# The road less travelled by

(and not really a 'road' at all)

**Liz Mumford** 

World Health Organization,
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World Healt
Organizatio

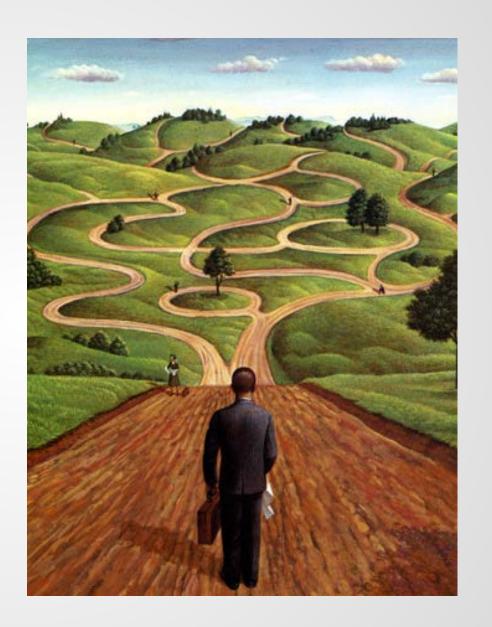
#### What is a veterinarian?



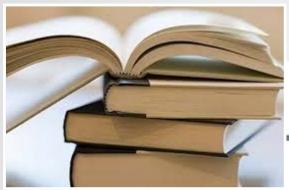
# **Example:**Liz's career path

with

**Lessons learned** 



# High school







## Bachelors (yr 1)







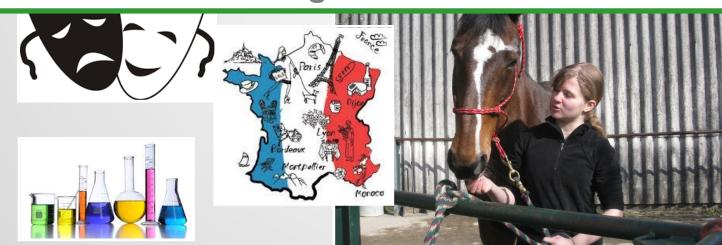
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# High school





- Direction (loosely): Writer? French interpreter for the UN?
- Lessons learned: (1) Be with horses as much as possible, (2) when all else fails, read a good book
- Skills accumulated: Creativity, writing skills, French, scientific thinking...



# Then...

# **Bachelors: Pre-vet**





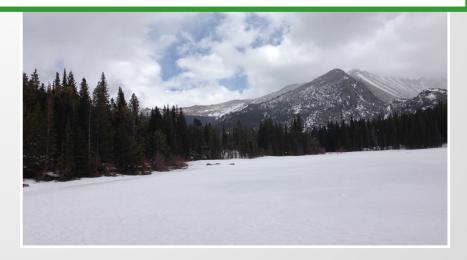


#### **Bachelors: Pre-vet**



- Direction: Vet school or bust
- Lessons learned: When all else fails, go ride in the mountains
- Skills accumulated: Scientific thinking, laboratory skills





#### Vet school

#### Vet school

- Direction 1: Epidemiology
- Direction 2: Equine theriogenology
- Direction 3: Equine reproduction
- Lessons learned: (1) there are more interesting aspects to veterinary medicine than first imagined (2) Hard work is rewarded, but success comes more easily when you do what inspires you
- Skills accumulated: Anatomy, physiology, surgery, anaesthesiology, pharmacology....

#### Masters

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#### Masters

- Direction: Breeding specialist veterinarian
- Lessons learned: (1) Teamwork is obligatory, (2) sometimes life takes over without your agreement
- Skills accumulated: RESEARCH: proposals, budgets, statistics, writing scientific reports

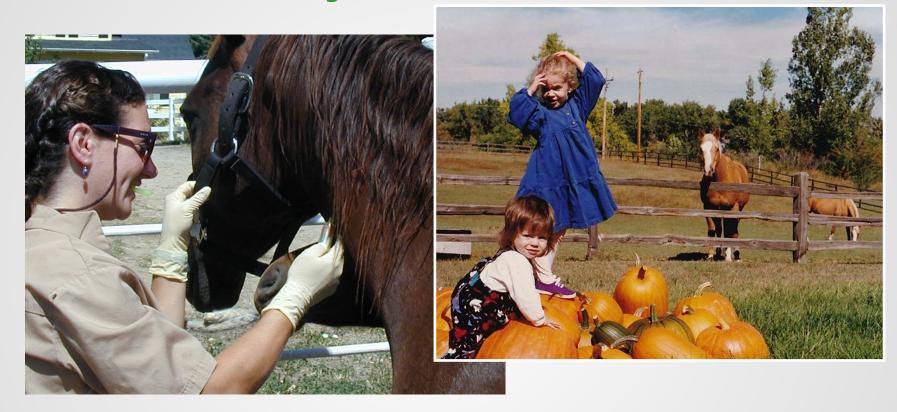
## **Practice**

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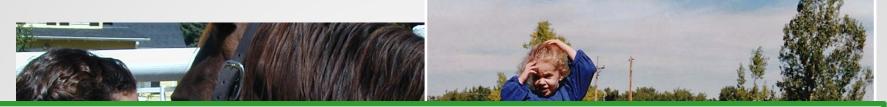
#### **Practice**

- Direction : Hanging in there
- Lessons learned: (1) Acceptance that I was never going to be perfect, (2) How to translate technical information in horse-owner language
- Skills accumulated: How to creatively get things done: clip for minor surgery without electricity, flush a wound in the middle of a field... catch that ONE horse...

#### Post Doc/Project Coordinator

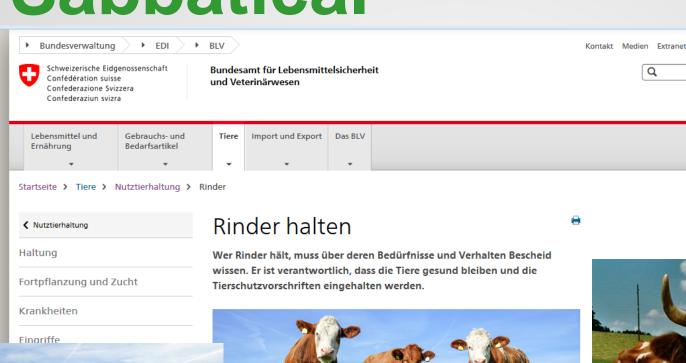


#### Post Doc/Project Coordinator



- Direction : Academia / field research ... international development...?
- Lessons learned: use your networks!!!! And trust
- Skills accumulated: Influenza, vaccines, coordination of large projects, managing diverse partners, teamwork

#### Sabbatical



gesetzlichen Grundlagen für eine tiergerechte Rinderhaltung finden sich Tierschutzgesetz (TSchG), in der Tierschutzverordnung (TSchV) und in der rordnung des BLV über die Haltung von Nutztieren und Haustieren (siehe /eitere Informationen").

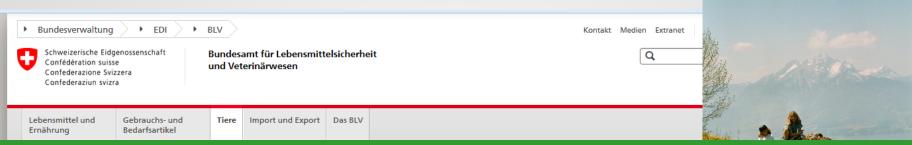
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Kontrollhandbuch sind die gültigen rechtlichen Normen für die erhaltenden und Kontrollorgane übersichtlich zusammengefasst.



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#### Sabbatical



- Lessons learned: Acceptance and patience
- Skills accumulated: international standards, trade, BSE



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# **Consulting Company**



# **Consulting Company**



- Lessons learned: Stick unwaveringly to your ethic
- Skills accumulated: steep learning curve: BSE, developing training packages, working in all sorts of countries, international development work



#### Skills accumulated through 2006

- Technical: BSE, influenza, other zoonotic diseases, trade
- Teamwork: recognition of strengths, constraints, and needs of all partners
- Creativity: finding solutions
- Writing: proposals, reports and scientific articles
- Research: project development, budgeting, project coordination/management
- Multi-culturalism
- Hard work & ethics

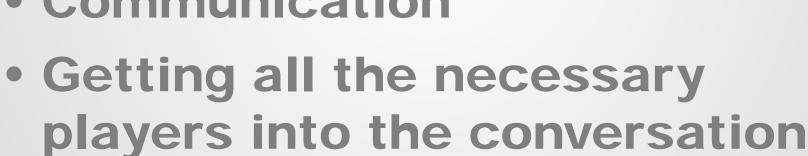
### **World Health Organization**



#### What is a One Health?



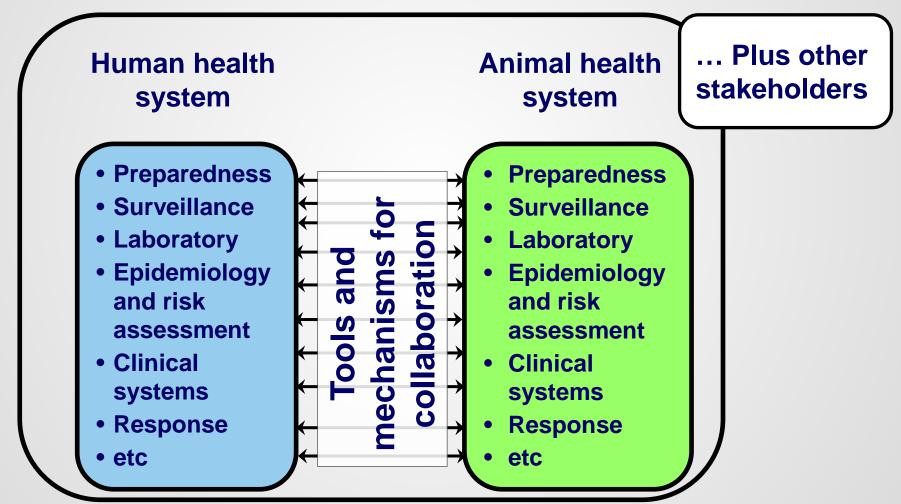








# National health systems and collaboration





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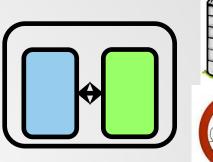
- Collaboration
  - Strong individual sector health systems & functional linkages among them
  - No new silos



- o Routine
- Urgent/rapid



- "One Health" is inclusionary
  - Everyone should be invited to play!



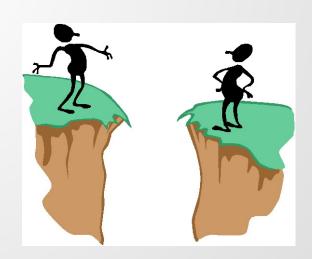




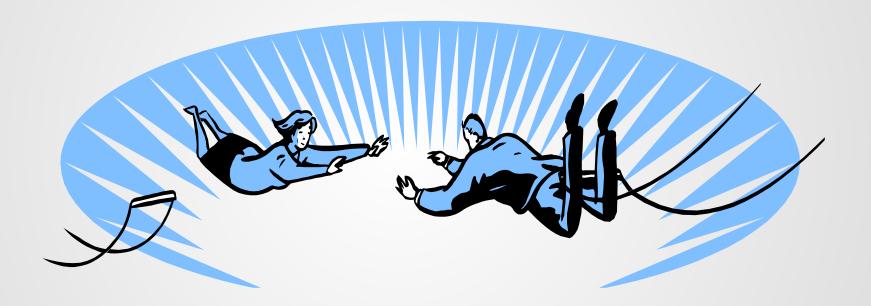


# Challenges

- Communication/collaboration
  - Not a culture of working across ...
  - No mechanisms in place for
    - Planning together: policy, technical activities
    - Joint field activities
    - Sharing information
    - Joint risk assessment
- Transparency
- Alignment
  - Prioritization
  - Competing mandates



# **Trust**

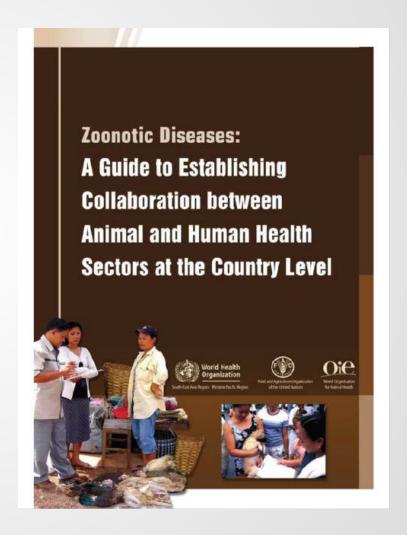


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#### **Current Work**

- bring ministries
   responsible for health
   and agriculture
   together at the national
   level
- develop tools to help them work together

e.g. JRA, guidance on cross sectoral committees



#### Life lessons learned: Career to date

- Be unwaveringly ethical and trustworthy
- Learn from everything you do
- Listen to your heart at each step (even if you follow your head)
- Expect and profit from the unexpected
- Keep a long term goal based on your real passion - in the back of your mind
- Find people who respect and support you
- Keep real life (family, hobbies, dreams) strongly in mind