



# Annual Report

2022-2023





# Mission

“The Mission of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association is to promote the veterinary profession within the Commonwealth by encouraging the highest professional standards of education, ethics and service in order to advance animal health, productivity and welfare so as to improve the quality of life of all its peoples.”



# About The CVA

Founded in 1967, the CVA celebrates 56 years without a single salaried staff member. We continue our capacity building efforts to assist veterinarians in their professional roles and their leadership potential within their communities and public office. The main aim of the CVA is to assist and strengthen the capacities of National Veterinary Associations of countries within the Commonwealth to improve the health and wellbeing of their communities and countries.



# Meet Our Team



**PETER THORBER**  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
AUSTRALIA



**OLATUNJI NASIR**  
PRESIDENT  
NIGERIA



**SARAH WILKINSON EYTL**  
SECRETARY  
JAMAICA



**JEFF CAVE**  
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR  
AUSTRALIA



**SEAN WENSLEY**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
UK



**DIANNE PHILLIPS**  
TREASURER  
AUSTRALIA



**ABDUL RAHMAN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
INDIA



# Notable Events

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The President represented the CVA for the third consecutive time at the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates where the ideals of the CVA were presented and the links between the AVMA and the CVA strengthened.



# Collaborations

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## Federation of Asia Veterinary Associations (FAVA)

The CVA was represented at the 21st FAVA congress in Fukuoka, Japan in November 2022 by Dr Jeff Cave. The CVA and FAVA renewed their Memorandum of Understanding, and many formal and informal discussions will serve to enhance each of our organizations activities in the years to come.

## International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA)

The CVA also initiated discussions with the IVSA to establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the aim of establishing linkages that would be of mutual benefits to the membership of both organisations. This is pertinent in this year as the Commonwealth of Nations celebrates the Year of Youth in 2023. Through this collaboration the CVA has launched an Essay Competition on Veterinary Sustainability targeted at Veterinary Students throughout the Commonwealth.

## Vet Sustain

As a part of our on-going collaboration, Vet Sustain, together with their partner VetSalus, offered the CVA one free place on the on-line course entitled "A Veterinary approach to sustainable Food and Farming". The value of the offer was £1500. In order to gain the most benefit from the offer for its members, the Executive decided to supplement this by extending the award to 3 (three) places on the course to eligible members, with the balance of funding being paid from the CVA StudyFund.



**THE CVA PARTICIPATING IN THE WVA COUNCIL**



**THE CVA PRESIDENT WITH THE TAIWANESE VICE PRESIDENT**

### **World Veterinary Association (WVA)**

The CVA President was appointed as the chair of the Pharmaceutical Stewardship Working Group of the World Veterinary Association. The main focus of the group is to develop a globally validated essential medicine list for food producing and working animals and also to keep up discussions on the issue of antimicrobial resistance. He was also appointed into the Policy, Finance Committee and Veterinary Education Committees of the WVA and working very assiduously to strengthen the collaboration between the WVA and the CVA.

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**“Veterinarians don’t just treat animals, they treat the people who love them.” – Anonymous**



# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



## Rabies Diagnostic Training Workshop

The CVA President was appointed as the chair of the Pharmaceutical Stewardship Working Group of the World Veterinary Association. The main focus of the group is to develop a globally validated essential medicine list for food producing and working animals and also to keep up discussions on the issue of antimicrobial resistance. He was also appointed into the Policy, Finance Committee and Veterinary Education Committees of the WVA and working very assiduously to strengthen the collaboration between the WVA and the CVA.

In addition to attendees from the South Asia region, Dr. Cynthia Siphon Khumalo from Zambia was awarded the CVA Study Fund to attend.

The training workshop on Animal Rabies Diagnosis begun on the 18th January 2023. Theoretical and practical training on sample collection and handling and various diagnostic protocols were shared. This training will strengthen the veterinary laboratory capacity in member countries in South Asia and Africa.

## ICVA Welfare Centre, Bangalore

The CVA has an MoU with the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University, India (KVAFSU), since 2020, for the establishment of a KVAFSU-CVA Animal Welfare Research Center (AWRC) at the Department of Livestock Production and Management, Veterinary College, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, with the objective of carrying out research in animal welfare, behaviour and ethics.

Through this collaboration, an International Conference on Animal Welfare Research was held on 17-18 January 2023 in Bangalore, India under the theme: "Progress in animal welfare research: impact and opportunities". The Conference had a total of 200 participants which included international delegates from the UK, Netherlands, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Zambia.

### Key Benefits of the conference were:

- The Conference brought research scientists and field-level functionaries working in the field of animal welfare onto a common platform for an exchange of views on various practical aspects of animal welfare.
- It provided an opportunity for animal welfare scientists from South-East Asian countries to exchange best practices and formulate common strategies to face animal welfare challenges.
- The interaction of PG students with senior animal welfare scientists from across the globe would motivate them to take up animal welfare topics as part of their postgraduate research.
- Developing research and training linkages between the participants.



## Animal Welfare Training at JMICAWE

In order to strengthen the technical expertise on animal welfare at the AWRC, Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Executive Director, CVA, sought the assistance of the Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education (JMICAWE), The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh (JMICAWE) to train the staff at the Centre. Prof. Cathy Dwyer, Director, JMICAWE, designed a two-week training programme focused on acquiring knowledge and skills regarding the latest developments in animal welfare. Two faculty members, Dr. Vivek M. Patil and Dr. Mahadevappa D. Gouri, of the Department of LPM, Veterinary College Bangalore, India, were sponsored by the CVA with financial assistance from the Open Philanthropy Project. The training was organized from 31st November to 11th December 2022.

Key Benefits of this training were

- Developing research and training linkages between the AWRC at Veterinary College Bangalore and the JMICAWE at Edinburgh
- Incorporating newer techniques and best practices for clinical skill training at vet schools in India
- Planning collaborative research projects for assessing and enhancing livestock welfare participants





# Regional Conferences

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## CVA Asian Regional Conference

A meeting of councillors for the Asia Region was held in conjunction with the Animal Welfare conference and the Rabies diagnostic training workshop, January 16th to 21st 2023. The opportunity was used to re-establish contact with members Associations in the region who had become dormant during the covid era and to emphasize the benefits of a strong CVA

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## CVA Pacific Oceania Regional Conference March 2023



**His Excellency Mr Jose Ramos Horta meeting Pacific Islands colleagues**

The Timor Leste Veterinary Medical Association, in conjunction with CVA, hosted an international conference with a focus on animal health, epidemiology and laboratory diagnosis. Other major supporters were the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia and the Crawford Fund. The conference program ran for two days (Tues and Wed 14 -15 March 2023), followed by a workshop program on Thursday 15 March. The conference dinner was attended by His Excellency and Nobel Peace Laureate, Mr Jose Ramos Horta, other government staff and the Ambassador from Australia. CVA member countries and other groups in attendance included Timor Leste, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, SPC and FAVA.



**Attendees at CVA Regional Conference Meeting**



# Small Projects

## Sustainable Village Poultry Keeping Project, Zambia

The CVA funded sustainable village poultry keeping project in Zambia concluded in May 2023. As a result of this project local villagers learned about improved nutrition, medication and husbandry for poultry and received seed stock of poultry to raise with their newfound skills and knowledge. Over the course of the project, villagers brought fertile eggs from their new flocks to be incubated and hatched and reared

the new chickens. There remained some issues with mortalities and intermittent engagement by some participants. However, a significant number of the female participants showed commitment and demonstrated their new skills in raising poultry to the point where they can now transfer their knowledge to other women in their communities.



## CVA Book Program

The Book Program has had another good year. There have been many generous donations from veterinarians in Australia and New Zealand. Most of the books that had been stored by the NZVA in Wellington are now in Australia, so there is now a single depot. This year books have been sent to veterinarians in Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and India. We have also had a generous \$500 donation from Boehringer Ingelheim (thank you Glen Zahral) which has helped pay for the postage costs to these countries.

Thanks to our book program officer, Jim Connah who continues to organize, collate, store and send donations of books and some equipment to our member countries. We are also very appreciative of the assistance (logistical and financial) from our sponsors for this program, IDEXX.

Veterinary institutions or private veterinarians who would like to receive any books are invited to email [jimconnah@gmail.com](mailto:jimconnah@gmail.com) for the current list of available titles.



# Contact Us



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