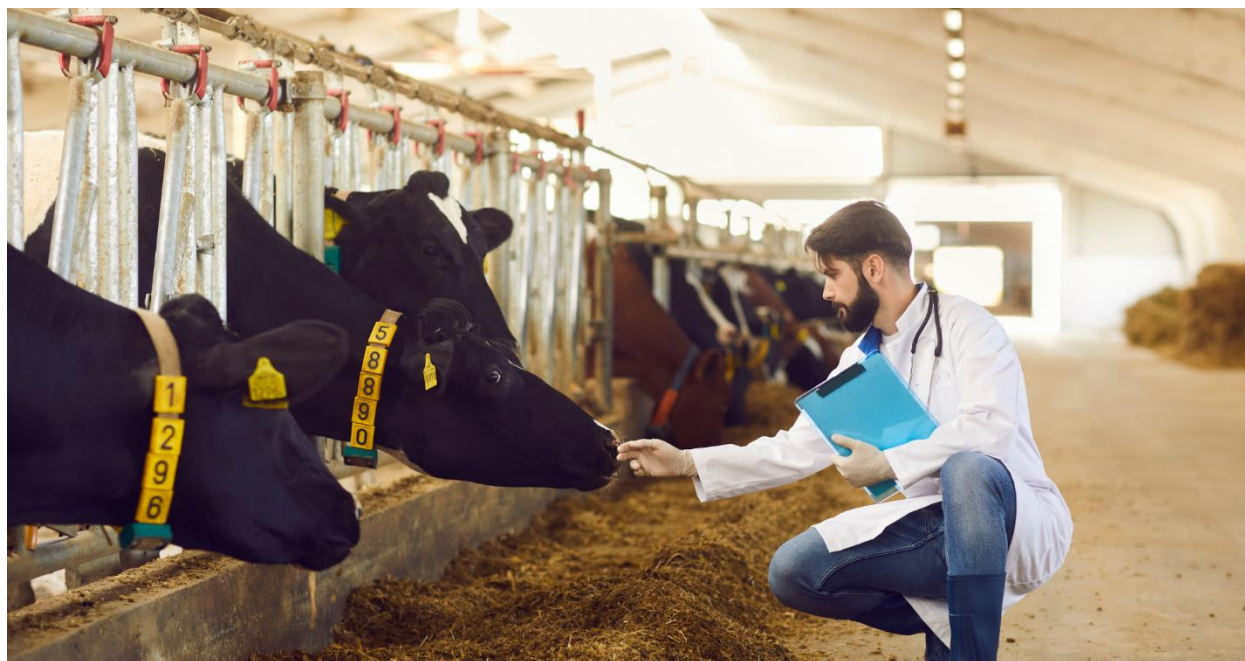


Blog Title: Food Safety Standards and the Critical Role of Veterinary Specialists

Meta Description: Discover the critical role of veterinary specialists in upholding food safety standards, promoting animal welfare, and safeguarding public health through the One Health approach.

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The Critical Role Of Veterinary Specialists In Food Safety



Ensuring the safety of the food we eat is a shared priority across Europe. The European public relies on stringent food safety standards to protect human health, promote animal welfare, and safeguard the economy. A crucial yet often overlooked group of professionals behind these efforts are veterinary specialists. Certified by organisations like the [European Board of Veterinary Specialisation \(EBVS\)](#), veterinary specialists contribute significantly to public health, food safety, and animal welfare, exemplifying the principles of the One Health approach.

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The Importance Of Food Safety Standards

Food safety standards are essential for protecting human health by minimising risks associated with foodborne illnesses. According to the [European Food Safety Authority \(EFSA\), over 65,208 cases of salmonella infections](#) were reported in the European Union in 2022 alone.

These incidents underscore the need for robust systems to identify, manage, and prevent contamination at every stage of the food chain, from farm to fork.

Beyond health, these standards bolster consumer confidence and ensure the sustainability of Europe's food production systems. Compliance with food safety measures is also crucial for maintaining the European Union's global reputation as a leader in high-quality, safe, and ethically produced food.

Veterinary Specialists: Key Players In Food Safety

[Veterinary specialists, trained and certified by EBVS](#) in disciplines such as **microbiology**, **animal health**, **epidemiology**, and **toxicology**, play a pivotal role in upholding food safety standards. Their expertise ensures the health of livestock, the safety of animal-derived food products, and the protection of public health. Here are some of the critical roles they perform:

1. Disease Surveillance and Control

Veterinary epidemiologists monitor and control diseases that can affect both animals and humans, such as [brucellosis](#) and [avian influenza](#). By identifying outbreaks early, specialists prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases and reduce the risk of contamination in food products.

2. Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Mitigation

Misuse of antibiotics in livestock farming contributes to the global challenge of [antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\)](#). Veterinary specialists guide primary care vets and farmers on responsible antibiotic use and alternative solutions, reducing AMR risks while ensuring animal welfare and sustainable food production.

3. Inspection and Certification

Specialists support food hygiene operators in processing facilities, farms, and abattoirs to ensure compliance with safety regulations. The veterinary role is to regulate and work **with** industry to produce the best and safest food according to EU standards, protecting consumers from harmful pathogens such as **E. coli** and **Listeria**.



4. Promoting Animal Welfare

Veterinary specialists contribute to better animal welfare practices, which directly influence food quality and safety. Stress-free, well-managed animals are less susceptible to diseases, reducing the need for antibiotics and lowering the risk of food contamination.

One Health: Bridging Public Health, Animal Welfare, And Food Safety

The One Health approach recognises the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. [Veterinary specialists](#) are central to this paradigm, working at the intersection of animal health, public health, and environmental sustainability. Their work in controlling zoonotic diseases, addressing antimicrobial resistance, and enhancing animal welfare demonstrates the value of this integrated approach.

For example, companion animal medicine highlights the cross-cutting nature of veterinary specialisation. Proper healthcare for pets contributes to overall public health by reducing zoonotic risks and promoting responsible use of antibiotics in household settings.

Companion Animals And Food Safety: Unexpected Links

While food safety is primarily associated with livestock, companion animals also play a role. For instance, veterinary specialists educate pet owners on zoonotic risks like [Salmonella transmission from raw pet food diets](#), ensuring human and animal health.

The Economic Impact Of Veterinary Specialists

[Veterinary specialists support agriculture](#)—a sector that contributes significantly to Europe's GDP. By preventing disease outbreaks and ensuring compliance with food safety regulations, they minimise losses in livestock production and enhance market access for European food products.



Partnering For A Safer Future

Veterinary specialists certified by the [European Board of Veterinary Specialisation](#) are essential to maintaining food safety, promoting public health, and advancing animal welfare. By applying their expertise, they ensure compliance with food safety standards, mitigate the risks of zoonotic diseases, and contribute to the sustainability of Europe's food production systems. To learn more about the critical contributions of veterinary specialists and their role in One Health, visit www.ebvs.eu. [Join us](#) in recognising the indispensable value these professionals bring to society.