:

- New technologies are allowing veterinarians to better diagnose and treat animals.
- Increasing public attention to animal welfare in many parts of the world means that the veterinary profession no longer deals with just health, but is developing an expertise in animal welfare.
- Recent developments, such as the One Health initiative, show the role veterinary medicine can play at the intersection between human, animal and ecosystem health.
- Global challenges, including climate change and discussions of sustainability have a direct impact on veterinary practice and research.

Each of these changes and developments come with ethical questions that have direct implications for veterinary professionals. As a consequence, future veterinary professionals need to expand their skills and competences, not least the ability to reflect on the public and ethical dimensions of the profession. Therefore, the aim of this conference is to deal with ethics issues that will be important for future veterinarian professionals. Some of the main questions are:

1. What are the main ethical challenges for the veterinary profession?
2. What can ethical theory contribute to the debate?
3. What are the implications of the ethical challenges for veterinary organisations in Europe as well as for national and international policy discussions?
4. What role can and should education play in this context?

The conference aims to address these questions from an interdisciplinary perspective including ethics, history, philosophy of medicine, social sciences, animal sciences and veterinary medicine. The ambition is to use this Conference as a bridge that brings together science, society, professional organisations and individual professionals.

Organizer

The conference is a joint initiative of the Department of Animals in Science and Society (faculty of Veterinary Medicine) and the Ethics Institute (faculty of Humanities) of Utrecht University.

Two Networks: Veterinary Ethics and Teaching

This conference is the second meeting of the 'European Working Group on Veterinary Ethics'. Furthermore, the conference hosts the 'Teaching Network' of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe). Therefore, a special session is dedicated to teaching ethics for (future) professionals (19 May 2016).

Target Audience

This conference welcomes participants who have a professional interest in the ethical issues involved in the veterinary profession. We encourage attendance and presentations from a range of different disciplines (for example: ethics, history, social science and veterinary medicine) and those from different professional backgrounds in order to have fruitful discussions on the ethics for future veterinary professionals.

Call for Abstracts

The conference will include a number of keynote lectures, but also offers room for a limited number of submitted papers for oral presentation. Abstract will be subject to a light touch peer review. If there are a large number of submission we will also be able to offer poster presentations. Therefore, we invite you to submit a short abstract by the deadline. Please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Abstracts should not be more than 300 words (excluding title and reference).
- Abstract must be written in English
- The abstract includes the author(s)' name, title, the department, institution and full postal address (including zip-code and country, e-mail)
- Indicate how the abstract is linked to [one or more of the four conference topics](#). Or indicate that you wish to present during the [special session on teaching ethics](#) for (future) professionals.
- Abstracts should be submitted via Vethics2016@uu.nl

Abstracts can be submitted for review before **15 February 2016**. Submitting authors will be informed of the acceptance decision before 15 March 2016.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Dr. Franck L.B. Meijboom Utrecht University
- Joachim Nieuwland, DVM MA Utrecht University/ Leiden University
- Joost van Herten, DVM MA The Royal Netherlands Association of Veterinarians (KNMvD)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Dr. Mickey Gjerris, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Prof. Herwig Grimm, Messerli Research Institute, University of Veterinary Medicine, Medical University of Vienna and University of Vienna, Austria
- Dr. Alison J. Hanlon, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, Dublin, Ireland
- Dr. Franck L.B. Meijboom, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
- Dr. Kate Millar, Centre for Applied Bioethics, Schools of Biosciences and Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom
- Dr. Helena Röcklinsberg, Swedish University of Agricultural Science, Sweden

IN COOPERATION WITH

Messerli Research Institute, University of Veterinary Medicine, Medical University of Vienna and University of Vienna, Austria
The European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)
The Royal Netherlands Association of Veterinarians (KNMvD)
The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)

Conference Fee

(covers registration, conference materials, refreshments, lunches, conference reception)

- Full conference fee € 150,-
- Members of the KNMvD € 100,-
- EurSafe Members € 100,- (participation teaching network is free)
- PhD-students € 75,-

Detailed instructions on registration will be published early 2016. For information contact vethics2016@uu.nl.

