INJECTION OF VACCINE INNOVATION REQUIRED TO PROTECT BOTH ANIMAL AND HUMAN LIVES

Global industry report calls for further innovation to improve health outcomes

- HealthforAnimals global industry report: ‘Innovation in animal health’ launched today
- Independently authored by Oxford Analytica
- Experts highlight 3 key areas for innovation to drive progress in modern vaccine use
- Global animal health survey reveals 89 per cent believe that human health sector can learn from veterinary medicines sector
- A greater focus on preventative healthcare highlighted as leading area for knowledge sharing
- Vaccination is the ‘biggest breakthrough’ in animal health according to global survey

Brussels, 19 January 2016. In a report launched today, leading experts in animal health call for further innovation in vaccine technology and protocol to improve health outcomes. The report, ‘Innovation in animal health’ discusses the future of the animal health industry and addresses common, global barriers to modern vaccine use including the regulatory process and market competition as well as existing scientific knowledge.

A recent survey conducted on behalf of HealthforAnimals in conjunction with the World Veterinary Association (www.worldvet.org) and AnimalPharm (www.agrannet.com/agranimal-pharm) revealed vaccination is seen as the ‘biggest breakthrough’ in animal health in the past 100 years.\(^1\) Estimated at $5,507.3 Million in 2015, the global animal vaccines market is predicted to reach $7,197.9 Million by 2020.\(^2\)

In addition, the survey also found that 89 per cent believed that the human health sector could learn from the veterinary medicines one with one key area identified being ‘a greater focus on preventative healthcare’.\(^3\) And yet preventable diseases such as rabies continue to kill thousands of animals and people annually, demonstrating that there are still barriers to modern vaccine use.

The HealthforAnimals report identifies these barriers, but also proposes solutions, such as:

**Regulatory Streamlining**
The regulatory process for new veterinary medicines is commonly identified as a barrier to modern vaccine use, yet in times of emergency it has been proven that these barriers can be rapidly overcome. Professor Peter Borriello of the UK Veterinary Medicines Directorate, suggests that governments should target going beyond harmonisation, to reform and reduce the number of regulatory bodies, ensuring sufficient standard and capacity, to move away from the current arrangement of every country undertaking the review process itself.

**Market ‘Coopetition’**
Another potential area of innovation in vaccine technology, suggested in the report is ‘coopetition’, a concept already taking place in other sectors. When companies across the animal health sector share a common

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1 Survey conducted on behalf of HealthforAnimals and the World Veterinary Association amongst 156 professionals within animal health sector, July 2015
2 Veterinary / Animal Vaccines Market by Product (Livestock, Companion, Poultry, Equine, Porcine), Diseases (Rabies, Distemper, Foot & Mouth, Gumboro, Swine & Avian Influenza, Strangles) & Technology (Live attenuated, DNA, Inactivated) - Global Forecast to 2020, (June 2015)
3 Survey conducted on behalf of HealthforAnimals and the World Veterinary Association, July 2015
objective, e.g., acknowledgement by policymakers, farmers and society of the benefits of synthetic biology, then it can make sense for those companies to work together pre-competitively, in a strategic way. Risks and costs, as well as data, can be shared by working together, with research institutes and with the public sector. This would permit quicker development of vaccines and better use of overall available funding.

**Vaccine Banks**

An innovation already in motion, vaccine banks can hold ready-to-use, formulated vaccines, and/or antigen components, to be formulated into vaccines as needed. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has developed a new concept of regional vaccine banks that creates virtual rolling stocks where suppliers produce the vaccines only when needed, or they remain with the suppliers at their own risk and are renewed on a rolling basis under terms and conditions contractually defined with the OIE. Nonetheless, according to Dr. Gregorio Torres of the OIE, vaccine banks are hugely important to ensure the timely procurement of high quality vaccines manufactured according to international standards and merit a greater allocation of funding.

Carel du Marchie Sarvaas, from HealthforAnimals commented on the conclusions of the report stating: “Vaccination has profoundly influenced and improved the health of both animals and people globally, and it will continue to be a fundamental tool to meet future health challenges. It has eliminated smallpox in people and can control many other diseases against which no other treatment exists, such as human polio, foot-and-mouth disease in cattle and rabies in people and animals. Prevention is better than cure so it is vital we inject innovation into this field to ensure its growth.”

Other topic areas addressed in the report include, pet health, food safety and sustainability, and zoonotic diseases. Independently authored by Oxford Analytica, ‘Innovation in animal health’ was generated from discussions at a global stakeholder roundtable meeting in September 2015, hosted by the global animal medicines association, HealthforAnimals.

To outline the benefits of vaccination in animals, HealthforAnimals has also created an [infographic, ‘Vaccines, Why they matter’](http://healthforanimals.org/infographic-on-rabies-why-vaccines-matter/). The infographic addresses the importance of vaccines for protecting human and animal health, and explains why we vaccinate animals, with examples of vaccination in action around the world as well as success stories.

The infographic forms part of a stream of educational content HealthforAnimals has released which can be found on its YouTube channel and on its website. To be the first to hear about upcoming content, follow HealthforAnimals on Twitter @Health4Animals. For the infographic and more information about vaccination in animal health, or to read the HealthforAnimals report: ‘Innovation in Animal Health’, visit the HealthforAnimals website at: [www.healthforanimals.org](http://www.healthforanimals.org).

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**Notes for editors**

HealthforAnimals

HealthforAnimals (formerly International Federation for Animal Health) is an organisation representing manufacturers of veterinary medicines, vaccines and other animal health products in both developed and developing countries across five continents. The mission of HealthforAnimals is to foster a greater understanding of animal health matters and promote a predictable, science-based regulatory environment that facilitates the supply of innovative and quality animal medicines, vaccines and other animal health products into a competitive market place. These products contribute to a healthy and safe food supply as well as a high standard of health and welfare for animals and people.

For further information on HealthforAnimals visit: [http://healthforanimals.org/](http://healthforanimals.org/)


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