



# Commonwealth Veterinary Association e-Newsletter

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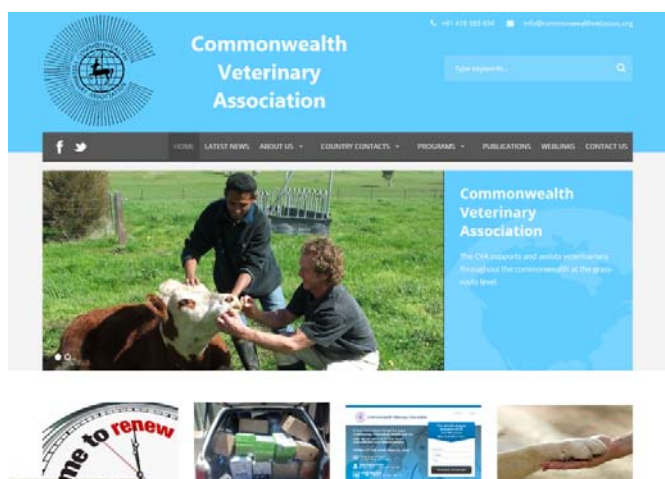
December 2015

## Upgraded CVA Website

The CVA is delighted to announce that an upgraded CVA website has released and can be found at <http://www.commonwealthvetassoc.com/>

The upgraded website will provide the CVA with a platform for its various activities.

The new look website has many of the features of the previous website with the addition of links to causes, features and latest news as well as links to numerous other veterinary websites. The website will be continually updated.



## President's Message

As I am in the last few months as President of CVA, it is appropriate to look back a little on the pleasures and pains of this office over the four-year term. In fact there have been very few pains.

CVA is an organization that I am proud to have led as President for the last four years but have been associated with for the last 30 years rising to the position of President from the ranks of CVA Councillor, Regional Representative and Secretary.

CVA is a concept which has grown since its establishment over a period of nearly 48 years and thanks to all those who have worked over all these years, it is now widely recognized and respected, working with a very limited budget to deliver encouragement and support to veterinarians in Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries.

This has been achieved mainly through our conferences and workshops, but the other activities including the study fund; book and journal programme and the new initiative of Continuous Professional Development are also an integral part of CVA work. Undoubtedly the most dramatic exposure of CVA work has been the organization of six successful Pan Commonwealth Conferences held in Harare, Bangalore, Wellington, Barbados, Accra and Kuala Lumpur spanning all regions of the Commonwealth.

A landmark initiative of CVA was the establishment of a dedicated Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory in Bangalore, India in collaboration with Crucell, Holland and Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University that will prevent human Rabies deaths by early diagnosis of canine rabies not only in India but throughout the Indian subcontinent.

In addition, successful CVA projects implemented in the most developing countries of Africa and Asia and the Island countries of Caribbean and Australasia Oceania have given wide recognition to CVA which has led to many international collaborations and MOU's signed by CVA with organisations such as OIE, World Animal Protection, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Murdoch University and very shortly we will be signing a new one with Vets Beyond Borders.

Finally the highlight of our 2015 CVA activity was the election of Peter Thornber, Treasurer of CVA as the President, Henry Magwisha, RR ECS African Region as



Secretary, Deborah Kirton, CVA Councillor New Zealand as Treasurer and Jeff Cave CVA Councillor Australia as the Programme Director. Peter as everyone knows has had a very illustrious professional career in the Dept. of Primary Industries Govt of Australia and was the main architect of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy. He has been associated with CVA for a very long time and I am confident that under his leadership the CVA is in good hands!!!!

When I finish my term I will reflect on unbelievable assistance and kindness from so many of over 55 CVA Councillors, both past and present. There are number of people who have provided advice during my term of office. Our Past President Richard Sue Ire, Secretary, Karen Reed, Treasurer, Peter Thornber and Bob McCracken our Programme Director. I owe a lot to all of them whose valuable contribution and advice made my job very easy. I want to thank my wife Shireen, for her understanding and putting up with a husband who was most often pre-occupied or away.

I will of course continue to be part of the CVA Executive as Past President and Executive Director and will be very happy to assist the new office bearers in any capacity if I am required to do so.

I wish each and every one a very happy and successful New Year in 2016

Abdul Rahman  
President CVA

### **First woman Secretary-General for the Commonwealth Secretariat**

In what has been a true breakthrough for gender equality in the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland of Dominica was elected new Secretary-General - the first woman to hold the post. Malta's Prime Minister Joseph Muscat made the announcement at a press conference during the Commonwealth summit.

Baroness Scotland, former UK Attorney General, will take office on 1 April 2016 as the sixth Secretary-General

since the Commonwealth Secretariat was established in 1965. She will replace Kamalesh Sharma of India, whose eight-year tenure comes to an end in March next year.



### **Recipes from the world – from Malta**

#### **Bigilla - one of the most popular Maltese dips**

Ingredients:

- 1 lb dried broad beans
- 2 sprigs parsley
- 1 head of garlic crushed
- 1 chili pepper
- a dash of Tabasco
- 1 tbsp of mixed marjoram & mint, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp olive oil

Soak beans overnight and replace water the next day when you are going to prepare the recipe. Bring to boil in salted water and keep simmering until beans are soft. Drain the beans and mash them lightly. Allow them to cool off a little and place them in a serving dish. Pour olive oil on top and mix well until you get a creamy sauce. Add other ingredients to taste.



# 3rd International Conference on Rabies in West Africa (RIWA)

*"Harmonizing Stakeholders and Tools for the Prevention and Control of Rabies"*

22-26 March, 2016 | Accra | Ghana



## Akwaaba! (Welcome!)

The RIWA Ghana Organizing Committee, with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and the Ministry of Health jointly host the 3rd international conference on Rabies in West Africa. The event brings internationally renowned experts to present scientific and technical papers and to provide one-to-one advice and support for connectivity in harmonizing stakeholders and tools for the prevention and control of rabies in West Africa. The conference covers regional and global perspectives on human and animal rabies control; infrastructure for surveillance of rabies and rabies related viruses; the use of geographic information systems in focussing rabies control; improving health outcomes and surveillance capacity building. Participants are drawn from Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Gambia, East and Southern Africa, Europe, North America, the Pacific Rim, the West Indies and beyond.

## Opening

Welcome Address RIWAGH Chairman  
Goodwill Message RIWA Chairman  
Opening Remarks Hon. Minister of Health

Overview on rabies: Epidemiology  
Diagnosis and control

## Scientific and Technical Sessions

The scope includes domestic animal, wildlife and human populations.  
Rabies: Locate and eliminate  
WHO operations on rabies in West Africa  
ECOWAS commission on rabies  
Policy and alternative funding for rabies control in West Africa

## Country Presentation on Rabies

Ghana	Benin
Liberia	Togo
Nigeria	Mali
Sierra Leone	Senegal
The Gambia	Cote d'Ivoire

Conference Report and Recommendation

## Conference Venue

College of Physicians and Surgeons, Accra  
Ghana

## Closing Ceremony and Dinner

Have a taste of Ghanaian hospitality

## Abstract

Submission deadline is December 23, 2015

**Richard D Suu-Ire**  
*Chairman*  
RIWA Organizing Committee

**Honourable Fifi Kwetey**  
Minister of Food and Agriculture  
*Chief Guest of Honour*

**Babasola O Olugasa**  
*Secretary*  
Scientific Committee

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