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January 2000

# COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



# NEWS

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Advertising Enquiries  
President

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Mr. K.K. Aravind  
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#1105, 15<sup>th</sup> 'B' Cross,  
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Bangalore 560064, INDIA.

Editor  
Dr. S. Abdul Rahman

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CVA Web site

<http://ecn.ab.ca/cva>  
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<http://edmc.net.cva>

## President's "CVA Millennium Message"



*The CVA has accomplished much since its inception in 1967 and the success is largely due to the energetic leadership that the CVA has enjoyed. Each of the four Presidents has contributed in their individual way to make the CVA the strong and vibrant association it is today.*

*Dr. Laurent Choquette almost single-handedly kept the CVA going during its formative years. This was in an era when communication was difficult and travelling was expensive and tiresome. Yet, despite this, many of the educational programs that CVA continues to sponsor were started at that time.*

*The energy and drive brought to the CVA by Dr. Trevor Blackburn began a period of increased activity. A new Executive Committee was formed and formal meetings began to be scheduled on a regular basis. Of greatest significance was the organization of the First Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1985, attended by two Heads of State, Sir Dawda Jawara of The Gambia, and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.*

*The Presidency of Dr. Bakary Touray saw the beginning of a more business-like approach to CVA activities with the development of a four year workplan. New programs such as the Jainudeen workshops on ruminant reproductive performance were also introduced and the CVA matured into a stable and functional organization.*

*For the past four years Dr. Bill Pryor has been tireless in the drive to enroll all Commonwealth Veterinary Associations in the CVA. He oversaw the successful Second Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference held in Bangalore, India in February, 1998. Also, for the first time a formal relationship with a commercial company was negotiated which has allowed additional educational opportunities for Commonwealth Veterinarians.*

*The support and efforts of many individuals allowed all this to happen. At the risk of omitting someone, several members need to be singled out: Dr. Abdul Rahman, Secretary of the CVA and his equally important role as Editor of the CVA NEWS, and local coordinator of the Second Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference; the managers and coordinators of the CVA Book Program, Drs. Wayne Lees, Douglas Mitchell, Brian Derbyshire, and colleagues in Australia, NZ and Singapore; Dr. Gavin Hamilton and Mrs. Godwin for their work on animal health assistant projects; Dr. Derek Timbs for his organizational and driving skills; Dr. Peter Thorner for his work with the Commonwealth Chief Veterinary Officers; Dr. Avi Deshmukh, Ralston Purina Co. for additional support for CVA projects; and many others.*

*Of course, none of this would have happened without the support of the national veterinary associations. In particular, the host associations of the four Presidents have been especially generous in terms of financial support and in-kind services. A special thank you also to all employers and individuals who have donated time and shared in the expense of ensuring a successful CVA. And last, but definitely not least, is the support and assistance of spouses and other family members who either assist directly or indirectly with CVA work.*

**The FUTURE.** In what direction is CVA heading?

*The business of running the CVA has been evolving ever since Dr. Choquette managed CVA affairs from a desk in his basement. The CVA is still a volunteer organization with no full time paid staff; but that shouldn't be taken as a sign that CVA has not kept up to date with current business practices.*



*Approximately 10 years ago the CVA began a formal planning cycle based on a 4 year work plan. The conclusions and recommendations arising out of Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conferences were used as starting points for strategic planning. From there the Executive Committee identified priorities which fell within the objectives of the CVA and for which resources could be made available. The responsibility of ensuring that the goals for each region were met rested with the Programme Director and the Regional Representatives. The system worked relatively well but one of the shortcomings was that insufficient effort was made in evaluating program success.*

*At the Executive Committee meeting in Calgary, Canada last July the Programme Director, and the new Canadian Veterinary Medical Association representative to the CVA, Dr. Wayne Lees, recommended to the Executive Committee that CVA emphasize three main areas:*

- Strengthening National Veterinary Associations/Bodies
- Promoting Professional Development, and
- Providing Resources and Services

*Within these areas a number of goals were identified and tasks were delegated. In many cases the tasks are similar for each Region and it is the responsibility of each Regional Representative to ensure that they are communicated to their Councillors and completed within budget and on time. The responsibility of managing the work plan resides with the Programme Director who will also be responsible for evaluating the success of each project.*

*It is a unique opportunity and an honour to be in a position to lead the CVA into a new millennium. I am looking forward to the challenge. To assist me I have an excellent Executive Committee composed of both experienced and new Regional Representatives, a new Programme Director, Dr. Polly Pereka (Tanzania), and the on-going support of Dr. Bakary Touray and Dr. Derek Timbs. The latter two individuals have agreed to provide assistance and support as Special Project Officers for Africa and the Pacific regions, respectively.*

*Planning for the Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference to be held in Jamaica in November, 2002 has begun. The host organizing committee will be the Jamaica Veterinary Association, assisted by a regional committee composed of Dr. Val Mohabir (Trinidad and Tobago) and Dr. Wayne Lees (Canada). Dr. Lawrence Heider, former Dean, Atlantic Veterinary College and former Acting President, University of Prince Edward Island, has agreed to Chair the Scientific Committee.*

*A major task for 2000 will be to develop the web-site so that all Commonwealth veterinarians can be kept better informed of opportunities. Please check it out at [www.ecn.ab.ca/cva](http://www.ecn.ab.ca/cva)*

*Communication is the essential tool to ensure that the CVA stays relevant and that the programmes it offers are useful. Please contact your Council member or your Regional Representative or this office directly. Your feedback is encouraged and welcomed.*

*May 2000 be a year of happiness, prosperity, and new beginnings for all Commonwealth veterinarians.*

January, 2000

**Bert Stevenson**  
President

## A Time To Bow Out



*My period as President comes to an end on 31/12/99. Without doubt, my life will be different, as CVA has been an all-encompassing commitment for quite a few years. After serving terms as CVA Councillor for Australia, Regional Representative for Australasia as it was then, Secretary/Treasurer of CVA and finally President it's time to hand over after fourteen years' of active involvement.*

*I haven't actually completed service since the Past President serves on the Executive for a final term but in the future I'll be serving only as Treasurer and otherwise in a very low key capacity.*

*In reflecting on this period of involvement I think the things that strike me most are the very wide range of countries CVA works in and those individuals are so dedicated to its objectives and workplans. What is often not realised is that many of them hold quite senior and demanding positions in their own countries. People like the new President, Bert Stevenson, and the Secretary, Abdul Rahman, are very good examples of this.*

*On the other hand I've also enjoyed working with many of the Councillors and local officers who generally speaking are much younger and people I hadn't known previously. A few who come to mind are Dingle Foote and Sarah Eytte in Jamaica, Veronica Burnham in Guyana, Joseph Fifita in Tonga, "Jo" Jaumally from Mauritius, NJ Shongwe in Swaziland and Raana Asgar in Fiji. These are the future of CVA, enquiring and enthusiastic with a desire to help their fellow veterinarians and their fellow man.*

*And it's been a privilege to come to know the leaders of the veterinary associations in the developed countries. Visiting the BVA headquarters in London has always been a pleasure. All recent past presidents have been very constructive towards CVA, and hospitable too. In Canada and South Africa CVA has received courtesy and encouragement from the national associations in their hosting of CVA meetings. I counted it one of my most special pleasures to welcome South Africa to CVA during my term. With leadership from Anthony Erasmus and Gareth Bath, SAVA has become a committed member and has a very special role to play amongst our African colleagues.*

*I feel I must not say much about Australia other than to appreciate the involvement of successive Presidents or their representatives at all recent CVA conferences and in offering consistent recognition to CVA at all AVA Conferences. New Zealand has continued in its support of CVA particularly as seen at the Vanuatu conference recently.*

*My successor, Bert Stevenson, has played a very special role in leading CVA management into the use of work programmes and regular evaluation of them. This is an excellent background for a new President and I wish him well. Bakary Touray finishes his term on the Executive. He has been a wonderful colleague and hard worker, widely respected in West Africa in particular, but also throughout the Commonwealth. Abdul Rahman has the energy of several people and I suspect lives on about five hours sleep per night. His dedication is without peer. There are lots of other colleagues who have served CVA from the regions. Their work has lightened my load.*

*Finally I hope CVA will pursue its thrust of utilising women veterinarians to a much greater degree. The appointment of Dr. Polly Pereka of Tanzania as the new Programme Director is supported enthusiastically by the Executive. CVA should also continue programmes designed to improve the technical skills of veterinarians in our fifty-two member countries, that we may assuage world hunger and strengthen the link between man and animals. It's been a privilege to lead CVA for the last four years, to have met so many fine colleagues in member countries and to believe that what CVA does is very worthwhile and mutually satisfying.*

December 1999

W.J. Pryor  
President

## Commonwealth News

### A Hero's Burial For Nkomo

Joshua Nkomo, joint vice-president of Zimbabwe, who played a key role in ending the white minority rule of his country died in Harare on 1<sup>st</sup> July. He was 82. Known as 'Father Zimbabwe', he was buried at the Heroes' Acre national monument in Harare on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1999.



Mr. Nkomo was the founder and leader of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) which in 1987 joined forces with the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) of President Robert Mugabe. He was born in Matabeleland in June 1917 and did most of his studies in South Africa.

He entered politics soon after returning home from South Africa in 1948. Mr. Nkomo is survived by his wife, Johanna, two daughters and a son.

### Vere Bird Of Antigua And Barbuda Dies

Vere Cornwall Bird, the first Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, died on 28<sup>th</sup> June aged 89. He is revered as the man who led Antigua and Barbuda to independence from the UK in 1981. An imposing 6ft 8in, Mr. Bird gained prominence in the early 1950s when as a union leader he led a long, successful strike for higher wages against the powerful sugar plantation owners.



In 1967, Mr. Bird became Antigua's first premier when it was granted full internal self-government. Apart from a period when he was in opposition, from 1971 to 1978, he remained premier, and later Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, until he retired in 1994. In recognition of his work for Caribbean integration, his fellow regional leaders conferred on him the Order of the Caribbean Community in 1998. One of his sons, Lester, became Prime Minister when he retired in 1994 and was re-elected this year.

### Tanzania Mourns Julius Nyerere

Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania and renowned Commonwealth and international statesman, died on 12<sup>th</sup> October in a London hospital where he had been receiving treatment for leukaemia. He was 77.



In a statement, the Commonwealth Secretary-General expressed his personal sorrow at the passing of Mr. Nyerere, adding: "The flame of his life force burned so brightly that it is impossible to imagine that it could be extinguished. From the early 1960s, when he assumed the leadership of his country, his articulation of the shared values of the Commonwealth played a crucial role in shaping its destiny."

Popularly known by the Swahili title, 'Mwalimu' (meaning teacher), Nyerere achieved a reputation for integrity and modesty that won him admirers all over the world. He was a strong anti-apartheid campaigner and in his last years had become a much-respected mediator in international conflict situations.

Born at Butiama, on the eastern shores of Lake Victoria, he became the first Prime Minister of Tanganyika when it gained independence from the UK in 1961. Following Tanganyika's union with Zanzibar, when it was renamed Tanzania; Mwalimu Nyerere was elected President. Over the next two decades Tanzania made great strides in education and health, but the form of socialism he introduced based on agricultural collectives did not work out as well. Admitting the failure of the policy, he resigned as President in 1985.

Mwalimu Nyerere is survived by his wife Maria and their seven children.

### Pakistan Suspended From Councils Of The Commonwealth

Pakistan has effectively been suspended from the councils of the Commonwealth following the 12<sup>th</sup> October ousting of the democratically elected government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a *coup d'état* led by General Pervez Musharraf.

This means that Pakistan is excluded from all Commonwealth meetings and activities, and that there is a freeze on the provision of any new Commonwealth technical assistance.

## Veterinary Surgeons Win Travel Scholarship

Lesley Penman and Sophia Rizvi were announced as the joint winners of the Harry Steele-Bodger Memorial Scholarship travel award for 1999. The announcement came during the Awards Ceremony following the official opening of the British Veterinary Association's Annual Congress in Bath.

Both scholarships were awarded retrospectively for projects undertaken during the summer. Lesley Penman spent four weeks in Tanzania where she undertook a project to assess reproductive efficiency in smallholder dairy cows. Sophia Rizvi travelled to Canada and the USA where she visited a number of research institutes with interests in the growth and development of the neonatal piglet.

## Commonwealth-Francophonie Co-operation

Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku (right) and the Secretary-General of l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, signing a Supplement to the Memorandum of Understanding of 1992 between the Commonwealth Secretariat and l'Agence de cooperation culturelle et technique (ACCT). Under the terms of the Supplement, La Francophonie assumes the rights



and obligations of the ACCT which has become its principal operating agency.

Those looking on are (from right): Mr. Stuart Mole, Director and Head of the Commonwealth Secretary-General's Private Office, Mr. Jon Sheppard, Director of the Political Affairs Division of the Secretariat, and Mr. Claude Boucher, Chef de Cabinet of the office of Dr. Boutros-Ghali.

The ceremony took place on 15<sup>th</sup> July, when Dr. Boutros-Ghali held discussions with Chief Anyaoku at Marlborough House. La Francophonie is the association of French-speaking countries to which six Commonwealth countries also belong.

## Commonwealth Day 2000

The first Commonwealth Day of the new millennium will be celebrated on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2000. The theme of the celebration will be 'The Communications Challenge.'

Commonwealth Day is celebrated each year on the second Monday in March. A specific theme is selected, and the Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and the Secretary-General both issue statements relating to the chosen theme. The Commonwealth Secretariat produces a poster which is distributed free of charge to schools in Commonwealth countries.

## CEC's Commonwealth Young Professionals' Millennium Conference

The Commonwealth Young Professionals' Millennium Conference will be organised on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2000 at London by Young Professionals of the Commonwealth to mark the Millennium and take a forward debate on sustainable development and the relief of poverty. This prestigious conference will be hosted by Commonwealth Engineers' Council (CEC) Her Royal Highness. The Princess Royal has consented to address the Conference as a part of Official Opening. For more information contact:

**Secretariat: The Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, London SW1P 3AA. Tel: +44 171 222 7722, Fax: +44 (171) 222 7500.**

## Regional Commonwealth Chief Veterinary Officers Meet

In March 1998 the Commonwealth Chief Veterinary Officers' (CCVOs) forum reconvened in Bangalore, India, after a 10-year break. At this meeting six regional fora were established, in line with the Commonwealth Veterinary Association's structure. In October 1999 the CCVOs of the Australasia - Oceania region met in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The focus of the meeting was dissemination of information, technical exchange, and collaboration in education and research throughout the Australasia - Oceania region.

Being an island country provides advantages for quarantine and animal health. Despite these advantages, Australian veterinary authorities have

long understood the importance of veterinary infrastructure in the region. For example, for more than 10 years the Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy has collaborated with neighbouring countries to undertake animal health surveys in Papua New Guinea and eastern Indonesia. Such surveys help these countries identify disease problems and develop appropriate control strategies, and help provide early warning of potential disease spread to Australia. Similarly, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC, formerly the South Pacific Commission - the new name recognises the seven countries in the North Pacific) has recently undertaken animal disease services in a number of countries in Oceania.

These surveys have identified several emerging diseases of public health significance - including toxoplasmosis, trichinellosis, angiostrongylosis and leptospirosis. The latter three diseases are all zoonoses that are acquired from rats. In particular, the rat lungworm, *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, has been associated with increased reports of human cases of meningitis in a number of countries in the region. Further information on the animal health status of countries in Oceania is available on the SPC website (<http://202.0.157.4/>).

### Update On Nipah Virus

At the Vanuatu meeting, Dr. Aziz Saharee (representing Malaysia's Chief Veterinary Officer) provided a thorough update on the control and management of Nipah virus in Malaysia. During the

outbreak more than 100 people died and more than 1,000,000 pigs were destroyed to control the spread of the disease. Malaysia has conducted intensive surveillance of pig herds, with all herds tested twice to date and a third round under way, in a national effort to eradicate the disease.



Commonwealth  
Chief Veterinary Officer  
Gardner Murry

### Oceania Lacks Adequate Veterinary Capacity

Dr. Peter Saville of SPC reported on the limited veterinary capacity in the Oceania region, with only 11 of 22 countries having a veterinary capacity. In total, there are about 100 veterinarians in the region, with more than 60 of these in New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Guam (a ratio of about one veterinarian for every 65,000 people). The remaining 40 veterinarians work in eight countries (a ratio of about one veterinarian for every 150,000 people), and 20 of them are expatriates. Only 11 Pacific Islander veterinarians are working directly in animal health in the region - the other nine are not practising but work in other areas of government administration or in other careers.

The CCVOs meeting acknowledged the importance of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE, which is the World Organisation for Animal Health). However, Vanuatu is the only Pacific country (apart from Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia) that is a member of OIE. This is particularly important, as OIE is the peak world animal health body and is responsible for establishing health standards to facilitate safe trade in animals and animal products. Other countries of Oceania were urged to consider joining OIE but budget constraints may preclude this for some countries.

With co-ordination by the National Office of Animal and Plant Health, Australia provided a range of assistance in response to this outbreak. In particular, CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), which is the only facility in the region with appropriate biosecurity facilities for handling such highly infectious zoonotic viruses, played an important role. Scientists had quickly developed diagnostic tests and undertook research to determine the mode of transmission of this previously unidentified virus. AAHL staff also helped develop safe protocols for veterinarians and laboratory workers involved with potential cases of infection with Nipah virus.

Studies on the epidemiology and pathology of the disease are continuing, with Malaysian scientists working in collaboration with AAHL, the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States.

Malaysian authorities are rebuilding the country's devastated pig industry, and new regulatory controls will be important in minimising risks from serious diseases such as that caused by Nipah virus.

# CVA News

## President CVA At BVA

Dr. Bill Pryor, former President of CVA, is welcomed at the British Veterinary Association during his visit to London on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1999.

*Left to Right:*

*Mr. Eifion Evans - President, BVA*

*Mr. Keith Baker - Vice President, BVA*

*Mr. Chrissie Nicholls - Head of Veterinary Services, BVA*

*Dr. Bill Pryor - former President, CVA*

*Ms. Helena Cotton - Veterinary Services/Overseas Group BVA*

*Professor John Cooper - UK/Mediterranean Regional Representative, CVA*



## Year 2000 AAV Annual Conference Scholarship Available

The Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) is pleased to announce the availability of two scholarships to assist veterinarians with financial need from countries outside the United States of America and Canada.

The conference consists of general lectures and practical laboratory sessions and will be held during August 29<sup>th</sup> September 2, 2000 in Portland, Oregon, USA. The scholarship includes registration to all conference lecture sessions, up to three practical labs (as available), and social functions. It is valued at approximately \$700.00. The recipient is responsible for their personal travel and lodging expenses. The Association Conference Office will try to assist in locating a roommate to minimize hotel expenses. A shared room will cost approximately \$60.00 US per night per person.

Applicants must be veterinarians who are actively involved in avian medicine or aviculture and have demonstrated an interest in conservation.

Applications must be received no later than May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2000. Recipients will be notified via fax by June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2000. If fax is not available, notification will be mailed.

Applicants must supply the following information in English.

1. Name, address, faxes and telephone numbers
2. Veterinary college and year of graduation
3. Nature of professional activity
4. Organization membership (professional, scientific, conservation)
5. Biography (brief sketch of professional background) and a statement describing how attending the AAV conference will be of benefit to the avian population with which the applicant works
6. Two supporting letters of recommendation from local conservation organizations or current Active members of the AAV

Recipients are requested to make a short presentation of avian medicine, aviculture, and conservation in their native countries. Please note that all lectures are in English.

Recipients are required to attend dinner with the AAV Board of Directors 7:00 p.m. Monday evening August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2000 and the AAV membership meeting at (mid-day) 12:30 p.m. Wednesday August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2000.

*Applications must be submitted to:*

Association of Avian Veterinarians  
- Dr. Thomas N. Tully, Scholarship Committee  
PO Box 811720  
Boca Raton, FL USA 33481.

## New Officers Of Commonwealth Veterinary Association

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the CVA held at Calgary, Canada on 28th July 1999, the following were unanimously elected as officers of the CVA for the period of four years w.e.f. 1/1/2000.

Dr. R.G. Stevenson (Canada)	- President
Dr. W.J. Pryor (Australia)	- Past President/Treasurer
Dr. S. Abdul Rahman (India)	- Secretary/Editor
Dr. A.E. Pereká (Tanzania)	- Programme Director

Dr. R.G. Stevenson was the Programme Director of CVA and Dr. W.J. Pryor the President, Dr. S. Abdul Rahman continues as a Secretary for a second term. Dr. A.E. Pereká takes over from Dr. Stevenson as Programme Director. Dr. W.J. Pryor continues as Treasurer of CVA.

### President, CVA

**Dr. Robert Gordon Stevenson** graduated from



Ontario Veterinary College with a DVM in 1963 and had his post graduation with a diploma in Veterinary State Medicine in 1964 from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Medicine and PhD from University of Edinburgh as a Veterinary Pathologist in 1958. Dr. Stevenson has been active in veterinary associations having served as President of

the New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association (1971), President, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (1975-76), and for the past 12 years has held various posts (vice-president, programme manager, CVMA representative) within the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. He was a founding member of the CVMA Research Trust Fund and presided over the introduction of the CVMA Pet Food Certification Program. He has been responsible for organizing the annual Atlantic Provinces Veterinary Conference since 1978. He has been the recipient of a Canadian Medical Research Council Fellowship and a Confederation Commemorative Medal in recognition of significant contribution to compatriots, community and to Canada.

### Programme Director, CVA

**Apollinaria Elikana Pereká** was born in Tanzania



and had her certificate in Veterinary Science in 1973 from MATI Morogoro, Diploma in Animal Production in 1977 from MATI Uyole Mbeya and BVSc. in 1982 from University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. She did her MVM. from University College Dublin, Republic of Ireland in 1985 and PhD. from RVAU, Copenhagen, Denmark in 1991.

She has worked as Tutorial Assistant and is now Associate Professor. She has also worked as Assistant Field Officer (Training) MATI Nyegezi, Mwanza and Assistant Livestock Training Officer MATI Uyole, Mbeya.

She has vast experience in teaching and research. She has taught Animal Health course to certificate students in Agriculture and Survey and Land Use at MATI Nyegezi, Animal Nutrition course to Diploma Students in Animal Production at MATI Uyole Mbeya, Veterinary Physiology to BVM students; Anatomy and Physiology to BSc. (Food Science and Technology) and BSc. (Home Economics and Human Nutrition) 1992 and Veterinary Physiology to postgraduate students. She has served as an external examiner to 1st year Undergraduate Students (MD, DDS, BSc Pharmacy and BSc Nursing) at the Department of Physiology, Muhimbili University College (UDSM) for 3 consecutive years i.e., 1994, 1995 and 1996.

She has supervised the research of 7 students. She has also served in Administration acting as Head of Department of Veterinary Physiology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology and Toxicology.

She is also a member of various national and international bodies and has won many awards and honours;

She has 17 publications and participated in many scientific meetings and seminars both national and international.

### Past-President & Treasurer, CVA

**Dr. W.J. Pryor** who has been Council Member of



Australia for 8 years, Regional Representative of Australia for 6 years and Secretary of CVA for 4 years and President and Treasurer of CVA for 4 years is shifted to serve as past-president of CVA. Dr. Pryor who hails from Scotsburn, Victoria is the former Professor and Dean of the Veterinary School University of Massey,

Zealand and former Dean of the Veterinary School University of Queensland. He is currently an international Veterinary consultant and is the Chairman of the Australasian Veterinary Schools accreditation Committee.

Dr. Pryor has held many important posts during the past. He has been President of the Australian Veterinary Association, President of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists and President of the Australian Society of Animal Production.

Dr. Pryor has travelled extensively in South East Asia and the Pacific region where he has worked for many years to assist veterinary services and education. For this he has been awarded a D.Sc (h.c.) from Massey Univ. in 1988.

The British Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) honoured Dr. Pryor in 1992, making him an Honorary Associate, the fourth Australian in the two hundred years of its history. This was in recognition of his development of an international veterinary accreditation system and extensive assistance to veterinary communities in several developing countries.

He is married and his wife Ann also assists CVA programmes. He has five sons one of whom is also a Veterinary graduate.

### Secretary, CVA

Dr. S. Abdul Rahman who is the Dean of the Veterinary College, Bangalore, India has been associated with Commonwealth Veterinary Association as a council member from India and regional representative from Asia. He has been the Editor of CVA News since 1989 and has been the Secretary from 1996.



Dr. Rahman was the Secretary General of the Indian

Veterinary Association for 11 years, from 1986 to 1994 and again from 1996 to 1998.

### CVA Presence At Commonwealth Heads Of Government (CHOGM '99) Meeting

CVA made strenuous efforts to have a physical presence at the recent CHOGM meeting in Durban, South Africa, November 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 1999. In order to do this while minimising costs, CVA combined with the Royal Agricultural Societies of the Commonwealth (RASC) to mount a joint display in the hall provided for non-government organisations. A flurry of email activity between Australia, Canada, UK and South Africa yielded display pictures of a range of domestic animals and CVA programmes, sent by Bert Stevenson and delivered to Helena Cotton at BVA in London. Likewise we received the promise of a volunteer from RASC to carry this material to Durban without significant cost. However he was hospitalised on the day before departure, at which stage we believed that all was lost.

Nevertheless Helena, undaunted, arranged a courier and the display material arrived at CHOGM. Gareth Bath, CVA Councillor for South Africa, from Pretoria was able to arrange a member of the SAVA to "man" the display in Durban. She was in fact a lady veterinarian, Dr. Margaret Roos, and CVA was finally part of the CHOGM meeting.

On behalf of CVA I sincerely thank Dr. Roos for this representation which I know was accompanied by considerable difficulties. (Gareth Bath described it colourfully as, in part, an organisational marasmus!!) CVA was extremely grateful to Dr. Roos for her assistance and we hope that in the next edition of CVA News she might be able to tell of her experience there. Did, for example, any of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers come to visit the display?

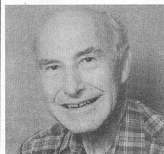
Quite apart from the importance of publicising CVA to country leaders, the building of closer links with the RASC was undoubtedly another benefit of this venture.

- WJ Pryor

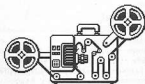
### Aquatic Animal Health

Aquaculture is of increasing importance in the Australasia Oceania region, and the CCVOs meeting agreed that the veterinary profession in the region needed to increase its involvement in aquatic animal health and production. Although veterinary authorities are responsible for disease control, import risk analyses and export certification, many countries in the region do not have veterinary staff with experience in fish and other aquatic animals. Dr. Saville commented that SPC has formally recognised the increasing importance of aquaculture and aquatic animal health, and noted that the SPC Marine Resources Program is seeking funding to appoint an aquatic animal health adviser.





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## JOURNALS, BOOK AND AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAMME

Contact: Dr. J.B. Derbyshire, Coordinator, CVA Book Programme, Department of Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1.

### CVA Book Programme

The CVA Book Programme is coordinated from the Ontario Veterinary College at Guelph by Dr. Brian Derbyshire, assisted by Mr. David Hull, the College Librarian, and Dr. Lloyd Coleman. The current holdings comprise 766 volumes and 375 titles. Journals are no longer shipped, and few audiovisual aids have been donated. Books are available to graduate veterinarians in CVA member countries in good standing. Priority is given to requests from institutional libraries, and requests from individuals are met as funds permit. Shipments are made by surface mail, and may take up to 8 months to reach their destination. The following is a summary of the books currently available by discipline, as well as the titles of some popular texts of which multiple copies are held.

**Anatomy:** 43 titles, including *Evans & Delahunta: Miller's Guide to Dissection of the Dog*, *Evans & Christensen: Miller's Anatomy of the Dog*, *Habel: Guide to Dissection of Domestic Ruminants*, and *Sack & Habel: Horse Dissection*

**Anesthesia:** 6 titles, including *Soma: Textbook of Veterinary Anesthesia*, and *Hall: Wright's Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia*

**Animal Science:** 17 titles, including *Leahy & Barrow: Restraint of Animals*

**Avian, Wild & Laboratory Animals:** 21 titles

**Biochemistry & Biology:** 6 titles

**Equine Medicine & Surgery:** 9 titles, including *Adams: Lameness in Horses*

**Farm Animal Medicine & Surgery:** 14 titles, including *Blood et al: Blood & Henderson's Veterinary Medicine*, and *Oehme & Prier: Textbook of Large Animal Surgery*

**Fish Diseases:** 2 titles, including *University of Sydney: Fish Disease Refresher Course*

**Histology & Hematology:** 24 titles, including *Banks: Applied Veterinary Histology*, *Delman & Brown: Textbook of Veterinary Histology*, and *Schalm et al: Veterinary Hematology*

**Immunology:** 7 titles, including *Tizard: Veterinary Immunology*

**Microbiology:** 29 titles, including *Ainsworth & Austwick: Fungal Diseases of Animals*, and *Gyles: Pathogenesis of Bacterial Infections in Animals*

**Miscellaneous:** 9 titles, including *Kirk & Bistner: Handbook of Veterinary Procedures and Emergency Treatment*, and *Fenner: Quick Reference to Veterinary Medicine*

**Parasitology:** 11 titles, including *Georgis: Parasitology for Veterinarians*

**Pathology:** 16 titles, including *Thompson: General Veterinary Pathology*, *Jubb et al: Pathology of Domestic Animals*, *Smith et al: Veterinary Pathology*, and *Moulton: Tumors in Domestic Animals*

**Pathology - Clinical:** 7 titles, including *Duncan & Prosse: Veterinary Laboratory Medicine*, and *Sodikoff: Laboratory Profiles of Small Animal Diseases*

**Pharmacology:** 4 titles

**Physiology:** 18 titles, including *Swenson: Dukes Physiology of Domestic Animals*, and *Guyton: Textbook of Medical Physiology*

**Public Health & Zoonoses:** 24 titles, including *Martin et al: Veterinary Epidemiology*, and *Thornton & Gracey: Textbook of Meat Hygiene*

**Radiology:** 3 titles, including *Bolton: Handbook of Canine Electrocardiography*

**Small Animal Medicine & Surgery:** 55 titles, including *Piermattei & Greely: Atlas of Surgical Approaches to the Bones of the Dog and Cat*, *Kirk et al: Current Veterinary Therapy*, *Lewis & Morris: Small Animal Clinical Nutrition*, *Muller et al: Small Animal Dermatology*, and *Ettinger: Veterinary Internal Medicine*

**Theriogenology:** 18 titles, including *Carlson: Patterns Foundations of Embryology*, and *Morrow: Current Therapy in Theriogenology*

**Toxicology:** 7 titles, including *Osweller et al: Clinical and Diagnostic Veterinary Toxicology*, and *Radeleff: Veterinary Toxicology*

## CVA STUDY FUND

### The Fund

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

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

The Fund is independent and separate from the operating funds of the CVA. The money will be deposited in an appropriate bank at the discretion of the CVA treasurer subject to approval by the Commonwealth Foundation, to provide income to finance the fund.

### 1. Purpose

Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to:

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

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

### 2. Guidelines

1. Preference will be given to visits to related regions with 'south-south' movements being encouraged.
2. The study period should, preferably but not necessarily, be less than two weeks in duration.
3. The study visits will be financed at a maximum of Aus \$ 2,000 including a prepaid air ticket for the least expensive and most direct route.
4. Usually, although not exclusively, grants will be limited to persons up to 35 years of age with field experience and not available to persons holding senior appointments.
5. Grants are provided only for periods of concentrated study or training on a particular topic activity, and cannot be made for attendance at conferences, meetings etc. nor to underwrite a tour of visits to a number of institutions.
6. A report must be submitted to the Secretary-

Treasurer, CVA within three (3) months of the completion of the study visit.

7. It will be necessary for the host institution to agree to assist in arranging suitable accommodation etc., within the applicant's ability to finance it.
8. The host supervisor will agree to provide a report on the success of the visit and his estimate of the benefit the applicant has achieved from the study experience.
9. Grantees will be expected to give one or two lectures at the host institution or veterinary association on aspects of animal health and production activities in their home country. These lecturers should emphasize how their studies in the host country will benefit the rural poor and disadvantaged as well as their impact upon the environment.
10. These lectures and the discussions of topics, both professional and social, with the staff of the host institution or veterinary association will serve to further the aims and objectives of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.
11. The awards are not normally available for University academic or research staff.

### 3. Applications

- i) There is no set application form.
- ii) Applications should be submitted to the appropriate Regional Representative for processing, at least 6 months prior to the proposed visit.
- iii) Applicants will provide a complete curriculum vitae to the Regional Representative.
- iv) A list of travel and study visits by the applicants and the source of funding over the preceding 5 years is to be included. This should be verified by the applicant's employer or other suitable individual.
- v) Applicants will be required to provide evidence that the study visit has the approval of his/her home institution or national association and a letter of acceptance from the person who will supervise the study programme in the host country.

### 4. Administration

This will be kept simple to reduce costs and ensure that all available funds are applied to the proposed projects.

- i) Applications with supporting documents should be sent to the appropriate Regional Representative.
- ii) If the Regional Representative considers the applicant suitable, the application will be forwarded with appropriate recommendation to the Director of Programmes.
- iii) The Director of Programmes will select one or more countries to be awarded a Study Fund grant and make a recommendation to the President.
- iv) The award will be subject to ratification by the CVA President.

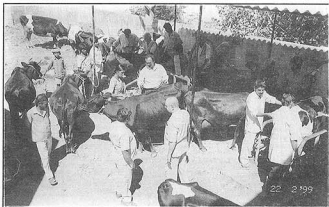
Last date of submission of request to Council Members/  
Reg. Rep. 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2000. RR's to submit their  
recommendations before 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2000 to Programme  
Director.

**Asia****India****Infertility and Anti rabies Camp held at Muttannallur, India**

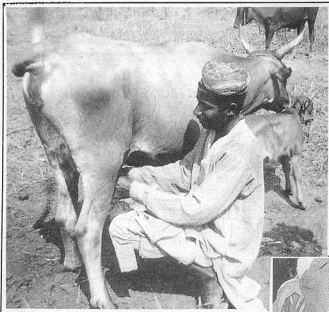
The CVA has adopted the tiny village of Muttannallur 40km outside the city of Bangalore, India. Various developmental activities concerning Animal Husbandry and Dairying have been organised in this village by the CVA such as training of women farmers, distribution of calves and birds to the poor and illiterate farmers and vaccination and treatment programmes.

As a part of the continuing programme an infertility and anti-rabies camp was held on 4/1/2000, wherein more than 500 farmers from Muttannallur and neighbouring villages participated. Anti-rabies vaccination for dogs was undertaken and also free health checkup of cattle and buffaloes. The animals were provided with feed and medicine free of cost.

*Animals at the camp*

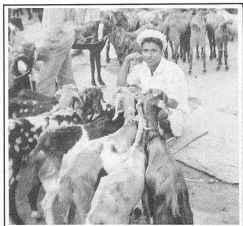
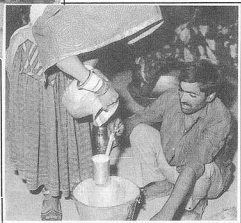


*Animals at the camp*



*Milking Competition*

*Milk being checked for Fat content*



*Sheep at the camp*

### First Lady Chief Veterinary Officer of India

Dr. R. Leelavathi, Joint Director of Veterinary Services, Tamil Nadu made history when she was appointed as Director of Veterinary Services in the state of Tamil Nadu. This post which is equivalent to that of Chief Veterinary Officer elsewhere in the world is being occupied by a lady for the first time in the country. There are 34 provinces and union territories in the country and she is unique, being a lady in the group.



Dr. Leelavathi earned her BVSc. and MVSc. Degrees from Madras Veterinary College. She started her services as Veterinary Asst. Surgeon in 1963.

She underwent training in Artificial Insemination, Frozen semen technology, Poultry feeding and management, Disciplinary proceedings, managerial effectiveness of Women executives, fodder development, co-operative management to mention only a few. She worked as Marketing Manager, TAPCO, Asst. Director of Animal Husbandry, Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry, Joint Director of Animal Husbandry, General Manager (world bank) in the rank of Additional Director of Animal Husbandry before being appointed to this prestigious post.

### Veterinary Council of India Reconstituted

The Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India reconstituted the Veterinary Council of India and notified the following persons as its members with effect from 9th December 1999.

Dr. T. Ashwathnarayana, *Karnataka*, Dr. R. Mohana Rao, *Hyderabad*, Dr. Sasanka Kumar Halder, *Calcutta*, Dr. G.S. Chahal, *Chandigarh*, Dr. Mohendra Nath Chetia, *Shillong*, Dr. G. Prasad Tiwari, *Madhya Pradesh*, Dr. Sidha Kumar Bhadula, *Uttar Pradesh*, Dr. Ganpat Raj Purohit, *Rajasthan*, Dr. Mani Kant Singh, *Bihar*, Dr. J.S. Bhatia, *New Delhi*, Dr. V.K. Taneja, *New Delhi*, Dr. Anup Bhaumik, *New Delhi*, Dr. V.K. Kashyap, *New Delhi*, Dr. B.C. Ramakrishna, *Karnataka*, Dr. C. Krishna Rao, *Andhra Pradesh*, Dr. Chinta Mani Singh, *New Delhi*, Dr. Surendra Kumar Ray, *Orissa*, Dr. P.R. Negi, *Himachal Pradesh*, Dr. Madan Lal Kaushal, *Punjab*, Dr. Radhey Shyam Sharma, *New Delhi*, Dr. Moti Lal Madan, *Maharashtra*, Dr. Asimbha Batobyal, *New Delhi*, Dr. Rebekka Thomas, *Kerala*, Dr. J. Malla Bujar Baruah, *Assam*, Dr. K.S. Dangi, *Haryana*, Dr. V.S. Ghodke, *Maharashtra*, Dr. V. Ramakumar, *New Delhi*.



Dr. C.M. Singh

Dr. C.M. Singh - President, Veterinary Council of India has been re-elected as President for a further term of 3 years. Dr. G.H. Chahal, Director of Veterinary Services, Punjab has been elected as Vice-President.

### Bangladesh



### Dean of New Veterinary College in Bangladesh

Dr. Nitish Chandra Debnath, was appointed as Dean of Chittagong Government Veterinary College, Pahartali (Poultry Farm) Chittagong. He has completed DVM from the Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh in 1978. M.Sc. in Tropical Veterinary Medicine from Centre of Tropical Veterinary Medicine, University of Edinburgh, UK and PhD in Animal Virology from the School of Biological Sciences, University of Surrey, UK in 1992.

## Sri Lanka

### New SLVA Headquarters

The Sri Lankan Veterinary Association has moved into new building of Commonwealth Professional Associations. Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Secretary, CVA visited Colombo on 14<sup>th</sup> January and participated at a meeting of the Executive Committee of SLVA. Various issues of the Commonwealth



*CVA Secretary Dr. S. Abdul Rahman with President of SLVA Dr. Neil Horagoda and Members of the executive of SLVA*



*Dr. Obeyesekere being congratulated by Dr. Horagoda. Dr. RMPH Dasanayake President elect SLVA is on the left*

Veterinary Association with special reference to subcontinent were discussed in addition to the forthcoming Asian Regional Seminar on 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> April 2000.

### Srilankan Awarded CVA Study Fund

Dr. Nalinika Obeyesekera, Private practitioner of Sri Lanka has been awarded the CVA Study Fund to visit India for 2 weeks. She will familiarize herself with advances in both large animals and small animals practice at the Veterinary College, Madras and Bangalore and also other allied institutions.

Dr. Obeyesekera graduated from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Univ. of Peradeniya in 1991 and has been in private practice since then. She worked briefly as assistant lecturer in the Dept. of Clinical Studies of Univ. of Peradeniya from 1994-96. She is a member of the editorial board of Srilanka Veterinary Journal and member of the Executive Committee of SLVA. She has a wide range of interests in Animal Welfare and Wildlife protection. She is the head of Pet Vet Clinic along with two other colleagues in a combined practice. She is also a dog breeder and trainer. She was the veterinarian in-charge of the famous film "Jungle Book."



## Australasia/Oceania

### Malaysia

#### New Office-bearers of Veterinary Association Malaysia (VAM)

The XI VAM Annual General Meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1999 at Malacca and the following were elected as new office-bearers of the Association for the year 1999/2000.

President:	Dr. Aziz Jamaluddin
Vice-President:	Assoc. Prof. Dr. CTN Fatimah Iskandar
Honorary Secretary:	Dr. R. Mahendran
Asst. Honorary Secretary:	Dr. Wan Mohd. Kamil Wan Nik
Honorary Treasurer:	Dr. Tan Kim Sing
Asst. Honorary Treasurer:	Dr. Shamshad B.M. Shafiq
Honorary Editor:	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zamri Saad
CVA Councillor:	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aziz Saharee.
Committee Members:	Dr. S. Sivagurunathan Dr. S. Chandrasekaran Dr. Raymond Choo Pew Yoon

#### Second World Water Forum

The second World Water Forum will be held in March 2000 in Holland. This global conference will attract a great deal of attention and establish international policy regarding this crucial issue for the next century. For more information visit: <http://worldwaterforum.org>.

#### Neem... Miracle Tree

Some have called the Neem Tree, found in the Indian Subcontinent, the Miracle Tree. This 'miracle' tree has been used by millions in numerous ways, from bodily cleansers to bug repellents. The Neem Research Centre, located in Karachi, Pakistan has composed a list of easy to make Neem products that relieve pains, fevers and infections.

Source: *Heifer Project International Exchange*

### Fiji

#### Fourth CVA Workshop on Fertility – Fiji

The "Fourth CVA Workshop On Fertility In Village Livestock" in conjunction with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community was held at the SPC, Fiji in December 1999, under the convenorship of Professor MR Jainudeen of Malaysia and Dr. Peter Saville, SPC supported by Dr. Henry Too of the UPM, Malaysia. A Full report will be published in the July 2000 edition of CVA News.

#### HISTORIA MEDICINAE VETERINARIAE

##### INFORMATION

A group of enthusiastic veterinarians with interest in the history of veterinary medicine, in 1976, started to publish an international multilingual journal, devoted to the history of the veterinary profession.

Perhaps you have been informed about this journal or have received a specimen copy and subscribed. In this case we hope that you will recommend HISTORIA MEDICINAE VETERINARIAE to others who are curious about the history of our profession. Annual subscription is US\$20/-

If you have not yet subscribed, we hope you will take this opportunity to share with other veterinarians around the world the discovery of our heritage. HISTORIA MEDICINAE VETERINARIAE is the only international journal of veterinary history – now distributed in more than 50 countries.

The registered address of this journal is:

Historia Medicinae Veterinariae  
Soendergade 39  
DK-4130 Viby Sjælland  
Denmark

## Vanuatu

### Successful CVA Regional Workshop in Vanuatu – 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October 1999

Over 50 participants from most Commonwealth countries in the region attended the Australasia/Oceania Regional workshop, which considered aspects of livestock production in South Pacific Island nations.

CVA member countries represented were:

Australia, Cook Is, Fiji, Kiribati, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Samoa. Also



CVA President Dr. Pryor welcoming the delegates ↑

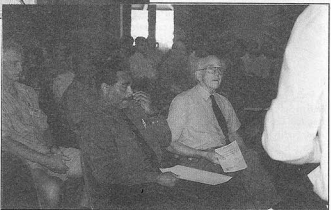


Dr. Siosifa Fifita CVA Counsellor, Tonga

Vanuatu Minister of Agric. Hon. George Wells and Dr. Pryor ↓

present were veterinary representatives of Guam, the Secretariat of the South Pacific Community, French Polynesia and Germany.

The Vanuatu Minister of Agriculture, Hon. George Wells opened the Workshop and referred to the excellent animal health status of the island group and the important role-played by the quarantine service in helping to maintain this position. He was joined by the President of CVA, Dr. Bill Pryor, who stressed the high priority CVA placed on assisting





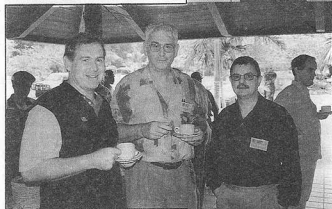
this region, many countries of which belonged to no other international veterinary or animal health organisation.

Discussion at the Workshop covered a range of topics associated with pig, poultry and cattle disease control and nutrition and was reinforced by guest lectures from Dr. Avi Deshmukh from CVA's principal sponsor who brought the participants up-to-date on advances in pet animal nutrition.

Vanuatu is one of the few Pacific Islands with a viable beef export industry and participants learned of the excellent health and productivity



Thomas Bangoli, Vanuatu presenting his paper ↑



L-R: Dr. Peter Thornber, Australia, Dr. Gavin Struthers, Vanuatu and Dr. Les With, New Zealand at the tea break

Dr. Fa'afetai Fata, Samoa presenting his paper ↓

status of cattle on the islands. Delegates heard for the first time the phrase "cattle paradise" in reference to Vanuatu. They also saw in field visits well-fed commercial cattle in situations of year-round rainfall, good pastures and remarkably, an absence of external parasites including cattle ticks.

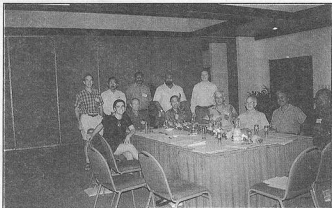
Poultry in the Pacific Islands were also reported to be relatively disease-free and the major constraint to production was nutrition. Some speakers dealt with the range of alternative feedstuffs that could be incorporated into the industry. The special place of pig-production through the Pacific Islands was recognised by all,



not also as a source of human food but for other cultural purposes. The technology was fully explored in the papers given.

There are not many veterinarians living and working on the Pacific Islands and other papers addressed the needs of distance education of veterinarians and paraveterinary assistants and new animal health protocols.

The Regional Council of CVA consisting of the Councillors from the twelve member countries also met. Their deliberations included updating the CVA Workplan for the



*Australasia Oceania Regional Meeting L-R: Derek Timbs, New Zealand, Aziz Saharee, Malaysia, Hilary Liebeschuetz, Kiribati, Peter Saville, Fiji, Iligi Puana, PNG, S. Fifita, Tonga, C.H. Giam, Singapore, David Banks, Australia, Gavin Struthers, Vanuatu, W.J. Pryor, Australia, Ken Lameta, Samoa and Israel Ware, Solomon Is.*



*Field Trip to beef cattle farm. Dr. David MacFarlane (Consultant, Australia) explaining pasture characteristics.*

*Dr. Fifita, Left foreground with Dr. Pryor and Dr. A. Deshmukh, Ralston Purina, USA in the centre*

region and identifying other needs and the venue for the next workshop.

A copy of the programme as given follows. Full proceedings of the Workshop will be published and available from the Secretary of the CVA in the near future. It will be an excellent reference work.

CVA is immensely grateful for the large amount of work done by Dr. Derek Timbs in New Zealand and Dr. Gavin Struthers in Vanuatu, assisted by his wife Raewyn who between them carried the total burden of the workshop.



## Programme of CVA Regional Workshop Vanuatu

27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> October 1999

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October

6.30pm - 8.00pm Welcome

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Chairman: Dr. Norm Blackman

- 8.00am Official Opening - CVA President plus local dignitary
- 8.10 Dr. Robin Yarrow, Fiji - Opportunities for trade in livestock products in the Pacific
- 8.30 Dr. David Macfarlane, Aust - Overcoming constraints to sustaining enhanced production and the economic potential and importance of livestock production in the Pacific

#### Poultry Session

- 9.00 Dr. Bruce Remington, Aust - Intensive poultry production in a tropical environment
- 9.30 Dr. Les With, NZ - Poultry health surveillance in intensive operations
- 10.00 Dr. Trevor Bagust, Aust - Village chickens - Free range poultry production and disease

Chairman: Dr. Siosifa Fifita

- 10.45 Dr. Neil Christensen, NZ - Vaccines for poultry use in the South Pacific
- 11.15 Dr. Juergen Lohr, Germany - Poultry disease problems under free range conditions
- 11.40 Duncan Granshaw, NZ - Principles of breeding and selection of day old chicks
- 12.00 Sally Conquest, NZ - Pacific Animal Welfare
- 1.00 Field Trip to Abattoir and Poultry Farm  
CVA Council Meeting
- 7.00 pm Workshop Dinner, Le Lagon

### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October - Cattle & Pigs

Chairman: Dr. Dennis Hoffman

- 8.00am Dr. Danny Singh, Australia - Alternative feeds for pigs and poultry.
- 8.30 Thomas Banga, Vanuatu - Overview of cattle production in Vanuatu
- 9.00 Dr. Fa'afetai Fata, Samoa - Cattle production in Samoa

- 9.30 Shane Egan - Practical aspects of cattle production in Vanuatu

Chairman Dr. Aziz Saharee

- 10.30 Dr. Avi Deshmukh, USA -  
1. Nutrient profiles of AAFCO's dog foods and substantiating nutritional adequacy of dog foods.
- 10.50 Dr. Avi Deshmukh, USA -  
2. Nutritional assessment of pet food labels.
- 11.10 Rob Jeffrey, NZ - Practical aspects of pig production in the Pacific
- 11.40 Dr. Asifo Ajuyah, Samoa - Integrated pig production in the South Pacific
- 12.10 Dr. Bruce Gummow, South Africa - Distance education for veterinarians
- 1.30 Field Trip to Cattle Farm

### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Chairman: Dr. Giam Choo Hoo

- 8.00am Abel Nako, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Vanuatu - Future of development projects in Vanuatu
- 8.30 Dr. Vie Epstein, Solomon Islands - Animal Health Status in the Solomon Islands
- 9.00 Dr. Aziz Saharee, Malaysia - Nipah virus, The Malaysian Experience
- 9.30 Dr. Denis Hoffmann, FAO - Zoonotic Paramyxoviruses as a cause of disease.

Chairman Dr. Raana Asgar

- 10.30 Dr. Gavin Ramsey, Fiji - Livestock and food security in the Pacific: heroes or villains
- 11.00 Dr. Gavin Struthers, Vanuatu - Systems Vanuatu
- 11.30 Dr. Terry Ryan, NZ - Disease surveillance monitoring and recording
- 12.00 Dr. Peter Saville, Fiji - Paraveterinary training and distance learning
- 12.30 Dr. Darryn Purdy, Australia - Australia's northern exotic disease surveillance and monitoring program.

Closing Address

## Australia

### AVA Man Leads Victorian Opposition Team

Victoria's new Opposition Leader is a long-standing AVA Member, Dr. Denis Napthine. He was elected to the job unopposed in the aftermath of the electoral defeat of the former Premier, Jeff Kennett.

Raised in Winchelsea, Victoria, he was educated at Chanel College, Geelong, and the University of Melbourne, where he graduated from the vet school in 1974. He initially worked as a District Veterinary Officer for the Victorian Department of Agriculture, based in Hamilton. Legend has it that he took his animal welfare work very seriously and during one of the early community rows over live sheep exports - was "decked" in Portland for putting the interests of a sheep ahead of



*Dr. Denis Napthine*

those of the agitated farmers and truck drivers.

Dr Napthine completed Master of Veterinary Studies in Epidemiology at Melbourne in 1979 and later completed Master of Business Administration at Deakin University. He entered Parliament as the member for Portland in 1988 and has held the seat since then. He was Shadow Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing in 1991, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health (1992-96) and Minister for Youth and Community Services from 1996 to the recent election.

Source: Aust Vet J Vol 78, No 1, January 2000

### Taronga's Komodo Dragon Recovering Front Cataract Op

Taronga Zoo's celebrity vet hospital patient - a three-metre male komodo dragon that recently underwent world's-first cataract surgery - is recovering extremely well. Staff report, he is almost through the scheduled post-op medication routine (eyedrops and antibiotics) and is back on public display. The unnamed giant lizard is believed to be around 18 Years old and moved to Taronga Zoo from his former home, Ragunan Zoo in Jakarta, eight years ago.

Veterinary Ophthalmologist, Dr Cameron Whittaker, of the Animal Referral Hospital at Strathfield (Sydney) performed the delicate operation, assisted by staff Veterinarians at Taronga Zoo. The procedure is believed to be the first of its type ever performed. The Komodo dragon first showed signs of sight impairment a few months ago and subsequent checks found he was developing cataract in both eyes. Dr Whittaker decided to operate on one eye to assess the likelihood of an ultimate full recovery. He had expected the lizard to recover well from the anaesthetic and the procedure and this has proven to

be the case. A decision will be made soon about the timing of the second operation. Taronga staff took the opportunity during the operation to conduct a detailed check-up on the lizard and declared him as otherwise fully fit.



*The unique 90-minute cataract operation at Taronga Zoo*

## AVA To Honour Nobel Prize Winner

The AVA Board has unanimously recommended the installation of Australia's most recent Nobel Prize laureate, Prof. Peter Doherty, as an Honorary Fellow of the Association. The matter will now be considered by an AVA Review Committee. It is not expected that any problems will arise in the ratification process. It is expected the formal presentation will take place during the AVA Annual Conference in Melbourne in 2001. This is because Prof. Doherty's busy international schedule does not permit him to personally accept the honour before then. A veterinarian by training, he is now acknowledged as one of the world's foremost immunologists and works as Chairman of the Immunology Department at the St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital, in Memphis,



*Professor Peter Doherty with AVA President, Dr. Garth McGilvray.*

achievements and his background in veterinary science.

Tennessee. Prof. Doherty shared the 1996 Nobel Prize for Medicine with his former research partner, Prof. Rolf Zinkernagel, now Director of the Institute of Experimental Immunology at the University of Zurich. The award was for their discovery in 1974 (while working as junior researchers at the Australian National University) of how *T lymphocytes* target virus-infected cells for destruction. Although greeted with initial skepticism, their work is now widely regarded as the backbone of modern immunology. The Honorary Fellowship recommendation is in recognition of Prof. Doherty's vast research

## Timor Mission Brings Big Quarantine Boost



*Dr. Jim Edwards (right), the new President of WVA, and his predecessor, Dr. Apostolos Rantsios.*

The Federal Government has deployed extra quarantine staff and resources to protect Australia from exotic Darwin to handle the extra workload caused by the peace-keeping mission in East Timor. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Mr. Warren Truss, said the aim was to permit the speedy clearance in the northern regions to help pests and diseases which might be introduced through the increased transport movements from Timor. Mr Truss said: "Air and sea craft associated with the peacekeeping mission and associated humanitarian aid work have already arrived from many parts of the world.

## Veterinarian Honoured

Dr. Nigel Coddington of Feilding received the NZVA President's Award for outstanding service to the profession at the annual conference in Nelson in June. This award is in recognition of exceptional performance in areas of service to the profession.



*Dr Nigel Coddington receives the NZVA President's Award at NZVA's annual conference held in Nelson in June*

Dr. Coddington practised for many years in Bulls before becoming a practice manager in Feilding. He has been on the NZVA Foundation for Continuing Education Board for six years and Chairman for four. During this time the Foundation underwent many changes culminating in a formal separation from Massey University last year.

In reading the citation, NZVA President Susan Morris noted that Dr Coddington chaired the Foundation during a period of radical change through three directors and set it on its current course.

Despite a busy life in veterinary practice he has involved himself deeply in representing the Association on many boards and committees during the last few years including acting as NZVA spokesperson on the difficult Kaimanawa horse issue.

## New Breeds To Boost Aussie Turkeys

The Australian turkey industry is heading for dramatic changes following the introduction of new breeds.

The world famous breeds B.U.T. and Hybrid/Euribrid cleared the Australian quarantine several years ago and the subsequent process of changeover to the new breeds is now complete.

It is believed that the new breeds will be of significant benefit to the Australian turkey industry, which had previously been based on the local breed, A.A. Tegel's large white.

Already, two turkey breeders and producers in Australia, Ingham Enterprises and Steggle's Limited, are releasing progeny from the imported breeds.

Around 4 million turkeys are slaughtered in Australia annually, through five major processors situated in the Southern States of Australia. With no export trade, supply is only to local markets.

Most turkeys are reared by growers under contract to companies such as Inghams, Steggle's, Goldfields, Aldinga Turkeys and Quast, with growers located in New South Wales contracted to Inghams and Steggle's.

Turkeys are reared intensively. After the initial brooding period the birds are confined to naturally ventilate finishing sheds, providing optimal conditions. Free range growing is not practised on a commercial basis, and only manufactured feed is used.

With the introduction of overseas genetic stock, it is anticipated that growing time will be reduced by up to three weeks. There is also expected to be improved feed conversion, lower mortalities and improvement in carcass conformation.

The overall improvements are expected to not only boost the Australian turkey industry, but also encourage expansion, enabling it to compete more favourably with Australia's traditional meat, beef, pork and poultry industry.

Promoted as a healthy alternative to red meat, turkey meat has grown in popularity. Steady growth in consumption has led to an estimated consumption of one and a half kilograms per head.

Greater consumption has been accompanied by wider choice. With the greatest product range in Australia, Aldinga Turkeys, has specialised in presenting turkey meat in a variety of ways, producing 50 different lines in fresh, cooked, smoked, and frozen birds. But the company's expansion has been attributed to marketing a fresh product.

Consumers are being educated to eat turkey meat as a regular part of their diet and not only on special occasions such as Christmas. Availability, range, quality of fresh product and sensible pricing are important components of this approach. And with its low fat, high protein nutritional value, turkey meat is seeing an increasing acceptance from the Australian consumer.

*Consumers are being educated to eat turkey meat as a regular part of their diet and not only on special occasions such as Christmas*

- Rod Woolford

### President-Elect Meets AVA Patron



*AVA President-elect, Ian Denney, is introduced to the patron, The Princess Royal (Princess Anne).*

AVA's President-elect, Ian Denney, was formally introduced to the Association Patron, The Princess Royal (Princess Anne) at a function at the British Veterinary Association (BVA) Annual Congress in the UK last month. The formalities were conducted by the BVAs President-elect, Dr. Eifion Evans, during a cocktail party marking the opening of the Congress. Dr. Denney was an official guest of the BVA for the three-day gathering, in the historic town of Bath.

## Canada Caribbean

## Trinidad

### The Whale Stranding At Manzanilla

**A**t daybreak on Wednesday October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1999 a pod of 26 short finned Pilot whales were found on Manzanilla beach in the proximity of the Calypso Hotel at the north end of the beach. When first seen all the whales were alive, and struggling in various depths of water. High tide was approaching and the demon sun came up in a near cloudless sky, providing the worst conditions for the survival of the whales.

The villagers assisted by Mr. Guptee Lutchmedial and his workers from the nearby estate formed into groups, made support slings out of cloth, bed-sheets (from the nearby Calypso Hotel) and nets, and with the help of fishing boats moved many of the whales back out through the surf into deeper water, at the same time bucketing water over the other bodies in an attempt to keep them alive and cool them.

The media were informed and an appeal for assistance put out over 7.00 a.m. radio news. This appeal was heard by students of the School of Veterinary Medicine and permission was granted to them to go to Manzanilla by the Acting Director. The School Toyota Hilux and Mr. Bastaldo transported some students. Others including members of staff Dr. St. Rose and Dr. Watkins travelled privately.

On arrival a crowd of may be 200 persons were observed on the beach and in the sea, which was not rough (waves maximum 35-40 cm). There were eight or nine motionless bodies in shallow depressions in the sand and the immediate problem was to establish if the animals were dead or alive, a not easy task in an animal which is in the habit of holding its breath for 10-15 minutes or longer. However, some three or four had the opaque corneas of death and were pronounced expired. The confusion in the area, combined with the desire of people present to do whatever they could to help the poor creatures, resulted in every whale being taken back out into the sea, whether dead or not.

Various government departments, wildlife, forestry, police, army and conservation groups were arriving on the scene as did the Minister of Agriculture. The latter took charge very competently and organised for Dr. Watkins to pronounce on the viability of the inshore whales. By this time 14 of the live whales including a reported pregnant female had been ushered out into deeper water by fishermen in their boats, Mr. Lutchmedial on his jet ski and the Amoco helicopter. These whales eventually travelled out to sea and were not seen again after the first day.

Eleven whales were dead on shore and another found floating in the sea nearby, making a total of 12 dead out of the original 26. The smallest of the whales, a youngster some 2.60 metres long and weighing approximately 220kgs was acquired by Dr. Watkins and loaded on to the School Toyota, and brought back to the School of Veterinary Medicine for an early post-mortem. By this time the Cetacian Stranding Centre in San Juan, Puerto Rico, had been alerted and they informed their willingness to visit by the earliest flight, providing permission was obtained for their visit. Dr. Reeza Mohammed, Minister of Agriculture, obtained this permission which was given conditional on a link up with locals (veterinarians) who could benefit from the visitors expertise.

As more and more sightseers were arriving by the minute (it was now early afternoon) the dead bodies were collected into a group in some shade, an army guard put over them and a bucket brigade organised to keep the bodies cool. At about this time murmurings were heard about people wanting to butcher the carcass for meat. Whilst the 11 bodies were being gathered together into a group it was possible to examine them closely. There was no evidence of external parasites or gross injuries, virtually the only sign of any pathology was the oozing of a little haemorrhagic fluid or foam from the blowhole of a few, three or four, of the whales.

As there was nothing more to be done, Dr. J.D. Watkins returned to the School of Veterinary Medicine leaving the Minister and others to organise the transport of the bodies to a cold store for preservation until the Puerto Ricans arrived.

At the School the body had not been post-mortemed so Dr. Watkins opened it in the presence of Dr. Ammons (Microbiologist), in order to take multiple samples for microbiology, parasitology and blood examination, which the final year students very keenly undertook. All samples have so far (one month) proved negative for significant pathogens or changes. This ended the first day of the drama, which had been punctuated by interviews with the visual and written media. These interviews subsequently appeared on television and in the newspapers thus raising the profile of the School of Veterinary Medicine - one of the intents, possibly the main intention of the whole visit and involvement in the strandings.

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, Professor Ezeokoli, Dr. Parsan, Lisanne Fermin (final year student) and Mrs. Aweeda

Newaj Fyzul (whom we discovered had taken courses in Canada and Louisiana on necropsy procedures for cetaceans) and Dr. Watkins went to Manzanilla and discovered, just four bodies had found space in the chiller or under ice, the other seven were in the process of being buried in a grave near the Nariva Swamp Manatee Centre. We were informed the delegation from Puerto Rico had been delayed so we proceeded under Mrs. Newaj-Fyzul's guidance to necropsy the two bodies not placed in the grave.

Eventually, about 2.30 p.m. Dr. Antonio Mignucci-Giannini and his team arrived from Puerto Rico and immediately set to work. Ignoring the stench, bloated bodies and bloody ground water in the grave they very enthusiastically took multiple body measurements, tooth samples for age determination, blubber for toxicology and skin samples for DNA classification. The DNA results will establish family relationships both within the group and with other samples already on the database in Miami. At this time the media were still in close attendance and photographed the work and personnel thus continuing the elevation of the profile of the School.

The seven autopsies were completed on Thursday and arrangements made to finish the job on Friday with the chilled carcass and the one in the School of Veterinary Medicine here. The chilled carcasses were in excellent condition and much data was collected. Two skeletons cleaned of most meat and blubber were buried in shallow graves so they could be recovered later as specimens for Mr. Gupte Lutchmedial's wildlife group and the Zoology Department at UWI.

Dr. Parsan and Dr. Watkins, Lianne Fermin and Mrs. Newaj-Fyzul worked closely with the Puerto Rican group all day on the Friday, up until completion at 9.15 p.m.

The initial findings of the autopsies were:

- There were no gross lesions in any of the carcasses.
- The hearts stopped in diastole and were very "flabby."
- No animal had any food in its stomach, which could have indicated a fright and vomit situation out at sea, or a stranding and vomit scene on shore.

Dr. Mignucci concluded this was a SOCIAL STRANDING - one whale, either the leader or a youngster came too close, got into difficulties, clicked or whistled distress calls and the others followed to try and help.

In future, if any more strandings occur, his advice is to keep the animals wet and cool and return them to deeper water not individually but as a group so they can get a new "pod" as quickly as possible.

Finally, he congratulated the people and helpers at Manzanilla who achieved an almost record survival rate of 14 out of 26.

In conclusion, in this most interesting exercise it is felt the School of Veterinary Medicine emerged with much credit and highly positive profile.

- J.D. Watkins, BVSc. MRCVS

## Canada

### Dr. G. Guernsey Elected 1999-2000 President Of The CVMA

Dr. George Guernsey, a veterinary practitioner from Penticton, British Columbia, was named the 1999-2000 President of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association at the Association's annual convention held in Calgary, Alberta on July 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 1999.

Dr. Guernsey was born and raised in Victoria, British Columbia. After graduating from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Science degree, he went on to further his studies at the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Ontario, and in 1969, obtained his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.



He began his career in veterinary medicine in private practice in Thunder Bay, Ontario, in 1969. He then returned home to Victoria, where he started his own small animal practice in 1970. In 1974, he, in conjunction with 5 other veterinarians, opened the first "Central Hospital Concept" veterinary hospital in Canada. In 1993, after almost 23 years of dedicated service to his clients, Dr. Guernsey sold his Victoria practice, with a view to enjoying a life of semi-retirement. To get in touch with all aspects of his profession he spent the next 2 years doing locum tenentes in rural British Columbia.



## Ogilvie Named New Dean Of AVC

President Wade MacLauchlan, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI), is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Tim Ogilvie as Dean of the Atlantic Veterinary College.

The Board approved the unanimous recommendation of the Dean Search Committee to appoint Dr. Ogilvie. His appointment for a 6-year term was effective July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1999.



*Dr. Tim Ogilvie*

"I am confident that the Atlantic Veterinary College will continue its successful record under Dr. Ogilvie's leadership," said President MacLauchlan. "His intimate knowledge of AVC and its role in serving the Atlantic region and its extensive international relationships will enhance the work of the College. I look forward to working closely with Dr. Ogilvie and with faculty and staff in the continued development of the AVC."

Dr. Ogilvie, the College's 3<sup>rd</sup> dean, has been extensively involved with the AVC since its establishment. During the past year, he served as acting Dean, and from 1990 to 1998, he led the College's Department of Health Management as Chair. When he joined UPEI in 1985, Dr. Ogilvie was among the first faculty members to be hired by the College.

Prior to joining the AVC, Dr. Ogilvie was director of the Animal Industry Services Branch of the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Dr. Ogilvie also worked in the early 1970s as a veterinarian in the Kensington area, where he still resides with his wife, Lola, and sons, Thomas and Andrew.

Dr. Ogilvie received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Master of Science degree from the University of Guelph and is a board-certified diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. He is a past president of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (1991-1992).

Dr. Ogilvie succeeds Dr. Lawrence Heider, who resigned from the dean's position in August 1998 when he accepted the appointment of acting president of the University. Dr. Heider retired from the university on June 30, 1999.

"I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve the University and College in this capacity," says Dr. Ogilvie. "I look forward to working with our regional constituents, as well as our faculty, staff, and students to build upon the good programs and solid foundation left to us by retired Dean Heider."

## Guyana

### New Office-bearers Of Guyana Veterinary Association (GVA)

In the Annual General Election held on March 1999 the following were elected as new office-bearers of the Association.

President:	Dr. Lowell Porter
Secretary:	Dr. Ansel S. Williams
Treasurer:	Dr. Sharon Granger - Ba
Committee Members:	Dr. Kenrick Elias
	Dr. B. Lord
CVA Councillor:	Dr. Veronica Burnham.

### Joint Conference Of AAVCB, WAWV, WSNZVA And WDA

Joint conference of the Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AAVCB), World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (WAWV), Wildlife Society of the New Zealand Veterinary Association (WSNZVA) and the Wildlife Diseases Association: Australasian Section (WDA) will be held from July 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2001, at Sydney, Australia.

"Veterinary Conservation Biology: Wildlife Health and Management in Australasia". The focus of this conference will be on a range of issues that are crucial to the conservation of biodiversity in Australasia. The program will be comprehensive and of interest to many scientists working in this field. It will encompass not only mainstream biodiversity and wildlife health issues, but also ecotourism and indigenous use of wildlife and other natural resources. Program themes will include wildlife health and management in Australasia, management of vertebrate pest species, wildlife recovery and reintroduction programs, marine wildlife health and conservation, avian health and management, wildlife utilisation (including consumptive and non-consumptive use) and impacts of wildlife health and welfare on biodiversity, human health and Australasia's agro-economy (covering both captive and free-living species). The day before the conference, a number of optional workshops covering related topics will be held. Topics will include wildlife disease investigation and pathology, oiled fauna, marine mammal strandings, handling and restraint of Australasian native fauna, clinical pathology and hand rearing native fauna. After the conference a number of optional tours within Australia and New Zealand will be offered.

For more information please contact: Dr. Larry Vogelnest, Senior Veterinarian, Taronga Zoo, PO Box 20, Mosman NSW 2088, Australia. Email: lvogelnest@zoo.nsw.gov.au. Fax: (61 2) 99784516.

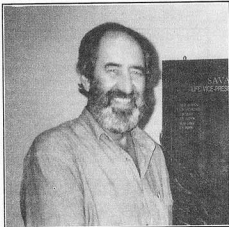
# East, Central and Southern Africa

South Africa

## Dr. Paul Pieter Bosman: Posthumous Recipient Of The Theiler Memorial Trust Award

*issued by the ARC-Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute*

Dr. Paul Pieter Bosman was born in the Boshof district in 1937. After completing his secondary education in 1954, he studied at the University of Pretoria and qualified as a veterinarian at Onderstepoort in 1959. He joined the Department of Agriculture: Veterinary Services in 1960 and a prestigious career of almost 40 years in the veterinary profession followed.



He soon rose amongst veterinary decision-makers, first as state veterinarian in several places in the country until he became Chief of Veterinary Services in 1988. He and many stock inspectors battled against foot and mouth disease inside and outside the South African borders. His significant ability to solve problems analytically brought him back to Onderstepoort where he conducted research on besnoitiosis and other reproductive diseases. Numerous scientific publications came from his pen.

Dr. Bosman launched the Brucellosis eradication scheme. He was the first South African to be elected President of the Regional Commission for Africa of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and to be elected a member of the influential code commission of the OIE. He played a leading role in the establishment of an OIE Collaborating Centre at

Onderstepoort. This and other OIE appointments made a huge contribution to the promotion of animal health and veterinary science outside South Africa.

The untimely death of Dr. Bosman is a great loss to Africa: The continent has lost a brilliant and dedicated scientist who at all times gave his very best for humans and animals.

### The Theiler Memorial Trust

'In 1891 a young Swiss veterinarian arrived in Pretoria, his profession completely unknown and any facilities for research or investigation non-existent. All he had was his strength of character, his brain and his two hands, one of which he was soon to lose in an accident. Yet this, coupled with boundless determination, energy and exactness were soon to earn him world-wide respect for his knowledge, professional service and profession.' (Hofmeyr, 1971)

Sir Arnold Theiler (1867-1936) was the father of veterinary science in South Africa. He was an outstanding researcher, administrator and teacher and made an enduring contribution to various disciplines both in South Africa and internationally. His name will

be remembered as long as veterinary science is practised.

His daughter, Margaret Theiler, created the Theiler Memorial Trust in memory of his pioneer work. The aim of this Trust is to promote veterinary science in southern Africa by means of annual awards in one or more of the following categories:

- Bursaries for studies either in South Africa or abroad.
- Awards in recognition of outstanding research relevant to veterinary problems of southern Africa.
- Invitations to eminent scientists.
- Any other purposes that the advisory board may deem appropriate to promote the primary aim of the Trust.

## Mauritius

### One Cow, One Calf

'One cow, one calf per year' is the vision of an artificial insemination project which has revitalised the dairy farming industry in Mauritius.

There are some 2,000 dairy farmers scattered throughout the island of Mauritius. Most of them own between one and three cows, which are usually kept in sheds behind the family home. It is often the female head of the family who looks after the cows. Milk is produced for the consumption of the extended family and any surplus milk is sold, providing a much-needed supplementary income. However, the number of dairy farmers has decreased over the past 20 years, with many farmers complaining of the difficulty of getting their cows to calf as a reason for giving up dairy farming in favour of more profitable activities.

The small sizes of herds make it impractical to raise bulls for natural mating, so dairy breeders are dependent on artificial insemination. In 1997, at a request from the Mauritius Government, the CFTC assigned Dr. Adrian Rhodes, a veterinary expert in artificial breeding from New Zealand, to re-establish the Mauritian artificial insemination industry on a sound footing.

Dr. Rhodes is ideally suited to the role. For 10 years the manager of the New Zealand Dairy Board's 'Artificial Breeding Service' he also has wide experience assisting the development of artificial breeding services in countries in Asia and Europe. In Mauritius he has adopted a team approach, with a strong emphasis on Total Quality Management (TQM).

One priority has been the restructuring of the government veterinary service's artificial insemination

organisation. This involved decentralisation and the fostering of a customer-focused service throughout the organisation.

The regional team culture thus produced has resulted in, among other things, greatly improved co-ordination in the work of technicians and field veterinarians.

Dr. Rhodes's teams have also developed a national dairy-breeding scheme for Mauritius. The local 'Creole' breed of cows was slowly disappearing through indiscriminate artificial insemination using Friesian semen. A scheme is now in place to conserve this important genetic resource.

As part of the project's TQM approach, Dr. Rhodes's teams have put in place standard procedures and staff has been trained in them. Other aspects of the project have included the establishment of a simple, effective on-farm recording and information transfer system, and a pro-active approach for resolving cow infertility problems, with staff actively seeking out problematic animals for diagnosis and treatment.

The result has been a dramatic increase in bovine pregnancy rates. When the project began in early 1998, the pregnancy rate on first insemination was 40 per cent. After a year, the average rate was 63 per cent – well above the global average of 50 per cent. This is a remarkable achievement in a tropical environment with part-time dairy farmers who are often poor and undercapitalised.

Dr. Rhodes attributes these results to a number of factors. "The cows are basically healthy and are generally very well looked after and cared for by, in particular, the female members of the family. Healthy, well cared-for animals are inherently fertile."

Dr. Rhodes also cites the restructuring, training and TQM approach as being key factors. "There is a greatly improved staff attitude at all levels of the service, which now actually meets the real needs of the dairy breeders."

If the results are sustained, there is every expectation, that the long-term decline of the Mauritius dairy industry will be permanently reversed.



*CFTC Expert Adrian Rhodes with a Mauritius dairy farmer and her herd*

**Kenya****Crisis Mitigation In Pastoral Livestock System**

Drought and insecurity can decimate the livestock that pastoralists depend on for their survival. For example, drought and political instability in Somalia in recent years have reduced the goat population by 60% and the cattle population by 75%. As much as 90% of the livestock in Rwanda were wiped out in that country's troubles. Droughts in the southern Ethiopian rangelands in the early 1990s halved cattle numbers there in only two or three years. Such drastic declines in livestock numbers have lasting effects, even when climatic and political conditions change for the better – it can take five years or more for pastoralists to rebuild their herds and flocks to their former sizes. Some may never recover from the calamity.

In the Greater Horn of Africa – Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi – over 70% of the land is arid or semiarid and pastoralism is the only feasible way to produce food and generate income. In these areas, distress sales of livestock during crises cause livestock prices to fall precipitously relative to the price of staple foods, forcing pastoralists to sell even more animals to make ends meet. Later, when the pastoralists are trying to rebuild their herds, livestock prices rise rapidly, reducing the number of animals the pastoralists can buy. Inappropriate policies promote the adoption of short-sighted practices, such as cultivation of fragile dry lands, which lead to environmental degradation. These factors make it increasingly difficult for pastoralists to recover between disasters and make them more dependent on relief and food aid.

Pastoral societies have, over the centuries, developed sophisticated means of coping with the vagaries of disease, weather and civil strife, but these are breaking down in the face of growing human population and the encroachment of cultivators and others on traditional grazing land. New coping mechanisms are urgently needed that reinforce the traditional systems. A first step in this has to be a thorough analysis of the traditional coping mechanisms. Research is urgently needed to explore alternative production practices and formulate strategies and policies to help reduce the effects of calamities on pastoral population or to assist in reestablishing livestock production in pastoral systems after major crises.

In 1997 the Animal Agriculture Research Network of the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA) has established a project, 'Crisis Mitigation in Livestock Systems in the greater Horn of Africa: From Relief of Development', to address these problems.

The project grew out of the recommendations of the planning workshop in November 1996, at which participants had recommended a research programme aimed at increasing livestock productivity in pastoral systems, developing early warning systems, evaluating interventions to reduce risk and developing policies to promote pastoral production.

The project's specific objectives are:

- To identify, validate and use major environmental indicators of emerging crisis situations in pastoral livestock systems
- To reinforce coping mechanisms and develop contingency plans for interventions for different groups and types of crisis.
- To access the likely impact of crisis on plant and animal biodiversity, both wild and domesticated.

The project is building on current research and development activities in the fields of crises early warning, preparedness and management in East and Central Africa. These include activities supported by the Global Livestock Collaborative Research Support Program (GL-CRSP), projects operated by the Inter-Governmental Agency for Development (IGAD) and the OAU-IBAR (Organisation of African Unity-Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources) Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign Project. The aim is to develop a cohesive programme that complements existing efforts and to build regional capacity for disaster preparedness and management interventions.

Partners in the project include the ASARECA Animal Agricultural Research Network, the GL-CRSP projects, OAU-IBAR, IGAD, ILRI, non-governmental organisations and national and regional agencies involved in disaster early warning, preparedness and management activities.

## Uganda

### A New Course In Uganda For Postgraduate Studies In Wild Animal Health And Management

A one-year postgraduate training in Wild Animal Health and management is in progress in Uganda, East Africa. It is organised by WAM (Wild Animal Management), a new Department of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University.

The new course started in October 1998 and it finishes in July 1999. There are ten students, one a Brazilian and nine Ugandans. These are a mixture of veterinarians and graduates in natural sciences: a number are in senior positions in the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA). The language of institution is English and lecturers are drawn from Europe as well as Uganda itself.

The course provides specialised instruction in such fields as animal ecology, wildlife disease, protected areas' management and conservation legislation. Formal lectures are supplemented with fieldwork and students undertake their own research projects. Some modules take place in the field, in the stimulation and attractive atmosphere of Lake Mburo National Park, about four hours' drive from Kampala, where students and lecturers are able to work with indigenous wildlife and to interact with Park's staff and local communities.

At a time when the health, management and utilisation of wildlife are attracting both interest and debate, this new course provides much needed training opportunities for those planning to work in these fields, especially in Africa or other tropical regions.

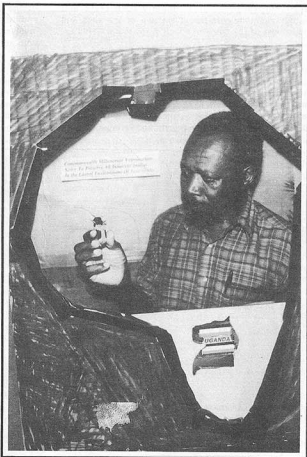
Further information is available from:

**Dr. Christine Dranzoa, WAM**  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
Makerere University  
PO Box 7062, Kampala  
Uganda

E-mail: [wam@uga.healthnet.org](mailto:wam@uga.healthnet.org)  
Or for Professor John E Cooper:  
E-mail: [NGAGI@compuserve.com](mailto:NGAGI@compuserve.com)

### Millennium Greeting Card From Uganda Veterinary Association

A novel and unique New Year greeting card has been printed by the Uganda Veterinary Association to highlight the role of the Veterinarians to preserve innocent insects against insecticides and preserve the global environment.



## West Africa

### Gambia

#### Motivation – A Prerequisite To Service

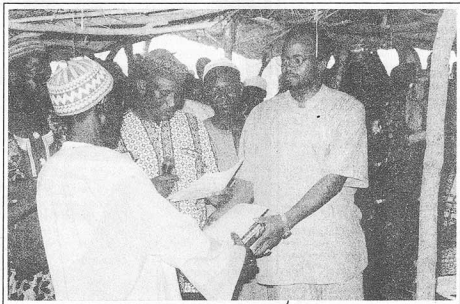
By Karanio Minteh

A prize giving ceremony was held recently in Naude District Extension Centre (DEC) in Upper River Division (URD) under the auspices of the Department of Agricultural Services. The main objective is to reward staff and farmers for exemplary hard work and commitment towards the attainment of the aims and objectives of the Department of Agricultural Services.

As we aim at improving the performance of farmers and extension workers thus increasing production and productivity, it is essential that awards of this nature provide a valuable framework in motivating farmers and extension workers to show their full potential. This annual event dates back to the early 60s when only District Extension centres then Mixed Farming Centres

compete. The idea of involving staff and farmers started in the 1992 season. The categories of staff competing include Divisional Agricultural Co-ordinators, Subject Matter Specialists, District Extension Supervisors, Village Extension Workers, Animal Traction Instructors and Assistant Animal Traction Instructors. Farmers involved in the competition include contact farmers who serve as a link between extension workers and other farmers within their communities.

The whole process was based on continuous staff and farmer assessment exercises at different times of the season. The sum total score on the performance of staff, farmers, and centres at the end of growing season, determine the prospective winners.



*Farmer being presented a prize for hard work*

## Range Management In The Gambia, Which Way Forward?

B. Loum, DVM

### Introduction

The purpose of this article is to provoke thought, arguments and possible solutions in the management of range lands in the Gambia.

In the last two Decades, lots of efforts (in terms of financial outlay and community labour) has been expended to improve and sustain the rangelands of Sub-Sahara Africa. However, it would appear as if very little sustainable achievements could be seen on the ground as justifications for such levels of development interventions. This scenario is not unique to countries in our sub-region but seems to be predominant in most African countries with few exceptions (e.g. Kenya and South Africa).

It is evident that in the Gambia, there is a need to revisit the very concept of "Range & Rangeland Management", an "American terminology" that in my opinion, is inappropriate when it comes to describing the traditional/pastoral grazing areas of this country. "Rangeland" would be more appropriate for the grassland of the USA and the Pampas of South America where the environment is in equilibrium and variables such as vegetation, rainfall, amount of bamboos produced and livestock numbers are more predictable and interdependent.

### The Nature of the Problem

In the context of the Gambia the "rangelands" are marginal lands not suited for crop production yet capable of supporting vegetative cover. In addition, fallow land (fallow period has decreased from the 4-5 year cycle in the early 1970s to 0-1 year in recent years) is also grazed.

Opportunistic strategies such as "tracking" i.e. migration is also practised to counter the effects of an increasingly hostile environment. Unfortunately, both migration and transhumance in recent times have their limitation due to certain extenuating circumstances. In the case of migration, the proliferation of a multitude of rice development projects (Jahally-Pacharr, Rice Development Project (RIDEP), Small Scale Water Control Project and Lowland Agricultural Development Project (LADEP) have resulted in the use of heavy machinery to level the flood plains (lowlands) thus resulting in damage to the fragile ecosystems. As a result of the foregoing, even where single cropping is practised, dry season vegetative growth and water retention capacities are tampered with, thus making it less worthwhile for

migrant cattle. In the case of transhumance, instability in the Casamance and other bureaucratic hurdles serve as limiting factors.

Alongside the above problems, it is also noteworthy that due to unacceptable high population densities, (97 persons per square kilometre) even marginal lands are now increasingly being placed under crops thus diminishing the actual area under range. However, counter argument might be that this additional area will also increase that net production of crop residues which will ultimately be used as livestock feed, on other household expenditures, such as school fees, books and clothing.

There also exists a healthy and vigorous small-scale industry of processing sesame seed into oil and cake. Between 1995 and 1996, 40 hand-operated rampresses, an alternative to the motorised expellers provided earlier in the project, were distributed to seven of the SGAs. CRS is currently in the process of evaluating the SGAs' acceptance and the performance of the ram presses. Preliminary results are positive and CRS plans to procure more ram presses to distribute to the other SGAs. The project anticipates that the processing industry will expand as production increases. The contribution of such value added processing of sesame to the socio-economic wellbeing of the SGAs is considerably high. At the household level savings are made from not having to purchase imported cooking oil and income is earned from selling the cake and any surplus oil.

Third, it has been indicated that research support for sesame should be increasing (as a result of the above factors). One favourable step has been that the National Agricultural Research Institute recently shifted sesame from a low to a high priority listing on its research agenda.

Finally, the introduction and promotion of sesame production is CRS' contribution to the government's goal of agricultural diversification and economic growth. In recognition of sesame's potential as an alternative cash crop in the agricultural economy, the Department of State for Agriculture is developing a National Action Plan for Sesame. This plan aims to bring together all the different players - producers, private sectors, government and NGOs - in an effort to develop the sesame sub-sector.

Source: Senelaa

## U.K. Mediterranean

### BVA Congress 28 September - 1 October 2000

The British Veterinary Association looks forward to welcoming delegates to its Annual Congress to be held from 28 September - 1 October 2000 at the Chester Moat House Hotel, Chester. The scientific and contentious issue programmes will be complemented by a social programme that will make the most of this beautiful and historic city.

For further information please contact:

The British Veterinary Association Congress Office  
7 Mansfield Street, London W1M 0AT.  
Tel: +44 207 636 6541; Fax: +44 207 436  
2970. E-mail: bvahq@bva.co.uk.

### New President For WVA



*Dr. Jim Edwards - WVA, President*

Dr. Jim Edwards from New Zealand has been nominated as the new President of World Veterinary Association (WVA) at its Presidents' Assembly in Lyon during September 1999. The Vice-Presidents are Dr. Herbert Schneider from Namibia and Dr. Faouzi Kechrid from Tunisia.

### New BVA President Elected

Mr. Eifion Evans of Pwllheli, Gwynedd has been elected as President of the British Veterinary Association (BVA) for the year 1999/2000. The ceremony took place during the Annual General Meeting of the BVA at its Annual Congress held at Bath.

Mr. G R E Evans has born on 10th December 1940 and had his education from Queens Elizabeth Grammar School, Carmarthen 1951-1957, Friars School, Bangor 1957-1959 and Liverpool University, Faculty of Veterinary Science 1959-1964. He served as Assistant at Veterinary Practice, Pwllheli - mainly farm animal work in 1964. Partner in Pwllheli Veterinary Practice 1968, with farm animal work the predominant interest. During Foot & Mouth outbreak in 1967-1968 at Chester Centre - dealt with number of infected premises, Kettering Centre - and investigated source of an isolated Foot & Mouth outbreak outside



*Mr. Eifion Evans  
- BVA, President, 1999/2000*

Market Harbourough. Two neighbouring practices, the Pwllheli and Chwilog Veterinary Practices amalgamated to form present practice known as Milfeddygon Deufor Veterinary Surgeons, 1985 and is presently in practice and employs seven veterinary surgeons and six lay staff and operates out of two main centres and two branch surgeries. His main interest in the practice is on the farm animal but the small animal side has expanded significantly over the years. He has been the Past President of North Wales, Welsh Branch, BVA and Past Council member BVA for North Wales Division, Past Member of BVA Company Services Advisory Committee, Past Trustee of BVA Animal Welfare Foundation. Presented papers at following BVA Annual Congresses - Edinburgh 1993: "Influences on farm animal practice in Less Favoured Areas."



## UK Prime Minister At Neutering Campaign

The Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, gave his backing to a neutering campaign being run by the National Canine Defence League earlier this month, while visiting his Sedgfield constituency. He is shown with the NCDL's chief executive, Ms. Clarissa Baldwin, along with two puppies, which had been abandoned and are currently being cared for at the charity's Darlington Rehoming Centre. The NCDL has been encouraging dog owners to have their pets neutered as part of its 'Give a dog a life' campaign, which aims to combat the problem of stray and abandoned dogs and is currently being piloted in the North East. Mr. Blair commented, 'I am delighted to support the NCDL's neutering campaign and am encouraged by the success so far. Dog owners everywhere should play their part in solving this problem by having their own dogs neutered.'



## World Food Prize Award Delayed By UK Customs

An eminent scientist who changed the face of cattle farming was unable to accept a prestigious award because of British bureaucracy

Dr. Walter Plowright, whose vaccine against the contagious cattle disease Rinderpest won him the 1999 World Food Prize known as the Nobel Prize for food, was to be presented with a sculpture by designer

Saul Bass. But on the day the award was announced, despite the efforts of organisers, the sculpture was still with Customs officials.



Dr. Walter Plowright

Thiccup, however, was taken in good humour. Commenting on letters of congratulations sent to Dr. Plowright by the British

monarch, HM Queen Elizabeth, and the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, attendants at the ceremony at the Royal Society, London, joked that at least the award had been approved by the Queen of England, if not Customs and Excise.

Dr. Plowright, 76, who has also received a CMG medal (Companion of St. Michael and St. George) and

a fellowship at the Royal Society, said he did not "recognise himself" from the accolades from his peers and, now retired, had more time to think about gardening.

Developed nearly 40 years ago, the Plowright vaccine presented a safe, effective and inexpensive solution to the disease also known as Cattle Plague. Thanks to its use, the disease which once wiped out 90 per cent of Africa's cattle and wildlife and devastated Asian farming is only found in Pakistan, occasionally in Afghanistan, and in the African regions of southern Sudan and southern Somalia. The FAO, which nominated Dr. Plowright for the prize, hopes the disease will be totally eradicated by 2010. Such an achievement was said to be comparable with the eradication of smallpox in humans.

Among those who also offered their congratulations to Dr. Plowright was the World Food 1987 Laureate, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. Speaking on how India, now free of Rinderpest for two years, had become the world's biggest dairy producer, he reiterated how important cattle were to small farmers.

Presented in the UK for the first time in its 12-year history, the World Food Prize was established to recognise the achievements of "individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world." Speakers at the ceremony spoke of their hopes that the prize would act as an incentive for future research.

Commenting on his own award, however, Dr. Plowright said: "I take pride in the fact that the award recognises for the first time the tremendous importance of infectious diseases of animals in the developing world."

- Louise Brownlee, *Far Eastern Agriculture*, Sept./Oct. 99.

## Abstracts

### Vesicular Stomatitis

Vesicular stomatitis is caused by members of the *Vesiculovirus* genus (Family: Rhabdoviridae). Except for its occurrence in horses it is indistinguishable clinically from Foot-and-mouth disease, but, unlike that disease, it is very infectious for man and can cause a temporarily debilitating disease. The viruses are arthropod borne and cause disease seasonally in the southern USA and Central America, and in India and Africa. They have a linear, single stranded, negative sense RNA genome encased in a bullet shaped virion made from only five proteins. The infection provokes interferon and nitric oxide responses which quickly control the replication of the virus, and an antibody response which prevents the virus from further replication. The replication of the virus is error-prone and results in many variants, but its genomic sequences appear to be relatively stable within a single endemic area, varying progressively in the Western Hemisphere from north to south. Fundamental discoveries in immunology and virology have come from recent studies of this virus, but they have not led to a safe and effective vaccine for people or animals.

### Salivary Secretion Of Calcium And Magnesium By Sheep

The total rate of secretion of saliva was measured in five conscious sheep after a steady rate of secretion had been achieved; the rate remained steady for three hours and the concentrations of calcium and magnesium in the fluid also remained steady. The total secretion of calcium and magnesium in 24 hours would have constituted 25 to 30 per cent of the reserves of these elements in the extracellular fluid. Since the only other readily available reserve of magnesium for maintaining magnesium homeostasis is a small amount in bone, these losses in saliva could contribute significantly to the failure of homeostasis observed in acute hypomagnesaemia, unless the magnesium ions are reabsorbed efficiently in the forestomachs.

DUA, K. & CARE, A.D. (1998) *Veterinary Journal* 156, 217.

### Chicken Producer To Phase Out Antibiotic Growth Promoters

The Grampian Country Food Group, which produces nearly a third of all UK-reared chickens, announced this month that it is to stop feeding antibiotic growth promoters to its chickens.

The company, which intends to begin its programme of growth promoter withdrawal from October 1, 1999, says that it is changing its approach in response to concern about antibiotic resistance. Having conducted trials, the company says that progressive improvements in husbandry, including integrated control of hatching, rearing and feeding, will ensure that the chickens can grow and thrive as well as they would with growth promoters in the diet.

Commenting on the decision, Mr. Philip Hopley, chief executive of Grampian's agriculture division, said, 'We believe this is an important step to take in the light of recent debate. Because we hatch our own eggs, rear our chicks, and operate our own feed mills, we can be confident of producing chicken to a standard, which safeguards the food chain. We think the UK public will appreciate our efforts to address their concerns.'

- *Veterinary Record*, September 18, 1999.

### Diagnosis And Management Of Ureteral Calculi In Cats

Obstructive calcium oxalate calculi were removed surgically from the ureters of 11 cats. In each case the calculi had been revealed by ultrasonography, which had also revealed hydronephrosis or hydroureter. Ten of the 11 cats recovered from the surgery, and eight of these were evaluated 12 to 20 months later. One had a further ureteral obstruction and also had a persistent infection of the urinary tract. In two cats the renal function improved, and in six it remained fairly constant. The results suggest that calcium oxalate ureteroliths in cats can be managed by means of a combination of microsurgery and postoperative care.

KYLES, A. E., STONE, E. A., GOOKIN, J., SPAULDING, K., CLARY, E.M., WYLIE, K. & SPODNICK, G. (1998) *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*. 213, 1150.

## General Articles

### The Modern Commonwealth: Its Origins And Its Future

*Address by Terence R. Dormer, NGO Desk Officer at the Commonwealth Secretariat, to the Discussion Group of the Royal Overseas League, London, United Kingdom. 20 September 1999*

Mr. Chairman, friends and colleagues,

I am most grateful to the organisers of your Discussion Group for inviting me to speak to you this evening about the origins and future of the modern Commonwealth, and for their suggestion that I should share with you my own views in that regard.

It is always a pleasure to visit the Royal Overseas League which, with its 30,000 members world-wide and branches in a number of Commonwealth countries, is much more than just the best residential club in London. Your activities, under your very able and distinguished Director-General and Secretary Bob Newell, are wide-ranging, excellent and stimulating. They encompass music, literature and the visual arts, as well as all the other facilities which stem from the League's commitment, under Royal Charter, to promote "an enduring multiracial fellowship pledged to the support of the Commonwealth and to the service of others and humanity at large".

I have often had the privilege of benefiting from the wisdom and experience of your Discussion Group but have never hitherto had the daunting task of addressing you. I should add that I know quite a number of those here this evening; their knowledge of the Commonwealth is immense and so it is clearly kindness and a desire to offer moral support which has motivated their attendance, rather than any expectation of gaining any new insights from me. Indeed, I am sure that I shall learn a great deal during our subsequent discussion, when I have concluded my introductory remarks.

It is daunting also to note that your last speaker - one week ago - was Lynda Chalker and your next speaker - on 18 October - will be Ann Widdecombe. Sandwiched between two such formidable political ladies, how can a mere international civil servant - and a man to boot - have anything of comparable interest and excitement to offer? Nevertheless, I shall try; emboldened by the fact that the Commonwealth itself

is of such immense importance and potential that even, the dullest of speakers cannot be really boring when dealing with such a significant topic.

While the title of my address implies a strong element of historical perspective, I have been told that these have been dealt with adequately at recent meetings of your Group. Accordingly, I have been asked that references to the origins of the association should "be in the context of setting the scene for the future of the Commonwealth and its ability to respond to the concerns of the next millennium".

While I shall broadly follow this advice, some mention of history is not only inevitable; it is essential. On any journey, it is helpful if one knows where one is coming from as well as where one is going. Let me deal briefly, therefore, with where the modern Commonwealth has come from.

In one week's time, on 27 September 1999, it will be exactly 50 years and 5 months since the birth of the modern Commonwealth. For it was on 27 April 1949 that Commonwealth Prime Ministers adopted The London Declaration. That agreement reconciled republicanism with continued membership of the Commonwealth, which transformed our association into a group of fully sovereign and independent countries. As you know, 33 of our 54 members are currently republics and a number of others are contemplating becoming republics.

The London Declaration represented a momentous decision by the Prime Ministers of the eight countries - namely the Old Dominions of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, and the new nations of India, Pakistan and Ceylon (as it then was) together with the United Kingdom - which at that time constituted the Commonwealth. It transformed its character from a relic of Empire into a co-operative association of free, independent and sovereign nations. It was then that it ceased to be "The British Commonwealth" and became "The Commonwealth."

I put it to you that the modern Commonwealth is the best solution to the problems of empire which the world has ever seen. While the facts are clear about the many years of colonialism prior to the birth of the modern Commonwealth, our association today represents the antithesis of domination, the abnegation of imperialism, the repudiation of racism and a true expression of internationalism. While all involved can take credit for what our Commonwealth now stands for, it is important to recall that it has come into being largely because the leaders of national liberation movements in every region wanted to continue mutually beneficial contacts with the United Kingdom and with one another through the Commonwealth after independence.

The modern Commonwealth - unlike the empire of the past - is an association of equals, with no centre and no periphery. While we have large and small countries, rich and poor, no nation has a leading role in the Commonwealth. Each is a valued member of our association. No country is more - or indeed less - important than any other member in the deliberations at our Heads of Government, ministerial or other meetings.

This is where we are now, and it is no small achievement. Our association consists of 54 sovereign independent countries drawn from every continent. All the planet's oceans wash its shores and its 1.7 billion people comprise more than one quarter of humanity. They encompass a broad range of races, religions, traditions and language groups, and represent a living demonstration of the successful pursuit of unity in diversity. No wonder that a number of countries have joined during the 1990s, that others have applied to join and that expressions of interest in joining are evident in several more.

The Commonwealth has at its core the values of democracy, good governance, the rule of law and human rights in all their aspects, as reaffirmed in the principles agreed by Heads of Government at their 1991 meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe. It is rightly regarded as a force for good in our troubled world. There is a pressing need in many non-Commonwealth countries to learn from the Commonwealth's success in bringing together different peoples in friendship: not in order to make them similar but to foster co-operation and development within the framework of diversity.

The ability of the Commonwealth to provide examples of successful initiatives in almost every sphere of international co-operative endeavour is of immense significance. It has been rightly said that, although our association cannot negotiate for the world, it can help the world to negotiate in very many areas.

We have, of course, an advantage over any other global and most other regional organisations in that we share a common bond of language and certain aspects of heritage involving the law, education, government systems, administration, business practices and other areas. These, together with the history, which I have already mentioned, help to promote a feeling of family, which is exceedingly valuable. Some may consider that the importance of these family ties is often exaggerated; that sentiment is of doubtful significance in international relations. With respect, I disagree. I am of the firm view that optimum results are obtained in any worthwhile endeavour when the best aspects of people's emotions as well as their intellects are harnessed to good effect.

Understanding one another is, of course, of crucial importance. Take the English language, which is the main international language of the world today: though it is based in the Commonwealth. Three weeks ago - on Monday 30 August in Sydney, Australia - the Commonwealth Secretary General delivered an address to the World Members Conference of the English-speaking Union. His theme was "English - Building Bridges to the New Millennium". What a useful bridge our shared language has proved to be! This is not to say, of course, that the vast majority of Commonwealth citizens do not also have different first languages which, rightly and understandably, are at the heart of their own cultures. However, although the thousands of languages in the Commonwealth represent important aspects of the magnificent heritages of the communities which use them, little or no useful purpose would be served by my addressing you here this evening in, say, Irish, Welsh, Hausa, Swahili, Hindi, Malay or Maori - to mention just a few. But every one of us can exchange views in English, which represents a splendid and positive legacy from our shared history.

All of us here this evening are, I am sure, well aware of the major concerns of today's Commonwealth, and our association's collective role in addressing a very large number of issues which are important to our member countries. Those of you who want to learn more in that regard would, I am sure, find it useful to visit my colleagues in the Commonwealth Secretariat's Information and Public Affairs Division - just two hundred yards down the road from this hall - and obtain some of the many and varied publications which I know that they would be glad to give you.

I shall not, therefore, provide you with a resume of the structure and function of the Secretariat. Rather, I would like to concentrate on the Commonwealth's underlying strengths, and its still largely untapped potential to provide leadership to a confused world and to be even more active and effective in giving practical expression to the principles which represent

the heart and soul of our association.

The future of the Commonwealth rests; I would like to suggest, on seven pillars of wisdom. I should like to mention each one of them.

The first pillar is the interest of Commonwealth governments in the association, and their desire to see the Commonwealth grow in power and influence, under their direction, as a force for good. Unless governments feel that it is in their national interests to make use of the Commonwealth, this unique tool which is at their disposal will not be used to best advantage. Governments need to enhance their awareness of the Commonwealth's ability to serve them. They should take ownership more firmly of the association and ensure that it is of maximum effectiveness in the ways in which they want it to be.

With some magnificent exceptions, represented by highly effective initiatives and programmes which governments fully understand and appreciate, commitment to the Commonwealth too often takes the form more of words than of deeds, support or funding. At the risk of being over-simplistic, the following examples may perhaps be helpful in illustrating the point. Some years ago, the secretariat's staff numbered well over 400 and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) had a plan of expenditure of £30 million. Last month's Secretariat staff list includes just under 300 names and the CFTC's current plan of expenditure is £18.5 million.

The second pillar is the strength of governments' commitment to the basic principles, which are at the Commonwealth's core. Let me remind you of what our Heads of Government reaffirmed eight years ago at their meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, at which they stated:

\* - We believe that international peace and order, global economic development and the rule of international law are essential to the security and prosperity of mankind;

- We believe in the liberty of the individual under the law, in equal rights for all citizens regardless of gender, race, colour, creed or political belief, and in the individual's inalienable right to participate by means of free and democratic political processes in framing the society in which he or she lives;

- We recognise racial prejudice and intolerance as a dangerous sickness and a threat to healthy development, and racial discrimination as an unmitigated evil;

- We oppose all forms of racial oppression, and we are committed to the principles of human dignity and equality; we recognise the importance and urgency of economic and social development to satisfy the basic needs and aspirations of the vast majority of the peoples of the world, and seek the progressive removal of the wide disparities in living standards amongst our members.\*

The third pillar is the dedication and commitment to the Commonwealth of her Majesty the Queen, who is the universally respected and admired Head of our association. Through thick and thin – and at times not without difficulty – she has fulfilled the memorable commitment, which she made as far back as 1947, when she spoke to the Commonwealth family over the radio in these words. "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service...." She added: "I shall not have the strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in with me, as I now invite you to do. I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it".

The fourth pillar is the Secretary General. I am an old hand in the Secretariat's service, having joined the organisation under Mr. Arnold Smith of Canada; our first Secretary General who retired in 1975 after ten years of service. For the next fifteen years Sir Shridath Ramphal of Guyana held the post and, since 1990, Chief Emeka Anyaoku of Nigeria. I can say without any hesitation or reservation that the Commonwealth has been served splendidly by each of our three Secretaries General.

As you all know, Chief Anyaoku is scheduled to demit office in March 2000; his replacement will be chosen by Heads of Government at their meeting in Durban, South Africa in November 1999. There are two candidates: Mr. Don McKinnon of New Zealand and Mr. Farooq Sobhan of Bangladesh. I have had the privilege of meeting both gentlemen and of hearing them speak about the Commonwealth and other issues. We are indeed fortunate to have two such outstanding international figures who are willing to undertake this crucially important leadership role, on which the future of the Commonwealth depends.

The fifth pillar is represented by the staff of the Secretariat itself and, I should add, our colleagues in the Commonwealth's other two intergovernmental organisations: the Commonwealth Foundation and the Commonwealth of Learning. Without hard-working, efficient and dedicated international civil servants – whose first priority is to serve the Commonwealth collectively to the best of their abilities – the efforts of

the Secretary General would be of little avail.

The sixth pillar is the Commonwealth's many non-governmental organisations (NGOs) - including professional associations - which work in our member countries. These voluntary bodies bring together people in every field of human endeavour. Led, run and largely financed by very impressive practical idealists, these organisations and associations create and maintain links between the people of the Commonwealth which are of crucial importance.

All of these NGOs have roles in development; helping to raise living standards for the disadvantaged in health, education, food production and in a whole range of other areas. Like the Royal Overseas League itself, which is one of our 70 Pan-Commonwealth NGOs, they also assist in enhancing the friendly co-operation upon which the future of the Commonwealth depends.

The seventh pillar is sport: that most popular aspect of the unofficial Commonwealth - or what we like to call "The People's Commonwealth".

Sport remains a cornerstone of our association. A large number of organisations help to foster sporting contacts between our peoples through arranging hundreds if not thousands of events annually. "Sport for all" is a compelling slogan, and it binds the Commonwealth together in a manner, which no other area of activity has ever matched. One thinks, for example, of the recent cricket world cup that, while billed as a global competition, was in actuality a Commonwealth occasion as all the 12 participating teams came from Commonwealth countries.

Undoubtedly, the most important events organised by "The People's Commonwealth" are the Commonwealth Games, which are held every four years. The most recent Games were in Malaysia last September: the first time they had been arranged in Asia and only the second time in a Commonwealth developing country (the 1966 Games were in Jamaica). The Kuala Lumpur Games were the biggest ever, with 5,500 sports-persons and team officials involved. The number of participating nations was 70 (the highest ever) and cricket, hockey, netball, rugby, squash and ten pin bowling were included for the first time. Given that there was an estimated television audience of over 500 million, they clearly represented the most popular Commonwealth gathering the world had ever seen.

I feel sure that we are all looking forward to the 2002 Games in Manchester, United Kingdom, which also promise to be magnificent in every way.

These, then, are in my view the seven pillars on which the future of the Commonwealth rests. Diminish the strength and effectiveness of any of them and you diminish the whole association.

As we approach the new millennium - just 102 days away - inevitably our thoughts turn to the future and to the immediate challenges ahead. Our current Secretary General has indicated his belief that principal amongst them are the effective management of pluralism, and the proper control of the processes of globalisation so that they result in benefits for all.

Let me address the issue of pluralism. With perhaps half a dozen homogenous exceptions, Commonwealth countries are characterised by cultural, ethnic and religious diversity; for which, of course, they should all be both the happier and the richer. Sadly, however, people from different backgrounds are not always able to even tolerate each other, still less to live in harmony. The Commonwealth has a relatively good record concerning such matters: as witness the recent successes of the Secretary General's good offices role, through his own work and that of his emissaries, in resolving the problems regarding Zanzibar and in the Solomon Islands. Of course, notwithstanding such heartening developments, we are by no means free of such difficulties.

That stated, outside the Commonwealth things are a lot more worrying. For example, one study indicates that between 1989 and 1992 there were 82 armed conflicts in the world: the vast majority in non-Commonwealth countries and no fewer than 79 of them (that is 96%) within rather than between countries and linked to ethnic, religious and other differences. Since then, we have witnessed on our television many further tragedies - such as those in Rwanda, Kosovo and most recently East Timor. In the words of the great Irish poet, William Butler Yeats:

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the  
Worst are full of passionate intensity.

The famous Nigerian novelist, Chinua Achebe, used the first three words of Yeats's poem as the title of one of his most celebrated books. They have a very modern resonance in that the horrors of divisive pluralism, which we see today, show us all too clearly the drowning of innocence and the evil fruits of the misdirection of passionate intensity. The situation appears to be getting worse and requires urgent and

appropriate action, in which the Commonwealth is well placed to play a helpful role.

Turning to globalisation, it is evident to all those who have access to the facts that the tendency in most countries - even the most developed ones - is for the rich to get richer and the poor poorer. This is clearly not just unsatisfactory: it is immoral and wrong and must be altered. There is also an imperative to learn the lessons of the past; to avoid actions, which lead to boom and bust, and to encourage those, which result in sustainable growth and prosperity.

Tomorrow, the annual meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers commences in the Cayman Islands, immediately prior to the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in Washington, USA the following week. As a follow-up to their statement last October in Ottawa, Canada on the global economic crisis, our Finance Ministers will focus on issues relating to the reform of the international community's financial mechanisms and the strengthening of global economic governance.

They will also review the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC, for short) and consider ways by which debt relief can be linked more effectively to the provision of aid and to poverty reduction. Many other matters will also be on their agenda, including international action to address the special concerns of small states, and the elimination of corruption in economic management.

It is a measure of the Commonwealth's role in the world today that the decisions made in the Cayman Islands by our Finance Ministers this week are likely to be of truly global significance. They will also be of great importance to our forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting this November, which has as its theme "People-Centred Development: the Challenge of Globalisation".

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have talked enough - indeed, probably too much as I am in danger of eroding the far more valuable time devoted to our exchange of views. Let me end where I began, by praising the work of the Royal Overseas League in encouraging fellowship between the peoples of our great Commonwealth of Nations. Nothing could be more central to our association, for the Commonwealth is, above all, about people. While governments are clearly of immense significance, it is an essential aspect of democracy that they are not solely responsible for everything, including the Commonwealth. It is for people to make their wishes known; to help governments (which in democracies are, after all, the servants of the people) to be aware of our association's

true worth and its potential to grow in influence through the practical expression of the principles which represent its heart and soul.

Thank you all very much indeed for listening to me so patiently and for so long and I now look forward to benefiting from your wisdom and experience.

### Veterinary Conservation Biology: Wildlife Health And Management In Australasia

July 2-6, 2001, Toranga Zoo, Sydney, Australia

A conference organised jointly by the Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists (AAVCB), World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (WAWV), Wildlife Society of the New Zealand Veterinary Association (WSNZVA) and the Wildlife Diseases Association Australasian Section (WDA).

The focus of the conference will be a range of issues crucial to wildlife health and management and the conservation of biodiversity in the Australasian region. The program will be comprehensive and of interest to biologists, zoologists, veterinarians, other scientists and wildlife workers involved with the conservation and care of wildlife. A five-day scientific program with plenary speakers has been planned. Each day will be sponsored and conducted by one of the conducting organisations. The day before the conference a number of optional workshops covering relevant topics will be held at the zoo. Three exciting post-conference tours have also been planned, giving delegates the opportunity to experience Australia and New Zealand's wildlife in their natural habitats. The venue, Toranga Zoos ANZ Conservation Theatre, is a world class facility. Delegates will be given ample opportunity to enjoy the zoo, either on their own or on special behind the scenes tours.

## A Physiological Basis For Positive Human-Dog Interaction

### Background and Aim

The problem regarding physiological information on human-animal interaction is that it is only based on changes occurring in humans. 1. Animal interaction is used to facilitate therapy in various social, mental and physical disorders among people and veterinarians from part of such multidisciplinary health care teams. 2. The aim of this study was to identify the role of some biochemicals during positive interaction in both species.

### Material and Method

Dogs, as prototypes of companion animal, 3 were used for the experiment. Human subjects were healthy, adult volunteers of both sexes (n=18), who are dog lovers. Dog subjects were healthy adults owned by dog lovers (n=9) (experimental group) and friendly unfamiliar dogs interacting with dog lovers (n=9) (control group). The choice of parameters was based on known physiology regarding intraspecies affiliation: l-phenylethylamine, dopamine, 5, (endorphins, prolactin, and oxytocin. Plasma values were determined before and after positive interaction. A decrease in blood pressure was taken as an indication that the interaction had a physiological effect. Biochemical analyses were performed on a diode array HPLC. Adoption was allowed for about 10 minutes

before the intervention in a neutral room and sufficient blood pressure changes occurred between 5 and 19 minutes.

### Results

Significant increases ( $P < 0.05$ ) of (l-phenylethylamine, dopamine, l-endorphin, prolactin and oxytocin occurred in both species of groups. The difference for prolactin and oxytocin was significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) higher in the experimental group.

### Conclusion

If the same physiology applies on an interspecies as an intra-species basis, dogs can fulfil the same needs as humans associated with these physiological changes. In overt the therapeutic behaviour it can be described as fulfilling attention or affiliation needs. Such a rationale would be helpful in animal-facilitated therapy related to conditions where special attention is needed.

- Johannes Odendaal, & Meintjes, R.

Dept. of Veterinary Ethology

Fact of Vet. Science University of Pretoria

Private Bag X04 Onderstepoort 0110, South Africa

Tel: 27-12-5298237; Fax: 27-12 5298396

Email: joden@op1.up.ac.za

### "Nipah" Virus Update

Since March this year, CSIRO Animal Health scientists have been involved in an international effort to control and eradicate a deadly new disease, discovered in Malaysia.

The Nipah virus outbreak that killed over 100 people and led to the culling of over one million pigs, was brought under control, thanks to the work of Malaysian, United States and Australian scientists.

Dr. Peter Daniels, a veterinarian and project leader of CSIRO Animal Health's Diagnosis and Epidemiology section, worked on the outbreak investigation with the Malaysian Department of Veterinary Services. He conducted animal post mortems, collected blood samples from pigs and other animals for testing at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in Geelong, and advised on the design of a surveillance and control program.

Dr. John White is a CSIRO Animal Health research scientists with experience in developing diagnostic tests for viral diseases. Dr. White worked with staff from the Veterinary Research Institute (VRI), in Ipoh, Malaysia to develop a blood test to show if pigs and other animals had been exposed to the virus.

At AAHL, scientists undertook transmission experiments with pigs to determine how they may have passed the virus to other pigs, and to people. The unique biocontainment facilities at AAHL made it one of the few places in the world where the transmission trials could be safely carried out. The scientific team used techniques such as virology, histology, electron microscopy and genetic sequencing, to research the virus.

A new virus: Nipah virus is a 'new' megamyxovirus, a new genus within the paramyxovirus family. There

are many different types of paramyxovirus, including rinderpest in cattle, distemper in dogs and measles in humans.

Nipah virus is related to but distinct from Hendra virus, the only other known megamyxovirus. Hendra virus (formerly known as equine morbillivirus) was first isolated in 1994 from horses stabled in Hendra in Brisbane, Australia. Hendra virus has been found only in Queensland, where two people and 16 horses died in three separate incidents.

Genetic characterisation has shown a variance between the two viruses of between 20 to 60 per cent. This is of similar magnitude to the difference between the measles and rinderpest viruses. The behaviour of the Nipah virus and Hendra virus is also different, in terms of the range of species they infect, and the way in which the two viruses appear to be transmitted.

Hendra virus does not transmit readily between animals, other than in fruit bats (flying foxes). In contrast, the Nipah virus appear to be easily transmitted among pigs, and may be transmitted from pigs to other animals.

Name: The Nipah virus was named after one the villages affected by the outbreak: Sungai Nipah, in the Malaysian State of Negri Sembilan. Dr. Chua Kaw Ping, from the Medical Microbiology Department (MMD) of the University of Malaya, made the discovery of the new virus on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

Species affected: The Nipah virus has been isolated from infected humans, pigs, and a dog. Other Malaysian animals with antibodies to the virus, showing they had been infected, included cats and fruit bats, and horses and goats in one or two cases.



**Letter to the Editor**12<sup>th</sup> November 1999.

Dear Dr. Rahman,

**Re: Urban Rabies and Street Dogs in India.**

I write with reference to the article from the *Lancet* quoted in the August 1999 edition of *CVA News* (Vol. 15 No.2) regarding Animal Birth Control (ABC) projects in India. The above NCO has run such a project in Jaipur for 5 years. The project is run along WHO/WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) guidelines. It is also a good example of co-operation between Commonwealth peoples: the Senior Veterinary surgeon is Indian, the Managing Trustee is Australian, volunteer Veterinary surgeons come from England, Australia and Scotland, and in the past also from New Zealand, the Executive Secretary is Indian, and some funding for the Charity comes from all of the above Commonwealth countries. As one of the volunteer veterinary surgeons working on the project for the last 18 months I should like to make the following observations on rabies control and street dogs.

The street dogs of India survive because of a lack of civic infrastructure to control domestic waste. Any attempts to control street dog populations should occur alongside improvements in waste management.

The killing of dogs is not a permanent method of population control, and may indeed be counter-productive since it may lead to increased migration of dogs into the niche created by the cull, and thus to an increased risk of disease introduction. In Vishakapatnam civic records show that for each of the last 12 years 6,000 dogs have been killed with no effect on the total population. The methods employed for such culling operations are often extremely crude and cruel, for example poisoning by strychnine or mass electrocution.

In Jaipur where a sterilisation and vaccination programme has been going on for 5 years, there have been no cases of Rabies in man in the last 3 years according to Health Department figures. Anecdotal evidence from the Government veterinary hospital in the city also indicates that many fewer cases of rabies are now seen amongst animals. Rather than removing the street dogs the Jaipur programme aims to create a safe and stable street dog population by means of sterilisation of females (by ovariectomy) and vaccination against rabies by injection of all captured dogs. Over 10,000 dogs have been through the programme, and over 9,000 bitches sterilised. Population surveys suggest that this figure is approximately 50% of the female population. Early indications are that the street dog population is stabilising. In 1999 we should sterilise about 2,500 bitches; we believe that the success of such programmes may be related not only to the percentage of the population spayed, but also to the rate of operations i.e., operations per annum.

The quoted article from the *Lancet* suggests that the legal constraints imposed following actions by animal welfare organisations seek to prevent dog sterilisation. I do not believe this is a correct interpretation. The legal action sought to prevent indiscriminate killing of dogs by methods, which are often extremely cruel.

I hope the foregoing information will correct any false impressions created by the article and also serve to encourage civic authorities, governments and the NGOs that ABC programmes present a means of controlling street dogs populations which considers animal welfare as well as human health and public nuisance.

Yours sincerely,

J.F. Rosce, BSc, BVSc, MRCVS.

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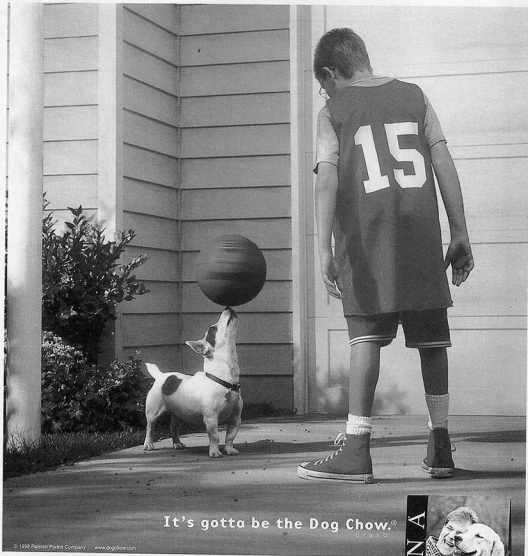
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- Secretary** : **Dr. S. Abdul Rahman**  
123, 7th 'B' Main, 4th Block (West),  
Jayanagar, Bangalore 560 011 India.  
Tel : (91 80 ) 6548805/6346857 Fax: (91 80 ) 6635210  
E mail : shireen@blr.vsnl.net.in
- Programme Director** : **Dr. A.E. Pereka**  
Dept. of Physiology, Biochem, Pharmacology and Toxicology  
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RMB N141, Victoria, Australia 3352  
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Email : commvet@netconnect.com.au

## Regional Representatives

### ASIA

**Dr. S. Abdul Rahman**  
123, 7th 'B' Main, 4th Block (West)  
Jayanagar, Bangalore 560 011 India.  
Tel : (91 80 ) 6548805/6346857  
Fax : (91 80 ) 6635210  
E mail : shireen@blr.vsnl.net.in

### EAST/ CENTRAL/ SOUTHERN AFRICA

**Dr. M.R. Jaumally**  
Mauritius Veterinary Assoc.  
Division of Vet. Services, Reduit,  
Mauritius.  
Tel : (230) 454 1016/17  
Fax : (230) 465 88931, 243 3654  
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### AUSTRALASIA/ OCEANIA

**Dr. C H Glam**  
# 78, Jalan Haji Alias  
Singapore 1026  
Tel : (65) 4666 486  
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### WEST AFRICA

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### CANADA CARIBBEAN

**Dr. V. Mohabir**  
Blue Cross Hospital,  
141, Eastern Main Road,  
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West Indies  
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(Dr. Val Mohabir)

### U.K. MEDITERRANEAN

**Prof. John Cooper**  
C/o. British Veterinary Association,  
7, Mansfield Street,  
London W1M 0AT, England  
Tel : (44 171) 636 6541  
Fax : (44 171) 436 2970  
Wildlife Health Services  
P.O. Box, 153, Wellingborough  
NN82ZA, U.K.  
Email : NGAG1@compuserve.com

**Dr. S. Abdul Rahman**

Editor

## COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION NEWS

123, 7th 'B' Main Road, IV Block (West), Jayanagar, Bangalore 560 011 INDIA.  
Tel : (91 80) 6548805/6346857 Fax: (91 80) 6635210; Email: shireen@blr.vsnl.net.in