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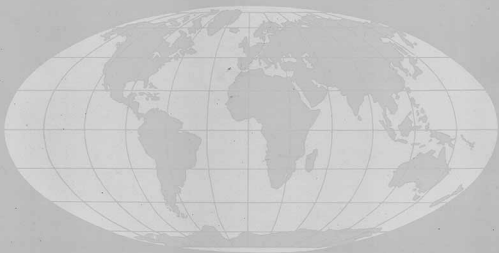
Volume 17

No.1



January 2001

COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



NEWS

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Advertising Enquiries

President

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Mr. K.K. Anub
#1105, 15th B Cross,
Yelahanka Newtown,
Bangalore 560064, INDIA.

Editor

Dr. S. Abdul Rahman

CONTENTS

	Page
President's Column	2
Commonwealth News	3
CVA News	4
Regional News	
Asia	12
Australasia/ Oceania	16
Canada Caribbean	23
East, Central and Southern Africa	24
West Africa	40
U.K. Mediterranean	42
Abstracts	43
General Articles	44
Calendar of Events	48

CVA Web site

<http://freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/cva>



The President's New Years Message

I am sure most Presidents wonder where the time has gone when they finish their first year in office. In most organizations this usually means the end of their involvement as President. For the CVA President that is not the case since, according to the CVA Constitution, the term of Office is four years. This may seem like a long time, yet for an organization such as the CVA this length of term has served the needs of the association quite well, at least until now. In the days of surface or air mail post and unreliable telephone services, one could justify a four year term. With the advent of the Internet, facsimile machines, and cellular telephones one can expect almost instantaneous communication in most parts of the world. So, perhaps the time has come to review this policy.

The original CVA Constitution was thoroughly reviewed and updated four years ago. At that time no need was identified to change the term of Office for President, Officers, or the Regional Representatives. Using this four year cycle the CVA prepares its workplan, taking into consideration recommendations coming forth from PanCommonwealth Veterinary Conferences which are held every 4-5 years. The level of CVA activities over the past 5-6 years has increased considerably and since the CVA relies solely on volunteer help a four year term might be viewed by some as an unrealistic period of time to devote to an organization. One suggestion that has been put forth is the creation of a paid Secretariat to manage the day to day affairs of the Association. Another option is to reduce the term of Office to two years. Over the next year I will be proposing to the CVA Executive Committee that a review be undertaken to investigate other possibilities.

For the past dozen years that I have been involved in CVA emphasis has been on assisting the veterinary profession and farmers in general in developing countries, almost to the point of excluding some of the largest and most progressive veterinary associations in the world. As a result it is my personal opinion that many of our colleagues in these countries view the CVA not as a professional body interested and dedicated to enhancing the practice of veterinary science within all Commonwealth countries but rather as an aid organization. Whether from a rich nation or a poorer one there are many common issues facing the veterinary profession and CVA must begin to look at the bigger picture if it is to grow. Over the years CVA has successfully convinced its richer veterinary associations to support CVA activities and this they do for a number of very good and honourable reasons. I believe CVA can increase their participation if, in its workplans, CVA includes issues these countries feel need addressing on a global scale. Many of our member countries belong to OIE but some of the smaller ones do not. The CVA may be able to play a role in filling this void. One way to do this is by encouraging greater interaction amongst Chief Veterinary Officers.

At the last PanCommonwealth Veterinary Conference in India a number of Chief Veterinary Officers came together to debate the possibility of the Chief Veterinary Officers of the Commonwealth becoming Associate Members of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. I was, therefore, very pleased to receive from Dr Gardner Murray, CVO, Australia, a letter stating that the Chief Veterinary Officers saw merit in becoming Associate Members of the CVA. Over the years CVA has benefited greatly from their support and look forward to even greater participation from this group.

Plans for the Third PanCommonwealth Veterinary Conference to be held in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, November 3-8, 2002 are progressing. The Scientific Chairman, Dr Laurence Heider, former Dean, Atlantic Veterinary College, has brought together an international team of experts to plan the scientific programme. Those responding to his invitation to date include Dr Roger Eddy, President, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Dr George Grant, President, Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association, Dr Cedric Lazarus, Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association and Dr Brian Evans, CVO for Canada, representing the Commonwealth Chief Veterinary Officers. Details of the Conference will be posted on the CVA website as they become available.

In conclusion, I want to thank my CVA colleagues, Drs Rahman and Pryor in particular, and my co-workers within the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for all their help and support in making this a very memorable year.

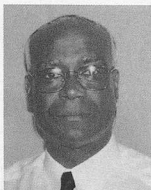
May you enjoy good health and success in 2001.

January, 2001

Bert Stevenson
President

Commonwealth News

Deputy Secretary-General Assumes Office



Former Barbados Central Bank Governor Winston Cox assumed office as Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General on 1st September 2000. He is in charge of development co-operation activities, including technical assistance programmes funded by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation.

Prior to his appointment, Mr Cox worked for the International Monetary Fund. He had a distinguished career at the Barbados Central Bank where he was employed in 1974 after graduating with an MSc (Economics) from the Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands. He rose to become Adviser to the Governor in 1982, a post he held for five years. Between 1987 and 1991 he served as Director of Finance in the Ministry of Finance. Prior to his appointment as Governor of the Central Bank in 1997, he served for three years on the Executive Board of the World Bank.

Mr Cox succeeded Mr ENC Hare, a former Canadian diplomat, who retired last November.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon discussed with General Pervez Musharraf the Commonwealth's concerns over the proposed time table to restore constitutional and democratic rule in Pakistan, during his visit to Pakistan from 25th to 28th August 2000.



- Commonwealth Currents

Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference

Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference will be held at Renaissance Jamaica Grande Resort, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, West Indies from Nov. 3rd - 8th, 2002.

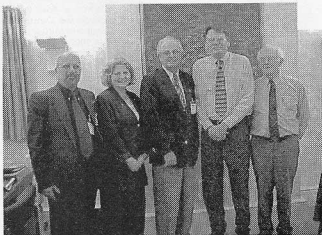
CVA News

CVA Officers Meeting, London, 20th-26th September 2000

The Officers of the CVA Dr Bert Stevenson, President, Dr WJ Pryor, Past President and Treasurer, and Dr S Abdul Rahman, Secretary had a meeting in London to discuss and review the workplan as decided by the Executive during its meeting in Calgary in August 1999.

During their stay in London, they held various meetings at the Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Secretariat and British Veterinary Association.

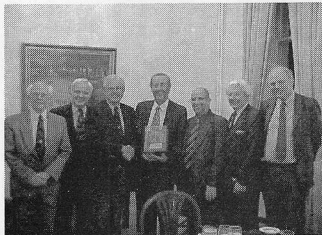
At the Commonwealth Foundation, the CVA Officers met Mr Colin Ball, Director, Commonwealth Foundation and



L to R: Dr SA Rahman, Ms. Sharon Robinson, Dr Bert Stevenson, Mr Colin Ball and Dr WJ Pryor at Commonwealth Foundation

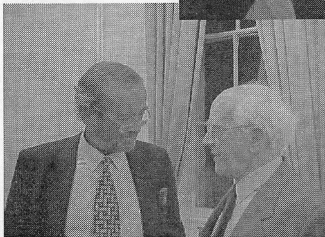
Ms. Sharon Robinson, Programme Manager and had detailed discussions on various issues pertaining to the relationship of CVA with CF regarding funding, projects, etc.

The Officers also met Mr. Terry Dormer, Desk Officer for Non-Governmental Organisations, Commonwealth Secretariat. Participation of NGO Organisations at future Commonwealth Heads Of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to highlight their activities was discussed. Since then, CVA has been invited to exhibit its activities at the next CHOGM at Brisbane, Australia on October 6th - 9th, 2001.



L to R: Dr WJ Pryor, Dr Andrew Scott, Dr Bert Stevenson, Dr Eifion Evans, SA Rahman, Dr Keith Baker and Dr John Cooper at BVA Head Quarters

Dr Bert Stevenson with Dr Andrew Scott



Dr E Evans with Dr WJ Pryor

*Dr JT Blackburn, Former President, CVA with
Dr Bert Stevenson at the Dinner*



The Officers met the Executive of the British Veterinary Association on 21st September. Drs Eifion Evans, President, Keith Baker, Past President, David Tyson, President Elect, Andrew Scott, Vice President, David Miller, Vice President and Mr Jim Baird, Chief Executive were present. Various issues of mutual cooperation between BVA and CVA were discussed. Dr Stevenson gave a brief historical background and objectives of the CVA. Dr Pryor explained the financial aspects and details of the Fellowships and Study fund awards. Dr Rahman gave an account of various projects being implemented by the CVA.



R to L: John Cooper, David Tyson, Avi Deshmukh, Mary Blackburn and Trevor Blackburn at the Dinner Meeting

A second joint meeting was held on 25th September between the CF, Commonwealth Secretariat, BVA, Ralston Purina (Corporate Member of CVA), RCVS and CVA during which

informal discussions on future role of technical cooperation between these agencies were held followed by a dinner. The following were present at the meeting.



L to R: Dr David Miller, Dr WJ Pryor, Ms Helena Cotton and Dr Eifion Evans at the Dinner Meeting

Dr Bert Stevenson, President, CVA; Mrs. Stevenson; Dr WJ Pryor, Past President/Treasurer, CVA; Dr S Abdul Rahman, Secretary, CVA; Dr Avi Deshmukh, Ralston Purina; Peter Messent (accompanying Dr Deshmukh); Dr John Cooper, RR UK Med; Mrs. Cooper; Dr JT Blackburn, Hon. President for Life, CVA; Mrs. Blackburn; Mr Roger Cotton; Mrs Helena Cotton, BVA; Mr Eifion Evans, President, BVA; Mr Keith Baker, Past President, BVA; Mr David Tyson, Vice President/President Elect, BVA; Mr Andrew Scott, Vice President, BVA; Mr David Miller, Vice President, BVA; Mr Roger Eddy, President, RCVS and Mr Terrance Dormer, Commonwealth Secretariat.

CVA Executive Meets In St. Louis, USA

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association's Executive Committee Meeting was held from 20th - 23rd October, 2000 at St. Louis, Missouri, USA during the Pet Animal Nutrition Forum and Regulatory Workshop organised by Ralston Purina.

The following members of the Executive attended the meeting.

Dr. RG Stevenson, President; Dr. WJ Pryor, Past President; Dr. SA Rahman, Secretary and RR Asia; Dr. AE Pereká, Programme Director; Dr. CH Giam, RR Australasia/Oceania; Dr. V Mohabir, RR Canada/Caribbean; Dr. D Fofana, RR West Africa; Dr. MR Jaumally, RR ECS Africa and Dr. J Cooper, RR UK/Mediterranean.

The members discussed various issues pertaining to the activities of the CVA and discussed the workplan prepared at the Calgary meeting of the CVA in August, 1999 and minutes of the Officers Meeting held in London in September 2000.

A joint meeting of CVA Executive Committee and members of Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association represented by Dr Michael Whittingham, Dr Sarah W.



CVA Executive

l to R: Drs. SA Rahman, WJ Pryor, D Fofana, Val Mohabir, J Cooper, Bert Stevenson, R Jaumally, AE Pereká and CH Giam

Eytle and Dr Cedric Lazarus was held on 20th October 2000 at St. Louis to discuss the organisation of the Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference.

The minutes of the meeting will be published in the next issue of the CVA News.

eCommonwealth

The Commonwealth Institute's new website eCommonwealth has been launched – www.ecommonwealth.net. This new Internet facility provides the Commonwealth with a virtual meeting place where individuals and organisations can come together to promote their activities, conduct business or just keep abreast of Commonwealth and world affairs. It is designed to service the needs of non-governmental organisations, businesses, educational establishments and individuals interested in the development of Commonwealth countries.

eCommonwealth:

- has state of the art technology software that automatically profiles the activities and interests of users of the site.
- keeps users informed on issues specifically of interest to them by automatically monitoring some 10,000 websites around the Commonwealth.
- has a powerful facility for searching for information, a search engine that understands

the context of what a user wants and then searches the websites accordingly.

- creates communities by developing interest profiles, analysing the ideas behind the content read by the users and then putting them in touch with people and organisations with similar interests.
- provides a central directory of participating Commonwealth organisations, businesses and individuals for reference.

eCommonwealth can also provide net communications, interactive meeting facilities and programme sharing.

Organisations can link to eCommonwealth as an associate. There is no charge for this. Enquiries may be made to eCommonwealth Ltd., Commonwealth Institute, Kenigston High Street, London W8 6NQ, UK. Tel: (44) 20 7603 4535, Fax: (44) 20 7603 4525. E-mail: hq@ecommonwealth.net. The CNF is currently assessing the possibilities regarding the use of this site.



Executive at work

*L to R: Drs. Mohabir, Fofana, Rahman,
Stevenson, Cooper, Jaumally and Pryor*

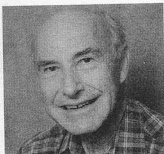
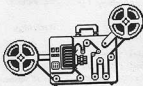
*L to R: Rahman, Stevenson, Cooper, Pereka,
Giam, Jaumally and Pryor*



*CVA with members of Caribbean Veterinary
Medical Association*

*L to R: Mohabir (back to camera), S Eytle,
B Stevenson, AE Pereka, M Whittingham,
C Lazarus and WJ Pryor*

24



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 - ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000

The CVA Book Programme is coordinated from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph by Dr. Brian Derbyshire, assisted by Mr. David Hull, the College Librarian, and Dr. Lloyd Coleman. The current holdings comprise 985 volumes and 408 titles. Journals are not normally shipped, and few audio visual 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 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.

Anaesthesia

5 titles, including *Hall*: Wright's Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia.

Animal Science

30 titles, including *Leahy & Barrow*: Restraint of Animals, and *MacDonald*: Pig Husbandry Technology for Warm Climates.

Avian, Wild & Laboratory Animals

21 titles, including *Julian*: Poultry Husbandry.

Biochemistry & Biology

6 titles.

Equine Medicine & Surgery

10 titles, including *Adams*: Lameness in Horses.

Farm Animal Medicine & Surgery

11 titles, including *Blood et al*: Blood & Henderson's Veterinary Medicine.

Fish Diseases

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

Histology & Hematology

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

Immunology

9 titles, including *Tizard*: Veterinary Immunology.

Microbiology

35 titles, including *Carter & Chengappa*: Essentials of Veterinary Bacteriology & Mycology, and Hagan's Infectious diseases of Domestic Animals.

Miscellaneous

12 titles, including *Kirk & Bistner*: Handbook of Veterinary Procedures and Emergency Treatment, and Merck Veterinary Manual.

Parasitology

18 titles, including *Georgi: Parasitology for Veterinarians*.

Pathology

17 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

5 titles, including *Duncan & Prosse: Veterinary Laboratory Medicine*, and *Sodikoff: Laboratory Profiles of Small Animal Diseases*.

Pharmacology

3 titles.

Physiology

17 titles, including *Swenson: Dukes' Physiology of Domestic Animals*, and *Guyton: Textbook of Medical Physiology*.

Public Health & Zoonoses

22 titles, including *Martin et al: Veterinary*

Epidemiology, and *Schwabe et al: Epidemiology in Veterinary*.

Radiology

5 titles, including *Bolton: Handbook of Canine Electrocardiography*.

Small Animal Medicine & Surgery

77 titles, including *Bojrab: Current Techniques in Small Animal Surgery*, *Kirk et al: Current Veterinary Therapy*, *Povey: Infectious Diseases of Cats*, *Lewis & Morris: Small Animal Clinical Nutrition*, *Muller et al: Small Animal Dermatology*, and *Delahunta: Veterinary Neuroanatomy & Clinical Neurology*.

Theriogenology

25 titles, including *Carlson: Patten's Foundations of Embryology*, *Proceedings of Annual Conferences of the Society for Theriogenology*, and *Morrow: Current Therapy in Theriogenology*.

Toxicology

8 titles, including *Clark et al: Veterinary Toxicology*, *Radeleff: Veterinary Toxicology*, and *IPCS/WHO: Toxicological Evaluation of Certain Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods*.

Letter Of Appreciation

Dear Dr. Derbyshire,

I am very pleased to inform you that the consignment of books, journals and proceedings you processed from England has arrived at CGVC in good condition.

With regard to their usefulness, I must say, they are new additions to the college library and our readers will be immensely benefitted from them. They have become asset not for only for our college family but also for the wider professional community of this country. The contribution CVA made to make them available to us is officially acknowledge and appreciated in a meeting of the senior managers of the college and they have asked me to inform you that CGVC as member of the international Veterinary Community will always recognise the role of CVA for promoting veterinary education in different commonwealth countries. Above all, the donation made by Dr. E. A. Wells with those books journals and proceedings is considered to be the expression

of his sincere love and affection for the veterinary profession and for Bangladesh and CGVC. I, on behalf of the college management team express deep sense of gratitude for his generosity and wish him a very good health and long life. Through you I would like to assure him that all these materials will be used for the upliftment of veterinary profession and will be preserved for the generations yet to come.

Thank you very much indeed for your all efforts that make it possible.

I look forward to your continuing support for CGVC.

With very best wishes.

Nitish Debnath
Principal
Chittagong Govt. Veterinary College
Bangladesh.

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 lectures should emphasise 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.

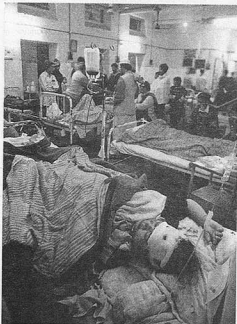
Last date of submission of request to Council Members/
Reg. Rep. 30th Oct. 2001. RRs to submit their
recommendations before 30th Nov. 2001 to Programme
Director.

Asia

Disaster In India

On 26th January 2001 at 8.46 am the biggest earthquake (8.0 Richter) in 50 years and epicentered 20 kms North-Northeast of Bhuj, Gujarat, the western state of India shattered the Republic Day celebrations of the country leaving a toll of hundreds of thousand dead and injured in a matter of seconds. The disaster was spread over a radius of 1500 kms from the epicenter.

While many died immediately many had an agonising death after prolonged burial under the debris as relief could not be provided due to acute shortage of equipment and manpower to deal with the situation on such a massive scale. While more than 75 high-rise buildings in Ahmedabad have been reduced to rubble, so is also the case in many other smaller towns and villages. While the total death toll remains uncertain it can safely be put



An over crowded hospital ward



Soldiers removing the dead from the debris. An elevator shaft is all that's left of a building.

around more than hundred thousand and a similar number critically injured and maimed for life.

The loss of animal life has been overshadowed by the human tragedy however, hundreds of animals have been killed and those injured either rescued and those beyond treatment euthanised. Massive relief operations have been launched for both human and animal welfare. Fodder, medicines, equipment has been rushed from various parts of the country.

The CVA has offered immediate help to the Indian Veterinary Association and the Gujarat Veterinary Association to rehabilitate destroyed veterinary hospitals. At the time of going to the press, aftershocks are still occurring in those areas.



Collapse buildings



A child victim being removed from the debris

• *A person can't appreciate the present or contemplate the future without an awareness of the past !*

Photograph courtesy: Outlook, February 5, 2001

CVA Village Programme Pays Dividends

The village of Muthanallur outside the city of Bangalore, India which has been adopted by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association is a beehive of animal activity. Three years back during Second Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference visitors were taken to this village to show the various animal husbandry activities and this village was adopted by the CVA. As part of the CVA programme, women farmers from the village, who are the main caretakers of the animals were sent for training to Anand at Gujarat Milk Federation and after the return have used their expertise to increase the milk production in the village.



A woman farmer of the village



A farmer with his buffaloes

Subsequently, sheep and poultry have also been distributed to the poor farmers by the CVA and after the initial two-year period of CVA help, the villagers are now self-sufficient.

The village has been helped by other NGO's after the initial efforts by CVA.



Sheep being auctioned



A farmer with his crossbred cow and calves

Australasia/Oceania

Australia

Ian Denney - New AVA President



The AVA's new President, Dr Ian Denney, was officially inducted into the role during a ceremony in Perth. He has a wealth of AVA executive experience, having previously served on the NSW Division Board, as NSW President and spent two years on the AVA Board before winning the post of President-elect last year. Dr

Denney has had a diverse career having spent 15 years as a practitioner, three years as a NSW TAFE teacher and seven years as Director of the Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo (NSW). He is currently Deputy Chief, Division of Animal Industries, at the NSW Department of Agriculture, where he also serves as Director of the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, at Menangle, on the south-west fringes of Sydney.

AVJ Clinical Editor



The AVJ has a new Clinical Editor, Dr Maureen Revington, a member of the Australian Women's rowing eight at the 1978 World Championship and a gold medalist in the coxed four at the Henly Women's Regatta in (1990).

She has had a varied veterinary career in Australia and the UK and spent several years in the US with her husband Professor Brian Farrow (Now Professor of Veterinary Clinical Studies at the University of Sydney).

Dr. Revington has a vast network of veterinary contacts across the profession locally and overseas, many of whom have already indicated they will be prepared to assist her efforts in the job, if and when required.

New CEO of AVA

AVA's new Chief Executive Officer, Mr Bruce Wynn, has had an extensive and successful career in agricultural business administration with "not for profit" association. He replaced Barbara Horsfield.



He has come to National Office after a two-year stint as General Manager, Agriculture for the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW. Bruce previously spent 13 years as CEO of that organization's Western Australian counterpart, the Royal Agricultural Society of WA.

Robert Baker New President-Elect

The AVA's new President-elect is Dr Robert Baker, of South Australia. He won the post in last month's AVA Elections, outpolling the other candidates, Dr Tom Lonsdale, of NSW, by 1,252 votes to 157.



A former President of SA Division (1998) Dr Baker is a former long-time Director of the Adelaide Zoo and, currently, is Director of ANZCCART (Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching). He is widely known across Australia - and internationally - because of his work in animal welfare.

AVA Olympian Carries Torch

This photograph shows retired AVA Member and former Olympian, Dr John Holt, of Mt Wilson, NSW, proudly carrying Olympic Torch on its way to the Sydney 2000 Games. Dr Holt represented Australia at the Rome Olympics in 1960 and was a finalist in the 300m shooting event. His brother, Neville, who was a shooting Olympian at the 1948 London Games, also participated in the Torch Relay and handed the flame to John.



CVA Officers Meet Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) President And Chief Executive Officer

Dr WJ Pryor, Past President, CVA and Dr S Abdul Rahman, Secretary, CVA met Dr Ian Denney, President, AVA and Mr Bruce Wynn, CEO, AVA at the AVA Head Quarters in Sydney on November 10th, 2000. Dr David Banks, Council Member for Australia was also present. Dr Pryor explained to the Officer of AVA the various activities, objectives and goals of CVA. Dr Denney, President assured the CVA all support and cooperation from the AVA in its endeavours for the upliftment of veterinarians and farmers in the developing countries of the Commonwealth.



*The CVA members with the President of AVA
L to R: Dr Rahman, Dr Denney, Dr Pryor and Dr D Banks*



L to R: Dr Rahman, Dr Denney, Mr Wynn, Dr Pryor and Dr D Banks

Humour

A stupid man proposes to a woman. She agrees but sets a condition: "I'll marry you if you bring me a pair of crocodile boots".

He sets off to Africa and disappears. Finally a search party is sent to find him. They find him hunting crocodiles and watch him killing a huge one. He walks over the reptile, checks its leg and angrily exclaims: "71st and again barefeet!".

New Executive Dean



The University of Queensland has appointed Professor Roger Swift, the new Executive Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science.

Professor Swift worked previously for the CSIRO as Chief, Division of Soils, and more recently as Chief Research Scientist. He has also held the position of Head of Department of Soil Science and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food at the University of Reading in England.

Professor Swift graduated from Birmingham University in 1965, where he later gained his PhD.

His other positions include appointments with the University of Western Australia, Manchester, Edinburgh and Lincoln in New Zealand as Head of Department of Soil Science and from 1985, Vice-Principal (now designated as Deputy Vice-Chancellor).

Veterinary Conservation Biology: Wildlife Health And Management in Australasia

A conference organised 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) on July 2nd - 6th, 2001 at Taronga Zoo, Sydney, Australia. A website for further information on the conference and a registration form is at www.ava.com.au/conferences. And also for communication contact:

Dr Larry Wogelnest
Taronga Zoo Veterinary and Quarantine Centre
PO Box 20, Mosman NSW 2088 Australia
Email: lwoelnest@zoo.nsw.gov.au
Fax: (61 2) 9978 4516

- *When you are feeling down, check the path you chose to get there*

New Zealand

New NZVA President

New NZVA President Jenny Weston in her presidential regalia at the NZVA office. Jenny took over the presidency from Susan Morris at the NZVA conference in Auckland in June.



Singapore

Corporatization Of Veterinary Department

The government department responsible for veterinary, agriculture and fisheries regulation and development in Singapore was the Primary Production Department, Ministry for National Development. Last year (2000), the government decided that the Department should have more autonomy and flexibility to decide new policies. It was corporatised to become the Agri-food and Veterinary Authority (AVA). AVA policy is decided by a Chairman and assisted by a Board of Directors. It is administered by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The present CEO is Dr Ngiam Tong Tau, the former Director of Primary Production.

- *Lord, grant me the serenity
To accept things I cannot change
The courage to change the things I can
And the wisdom to know the difference
- an Old Irish prayer for Serenity*

Singapore Veterinary Association

A number of 'firsts' marked the Annual Conference of the Singapore Veterinary Association, 10th-12th November 2000, held at the Hotel Inter-Continental Singapore. The theme of the Conference was "New Challenges of the 21st Century". One of the more exotic papers presented was a first-hand account by a veterinary colleague of her experience in taking part in the rescue of Jackass penguins affected by an oil spill in South Africa. It is a sober reminder of Mankind's damage to wildlife, and the need for stricter regulations in oil transportation.

The Conference was declared open by the Mr. Koh Poh Tiong, the Chairman of the Agri-food and Veterinary Authority (AVA). This is the first time that the SVA Conference was opened by the AVA Chairman. AVA is responsible, amongst others, for animal and livestock production and quarantine in Singapore.

The President of SVA, in a message to the Conference, cited another 'first'.

"For the first time in many years, veterinarians in private practice were well represented in the SVA committee. As Singapore becomes more of a first world economy, pet ownership will continue to rise. In the first half of the last century, pet ownership was looked upon as a luxury - only the rich could afford to own pets; the rest of us were busy trying to earn a living. With the rising affluence of the general population, pet ownership is now common, and so the desire of owners to give them the very best".

The SVA website, sva.org.sg, was also launched in 2000, a 'first'. Members of the profession in the Commonwealth are welcome to log in to read a little bit of the Singapore veterinary profession. Apart from reflecting professional activities, there is also a list of members and a copy of the constitution. Papers presented at the 2000 Conference are reproduced, as well as abstracts from the Singapore Veterinary Journal.

SVA Office Bearers 2000-2001

Dr Hsu Li Chieh was re-elected President of the Association.

President	Dr Hsu Li Chieh
Vice-President	Dr Frederic Chua
Hon Secretary	Dr Tay Choon Ngee
Hon Treasurer	Dr Sim Kwang Oh

Committee Members

Dr Tan Hock Seng
 Dr Shane Ryan
 Dr Tan Kok Cheong
 Dr Daphne Ang
 Dr Yap Him Hoo

CVA-RR Report-29

Pet Dogs And Cats From Singapore Permitted For Export To UK Without Quarantine

- With effect from February 2001, pet dogs and cats from Singapore can be exported to the United Kingdom without having to undergo the 6 months quarantine period. The UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) has informed the Agri-food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) that they have accepted Singapore as a rabies free island under their Pet Travel Scheme (PETS). This Scheme was introduced in Feb 2000 to allow pets to travel between UK and approved European countries.
- To be able to travel to the UK and be exempted from quarantine, all pet dogs and cats have to meet the following requirements prior to export:
 - be identified with a microchip;
 - be vaccinated against rabies;
 - to provide a blood sample for a laboratory test (at a MAFF recognised laboratory) to show that the vaccine has provided sufficient protection for the pet against rabies;
 - be issued with an official PETS certificate;
 - be treated for internal and external parasites and exotic animal diseases (to be specified by MAFF); and
 - pets that are successfully blood tested will be eligible for entry to the UK 6 months after collection of the blood sample (pets have to remain in Singapore or a MAFF approved qualifying country during this period).
- The AVA and MAFF are currently working out the details of the certification requirements for the PETS certificate, microchip requirements as well as details of airlines that will be approved to transport pets to the UK under this Scheme. When these details are finalized, AVA will inform pet owners, veterinarians, pet transport agents and interested members of the public.

4. Rabies is a viral encephalitis that affects all warm-blooded animals. It may be transmitted to humans through the bite or saliva of a rabid animal. The infection in humans and animals is usually fatal.

Singapore has been free from rabies since 1953. To ensure that Singapore continues to be free from rabies, the AVA requires all imported cats and dogs (unless they are from rabies free countries) to be vaccinated against rabies and quarantined for at least 30 days in the Jurong Animal Quarantine Station on arrival. A person who imports a dog or cat from a non-rabies free country into Singapore without ensuring that the animal is vaccinated against rabies and quarantined on arrival is liable on conviction to a fine of \$500 as well as a jail term of 6 months.

5. Pet owners and members of the public who want to know more details about the PETS scheme can write to the City Veterinary Centre at 25, Peck Seah Street, Singapore 079315 (Fax: 2276403) or call 2270670.
6. For Questions and Answers, see Annex.

Annex

Questions and Answers

Q1: How many dogs and cats are exported annually from Singapore?

In 1999, AVA issued export permits for a total of 1,112 dogs and 940 cats. Our records show that 73 dogs and 64 cats were exported to the UK in 1999. Other major countries of export include the USA, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

Q2: What procedures do pet owners have to follow in order to export their pets to UK under PETS?

Pet owners should follow the following steps to export their pets to the UK under PETS:

Step 1

get a private vet to microchip the pet;

Step 2

get a private vet to vaccinate the pet against rabies;

Step 3

get a private vet to obtain a blood sample from the pet at least 30 days after the rabies vaccination. The sample would be sent overseas by the private vet to a MAFF approved lab for a

blood test for rabies antibodies. If the test results are satisfactory, the pet would be eligible to travel to the UK 6 months from the date of collection of the blood sample;

Step 4

keep the pet in Singapore or another qualifying country which is approved by MAFF during the 6 months waiting period in order to meet the residency requirement;

Step 5

apply for a PETS certificate from a private vet;

Step 6

apply for an export permit for the pet from AVA. The owner will also have to apply for an import licence from MAFF. If the application to MAFF is approved, MAFF will issue a boarding document. Owners also have to obtain a declaration of residence form from MAFF or the British High Commission (in Singapore);

Step 7

take the pet to a private vet for treatment against parasites 24-48 hours prior to travel. A certificate of treatment against parasites should be obtained from the vet;

Step 8

Owner to ensure that documents required for export under PETS (PETS certificate, certificate of treatment, declaration of residence, boarding document) as well as an AVA export permit have been obtained for the export of the pet to the UK. The owner should also arrange for an approved airline to transport the pet directly to the UK with the required PETS export documents.

[* The declaration of residence form (obtainable from the British High Commission) must be filled in by owners and signed on the day they travel to the UK with their pets.]

Q3: What is the existing procedure for export of dogs and cats to the UK?

Presently owners need to apply for an import licence from MAFF and arrange for the pet to spend 6 months in a quarantine station in the UK. If the import is approved, MAFF will issue a boarding document for the pet. Owners also have to apply for an AVA export permit and arrange for a licensed vet to examine the pet and issue a veterinary health certificate.

Q4: When can pet owners start making arrangements to export their pets to UK under PETS?

Pet owners can start now by bringing their pets to a licensed vet to microchip and vaccinate their pets.

Thereafter they should ask their vets to collect the blood sample and submit it to a MAFF approved lab.

If the test results are satisfactory, the pet is eligible to travel to the UK 6 months from the date of collection of the blood sample.

Q5: What are the likely travel routes to the UK under PETS?

Owners must export their pets direct by air to the UK. So far, MAFF has not approved any other modes of travel. Flights must fly directly to the UK without the need to change aircraft.

Press Release

Issued by Agri-food & Veterinary Authority
on 20th September 2000

Tiger Was Innocent!

The incident made news around the world: vet killed by tiger! But there was a twist: the big cat was not guilty.

The affair started in a Warsaw zoo, when someone opened the tiger cage and let out three tigers. Two were quickly captured but the third, the most aggressive broke out of the premises and wandered around the city streets. A vet with a tranquiliser gun was summoned. He shot the dart at the cat, which reacted in a typical feline way of making a fake attack towards the aggressor. The police panicked and fired several shots towards the cat. It paused in its attack. Meanwhile the vet stumbled as if tripping over something. The first reaction of the onlookers was that the tiger had struck the vet. When he was being taken to hospital, the truth was revealed: he has been shot in the head. The tiger was also killed.

What is the teaching of this immensely sad story for vets? Trust your professional instincts? Stay clear of overzealous helpers?

• *Happiness is pleasure without regret*

- Tolstoy

Malaysia

Announcement

Veterinary Association Malaysia, Commonwealth Veterinary Association, Small Animal Practitioners Association Malaysia, Malaysian Equine Veterinary Association and UPM Veterinary Alumni are jointly organizing the 13th Veterinary Association Malaysia and 2nd International Congress & Annual General Meeting & Commonwealth Veterinary Association Australasia/Oceania Regional Meeting to be held between 27th - 30th August 2001, at The Mines Exhibition Centre, Sungei Besi, Selangor, Malaysia.

The Scientific Programme Committee invited papers for oral or poster presentation. Papers should reach the Scientific Programme Committee not later than 15th July 2001 to be published in the Congress proceeding. For further inquiries on scientific programme write to;

13th VAM Congress Scientific Prog. Comm.,
(Attn: Dr. Nadzarrah Cheng Abdullah),
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
Universiti Putra Malaysia,
43400 Serdang,
Selangor, Malaysia.
Tel: 603-89486101 (Ext. 1820)
Fax: 603-89486722
e-mail: ncheng@vet.upm.edu.my

Full registration fee for Foreign participants before 1st June USD 250.00 and after 1st June USD 300.00. Registered participants are entitled to admission to all sessions, conference materials, lunches, morning and afternoon teas, and official dinner reception.

The scientific programme will focus on these areas: Animal Health and Production, Biotechnology, Equine Practice, Small Animal Practice, Pet Animal Nutrition, Fish and Aquatic Diseases & Management, Exotic and Wildlife Diseases & Management, Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety, Food and Food Products, Veterinary Management and Economics, The Profession, Education and Animal Welfare.

The programme will include: Keynote and Plenary Lectures, Oral and Poster Presentations, Satellite Seminars, Demonstration and Poster Display, Livestock Asia 2001 Expo & Forum, Sales of Publications.

Bali - Squeezing Your Comfort Zone

By Stuart Cameron, Dunedin

Bali - love it or hate it - 30°C, sunburn, surf, swimming pools, spicy food, shopping at Kuta, the beach, pearls, watches, silver, leather bags. Bargaining, 'how much you pay? - best price', terima kasi - LOVE IT!

I had read about the Bali Street Dog Foundation in Vetscript and after some chasing around, made contact with Sherry Grant, the coordinator in Bali. E-mails flew around - 'Yes, we would love your help. How many dogs? Oh, even one would be great!'

I faxed all my suppliers for donatable stock and received only one reply - thanks to Bayer for their generous supply of Advantage. It seems that animal remedies can be taken in to Bali with no problem, undeclared, but one must be a little careful there.

I contacted Sherry from the hotel and yes, we were set up for Thursday. I was collected at 9 am and taken to the village of Jimbaran where the meeting house (open on three sides) had been set up with operating tables. There were three other vets operating under the supervision of Dr Listriani, a local practitioner. Of interest was the local veterinary school involvement, with students using the neutering for practical surgical experience. I was thrust into the role of supervising surgeon, observed by 15 students.

Dogs were not easily handled, so catchers with net are paid 10,000 rupiah (€3) per day to capture them, villagers also began to arrive with dogs under their arms.

The dogs were anaesthetised with Rompun/Ketamin, shaved and prepared with iodine before spaying or neutering. 'Here's your first dog, Dr Stu'. I scrubbed in a bowl of disinfectant and gloved up. Operating with shaky hands, low table, poor light, sweat, many watching eyes, deep breathing, trying to relax, totally uncomfortable, sewing up with 2/0 vicryl and surgical glue, thankful that dogs the world over are anatomically the same. The dogs were ear-marked, recovered in collapsible cages and returned to the capture site or owners later in the day. Each dog received Ivomec, Advantage, NSAIDs and penicillin. Between operations, the instruments were chemically sterilised.



Dr Stuart Cameron at work

You can philosophise about this programme and turn a blind eye, saying natural selection and the government shooting/poisoning programmes will control dog numbers, or you can follow a policy that may control the population, increase the health status of individual animals and raise the awareness of responsible dog ownership among the Balinese people, remembering that the dogs are an essential part of the overall island ecological scraps/rats cycle. The plan is to move through villages with the MASH tent and also to use Dr Listriani's clinic.

This is a long way to go but I must congratulate Sherry and Dr Listriani for their initiative and caring.

If anyone is interested, you will be made most welcome and offered accommodation and transport. Take your own disposable gowns and gloves and possibly head lamp. There is a desperate need for good suture materials, needles, instruments, vaccines and parasiticides.

Read all about it on
www.balistreetdogs.org.au or
www.yamp.com/balidogs or
contact Sherry Grant
kagrnt@ix.netcom.com or
Stuart Cameron, phone 03 467 2346
email: stucam@xtra.co.nz

Canada Caribbean

Canada

CVMA To Produce Tool Kit On Antimicrobial Resistance

Government provides support to disseminate most current information. In order to promote the prudent use of antimicrobial drugs, the CVMA is producing a special information kit that will update Canadian veterinarians on the issue of antimicrobial resistance and assist them in educating their clients. The project is being undertaken with a grant from the Canadian Coordinating Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance (CCCAR).

"The goals of the project are to generate awareness among veterinarians of the issues related to antimicrobial resistance and to provide them with the necessary resources to educate their clients", explained Dr Deborah Stark, the CVMA representative on the CCCAR. "The initiative by the CVMA is the veterinary profession's contribution to the National strategy of the CCCAR".

"The promotion of the prudent use of antimicrobial drugs is one of the priorities of the CVMA National Issues Committee", said Dr Stark. "We are delighted that funding has been made available for the production of this useful tool".

Can Vet J Volume 41, May 2000

Caribbean Veterinary Congress

At the XXII Caribbean Veterinary Congress held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, it has been proposed that a Working Group of the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association, composed of the following,

Jamaica	-	Dr Michael Whittingham
Barbados	-	Dr Gus Reader
Guyana	-	Dr Nicholas MacLean
Trinidad	-	Dr John Fernandes

They have to develop Proposed Minimal Standards for Veterinary Practice within the Caribbean region for discussion and action by the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association.

Report Of Regional Representative, Canada Caribbean

The Caribbean Veterinary Association in collaboration with the CVA hosted a successful Conference in November, 2000 at the Sun Spree Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica.

The CVA meeting of the Councilors and Members of Caribbean Associations were also hosted at this conference. The President of the CVA, Dr. Bert Stevenson, was in attendance and elaborated on the aims and objectives of the CVA.

Dr. Val Mohabir Regional Representative for the Canada/Caribbean region who chaired the meeting was reelected to serve another term as Regional Representative for the region.

Jamaica has been entrusted with the hosting of the PCVC III in early November, 2002. The Host Committee has started their planning of this Conference and shortly the first announcement will be sent to CVA members and Member Veterinary Associations.

It is the hope of the CVA to attract delegates from the European Union including the United Kingdom, USA, South and Central America and the Circum-Caribbean region. This Conference will be held at the Renaissance Jamaica Grand Resort, Ochos Rios, Jamaica.

The Scientific Committee headed by Dr. Larry Heider, who is the former Dean of the Atlantic School of Veterinary Medicine, Prince Edward Island, Canada, visited Jamaica in November 2000 during the Caribbean Veterinary Association Conference and investigated the needs of the Caribbean and the Commonwealth to mount a Scientific Programme which will address current problems. The Caribbean will be well represented in this Scientific Committee.

The Chief Veterinary Officers of the Commonwealth will also meet during this time.

A decision was made at the last meeting of the Caribbean Veterinary Association in Jamaica to hold its biennial meeting at the same time in Jamaica initializing the infrastructure of the PCVC III.

The PCVC III will be convened by Dr. Val Mohabir regional representative of the Canada/Caribbean region and Dr. Wayne Lees, Councilor of CVA for Canada.

I wish to complement the School of Veterinary Medicine, Mt. Hope (University of the West Indies) for their efforts in hosting of the Continuing Education Workshop in January, 2001. This is a positive step in the right direction.

- Val Mohabir, RR Canada Caribbean

East, Central and Southern Africa

South Africa

University Of Pretoria, Faculty Of Veterinary Science Onderstepoort, South Africa

Representatives from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in the United Kingdom recently visited the Veterinary Faculty at Onderstepoort. The SAVA was invited as guests to a cocktail party organised on the campus. Members who participated were Dr Steve Cornelius, Prof Lance Lanyon, Dr Emily Mogajane, Prof Gerry Swan and Prof Bill Blakemore.

The new faculty of veterinary science of the University of Pretoria is situated 5 km outside South Africa's capital city, Pretoria. It was formed in 1999. Following the amalgamation of the former veterinary faculties at Onderstepoort, University of Pretoria and the Veterinary faculty of the Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA). The new faculty utilises the physical facilities at Onderstepoort.

The original Onderstepoort faculty (OP), founded by Sir Arnold Theiler in 1920, was the oldest faculty in Africa and its graduates enjoy reciprocity with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in Great Britain as well as Massey University in New Zealand. The fusion of the two faculties brings a new dimension to veterinary education, opening up the scope of training to cater more widely for the needs of the community at large as well as the requirements of the sub region.

The physical facilities at OP were renewed or completely revamped between 1986 and 1996 and the Faculty now has a campus that compares favourably with the best in the world. The faculty has eleven academic departments an Equine Research Centre and Wildlife Unit. The veterinary academic hospital provides state of the art facilities for the clinical departments and is the focus of the faculty practice rendering a service to the immediate community as well as providing



L to R: Dr Steve Cornelius, Prof Lance Lanyon, Dr Emily Mogajane, Prof Gerry Swan and Prof Bill Blakemore

a national referral service. A multi-purpose research facility caters for the needs of the faculty and is also available for contract research conducted by outside companies or agencies. Many hundreds of students, who have completed a first year in natural sciences at any South African University, compete for the ninety places available in the second year of study for the BVSc degree. Selection for admission entails a grueling set of selection procedures and nerve-wracking interviews.

For those talented individuals who manage to get in, the standing joke becomes "getting in is the easy part - getting out in under 5 years is the hard part!" The total duration of the course is 6 years, including a final year of clinics at the academic departments on a rotational basis. Approximately 100 full and part time postgraduate students are involved in research programs, which derive from each of the academic departments. The post graduate degrees offered are a BVSc (Hons), a MMedVet and MSC, Ph.D.

Pleading The Case For Sex Kittens And Hot Dogs!

While more than 10,000 animals face euthanasia every month in South Africa, the average female cat can produce more than 4000 new lives within the first seven years of her life. A male cat or dog can father ever more new lives. If they survive, they will wander the streets, facing starvation, disease and deprivation unless homes can be found for these unplanned puppies and kittens. The reality is that there aren't enough homes available for the litters generated by unsterilised pets.

Welfare organisations are the only real recourse for animals found on the street. They keep homeless animals for approximately 5 days during which they advertise for both existing owners to reclaim their pets, or for new owners to come forward. The welfare organisation becomes the owner of all unclaimed animals, bathing and feeding them at their own expense for as long as possible. This amounts to an enormous expense for organisations that rely on charity for their funding. The distress of the animals and the cost to the organisation can all be greatly reduced through sterilisation.

Although your pet may be loved and well cared for, he may be roaming the streets to take natural advantage of available females of his species. As responsible pet owners, we can help reduce the overpopulation of cats and dogs through the very simple procedure of sterilisation by our local veterinarians. The South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) and its accredited practices are calling all pet owners, who have not yet done so, to have their cats and dogs sterilised. This appeal is made in the interests of planned parenthood for pets.

Sterilisation is a simple procedure and has long term benefits for pets. Where female cats and dogs

are vulnerable to repeated pregnancies, the stress of multiple pregnancies on vital organs can be avoided, life expectancy can be increased, and the need for euthanasia of unwanted puppies and kittens can be reduced. For male cats and dogs that lead an active sexual life, roaming, spraying, marking of territories, aggressiveness and fighting will also be reduced through sterilisation. In addition, the incidence of diseases associated with sexually active animals is lowered: prostate disease, some cancers, perianal hernias and uterine disease can be avoided.

Sterilisation need not be a costly exercise. SAVAs members significantly subsidise the cost sterilisation procedures in their endeavour to encourage responsible pet ownership. In the long-term, sterilisation reduces overall healthcare costs, fewer pregnancies, fewer birth related expenses, and the health benefits of sterilisation keep veterinary consultations and medication to a minimum. SAVAs are offering all pet owners, the opportunity of winning one of 100 prizes of R200 cash back on any sterilisation procedure carried out during the month of November 2000. Local Veterinary clinics are also encouraging junior pet owners to understand the need for planned parenthood for pets. Junior pet owners can collect free stickers at their local Vet during November! To find out about participating SAVAs Veterinary Clinics, please call Denise on (012) 346-1150.

SAVA Press Release, October 5, 2000

• *Experience is what you get when you don't
get what you want*

- Dan Stanford

Post Graduate Wildlife Course Through Sydney University

Applications are now being sought from candidates for new Postgraduate courses being offered by the University of Sydney - the Graduate Certificate in Applied Science (Wildlife Health and Population Management) and the Graduate Diploma in Applied Science (Wildlife Health and Population Management). The Certificate course covers one semester, while the Diploma covers two semesters.

There is also Masters Degree available. Among the optional units available are: Vertebrate pest

management; In situ wildlife management; Ex situ wildlife management; Sustainable use and stewardship of wildlife; Modern ecology; Science communication; Wildlife health; Structures and management of research projects; Commercialisation of science and Community relations and education.

All attending students must contact Dr Tony English for detailed information on the course.
Tel. w: 02 9351 1675, m: 0412 377 820 or email:
anthony@camden.usyd.edu.au

An Assessment Of The Veterinary Services In Rodrigues Island, Mauritius And Its Improvements

by Jaumally M Reshad, Resident Veterinary Officer, Citronelle, Rodrigues, Mauritius.

Historical Background

Rodrigues is a dependency island of Mauritius situated at about 560 kms to the south east and has a surface area not exceeding 110 square kms. The land topography is hilly with valleys and a central ridge at the middle of the island.

The population is estimated to about 37,500 distributed in 7,000-7,500 families. Rodriguans are known to be traditional farmers. The island actually produces more livestock than the mainland Mauritius.

Due to the slopy nature of the terrain and the inability to stock rain/surface water, there is a serious problem of soil erosion which is in turn polluting the lagoon and affecting fishing.

Due to eco-tourism which is being promoted at national level the island is developing.

The Livestock Sector

There is a cattle population of 13,000, which represents twice the number the land can sustain. The beef industry has done fairly well and butchers from Mauritius have been regularly purchasing Rodriguan boran bulls for slaughter/religious sacrifices in Mauritius. Over the years, this has led to an imbalance ratio of males to females so much so that subsequent birth rates have increased from 1,500 to 2,500 per year resulting in an uncontrolled increase of the bovine population. The quality of the stock too has regressed and this is more evident during dry months when the animals are mostly affected and malnourished.

The cattle population is regularly monitored and the census is updated through a computerised program. Two general Livestock Census have been carried out in 1982 and 1995. The cattle owners range from small breeders possessing 2-3 heads to large breeders owning up to 30-50 heads. The animals are normally allowed to pasture and cut grasses are fed only during the drought. Concentrate feeds too are sparingly given now and then either directly or mixed in drinking water.

Sheep and goats seem to thrive fairly well and are evenly distributed throughout the island although they seem to be concentrated in the coastal regions where they thrive on marginal lands. The sheep industry, however is on the decline and the number of active breeders have decreased for unknown reasons. The demand for mutton is however still high.

The island is self sufficient in pork and at times, it is exported to Mauritius. Pork is by far the meat which is readily consumed by the average Rodriguan and is perhaps the meat of choice after fish. There is a growing market to dispose of excess pork through processing and sale in hotels and tourist resorts. The typical locally made home sausage has great demand on the part of the tourists.

The poultry industry remained stable in its evolution except that few big operators are now breeding and rearing day old chicks imported from Mauritius. The local chicken, however is still very demanding both in Rodrigues and in Mauritius where a guaranteed market already exists. The rearing of other avian species namely ducks, turkeys and guinea fowls has decreased on account of diseases problems.

The evolution of the livestock population in Rodrigues has been tabulated at Annex 1. It can be concluded that there has been a significant rise in cattle numbers while the number of other species namely sheep, goat and pigs are fluctuating peaking up and going down after a few years. The figures of sheep and goat population during period 1995 to 1997 are doubtful as it is presently estimated to be in the range of 8,000 to 10,000. The poultry population at any one time can be roughly estimated to 500,000 heads which would include hybrid layers and broilers imported from Mauritius. The figures also indicate that the ratio between inhabitants and animals is 1:14 thereby indicating the importance of the livestock sector in the Rodriguan economy.

The Role of the Veterinary Services

The island did not have regular veterinary service until 1981 when one Government Veterinary Surgeon was deputed to serve in Rodrigues Island. Since then one veterinary surgeon assumes this service on a yearly tour of service. Prior to the establishment of a veterinary complex, all sick cases reported and even minor surgeries were attended to by experienced farmers/expatriates. The veterinary service was then at the embryonic stage of its development but it has now grown and developed into a unit by itself. While it comprised of a vet, a driver and one labourer in the early days, today the service is strong with a staff list of 10 persons. The orientation of the service too has considerably changed.

The Veterinary Service, as it is perceived now is, basically an essential service functioning under the aegis

of the Agricultural Department. The service operates round the clock and is a customer oriented sector of the Department of Agriculture. The Veterinary Service is responsible for :-

- a. the health of livestock,
- b. enforcement of the Animal Disease Act,
- c. monitoring entry and exit of live animals,
- d. performing artificial insemination,
- e. disease surveillance,
- f. prophylaxis and vaccination of poultry,
- g. as from this year, the service also participates in the destocking program of reformed cows,
- h. and has already initiated a mass sterilisation program in companion animals.

Activities of the veterinary services at present times

The various activities of the division as described above is explicitly described here under.

Veterinary Assistance to needy cowkeepers

The Veterinary Service operates a free drug scheme, whereby livestock breeders benefit from free veterinary care and drugs at their residence round the clock. Minor ailments and deficiency problems are dealt with at the Veterinary Complex and veterinary drugs and vitamins dispensed to breeders calling at the Head office. Annex 2 demonstrates number of cases reported, distribution according to species and general work performed during 1999.

Disease Investigation Program (D.I.P)

In order to effectively use and dispense veterinary drugs and medicines, the D.I.P is enforced as in the past. This investigation program allows for laboratory screening of samples and dispensing of specific drugs for a better therapy.

Post Mortem examination

Post mortem examinations are effected at the Laboratory, in the fields, on Government Stations and cases reported by the police which includes carcasses of poultry, canines, bovines and caprines. Newcastle disease and Gumboro, the two viral diseases of economic importance are present on the island.

Disease investigation/Health Check on Government Stations and Prisons

Disease surveillance/health checks are regularly carried out at Saint Gabriel, Bay Topaze Stations and Ile aux Crabe on a weekly interval and at times of need. There has been no new outbreaks nor any new disease/disease conditions diagnosed on all three stations except for diseases of bacterial origin which have been of common occurrence. Neonatal diarrhoea has been a problem at Baie Topaze and this condition is

encountered when unhygienic situations prevails due to scarcity of water. The diarrhoea is responsible for neonatal mortality in piglets but is controlled through medication and maintaining a sound hygienic program on the station.

Artificial Insemination

Facilities of performing Artificial Insemination exists on the island and is being performed especially among the dairy animals. However, the breeders are more inclined to resort to natural service and in general, it can be assumed that there is no controlled breeding program, the cows on heat taking the first available bull while on pasture.

Importation and Exportation of Live animals

The export of live animals is an important aspect for consideration as it represents significantly to the Rodriguan economy, the farmers at one time or the other have animals ready for export to Mauritius. However, the demand for meat is slightly on the decline as compared to previous years due to the fact that the importers are probably obtaining better quality and price from alternative sources and also due to health scare associated with the consumption of red meat.

Importation of live animals from Mauritius includes pets and day old chicks from the local commercial operators. At times boars and rams are also imported by the local administration for breeding purposes and introduction of new genetic material.

Livestock Census and tagging of newborn calves

The livestock Census is still operational although some difficulties are now and then encountered in collecting and processing of data.

Illegal Slaughter

It is a known fact that the Rodriguan resort to illegal slaughter of livestock.

Vaccination of Poultry

Two viral diseases of economic importance affecting the poultry in Rodrigues are Newcastle disease and Infectious Bursal Disease. Newcastle disease occurs seasonally while Infectious Bursal Disease is present throughout the year. Both diseases can be controlled through good hygiene coupled with a sound vaccination program.

Other activities include destocking of cows and mass sterilisation of dogs and cats

Disease Problems

Rodrigues Island is by its location free from major livestock diseases of economic importance. Problems encountered mostly are due to ectoparasites (flies, ticks, lice) and endoparasites (round and flat worms). All

species are affected and the loss in production due to tick and fly infestations alone on an island wide scale is economically significant.

One viral disease has been reported in the cattle namely Malignant Catharral Fever (Sibartie 1986) and this disease has consistently coincided with the lambing period. During the past two years its occurrence has not been reported.

Other viral diseases worthy of mention are Newcastle disease and Gumboro which affect the avian population.

Effect of drought

The next problem affecting the livestock population is related to drought conditions. The animal population being more than twice the number which the island can sustain and the relative arid nature of the terrain on the coastal region, animals tend to suffer a lot from mineral and vitamin deficiencies. Both adult and calf mortalities are at its highest during the driest months. Cases of vitamin deficiencies, recumbencies, dehydration and difficult calvings are mostly reported during drought.

Proposals

While all other public sectors have developed to answer to needs and aspirations of the public, the veterinary services has remained more or less static, performing the same type of routine work and without significant progress. Nowadays, the public is more demanding and the need to attain future goals requires to put into place certain deep modifications/reorganisation of the service. It is a known fact that the work load and conditions of work for one veterinary officer is heavy for one person to assume daily on a round the clock basis. This also entails the curtailing of fringe benefits/ leaves which he is not allowed to being the only vet on the island. Many a times, veterinary duties are deputed on others grades while the vet deals with urgent calls which are reported.

Infrastructure

Actually the Veterinary Complex is undergoing structural modifications to accommodate an office for the veterinary officer and a post mortem room. The existing laboratory can be modified to create the parasitology and haematology sections within the existing framework. In so doing, the veterinary services will be more performing and will no doubt, be an advantage which the livestock sector can benefit directly from.

Above proposals will invariably necessitate special allocations to be made in the capital budget for the purchase of specific laboratory equipment, chest freezers, centrifuges, additional microscopes, a PC for implementation of the census program etc.. The

laboratory will also require continuous water supply and to maintain an aesthetic look, the floorings, furniture and accesses to the lab will also have to be modified and reinstated.

Organigram and personnel

Efficiency of the Veterinary Services will not depend only by the creation of the laboratory alone but will require additional trained personnel to manage the various sections. The proposed organigram is tabulated in Annex 3.

Cattle industry

The cattle industry is a major cause of concern as it is responsible for the erosion and indirect pollution of the lagoon. As mentioned earlier, major problems of the industry are related to parasitic infestation and drought conditions. While Government is striving to finalise the cattle walk scheme, it would be necessary to construct at strategic points water troughs so that breeders of specific locations can make good use of these water points during the drought season.

Control of parasites

At the same water points, dips too can be constructed and regularly utilised by breeders of the region. Presently, ectoparasites namely ticks, flies and lice are summer problems on the island and the negative effect due to these parasites in the livestock is consequent. Breeders calling at the Veterinary Services are given necessary insecticides to apply individually on the animals. This entails a) the use of more insecticides, b) inefficiency of drug utilisation due to wrong dosage and c) improper disposal of left over insecticides leading to possible contamination of water sources and underground water holds.

Destocking of reformed cows

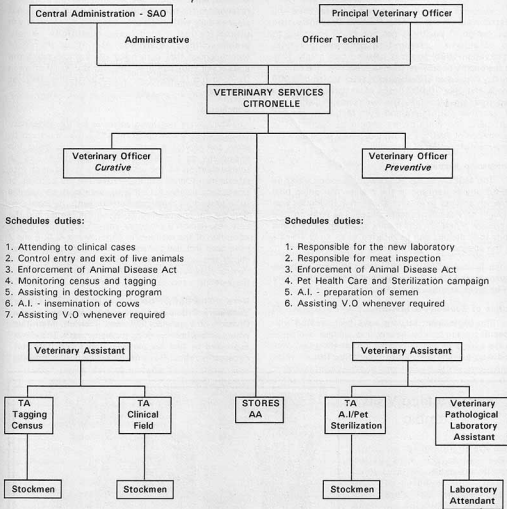
This is a major cause of concern for one and all as its operation implies coordination among various sections for its success. The destocking process comprises of the purchase of animals from private breeders, veterinary follow ups, reformation on the government station and sale to private butchers from Mauritius. Its has started moderately this year and the veterinary services has been called to participate in the purchase and implementation of a sanitary protocol of the cows during fattening period at the stations.

Artificial Insemination

Artificial insemination is more or less non-existent and the philosophy of natural mating prevails. It can be safely assumed that there is no breeding program, selection etc... and there is evidence of inbreeding. It is felt that Artificial Insemination would be the best solution to upgrade the genetic material and improve the carcass quality.

VETERINARY SERVICES

PROPOSED ORGANIGRAM



The Poultry Industry

The demand of poultry in Rodrigues is on the increase and although the Island exports live local poultry to Mauritius, it is ironical but true to state that more finished frozen broiler chicken and table eggs are also imported into Rodrigues. Nowadays commercial operators are rearing broilers chicken and nearly

100,000 day old chicks have been imported in 1999. The local poultry is reared in the traditional method i.e as a backyard occupation without full control on the flock. It is estimated that the Rodriguan family has on an average 50 heads of local broiler and the poultry population at any one time is estimated to 500,000 which includes the day old hybrid chicks which are imported regularly.

Vaccination of Poultry

Two viral diseases of economic importance affecting the poultry in Rodrigues are Newcastle disease and Infectious Bursal Disease.

Vaccines should be ordered on a regular basis and distributed to the public readily. Presently, the vaccination of poultry is not performed according to an established vaccination program (personal observation 1996) and it is believed that hardly 10% of the poultry population receives vaccines. The current poultry population in Rodrigues is estimated at 500,000 heads and only 70,000 doses of vaccines have been imported from Mauritius. The two points of distribution of vaccines (Citronelle and Port Mathurin) are not sufficient and more points should be opened. The assistance of ONG's / youth clubs may be sought for uniform distribution of vaccines.

Companion animals

The MSPCA is not active on this island although its activity is itemised in the budget. For some time now, an attempt to implant a branch in Rodrigues was thought of, has not yet materialised. The stray animals represent a problem and legally speaking, all cats and dogs in Rodrigues can be referred to as stray animals in the absence of registration by the MSPCA.

It is suggested that all animals without a known owner on the island be caught and euthanised. Priority to be given at areas of predilection.

Future of Government Stations

The government stations have been created with specific aims to service the breeding community at large in the supply of quality animals for breeding purposes and also assume the role of facilitator. The activities

of Baie Topaz and Ile aux Crabe in the breeding and dissemination of piglets and sheep have so far been a success and these stations should be allowed to pursue in this direction. The major constraint on these two stations, however, are lack of water and this in itself is responsible for neonatal deaths. The pig sties if not cleaned daily with sufficient water and disinfectant will ultimately result in disease conditions namely *e.colibacillosis*, diarrhoea etc. It is therefore recommended that bore holes be dug and make the station self sufficient in water. This is cost effective in the long run as water is carried by trailers daily, at extra cost.

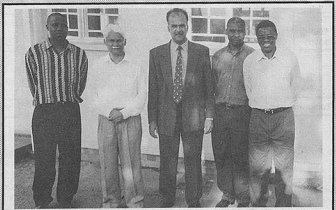
Conclusion

Much work has been achieved by the Veterinary Service since its inception in 1982, but the need to grow and serve the breeding community is being felt especially at the beginning of the millenium. A reorganisation of the service and investment into laboratory facilities are imperative for the success of this essential service. Lastly, the veterinary service will have to work in close collaboration with the Extension Services for coordination between the farmer and the services. Radio/TV programs are valuable tools for the education of the breeders at large. Annex 4, 5, 6 and 7 have been included to tabulate slaughter house returns, import and export of live animals, tagging program and general observations directly related to the activities of the veterinary services during year 1999.

Note : The author holds a substantive post as Veterinary Officer and is presently attached to the Division of Veterinary Services - Reduit, Mauritius where he has been working for many years. The views expressed by him are personal views and does not necessarily reflect Government policy on the subject.

RR ECS Africa Visits Zambia

Dr R Jaumally, Regional Representative, ECS Africa visited Zambia on an official visit on behalf of the Department of Veterinary Services, Mauritius and took time off to visit Zambia Veterinary Association and had discussions with Council member Dr Pandey and other members of the ZVA on issues pertaining to the CVA.



L to R: Dr Mulumba, Treasurer; Prof. Pandey, Councilor; Dr Jaumally, Dr Mutenwa, Vice-Secretary and Drimba President

Country Report - Zimbabwe

George Gwaze, CVA Councillor

Provincial Veterinary Officer, PO Box CY 980, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe.

General

Zimbabwe is blessed with an efficient Veterinary Services unit manned by motivated and hard working staff. The department is well supported by the Government and positive members of the livestock industry.

Enormous positive changes had occurred in the Department of Veterinary Services and the livestock industry in general in the past 2 years as a result of institutional reforms put in place. These improvements concerned the following issues:

1. Core Functions Analysis

This enabled the Department to be more focused and to concentrate on priorities and to improve efficiency with less resources.

2. Revolving funds

The Department is now charging for service delivery and retain 100% revenue collected.

3. Departmental Vision, Mission and Goals

These were drawn up in consideration of core functions as an indication that all staff should work towards common objectives as a united team.

4. Annual Work Programmes

These were found necessary so that the Department is viewed by the stakeholders to be organised, coordinated and ensuring well planned activities for the year.

5. Job Descriptions

Job descriptions were revised to ensure that staff were working in terms of the agreed core functions and Departmental Mission and Goals.

6. Performance Management

All staff are now working under the "Performance Management Systems" and therefore measured on work output and quality of work.

7. Veterinary Services Council

The formation of the Veterinary Services Council is an indication of the accountability of the Department of Veterinary Services to the parent Ministry of Agriculture and to the livestock industry as a whole. The Council would ensure that the Department was providing demand driven services. However, the Animal

Health Act and all ancillary regulations provided the Department and Government with the ultimate authority for animal health.

8. Central Information Management Unit

This unit is fully computerized and is able to generate all information required regarding animal health in Zimbabwe. This has enormously improved the Department's ability to plan disease control strategies and has become a vital source of information to Government and the livestock industry in general.

9. Emergency Disease Preparedness Fund

This fund wholly contributed by the livestock industry is there primarily to support the Department of Veterinary Services in its control of outbreaks of diseases which could adversely affect the industry. The fund is also available to assist supplementing the Department's budget if necessary during times when allocation from the central Government is not adequate to ensure the smooth running of veterinary services in the country.

10. Livestock Identification Trust

This ensures that all cattle slaughtered at approved export abattoirs are fully traceable and only originate from farms within the European Union export zone. Our system has been hailed as comparable to the systems now in use in countries of the EU.

Veterinary Field Services (Infrastructure)

Disease surveillance, monitoring and reporting relies on a country-wide network of offices comprising of 8 Provincial Veterinary Offices; 3 Provincial Diagnostic Laboratories; 53 District Veterinary Offices of which 26 are headed by professional officers and the rest by technical officers. In addition there are 308 Animal Management and Health Centres (village animal clinics) in communal areas and 6 sub-district Veterinary Offices in Commercial livestock farming areas. For purposes of disease surveillance and control, the country is also divided into foot-and-mouth disease control zones through a network of approximately 3000km and 1500km cattle and buffalo-proof cordon fences, respectively. The surveillance system consists mainly of livestock inspections done: a) regularly on commercial farms or at dip tanks in communal areas, b) prior to issuing

of pre-slaughter and inter-provincial movement permits, c) at livestock and game auction sales, and d) during disease investigations.

A total of 2680 dip tanks maintained and administered by the Department of Veterinary Services are present at strategic points in the communal, resettlement and small scale farming areas in order for livestock owners to regularly dip cattle to control tick-borne diseases. Another 4000 privately owned dip tanks are in operation in the commercial farming sector.

Zimbabwe Veterinary Association (ZVA)

The aims and objectives of the association are governed by its recently amended constitution and the adoption of a mission statement. An executive committee comprising the president, vice-president, association administrator and other 4 committee members run the affairs of ZVA. Meetings are held once a month during which frank discussion of matters concerning the profession are tackled.

Traditionally the association holds an Annual General Meeting and Congress once a year at one of the resorts far removed from the hustle and bustle of urban areas. Most of our invited speakers have come from Onderstepoort with a few others from countries within the region, U.S.A., U.K. and Australia. We are considering holding our Congresses bi-annually in such a way that the dates do not clash with those of the South African Veterinary Association Congress. This is to ensure the continued free-flow of speakers from

Onderstepoort to whom we are very grateful for their support over the years.

Continuing education is another area the ZVA plays a very active part by arranging clinical evenings during which local or visiting veterinarians and other academics are invited to give a talk to interested members. The ZVA Wildlife Group has been holding a Dangerous Drugs Course annually for interested veterinarians and other people involved with game capture for a number of years. The course has become popular with local, regional and veterinarians from overseas. Participants who pass the exam are given a licence in the use of specified drugs for game capture. The ZVA Wildlife Group requires that a 5 year refresher course (plus exam for non-veterinarians) be attended before licence renewal.

Conclusion

Our major objectives in the deliverance of veterinary field services is:

- i. To promote and maintain the viability of the livestock industry, including wildlife, through the eradication, prevention, surveillance and control of the major animal diseases and pests of economic importance, thus safeguarding local and export markets for livestock and livestock products;
- ii. To improve animal health and productivity by providing a strong veterinary extension service through training of staff and farmers, with emphasis on the small holder sector, and
- iii. To prevent by strict import control, the introduction of specified animal diseases and pests.

New Council Member Of Zimbabwe

Dr George Evans Gwaze obtained his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine-DVM (Ibadan), 1979 and Master of Veterinary Science (Liverpool), 1983.

He worked as District Veterinary Officer with the Govt. of Botswana, where his duties involved disease control and prevention. He later joined as Government Veterinary Officer in Zimbabwe based at Bulawayo. Besides the duties mentioned above he was also very much involved in the control of Tick-borne diseases. Later on he worked as Poultry Pathologist based at Central Veterinary Laboratory, Harare.



At present, he is the Provincial Veterinary Officer for Mashonaland East Province.

He is Current Vice President of the Zimbabwe Veterinary Association and Member of the Government Veterinarians Association and one of its past Chairmen. He is the Vice Chairman of the Dipping Committee of the Dept. of Veterinary Services, Member of the the Veterinary Committee of Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe, Member of the Examination Board of the Council of Veterinary Surgeons of Zimbabwe and Member of the Zimbabwe Society for Animal Production.

New Council Member Of Malawi

Dr Chikungwa Patrick Benson obtained his Bachelor of Veterinary Science from University of Zimbabwe in 1998. He also had a Bachelor of Science (Chemistry & Biology) from University of Malawi in 1987, Certificate in Diagnosis & Control of Rabies and other Viral Zoonoses from Hokkaido University, JAPAN (Jan-March, 2000) and Certificate in Diagnosis, Control and prevention of tropical livestock diseases Zoonoses module from University of Zambia (Nov-December, 2000).



He has worked as Divisional Veterinary Officer since December 1998 up to date and his major responsibilities include supervision, monitoring and evaluation of all field programmes in animal health and production at ADD level.

New Office Bearers of UVA

A new Uganda Veterinary Association Executive took office for the years 2000-2002.

President	Dr Benon Asiimwe
Vice-President	Dr Rose Azuba-Musoke
Hon. Secretary	Dr Richard Isabirye
Hon. Treasurer	Dr Elizabeth Kyewalabye
Vice-Treasurer	Dr Fiona Watta
Vice-Secretary	Dr Margaret Kahwa

Committee Members

Dr Abed Bwanika
Dr Goerge Nasinyama
Dr Tarsis Kagwisagye

• If everything you said could be heard by many, would you say less more often and think quietly?

— ABR

New Regional Representative Of ECS African Region

Dr William Okelo Ogara has been elected as new Regional Representative Of ECS African Region. He holds a PhD degree in Veterinary Science. Currently he is a Senior lecturer in the Department of Veterinary Public Health Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Dr. Ogara has served as a consultant for the National Environment Secretarial (NES) as a facilitator. He was a member of the National Co-ordinating Committee (NCC) of the UNEP/UNDP Project on Environmental Law and Institutions, co-ordinated by the National Environmental Secretarial of the Ministry of Environmental Conversation.



He worked as Member of the all USSR Wildlife Expedition Laboratory studying the Ecology Biology and Cropping of Saiga (*Saiga tatarica Linnaeus*). Then as a Graduate Assistant in Department of Veterinary Public Health and Technology of animal products, Moscow, Russia. Later he worked as Veterinary Officer in Clinical Services and Disease Control, Narok District, Kenya under Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing and then appointed as Lecturer in University of Nairobi, Department of Public Health Pharmacology and Toxicology.

He was a Commonwealth Veterinary Association Councilor for Kenya from 1995 - 2000 and currently, Kenya Veterinary Association Representative to the Council of the Association of Professional Societies in East Africa from 1992.

He replaces Dr R Jaumally and will assume office later next year.

Smallholder Dairying in East Africa

In Africa as a whole, smallholder dairying generates more regular income than any other rural enterprises. Globally, the market value of milk production is second only to rice in the arid and semi-arid tropics of South and South-East Asia, second to beef in the subhumid tropics and subtropics of South and Central America and exceeds all other food commodities, including coffee, in the warm humid tropics of South and Central America. With such numbers behind it, dairying obviously contributes enormously towards alleviating poverty and improving food security in the tropics; and yet there is much potential for increasing that contribution, as has been demonstrated by 'Operation Flood', the smallholder dairy development scheme in India.

Dairying improves human nutrition and health

But dairying can do more than just increase farmers' incomes — it can improve the nutrition and health of all members of the household, as recent studies in the African highlands illustrate.



In Africa smallholder dairying generates more regular income than any other rural enterprises

Previous farm-level studies have shown that adopting crossbred cows and the associated package of improved feeding and management strategies increases milk production and household income. What they did not show, however, is how the changes affect the nutrition and health of individuals within the households. This gap in our knowledge is being addressed in a collaborative project involving the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) and ILRI, funded by USAID.

Data collected by the EHNRI show that introducing crossbred can markedly improve human nutrition and health. Two years after the introduction of crossbred cows, stunting of children (height for age) is only about half as prevalent in households with the crossbred cows (26%) as in those with only local cows (47%). Stunting is a measure of chronic malnutrition and is generally related to poverty, chronic illness and inadequacy of food. There was little evidence of infectious disease among the sample households but there was a large



A smallholder dairy farm at the Kenya coast

difference in dairy income between those that kept crossbred cows and those that did not. This suggests that the reduction in stunting is related to increased income from dairying rather than reduction in disease.



A farmer milking his cow

Even immediately after crop harvest, when food availability is greatest, milk consumption in households with crossbred cows was more than double that in households with only local cows. Children consumed most milk, followed by men, then women.

Courtesy: ILRAD

Laughter Is A Good Pill

Scientists have finally proved what everyone has always believed – hearty laughter is good medicine, according to a report. German researchers writing in February issue of the medical journal *Aerztliche Praxis* say their experiments definitively prove that a good laugh helps the whole body relax, helps calm a heart racing due to anxiety and helps lower blood pressure. Laughter also stimulates production of digestive juices, has a beneficial effect on stress levels and boosts the immune system. The researchers further said a few giggles can help clear the mind, spurring creativity and efficiency.

Namibia

New Council Member - Namibia

Diethardt Rodenwoldt is the President of VAN and its new CVA Councillor. Born in Namibia he completed his studies (Agricultural Economics and Veterinary Sciences in Onderstepoort).



He worked for 2 years in South Africa in a mixed practice, before continuing in Europe and shortly in the States for 1 year, again in mainly large animal practice and returning back to Namibia in 1983. For 2 years he worked as an Assistant in a mixed practice, before opening up his own mainly small animal practice in Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, at the West Coast of Namibia.

President SAVA at ECS African Regional Meeting

Prof. Gerry Swan, President South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) participated in the ECS African Regional Meeting as an Observer and took active part in the deliberations.



- *Cars contribute an average of approximately 19 grams of polluting substances for every kilometer travelled*

- The Road Ahead (RACQ)

Zambia

Annual Meeting

The Veterinary Association of Zambia held its Annual Scientific and General Meeting 7-8 May 1999 at Ibis gardens, Chisamba, Zambia. More than forty local veterinarians and animal scientists attended the Annual Scientific and General Meeting. There were representatives from Kenya and South Africa as well.

The event was officially opened by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Honourable Suresh Desai, MP. Several scientific papers were presented. In addition it was stressed to the Government of the Republic of Zambia the need to quickly enact the Veterinary and Paraveterinary Profession Act and the Animal Diseases Act to replace the outdated Veterinary Surgeons Act and the Stock Disease Act, respectively.

In addition the Minister was implored to quickly help enact the Veterinary Drugs Act in order to stop illegal sale purchase and dispensing of veterinary drugs by untrained and unqualified people. The Minister made a strong commitment to tabling the said Draft Act to Parliament before the end of 1999. This would go a long way in the improvement of the Veterinary Services Delivery System under the current Government's policy of privatising most of the Veterinary Services in Zambia.

Elections

During the Annual General Meeting the following were elected to serve on the Executive Committee for 1999-2000 period.

Dr David Chungu Mimba, President
 Dr Geoffrey Bbalu, Vice-President
 Dr Stephen Mutoloki, Secretary
 Dr Alisheke Mutemwa, Vice-Secretary
 Dr Greg. Mululuma, Treasurer
 Professor G.S. Pandey, Commonwealth
 Veterinary Association Councillor

Enquiries: Dr David Chungu Mimba, Veterinary Association of Zambia, c/o Calves Limited, PO Box 820106, Chisamba, Zambia. Fax: +260 1 611053 (Office), or +260 1 611205 (Home).

Veterinarians And Veterinary Association

The country has a total 250 veterinarians, and of these 130 are employed by the Ministry in the Department of Research and specialist services another 70 in the education and training and 30 veterinarians are in private and industry sector and 20 new graduates are awaiting their posting/employment. In addition, another 590 para-veterinary staff consisting of research scientist, livestock officers, veterinary assistants, tsetse control officers, biologist, veterinary technicians support the department to meet its obligations to the public and farming community.

The Veterinary Association of Zambia is quite active in fulfilling its objective and work hand in hand with the Animal Health and Livestock Research Section of the Research and Specialist Services Department of Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. It is also a member of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and World Veterinary Association.

The Veterinary Association of Zambia was established in 1958. The association has a constitution which outlines the aims and objectives, subscriptions, meetings and other related matters.

The affairs of the association are run by the committee elected by the Annual General Meeting which is composed of:

President	Vice President
Secretary	Vice Secretary
Treasurer	Public Relations Officer
Three Committee Members	
A CVA Councillor	

The term of the office of each member is for one year and election takes place at annual general meeting. The CVA Councillor's term of office is for 4 years. The association has following sub-committees which is headed by a executive member.

Fund Raising Committee
 Disciplinary Committee
 Public Relation Committee
 Scientific Committee

The association members also sit on beef committee, dairy committee, poultry committee and pig committee of the Zambia National Farmers Union.

The next AGM and Scientific Conference will take place on 26th and 27th may, 2001 in Livingstone.

- GS Pandey, Council Member, Zambia

Council Members of ECS African Region



Dr G Bath
South Africa



Dr Groudeyal
Mauritius



Dr GS Pandey
Zambia



Dr John Ogwal-Okot
Uganda



Dr G Gwaze
Zimbabwe



Dr D Rodenwoldt
Namibia



Dr WO Ogara
Kenya



Dr PB Chikungwa
Malawi

ECS African Regional Meeting And 5th International Sheep Conference, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 20th-25th January, 2001

ECS African Regional Meeting

ECS African Regional Meeting was held on 22nd January, 2001 at Stellenbosch, South Africa. The following members were present.

Dr Jaumally, Regional Representative and Council Members – Dr G Bath, South Africa; Dr Groodoyal, Mauritius; Dr GS Pandey, Zambia; Dr John Ogwal-Okot, Uganda; Dr G Gwaze, Zimbabwe; Dr D Rodenwoldt, Namibia; Dr WO Ogara, Kenya and Dr PB Chikungwa, Malawi. Dr WJ Pryor, Past President and Treasurer, CVA and Dr S Abdul Rahman, Secretary and Editor, CVA News were also present.

Dr. Gerry Swan President of South African Veterinary Association, Dr Steve Cornelius, Deputy Director General, National Department of Agriculture, South Africa and Dr H Schneider, former Council member Namibia and Vice President, World Veterinary Association also attended the meeting as observers.

The members presented the status papers from each country and discussed the various projects to be implemented in the ECS African region during the next four years.

5th International Sheep Conference

The 5th International Sheep Conference was held from 20th - 25th January, 2001 at Stellenbosch, South Africa. More than 350 delegates from all over the world attended the conference. There were over 150 papers delivered either as presentations or posters. Over 20 papers were on internal parasites alone, including some major developments in helminth control. Speakers from all over the world including Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Greece, Sweden and Iran participated. There were six papers on external parasites, fourteen papers on reproduction and a special session on Caseous Lymphadenitis had ten papers. There was a session on chronic diseases with eleven papers. A number of other sessions on udder diseases, pneumonia, toxicology and nutrition were also held. The members of the ECS African region and Officers of the CVA participated in the deliberations.



*Council Members of the ECS African Region with Dr Pryor and Dr Rahman
L to R (front row): Drs Gwaze, Pandey, Chikungwa, Ogara, Rahman
L to R (back row): Drs. Pryor, Bath, J Ogwal-Okot, Rodenwoldt, Swan, Jaumally and
Groodoyal*

The minutes of the meeting will be published in the next of CVA News.

The members also elected a new Regional Representative, Dr WO Ogara from Kenya to succeed Dr Jaumally whose term of office expires later next year.

The congress was inaugurated by Dr Steve Cornelius, Deputy Director General, National Department of Agriculture, South Africa. At the inauguration ceremony Dr S Abdul Rahman, Secretary, CVA and Dr R Jaumally, RR ECS African Region also addressed the participants.

The valedictory dinner was held on 25th January and Dr WJ Pryor, Past President and Treasurer, CVA spoke on behalf of CVA.

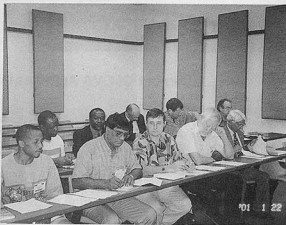
The CVA also had a stand at the exhibition where CVA merchandise such as cookbooks, ties and badges were sold.

CVA Officers Meet

The Officers of the CVA, Dr WJ Pryor and Dr S Abdul Rahman along with the Regional Representatives of ECS Africa, Dr Jaumally had extended meetings during the period of the conference discussing the workplan and projects of CVA.



L to R: Dr WJ Pryor, G Swan and Dr SA Rahman



ECS African Region members at the meeting



*The CVA stand selling merchandise
L to R: WJ Pryor, Ms. Madaleen Schuilheiss,
Editor VetNews, Mrs. Ann Pryor and
a delegate buying a cookbook*



Dr WJ Pryor having discussion with Dr Steve Cornelius

West Africa

Summary Of CVA Activities In West Africa Region

1. Cameroon Joint CVA

When I assumed office of RR in September 1998, only Ghana and the Gambia were active members and fully financial at the time. Nigeria was and still is under suspension whilst civil war continues to ravage Sierra Leone. The West Africa region was therefore in an absolute state of dormancy. However, by the end of 1998, Cameroon joined ranks with the other two countries in the CVA. I must mention that the two past presidents, namely Drs Pryor and Touray were very instrumental in this process.

2. Gambia benefits from CVA Book Programme

This year the Gambia Veterinary Association (GVA) received a consignment of books from the Coordinator - Dr Brian Derbyshire in Canada. These valuable books were distributed to the School of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI). It is hoped that Ghana and Cameroon will also benefit from this programme following submission of their requests in the very near future.

3. RR's visit to Cameroon

Following Cameroon's admission to CVA, it was necessary to establish contact with the relevant authorities in this new member state in order to revitalise CVA activities in our region. Therefore my visit to Cameroon under the auspices of CVA in April this year coincided with their National Veterinary Association Conference which was held in Yaounde. As a result, fruitful discussions were held with the Association (NVAC) and pledges for their active participation in CVA region matters were strongly made.

4. Veterinary Council established in The Gambia

The long-awaited Veterinary Council has been established eventually in May this year. This has great significance to the National Veterinary Association (GVA) in view of the changing circumstance and the growing number of both public and private vets in the country.

Future Activities in West Africa Region

I. Regional workshop in The Gambia

A proposed Regional Workshop is to be held in Banjul, The Gambia pending on the availability of funds as from July 2000. This is scheduled to coincide

with the GVA conference in the year 2000/01. Preparations are well on the way and cost estimates for this programme are being prepared to be submitted to CVA soon. The last Regional Workshop was held in Ghana in September 1996.

II. Sierra Leone and Nigeria to be readmitted to CVA

More efforts will be directed to the idea of bringing back Nigeria and Sierra Leone to become active members once again in our region, even though this is proving difficult at the moment.

III. Fertility Workshop

The fertility Workshop run by Prof Jainudeen could also be organised in West Africa subject to approval and funding by CVA. Already Cameroon has expressed interest in hosting such an important regional even of the CVA.

IV. Study Fund

More applications are expected from our region for the study fund and at the moment the modalities are being worked out.

V. Privatisation of Veterinary Services in Cameroon

NVAC is requesting CVA's intervention in the area of Veterinary privatisation because this is presently the issue of the day amongst vets in Cameroon. As in similar programmes, a comprehensive report if or this is awaited from the Councillor by the end of the year.

VI. CVA Book Programme

As already mentioned, Ghana and Gambia have already received consignments of books that are very much relevant to the Veterinary field here and are grateful for that. However, our region looks forward to benefiting more from this programme since our local institutions of learning are very much in need of such scarce, expensive and valuable materials.

VII. Disaster Relief Fund for Sierra Leone

The idea of providing some relief assistance to Sierra Leone (after such a devastating civil war) is being nurtured. Details about the nature of assistance could be worked out with the National Vet Association following establishment of contacts with the relevant authorities.

- DS Ofana, RR West Africa

Ghana

Inheriting A Tough Legacy

Thousands of jubilant Ghanaians flooded into the streets to celebrate the election victory of the opposition presidential candidate, John Kufuor, and the exit of President Jerry John Rawlings after two decades in power.

There are widespread expectations of a political and economic upturn in the country, which was Africa's first to win independence in 1957. But Mr Kufuor and fellow leaders of the victorious New Patriotic party are calling for restraint – fearful of retaliation from hard-liners and their military associates in the outgoing Rawlings regime.

"We must hold hands and tackle the challenges in a spirit of reconciliation," Mr Kufuor said. Three days earlier the military had parked an armoured car opposite Kufuor's house in a move condemned as intimidatory by his supporters.

Brandishing red, blue and white party flags, Mr Kufuor's supporters claimed a new era had begun for Ghana, whose economy remains weak and depended after more than 15 years of Western backed reform and authoritarian rule.

Mr Rawlings' nominated successor, John Atta Mills, conceded defeat to Mr Kufuor after the national Electoral Commission announced that he had won more than 56 per cent of the vote in the second round of voting in Ghana's presidential elections held recently.

The president wished his newly elected successor well. At a ceremony held recently to mark the anniversary of the 1981 coup that brought him back to power, Mr Rawlings pledged to do everything possible to ensure a smooth transition.



President-elect John Kufuor

New GVMA Executive Committee

The 26th Annual General Meeting and 13th Congress of the Ghana Veterinary Medical Association was held in Kumasi, Ghana, from 10th - 14th October, 2000, the following new Executives were elected for the period 2000-2002 to run the affairs of the Association.

President	Dr Andy Quaropome
Immediate Past President	Dr V.T.K. Agbelli
Vice-President	Dr S.C.K. Tay
Secretary & CVA Councillor	Dr K Kwasi Addo
Assistant Secretary	Dr Richard Suu-Ire
Treasurer	Dr Sherry Eleblu

The new CVA Councillor is

Dr K Kwasi Addo
PO Box 143
Legon, Ghana, West Africa

Tel: + +233-21-775639
Fax: + +233-21-776021
E-mail: vetsdept@africaonline.com.gh

Regional Representatives

Greater-Accra Region	Dr Agyeman Osei-Bonsu
Western Region	Dr Anthony Osei-Tutu
Central Region	Dr P Hilary Lopes
Volta Region	Dr Adams Yahaya
Eastern Region	Dr Veronica Mensah
Ashanti Region	Dr M.M. Adam
Northern Region	Dr Suliah Suleman Jagbesie
Brong-Ahafo Region	Dr J.N. Karimu
Upper-West Region	Dr Carl Beckley
Upper-East Region	W Adu

U.K. Mediterranean

Help In Suffering

Dr. Sunil Chawla, who is the Senior Veterinary Surgeon at the Indian charity "Help in Suffering", visited BVA with Joy Pritchard MRCVS and Jack Reece MRCVS, both of whom had recently returned to the UK having been working on a voluntary basis at the charity's Animal Shelter in Jaipur. They met BVA Vice Presidents David Tyson and Andrew Scott.



L-R: David Tyson, Joy Pritchard, Jack Reece, Dr Sunil Chawla, Andrew Scott

Dr Chawla was on a WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) two-month study tour to the UK. He presented a paper at the WSPA Biennial Meeting in London.

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association Councillor (Professor John Cooper) and BVA Overseas Group assisted in arranging a programme of additional activities during his stay in the UK.

BVA Congress

The British Veterinary Association looks forward to welcoming delegates to its Annual Congress to be held from 4th to 7th October 2001 at The Guildhall, Winchester. The scientific and contentious issues 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 W1G 9NQ. Tel: +44 207 636 6541; Fax: +44 207 436 2970; Email: congress@bva.co.uk

The New BVA President

Dr David Tyson, who was elected President of the British Veterinary Association at its annual general meeting on October 1st, is a practitioner with a long-standing interest in the BVA and its activities.

Dr Tyson graduated from Liverpool Veterinary School in 1968. His interest in veterinary medicine originated from his farm upbringing in the north-west of England.



Dr. David Tyson

Having been a member of BVA since his student days, Mr Tyson joined the North of England Veterinary Association (NEVA) soon after his arrival in Newcastle. He was a council member of that association and then its representative on BVA Council from 1989, and served as its President in 1997. During his time on BVA Council, he was on both the Company Services Advisory Committee and the Veterinary Services Advisory Committee.



The outgoing BVA President, Mr Euston Evans (right), congratulates his successor, Mr David Tyson, following his election at the annual general meeting

• It is better to be looked over than overlooked

- CE

Abstracts

Competitive Exclusion Of Pathogens In Poultry

It has been shown that newly hatched chicks can be protected almost immediately from being colonised by food-poisoning salmonellae present in the environment if they can be provided with an adult-type intestinal microflora by the oral route. This 'competitive exclusion' principle is now being used in many countries as part of the strategy to control poultry-associated salmonellas. This review considers the practical aspects of applying competitive exclusion and the factors which affect its efficacy in both laboratory-scale trials and field studies. It also considers the possible application of the principle to the control of *Escherichia coli* O₁₅₇ and *Campylobacter jejuni* in poultry. There is evidence that for the control of *C. jejuni* different 'protective' organisms may be required than for the control of salmonellas.

Mead, GC. Prospects for 'competitive exclusion' treatment to control salmonellas and other foodborne pathogens in poultry. *Vet J.* 2000; 159:111-123.

Measuring The Heart Size Of Cats From Radiographs

To determine cardiomegaly objectively; the size of a cat's heart must be compared with the size of its body. In this study standardised measurements of the heart and selected skeletal structures were made on lateral, ventrodorsal and dorsoventral radiographs of 100 cats with no thoracic abnormalities. The long and short axes of the heart, expressed in terms of the length of the thoracic vertebrae measured heart size. In lateral radiographs the mean (sd) vertebral heart size was 7.5 (0.3) vertebrae. In ventrodorsal radiographs the heart width was 3.4 (0.25) vertebrae. The system is simple to use and should help to determine whether a cat has cardiomegaly, and to monitor changes in heart size by the analysis of sequential radiographs.

Lister AL, Buchanan JW. Vertebral scale system to measure heart size in radiographs of cats. *J American Vet Med Assoc.* 2000; 216: 210-214.

Long-term Supplementation Of Calves With Vitamin B₁₂

The efficacy of long-acting microencapsulated formulation of vitamin B₁₂ was evaluated in 50 calves. Four groups of 10 calves were injected subcutaneously in the neck with 0.12, 0.18, 0.24 or 0.30 mg/kg live weight of vitamin B₁₂ microencapsulated in a lactide:glycolide copolymer. The changes in serum and liver vitamin B₁₂ concentration were followed for 244 days and compared with 10 unsupplemented calves. The highest dose raised the serum concentration of the vitamin from approximately 250 pmol/litre to 850 pmol/litre after 50 days and maintained them higher than in the untreated controls for at least 110 days; the lower doses produced approximately proportional increases. The increases in the liver concentration of vitamin B₁₂ were of a similar order but the peak concentration was not reached until after 120 days and the increase were maintained for at least 200 days.

Grace ND, West DM. Effect of an injectable microencapsulated vitamin B₁₂ on serum and liver vitamin B₁₂ concentrations in calves. *New Zealand Vet J.* 2000; 48:70-73.

Inhibition Of Abomasal Acid Secretion By *Ostertagia leptospicularis* In Sheep

The pH of the abomasal contents of six infected sheep experimentally with *Ostertagia leptospicularis* was recorded continuously by means of a pH probe. After they were infected the acidity of the contents decreased markedly to between pH 5 and pH 6. However, the administration of histamine or carbachol stimulated acid secretion and the acidity increased to pH 3.4. The results indicate that the sheep's abomasal mucosa had a population of functional parietal cells; before they were stimulated these cells were shown ultrastructurally to be in a resting state. Despite high serum gastrin levels, the secretion of acid was blocked either at the level of the parietal cell or the enterochromaffin-like cell by an unknown factor, possibly mediated by the parasites. The change in pH may favour either the survival or the reproduction of the parasites.

Hertzberg H, Guscelli F, Lischer C, Kohler L, Neiger R, Echert J. Evidence for a parasite-mediated inhibition of abomasal acid secretion in sheep infected with *Ostertagia leptospicularis*. *Vet J.* 2000; 159:238-251.

General Articles

Livestock Production In The South Pacific Islands - A Recent CVA Workshop Targets The Issues

By EH Shortridge, Havelock North

Livestock production in the Pacific can be divided into two distinct production systems: intensive or semi-intensive commercial enterprises, and the no less important subsistence agriculture practised at family and village level. Each has different potential, problems, restraints and limitations. The contribution livestock production makes to the economics and welfare of the Pacific islands is undervalued and under-reported.

Production could be increased by adoption of better husbandry and management practices including disease recognition, treatment and control. Widespread adoption of small improvements in subsistence agriculture, by ensuring provision of improved shelter, nutrition and drinking water along with control of production-limiting diseases such as parasitism, could result in a considerable overall increase in animal production and an associated improvement in family welfare.

One problem common to both systems is the difficulty in small island countries of having available trained and experienced personnel to facilitate and encourage the adoption of techniques that will increase and improve animal production. Development of international trade in livestock products will require that animal health and processing facilities meet and maintain accepted international standards.

Workshop

These points emerged from opening papers presented at a recent Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) Workshop on Livestock Production in the South Pacific Islands, held in Vanuatu last October, the proceedings of which I have been invited to review.

The proceedings are a collection of reports by authors who in the main have first hand experience of livestock production in the Pacific Islands as well

as its potential, restraints and limitations, and together indicate the workshops balanced programme.

Infrastructural problems, the need for training local staff and demonstration to livestock owners of proven production and income-enhancing technologies are some of the issues faced by the island nations and covered in the workshop proceedings. Two reports detail distance education programmes to train local animal health staff to the varying levels of expertise required to complement the limited numbers of formally trained veterinarians that the island countries can currently support.

A theme common to several reports is the need to define better the disease status of countries in the region. This is important in order to meet export certification requirements in countries developing export markets, to devise suitable quarantine measures and to embark on disease control and eradication measures where appropriate.

Reports describing a new paramyxoviral disease in pigs in Malaysia, which caused severe damage to the pig industry there and killed a considerable number of people, emphasised the need for vigilance in the Pacific region where the pig is such a significant animal.

The proceedings are evidence of two matters not specifically considered in themselves. Firstly, the developing maturity of the CVA and, secondly, the development and overall structure of animal health services in the South Pacific.

Maturity of CVA

In the late 1960s, a meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers established the Commonwealth Foundation. One of its responsibilities was the establishment of Pan Commonwealth professional associations. The Commonwealth Veterinary

Association was established in 1968. Amongst its objectives were to encourage the establishment of national veterinary associations in Commonwealth countries where none existed, to effect close links between member associations and to facilitate the dissemination of professional knowledge and information. It was envisaged that professional associations would create an infrastructure to Government in newly independent countries.

In its early formative years, the CVA devoted considerable energies towards establishing its own constitution and organisation as well as to achieving these objectives. Workshops such as this indicate that it has now matured and is performing a useful role in the application of veterinary knowledge for the benefit of animal production and human welfare within the parameters of its original aims and objectives.

State of animal health services

The second issue that becomes apparent from the proceedings is the current state of animal health services in the South Pacific. In the colonial era most, if not all, such services were provided by the colonial services of the colonial powers. Following independence these have been replaced by a blend of national and international agencies and organisations. A glance through the list of workshop participants indicates the diversity of those involved in livestock production and animal health in the South Pacific.

Few South Pacific Island countries could justify or support comprehensive animal health service with expertise in all disciplines. It is vital that this

diversity of input continues. The opening report comments on the merit of maintaining a central monitor to cover collection, central collection and dissemination of relevant statistics, prospects and developments and common needs for training etc. These workshops arranged by CVA must help foster inter-agency cooperation, which is essential to an integrated purposeful animal health service in the South Pacific Islands.

New Zealand's interests

The proceedings stress the need to monitor through ongoing surveillance the animal health status of the region. This is beyond the resources of many small island countries and is being met partly by assistance from the animal health services of Australia and New Zealand. Not only does such assistance help livestock production and human welfare in the South Pacific, it also serves the self-interests of these two countries to have a healthy livestock population in their neighbouring countries. The final report, on Australia's Northern Exotic Disease Surveillance and Monitoring Programme, highlights this.

This has been a well planned workshop programme. The proceedings and those of previous CVA workshops form a useful reference for any party with interests in animal health and production or trade in animal products in the South Pacific.

Copies of the workshop proceedings are available for \$25 from Derek Timbs, AgriQuality New Zealand Ltd, Private Bag 3080, Hamilton. Fax 07 838 5895, timbsd@agriquality.co.nz

Two-Dimensional Language

Good communication describes the world in exact terms. Writers of scientific text too often avoid specific verbs that describe change. Instead they use 'rise' and 'lower' with monotonous frequency, or a noun with an adjectival attribute 'high' or 'low'. This practice arises from the two-dimensional landscape of graphs, where curves rise and decline in a sterile manner alien to the real world.

A pulse is not low. It is slow. The cost of treatment is not elevated. Treatment is expensive. Unemployment has not risen. It has increased. The

condition of the animal is not low. It is poor. Cortisol is not elevated. Its concentration has increased. The dose is not high. It is large. Immunity is not low. It is poor. The activity of farmers is not rising. The farmers are becoming more active. The student's self-esteem is not high. It is good. The subsidies have not risen. They have increased. The birth rate is not low. It is small. The consumption of silage has not risen. Cattle eat more silage.

By: J. Koppinen
Former Science Editor
Australian Veterinary Journal.

Emerging Diseases - Malaria, Mange And Mycobacteria: Contemporary Changes And Challenges In East Africa*

John E Cooper

DTVM, FRCPath, FIBiol, FRCVS

Wildlife Health Services

PO Box 153, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 2ZA UK

ngagi@compuserve.com

"Emergence is none other than the dark side of co-evolution, a typical, inexorable biological phenomenon"
- Joshua Lederberg (1997)

"Emerging infectious diseases" of humans have been defined as those that have (a) newly appeared, (b) rapidly increased in incidence, (c) expanded in geographic range, and / or (d) developed increasing or novel mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance (IOM, 1992). Similar criteria apply to certain diseases of domesticated animals and wildlife and some of these are zoonotic (OIE, 2000).

In East Africa a number of infectious diseases are giving rise to concern because either (i) they have recently caused severe epidemics / epizootics eg Rift Valley fever (WHO, 1998), or (ii) they are becoming endemic / enzootic on a wide scale in animal or human populations eg tuberculosis (Zumla et al, 1999), or (c) they are "new" diseases in the sense that they have not previously been reported in East Africa or appear to be in a new host eg sarcoptic mange in mountain gorillas (*Gorilla g. beringei*) (Kalema et al, 1998).

The spread and re-appearance in some localities of human malaria in East Africa (Lindblade et al, 1999) is not only of relevance to human medicine: the factors that have encouraged such resurgence may also enhance the potential for vector-borne blood parasites of wildlife. Disease due to *Sarcoptes* and other arthropods may be on the increase in chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and gorillas (*G. gorilla*), possibly because of closer contact with *Homo sapiens* or because the immune responses of the great apes are lowered. The spread of *Mycobacterium* species, in some cases with livestock infecting their owners as well as the other way round (Daborn and Grange, 1993), is related to major alterations in host: parasite relations. Village communities may be at risk from both free-living and domestic animals: organisms can be exchanged between all three (Cooper, 1997). Apparent epizootics in species as diverse as Flamingoes (*Phoenicopterus* spp.) and African wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) may reflect complex, sometimes subtle environmental changes including intentional and non-intentional intervention by humans.

These and other examples are timely reminders of the varying pattern of infectious disease, in a number of cases prompted by climatic change, and the effect that this is having on vectors and on the environment. The countries that make up East Africa are, perhaps, particularly vulnerable to new diseases and novel host: parasite interactions because of their (1) high biodiversity, (2) their rapid (human) population growth and (3) the enhanced susceptibility of humans and some animal species in such regions because of immunosuppression - brought about by AIDS, other intercurrent infections and/or malnutrition. In some respects East Africa serves as a useful sentinel for the detection and spread of emerging diseases. Its relative proximity to the Mediterranean and Western Europe, its popularity with tourists and its importance as a wintering area for migrating Palaearctic birds are but three reasons why an understanding of its health problems, in both humans and animals, is relevant and crucial to Western Europe.

Jean Martin Charcot (1825-93), in his book "De l'expectation en médecine" declared: "Disease is very old, and nothing about it has changed. It is we who change, as we learn to recognise what was formerly imperceptible."

This is still essentially true but some changes in organisms and host:parasite relations do occur and coupled with greater awareness, better diagnostic technology and widespread environmental disturbance, contribute to the new and often perplexing challenge of the "emerging diseases".

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How To Give A Cat A Pill

- Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right finger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding a pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
- Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind the sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
- Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.
- Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
- Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.
- Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold cat's head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down mouth and rub cat's throat vigorously.
- Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill front foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered Doulton figurines front hearth and set to one side for gluing later.
- Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
- Check label to make sure pill is not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forehead and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
- Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.
- Fetch screw driver front garage and put door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus jab. Throw T-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.
- Ring fire brigade to retrieve cat front tree across the road. Apologise to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.
- Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed, force cat's mouth open with small spanner. Push pill into mouth followed by a large piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour water down throat to wash pill down.
- Get spouse to drive you to hospital. Sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on the way home to order new table.
- Arrange for RSPCA to collect cat and ring local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

Source: North American Veterinary Client

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**2001**

ECS African Regional Meeting And 5th International Sheep Conference, Stellenbosch, South Africa, **January 20 - 25.**

The World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (WAWV) joint meeting with the Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation and the Australian Section of the Wildlife Disease Association in Australia. **April.**

44th BSAVA Congress, Birmingham, UK. **April 5 - 8.**

Pan Pacific Veterinary Conference and AVA Annual Conference Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre, Melbourne, Victoria. **May 13-18.**

Conference on Wildlife Health and Management in Australia, Tarong Zoo, Sydney, Australia. **July 2-6.**

138th AVMA Annual Convention, Boston. **July 14-18.**

WSAVA World Congress, Vancouver, Canada. **August 8-11.**

32nd International Congress on the History of Veterinary Medicine, Oslo, Norway. **August 15-19.**

Australasia/Oceania CVA Regional Meeting and 2nd International Congress in Conjunction with the 13th VAM Congress, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **August 27-30.**

34th International Congress on Physiological Sciences: From Molecule to Malady, Christchurch, New Zealand. **August 26-31.**

28th ASAVA Annual Conference, Rydges Hotel, Canberra, Australia. **October 22-26.**

Fifth CVA Workshop on Fertility in Village Livestock, West Africa. **Date and Venue to be decided.**

2002

45th BSAVA Congress, Birmingham, UK. **April 4 - 7.**

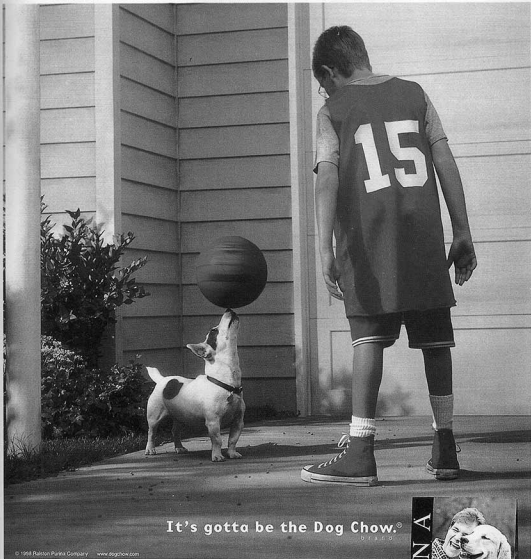
Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, Renaissance Jamaica Grande Resort, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, West Indies. **November 3-8.**

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Tel: (1 902) 3680950 Fax: (1 902) 3680960
Email : stevensonr@EM.AGR.CA
- Secretary** : Dr. S. Abdul Rahman
123, 7th 'B' Main, 4th Block (West),
Jayanagar, Bangalore 560 011 India.
Tel : (91 80) 6346857/6548805 Fax: (91 80) 6635210
E mail : shireen@blr.vsnl.net.in
- Programme Director** : Dr. A.E. Pereká
Dept. of Physiology, Biochem, Pharmacology and Toxicology
PO Box 3017, Sokoine University of Agriculture
Morogoro, Tanzania
Email : pereká30@hotmail.com
- Immediate Past President & Treasurer** : Dr. W.J. Pryor
Galwiji, Pryor's Road, Scotsburn,
RMB N141, Victoria, Australia 3352
Tel : (61 3) 53 413397, Fax : (61 3) 53 412273
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
Email : jaumally@bow.intnet.mu |
| AUSTRALASIA/
OCEANIA | Dr. C H Giam
78, Jalan Haji Alias
Singapore 1026
Tel : (65) 4866 496
Fax : (65) 463 4853
Email : giamch@pacific.net.sg | WEST AFRICA | Dr. Duto S. Fofana
International Trypanotolerance Centre
PMB 14, Banjul, The Gambia
Tel : (220) 462 928 Fax : (220) 462 924
Email : dutofofana@hotmail.com |
| CANADA
CARIBBEAN | Dr. V. Mohabir
Blue Cross Hospital,
141, Eastern Main Road,
St. Augustine, Trinidad,
West Indies
Tel: (1 809) 6551014 (H)/6631954(O)
Fax: (1 809) 6250618/6631954
Email : vmohabir@yahoo.com | 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, Wellingtonborough
NN82ZA, U.K.
Email : NGAGI@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) 6346857/6548805 Fax: (91 80) 6635210; Email: shireen@blr.vsnl.net.in