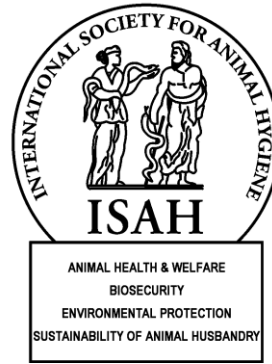


ISAH webinars: INTRODUCTION – Hygiene & strategies to prevent future epidemics

Chair - speaker: Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Jörg Hartung



Professor Jörg Hartung
Former Director of the Institute for Animal Hygiene, Animal Welfare and Farm Animal Behaviour. University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany



The Roots and Spirit of Animal Hygiene

Jörg Hartung is veterinarian and Professor for Animal Hygiene and Husbandry and Professor for Animal Welfare Science. Honorary Doctor of SLU, Sweden and of WUELS, Wroclaw, Poland. 40 years teaching and research at the cutting edge of veterinary medicine/biology and agricultural engineering. President of the International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH). Nine years EFSA Panel for Animal Health and Welfare, six years vice-president. Advisory Board “One Health”, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. More than 225 refereed journal publications, 60 co-authored EFSA reports and opinions.



<https://www.picfair.com/>

Key words of the talk: *(free of choice)*

- Definition of Animal Hygiene
- Ancient roots of health care
- Historical aspects of hygiene
- The holistic approach
- “Prevention is better than cure”
- Animals, humans and nature form a unit

ISAH webinars: Introduction - The Roots and Spirit of Animal Hygiene

Chair: Prof. Dr. Jörg Hartung



Abstract

The term “hygiene” and consequently “animal hygiene” goes back to Greek mythology and the early roots of European civilisation. In ancient Greece, the word “*hygieia* = hygiene” covered all measures necessary to keep a person healthy. Because of this outstanding importance preventing diseases, *Hygieia* became the rank of a goddess in Greek medicine. According to the mythical history was her father Asklepios, the surgeon and her mother Epione, the fostering goddess who cared about sick people. However, both recognised soon, that neither his skills to heal nor her abilities to care for sick people were able to avoid disease and suffering of their patients, and (according to the myths of ancient history) they engendered her child “*Hygieia*”. She should prevent the initiation of diseases and all forms of suffering by creating a healthy, clean, harmonious and stress-free living environment. These preventive principles are still valid and form the core of scientific research and practical execution of modern hygiene and animal hygiene. Animal hygiene protects health and well-being of a single animal as well as a herd by providing animal-suited keeping and feeding systems. Hygiene measures hinder infectious agents to invade farms from outside and they can stop or reduce the spread of infectious agents within a herd. At the same time, hygiene thinking promotes well-being by gentle and caring handling of animals and regards behavioural needs, which strengthen the animal’s immune system and raise resistance. This comprehensive health care helps to reduce application of drugs to the absolute necessary minimum. Not least, the European Union adopted the precautionary principle as core of its Animal Health Strategy entitled “Prevention is better than cure”. The further development of the principles of animal hygiene such as precaution, prevention, bio-security, disinfection, health care and animal protection will benefit all domestic animals, food-producing animals as well as pets, horses and others. Understanding the origin and spread of infectious diseases and applying preventing measures will protect animals and people from zoonotic diseases and help to secure the supply of products of animal origin. For more join the International Society for Animal Hygiene - ISAH-soc.org