

COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION NEWS





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President's Column



CVA is in a phase of great activity at the present time. This is partly due to the decisions of the Second Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference at Bangalore held in February 1998 which are currently being translated into CVA Workplan for the next five years. A conference has limited value if it isn't followed by an active workplan.

And what of the second PCVC? Though not run at a profit, it exceeded all our expectations. The primary focus of the Conference, that of discussing and recognising the role of women in both veterinary science and livestock management received a magnificent launching at the plenary sessions from Dr. Amrita Patel, the keynote speaker who is the Chairman of the National Development Dairy Board of India. She gave a hard hitting speech with quiet authority and greatly impressed the international visitors. Although the audience laughed with Dr. Polly Pereka of Tanzania in her engaging support address, no one doubted the power of her message and the necessity to recognise the role of women animal carers in Africa. In contrast, Dr. Herath described how women veterinarians in Sri Lanka (now 53% of veterinary graduates) are much better integrated into total veterinary services and animal ownership. This session was a great start to the Conference setting a very high standard of presentation and content.

The Scientific programme drawn up by Dr. Trevor Blackburn former CVA President and his committee, was very comprehensive and few areas of veterinary science were not addressed. For many of the overseas visitors in particular, a highlight was a visit to the village of Muthanallur, where we saw an animal health camp and a small scale women's dairy cooperative and also interacted with the women involved and the animal owners, male and female. Two visitors said to me that they had tears in the eyes at the warmth of the welcome of the conference delegates, which incorporated a welcome band, a guard of honour and a cultural performance by the children. There is a follow up in that the Executive of CVA has now agreed to adopt this village and will assist with further training and veterinary support for the dairy cooperative.

There were many memorable activities. During the Conference a formal agreement was signed between Ralston Purina Co and CVA for the former to become an official sponsor of CVA and give specific financial support for the CVA Travel Fund, Regional Workshops and some other activities in the future. CVA is extremely appreciative of the constructive and creative support confirmed by our sponsor. I was pleased to present a West African batik to Mr. David Bebiak and Dr. Avi Deshmukh of the company from CVA.

I've also recorded CVA's great appreciation for support by a number of international agencies to ensure attendance of representatives from nearly all Commonwealth countries. I particularly list the Commonwealth Foundation, Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (EU), Department for International Development (UK), Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NZ), Commonwealth Science Council, (Commonwealth Secretariat, UK)

CVA appreciated the presence of an active trade display including some international companies which helped make a very rounded conference. CVA sincerely thanks all the members of local committees and the conference staff including students who did a marvellous job for 1200 registrants when only about 600 were expected. The contribution may the total performance of Dr. Rahman who convened the Conference and attended to very detail both before and after the conference was quite remarkable and we cannot thank him enough for it.

July 1998

W.J. Pryor
President



Second Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, Bangalore, India 22- 27 February , 1998.

The Second Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference (PCVC) was held at Bangalore India at the JN Tata Conference Centre, Indian Institute of Science. This followed a decision of the Programme Review Committee of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) in London in August 1995.

Conference Organisation

Three major CVA committees were established, the CVA Management Committee chaired by the President, The Organising Committee chaired by the Secretary, Dr. S.A. Rahman, India and the Scientific Programme Committee chaired by Dr. J.T. Blackburn, (UK) former President of CVA. By virtue of the fact that the CVA had been trying to orient some of its programmes to recognise two important facts relating to the increased role of women in veterinary science and the unrecognised role of women in livestock husbandry, the central theme selected was: "Animal Health and Production in Rural Areas. The Essential Role of Women at all Levels.

The Programme Committee organised the Conference to include many leading edge topics, the majority relating to the livestock industries in Commonwealth developing countries. Every session chairman was instructed to ensure that the conclusions from each session were to be discussed and with particular reference to the role of women. The Programme covered such areas as : Emerging and Re- emerging Diseases, Veterinary Education, Small Farmer Dairying Systems, Veterinary Public Health, Rabies, Improvement of Animal Breeding, Animal Welfare and Ethics.

Each Session was chaired by a Chairperson assisted by a Co-chairperson and two rapporteurs. These reports and recommendations were duly passed to the CVA Executive for consolidation and to assist in developing the Work plan of CVA for the next five years.

The entire local arrangements were in the hands of the veterinarians and students of the Veterinary College, (University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore) the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services and others, who worked very hard over many months to make the Conference successful. The trade exhibition

attracted 32 companies representing worldwide distribution of veterinary products and services. This provided an opportunity for scientist - industry dialogue and exploration of possible future collaboration and cooperation between the Commonwealth countries.

Attendance

The Organising Committee had planned for about 600 attendees. In the event a massive response from the Indian sub - continent resulted in an attendance of 1200 at which point registrations were halted because of exhaustion of conference materials and space. Of the 1200 delegates participating in the conference, 145 were from 55 countries both Commonwealth and non Commonwealth. In addition to the large number of Indian delegates, it was possible to fund participants from the following developing countries:

Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Is., Tonga, Vanuatu, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Cyprus, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, The Gambia, Ghana, Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Trinidad and Tobago. The only problems experienced were by the three delegates who had visa difficulties, probably due to inexperience.

The new members of CVA, South Africa, Mozambique and Fiji all had delegations of two or more. In addition, students from various veterinary colleges of India were also invited as special guests so that they could be enriched by this international event . One student from Canada attended at her own expense and has since agreed to assist in the formation of a Canadian veterinary student chapter of CVA.

Inauguration

The Conference was inaugurated on Sunday 22nd February 1998 by His Excellency the Governor of Karnataka, Mr. Khursheed Alam Khan , in the presence of Dr. W J. Pryor, CVA President, and invited dignitaries Dr. (Ms.) Amrita Patel, Managing Director National Dairy

Development Board of India, Dr. G.K. Veeresh, Vice Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Dr. R.S. Sharma, President of the Indian Veterinary Association and Mr. Ningaiah, Minister of Veterinary Sciences in Karnataka.

Scientific Programme

The opening plenary session which was addressed by three women speakers, Dr. Patel, India, Dr. A.E. Pereka, Tanzania and Dr. H.M.S.P. Herath, Sri Lanka, made a very powerful impact. Dr. Patel, who is the women veterinarian holding the senior most post in India, captivated and strongly challenged her audience. A copy of her address is included in the proceedings. Dr. Pereka described the African situation in which traditional animal ownership is male dominated by animal care is a female responsibility. The Sri Lankan story of a better utilisation of a women's talents nicely contrasted with the earlier situation described.

The full programme is set out in the conference publications. The scientific programme was drawn up to span five days and 18 sessions, with three to four sessions running concurrently. There were 102 invited lectures, 118 short papers and 163 poster presentations during the week long scientific programme. An extraordinary display of the effect of volcanic action in the Carribean island of Montserrat and its effect on man and animals was judged a very special feature.

What was gratifying to the organisers was that the main auditorium and the three lecture theatres always had a full audience. The hunger for knowledge was so evident.

Specialist seminars were held in conjunction with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) on the subject of rabies, foot and mouth disease and animal health reporting. Workshops were also held in some special technical areas. Note the report from the Convenor of Education Workshop (where the attendance was unfortunately too high):

"The workshop, which was originally designed to involve approximately 20 people in a small informal venue, took place in a lecture theatre packed with participants! The aims of the workshop were firstly to identify the problems associated with the traditional approach to veterinary education - "the myths" about teaching (= lecturing), sequence of subjects ("theory before practice" and "basic before applied") and the rigid timetable, for example, which reduce student motivation and the efficiency of learning. Because of the reductionism of the traditional system (the sciences are taught separately), students learn without seeing the whole picture, information is acquired without a context. The efficiency

of student learning depends to a large extent on the perceived relevance of the informations; "irrelevant" material is rote - learned to pass examinations and soon forgotten.

"The leader suggested that veterinary education should be based on study of professional veterinary situations - what veterinarians do, rather than on the distinct sciences that contribute to veterinary science. A model of practice was constructed based on interactions between the 3 main elements: animal, client/owner and veterinarian (ACV), and new definitions of veterinary science, veterinarian and veterinary practice were derived. "The role of the veterinarian is to enhance or sustain the association between animal and owner". The ACV model was then used to show how a new curriculum and a new approach to teaching and learning ("role based learning") could be developed. Learning should start with the professional situation, then move to the sciences and back again: "From the whole, to the parts, and back to the whole."

"The audience was given the opportunity to devise and discuss sample veterinary scenarios for role based learning that would stimulate learning in various areas of veterinary science, including aspects of personal and professional development. There was a high level of interest and participation in the workshop despite the overwhelming numbers and the unsuitable venue. The challenging nature of the content was amply confirmed by angry and sustained responses from a few members of the audience!"

This is an area, which CVA will be highlighting, in the next 5 year Work Plan.

Concurrent Meetings

Of Special Interest to the CVA was a meeting organised by senior Chief Veterinary Officers of the Commonwealth. This group had met once before in Malaysia and CVA suggested that such a meeting might be repeated. In Bangalore they resolved to put in place a more structured approach to future meetings which would coincide with Pan Commonwealth Veterinary conferences. A special sub-committee has been set up and is to report its findings to the CVA Executive Committee.

Following discussions held between the President of the World Veterinary Association and the Officers of the CVA in November, 1997, the WVA decided to convene a meeting of its Executive Committee in Bangalore during the Pan Conference Veterinary Conference. This demonstration of increased awareness and cooperation between the two worldwide organisations is an encouraging sign.



His Excellency Mr. Khursheed Alam Khan, Governor of Karnataka being welcome by the Org. Sec. Mr. S. Abdul Rahman, on the left is the Min. of Animal Husbandry, Mr. B.B. Ningaloh.

His Excellency inaugurating the Conference by lighting the lamp.



Dr. Amrita Patel, Managing Director, National Dairy Development Board of India, releasing the Proceedings of the Conference.



Dr. W. J. Pryor, President CVA gives the welcome address.

Dr. C. Krishna Rao former A.H. Commissioner, Govt. of India giving the key note address.



Dr. R.S. Sharma President Indian Veterinary Association being presented with a memento.



Poster Session at the Conference

Trade Exhibition



Dr. Rantisios, President World Veterinary Association presenting a bouquet to the cultural artist.

Cultural Activities

The Organising Committee arranged a series of cultural activities each evening, plus a comprehensive programme for Accompanying Persons and a series of tours - including a full day tour to the historic town of Mysore at the conclusion of the Conference week.

Publications

Before the Conference three comprehensive Announcements, First, Second and Final were widely distributed. In addition all participants in the Conference were provided ON ARRIVAL with the publications listed below. This required immense effort from the Editor and tight cooperation from the speakers, many of whom were international participants.

- Conference Programme , 34 + 11 pages
- Souvenir of the second Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, 134 pages
- Abstracts plus Author index, 199 + 10 pages
- Scientific Proceedings , Vol. I (Invited and Short Papers) pp. 1 - 913
- Scientific Proceedings, Vol. II (Poster Presentations) pp. 915 - 1345 .

The souvenir was produced in order to depict the veterinary profession in different Commonwealth countries as well as informing the readers about the history of the CVA.

Conference Resolutions

The reports from every session are currently being consolidated into a document, which the Executive of CVA then will incorporate into its five year Workplan. It is expected that the Workplan will be completed and published in the second half of 1998. It is not possible to give a comprehensive account of this yet, but it can be stated that such critical technical issues as Woman in Livestock Production, Milk Production at Village level, the Problem of Re- emerging Diseases, Veterinary Education, Small Scale Poultry Production, Rinderpest , Foot and Mouth Disease and Rabies Control, plus Animal Welfare and Ethics will be included.

CVA is also examining its administrative and financial structure taking account of views expressed at its Council and Regional Council Meetings held during the Conference.

Chief Veterinary Officers of Commonwealth Countries Meet in Bangalore, India

Chief Veterinary Officers of Commonwealth countries met at Bangalore, India on 22nd-23rd February, 1998 on the occasion of the Second Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference. The idea to have this meeting was mooted by Dr. Peter Thornber (Australia) who took the initiative to organise this meeting. The following CVOs attended the meeting:

Dr. Peter Thornber	-	Australia
Dr. Brian Evans	-	Canada
Dr. Jeffrey Cave	-	Cook Islands
Dr. Siosifa Fifita	-	Kingdom of Tonga
Dr. Iliga Puana	-	Papua New Guinea
Dr. H. Liebschuetz	-	Kiribati
Dr. Paul Bosman	-	South Africa
Dr. N. J. Shongwe	-	Swaziland
Dr. Robin Bell	-	UK
Dr. Gavin Struthers	-	Vanuatu
Dr. R. M. Busayi	-	Zimbabwe

● The Management of a severe medial hock shearing wound of traumatic origin is described. Shearing wounds most frequently involve the medial aspect of the distal tibia and tarsus, and range in severity from superficial skin lacerations to grade three open fractures with multiple joint instability and significant soft tissue loss. Successful case management was achieved using open wound management, early tibiotarsal arthrodesis and full thickness skin graft.

Preston, C.A. (1996). *Aust Vet. Practit* 26:79

● Infection with *Prototheca zopfii* was diagnosed in an eight year old neutered Cocker Spaniel with a history of haematochezia and a sudden onset of blindness

Meehan C. & Pollock J. (1996) *Aust. Vet. Practit* 26 : 146

Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship Programme 1998 - A Report

Dr. Siosifa T. Fifita; CVA Councillor, Kingdom of Tonga

I was so fortunate to be selected from the Commonwealth Veterinary Association to be one of the 12 professional to participate in the above-mentioned programme. This is a programme funded by the Commonwealth Foundation with its broad aim to promote a deeper understanding of the commonwealth affairs and foster a greater commitment in commonwealth ideals.

The specific aims were to enable selected professional to :

- Obtain informed views on the major political, economic, social and cultural issues addressed by the Commonwealth and examine fundamental questions on the Commonwealth contemporary role.
- Acquire practical knowledge of the working of important commonwealth organisations, institutions and associations.
- Share their insights and experiences among themselves and with those they will meet during their visit.
- Examine the role of professional and other non-governmental organisations in national development.
- Utilize their professional life in their own countries and, where feasible, elsewhere in the Commonwealth, the insights and knowledge they will acquire through participation in the scheme.

The programme started in March 3rd in London. These 12 participants from 12 commonwealth countries of 12 different profession met in London from the 3rd - 14th March 1998. In these 12 days, we had an introduction to the programme and a self-introduction session of fellows.

Various Topics And Issue Discussed :

- Key current developments in each country
- Overview of key Political Issue in the Commonwealth
- "Harare Declaration" with its impact in each countries
- Perception of the Commonwealth in fellow countries

How does the Commonwealth work?

Introduction to the work of the Commonwealth Foundation

- Workshop on Global Change and the Profession
- The Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender and Development
- The role of the Commonwealth in promoting Education and Health
- The Commonwealth and Small Island States

There was also a chance to meet Dr. Blackburn, a former President of the CVA, Dr. John Cooper, U.K., CVA Councillor while in London.

At the introductory session, I had the honour of presenting one of the CVA publications (the "cook book") on behalf of Mrs. Pryor and CVA to the Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, Dr. Khan. (He accepted it with great pleasure and lots of thanks to CVA)

The highlight of the programme was being in an audience with "Her Majesty The Queen" at Buckingham Palace on Thursday 12th March 1998. A lifetime experience that will never be forgotten.

The team flew to South Africa and then to Lesotho for the second part of the programme, again to experience life in another commonwealth country and in relation to the work of the commonwealth in those counties. It was an exciting experience being in, and learning more about London, South Africa and Lesotho, and the critical role that the Commonwealth play in these countries.

Making Ghee Through Microwave Heating

Ghee is a fat-rich Indian Dairy product extensively consumed in India. The traditional method of ghee is highly energy and time consuming. It is found that microwave technology could be used to manufacture ghee from high fat cream and butter. The chemical nature, flavour, colour and texture of microwave processed ghee are similar to traditionally prepared ghee.

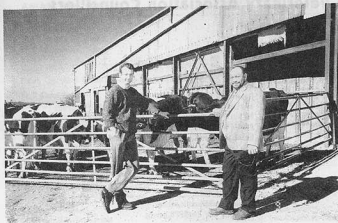


Dr. Filita presenting the CVA – Cook Book to Dr. Khan, the Director of the Commonwealth Foundation at Cumberland Lodge in London.

Dr. Filita and Dr. Blackburn, former CVA President at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.



Dr. Filita with Dr. John Cooper (left of Dr. Filita) at one of the receptions in London. On the right of Dr. Filita is Her Excellency, "Akosita Fineanganofa, the Tonga High Commissioner in London; and the Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Foundation, Dr. Don Clarke.



Dr. Filita at the Royal Veterinary College Dairy Unit in London.

Cloning Rare Species In The Wild

The successful cloning of Dolly the Sheep has led experts at London's Zoological Society to consider introducing invitro fertilisation for endangered species in the wild. The first possibility is for the hairy nosed wombat of northern Australia, of which there are only 50 left. The wombats are extremely vulnerable to catastrophes such as bush fires.

Dr. William Holt of the Zoological Society told a recent meeting of the British Association that advances in the success of reproductive technology for humans and agricultural animals could also be applied to rare animals in the wild that were facing extinction. Hormone tests were being developed for various species to monitor when females were most fertile and had become pregnant.

"It is possible to diagnose pregnancy and monitor ovulation cycles in elephants, rhinos, a process which has been extremely difficult with these species in the past. It is now done by the analysis of their urine and dung," said Dr. Holt. His unit has offered pregnancy testing for elephants that achieved a successful birth at Chester Zoo, English Midlands.

A new computer programme at London's Museum of Natural History can instantly assess the most endangered creatures including Britain's declining cod stocks.

Originally the waters around the United Kingdom coast held 23 types of cod. The number has declined by 18% in the past 30 years. It is now thought that practically all the species have been over fished to extinction.

London's Imperial College is searching for ways of including fish and other endangered creatures on global lists of protected species. In some Canadian waters it has been noted that cod no longer make their traditional migrations. Marine biologists believe that because so many of the older fish have been taken, there are no shoal leaders left.

For more information, contact : Dr. William Holt, Zoological Society of London, Reagnet's Park, London NW1 2KT, United Kingdom. Tel : 171 722 3333, Fax : 171 483 4436

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Exchange programme between Canadian and Latin American & Caribbean Institutions in Agricultural Sciences

Graduate Student Internships

Background

The Inter- American Institute for cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the specialised agency for agriculture of the Inter - American System. The purpose of the Institute is "to encourage, promote and support the efforts of its member states to achieve their agricultural development and rural welfare". The establishment of linkages between Canadian and Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) academic and research institutions is part of an overall strategy for the development of the agricultural sector in the Americas, through the dissemination of science and technology applied to rural progress.

IICA is pleased to announce that the second phase of its grant program will begin this spring (1997), which will allow Canadian graduate students or professionals to carry on part of their studies or research projects in L.A.C.

The Program

This hemisphere exchange program between teaching and research institutions, working in agricultural sciences, is an IICA initiative in collaboration with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Agriculture and Agri - Food Canada . In 1996, a framework for cooperation was established between IICA, the Canadian government and Canadian academic and research institutions to promote joint studies between Canadian and LAC institutions.

The second phase of the Graduate Student Internship Program will be exclusively dedicated to Canadians following post - graduate studies and / or working on research projects in animal / plant production and / or protection. Its goal is to create new and strengthen existing linkages between Canadian and LAC centres of

excellence, as well as to promote projects of mutual interest and benefit. The objective is to allow Canadian scholars the opportunity to become acquainted with the physical, cultural and intellectual environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, and to contribute to the elaboration of joint projects which encourage the sustainable development of the region's agriculture and economy.

During the spring of 1997, IICA will offer four or five grants that will allow Canadian professionals to complete a two to three month period of training in a LAC research or teaching institution. These grants will cover all travel expenses including airfare, room and board, and local ground transportation. Other expenses, such as language courses, will be the responsibility of the grantee. The amount of the grants will be determined by the cost of living in the host country and where applicable, services offered by the LAC institution.

Program Mechanism

a. Eligibility : Professionals and students registered in Master or Doctorate Degree programs working in Canadian universities and research centre.

b. Topics for research projects : All research projects related to substantial agricultural development, agriculture sciences in general , veterinary medicine , biotechnology and environment protection, will be considered. The projects will be selected for their relevance, potential impact, possibility of long term continuance, and the relationship between the participating universities or research centres.

c. Selection Process : A committee of staff members from the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada along with IICA, will make a pre selection of the candidates. Their selected projects will

Commonwealth News

then be submitted to LAC institutions; definitive choice will depend upon the acceptance of the counterpart establishment to take the responsibility of the Canadian scholar.

d. Duration of Internship : The duration of the internship will be for two to three months. Longer periods will be at the expense of the grantee or of the Canadian or LAC institution. Conditions should be given to pursue a research project in the participating Canadian and LAC institutions.

e. Counterpart countries and institutions : The second phase of the Graduate Student Internship Program includes the following countries : Argentina , Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica , Dominican Republic, Guatemala , Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago.

Uruguay and Venezuela. Other countries of the region may be considered. The selection of counterpart LAC institutions will be made upon the projects presented and selected. IICA will identify the LAC institutions most indicated for different research areas through its 34 member country offices. In addition, a specific LAC institution can be selected when the Canadian establishment already has, or wishes to initiate, a relationship with the said institution.

For additional information and guidelines, contact :

**Mario Seixas or Raymond Dugas, IICA in Canada,
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Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), Edinburgh 1997

1997 was not just the UK Year of the Commonwealth.

It was the year the Commonwealth summit of leaders took place in Edinburgh - the first in Britain for 20 years and the first time ever in Scotland. These summits take place every two years in different countries and enable the Commonwealth Heads of Government to meet and exchange views, make policy and provide direction to the Commonwealth Secretariat and other intergovernmental institutions.

Over 50 Heads of Government, mostly Prime Ministers and Presidents, were involved representing a quarter of the World's population.

Alongside the CHOGM, Edinburgh was home to "The Commonwealth Centre" - a special centre for non-governmental organisations (NGOs). This non-governmental sector is a major characteristic of the Commonwealth "family". There are about 80 Commonwealth NGO's covering professional and leisure activities which are active in most or all member states in Edinburgh. NGO's, practising internal democracy and being responsible for their own finances, are now seen as crucial to the functioning of democracies. They exercise freedom of association and provide areas of autonomy which are not under state control.

The intergovernmental Commonwealth has been

co-operating to support the NGO movement. The Commonwealth Foundation, after consulting NGO's and governments, devised guidelines for effective co-operation between them. The Commonwealth Secretariat has established an NGO Desk to provide a clearing house for information between NGO's and the different branches of the Secretariat.

The British Government supported this by operating a Commonwealth Centre in Edinburgh for NGO's, for networking and meetings, in the week 21 - 26 October 1997 when the Heads of Government, met.

That is the background to what was a very successful week. The Commonwealth Centre provided a focal centre which was superbly equipped with the information technology to maximise communication with those present in Edinburgh and those across the rest of the Commonwealth. It also housed the media centre so at all times the numerous rooms and corners were occupied by impromptu meeting, interviews, and broadcasts. Continual updates on the CHOGM and NGO activities were freely available by press releases and video displays. There were a number of organised workshops throughout the sessions.

Interactive and informative workshops held during the period included those organised by the Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA) "Into the 21st Century - The CW Women's Agenda for Reproductive Health and Safe

Motherhood", by the Commonwealth Forum for Project Management (CFPM) : a new NGO whose mission is to foster the effective implementation of development projects in the Commonwealth, by the NGO Commonwealth Woman's Network : " Women in Politics in the Commonwealth ", and many more.

Apart from the Commonwealth Centre, which was only open to official NGO representatives and under extremely tight controlled security, there was also an "open area" in the Edinburgh Assembly rooms. These are in the heart of Edinburgh and were open to the general public. These were in my opinion , a fascinating display on the Commonwealth and the working of NGO's.

Apart from the Main exhibition and the Fair Trade exhibition, there was a large display of Commonwealth Art and the Commonwealth cafe. Throughout the Assembly Rooms there were also TV monitors which showed the twice daily reports on progress during the official Commonwealth Summit. In between they showed images of the Commonwealth and information about the summit and the Commonwealth Centre.

The main exhibition was an array of stands of numerous NGO's both Commonwealth and World wide.

The exhibition provided for me the ideal means of liaising and conversing with the other NGO representatives with interest in common with those of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. What astounded me was just how many NGO's this applied to.

Outside the daily work there was also an excellent programme of social activities. For me the highlights were the Opening Ceremony of the CHOGM to which all of the NGO representatives were invited, and also a Reception at Holyrood House in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen.

The Opening Ceremony was held in the Edinburgh Conference Centre. It started with "Voices of the Commonwealth" a session of story - telling to highlight just a few of the many Commonwealth stories of hope, fulfilment and progress. John Thaw one of Britain's most successful and popular actors told the stories of " Baygen Freeplay Clockwork Radio" (The radio which doesn't require expensive batteries or mains electricity), " sharing entrepreneurial skills" (a Singapore University sharing its management expertise with South African entrepreneurs), " the Iwokrama Rainforest programme" (a joint project of the Guyanese, CW Secretariat and Britain's Department for International Development) and many others.

There were also performances of the Phoenix Dance Company, one of Britain's leading contemporary

dance companies , and of the National Youth Choir of Scotland.

These provided entertainment and enlightenment around the addresses of the British Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair MP; the Commonwealth Secretary General, His Excellency Chief Emeke Anyaoku, The Prime Minister of India, The Hon. Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral and Her Majesty the Queen.

In contrast the Reception at Holyrood House was purely social. Holyrood House is effectively a palace and provided a beautiful setting in the heart of Edinburgh. With NGO representatives, some media representatives and many governmental representatives it provided the perfect atmosphere for the relaxed, behind the scenes " networking" that is so frequently the most successful.

All in all I may have only spent 3 days in Edinburgh but it felt far longer and I returned exhausted but feeling fulfilled and with that strong sense of purpose that comes with the inspiration of being with like minded fellows.

I will finish this report with the words of Tony Blair :

" The Commonwealth is unique. It contains a quarter of the world's population. It includes some of the world's fastest growing economies. It is the only organisation outside the UN itself to bring together North and South. It is united by a common language and if it were the irrelevant organisation its critics claim it to be, then why should South Africa have wanted to join? I am determined not to let a priceless legacy like this fade into nostalgia."

Top Position At UN Filled By Commonwealth Personalities

The two top positions at the United nations are now filled by Commonwealth personalities.

Canada's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations Louise Frechette, 51, has been appointed the UN's first Deputy Secretary General, the number two position established by the General Assemle last December. The Secretary General , Kofi Annan, is from Ghana.

Ms. Frechette, a career diplomat, has been Canada's Deputy Minister of National Defence since June 1995. From 1992 - 94 she served as Canada's Ambassador and permanat Representative to the UN in New York. Prior to that she had also served in other capacities in her country's UN delegations in New York and Geneva.

Commonwealth Secretary - General Opens New Joint Office For Commonwealth Permanent Representatives To The United Nations

The Commonwealth Secretary - General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, will officially open the new premises of the Joint Office for Commonwealth Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, on Thursday, 30 April 1998 at 2.00 pm. in New York. The new office at 800 Second Avenue provides expanded facilities for nine participating small states : Belize, Dominica, The Gambia, Grenada, Maldives, St. Lucia, Samoa, Seychelles and Solomon Islands.

The Joint Office is a facility provided under the Commonwealth umbrella to assist its small states members to be represented in New York and to participate in the many activities of the United Nations. The Office is funded by annual contributions from Australia, Britain, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, India and Singapore, following an original initiative by

the Government of Australia in 1983. Participating governments are provided with a 'core' office space and share common facilities such as research services. Office space in excess of the 'core' amount is paid for by the respective tenant countries.

"The Joint Office in New York is a Commonwealth success story and a model of Commonwealth co - operation in the interest of our constituency of small states members," the Commonwealth Secretary - General says. "I look forward to a future where the new Joint Office will continue to provide valuable support to the Commonwealth small states members to allow them to be more active at the United Nations in seeking to overcome their vulnerability in the face of the growing challenges of globalisation and threats to their political and economic security.

Guyana's First Woman President Takes Office

Janet Jagan was sworn in a Guyana's first woman President in December, following Presidential and Parliamentary elections. She was the wife of the late President Cheddi Jagan, who led Guyana from 1992 - 1997, and his constant political aide. Her election sees her taking up the mantle of her husband, who was succeeded for a short while by Mr Sam Hinds.



During her more than 40 years in Guyanese politics, she has held successively higher posts including Minister of Home Affairs and Prime Minister. She was first appointed to the Cabinet in 1957 as a Minister of Labour, Health and she also served as Deputy speaker.

A nurse by training, she was born Janet Rosenberg in Chicago, USA, where in 1940s she met her future husband when Dr. Jagan , a Guyanese dentist, had recently finished his training. In 1943 she went to live with him in Guyana, working in the dental practice that he opened. In 1950 she and Dr. Jagan, together with Mr Forbes Burnham , founded the People's Progressive Party (PPP), of which she was made General Secretary.

She was first elected to parliament in 1953. Her husband became Prime Minister and held that position for seven years. In 1955 a split in the PPP led to the emergence of the People's National Congress (PNC) under the leadership of Mr. Burnham, who led Guyana to independence in 1966. In 1970 Guyana became a republic with Mr. Burnham as President, a post he held until his death in 1985. After more than 28 years in opposition Cheddi Jagan's PPP, which now included a civic element (hence the name PPP/C), won the 1992 elections and he became the President holding that office until his death in March 1997.

Members Of The Commonwealth

Member Country	Capital	Population	Member Country	Capital	Population
Antigua & Barbuda	St. John's	65,000	Cyprus	Nicosia	734,000
Australia	Canberra	18,054,000	Dominica	Roseau	73,000
External territories : Norfolk Island, Coral Seas Island Territory, Australian Antarctic Territory, Heard Island and Mc Donald Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island, Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands.			Fiji	Suva	775,000
The Bahamas	Nassau	276,000	The Gambia	Banjul	1,113,000
Bangladesh	Dhaka	119,768,000	Ghana	Accra	17,075,000
Barbados	Bridgetown	266,000	Grenada	St. Georgetown	91,000
Beleze	Belmopan	216,000	Guyana	Georgetown	835,000
Botswana	Gaborone	1,450,000	India	New Delhi	929,358,000
Britain	London	58,533,000	Jamaica	Kingston	2,522,000
Dependent Territories : Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands, St. Helena and St. Helena Dependencies (ascension and Tristan da Cunha), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands			Kenya	Nairobi	26,688,000
Brunei Darussalam	Bandar Seri Begawan	285,000	Kiribati	Tarawa	79,000
Cameroon	Yaounde	13,288,000	Lesotho	Maseru	1,980,000
Canada	Ottawa	29,606,000	Malawi	Lilongwe	9,757,000
			Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	20,140,000
			Maldives	Male	253,000
			Malta	Valletta	372,000
			Mauritius	Port Louis	1,128,000

Members Of The Commonwealth

Member Country	Capital	Population	Member Country	Capital	Population
Mozambique	Maputo	16,168,000	Sierra Leone	Freetown	4,195,000
Namibia	Windhoek	1,545,000	Singapore	Singapore	2,987,000
Nauru	Nauru	8,000	Solomon Islands	Honiara	375,000
New Zealand	Wellington	3,601,000	South Africa	Pretoria	41,457,000
Includes the territories and the Ross Dependency (Antarctic). Self Governing countries in free association with New Zealand : Cook Islands and Niue.					
Nigeria	Abuja	111,273,000	Tanzania	Dar es Salaam	29,646,000
Pakistan	Islamabad	129,905,000	Tonga	Nukualofa	104,000
Papua New Guinea	Port Moresby	4,302,000	Trinidad & Tobago	Port of Spain	1,287,000
St. Kitts & Nevis	Basseterre	41,000	Tuvalu	Funafuti	11,000
St. Lucia	Castries	158,000	Uganda	Kampala	19,168,000
St. Vincent & The Grenadines	Kingstown	111,000	Vanuatu	Port Vila	169,000
Samoa	Apia	165,000	Zambia	Lusaka	8,978,000
Seychelles	Victoria	74,000	Zimbabwe	Harare	11,011,000

CVA Regional News

Asia

Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka Veterinary Association - 51st Committee

The following have been elected to SLVA for the year 1998- 99

- President** - Dr. Mazahim Hanifa
- President elect** - Dr. N. U. Horadagoda
- Vice Presidents** - Dr. H.M.A. Chandrasoma
Dr. V. Loganadan
- Secretary** - Dr. D. A. T. Mahagamage
- Treasurer** - Dr. A. Sivasothy
- Committee Members**
- Dr. D. D. Wanasinghe

- Dr. W.M.T. Wanasinghe
- Dr. W.A.T. Wickramasinghe
- Dr. G. Rajapakse
- Dr. L.N. A. De Silva
- Dr. M. Kopalasuntharam

Ex - officio Members

- Dr. S.S.E. Ranawana
- Dr. (Ms.) P. Wijewantha
- Dr. (Ms.) M.B. Nawarathne
- CVA Councillor** - Dr. Mazahim Hanifa

In Country Training Courses

There is increasing interest in short in country ("in-situ") courses for veterinarians and others who are involved with animal health. Such courses, which generally last for only a few days, provide an opportunity for groups of professional people to receive intensive training on continuing professional development in their own environment and at minimal cost. This approach has many advantages over the system that was favoured in the past whereby a small number of selected individuals were sent for tuition overseas, often at a great expense.

The CVA is anxious to obtain details of existing or proposed in country training programmes with a view to developing a database and, possibly, assessing and accrediting the courses in question. Readers are asked to send in such information preferably under the following headings : Title of the Course (or subject matter), duration of the course, locality, organising body, contact name, address, phone, fax (or e-mail) number, any other relevant information.

Please contact the Editor, CVA News, if you are able to help.

India

Commonwealth Veterinary Association Adopts Indian Village

When the villagers of Muttanallur, Anekal taluk received the delegates of the 2nd Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference on Thursday the 26th February, 1998 little did they realise that they will win the hearts of the overseas delegates not only for their village activities but also for their warm hospitality. All the delegates who visited the village were unanimous in their opinion that never had they seen such enterprise by women farmers in the rearing of animals especially dairy animals. The delegates also expressed their opinion that the highlights of II PCVC was the visit to the village.

It was no wonder then that when a request for help came from the villagers to CVA, the President in consultation with the Executive decided that CVA adopt this village.

CVA has taken the first step after the adoption, by giving financial assistance to 10 women farmers engaged in rearing cows to undergo a training programme at National Dairy Development Board, Anand for a period of 15 days.

At a function organised on June 13th, 1998, on behalf of CVA a cheque of Rs. 17,000/- was

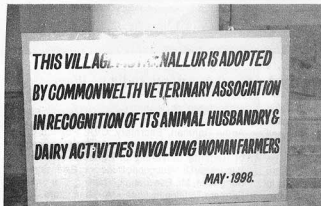
presented to the Chairman of village Panchayat Smt. Ashwathamma by Mrs. Shireen Rahman, w/o Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Secretary, CVA. Present on the occasion were, Mr. G.M. Manjunath, member Board of Regents University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Dr. Venugopal, Director of Extension, UAS, Bangalore, Mr. Eswarappa, Training Co-ordinator, Farmers Training Institute, UAS, Bangalore.

The 10 member women farmers team led by Smt. Ashwathamma, consisting of Smt. Manjula, Smt. Umadevi, Smt. Pushpa, Smt. Sunandamma, Smt. Padma, Smt. Jayalakshamma, Smt. Puttamma, Smt. Rathnama, Smt. Sujatha, has returned back after successfully undergoing training in Dairy production management at NDDB, Anand. Villagers of Muttanallur through the village Panchayat Chairman have profusely thanked the CVA for this gesture.

A sign board both in English and Kannada has been placed at the office of the village Panchayat indicating that the Village of Muttanallur has been adopted by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, in recognition of its activities involving women farmers.

President of Muttanallur Village Panchayat Mrs. Ashwathamma receives the cheque for Rs. 17,000/- from Mrs. Shireen Rahman w/o Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Sec. CVA. Mr. G.M. Manjunath, Board Member, Univ. of Agric. Sci., Bangalore and Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Sec. CVA are in the Centre.





*CVA Sign Board adopting the
Village of Muthanallur*

*Selected women farmers with training
Co ordinator*



Section of Audience



Sign boards in English and Kannada being placed in the village.

CVA Cook Book

Mrs. Ann Pryor, wife of Dr. W.J. Pryor, President of Commonwealth Veterinary Association has published a cook book entitled "What's Cooking in the Commonwealth?". This 140 pages book contains easy to make recipes which are hard pressed to find anywhere else.

It includes everything from Cook Islands tropical fruit pudding to Tongan Octopus in Hot Chill and Tomato sauce, Zimbabwean Chicken and Peanut butter stew, Jamaican Sweet Potato pudding, Indian Biryani and more.

In fact, Mrs. Pryor said, some of the recipes had never before been put to paper, which meant they had been passed down by word of mouth.

The ingredients of the recipes can be found in any part of the Commonwealth and other parts of the world.

That was one of the conditions Mrs. Pryor set when she wrote to the heads of member organisations, seeking recipes typical of their country.

"What's Cooking in the Commonwealth" does not contain illustrations of finished products, but several other practical features include metric conversion charts, explanations unusual foods and an index of ingredients.

"What's Cooking in the Commonwealth" was released at the time of the Second Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference held in India, during February, by

His Excellency Mr. Khursheed Alam Khan, Governor of Karnataka, India. Mrs Pryor has published this book, spending her time and money for the CVA in aid of the CVA Journal and Book Program, to cover the cost of sending books and journals from developed countries of the Commonwealth to the developing nations. Proceeds from sale will assist this programme.

This excellent book is a must for every member of Commonwealth Veterinarian and Non Veterinarian.

The book is priced as follows :

U.K. Pounds 5

Australia A\$ 10

USA US\$ 7.50

India Rs. 250

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Australasia

Fiji Joins CVA

Fiji recently was welcomed back to the Commonwealth and as is usual, the vets quickly organised for the Fiji Veterinary Association to become a full member of CVA again.

During the period when Fiji political problems precluded full membership, the Fiji Veterinary Association continued its affiliation with CVA by taking out associate membership.

The FVA is warmly welcomed back to CVA and is a country with quite significant livestock and companion animal population. Fiji is often referred to as the crossroads of the Pacific and will undoubtedly be the location of future CVA programmes and workshops.

The FVA has eleven members and it is interesting that some of them have moved from playing veterinary roles to be very senior members of administration. Here are the Fijian veterinarians.

Dr. Robin Yarrow is now the Permanent Secretary for National Planning having been most recently Fiji's Ambassador to Japan and a former Director of Agriculture and Chief Veterinary Officer.

Dr. Deo Raj Singh was the first local veterinary graduate, is a former Director of Animal Health and Production and is now working on contract as the veterinary pathologist.

Dr. Numaia Tabunakawai was until recently Deputy Permanent Secretary of Agriculture but has recently joined the Prime Minister's Office.

Dr. Kenneth Cokanasiga has been Director of the Animal Health and Production and Production division until a recent advancement in a different ministry.

Dr. Joeli Vakabua is Principal Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and was until quite recently President of Fijian Veterinary Association. He was instrumental in keeping contact with CVA during the interregnum and attended the Bangalore Conference

Dr. Peter Saville is the Animal Health Adviser to the South Pacific Commission but first came to Fiji nearly twenty years ago to work as a Division Veterinary Officer.

He was recently appointed President of the Fijian Veterinary Association.

Dr. Raana Asgar is one of only two women vets and is Senior Veterinary Officer in Suva in the Ministry of Agriculture and is the live wire Secretary of the Fiji Veterinary Association. She also attended the Bangalore Conference.

Dr. Anand Deo is the Veterinary Officer for the Western Division of the Fiji Islands and was able to attend the CVA Regional Workshop in Singapore in November 1996.

Dr. Geoffrey Chubb came to Fiji as part of Australian Government Aid and has worked as Divisional Veterinary Officer for both the Western and later the Central Division.

Dr. Anthony Martin has been working in Fiji as a veterinary epidemiologist with the South Pacific Commission and has been in this position for the last eighteen months.

Dr. Ayesha Kyari, the second woman veterinarian, arrived last year to work as a veterinary surgeon for the SPCA which at present maintains the only private veterinary clinic in Fiji.

Of this group of eleven vets, seven graduated from Australian veterinary schools, one from New Zealand and three from veterinary schools in the UK. Five of these also have Masters Degrees gained either at Edinburgh, London or James Cook Universities.

The FVA is an enthusiastic association and will play a key role in the Pacific region in upcoming workshops and other CVA programmes. To an outsider it might well appear that the biggest problem is to retain the veterinarians in areas of veterinary endeavour. Their skills seem to be leading them to high level employment elsewhere.

CVA does indeed welcome the Fiji Veterinary Association back to full membership and knows that they have a great deal to offer in the Pacific region.

*In professional and in private life,
ongoing success comes from self acceptance.*

Fourth Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference, Melbourne, Australia

The Australian Veterinary Poultry Association is hosting the fourth Asian - Pacific Health Conference in Melbourne on November 22 - 27, 1998.

The theme is "improving productivity in a changing world". The intensive and extensive production of all poultry, their nutrition and their diseases, will be considered at this conference.

In an outstanding scientific program, topics within the theme will be reviewed by 12 invited keynote speakers from Asia, North America and Europe. Conference topics include: Marek's disease, Diseases of village and free range poultry, Metabolic and nutritional problems, Emerging and re-emerging diseases, Diseases of ducks, geese and turkeys, Sustainable production of poultry in the Asia - Pacific region, Infectious bursal disease, Respiratory diseases, Safe food for our children, Biosecurity and quarantine, New solutions to old problems.

Short Original Communications, particularly posters, are invited from workers in these fields. Intending contributors must submit their proposed title and an abstract before July 30, 1998.

Information about the scientific program, registration, accommodation and the social program is now available from the conference organiser and the conference web site <http://www.avpa.cia.com.au>. Contact Margaret Reid Pty Ltd., P.O. Box 341, Neutral Junction, NSW 2089, Australia, fax: 61 2 9909 2555. Email mreidpl@intercoast.com.au.

The Australian Veterinary Poultry Association, which is a special group of the Australian Veterinary Association, has run the three preceding successful conferences and is confident that this fourth conference will be as worthwhile, informative and enjoyable.

Other CVA Poultry Activities In The Region

The above conference would complement the planned CVA Australasian/ Oceania Regional Conference to be held in Vanuatu in November 1999 where poultry will be one of two major topics. Details will be given in the January 1999 edition of CVA News.

Hong Kong Lifts Chicken Ban

Hong Kong authorities removed the 6 week ban on chickens on February 7 this year following an outbreak of influenza (H5N1 subtype) that killed six people. Poultry is an important component of the

Chinese diet and its absence was felt over the Chinese New Year Celebrations.

Chickens were blood tested upon arrival as part of the time consuming new health procedures put in place to ensure that chicken are free from avian influenza. These stringent new tests are estimated to cost Hong Kong \$ 1.92 million a year. Other precautions include the use of plastic crates rather than wooden ones and 5 day pre embarkation quarantine and testing in mainland China.

■ **Widening Chasm** The Indian subcontinent and Australia are moving away from each other. This is the result of cracking up of the massive Indo Australian crustal plate just south of the equator beneath the Indian Ocean. The study carried out by scientists at Columbia University's Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, New York, US goes on to say that the crack is the result of

accumulated mass of the Indian subcontinent, which started some eight million years ago. Data obtained from sound images suggests that the huge Australian plate is rotating and pushing against the Indian plate in a northward counter clockwise direction.

- Down to Earth August 15' 96.

Canada Caribbean

The Milk Of Human Co- operation

The Jamaican government knows there is no use crying over spilt milk. When Jamaican dairy farmers were forced to dump thousands of litres of home - produced milk because imported milk was cheaper , a team of consultants funded by the CFTC, in collaboration with the Jamaican Ministry of Agriculture, developed a milk production enhancement plan designed to give the country's ailing dairy industry a new lease of life.

Inadequate pasture management , dependence on expensive imported cattle feed, and the lack of an assured market for local dairy farmers were among the reasons identified by the consultants for the industry's current weak performance, which has meant that Jamaican - produced milk could not compete against milk brought in from other countries. Low tariffs on imported powdered milk, high interest rates and inadequate research and development facilities have also played a part.

The plan recommends increasing the size of Jamaica's dairy herd from its current level of less than 25,000 herd of cattle to between 50,000 and 60,000 over the next seven years. It also recommends improved use of grazing land per animal, and improved productivity. Further recommendations include the creation of a dairy board and a dairy farmers federation in Jamaica - where annual domestic consumption of dairy products is estimated at some US\$172 million.

The proposed dairy board would have overall responsibility for developing the industry and the planning

and monitoring of a national dairy development programme. It would gather and publish information on milk production, processing, marketing and pricing . It would also monitor imports of milk products and their use, working closely with government health and standard authorities.

The proposed farmers federation would promote mutual cooperation among milk producers and offer assistance to them. It could, for example, help them in obtaining loans and finding an assured market for their products, and could provide help and advice on the latest production techniques and pasture management.

The plan resulted from a two month survey funded by the CFTC and carried out in cooperation with the Jamaican authorities, local farmers and other interested parties. Three experts - Secretariat staff member Shurwin Semple and consultants Ram Prakash Aneja from India and Glen Flaten from Canada - toured the country visiting farms and meeting the government officials, industry representatives and dairy farmers, processors and retailers.

The plan has been received enthusiastically by dairy farmers and ministry officials alike. The Jamaican government has requested follow- up assistance from the CFTC, mainly in the form of training to increase their capacities in veterinary science and computerisation of livestock records. It has also requested training for animal health auxiliaries.

The isolation, structure and proposed mechanism of action of the T - lymphocyte selective immunosuppressant agent cyclosporin (cyclosporine, cyclosporin(e) A) are reviewed. The development of cyclosporin as a topical agent for veterinary ophthalmic use is described, followed by its applications in the treatment of keratoconjunctivitis, eosinophilic keratitis and episcleritis/scleritis. Possible roles in the treatment of other "miscellaneous" keratopathies and uveitis are also mentioned.

Read, R.A. (1996). *Aust. Vet. Practit.* 26 :86

An eight year old dog was presented to the hospital with clinical signs of ascites and jaundice, and a history of pyrexia, abdominal pain and vomiting. Ultrasonography and abdominocentesis were used to confirm diagnosis of rupture of the extrahepatic biliary tract. *Clostridium perfringens* was cultured from the gall bladder and a cholecystectomy was performed. A successful outcome was achieved with early, aggressive medical and surgical treatment.

Thomson, M.J. et al. (1996). *Aust. Vet. Practit.* 26 : 114.



Featured from right to left are Guyana Veterinary Association (GVA) President, Dr. Nicholas Mclean; Treasurer and CVA Councillor, Dr. Veronica Burnham; Secretary, Dr. Maxine Parris - Aaron; and Committee Members Dr. Bernard L. Ord and Dr. Nicholas Waldron. Drs Mclean, Burnham and Parris - Aaron were returned from 1997/98 to another term of service.

The Executive was elected at the AGM on May 29, 1998 and is gearing for the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association 21st Biennial Congress hosted by the GVA, set for Nov 1 to 5, 1998 at Le Meridien Pegasus Hotel, in Georgetown, Guyana.

Some 400 veterinarian and allied professionals from the Caribbean, the Americas, USA, UK, Australia and other Commonwealth Territories have been invited to the Congress. Sir Shridath Ramphal will deliver the keynote address

■ The ingestion of a vitamin K antagonist rodenticide is a common cause of poisoning in companion animals. Vitamin K is required for the production of several functional factors in the coagulation cascade, hence antagonism results in a bleeding diathesis. Clinical signs are attributable to haemorrhage. If the haemorrhage is external to the body, hypovolaemia may result. If the haemorrhage is internal, clinical signs may be related to hypovolaemia and also to compromise of the function of the organ or body system involved. Typically, such haemorrhage is into a body cavity, such as the peritoneal or pleural

cavities. However, it may also be into organs such as the liver, kidney or brain. Intracerebral and/or intracranial haemorrhage may be fatal. Laboratory abnormalities which support a diagnosis of vitamin K antagonist poisoning are prolonged activated coagulation time (ACT), with a normal platelet count, and prolonged prothrombin time (PT) and, in the later stages of poisoning, prolonged activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT). Treatment involves supportive care, administration of vitamin K1 and possibly intravenous transfusion of vitamin K dependent clotting factors. (Clark, P. & Parry B.W. (1996) Aust. Vet. Practit. 26 : 118)

MSc. in Wild Animal Health

Applications are invited from EC or overseas graduates in veterinary or relevant sciences for a twelve month taught MSc course in wild animal health beginning in October 1999. The course includes practical and theoretical instruction in the husbandry and nutrition of wild animals, taxonomy, population biology, conservation genetics, utilisation of wildlife, welfare and ethical aspects, epidemiology, immunology, infectious and non infectious diseases, disease investigation, therapeutics, imaging and preventive medicine and restraint, anaesthesia and aspects of

surgery in various taxa, together with an individual research project. Training will be given by staff at the Royal Veterinary College and the Institute of Zoology as well as invited speakers from other veterinary and zoological centres.

Full particulars and an application form are available from the Head of Registry or Dr. M.T. Fox, The Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU. Tel : + 171 468 5000 or Fax : + 171 388 2342

People In The News

Dr. Norm Willis, executive director of the National Centre for Foreign Animals Disease in Winnipeg will be doing some traveling in the future. He was recently elected president of the Office international des Epizooties (OIE). The OIE is the official advisory group to the World Trade Organization on animal health. During his tenure, Dr. Willis will support the continuing development of universal health standards for international trade to control the spread of foreign animal diseases. Canadian participation in the OIE extends beyond the presidency. Canadian scientists in collaboration with others from 144 member countries are working to guarantee animal and public health by informing governments about foreign animal diseases, helping to mobilize government services in the event of an disease outbreak, and coordinating studies of epizootic diseases.



Dr. Lorne Babiuk, director of the Veterinary infectious Disease Organization, is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Norman Habermehl** as associate director of Marketing and Business Development.



Dr. Habermehl will be responsible for coordinating VIDO's external communication and fund raising activities and for developing VIDO's business relationships with external organizations. He returns to Saskatchewan from Quebec, where he provided veterinary technical services for a biopharmaceutical company.

Congratulations to **Dr. Amreek Singh** professor of microscopic anatomy at Atlantic Veterinary College, who was the winner of the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award for 1996 - 97. The award is given annually and recognises Dr. Singh for "his superb mastery of traditional teaching methods, his willingness to incorporate new technologies into



teaching and his demonstration of uncommon dedication and commitment to assisting students to learn." Dr. Singh, who has been teaching for nearly 3 decades, dedicated the award to the students in the classes of 1990 to 2000 at the Atlantic Veterinary College, who, Singh says, have fostered his love of teaching through his respect for the numerous students (now veterinarians) who have passed his way.

Things are pink for **Natalie Cummins** (also known as Cromptroller and Manager, Membership Services at the CVMA office) and husband **Shaun!** Kyla Sylvie Cummins was born on July 10, 1997. The 6lb 5 oz. baby girl is the couple's first child.



We wish hearty Congratulations and a happy retirement to **Dr. N. Ole Nielson**, former dean of the Ontario University College and Western College of Veterinary Medicine. The well known veterinary pathologist was made an honorary fellow of the University of Guelph, at its June 1997 convocation. Dr. and Mrs. Nielson recently moved from Guelph, Ontario to Spruce Grove, Alberta, to enjoy a new home and close family ties.

Dr. Peter Fretz, president-elect of the CVMA presented the CVMA plaque to **Dr. Tara Dawn Ewaschuk** at the Graduation Banquet of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. The plaque is given annually to a graduating student and recognizes achievement in scholarship leadership and sportsmanship



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Minister Of Agriculture Meets CVMA

The Minister of Agriculture and Agri - Food Canada, Mr. Lyle Vanciel, met with a delegation from the CVMA to discuss a number of current issues. "We had a very open and frank discussion with the Minister", said Dr. Ed McCall, president of the CVMA. "The Minister was generous with his time. The 3 1/2 hour meeting with him allowed us to raise topics of common interest and concern. Specifically, we discussed the functioning of the newly established Canadian Food Inspection Agency and other issues

ranging from the relaxation of importation requirements to animal welfare questions, such as the Codes of Practice and the humane transport of animals. The meeting was very positive. A farmer, Mr. Vanciel is very familiar with veterinary issues as he managed a family owned swine and beef operation," explained Dr. McCall. The Minister, who was first elected to Parliament in 1988, holds a bachelor of science in agriculture from the University of Guelph.



(from l to r) Dr. Diane McKelvey, Chair of the CVMA National Issues Committee, the Honourable Lyle Vanciel, Dr. Ed McCall, CVMA President, Ms. Cathy Jo Nobel, Special Assistant to the Minister, Dr. Peter Fretz, CVMA President - elect.

Future Demand For Veterinary Services - Study Commissioned

On the recommendation of the CVMA Task Force on the Future of the Veterinary Profession, Council has commissioned a study to predict the demand for veterinarians over the next 20 years. The study will examine current and future demographic and veterinary supply trends to predict client demand. The study will be undertaken in cooperation with the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, which undertook a similar study in Ontario.

Cats Long Journey Home

A Seven year old cat walked 200 kilometers home after going missing on a camp site during the summer holidays at Lisbon. Her owners were astonished when she turned up a month later on their doorstep after she had been given up for lost.

International Developmental Study - Status Quo Maintained

Because it wants to focus on its current 3 priorities, Council decided not to increase the level of CVMA activities in international development, as was proposed by a group of veterinarians who had participated in a CVMA international seminar. The CVMA will, however, maintain a database of veterinarians with experience and an interest in international development. The CVMA will also continue to manage projects funded by the Canadian International Development Corporation (CIDA), as deemed appropriate.

Members wishing more information on the above are invited to communicate with the CVMA Executive Director, Claude Paul Boivin at 1- 800-567-2862.

International Affairs

Alfonso Lopez, Coordinator, International Affairs

Veterinary, Aquaculture, Diagnostic and Extension Program Canada - Mexico

Canadian International Development Agency

<http://www.wiche.edu/Elnet/trilater/guadalajara/posters/vet-aqua.htm>

The AVC has a five year, 1.4 million project with Mexico's University of Tamaulipas. With \$1 million funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), AVC is working with the "Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria, University of Tamaulipas (UAT)" to improve the quality of veterinary education, to enhance the diagnostic laboratory and promote the delivery of veterinary services to rural communities in northeastern Mexico.

Update :

Mexican Trainees in Canada : Five faculty members from UAT are currently doing graduate studies at AVC. Drs J. Martinez and G Sanchez are in the PhD program in Pathology and Fish Health respectively. Prof. Sanchez was the first CIDA trainee to complete a MSc degree before enrolling into the PhD Program. Three other UAT faculty members are registered in MSc programs : Dr. V. Carvajal (Clinical Pathology), E. Salinas (Small Animal Medicine), P. Gonzalez (Aquaculture). Also, under the AVC- UAT Project, Prof. C. Loreda - Osti is taking a PhD in Computer Sciences and Statistics at Dlahouse University. Two other UAT professors, LM Vazquez and I Padron completed a 3 month and 12 month hands on training in animal nutrition and epidemiology respectively.

Mexican Trainees in Mexico : Two UAT faculty members have completed MSc degrees in Swine Management and Veterinary Parasitology under the sponsorships of CIDA and the National University of Mexico (UNAM). Training of these perspective faculty members was at UNAM in Mexico City.

AVC Faculty in Mexico : Twelve AVC faculty members have travelled to Mexico to give intensive courses and practical hands on demonstrations to Mexican faculty, veterinary students, local practitioners and producers.

Other Activities : To meet the objectives of the CIDA Project, audiovisual equipment such as slide

projectors, VCR and laer disk readers have been purchased with CIDA funds. In addition, teaching material including kodachrome slides, video tapes, subscriptions to periodicals, handouts and text books have been sent to Mexico. Most of this educational material was acquired through personal donations by faculty and veterinarians from the Atlantic region. We will continue to send donated materials after the completion of this project.

This CIDA Project is progressing well and it is expected to be completed in 1999.

The North American Animal Health Food Safety And Wild life Consortium

http://www.hrdc.gc/hrdc/hrib/learnit/policy/academic/newsrele/9744_e.html

The Honourable Pierre S. Pettigrew, Minister for Human Development Resources Canada recently notified AVC that this initiative under the North American Mobility of Higher Education Program had been approved and funded. The Consortium, initiated and developed by AVC, is formed by six Veterinary Colleges in Canada, United States and Mexico. Consortium members are AVC - UPEI (leader) and University of Geulph for Canada, Texas A & M University and Washington State University for the US, and The National University of Mexico and University of the State of Mexico. The Federal Governments of each country are contributing \$ 120,000 for a total project value of \$360,000 dollars.

The objective of this trilateral project is to further enhance the quality of education and widen the professional scope of veterinary students. This consortium will provide AVC students with unique opportunity to learn and experience academic and working conditions in the US and Mexico. Veterinary and graduate students will be fully funded to travel and take courses, rotations or laboratory training at any of the partner's institutions. Eighteen or more Canadian students will be part of this program, with an equivalent number from both Mexico and the United States. Arrangements are underway to start the first student exchanges next summer. It is expected that at the end of the three year program, the link will be sustainable to promote subsequent changes and expand the cooperation to other universities in Canada, the United States and Mexico.

International Development Workshop. CVMA Annual Conference

Responsible : Ian Dohoo

The AVC organized an International Development Workshop in conjunction with the CVMA at their Annual Conference in Charlottetown, 1996. The subject was "Maximizing the contribution of

Canadian Veterinarians to the development of sustainable veterinary services in developing countries " with the participation of veterinarians from Kenya, Indonesia, China , Mexico and Canada.

International Development Corner

Maximizing the contribution of Canadian veterinarians to the development of sustainable veterinary services in developing countries

At the CVMA Annual Convention in Charlottetown in 1996, a group of 6 veterinary colleagues from developing countries (Indonesia, China, Kenya and Mexico) assembled to work on a strategy for maximizing the contribution of Canadian veterinarians to the development of sustainable veterinary services in developing countries, sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency. There were 2 components of the process.

The 1st was a full day session at the CVMA convention that was well attended by convention delegates. Canadian veterinarians working in developing countries, together with their colleagues presented sessions dealing with past experiences, global animal health issues, and considerations when working at the village and national levels and with veterinary association development. Representatives from a number of non- governmental organizations that are involved with placing veterinarians in developing countries also presented their perspectives. Finally, the participants and the audience were divided into discussion groups to address 3 specific issues : the needs of developing countries, the most appropriate mechanisms for delivery of services, and tactics for involving Canadian veterinarians.

Following the CVMA convention, the delegates spent a week preparing for the CVMA, a planning document describing how the contributions of Canadian veterinarians could be maximized. Input to the process was obtained from clinical veterinarians on Prince Edward Island and from governmental and non-governmental organizations in Ottawa. The revision and

editing of that document was completed in April 1997; it is now available from the CVMA.

The key observations and recommendations from the document are as follows :-

□ The animal health needs of various sectors of the animal industries in developing countries are very varied, but better problem solving skills are required at all levels.

□ To maximize the value of their input, Canadian veterinarians should endeavour to work with veterinary colleagues in developing countries rather than with producers and animal owners.

□ Longterm agricultural development projects should be planned to incorporate short term veterinary assignments to capitalize on the interests and skills of Canadian practitioners.

□ The CVMA should continue to pursue opportunities to assist with the development of national veterinary associations.

□ The CVMA should review its role in international development. If there is general support from the profession, the CVMA should work towards increasing the awareness among Canadian veterinarians about international development, increasing the opportunities for Canadian veterinarians in international development, and increasing the effectiveness of the contribution of individual Canadian veterinarians.

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East, Central and Southern Africa

Animal Traction And Small Scale Mechanization

Draught animal power is making a greater contribution than ever before to global food production. Economically efficient and easy to use, animal traction not only reduces fuel oil costs but also provides the added benefit of manure. Farmer's increasing willingness to cooperate, and the political and macro-economic climate in which they now have to operate, will continue to favour the use of animal power.

We seem to be in a phase where, globally, the use of animal power is increasing," says Phillippe Lhoste, Director of Livestock Agriculture at the Centre de cooperation internationale en recherche agronomique pour le developement / Elevage et medecine veterinaire des pays tropicaux (CIRAD/ EMVT). "The use of animal power is greater now, at the end of the 20th century, than it was at the end of the 19th century because the population, and therefore the demand for food has tripled," continues Phillippe Lhoste. Animal traction has considerable development potential, especially in the developing countries of the South where there has been little intensification of farming practices.

In small and medium sized farming enterprises, it is rare to find motorized machinery being used to cultivate the land. In Senegal, for example, no more than 5-10% of the land is cultivated by tractor. Animals are used for cultivation and for transport on 20-40% of the rest of the land. The rest of the work is still done by hand, especially sowing, weeding and harvesting, and with more than 70% of farmers in developing countries using only hand tools, manual labour and the portorage of goods is still widespread.

According to Gerard de Thiec of CIRAD, draught power is a relatively well adapted technology and there is evidence that its use continues to grow. "In sub-Saharan Africa the number of draught animals increased from 10 million in 1980 to 12 million in 1990. Over the last 20 years animal traction has quadrupled in the francophone countries. In 1990, the number of livestock was estimated at 1.4 million and the number of agricultural implements (ploughs, cultivators, carts and seeder) at 2 million. There is particular enthusiasm for draught power for certain types of cash crops farming. For example, it is used for 70% of the cotton production in the south of Mali and for 90% of the groundnut production area of Senegal. But there are also many advantages in its use for growing food

crops such as maize in East Africa and rice in Madagascar.

Throughout the world there are many species of livestock currently being used for draught - equines, bovines and camellids. For animal traction programmes, the principal and most difficult challenge is to promote proper management and husbandry of draught animals. Livestock owners still have much to learn about caring for their animal's welfare, in particular their health. Some extension programmes have promoted better feeding at the end of the dry season, using locally available agricultural by products. Ruminants will accept groundnut haulms and maize, rice, sorghum or millet straw. Cottonseed cake is often overcooked, but can be used as animal feed. Two or three hundred kilogrammes, at the end of the dry season, is enough for two oxen and what the animals do not eat can be incorporated into the litter and the manure.

The blacksmith - forging a link in the chain

There is a wide range of tools and implements available to owners of draught animals, whatever their environmental conditions or farming system. There are modern and efficient tools for soil preparation, maintenance and weeding, light ploughs for donkeys, medium weight ploughs for horses and heavier ploughs for oxen. Results achieved by local blacksmiths have been very encouraging. For Gerard le Thiec, "In comparison with the industrial enterprises, networks of local craftsmen have shown greater capacity to adapt." These results are significant in countries that have a tradition of blacksmithing and where animal traction is well developed (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Senegal). Also two thirds of the carts and half of the groundnut lifters in use in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal have been made locally. However this applies to less than 10% of the ploughs of local manufacture in Burkina Faso, Mali and Guinea. In Mali, several thousand cultivators have been made locally, as well as hoes. It remains difficult, however to match competence to need. Networks which provide a link between local blacksmiths are an important means by which small scale mechanization can be promoted but they need to focus attention on the problems of credit, standardization, and the provision of spare parts.

It is economic constraints which hold back animal

traction. More often than not, farmers want to invest in animal power, but the cost is too high. In north Cameroon, for example, a team of two oxen and a plough costs between FCFA 300,000 and 400,000. If the farmers also want to buy a cart, he or she must add a further FCFA 250,000. The capacity for financing a family business has greatly diminished over the last 20 years. Commercial outlets are limited, the size of individual businesses has shrunk as a result of demographic growth and the availability of credit has scarcely improved. If there is to be any growth in small scale mechanization and animal traction, governments will have to provide security for the necessary investment by organizing the market for

agricultural products, by guaranteeing prices and setting a consistent customs tariff.

Finally, as Gerard de Thiec emphasizes, "Farmers' organizations are indispensable. They must prove their ability to manage equipment programmes and to formulate their requests for agricultural materials precisely. In the absence of both development and professional agricultural organizations, there are two obstacles to the direct supply of materials: an individual farmer's lack of collateral and the lack of interest shown by banks in taking on small accounts. A farmer organization is the only credible negotiator in the eyes of a commercial bank.

ZAMBIA

Library Transferred

Speech By Dr. F.N. Mungamba, President of the Veterinary Association of Zambia at a Ceremony held on 4th February on the occasion of Library Transfer

The acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Zambia, Prof. Chanda, The Registrar of the University of Zambia, Mr. Tandeo, The University librarian, The Dean School of Veterinary Medicine, invited guests, students ladies and gentlemen. Please allow me on the behalf of Veterinary Association of Zambia to welcome you all to this book donation ceremony.

The 1,500 kg of books which I shall be handing over to you Mr. Vice Chancellor were sourced by the Veterinary Association of Zambia from the Australian Veterinary Association through the help of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association of Zambia as a gift. These books and journals are intended to refresh and enrich the knowledge of all those individuals who have to do with animal health and production wherever they may be.

The consignment comprises of an extensive collection of veterinary and animal production books and journals, some old others recent. Mr. Vice Chancellor I am delighted to inform you that out of the total of 49 Commonwealth Veterinary Associations which were requested for this lot of books by the CVA, the Veterinary Association of Zambia emerged as the only winner, and hence this happy occasion this afternoon.

I shall be failing in my duty Mr. Vice Chancellor if I did not extend our gratitude to the Zambian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and Rulston Purina an American pet food manufacturer company who donated towards the handling and shipping costs of these books

from Sydney to Lusaka via Hongkong and South Africa.

In order for the public to make maximum use of this large consignment of text books and journals the Vet. Assoc. Zambia and Commonwealth Vet. Assoc. resolved that a central and secure place be found where these journals and books can be located. There is no better place Mr. Vice Chancellor than the library of the School of Veterinary Medicine here at the University of Zambia. Mr. Vice Chancellor my association is indebted to you for accepting our offer to receive and safeguard these books.

The one objective of the veterinary association of Zambia, ladies and gentlemen is to impart and promote veterinary education and continuous professional development in the country and I am sure this is one of the best ways of achieving this goal.

Mr. Vice Chancellor I am convinced that under your able leadership and guidance these books will be safe and put to good use. May I also urge your administration to allow the members of my association to have full access to these books.

On behalf of the Veterinary Association of Zambia I wish to thank the Australian Veterinary Association and Commonwealth Veterinary Association for making it possible for us to receive this large consignment of books and journals.

Mr Vice Chancellor please allow me now to take this opportunity to hand over these books and journals to you.



Dr. F. N. Mungamba (l) President of ZVA presenting books to Prof. M.W. Chanda (centre), Vice Chancellor, Univ. of Zambia, Registrar Mr. Tandeo is also seen.

Dr. F. N. Mungamba giving the welcome address



Books being delivered at the Library, School of Vet. Medicine. Lecturers of the school look at the books.

Speech by Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Zambia, Professor Mutale W. Chanda

The President of the Veterinary Association of Zambia Dr. Mungaba, The Registrar, University of Zambia, Mr. Tandeo, The Director, Research and Specialist Services of the Ministry of Agriculture Dr. Sinyangwe, The University librarian, Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine, Commonwealth Veterinary Association Councillor, invited guests, Staff and students.

On behalf of the University of Zambia, I am very pleased to receive this generous donation of books and journals close to 2000 in number and weighing about 1500 kg, from the Australian Veterinary Association facilitated jointly by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and Veterinary Association of Zambia which you witnessed just now.

In any institution of higher learning like this one, the support services plays a great and crucial role in the effective teaching and research. A well equipped and well stocked library is one of the most important and key support services in an University. I am very proud of your association for realising the need of books in the school of veterinary medicine specially at this time when we have critical shortages of books due to reduced funding and increasing cost of books and journals.

I am told that a good number of books and journals which you are handing over to us this afternoon were not available in the library before and quite a few will be useful even for the Agriculture and Medical students and staff too. The task of getting books here must have taken your association members a lot of time in negotiations and correspondence. I am quite sure that a variety of journals which we have received will be very useful for our post graduate students. I urge the staff and students of this school and other professionals and researchers to make the best use of this donation through hard work of study.

Finally let me take this opportunity to thank you Dr. Scanlan, President Australian Veterinary Association, Dr. W.J. Pryor, President Commonwealth Veterinary Association, Prof. G. S. Pandey, CVA Councillor, Zambia, Members of the Veterinary Association of Zambia, Management of Ralston Purina of USA, Dr. David Banks and Dr. Peter Mylea of Australia and Dr. P. G. Singyangwe, Director of Research and Specialist Services in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Rep. of Zambia, for making this donation of books possible and available in one way or other way.

Thank you very much

UGANDA

Department Of Veterinary Sciences, Country Report, Presented To The Second Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, Bangalore, India, 22 - 27th February, 1998.

Back Ground

Land locked Uganda is located in East Central Africa straddling the Equator, with a total area of about 241,000 km². The human population is approximately 20 million of which about 88% live in the rural areas.

Agriculture forms the back bone of the economy accounting for 50% of the GDP, 90% of the export and

employs 80% of the house hold. Livestock is an integral part of Agriculture contributing 8% to the GDP. The livestock population is estimated at 5.3 million Cattle, 3.5 million Goats, 1.0 million Sheep, 1.0 million Pigs and 22 million Poultry.

Animal Health

Animal diseases constitute major constraints to the livestock development in the country. Although Rinderpest

has not been reported since 1994, surveillance of this disease and vaccination have been intensified following reported outbreaks in the region. Contagious Bovine Pleuro - Pneumonia occurs endemically. Following intense vaccination programme using T - 44 vaccine, acute outbreaks of the disease has subsided and most cases are detected in abattoirs. Foot and Mouth Disease occurs in the southern region with three sera - types i.e. SAT2, A and O being common. Combined vaccination with regulated movement have checked this disease.

Vector - borne trypanosomiasis and tick borne disease especially ECF are of major economic importance because of the losses due to death of cattle and cost of control. Other diseases of cattle include Brucellosis, Anthrax, Blackquarter, Helminthiasis, Mastitis and Tuberculosis. Rabies is a major zoonotic disease affecting dogs, cats, livestock in all districts in Uganda. With respect to Pig diseases, African Swine Fever occurs sporadically. New Castle Disease, Fowl Pox, Fowl Typhoid and Gumboro disease are the main causes of mortalities affecting the Poultry industry.

Animal Production

The bulk of livestock population consists of indigenous breeds, which although are resistant to diseases, are slow maturing, low producing and low multiplication. Through the Animal Breeding Policy, there is a rigorous programme to improve the indigenous breeds through selective breeding, cross - breeding and introduction of exotic breeds while at the same time conserving the valuable local genetic material.

Livestock nutrition is being addressed through forage development, provision of water and farmers - extension - research linkages.

Animal Industry

The marketing of livestock and livestock products in Uganda is based on raw and unprocessed products. The country is self - sufficient in milk and meat but has little surplus to export. export of livestock products has been mainly in the areas of hides and skins and to less extent, honey and bee wax. Marketing infra - structure is yet to be developed. Steps are being taken to introduce value added meat products. So far, there are five milk plants for processing and marketing of liquid milk.

Research - Extension - Farmers Linkages

Livestock research has been incorporated in the National Agriculture Research systems. With the current methods of ranking research priority based on commodity

approach, livestock research systems has an inherent problem when compared to crop research.

The research has been on farm basis using the technology which farmers can easily adopt. The extension staff interface with researchers and farmers to sustain the adoption and back - stop the adaptive research on farms.

Livestock extension is handled by the Veterinary graduates majority of whom are trained graduates from the National Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Makerere; and the diplomates trained in an Agricultural College.

Current Transformation Taking Place

Under the structural adjustment, many changes have been taking place in Uganda which have direct bearing to the livestock development.

With the Privatization of delivery of Veterinary Services, the role of the Department of Veterinary Services has remained more of regulation, planning, policy formulation, technical back up and quality assurance of services. Marketing of drugs are liberalized while clinical service is privatized, and extension services are decentralized.

Under decentralization, all District staff are accountable to the district authorities. The Government Ministries are being restructured to leave a lean center. Thus the bulk of staff are based at grass - roots to serve the farmers. Adequate policies and laws are being revised or formulated to address the changing demands for the Veterinary services and needs of the farmers.

Compiled by Dr. John Mukilbi, Councillor,
Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

Microbes With A Taste For Pesticides

UK scientists have isolated bacteria that could hold the key to a new bacteriological system for degrading persistent organic chemicals. The bacteria are particularly adept at breaking down isoproturon, one of the most widely used herbicides in the U.K.

The discovery was made at Horticulture Research International (HRI), the UK's principal horticulture research body based at Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, in the English Midlands. When the micro organisms are added to soil or water samples containing isoproturon, they rapidly degrade any residues of the herbicides

Faculty Of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University,

International Scientific Conference

As a final event in a series of activities to mark 25 years of existence (1971 - 1996), the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University, Uganda held an International Scientific Conference on the 16th - 18th April 1997, being the first of its kind in Uganda. The theme of the Conference was " **Veterinary Medicine, The Key To Animal Health**" under which oral and poster presentation in five sessions covered the following topics :

- Veterinary Training for Sub-Saharan Africa
- Delivery of Animal Health Services/ Private Practice
- Advances in Diagnosis, Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases
- Animal nutrition, breeding and Management
- Appropriate Biotechnological transfer for Africa.

Over 200 participants, both local and international, from a wide range of backgrounds including university teachers, research workers, administrators in related government departments, consultants in service groups, representatives of drug companies and farmers from the United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, Slovakia, Republic of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda to mention but a few, were in attendance.

A speech from the first Dean of the Faculty (1971) , **Professor Robert H. Dunlop** a Canadian who was then sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) revealed that starting a Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Uganda was conceived by the late **Dr. John Babiha**, who was then the Minister of Animal Industry , Game and Fisheries. After the abrupt departure of **Prof. Dunlop**, **Prof. Rommel** became an acting Dean who also had to leave due to political turmoil under the reign of **Idi Amin**. **Prof. Okot Bwangamoi**, currently at the University of Zimbabwe, became the first

Ugandan Dean in January 1974.

Ugandan scientists had the pleasure once again to interact with veterinarians who had once served in the faculty during the formative years. In addition to those mentioned above, others included **Prof. Cabadaya**, **Prof. Frederick I.B. Kayanja**, **Prof. Coles**, **Prof. Van Richard Beasley** to mention but a few.

The conference was officially opened by **Mr. Amanya Mushega** Uganda's Minister of Education and Sports. Opening speeches were read by **Assoc. Prof. Katunguka Rwakishaya** (the current Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine), **Prof. John Ssebuwufu** (Makerere University Vice- Chancellor), With a key note address read by **Prof. F.I.B. Kayanja** (Mbarara University Vice- Chancellor).

Over 60 scientific papers were read by local and international scientists. The conference generated a lot of interesting questions in the veterinary scientific field as well as fruitful discussions, and novel diagnostic techniques were also presented. A research forum (Veterinary Research Forum) charged with Veterinary research and information exchange between veterinarians, related professionals and stake holders, both local and international, was launched by the Vice -Chancellor of Makerere University.

The conference was closed by **Prof. Thomas Babatunde** the UNDP Country Representative in Uganda who informed the participants that The United Nations General assembly declared 1997 - 2006 the International Decade for Eradication of Poverty. He, however, remarked that among the priority areas under the Uganda government plan for eradication of poverty included the modernization of agriculture. The conference was crowned with a cocktail party hosted by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

It's hard to be falsely genuine

- ABR

Highlights Of The 1997 UVA Annual Scientific Conference And AGM

Over 200 Veterinarians from Uganda and abroad attended and participated in the UVA scientific conference at the International Conference Center on November 20, 1997. The theme of the conference was "Animal Health And Production In Uganda : Expanding Horizons".

The conference was followed on November 21, 1997 by the UVA annual general meeting at the same venue.

Sixteen papers were presented on different aspects of animal health, animal production, animal welfare and issues affecting the veterinary profession.

The conference was opened by the Minister of State for Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, Hon. Dr. Kezimbira Miyingo, a veterinarian. The Minister urged veterinarians to furnish farmers with the necessary skills and information to enable them produce for the market and fight poverty. "Let us move our farmers from subsistence agriculture to small or medium scale commercial farming", he said.

Dr. Miyingo announced government intention to deploy veterinary, agronomy, fisheries, forestry and environmental personnel at each sub - country. Each of the professionals should be able to advise farmers within their professional boundaries.

Dr. Miyingo criticised unified agricultural extension system where one extension worker advises farmers on all aspects of agriculture (crop and livestock). This may be misleading , he said. "The veterinarian should advise a farmer in his line rather than a half-baked agricultural officer turned "veterinarian officer", and vice versa, he said, attracting applause from the gathering.

The minister further said that with decentralization, agriculture extension had become a responsibility of the districts, not the line ministry.

In addition, government had ceased to be a major employer for the veterinarians. Dr. Miyingo advised that the veterinary training curriculum be revisited to produce business oriented professionals to employ themselves.

Earlier , the UVA lady President, Dr. Florence Kasiry announced that the World Bank had withdrawn an offer of credit for privatisation of veterinary services. This money was to be lent to private veterinary practitioners and livestock farmers through commercial banks.

However, the commercial banks rejected the terms

set by the World Bank prompting the latter to withdraw the offer after the money lay unused for a long time. "The terms of credit were so unfavourable that no commercial banks would accept them," Dr. Kasiry said.

The UVA President, however, said that another line of credit had been agreed upon with the European Union (EU). The EU line of credit, however, was meager. Basically, each group of veterinarians would borrow a maximum of UG SHS 20 million, strictly for private veterinary service , at an interest rate of 17% per annum. "Assuming that each group borrows the maximum amount allowable, then only 20 such groups (or practices) would benefit from this line credit line", Dr. Kasiry said. The UVA president observed that with nearly 300 private veterinarians, most of whom lack the capital to set up their dream business, the biggest challenge facing the association was to make sure that privatisation of veterinary services succeeds.

During the annual general meeting (November 21, 1997), participants discussed the major challenges facing the veterinary profession today. These included veterinary training and ethics, privatisation of veterinary services, modernization of livestock agriculture and resource mobilization.

Participants called upon government to draw clear policies on the responsibilities and limits of the government and the private veterinary practitioner. They recommended that services of private interest be surrendered to the private sector while those of public interest and policy matters be retained by the government.

The participants emphasised the need for a source of credit on favourable terms for setting up private veterinary services and animal production. They also agreed that every veterinarian should set up a demonstration farm and called upon government to make deliberate policies that encourage farmers to produce.

On training, participants recommended that economics , business management , and marketing be introduced in the veterinary training curriculum at Makerere University.

On resource mobilisation for UVA, participants recommended that more income generating projects be identified. They agreed that the collection of members' contribution (read annual subscription, editor) be decentralised to district level for more efficiency.

On professional ethics, participants recommended that the " Guide to Professional Conduct " be disseminated

to veterinarians to be always informed about professional ethics. They resolved to be more vigilant to issues related to cruelty to animals.

Closing the two day meeting, Hon. Tomas Kiryapawo, the Minister of State for Finance urged the association to speak out on national issues related to the profession. The minister cited an earlier artificial insemination controversy on which UVA remained tight lipped.

Dr. Kiryapawo advised the association to consider exporting veterinary manpower to countries that do not have enough. The minister pledged to be a linkman between the UVA and the Central government.

The 1997 UVA meet was crowned with a dinner dance at Hotel Equatoria.

Pathology Videocassettes Donated To Veterinary Schools In East Africa

On a recent visit to East Africa Prof. John E. Cooper presented videotutorials (video cassettes), on behalf of the Charles Louis Davis DVM Foundation, to each of three Departments of Veterinary Pathology. In Kenya (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Kabete) he met the Dean, Professor Gathuma, and the Head of Veterinary Pathology, Professor Ngatia, and in a formal ceremony handed over five videotutorials together with literature about the Foundation and its work. A similar presentation took place a week later in Uganda (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere) where Professor Cooper was also able to discuss with the Head of Department, Professor Ojote - Lonzy, Makerere's new postgraduate (MSc) course in Veterinary Pathology. On the third leg of the journey two weeks later, cassettes and literature were given to Professor J.A. Msatovels Head of Department of Veterinary Pathology in Tanzania (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Sokoine). An additional commitment in Tanzania was a seminar at the University by Professor : this was on the subject of the work of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, with particular reference to its new Pathology Programme.

In each of the three countries visited great interest was expressed in the work of Charles Louis Davis

Foundation and discussions took place on how best to continue to promote and encourage veterinary pathology in the region. The Foundation is already playing an important part in this respect - its programme of distribution of videotutorials to each veterinary school in the world is a particularly helpful and generous gesture - but there is still much to be done.

The increasing need for the veterinary profession in East Africa to be familiar with wild animal pathology was emphasised on a number of occasions during Professor Cooper's visit. There are teaching and research initiatives relating to wildlife health in each of the three countries and a strong pathology input into these is essential. On the teaching front, the new MSc. course in Uganda will include a module on " non- domesticated" animals while Makerere's proposed Diploma in Wild life Health and Management will incorporate a certain amount of comparative pathology. One idea mooted during Professor Cooper's visit was to organise an East African Workshop on Zoo and Wildlife pathology in 1998 or 1999 - and this suggestion is now under active discussion. Whatever the outcome, there can be no doubt that veterinary pathology, especially comparative pathology, will play a vital role in the region in years to come.

Postgraduate Course In Wildlife Health To Be Launched In Uganda

The importance of wildlife is well recognised by veterinarians in Uganda, East Africa. The undergraduate course at Makerere University, which leads to the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM), includes a lengthy module on wildlife diseases, management and fisheries and students are examined in detail on this in the fourth year of their studies. As a result, all Makerere Veterinary Graduates have a good grounding in ecological principles, wild life and aquaculture.

Now the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Makerere plans to Start a Postgraduate Diploma in Wildlife Health and Management. The term "wild life " is interpreted in its broadest sense : the new Diploma will cover all groups of non - domesticated free ranging and captive terrestrial and aquatic animals together with new food sources, including mini (micro) livestock. The Diploma course will last for one academic year and will consist of core and elective modules as well as a field project study. Admission is not

restricted to veterinary graduates; others with a degree in biological sciences or who have appropriate experience are also eligible to apply.

The proposed course is the first of its kind in East Africa. The organisers believe that the new Diploma will help to address the local, regional and international need for training in wildlife health and management.

Further information about the Diploma is available from Dr. Christine Dranzoa, Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Makerere University, P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda.

General enquiries about this and allied matters can be addressed to Professor John E. Cooper, DICE, The University, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NJ, U.K.

The Giant Tortoises Of Zanzibar - An Update

The plight of the giant tortoises (*Geochelone gigantea*) of Zanzibar first attracted international attention in 1996. Mr. Steve Tolan, a keen naturalist and Africophile, put out a plea for action to stop poaching of tortoises from Changuu (Prison) Island, Zanzibar, where this species has lived and successfully bred for at least 70 years, probably longer. As a result, in July 1996 Professor John Cooper, his wife Mrs. Margaret Cooper and Mr. Pike Pugh of WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals), paid a visit to Changuu and Zanzibar. They surveyed the remaining populations of tortoises and drew up plans for the management and protection of these animals.

A little over twelve months later, in August 1997, Professor and Mrs Cooper have returned to Zanzibar and been able to review the situation. Only seven adult tortoises now remain on Changuu Island but these are under close surveillance. Their number has been augmented by the successful hatching of sixteen new young tortoises. An enclosure is being constructed on Changuu which will help to reduce the risk further theft.

On Zanzibar itself a holding facility has been established and it was here that young and sub-adult tortoises from Changuu were moved at the end of 1996 - a translocation that was filmed by "BBC World" and as a result was widely publicised. These animals have been joined by tortoises that have been confiscated, including two adults that were on Changuu when Coopers visited them in 1996 but disappeared soon after. All the tortoises in the holding facility are being carefully guarded.

Protection of the giant tortoises has been greatly facilitated by the use of microchips (transponders), produced and kindly provided at a discount by AVID, which enable individual animals to be identified.

The seizure of a number of the tortoises that had been stolen from Changuu means that there is now an opportunity to increase the size of the breeding population on the Island. However, many of these animals are now on the Tanzanian mainland and their return to Changuu still presents logistical (and in some cases, legal) problems.

In addition, the translocation of these and other confiscated tortoises could result in introduction of diseases or potentially dangerous organisms, including parasites, that have not hitherto been present on Changuu. One of the main purposes of the Cooper's recent visit, therefore, was to draw up a health monitoring programme so that tortoises can be properly checked before being transferred to the Island. A properly formulated policy is vital if the Changuu colony is to be protected - introduced disease is known to have decimated populations of tortoises in some other parts of the world - and the principle of health monitoring prior to translocation is in accordance with the advice of the IUCN/SSC Re-Introduction and Veterinary Specialist Groups.

Fortunately, professional veterinary assistance for the giant tortoises is readily available. Dr. Meredith Kennedy and Dr. Dennis Doughty, both veterinarians with the United States based SIT (School for International Training) have, with their students, already given sterling assistance on Zanzibar and elsewhere, and Professor Gabriel Mbassa of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Sokoine University, a colleague of Professor Cooper, has been able to offer help with specialised laboratory diagnostic tests. An encouraging part of the whole project has been the involvement of Zanzibaris and Tanzanians from the mainland, while overall supervision of the giant tortoise programme remains under the direction of Mr Andrew Katema, Manager of the Zanzibar Tourist Corporation.

Thanks to the input of many people, the future for Changuu's giant tortoises is brighter than was feared a year ago. However, much remains to be done if the population is not only to be saved but also to be kept free from infectious diseases. It is largely in order to achieve this that the Changuu Tortoise Appeal has been established. A generous donation of 500 Pounds from the British Chelonia Group plus smaller, but no less appreciated, sums from individual herpetologists, has meant that some of the costs of Professor Cooper's recent visit can be covered and money made available for health monitoring equipment and veterinary medicines. The BSAVA (British Small Animal Veterinary

Association) has generously donated two copies of its book "Manual of Reptiles" and these will be used on Zanzibar and at Sokoine University respectively.

Those wishing to support the giant tortoise work on Zanzibar are invited to make contributions towards a the health programme. Cheques should be made payable the "Changuu Tortoise Account (70634980)" and sent to Barclays Bank, P.O. Box 8,13 Library Place, St. Heller, Jersey JE4 8NE, Channel Isles. Information about the Appeal and its achievements, including periodic lists of contributors, will be widely published in herpetological and conservation journals.

Commonwealth Veterinary Association

Joint Regional Meeting
for East, Central,
Southern Africa

&

Kenya Veterinary Association

Annual General Meeting
& Scientific Conference

First Announcement

Date : 19th - 24th April 1999

Venue : Nairobi, Kenya

Theme : *The Veterinary Profession in a
changing Environment*

International Organising Committee

Dr. W.J. Pryor

President : *Commonwealth Veterinary Association*

Prof : P. Msolla

Regional Rep : *East, Central & Southern Africa*

Prof : S. Abdul Rahaman

Secretary : *Commonwealth Veterinary Association*

Local Organising Committee

Kenya Veterinary Association Organs

General Information

Language : English (*There will be no translation service*)

Accomodation

Magnificent hotels of all stars and classes available in Nairobi with very fair rates. The list and stars will be provided in the second announcement

Second Announcement

Those responding to the First Announcement will receive the second announcement due in August 1998.

For More Information

Mall to : Dr. W.O.Ogara, CVA Councillor,

Kenya Veterinary Association,
P.O. Box 29089, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel : 254 2 630673 (office hrs.)

254 2 713537 (after office hrs.)

Fax : 254 2 631325

E-mail : Phealth@ken.healthnet.org

TANZANIA

Annual Scientific Conference - TVA

The Annual Scientific Conference of the Tanzania Veterinary Association will take place from 1- 3 December, 1998 at the International Conference Centre, Arusha. The theme of the conference is: **The Role of the Veterinary Profession in Poverty Alleviation** with sub - themes including

1. The Role of women in animal health and production
2. Livestock products : processing and marketing

3. Contribution of animal industry to poverty alleviation , house hold income and national economy.

4. Livestock, Crop Production and Wild life Conservation : conflicts of interest

5. Livestock movement and disease control

Deadline for submission of papers, 30 September, 1998 to Tanzania Veterinary Association, PO Box 3174, Morogoro, Tanzania.

Gobal Warming - Ruminants To Blame

Ruminants release 77 million tons of methane annually, 75% of which is attributed to the world's 1.3 billion cattle. The production of methane from cattle and sheep has been estimated to increase by 1% per year. Methane emissions are a serious threat to the global climate and nutritionists and microbiologists are facing the challenge of finding methods to reduce them without affecting ruminant production.

A Canadian review article lists some possible strategies. Methane gas is the metabolic end product of methogenic bacteria that colonise the rumen. The type of feed and feed intake has an effect on methane production so that a diet rich in starch or highly digestible fibre favours the production of propionate over methane. The shift in rumen fermentation has been attributed , among other factors, to lowering of rumen pH and increasing the fermentation rate, which may inhibit methanogenic bacteria. It is assumed that fast ruminal passage decreases methane production, but increasing speed of the passage by maintaining the animals in lower temperature environment has produced inconclusive results. Several Chemical and biological methods, including adding ionofores

or lipids in the diet, have been suggested to reduce methane generation. However, rumen microbes have been able to adapt or degrade many compounds, while other compounds have had a negative effect on the rumen function.

The authors conclude that methane emissions can be reduced by methods that favour ruminal propionate production, but at present these strategies lead to adverse effects on production. Unless an alternative electron acceptor is provided, the efficiency of fermentation will be compromised. Any serious effort to curb the emissions needs to be global and must take into account the confounding circumstances in developing countries, where low quality forage is often the only possible feed and where ruminants are used as draught animals. Ultimately it must be questioned whether the potentially devastating climatic change is an excessive price for the ruminal conversion of roughage to high quality protein.

McAllister TA, Okine EK, Mathison GW, Cheng KJ. Dietary, environmental and microbial aspects of methane production in ruminants. *Can J. Anim Sci* 1996; 76: 231 - 243.

*West Africa***CAMEROON****Cameroon Joins CVA**

The National Veterinary Association of Cameroon has formally affiliated itself to the CVA. The following are the Staff of the National Council.

The Staff of the NVAC is constituted of the 9 elected full members of the National Council and the 9 elected alternate members of the National Council.

The Executive Bureau comprises of 4 members :

The President - Dr. Doufissa Albert

The Vice President - Dr. Tumenta Nubende John

The Secretary - General - Dr. Hamadou Saidou

The Treasurer - Dr. Domko Tadjia Francois

The staff and the Executive Bureau elected for three years during the last general assembly held on the 6 to 7th of December, 1996 are : Full members of the National Council are :

Dr. Doufissa Albert

Dr. Tumenta Nubende John

Dr. Hamadou Saidou

Dr. Domko Tadjia Francois

Dr. Tayou Kamgue Roger

Dr. Fotso Kamnga Zephyrin

Dr. Douram Gregoire

Dr. Ayangma Ntsama Francoise Chantal

Dr. Nganko Jean Marie

Alternate members of the National Council are :

Dr. Tsangue Difo Antoinette

Dr. Sanzhe Bokally J.J. R.

Dr. Ziebe Roland

Dr. Djomika Jacques Teerenstra

Dr. Ebot Moses Achare Nso Arrey

Dr. Fotzo Talom Michel

Dr. Meyebe Gaston

Dr. Tangang Kouaghu Laurenzo

Dr. Hamadou Gambo

Livestock And Veterinary Profession In Cameroon**Introduction**

Cameroon is situated in Central Africa, neighbouring Nigeria to the East. With a surface area of 475,000 sq. km, the population of Cameroon is estimated at 14.1 million inhabitants, 57% of which lives in rural areas. Cameroon has more than 200 national languages, but English and French are the official languages. The Country is a member of both the Francophonie and Commonwealth Communities.

Extending from the Atlantic Ocean to Lake Chad, Cameroon experiences almost all the different african climates and vegetations. Roughly , one can distinguish from south to north four main agro - ecological zones : the forest, the herbaceous guinean savannah, the Highlands and the Sahelian vegetation.

Livestock Industry

The forest zone is hostile to large ruminant livestock because of the absence of grazing pastures and the presence of tsetse flies, vectors of trypanosomiasis. Consequently, cattle is reared in the three Northern Provinces and on the Western Highlands. The cattle population is estimated at 4.1 million heads. The estimates for small ruminants is as follows : 2.6 million heads for sheep and 2.9 million for goats. The two Northern Sahelian Provinces produce 60% of the small ruminants population.

Ruminants are mainly reared for meat. Dairy production is very poor and the wool industry is inexistant. However, in the northern plains, cattle is used as draught animal in farming.

Other farm animals are pigs and poultry. The piggyery is concentrated in the Western Province (50% of the total population) as well as intensive poultry business which is also carried out around the two biggest towns, Yaounde, the political capital and Douala, the economic capital. The bulk of the poultry production is by traditional family management, with little or no input supplies.

In 1994, a study by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries put the meat production figures at 159,000 tons with ruminants contributing 69%, pigs 17% and poultry 14%.

The main constraints of animal production are diseases (trypanosomiasis, ticks and tick borne diseases for large ruminants, African Swine fever for piggyery, Newcastle disease for traditional poultry, to name just a few); drought and overgrazing in the Northern Provinces; competition for land use by breeders and for other rural activities with resulting farmer - grazer conflicts, reduction of pastures, by invading pest grasses such as Braken fern and *Chromolaena odorata*, poor genetic material, high cost of inputs (animal feed, drugs), poor knowhow of the managing manpower, low purchasing power for the consumers.

Veterinary Profession

During the colonial period, East Cameroon, under the French rule used to employ 12 veterinarians. The first Cameroonian Veterinary Doctor completed his training in 1958 from the Toulouseveterinary school in France, two years before the political independence of Cameroon.

Todya the National Veterinary Association of Cameroon (NVAC) has 214 registered members. Since there is no veterinary school in the country, existing Cameroonian veterinarians got their training from 28 foreign schools mainly Senegal (73), Nigeria (46), former Soviet Union (26), Belgium (25), France (15) and Morocco (10). The veterinarians are, however, assisted in their work by 400 to 500 auxiliaries, mainly veterinary nurses trained in Cameroon.

Until 1978, all the veterinarians were civil servants working with the Government. with the creation by a Presidential decree in 1978 of the NVAC private practice for the veterinary profession was introduced and today there are some 35 veterinarians in active private practice. 10 veterinarians had retired from civil service, about 110 veterinarians are still civil servants with the administration, 13 are employees in the private sector (poultry enterprises, veterinary drug distribution), 5 or 5 have to travel out of the country to look for jobs. Finally, we have more than 30 young unemployed veterinarians looking for jobs or financial means to create their own cabinet. Most of those practising in private are operating in Yaounde and Douala where they run veterinary clinics for pets or import and distribute veterinary drugs. Cameroon has a National Veterinary Laboratory producing vaccines for ruminants but drugs and vaccines for poultry and companion animals are imported mainly from Europe.

Dr. Albert Doufissa,
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Fax : 237 31 90 63 ,

Email : albert.doufissa@camnet.cm

Use Of Rabbits In Ostrich Rearing

Ostrich farming is the newest global farming phenomenon, and it is worldwide spread throughout the planet from the dry desert areas has only been possible by man's ingenuity and use of Modern Technology. Apart from tackling the problems of different climates, such as those in Scandinavia and tropical areas, the economics of farming ostriches in different parts of the world has created different problems to overcome.

In the western world where labor costs are high, the use of domestic rabbit to help rear ostrich chicks during the first weeks of their lives has been widely accepted and used in many countries including Scandinavia, the UK, the Benelux countries and Spain. Presently the use of rabbits in ostrich rearing is also being tried out in South Africa.

Both ostrich chicks and rabbits have a strong affinity for each other, the rabbit acting as a dummy figure for the ostrich chicks, as a dummy acts to placate a small child. The rabbit effectively supplements the mother figure and considerably

improves the welfare of the newly hatched ostrich chicks, as a dummy acts to placate a small child. The rabbit effectively supplements the mother figure and considerably improves the welfare of the newly hatched ostrich chick. There is also value in the consumption by the ostrich chicks of the rabbit dung, which not only provides vitamin B and vitamin K (night time white feces) for the ostrich chick but also inoculates the ostrich intestines with beneficial bacteria, so helping to prevent yolk sac problems and other diseases associated with incorrect or poor colonization of their guts.

Empirically, I have found that hand reared dwarf rabbits are the best starting rabbits for day old hatchlings, the size of the rabbit having to increase as the ostrich chick increases with age. By 6 - 8 wk. of age the ostrich chick has reared itself off the rabbit and no longer requires the benefit of the dummy figure.

- Canadian Vet. Journal, Feb' 98.

U.K. Mediterranean

BVA Overseas Travel Grants 1998

The BVA travel scholarship scheme, instituted in March 1983, makes available a series of grants to assist veterinary undergraduates to visit developing countries.

From the nine applications received this year, three grants of 400 pounds have been awarded :

Jennifer Brown, from Dorset, is a student at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh. She will spend seven weeks in Tanzania studying tropical veterinary medicine and assisting with herd health work.

Jennifer Brown, from Poole in Dorset, has just completed her third year at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. She has been invited by Sokoine University, Morogoro, Tanzania to spend seven weeks during July and August to learn more about tropical veterinary medicine and to help with herd work in the area. As well as studying the specific diseases of domestic animals and the veterinary techniques used, she will be visiting rural communities to assist general herd health work: this involves vaccination programmes, blood testing, public health procedures and the education of farmers on veterinary matters. The management of wildlife as reservoirs for disease will also be considered. Jennifer is keen to learn more about the interaction of veterinary aid and livestock management in developing countries and hopes to study for an MSc. in Tropical Veterinary Medicine in the future.

Richard Walker, from Cheshire, is studying at the University of Liverpool Veterinary School. He will be visiting Peru at the end of July where he will be carrying out an investigation into *Fasciola hepatica* prevalence in cattle and camelids.

Richard Walker is from Sandbach in Cheshire. He has completed his third year at the University of Liverpool Veterinary School. He will be spending seven weeks from the end of July in the region of Cajamarca in Northern Peru, which is one of the major milk producing areas in the country. It is estimated that 70 - 80% of cattle are infected with *Fasciola hepatica* in this region. Human infection is becoming increasingly important, especially in children of rural communities. Richard will be trying to ascertain whether the indigenous Criollo cattle are more resistant to *F. hepatica* than the improved breeds such as Brown Swiss and Holsteins, and also whether new world

camelids (llamas, alpacas and vicunas) are susceptible.

Joanne Kent and Joanne Pearce, both studying at the University of Bristol Veterinary School, will be undertaking a joint project on the distribution and prevalence of *Onchocerca ochengi* in cattle in Uganda.

Joanne Kent and Joanne Pearce have both completed their third year at the University of Bristol Veterinary School. Linked with the Makerere University Veterinary School, they will be spending four weeks travelling to the four regions of Uganda to collect samples from slaughtered cattle hides in order to assess distribution and prevalence of *Onchocerca ochengi*.

In addition, the BVA is supporting a veterinary surgeon - Margaret Paterson - on a Voluntary Service Overseas posting to Cambodia.

Margaret Paterson qualified from the University of Glasgow Veterinary School in 1986. She took up her Voluntary Service Overseas posting in February 1998 and has been working with the Department of Animal Health and Production in Cambodia. She is based in Svay Rieng in the south eastern part of the country. The Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture is in the process of reorganising extension services available to farmers in the rural areas and the VSO volunteers have been asked to assist in establishing field programmes and the training of "village" vets. Their objectives are to bring about improvement in livestock keeping and rearing, reduce morbidity and mortality, which in the long term will lead to improved incomes in the rural areas. Margaret's posting will last for two years.

BVA Office Bearers

The following BVA officers were elected for the year 1997 - 1998 :

President	: Mr. E.A. Chandler
Past President	: Prof. K.A. Linklater
Senior Vice President	: Mr. K.B. Baker
Junior Vice President	: Mr. G.R.E. Evans
Vice President	: Prof. P.M. Biggs

Professor Linklater paid tribute to Mr. Bob Stevenson, who on completing his year as past president, was retiring from the Executive Committee. His counsel had been invaluable; he had served the BVA with distinction and thanks were due to him for his four years of loyal and dedicated service to the Executive.



The 1997 - 98 EVA Officer Team line up after their election at the AGM (from left) Mr. Eifion Evans, Prof. Karl Linklater, Mr. Ted Chandler, Mr Keith Baker and Prof. Peter Briggs

The Newly elected President Mr. Ted Chandler



Food, Lands & Livelihoods, Setting Research Agendas For Animal Science KARI Conference Centre, Nairobi, Kenya,

How animal production interacts with the environment in the three key areas of food, land and livelihoods in developing countries was the theme of a conference and workshop held at Nairobi from 27 - 30 January 1998.

Over 200 delegates from all over Africa, Asia, Europe and America participated to discuss how science can be put into practice.

The workshop aimed at helping scientists to set correct research agendas for the future needs of small holders and farms in the Third World. Delegates examined how advanced research institutes can contribute to

livestock productivity and how a systems approach to research and participatory rural appraisal methods will help.

Speakers at the conference presented papers on topics like setting research agendas, meeting global food needs, how livestock interact with the environment and the social and economic benefits of keeping livestock.

The meeting was organised by BSAS in cooperation with the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, the Kenyan Society of Animal Production and the International Livestock Research Institute.

FAO Warns Of Disease Threat To Europe

"Europe may face further animal disease epidemics due to long distance transport of animals and increasingly dense livestock units," the UN Food and Agriculture Organization has warned. In a press statement issued on February 17, the FAO further points out that veterinary services should have the means to respond to disease emergencies and warns that the "institutional coherence" of many European veterinary services is under threat.

The FAO comments that the trend towards long distance transport of animals and their products has accelerated in Europe, with for example, it now being commonplace for piglets to be transported between EU member states for fattening. In addition, it says, the transition of economies in Central and Eastern Europe has led to a substantial growth of exports to the EU. "Trade routes between Europe, the Middle East and the Commonwealth Independent States are reviving and it is possible for an animal infected with Foot and Mouth disease to enter into Central or even Western Europe if its owners succeed in evading border controls," it says. It adds, "Civil wars or unstable political situations, as in the Balkans and the Caucasus, lead inevitably to migrations of people and animals which increase the threat from disease."

Regarding the density of holdings, the FAO points out that dense livestock units tend to favour the rapid spread of infections and that, in certain parts of Europe, farms contain thousands of animals kept either for breeding or fattening. It notes that in certain parts of Belgium, the Netherlands and Northern Germany, the density of pig farms is "extremely high" and that, as well as the disease risks, these farms are a source of environmental pollution. It argues that there is a need for planning authorities to stimulate initiatives towards reducing the density, adding that countries such as Denmark have already taken steps in this direction and that Netherlands is examining the role of the pig industry after the devastating outbreak of classical swine fever last year.

The FAO points out that, for safe movement of animals, certification and identification are essential, supplemented by an effective system of checks on the identity and status of animals at international borders. While within the EU all livestock holdings are registered, and cattle identified by ear tags, the identification of other species, "notably pigs" is "difficult" and, it says, this has caused problems during epidemics. It notes that outside the EU identification may vary within countries and urges all European countries to set up a harmonised herd and

animal identification system. It also urges that all European countries should have a contingency plan to react promptly to a disease outbreak and that veterinary services should have means to do this. However, it expresses concern that the coherence of veterinary services in many European countries is being "destroyed" by "the drive to reduce the public sector" and the fragmentation of services caused by the delegation of power from national to regional level.

Discussing who should bear the cost of disease epidemics, the FAO states that it is questionable whether the current practice of expecting the public sector to compensate the private sector for the losses incurred should be maintained. "This arrangement does little to encourage the sanitary measures within the industry," it says, and suggests a compulsory insurance scheme for livestock owners as an alternative.

The FAO has set up an information network covering the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and other countries in the region to disseminate information on veterinary biotechnology and to support the prompt diagnosis and control of animal diseases. It has also developed a system to encourage cooperation in research with a view to improving control measures.

- Vet Rec, Feb' 98

More Heifers Than Ever In 97

Despite the exporting restrictions imposed by the EU because of BSE, Send a Cow's work continues by providing animals from within East Africa.

This year, heifers will be given to 72 families, 50 in Uganda and 22 in Kenya. In Kenya the projects are based in Kakamega district in the West of the country and are run by two women's groups. This is the first time cows have been given to this area which, like so many, suffers from high levels of malnutrition. The projects will be under the expert eye of Alex Kirui of HPI.

As with all Send a Cow projects, the families will be part of local groups with an extension worker attached. The wide ranging training programme will now be in full swing. This includes - building a good shelter, managing the grass and other feeds, calf rearing and also topics like tree planting, family planning and the status of women.

So with the saving of the airfare, more money is available for cows, and many more families can be helped. More cows mean more milk and in just two weeks children receiving 100 ml of milk per day can be lifted out of malnutrition.

General Articles

Fred, The Dog Which Disliked People With Bad Manners

When Mr and Mrs Tombstone were preparing to go to Britain for a 3 months holiday they requested us to stay with Fred. They further suggested that we could in fact keep Fred for good, if we wished so because upon their return from holiday they were going to sell their farm and move to a first floor flat in town.

I first met Fred when Mrs. Tombstone called me on Wednesday morning complaining about Zelda. Zelda's milk production had dropped from 10 litres on Monday to 3 litres on Tuesday, she was constipated, "off colour", no longer finishing her concentrate and her mucous membrane looked yellowish. Because Mrs. Tombstone sounded really depressed and mourned about how expensive it was to acquire Zelda, I promised that I was on my way. Indeed Zelda did not chew the cud as she stood morosely outside the milk parlour where today she contributed only 2 litres into the milklane.

Zelda did not complain or resist as I examined her from head to toe. The temperature was 21/2 degrees above normal. I pronounced the tentative diagnosis praising Mrs Tombstone for being so observant that not only will she administer this medication but that she will give the whole course. Before I bade farewell, I asked Mrs Tombstone to phone and tell me about Zelda's progress the following day. But Mrs. Tombstone had other plans.

Mrs Tombstone: "Dr. Busayi join me for tea. I have not taken my morning tea". The idea was fantastic and too tempting to turn down particularly because I had not taken my breakfast that morning either. I offered fake resistance and Mrs Tombstone insisted. Rhoda, first of all bring a dish of warm, clean water, a cake of perfumed soap and a new hand towel for the doctor."

Rhoda who looked kempt and too active for her age disappeared without saying a word. She re-appeared holding a brand new dish big enough to be a child's bathtub. She knelt down in front of me and held the dish while I took my time to deodorize my hands. After towelling my hands dry, I hung the towel on Rhoda's elbow. I was ushered into a sitting room bigger than a squash court and, smelling like a badly tended dog kennel. Well fed dogs sprawled everywhere in that carpeted room including a Great Dane cross that lay supine and filled a 3 seater sofa alone. The logical thing for me to do was to choose an unoccupied seat. I was settling down and adjusting myself in one seat when Mrs Tombstone breezed in with a floral tray followed on her heels by a trim male

dachshund cross.

Mrs. Tombstone: "Doctor, that seat belongs to Fred".

Doctor: "That is okay Mrs. Tombstone, has Fred gone for work?"

Mrs Tombstone: "No Doctor, Fred does not go to work, he is always here with me. Fred, do not be naughty, greet Dr. Busayi."

Fred moved confidently towards me, sat down on his haunches and extended his muddy paw which I was supposed to shake. I complied. But Fred did not go, he looked at his seat with growing interest. Challenged, I stood up and waited for fresh orders from Mrs. Tombstone who was still holding the tray. We ultimately sat in the verandah drinking hot tea accompanied by fresh, tasty, farm baked scones and biscuits. A waft of pungent smell of dirty dogs still found its way to us while showers of increasing intensity pelted our feet. Mrs. Tombstone's goats led by billy the buck sought shelter in the carpet. Fred, still lying on the couch, snored loudly without shame.

After tea, which incidentally I enjoyed thoroughly, Mrs. Tombstone chaperoned by Fred saw me off to my truck while she talked ceaselessly about her rabbits, chickens, goats, Zelda and the other 12 dogs. Mr Tombstone who seemed to play a low rank in the family was almost always mentioned as a slip of the tongue. The poor man whose contact with the Zimbabwe Railways took him as far away from home as Mozambique for not less than 3 months was expected back on Friday to prepare for their holiday, which Mrs. Tombstone, a British by birth was anxiously looking forward to. Fred was the only thorn in the flesh for Mr. and Mrs. Tombstone. That is why they were looking for a home for Fred. A good home of dog lovers. "Fred", Mrs. Tombstone was trying to brainwash me, "would come with a suitcase of his clothing, bed and mattress, a dish full of cutlery and a bag of good manners. I was going to consult my wife and children first, I informed Mrs. Tombstone.

We considered the request against the background that we also had 3 dogs already. Will Fred embrace the other dogs, we mused. How were we going to cope with a dog that lived indoors: it is unheard of in our culture. After weighing the pros and cons, we agreed to adopt Fred. Because Fred did not understand any vernacular, my children had to learn English fast, in order to talk to Fred

on the same wave length "Sit down", "Go out", "Here is your food". We also learnt that in addition to placing the food in front of Fred we had to say, "Fred, Please eat your food.", otherwise Fred would not touch his food. Fred did not like human beings with bad manners! In return we taught Fred that it is a bad dog manners to sprawl on any couch in the house. He took the point. However, he "revenge" by teaching our children that it is bad human manners to treat an adult dog like a puppy. He did not want to be picked up and carried like a toy pomp. The rapport was established, boundaries were drawn and we accepted each others' peculiarities harmoniously. Fred became a member of our family.

One day, I realised that Fred had the so called tickbite fever. I rushed him to my office, treated him accordingly and decided to de tick him immediately in the Department's dog dip. When Fred got out of the ordeal he was quite unfriendly, unresponsive to calls and orders. He could not remember the car which brought him to the dip tank. He panicked and started running. Since he started running away on one Saturday morning of November 1991 we have

never seen him again.

Probably Fred,
Ran and ran and ran,
Until he was forced to stop,
When his heart stopped,
Under the wheels of a car
Which did not stop
Since then,
Our memories have run and run and
Will probably stop,
When our hearts stop
Under the wheels of death
May be that is when,
We are going to meet Fred
Waiting for us at heaven's gate.

R.M. Busayi

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More Conquests For Morbilli

Epizootics caused by morbillivirus were not reported in aquatic mammals prior to 1987, when morbillivirus affected bottlenose dolphins stranded on the US Atlantic coast. Thereafter four more outbreaks have been observed in four species of aquatic mammals in three continents: Baikal seals of Lake Baikal, Russia in 1987, harbour seals in the waters of northwestern Europe in 1988, striped dolphins in the Mediterranean in the early 1990's, and blunosed dolphins along the southern Atlantic coast of the USA in 1993 to 1994.

The viruses in these outbreaks varied widely. The Baikal virus was closely related to distemper virus, whereas the North Sea virus was a newly recognised morbillivirus, with less similarities with distemper virus. In contrast, the Mediterranean dolphin virus was close to the peste des petis ruminant virus. The dolphin viruses tend to be more closely related to ruminant morbilliviruses and the seal viruses to canine distemper viruses.

In the most recent dolphin outbreak, 67 bottle neck dolphins were found stranded coast of Alabama, Mississippi and Texas. Morbillivirus infection was found in 35. Diagnosis was based on histologic lesions, presence of antigen and polymerase chain reaction. Histologic lesions included changes that are highly characteristic of morbillivirus disease. Several dolphins had acute necrotising pneumonia and/or concomitant pulmonary aspergillosis.

The reason for the emergence of morbillivirus epizootics in marine mammals is not known.

Lipscomb TP, Kennedy S, Moffett D et al. Morbillivirus epizootic in bottlenose dolphins of the Gulf of Mexico. *J. Vet Diagn Invest* 1996; 8: 283 - 290.

El Nino And It Health Impacts

Over the recent years there has been growing interest in links between El Nino (and other extreme weather events) and human health. A number of studies have demonstrated that pronounced changes in the incidence of diseases can occur in parallel with the extreme weather conditions associated with the El Nino cycle.

What is El Nino? "El Nino" is the familiar term given to the Christ child in Latin America. It is also used to describe an anomaly in the flow of ocean waters along the west coast of South America, which can occur around Christmas time. This anomaly is the result of the nutrient rich cold water of the coastal Humboldt Current being replaced by the eastward-flowing warm ocean water (which is nutrient poor) from the equatorial Pacific. El Nino events have occurred every three to five years, on average, since weather records began in 1877, and they are associated with catastrophic declines in fisheries along the Pacific coast of South America.

The Southern Oscillation (SO) is a large scale atmospheric "see saw" centered over the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The variation in pressure is accompanied in surrounding areas by fluctuations in wind strengths, ocean currents, sea surface temperatures and precipitation. The SO and the warm waters of the El Nino are part of the same climate phenomenon referred to as ENSO (El Nino/Southern Oscillation). ENSO influences climate in distant regions: droughts in south-east Asia, parts of Australia, parts of Africa and heavy rainfall and flooding in South America, have been observed during El Nino years, while the Indian Summer monsoon sometimes weakens and winters in western Canada and parts of the northern USA become milder. Overall, disasters triggered by drought are twice as frequent worldwide during the El Nino years.

Ability to Predict El Nino

Forecasting techniques to predict El Nino and measure El Nino events have improved dramatically in recent years. According to one of these techniques (the multivariate ENSO index), there were three such extreme events during the 1950 - 1980 period but, since 1984, there have already been four major El Ninos. The longest single El Nino period on the record occurred from 1990 - 1995. Whether or not this apparent increase is related to global warming has not yet been established.

El Ninos (and other weather phenomena's) link to health :

An increasing array of studies demonstrate important associations between the ENSO cycle, climate

phenomena and human health. El Nino and similar weather disturbances affect human health mainly through natural disasters and related outbreaks of infectious diseases. It is impossible to estimate, however, how many human deaths and illnesses are directly linked to El Nino, as the health effects result from complex interaction of abnormal weather events with factors such as population, overcrowding, health status, sanitation infrastructure etc.

Natural Disasters

El Nino can cause dramatically increased or decreased rainfall, which can lead directly to natural disasters such as floods or droughts. In addition, high wind events such as tornadoes may increase in frequency or intensity. These effects can occur at long distances from ENSO phenomenon and tend to be more dramatic in particular areas. These disasters may cause direct injuries and deaths, destroy crops and property, lead to famine and interrupt development. They make already vulnerable populations more vulnerable. Research has shown that the numbers of people affected by natural disasters worldwide are greater during the first El Nino year and the following year than in the pre-El Nino year.

The 1997 El Nino has already been associated with drought related forest fires originating in Indonesia, which have, in turn resulted in a dramatic increase in respiratory disease visits in Kuala Lumpur General Hospital and in the State of Sarawak (both in Malaysia). These fires have mainly been caused by human activity but the lack of seasonal rains has led to their spread over wide areas and the fires are now affecting virgin rain forests. Similar fires are being witnessed in the Amazon rain forests and pose a major ecological threat to both farming and traditional indigenous communities. At the time of publication of this Fact Sheet, drought related famine is threatening countries such as Sudan and the Philippines. In 1997 - 1998, El Nino has also been associated with very destructive flooding in South America. Ecuador and Peru have been particularly affected.

Infectious Diseases

In addition, strong evidence exists of linkages between these weather variations and increases in the incidence of infectious diseases, such as insect vector borne diseases (e.g. malaria, Rift Valley fever) and epidemic diarrhoeal diseases (e.g. cholera and shigellosis).

Climatic factors, such as changes in temperature and humidity, are known to be capable of facilitating or

interrupting the capacity of insect vectors to transmit disease to humans. Malaria and Rift Valley fever (RVF) are two diseases for which substantial documentation in this area exists. Less well documented, but of increasing interest, are the effects of ENSO on dengue. This largely urban disease, present in tropical regions around the world, is spread by mosquitoes that breed in artificial containers. Thus, in addition to climatic factors, changes in domestic water storage practices, brought about by disruption of regular supplies, will also influence patterns of transmission.

Malaria : El Nino events have an impact on malaria control in many parts of the world because the associated weather disturbances influence vector breeding sites and hence the transmission potential of the disease. It has been recognised that many areas experience a dramatic increase in the incidence of Malaria during extreme weather events correlated to El Nino. Moreover, outbreaks may not be larger, but more severe, as populations affected may not have high levels of immunity. Quantitative leaps in malaria incidence coincident with ENSO events have been recorded around the world: such epidemics have been documented in Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela in South America, in Rwanda in Africa, and in Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Asia. Historically, in the Punjab region of north east Pakistan the risk of Malaria epidemic increases five fold during the year following a major El Nino and in Sri Lanka, the risk of Malaria epidemic increases four fold during an El Nino year. These increased risks are associated with above average levels of precipitation in the Punjab and below average levels of precipitation in Sri Lanka. In South America and Rwanda, heavy rainfall has contributed to major epidemics of malaria. To be able to forecast the impact of El Nino in different endemic areas, control programmes need to develop a thorough understanding of how local vector species respond to climate variability, and how a population's immunity and nutritional status fluctuate over time. To mount a timely and effective epidemic response, malaria control programmes need to incorporate surveillance and epidemic control in their everyday activities.

Rift Valley Fever : Outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever (RVF), a vector borne disease that principally affects livestock, have occurred in eastern Africa on almost every occasion that there has been excessive rainfall. Consequent on the 1997 El Nino, areas of north eastern Kenya and Southern Somalia experienced rainfall, which was 60 - 100 times heavier than normal and was the heaviest recorded since 1961. The rains, which began in October 1997 and continued through January 1998, caused RVF virus infected eggs of flood water *Aedes* mosquitoes to hatch. In the outbreak of Rift Valley Fever that followed, livestock losses were considerable in the affected regions. Moreover, the estimated toll of human death due to RVF in the region was 200 - 250, while there were an estimated toll of human death due to RVF in north

eastern Kenya and Southern Somalia. Other areas of Kenya, and the United Republic of Tanzania were also affected with widespread animal infections; however, their impact on the human populations was not great. Preliminary estimates of infections and deaths among animals and humans suggest this may be the largest outbreak of Rift Valley Fever ever reported.

Cholera and other epidemic diarrhoeal diseases : These are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in many countries. Outbreaks can be either related to floods or drought (Floods, contaminate the water supply, while droughts both make hygiene more difficult and contaminate the water that remains)

There is circumstantial evidence to indicate a close association between weather changes caused by El Nino and Cholera. Since September/ October 1997, there has been a deteriorating cholera situation in the Horn of Africa. After heavy rainfall and floods in the Horn of Africa, most of the countries in this region reported a dramatic upsurge in the numbers of cases of deaths due to cholera. In 1997, a total of 40249 cholera cases with 2231 deaths were reported in Tanzania alone (this compares to 1464 cases and 35 deaths in 1996). Kenya reported 17200 cases and 555 deaths and Somalia 6814 cases and 252 deaths due to cholera in 1997. With the floods continuing in this region and adding to already limited sanitation, poor hygiene and unsafe water, conditions are favouring the spread of cholera. At the end of 1997 other countries surrounding the Horn of Africa, such as Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique, were reporting increased numbers of cholera cases and deaths. Reported figures through the first three months of 1998 already showed 11335 cases and 525 deaths in Uganda and 10 108 cases and 507 deaths in Kenya.

In the Americas, the current epidemic has been raging for seven years and associated with a major El Nino, the number of cholera cases started to increase at the end of 1997. In 1998, Peru has been suffering from a major outbreak and has already reported, for the first three months of 1998, 16 705 cases and 146 deaths. Other countries which are reporting increasing numbers of cholera cases in 1998 are Bolivia, Honduras and Nicaragua.

A study examining the relationship between sea surface temperature and cholera case data in Bangladesh during 1994 documented a close association between the two variables.

Prediction and Prevention : Measures to predict and prevent disease outbreaks related to El Nino are increasing. In South east Africa and the Horn of Africa, the regional WHO Cholera Surveillance Teams, warned by early forecasts of El Nino related extreme weather

events in 1997, were able to help reduce the severity of the cholera outbreak in those regions by means of increased monitoring and heightened preparedness of healthcare institutions in the area.

WHO's Role : WHO is a member of the "climate agenda", a United Nations interagency programme which integrates all major international climate related activities. Within this mechanism, WHO plays a major role in linking the monitoring of health impacts with the monitoring of climate and other associated impacts, and in assisting Member States to use prediction and forecasting models to reduce the human impact of major climatic events.

In December 1997, WHO together with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UK Medical Research Council, held the first of a series of workshops on climate change and human health. At the workshop, the first steps towards drawing up an international research agenda were taken. WHO's long term objective is to use improvements in predicting and monitoring unusual weather occurrences such as El Nino as an aid in taking pre-emptive measures to reduce the public health impact of such events.

For further information contact : Health Communications and Public Relations, WHO, Geneva, Telephone 41 22 791 4458, Fax : 41 22 791 4858

- WHO Fact Sheet, May 1998

Beware The Bug

Be Scared. Be very scared. The year 2000 bug is nearly upon us - and don't think you're safe. So much for the hype - but will it really touch our lives? Can the Luddites among us who have avoided computer ownership now reap praise for our foresight?

We've all heard about the Y2K bug. Computer software generally stores dates as two digit numbers (for no better reason than social convention). So, at the stroke of midnight on December 31, '99, computers all over the world will become confused when the date rolls over to '00.

We've probably all heard the rumours of apocalyptic consequences, that this will trigger massive disruption equal to war or natural calamity. We may also have heard the rumours that people "in the know" are already planning to flee cities and hole up in New Mexico with their cash stuffed in pillcases.

It's comforting to know that UQ's "person in the know", Professor Paul Bailes - head of the Computer Science and Electrical Engineering Department, 1978 Computer Science honours graduate and 1984 PhD - discounts such rumours as "flights of high sarcasm".

But it is not all comforting that he believes "there is substantial justification for such anxiety".

Can it really be so important for a computer to know what date it is? For some applications, such as calculating interest payments in financial institutions or evaluating use by dates on stock, the ramifications are obvious.

But does it really matter if other non-date dependent systems think it is the year 1900. Yes, according to Professor Bailes, because it is not that simple.

"A large amount of computer software is written for fixed size of memory cells, each of which can contain only a two digit number," he explains.

"One plus 99 equals 100, so what happens to that 'one' that is carried? Either it gets ignored in which case the computer thinks it's 1900 and keeps working in a crazy kind of way - or the carried 'one' goes into another cell, causing the computer to fail or even worse, it corrupts the system in wholly unexpected ways.

Some of the computers which fail may be decidedly too close for comfort. Professor Bailes gives the example of defibrillators, each of which basically contains a battery, an electronic plate close to the heart, and a microprocessor monitoring heart action and ready to trigger several thousand volts after a heart attack.

"The microprocessors in defibrillators have date information built in so physicians can examine the events log and see when anything has happened. If this date information goes wrong and the carry of the digit from 99 to 100 yields a bit of information that's flying round the computer's memory and corrupting cells, then there is a risk the software will behave incorrectly. " In case of defibrillators it could be fatal."

Computers in countless business and service operations log dates, including power stations in which component maintenance is highly automated.

Air transport too depends heavily upon computer systems which record dates for both maintenance and error logging. Professor Bailes says he certainly won't be airborne during the 99 - 00 changeover, and he says he's not alone in that concern.

"I believe some major airlines have volunteered to

ground themselves over midnight on December 31, 1999. Los Angeles international airport is closing down, all operations will stop and they'll restart the computers," he said.

"It's a precautionary measure. If the software does have a problem and doesn't restart properly, at least the planes aren't up in the air."

Of course, such large operations have invested massive resources to ensure their software is Y2K compliant. However, no such company operates in isolation: for life to continue as usual on the first day of 2000, a whole raft of stock and service suppliers must also be compliant.

It's not that software can't be made complaint: there's just so much of it that the task is incalculably huge. Professor Bailes calls it "a kind of infinity times infinity problem." "There are thousands upon thousands of different software systems. If you've got a better business process, you're going to have a different software system - and of course people want to have better business processes because that's where their competitive advantage comes from."

"So there are many different software languages and many applications that use the same language in different ways. A Y2K solution written for one doesn't carry over to the others. It is not like physics, where the laws of nature are predictable. Each computer programme is a law unto itself. Yes, it's predictable in itself because it does exactly what it's been programmed to do, but each software system behaves differently."

To add to the task, individual computer programs themselves are big, written in up to millions of lines of source code. Some - perhaps up to 30% - were written so long ago that their source code has been lost. These programs now only have binary code, extremely difficult to adapt and to analyse. The task is so big that some industry watchers believe there are insufficient IT professionals to rectify Y2K problems by the end of 1999 deadline.

That, he says, brings home the real economic subtlety of Y2K.

"If many of your IT personnel are engaged in Y2K problem solution, it puts on hold improvement of your business processes to gain a competitive advantage in the market. At a global level, we have a whole lot of people doing something that isn't productive - it's not making new technology, its maintaining existing functionality."

"If some companies have started their Y2K efforts early enough, they could have done much more than making sure their old software just runs correctly in 2000: they could have adapted it for improved functionality for running on faster hardware, or to use new languages that

are easier to adapt and maintain over subsequent generations of changes."

"But they've left it too late, and are now spending all their money on maintaining existing functionality. The result will be zero return. However, the alternative is to go backwards."

Going backwards means mission critical systems failing, which Professor Bailes believes will inevitably mean job losses. He says these economic ramifications, as much as the fear of physical breakdown of services and operations, provide justification for people's growing anxiety.

Happily, Professor Bailes' department at UQ is doing its bit, and has been for years. On the teaching side, the University's computer science and information technology graduates are skilled not only in cutting edge technologies, but also have been trained in "legacy" technologies such as COBOL programming language, known to suffer from Y2K non-compliance. The department also runs courses in language processing technology at both undergraduate and post graduate levels, training students to develop and employ software conversion tools, and PhD students have been and still are working extensively in the field.

But the Problem for everyone is that time is running out. Y2K problems are already manifesting themselves, with stock, credit cards and passports which expire post 1999 being rejected all over the world.

Even when all the software in an organisation has been converted to Y2K compliant standards, it still must be tested - and that, Professor Bailes points out, could take up to a year, taking elaborate precautions to create test environments isolated from real environments.

And don't try testing at home. "There are some really dumb ways being suggested to test systems, both in home PCs and in businesses. One way is to get into the clock of your computer and turn the date up to the year 2000 and see what happens. If the test goes wrong, all the terrible things that are going to happen in two years time may happen right now," Professor Bailes warned.

"It's like someone working in a financial institution saying: 'Well, I hope all our financial records don't get destroyed in Y2K - let's try it now. Oops, they're gone. Too bad.' That's, brilliant, isn't it? What you need is expert help."

On the subject of financial institutions, will Professor Bailes be withdrawing all his cash? "No comment. I was going to stay with friends in the country for a while, but when I noticed they were under a flight path, I thought: no, better not." It's very hard to tell if he's joking.

- Contact Winter, 1998

- Nicole Mathieson

Abstracts

■ Blood samples on filter paper and plasma from two groups of psittacine birds were tested for anti-psittacine circovirus antibodies by haemagglutination inhibition (HI). Antibody titres of filter paper blood samples diluted with 100 ml of buffer were not significantly different to those of plasma. The filter paper method allowed the collection and processing of smaller volumes of blood than required for preparation of serum or plasma. Special equipment or storage conditions were not required for transport of filter paper samples to the laboratory, and fewer technical steps and time were involved in antibody detection. The use and interpretation of the test in relation to other methods currently available for diagnosing psittacine beak and feather disease is reviewed.

(Riddoch, P.A. et al., (1996). *Aust. Vet Practic.* 26:134)

■ Virulent Footrot

The Virulent form of footrot was reported by two centres in December. In one incident, 10 percent of the flock was affected, with severe cases shedding the whole horn case within two weeks. Cultures for *Dichelobacter nodosus* were negative but *Fusobacterium necrophorum* subspecies *necrophorum* was isolated.

Another centre investigated an outbreak in which a variety of lesions were seen, including interdigital scald, chronic footrot and a more severe form of the latter which resulted in lesions around the coronet and shelling of the hoof. Cultural investigations of these latter have revealed the presence of *necrophorum* subspecies *necrophorum*, *Bacteriodes fragilis* and *Prevotella melaninigenicus*. Spirochaetes of unknown identity were also observed in numerous samples. These findings are similar to bovine digital dermatitis. Again *D. nodosus* was not isolated from these cases.

Vet Rec., Jan 31, 1998.

■ Serology and pathology of Paratuberculosis in sheep

The sensitivity and specificity of agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) and ELISA tests for the detection of paratuberculosis were tested in 134 adult sheep culled from flocks with a history of chronic weight loss. The results

of the tests were compared with the lesions observed postmortem. Of the 46.3% of the sheep which has any type of lesion, 37.1% had a positive AGID result and 48.4% had a positive ELISA. None of the sheep with no lesions had a positive AGID, but 11.1% of them had a positive ELISA. Different types of lesion were associated with between 0 to 95% positive reactions in the AGID. It is suggested that the high specificity of the AGID should make it a useful tool for obtaining evidence of paratuberculosis in live sheep, and may provide a basis for control programmes in areas where the disease is a serious threat to sheep production.

Perez, V. Tellechea, J. Badiola, D.D., Gutierrez, M. & Garcia Martin, J. F. (1997) *American Journal of Veterinary Research* 58, 799

■ Vitreous body glutamate in canine glaucoma

Vitreous body glutamate concentrations were significantly elevated in dogs with breed related primary glaucoma. Vitreal glycine and vitreal tryptophan were also significantly increased compared with normal dogs. The authors consider that the increased glutamate concentration provides evidence of an ischaemic mechanism for retinal ganglion cell death and optic nerve atrophy in glaucomatous dogs and that the emphasis on reduction of high intra-ocular pressure should be augmented by other therapeutic regimes, such excitatory amino acid antagonists, N methyl D aspartate subtypes, nitric oxide synthase inhibitors and calcium channel blockers.

Brooks D.M., Garcia, C.A., Dreyer E.B., Zurakowski, D & Franco - Bourland R.E. (1997) *American Journal of Veterinary Research* 58, 864.

■ Effects of castration on the behaviour of dogs

The effects of castration on problem behaviour patterns were evaluated in 57 dogs. As in previous studies, urine marking, mounting and roaming were reduced in most of the dogs, but aggression, whether towards members of the family or other people or towards other household pets or unfamiliar animals, was less affected. Neither the age of the dog when it was castrated, nor the duration of the problem behaviour appeared to influence the likelihood of a beneficial effect of castration.

Neilson, J.C., Eckstein, R.A. & Hart B.L., (1997) *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 211, 180

CALENDER

1998

British Equive Veterinary Association, 37th Annual Congress, Birmingham 10 - 13 September 1998.

23rd WSAVA Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina 5 - 10 October, 1998.

25th ASAVA Annual Conference, Hobart, Tasmania. Theme : "Intestinal Insights - Practical Gastroenterology" 18 - 23 October, 1998.

2nd International Conference on Emerging Zoonoses, Strasbourg, France 5 - 9 November, 1998.

1999

BSAVA, Birmingham, UK. 8 - 11 April, 1999

Asia Regional Meeting Venue and Date to be announced

CVA Joint Regional Meeting for ECS Africa and Kenya Veterinary Association Annual Meeting and Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, 19 - 26 April, 1999

AVA Conference 1999, Wrest Point, Hobart, Tasmania, 16 - 21 May 1999.

24th WSAVA Congress, Lyon, France, To be held in conjunction with the WVA Congress 23 - 25 September 1999.

WAWV will be holding a joint meeting with the European Section of the Wildlife Disease Association (EWDA) and the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (EAZWV) at the World Veterinary Congress in Lyon, France from September 20 - 25. For further information contact : Dr. Marc Artonis, CNEVA Nancy, Domaine de Pixerecourt, BP 9, 54220 Malzeville, France and Dr. Francis Scullion, Secretary WAWV, 16 Cranlome Road, Ballynahaye, Ballygawley, County Tyrone BT70 2HS, UK.

2000

25th WSAVW Congress, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in conjunction with the Voorjaarsdagen of the Netherlands Association for Companion Animal Medicine. Details to be published later.

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COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION NEWS

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Legend to Photographs on the Cover

FRONT COVER PAGE

First Row: L-R His Excellency, Governor of Karnataka inaugurating the conference; His Excellency displaying the memento; Dignitaries on the dais.

Second Row: Farmers with their animals at village camp; Hon'ble Minister Mr. Ningaiah; Women farmers bring milk to the Cooperative Society.

Third Row: Woman farmer milking her cow; Reception Committee awaiting the arrival of the Governor; Dr. W.J.Pryor inaugurating the exhibition.

Fourth Row: A view of dais; Dr. W.J.Pryor giving his presidential address; Villagers with their animals.

Fifth Row: Women farmers in the traditional costumes; The President, CVA examining the animals.

COVER PAGE - TWO

First Row : Entrance of the conference venue; Cultural programme with a dance; Registration desk.

Second Row: Delegates with Dr. Peter Thornber, Australia; Dr. Rantsios, President, WVA presenting a bouquet to a dancer; Accompanying persons being hand painted with traditional "Henna."

Third Row : The gourmet section Dr. Robin Bell, UK presenting his invited paper; Dr. (Mrs.) A.L. Godwin, Srilanka presenting her paper.

Fourth Row: Dr. Duncan Brown, UK presenting his paper; Dr. Rahman, Dr. A. Deshmukh and Dr. Pryor in discussions; Prof. Koprowski, USA presenting his paper on recent trends in Rabies vaccinology

Fifty Row : Delegates embarking on their trip to Mysore; Dr. Bath, South Africa presenting his paper; A section of the lady delegates.

Sixth Row : Student volunteers taking a break; Dr. Masarath Khan, India presenting her paper; School children with the village band welcoming delegates at the village of Muthanallur.

COVER PAGE - THREE

First Row L-R. Dr. Soulsby, UK inaugurating the technical session on Veterinary Education; Dr. Sharma, President, IVA on the left Dr. Pareka, Tanzania presenting her paper; Dr. David Bebiak (Ralston Purina) inaugurating the technical session on Companion Animal Medicine, Dr. Yathiraj on the left.

Second Row L-R. Dr. Mostefai (India) inaugurating the CVA Symposium on Control of Rabies, Dr. Henri Tsiang, France presenting his paper; Dr. Karl Linklater chairing a session along with Dr. N. Sharma on Animal Production-II.

Third row L-R A section of the audience; Lady Barbara Jephcott, Australia presenting her paper; Dr. B.K. Soni, India and Laura Bowen, UK chairing a session on Draft Animal Power.

Fourth Row L-R Dr. A. Erasmus, South Africa along with Dr. J. Jayaramakrishna, India chairing a session on Animal Production-I; Dr. J. Daniel, Australia presenting his paper; Section of audience.

Fifth Row L-R Poster Session; Dr. Harewood, Trinidad presenting his paper; Dr. Deshmukh (Ralston Purina) presenting his paper on Pet Nutrition.

Sixth Row L - R Poster Session; A section of audience; Poster Session.

BACK COVER PAGE

First Row L-R Dr. W.J. Pryor, President, CVA chairing the Meeting of CVA Councillors with Dr. Hilary Liebeschuetz acting as minutes Secretary; Dr. Koney, RR (West Africa) presenting his views; Dr. David Banks, Australia with the Indian delegates.

Second Row L-R Presidents of National Association with CVA President; Dr. M. Fox, USA inaugurating a session on Animal Welfare; Dr. A. Deshmukh (Ralston Purina) displaying the memento presented by CVA.

Third Row L-R Dr. Srinivasan, India and Prof. McC. Howell, Australia presenting their papers; CVA Councillors with president of CVA; Dr. Rajashekar and Dr. B.C. Ramakrishna of India presenting their papers.

Fourth Row L-R CVA Councillors from Asia with the CVA Executive, CVA Councillors Australasia with CVA Executive, CVA Councillors, Canada, Caribbean with CVA, Executive.

Fifth Row L-R CVA Councillors ECS Africa with CVA Executive, CVA Executive with West African, CVA Council Member; CVA Executive with Council Members, UK Mediterranean.

Sixth Row L.R. An exhibition stall; Dr. Veena, India; Dr. Bebiak (Ralston Purina), Dr. Jaydevappa, India and Dr. Reichard (OIE) presenting their papers.

Seventh Row:L-R Delegates being welcomed traditionally; Dr. A. Deshmukh (Ralston Purina) displaying the welcome banner of Ralston Purina the official International Sponsor for the conference; Section of delegates





SECOND PAN COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY CONFERENCE

