

The French Veterinary Academy: Human-Animals Committee

the highly topical issue of animal protection and welfare.



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The First French Academy to be founded is the famous “Académie Française”, established by Cardinal Richelieu in 1635 and approved by King Louis XIII. It initially concerned French language, arts and science. Then came the Royal Academy of Sciences, the Royal Academy of Agriculture, the Royal Academy of Surgery. In 1928 the French Veterinary Academy (FVA) derived from the Veterinary Society of the Seine Department founded in 1844, which was honored by the membership of Louis Pasteur, Edmond Nocard, Camille Guérin, Jules Hoffmann (Nobel Prize, 2011) or Emmanuel Leclainche (a founder of the international organization OIE, now called World Animal Health Organization, most recently directed by Jean Blancou). One mission of FVA is to advise the public authorities regarding the fields in which the veterinarian’s competences are recognized, i.e. animal and public health. The Human-Animals relationship committee was established twelve years ago to address the highly topical issues of animal welfare. It is one of the most active groups of the Academy because of the ethical and sociological aspects of the subject.

Fig. 1 Bulletin of the FVA



Fig. 2 Some famous members of the FVA : veterinarians or non veterinarians



Status : * Full member

nominated by the President of the French Republic

* Correspondent member

* Associated Foreign member

Three sections : I. Teaching and research

II. Clinical sciences

III. Animal science and Veterinary Public Health

Cross Membership Human-Animals Relationship Committee

An advice of the AVF may be required by the French public authorities (eg : Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Ecology, National Council of Veterinary Surgeon (NCVS), inter Departmental Commission of Neology, Parliament ...)

Public meetings in the French Parisian historical site of “Cordeliers”. Same place as for French Surgery Academy. Two meetings devoted to animal welfare per year. Private meetings and work in the building of the NCVS.



Fig. 3 « Les Cordeliers » One of the site of the Paris-V French Faculty of Medicine



Fig. 4 Dr vet Claude MILHAUD
Chairman of the RHA Committee
Ex Chairman of the FVA
Honorary Research Director in the French Army Health Service.

Some recommendations given by the FVA including RHA Committee

- On neurectomy in Horses
- Concerning the use of the neologism “sentience” in French vocabulary
- On hypertypes in dogs and cats
- On depopulation during epizootics
- Report on laboratory animals
- Report on dangerous dogs

Work in progress : the question of consciousness in animals