

On the 20th December 2018, the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine held its 41st annual Symposium. This year, "Animal Welfare" was the theme. The State of the Art Lecture was delivered by Dr. Ruth van Der Leij, from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. Clearly this important field in our profession is taking a priority due to ethical and moral motives. Dr. van Der Leij dealt with the issue of the length of stay in the shelter which is a crucial factor in the wellbeing and health of the animals. The longer the length of stay the greater the adverse effects on health and behavior. Her lecture covered methods of reducing the length of stay thus allowing the animals to remain healthier and also reduce the shelter's costs per animal.

Dr. van Der Leij demonstrated that care of animals in shelters can be improved and that this sphere of veterinary medicine is making great strides forward. Lectures by Israeli presenters verified that this field is not being neglected in Israel.

Abstracts for these lectures are presented in this journal under the title of "The 41st Veterinary Symposium, Animal Welfare".

At the meeting, tribute was paid to Profs. Rhea White and Robert Y. Barishak who passed away recently. Both individuals contributed significantly to veterinary medicine in Israel: Prof. White in the field of anesthesiology and Prof. Barishak in the field of ophthalmology. Their contributions are greatly appreciated and we mourn their passings.

The symposium continued with a variety of lectures covering different fields of veterinary science, demonstrating the advances made by researchers from the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine.

I was honored to present a lecture entitled "The Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine: A reflection of Israel's Veterinary Achievements". The lecture dealt with the advances made by the journal over the last few years. This progress was in no small part due to the successes of Israeli veterinarians.

I encourage our readers to study the abstracts of the Symposium presented in this edition.

The cover of this edition of the Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine features pictures taken by the Wild Life Photographer Assaf Grinwald. The picture of the Pelican featured, won the "curator's choice" of "An Addictive Picture of Nature" and it is great honor to present it on the cover of our journal. The picture was taken using a camera-equipped quadcopter. Truly remarkable.

Wishing all our readers a pleasant spring and summer.

Chag Pesach Samach

Sincerely

Trevor (Tuvia) Waner

Editor-in-Chief
Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine