

# **Qualities and competencies to be developed through undergraduate veterinary education**



**By the Joint Education Committee of FAVA-AAVS**

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## **Introduction**

Veterinarians are expected to diagnose and treat companion, livestock and aquatic animals, contribute to sustainable growth of livestock and fisheries industries, and take charge of infectious disease control and prevention and food safety. They are also required to demonstrate sound understanding of bioethics and animal welfare, contribute to environmental conservation, and work towards a sustainable society. Veterinarians in all countries must provide a wide range of veterinary services based on the One Health concept to protect the health and welfare of animals, people and the environment. In addition to today's globalized world of food distribution and infectious diseases, veterinary services need to work together within the framework of the entire world, and not just in one nation. It is therefore particularly important to focus on the competencies of veterinarians throughout Asia because of the active movement and interface between humans and animals, and their exposure to wild animals that are the source of transboundary infectious diseases in the region.

Therefore, in 2022, FAVA and AAVS launched the Joint Education Committee (JEC) to establish a shared vision to improve veterinary education in Asia. The ultimate goal of the JEC is to establish an evaluation body for Asian veterinary educational institutions for veterinarians. For this final goal, the JEC has agreed upon the following seven broad qualities and competencies to be developed through undergraduate veterinary education.

## **Qualities and Competencies**

### **1. Veterinary professionalism**

Embody skills, behaviors and attitudes reflective of the core elements of veterinary professionalism, and contribute to society by complying with ethics, laws, and regulations as a veterinarian, with the duty and responsibility in protecting the health and welfare of humans and animals.

### **2. Veterinary ethics and animal welfare**

Understand the ethical responsibilities of veterinarians, animal welfare, and the human-animal bond.

### **3. Knowledge and skills for veterinary practice**

Acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to perform the duties of a veterinarian to meet the needs of the times and to be able to handle a wide range of tasks.

### **4. Animal-derived food production and safety**

Acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for developing the livestock and fisheries industries, ensuring the suitability and safety of food.

### **5. Infectious disease control**

Understand the prevention and control of zoonotic, emerging and reemerging infectious diseases, transboundary animal diseases, and antimicrobial resistance by implementing the One Health approach.

### **6. Communication and collaboration**

Possess communication skills to establish appropriate relationships with individuals, organizations, the public sphere, and contribute to local, national and international communities.

### **7. Scientific inquiry and lifelong learning**

Understand the need for continuous professional development, the development of lifelong learning skills, and the use of evidence-based practice.