



MEDIA RELEASE
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Veterinarians play critical role in preventing disease in people - World Vet Day 2015

Veterinarians play a vital role in managing an increasing potential for disease outbreaks that can be transmitted between humans and animals - called zoonotic diseases.

Living organisms can transmit infectious diseases between people and animals, such as bloodsucking insects. These are known as vector-borne diseases. They are transmitted by mosquitoes and can include ticks, flies, sandflies and fleas.

“These diseases have a significant and growing potential to affect both animal and human health. They are becoming a major public health concern in all world regions and are not limited only to tropical and subtropical areas,” says Agcarm Chief Executive Mark Ross.

Global changes in climate can increase disease outbreaks of vector-borne diseases.

In New Zealand, Malaria and Dengue fever were the most common vector-borne diseases. They accounted for over 82 percent of notified vector-borne diseases from 1997 to 2013.

According to Environmental Health Indicators New Zealand, 167 cases of vector-borne diseases were notified in 2013, a 39 percent increase from the year before. The majority of cases were associated with overseas travel.

Although the risk of vector-borne disease in New Zealand is low, it is important to continue monitoring it, due to an increase in travel, changing climatic conditions and our close proximity to South East Asia and Western Pacific countries where vector-borne diseases are endemic.

On a global level, collaboration and coordination between veterinarians and physicians are fundamental to prevent and then treat vector-borne diseases.

Keeping disease out of the country through vigilant biosecurity systems is also vital.

Agcarm endorses World Veterinary Day held on 25 April, created to highlight the lifesaving work performed by veterinarians around the globe. The focus for 2015 is vector-borne diseases with zoonotic potential.

About Agcarm

Agcarm is the industry association of companies which manufacture, distribute and sell products that keep animals healthy and crops thriving. Member companies are committed to ensuring that these products are used safely, effectively and sustainably

Mark Ross 04 499 4225; 027 442 9965