

Dear Readers,

Since the last edition of the Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine, nothing much has changed regarding the Corona pandemic. In Israel, we are in the midst of the “second wave”, without any sight of the end of this pandemic. Corona vaccines are in the process of development and assessment in a number of centers worldwide, and hopefully will be available in the near future. Of course, evaluation of their potential side effects is of paramount importance and this may take some time to accomplish.

Vaccination remains a powerful tool to ensure our health and that of our families. The current corona pandemic has illustrated other intertwining aspects of vaccination, which should not be overlooked. The corona pandemic has proven to be not only a deadly disease but also a socioeconomic entity, with the less economically advantaged population suffering more severely than the more prosperous communities.

None-the-less, at this critical point in time we are hearing more and more disruptive talk against the use of vaccines and the possibility that many individuals may refuse vaccination. If this happens, the likelihood of reaching “herd immunity” will be diminished, which will further prolong the devastating effects of the disease. Furthermore, this will be a great tragedy, resulting in the continuing morbidity and mortality resulting from the COVID-19 especially among the less advantaged.

In the veterinary world, vaccination in both large and small animals has proved its greatest value. In this edition of the IJVM, two review articles are presented, documenting recommendations for vaccination of dogs and cats. The authors have also provided background information for each of the diseases to be vaccinated against. The articles are highly recommended for all veterinarians practicing in small animal medicine.

Wishing everyone a speedy exit from the Corona Pandemic.

I hope that the coming New Year will afford us lots of health and happiness.

Sincerely,

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