



ACTIVITY REPORT OF COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION 2012 & 2013



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*The Commonwealth Veterinary Association is a registered Charitable Trust made up of National Veterinary Associations or approved bodies of most Commonwealth countries.
It is a unique organisation which meets a number of key needs of the profession.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This Activity Report covers the two years of 2012 and 2013.

During the year 2012- 2013 three regional meetings were held, each in the Caribbean, Asian and Australasia Oceania regions. In spite of the severe financial constraints which CVA has in the absence of any major sponsor, all these conferences were highly successful. Our Associate member WSPA was the major sponsor for these events while the Govt of Fiji magnanimously supported the Conference in Fiji. The highlight of the Asian Regional Meeting and Conference was the inauguration of the CVA-Crucell-KVAFSU Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory and the implementation of a Project on Rabies (see Page.8). Through this project the CVA will assist in reducing human Rabies deaths not only in India but in other parts of the world as well. The Australasia Oceania Regional Meeting which was held in Fiji during September was again a grand success with the President of Fiji inaugurating the Conference.

The CVA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme, which was initiated by Drs. Jeff Cave and Chris Deborn is making slow progress and the CVA is currently seeking financial support from various agencies to implement this programme initially in Africa.

One more highlight of 2013 initiated by Dr. Jeff Cave, Book and Journal Programme Coordinator is the CVA Face Book page which was an immediate success.

Planning for the Sixth Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 24 - 27 March 2015 has begun. The host organizing committee will be the Veterinary Association of Malaysia (VAM) headed by Dr. Paul Chelliah, the RR of Australasia Oceania region and President Elect of VAM. He will be assisted by Dr. Vincent who is the current President of VAM and other members of the Executive of VAM. Prof. Mohd Hair Bin Bejo, Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Putra Malaysia has agreed to Chair the Scientific Committee.

The CVA has developed strategic partnerships with many International organisations such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA), Crucell Holland and The Brooke to name but a few and with the help of these organisations has been successful in implementing many of its projects and its various Regional Meetings.

Looking to the future, the CVA has recognised the need to acquire a registered charitable status. This reflects the CVA's philanthropic and social objectives. It is pleasing to report that the CVA, as from 1st January, 2014, is registered as a Charitable Trust under the Indian Trust Act 1982. In close co-operation with our national veterinary associations I look forward to building upon our international role in driving and implementing animal welfare and health throughout all our member countries.

1st January 2014
Bangalore, India

S. ABDUL RAHMAN
President

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association is to promote the veterinary profession within and outside the Commonwealth by encouraging the highest professional standards of education, ethics and service in order to advance animal health, productivity and welfare to improve the quality of life of all its peoples.

PREAMBLE

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) was founded in 1967. Membership is open to National Veterinary Associations of Commonwealth member countries. Currently the CVA has 55 full members with each member association being represented on a Regional Council by a Councillor elected by the member association. Other non-Commonwealth countries are in the process of seeking associate membership. There are six regions representing Asia, Australasia/Oceania, Canada/Caribbean, East, Central and Southern Africa, West Africa and UK/ Mediterranean. Each Regional Council elects for a four-year term, a Regional Representative who becomes a member of Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is responsible for running the affairs of the Association. As well as the six Regional Representatives there are also a Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Programme Director and an Editor JCVA, under the Chairmanship of the President.

MEMBERSHIP

Individual members (veterinarians through national associations)	45,000
Regional Chapters or Branches	6
National Chapters or Branches	55
Associate Members	
<i>Secretariat of the Pacific Community</i>	<i>World Society for the Protection of Animals</i>
<i>Association of Commonwealth Chief Veterinary Officers</i>	<i>Compassion in World Farming</i>
	<i>Mayhew International</i>
	<i>Humane Society International, USA</i>
	<i>The Brooke, UK</i>

TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES

The technical activities of CVA cover a wide range and include the following which will be described in some detail below. They are:

1. **Journal, Book and Audiovisual Programme**
2. **Support for Veterinary Education**
3. **CVA Study Fund**
4. **Training Programmes, Workshops and Seminars**
5. **CVA Website**
6. **CVA Publications ~ JCVA, CVA Handbook, Activity Report, CVA Brochure**
7. **Projects**
8. **Continuous Professional Development**
9. **Future Strategies**

1. Journal, Book and Audiovisual Programme

The CVA Book Programme is coordinated by Dr. Jeff Cave in Australia. Books are donated by veterinarians in Australia and New Zealand, all of whom are thanked for their generosity, without which the programme would not exist. They are available for distribution free of charge to institutions, but not to individual veterinarians, in CVA member countries in good standing. Priority is given to requests from institutional libraries, such as veterinary schools and veterinary associations, and requests from individuals are met as funds permit. Postgraduate students are encouraged to submit their requests through the librarian at their institution, to ensure that the books will be widely available. Because of budgetary constraints and steeply rising mailing costs, the number of books which can be shipped is normally restricted to up to 30 titles for institutions, and up to 5 titles for individual veterinarians in any one year. Individual veterinarians are encouraged to share their books with colleagues in their area if possible.

Requests for books should indicate the required subject areas and/or preferred titles where possible, and they should include the mailing address to which the books should be sent. The latter should be abbreviated as much as possible in order that it may be accommodated in the limited space provided on the customs declaration. It is suggested that those wishing to submit a request should first obtain a copy of the current inventories of books available by contacting, preferably by e-mail, Dr. Cave (see above for contact information). Shipments are made by surface mail, and may take several months to reach their destination. The recipients are requested to acknowledge the safe arrival of the books.

During the period July 2012 – June 2013, from Australia and New Zealand, 444 books were sent to 17 different countries as follows: Uganda 115, East Timor 69, Papua New Guinea 41, Belize 37, Nigeria 36, India 30, Trinidad and Tobago 20, Ghana 19, Mozambique 17, St Vincent 11, Zambia 9, Tanzania 9, Kenya 9, South Africa 7, Pakistan 7, Niue 5 and Zimbabwe 3.

The current inventory in Australia and New Zealand comprises over 700 titles. Multiple copies of many titles are held. Most of the books were published during the last 20 years; older texts, for which more recent editions are available, are discarded each year. Most areas of veterinary medicine are covered.

2. Support for Veterinary Education

CVA Support of Chittagong University Library

Officers of the CVA in Australia collect their personal copies of British, Australian, New Zealand and Canadian veterinary journals and forward them soon after publication, to the Veterinary School at Chittagong, Bangladesh. This programme which was earlier assisted by finance from the British Council in Bangladesh, to help meet postage costs, is now entirely funded by the CVA. Dr Bill

Pryor, former President and Treasurer, CVA coordinates this programme. Particular benefits of this programme include speedy access to the latest journals from UK and Australasia, which is a significant help in building up an effective veterinary journal library. The Dean of the School has expressed deep appreciation for this continuing support.

3. CVA Study Fund

The purpose of this fund is to provide financial assistance to veterinarians from developing countries to visit other countries for a short period to update their knowledge in the latest technology available in their field of work. There were no applications from member countries for the year 2012 and 2013.

4. Training Programmes, Workshops and Seminars

The Training Programmes, Workshops and Seminars organised by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association have long-term benefits, both at the local as well as regional level. These are planned in such a way that the local veterinarians as well as those from adjacent countries benefit immensely from the visits of skilled veterinarians from within that region. Similarly, the visits of veterinarians from developing countries to these programmes in the developed countries also assist in a similar way. Three regional seminars were held during 2012 and 2013 and during these seminars, regional meetings were also held to plan regional activities.

14th CVA Regional Conference of Canada Caribbean Region

The 27th Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association Conference was held at Port of Spain, Trinidad from 6-9 November 2012. The Scientific Programme featured regionally and internationally renowned speakers where for three days, leading experts in the veterinary profession delivered information on important veterinary topics that spanned the range of species and the diversity of interests in veterinary medicine. They all spoke under the theme **"Building Bridges, Advancing Veterinary Medicine and Animal Welfare in the Caribbean"**. The CVA component of the conference was a Disaster Training Workshop which was supported by World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA).

A CVA Regional Meeting was also held on 9 November 2012 under the chairmanship of Curtis Padilla, Regional Representative, Canada/Caribbean Region and was attended by the following CVA Councillor Drs Gus Reader (Barbados); Kanyuria Gikonyo (Cayman Islands); Wintorph Marsden (Jamaica); Isabelle Paquet-Durand (Belize); Claude De Allie (Grenada); Michelle Mellowes (Trinidad and Tobago). Various issues pertaining to the region were discussed especially the possible support of CVA to the region.



Participants at the Conference

17th CVA Asian Regional Meeting and Conference

The 17th Asian Regional Meeting and Conference of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association was held at Bangalore from 28-31 January, 2013. The theme of the Conference was "Strengthening of Rabies Diagnosis and Dog Population Control in the Indian Sub-continent".

Rabies is a serious zoonotic disease in the Asian Region with more than 35,000 people dying every year, accounting for two-thirds of all global deaths. CVA has initiated a massive effort to control rabies in its member countries and the Asian Regional Conference on Rabies was one such effort.



*Inauguration of the Conference by
Lt. Gen (Dr) Narayan Mohanty, President VCI*



Section of the Audience

This conference was organised jointly by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and Veterinary College, Bangalore, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU) and supported by Indian Veterinary Association (IVA), Veterinary Council of India (VCI), Karnataka Veterinary Council (KVC), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA), Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India (APCRI), Crucell Holland by Netherlands and Dogs Trust International.

Over 200 delegates from India and abroad attended the conference. The countries represented were Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom and USA in addition to delegates from India.

The Scientific Programme was divided into three sessions namely, 1. The Reality of Rabies: Setting the Scene; 2. Rabies and Dog Population Control and 3. Rabies Diagnosis: Key to Successful Control - Country Reports.

The following were the presentations:

- NGO's Role in Rabies Control ~ Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R.M. Kharb, India
- Translating Rabies Research Into Practical Policies & Paradigm Shifts ~ Dr. Charles Rupprecht, USA
- Role of Veterinarians in Rabies Control ~ Dr. S. Yathiraj, India
- Elimination of Human Rabies in India - Proposed National Programme ~ Dr. Veena Mittal, Dr. Mala Chhabra and Dr. R.L. Ichhpujani, India (presented by Dr. B.J. Mahendra)
- Controlling Rabies By Mass Vaccination Without Inhumane Culling Of Dogs ~ Dr. Joanna Tuckwell, Australia
- Dog Population Management In The Indian Sub-Continent ~ Dr. Elly Hiby, UK
- New Diagnostic Tools For Rabies In Animals ~ Dr. Anthony R. Fooks, UK
- Intersectoral Collaboration In Rabies Control ~ Dr. G. Sampath, India
- Future Opportunities in Canine Immuno-Contraception ~ Dr. C.E. Rupprecht, USA
- Impact Of Dog Population Management Interventions On Human And Animal Rabies In Sri Lanka -Retrospective Review Over Three Decades ~ Dr. P.A.L. Harischandra, Sri Lanka

- Dog Population Management In India With Special Reference To Rabies Control ~ Dr. J.F. Reece, India
- Concepts of Animal Birth Control ~ Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, India
- Red Collar Campaign in Bangladesh ~ Dr. Dananjaya Karunaratna, Bangladesh
- Control Of Rabies Through Oral Vaccination Of Dogs ~ Dr. S. Kilari, India
- Success Of Animal Birth Control Programme To Control Rabies ~ A Case Study Of Bangalore, India ~ Dr. S.A. Parviz Ahmed Piran, India

Country Reports on Rabies from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Nepal were presented.

17th Asian Regional Meeting of CVA

The 17th Asian Regional Meeting of CVA was also held during the Conference and CVA Councillors from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India in addition to the Vice President and Secretary of Nepal Veterinary Association participated for the first time. Nepal has joined CVA as an Associate Member.

The Asian Regional Meeting also coincided with the Inauguration of the dedicated Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory on Monday 28th January 2013 at the Veterinary College, Bangalore. This state-of-the-art laboratory built at a cost of US\$ 200,000 has all facilities for early diagnosis of Rabies in canines and is the first of its kind in the Indian subcontinent.



Asian Regional Councillors with CVA President
L-R: Drs. Sital Kaji Shrestha, Sayed Gul Safi
ADN Chandrasiri, S. Abdul Rahman, A. Sivasothy,
Md. Akhthar Hossain, Banshi Sharma

15th CVA Australasia/Oceania Regional Meeting and Conference

15th Commonwealth Veterinary Association [CVA] Regional Conference was held in Nadi, Fiji from 2-6 September, 2013 at the Tanoa International Hotel, around 1 km from Nadi International Airport on Fiji's largest island of Viti Levu.

This first CVA Regional Conference to be staged in Fiji was organized by the Fiji Veterinary Association and the CVA, through a Committee chaired by Dr Robin Yarrow, a Fiji national who previously served as CVA President and as a senior Fiji civil servant. Members of the Organizing Committee included representatives from 2 key partners, the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture and from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community [SPC] based in Suva, the capital. The Vice Chair of the Committee was Dr Kenneth Cokanasiga, the Adviser on Animal Health and Production within the SPC.



His Excellency Epeli Nailatikau, President of the Republic of Fiji, Dr S. Abdul Rahman and Dr Robin Yarrow

A total of 160 participants attended the Conference representing 20 countries, including 10 PICTs, one of which was New Caledonia, making it the largest ever held on livestock in the region to date. Around half of the participants were from outside Fiji, with some from as far afield as the Middle East and Africa. While the majority was from Government/state entities, a significant number were drawn from universities, commercial organizations and civil society. In addition, several leading livestock producers from Fiji attended the Conference.

The theme of the Conference was "Sustainable Animal Health and Livestock Production – Veterinary Education, Food Security and Animal Welfare in a Changing Environment". The main program was

broken down into some 12 sessions, each of which provided coverage of important aspects and areas, such as 'livestock and climate change', biosecurity and trade', zoonoses', food security' and animal welfare. There were a total of 66 presentations under the main Food Animal 'stream' involving 58 different presenters, slightly over half of whom were from the PICTs. Important speakers included the Chief Veterinary Officer of Australia and the Head of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy. A renowned Australian veterinarian, Dr Hugh Wirth, was also a presenter. In addition, a further 8 presenters were involved in the parallel Companion Animal 'stream' while a similar number participated in the session in this same 'stream' on the pressing common subject of Dog Population Management in the Pacific Islands. Furthermore, a special 2 day Continuing Professional Development [CPD] session was mounted by the Australia New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists and was attended by a number of Pacific island participants.



His Excellency Epeli Nailatikau addressing the Conference

Following the Opening Ceremony, the Scientific Program commenced with presentations from 2 keynote speakers, namely Dr Abdul Rahman, President of the CVA and Mr Mike Baker, CEO of the World Society for the Protection of Animals. [WSPA] Dr Rahman highlighted the growing challenges for the profession as a result of increasing urbanization and the need to ensure that veterinary education is meeting the rapidly-changing needs of today's professionals.

He also spoke on the need to better recognize and reward the disproportionate role which women play in raising livestock. Mr Baker spoke on the expanding animal welfare field and the 'five freedoms' of animals which are being significantly driven by consumers – he especially stressed the increasing recognition of 'sentience' [the capacity to feel pain and discomfort] in animals as well as the fact that sound animal welfare is also of economic relevance to farmers.

5. CVA Website

The homepage of the CVA Website (www.commonwealthvetassoc.org) was revised and updated in 2013. The website provides quick access to various CVA activities and is very important for veterinarians and national associations in accessing information. This enables them to meet deadlines for submitting applications to various programmes of the CVA, such as the CVA Study Fund. In addition, the Journal of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association is featured on the web for the benefit of students and veterinarians. The website has been very popular as evidenced by the feedback which is generated and the number of "hits" every year. It is estimated that there was an increase of 40% during 2012 from the previous years.

A CVA Facebook "Commonwealth Veterinary Association - CVA" has also been created during 2013. The Commonwealth Veterinary Association - CVA Facebook page has received in November 2013 more than 10,000+ likes in 6 weeks, from nearly every country in the world since it was launched in October 2013. This shows the world is interested in animal health and welfare and the veterinary profession at the grassroots level.

6. CVA Publications ~ JCVA, CVA Handbook, Activity Report, CVA Brochure

i. Journal of Commonwealth Veterinary Association (JCVA)

During 2012 and 2013, four issues of JCVA were published in January and July respectively which had 60 pages each. The circulation of the Journal is 2500 copies per issue. It is a highly regarded publication reaching every CVA Councillor and Region. The CVA has continued to receive individual subscriptions from non-members. The Journal publishes scientific articles and news from the various Commonwealth regions and is subsidised by the World Society for the

Protection of Animals (WSPA). The journal has a multiplier effect as a single issue in libraries of most of the developing countries is read by large number of veterinarians. The target readership across the whole Commonwealth would be approximately 20,000 on an average at the present time. The journal is abstracted by Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux (CAB) International.

The January 2014 issue of JCVA will be the last “Print Edition” and from July 2014 issue the journal will be available only in electronic form as an E-Journal. There is also going to be a change in the name of the journal. The Journal will now be known as the “Commonwealth Veterinary Journal”. The new website of the journal will be commonwealthveterinaryjournal.com and the most important feature of this will be that all back volumes of the journal starting from the first issue in 1988 will be available in the Archives section.

ii. CVA Handbook

The Thirteenth and Fourteenth Edition of the Handbook was published in 2012 and 2013 respectively. This is a guide for Councillors in the preparation and implementation of projects. The laws and by-laws are also included for easy understanding of the functions of the association. In addition, a comprehensive list with names, addresses, telephone, email and fax of all CVA councillors representing 55 National Executive bodies of the Commonwealth countries is also in the handbook. The handbook is updated and issued in early January each year for guidance of all Councillors/RRs.

iii. Activity Report

At the end of each year, the CVA publishes a report to highlight its activities including a statement of Membership and Financial Performance. Activities of the year 2012 and 2013 were published in January 2014.

iv. CVA Brochure

A brochure which is published every two years highlights pertinent details about the CVA including its Mission Statement, Aims and Objectives, General Information and other activities. The latest issue of the brochure has been published in January 2014.

7. Projects

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association projects are planned and executed not only to cater to the immediate area or location but to serve as models for possible implementation throughout the Commonwealth, the philosophy of the projects being capacity building of veterinarians, farmers, especially women farmers and others in the developing countries of the world. During 2012, two major projects one on CPD and other one on Rabies have been initiated.

a. Pilot Project on Continuing Professional Development [CPD]

The CVA in agreements with the Veterinary Associations of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia and the Veterinary Faculty of Khartoum, Sudan to pilot a Continuing Professional Development Programme [CPD], commencing 1st January 2013. The CVA will use the results of the pilot programmes to inform a proposal to deliver a major CPD support programme, prospectively in partnership with OIE, EU, WSPA and other organisations, in 2014.

E-Learning in key subject areas inclusive of Recent Advances in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, Veterinary Governance, One Health, Animal Welfare and SPS Standards will be promoted by the CVA CPD programme to complement attendance at more formalised CPD events such as lectures or conferences. A peer reviewed or self administered assessment mechanism will be used to grade the uptake of the materials [accessed online or via pre-recorded media such as CDs, DVDs, flash drives], leading to the award of an appropriate number of CPD points.

The interest and consequent experience of colleagues in the following approaches to undertaking CPD will be trialled by the pilot programme:-

- Self study sessions accessing tutorial materials on CD, DVD or online.
- Assisted reference access for authorship of a clinical case history, paper or review.
- Assisted reference access for critical review/analysis of key policy areas inclusive of: Veterinary Governance, One Health, Animal Welfare and SPS Standards.
- Accessing CPD modules that can be accumulated for certificate, diploma or further degree courses.
- Developing E-Learning CPD materials into formats suitable for cascading from Veterinarians to Veterinary-para professionals to Frontline Veterinary Staff.

The CVA-CPD programme would be pleased to receive views, ideas and offers of collaboration from organisations and colleagues willing to assist us in delivering the above or suggested alternative E-Learning approaches. Any information on existing materials that are readily available, or that could be adapted, for purposes of the CVA CPD programme would be gratefully received.

a. CVA Rabies Project in India

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association through Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, President was contracted by Crucell Holland by a private company of Netherlands which is engaged in research development, manufacturing and testing of vaccines and proteins to combat infectious diseases to test its rabies antibody product which is under development termed "CL184 consisting of CR57 and CR4098 antibodies". CVA with its experience in the successful implementation and completion of Rabies projects in Africa and Asia was approached to carry out a rabies surveillance, animal brain rabies confirmation, sequencing and neutralization analysis services in India. This project was presented to the Officer's at the meeting in London in July and the same was approved and Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, President was authorised to take suitable action to implement this project in India.

The CVA in turn approached the Bangalore Veterinary College affiliated to Karnataka Veterinary Animal, Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the CVA and KVAFSU for the implementation of this project.

The project entitled "**Human Monoclonal Antibody Combination for Post Exposure Prophylaxis of Rabies-Evaluation versus Indian Natural Rabies Virus Strains**" has been started under the direction of Dr. Wilfred Marissen, Project Director Crucell, Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, President CVA, Dr. S. Yathiraj, Dean, Bangalore Veterinary College and Dr. K. Isloor Associate Professor of Microbiology. Rabies positive brain samples have been collected from many parts of the country and isolation work is being undertaken. Veterinary Colleges of Chennai, Bombay, Manuthy, Pookode, Anand, Ludhiana, Hissar and Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar will also be involved in the project. Through this project CVA will be able to save human Rabies deaths not only in India but in other parts of the world as well

b. CVA-Crucell-KVAFSU Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory

Due to lack of proper laboratory space and equipment at the Veterinary College it was agreed that Crucell would fund KVAFSU through CVA for the setting up of a dedicated Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory exclusively for Rabies work at the Veterinary College, Bangalore. Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, President CVA and Dr. S. Yathiraj, Dean of the College were entrusted with the planning and building of the laboratory. The Laboratory has been named as "**CVA-Crucell-KVAFSU Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory**"



The CVA-Crucell-KVAFSU Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory which is the state-of-the-art laboratory built at a cost of US\$ 200,000 with financial support from Crucell Holland by Netherlands was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of KVAFSU Dr. C. Renukprasad, Vice Chancellor, Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar (KVAFSU) in the presence of Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, President, CVA, Mr. Arvind R. Jannu, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Dr. H.R.V. Reddy, Director of Research, KVAFSU, Dr. S. Yathiraj, Dean, Bangalore Veterinary College and Dr. Nagesh Board Member (KVAFSU). Dr. H.M. Jayaprakasha, Registrar (KVAFSU) presided over the function. This Laboratory has all facilities for early diagnosis of Rabies in canines and is the first of its kind in the Indian subcontinent.



Unveiling of the Foundation Stone of Laboratory at the Veterinary College by Dr. C. Renukprasad

a. CVA DRIT-Workshop on Rabies Diagnosis

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association in collaboration with Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Bangalore and supported by the Veterinary Council of India (VCI) organised a two-day Workshop on Diagnosis of Rabies using "Direct Rapid Immunohistochemical Test" (DRIT). The VCI requested all the veterinary colleges of the country to nominate veterinarians engaged in Rabies Diagnosis to participate in the Workshop. There was a huge response and a total of 40 participants from various veterinary colleges of country and veterinarians sponsored by the Government of Karnataka through Karnataka Veterinary Council participated in the Workshop. The Workshop was conducted by Dr. Lillian A. Orciari, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, USA and Dr. K. Isloor, Dept. of Microbiology, Veterinary College, Bangalore.



Dr Lillian Orciari demonstrating the collection of brain sample from dogs



Participants of DRIT Workshop with CVA President

7. Continuous Professional Development

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) has been a key part of the CVA's activities since its inception in a number of ways including organising workshops and conferences, short term study grants, supporting visiting lecturers and other specialists, a book and journal program, a CVA journal, a CVA website etc.

A CVA-CPD business plan was developed by the CVA and was reviewed at the Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in Accra, Ghana in March 2011. Surveillance carried out by the CVA indicates that there is an urgent need to provide further training to veterinarians in African and Asia in livestock production systems. This is most efficiently achieved through employing trained vets from developed countries.

The need for CPD will be addressed through a form of 'non-traditional' intervention approach and will be adopted in the CVA's ECSA (East, Central & Southern Africa) region.

The increasing recognition of Africa's livestock production potential makes this a good time as ever to advocate for strategically applied and substantial livestock sector programme funding to strengthen the capacity of public / private / community partnerships to deliver quality veterinary services throughout the continent. Many countries in Africa are now seeking to establish a CPD programme to raise the standards of practice by both veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals, who are themselves actively looking for CPD to improve their career prospects and levels of remuneration.

8. Future Strategies

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association is a strategic partner with many International Organisations working in tandem towards achieving various objectives of interest to both partners.

CVA-OIE Sign Collaborative Agreement

The CVA and OIE have formally signed an agreement with a view to encourage collaboration between the two organisations on issues of common interest.

This historic document was approved for signing during the General Assembly in May 2012. Since Dr. Rahman could not be in Paris during the General Assembly to sign it, the signed copy of the agreement by Dr. Bernard Vallat, Director General OIE was handed over to Dr. Rahman for signing by Dr. Monique Eloit, Deputy Director General OIE in Paris on June 27th 2012 in the presence of Dr. Peter Thornber Treasurer CVA.



Signing of the Agreement

L-R: P. Thornber, S. Abdul Rahman and Monique Eloit

It has further been agreed that the OIE will invite the CVA to participate as observer in relevant commissions, working groups, consultations and international conferences that are organised to address issues of common interest and that the CVA will invite OIE to participate in similar works concerning issues of common interest and if necessary and whenever required by circumstances the OIE and the CA will exchange their points of view on all issues of common interest.

CVA President appointed as Chair of OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare

The Permanent OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare has been reconstituted with the appointment of Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, President CVA as its Chairman. Dr. Rahman replaces Dr. David Bayvel who will now be representing the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) having succeeded Dr. David Wilkins as the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) Chief Veterinary Adviser. The other new member of the group is Dr. Peter Thornber, Treasurer of CVA who will be representing Asia, the Far East and Oceania on the Group. CVA plays an active role in promoting implementation of OIE Animal Welfare Standards in its member countries.



Sitting (L-R): Drs Mariela Varas (OIE Intl Trade Dept), S. Abdul Rahman, D. Bayvel, M. Molomo and D. Wilkins
Standing (L-R): Drs D. Fraser, D. Belton, A. Thiermann (President, OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission), H. Aidaros, P. Thornber, V. Guyonnet and A. Gavinelli

CVA-WSPA MOU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between CVA and WSPA in New Delhi, India on 19th April 2013. The MOU was signed by Mr. Mike Baker, CEO, WSPA and Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, President, CVA in the presence of Ms. Margaret West, WSPA Regional Director, Asia Pacific and Ms. Emily Reeves, WSPA Director of Programmes - Asia Pacific and Dr Peter Thornber, Treasurer CVA.

The highlights of the MOU are that - Officers of WSPA and CVA will mutually attend programmes and conferences organized by each other and play an active role in implementing policy decisions on animal welfare in the CVA Member countries.



Dr Abdul Rahman and Dr Mike Baker during the signing ceremony

WSPA will be accorded special collaboration with the CVA in assisting efforts to improve animal welfare through our councillors and each of the member national veterinary association in the 54 countries of the Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries.

The CVA will include WSPA experts and speakers in sessions on animal welfare at all CVA regional conferences in the six regions of the Commonwealth as well as at the Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conferences held every four years.

CVA will structure its conferences to provide WSPA with an exclusive Session on a particular animal welfare topic of interest in that particular region (E.g. natural disasters, rabies, veterinary education and training in animal welfare concepts, etc.). Recent examples of this collaboration include support for the Canada Caribbean Regional conference in Trinidad in November 2012 on Disaster Management and the forthcoming Rabies and Dog Population at the Asian Regional conference in Bangalore India in January 2013.

In addition, the Journal of CVA would carry an exclusive session on animal welfare in every edition. WSPA could use this to propagate their policies and programmes on animal welfare and also use it to write articles of interest on animal welfare and its operational activities and programs.

CVA -Tamil Nadu Veterinary University MOU

The CVA has entered into a collaborative agreement with the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) wherein the University will help CVA implement projects pertaining to women livestock farmers, especially dairy farmers, in the most economically poor areas of South India. Technical expertise from the University will be provided to train farmers at the University's livestock training centres located in the state of Tamil Nadu. In addition TANUVAS will also participate in collaborative research with the CVA in Rabies Monoclonal Antibody Project which is being undertaken at the CVA-Crucell-KVAFSU Rabies Laboratory in Bangalore, India.



Dignitaries during the signing of MoU

The MOU was signed at the Veterinary College, Chennai on 28th Feb 2013 by Director of Research Dr. K. Kumanan and Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, President CVA in the presence of Dr. R. Prabakaran, Vice Chancellor TANUVAS, Dr. S.A. Asokan, Dean, Dr. C. Balachandran, Registrar and Dr. K.S. Palaniswami, former Director of Research TANUVAS.

Honorary Life Membership of CVA

At the meeting of the Officer's of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association held in London in August 2012 it was decided to confer the honorary Life Membership of CVA to Dr. Amrita Patel, the Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), India and Founder and Chairman of the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), for her outstanding contribution to the welfare of the livestock farmers in the dairy sector and her contribution to the Indian Milk production which is the largest in the world. Dr. Patel has been a very ardent supporter of all activities of CVA where in Indian dairy farmers from different villages in India were trained at the National Dairy Development Board, Anand as part of the CVA projects supported by the Commonwealth



Dr Amrita Patel



Felicitaton of Dr Amrita Patel

Foundation. Her inaugural address at the 2nd Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in Bangalore, India in February 1998 is always remembered as the most stimulating one for the Veterinary profession.

The Certificate of Honorary Life Membership of CVA was handed over to Dr Amrita Patel at Anand on 19th April 2013 by Dr. S. Abdul Rahman in the presence of Mr. Mike Baker, CEO-WSPA, Ms. Emily Reeves, WSPA Director of Programmes - Asia Pacific and Gajender Sharma, WSPA's India Country Director.

In addition CVA is actively partnering with the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) in not only Animal Welfare but also in areas such as Disaster Management. It is working with Mayhew International in providing technical assistance to Veterinarians from Afghanistan.

It is partnering with Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC), an International Charity based in UK and supported by World Health Organisation (WHO), Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta in the control of Zoonotic diseases such as Rabies in Asia and Africa. The CVA also has a close working relationship with the British Veterinary Association (BVA) Overseas Group.

CVA is also working closely with European Commission which provided financial support to the CVA during PCVC-5 in Accra, Ghana.

The CVA is always looking for additional possible global partnerships to assist alleviate the problems of the livestock farmers in the developing countries of the Commonwealth.

Front Cover Photo:

DRIT Rabies Training at CVA-Crucell-KVAFSU Laboratory, Bangalore, India

Back Cover Photo:

Participants with President of Fiji at the 15th CVA Australasia/Oceania Regional Meeting, Nadi, Fiji

The CVA builds awareness and understanding in the veterinary profession which is utilised for better professional competence in the surveillance of and preparedness for serious animal diseases, both emerging and re-emerging by greater sensitisation and alertness.

Infectious diseases, including those of an emerging nature, are playing a disproportionate role in terms of their morbidity and mortality effects within the developing world. Over 60% of these diseases are zoonoses. As human settlement becomes more urbanised and as more farm animals are living in close proximity to humans, the risks of disease outbreaks in livestock and consequent transmission to human being increases. It is more important than ever to be better prepared globally for the early detection and control of emerging diseases of animal and human origin. Better awareness and enhanced capacity are



