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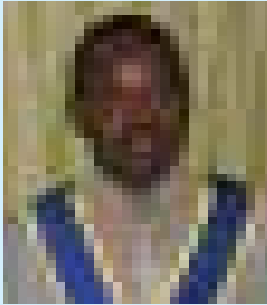
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President's Column



The world rabies day has just been celebrated in September with many activities to mark the event as is always the case every year. The objective, according to my local Association President is to increase the world awareness on the devastating effects of this dreadful, but neglected zoonotic disease. Records indicate that rabies is fast becoming a global disaster. It is an emerging disease in some parts of the world and re-emerging with alarming incidence especially in Africa and some parts of Asia.

An estimated 75% of emerging infections are zoonoses. Between 1940-2004 335 emerging zoonoses were registered globally. The question is what is causing the re-emergence or emergence. Scientists blame this on the selfish adventure of man resulting in global warming of the ecosystem. Scientists have known of the green house effect since 1824. There is strong evidence that human activities contribute most of the global warming observed over the past 50 years.

Any changes in habitat temperatures significantly influence animal metabolism, growth rate, productivity, reproduction and susceptibility to diseases. Reports indicate that aquaculture is most at risk. Globally, aquaculture contributes 20% of the world's most widely traded foodstuff and is a key source of export earnings for many poorer countries. FAO reports that developing countries, which are highly dependent on agriculture and have fewer resources, are at risk.

In the face of increased human zoonotic diseases (75% being of animal origin), the pertinent and indispensable role of veterinarians in the multidisciplinary field of public health, is refocused. Improving the cooperation between human health and animal health sectors is an identifiable key prerogative in the control of emerging and re-emerging zoonoses at national and international levels.

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association builds awareness and understanding in the veterinary profession which is utilised for their better professional competence in the surveillance and preparedness for dreaded diseases, both emerging and re-emerging, by greater sensitisation of the profession and building of alertness.

The "One world, One Health" concept is fast becoming a reality. Veterinarians must enter the 21st century prepared for the challenges of global warming.

*On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association I wish all, including our cherished sponsors, a **Happy New Year** for 2009.*

January 2009

*Richard Suu-We
President*

The JCVA publishes original articles, case reports, short contributions and review articles. Please contact the Editor if you plan to write a review.

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Layout

Articles should have a structured abstract of no more than 250 words. The subdivision is up to the author, but should encompass the Objective, Design, Procedure, Results and Conclusion. Write subheadings in lower case bold letters, followed by the text on the same line. List nonstandard abbreviations and their explanations after the abstract. Use only the abbreviated form in the text. Avoid use of abbreviations in the abstract. The main headings, following an untitled introduction, are Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments and References. The introduction should state the purpose of the study. The contents of Materials and Methods should enable others to reproduce the work. Present the findings in Results concisely and logically. Evaluate and interpret the findings in the Discussion, but do not present new data. If possible, write the main conclusions at the end of the Discussion. Headings may vary from standard if the variation makes the article more informative.

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Type each table double-spaced on a separate page. Number tables in Arabic in the order they are referred to in the text. Each table should have a concise title that describes its content adequately. Information in the table must not be repeated in detail in the text. Do not use vertical lines. Use horizontal lines to separate the table from the title, and footnotes and column headings from data.

Figures

Both black and white and colour photographs are encouraged to a maximum of five only. Figures can be submitted in digital form as separate files. They should be saved as TIFF, JPEG or EPS files with a resolution of 300 dpi. EPS files must be saved with the preview option. Illustrations provided as MS Word files will not be accepted. Write legends for figures and explanations of symbols on a separate page. Legends should contain enough information to make the figure comprehensible without reference to the text.

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Cite only those publications that are essential for the understanding of the study. Number text references consecutively, in the order in which they are mentioned, by superscript Arabic numerals. Write and number the reference list in the sequence of the references in the text. References to journals, books, conference proceedings, organisational papers, anonymous editorials, foreign language articles and internet web sites, respectively, are written as follows:

1. Gibson KT, Hodge H, Whittam T. Inflammatory mediators in equine synovial fluid. *Aust Vet J* 1996; 73: 148-151.
2. Peterson ME, Randolph JF, Mooney CT. Endocrine diseases. In: Sherding RG, Editor. *The Cat: Diseases and Management*. 2nd edn. Churchill Livingstone, New York, 1994: 1403-1506.
3. Rhodes AP. Infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis vaccination. In: *Proceedings of the 23rd Seminar, Sheep and Beef Cattle Society*, New Zealand Veterinary Association, June 1993.
4. Australian Veterinary Association. Tethering of sows and sow stalls. In: Greenwood PE, editor. *Members' Directory and Policy Compendium*. 1997: B5.
5. Where do we stand on manpower? [editorial] *Vet Rec* 1995; 137: 1.
6. Homberger FR. Mäusehepatitis-Virus. *Schweiz Arch Tierheilkd* 1996; 138: 183-188.
7. Council of Docked Breeds. The case for docking. <http://www.cdb.org>. 1992. Retrieved 15 October 2001.

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Acknowledgments

Only acknowledge significant intellectual, technical and financial contributions. A short work warrants short acknowledgments.

Articles of General Interest

Articles of general interest, experiences in treating of clinical cases, country reports, success stories in animal production, using innovative approaches and where possible enhancing the contribution of women and also using sustainable methods are also encouraged.

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Reviews on a specific topic usually are written by invitation. Other authors wishing to submit a review should first enquire of the editor whether the topic is of interest to the Journal. A synopsis of the proposed article often will be requested before the writing of the full version is commenced. Reviews should provide a critical assessment of published works that have contributed to the development or understanding of the chosen topic. The soundness of experimental evidence and the validity of conclusions and recommendations in cited articles should be assessed. Conflicting observations and interpretations should be examined and evaluated.

~ Editor, JCVA

Veterinary Undergraduate Training In Uganda: A Model For Decentralized Service Delivery*

*Samuel George Okech^{1,5}, Rose Azuba-Musoke¹, Ruth T. Muwazi², John David Kabasa³
and Eli Katunguka-Rwakishaya⁴*
Uganda

Abstract

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University piloted a student community attachment training programme from 2002/2003 to 2006/2007 academic years for students of Veterinary Medicine to support decentralization of services in Uganda. Decentralised governance and service delivery is a relatively new phenomenon in Uganda. Previous veterinary training was designed for centralized service delivery under one central government. A study by the Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR) had identified gaps in training that included among others, the need for Makerere University graduates to translate theory into practice within the community context. MISR recommended community-based internship and practical training to be integrated in selected university programmes. The objectives were to enhance practical training, develop interpersonal skills for veterinary undergraduate students and reach out to the farming communities. The Rockefeller Foundation supported the pilot student attachments through the Makerere University Capacity Building programme for decentralized districts. The student attachments (if found effective) were to be sustained by the university at the end of the pilot.

The model developed and implemented by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine involved posting each of the final year veterinary students to reside on a farm for a period of up to 10 weeks. While on the farm the students were introduced to and guided on the daily routine farm activities by the farmer or farm manager. The latter also monitored the student's technical contribution and social abilities. A local veterinarian working under the decentralised system provided technical supervision and guidance to the students. Staff of the Faculty

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5 Coordinator of the BVM Student Farm/Community Attachment Programmes

** Paper presented at the Fourth Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, 4th - 8th November 2007, Barbados West Indies.*

of Veterinary Medicine personnel periodically visited farms to assess the level of exposure, technical contribution and any innovations by the students besides evaluating the students' welfare.

Our findings indicate that the community attachments were greatly appreciated by farmers, farm managers, veterinarians and students (who have participated in it). It is an appropriate option for improving practical training of and assimilating veterinary students into community-based approaches to service delivery. The students have not only been able to enhance their professional skills but also benefited from interacting with people at different levels on the farms. They have learnt to work in teams with stakeholders in a decentralized system of governance and service delivery. The lessons learnt by students through this exposure prepared them for working with the communities they serve after completing their university training. On the other hand, the farmers benefited greatly from the professional input made by these final year students.

It is because of its 'popularity' and acceptance among the farmers and students (as the major stakeholders) that the program has continued to run. It blends well into the revised Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine curriculum.

Background

In Uganda, the local government reform has seen local governance vacillate between centralization and decentralization. These vacillations were, to a great extent, related to / determined by constitutional reviews and change of guards (Tukahebwa and Kabonesa, 2000).

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Decentralisation refers to the transfer of functions and responsibilities from the central government to the periphery or lower governments. Uganda's current decentralisation policy is based on the Local Council (LC) system of governance which comprises of councils and committees at village, parish, sub-county, county and district level (Asiimwe et al., 2000). The decentralisation process in Uganda therefore places legislative, financial and planning powers in the district councils. It also involved passing over central government staff working at the district level to the local governments. The mandate to recruit and deploy personnel was also transferred to the districts as detailed in the Local Governments Act 1997 and The Local Governments (amendments) Act 1997 (Government of Uganda, 1997).

The Makerere University Institute of Social Research (MISR) assessed and identified human resource needs, opportunities and challenges for human capacity building for the local governments in Uganda under the decentralisation system of governance. The study findings highlighted the need for Makerere University graduates to translate theory into practice within the community context (adopting and adapting developed technical and professional skills to suit the prevailing local situations). The study recommended one of the remedial / preventive measures as community-based internship and practical training to be integrated in selected university programmes including Veterinary Medicine (Asiimwe et al., 2000).

The community-based attachment and practical training was developed as a recommendation of the MISR study.

Objectives

- To help veterinary graduates perfect practical skills under the decentralisation system.
- To enhance the social and interpersonal skills of the veterinary graduates at the farm/community level.
- To develop farm management and entrepreneurial skills / inspiration of the students.
- To boost farm / farmers' management practices and farm outputs by harnessing skills of the senior veterinary students.
- To improve the appreciation of on-farm student learning by the veterinary academic staff.

Summary of the Model

Each final year veterinary student was placed (resident)

on a farm for eight to ten weeks. On the farm students were introduced to and guided through the daily routine farm activities by the farmer or farm manager. The latter also monitored the student's technical contribution and social abilities. A local veterinarian working under the decentralised system provided technical supervision and guidance for the student while on the farm. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine personnel periodically visited farms to assess the level of exposure, technical contribution and any innovations by the students besides evaluating the students' welfare.

At the end of the community attachment or placement, the students, farmers / farm managers, the field veterinarians and staff of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, independently evaluated the student and each of the placements. Insights gained from these evaluations were used to improve on the subsequent community attachment or placement.

Duration of Placement

The students were placed at the selected farms for 8-10 weeks after having covered most of their theory and practical training requirements. This enhanced the standard of their professional hands-on contribution while on the farms.

Students lived on the farm, got involved (observed and participated) in the farm management and farm business transactions. This helped them adapt to the circumstances and challenges the communities live in and prepared them for future roles as community animal health workers.

The family-related social needs, civil obligations and emotional needs of the students were taken care of by short leaves from the attachment to join their families over Christmas and/or travel back to their respective constituencies to vote in presidential and parliamentary elections. The electoral system, like the system of governance, was also decentralized and localized where a citizen votes from a defined polling station.

Participating Districts

Twenty-six (26) farms located in the eastern, central and western districts of Uganda participated in the programme: Mbarara, Kiruhura, Bushenyi, Masaka, Sembabule, Kabarole, Soroti, Jinja, Kamuli, Iganga, Mukono, Wakiso, Kampala and Nakasongola.

Students

Each of the final year undergraduate veterinary students of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University went through this training programme (five academic years

- 2002/2003 to 2006/2007). The students were placed in various farms; in some instances there was more than one student per farm. Students, under the supervision of the field veterinarians, visited other neighboring farms as well.

Findings

Evaluation information was collected from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine staff reports, Farm Managers' and Farmers' reports and individual and joint student reports.

A. Summary of observations by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine staff who participated in the programme

The staff noted the following:

- Sustained contact and good supervision of students by the field veterinarians.
- Active participation of students and deep understanding of the farms' activities and operations.
- Students appreciative of the opportunity to get exposure to various enterprises.
- Students very appreciative of the broad exposure in: management of clinical cases, instituting preventive measures / herd health practices, participation in farm meetings / shared-decision making, records management, cost-benefit analyses and handling of farm clients.
- While in some farms the students' menu was supplemented by farm produce, in a few others the students experienced some problems of high cost of food and cost of transport to the market place.
- Some students who had not yet accomplished some vital and basic tasks on 'their' farms e.g. updating farm records were counseled, stressing the significance of records and guiding them on how they should effect the task.
- The programme was regarded as a very good innovation that complemented the 'traditional' weekly rotational ambulatory and farm visit programmes. Under the previous programmes, the students made single visits to farms and most times missed the opportunity to closely follow the progress of 'their' cases. They also missed the opportunity to get involved in and follow the general performance of the farms.

B. Evaluation reports from farm managers/ farmers and supervising veterinarians

About 70% of this group filled and returned evaluation forms. The comments below are based on only those forms returned.

- Generally, the students participated actively in farm activities and provided useful technical support.
- The majority of the students interacted and communicated well with the farm workers, farm managers and the farmers despite a few cases of language barriers. Only one of the students was reported not to be very outgoing!
- The farmers and farm managers believed that the programme was beneficial to farmers and students and recommended it to continue.
- Most of the farmers recommended an extended attachment beyond 10 weeks.
- The field veterinarians recommended a revision of the supervision allowance (especially to cater for their fuel costs).
- It was reported that some students could not effectively perform some surgical operations because they lacked appropriate equipment.

C. Students' reports

i. Individual student reports

Each of the students submitted a typed spiral-bound report prepared to provide information including but not limited to what was provided in the reporting guidelines. Each student provided specific information on their personal experience on the farm they were attached to. Below are some of the general issues pointed out by students:

- a. Professional / technical skills gained or perfected from farmers/farm workers / veterinarians (Table)
- b. Some challenges recorded
 - How to deal with farmers who reject professional advice.
 - How to deal with uncooperative para-veterinarians and uncooperative farm workers.
 - Language barrier especially with farm workers in the first few days.
 - Lack of laboratory services (in some places) for confirmatory diagnosis.

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Skills gained/perfected	Learned mainly from whom?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food habits and farm management practices for the various categories ▪ Clinical diagnosis and treatment of cases including surgical interventions ▪ Methods of blood culturing ▪ Social skills e.g. communication skills, negotiation skills, conflict resolution ▪ Budgeting (personal) ▪ Farm management ▪ Emergency clinical skills ▪ Reproductive health management (individual and herd) ▪ Significance of disease cases with colleagues and supervising officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Farm / supervising vet, farm manager, farm ▪ Farm / supervising vet ▪ Milkmen / herdsmen ▪ Through practice on farm and in community education unit ▪ Through practice ▪ Farm manager / farm vet ▪ Farmers ▪ Veterinarian, farm manager ▪ Through practice

- Information about the students' placement needs to reach all the authorities in the area.
- More funding support with special attention on health, transport and special needs categories such as places where food and fuel are very costly.
- An extension of attachment beyond ten weeks.
- Incorporate private veterinary practitioners into the programme.
- To expose students to various conditions on the farms, timing of placement should spread across both dry and wet seasons.

- Adjusting to 'unfamiliar' menus / diets.
- Other challenges were farm-specific.

c. What went well

- Hospitable farmers.
- Availability of cooperative and resourceful veterinary supervisors in most cases.
- Cooperative farm workers.
- Opportunity for hands-on learning / practice.
- Made new friends and entered new social networks.

d. What did not go so well

- Lack of sufficient exposure to other enterprises especially for the students who were posted on single enterprise farms.
- Monotonous routine in single enterprise farms.
- For some farms / locations, means of communication (transport and telephone) was very poor.
- Food and fuel were quite expensive in some places.
- In a few cases the veterinary supervisors were not readily available.

e. Recommendations for improvement of the internship programme

- Students placed on single enterprise farms should be given opportunity to be exposed to other farms with different / multiple enterprises.
- There was need for more contact time with the supervising veterinarian especially when attending to cases outside the farm of placement. This broadens exposure to various cases and reduces monotony.
- Frequent and regular visitation by internship supervisors from the faculty.

- The university should consider consuming farm products produced in farms participating in internship programme.
- The programme should cover the entire country.
- An assessment should be made of the students' / university's input and impact on the farm through the farm attachment programme.
- Recommended continuation of the programme for the subsequent students.

ii. Joint student report

Although experiences varied with the student groups (different classes) and also individual student experiences varied with the farm / station of posting, most of the experiences were common - cutting across all stations. Below is a brief outline of the common benefits realised from the training (as reported by students).

- The students acquired basic business skills as a result of direct participation in the running of farm enterprises. The students picked special interest in commercial livestock production after realizing its profitability. Many students were willing to venture into commercial farming after the training, an inspiration attributable to the farm attachment experience.
- The students had a chance to practice and perfect their technical skills in veterinary practice. Residence on the farm provided the opportunity for the students to monitor the animals, detect sick ones, administer treatment (together with the farm veterinarian) and monitor progress of recovery.
- Most of the students also got involved in the managerial aspects of the farm - overseeing the operations and participating in the decision-making process. This helped to enhance special skills

in management and appreciate the relevance of management in the practice of veterinary medicine.

- As most of the training stations were in rural areas, many students who had never been there had the opportunity to appreciate life in the rural community, the mainstay of livestock agriculture and the major station of work for many veterinarians in the country under decentralisation.
- The training also gave the students the opportunity to test and apply the knowledge they had acquired from four years of training. They had the opportunity to improve areas of inadequacies besides boosting their confidence. This would hopefully make a big difference between them and those who did not have such an opportunity.

Highlights of inadequacies and proposed areas of improvement (students' perspective):

- Despite the fact that most of the benefits were common, the specific experiences of each student varied depending on the station and the enterprise(s) on that station e.g. students posted on purely cattle ranches. The students recommended a rotational programme in as far as is possible.
- The funding given to students was uniform but cost of living varied from place to place. Students on ranches particularly had to meet high transport cost to commercial centres to buy utilities. Although this provided an opportunity to the students to plan, they recommended that welfare support should be tailored to the nature of the area and factors obtaining therein.
- Due to the varied infrastructure installations on the farms, the students' exposure to various farm installations was not uniform.

iii. Verbal debriefing

Besides their written reports (individual and class), there was also a non-formal verbal debriefing of a cross section of the students by the programme coordinator. Some of the highlights of the debrief, besides what was presented in the individual reports, are that:

- The hospitality most of them received was good. Most of them got integrated into the families and were treated as family members.
- They learnt a lot of new things both technical (veterinary-related) and social.

- What they initially thought was going to be a 'horrible' experience turned out to be enjoyable.

Challenges Faced By The Faculty

- High costs of running the program. The weight of the challenge was greatly felt when the period of Rockefeller Foundation support expired.
- Transport: there was great need for additional vehicles that could manage difficult terrains especially during the wet seasons.
- Due to the fluctuation in the size of the classes, some of the farmers did not receive the number of students they would have loved when the classes were smaller and worse still, in some cases, some farmers did not receive any student at all. Efforts were made though, wherever was practically possible, to have students in the neighboring farms visit such farms.
- Communication with the farmers: Due to the 'long' process of securing funds in some instances (especially over the festive seasons), confirmation of dates of placement of students in such instances was done later than earlier planned to the disappointment of a few farmers / farm managers and field veterinarians. The potential damage such incidences would make to the University's reputation and public relations was however promptly abated by clear explanations that were understood by the considerate farmers.

The Way Forward:

- The program has been appreciated by the main stakeholders (students, farmers and the university) therefore there is need to continue running it. It is now viewed as one of the ways of "taking the university to the community."
- The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine plans to incorporate, as part of the model, regular consultative workshops with the farmers from various parts of the country aimed at strengthening partnerships / networks so far established besides creating new ones. It is hoped that such meetings would also provide farmers with the opportunity to create useful networks amongst themselves.
- Farm / community attachment is now a fully fledged part of the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) curriculum - starts with the 2007/2008 (current) final year BVM class. Lessons learned from the previous

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experiences will be inbuilt into the process.

- Documentation: Although it was not possible to produce educational materials in form of slides, videos, VCDs and DVDs in the previous programmes, it should be an integral part of the current and subsequent programmes. Such materials could be shared with other training institutions.
- This model presents some opportunities that ought to be harnessed:
 - o Collaborations with other training institutions and practitioners.
 - o A complimentary aspect of summer schools for non-tropical based veterinary Schools / students.
 - o Opportunities for field training of visiting students.
 - o Opportunities for overseas volunteer veterinarians to practice, train and serve.

Acknowledgement

Special thanks go to the Rockefeller Foundation through the Innovations at Makerere University Committee (I@mak.com) for supporting and funding this program; special thanks goes as well to the farmers for their invaluable contribution towards training of a useful human resource greatly needed for national development hence sharing the spirit of building for the future.

We also thank the students (who went through this programme) for being Makerere University's good

ambassadors. We wish them well in their careers.

The various district production department staff, just like staff from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, played a vital role in the field supervision of the students. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

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Commercial poultry lack genetic diversity, are vulnerable to avian flu and other threats

Purdue University animal sciences Professor Bill Muir was part of an international research team that analyzed the genetic lines of commercial chickens used to produce meat and eggs around the world. Researchers found that commercial birds are missing more than half of the genetic diversity native to the species, possibly leaving them vulnerable to new diseases and raising questions about their long-term sustainability.

The research team included government, university and industrial scientists who conducted the study using the recently sequenced chicken genome. Obtaining DNA from commercial birds, they identified the number of alleles found throughout. Alleles are the genes that pair up to produce specific traits such as eye color. By comparing

the commercial breeds with native and non-commercial birds, they found that commercial lines had lost up to 90 percent of alleles in some cases.

Muir also is project co-leader in a \$10 million international effort to test a breeding strategy called "whole-genome selection" that could be used to improve the accuracy and efficiency of breeding methods. He said companies could use this technique to select for important parts of the DNA of donor birds from the standard or ancestral breeds and integrate those into commercial lines without dragging bad DNA into industrial populations.

~ Science Daily, 12 November 2008

The Use Of Animals In Research, Testing And Teaching - An International Perspective

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Abstract

Laboratory animal medicine and welfare is an area of specialist veterinary interest around the world and enables veterinarians to contribute not only to improved animal welfare but also to better scientific outcomes. A number of important developments are taking place internationally involving the OIE, the European Commission and organisations such as the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR), the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) and the recently established International Association of Colleges of Laboratory Animal Medicine (IACLAM). This article attempts to highlight some of the key elements of those developments, for the interest and awareness of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and readers of the CVA Journal.

Introduction

Laboratory animal medicine is a particularly important area of veterinary involvement in North America and Europe, with an estimated 750 veterinarians working in this specialist field in the USA alone. This reflects the concentration of public and private sector use of animals, for research testing and teaching, in the areas of biomedical, veterinary and agricultural research and to meet international regulatory requirements. There has, however, been a significant trend, in recent years, for contract research organisations to be established in Singapore, China and India in particular, with the \$US 3 billion Singapore Biomedical Sciences Initiative attracting, perhaps, the most attention.

The total R&D costs of developing a “breakthrough” new human pharmaceutical product are now estimated at \$US 1.2 billion and the concept of the Three Rs of Russell and Burch (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) have become accepted as providing the essential underpinning for the ethical use of animals in research, testing and teaching. The process of ethical review is also becoming well-established around the world, using a number of different committee structures and involving non-scientists and members of the general public in the process.

The use of animals for scientific purposes is also the subject of an extensive international literature, with a number of well-established international organisations playing key roles in promoting humane science and good laboratory animal practice, in encouraging ethical debate, in countering the misinformation promulgated by “antivivisection” groups and in fostering the ethical principles of the Three Rs.

Key organisations include:

- International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)
- American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)
- Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR)
- Canadian Council for Animal Care (CCAC)
- Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)
- Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART)
- American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM)
- Japanese College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (JCLAM)
- European College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ECLAM)
- Korean College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (KCLAM)
- International Association of Colleges of Laboratory Animal Medicine (IACLAM)
- European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM)
- US Interagency Coordination Committee for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM)

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- Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experimentation (FRAME)
- Interniche
- Council of Europe ETS 123 Review
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Working Group on Experimental Animal Welfare
- AALAC International
- Various government Three Rs organisations

The issue of international harmonization of the use of animals in regulatory testing is being addressed by the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicine Products (VICH) programme. The VICH is an international forum to provide guidance on technical requirements for the registration of new veterinary medical products in order to protect public health and animal health and welfare, as well as the environment. VICH is a programme of collaboration primarily between the regulatory authorities and the animal health industries of the EU, Japan and the USA. Australia, New Zealand and Canada participate as active observer members, while the OIE participates as an associate member in supporting and disseminating outcomes worldwide.

VICH was officially launched in 1996, under the auspices of the OIE, and the factors which influenced its establishment specifically included:

- The drive to reduce the number of animals used in regulatory testing by eliminating the need for duplication of tests in each VICH region
- The international drive to harmonize regulatory standards and minimize their impact on trade

The objectives of VICH also specifically refer to establishing and monitoring harmonized regulatory requirements for veterinary medicinal products in the VICH regions, which meet high quality safety and efficacy standards and minimize the use of test animals and costs of product development.

The Role of the OIE in Laboratory Animal Welfare

The unique benefit of OIE involvement in laboratory animal welfare is the scientific and policy credibility provided by an internationally recognised inter-governmental body dedicated to animal health and welfare issues and representing 172 member countries. The strategy underlying

the OIE's involvement in laboratory animal welfare includes close liaison with the already established specialist international organisations such as ICLAS and IACLAM.

The use of animals in research, testing and teaching was discussed at the first OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare in February 2004 as a possible future element of the OIE's strategic initiative on animal welfare. This led to an offer of international stakeholder support and an invitation to speak at both the AALAS annual conference and the ICLAS International Committee meeting in October 2004. Laboratory animal welfare was one of four priority strategic items identified at the December 2004 meeting of the permanent Animal Welfare Working Group. At that time, the Director-General emphasized the importance of the OIE's international network of reference laboratories and diagnostic centres and the role that laboratory animals play both in these centres and in the regulatory testing of veterinary medicinal and biological products conducted by OIE member countries. Formal support for OIE involvement in laboratory animal welfare was received at the May 2005 OIE General Session and relevant review papers were published in the August 2005 OIE Scientific and Technical Review Series issue "Animal Welfare: Global Issues Trends and Challenges".

In recognition of the complexity and specialised nature of the topic, it was recommended that the OIE adopt a very focused strategy and establish an ad hoc group of experts to make recommendations regarding:

1. The need to establish guiding principles for laboratory animal welfare and the relevance of the 1986 CIOMS Principles.
2. The development of a strategy which would prioritise and address the following areas of potential involvement:
 - The availability of guidelines for the use of animals in regulatory testing of veterinary medicinal and biological products.
 - The availability of guidelines for the use of animals in undergraduate teaching.
 - Issues relating to the use of animals in research and diagnostic testing.
 - Options for OIE involvement in the use of animals in research and diagnostic testing.
 - Liaison with VICH and the International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use

(ICH) to facilitate the regulatory acceptance and adoption of internationally validated non-animal test methods.

- Identification of key international stakeholders and availability of relevant resource material.
- Potential OIE role in provision of expert international advice on the transport of laboratory animals, including primates.

An ad hoc group was established with the following members:

- Dr David Bayvel (Chair) (New Zealand)
- Dr Kathryn Bayne (United States)
- Dr Gilles Demers (Canada)
- Dr Tsutomu Miki Kurosawa (Japan)
- Dr Christophe Joubert (France)
- Dr Judy MacArthur Clark (United Kingdom)



- Professor Souilem Ouajdi (Tunisia)
- Dr Ekaterina Rivera (Brazil)

This group met in Paris in December 2007 and will meet again in December 2008. It is anticipated that the OIE will play an important future role in promoting high standards of veterinary care for laboratory animals.

The Role of ILAR in Laboratory Animal Welfare

The Institute of Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) is a constituent body of the US National Academy of Sciences and was established in 1952. ILAR's mission is to develop

guidelines and disseminate information on the scientific, technological and ethical use of animals and related biological resources in research, testing and education. The 1990 seventh edition of the ILAR guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals is used extensively internationally.

From 23-26 September 2008, ILAR hosted a conference entitled "Research in a Global Environment : Meeting the Challenges". Key points of interest arising from conference presentations and related discussion included the following:

- IATA data show the insignificance of laboratory animal transport commercially and the very real threat identified that commercial airlines may withdraw from this activity. A number of US carriers have already taken a decision on policy/ethical grounds.
- India, unlike China, has taken a policy decision not to permit the use of non-human primates in research. Multiple large primate research centres have been established in China.
- Distance learning is seen to offer considerable potential for entry level training for registered veterinarians with an interest in laboratory animal medicine and a successful programme has been developed in Canada in association with The University of Guelph.
- Gene targeting was adapted to mice in mid-1980s and led initially to development of models for cystic fibrosis and atherosclerosis. This then led to the dramatic increase in the use of GM mice around the world, over the last 25 years.
- A number of knockout mice repository projects have been established around the world e.g. KOMP in the US, and a similar repository for Europe, Canada and Japan. This had led to International Knockout Mouse Consortium (IKMC). These repositories are designed to ensure more effective access to, and distribution of, GM mice nationally, and internationally.
- Six US centres maintain chimpanzee colonies with a total of approximately 1000 animals. Although chimpanzees are not used for AIDS research, it is argued that the research colony must be maintained for strategic infectious disease research.
- In the UK the 2006 Weatherall Report reviewed the use of primates. 81% are used in regulatory toxicology and 19% in basic or applied research. The report supported carefully regulated use, at

least in the immediate term.

The papers presented at this conference, plus the proceedings, are available on request from ILAR.

The International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)

ICLAS (www.ICLAS.org) plays a major international role in the harmonization of animal care and use guidelines. ICLAS has brought members of the international community together to identify and to recommend acceptance of guidance documents. ICLAS believes in the harmonization of animal care and use guidance, as a reflection of the globalization of research. However, harmonization must be distinguished from standardization (one worldwide set of regulations); ICLAS believes that each country should be able to maintain an oversight mechanism for animals used in science that reflects its cultures, traditions, regulations, laws and regulations.

ICLAS held its First International Meeting for the Harmonization of Guidelines on the Use of Animals in Science in Nantes, France, on 13 and 14 June 2004. An ICLAS Working Group on Harmonization of Guidelines, composed of representatives from major organizations producing and/or using guidelines for the use of animals in science, was created at the meeting. The working group agreed on general principles for the establishment of humane end points that are based on the earlier documents from OECD and CCAC. The working group encourages consultation of the extensive literature available on end points and recognizes the need for research to support performance-based standards. The current general principles for humane end points defined by the working group are described in the Table-1.

The general principles for euthanasia defined by the working group are shown in the Table-2.

The International Association of Colleges of Laboratory Animal Welfare Medicine

The International Association of Colleges of Laboratory Animal Medicine (IACLAM) is a global body that brings together the American, European, Japanese and Korean Colleges of Laboratory Animal Medicine. IACLAM provides a common platform, at the global level, for communication by, and representation of, the Colleges and their Diplomats. Diplomat status is awarded only after completion of a rigorous training program followed by success in an examination, and such specialist recognition is equivalent to that in human medicine (consultant status).

IACLAM promotes the welfare and responsible use of laboratory animals through the certification of veterinary specialists, through coordination of educational resources and opportunities, through the dissemination of information relevant to the field, and through research partnerships. It is open to all qualifying colleges of laboratory animal medicine in the world, and currently represents all such colleges.

IACLAM's international leadership role enables it to act as a global expert in veterinary related areas regarding the health and welfare of animals used in research. IACLAM's current interests include harmonizing international standards for training and examining veterinary expertise in laboratory animal medicine, sharing best practices for animal welfare and research quality, and delivering veterinary expertise to relevant international discussions on animal welfare based upon evidence from recognized veterinary experts. Members represented by IACLAM are highly knowledgeable about, and involved in, discussions pertaining to key welfare topics such as the established principles of the Three Rs and also concepts such as the Five Freedoms and their relevance and interpretation relative to laboratory animal use. They also have expertise in other areas.

There is a number of topics likely to be of immediate mutual interest to both OIE and IACLAM. Foremost of these is the transport of laboratory animals and associated animal health and welfare implications as well as those of public health importance. Worldwide, between 50 and 100 million laboratory animals are used annually. These animals are commonly transported locally, regionally and, in some cases, internationally. This international transport includes genetically altered rodents and non-human primates for academic research and safety testing. Biomedical research, including the component that uses animals, is clearly vitally important to human and animal health. Thus, ensuring the availability of laboratory animals, and the health and welfare of those animals, is essential. Paradoxically, such availability might be threatened by animal or human health issues. For example, in a pandemic it might be proposed to halt all non-human primate movement or chicken production; the consequence of the former might be to delay diagnosis and treatment investigations; and of the latter might be disruption of egg supplies for vaccine production. In these circumstances, OIE advice would be sought and IACLAM would be in a position to provide OIE with authoritative expertise from a global perspective.

A further shared interest is the acceptance by safety regulators of alternative tests that refine, reduce or replace the use of sentient animals. This is a very broad area, and many institutions, regulators and NGOs have an interest. Such tests may be required for animal health surveillance and

Table 1. Principles for Establishment of Humane End Points

1.	There is strong evidence that animals experience pain and distress in situations comparable to those that cause pain and distress for humans.
2.	Death or severe pain and distress should be avoided as end points.
3.	The earliest possible end point used is consistent with the scientific objectives.
4.	Studies should be designed to minimize any pain or distress likely to be experienced by the animals, while meeting the scientific objectives.
5.	The duration of studies involving pain and distress should be kept to a minimum.
6.	Pilot studies should be encouraged as a means of determining morbidity, time course of effects, and frequency of observations required to set an earlier end point.
7.	Before commencing the experiment, agreement should be reached on (i) appropriate end points for the study and (ii) the person or persons to be responsible for making the judgment that the end point has been reached.
8.	A team approach should be used, employing the professional judgment of the scientist, veterinarian, animal care staff, and ethics committee to agree on the appropriate end point for the study.
9.	Research and animal care staff must be adequately trained and competent in recognition of species-specific behaviour and, in particular, species-specific signs of pain, distress, and morbidity.
10.	Animals should be monitored by means of behavioural, physiological, and/or clinical signs at an appropriate frequency to permit timely termination of the experiment once the end point has been reached.

Table 2. Principles for Animal Euthanasia

1.	Whenever an animal's life is to be taken, it should be treated with the highest respect.
2.	Euthanasia should place emphasis on making the animal's death painless and distress-free. The method likely to cause the least pain and distress to the animals should be used whenever possible.
3.	Euthanasia techniques should result in rapid loss of consciousness, followed by cardiac or respiratory arrest and ultimate loss of brain function.
4.	Techniques should require minimum restraint of the animal and should minimize distress and anxiety experienced by the animal, before loss of consciousness.
5.	Techniques used should be appropriate for the species, age, and health of the animal.
6.	Death must be verified following euthanasia and before disposal of the animal.
7.	Personnel responsible for carrying out the euthanasia techniques should be trained: (i) to carry out euthanasia in the most effective and humane manner (ii) to recognize signs of pain, fear and distress in relevant species, and (iii) to recognize and confirm death in relevant species.
8.	Human psychological responses to euthanasia should be taken into account when selecting the method of euthanasia, but should not take precedence over animal welfare considerations.
9.	Ethics committees should be responsible for approval of the method of euthanasia (in line with any relevant legislation). This should include euthanasia as part of the experimental protocol, as well as euthanasia for animals experiencing unanticipated pain and distress.
10.	A veterinarian experienced with the species in question should be consulted when selecting the method of euthanasia, particularly when little species-specific euthanasia research has been done.

diagnosis, or for food safety. OIE could play an important role in risk management when such alternative safety tests are proposed, and IACLAM would be a source of expert advice to OIE.

Revision of EU Legislation for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes

The long-awaited European Commission proposal to revise Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes, was adopted by the Commission on 5 November 2008. The proposal and all related documents can be found on http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/home_en.htm

The protection and welfare of animals is an area covered by a wide range of EU legislation. These include wildlife, zoo animals, farm animals, animals in transport and animals used in scientific experiments. EU legislation on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes is covered by Directive 86/609/EEC. Animal experimentation, be it for the development of new chemicals or medicines,



for physiological studies, for studying environmental effects or for testing new food additives, has to be carried out in compliance with this directive.

The objective of the Commission's proposal is to strengthen the EU legislation in force on the protection of animals used for experimental purposes, notably by requiring ethical evaluations to be carried out before projects using animals are authorised and by laying down minimum requirements on housing and animal care.

The proposed directive includes, within its scope, animals used in basic research, education and training, it covers all live non-human vertebrate animals plus certain other species likely to experience pain. The use of non-human primates is subject to restrictions, and the proposal also introduces a ban on the use of great apes - chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas and orang-utans - in scientific procedures. Only when survival of the species itself is at stake, or in the case of an unexpected outbreak of a life-threatening or debilitating disease in human beings, can a member State exceptionally be granted permission for their use.

At present, it is not possible to ban outright the use of animals for safety testing or biomedical research. The proposed revision, thus, seeks to ensure that animals are used only where no other means are available. Their use must be fully justifiable and the expected benefits must outweigh the harm caused to the animals. The proposal would also ensure that animals receive suitable care and treatment such as appropriately sized cages and an environment adapted to each species. These provisions would be continually monitored.

The proposed revision would also require projects involving animals to be authorised by a competent authority before they can go ahead. Organisations wishing to breed, supply or use animals would be obliged to seek authorisation for their activities and for the personnel working with the animals.

The "Three Rs" principle of replacing, reducing, and refining animal testing is firmly anchored in the commission's proposal. The Commission believes strongly in the need to find alternative methods to testing on animals. Where this is not possible the number of animals used must be reduced or the testing methods refined so as to cause less harm to the animals.

Some 12 million animals are used in experiments throughout the Union each year. Further information is contained in the Commission webpage on lab animals http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/home_en.htm

Conclusion

The veterinary role in animal welfare is most commonly associated with animals used in agriculture, as companion animals or in entertainment. The veterinary contribution to laboratory animal science and welfare is, however, an important specialist role, and offers significant career opportunities to graduates of the future.

The subject area has become truly global in nature and it is considered that the close working relationship established recently between the OIE, ICLAS, IACLAM and VICH bode well for the future. This relationship will also make a major contribution to the vision of Russell and Burch expressed so eloquently in the quote :

“The greatest scientific achievements have always been the most humane and the most aesthetically attractive conveying that sense of beauty and elegance which is the essence of science at its most successful. Only humane science is good science, which is best achieved by the vigorous promotion and application of the Three Rs. The only acceptable animal experiment is one which has been approved by an ethical review committee, uses the smallest possible number of animals and causes the least possible suffering, which is consistent with the achievement of its scientific purpose. The Three Rs should be seen as a unifying concept and as a challenge and an opportunity for reaping benefits of every kind - scientific, economic and humanitarian”.

Paradox of Our Times

- Today we have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time
- We have more degrees, but less common sense; more knowledge, but less judgement
- We have more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but less wellness
- We spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get to angry too quickly, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too often, and pray too seldom
- We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too little and lie too often
- We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years
- We have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints
- We spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less
- We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbour
- We've conquered outer space, but not inner space. We've split the atom, but not our prejudice
- We write more, but learn less; plan more, but accomplish less
- We've learned to rush, but not to wait; we have higher incomes, but lower morals
- We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies, but have less communication. We are long on quantity, but short on quality
- These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion; tall men and short character; steep profits and shallow relationships
- More leisure and less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition; two incomes, but more divorce; fancier houses, but broken homes
- **That's why I propose, that as of today, you do not keep anything for a special occasion, because every day that you live is a special occasion**
- Search for knowledge, read more, sit on your front porch and admire the view without paying attention to your needs
- Spend more time with your family and friends, eat your favorite foods, and visit the places you love
- Life is a chain of moment of enjoyment, not only about survival
- Use your crystal goblets. Do not save your best perfume, and use it every time you feel you want it
- Remove from your vocabulary phrases like 'one of these days' and 'someday'. Let's write that letter we thought of writing 'one of these days'
- Let's tell our families and friends how much we love them. Do not delay anything that adds laughter and joy to your life
- Every day, every hour, and every minute is special. And you don't know if it will be your last
- If you're too busy to take the time to send this message to someone you love, and you tell yourself you will send it 'one of these days'. Just think... 'One of these days', you may not be here to send it !

The Regional Animal Welfare Strategy For Asia, The Far East And Oceania

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Australia

Introduction

Animal welfare is a complex, multifaceted international policy issue with scientific, economic, religious, regional and cultural dimensions. Key to success is the support and constructive inputs from animal welfare organisations, livestock and processing industries, science organisations, the veterinary profession, multilateral organisations and governments.

Animal welfare was identified as a strategic priority for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in 2001. As a result of this decision and the inclusion of animal welfare in OIE's Strategic Plans, the OIE organised a Global Animal Welfare Conference in Paris in 2004 as a first step which paved the way for the development of science based international animal welfare standards.

Following this Conference, OIE decided to adopt 'outcomes' based standards, rather than using a 'systems' based approach. The agreed OIE Guiding Principles on animal welfare were included in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code in 2004 and are summarised as: animal welfare and animal health are linked; the 5 Freedoms and 3 Rs are supported; standards must be based on science; and better animal welfare can improve productivity and deliver economic benefits (see Annex 1).

Five OIE animal welfare guidelines were drafted and, in 2005, unanimously adopted at the 73rd General Session of the OIE International Committee. These guidelines covered slaughter for human consumption; land, sea and air transport; and the humane killing of animals for disease control purposes.

New guidelines are being developed in the areas of aquatic animal transport and slaughter, stray dog control, wildlife issues, laboratory animals, and the housing and management of production animals.

Importantly the OIE International Committee agreed to a definition of animal welfare at its 76th Session in May 2008. (Annex 2)

The key challenge now is to achieve adoption and implementation of the welfare and standards guidelines. A 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare - 'Putting the OIE Standards to Work' - was held in Cairo, Egypt in October, 2008, to consider these matters. The Resolutions of the Conference are at Annex 3.

In summary OIE members were requested to, among other things, consider the legal basis for complying with OIE Standards, support education and training, and promote the adoption by the United Nations of a Declaration addressing animal welfare. OIE was asked to provide technical support to members, work closely with donors and other international organisations, and collaborate at the regional, sub regional levels to support the development of strategies to support regional needs and priorities.

OIE Regional Commissions

The 172 Members of the OIE are formed into 5 Regional Commissions: Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Asia, the Far East and Oceania. The Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania covers half the world's population and a significant proportion of the world's animal, including aquatic animal, production.

The Regional Commission Presidents, Vice Presidents and Secretaries General are elected part time positions for a three year period. A key OIE policy is to make greater use of Regional Commissions and OIE's Regional Representatives in developing regional and sub-regional approaches to meet general OIE objectives. An outcome of the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare was to use regional activities to facilitate animal welfare approaches. OIE Regional Commissions are therefore expected to play a key role in this regard.

For a number of years Australia has assisted OIE in meeting its animal welfare objectives. In areas such as standards adoption Australia has provided funding and secretariat support for the development of regional and sub-regional strategies in Asia, the Far East and Oceania, as well as the Middle East.

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The Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (RAWS)

Following agreement between the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the OIE, an inaugural Animal Welfare Workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2007, to:

- Discuss OIE Guidelines for Animal Welfare from an Asian perspective drawing on Australian experiences on animal handling and welfare, and
- consider the value of developing a regional strategy to facilitate the implementation of the guidelines.

Thirty-seven participants from 12 countries in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania (the Region) and 3 international organisations participated in a successful Workshop. Participants represented government, industry, academia, the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the veterinary profession.

The workshop explored ways to support the adoption of the OIE Guidelines within the Region and included discussions on the importance of public and stakeholder awareness and education; recognition that incremental approaches would be needed to implement better animal welfare practices; and that collaborative working arrangements with others such as non government organisations (NGOs), practitioners, industry and academic institutions were critical to success.

Consistent with OIE policies, emphasis was placed on the value of having ‘outcome focused’ standards and guidelines adapted to the specific cultural, religious and socio-economic circumstances of each country.

The workshop endorsed nine recommendations that included supporting the development of a broad based strategic plan to implement the OIE Guidelines for Animal Welfare in the Region. With agreement of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (Regional Commission) members, a Writing Group consisting of six country representatives, WSPA and industry drafted the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (RAWS).

The RAWS was considered and endorsed by the Regional Commission and the OIE International Committee in May 2008.

The Nature of the RAWS - www.daff.gov.au/raws

The RAWS provides member countries with general

guidance to help improve the welfare of animals through a range of activities such as education, regulation and research and development. Activities already being undertaken by governments, industry and NGOs to improve animal welfare and develop sustainable production systems are recognised. The RAWS also refers to linkages with climate change/variation and animal health and welfare, “One Health” and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The scope of the RAWS relates to the care, use, and direct impact of human activity on all animals, but for practical purposes suggests the initial emphasis be on production animals. The RAWS recognises animal welfare is a complex public policy issue and is influenced by cultural, religious, social, economic and food safety considerations. It aims, with some ambition, to reach out to the population in general and key organisations in the Region.

The purpose of the RAWS is to provide direction for the development of action plans or country plans to implement existing OIE Guidelines for Animal Welfare and related objectives. It also provides a road map for the development of future animal welfare policies and helps member countries establish priorities that are consistent with the goals of the RAWS.

The RAWS should be of great benefit to member countries. It can provide a clear regional direction on animal welfare, and will help support good animal health and welfare through improved animal handling and care by animal owners.

The Strategy is a ‘living document’ and will be amended as necessary in the light of experience.

The RAWS - Implementation

The development of a practical and applied implementation process, and the ongoing support of governments, welfare organisations, practitioners, scientists and industry are key to the success of the RAWS.

A broad based implementation plan was drafted at a DAFF-hosted and funded workshop in Bangkok, Thailand on 3-4 November 2008. Coordination mechanisms and endorsement procedures were discussed. Seven regional countries, two international organisations and representatives from industry participated in the workshop.

The workshop recognised that implementation of the RAWS would take many years and require significant and ongoing efforts by all parties.

It was agreed that the RAWS could only provide general

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guidance and that more detailed strategies would need to be developed by individual countries based on their priorities and needs. Further it was suggested that, given the size of the Region, coordination at Sub Regional levels e.g. North Asia, South Asia, and South East Asia and Oceania, could have merit.

Key success factors discussed included the need for:

- Approaches to be consistent with the general policies and standards of the OIE as well as the outcomes of the 2nd Global Conference on Animal Welfare held in Egypt;
- Political and high level leadership and support by member countries;
- Active stakeholder involvement including farmers, industry, NGOs, academia, and the veterinary profession;
- OIE animal welfare focal points in each country;
- Resources and access to technical expertise and scientific information as well as the development of partnerships and collaborating activities with stakeholder and partner organisations;
- Inclusion of animal welfare as an essential component of other programmes, for example animal health, animal production and the like;
- A demonstration of the social and commercial benefit of animal welfare;
- Effective and professional coordination and communication via a Regional Animal Welfare Coordination Group; and
- Endorsement by the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania as well as the OIE International Committee.

The DAFF Animal Welfare Branch agreed to provide an interim Secretariat service to support the RAWs implementation arrangements. Priority tasks would include:

- Editing and circulating the draft implementation plan and modus operandi for comment by regional countries and the OIE Central Bureau with a view to submitting a final document for the endorsement of the Regional Commission and OIE General Session in May 2009;

- Developing an inventory of possible sources of funding and resources;
- Compiling an Events Calendar; and
- Keeping workshop participants and other key players advised of developments.

It was agreed that the OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific based in Tokyo, Japan would host a Regional Animal Welfare Workshop in 2009 where the RAWs and implementation arrangements would be further discussed and considered.

OIE Collaborating Centres - Case Example

One of the objectives of the RAWs is to explore the use and dissemination of research outcomes. OIE Collaborating Centres provide an approach that can be used to help meet this objective.

The OIE has established Collaborating (or Expert) Centres which have specific expertise. Collaborating Centres can assist in the development of international standards, help coordinate studies, provide technical training and advice and help organise and/or host international meetings.

Currently the OIE recognises the Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare in Teramo, Italy and the Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis (Asia/Pacific) at Massey University in New Zealand as Collaborating Centres for animal welfare.

In March 2008 Australia and New Zealand submitted an application to the OIE for consideration as a Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis. Unlike conventional Collaborating Centre arrangements, the proposed centre will involve the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand (NZ) and the Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) as well as scientific institutions. The scientific institutions party to the application are the University of Queensland, CSIRO and the Animal Welfare Science Centre in Australia and Massey and the Agricultural Research Institute at Ruakura in New Zealand.

This innovative approach involving 2 countries, 5 research institutions and 2 government departments should enable the different skills of each agency to be harnessed, improve coordination, avoid duplication and minimise costs. Importantly it is hoped the Collaborating Centre can 'twin' with other research facilities in the Region thereby improving

skills and competencies in welfare science, education and technology transfer.

Country Support for Animal Welfare Improvement - Case Example

A RAWs objective is to engage in joint initiatives. The value and importance of countries working with each other for mutual benefit should not be underestimated. Australia already assists a number of countries to improve their approaches to animal welfare and at the same time improve its knowledge and understanding of the practical application of good animal welfare procedures.

Middle East

During 2005 Australia and the OIE worked together in the Middle East with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman to improve animal welfare handling and transportation through the development of a Regional Strategic Plan on Animal Handling and Transport Arrangements.

Australia subsequently assisted the GCC countries to refine the plan to assist in the implementation of OIE welfare guidelines for land transport, sea transport, humane slaughter and killing for disease control.

United Arab Emirates

The UAE Ministry of Environment and Water's Animal Health Department sought assistance from Australia to establish an animal welfare office; draft animal welfare regulations and guidelines for their Federal Animal Welfare Law published in 2007 and establish a UAE Animal Welfare Committee to oversee the implementation and enforcement of the By-laws in the seven Emirates of the UAE.

Australia worked with UAE in March 2008 and drafted the By-laws (regulations) based on contemporary Australian welfare regulations which were proclaimed by the UAE Minister in May 2008. Further assistance was provided in October 2008 to conduct training to UAE animal welfare inspectors responsible for implementing the By-laws.

Other initiatives

The Australian Government also works with trading partners to improve the welfare of exported animals. In its 2008-09 Budget the government announced a \$7.6 million extension to the Live Animal Trade Program to further improve animal welfare outcomes in countries that import Australian livestock.

The program funds upgrades of livestock facilities to meet international animal welfare guidelines, and education and training in areas such as feedlot management and animal nutrition. A specific Agricultural Counsellor position in the Middle East continues to be funded.

Conclusion

The development of the RAWs has been a highly ambitious, complex and somewhat daunting task. The task has been made easier because of the constructive and positive approach of countries, governments, key stakeholders, industry, NGOs, the veterinary profession and OIE.

Funding and management support by the Australian Government has been a critical success factor in enabling the RAWs to be at an advanced stage of development in just over 12 months.

The RAWs could be considered to be at phase 3 of its evolution. Phase 1 was an examination of the feasibility of developing a regional strategic plan and determining scope in November 2007; phase 2 was the development, publication and endorsement of the RAWs in May 2008, and phase 3 is the start of an implementation and regional coordination process which will be submitted for Regional country and OIE endorsement in May 2009.

It will take many years to achieve good animal welfare outcomes due to the complexity of the tasks ahead. Nevertheless with good will, support, country leadership and effective coordination improvements can be anticipated in countries in Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

**Annex 1:
Guiding principles for animal welfare**

Chapter 7.1 - Article 7.1.2.

1. That there is a critical relationship between animal health and animal welfare.
2. That the internationally recognised ‘five freedoms’ (freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition; freedom from fear and distress; freedom from physical and thermal discomfort; freedom from pain, injury and disease; and freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour) provide valuable guidance in animal welfare.
3. That the internationally recognised ‘three Rs’ (reduction in numbers of animals, refinement of experimental methods and replacement of animals with non-animal techniques) provide valuable guidance for the use of animals in science.
4. That the scientific assessment of animal welfare involves diverse elements which need to be considered together, and that selecting and weighing these elements often involves value-based assumptions which should be made as explicit as possible.
5. That the use of animals in agriculture and science, and for companionship, recreation and entertainment, makes a major contribution to the wellbeing of people.
6. That the use of animals carries with it an ethical responsibility to ensure the welfare of such animals to the greatest extent practicable.
7. That improvements in farm animal welfare can often improve productivity and food safety, and hence lead to economic benefits.
8. That equivalent outcomes based on performance criteria, rather than identical systems based on design criteria, be the basis for comparison.

**Annex 2:
OIE Animal Welfare Definition**

Animal Welfare Definition

“Animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.”

Animal Welfare Policy Definition:

Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted international public policy issue that includes important scientific, ethical, economic, religious, cultural and political dimensions. Animal welfare also includes important trade policy considerations.

**Annex 3:
2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare - ‘Putting the OIE Standards to Work’ Resolutions**

CONSIDERING THAT:

- Economic and social development must be addressed in parallel with animal welfare and that a progressive implementation of OIE standards, adapted to the economic situation and capacities of Members, is appropriate;
- animal health is a key component of animal welfare;
- that one of the objectives of the OIE is to facilitate international trade in animals and animal products;
- that the OIE is the unique reference organization globally for the elaboration of international animal welfare standards;
- the OIE Strategic Plan has included animal welfare since 2001 and that the current Strategic Plan contains provisions for action, coordination and integrated planning on terrestrial and aquatic animal welfare at the national, regional and global level;
- it is of concern that some private standards for animal welfare are not consistent with the OIE standards;
- OIE regional strategies, based on global animal welfare standards, represent a shared vision between government and the private sector, built upon collaboration between the various sectors, including animal health, public health, industry (production, transport and processing), academic and research sectors;
- animal welfare standards should be democratically and transparently adopted and both science and ethics based, bearing in mind the production systems and uses of animals of each Member and the relevant environmental, regional, geographic, economic, cultural and religious aspects;
- scientific information should be the basis for the preparation of international standards and that these should be appropriately evaluated and validated taking into account the different circumstances and contexts relevant to the Members
- the need to promote scientific research, capacity

building, education and communication in the animal welfare area

- the ongoing work of the OIE in reinforcing the capacity of Veterinary Services, using the OIE Tool for the *Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services* (OIE PVS Tool) with the legal base in the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (Terrestrial Code);
- the continuing support of the OIE for twinning programmes involving OIE Collaborating Centres;
- a number of important and relevant topics and issues were identified at the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare.

OIE MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO:

- create or update, where necessary, legislation that prevents cruelty to animals as well as legislation that establishes a legal basis for complying with OIE standards for animal health, safety of animal products for human consumption and animal welfare, as well as supporting guidelines for the use of good practice to encourage compliance with OIE standards;
- support the development of programmes for education and scientific research relevant to animal welfare. Education programmes should be directed to key players, particularly to veterinarians, livestock owners and animal handlers, NGOs and other key target categories, such as women and children;
- promote the adoption by the United Nations of a Declaration addressing animal welfare, including compliance with OIE animal health and welfare standards;
- nominate OIE animal welfare national focal points, under the authority of the OIE Delegate and to develop national programmes;
- encourage the private sector to respect OIE standards and not to adopt private standards that are in conflict with the OIE standards, particularly for the importation of animal products from developing countries;

THE OIE IS REQUESTED TO:

- provide appropriate technical support to Members in the implementation of the OIE standards, including through the provision of tools relevant to 1) veterinary legislation 2) veterinary education on animal welfare 3) good governance of Veterinary Services;
- describe Veterinary Services' responsibilities for animal welfare in the *Terrestrial Code* and to include appropriate references in the *OIE PVS Tool*;

- work closely with donors and international organisations that have a commitment to animal welfare to help Veterinary Services and their partners in developing countries to implement the OIE animal welfare standards;

- continue collaboration at the regional level, with involvement of the OIE Regional and sub-regional Representations to support the development of strategies to address regional needs and priorities;

- advocate the role and responsibility of the Veterinary Services, including public and private sector veterinarians, in animal welfare and promote technical support to veterinary education and the provision of information on animal health and welfare, particularly to animal owners and handlers;

- collaborate and form partnerships with organisations representing all relevant sectors of the production and distribution chain for animals and animal products to develop and promote the OIE animal welfare standards as the key reference for national, regional and international trade and to urge the private sector to adopt private standards for animal welfare that are consistent with the OIE standards;

- influence those responsible for making decisions on scientific research to develop new programmes addressing animal welfare priorities;

- promote the development of twinning programmes between OIE Collaborating Centres in the field of animal welfare;

- continue to work on the standard setting priorities established by the OIE International Committee as well as the priorities for standard setting on humane methods for controlling stray dog populations¹ and free ranging cats and wild invasive species;

- consider establishing a procedure for determining priorities for future standards development.

¹ Programmes for controlling stray dog populations can include culling in some countries

Reminiscences of PNG Service

Peter Penson

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Australia

Many thanks to the authors, Barbara and Sandi Jephcott and Mike Nunn for the history and sense of achievement they evoked in their article "Veterinary contributions to Papua New Guinea", Journal of Commonwealth Veterinary Association, July 2007.

As one of the extremely fortunate team of Australian veterinarians who has worked and learned (!) in Papua New Guinea the article has penetrated through the mists of time. I was fortunate to be involved in Papua New Guinea as a veterinarian from 1969 to 1975.

At the invitation of Bill Pryor I have sifted through some vintage records and penned here some personal anecdotes. When Bill asked me to write this article I said "yes" as I thought it would be a fairly easy task to write a paragraph or two about our days in PNG. However the more I considered it I thought "what do I write" so Michelle my wife pulled out some letters I wrote to her from Goroka, Mt. Hagen, Port Moresby & Daru... while we cannot share all that was in those letters with you (as we were newly engaged much love was shared in our letters and distance meant letters were precious to us both) we give you the following excerpts from various letters to show what days were like back in the 1970's.

Memories from 1970

....."I arrived in Daru last Tuesday. It is built on an island about a mile long but only a couple of hundred yards wide. Even the pub is a real "dazzler" but the barramundi for breakfast was the best fish I have ever tasted. The outside walls of the hotel have fallen away a bit and the floorboards are loose there is no hot water and only flickering electricity. The day before I left Daru I was asked to look at a dog that was ill - I think it was heartworm I didn't have the drugs to treat it so I telegraphed to (Port) Moresby for them but the parcel took some days to reach us and the dog died."

"I left Daru last Thursday to test other herds but the seas were so rough the captain headed for a small river close to the mouth of the Fly river and we spent the night there. At noon the next day I reached Madiri - about 60 miles up on the west bank of the Fly. (Not another European within 50 miles of here) The river is the largest I've seen. It took so long to get here (as the tidal changes are stronger than the

boat's engine) I have to stay and lodge on the boat until I have completed the TB testing and then the reading of the tests as well. (72hrs)

To fill in the time I have done some post mortems on ill



thriving calves and pigs that are riddled with worms. I have also done some castrating and de horning. You should see the ticks on the cattle - dozens of them all fat and bloated with blood! After this it is off to do the Mission herds and that's another week. Testing in this District is going to take a long time. When we were going from Daru to the Fly is was really rough and we were really tossed around - hope it is smoother tomorrow".

....."The Circus came to town - this was rather exciting particularly for the locals who had never seen tigers, lions and the elephant drew the most attention. I was supposed to check them out and see they were in good nick.....when they came forward even in their cages with claws fully extended I made up my mind from a fair distance that they were fine! We were about to spray the elephants with a drum of asuntol when one of the elephants lifted his trunk and went to drink the whole solution so we had to quickly tip it over on deck to prevent this happening. I have to check them all out again before they leave to ensure they are free from screw worm before they set sail back to Australia."

....."An interesting case on Friday night at the Wildlife Sanctuary someone had taken a knife to a 4 foot crocodile

almost severing its tail. When they rang me up to come and sew the tail on I thought they were joking but they weren't. They tied its jaws together and had 3 people on standby as my knowledge of anaesthesia in crocodiles was sorely tested! I did quite a neat job but the largest suture needles they make, kept bending”.

.....”At Kokoda it only took me a day or so to get to the bottom of some of their problems. Worms for a start - I did a post mortem on 2 cows which were there and found millions of worms in their stomachs and small intestines so I worked out a drenching program for them.”

Mt Hagen 1971



.....”I am flying into Nippa in the Southern Highlands (about 50 miles west of Mendi) there is a cow with diarrhoea - it is wasting away. Flying conditions get very cloudy and there is always the danger you can't get out if you once land.. When we got to Nippa there was thick cloud right over the town so we had to circle around, then we spied a tiny break in the clouds so down the pilot went in a tight loop and we were then only about 50 ft above the ground at 120 miles per hour - then all of a sudden there was the strip so the pilot put the plane down very very fast! Phew. I then walked over an hour to get to the sick cow. I picked enzootic haematuria from clinical signs (I had also spotted some bracken fern on the way to the cattle yards)”.

.....”Today a call came from Mendi - 4 cattle had died overnight at Pangia - no roads and only one or two flights a week. PNG can be a frustrating place in many ways. By the time I get to Pangia all the cows will be just about decomposed and I will learn nothing. Then a telegram from Banz, a horse had torn its shoulder - I had to go there and suture it. Life is very different every day.”

.....” On Friday I went out to Kinding where the Department has helped to resettle about 100 families on 5 acre blocks - on which they raise pigs. The Agricultural Officer came in a few weeks back - he thought the piggeries were not properly run and we went out to have a look and talk about feeding pigs, disease etc. It turned out to be the most rewarding day's work I've had here. The highlight was a post-mortem examination on a pig about 12 months of age which was very thin and coughing. There were eight species of worms - lungworms, stomach worms, two species in the small intestine and others in the large including roundworms, and also kidney worm. It takes a day like that to make you realize how much time is wasted in the office treating a dog or cat instead of being out in the field where the economically - important animals are.”

.....” I tried to call you tonight but humbug! The exchange can get through to Madang but then the Madang exchange can't get through to Sydney. Took me five and half hours to travel 80 miles the other day - where there is road it is very rough at times. No doubt one day there will be better roads and better means of communication also.”

Feb 1971 - “ I have been asked to take on the role of Senior Veterinary Officer Training. It is one of the most interesting and challenging jobs in the Department based in Lae.

There are 3 main parts to the job

1. I will be training locals who are interested in running cattle and pig projects about 500 trainees a year will come through the centre.
2. I will be planning and giving in-service training courses to livestock officers and assistant livestock officers. This will cover drugs and legislation as well as animal production.
3. Training meat inspectors

I took on this job in Lae and with the help of money from the World Bank a wonderful new centre for Agricultural Education was created. I had four wonderful years teaching and running courses in Lae that assisted locals in their knowledge of animals and animal production.

I had a wonderful helper Mamato Bagelo (a local) who kept the Centre going long after 1975 when I left Lae. It was with some mixed feelings that Michelle and I went back to see Lae in October 2004 some 30 years since we had left. We attended the 11th Australasia/Oceania CVA Regional Meeting and Workshop in Lae.

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We were warmly greeted by locals again and shown much hospitality. The highlights of this trip were to find the school, I had put so much into, still standing and in good condition as I had left it (even the same wooden desks) and to my delight one of the pupils from the school was now running the centre. The centre had become a Multi use Regional Educational Centre which is wonderful to see.

The other highlight was that Michelle and I were able to catch up with my off-sider Mamato Bagelo (see photo) and his wife. Mamato is now growing vanilla beans at Nine Mile.

As I look back on our life in Lae and my time in Goroka, Mt. Hagen and Port Moresby I often say that our days in

PNG were the best years of our life and Michelle agrees.

We have been blessed with some life long friends who now live around the globe and the experiences we had were colorful, rewarding and quite truly remarkable like the country of PNG itself .

Volunteering In The Cook Islands

*Victor Epstein
Memana Flinders Island
Tasmania*

Kia Orana! Welcome to the Cook Islands

Looking towards a July winter in Flinders Is, having spent 2 years near the Antarctic in the Falkland Islands, it seemed a good idea to find a job near the equator for a few weeks.

Looking up 'locum positions' we find Ester Honey foundation in the Cook Islands, looking for vets and vet nurses. An email sent and we are in.

Small problem is that Ester Honey is a voluntary foundation providing veterinary services in the Cook Islands (which has no veterinary services), funded on donations and volunteers. Oh well, no money but at least warmth.

The Cook Islands consist of 15 islands with a total population of approximately 19,000, scattered over some 2 million square kilometers of the Pacific Ocean. The main island is Rarotonga which is a volcanic island about 38 km in circumference, surrounded by a reef which extends out about 100 meters. Various places within this reef are ideal for snorkeling, swimming, kayaking, sailing and learning to windsurf. Hire a motorscooter and you're away.

To get there head to Auckland, NZ and change planes for Rarotonga. The flight for Rarotonga waits for the flight from Sydney to arrive. Arrive at 2am.

Next the work! Fortunately there are heaps of volunteers, mostly from USA and UK. All are young women at various stages of their veterinary career and all as keen as mustard and full of bright ideas and ready to cure all ills. Fortunately

among this bevy of help was one graduated veterinarian to share the load. They hadn't seen an old fellow like me as a volunteer for a long time. Most depressing when all these young people see me as a grandfather image and only want to talk to my wife, Coralee and ask her cooking questions. None knew anything about cooking- most didn't know how to light the stove!

The load was mostly desexing dogs and cats with a smattering of dogs hit by cars (to maintain my heroic surgery skills).

The Department of Agriculture tries to look after farm animals but their resources both human and financial are limited so farmers visit the clinic with the odd sick piggy piggy or the odd leg injury to pippy pigs or goats as these animals are tethered by the leg to coconut trees. Cattle are also tethered in fields but fortunately none required my attention while I was there. Knowing how to tie non-tightening knots may be an advantage!

Because the veterinary load is shared, I wandered off by scooter to enjoy the island.

In April 1965, the first elections were held, leading to a government led by the Cook Islands party under Albert Henry. From this point, the islands became self-governing in association with New Zealand. This special relationship exists today, recognised by the automatic right granted to all Cook Islanders to have New Zealand citizenship. A celebration of self-governance called the Te Maeva Nui is held each July. Here there is processions and concerts with

lots of banging of drums, wiggling of the hips and shaking of the knees and singing. Fantastic!

Arriving back on Flinders Island, hoping to find an early Spring we are greeted with wind and rain. Good to be home!

Tips for visitors to foreign ports:

- o Get the local paper
- o Watch the local TV news. (Only 1 channel in the Cook Islands)
- o Listen to the local radio. (In the Cook Islands the morning radio show has presenters who switch from English to Maori and discuss what's in the local paper. We had to then buy the local paper to appreciate what they were discussing)

- o Read to Lonely Planet guides which give great summaries of all you need to know when planning visits to any country.
- o Ester Honey has a site on 'Face Book', with lots of volunteers just willing to share their experiences.

Vic the Vet

Vic Epstein (Vic the Vet) is a veterinary graduate of Sydney University, Australia. He has recently spent two years as Senior Veterinary Officer in the Falkland Islands and also worked earlier in the Solomon Islands as Chief Veterinary Officer as well as in Australia and the UK.

Reflections of a Vet In Palau, Pacific Islands

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Animals... humans... plants.... We all need care! Some of us more than others like animals who can not take care of themselves in a human dominated world!

For this sort of reason I decided to become a vet!

My vet adventure started in Romania, and while I was still in vet school I was doing animal welfare in farm animals and horses. The goal was improving the condition of animals on farms, improving the slaughtering techniques in abattoirs and transportation conditions for horses. It was my own desire to work in this field, cold winter or hot summer being always outdoors and not in a fancy clinic or neat government office, like other colleagues of mine. And I can tell that not many people understand why I was doing this. It was very rewarding work and I really enjoyed it. It also opened my appetite for travelling and working abroad in exotic places.

Graduating from vet school, I volunteered to work in an Animal Shelter and Clinic in Cyprus doing a spay/neuter campaign of feral cats, and soon after went to Cairo, Egypt to a spay/neuter clinic also providing training of the local staff in stray dog trapping.

In Egypt I learned some good lessons about a vet's life, one of them being the experience of getting a stray dog bite, then to learn the next day that the poor dog was showing symptoms of rabies! I can not explain in words what feeling I

had, but even now I can say that I am very happy I still have feelings and am alive! Soon after I gave up my volunteering ambitions and I decided to be employed and the Animal Shelter and Clinic in Cyprus then hosted me.

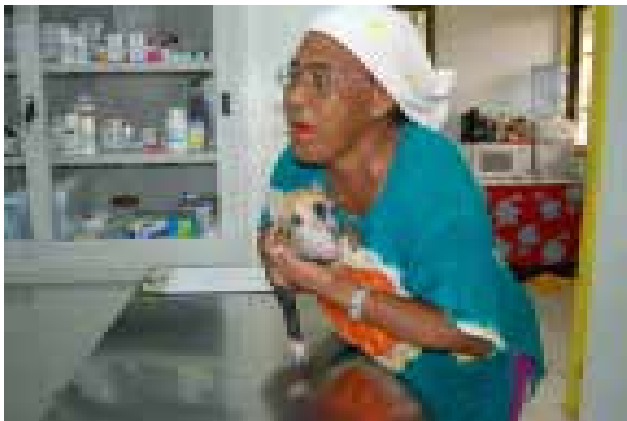
Junior vet life is pretty nice and all the diseases look the same, unfortunately! I think this is everybody's impression, but time passes and we get more experience and knowledge, so we become more confident and sometimes too confident of our knowledge! Just sometimes!

My experience in Cyprus was very good and useful from all points of view. I learned a lot doing horse, donkey, dog and cat field medicine, all rescued animals, in different body conditions and some of them abused by humans.

I also learned how to deal with humans in different situations and that sometimes you have to be like an acrobat on a wire having a tendency to fall, needing to gather all your strength and courage to handle the difficult time! As my grandma was always saying; what doesn't kill you, makes you stronger. I could also add to that: makes you stronger because you get scars!!!

While I was in Cyprus, surfing on the Internet I found an interesting job in a quite unknown place, Republic of Palau, Oceania, actually known for world class diving, and the famous Battle of Peleliu in World War II between the

Veterinary Clinic at Palau



Americans and Japanese, one of the fiercest and bloodiest in the Pacific. So just following my instinct, which was pretty much in contradiction with the instincts of my parents and friends, I left Cyprus and came to Palau.

Palau is a small corner of Paradise with a population of about 20,000 people. Famous for its rock islands, a pristine coral reef surrounding small limestone islands with unexpected natural beaches that you can find around every corner, under and above the sea caves and a multitude of sea creatures, all waiting to be discovered by me in my sailboat,

cruising slowly, through this labyrinth paradise.

As a vet, the only one working with terrestrial animals in Palau I have had to concentrate on a daily basis on small animal medicine, treatment and surgery, some of it pretty difficult and also interesting like orthopaedics, and some just basic surgeries like spays and neuters, that make life comfortable and boring! The other vet in Palau comes from Japan and is working with bottlenose dolphins at the local Dolphin Park. This is also a very interesting field of veterinary medicine and I could say even more challenging

than mine, bottlenose dolphin medicine being not much researched and documented.

Every once in a while I get to treat horses, cows and pigs from the local farms, turtles coming from the Turtle Conservation Project, exotic birds and fruit-bats, kept as pets and even Macaque monkeys, which are brought from Angaur Island, a small island that had monkeys introduced by Germans, 100 years ago and that now are completely wild. People bring the monkey babies to the other islands of Palau and keep them as pets.

A project of Palau government will be sterilisation of all the pet Macaques and possible eradication of the wild ones that are reducing the bird population and destroying crops.

Another planned project is the building up of an animal disease laboratory, in collaboration with SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community), a project that has as a main goal testing for avian influenza and in the long term, extended animal disease study and surveillance.

One of the most interesting and unusual medical cases I have had in Palau was a fruit bat that was kept as a pet and that had a humeral fracture. Even at the beginning I had no idea about fruit bat medication and treatments, but with a little bit of research and the blessed inhalatory isofluorane anesthesia, I was able to get the fruit bat anaesthetized and pin the bone with a surgical wire and then crazy glue together the wing membrane where I had to make a small incision so I could insert the pin. It was a success!

The veterinary project in Palau is new and the only one in Micronesia, having involved a state government, Koror State Government that has the facility, the veterinarian and the staff, a local NGO, the Palau Animal Welfare Society, that gets all the medication and the equipment for the clinic. It also provides technical support for grant writing, animal welfare campaigns, liaison with all foreign agencies, involved in the veterinary projects in Palau. The Ministry of Health and Bureau of Agriculture are also close collaborators having as their goal human health through animal health.

Recently I was approached by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association which kindly invited me to the CVA Pacific Veterinary Workshop to be held in Samoa in November 2008. I am very grateful and I am really looking forward to attending the Conference and exchanging views and experiences with nearly all Pacific Island vets and acquiring new knowledge.

Thank you to CVA and the sponsorship of CTA of the EU for this opportunity.

Angiomatous lesions in the skin of dogs in Grenada, West Indies*

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This paper summarises part of a wider, retrospective, study of cutaneous tumours in dogs that were referred to the School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University, Grenada over a six year period. In a series of over 160 cases, more than 15% proved to be tumours of vascular origin, the highest among all tumours in frequency. The clinical presentation ranged from small, often multiple, foci to large, discrete, usually ulcerated masses. Histologically, the lesions could be classified into three main groups; angiomatosis, hemangiomas and hemangiosarcomas. The main sites involved were the trunk and the limbs. Other sites were the head, the prepuce and the scrotum. The majority of affected dogs were local mixed breeds ('Grenadian pothound') with short hair coats. Males and females were equally represented but, in general, the angiomatous

lesions and hemangiomas were found in a younger age group than the hemangiosarcomas. Our hypothesis is that the prevalence of vascular tumours in dogs in Grenada is related to a combination of genetic predisposition and sun exposure.

Key words: Angiomatous lesions, Age, Breed, Grenada.

Background

In dogs, skin tumors of vascular origin are frequently reported. These tumors can be broadly grouped into the following morphologic types: angiomatosis; hemangiomas and hemangiosarcomas. Angiomatosis is further characterized into progressive angiomatosis, scrotal- type

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hamartoma and angiomas secondary to lymphedema (Affolter, 2004). Subtypes of cutaneous hemangioma include cavernous, capillary, granulation tissue type, arteriovenous, spindle cell, solar induced and angiokeratoma whereas hemangiosarcoma can be subdivided into solar induced, anaplastic and epithelioid (Gross et al., 2005). Further, it has been reported that some cases of angiomas lesions, especially hemangiomas and hemangiosarcomas, could be related to solar radiation (Hargis et al., 1992, Scott et al., 1995 and Pandey et al., 1983) whereas other lesions could be due to genetic predisposition (Vikkula et al., 2007).

Several surveys on the prevalence of hemangiosarcoma and hemangioma of the skin of dogs have been undertaken worldwide and some studies on angiomas have been done in the USA (Affolter et al., 2004 and Kim et al., 2005).

This study was intended to evaluate the occurrence of vascular tumours in the skin of dogs in Grenada.

Investigation

Samples were a subset of cutaneous tumors examined over a 6 year period. Criteria for inclusion were skin masses diagnosed histopathologically as tumours. Cases were derived from an archive of specimens submitted to the diagnostic service of Veterinary Pathology at St. George's University by the veterinary teaching hospital and veterinarians in private practice. All tissues had been fixed in 10% formalin, embedded in paraffin wax, sectioned and stained with hematoxylin and eosin.

Findings

From a series of 167 canine cutaneous tumours, 36 [21.5%] proved to be tumors of vascular origin, highest among all tumours in frequency. They were followed by mast cell tumors (5.4%) and cutaneous histiocytomas (5.3%). Vascular tumors ranged from small (often multiple) to large discrete, usually ulcerated, cutaneous masses. Main sites involved were trunk and limbs. Other sites were head, prepuce and scrotum. Angiomas and cutaneous hemangiomas were more common in a younger age group (mean 7.8 yrs, range 3 yrs - 13 yrs) whereas cutaneous hemangiosarcomas occurred in older dogs (mean 8.8 yrs, range 5 yrs - 13 yrs). There was no significant difference between males and females affected.

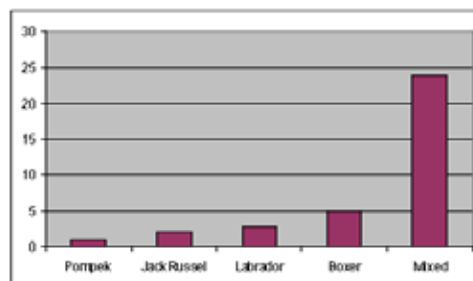
Breeds

Five breeds were represented. Mixed breed (Grenadian pothound) was by far affected by tumors of vascular origin.

The graph below gives a summary of the types of breeds and frequency (Fig. 1).

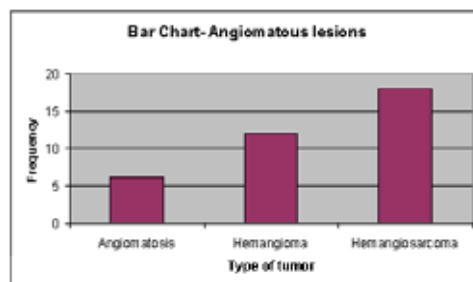
Types of tumors

Cutaneous hemangiosarcoma was more common



than the rest of vascular tumors. Frequency and types of angiomas lesions are as shown in the bar chart below (Fig. 2).

Angiomas



Progressive angiomas affected the limb, abdomen and prepuce. The lesion was circumscribed, non infiltrative, dermal and subcutaneous. It was characterized by variably sized vascular structures lined by flat endothelial cells. Thrombosis in some vascular structures and endothelial hyperplasia into the vascular lumen were observed in some cases.

Scrotal-type vascular hamartoma affected the scrotum, ventral abdomen and preputial skin and was a non infiltrative, nodular, dermal mass. The histologic features were large thick-walled irregular vascular channels at the centre with numerous small vascular structures surrounding the larger channels.

Cutaneous hemangioma

Sites commonly affected were, limbs, trunk and prepuce, constituting 3 each. Other sites were head and tail. The lesions well circumscribed and non infiltrative and

were both dermal and subcutaneous in location. Histologic features ranged from tightly packed, fully enclosed, large (cavernous) vascular structures to small vascular channels lined by normal endothelial cells.

Cutaneous hemangiosarcoma

The major site was the ventral abdomen (10). Other sites were preputial skin, limbs, scrotum and head. It was histologically characterized by plump endothelial cells with hyperchromatic nuclei having a tendency to form vascular channels. In a few cases there were associated histologic features of mild solar elastosis (2 cases) and mild to moderate fibrosis and collagen degeneration in the superficial dermis, which was interpreted as being solar induced. The lesion was mainly infiltrative and dermal in location.

Conclusions

Angiomatous lesions constituted more than 1/5 of cutaneous tumours (21.5%) in dogs in Grenada. Among these, hemangiosarcoma was the highest in frequency. Similarly, cutaneous hemangiosarcoma has been reported to be higher in prevalence than cutaneous hemangioma in Zimbabwe (Mukaratirwa et al., 2005), Australia (Rothwell et al., 1987) and Greece (Kardrymidou, 2002). However, other surveys in the USA state that cutaneous hemangioma is more common than cutaneous hemangiosarcoma (Scott et al., 1995 and Hargis et al., 1992).

It has long been recognized that solar radiation is a predisposing factor for skin tumors in general (Pandey et al., 1983) and it has been suggested that this includes hemangiomas and hemangiosarcomas in dogs (Hargis et al., 1992). In this survey some of the cases could be solar induced especially those of hemangiosarcoma which were mostly located on the ventral abdomen and associated with mild fibrosis, degenerative changes in the collagen and occasional solar elastosis. However, genetic factors should also be considered as there are some inherited forms of angiomas in other species which have been documented (e.g. humans: Vikkula, 2007). In addition, literature on scrotal hamartoma suggests certain breed predisposition (Gross et al, 2005). In this study the Grenadian pothound is affected predominantly. Although this is the main breed in the dog population in Grenada it is possible that pothounds are more susceptible to angiomatous lesions. Equally, it may be that they are less susceptible to other types of tumours; the prevalence of mast cell tumours and histiocytomas in this series was lower than expected and lower than reported in series elsewhere. Further research is needed in this area.

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International News

29th World Veterinary Congress

The 29th World Veterinary Congress was held at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from 27-31 July 2008. The theme of the Congress was “**Celebrate our Diversity**”. The Congress was jointly organised by the World Veterinary Association and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and supported by Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Over 3500 delegates attended the conference.

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association was represented by Dr. Keith Campbell, Regional Representative, Canada/Caribbean Region, Olatunji Nasir, Regional Representative, West Africa and Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Secretary, Commonwealth Veterinary Association. Presidents of British Veterinary Association Mrs Nicky Paull, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Dr Diane Frank and Australian Veterinary Association Dr Mark Lawrie also participated in the conference.

The scientific programme had sessions relevant for a cross-section of the veterinary profession.

Dr. Tjeerd Jorna of The Netherlands was elected as the new President of the WVA. He replaces Dr. Leon Russel of USA.



Migratory birds pre-entry alerts Myanmar against bird flu

The pre-entry of migratory wild birds into Myanmar territory two months ahead of winter has alerted the country to take preventive measures against probable recurrence of bird flu.

The migratory birds have started to fly in the Inlay Lake region, southern part of Shan state, over the past week and by December when the cold season fully sets in, there would be large gathering of such birds in Myanmar territory that constitutes threat of spreading the disease.

~ Xinhua News Services

Australian Animal Welfare Strategy International Animal Welfare Conference

Australian Animal Welfare Strategy 2008 International Animal Welfare Conference was held from 31st August - 3rd September 2008 at Gold Coast, Australia. The theme of the Conference was the “**Welfare of Animals - It's Everyone's Business**”. The AAWS vision is that the welfare of all animals in Australia is promoted and protected by the development and adoption of sound animal welfare standards and practices. The Australian Government has committed \$6 million over four years to assist in the development and implementation of the strategy. The conference attracted a diverse range of stakeholders covering all aspects and interests in animal welfare.

15th Congress of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations

The 15th Congress of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations was held from 27-29 October 2008 at Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of the conference was “**Food Safety: Veterinary Roles for the World Kitchen**”. Professor Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn presided over the Opening Ceremony. 238 scientific papers were submitted from scientists in the Asian region and other countries, 33 had orally presented in the Congress and 175 as poster presentation. Additional 34 special lectures were given by invited world specialists who have major achievements and years of experience. The symposium of The World Organization for Animal Health focused on emerging diseases and surveillance of avian influenza in the region.

2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare

The Second OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare “**Putting the OIE Standards to Work**” was held from 20-22 October 2008 at Cairo, Egypt.

More than 500 delegates from all over the world attended the conference. The President of OIE International Committee Dr. Barry O'Neil gave the opening address, which is presented on Page 33.

Opening Address to the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare Cairo, Egypt, 20-22 October 2008

Barry O'Neil

President of the OIE International Committee

Honourable Minister, Presidents of OIE Regional Commissions, Director General of the OIE, delegates and Members of OIE, colleagues and friends, ladies and gentlemen.

It's a real pleasure for me to be with you today at the 2nd OIE Global conference on Animal welfare. I must begin by thanking the Egyptian government and the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation for their support in hosting this conference, and to everyone involved in organising and financially supporting this conference. I believe it will be an excellent conference with both challenging topics and quality speakers, and am very pleased to see the support that we have got from participants.

I acknowledge that putting OIE standards to work is not the easiest goal for a number of OIE members due to the realities of their domestic situations, but I have always seen animal welfare standard implementation as a journey, with developed countries already well advanced in the journey, and developing countries often just beginning, but what is important is that we are all on the same journey, and I believe we must do what we can to support each other for the direction we have embarked on.

I therefore see this conference, as being an absolute key event to both support and give guidance to all OIE members as to what we can be doing better, along with being able to learn from each other as to how we can find ways to improve our domestic situations. And I believe absolutely that no matter whether we are a developed or developing country we can always improve our animal welfare situations and outcomes, and this should be our ongoing commitment.

The OIE is committed to working with you to improve animal welfare situations for animals and animal populations. Our animal welfare aims are that animals will be held and maintained in a good state of welfare, that their comfort and nourishment will be provided for, that they will be kept safe and in a disease free environment, that they won't suffer from unnecessary pain fear or distress, and that they are able to express innate behaviour.

The OIE however at the same time also recognises that animals are a critical part of our society, whether that

be as companion, draught or production animals. We do not accept that animals should not be farmed or used for legitimate human needs, but rather we want to work with our members to improve the welfare state that animals are exposed to in their lifetime.

In my presentation I would like to focus on what I think are two essential components for achieving good animal welfare outcomes in the World and within our countries, and then look at some of the challenges that we are faced with and some possible options to address these challenges. And I hope my presentation will stimulate some valuable discussion this week.

So let me start with the two essential components for good animal welfare outcomes that I think are critical if we are going to improve animal welfare in our countries and support the well being of our animal populations. These are leadership and partnership.

Without strong and effective leadership we won't advance and improve animal welfare situations domestically or internationally, and there are a number of core groups that need to be involved, and that they demonstrate the leadership required of them.

I believe the veterinary profession has an absolutely key leadership role in achieving good animal welfare situations, and I'm pleased to see in most countries around the world this has happened with effective national leadership being shown by the veterinary services ensuring good animal welfare policies are in place, along with the engagement of veterinary practitioners and others with their implementation.

The relationship between good animal welfare and animal health is well known and to have healthy animals we must provide for their welfare, and to have good animal welfare situations we must protect animals from diseases. As a profession where ever we strive to achieve good animal health outcomes we are also providing for improved welfare situations, which is a key component of our work.

There is a need for strong and effective international leadership, leadership that I believe the OIE has shown since animal welfare was formally introduced into our 3rd strategic

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

plan. Obviously with 172 members it is always going to be challenging in setting standards that all countries can agree to and apply, but I must acknowledge the commitment of OIE members in firstly unanimously agreeing to animal welfare being given greater priority in the workings of the OIE, and since then agreeing to the adoption of the standards that are now in place.

And within OIE I recognise my colleague Dr David Bayvel also from New Zealand, who is the President of our Animal Welfare working group and who along with the other members of the OIE animal welfare working groups and ad hoc groups have made excellent contributions to advancing our knowledge and thinking in this area.

When working at the international level with 172 members it is essential that standards are outcome based, which then requires OIE members to be committed to their application by looking at how they can be specifically implemented in their often unique national situations. Outcome based animal welfare standards however must not be used as a way of avoiding good animal welfare outcomes in our countries by not dealing with the real or hard issues that are involved, but rather they enable us to work with the various parties involved at the National level to achieve realistic and yet improved animal welfare situations for our animal populations.

I would also like to acknowledge what I believe is an important leadership role that the OIE Regional Commissions and Regional Representatives need to play in achieving improved animal welfare situations for our members. I'm very pleased to see the work that has been done in the Middle East in developing model legislation for members in the region, and in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania Region in developing a regional animal welfare strategy and working on its implementation.

Thought leadership in animal welfare is of course another important area, and I recognise the intellectual and scientific contribution that people such as Donald Broome or Ruth Harrison have made to this area, and how as a result they have advanced animal welfare situations. Science must be the foundation of good animal welfare standards and it's essential that we support science institutes so that we can get the answers to questions that policy makers and regulators need in order to set sound standards.

And the relationship and collaboration between animal welfare scientific institutes is important to ensure we are utilising the expertise from around the world in this endeavour. I've been very pleased to see an increase in OIE collaborating centres wanting to working in animal

welfare education, research and in answering questions for the establishment of science based standards. We now have institutes in Italy and New Zealand, and shortly we hope we will also have in Australia, Chile and Uruguay.

The second essential element for good animal welfare outcomes is Partnerships, as we can not achieve good animal welfare working in isolation, and in fact the opposite is true and working in isolation usually inflames and polarises the debate as to what is good animal welfare.

An effective partnership must exist between the national veterinary service, that involves both government and private veterinarians, along with research and scientific and bodies, and of course with farmers and farming sector organisations.

NGO welfare groups that are committed to supporting and achieving good animal welfare outcomes should also be involved where this is possible and desirable. In my own country we have developed an excellent partnership with our SPCA, and we work closely together in ensuring good animal welfare outcomes, with SPCA personal being warranted inspectors under our animal welfare act.

The OIE is committed to working closely with both industry and welfare NGO bodies, along with the research community and the veterinary profession to achieve good animal welfare objectives. I would like to thank all those that have been involved in OIE activities to date, many of who are with us this week, but I would especially like to recognise the commitment of WSPA along with the industry NGO groups IMS, IFAP, IEC and IDF that have all made a positive contribution and commitment in working with us to achieve a better reality for animals in the world.

Now let me now move to what I see as some of the challenges in the area of animal welfare. And unfortunately there are many, but providing we have established the right foundations with effective leadership and partnerships that I have mentioned then we will be able to make progress on our journey.

Domestic compliance with animal welfare standards is in my opinion the greatest challenge that faces us all, irrespective of what the stage of development of our countries. And the question that we are asking more often than others, which is also the major focus of this conference is how can we ensure better animal welfare compliance by animal owners, whether that be small scale livestock holders, or large corporate farmers and industry sectors.

I do believe that the majority of people in our society willingly will comply with animal welfare standards,

providing we can make compliance achievable by them, which means we can't make it so difficult that most won't be able to comply, and which also requires that they have understood and can accept why we want to achieve these goals.

And while for better compliance not only do we have to have the good policy and legislation along with the ability to investigate and take enforcement action if necessary, we must also commit to education and raising awareness. Having people voluntarily comply is always the way we can have the best outcome, so we need to be thinking about what we can be doing more to get the understanding and therefore acceptance that we need in order to succeed.

We will fail if we make compliance impossible or too complicated for farmers to achieve or if we don't have a real understanding by our animal owners of why good animal welfare standards are important. Obviously it goes without saying that countries that are not able to provide for human wellbeing won't be able to achieve good animal welfare situations. But that doesn't mean there needs to be a total disregard for animal welfare, and while lower levels are in place maybe to what some others have achieved, it is still part of the journey that we have all embarked upon.

I believe our approach should be a commitment to continual improvement of the animal welfare situation of our animal populations, no matter where on the animal welfare compliance continuum we respectively are. We should always be looking to the future of achieving a measurable improvement from what our current situation is, and working collectively with the key groups involved to achieve this.

Animal welfare without doubt has to be the most challenging public policy issue that policy makers and regulators are faced with as it involves the most complex of ethical beliefs and value sets all coming together hopefully within a sound scientific foundation, but with cultural, traditional, societal, religious, and economic dimensions. And while we must respect traditions, they should not be used as a reason to accept animal suffering.

Equally challenging is that in this complexity we cannot default to the too hard basket and not deliver good policy and regulatory outcomes as most importantly we are wanting to improve the welfare situations of our animals and animal populations.

As a result of this complexity the danger is that we continue to allow practices that do not promote good animal welfare situations and end up delaying decisions that can and possible should be taken.

I will use an example, that is not doubt very contentious, but the reality as we all know is that it could be one of many examples. The example is why do we allow animals to be transported by truck or rail thousands of kilometres for slaughter, if they are going to pass many abattoirs that are able to handle them, to be delivered a remote slaughter house from where the animals originated from, and especially when animals from the area they end up in are often transported to a remote slaughterhouse as well?

While such an approach may work well from an economic perspective it is definitely not good from an animal welfare, food quality and even from a food safety perspective, so why does it continue?

I realise this examples gets us into very real political and economic realities of in this case keeping slaughter houses viable, and we have ended up managed the welfare issues as best we can by laying down maximum times that animals can be transported before being rested, feed and watered, but the question I suggest we need to be challenging ourselves with is whether this approach really sustainable longer term?

Other contentious areas could have been my example, and we do need to be engaging on areas that we see a need to address, such as interacting and working with religious and social groups to try in some cases to improve the situation of animals slaughtered for religious or social needs, or working with laboratory animal uses to ensure we are implementing the 3R's (reduction, replacement and refinement) for animals being used in research, science and testing. Reducing the need to use animals in our laboratories for diagnostics and testing relating to the safety of products is a goal that we can do much more about, and already in-vitro laboratory diagnostic and test methods are available and can be used in the place of animals, but often our regulatory approval systems for biological products haven't always been changed to recognise these non animal alternatives.

However this change should be easily achievable, so I encourage all policy makers to ensure their regulations don't force laboratories to use animals when non animal options are available.

Another challenge that I think we have is I hear too often in my travels comments from especially exporting countries that they need good animal welfare situations so that the affluent consumers in the world or the regulators in Europe won't exclude them from their markets. And I've seen an increase in the number of private standards being developed in the world, along with a number of food supply companies that have laid down minimum animal welfare standards that their suppliers must achieve, without ensuring a scientific

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basis or a democratic process for their adoption.

Unfortunately I'm left feeling these approaches have lost the point and we shouldn't be thinking of good animal welfare standards from the driving perspective that our markets might demand it, or that by doing so we might achieve a greater market share for our products compared to our competitors. Rather we should be grounded on wanting to achieve good animal welfare standards because our animals deserve it, and we as their keepers have the responsibility to provide it, and these other drivers are secondary to what we ourselves want to see occur in our own countries.

I assume with the economic crisis impacting on all countries of the world the reality will be decreasing equity of our producers along with lowering commodity prices, so that many farmers are going to be under real pressure over the short to medium term until the world economy recovers, to be able to provide for the animals in their care sufficiently, if they are to maintain their farming unit. Without doubt a challenge to all of us is what are we going to do about this situation in a rapidly changing world?

My suggestion is that we don't wait for the inevitable to happen, but rather work together to identify where the pressures will come, and what can therefore be done to minimise the suffering of our animals in this scenario. We must stop being the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff and hopefully focus our efforts on working together to be the nurse at the top.

As I mentioned earlier animal health and animal welfare are closely related, and an area that has challenged all of OIE members is the large scale slaughter and associated waste of animal protein that results from a serious disease outbreak and the stamping out approaches used for disease control and eradication. The OIE has been active in working with other groups on how we can achieve disease control without the need to slaughter large numbers of animals, and many new approaches are now available such as better prevention approaches from improved on farm biosecurity and compartmentalisation, or advanced vaccination options.

For these to work however, OIE members must accept and comply with the international standards that have been adopted that support these approaches, and not inflame the situation and potentially cause alarm for consumers by over reacting to a disease event in a trading partner, such as by imposing a total ban on imports of animal products from that country if this is not justified when appropriate international standards could have been followed.

And we must work harder to get our politicians, farmers

and consumers to accept that we do have new approaches for disease control in many situations that are safe and that don't require the mass slaughter of animals so that the protein from these animals can be processed and consumed safely.

I very much look forward the outcomes from the working group discussions identifying how we can put the OIE standards to work, including the identification of what additional standards, tools and research priorities are needed, so the OIE can ensure its resources and priorities are working to best address our members needs.

While the animal welfare journey that we have all embarked upon may in some cases be very long, we are committed to working with you and supporting you to the best of our ability along the way.

Once again I thank the Government of Egypt for enabling this 2nd global conference on animal welfare to be held here in Cairo, and look forward to working with you all over the course of the conference in agreeing how we can improve the situations that our animals and animal populations have in our respective countries.

Thank you

Barry O'Neil
President of the OIE International Committee

Commonwealth News



60th Anniversary of Modern Commonwealth

The 60th Anniversary of the London Declaration falls on 28 April 2009. The organisation has its roots in the 1870s, but in 1949, following the adoption of the London Declaration by Commonwealth Prime Ministers, the “British Commonwealth” came to an end and the modern Commonwealth of “freely and equally associated” states was born.

Various events are being planned by member countries to celebrate the 60th Anniversary.

New Chair appointment for the Commonwealth Foundation

Ms Simone de Comarmond, a former Minister and Secretary of State in the Republic of Seychelles, has been chosen as the new Chairperson of the Commonwealth Foundation, the intergovernmental body of the Commonwealth mandated to work with civil society organisations.

Ms de Comarmond was chosen by the Foundation’s Board of Governors by consensus at a specially convened meeting at Marlborough House on 2 October. She will begin her two-year term on 1 January 2009. Ms de Comarmond succeeds Professor Guido de Marco of Malta, who has been a distinguished Chair of the Foundation since 2004.

Ms de Comarmond was the Minister for Tourism and Transport in the Republic of the Seychelles from 1993 to 2003.

Maldives joins the Commonwealth Foundation

The Republic of Maldives has become the 47th member state of the Commonwealth Foundation.

Dr Mark Collins, Director of the Foundation said: “We are delighted to welcome Maldives into membership. This is good news for the Commonwealth and for Maldivian civil society. The benefits of being a member of the Foundation mean that people’s organisations in the Maldives can now benefit from grants and participate in initiatives in each of our four programme areas on culture, governance, human development and livelihoods. The Foundation will now be able to strengthen the work of civil society in Maldives and encourage partnerships with governments and others in addressing Commonwealth goals for development, democracy and cultural understanding.”

3rd Veterinary World Cup Cricket

The 3rd Veterinary World Cup Cricket will be held from 7-11 February 2011 in Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Do you dream to be like Jesse Ryder, plucked from obscurity and into the world cricketing limelight? Then the 2011 Veterinary World Cup Cricket is your chance to make your name.

The 2007 event was a huge social occasion with a bit of patriotic fervour forging lifelong friendships and cricketing memories never to be forgotten. It is New Zealand’s turn to host this event. We invite you to get a team together from your country or province for 2011 and join in on the massive social event to happen in Palmerston North.

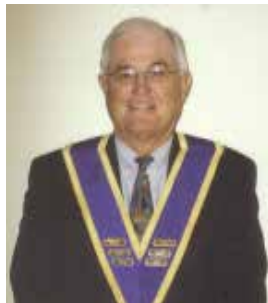
The inaugural Veterinary World Cup Cricket Tournament was held in the Republic of South Africa in 2003 attracting nine

local teams as well as a team from India. The second tournament was also held in RSA during 2007 and was supported by a team from New Zealand. The challenge is now for New Zealand to host a 3rd successful tournament and to attract teams from all cricket playing countries to make it truly an international event. The event is held every four years to coincide with the year of the ‘real’ World Cup Cricket Competition. It is designed to foster camaraderie within the profession and whilst ability is recognised and rewarded, the emphasis is on good fellowship and social interaction. The intention is to begin the week with a Veterinary Conference at the Massey University Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biomedical Sciences and will include a rest day allowing time for sightseeing, touring and other activities.

~ The Organising Committee
2011 Veterinary World Cup of Cricket
Tirau Veterinary Centre, Palmerston North, NZ

Dr Bert Stevenson, Former CVA President gets CVMA President's Award

Dr. Bert Stevenson, Former President and Programme Director of CVA was awarded the CVMA President's Award at its meeting in Vancouver in July 2008.



The CVMA President's Award is given from time to time to recognise an individual member for his/her exceptional contribution and devotion to the Association. Recipients are selected by the President and the CVMA Executive Committee.

Dr Bert Stevenson has had a long and distinguished career in veterinary medicine. After graduating from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1963, he continued on to graduate studies, obtaining his PhD from the University of Edinburgh. During his studies, Dr Stevenson worked as a veterinary pathologist at the world-renowned Moredun Research Institute. Upon his return to Canada, Dr Stevenson became a research scientist and then director at the Federal Government's Animal Pathology Laboratory in Sackville, New Brunswick. Dr Stevenson is a past-president of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association, and the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

For 23 years he has chaired the Organising Committee for the Maritime (now Atlantic) Provinces Veterinary Conference. In 1992, Dr Stevenson was recognised for his professional and community service with the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada. In 2004, Dr Stevenson was awarded Life Membership in the CVMA. Dr Stevenson continues to remain active in the profession and, along with his wife Marg, consistently demonstrates an enthusiastic and energetic approach to life.

First Award of David Banks Memorial Prize

Following a tragic air crash on 7th May, 2005, which took the life Dr David Banks, the senior veterinarian in Animal Biosecurity in Australia, and an outstanding CVA member and Councillor, the CVA instituted this prize to honour his memory. It was funded by a public subscription campaign arranged by CVA after his death and to which many veterinarians and others in several countries contributed.



During his career, David Banks worked extensively in Papua New Guinea, Fiji and some other Pacific Island countries.

The prize seeks to give recognition to this region and is managed by the CVA Regional Representative (RR), for Australasia/Oceania, currently Dr Jeff Cave, and aims to identify the veterinarian who has given exemplary service to the veterinary profession in the Pacific Islands region. The award will be made each third year when the regional conference takes place.

At the recent regional conference in Samoa the first award was made to Dr Robin Yarrow of Fiji, Past President of CVA. At the presentation it was pointed out that the work of Dr Yarrow was so outstanding that he must be the first awardee of this prize.

A Sydney BVSc graduate, he has lived in Fiji nearly all his life. He returned to Fiji in 1969 just before Independence, to join the Ministry of Agriculture as a Veterinary Officer. He reached the position of Permanent Secretary for the Ministry [the first veterinarian to do so] and subsequently served as Secretary for Tourism, Foreign Affairs and National Planning, before retiring in 1999, after 30 years service, including a period as Fiji's Ambassador to Japan.

Dr Yarrow served on many Fiji government boards and received the Fiji Civil Service Medal in 1995. He was

presented with the Knight of the Order of Agricultural Merit by France in 2004 for services to the agricultural sector. He currently serves on the Boards of the Reserve Bank of Fiji and the National Trust of Fiji as well as on several NGOs and commercial Boards. He also chairs the Advisory Board of the Institute of Applied Sciences at the University of the South Pacific.

He has been keenly interested and involved in Pacific island regional affairs over many years and particularly admires the vital work of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community – the support which SPC has provided to CVA is especially valued and appreciated.

Robin has a special interest in Fiji's natural heritage/biodiversity and environment. And as a sideline he is also a keen sports fan with a passion for rugby football. He re-engaged with the veterinary profession in the year 2,000, after retirement from the Fiji Government.

He became involved with the CVA that year and was elected RR in 2001 and served as world CVA President

in 2004-07. During this period, he worked tirelessly to advance CVA and to help strengthen veterinary services in the Pacific Islands in particular. Although a very busy man, Dr Yarrow accepted the Chairmanship of the Round Table investigation into the inadequacy of veterinary services in the Pacific Region and is currently immersed in this work. He is indeed a guide and mentor to every veterinarian and allied professional in this region.

Dr Bill Pryor, in presenting the award in Samoa, said: "Those of us who knew David well feel certain that he would have approved this award to Robin Yarrow". Dr Yarrow, in receiving the prize, said that he was greatly honoured and the honour being heightened because of the fact that he had worked with David during his Fiji programme and greatly respected him.

Deadly New Virus Discovered

A new virus that causes fatal haemorrhagic fevers has been discovered in southern Africa. It killed four people in Africa and sickened a fifth, but health authorities believe the outbreak has been contained.

The virus is a member of the Arenavirus family, which also includes the causes of Lassa fever in West Africa and several South American fevers. While new viruses are often found in animals - a new blue-tongue virus was found in Swiss goats last month, for example - it is relatively rare to discover one fatal to humans, like the SARS coronavirus in 2002 or the sin nombre hantavirus in 1993.

How the first victim was infected is unknown, but Arenaviruses are common in rodents; their dried urine, inhaled while sweeping, can transmit infection.

Confirmation that it is a new virus was made by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases in South Africa and by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

The first victim was Cecilia Van Deventer, a safari tour booker in Lusaka, Zambia, who fell ill on September 2 and was airlifted to Johannesburg. She apparently infected Hannes Els, the paramedic who accompanied her, and Gladys Mthembu, a nurse tending her at the Morningside Medi-Clinic in a Johannesburg suburb.

The fourth to die was Maria Mokubung, who cleaned the room where Van Deventer died September 14. According to South African news reports, the last death was originally misdiagnosed because the victim had tuberculosis and meningitis and was haemorrhaging and confused when her family sought medical care.

A fifth victim, a nurse who cared for Els, was in critical condition but responded to early treatment with the antiviral drug Ribavirin.

The disease progresses from flu symptoms to diarrhoea and a measles-like rash and then to respiratory and circulatory collapse. The authorities said they knew of no new cases but would wait until 21 days from the last infection to declare the outbreak over.

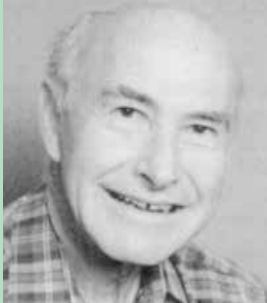
Disease detective work was difficult, South African news media said. Because Van Deventer feared needles, little blood was drawn from her in Zambia; also, her body was cremated before the alarm was raised. Tissue samples from later victims had to be taken carefully in a high-security laboratory that was under renovation and had to be reopened.

Arenaviruses are named for their round sandy granules; "arena" is Latin for sand. A name for the new virus is being debated.

~ Deccan Herald, 15 November 2008

Book & Journal Programme

The CVA Book Programme is coordinated from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph by Dr. Brian Derbyshire, assisted by Mr. Jim Brett, the College Librarian



Dr. J.B. Derbyshire

A depot is also maintained in Wodonga, Vic Australia by Dr. Jeff Cave, Regional Representative, Australia / Oceania

CONTACTS:

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E-mail: jderbysh@rogers.com

Dr. Jeff Cave, Reg. Rep. Australasia/Oceania, Department of Primary Industries, 1 McKoy Street Wodonga, Victoria 3689, Australia E-mail: jeff.cave@dpi.vic.gov.au



Dr. Jeff Cave

The CVA Book Programme is coordinated from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph by Dr. Brian Derbyshire, assisted by Mr. Jim Brett, the College Librarian, and by Dr. Jeff Cave in Australia. Books are donated by veterinarians in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, all of whom are thanked for their generosity, without which the programme would not exist. They are available for distribution free of charge to graduate veterinarians, but not veterinary students, in CVA member countries in good standing. Priority is given to requests from institutional libraries, such as veterinary schools and veterinary associations, and requests from individuals are met as funds permit. Postgraduate students are encouraged to submit their requests through the librarian at their institution, to ensure that the books will be widely available. Because of budgetary constraints and steeply rising mailing costs, the number of books which can be shipped is normally restricted to up to 30 titles for institutions, and up to 5 titles for individual veterinarians in any one year. Individual veterinarians are encouraged to share their books with colleagues in their area if possible.

Requests for books should indicate the required subject areas and/or preferred titles where possible, and they should include the mailing address to which the books should be sent. The latter should be abbreviated as much as possible in order that it may be accommodated in the limited space provided on the customs declaration. It is suggested that those wishing to submit a request should first obtain a copy of the current inventories of books available by contacting, preferably by e-mail, either Dr. Derbyshire or Dr. Cave (see above for contact information). Shipments are made by surface mail, and may take several months to reach their destination. The recipients are requested to acknowledge the

safe arrival of the books.

During the period January - December 2008, 54 books were sent from Guelph to 4 Commonwealth countries as follows: India (37 books), Nigeria (6 books), Trinidad and Tobago (6 books), and Uganda (5 books). From Australia, 74 books were sent to 6 countries as follows: Papua New Guinea (21 books), Samoa (21 books), South Africa (17 books), East Timor (7 books), Trinidad & Tobago (4 books) and Pakistan (4 books).

The current inventory at Guelph comprises over 500 titles, and the Australian depot, including a sub-depot in Western Australia holds close to 350 titles. Multiple copies of many titles are held. Most of the books were published during the last 20 years; older texts, for which more recent editions are available, are discarded each year. While most areas of veterinary medicine are covered, particularly by the Australian depot, the increasing emphasis on companion animal medicine and surgery in Canada has led to a preponderance of titles in these areas in the Guelph depot, and fewer titles in large animal medicine and surgery, and in public health. The stock of books at Guelph was recently replenished through the cooperation of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association by their generous collection of donated books at their annual conference.

January 2009

J.B. DERBYSHIRE
Coordinator
CVA Book Programme

CVA Study Fund

The Fund

This fund has been established by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) in conjunction with the Commonwealth Foundation to honour the contributions made by Mr. John Anderson and Dr. L.P.E. Choquette in establishing and promoting the activities of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

Financial support to match the funds contributed by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the several national and local veterinary associations throughout the Commonwealth may be provided by the Commonwealth Foundation.

1. Purpose

Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to:

1. Veterinarians who are members in good standing of their respective national associations to undertake short term study visits to schools, institutions or to undertake short term study courses in veterinary medicine, animal production or related areas in other Commonwealth countries.
2. Animal Health Assistants recommended by the appropriate CVA Council Member and Regional Representative, to undergo further short-term training at a school or institution in another Commonwealth country.

It is expected that such visits will promote professional and para-professional contacts and provide grantees with new knowledge and expertise in their respective fields of interest. Study proposals which will directly benefit the rural poor and disadvantaged will receive sympathetic consideration. All proposals will be expected to describe how they will benefit the home institution, veterinary organization and community. The visit is also expected to result in a broadening of cultural experience and horizons and to promote Commonwealth understanding.

2. Guidelines

1. Grants will be limited to persons with field experience and not holding senior positions.
2. The awards are not normally available for University academic or research staff.
3. Preference will be given to related regions with 'south-south' movements being encouraged. In exceptional cases, visits to institutions outside the regions qualifying under south-south arrangement will be considered as long as the cost of the visit does not exceed the allocated fund award (Aus \$ 3000). In exceptional circumstances and where approved by the President grantees may receive training in a non-Commonwealth country within that Region.
4. The study period should be preferably between 2-3 weeks.
5. Awards will normally be distributed equally amongst Regions, however, on occasion, the President may authorize additional awards to a particular Region in any one year.
6. The study visits will be financed at a maximum of Aus \$ 3000 including a prepaid air ticket for the least expensive and most direct route.

7. Grants are provided only for periods of concentrated study or training on a particular topic or activity and cannot be made for attendance at conferences, meetings etc., nor to underwrite a tour of visits to a number of institutions.
8. A report must be submitted to the Secretary CVA within three months of the completion of the study visit. At the completion of the study visit, the participant must receive a letter of release, which should clearly indicate duration of stay, and satisfactory completion of course. The letter should also confirm that at the time of departure, the participants have not left any debts unsettled. This requirement must be conveyed by the Regional Representative or Programme Director to the host institution before arrival of participant.
9. It will be necessary for the host institution to agree to assist in arranging suitable accommodation etc. affordable by the applicant.
10. Grantees will be expected to give one or two lectures at the host institution or veterinary association on aspects of animal health and production activities in their home country. These lectures should emphasize how their studies in the host country will benefit the rural poor and disadvantaged as well as their impact upon the environment.
11. These lectures and the discussions of topics, both professional and social, with the staff of the host institution or veterinary association will serve to further the aims and objectives of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

3. Applications

- i) There is a set Study Application Form/Application. Forms are available from the CVA Secretary, or through the CVA Website.
- ii) Applications should be submitted to the appropriate Regional Representative for processing, at least 6 months prior to the proposal visit.
- iii) The applicants should provide the following:
 - a) A complete curriculum vitae to the Regional Representative
 - b) Two passport size photographs
 - c) A letter of acceptance from the person who will supervise the study program in the host country
 - d) Evidence that the study has the support of his/her home institution or national association

4. Administration

- i) The Study Application Form with supporting documents must be sent to the appropriate Regional Representative
- ii) The Regional Representative will review the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary, CVA.
- iii) The Secretary, CVA will make a recommendation to the CVA President, who will make the final decision.
- iv) The Secretary, CVA will then inform the Regional Representative who will inform the candidate.

Last date of submission of request to Council Members/Reg. Rep. is 30th Oct. 2009. RRs to submit their recommendations before 30th Nov. 2009 to the Secretary, CVA.

Asia

Floods in the Indian Sub-Continent

In June and July, the states of Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh in India, and many districts in Nepal were subjected to severe floods due to unprecedented rains and all major rivers breaking their banks.

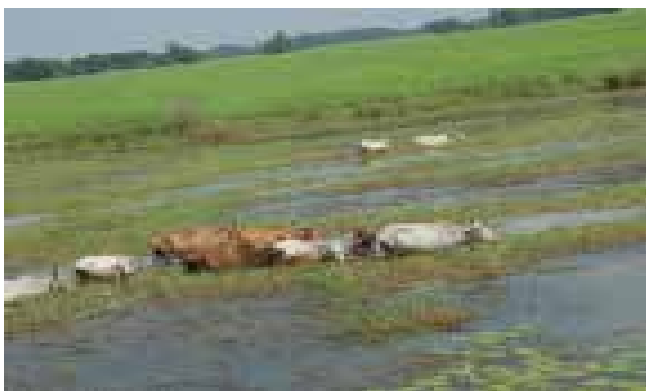
These states are highly disaster prone and every year they face either floods, cyclones or drought and some times twice a year. What affects most is the loss of human lives as well as of animals swept away by swirling waters. Since approach roads and railways tracks are washed off, there will be no signs of relief which worsens the situations post-flooding with starvation, ill-health due to disease outbreaks and ultimate death. Over 2.5 million people were marooned in six districts of Bihar state alone, and millions of animals either dead or diseased. The river Kosi runs from the plains of Nepal to Kursela in Bihar where it joins the Ganges. This river has shifted its coast from east to west by over 120 kms during the last 250 years and continues to drift.

The situation in the neighbouring state of Orissa is no

different with millions of animals being affected. Animal Welfare Organisations with the help of World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), London have undertaken relief operations by way of emergency feeding, health care, vaccination, etc.

Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar also caused severe loss of human lives and livestock and rescue teams from India with WSPA have undertaken massive relief operations under the direction of Dr. Ian Decre, Disaster Programme Manager, WSPA.

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association has contributed aid in the form of providing medicines, fodder, etc. to the tune of US\$ 1000. This has been channelled through the State Veterinary Associations of Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.



Animals stranded in water



Animals being brought to the Relief Camps

Fodder being supplied to the stranded animals

Treatment of animals at the Relief Camps



CVA Regional News

New CVA Councillor for Sri Lanka

At the General Body Meeting of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association held in May 2008. Prof. BMAO Perera was elected as the President of SLVA as well as the new Councillor of CVA from Sri Lanka. The following is the Executive Committee of SLVA.

Prof. B.M.A.O. Perera	President
Dr. Athula Mahagama	President Elect
Dr. U.S. Bandara	Vice President
Dr. D.R.T.G. Ratnayake	Vice President
Dr. Basil Alexander	Secretary
Dr. Dammika Perera	Asst. Secretary
Dr. Jagath Jayasekara	Asst. Secretary
Dr. Nayana Wijayawardhane	Treasurer
Dr. M.A. Roshan Priyantha	Asst. Treasurer
Dr. K.D. Ariyapala	Ex-Co Member
Dr. Hemali Kothalawala	Ex-Co Member
Dr. S.S.P. Silva	Ex-Co Member
Dr. N. Priyankarage	Ex-Co Member
Dr. Ushan Pallegama	Ex-Co Member
Dr. Vipula Dharmawardana	Ex-Co Member
Dr. H.M.A. Chandrasoma	Ex Officio

Dr. T.P. Wijayathilaka Ex Officio
 Prof. R. Sivakanesan Ex Officio

First Announcement

The 7th Annual Scientific Conference of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU), Chittagong, Bangladesh will be held during 17-19 March 2009. The theme of the conference will be **“Food Security and Food Safety: Towards a One Health Bangladesh”**.

Pakistan declares itself free from Avian Influenza

Pakistan has informed the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) that there has been no outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) since June 2008 and has declared itself free of HPAI with effect from September 22, 2008.

Nepal Kosi Flood Rescue

Nepal Veterinary Association (NVA) conducted Emergency Animal Health and Vaccination Camps in the flood affected areas with the support of pharmaceutical and

feed companies. The camps lasted for 15 days at the bank of Kosi river. Six thousand cattles and buffaloes were treated.



Animal camp at the border of the river



Dead animal on the river bank

Animal Welfare in Pakistan

Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animal (SPCA) Pakistan and University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Lahore (UVAS) jointly organized a photographic exhibition on cruelty to animals by humans at the new library hall of UVAS from 28th to 30th October 2008. Students from the university along with other veterinarians participated in the exhibition.



Mr Shah Jahan Khan Secretary Livestock and Dairy Development Department (L&DD), Government of Punjab speaking on the occasion, called for creating awareness about animal rights and sought suggestions to amend and improve the laws to prevent cruelty to animals. He deplored that animals were given less food and water and subjected to cruelty in the society. He stressed that animals used for research or experimentations should be handled with extra care.



Inaugural Session

L-R: Dr. Muhammad Nawaz, Vice Chancellor; Mr. Shahjahn Khan, Secretary L&DD and Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Honorary Secretary

Honorary Secretary of SPCA Dr. Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry spoke about the setup and foundation of the SPCA. He informed that the society came into being in 1890 and since then has been working for the welfare of animals.



Dr Muhammad Nawaz, Vice Chancellor in his address assured his full cooperation and continuous support to the society. Dr. Anwaar, Veterinary Officer, SPCA delivered his vote of thanks to the participants and especially to Dr. AA Ramzee, Regional Representative (Asia) Commonwealth Veterinary Association and Madam Faryal Gohar a renowned TV actress and animal lover for their moral and financial support for this function.

The concluding ceremony was held on 30th October. Dr. Aneela Durrani, Assistant Professor of Medicine, welcomed the chief Guest Madam Faryal Gohar who distributed the prizes to the winners of the competition.

Separate Federal Ministry of Livestock in Pakistan

With the expansion in the federal cabinet in Pakistan, a separate Ministry of Livestock was created and a minister appointed for the first time in the history of Pakistan. It had been a long pending demand of the veterinary profession in Pakistan to have a separate Ministry.

□

Australasia Oceania

13th CVA Australasia / Oceania Regional Conference

17 - 21 November 2008, Apia, Samoa

What was the largest ever Pacific island regional conference on livestock health, production and welfare took place at the University of the South Pacific (USP) Alafua Campus in Samoa during the week of the 17 - 21 of November 2008.

The conference, which was organised by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association in conjunction with the Samoa Veterinary Association and Ministry of Agriculture, was attended by over 100 veterinarians/paraveterinarians from across the Pacific island region and beyond. It was the first such Conference to be staged by the CVA in a Polynesian state as previous events have been held in Melanesia, the last being in Lae, PNG in 2004.



The Conference theme was “**Protection, Production and Progress in the Pacific**”. The iconic indigenous Samoan Tooth-Billed pigeon, the ‘manumea,’ was the symbol of the event. The Conference was opened by the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Susuga Tuila’epa Lupesoli’ai Sa’ilele Malielegaoi, after a traditional blessing by the Rev. Fepia Kolia. Dr Jimmie Rodgers, the Director

General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), gave the keynote address. A number of very relevant issues and challenges were addressed. These included emerging diseases such as Avian Influenza, border biosecurity, livestock production, food security and safety, animal welfare, veterinary education and even wildlife. In fact, the Prime Minister is a livestock farmer and expressed special interest in the event.

The CVA worked closely with its principal partner and sponsor in the Pacific region, SPC as well as with USP in staging this important gathering. Other partners/sponsors included Norbrook, the CVA’s principal sponsor, IFAW and WSPA (both animal welfare organisations), as well as AusAID, NZAID, CTA, FAO, Pacificvet (NZ), the Samoan government, and a number of commercial Samoan sponsors.

Livestock have had a long history of over 4,000 years in the Pacific islands and are important for food as well as culturally. More recently, animals are becoming of increasing value for many other reasons, including companionship, security and tourism. The recent increases in fuel and imported food costs, coupled with growing threats and risks of disease introduction as well as the challenges of climate change, made this event most timely.

The conference brought together experts from all over the world including the Caribbean and Canada to share



knowledge, best practice and experiences. Some 37 speakers presented scientific papers. The opportunity which the gathering provided to often scattered and isolated animal health and production workers to learn, exchange and network on many issues of concern, was a major one. Pacific island states from both sides of the equator participated including even very remote atolls such as Tokelau, which was one of seven states/territories not members of the CVA. A number of corporate organisations involved in livestock production also participated as did several animal welfare entities. Participants also traveled from Australia, New



Apia Harbour from Aggie Greys



Conference "Fale"

Zealand, East Timor, Malaysia and Singapore.

The presentations were given in a large fale [traditional Samoan house] on the Alafua campus, with a background of the forest-covered mountains of Upolu Island, giving participants the experience of the atmosphere of a traditional Polynesian meeting.

Representatives of CVA member countries from the Australasia /Oceania also met separately to discuss the CVA's governance and strategies for the region. A further related meeting took place, under IFAW sponsorship, on the important subject of professional animal health and veterinary capacity needs in the region, both currently and in the future.

In addition to receiving technical presentations, conference participants visited livestock development

projects in Samoa on both main islands, Upolu and Savaii, where they observed practical examples of livestock production systems, including that of the tropical meat sheep which has been recently developed in Fiji. In addition, they were given the opportunity to experience Samoan culture and hospitality during a visit to a village on Savaii.

Considerable media interest was created and all in all, it was a most successful Conference thanks to the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Samoa and the hard work of the organisers and numerous Samoan helpers.

~ **Jeff Cave**
RR, Australasia/Oceania



Conference Delegates in the "Fale"



Dr. Robin Yarrow and Dr Sina Moala, CVA Councillor, Samoa



Dr WJ Pryor and Ann Pryor with Miss Samoa



Dr. Jeff Cave and Dr. Siosifa Fifita



Conference Delegates at "Fale"



Dr. Robin Yarrow



Dr. Sina Moala

Prime Minister's Remarks for the Opening of the 13th CVA Australasia/Oceania Regional Meeting and Workshop

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2008 is not a year that would be fondly remembered. The world is presently in the grip of an unprecedented financial crisis with major economies dropping into recession. Earlier in the year, the energy and food crises triggered huge price increases that left many regional countries badly battered and our small island economies even more vulnerable.

Against this backdrop, there is an unavoidable sense of urgency in the important work of the Australasia/Oceania Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) and the objectives of your workshop here in Apia.

Our region has a long tradition in livestock both as an important food source and as a measure of wealth in many of our cultures. Here in Samoa, even to this day, a high formal traditional presentation must be done with a prepared very large pig or cattle! Livestock in this sense still remains a cultural store of value and which now also easily made the transition to becoming a commodity of real wealth in the modern money economy.

The challenge, as very well perceived by your Association is ensuring healthy populations and increasing production to higher sustainable levels. I am informed that the Pacific is still relatively free from many of the deadly infectious animal diseases, a good percentage of which can also infect humans. However, with the high mobility of goods moving all over the world and across borders, the inescapable fact is that the risk of the introduction of diseases into the region and between our countries has greatly multiplied. The vital task is therefore the protection of our region from new diseases and the control and eradication of existing ones to enable healthy and higher livestock production for human use and consumption.

All of our island countries work to achieve the objectives of good animal health and optimal production levels with varying degrees of success, but it would be fair to say that for most, it is a hard struggle.

In Samoa's case, our livestock production is not sufficient to meet our local demand. We continue to look for ways to improve the quality of our pastures and experiment with feed supplements to improve nutrition and weight gain for our animals.

Efforts are also made to use integrated farming methods, using recently introduced animals such as sheep to allow for

more intensive farming of our limited arable land. Work is also being done to improve the production of our indigenous chicken breed to increase its contribution as a source of eggs and meat.

Samoa however does not have an abattoir which has had a limiting impact on the availability of important information that would assist effective decision making in the national management of our livestock resources. The abattoir is also critical for hygiene standards and is an infrastructure problem that we hope to resolve soon.

In terms of Animal Health, our perennial problem is the availability of Vets. We never have enough vets. Our trained Vets somehow do not stay around long but disappear off somewhere! I am informed that at least one of them went on to cure and look after the spiritual health of (sinful) (wayward) people!! This is of course a perfectly normal occupation making an important contribution to our community and nation!!

On a more serious note, the unfortunate reality is that in this most vital area of veterinary expertise, we are sadly lacking and I would imagine that the other island countries are in a similar position. Samoa is trying to address this problem by training para-vets with the help of the Pacific Commission Secretariat (SPC). I note from your programme that you are indeed devoting a large section of your workshop to Animal Welfare. Obviously the knowledge and information that you would share during your discussions would be most useful and any support that the CVA is able to provide to alleviate the capacity deficiencies in our individual islands would be most welcomed.

To end my few remarks, I would like to thank the President and Past President as well as all the members of your Association for bringing your important workshop to Samoa. I wish also to thank all the donor agencies involved with the workshop.

To all our overseas visitors, I hope that you will enjoy your visit to Savaii and around Upolu.

I wish you a successful meeting and workshop.

Thank you.

Soifua

Conclusions of the 13th CVA Australasia/Oceania Regional Workshop

The theme of Regional Workshop was Protection, Production and Progress in the Pacific. The 100 delegates represented 17 Pacific Island Countries and Territories as well as Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Canada and the Caribbean.

The principal sponsors

- SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community)
- Norbrook Pharmaceuticals
- AusAID and NZAID
- IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)
- WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals)
- Samoan Government
- Pacific Vet (NZ)
- FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations)
- CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation)

Objectives

The objective of the CVA is to promote the veterinary profession and to enable veterinarians to improve the quality of life of people through improved animal health, animal production and animal welfare. This workshop gave delegates greater awareness and knowledge of the commonalities and diversity of issues impacting on animals and livestock in the vast Australasia/Oceania region.

Outcomes

- One World, One Health, within One Environment
- Need for more veterinarians and para-veterinarians in the Pacific Islands
- Need to progress support for the Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare
- Animals to be included in disaster management plans.
- The New Zealand Animal Welfare Act is a model for Pacific Island nations to develop their animal welfare policies.

- Need for more effective for dog management
- The Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan is a network for mutual support
- Need to grow the agriculture sector to reduce reliance on imported food, to alleviate poverty and promote food security.
- Support for traditional farming and the production of livestock for sale
- Livestock production must be environmentally sensitive
- Constraints to agricultural growth include poor nutrition, lack of modern technology, poor management systems and the need for improved genetics
- Need for control of zoonoses such as Bovine TB and Brucellosis
- Need for reliable disease information through effective surveillance for trading partners and national biosecurity
- Need for advocacy and high level support for agriculture and livestock in the Pacific Islands.
- Animal waste management and pollution control in the Pacific Islands is environmentally critical

~ Jeff Cave
RR, Australasia/Oceania



Milage Sign from Apia

Student Essay Competition

The School of Agriculture and Food Technology of The University of the South Pacific, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and Samoa Veterinary Association, ran an essay competition as part of the activities during the 13th Australasia/Oceania Regional Conference.

The theme of the essay competition was: **“Food Security and Animal Welfare in the Pacific Islands: How we can improve this by targeting protection and production of our livestock and their integration into other farming systems”**

The sponsors of the prizes were the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare), WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) and Dr Robin Yarrow. The competition was judged by Dr Robin McFarlane of New Zealand. The prize winners in order of merit were Perina Susu, Mani Mua and Osea Naicibaciba all of Fiji.

Students were encouraged to participate in the essay competition as it provided them with a great opportunity to contribute to assisting their Pacific Communities with the improvement of Food Security and Animal Welfare in their region.

CVA Australasia/Oceania Regional Meeting

Councillors from 13 member countries of the Australasia/Oceania region with the addition of members of the CVA executive, and veterinarians from non CVA Pacific Island nations and other observers, met during the recent CVA regional conference in Samoa.

Following an introductory address by the outgoing Regional Representative Dr Jeff Cave, each councillor gave a brief report of CVA related activities in their respective countries. Following this the following issues were discussed:

- Capacity building and veterinary support for the region including the role of volunteer veterinarians.
- Potential Malaysian educational support for the region.
- Singapore and New Zealand's bids to host the

Conference in 2013.

- CVA membership for individuals and veterinarians living abroad.

Dr Siosifa Fifita, CVA Councillor for Tonga, was elected regional representative subject to approval of his availability. Fiji proposed to host the next meeting of the region, which is most likely to take place in 2012.

Finally, Dr Bill Pryor indicated that he intended to retire from the position of CVA treasurer but hoped that he will continue his involvement in CVA informally.

Dr Jeff Cave was thanked for his work as regional representative.

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

Pacific Animal Health [Veterinary Capacity] Task Force

The Pacific Islands Region [PIR] is the largest of all geographical regions and its many scattered and mainly small populations have kept animals for over 4,000 years. Livestock are important for traditional purposes as well as for food and increasingly for income and sustainable livelihoods. It is not widely known that pig and poultry densities on some of the smaller 22 Pacific island countries and territories, [PICTs] rival those in a number of Asian countries where livestock are significant.

By virtue of relative isolation, most PICTs are remarkably free of many serious livestock diseases. However, this enviable situation is now under increasing threat as a result of modern travel and trade, distant water fishing fleets and super yachts. Enforcing proper surveillance and biosecurity and maintaining adequate animal health services is vital for this region. Not only do a number of very small islands not

possess the necessary critical mass of veterinary personnel but a major loss of veterinarians in recent years from most of the larger PICTs, mainly through emigration, is a matter of serious concern, at time when the overall needs have never been greater. Fiji, for example now has only 1 veterinarian in field services compared to 8 only a few years ago. The 3 Pacific Territories of France are the exception to this trend and collectively have over 80 veterinarians.

Animal health services are of course important for a number of reasons, including disease control, livestock production, breed improvement, food security and safety, animal welfare, diagnostic services, research and also increasingly for aquaculture and endemic wildlife. Around 70% of emerging diseases of animals are transmissible to humans and healthy livestock and other animals are clearly both an asset and also a necessity for healthy and sustainable

CVA REGIONAL NEWS

communities.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community [SPC] operates a regional Animal Health and Production Service which has expanded considerably in recent times under the Pacific Regional Avian Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Project. This strengthening is most timely, especially for small island member states without veterinarians. A very valuable response to the shortage of veterinarians was initiated by SPC in the late 1990s through the training of paravets from regional member PICTs. This Programme has been enhanced and strengthened through the Regional Paravet Training Programme and almost 200 regional paraveterinarians have received capacity-building under this activity. While this valuable initiative will continue, there is still a need for overall veterinary capacity to be addressed as paravets work best when mentored and overseen by veterinarians. In many ways, paravets are the 'eyes and ears' of veterinarians as they operate more on the ground and are often based in remote locations. This is a valuable factor in disease monitoring. Veterinarians and paravets are complementary to each other and can be said to constitute the two sides of the same coin.

This mounting concern at the shortage of veterinarians resulted in a 'Roundtable' being convened on the subject by the International Fund for Animal Welfare [IFAW] Asia Pacific office in Sydney, Australia in April, 2008, attended by a 20 selected participants from a range of government and non-government organisations from Australia, NZ and the PICTs. This meeting agreed that the situation warranted a proactive intervention and established a Task Force, including 4 members from the PICTs, to undertake a needs analysis/demand study for both veterinarians and paravets, both currently and in the future. Possible response options and strategies would then be considered by the Roundtable for ultimate referral to regional governments and donors.

Options which might be considered include increased scholarships, a program aimed at sourcing foreign veterinarians [including some as volunteers] a possible veterinary degree program in the PIR in collaboration with an existing veterinary faculty, plus continued support for the SPC Paravet Programme.

A Report on the Roundtable was presented by invitation by its Chair, Dr Robin Yarrow of Fiji, at the SPC Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services [HOAFS] Meeting held in



Apia, Samoa in September, 2008. The HOAFS Meeting agreed to strongly endorse and support the work being undertaken, a decision which was then further endorsed by the subsequent Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry Services Meeting, also held in Samoa. This action is most important because it has enabled this critical undertaking to be built in to the Program of Work of the Land Resources Division of the SPC, a very satisfying and positive development for the region.

A further meeting was held on the Veterinary Capacity initiative during the course of the CVA Conference in Samoa in November, 2008. Some 50 participants representing governments, animal welfare bodies and NGOs, attended this discussion held appropriately at the Alafua Campus of the University of the South Pacific. [USP] A presentation on the initiative had also been made earlier at the CVA Conference proper, by Marguerite Young of the IFAW Sydney Office who is also the Secretary of the Task Force/Roundtable. A major item covered at this meeting was a draft Capacity Needs questionnaire, designed by Dr Mike Nunn, Principal Scientist, Animal Biosecurity, Biosecurity Australia. This was presented to the meeting by Dr Nunn and useful feedback was received from participants. It was agreed that further input would be forwarded to Dr Nunn and that the questionnaire would then be finalised. The actual survey would then be planned in close association with the SPC Animal Health and Production Service, through its Adviser, Dr Ken Cokanasiga, [who is also a Task Force member] and USP. It is expected that the survey would be undertaken during the first half of 2009.

The meeting also agreed that the mandate of the Task Force/Roundtable should be broadened to include both animal production and animal welfare. Some additional PICT representatives were also co-opted to the Task Force. Appreciation was expressed at the meeting for the valuable support which IFAW has been and is providing toward the work of the Task Force.

~ Robin Yarrow
Past President, CVA

Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 13th Australasia/Oceania Regional Conference, 22-27 November 2008, Apia, Samoa

Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)

Scott Turner

*Manager, Welfare Standards, Animal Welfare Branch
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry
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The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) began in 2005 and builds on the current animal welfare framework in Australia. The AAWS was initially funded for 4 years to June 2009, but is now an ongoing Government programme.

It aims to achieve sustainable animal welfare improvements informed by scientific evidence, in order to meet community expectations and achieve a balance between education, extension and regulation. The Australian Government has shown strong leadership and national coordination on this highly complex and often emotive issue. The AAWS embraces a divergent group of stakeholders with often strongly held and disparate views.

The success of the AAWS is based on a national consultative approach to animal welfare that welcomes the involvement of the broader community, industry and government. Improvements in animal welfare outcomes require a partnership between community, industry and government to support their implementation.

Implementation of the AAWS includes enhancing effective communication, education and training across the whole community to promote an improved understanding of animal welfare and allow all parties to move forward in an aspirational manner. Australia does not see that animal welfare is best advanced by imposing legal requirements on animal owners in the absence of effective training and understanding of animal behaviour.

The AAWS provides a platform for greater national consistency of animal welfare arrangements, including outcomes based standards and guidelines for all animal use sectors in Australia.

There has been considerable progress in areas such as consistent regulation of animal welfare through livestock standards, and the development of aspirational codes

of practice to inform practices for companion, wild and aquatic animal welfare, the ethical use of animals involved in research and teaching, and the welfare of exhibition and zoo animals.

The AAWS has also been recognised internationally and used as the model for the development of regional strategies to improve animal welfare outcomes in the Middle East, Asia, the Far East and Oceania through working with trading partners and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and OIE have engaged the Animal Welfare Branch to further assist in developing strategies for animal welfare capacity building.

The AAWS has been noted by the European Union and United Kingdom government. This has resulted in the development of an agreement between of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the European Commission (EC) on animal welfare cooperation that will be ratified soon under the Australia-EC Partnership Framework announced in April this year.

Equine Influenza Outbreak in Australia

Steve Dunn

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Suspect equine influenza (EI) in horses at Eastern Creek Quarantine Station (ECQS) was reported to the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) by Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) on 22 August 2007.

Suspect cases at the Centennial Park Equestrian Centre (CP) were reported to NSW Department of Primary Industries via the disease watch hotline on the morning of 24 August 2007. The disease was confirmed in the CP horses that evening. During the course of the outbreak EI has now spread to nearly 6,000 premises including almost 70,000

horses. Initial spread from an event held on the weekend of 17-19th August 2007 allowed the virus to move hundreds of kilometres and set up infections in various parts of New South Wales and south east Queensland.

An emergency was declared under the Emergency Animals Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) and an eradication campaign begun. A national standstill of the movement of horses was implemented. This continued until the end of September in NSW and Queensland. Vaccination was commenced in late September 2007.

The last case in NSW was in early December and in Queensland on Christmas Day 2007. No further cases have been detected. International Disease Free status under OIE rules will be granted on 25 December 2008.

Australia declared itself free from EI on 1 July 2008. Overall the operation cost approximately \$A100m. The commonwealth government provided income assistance to sectors of the horse industry of a further \$A250m. Losses to the Australian horse industry have been claimed to be over \$A1bn. Australia, New Zealand and Iceland remain the only countries internationally recognised as being free from EI.

The Development of the Fiji Sheep

P.R. Manueli

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The Fiji sheep was developed in response to the need for a tropical sheep breed to cater for the large demand for sheep meat and provide an alternative small ruminant for use in local production systems. Early breed development work was carried out on the island of Makogai where a flock of Barbados Blackbelly (BBB) sheep were kept under a 10 year quarantine protocol to prevent the introduction of scrapie. The Fiji Sheep was developed from the BBB Corriedale (C), Poll Dorset (PD) and Wiltshire (W) breeds. Crossbreeding was carried out and the performance of the crossbred offspring was evaluated, the performance of the BBBxW was superior to the other crossbreeds and this forms the basis of the Fiji Sheep. Selection of crossbred offspring was carried out to develop a sheep breed capable of thriving under local conditions.

With the completion of the quarantine period a smallholder industry has been established which supplies

sheep into the live sheep market. By the end of 2007 a total of 269 farms had been established carrying some 9,507 head with a further 2,842 sheep being maintained in 3 government flocks.

In addition to the local demand there is a large regional demand for the Fiji sheep, to date breeding flocks have been exported to Samoa and Tonga. This demand underlines the need for a meat sheep capable of thriving under the humid tropical conditions of the region and the possibility for the adoption of a regional approach to the further development of the Fiji sheep.

Intestinal parasites remain the major animal health problem faced by sheep farmers in Fiji and further research into sustainable parasite control is required.

Opportunities and Sustainability of Smallholder Pig and Poultry Production in the Pacific

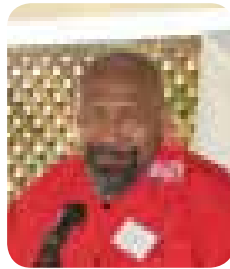
P.C. Glatz and C.F. Cargill

*South Australian Research and Development Institute
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Smallholder pig and poultry farming is making an important contribution to the livelihoods of rural households in the Pacific. They provide a source of income, improve nutrition and help meet family and social obligations. Local feed resources are available in the Pacific that could be utilized more effectively for feeding pigs and poultry. Balanced rations for village pigs and birds can be devised based on the variety of potential feeds and to then educate farmers on feeding management. Farmers could also introduce new crops and use pasture species with higher nutritional value. Where smallholders use imported commercial feeds the viability of these operations has been threatened by rising costs of imported feeds. To overcome this problem there is potential to develop a concentrate diet that can be blended with cheap local feed ingredients or to dilute a commercial diet with cheap locally available by-products. Alternatively mini and micro feed mills could be established to make diets in areas where local feed supply is plentiful. This approach may be the best solution to making diets for pigs and poultry and improve the sustainability of smallholder pig and poultry farming.

New Regional Representative

Dr Siosifa Fifita, CVA Councillor Tonga has been elected as the new Regional Representative of the Australasia/Oceania Region at the Samoan Conference held in Apia, Samoa during 17-22 November 2008. He replaces Dr Jeff Cave of Australia.



Dr Fifita obtained his Bachelors degree from Auckland University, New Zealand in 1987, and the Bachelor of Veterinary Science from Massey University, New Zealand in 2004. He started his career as Principal Veterinary Officer at Tonga Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) in 1994. Later, as Head of Livestock Division (Tonga MAF) in 1998.

In 2002, he joined the Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC) as Animal Health Training Officer delivering and implementing Regional Paraveterinary Training in the Pacific Countries and Territories. Later on, in 2005 he also worked as Senior Veterinary Officer, Vanuatu Livestock and Inspection Service based in Espiritu Santo Island, Vanuatu.

In September 2006, he joined the New Zealand Food Safety Authority Verification Agency (NZFSA-VA) where he is working as Veterinary Technical Supervisor II.

He was CVA Councillor for Tonga in 1995 and was selected for Commonwealth Professional Tour of South Africa and Lesotho to promote Commonwealth in 1997.

New NZVA President

Dr Richard Wild, has been appointed as the new President of New Zealand Veterinary Association at its meeting held in 25-28 June 2008 at Wellington, New Zealand.



Dr Wild, is a Technical Coordinator for the New Zealand Food Safety Authority's Verification Agency.

New Zealand to support UDAW

New Zealand Agriculture Minister Jim Anderton announced the Government's support for the notion of a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare.

The proposed Declaration is being developed for eventual consideration and adoption by the United Nations. It aims to achieve global consideration of the welfare of sentient animals and recognition of animal welfare as an issue of importance as part of the social development of nations worldwide. If adopted, signatories of the eventual Declaration would not be legally bound by it. However, they would be encouraged to respect its principles in formulating and implementing policies concerning animals.

Jim Anderton said that, as a world leader in agricultural production and exports, New Zealand supported the underlying objective of the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare to promote improvements in animal welfare globally. The Declaration text has not yet been finalised and will be developed further over the next few years. New Zealand's statement of notional support will ensure that it has the opportunity to participate in that process.

The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the New Zealand Veterinary Association support the proposed Declaration.

The Declaration proposal, developed by the World Society for the Protection of Animals and a coalition of non-governmental animal welfare organisations, is being led by a five-nation steering group, comprising Costa Rica, Kenya, the Czech Republic, India and the Philippines. WSPA is seeking the support of governments worldwide for the proposal. A number of other governments have already confirmed their support.

Approximately 28,000 signatures from New Zealand, out of a worldwide total of 1,630,000, have been collected to date on an electronic petition ('Animals Matter to Me'), being run by WSPA to support the proposed Declaration. WSPA's goal is to collect 10 million signatures, worldwide, in support of the proposal.

Further information on the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare can be found at www.animalsmatter.org

Canada Caribbean

ECS Africa

New CVMA President

Dr Diane Frank has been appointed the 60th President of Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) at its meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Dr. Frank has been practising veterinary medicine for over 25 years. After graduating from Faculte de Medecine Veterinaire in 1983, she spent several years working as a small animal practitioner in Quebec. Dr. Frank then moved on to complete a residency in animal behaviour at Cornell University and became Board Certified by the American College of Veterinary Behaviourists. Following that, Dr. Frank spent time as a lecturer in animal behavior at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.



Dr. Frank has been a member of CVMA Council since 2003 and of the CVMA Executive since 2005.

New CVA Councillor for Namibia

Dr. Stan Miller has been appointed as CVA Councillor for Namibia. He replaces Dr. Rainer Hassel.



Dr Miller graduated in 1970 and worked as state veterinarian (SV) in South-West and South Africa until 1981 and then joined the Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science, teaching Immunology and Infectious diseases until May 1998. On return to Namibia he worked for the Directorate of Veterinary Services as SV and training officer. Between December 2002 and July 2005 he was Registrar of the Namibian Veterinary Council. Over the years he has pursued wide-ranging veterinary interests by presenting and publishing on Toxicology, Reproduction, Immunology, the Integration of PCs in training, Extension, Informatics and Tele-communications. Since his semi-retirement in June 2005, his passion for disseminating animal health (AH) information to farmers and students has continued and, today, he continues this with an electronic newsletter/E-Forum directed at Namibian stock farmers.

**Request For Tender
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The Vanuatu Public Administration is calling from suitably qualified individuals or organizations to provide qualified veterinarians with extensive experience and a track record to fill for the following vacant positions.

- 1. Principal Veterinary Officer**
- 2. Senior Veterinary Officer, Port Vila**
- 3. Senior Veterinary Officer, Luganville**

Qualifications

A veterinary degree registered in Australia, France, New Zealand or United Kingdom. A post graduate level in areas related to animal husbandry and health or production would be an advantage.

Contact for Inquiries

For all inquiries relating to this Tender please contact Judith MELSUL by phone on +678 25090 OR email queries to jmelsul@vanuatu.gov.vu or Christie AYONG-JONAS on +678 23519 OR email cajonas@vanuatu.gov.vu

West Africa

New Councillor for Nigeria

Dr. Bello Mohammed Agaie has been appointed as the new Councillor of Nigeria. He replaces Dr Olatunji Nasir who has been elected as the Regional Representative of West Africa.

Dr. Agaie graduated with a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto in 1992 and obtained his M. Sc. in 1999 and Ph.D in 2004 in Pharmacology from the same University. He is working at present as Senior lecturer. He has been honoured with many awards including the Nigerian Veterinary Association Sokoto Chapter Merit Award in 2007. He has also published many scientific papers and is a Member of various committees in the University.

New Councillor for Ghana

Dr. Kinglsey Mickey Aryee has been appointed as the new Councillor of Ghana. He replaces Dr Perdita Lopes.

750,000 British Citizens may die in flu outbreak

The Government of UK is preparing for a huge and deadly flu outbreak in which 750,000 people could die in two months, Britain's security chief has said.

Admiral Lord West was speaking in his other role as head of contingency plans to deal with an epidemic. He said: "The reality is there will be a flu pandemic and it may not just be bird flu. Until it comes, we don't know what the particular strain will be. We are working on a worst case scenario of an extra 750,000 people dying in an eight-week period. We are talking to coroners and looking at special facilities where bodies could be kept. There would still have to be inquests."

"We don't want people bumping off their neighbours under the cover of bird flu. The advice would be for people to stay at home so we've got to look at the ramifications of that. Perhaps a third of the police wouldn't be coming to work. We are looking at ways of boosting vaccine production. We are building stockpiles of medicines to slow it down."

~ The Sun, 2 Oct 2008

UK Mediterranean

New Regional Representative for UK/Mediterranean Region

Ms Karen Reed has been appointed as the new Regional Representative of UK/Mediterranean region through the postal ballot in the region. She replaces Dr. Charalambos Kakoyiannis of Cyprus.



Ms Karen qualified from the Royal Veterinary College, London in 1987 and then spent 3 years in mixed, mainly large animal practice, in Herefordshire. In 1990 she was posted to Nepal for 3 years with VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas), where she taught animal health at an agricultural vocational training school, as well as spending the last 5 months of the posting as VSO Field Officer.

In 1993/94 Karen completed an MSc. in Tropical Veterinary Medicine at CTVM (Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine) at Edinburgh University (where she received a distinction and the Grieg Medal) and was then posted to Jordan as an Associate Professional Officer (APOS) with ODA (Overseas Development Administration, now DfID). She worked on a joint ODA/Jordanian Government project in the eastern desert looking at improving the health and productivity of Bedouin sheep flocks. In 1999 she returned to mixed practice in the UK in North Yorkshire.

In 2002 Karen was appointed Veterinary Director for SPANA (Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad) where she has been since.

Commonwealth Veterinary Association
wishes its readers and sponsors
A Very Happy and Prosperous
New Year - 2009

Dr. Trevor Blackburn Award

Dr Sarah Cleaveland was announced as the winner of the Trevor Blackburn Award in recognition of her work on zoonotic, livestock and wildlife diseases in East Africa and for her outstanding contributions to animal and human health, wildlife conservation and animal welfare in Africa and beyond. The announcement came during the Awards Ceremony at the British Veterinary Association's Annual Congress in London.



Dr Cleaveland is a veterinary epidemiologist who has been based at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies for the last ten years, moving this month to Glasgow University, where she will divide her time between the Faculty of Biomedical and Life Sciences and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr Cleaveland's research work has focused on the epidemiology of infectious disease at the human-wildlife-domestic animal interface, including rabies, canine distemper, bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and echinococcosis. Rabies has been her principal interest for many years and in 2006 Dr Cleaveland spearheaded the establishment of the Alliance for Rabies Control which provides a focus for international advocacy for global canine rabies elimination and celebrates its second annual World Rabies Day on September 28.

Working together to make rabies history!

Organisations around the world celebrated World Rabies Day on 28 September 2008 to raise awareness and understanding about the importance of rabies prevention. Rabies is known as the 'oldest and deadliest disease known to mankind'.

Led by the Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC) and supported by numerous animal and human health organisations around the world, the global campaign seeks to reinforce the message that rabies is a preventable disease, yet kills 55,000 people each year – approximately one person every ten minutes. Almost half the fatalities are children. The executive director of the ARC, Dr Debbie Briggs, said: 'Rabies is primarily a disease of children, who are particularly at risk from this terrible disease due to their close contact with dogs, the major global source.'

To coincide with this year's event the BVA announced the Trevor Blackburn Award for 2008 to Dr Sarah Cleaveland, a veterinary epidemiologist whose work on zoonotic, livestock and wildlife diseases in East Africa has included extensive programmes on rabies control: she has implemented mass dog vaccination campaigns of 200,000 dogs annually that have prevented hundreds of human and animal rabies deaths in the Serengeti. Dr Cleaveland spearheaded the establishment of the Alliance for Rabies Control in 2006 which has provided, for the first time, a focus for international advocacy for global canine rabies elimination.

World Rabies Day is organised by the ARC and supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA. Partners in the event include many drug and vaccine manufacturers, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization, as well as the BVA, the World Veterinary Association, the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe and other veterinary associations.

Events around the world included extensive media coverage and information distribution, as well as vaccination drives, free clinics and public lectures in rabies endemic countries.

See also Page 59.

New BVA Executives



Mrs Nicky Paull has been appointed as the new President of British Veterinary Association at its BVA Congress in London on 27 September 2008. Professor Bill



Presidents of Veterinary Associations at the BVA Congress
L-R: Clive Marwick (South Africa), Mark Lawrie (Australia), Tjeerd Jorna (WVA), Diane Frank (Canada), James Cook (USA), Richard Wild (New Zealand) and Ciara Feeney (Ireland)

CVA observes World Rabies Day 2008

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) played a vital role in observing World Rabies Day in the Asian and West African region. In Asia, in collaboration with Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC), a UK-based charity, 15 veterinary colleges organised rabies awareness programmes by way of free anti-rabies vaccination camps, distributing educational materials, and student marathons.

The World Rabies Day was instituted in 2007 on September 7 and was organized by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta USA, and ARC, The World Health Organization (WHO) and several other organizations supported this effort. As a result of these and other significant global efforts, about 400,000 people in 74 countries participated, over 54 million people were reached, and 603,869 animal immunizations were administered.

The second WRD was observed on September 28, 2008 with support again from ARC and sponsors included CDC, WHO, and several others. Government and community agencies, volunteers, and a number of veterinary organizations and schools supported this global effort.

WRD 2008 has proven to be another success! Thanks to the efforts of event coordinators around the world including the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. Survey results have indicated that hundreds of events, based largely on promoting rabies awareness and education, were held in at least 80 countries with participation by various agencies such as local/state/national governments, private industry and non-governmental and community based organizations.

In addition to countless educational conferences and seminars, there were numerous vaccination clinics, commemorations, parades, runs and walks. Just some of the many novel events being reported this year include a dog fashion show in Zamboanga, Philippines, the development of a radio show held weekly for people to call in and ask questions about rabies in Nigeria, and an on-stage discussion about rabies prevention with movie stars, held in Thailand.

The Colleges of Veterinary Medicine around the world took the lead and energized the veterinary community with participation from 35 Veterinary schools in the US, Canada and the Caribbean, at least 15 in India and countless schools throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America. Medical Colleges also joined the One Health movement this year and in some locations even partnered with their Veterinary colleagues to provide simultaneous human health and veterinary care at their World Rabies Day event.

Major announcements and accomplishments, such as the signing of the North American Rabies Management Plan between the US, Canada and Mexico took center stage at the 19th Annual Rabies in the Americas (RITA) meeting at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Numerous international leaders in the field of rabies and hundreds of participants convened at the week-long meeting which was kicked-off by a Run for Rabies and numerous presentations on the global perspective of rabies, presented by regional experts.

Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Secretary, Commonwealth Veterinary Association has been appointed as the Member of Board of Director of Alliance for Rabies Control.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2009

7th Annual Scientific Conference of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chittagong, Bangladesh. **March 17-19.**

AVA Annual Conference, Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin, Northern Territory. **May 17-22.**

2009 ACVIM Forum and Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Convention, Montreal, Canada. **June 3-6.**

CVA Regional Meeting of UK Mediterranean Region, Malta. (Date to be announced).

CVA Regional Meeting of ECS African Region, Kampala, Uganda. (Date to be announced).

2010

CVA Regional Meeting of Asian Region. (Venue and Date to be announced).

CVA Regional Meeting of West Region. (Venue and Date to be announced).

2011

5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, Accra, Ghana. (Date to be announced).

30th World Veterinary Congress, Cape Town, South Africa. **October 10-14.**

2012

CVA Regional Meeting of Australasia/Oceania Region, Fiji. (Venue and Date to be announced).

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