

Letter to Editor

One Health Concept Still Requires Censorship in Some Countries

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Letter to Editor

The “One Health” initiative is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach, recognizing the interconnections between people, animals, and their shared environment. The One Health approach encourages the cooperative efforts of many experts from different disciplines e.g. disease detectives, laboratorians, physicians, and veterinarians to work together at local, regional, national and global levels for achieving optimal health outcome; one sector can not address health threats alone [1].

In the last decade, the One Health concept has been increasingly called to attention by international organizations e.g., the OIE, WHO, and FAO for health improvement around the world. Referred to as the tripartite organizations, the three organizations work closely together to place health regulations and new obligations on their country members. Their efforts aim to increase the awareness of the One Health concept and improve the cooperation between veterinary services and public health services in strengthening surveillance and laboratory capacities to monitor the zoonotic pathogens [2].

The world has been suffering through a crisis since December 2019 due to the fast spread of a novel virus called SARS-CoV2 [3]. The world's health care systems have the potential of being overtaxed by the fight against this virus, or they are already beyond capacity. It is clear that axillary multidisciplinary professionals, including veterinarians, are needed to assist in this struggle [4], under the umbrella of the One Health concept.

Lounis [3] described the crucial roles of veterinarians in diagnosis and combating some zoonotic diseases, including the current Covid-19 pandemic within the public health systems. In Italy, veterinarians assisted in the diagnosis and characterization of the virus, contributing to the understanding of the disease epidemiology

[4]. Unfortunately, the One Health concept still requires more serious concerns in some countries where some persons or sectors do not appreciate its value. This confused understanding has been dramatized by some individual cases. For instance, in Kuwait, the Ministry of Health asked for volunteers to work in the laboratory to help in the diagnosis of CoVID-19 using molecular techniques such as the Immune Linked Enzymes Assay (ELISA) and Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR). Some veterinary microbiologists are excluded from the Covid-19 diagnostic laboratories although they have good experience in zoonotic diseases and food borne pathogens and received extensive training on the diagnostic techniques. This exclusion is because they are veterinarians [5]. Therefore, we are writing this notification to provide an example that shows that One Health concept needs more censorship, supervision, appreciation and concern in some countries.

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