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Further information about the *Journal of Commonwealth Veterinary Association* can be found on website at: www.commonwealthvetassoc.org

Advertisements should be sent to Editor at: shireen@blr.vsnl.net.in

Printed by

Mrs. Shireen Rahman

Intervet Publishers

123, 7th 'B' Main Road

4th Block (West), Jayanagar

Bangalore 560011 INDIA

Design and Layout

Mr. K.K. Anubhavi

#709, 15th 'A' Main, Sector-A

Yelahanka Newtown

Bangalore 560064, INDIA.

One of many Commonwealth Professional Associations supported by the



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COVER PHOTO: Inauguration of 5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, Accra, Ghana

This issue of JCVA is partially sponsored by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), UK



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President's Column



January 1st 2012 is a historic day for me as I assume the Presidency of the CVA as its 9th President ,a unique opportunity to be in a position to lead the CVA, I am greatly honoured to have been appointed so and I thank the Executive Committee for their confidence in me.

It is also with great trepidation that I take up this role, knowing that I will be stepping into the illustrious shoes of my predecessors such as Drs. Dawda Jawara, Laurent Choquette, Trevor Blackburn, Bakary Touray, Bill Pryor, Bert Stevenson, Robin Yarrow and Richard Suu- Ire. It is also my good fortune that during my 26 years of association with the CVA, I have had the privilege to have worked under seven out of the eight Presidents before me and have greatly benefited by their wise counsel and who have been mentors to me with their constructive criticism mostly in my role as the Secretary of CVA .

Could I just make a few remarks about the CVA from my personal perspective. I have been involved with the CVA since 1986 when I was elected as the Secretary of the Indian Veterinary Association and immediately took up the role of both the CVA Councillor of India and the Regional Representative of the Asian Region. Through this office and subsequently as Secretary of CVA I came to have a great respect for CVA's potential, and to a greater degree its achievements made in addressing the problems of the developing countries especially of Africa and Asia. The CVA continues to endeavour in this regard with renewed enthusiasm and vigour.

In reflecting on this period of involvement I think the things that strike me most are the very wide range of countries CVA works in and those individuals who are so dedicated to its objectives and work plans. What is often not realized is that many of them held quite senior and demanding positions in their own countries. Dr. Laurent Choquette almost single-handedly kept the CVA going during its formative years. This was in an era when there were no emails and cell phones and when communication was difficult and travelling was expensive and tiresome. Yet despite this, many of the educational programs that CVA continues to sponsor were started at that time.

The energy and drive that transformed CVA came during the time of Dr. Trevor Blackburn when CVA increased its activity with the formation of a new Executive Committee that saw formal meetings being held on a regular basis and plans once thought to be ambitious began to take shape and then implemented. Of greatest significance was the organization of the First Pan Commonwealth Veterinary conference in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1990.

The Presidency of Dr. Bakary Touray saw the beginning of a more business like approach to CVA activities with the development of a four year work plan. New Programmes were introduced and the CVA matured into a stable and functional organization.

Dr. Bill Pryor, worked tirelessly to enrol all National Veterinary Associations in the CVA and for the first time a formal relationship with a commercial company was negotiated which allowed additional educational opportunities for Commonwealth Veterinarians. Dr. Pryor doubling up as the Treasurer ensured that the finances of the CVA continued to grow with his astute financial acumen.

Dr. Bert Stevenson, with his rich experience of having assisted Dr. Jim Archibald the Secretary of CVA, during the formative years, brought in innovative ideas into the CVA with a professional Work Plan which saw many CVA funded projects being implemented in various parts of the Commonwealth.

Dr. Robin Yarrow was an epitome of sophistication and diplomacy and his calm and assured manner gave the CVA great credibility especially at times when some member associations were contemplating to withdraw from the CVA.

My immediate predecessor Dr. Richard Suu-Ire, an internationally known wildlife expert has been a blending force in CVA and has been the voice of CVA member countries of Africa and under his guidance many CVA projects have been implemented there.

In addition to the Presidents mentioned above there have been many individuals who have contributed to the development and growth of CVA and at the risk of omitting someone, several members need to be singled out; Dr. James Archibald, former Secretary CVA, Dr. Brock Cleland who started the JCVA in 1986 as a News Letter, managers of the CVA book programme Dr. Brian Derbyshire and Dr. Jeff Cave, and many former regional representatives such as Drs. Bob Duckworth, Giam Choo Hoo, Derek Timbs, Mustafa Babji, Jalaluddin, V.S. Alwar, D.D. Wanasinghe, Fazlul Haque, A.A. Ramzee, Swarna Herath, JL Robinson, Keith Amiel, Val Mohabir, Keith Campbell, Peter Mosolla, Gareth Bath, Jaumally, William Ogara, William Amanfu, Duto Fofana, Laura Bowen and John Cooper, to name a few, were responsible in making CVA a credible international organisation which not only catered to the Vets but also to the livestock farmers throughout the Commonwealth.

I am looking forward to the challenge to lead this illustrious organisation and to assist me, I have an excellent Executive Committee composed of both experienced and new RR's. Dr. Bob McCracken the Programme Director and Dr. Peter Thornber, the Treasurer have been pillars of strength during my tenure as Secretary and I will continue to enjoy their ongoing support. Dr. Karen Reed, the new Secretary comes from a background of heading the BVA Overseas Group and the prestigious Animal Welfare Organization, The Brooke and her experience will be of immense benefit to CVA. The new RR's Drs. A. Sivasothy, Henry Magwisha, Curtis Padilla, and Sulayman Sonko have proved their mettle within a very short time and I am confident that they will play a very important role. Drs. Siosifa Fifita is a veteran and has rich experience of Australasia Oceania region.

All organizations must deliver on their objectives in an effective and timely manner, in order to remain relevant. In this regard, the current review of the CVA Constitution which we are undertaking will be of great significance in meeting the objectives of CVA.

Of course, none of this would have happened without the support of the national veterinary associations. In particular British Veterinary Association, Australian Veterinary Association, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, New Zealand Veterinary Association and South African Veterinary Association in terms of financial support and in-kind services. A special thank you also to all the employers and individuals who have donated time and shared in the expense of ensuring a successful CVA. And last, but definitely not the least, is the support and assistances of spouses and other family members who either assist directly or indirectly with CVA work.

I wish to extend warm New Year's Greetings to all CVA members and their families. I also trust that 2012 will be a meaningful and successful year for each one of you.

January 2012

S. Abdul Rahman
President

Distribution Pattern Of Foot And Mouth Disease Outbreaks In Sri Lanka During 2005 - 2010

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Abstract

Results of 37 tissue or blood samples submitted from potential Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks, by respective government field veterinarians, to the Central Veterinary Investigation Centre (CVIC) at Veterinary Research Institute (VRI) Gannoruwa, Peradeniya during January 2005 to December 2010 were used in this report. An ELISA and RT-PCR were used on a total of 29 samples, out of which 25 were tested positive and 4 were negative for FMD. A total of 8 samples did not reach the laboratory in the required form and therefore, were not processed. Out of the confirmed positive outbreaks, 8 were from the north central province, only one was from pigs and all others were from either cattle or buffalo. When all confirmed case reports were geographically and chronologically plotted, it was apparent that the outbreaks in all years spread, from north to south of the country along the routes on which the cattle transportation for slaughter is being regularly done.

Keywords: FMD, ELISA, RT-PCR, TAD

Introduction

High economical loss in food animal industry due to Transboundary Animal Diseases (TAD) in several countries has been noticed (Knowles *et al.*, 2001; Otte *et al.*, 2004). Individual animal husbandry practices and transboundary movements of animals have direct relationships with the spread of TAD which includes Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). In South East Asia, particularly in Sri Lanka, FMD is considered as a condition that affects not only immediate farming community but also the industry and trade of animal products (Grubman and Baxt, 2004; Samuel and Knowles, 2001). In Sri Lanka, despite annual outbreaks of FMD during the past 10 years, both cattle and buffaloes have been

vaccinated since year 1962. Initially such vaccination was carried out in the entire country which subsequently included only selected districts with high risk, their borders and along the routes of animal transportation. FMD vaccine, which was locally produced using the street virus since 1962 at the Veterinary Research Laboratory (VRI), later at Animal Virus Laboratory (AVL), is currently being imported since 1994 (Chandrasiri, 2007).

Rapidly increasing transboundary movements of goods and people and trade liberalizations, have facilitated spreading of many animal diseases in the world (Otte *et al.*, 2004). FMD is a highly contagious disease and spreads extremely rapidly in cloven-hoofed livestock through movement of infected animals, animal products, contaminated objects, and even by wind currents (Grubman and Baxt, 2004). Infected slaughter house waste is a potential source of FMD transmission, which could be facilitated by illegal slaughter of sick animals which can be difficult to detect (Adrian, 2007). The virus though does not affect humans, may cause outbreaks at adjacent farms through air and water contamination. Persistence of virus in meat could occur when the frozen meat contains lymph nodes, bone, skin and residual blood creating concerns in food safety. The swill fed herds of pigs, are likely to contract FMD via waste food with infected meat scraps (Sellers and Forman, 1973). Depending on the pH changes prior to freezing, even the frozen meat could carry the virus (Emelinda, 2008).

Disease free status has been maintained in developed countries by introducing number of measures including strict Tariff Acts (Grubman and Baxt, 2004). However, in developing countries of Southeast Asia and several other parts of the world. The most significant factor in the spread of TAD is lack of effective animal movement management

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(Samuel and Knowles, 2001). The objective of this study was to review diagnostic procedures and to trace the pattern of transmission of FMD within Sri Lanka.

Materials and Methods

Epithelial tissues from the mouth and foot lesions in transport media or blood samples in non heparinised tubes from clinically FMD suspected cattle, buffaloes and pigs submitted by veterinarians in the field to Central Veterinary Investigation Centre on ice during January 2005 to December 2010, were processed as follows. Samples had been collected only from one animal with specific FMD signs from each of the suspected outbreaks.

Viral RNA extraction from epithelial tissue and RT PCR procedure

Viral RNA was extracted from 10% epithelial tissue suspensions using the RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, Germany, 1999). All procedures were carried out according to the manufactures guidelines. Extracted RNA were stored -70°C until use. The primer sequences are as follows; Forward 5' to 3' CCAAgTCCCCTTCTCAgATC and Reverse 5' to 3'gCCTggTCTTCCAggTCT. Reverse transcription of the RNA and PCR were performed using Superscript 111 One-Step RT-PCR System with Platinum Taq DNA Polymerase (Invitrogen, USA, 2007). Thermal cycling programme was 42°C 30 min, 94°C 2 min followed by 40 cycles 94°C 15 seconds, 50°C 30 seconds, 68°C 1 min with final extension 68°C 5 min. 10 µl of PCR products were separated in a 1% agarose gel by electrophoresis and visualized by staining agarose gel with 6 µl thidium bromide under UV light.

ELISA Test on Blood Samples

Antibody Detection: The blood samples transported at 4°C were centrifuged for separation of serum at 4000 rpm for 10 minutes then stored at -20°C before testing. The Ceditest® FMDV-NS used for detection of antibodies against the Non Structural Protein of Foot and Mouth Disease Virus and Ceditest® FMDV type O ELISA assays was performed for detection of antibodies against FMDV serotype O (Cedi-diagnostics B.V., The Netherlands, 2005). The tests were carried out according to the manufactures instructions. All samples were tested in duplicate. Plates were read by measuring the optical density (OD) at a wave length of 450nm. The Ceditest® FMDV-NS test results were read using the ELISA reader. The OD values of all samples and mean OD of the negative control (OD max) were expressed as Percentage Inhibition (PI). PI < 50% was considered negative and PI ≥ 50% was considered positive.

$$PI=100 - \left[\frac{OD_{450} \text{ test sample}}{OD_{450} \text{ max}} \times 100 \right]$$

The Ceditest® FMDV type O ELISA test results also expressed as PI value and obtained using the following formula. PI < 50% was considered FMDV type O antibodies absent in the test serum and PI ≥ 50% was considered FMDV type O antibodies present in the test serum.

$$PI=100 - \left[\frac{OD_{450} \text{ test serum} - OD_{450} \text{ blank}}{OD_{450} \text{ max} - OD_{450} \text{ blank}} \times 100 \right]$$

Results

A total of 26 tissue samples and 11 blood samples had been received by the laboratory during the period concerned. Out of 21 tissue samples processed, 18 were positive for FMD. Figure 1 depicts the product size of the PCR as 327 base pairs. A total of 8 blood samples were processed out of which 7 were tested positive. Only one out of 25 confirmed cases were from domesticated pigs and all others were from cattle or buffaloes. A total of 8 samples were reported from North Central Province (NCP) of the country. The Central Province (CP) had 7 confirmed cases while the Eastern Province (EP) reported 3 cases. There were 2 outbreaks each from Sabaragamuwa Province (SBP),

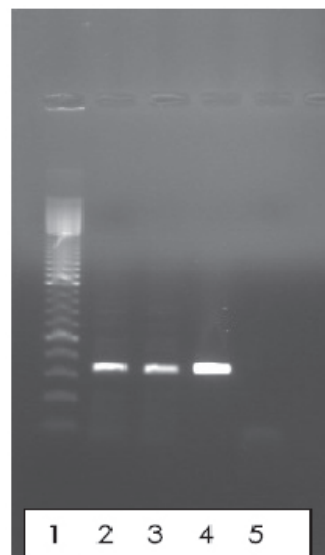


Figure 1. Agarose Gel Electrophoresis of FMD Virus

- Lane 1 represents 100 bp DNA ladder
- Lane 2 represents sample 1
- Lane 3 represents sample 2
- Lane 4 represents FMD positive control 327 bp
- Lane 5 represents negative control

Province	Total Number of samples	Sample Positive	Sample Negative	Sample not adequate
Central (CP)	8	7	1	0
Eastern (EP)	5	3	0	2
North Central (NCP)	12	8	2	2
Northern (NP)	4	2	0	2
North Western (NWP)	3	0	1	2
Sabaragamuwa (SBP)	2	2	0	0
Southern (SP)	1	1	0	0
Uva (UP)	0	0	0	0
Western (WP)	2	2	0	0
TOTAL	37	25	4	8

Western Province (WP) and Northern Province (NP). Only 1 outbreak was reported from Southern Province (SP). There were no confirmed cases from North Western (NWP) and Uva Provinces (UP) as shown in Table 1.

Five epithelial tissues samples and 3 blood samples submitted were inappropriate for testing. The geographical distribution of confirmed positive outbreaks for respective year, is shown in Table 1 and graphically presented in Figure 2. All samples submitted were infected with FMD serotype O.

Chronological distribution on confirmed FMD outbreaks during 2005-2010 is depicted geographically in Figure 2. In year 2005, outbreaks initiated in NP in May-June and the subsequent outbreak was reported in adjacent NCP, 1 month later in July. Later in that year, in July and in August, the disease was confirmed in WP. In the year 2006, almost a similar pattern was noted. The first outbreak in 2006 was reported in EP in May, the subsequent outbreak was, two months later, from SP. In 2007, outbreaks were reported in NCP in May and June. In 2008, slightly differently, the outbreaks started in CP in February much earlier, which spread to NCP and EP later. However, in 2009, outbreaks started in NCP which spread to SBP. In year 2010, the index case was noticed on the boarder of NP to NCP, which gradually spread to other areas in NCP and 2 months later outbreaks appeared in CP. When annual outbreaks are considered, NP, NCP and EP can be identified as provinces with high risk.

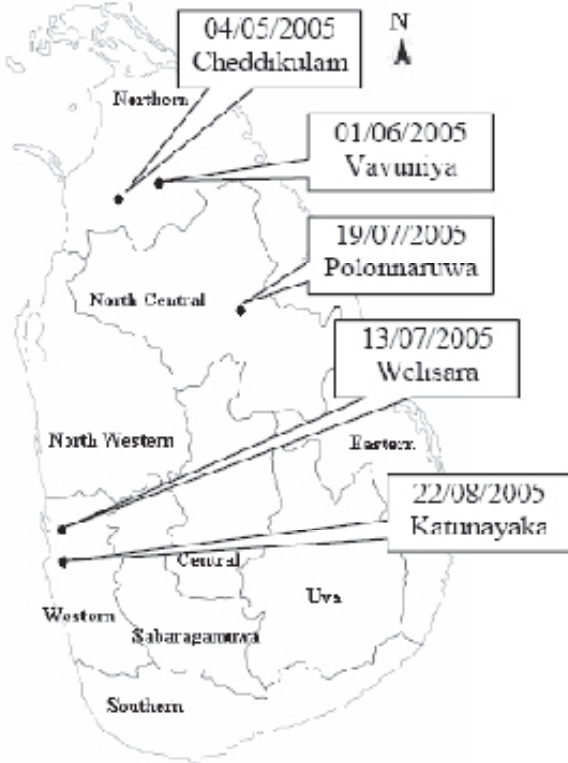
Discussion

The sero-surveys through Non Structural Protein (NSP) antibody testing can differentiate FMD infected from

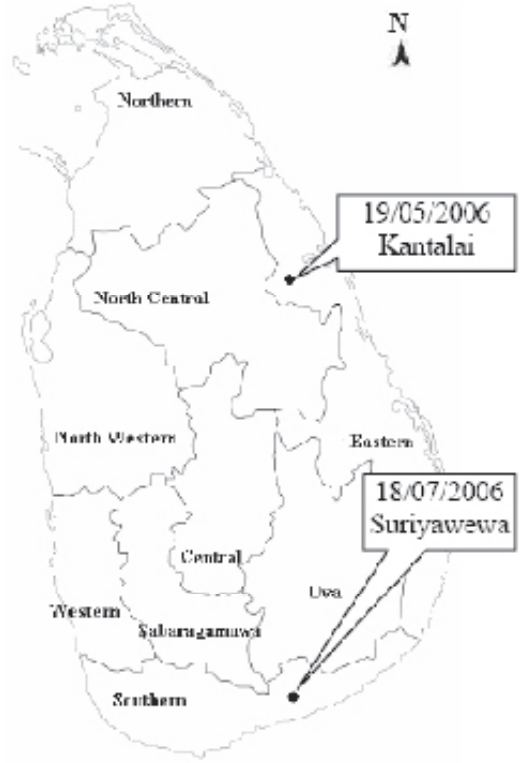
vaccinated animals (Brown, 2004). It is important for Sri Lanka to see the impact of previous vaccination programs on the outbreaks. This is more important since the street virus is not being isolated currently to produce the vaccine locally. The PCR test provides quicker results when compared to ELISA. The importance of quick and early confirmatory diagnosis of outbreaks of this devastating disease is obvious in adopting early control measures to mitigate the impact of FMD on the industry. Isolation of serotype O in this report, is in harmony with previous studies conducted by Samuel and Knowles (2001) in Sri Lanka and Animal Health Division of

Department of Animal Production with World Reference Laboratory for FMD, Pirbright in 2009 (VEBSL, 2009). In addition, FMD isolate “SRL/2/97” sampled from the cattle of FMD outbreak in NWP was identified as topotype ME-SA at the OIE/FAO World Reference Laboratory for FMD (Samuel and Knowles, 2001).

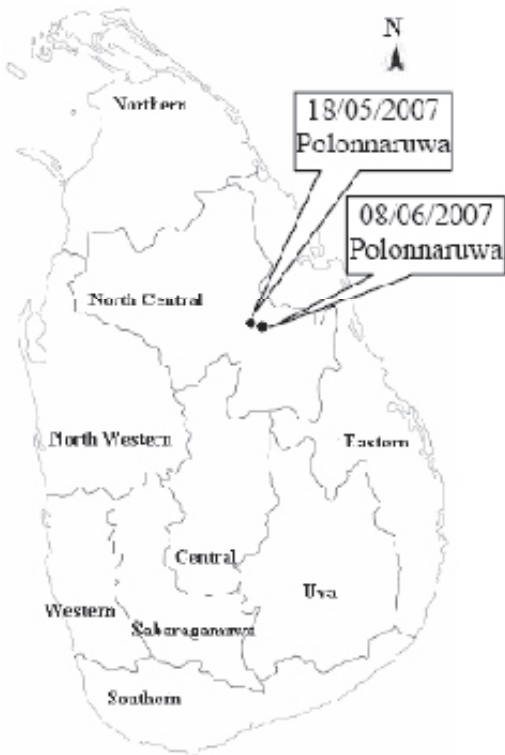
Despite the highest population of cloven footed animals in NWP (Ministry of Livestock Development, 2008), the highest numbers of outbreaks were reported from NCP possibly because most animals for slaughter are being sent from NCP to CP and WP. Thus, it could be argued that the pattern of outbreaks follow the route of animal transportation for slaughter, with which potentially infective animals may have been transported. In addition, the subsequent outbreaks both in CP and WP are also in agreement with this argument, since the exact locations of outbreaks follow the routes of transportation of such animals particularly in the year 2010. The exceptional occurrence of FMD in CP in 2010 may be due to uncontrolled movements of cattle in the country (VEBSL, 2010). The prohibition of slaughter of cows and calves is effective since 1958 in Sri Lanka, according to the Animal Act No. 29 of 1958, unless certified by the appropriate authority. However, small scale cattle slaughter houses, at times unauthorized, operate in NCP, NWP and EP and some of the meat is transported to main city centers in other provinces. Furthermore, cattle salvage programs and religious activist purchase animals brought for slaughter from potentially risky areas and are distributed free of charge to farmers in other parts of the country. This practice could introduce not only FMD but any infectious disease that is more prevalent in high risk areas in the country, the most known conditions being Brucellosis. Relatively low numbers of pigs in FMD high risk areas, and their poor susceptibility



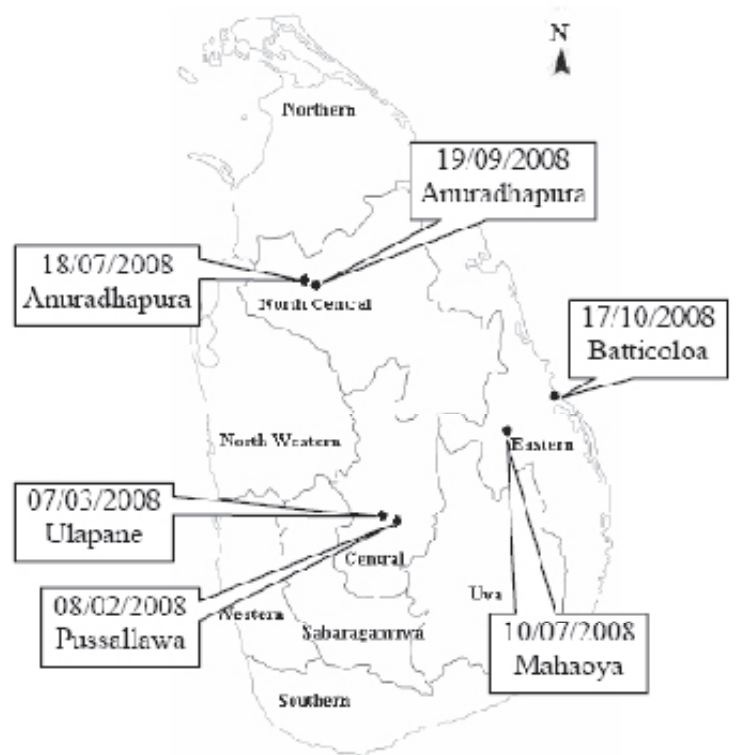
Outbreaks occurred during year 2005



Outbreaks occurred during year 2006

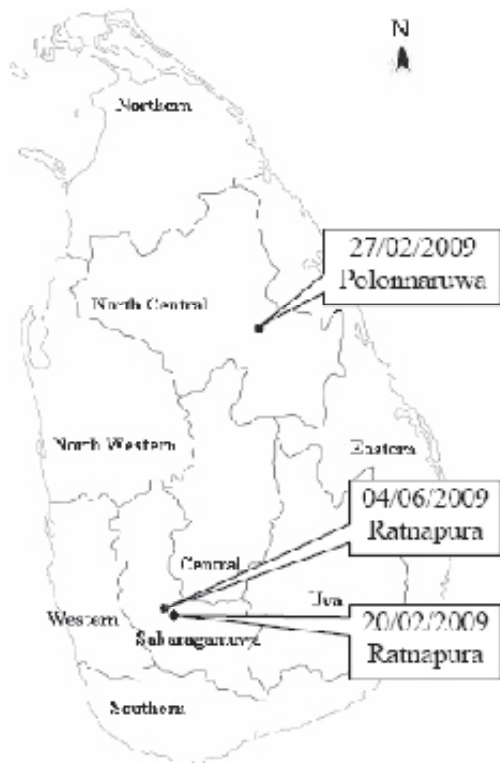


Outbreaks occurred during year 2007

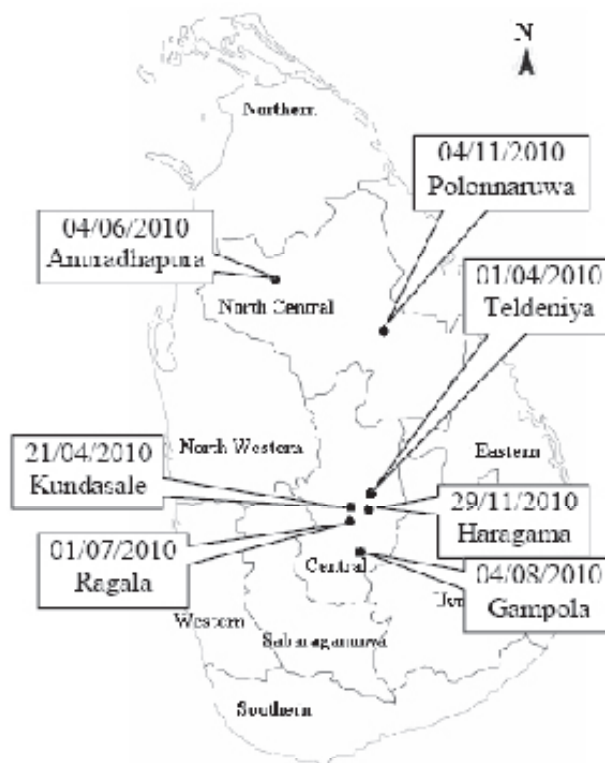


Outbreaks occurred during year 2008

Figure 2: Timeline of FMD outbreaks



Outbreaks occurred during year 2009



Outbreaks occurred during year 2010

Figure 2: Timeline of FMD outbreaks



Figure 3: High risk zones of FMD

compared to cattle may be reasons for only one confirmed case from pigs in the area.

Enactments on establishment of slaughter houses and slaughter of cattle have been established under the butchers' ordinance of Sri Lanka through which the local authorities are vested with powers to act. Nonetheless, animals are slaughtered illegally in rural areas without proper anti-mortem or postmortem inspection and hygienic status. It is anticipated that such illegal slaughter contributes to observed outbreaks of FMD and is suggested to establish proper slaughterhouses.

Conclusion

PCR provides results of confirmatory tests for FMD quicker than that of ELISA and hence should be adopted more frequently. The pattern of transmission of FMD within Sri Lanka is closely associated with trading relationships of cattle and buffalos and their meat from high risk zones to low risk zones. Declaration of infected areas and proper implementation of the regulations is very important to restrict the people, vehicle movement and trade of animal products to non infected areas. Establishment of slaughter houses in areas in which unorganized slaughter occurs and registration of slaughter houses would assist standardization

of animal slaughter in suburbs and eliminate unwarranted animal slaughter and illegal trafficking of animals. With the global vigilance of the TAD and their zoonotic trade and economic impacts in the present decade, it is high time for Sri Lanka to carry out strict surveillance and control activities on FMD.

Acknowledgement

The staff of the Central Veterinary Investigation Centre of the Veterinary Research Institute, Veterinary Surgeons, Veterinary Investigation Officers in Sri Lanka and specially Dr B.D.R. Wijewardana, Deputy Director (Technical services) for assistance extended.

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Using Body Condition Score To Assess Body Fat Depletion In Dogs

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Summary

This study examined the relationship between body condition score (BCS) and the proportion of dissectible fat in the bodies of a heterogeneous group of healthy dogs. When using the 9-point BCS method, the relationship between BCS and % body fat was not linear, in contrast to earlier studies where body lipid plus lipoprotein was estimated by DEXA scanning. A point of inflection in the relationship occurred at a BCS of 4.2. Below this point there was less than 2.7 % body fat. This implies that body fat depletion in the dog occurs at higher BCSs than previously thought, and it is likely that the dog relies on proteolysis for energy provision when in negative energy balance below a BCS of 4. A body condition score of 4 should be taken to be the interface between body fat depletion and good body condition.

Introduction

Body condition scoring can be used to assess emaciation. It is used as evidence in animal cruelty cases, and when needing to assess prognosis during natural disasters and diseases. Canine diseases and disorders that can be linked with either fat and/or muscle wasting include severe underfeeding, neoplasia, gastro-intestinal parasitism, non-enteric protozoal disease, canine distemper, chronic poisoning and chronic diarrhoea. Poor body condition in each of these circumstances does not necessarily determine prognosis, but it can be a contributory factor to morbidity, weakness and death.

Three methods are used for assessing body condition in dogs. The method reported by Edney and Smith (1986) used visual inspection with palpation of the soft tissue cover over the skeleton and a five point scale. The method developed by German et al. (2006) uses a seven point score which is based on a palpation algorithm, and the method used by Laflamme (1997) has a nine point score which assesses the animal's profile mainly as a silhouette as well as palpable and visible fatness and muscularity.

The interpretation of a low body condition score can be complicated by the way in which the scoring system was developed for the lower end of the body condition score (BCS) scale. In particular, it is not always clear at what point in a BCS scale that an animal's body fat reserves are

depleted. This point can be important because it can indicate progression into the final stage of survival during extreme negative energy balance, as the animal no longer depends on adipokinesis but instead is relying on proteolysis of body reserves. Gregory et al. (1998) showed that the relationship between BCS and dissected body fat at the lower end of the BCS scale was curvilinear in the dairy cow. The point at which body fat was virtually depleted corresponded to a score of 3.5 on the Australasian BCS system. This was helpful in interpreting body condition score and it indicated two things. Firstly, it showed that between 0 and 3.5, a change in BCS was associated with virtually no change in body fat percent. Secondly, it showed that cows had less than 4% dissectible body fat at a BCS of less than 4. Whereas, in layer hens the relationship between BCS and body fat percent appears to be linear throughout the BCS range (Gregory and Robins, 1998), and subsequent studies indicated that when layer hens are in negative energy balance they can continue to deplete body fat to less than 1% of their liveweight (Gregory and Devine, 1999).

The body condition scoring system that has been developed for dogs has assumed that the relationship between BCS and % body fat is linear throughout its range (Laflamme, 1997). That relationship was developed using dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) scanning which is an indirect indicator of % body fat, and it was assumed to give an accurate representation of body fat at all levels of the body fatness range (Elliott, 2006; Mawby et al. 2004). DEXA scanning is based on the absorption of X-rays. It has the following limitations when used for assessing body fat. Firstly, the equation used for calculating body fat percent from the absorption of the X-rays assumes that the water content of the fat free mass is always the same, which is not necessarily the case. Secondly, in whole body scanning, correction factors have to be applied for fat that is obscured by bone, and the appropriate algorithm that applies to dogs was not developed at the time the prediction relationship with body condition score was evaluated. In addition, differences in body thickness between animals and variation in fat distribution can increase the error in estimating body fat from a DEXA scan.

The uncertainties created by these sources of error led us to evaluate the shape of the relationship between BCS

and dissected % body fat in dogs. The overall aim was to improve interpretation of the body condition scoring system in assessing emaciation.

Materials and Methods

General Methods

The BCS of 21 mixed gender dogs was assessed using the 1 to 9 point scale by three people grading independently of each other, after each dog had been euthanased (Laflamme, 1997). This method allocates a BCS using palpation and visual inspection into one of nine grades as follows Laflamme (1997).

- 1 Emaciated. Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.
- 2 Very thin. Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences easily visible. No palpable fat. Minimal loss of muscle mass.
- 3 Thin. Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvis bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.
- 4 Underweight. Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from the side.
- 5 Ideal. Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.
- 6 Overweight. Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but it is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.
- 7 Heavy. Ribs palpable with difficulty, heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumber area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be absent.
- 8 Obese. Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumber area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distension may be present.
- 9 Grossly obese. Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal

distension.

All the graders in the present study were familiar with the 9-point BCS method. One of the graders used the method routinely for assessing both racing greyhounds and other dogs, and another grader provided training on BCS grading. Previous experience has shown that body condition scoring in dogs is repeatable and reproducible (Laflamme, 1997). The assessments were made after rigor mortis had resolved to minimise the likelihood of muscle stiffness influencing the BCS. The breeds included Beagle, German Shepherd crossbred, Greyhound, Jack Russell, Rottweiler, Scottish terrier and Staffordshire terrier. The age of each dog was not known, but none of them were considered geriatric. The dogs were euthanased for purposes that were unrelated to this study.

Body dissection

In 11 dogs the body was physically dissected into fat, muscle, bone and other tissues. First, the eviscerated carcass was portioned into neck, ribs, loin, flank, thoracic limbs, pelvic limbs and rump regions using standard dissection procedures adopted for other species (Brown et al., 1978). Each portion was then dissected into its component tissues. Fat was also dissected from the viscera and the underside of the skin. The dissection excluded the head, tail and legs below the knee and hock joints, which were, however, included in the total bodyweight. The pooled fresh weight was recorded for each component. The animals were not bled during euthanasia and so weight was lost as fluid from severed blood vessels during portioning and dissection.

Loin dissection

Analysis of the whole body dissections showed that the best region for predicting the % fat in the body was the % fat in the loin. So, in the remaining 10 dogs the loin was dissected into fat, muscle, bone and other tissues. The loin consisted of the lumbar region without any ribs, and other tissues in the loin included ligaments, thick adventitia and large blood vessels.

Statistics

Data from 11 dogs was used for examining the relationships between BCS and overall body composition, and for the relationships with the loin data there were 21 dogs. Statistical evaluation was by linear regression analysis after plotting the data to ensure there was no confounding clustering of the data. The point of inflection in biphasic relationships was determined by solving the simultaneous equations for two linear regressions.

Results

During dissection there were no signs of gross pathology in any of the dogs.

Body dissection

The BCS for the 11 dogs that were fully dissected into fat, muscle and bone varied between 2 and 7 (mean 4.5, sd ±1.5). The loss in weight during dissection was on average 4.1 % (± 3.5 sd) of body weight. The mean fat, muscle and bone %s for the whole body are shown in Table 1. Total body fat % varied between 0.8 and 31.1% of body weight (mean 10.5%, sd ±10.8).

The relationship between BCS and % total body fat was biphasic (Figure 1). Up to a BCS of 4, there was limited variation in body fatness and an increase of 0.6 % body fat occurred per unit increase in BCS ($r = 0.40, p > 0.05$). Between a BCS of 4 and 7, there was an increase of 10.3 % body fat per unit increase in BCS ($r = 0.97, p < 0.001$). The point of inflection in the overall relationship was at a BCS of 4.2.

The four best sample joints for predicting % fat in the body are shown in Table 2. The loin joint gave the best relationship, and so this was used in subsequent dissections.

As a % of total weight	Whole body	Median	Range
Fat	10.5 (±10.8)	7.1	0.8 – 31.1
Muscle	40.8 (±10.3)	43.2	23.8 – 55.9
Bone	9.3 (±1.6)	9.5	6.7 – 11.6
Viscera	13.8 (±2.1)	13.9	11.1 – 19.1
Head, legs, tail	10.8 (±2.3)	11.3	7.4 – 13.9
Skin	7.9 (±2.4)	8.4	3.6 – 12.2
Other tissues	2.8 (±0.6)	3.0	1.8 – 3.7
Carcass	61.2 (±7.6)	61.2	48.2 – 76.1

The relationship between BCS and % skeletal muscle in the body was linear and negative ($b = -5.95, r = -0.87, p < 0.001$).

Loin dissection

The BCS for the dogs used in the loin dissection analysis varied between 2 and 7.5 (mean 4.2, sd ±1.6). The relationship between BCS and % fat in the loin was biphasic (Figure 2). The point of inflection in the overall relationship was at a BCS of 4.1. The correlation coefficient for the first (lower) phase of the relationship was 0.55 ($p < 0.05$), and for

x	a	b	r ²	RSS
% fat in loin	1.0927	0.5143	0.998	1.7
% fat in ribs	0.0757	3.8389	0.965	36.1
% fat in rump	0.1948	0.5921	0.911	96.6
% fat in flank	1.9201	0.4598	0.845	171.8
<i>a</i> – intercept <i>b</i> – regression coefficient <i>r</i> ² – correlation coefficient squared, <i>RSS</i> – sum of the squares of the residuals				

the second phase it was 0.96 ($p < 0.001$). The loin fat % at the point of inflection in the relationship with BCS was 3.5 % ($n = 21$), and for the relationship between BCS and body fat % the point of inflection was at 2.6% fat ($n = 11$).

The relationship between BCS and % muscle in the loin is shown in Figure 3.

Discussion

This study showed that there is not a simple linear relationship between body condition score and the proportion of total body fat in dogs. Instead the overall relationship is biphasic, with a shallow gradient in the slope at low BCSs and a sixteen-fold steeper slope at higher BCSs, when using the 9-point scoring system. The point of inflection in the overall relationship was at a BCS of 4 and a body fat % of 2.6. The slope in the lower limb of the overall relationship was close to zero (0.63). This means that at a BCS of 4 or less, the dog's body fat reserves are virtually depleted (< 2.7 % body fat) and an animal can be considered to be approaching total adipose tissue depletion. The very small slope in the lower limb of the overall relationship implies that a dog would be relying on body protein catabolism to withstand further undernutrition or negative energy balance. Dogs and other non-hibernating canid carnivores do not readily change to tissue proteolysis when underfed. Instead, they continue to mobilise body fat before resorting to catabolism of body protein as the last reserve (de Bruijne et al., 1981; Mustonen et al., 2006). Proteolysis is not enhanced even when fasted dogs take exercise (Halseth et al., 1997), but it can be more pronounced than adipokinesis in certain types of cancer (Michel et al., 2004).

The reason for the disparity between the main conclusion from this study and those of previous investigations could be as follows. In the past the relationships between BCS and body fat % have been based on estimates of body fat % derived from DEXA scan measurements. The relationship

Figure 1. Relationship between body condition score and % body fat in 11 dogs

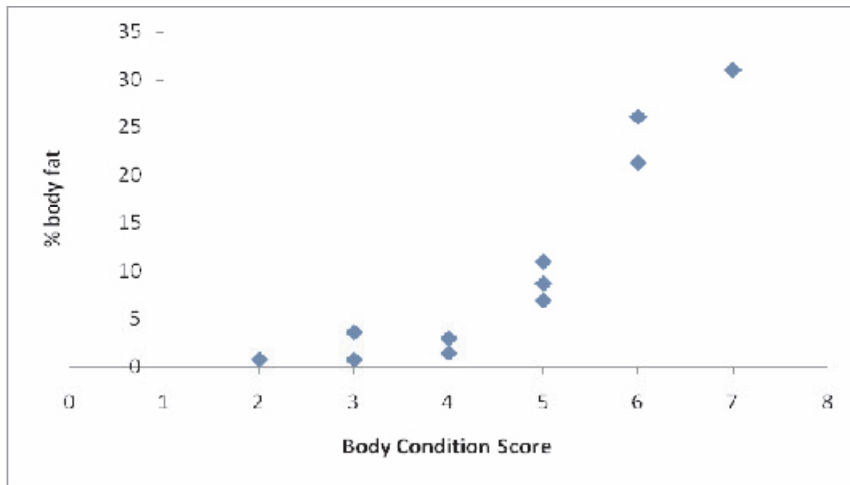


Figure 2. Relationship between body condition score and % fat in the loin of 21 dogs

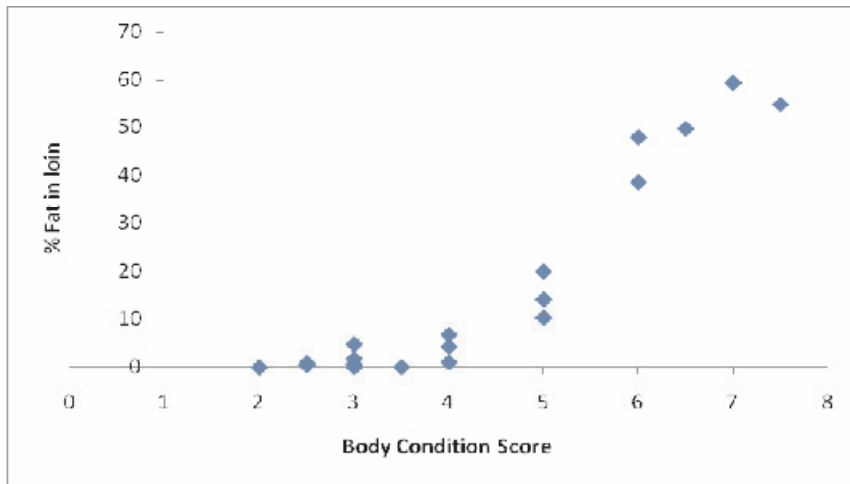
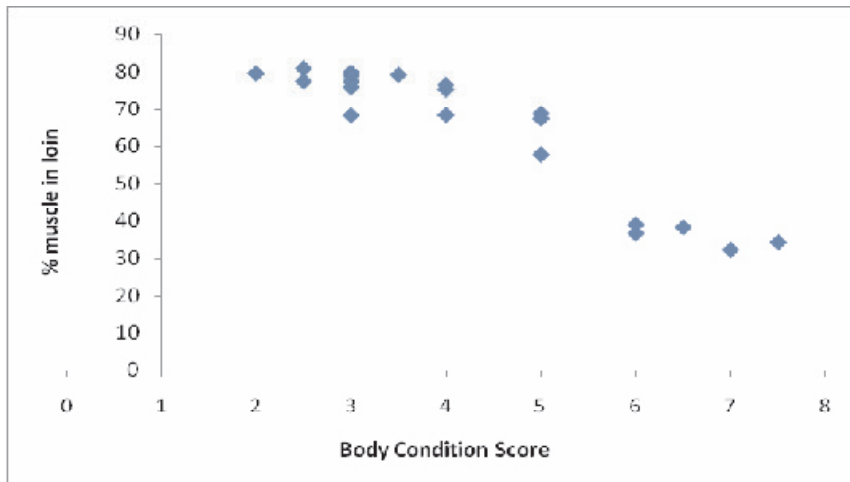


Figure 3. Relationship between body condition score and % muscle in the loin of 21 dogs



has been assumed to be linear throughout the BCS range, even though insufficient animals with low BCSs were included in some of the studies (Mawby et al., 2004; German et al., 2006). In addition, the DEXA scan method relies on geometric modelling of fat in the body and, based on experience in other species, there may be differences in fat distribution at different levels of overall fatness, which may not have been considered when developing the algorithms for dogs (Butler-Hogg and Wood, 1982; Wood et al., 1983). The DEXA scan method also assumes that hydration in the fat-free body mass is the same in all animals, which is not necessarily the case when there are acute changes in fluid intake (Pietrobelli et al., 1996). Whereas, physical dissection of body fat provides a direct measure of adipose tissue weight which would not be complicated by these features.

This study also showed that the loin is the single best body region to dissect when assessing body fatness in dogs. The same applies in sheep (Timon and Bichard, 1965). The dog loin data confirmed that the relationship between BCS and % fat was biphasic. The point of inflection in the overall relationship was at 4.1 BCS and this was almost identical to the point of inflection for whole body fat %.

When the 9-point body condition scoring system has been used for assessing condition in dogs affected with cancer, some oncologists have used an additional scoring system which evaluated muscularity by palpation (Michel et al., 2004). This is because the 9-point BCS system is said to fail to take into account muscle wasting in animals scoring >2 on the BCS scale, and because muscle wasting is more common than body fat depletion in canine cancer cases. The present study indicated that the relationship between skeletal muscle percent and BCS (in the 2 to 7.5 BCS range) was biphasic (or possibly quadratic) rather than parabolic. This implies that muscle wasting is not a normal feature in healthy dogs with a BCS >2. Instead, the proportion of muscle in the body appears to be constant (at about 77% muscle in the loin) between a BCS of 2 and 4, and above that range the proportion of skeletal muscle declines with the increase in proportionate fatness. The absence of a positive relationship between BCS and % muscle in the 2 to 4 BCS range might suggest that skeletal muscle proteolysis only starts to occur at a BCS of <2. Instead, with BCSs between 2 and 4, proteolysis may be occurring in the viscera. Muscle wasting may, however, be a more common feature in cancer-affected dogs that are in the 2 to 4 BCS range.

Body fat depletion is a sign that an animal has been through a period of negative energy balance and has probably experienced hunger or cachexia during that period. This study showed that dogs with a body condition score of 4 or less have less than 3.5 % body fat and can be considered to

be virtually fat depleted. If their body condition continues to decline further, it is likely that this will be through a loss of body protein reserves. A BCS of 4 can be taken to be the interface between body fat depletion and a good body condition in dogs. These findings can be taken into account when supporting or refuting allegations of cruelty through inappropriate feeding and care, and when deciding the optimum body condition for breeding and lactating females.

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Schmallenberg Virus

Schmallenberg virus is the informal name given to an orthobunyavirus related to Shamonda virus, which has not been given a formal name as of January 2012, initially reported in November 2011 to cause fetal congenital malformations and stillbirths in cattle, sheep, and goats.

It appears to be transmitted by midges (*Culicoides* spp.) which are likely to have been most active in causing the infection in the northern hemisphere summer and autumn of 2011, with animals subsequently giving birth from late 2011.

The virus is named after Schmallenberg, in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, from where the first definitive sample was derived. It has also been detected in Lower Saxony in Germany, as well as in the Netherlands, Belgium, France and the United Kingdom.

The virus has been recognised by the European Commission's Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health and the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (German Research Institute for Animal Health). A risk assessment in December 2011 did not consider it likely to be a threat to human health, as other comparable viruses are not zoonotic.

It was confirmed as present in the UK on 22 January 2012, having been formally identified in four sheep farms in Norfolk, Suffolk and East Sussex. It is likely that it was carried to Eastern England by midges from mainland Europe, a possibility previously identified as a risk by Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), United Kingdom.

Community Based Best Practices In Natural Resources Management And Pastoralism In Ewaso Nyiro Ecosystem, Kenya: A Case Study Of Namunyak And Naibung'a Conservancies

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Introduction: Pastoralists in Kenya have shared landscapes with wildlife for millennia making use of both vegetation and water resources in space, time and transhumance system for management of wet and dry season grazing practices. Over the years co-existence has been complicated by inappropriate conservation policy, demographic growth, expansion of agriculture and diseases at the domestic wildlife interphase leading to species decline. There is need to consider new approaches to support conservation in these ecosystems.

Study site: Laikipia and Samburu Counties lie between three major water towers of Mt Kenya, Aberdares and Mathews Mountain ranges. However the two counties are situated in Climatic zones V and VII which are semi-arid lands. Rainfall patterns are bimodal (March–April and October–November) with an average precipitation of 400–600mm).

Objectives/purpose and methodology of the study: This paper explores the drivers behind the success of Community Based Conservation (CBC) projects of Namunyak (Samburu County) and Naibunga (Meru County) in Ewaso Nyiro Ecosystems. Participatory methodologies and approaches comprising of maps, photography, transect walks, personal interviews with key informants (n=20), semi-structured interviews/questionnaires (n=108), focus group discussions (n=20), were applied for qualitative and quantitative assessment and reporting.

Results: One hundred and eight respondents (78 from Naibunga and 30 from Namunyak. n=108) each representing a household were disaggregated into gender (male 67.3% and female 32.3%). The respondents were further categorized according to length of time (years) lived in the group ranch (>20years-60%, 11-20(18.3%), 6-10(12.3%), 1-5(10.1%), and according to age brackets (>45years:27.5%, 35-

44:22.0%, 18-24:15.6%, with the majority aged between 25-34:34.9%. Community participatory approaches to wildlife conservation have significant influence on the successful natural resource management of Naibung'a and Namunyak community conservancies. Similarly, conservation friendly culture and ecotourism have significant influence on change of attitudes towards game meat and general acceptance of wildlife as alternative source of income. The study revealed community awareness of presence of zoonotic diseases particularly most impacting including anthrax and rabies.

Conclusion: Strong and equitable community institutions, secure resource rights, active community participation, benefit sharing partnerships; and adequate knowledge and management of zoonotic, emerging and re-emerging diseases at the domestic- wildlife- interface are key governance attributes for successful and sustainable community-based conservation.

Keywords: Community Based Conservation. Ecotourism. Wildlife Conservation. Pastoralism. Zoonotic. Communal Ranches.

Liberty the last UK Battery Hen

The United Kingdom is the latest country to ban battery hen farming. The EU gave a directive to all member countries to abolish conventional battery cages by the first of January. The directive was made 12 years ago. The first country to comply was Switzerland in 1992, and then Germany banned conventional battery cages in 2007. It's estimated to have cost 5 billions euros to convert farms. A chook named "Liberty" has become something of a celebrity in the United Kingdom. She's the country's symbolic last battery hen and one of 300 thousand who've found a new home in a British backyard.

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Improving The Control Of Gumboro Disease In Commercial Poultry In Ghana: Virus Isolation And Vaccine Trial Studies

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Abstract

Isolation and characterization of Ghanaian field Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD) virus was undertaken to establish an efficacious vaccination program against Gumboro disease in the country. Bursal homogenates prepared from chickens that died of IBD in five locations in the country were used. Batches of 11- day old Specific Antibody Negative (SAN) embryonated eggs were inoculated with 0.2ml of homogenate each on to the chorio-allantoic membrane (CAM). The eggs were incubated and candled daily and all embryonic deaths were examined for gross IBD lesions. In addition, batches of 3-week and 6-week old SAN chickens were inoculated intra-ocularly with 10ml of the bursal homogenate and observed over 10 days for clinical signs and gross lesions of IBD. Confirmation of isolate was by RT-PCR/RFLP. Embryos inoculated with homogenates from all five locations died 3-5 days PI showing characteristic IBD lesions of extensive haemorrhages, congestion of limbs and stunted growth. Inoculated SAN chickens showed 100% cumulative mortality with similar lesions. One isolate LV/G19 standardized for viral challenge studies had an ELD₅₀ value of 10^{6.3}. This study confirms the presence of very virulent infectious bursal disease virus (vvIBDV) in Ghana. In a second study, different vaccination programmes using intermediate and intermediate-plus vaccines were investigated for the control of vvIBD in commercial poultry. SAN chicken and commercial poultry replacement chicks were used. Various groups of chicks were vaccinated either once, twice or thrice on days 7, 14, 23, 28 or 35. All chickens were bled before each vaccination and their antibody titer levels determined by competitive ELISA. The chicken were inoculated intra-ocularly on day 49 with the isolated vvIBD virus pathotype and observed for 10 days PI. Dead chickens were examined for gross pathologies, while surviving birds were euthanized on day 59 to study integrity of the bursa of Fabricius. The most significant finding is that, intermediate vaccines are most effective for the control of Gumboro disease in Ghanaian poultry, when administered first on the day 14th and repeated on the 28th day of age.

Introduction

Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD) also known as Gumboro disease of poultry is an acute highly contagious viral disease of chickens between the ages of 3 and 6 weeks. The disease was first definitively diagnosed in Ghana in 1977 (Gyening & Corkish, 1977) but had been suspected to be endemic in the country since 1973. Then, the disease was recognized only as a mild one accounting for about 2-5% mortality and was effectively controlled with the available vaccine using a vaccination programme recommended by the Veterinary Services Department (VSD). Over the past decade, IBD has become the most important health problem in commercial poultry in the country. It is considered a highly devastating disease accounting for as much as 60% in layer chick mortality and 25% in broilers (VSD, 2001).

In spite of a nationally adopted vaccination programme, outbreaks still occur. It has been speculated that new strains and pathotypes of the virus may have been introduced into the country resulting in vaccination failures. As a result of recurrent vaccination failures many poultry farmers have adopted their own vaccination strategies, with different vaccine types from various manufacturers. The result of the farmers' practices has been mixed.

For vaccination programmes to be effective, the prevailing pathotypes of IBDV need to be identified, since different IBD strains and pathotypes may require specific vaccines and vaccination programmes among other measures to achieve effective control (Van den Berg, 1998). Such comprehensive studies of IBD have not been carried out in Ghana. The purpose of this study therefore was to isolate and characterize the field IBD virus pathotypes and develop a vaccination strategy for the control of the disease in chicken in Ghana.

Materials and Methods

a. Virus isolation studies

Experimental chicken: Specific Antibody Negative

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(SAN) White Leghorn chickens raised at the CSIR-Animal Research Institute, Katamanso Station, Accra were used for the experiments.

Sourcing of viral material: Bursae of Fabricius of chicken diagnosed to have died of IBD were obtained from the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories at CSIR-ARI. The samples came from five different locations in Ghana and were identified as Pokoase (ARI), Nungua (LV/G11), Kasoa (LV/G13), Lashibi (LV/G23) and Akim-Oda (LV/G19).

Preparation of bursal homogenate (inoculum): Twenty grams of bursal tissue was homogenised in 100 ml of sterile phosphate buffered saline (PBS). The suspension was centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 20 minutes. The supernatant obtained was mixed with 10 000 IU / ml penicillin and 2.0ml streptomycin to prepare bursal homogenate used in the viral isolation and other experiments (Hitchner, 1970).

Virus isolation in SAN embryonating eggs: Ten groups of 11-day embryonating eggs (n =10) obtained from the SAN flock were used for virus isolation according to the method described by Hitchner (1970).

Virus isolation and biological characterization in SAN chickens: Groups of twenty, 3- week and 6- week old SAN chickens were inoculated intra-ocularly with 10ml of bursal homogenates prepared from clinical cases of IBD as described above. Another 20 chicken served as un-inoculated control in each case. Clinical signs, morbidity and mortality rates were observed for 10 days post inoculation (PI). Bursae of Fabricius of all dead chickens were examined for IBD lesions, harvested and stored at -70°C for later use. Chickens surviving beyond 10 days were euthanized to assess the integrity of the bursa of Fabricius.

Preparation of standardized virus challenge material: The isolate LV/G19 that was one of the most virulent (Table 1) was selected for use as standard challenge virus. The bursal homogenate of this isolate was titrated by inoculating 10-day old SAN embryonating eggs via the CAM route with 0.1ml of inoculum and the ELD_{50} was calculated following the method of Reed and Munch (1938).

Molecular diagnosis: Twenty samples of bursa of Fabricius from the five sites of studies were sent to Hipra Laboratories in Spain under strict protocol of transporting biological samples. Samples were pooled into five, Pool 1: ARI; Pool 2: LV/G11; Pool 3: LV/G13; Pool 4: LV/G19 and Pool 5: LV/G23 and were analyzed by reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction – restriction fragment length polymorphism (RT/PCR- RFLP) technique at Hipra Laboratories, Spain.

b. Vaccine trial studies

Experimental chicken: Specific Antibody Negative (SAN) chicken and White Leghorn commercial replacement pullets were used in the study.

Vaccines: The two IBD vaccine types used in the country, the “Intermediate” (TAD, Laprovet, France and Intervet D78) and “Intermediate-Plus” (Nobilis 228E, Intervet company, Netherlands) vaccines were used in this experiment.

Testing of Vaccination Schedules: A total of 960 SAN and commercial replacement pullets were used for the trial in which vaccination schedules were tested. The intermediate vaccines (TAD, D78) and intermediate plus vaccine 228E were administered to the various groups of chicks. Twenty chicks from each group were bled weekly for the whole period of the experiment and sera harvested for serology. The chicks were inoculated with the standardized stock field challenge virus intra-ocularly on day 49 and observed for 10 days PI, to study the clinical patterns and pathologic lesions. The bursae of Fabricius of chicks that died after challenge were harvested to study their integrity. Surviving chicks were sacrificed on day 59 to also study the integrity of the bursa. Competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (c-ELISA) was used to evaluate responses to vaccinations and determination of the best ages of vaccination.

Statistical analysis: Data was analyzed in ANOVA following GLM procedures of SPSS for windows (version 10.0).

Results

Virus isolation in SAN embryos: The infected embryos showed mortalities after 3 to 5 days PI. Lesions included extensive body haemorrhages, congestion of limbs and stunted growth. None of the surviving embryos showed signs of splenomegaly.

Isolation and biological characterization in SAN chicken: Biological characterization of isolated strains was based on clinical signs and morbidity and mortality rates in challenged birds. Clinical signs appeared after 3 days post inoculation. These included lethargy, anorexia, ruffled feathers and sudden death. Morbidity and mortality rates were 100% within 10 days PI (Table 1). Post mortem examination showed enlarged, haemorrhagic and edematous bursae with haemorrhages in the thigh and pectoral muscles.

Standardization of Challenge virus: The embryo lethal dose ELD_{50} recorded for LV/G19 selected for viral challenge

Isolate	Source	ID Number	No of chicken inoculated	% Morbidity	% Mortality
Bolossa	ARI	ARI	20	100	80
Nungua	La Vot	LMG11	20	100	80
Kroo	La Vot	LMG13	20	100	90
Achim.Ola	La Vot	LMG19	20	100	100
Lashibi	La Vot	LMG23	20	100	100

NB: Twenty uninoculated chickens used, as control did not show signs of IBD

Table 1. Morbidity and mortality rates induced in 6-week old Specific Antibody Negative (SAN) chickens by field isolates of IBDV from different locations in Ghana

Time of vaccination (Days)	Antibody titres			
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
7	-	4.49 ± 1.71	4.39 ± 3.22	-
14	-	-	-	-
23	2.04 ± 1.02	1240.80 ± 103.39	2074.90 ± 329.39	-
28	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	2252.89 ± 213.90	-
49	3983.87 ± 312.75	2173.34 ± 294.74	4227.14 ± 143.54	4.60 ± 3.04

Gp 1 - vaccinated only on day 23 Gp 2 - vaccinated on days 7 and 23
 Gp 3 - vaccinated on days 7, 23 and 35 Gp 4 - control - no vaccination

Table 2. Mean ELISA antibody titres of chicken without maternal antibodies (SAN) vaccinated in different vaccination regimen

Time of Vaccination (Days)	Antibody titres							
	Gp 1	Gp 2	Gp 3	Gp 4	Gp 5	Gp 6	Gp 7	Gp 8
7	-	-	371.97 ± 138.22	-	975.5 ± 661.3	-	-	-
14	72.76 ± 14.64	-	-	208.59 ± 43.21	-	91.85 ± 39.78	236.98 ± 54.36	-
23	-	105.90 ± 51.59	48.76 ± 19.32	-	43.22 ± 19.54	-	-	-
28	-	-	-	3215.28 ± 54.32	-	-	4119.16 ± 67.84	-
35	-	-	-	-	2303.73 ± 114.36	-	-	-
49	4336.96 ± 722.72	3436.00 ± 454.50	4227.16 ± 327.13	5384.30 ± 147.31	4735.30 ± 608.30	4921.70 ± 43.19	5690.34 ± 205.47	140.17 ± 36.45

Gp 1 - vaccinated only on day 14 Gp 2 - vaccinated only on day 23
 Gp 3 - vaccinated on days 7 and 23 Gp 4 - vaccinated on days 14 and 28
 Gp 5 - vaccinated on days 7, 23 and 35 Gp 6 - Inter-plus day 14
 Gp 7 - Inter-plus day 14 and 28 Gp 8 - no vaccination

Table 3. Mean ELISA antibody titres of locally produced commercial replacement pullets vaccinated in different regimes

studies was $10^{6.3}$

Molecular Diagnosis: All samples (Pools 1-5) were identified to be very virulent infectious Bursal Disease (vvIBDV) at Hipra Laboratories, Spain (M. Bentue, 2005. Personal Communication).

Vaccination schedule testing in SAN chickens: All SAN chicks vaccinated with either of the vaccines and challenged with the Ghanaian vvIBDV, showed no sign of disease while the unvaccinated controls exhibited clinical signs and gross pathologies typical of vvIBDV with 100% morbidity and 75% mortality rates. There were significant differences in the mean titres of vaccinated SAN chicks ($p > 0.05$) Table 2. While titres for the control group were different from that of the other groups ($p < 0.05$).

Vaccination schedule testing in commercial replacement pullets: Vaccinated and challenged, commercial chicken showed results similar to those of the SAN chickens, Table 3. There were significant differences in the mean titres between the control group and the vaccinated groups ($p > 0.05$), mortality rates in the control group was however lower (60%) than in SAN chicken.

Discussion

Gumboro Disease outbreaks in vaccinated flocks have caused serious frustration in the poultry industry in Ghana with some farmers actually abandoning their farming enterprises in recent years. Several workers have blamed vaccination failure on many factors including the overwhelming of vaccinal immunity induced by highly pathogenic field strains of the IBD virus (Okoye and Uzoukwu, 1981). McFerran *et al.* (1980) showed differences in pathotypes among field isolates and vaccine strains of serotype 1 IBDV and postulated the presence of antigenically distinct viruses within this serotype to explain poor vaccination results. It has been speculated that, the Ghanaian stock field virus may be more virulent than the vaccinal viruses and hence able to break through vaccinal immunity to cause outbreaks. The economical importance of both the clinical disease and sub-clinical disease resulting from frequent outbreaks of Gumboro disease, especially in vaccinated chickens in Ghana has led to the search for an efficient vaccine and vaccination regime.

Our studies were based on the assertion by Van den Berg *et al.*, (1991), that the only criterion for the classification of IBD strains as pathotypes should be their virulence in SPF or SAN chickens or embryonating eggs. Accordingly SAN chickens and embryonated eggs were used in these studies. One of the isolates, LV/G19 induced death, dwarfing,

haemorrhages, or edema in the embryos when inoculated on to the CAM of 11-day old embryonated SAN chicken eggs. These lesions are considered pathognomonic for IBD (OIE, 1997).

In reproducing the disease in 3-week and 6-week old SAN chickens, with 100% mortality rates using a field isolate in the present studies, there were strong indications that the isolates are of the very virulent biotype. Similar findings were reported by Nunoya *et al.*, (1992) using 3-week old SAN chickens.

Molecular tests at the Hipra Laboratories, S.A. Spain using RT-PCR-RFLP technique confirmed that the isolates from Ghana indeed belong to the vvIBDV biotype (M. Bentue, 2005. Personal communication).

The ELD_{50} of $10^{6.3}$ used in the studies for LV/G19 was ideal for Gumboro disease challenge work. The STC strain of serotype 1 IBDV standardized for challenge work by Amakye-Anim *et al.* (2000) had a similar ELD_{50} value of $10^{6.8}$.

The study to test various vaccination programmes showed that, SAN chicken responded well to vaccination to produce antibodies. This is probably due to the fact that they did not have high levels of maternal antibodies (MDAs) that could interfere with the vaccine virus and so they sero-converted after primary vaccination on day 7. It is observed from this study also (Table 3), that before primary vaccination of commercial chicken on day 7, antibody levels were higher than protective levels but after vaccination with both intermediate and 'hot' vaccines, antibody titres decreased. This is an indication that, the vaccines failed to stimulate immune response due perhaps to interference by MDAs. However, after primary vaccination on day 14, immune response takes place and antibody titres increased. Knezevic *et al.*, (1999) reported similar observations in broiler chicken. Chicken vaccinated on day 14 with either of the vaccines produced immune response but with lower antibody titres, however after administering booster doses at day 28, secondary immune response takes place and the titre becomes increased. In summary, intermediate and 'hot' vaccines both produced similar responses in eliciting antibody titres. Though the 'hot' vaccine administered primarily on day 14 and repeated on day 28 produced higher titres on day 49 (5690.34) than the intermediate vaccine (5384.31), the difference was however not significant. It is evident from the foregoing that commercial pullets, when primed with an intermediate vaccine at 14 days of age and administered with a booster dose at 28 days with the same type of vaccine, will develop immunity that protects them against the disease and reduce losses.

It can be concluded from the above findings that the prevalent IBD virus strain currently in Ghana is the vvIBD pathotype and the best vaccination regime against this pathotype is priming chicks first at 14 days of age and administering the same vaccine on day 28 as a booster dose. This will produce antibodies with titres high enough to achieve the protection required for both pullets and broilers against the Gumboro disease. Since “intermediate” vaccines are less expensive compared to “hot” vaccines, for reduction in production costs and competitiveness of the industry, it is recommended that “intermediate” vaccines are the best for the control of Gumboro disease in commercial poultry in Ghana.

Acknowledgements

The technical support of Hipra Laboratories, S.A. Spain for the molecular diagnosis and confirmation of isolated samples is acknowledged with gratitude. Messrs’ J.W.K Nartey, C. T. Arthur, S.E.K Ogbete and Mrs. Rukia Agyei of ARI –CSIR are also thanked for their contribution. This study was supported with funds from the Agricultural Sub-Sector Improvement Programme (Research) of the Ghana Government.

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Lung Infections In Captive Elephant Keepers In Sri Lanka

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Introduction

The draught work carried out by privately owned captive elephants in Sri Lanka in the past has been rapidly replaced by heavy machinery. Therefore captive elephants, approximately 120 living at present, are compelled to participate in religious, cultural and state functions in which interaction with humans is more close and frequent. The finding of the first captive elephant with clinical Tuberculosis (TB) has suggested that, the infection is possibly spreading from elephant keepers (Dangolla *et al.*, 2002). If the current situation prevails, the infected captive elephants may become a source of infection to other animals and elephant loving Sri Lankans and visiting foreigners (Pinto *et al.*, 1973). The dwindling numbers of captive elephants in Sri Lanka must be protected from this devastating condition, which has taken 1900 human lives in year 2009 in Sri Lanka (National program for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases, Annual report, 2009). The human contact and stress are being potential causes for the observed high prevalence of TB in wild elephants reared in a semi captive situation in Sri Lanka (Perera *et al.*, 2011). However, concerns on TB in captive elephants in Sri Lanka dates back to Senevirathne *et al.*, (1966), with their accidental finding of the bacterium during a postmortem.

Attempts to collect trunk wash (Isaza and Ketz, 1999) from 60 captive elephants in year 2007 failed, possibly because they were not trained. Most elephant keepers in Sri Lanka, who were un-educated (Dangolla and Silva, 2006), have left the profession due to various reasons. The current captive elephant keepers are better educated but frequently smoke and consume alcohol (Jayawardene *et al.*, 2011), which are known risk factors for the development of TB (Lonnroth *et al.*, 2008, Kolappan and Gopi, 2002). It is timely to screen all captive elephant keepers for all chest conditions, educate them on TB and on the fact that it can now be treated and cured. Objective of the this paper is to report results of screening captive elephant keepers in Sri Lanka, to examine the occurrence of chest conditions in them, to detect any potentially TB infected individuals and to treat them.

Materials and Methods

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2. Teaching Hospital, Kandy
3. Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, University of Peradeniya

During August 2010, when 92 captive elephants were brought to Kandy for the annual procession, their keepers were subjected to a mobile chest clinic. The medical histories of individual keepers were recorded, including current health conditions and treatment with special emphasis on chest conditions. Most conditions were clinically investigated and treated while those who had signs of chest infection and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) were referred to the chest clinic, which is located 0.5km away. At the chest clinic, mantoux test, chest X rays and sputum smear for Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB) were performed for confirmation of TB.

Results

A total of 78 captive elephant keepers were screened, 20 keepers had COPD and were referred to chest clinic Kandy for further investigations. Only 5 such advised keepers reported at the chest clinic. None of the 5 keepers were sputum smear positive. Out of them 2 were mantoux test positive (more than 10mm) but chest X ray did not show evidence of active TB therefore diagnosed as having latent TB infection. Another 2 keepers had radiological evidence of infective exacerbations of COPD, and their mantoux test results were negative. One keeper had patchy consolidations in both lungs and his clinical and radiological features were strongly suggestive of TB and was diagnosed as smear negative pulmonary TB.

Discussion and Recommendations

A total of 20 out of 78 screened keepers had COPD which is a significant proportion which could be attributed to smoking. One diagnosed patient with TB out of 78 screened is a substantially high rate compared to national tuberculosis incidence of 46 per 100000 Sri Lankans (National program for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases, Annual Report, 2009). The 15 elephant keepers, who did not comply with medical advice, must be followed up. Two elephant keepers whose mantoux test were positive, in addition to having COPD, are latently infected with mycobacterium tuberculosis. They have a 10% annual risk of developing active TB. Some TB infected individuals can show negative results to the smear

test, mantoux test and even for culture test because sensitivity of sputum smear ranges from 50% to 80% and that of mantoux test is around 75% (American Thoracic Society, 2000). Those who showed evidence of TB only in chest radiograph in addition to having COPD, must be followed up. The findings of this study shows that the incidence of tuberculosis among the captive elephant keepers is higher than among the citizens in Sri Lanka. It appears that TB is an occupational hazard among the captive elephant keepers in Sri Lanka. It is important to screen all captive elephant keepers regularly, not before too long, if elephants are to be protected from contracting TB. The reports to compare this situation with other countries, is not possible due to scarcity of information. This is the first report from Sri Lanka on attempts to screen elephant keepers for the presence of TB. Tuberculosis is a socially unacceptable condition among general public in Sri Lanka. Most elephant keepers did not comply with medical advice possibly because they are doubtful of losing their current minimal social acceptance if they are found to be Tuberculosis infected. Therefore if compliance is to be obtained, the assistance of elephant owners is a must. All elephant keepers at Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawela, Sri Lanka, which is a national tourist attraction, must be screened soon, before this situation could seriously hamper foreign currency flow into Sri Lanka.

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Flu Researchers Announce Moratorium on Some H5N1 Flu Research, Call for Global Summit

Stung by a growing global controversy over the potential dangers of experiments involving the H5N1 avian flu virus- and worried about heavy-handed government regulation-the world's leading H5N1 researchers have agreed to a 60-day moratorium on a controversial category of studies "to allow time for international discussion."

"We recognize that we and the rest of the scientific community need to clearly explain the benefits of this important research and the measures taken to minimize its possible risks," a group of 39 researchers write in a statement published by Science and Nature. "To provide time for these discussions, we have agreed on a voluntary pause of 60 days on any research involving highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 viruses leading to the generation of viruses that are more transmissible in mammals."

~ Scienceexpress, Friday 20 January 2012



Animal Welfare

About The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)

The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) reflects the strong feelings and concerns that Australians have for animal welfare, and our need to constantly improve how we treat animals in our care at all levels of society.

The Australian Government developed the AAWS to raise the standards for animal care and welfare. The strategy unites animal industries, welfare groups, community organisations and State and Territory governments to work together on one agreed program on behalf of the broader community. This means there is now general agreement on priority animal welfare issues and a process which provides support to projects in the areas of research, policy development, new standards of care, education and training, and general communication with the public.

The implementation strategy is based on wide consultation and a National Advisory Committee has been appointed to guide the program.

For more information on the AAWS, what it does and how to participate, visit our new website at www.australiananimalwelfare.com.au

Expected benefits of the AAWS

Implementation of the AAWS is a shared responsibility that relies on the commitment of time, resources and funding from all levels of government and from stakeholders, including community and industry groups associated with animals.

As a result of the AAWS:

- animals will experience better levels of care and management; and
- a balanced debate of animal welfare issues can take place within the community, with its website, www.australiananimalwelfare.com.au, acting as an online reference point detailing Australia's actions.

The AAWS is delivering practical welfare improvements on farms and in industry, is a cornerstone of emergency response procedures, and Australia's best opportunity to authoritatively influence the global agenda on animal

welfare.

The Australian Government has contributed approximately \$4 million over 2010-14 to fund the AAWS. This funding will be used for specific joint initiatives to address priority issues at community, industry, and national levels. Governments and other stake holders will also contribute funds for activities under the Strategy.

The AAWS works across four areas:

Animals: Improving the care and management of all animals in our care

Systems: Ensuring national consistency from law makers to improve animal welfare on the ground

People: Educating and engaging Australians to deliver better care of animals

International: Working with other countries to share knowledge and make Australia a leader in animal welfare

The AAWS in action

Dog health

The AAWS is funding two projects being conducted by Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC). The 'Be a Friend to Your Dog' school project will be delivered across three shires in the Northern Territory to help Indigenous primary school students learn about the responsibilities and requirements of pet care.

AMRRIC has also produced DVDs to encourage better care for dogs in remote communities, with an emphasis on simple practical steps including heart worm treatments and de-sexing.

Horse welfare

The Australian Horse Welfare Protocol details minimum horse care and welfare standards and commits its signatories to eight foundation principles. Organisations such as horse

recreation, sport, or breeding bodies which have signed the protocol, have committed to a continuous improvement model involving regular welfare performance reviews.

Animals in natural disasters

Supported by the AAWS, a workshop was held to review the need for animals to be integrated into emergency management during natural disasters. Participants gained an understanding of animal management problems encountered during emergencies in Australia. They also agreed on priority issues and recommendations that need to be addressed to improve future emergency management arrangements for companion animals, wildlife and peri-urban livestock.

How the AAWS delivers

The preparation of the AAWS has so far involved an impressive array of stake holders across Australia. As a result, it now provides an agreed framework for improving the welfare of animals in all sectors and at all levels of our society through a range of programs. The process is guided by a skills-based national Advisory Committee appointed by the Minister.

Three cross sectoral groups established for their specific expertise are in place to apply the national priorities and strategic goals and objectives at an operational level, identify projects and provide advice on issues.

Cross Sectoral Groups

- Communications
- Education and training
- Research and Development

Six sectoral working groups connect the Strategy and stake holder networks through discussion forums, the development of action plans and provision of technical advice on the opportunities, impediments and drivers for each sector. Each working group has representation from government, industry and sector specialist organisations, as well as animal welfare organisations.

Working Groups:

- Livestock and production animals
- Companion animals
- Aquatic animals
- Animals used in research and teaching
- Animals used for work, recreation, entertainment

and display

- Native, introduced and feral animals

Communicating the AAWS

Animals are socially, culturally and economically important for Australia. Communicating the activities of the AAWS is vital to connecting the program with the public in order to improve attitudes towards animal welfare.

The AAWS website at www.australiananimalwelfare.com.au is a focal point for demonstrating achievements, providing authoritative information to the wider community, and engaging core stake holders in ongoing discussion of animal welfare issues.

A regular electronic newsletter and case studies of examples of the AAWS in action will keep stake holders and interested members of the public up to date with the progress of the AAWS.

An annual workshop for participants involved in the AAWS provides an opportunity to report on progress, seek feedback, strengthen networks and affirm priorities into the future.

The AAWS is Australia's novel and ingenious way of managing the increasing community and political concern and action around the world regarding animal welfare.

For more information on these projects visit www.australiananimalwelfare.com.au

~ Jim Paradise
Australia

Prestigious Animal Welfare Award Goes To Campaigners In Thailand

Each year, the Trustee's of the respected international grant making charity the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, recognise through its top Award, individuals or organisations for their outstanding services to animal welfare. The Trustee's are therefore pleased to announce, that the recipients of the prestigious "Jeanne Marchig Animal Welfare Award 2011" are Gill and John Dalley, of the Soi Dog Foundation in Thailand.

~ Marchig Animal Welfare Trust Press Release

David Bayvel Honoured

At the recent 2011 New Zealand Veterinary Association Annual Conference, attended by over 900 delegates, Dr David Bayvel, Director Animal Welfare, MAF Biosecurity Authority, New Zealand and Chairman OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare was awarded this year's New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) President's Award for his overall contribution to the veterinary profession.

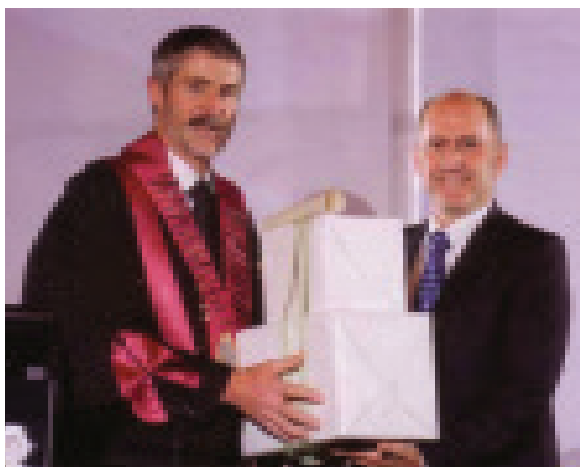
The award is granted annually by the NZVA in recognition of service to the Association and profession and "Dr. Bayvel is a most worthy recipient" said NZVA President Dr Gavin Sinclair.

"Through both his national leadership and high international profile, he has been largely responsible for achieving high credibility for New Zealand's animal welfare programme. A serious commitment to animal welfare is a significant expression of a society's humanity, and is particularly important for New Zealand because we are very dependent on exports of animal products"

"Dr Bayvel has published over a hundred papers in the peer-reviewed literature, conference proceedings and refereed veterinary publications. These papers cover animal health and welfare, policy and regulatory issues relating to both the use of animals in agriculture and science".

Dr Sinclair adds that a consistent theme from Dr Bayvel's many referees is his excellent communication skills, determination and ability to persuade through persistence and calmness.

"These attributes have led to



*Presentation of the 2011 NZVA President's Award
Dr Gavin Sinclair, NZVA President; Dr Barry O'Neil
(accepting on behalf of Dr David Bayvel)*

Dr Bayvel having significant influence on the world stage in matters related to animal welfare



In accepting the award, Dr Bayvel said he is honoured and has had great support over the last 20 years from Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) colleagues, the NZVA and other organisations and individuals who have contributed to the progress that has been made in animal health and welfare both domestically and internationally.

"I would particularly like to pay tribute to the role, played over the years by New Zealand veterinary colleagues Catherine Smith, Virginia Williams, Richard Wild, Wayne Ricketts, Marjorie Orr, John Schofield, Barry O'Neil and Roger Poland" said Dr. Bayvel.

"I believe that animal welfare is a journey rather than a destination. I have been fortunate enough to be involved in a number of initiatives over the years that have made a significant contribution to continuing this journey, both within New Zealand and internationally.

In public policy change management situations, such as animal welfare, it is vitally important to listen to, and respect, all points of view. This necessity is, I believe, captured nicely in the African proverb, quoted at this year's Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Association Conference, held in Accra, Ghana, "If you want to travel fast, travel alone. If you want to travel far, travel together".

At the time this is going to the press, we have received the good news that Dr David Bayvel has also been awarded the Queens Service Order (QSO) in the New Zealand Year's Honours list announced on 1 Jan 2012 ~ Editor.



Dr Bayvel (centre) receiving the OIE Meritorious Service Award from Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, OIE President (left) in the presence of Dr Bernard Vallat (right)

David Bayvel's Journey

Currently Director of Animal Welfare Standards at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Dr Bayvel graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1967 with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery. He then completed a Diploma in Tropical Veterinary Medicine at the University of Edinburgh and a Masters in Public Policy at Victoria University in 1994.

Dr. Bayvel spent five years in Zambia, worked in private practice in the United Kingdom and spent 15 years in the International Pharmaceutical Industry moving to New Zealand in 1982. He joined MAF in 1989 and, over the next decade, held various animal welfare management roles at MAF before becoming Director.

In 1992, Dr Bayvel, in conjunction with Professor David Mellor, was instrumental in establishing the Australia New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART), the remit of which is to promote excellence in the care of animals used in science and responsible debate about the ethics of animal use. He was awarded Honorary Life Membership of ANZCCART in 2011.

In the 1990s, he was closely involved in the development of new legislation based on the premise of a duty of care owed by animal owners to the animals within their care.

This work emerged as the Animal Welfare Act 1999, widely regarded internationally as current "best practice".

In 1999, along with colleagues Dr. Catherine Smith and Professor Kevin Stafford, Dr Bayvel was involved in establishing the (then) Australian College of Veterinary Scientists Animal Welfare Chapter and was both Inaugural Membership Examiner in 2001 and Inaugural Fellowship Examiner in 2010.

He has also chaired the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Animal Welfare Working Group since its establishment in 2002, the Laboratory Animal Welfare Ad Hoc Group since 2007, was a member of the organising committees for the 2004 and 2008 OIE Global Conferences on Animal Welfare held in Paris and Cairo and is currently a member of the organising committee for the Third OIE Global Conference to be held in Kuala Lumpur in November 2012.

Again, in conjunction with Professor David Mellor and Dr Barry O'Neil, Dr Bayvel was a prime mover in establishing the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis, which received formal OIE recognition in 2009. He received the OIE Meritorious Service Award in 2010 and ANZCCART Honorary Life Membership and the Companion Animal Council Assisi Award in 2011.

The Vet Toolkit

The Veterinarians Animal Welfare Toolkit is a collaborative project between the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). It is the first publication to be developed under the Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation Animal Welfare Compliance Programme, which began in August 2010.



MAF Programme Manager, Leonie Ward, says although she was initially concerned about the constrained development timeframe, the team working on the project came together and worked well to meet necessary timelines.

“When the working group first met in early March any concerns were allayed as the collective knowledge, experience and enthusiasm of the group ensured that a quality output would be completed in time to coincide with the Vet Council launch of the revised Code of Professional Conduct”

“The shared commitment by all in the working group proved that collaborative projects can deliver high quality outputs in a timely manner”

Members of the working group included Selwyn

Dobbinson, Andrew Coe, Bernice Mangnall, Nigel Dougherty, Greg McNeil, Wayne Ricketts, Virginia Williams, Alan Wilson and Clare van Bysterveldt.

Within three months, a draft of the toolkit was prepared and released for consultation. A large amount of feedback was received, over overwhelmingly positive.

The working group met for the last time in mid July to work through the feedback received, and at a Parliamentary function on 16th August the Minister of Agriculture, ‘Hon David Carter, officially launched the new toolkit together with the revised Code of Professional Conduct. At the event, the Minister said the toolkit reflected well on the role and

commitment of vets to animal welfare.

“The Veterinary Toolkit demonstrates the profession’s commitment to animal welfare and provides sound guidance for veterinary activity on farms. The role of veterinarians in raising animal welfare issues with their clients and ensuring humane treatment of animals is to be encouraged as a positive, rather than intrusive, approach”

Leonie Ward, Programme Manager
Animal Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
leonie.ward@maf.govt.nz

~ Welfare Pulse, November 2011

ANZCCART Life Membership Honours

Dr Elizabeth Grant has, until recently, represented Australia’s National Health and Medical Research Council on ANZCCART where she has championed supporting the important role of animal welfare advocates and lay people on Animal Ethics Committees. She has also played a role in championing the need for these committees to have independent Chairs.



Elizabeth’s other roles have included Chair of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy working group on the use of animals in research and teaching, and the international scientific community has benefited from her role in reviewing and updating The Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes.

Professor David Mellor served on both the New Zealand and Australian Boards of ANZCCART between 1993 and 1999, having a major influence on emphasising the ethical debate regarding the use of animals in science.



Among his many significant contributions has been the development of the very informative Using Animals in Science website developed principally for students and their teachers. David has served on New Zealand’s National Animal Welfare and Animal Ethics Advisory Committees and has been instrumental in implementing Massey University’s Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre, as well as the New Zealand Three Programme.

Dr David Bayvel, along with David Mellor, was the driving force in including New Zealand in the activities of the then Australian Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching - or ACCART which lead to the birth of ANZCCART. David also served as a Board member between 1993 and 1996.



His unassuming and behind the scenes role over the years in supporting and promoting ANZCCART, both within Australasia as well as on the world stage through his role with the World Organisation for Animal Health, has made an immense impact on research, testing and teaching involving animals. This OIE role has involved chairing the permanent Animal Welfare Working Group since 2002 and the Laboratory Animal Welfare ad hoc Group since 2007.

~ Welfare Pulse, November 2011

New Member for NAEAC

Dr Karen Booth has been appointed to the New Zealand National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee. Dr Booth, who was nominated by AGCARM, replaces Dr Robert Dempster. She is a veterinarian currently working as Manager of Regulatory Affairs for Pfizer Animal Health. She began her career in veterinary clinical practice, spending time in both New Zealand and the United Kingdom. She has also worked for the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Group of the then New Zealand Food Safety Authority. Karen is a member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists, with a membership in Veterinary Pharmacology.



Communicating on Welfare

Ignorance, they say, is no defence when it comes to the law, but what kind of excuse is it in relation to animal welfare? Not much, according to the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) which, in a recent report on education and communication in relation to animal welfare,* argues that ‘the responsibility of animal keepers, citizens and consumers is to have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the effect of their actions on farm animal welfare. Responsibility ranges from a stockman’s need for knowledge of physiology and behaviour to a consumer’s decision to purchase eggs laid by hens kept in a particular husbandry system.’

That said, there is much that could be done to make the necessary knowledge more available to people so they can meet their responsibilities, and the report focuses on ways in which the transfer of information might be improved. The main message of the report is that animal welfare can be improved by enabling consumers to make informed decisions according to welfare provenance when buying meat, milk, eggs and other animal products, and that this can be achieved by education of all citizens throughout childhood and by providing better information at the point of sale. However, it also emphasises the importance of good stockmanship, and discusses ways in which the growing body of knowledge about animal welfare can be transferred to and shared among farmers.

Discussing education – both formal and informal – the FAWC notes that this can have a major impact in changing people’s knowledge and behaviour, but describes education about farm animal welfare as patchy at best. It believes that people need to be educated about animal welfare ‘from childhood through to adulthood’ and recommends, among other things, that appropriate provision should be made for this in national curricula, as well as in teacher training.

Discussing communication more generally, it notes that many consumers are motivated by animal welfare but are confused by the information that is provided and therefore frustrated in their choice. It recognises the role of farm assurance schemes in bringing about improvements in animal welfare, but calls for more consistency and clarity in the information provided, as well as independent governance of the claims that are made. It also makes specific recommendations about how information about farm animal welfare should be communicated.

The FAWC notes that there is a gap between the generation of knowledge about animal welfare and its application by farmers and others and makes a number of recommendations for putting this right. It argues that vets have an important role to play in the dissemination of knowledge and practical advice on farms and are well positioned to be ‘translators of science’ for their farm animal clients. However, it also suggests that this role has yet to be exploited fully and that, despite some useful initiatives, ‘overall, the role, responsibilities and training of veterinarians in farm animal welfare advice and knowledge application are not always clear’. It recommends that the current and potential future role of veterinarians in promoting the uptake of strategic and forward-looking welfare advice to farmers should be reviewed by the veterinary professional bodies in association with the Government and livestock industries, and that this review should consider the responsibility and training of veterinarians in providing animal welfare advice. It further recommends that any review of the mechanisms and value of external scrutiny of the veterinary profession should include consideration of animal welfare expertise alongside any assessment of clinical competence.

Some of these ideas are currently being examined by the Veterinary Development Council, but others, such as a recommendation that understanding and overcoming barriers to the transfer of knowledge should be a major priority for government and industry, may need to be considered afresh. A consistent theme of the report is that animal welfare is important to people as well as to animals and that this needs to be fully recognised. It makes the point that current Government policy on sustainability places little emphasis on animal welfare compared with other societal concerns such as concern for the environment and about food security, and recommends that government policy for livestock production should include welfare concerns in future definitions of sustainability. This, too, is an important recommendation, which needs to be taken forward.

~ **Veterinary Record, Jan 7, 2012**

* ‘Education, communication and knowledge application in relation to farm animal welfare.’ FAWC, December 2011. Available at www.defra.gov.uk/fawc

A World Without Rabies Is Not A World Without Dogs

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) marked the fifth annual World Rabies Day on September 28 by launching a 'Red Collar Campaign' to help stop the spread of rabies and end the culling of dogs, which is often done in attempts to control the disease.

WSPA is calling on governments throughout the world to support the mass vaccination of dogs against rabies and has already run successful pilot projects in Bali and Sri Lanka. Last year, the charity funded an island-wide vaccination programme in Bali, which resulted in 210,000 dogs being vaccinated. In the first six months of the project, there was a decrease of more than 45 per cent in cases of canine rabies and a reduction of 48 per cent in rabies-related deaths in people compared with the previous year.

WSPA will be launching its new campaign with a project in Bangladesh. It is supporting the national government in implementing a large-scale vaccination campaign in Cox's Bazar which it hopes will save the lives of thousands of dogs and pave the way for nationwide vaccination. Trained animal handlers will be used to locate and catch and vaccinate dogs against rabies before giving them a red collar to indicate that they have been vaccinated. WSPA says that the red-collared dogs become a visible symbol of the proactive measures being taken to protect communities from rabies without them resorting to killing dogs.

Dr. Be-Nazir Ahmed, director of disease control at the Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, said: 'We look forward to working with WSPA. We will proceed in a united way to eliminate rabies without the need to cull dogs.'

Ray Mitchell, international campaigns director for WSPA, said: 'Rabies poses a serious threat to both human and animal populations. When confronted with the problem of this fast-spreading disease, national governments sometimes turn to what they believe is the only way to wipe out rabies: wipe out the dog population. But with successful rabies control projects in countries across Asia and Latin America, WSPA has proven that a world without rabies is not a world without dogs.'

Among other events marking World Rabies Day, the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, together with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA, organised a series of webinars to discuss the public health issue of rabies and to provide a forum for discussion. The webinars focused on subjects such as canine rabies elimination; human rabies surveillance, prevention and intervention; wildlife

rabies control; and information and education campaigns, and can be viewed at www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/events/wrd-webinar.html

In the UK, the BVA's Overseas Group marked World Rabies Day by urging veterinary surgeons to raise awareness of the implications of rabies among their staff and clients when they travel abroad. It has produced some simple advice, which is available on the BVA's website at www.bva.co.uk/2511.aspx, on reducing the risk of contracting the disease and giving guidance on vaccination and wound cleansing.

Karen Reed, chair of the BVA Overseas Group and Secretary, Commonwealth Veterinary Association, commented: 'Pre-exposure vaccination should be considered for those travellers at particular risk and should be mandatory for all veterinary professionals and students who are planning to work with animals in an affected country.'

Carl Padgett, the BVA President, added: 'In this World Veterinary Year when we witnessed the remarkable achievement of the eradication of rinderpest, we are delighted to support World Rabies Day and hope that through our collective efforts we can make strides towards the elimination of another dreaded disease - rabies.'

~ Veterinary Record, Oct 8, 2011

World Rabies Day Webinar a Huge Success!

Rabies Day Webinar a Huge Success! On Sept 21-22, 2011 an estimated 600,000 viewers from 83 countries joined the 2nd Annual World Rabies Day Webinar. During the 16-hour event, 28 speakers from 13 different countries discussed topics such as canine rabies elimination; human rabies surveillance, prevention and intervention; wildlife rabies control; information and education campaigns and building sustainable programs. At many locations around the world, numerous viewers gathered at one computer to listen and participate in the global educational initiative designed to reach populations living at daily risk to rabies. To further increase participation, many locations utilized their own technology to transmit the live broadcast to others within their countries. The two day Webinar was recorded and has been viewed over 100 times in 35 countries. If you missed the live Webinar broadcast and would like to view the recordings, please go to: <http://webinar.worldrabiesday.org>.

Collars Not Cruelty In The Fight Against Rabies

Building on the success of Bali's first island-wide mass vaccination campaign, the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) marked World Rabies Day on 28 September 2011 with the launch of a global campaign to protect communities from both cruelty and rabies.

More than 55,000 people around the world die from rabies every year, and up to 20 million dogs are needlessly and cruelly killed annually, often in misguided attempts to control the disease. WSPA is calling on governments worldwide to tackle rabies through the only humane and effective solution: mass vaccination of dogs, as evidenced in Bali.

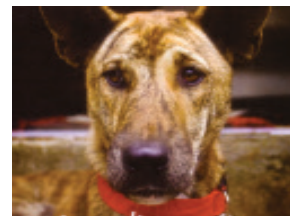
Bali demonstrates the most recent success of the solution proposed by WSPA. A multi stake holder approach was agreed with the Balinese Government and the first island-wide mass vaccination programme was launched there on World Rabies Day 2010.

In the first phase of the campaign, teams from the Bali Animal Welfare Association and local government officials vaccinated approximately 210,000 dogs (70 percent of the total estimated population) in 4,126 villages throughout Bali. In the first six months, the project saw a decrease of more than 45 percent in cases of canine rabies and a reduction of 48 percent in rabies-related human deaths compared with the same period the previous year.

The Balinese Government has since assumed full responsibility for the vaccination programme, with support from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the governments of Australia and the United States. This World Rabies Day, Bali celebrated the near-completion of its second phase of island-wide vaccinations and a continuing reduction in dog and human deaths from rabies. The protocols for the programme have been approved by the Indonesian Government and published as guidance for other provinces undertaking mass vaccination programmes in Indonesia.

A final round of vaccinations is being planned for About WSPA

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) seeks to create a world where animal welfare matters and animal cruelty has ended. Active in more than 50 countries, WSPA works directly with animals and with the people and organisations that can ensure animals are treated with respect and compassion. WSPA holds consultative status at the Council of Europe and collaborates with national governments and the United Nations. WSPA is an Associate Member of CVA.



Bali in early 2012. This will be supported by ongoing border control, monitoring and surveillance and emergency response measures. The goal is for Bali to have no rabies cases after 2012 and to be declared rabies-free once again, in accordance with World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines, in 2014.

“Island-wide dog vaccination has proven successful for controlling rabies in Bali. Through continued efforts of local governments throughout the island in cooperation with the international community, Bali may one day become rabies free again,” said Ir. Putu Sumantra, Head of Livestock Services, Provincial Government of Bali.

WSPA's global campaign began in September with a project in Bangladesh where it will be working with the national government to implement a large-scale vaccination campaign, starting in Cox's Bazar. This will save thousands of dogs in its first year alone and pave the way for a nationwide vaccination campaign.

“Rabies poses a serious threat to human and animal populations,” said Ray Mitchell, International Campaigns Director, WSPA. “When confronted with the problem of this fast-spreading disease, national governments in many countries turn to what they believe is the only way to wipe out rabies: wipe out the dog population. But as we have seen in Bali, as well as successful rabies control projects in other parts of the world, a world without rabies is not a world without dogs.”

As seen in Bali, WSPA's solution involves teams of trained animal handlers who locate, catch and inoculate dogs against rabies, before giving them a red collar to signify their status as vaccinated. These red-collared dogs become a visible symbol of the measures being taken to protect communities from rabies without resorting to cruel methods of killing dogs.

“With our work in Bali, we offered proof that a humane alternative for rabies control was both practical and effective. Other governments are beginning to recognise this success and we are now working in several countries to design similar models for rabies control,” Mitchell said. “With the increasing support we are receiving from governments, international agencies and inter-governmental bodies, WSPA is confident of creating a world where we see collars, not cruelty winning the fight against rabies’.

~ Joanna Tuckwell
WSPA Bali Rabies Control Project

International News

Dr Barry O'Neil Awarded OIE Gold Medal

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) at its 79th General Session in May 2011, awarded a Gold Medal to Dr Barry O'Neil, Acting Deputy Director-General, Verification, at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). The gold medal was an honorary award for Dr O'Neil's "ongoing commitment and dedication to ensure that OIE work is scientifically sound and up-to-date" said an OIE spokesperson. He has "made a major contribution in helping the OIE to achieve its main objective improving animal health worldwide"



Each year, the OIE rewards scientific experts with honorary awards that are meant to distinguish members of the veterinary community for outstanding services to veterinary science and to the OIE.

Dr O'Neil was presented with the gold medal at the OIE's 79th General Session in Paris by OIE President Dr Carlos Correa Messuti and General Secretary Dr Bernard Vallat. Three other scientific experts received Meritorious Awards.

About Barry O'Neil

The following was taken from OIE President Carlos Correa Messuti's speech announcing award recipients at the General Session in Paris in May.

Barry was born in Fielding, New Zealand and after obtaining his Degree in Veterinary Science (with Distinction) in 1978 at Massey University; he began his professional career as a private clinical veterinarian in New Zealand and the United Kingdom until 1984 when he became Veterinary Officer for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

He has since occupied different positions at MAF, including four years as Veterinary Counsellor in Brussels. From 2007 to 2010, he was Deputy Director-General of MAF Bio-security New Zealand.

In 1994, Barry became a member of the New Zealand Animal Health Board and until 1999 was the New Zealand

Member of the Australian Animal Health Committee.

Since 1991, Dr Barry O'Neil has been involved with World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) activities, first participating in various OIE working groups. He has been the New Zealand Delegate to the OIE since 1994 and in this role he has provided active mentoring and support to OIE Specialist Commissions and expert working groups to advance standard setting activities.

He has also facilitated the secondment of veterinary personnel from New Zealand to the OIE Headquarters as well as supporting the exchange of veterinary personnel between New Zealand and other OIE member countries for developmental assignments.

Barry has occupied numerous positions at the OIE regional and international levels, including President from 2006 to 2009 - he is now Immediate Past-President of the OIE. He has provided consistent and visionary leadership in the efforts to modernise the legal framework and operating principles of the OIE to become a modern international organisation.

~ Welfare Pulse, June 2011

Vet2011 Comes To An End

The response by the international veterinary profession and members of the public to Vet2011 has exceeded all expectations, according to Dr Bernard Vallat Director General of OIE, the World Organisation for Animal Health. His comments came as celebrations of the veterinary profession's 250th anniversary drew to a close.

He said 440 events have been held in 80 countries starting with the opening ceremony in January at the Palace of Versailles in France.

There are still many areas where veterinarians and the OIE can work together to improve the effectiveness of the profession in the future, he said. This includes stressing the global public good of many of the activities of veterinarians, especially their efforts in combating the spread of trans-boundary animal diseases, "something that is not always sufficiently recognised by policy makers and governments, but something that the OIE strongly advocates for, and is committed to ensuring greater visibility"

"In addition, the OIE is committed to gaining agreement

from its 178 member countries to a standardised minimum curriculum that veterinary education faculties must utilise when they train new veterinarians.

"Worldwide, 2011 has been a landmark year for the veterinary profession, which is spearheading efforts to implement OIE objectives in the fields of animal health and welfare, as well as veterinary public health, world trade security, food safety, scientific research and poverty reduction. We shall continue our work with determination in the years to come and for 2012 let me address my very best wishes on behalf of the OIE: Meilleursvoeuxpour l'année 2012!"



The Effects Of Neem Leaf Extract On White Blood Cell Count And The Immune Response Of Chickens Vaccinated With Newcastle Disease Vaccine

Plant medicine is gaining importance in veterinary medicine worldwide. Various parts of the neem plant (*Azadirachta indica*) are used by a high proportion of livestock farmers to treat a variety of animal ailments. Neem is known to enhance the immune system in humans. This study sought to evaluate the immunostimulatory effects of aqueous Neem leaf Extracts (NLE) in chickens vaccinated against Newcastle Disease (ND), which is responsible for immense losses in unvaccinated rural chicken populations in rural Africa. Neem leaf Extract (NLE) was prepared by steeping pounded mature green neem leaves in boiling water overnight in a ratio of 1:4 (that is 1 part of leaves in 4 parts of water). The resulting fluid extract was strained and passed through a rotary evaporator to obtain a 25% concentrate. Day old cockerels were placed in three experimental groups of 34 birds each, which were given 0%, 5% or 10% NLE, orally three times a week for 10 weeks. The dosage employed was 100mg NLE per kg of bird weight. All birds were vaccinated with ND-12 vaccine 2 weeks and LaSota vaccine at 6 weeks. At weekly intervals, 20 birds were randomly selected from each group and bled for haematological (total and differential white blood cell counts) and serological (Haemagglutination Inhibition test) studies. Results showed that birds that received 5% and 10% NLE showed significantly higher total WBC (2.51 and 2.07 (x 10⁹ Cells/L) respectively) than birds that were not given NLE 1.72 x 10⁹ Cells/L) (P<0.05). Mean lymphocyte percentage counts were also significantly higher between week 3 and week 9 (56.13-58.88%) in birds given 5% NLE and 54.75-58.5% in birds given 10% NLE compared to 39.12%-47.62% in control birds. Between 7 and 10 weeks of age, the Geometric Mean Titre of birds vaccinated with LaSota ND vaccine at 6 weeks showed significant increases in birds given 5% and 10% NLE respectively compared to untreated control birds. It is concluded that, aqueous Neem Leaf Extract can improve the immune response in chickens to ND vaccination through enhanced lymphocytogenesis.

A.A. KWAWUKUME, J.A. AWUNI, H. OTSYINA, B. AWUMBILA AND K.G. ANING. The Effects Of Neem Leaf Extract On White Blood Cell Count And The Immune Response Of Chickens Vaccinated With Newcastle Disease Vaccine. Department of Animal Sciences, CACS, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana.



Commonwealth News

Dr Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah – new Interim Director of Commonwealth Foundation

Following the resignation of Dr Mark Collins, the Governors of Commonwealth Foundation have appointed Dr Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah to serve as Interim Director of the Foundation for the remainder of 2011.



9th Annual Scientific Conference of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University

The 9th Annual Scientific Conference of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) will be held at Hotel Agrabad in Chittagong, Bangladesh, from 7-8th March 2012. The theme of the conference this year is “**Food Safety in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges**”. This two-day event will feature recent scientific findings relevant to the conference theme from academic, research, clinical, industrial experts in the related fields, in the form of lectures and posters. You are cordially invited to submit your research abstract and attend the conference. The deadline for abstract submission is 31 January 2012.

Abstracts for consideration as Invited or Session Lectures, and Poster Presentations can be submitted at ascon2012@gmail.com or md.hoque@my.jcu.edu.au. The abstracts of the conference will be published in the conference abstracts.

Commonwealth Writers' Prize 2011 Winners Revealed

The winners of the 2011 Commonwealth Writers' Prize were announced in Sydney in an exciting climax to this year's final programme. Critically acclaimed international literary titles for Best Book and Best First Book were awarded to:

Best Book Winner – *The Memory of Love*, Aminatta Forna (Sierra Leone)

The judges praised *The Memory of Love* for its risk taking, elegance and breadth. A poignant story about friendship, betrayal, obsession and second chances – the novel is an immensely powerful portrayal of human resilience. The judges concluded that *The Memory of Love* delicately delves into the courageous lives of those haunted by the indelible effects of Sierra Leone's past and yet amid that loss gives us a sense of hope and optimism for their future. Forna has produced a bold, deeply moving and accomplished novel which confirms her place among the most talented writers in literature today.

Best First Book Winner – *A Man Melting*, Craig Cliff (New Zealand)

The judges chose this highly entertaining and thought provoking collection of short stories for their ambition, creativity and craftsmanship. Confidently blending ideas that frequently weave outlandish concepts with everyday incidents, the prose is skilfully peppered with social

observations that define the world we live in. The eighteen short stories are truly insightful and amplify many of the absurdities around us, reflecting our own expectations, fears and paranoia on the big questions in life. This book is of the moment, and is rightly at home on a global platform. Cliff is a talent to watch and set to take the literary world by storm.

Now in its 25th year and supported by the Macquarie Group Foundation, Commonwealth Writers' Prize is unique in offering both established and emerging writers the opportunity to showcase their work. The Best Book winner claims £10,000 while the writer of Best First Book wins £5,000.

For the last 25 years the Commonwealth Writers' Prize has played a key role in unearthing new international literary names, bringing compelling stories of human experience to a wider audience. As highly acclaimed international authors Aminatta Forna and Craig Cliff will follow in the footsteps of some of the biggest names in modern fiction in winning the Prize, including Louis De Bernieres, Andrea Levy, Ian McEwan, and Zadie Smith.

For the fifth consecutive year the Macquarie Group Foundation, one of Australia's leading philanthropic foundations, is helping to advance one of the most prestigious literary prizes in the world. With Macquarie's

support the prize has grown to reach more people around the world, encouraging wider reading across a range of Commonwealth cultures and rewarding the rising talent that other prizes often overlook.

Aminatta Forna was born in Glasgow, Scotland and raised in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Her first book, *The Devil that Danced on the Water*, was shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize 2003. Her novel *Ancestor Stones* was winner of the 2008 Hurston Wright Legacy Award, the Literaturpreis in Germany, was nominated for the International IMPAC Award and selected by the Washington Post as one of the most important books of 2006. Aminatta lives in London.

Craig Cliff was born in Palmerston North, New Zealand. A graduate of Victoria University's MA in creative writing, his short stories and poetry have been published in New Zealand and Australia. His short story 'Another Language' won the novice section of the 2007 BNZ Katherine Mansfield Awards. Craig lives in Wellington, New Zealand.

I am delighted to congratulate, the winners of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize 2011. In its 25th year, the Prize embodies the Commonwealth at its best. It unearths the best writing from across 54 countries, promoting dialogue

and understanding on an international scale ~ Danny Sriskandarajah Interim Director of the Commonwealth Foundation

The Macquarie Group Foundation is delighted that two such diverse writers have won this year's Commonwealth Writers' Prize. For the last 25 years, the Prize has helped to bring writers to new global audiences and I'm sure once again that this year's winners will delight and inspire readers and writers around the world ~ Richard Sheppard, Chairman of the Macquarie Group Foundation

Nicholas Hasluck, Chair of the judging panel said: "This year's winning books demonstrate the irreducible power of the written word at a time of rapid global change and uncertainty. The standard of entries this year has been exceptional, showcasing work with strong insight, spirit and voice introducing readers to unfamiliar worlds."

~ Commonwealth Press Release

Dr. Faouzi Kechrid Elected President of World Veterinary Association

At the 30th World Veterinary Congress held at Cape Town, South Africa from 10th to 14th October, 2011 Dr. Faouzi Kechrid from Tunisia, Vice President of WVA, OIE Sub regional representative of North Africa and President Pan African Veterinary Association was elected as the President of WVA. Dr. Faouzi Kechrid has more than twenty-seven years experience in the fields of Veterinary Medicine, Animal and Public Health, Livestock, Food Hygiene and Safety. As a Consultant for the World Bank, FAO and OIE, Dr. Kechrid conducted assessments on Avian Influenza in the Middle East and North Africa. He is also coordinating activities on behalf of the World Veterinary Association, the Euro-Arab Veterinary Association, and the African Veterinary Medical Association.



Dr. Kechrid was Chair of the organizing committee of the 27th World Veterinary Congress. He is a recipient of the French Ministry of Agriculture's professional designation known as "Chevalier dans l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole" for advancing Franco-Tunisian cooperation in research. Since February 2007, Dr Kechrid has been regional manager of the animal health centre for North Africa based in Tunis, to coordinate the regional programme on High Pathogenic Avian Influenza in North Africa and Egypt and other transboundary animal diseases under the FAO Emergency Centre of Transboundary Animal Diseases, the FAO sub-regional representation in Tunisia and the other United Nations international organizations, international donor community and multilateral agencies.

The 5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference Accra, Ghana on 21-25 March 2011

The 5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference was held from the 21st to 25th March, 2011 at Accra, Ghana. The theme of the conference was “**The Role of Veterinarians and Livestock Farmers in Food Security and Poverty Alleviation**”.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Bernard Vallat, Director General OIE. It was the first major international veterinary conference in ‘Vet 2011: World Veterinary Year’ celebrating 250 years since the establishment of the world’s first veterinary school in Lyon, France, in 1761.

The Ghana Veterinary Medical Association jointly organised this conference with CVAA total of 750 delegates from all over the world including those from the host nation Ghana and from other African countries such as Nigeria, Gambia, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia, Mauritius, Niger, Mali, Sudan, Tunisia and many more from United Kingdom, Cyprus, Malta, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand, Pacific Island Countries and Canada and Caribbean countries attended the conference.

The conference had an exciting, vibrant and informative Scientific Programme with sessions focussing on One World One Health, Food Safety and Security, Veterinary Education, the Future of livestock in Africa and Advances in Veterinary Science, The role of women in livestock development, and Zoonotic Diseases will be discussed as well as other topics such as alleviation of poverty, wildlife conservation, and aquaculture.

The programme was held in conjunction with a number of Workshops and Specialist Sessions such as Rabies, Animal Welfare, and Welfare of Working Animals.

Speakers for the sessions were drawn from various international Veterinary organisations and institutions such as OIE, FAO, Institute Caporale, WHO, EU, Bristol University, Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty, ILRI, WSPA, CIWF, ARC etc.

A Trade Exhibition featuring various pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing companies will also be held.

The Executive Committee of the CVA met on 20th March, 2011 and elected the following as office bearers for the year 2012-2015.

Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Secretary, CVA - President

Dr. Karen Reed, RR UK/Mediterranean Region - Secretary

Dr. Bob McCracken - Programme Director

Dr. S. Abdul Rahman

Dr. S. Abdul Rahman graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Veterinary Science from Mysore Veterinary College, Bangalore in 1965 and a Masters from University of Madras in 1969 and PhD in Veterinary Parasitology from University of Queensland, Australia in 1976. He was awarded the Fellowship of the Royal Veterinary College, Spain in 1990.



S Abdul Rahman

Dr Rahman has published more than 100 scientific papers and has authored a book on Veterinary Parasitology. His current interests include Veterinary Public Health especially involving Zoonosis to include control programmes for Rabies, Hydatidosis, Cysticercosis and Epidemiology and Control of Emerging Diseases, and Animal Welfare.

Dr. Rahman served as President of Karnataka Veterinary Association, and as Secretary and Vice President of Indian Veterinary Association for 16 years and also served as the Council Member of India to the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and Permanent Member representing India at the World Veterinary Association and Federation of Association of Veterinarians of Asia.

He has participated and presented papers and chaired sessions at numerous national and international conferences on various topics ranging from Veterinary Parasitology, Veterinary Education, Control of Rabies and Animal Welfare all over the world.

He is a member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Working Group on Animal Welfare, and was the Chairman and a Member of OIE Ad hoc Group on Stray Dog Control The Ad hoc group was responsible for the OIE guidelines on Dog population management He is the Executive Director of the Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC), UK and President of Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India (APCRI).

Dr. Karen Reed

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.



Karen Reed

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 worked until 2010 and then joined The Brooke Equine Welfare Charity as the Head of Welfare and Research where she is currently working. She was also the former Chair of the BVA Overseas Group.

Dr. Bob McCracken

Dr Robert McCracken graduated from Edinburgh University in 1966 and gained his PhD from Queen's

University Belfast in 1968. After a period in mixed practice, he joined the State Veterinary Service, embarking on a career which would span 30 years and culminate in him becoming Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) for Northern Ireland from 1998 - 2002.



Bob McCracken

Dr McCracken was awarded the gold medal for being the most outstanding student in his final year, and during his varied career has lectured extensively in the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science at Queen's University Belfast and has also had periods of working abroad. As CVO he was at the forefront of the fight against the foot-and-mouth and

BSE outbreaks and was instrumental in enhancing Northern Ireland's animal traceability system. He has served as President of the North of Ireland Veterinary Association, the Association of Veterinary Teachers and Research Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, the Poultry Association of Northern Ireland, Agrarian Society and as the President of the British Veterinary Association from 2004-05. Dr McCracken was appointed as the Programme Director in 2008 and with this re-election he will be serving a second term of office.

The CVA Council Meeting was held on 21st March, 2011 and all the CVA councillors participating in the conference attended the meeting.

JCVA July 2011

Readers are hereby informed that the July 2011 issue of JCVA which has been designated as a **Special Issue** incorporating the Proceedings of the 5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference held from 21-25 March 2011 at Accra, Ghana has been delayed.

This issue which will be printed by the European Commission is scheduled to be released shortly.

~ Editor

5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference 21 - 25 March 2011, Accra, Ghana



CVA Council

*L-R (Row-1 from top): Drs Gareth Bath, Gavin Peters, Michael Syakalima
L-R (2nd Row): Drs Lennox St Aimee, Peter Thornber, John Baptist, Curtis Padila, Chris Wanga, Secka Arss, Keith Campbell, Ashok Dangolla
L-R (3rd Row): Drs Bakary Touray, Sulayman Sonko, Henry Magwisha, Roy Aronson, Siddick Timol, Bowen Louison, Dominic Mundrogo-ogo Lali
L-R (Bottom row): Isabella Paquet, Muchungos Anabella, Safi Gul, Robin Yarrow, Abdul Rahman, Karen Reed, Nick Gumede, Ken Cokanasiga, Coleen Phillips, Bob McCracken*



At the inauguration

L-R: Drs Darkwa, President GVMA; Bernard Vallat, DG OIE; Richard Suu-Ire, President CVA



CVA Executive Committee

*L-R (front row): Drs Peter Thornber, Olatunji Nasir, Richard Suuire, Karen Reed, Abdul Rahman
L-R (back row): Drs Gareth Bath, Bakary Touray, Robin Yarrow, Bob McCracken, Keith Campbell*



Section of the Audience

L-R: Drs Andrea Gavinelli, European Commission; Daniela Battaglia, FAO; Barbara Alessendria, Instituto G Caporale



Section of the Audience

L-R: Drs Lyle Vogel, Vice President WVA; Faouzi Kechrid, Vice President WVA; Tjeerd Jorna, President WVA

At the Conference



L-R: Drs John Baptist, Chris Wanga, Theogene Rutagwenda



L-R: Prof. Caporale and Ms. Rosilla Lelli



L-R: Drs Jeff Cave, Safi Gul



L-R: Drs Bello Mohammed Agaie, Sulaymon Sonko



Councillors at the Gala Dinner



Dr Richard Suu-Ire, President CVA handing over the Presidential Chain of Office to the incoming President, Dr S Abdul Rahman

Legends in Veterinary Medicine - Sir Dawda Jawara

In honor of World Veterinary Year, the Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA) highlighted key international veterinarians from the past 250 years. Among them was the first President of CVA and now its Patron Sir Dawda Jawara, former President of the Republic of The Gambia.

Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara expected to spend his life after college doing what he loved—being a veterinarian. “There’s not a cow in Gambia that doesn’t know me personally,” he once said. But fate had a different plan for him.

Convinced that Gambia should become independent of British rule, he abandoned his profession in 1960 to enter politics. This move eventually led to him becoming the nation’s first President. Until a military coup in 1994, this veterinary surgeon brought years of stable democracy to Africa’s smallest mainland republic.

From cattle to politics

Dr. Jawara was born on May 16, 1924, in Gambia, then a British colony. He attended a local Muslim primary school and a Methodist boys’ high school in the nation’s capital, Bathurst (now Banjul).

He spent a year studying science at Achimote College in Ghana before being awarded a scholarship to study at the University of Glasgow Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Scotland. Dr. Jawara was President of the African Students’ Union and socialized with African nationalists of the day. He earned his BVSc from Glasgow in 1953.

After his return to Africa, Dr. Jawara worked in the countryside vaccinating cattle as one of his country’s only veterinarians. An outbreak of rinderpest soon after gave him a baptism by fire. His success at helping mitigate the spread won him the respect of the colonial authorities, who in January 1957 promoted him to principal veterinary officer of the colony, the highest position an African could aspire to in those days, according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

His entry into politics came in 1959 when he joined the Protectorate People’s Party.

At age 35, Dr. Jawara had a number of friends who were influential civil servants running the country. Also, his veterinary work made him well known among the rural population, who were the party’s targeted supporters,

according to The Gambia Echo, the nation’s online newspaper. By December 1959, he was in charge of the organization, which changed its name to the People’s Progressive Party. The following year he stepped down from his government post to enter the May elections.

Dr. Jawara was elected to the Gambian House in 1960 and simultaneously served as education minister. With Dr. Jawara’s rise to power, the colonial administration began a gradual withdrawal from Gambia, with self-government granted in 1963. Dr. Jawara was appointed Prime Minister the same year, according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

Trials and tribulations

During this time, Gambians began calling for independence from Britain, which their nearby neighbours Kenya, Ghana, Guinea, and Nigeria had already achieved. Located on the West African coast, Gambia is a 30-mile-wide strip of land surrounded on three sides by Senegal.

Dr. Jawara reached out to the neighbouring country’s President, Leopold Senghor, to form a coalition that would coordinate defense, foreign affairs, and overseas representation but still guarantee autonomy for both Gambia and Senegal, according to The Gambia Echo.

With a deal struck, on Feb. 18, 1965, Gambia became a parliamentary democracy and Africa’s 36th independent state. A year later, Dr. Jawara was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

When an April 1970 referendum changed Gambia’s status to a republic, Dr. Jawara became the country’s first president. In April of that year, he shouldered his new position with few illusions about the economic and social problems awaiting him, according to his autobiography, “Kairaba.”

Yet, Dr. Jawara was able to bring greater stability to the nation under his watch, even though West Africa was a troubled region during this period.

A threat to this peace came on July 30, 1981, when a small Gambian radical group attempted a coup in Banjul. By Aug. 2, the uprising was over, but more than 600 had died as a result of the violence, according to The Gambia Echo.

By the 1990s, Dr. Jawara and his government had improved young children’s access to education, increased

the availability of health care nationwide, and expanded the domestic economy with greater emphasis on bringing in tourists, according to “Kairaba.” In addition, the fishing industry thrived, and rice, cotton, and other crops broadened the country’s agricultural output.

But Dr. Jawara’s leadership could last for only so long. On July 22, 1994, a group of Gambian soldiers stormed Banjul. In a bloodless coup, Dr. Jawara was overthrown as he escaped unharmed to Senegal on a U.S. warship that was in the area when the coup began.

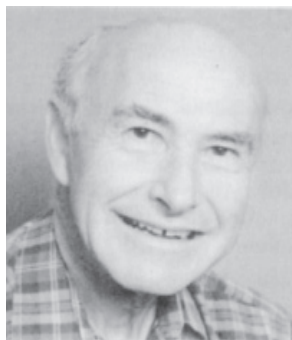
To this day, he lives in Gambia as a private citizen at

the age of 87.

~ Malinda Larkin

CVA Honorary Life Membership

At the 5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference held at Accra, Ghana 21-25 March, 2011, the Executive Committee of CVA unanimously agreed to confer Honorary Life Membership to Dr Brian Derbyshire and Mrs Shireen Rahman.



Dr Brian Derbyshire, Coordinator, CVA Book and Journal Programme, graduated from the Royal Veterinary College at the University of London in 1955, and subsequently obtained his PhD in 1960. He worked at the Agricultural Research Council Institute for Research on Animal Diseases in Compton, England, researching bovine mastitis and virus diseases of pigs. He joined the faculty of the Ontario Veterinary College in 1971 to research and teach veterinary virology and the history of veterinary medicine. He is now an Emeritus Professor,

and continues his research on Canadian veterinary history, with particular reference to the control and eradication of infectious diseases. Dr Derbyshire has been coordinating the CVA Book and Journal Programme since 1998.



Mrs Shireen Rahman, wife of Dr S Abdul Rahman, President CVA has been associated with CVA since 1986 helping Dr Rahman in editing the Journal of CVA. She has been associated in organising the Second PCVC at Bangalore and later on helping CVA in successfully organising various workshops and conferences, both in India and abroad.

In recognition of services to CVA, the EC has conferred the CVA Honorary Life Membership to Dr Brian Derbyshire and Mrs Shireen Rahman.

Dr Robin Yarrow Made Honorary President for Life of CVA

Dr Robin Yarrow, former President of CVA has been made CVA Honorary President for Life by the CVA. Dr Yarrow first served as the CVA Councillor for Fiji, Regional Representative of Australasia/Oceania Region and President of CVA.

The contributions of Dr Yarrow to the CVA have been enormous and in recognition



Book & Journal Programme

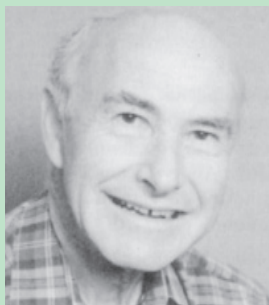
The CVA Book Programme is coordinated from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph by Dr. Brian Derbyshire, assisted by Mr. Barry Bartis, the College Librarian

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, Department of Primary Industries, 1 McKoy Street Wodonga, Victoria 3689, Australia E-mail: jeff.cave@dpi.vic.gov.au



Dr. J.B. Derbyshire



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 Dr. Barry Burtis, 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 undergraduate 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



Books being taken for shipment in Australia

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 2011, 145 books were sent from Guelph to 5 Commonwealth countries as follows: Pakistan (37 books), Ghana (33 books), Nigeria (31 books), Belize (30 books), and India (14 books), From Australia and New Zealand, 388 books were sent to 13 different countries as follows: Uganda 96, Belize 78, East Timor 40, Ghana 39, Sudan 36, Swaziland 33, Pakistan 20, Trinidad and Tobago 19, Rwanda 12, St Vincent 5, The Gambia 4, South Africa 3, and Myanmar 3.

The current inventory at Guelph comprises over 550 titles, and the Australian and New Zealand depot close to 450 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 is replenished periodically through the cooperation of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association by their generous collection of donated books at their annual conference.

January 2012

**J.B. DERBYSHIRE
Coordinator
CVA Book Programme**



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. 2012. RRs to submit their recommendations before 30th Nov. 2012 to the Secretary, CVA.



New Regional Representative for Asian Region

Dr. A. Sivasothy Director Animal Health Department of Animal Production and Health Sri Lanka and President of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA) and CVA Council Member Sri Lanka has been nominated as the Regional Representative of Asian Region with effect from 1st January, 2012. Dr. Sivasothy replaces Dr. A.A. Ramzee of Pakistan who has retired. Dr. Sivasothy graduated with a BVSC from University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka in 1981 and joined State service of Sri Lanka as Veterinary Surgeon in 1982. In 1996, he obtained his MSc in Virology from



Celebration of World Rabies Day in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, Rabies is a reportable disease to the Ministry of Agriculture but not to the Ministry of Public Health. However, it is a reportable disease to the Ministry of Agriculture and frequent sporadic outbreaks are reported, but no epidemiological data exists, nor control measures and specific programs are planned either in the Ministry of Public health or in the Ministry of Agriculture.

The incidence of rabies occurs frequently in animals as well as in human and most of the people have to go out of Afghanistan for treatment mainly to neighbouring countries such as Iran, Pakistan and India and those who cannot afford the travel and treatment cost or not fully aware of the consequence of rabid dog infection die.

During early 2011, representatives of Ministry of Public health and Ministry of Agriculture were invited to a Rabies Conference of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries held at Mysore, India and they were greatly benefitted by the experience gained at the conference. Following this exposure, Afghanistan Veterinary Association (AVA) was able to arrange and carry out 6-vaccination campaigns in various districts as a result of which 19500 house dogs were vaccinated.

AVA was also able to get necessary resources from Sandia National Laboratories and some other agencies for the celebration of World Rabies Day in major cities such as Gardez, Jaji Maidan, Chamkani districts of Paktia province and other places such as Kabul, Mazar-e- Sharif, Jalalabad , Kapisa, Perwan and Punjshir provinces which geographically cover the entire country. Various posters, flip charts, banners, vaccination cards have been developed, printed and supplied along with 7500 doses of vaccine, syringes and needles for vaccination of house dogs, in 6 provincial and district base animal health clinics. This event was broadcasted from national and local radios of various states for public awareness. In Paktia province, the one hour Rabies DVD translated to local language was broadcasted three days in advance by Paktia local TV channel and the posters were also placed in public areas three days before the celebration and campaign.

A video movie on Rabies was translated into local language and distributed to Faculties of Medicine, Veterinary Science, and Public Hospitals for use in education as well as for public awareness.

~ Dr. Said Gul Safi
Afghanistan Veterinary Association

Husbandry Skills for Afghan Villagers

Soldiers from The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (4 SCOTS) recently provided an education day for Afghan villagers on farming and veterinary skills and personal safety. Held in the Lashkar Gah district of Helman Providence, the meeting, or 'shura' was part of ongoing efforts to improve the lives of people in the area. Many local people are farmers with skills in growing crops, but few have training in caring for and treating their animals.

Farmers and community leaders were given a series of lectures on the need to look after livestock properly and members of the 4 SCOTS Female Engagement Team explained basic procedures such as deworming that could have a significant impact on animal health and welfare. 'This might sound like really simple and basic information, but to these people it is essential', said Captain Hugh Wilson, 4 SCOTS. 'Without their animals they cannot make a living and then they are unable to feed their families, and that makes them more vulnerable to the insurgents who will seek to capitalise on their misfortune. Everything we can do to help them is really important'.

Advice was also given on recognising improvised explosive devices and reporting them to the relevant people so that specialist disposal teams could be deployed. Feedback from those who attended the shura was positive, and more are now planned across Helmand, where British forces operate.

~ Veterinary Record, Jul 9, 2011

Strengthening Animal Disease Reporting in Asia and the Pacific

The OIE Regional Representation of the Asia and the Pacific has recently completed a training workshop for OIE National Focal Points on animal disease notification to the OIE. The workshop was hosted by China in Beijing, from the 12th – 14th April 2011, bringing together animal health professionals responsible for their national animal disease surveillance and disease reporting. 29 participants attended the workshop from the Pacific representing Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Federated States of Micronesia as well as other Members from Asia-Pacific region.

The workshop provided the participants information on the role and responsibilities of Veterinary Authorities on their obligations to disease notification, update of disease notification in the region, hands-on the use of the OIE world animal health information system (WAHIS) and presentation of its interface WAHID.

A representative from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) was invited as an observer to the workshop. SPC and OIE have an MOU to share relevant animal health related information, and to build capacity in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to be able them to report their animal disease situations online via WAHIS. This MOU has been in existence since the 1990s.

SPC's Animal health and Production Section has also been conducting training sessions, with OIE and FAOs support, for PICTs on online disease reporting via WAHIS. Two regional workshop sessions on WAHIS have been conducted in 2009 and 2010. Included in these PICT training programme were non OIE members. The 2010 training was organized in cooperation with the SPC Aquaculture section of the SPC Fisheries Division, the Forum Secretariat, and included participation from the aquaculture and fisheries ministries and departments of PICTs.

The OIE focal points for Animal Disease Notification and delegates attending this week's workshop were given the opportunity to share experiences in collecting data at the national level, including for wild animals, and on the use of WAHIS.

The training workshop ended on the 14th of April with the anticipation of conducting future trainings to ensure that the OIE members regularly update their disease reports via WAHIS.

~ Anju Mangal
Secretariat of the Pacific Community
19 April 2011

New CVA Councillor for Fiji

Dr Robin Rahul Achari has been elected as the new CVA Councillor of Fiji. Dr Robin replaces Dr Ken Cokanasiga.



Dr Robin graduated from University of Queensland, Australia in 2005. He is now a Livestock Operation Manager at Rooster Poultry and previously was a Principal Veterinary Officer and Veterinary Pathologist at Minister of Primary Industries, Animal Health and Production Division, Fiji Islands.

He also held the position as President of the Fiji Veterinary Association and World Poultry Science Association - Fiji Branch.

Henipaviruses - unanswered questions of lethal zoonoses

The highly lethal Hendra and Nipah viruses have been described for little more than a decade, yet within that time have been aetiologically associated with major livestock and human health impacts, albeit on a limited scale. Do these emerging pathogens pose a broader threat, or are they inconsequential 'viral chatter'. Given their lethality, and the evident multi-generational human-to-human transmission associated with Nipah virus in Bangladesh, it seems prudent to apply the precautionary principle. While much is known of their clinical, pathogenic and epidemiologic features in livestock species and humans, a number of fundamental questions regarding the relationship between the viruses, their natural fruit-bat host and the environment remain unanswered. In this paper, we pose and probe these questions in context, and offer perspectives based primarily on our experience with Hendra virus in Australia, augmented with Nipah virus parallels.

FIELD H AND KUNG N (2011) Henipaviruses - unanswered questions of lethal zoonoses. *Current Opinion in Virology*, in press.

Simulation Exercise for Sub-Regional Animal Health Laboratory System in the North Pacific

Animal Health Officers meet in May 2011 at the University of Guam for the Pacific Animal Health Laboratory Network (PAHLNet) Sub-regional laboratory workshop for North Pacific countries. The activity was held from May 2-6, 2011 with the objective of testing the shipping mechanism and sub-regional animal health laboratory referral concept developed for the US Affiliated Pacific Island (USAPI) countries.



The University of Guam (UOG) has completed the establishment of the proposed sub-regional animal health laboratory for the North Pacific countries early this year. This was the result of the close collaboration between the College of Natural and Applied Science and College of Agriculture and Natural Resources of UOG, Department of Agriculture of Guam and the Pacific Regional Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Project (PRIPPP) managed by SPC under funding from AusAid and NZ Aid Program. A ceremony was held to mark the completion of this joint mission. Mr. Amena Yavoli, Manager SPC Regional Office for the Northern Pacific, joined the participants during the ceremony to further demonstrate SPC's continuous commitment to this undertaking.

A similar ceremony was held on 21st April to mark the completion of the Fiji Veterinary Pathology Laboratory as the sub-regional laboratory for Polynesia. The upgrading of the animal health laboratory in Papua New Guinea to cater for Melanesian countries, was completed in 2009 in partnership with PNG National Agriculture and Quarantine Inspection Authority (NAQIA). The upgraded facility is now the National Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory, situated in Kila Kila, Port Moresby. Several other organizations have significantly contributed in organizing this week's workshop including the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA), CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) and the public health sector of each participating North Pacific country. PIHOA have offered assistance for the transport of animal specimen collected from participating countries to be used for the laboratory exercises. Ms. Vasiti Uluiviti, PIHOA Regional Laboratory Coordinator, has also provided logistics support and technical guidance

by allowing access to the PIHOA shipping account and drafting an animal health shipping protocol specific for North Pacific countries. The shipping protocol outlines the different information and procedures for shipping animal diagnostic specimen while utilizing the PIHOA shipping mechanism for human health. This exercise with PIHOA has provided a good opportunity for animal health officers to touch base with their in-country human health counterparts. The Guam Department of Agriculture has contributed by providing advice on the appropriate import permits to allow efficient entry of the different reagents and animal diagnostic specimen to be used for the exercises.

CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) has provided technical expertise for the effective delivery of laboratory exercises. CSIRO AAHL's Regional Program within the Diagnosis, Surveillance and Response group delivers AAHL's scientific and laboratory capacity building activities internationally, in particular the Asia Pacific region. AAHL's microbiologist, Mr. Trevor Taylor, will provide technical and practical guidance in the conduct of brucellosis and leptospirosis diagnostic tests for cattle, goat, dogs and swine.

This simulation exercise is the first opportunity for the public health and human health sector to transport animal specimen for diagnostic testing in Guam. The lessons learned throughout this exercise will serve as building blocks in strengthening the shipping mechanism and animal disease diagnostic capacity in the North Pacific. New project funding to support active surveillance will be critical in utilizing and maintaining the newly established facilities in the Northern Pacific region. For more information, please send your queries to lrldhelpdesk@spc.int

~ Elva D.P. Borja
Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Canada Caribbean

New Regional Representative of Canada Caribbean Region of CVA

Dr. Curtis Fernando Padilla as been elected as the new Regional Representative for Canada Caribbean region.



Dr Padilla is also the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Veterinary Association for the year 2011/12. He is also the President of Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association.

New officebearers of Trinidad and Tobago Veterinary Association

The following have been elected as office bearers of Trinidad and Tobago Veterinary Association for the year 2011/12.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| President | Dr. Curtis Fernando Padilla |
| Secretary and
CVA Councillor | Dr. Michelle Mellowes |
| Asst. Secretary | Dr. Karla Georges |
| Associate | Dr. Ravi Seebransingh |
| Associate | Dr Karen Young |

Dr. Michelle Mellowes was elected as the new CVA Councillor for Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Mellowes graduated from the School of Veterinary Medicine UWI, in 1998. Prior to entering Veterinary Medicine, she graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture, UWI 1992. In 2004, she obtained her M.Sc. in Animal Reproduction from the University of Liverpool. Dr. Mellowes works with both food-producing and companion animals and is presently the Veterinary Physiologist at the Artificial Breeding Center, in Wallerfield Trinidad. Dr.Mellowes is also the current Secretary of the TTVA and Assistant Secretary at the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association.



New office bearers of Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association

The following have been elected as office bearers of Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association for the year 2011/12.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| President | Robert Thomas |
| Vice President | John Josephs |
| Secretary | Sandrine McCubbin |
| Asst. Secretary | Kathryn Knight |
| Treasurer | Natalie Burnett |
| Past President | Sarah Wilkinson-Eytle |
| CVA Councillor | Wintorph Marsden |

Dr. Wintorph France St. G. Marsden received his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the Kharkov Zoo-Veterinary Institute, Ukraine in June 1995.



On his return, he re-joined the Veterinary Services Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as a Veterinary Officer. He has 25 years of experience in the field of Regulatory Medicine with special emphasis on Veterinary Food Safety. He is currently the Head of the Veterinary Services Diagnostic Laboratories in Kingston, Jamaica specializing in Parasitology.

Dr. Marsden serves as a member of various organizations and committees, such as The Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association, Small Animal Practitioner Association of Jamaica, Japanese International Cooperation Agency, National Scientific Authority Committee, National Biosafety Committee, Mitigating the Threat of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean Working Group, National Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Task Force, CaribVet Laboratory Working Group, National Codex Alimentarius Committee. He currently serves as the country representative on the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products and OIE Aquatic Animal Health Committee.

2011 CVMA Convention

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) hosted its 63rd Convention from 6-9 July, 2011 in the attractive setting Halifax, Nova Scotia. This annual event is unique in offering the only national multi-species convention, top continuing education and the opportunity to meet with peers and veterinary leaders from coast to coast. Some 939 individuals participated in the Convention.

The continuing education program featured 9 small animal streams, 3 bovine streams, 3 equine streams, 6 camelid streams, and 6 hours of exotic pets and wild life lectures. Six hours of animal welfare lectures were also offered on Understanding Animal Welfare, which included lectures on The Cultural Context, The Science, and Global Policy and the Veterinary Profession, as well as lectures on Large Animal Abuse Reporting: A Case Study, the Atlantic Veterinary Colleges Trap-Neuter-Release Program for Feral Cats, and Advantages and Disadvantages of Trap-Neuter-Release Programs for Feral Cats.

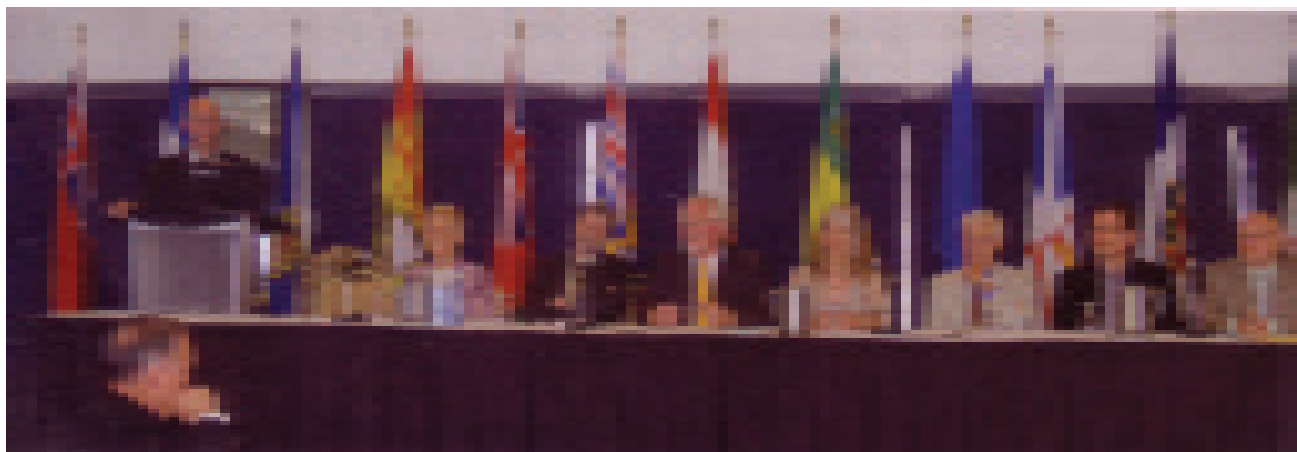
As CVMA's President-Elect, Dr. Lloyd Keddie organized and chaired the CVMA's 2011 Summit of Veterinary Leaders. This annual one-day Summit involved CVMA members, CVMA Council, Chief Veterinary Officers, Deans, provincial VMA and licensing body Presidents, Executive Directors, Registrars and International guests. The 2011 Summit's theme was "Ecosystem Health A Wake-up Call to Veterinarians." Speakers included Drs. Ole Nielsen, Judit Smits, Bruce Hunter, Jeff Davidson, Craig Stephen, Brian Evans and Bonnie Buntain. Dr. Craig Stephen, one of the Summit speakers, chairs the CVMA Environmental Advisory Group. One initiative of this Group currently under development is a "Green Champion" program consisting of a self-audit tool and guidebook for CVMA members.

Approximately 200 people participated in CVMA's 2011 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Awards Ceremony. Special guests included Dr. Larry Kornegay, President, AVMA; Dr. Michael Moyer, President, AAHA; Dr. Ron DeHaven, Executive Vice-President, AVMA; Professor Jean Francois Chary, Chair, Vet2011; Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Secretary, CVA; Dr. Brian Evans, Chief Veterinary Officer & Chief Food Safety Officer, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Delegate of Canada to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE); Dr. Francine Lord, co-chair, Canadian Council of Veterinary Officers and Director, Animal Health and Production Division, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Dr. James Marjerrison, senior veterinary advisor, Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer/Chief Food Safety Officer for Canada, Canadian Food inspection Agency; Dr. Susan Jones, Dr. Robert van Delst and Ms. Martha Little (Hill's Pet Nutrition, Platinum Sponsors of the CVMA); Mr. John Jamieson and Mr. Brent Willeison (Scoriabauk, Gold Sponsor of the CVMA and the supporting sponsor of the Awards Ceremony); Mr. Martin Greenhaigh (Onterver Schering-Plough Animal Health, Silver Sponsor of the CVMA); Mr. Randy Valpy and Dr. Lynn Webster (Persecure Pet Health Insurance, co-sponsor of the CVMA BMP).

2011-2012 Executive of CVMA

The following were elected to the new CVMA Executive.

- Dr. Lloyd Keddie, President
- Dr. Jim Fairies, President-elect
- Dr. Jim Berry, Vice-President



Summit Panel Discussion

L-R: Drs. L. Keddie, B. Buntain, B. Hunter, J. Davidson, J. Smits, O. Nielsen, C. Stephen and B. Evans

- Dr. Doug Roberts, Immediate Past-President
- Dr. Jean Gauvin, Executive Member (new on Executive)
- Dr. Barry Sremshoru, Ex-officio Member and Treasurer
- Mr. Jost am Rhyn, Ex-officio Member/Executive Director

From the Council Table

The following individuals represented CVMA members from coast to coast on the 2010-2011 Council, CVMA's policy-making body:

- Dr. Doug Roberts, President
- Dr. Lloyd Keddie, Alberta Representative, President-Elect
- Dr. Jim Fairles, Ontario Representative, Vice-President
- Dr. Jim Berry, New Brunswick Representative, Executive Member
- Dr. Kevin Millar, Manitoba Representative
- Dr. Jean Gauvin, Quebec Representative
- Dr. Ronald Dunphi Newfoundland Representative
- Dr. Greg Harasen, Saskatchewan Representative
- Dr. Gordon Krebs, UCVM, WCVM and OVC Representative
- Dr. Lisa Miller, FMV and AVC Representative
- Dr. Troye McPherson, Nova Scotia Representative
- Dr. Nicole Gallant, PEI Representative
- Ms. Erinn Hilberry, President of the Students of the CVMA

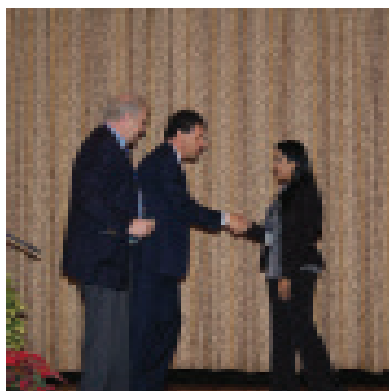


Dr Lloyd Keddie (left) accepts the Chain of Office from outgoing President, Dr Douglas Roberts

- Dr. Julie de Moissac, Immediate Past-President
- Dr. Barry Stemshorn, Treasurer
- Mr. Jost am Rhyn, Executive Director

~ Can Vet J, Vol.52, Oct 2011

Trinidad Vet receives George M. Baer Award at Rabies in the Americas Conference



Dr. Janine Seetahal, Veterinary Officer Animal Production and Health Division, Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs Trinidad and Tobago received the George M. Baer Latin American Investigator Award for her work on Rabies at the 22nd International Conference on Rabies in the Americas (RITA), which was held in Puerto Rico from October 16-21, 2011. Her work on genetics of Rabies virus suggested that infected bats from Venezuela were responsible for outbreaks of paralytic rabies in cattle in Trinidad. The Dr. George M. Baer Latin American Investigator Award is given to a researcher from a Latin American country for outstanding work in the field of rabies research.





ECS Africa

New ECSCA Regional Representative

Dr Henry Magwisha, CVA Councillor Tanzania was unanimously elected as the new Regional Representative of Eastern, Central and Southern African region of CVA during the Fifth Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference held at Accra, Ghana.



Dr Henry is a Principal Veterinary Research Officer (PVRO II) with PhD from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Morogoro, Tanzania.

New office-bearers of Botswana Veterinary Association

At the Annual General Meeting of the Botswana Veterinary Association, the following were elected Executive Committee members of Botswana Veterinary Association for a period 2012:

Chairman	G M Sento
Vice Chairman	S Ramabu
Secretary	K Motshegwa
Treasurer	MMB Reuben
CVA Councillor	Boitumelo Mogome-Maseko
Additional Members	DD Coyne S Kejelepula-Letsholo

Of significant importance at the meeting was the agreement to discuss privatization and outsourcing of state veterinary services.

New CVA Councillor for Tanzania

Dr Bedan Masuruli was elected as the new CVA Councillor for Tanzania. He succeeds Dr Henry Magwisha.

New office-bearers of Veterinary Association of Zambia

At the Annual General Meeting of the Veterinary Association of Zambia (VAZ), the following were elected Executive Committee Members of VAZ for the period 2012:

Chairman	King Nalubamba
Vice Chairman	Yona Sinkala
Secretary General	Ngwisha
Treasurer	Boniface Namangala
CVA Councillor	Martin Simuunza



West Africa

CVA Network unites long lost Vets half a globe and 44 years apart!!!

Dr George Mukembo was an Ugandan studying at Sydney University way back in the 60's and graduated from the class of 1968 along with the Past President of CVA, Dr. Robin Yarrow of Fiji and Dr. Geoff Ryan of Australia.

Last year, when Dr. Ryan was planning to visit Uganda on a private trip, he contacted Dr. Yarrow to explore the possibility of locating his long lost friend in Uganda. Dr. Yarrow immediately contacted the CVA Councillor of Uganda, Dr. Dominic Mundrugo-ogo Lali and sought his help to trace Dr. Mukembo. It took quite an effort on the part of Dr. Dominic to find Dr. Mukembo but he succeeded and finally a meeting was arranged between Dr. Ryan and Dr. Mukembo in Entebbe. The following is a report from Dr. Ryan about his reunion meeting, together with his wife Natalie :

Conversation With George Mukembo At Entebbe 12.1.2012

“On the evening of 12 January, 2012 Natalie and I had dinner with George Mukembo at the Travellers Inn Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda. The following are some notes I made of our conversation the following day. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of these notes as I did not understand everything George said and I am sure he did not understand everything I said. After about half an hour Natalie joined us and after an hour or so one of George's sons, Daniel Nkotami, joined us for about half an hour. George worked for the Uganda Department of Agriculture from graduation until 3 years ago



L-R: Mrs. Natalie Ryan, Dr. George Mukembo, Mr. Daniel Nkotami and Dr. Ryan

when he retired. During this period of time he was based in either Kampala or Entebbe in senior positions. Looking back I find it hard to explain why we were unable to locate and contact George during the last 40 odd years.

George's father had 5 wives and George has an unknown number of living siblings. George won a scholarship (I think from the Australian Government, maybe under the Colombo scheme?) to do Veterinary Science at Sydney University. He finished his HSC in Kampala but left for Sydney before he could pick up his certificate. Consequently he had to sit for matriculation at Sydney Technical College.

George only went back home to Uganda once during the 5 years he spent in Australia and that was at the end of 4th year. He returned after graduation to work with the Ugandan Government.

George married at 28, 10 years older than his bride. They had 8 children, 4 boys and 4 girls, all of which are still living. They all completed tertiary education and live in Uganda except one son who is completing a medical degree in London. The youngest child is now 23 years old. We met Danie Nkotami, George's eldest son, who works in the Entebbe IT industry. None of George's 4 sons have the name Mukembo, in fact they all have different family (clan) names!

Several years after graduation, George won a scholarship from a US agency to study for his Masters degree at Colorado. He left a new bride and 1.5 children when he went to Colorado and took only 18 months of his 3 year scholarship to graduate with his MVSc. He studied all the time and saw none of the rest of the USA. George's masters degree is in reproductive biology.

When George returned to Uganda he was put in charge of the management of 700 Holstein heifers imported from Canada. His mandate was to establish dairy herds in Uganda and also to develop a village dairy cow by crossing the imported Holsteins with the native adapted Ankole cattle. During this time George was based in Kampala and the imported Holsteins not far out of Kampala.

Later the Agriculture Department moved to Entebbe (40k south of Kampala) and George, and family, moved to Entebbe. George became involved in the training of Para-veterinarians and later in the establishment of the Veterinary degree course at the University of Uganda. During the last part of George's working career he became a senior administrator in the Department of Agriculture and retired 3 years ago at the age of 67.

George stated that the Veterinary profession and animal health received little political support in Uganda and that it had been a struggle to gain political support for most projects.

He stated that life had been very hard in the 1980's - uncertain, unpredictable and dangerous. Most people had been very frightened. George became visibly emotional when discussing these events and, understandably, doesn't like to recall or discuss the trauma experienced by him, and his family, during these dark years.

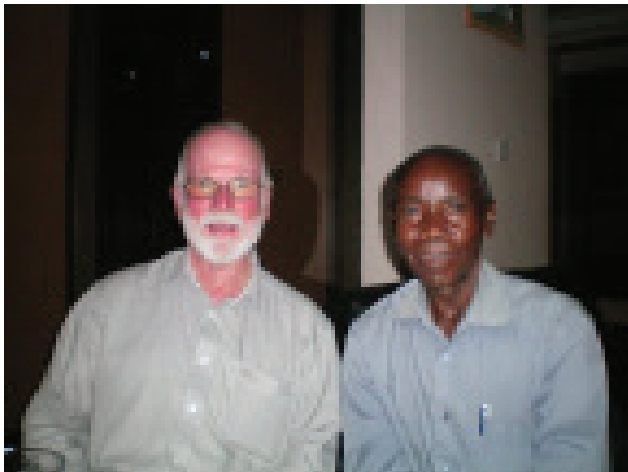
His health had been good up until his retirement but he now has a coronary problem which causes arrhythmia. He is being monitored and treated for what he called 'cardiac asthma'. His wife suffers from bad circulatory problems in one leg and cannot travel with comfort.

George and his wife have retired to a small farm NE of Kampala where they tend some cattle, chickens and a garden. The farm keeps him fit.

He will soon be able to use email and will contact me when this service is available. There is no postal service where he lives.

George is keen to come to the 2013 reunion at Nowra but will need his GP's permission for such a journey. He will keep in touch by email and wants to receive the email traffic regarding the reunion. However, he will certainly require some assistance with airfares. Unfortunately his wife will not be able to travel with him to Australia.

I recognised George immediately - he is very lean and looks fit. His voice and face have changed little since 1967.



Dr. Ryan and Dr. George Mukembo

He still receives the Sydney University Gazette and has kept pace with developments at the University. I can't understand why we hadn't, over the years, thought of acquiring George's Kampala address from this source!

Thus the CVA played an important role in re-uniting Geoff and George.

New West African Regional Representative

Dr Sulayman Sonko, CVA Councillor of The Gambia has been nominated as the CVA RR for West African Region. He replaces Dr Olatunji Nasir.



Dr. Sonko is currently the National Expert on Animal Production for PROGEBE-Gambia. Before taking up this position with the National Coordination Unit, Dr. Sonko worked as the Field Coordinator for Rural Finance and Community Initiatives Project (RFCIP) that was funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) from September 1999 to November 2007. Prior to this appointment, he was the Deputy Director of the Department of Livestock Services (1998 -1999). During his tenure of office with the Department as Veterinary officer (1981) and Principal Veterinary Officer (1984 - 1997), Dr. Sonko has participated in the formulation and implementation of many livestock development projects.

Masters Degrees

The Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London and the Royal Veterinary College, University of London offer an exciting range of MSc courses (with exit points at Certificate and Diploma) in the wild animal health field delivered by world-class experts.

- **Wild Animal Health**

This course aims to teach the principles and practice of managing all aspects of wild animal health, both in captivity and in the wild. Applicants will be expected to have a degree from a recognised veterinary school.

- **Wild Animal Biology**

This course includes much of the high quality tuition provided on the Wild Animal Health course and replaces veterinary skills training with training in research methodologies relevant to the study of wildlife. Applications will be invited from candidates with a biology / zoology degree with preference being given to those that have received, inter alia, training in the paraclinical subjects (microbiology, parasitology and pathology).

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THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE
 UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



UK Mediterranean

British Veterinary Association 2011 Annual Congress

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) Congress 2011 was held under the theme ‘**Vets in a Changing World**’ at the Royal College of Physicians in London on 23-24 September 2011.

The sessions covered were Vets in the ‘Big Society’; Food Security – Feeding the World; Disaster Relief/Management, Veterinary Education – A Price Worth Paying? and more. The presentations were followed by discussions.

BVA Awards

Each year BVA makes a number of awards, from awards for outstanding contributions to veterinary science and services to the profession to contributions to veterinary services in developing countries through to travel awards for veterinary students and recent graduates. The Chiron Award to Prof John E Cooper and the Trevor Blackburn Award to Mr Tim Leyland.

Veterinary Record appoints Veterinary Editor In Chief

Veterinary Record has appointed leading veterinarian Professor Sandy Trees, to the newly created post of Veterinary Editor in Chief.

Professor Trees who retired as Professor of Veterinary Parasitology at the University of Liverpool, is currently Senior Vice President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and a former Dean of Liverpool Veterinary School.

Professor Trees has started working on developing Veterinary Record’s editorial board and working with the Editor and Publisher to determine the strategic development of the two titles.

~ Sally Burnell, BVA
14 April 11

New BVA Officers



BVA New Officers
L-R: Peter Harlech Jones (President-Elect), Carl Padgett (President) and Harvey Locke (Past President)

New BVA President

Mr Carl Padgett was elected President of the British Veterinary Association (BVA) for 2011/2012. The ceremony took place during the Annual General Meeting of the BVA at the close of its Annual Congress, held in London.



Graduating from Glasgow University in 1989 and having spent most of his career as a large animal practitioner, Dr Padgett is a Director of Bay Vets Ltd in Lancaster. He has particular interests in cattle health, production and welfare, veterinary politics and the role the profession has to play in the wider livestock industry and the companion animal world.

A former President of the British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) and recent Chairman of Trustees of the BVA Animal Welfare Foundation, Dr Padgett has been involved in veterinary politics for over 15 years.

Outstanding Contribution Award for Professor John Cooper



Professor John E Cooper was announced as the recipient of the British Veterinary Association's prestigious Chiron Award.

The award, which marks outstanding contributions to veterinary science or for outstanding services to the profession, judged in either case as being of a calibre commanding international or inter-professional recognition, was presented to Professor Cooper during the Awards Ceremony at the BVA's Annual Congress in London.

As a specialist pathologist with particular interest in wildlife and exotic species, tropical disease and comparative medicine, Professor Cooper has spent a lifetime in overseas activities and with an unerring commitment to fellow veterinary surgeons, veterinary students, biologists, pathologists and conservationists, especially those in other less fortunate parts of the world. His dedication to the promotion of the role of animals and the role of the veterinary surgeon in health, education and research has been an outstanding service to the veterinary profession overseas and an inspiration to many in the UK.

As well as holding several current visiting academic appointments in Britain and overseas, John Cooper is continuing his work with wildlife, domestic animals and rural communities in East Africa.

Dr Cooper is a former CVA Councillor UK and Regional Representative, UK/Mediterranean region.

Army Officer heads up Animal Welfare Foundation

Dr Tiffany Hemming has been elected the New Chair of the British Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Foundation (BVA AWF), the veterinary profession's own animal welfare charity.



After graduating, Dr Hemming worked in mixed practice before completing her doctorate in epidemiology at the University of Guelph, Canada. She joined the Territorial Army as a Veterinary Officer in 1997, transferring to the Regular Army in 2000.

She has been employed in several different roles all over the world, has commanded a medical squadron for two years and deployed with them to Afghanistan in 2009/10.

Holding the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, Dr Hemming is currently employed in a policy position in Whitehall. Her particular interests within animal welfare science are working animals and educating owners about improving the welfare of their animals.

Official Opening for New Teaching Facility at the Dick Vet

A new £42 million teaching facility at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies (Rf[D]SVS) was officially opened by the Princess Royal last week.

The new building, which is part of a £100 million development on the University of Edinburgh's Easter Bush campus, can accommodate more than 1000 staff and students. It is based next to the veterinary school's hospitals for small and large animals and provides students with access to lecture theatres fitted with multimedia technology, a library seminar rooms, teaching laboratories and a restaurant. Students can also practice their clinical skills on interactive models and use interactive learning to check the health of farm animals using webcams. A

'Second Life' teaching initiative will allow them to visit a virtual equine treatment centre and discuss care for horses.

The building is also home to the new Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education, which was set up with a £2 million donation from the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust (VR, May 28, 2011, vol 168, p 549).

~ Veterinary Record, Oct 8, 2011

Disaster Management: Developing an Upstream Approach

A stream of lectures organised by the BVA Overseas Group at the BVA Congress on September 23 considered veterinary responses to natural disasters and the value of international research into animal diseases. The session opened with a talk from Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer and Head of the Infectious Diseases Group of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), who explained that the demand for high-quality animal-derived food was likely to increase and this would provide new opportunities and challenges for the veterinary profession.



transboundary exotic diseases, veterinary public health and production diseases. A crisis management centre had also been established, with the concept that prevention strategies should be considered a form of emergency 'response'. 'We're trying to go more upstream,' he said.

The FAO's view was that human, animal and ecosystem health overlapped, 'FAO is very much a "One Health" organisation, reaching out to the OIE for standards setting where needed, the WHO for human health and zoonotic issues, and also the UN Environmental Programme,' he said.

The importance of vets internationally was reflected in the large number of organisations with varying remits that employed them, he said. These included the FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the International Livestock Research Institute, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization (WHO). There were even vets working for the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The FAO's mandate was to 'defeat hunger, alleviate poverty and modernise and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries'. It had eight millennium development goals, including eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; promoting gender equality and empowerment of women; combating HIV/ AIDS and other diseases; and working towards environmental stability and global partnership.

The animal health service at the FAO had three main departments, dealing with the prevention of emerging

~ **Veterinary Record, Oct 15, 2011**

Hard Work Acknowledged

During the Overseas Group's lecture stream, a presentation was made to Ms. Helena Cotton, media and international affairs officer at the BVA, to acknowledge her continued support of vets overseas.

'I think you'll agree that the Overseas Group has, over the years, gone from strength to strength,' said Laura Bowen, who was chair of the group until 2010. 'That really possibly is down to one person. Helena Cotton is very much the heart and lifeblood of the Overseas Group.'

Helena has been associated with CVA for over three decades as a liaison between the CVA and the Commonwealth Foundation on one hand and the BVA on the other.



~ **Veterinary Record, Oct 15, 2011**

Defra Seeks Views on Controlling an Outbreak of Rabies

DEFRA is seeking views on its recently revised draft rabies control strategy, which sets out a framework for how an incident or outbreak of rabies in England and/or Wales would be managed. The draft strategy document notes that detailed operational instructions for dealing with an outbreak are already covered within the Government's contingency plan for exotic animal diseases. It therefore sets out some general control principles for the most likely scenarios for cases of classical rabies and the rationale for these controls.

There is a large range of possible scenarios for a rabies outbreak or incident, from a contained case of an individual pet animal, to the highly unlikely worst case of a nationwide outbreak involving both wildlife and domestic animals; the document notes. However it says that expert opinion suggests that the most likely route of introduction of rabies into the UK is through the entry or re-entry of a single pet from abroad which does not meet all of the legal border controls and is subsequently diagnosed with rabies. It considers how the disease might spread within the UK and describes how an outbreak would be confirmed and controlled. Regarding the most likely scenario, that of an individual infected pet. Defra suggests that this is likely to be identified quickly, and the source of infection or exposure rapidly ascertained. In such a case, it says, 'The control and containment measures required would be very restricted and localised, likely to be limited to the infected animal and any other pets that had direct contact (for example, those in the same house). It is envisaged that containment and control should be quickly achieved and that there would be no subsequent infections.'

The strategy considers what control measures might be appropriate if the disease begins to spread to other domestic animals such as tighter restrictions on movements of domestic pets and requiring vaccination, muzzling and leashing of particular pets. It also discusses aspects such as tracing contact animals, surveillance and the declaration of an infected area.

Discussing control of rabies in wildlife, the strategy identifies the UK's large fox population as a potentially significant reservoir. It also considers badgers, noting that, while not a reservoir in other countries, this species could potentially become a reservoir in the UK due to much larger and more widely spread populations. It outlines a number of control options for an outbreak of rabies in wildlife, including vaccination and culling. Good communications would be key during an outbreak of rabies, Defra says, and the strategy details key features of a communications plan for informing specific groups and the public in general.

Defra says that, in general, the strategy avoids prescribing exactly how and when individual control measures would be applied as it is important to retain flexibility so that each situation can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. However, it says that it wants to understand in more detail the practicalities of the control options as there may be some scope for clarifying the circumstances under which they are more or less likely to be used or actually ruled out altogether. It says that it is specifically seeking views on the use of control options, but general comments on all aspects of the strategy are welcome. The consultation document is available at www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/10/18/rabies-control-strategy. Comments have been invited by December 16.

~ **Veterinary Record, Nov 12, 2011**

New genotype of avian bornavirus in wild geese and trumpeter swans in Canada

Avian bornavirus (ABV), a newly discovered agent, has been identified as the causal agent of proventricular dilation disease (PDD) in psittacine birds (Honkavuori and others 2008, Kistler and others 2008). In 2009, we identified an ABV in association with non-suppurative inflammation in the central, peripheral and autonomic nervous systems in a number of wild, free-ranging Canada geese and trumpeter swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) in southern Ontario (Smith and others 2010).

The N gene sequences from Ontario waterfowl clustered separately from those found in psittacines and other avian species, and from Borna disease virus, and appear to be a different strain from the one circulating in psittacine species. Whether this virus has been endemic within North America for a substantial period of time but has only now been recognised is yet to be determined. Support for this hypothesis comes from personal communication with colleagues in the USA and in Britain, which suggests that the waterfowl strain of ABV may be broadly distributed with the ranges of the susceptible species.

~ **Veterinary Record, July 23, 2011**

Vets' Food Safety Role on Show in Scotland

The role that vets play in ensuring food safety was highlighted at the recent Good Food Show Scotland held in Glasgow where some of Scotland's leading chefs lent their support to the European Commission's 'Vets in your daily life' campaign.

Over the weekend of October 21 to 23, DG Sanco, the health and consumer directorate of the European Commission, hosted a series of educational cookery demonstrations for local children at the show. The demonstrations were designed to showcase the importance of food safety and the role of vets in ensuring that the food chain remains safe from farm to fork.

'Issues of provenance, food security, animal welfare and environmental issues are becoming more and more vital; says DG Sanco. 'Where food comes from and how it has been reared and treated is now a primary concern of many, something vets play an integral part in.'

Neil Forbes, one of the chefs supporting the 'Vets in your daily life' campaign, commented: 'I pride myself on using the best local produce and getting to know my suppliers. I do this so I can be sure that they put care and attention into ensuring that the animals they source the meat from are kept in the best standards of health and welfare.' He said this was important 'not just for quality and taste, but also for the safety of my customers'.

~ Veterinary Record, Nov 5, 2011

Vets Celebrate A World Without Rinderpest

The declaration of the eradication of rinderpest, one of the world's most dreaded animal diseases. This unique event in the history of animal health compares to the eradication of smallpox in humans.

The announcement came during the 79th General Session of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), held in Paris. The global freedom status will be ratified by Ministers of Agriculture at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conference in June.

Rinderpest, also known as cattle plague, has ravaged cattle and the human populations that depend on them throughout history. It was rinderpest that led to the formation of the OIE in 1924 following a new incursion of the rinderpest virus in Europe, via the port of Antwerp.

Dr Peter Roeder, who was Secretary of the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme from 2000 to 2007, commented: "Once a dream, rinderpest eradication is now a reality. Not only does this magnificent achievement help to protect the livelihoods of many millions of livestock-dependent farmers but, because it removes a serious constraint to livestock trade, it has a major positive impact on many countries' economies. If we can truly learn the lessons from rinderpest eradication there is no reason why we couldn't see other diseases brought to global extinction with similar pro-poor and economic impact."

~ Helena Cotton, BVA

27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

High-ranking officials from 16 Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, including national, regional and international organisations, attended the 27th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Teheran (Iran) from 19 to 23 November 2011. That region includes the major part of world human and animal population.

Participants reasserted the need to rely on good veterinary governance including suitable legislation, and human and financial resources, that comply with the standards of quality adopted by the OIE.

It was pointed out that aquaculture is the world's fastest growing food production sector, with more than 90% of the 53 million tonnes of global farmed fish and shellfish production originating in the Far East, Asia and Oceania Region. Devastating impacts of aquatic animal diseases in this Region have clearly demonstrated the risks associated with international trade and the vulnerability of aquaculture to the spread of disease.

~ OIE Media release, Nov 30, 2011

Journal of Commonwealth Veterinary Association

Instructions to Authors

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

Send your manuscripts to:

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Animal Welfare

The handling and use of animals in experiments must conform to the International Code of Practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

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Submit the manuscript in duplicate. Type it on one side of A4 paper, with 10 cpi font, leaving a left-hand margin of 3 cm and numbering every fifth line. Use double spacing throughout, including title page, abstract, text, acknowledgments, references, tables and legends for illustrations. Do not underline anything. Number all pages.

Alternatively a version can be provided on a computer diskette, preferably in PC format. Acceptable word processing programs are WordPerfect and MS Word. If you use a Macintosh send your manuscript as an email attachment or on a PC formatted disc. An email attachment can also be sent to shireen@blr.vsnl.net.in

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The title should be concise, specific and informative but should not make an assertive claim about the conclusions of the study.

Authors' Names And Addresses

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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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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.

List all authors if there are five or fewer. When there are more than five authors, list only the first three and add 'et al'. Write titles of books, journals and other publications in italics. Capitalise only the first letter of the book titles. Do not underline or use bold letters. The abbreviation of journals follows that of Serial sources for the BIOSIS previews database. Cite references to unpublished work only in the text, with a notation of (personal communication) or (unpublished). Please send a copy of any cited work that is included in the reference list as 'in press'. It is the authors' responsibility to check the accuracy of reference citations.

Acknowledgments

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

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 AVA Annual Conference, Canberra, Australia. **20-25 May**
 NZVA Annual Conference, Hamilton, New Zealand. **19-22 June**
 BVA Congress, Liverpool, UK. **27-29 September**
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 CVA Regional Meeting of Asian Region, Colombo, Sri Lanka. (Date to be announced).

2013

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