

Volume 10

No. 1



January 1995

COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



NEWS

Editorial



Wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Once again an eventful year has ended for the CVA. The year 1994 is especially significant because a number of important conferences have been organized which have discussed salient issues concerning the Veterinary profession in general and the livestock farmer in particular.

Among others, the most significant have been the Pan African Conference at Arusha, Tanzania, the Namibia conference, the Large Ruminant infertility workshop in Sri Lanka and the long awaited Asian Regional Seminar on Veterinary Education and Disaster Management. The proceedings from these conferences and the resolutions and recommendations have been published in the July issue of CVA News and in the current one. These indicate the sincere and deep concern the profession has for the village farmer through the competence of the Veterinarian. It is but natural that higher the skill and the expertise of the Veterinarian the final beneficiary of such excellence is the village farmer. These conferences have seen to this particular need, be it the privatization of veterinary practice in Africa or the high standard of Veterinary Education in Asia.

The CVA has left no stone unturned in meeting the challenges which the profession has to face today and the current executive of the CVA has the expertise of Bert Stevenson as the Program Director who has chalked out clear cut projects for each of the Regional Representatives and through them to the councillors of each country in fulfilling the objectives of the CVA. Similarly the Secretary Treasurer Bill Pryor has been able to make almost all the member countries financial and active in their regions. However this stupendous task taken by the CVA needs more funding and when the CVA Executive meets in London later for its program review meeting this year, it will be the most important item on its agenda, to continue its ambitious programs. The efforts of Dr. Touray, President CVA in mobilizing the African countries to take active part in the CVA activities is highly laudable. The CVA thus will have its hands full again during 1995 with the follow up work from 1994 and getting the recommendations and resolutions of all the workshops and conferences adopted and implemented in their respective regions. The co-operation and active participation of all the Reg. Rep and council members will be needed in fulfilling this objective.

January, 1995

S. Abdul Rahman
Editor



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Published and Printed by
Mrs. Shireen Rahman
Intervet Publishers
124/2, 7th B Main Road
IV Block (West) Jayanagar
Bangalore 560011 INDIA

In Association with
Commonwealth Veterinary
Association

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Layout & Typeset by
Sapthagiri Graphics
No.30, 4th Block West
Jayanagar, Bangalore, India

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*PRESIDENT'S COLUMN*

Once again I am delighted to send seasons greetings and best wishes for the New Year to the entire membership of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. The year 1994 has been a good year for CVA in terms of implementation of our programmes. Except for the Workshop scheduled to be held in October in Bangladesh, all others billed for the year have been held. 1994 also saw the admission of the South African Veterinary Association to the Commonwealth Veterinary fraternity while several defaulting associations have now become financial.

One major sad event of relevance to our profession in the Commonwealth was the overthrow of the democratically elected government of our Patron, Sir Dawda Jawara, President of the Republic of the Gambia on July 22nd 1994. Many of you would remember Sir Dawda's participation in the 1987 Pan African Commonwealth Veterinary Association meeting held in Banjul and the Pan Commonwealth Veterinary conference in Harare in 1990. As one of the founder members of the CVA, he has promoted the interest and dignity of the profession ever since 1967. His adherence to the principles of democracy and human rights won him universal acclaim. Since the CVA, and indeed the Commonwealth, functions on these principles, any violation of these ideals must be seen as a retrograde step. The CVA must therefore condemn any such violation of the fundamental principal that the Commonwealth stands for. We must also express our solidarity with our Patron and can only hope that democratic constitutional rule will soon prevail in The Gambia once more.

Finally, I wish to remind all member associations that the next Programme Review meeting of the Executive Committee will take place probably in August 1995, National Associations are therefore urged to communicate with the Executive, through their regional representatives, to give us your ideas and suggestions as regards to the way forward. Please remember that the Executive is here to work for you.

Wishing all readers good luck and prosperity in 1995.

January 1995

Bakary N. Touray
PRESIDENT

Commonwealth News

King Sworn In

Tuanku Ja'afar ibni al-Marhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman was sworn in as Malaysia's tenth king (Yang di-Pertuan Agong) at his recent installation in Kuala Lumpur.

As supreme head of the federation, he was elected by the nine hereditary rulers of the Malay states and serves a five-year term. The Oxford-educated King Ja'afar, 72, is the hereditary ruler of Negeri Sembilan state in Malaysia's south.

Tuvalu PM

Kamuta Obe Latasi, 57, was elected Prime Minister of the Pacific islands state of Tuvalu last December.

Mr. Latasi, who worked as the British Petroleum manager from 1983-1991, first won his seat in the capital of Funafuti in 1987. He was Tuvalu's High Commissioner to Fiji from 1978-1983. Formerly known as the Ellice Islands, Tuvalu won independence from Britain in 1978.

Two More Years

Sir Richard Luce, the former British government minister, has had his term of office as chairman of the Commonwealth Foundation extended for a further two years by member governments.

CARE Chief

The aid agency, CARE which operates in many Commonwealth countries, has appointed a former diplomat as chairman of its British board.

Sir Harold 'Hooky' Walker, who was ambassador to Iraq during the Gulf crisis, succeeds Michael Bowers OBE.

Medical Honour

A distinguished Commonwealth physician has been honoured for his work by the World Health Organisation.

The 1994 Leon Bernard Foundation prize for outstanding achievement in the field of social medicine has been awarded to Britain's Sir Donald Acheson, a former chief medical officer for the Department of Health in England and since his retirement WHO Special representative in areas covered by the former Yugoslavia.

British University Honours Anyaoku,



Commonwealth Secretary-General Emeke Anyaoku and Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Cape Town were among eminent figures honoured by a British University last month (Editors : October) for significant contributions in different fields.

Chief Anyaoku, who has devoted a lifetime of service to the Commonwealth, was awarded an honorary degree of doctor of laws after being described as "a man whose quiet determination has changed lives and changed countries".

Archbishop Tutu, the voice of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa during Nelson Mandela's imprisonment, was similarly honoured with the degree of doctor of laws from South Bank University in London.

- Commonwealth Feature Nov, 1994

'Classic Of Modern Literature' Wins Indian Writer Top Commonwealth Award

'A Suitable Boy,' believed to be the longest novel written in English this century, has won Vikram Seth, its Indian author, the 1994 Commonwealth writers prize worth 10,000. Pounds Sterling.

The international panel of judges described the book as a great 19th century novel set in the 20th century and predicted that it would become a classic of modern literature.

The 1500-page tome is a love story set in post-independent India and involves four large families and those close to them. It revolves around a mother's attempts to find a suitable match for her daughter Lata through love or through maternal appraisal.

The novel looks at India as it gets ready for its first General Election in 1952 which would put it on the way to becoming the world's largest democracy and give it a chance to map its own destiny.

"Written on a scale unsurpassed by any other novel in English this century, a Suitable Boy is nevertheless intimate, humorous and tender", said the judges.

- Commonwealth Feature Nov, 1994

Commonwealth Institute Brings Wonders Of The World To London

As rain starts drumming on the roof of a house in the Caribbean, its occupants look out of the window. They see palm trees swaying in the howling wind whose force knocks them backwards. They are in the middle of a tropical storm!

Or so they think... until they suddenly remember they are nowhere near the Caribbean. They are safe and sound in London where a simulator has given them a momentary feeling of actually being caught in the storm.

This is the kind of experience awaiting visitors to an exciting new exhibition planned by the Commonwealth Institute in which the simulator will play a key role.

Entitled 'Wonders of the World', the exhibition is about places, climates and natural hazards throughout the world, though all examples will be taken from Commonwealth countries. It will open around April 1996.

A thrilling ride along a variety of natural phenomena - from the Great Barrier Reef in Australia to the dawn of the African savanna - will be the main feature of the exhibition.

The 15-minute dark ride in a car will enable visitors to see a variety of different worlds: underwater, wind, safari, white water, volcanic and geyser eruptions, air and ice.

There will be 22 cars, holding seven people each. People with a disability will have specially adapted cars. Once on board, they will set off on a journey which takes in seven scenic stations, each giving them experience of a different world.

As they travel through the stations, they will experience a series of illusions. These will be conveyed through film and special effects to give impressions of sights, sounds and even smells to simulate reality.

The institute says: "It is a unique exhibition which will appeal

to all who care about tomorrow's world.

"Visitors will be able to experience places to which they have always wanted to go and do things which they have only ever dreamed about".

Giving visitors thrills is not the only objective of the permanent exhibition which will change attractions every year. Its educational approach aims to increase their knowledge of the Commonwealth, its geography and its cultural diversity.

Another aim is to create an awareness of environmental issues, for example, by pointing out the harm caused by such things as industrial pollution.

After the ride, visitors can enjoy various other displays at the institute to find out more about the things they have just experienced.

- Commonwealth Feature
Dec, 1994

Why Snakes Have Forked Tongues

Aristotle, reasoning from the basis of his own tongue, thought that a forked tongue would provide snakes "a two fold pleasure from savours, their gustatory sensation being as it were doubled". Some 19 centuries later, Hodierna was not so charitable. He thought that snakes used their forked tongue "for picking the Dirt out of their Noses, which would be apt else to stuff them, since they are always grovelling on the Ground, or in Caverns of the Earth". A third theory has snakes catching flies "with wonderful nimbleness"

between the tines of their forked tongues.

As it happens, Aristotle was close to the truth. Schwenk K (1994) **Science** 263:1573-77, concluded that anatomy, neural circuitry, function, and behaviour now support a hypothesis of the forked tongue as a chemosensory edge detector used to follow pheromone trails of prey and conspecifics. The ability to sample simultaneously two points along a chemical gradient provides

the basis for instantaneous assessment of trail location.

Forked tongues have evolved at least twice, possible four times, among equamate reptiles, and at higher taxonomic levels, forked tongues are always associated with a wide-searching mode of foraging. The evolutionary success of advanced snakes might be due, in part, to perfection of this mechanism and its role in reproduction.

- Aus. Vet. J 71:(7) 1994

From the Secretary's Desk



1. **Membership**-CVA membership has moved up to 46 with South Africa and Kiribati being the newest members. Three country associations only are under suspension, namely Grenada, St.Lucia and St Vincent & the Grenadines. The Bahamas has recently rejoined.
2. A large CVA group from ECS Africa Region met during the Centenary Congress of the Veterinary Association of Namibia in September 1994. The meeting is reported elsewhere. A special feature was the invitation for CVA President, Dr.Touray, to join the Prime Minister of Namibia, the Minister of Agriculture and other dignitaries on the stage of the Official Opening.
3. The CVA Asian Regional Meeting originally planned for October 1994 in Dhaka Bangladesh had to be postponed because of the outbreak of pneumonic plague in India. It has been rescheduled for January 10-12, 1995. This is a very important

meeting dealing with veterinary disaster preparedness and veterinary education and it is the first time that any international veterinary meeting has been held in Bangladesh.

4. New personal subscribers to CVA News include Dr.H.Ann Foster located at Msalato Bible College, PO Box 264, Dodoma, Tanzania and Dr.P.Boland, 19 Stanley, St.Hackett ACT, Australia.
5. **Retirements and replacements.** Dr.Lebohang Khomari of Lesotho has completed her four year term as Regional representative for ECS Africa. During her term of office she worked hard to consolidate the region and helped develop its programmes. This region is now one of the most active of the six in CVA. Her successor is Professor Peter Msolla of Tanzania.

Dr.William Amanfu from Ghana, who has been Regional representative for West Africa for three years has had to resign on taking up a new appointment

in Botswana. He has been an enthusiastic and effective officer of CVA and will be missed in the Executive too. We are pleased to welcome his successor, Dr.E.B.M. Koney of Ghana.

New Councillors. The first CVA Councillor for South Africa is Professor GF Bath from the Onderstepoort veterinary School, University of Pretoria. A very warm welcome to him.

6. **Meeting of Executive Committee.** Dr.Laura Bowen, Regional Representative for UK/Mediterranean is finalising the venue in the United Kingdom during 1995. Any member veterinary association is most welcome to send agenda items to the Secretary/Treasurer for consideration at that meeting particularly regarding the workplan.

WJ Pryor

Secretary/Treasurer

Reference Ranges For Laboratory Findings In Exotic Species

Analyses of biochemical and cellular components of blood samples can be invaluable in the diagnosis of disease and for the increasing numbers of animal species that are becoming dependent on captive breeding or management in the wild for their continued existence. However, except in a limited number of common domesticated species, the interpretation of laboratory findings can be hindered by a lack of species-specific reference data.

Gascoyne and her colleagues at the Zoological Society of London (Gascoyne *et al* 1994, Vet Rec 134:7-11) have described progress in developing a data base providing reference values for a wide range of exotic species. Eleven biochemical variables were examined in sick and healthy specimens of species from six mammalian and six avian orders. The patterns of variation between orders for the different biochemical variables were then used to provide guidelines for the interpretation of plasma biochemistry results in the species in those orders for which there are no reference data. The observed clinical ranges provide an indication of the potential diagnostic value of each variable.

Aut. Vet. J. 71 P 210

CVA REGIONAL NEWS

Asia

New President Of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association



Dr. (Mrs.) A.L. Godwin has been elected President of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA) for the period 1994/95. Dr. Godwin is the first Lady President of the SLVA, which has about 40% lady

veterinarians. She is a graduate from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and holds a Diploma in Food Hygiene and Public Health from Denmark.

She has served as a Government Field Veterinarian for 10 years, and as a lecturer and later as the Principal of the Government School for Animal Husbandry and as the Deputy Director - Training and Education in the Department of Animal Production and Health, until she retired in 1991. After serving as a consultant to the Institute of Agriculture and women in

Development of N G O project, for a brief period she is now engaged as a free lance consultant and a private practitioner.

She has taken a keen interest in the CVA activities and compiled a Directory of Animal Health Training Institutes in the Commonwealth. She won the Commonwealth travelling Fellowship awarded by the Commonwealth Secretariat U.K. in 1992 and toured U.K., Botswana, Namibia and Zambia. She is a long standing member of the SLVA and had held several posts including the post of Secretary SLVA.

New Executive Of Pakistan Veterinary Association

Dr. Muhammad Ajmal is the new President of the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Association, while Dr. Siraj ul Haq is the Secretary. Vice Presidents of PVMA are Dr. Abdul Ghafoor from Punjab, Dr. Aslam Pervaiz Umerani from Sindh, Dr. M. Azam Kanshi from Balochistan and Dr. Gohar Zaman Khattak from NWFP.

New Regional Representative of Commonwealth Veterinary Association Asian Region.



Dr. A.A. Ramzee, Council Member, CVA Pakistan was elected as the Regional Representative of the CVA, Asian Region at the meeting of the CVA Asian Region held at Mymensingh, Bangladesh on 12th January 1995. He succeeds Dr. Fazlul Hoque, Bangladesh. Dr. Ramzee is a very experienced Veterinarian in the field of Poultry and has held many offices of the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Association. He is also the editor of Asian Update a publication of Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations. At present he is the Technical and Marketing Advisor to Animal Health and Cure and Pakistan Poultry.

New Tail Design

Until recently, prehensile tails came in 2 basic designs: the elephant trunk - just muscles, no bones - and the monkey tail in which muscles flex a series of bones. But now US Scientist, Kevin Zippel has discovered a third design in the tail of a lizard called Skink found on the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. The skink's tail consists of a series of Cone shaped muscles stacked on top of one another and covered by a sheath of spirally wound fibres. This allows the tail to bent in any direction and for one part to stay rigid while another part flexes (Science, Vol. 265, No. 5176.)

Commonwealth Veterinary Association Asian Regional Conference and Seminar on Veterinary Education and Disaster Management Dhaka, Bangladesh, January, 10th - 12th, 1995.

It took nearly 6 years for the Asian Region of Commonwealth Veterinary Association to host a Regional Seminar in Bangladesh. It appeared that holding of a seminar in Bangladesh was jinxed, as it had to be postponed 3 times at the last moment due to natural calamities twice due to floods, and more recently the epidemic of plague. The holding of the present Seminar also was in jeopardy due to political unrest and it was felt that the fate of the conference would be similar to the earlier ones. However, kudos to Bangladesh Veterinary Association, who put up a magnificent show and organised the conference inspite of difficult odds. That this conference was bound to succeed was known, two weeks earlier with the firm confirmation of the participation of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Mrs. Khalida Zia, and the unstinted support given by the Govt. of Bangladesh through the Minister and the Secretary of the Govt. and the dynamic Director of livestock services Dr. Nazir Ahmed.



Hon. Prime Minister Ms. Khalida Zia being introduced to the CVA delegates, Dr. Gnanaprakasam, Dr. Pryor, and Dr. Abdul Rahman.

The apprehension of the delegates on landing at Dhaka Airport was relieved with a warm welcome to the delegates, and the protocol officer whisking all the delegates through the V.I.P. lounge and the excellent

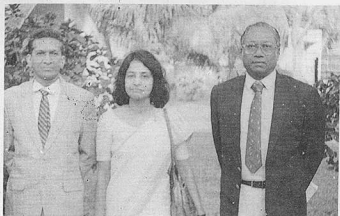
transport to the hotel. The delegates were welcomed with profuse enthusiasm and their stay was a memorable one.

On the morning of Tuesday 10th January, 1995 at 9.00 a.m. the venue of the inauguration of the conference the elegant and magnificent Osmany Hall was filled with capacity with over 800 Veterinarians from Bangladesh, Invitees, High Commissioners of Commonwealth countries Ministers and other V.I.P.s. including the delegates from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and Australia.

Among the distinguished invitees to the Conference was Mr. Mehboob Zaheidi the Honorable Minister of Animal Resources Development, Govt. of West Bengal, India. The state of W. Bengal in India has its borders with Bangladesh, and there are many similarities between the two. When calamities such as floods strike, both are equally affected, and thereby problems are also common and have to be tackled

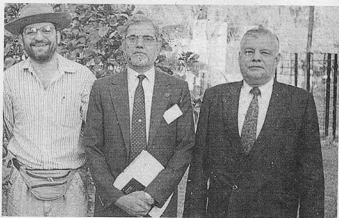


Hon. Minister of Livestock Development Bangladesh Mr. Noman and Hon. Minister of Animal Resources Development West Bengal. India Mr. Mehboob Zaheidi being led into the auditorium.



Sri Lanka delegates from L-R
Dr. Nettsinghe, Ms. Gunwardane,
Dr. Wanasinghe

Pakistan delegates from L-R
Dr. Ramzee, Dr. Choudhury and
Dr. Qureshi.



CVA Delegates At The Conference

Front Row from L-R
Drs. Lindsay Heywood, Gunuwardane,
Ramakrishna, Gnanaprakasam, Pryor,
Choudhury, Bhattacharya.

Back Row from L-R
Drs. Nettsinghe, Wanasinghe, Ramzee,
Qureshi, Rahman, Phil Stenclion.

Indian Delegates

**L-R; Dr. Ramakrishna, Mr. Nagabhushana,
Dr. Gnanaprakasam and Mr. Ananth**



Australian Trio

**L-R Lindsay Heywood, Phil Stenclion
and WJ Pryor.**

**Bangladesh Veterinarians
in rapt attention at the Scientific Session
on Veterinary Education**





Dr. Fazli Hoque

Bangladesh Veterinary Association and Commonwealth Veterinary Association by the secretary of Bangladesh Veterinary Association, Dr. Sultan Mohiyuddin.

The venue of the scientific Conference on Veterinary Education and Disaster Management was the Engineers Institute. The first session was chaired by Dr. Lindsay Heywood and Co-chaired by Dr. Rashid Ahmed Choudhary. The keynote address was presented by; Dr. V Gnanaprakasam, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Veterinary University India on Veterinary Education in Developing Countries. There were number of speakers. The second session was on Veterinary Curriculum which was chaired by Dr. Sheikh Hefazuddin and co-chaired by Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe. There were number of papers and the Keynote address was given by Dr. Lindsay Heywood.

The plenary session



Dr. Nazir Ahmed

discussed the papers and a resolution committee was constituted to frame the recommendations and resolutions. The finale of the days proceedings was a glittering cultural

program of dance and music depicting Bangla culture.

The second days program was the scientific session on Disaster Management. The session was chaired by Dr. W.J. Pryor and Co-chaired by Prof. Akhter. There were number of papers including a keynote address on International Blue Cross by Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe and an invited lecture by Dr. Phil Stenclion from Australia Emergency Management. There was a plenary session in which both the themes were discussed in the question and answer session, and after detailed discussions, proceedings and resolutions were drawn up and put before the house for approval and adopted.

A visit to various Veterinary units and farms around Dhaka was the culmination of the two day program in Dhaka.

The third day was a visit to Mymensingh Agriculture University, Mymensingh. While the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (Asia Region) Executive met for their meeting, all the other delegates attended a Symposium on Veterinary Education organised by the Mymensingh Agriculture University. The Symposium was attended by all the faculty members, students and invitees. Details of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association Asian Regional meeting and the minutes, and recommendations and resolutions of the seminar are published elsewhere in this issue.

in a similar fashion. Therefore the presence of the Honorable Minister and his informal talk with his counterpart in Bangladesh have paved way for more positive action in this regard and future joint action in case of emergencies.

The Inauguration Ceremony was a glittering function with speeches by the Hon. Minister of Livestock and Veterinary Services Govt. of Bangladesh, Hon. Minister of Animal Resources Development, Govt. of West Bengal, Dr. Wanasinghe, Vice President of Commonwealth Vet. Assoc, Dr. W.J. Pryor, Sec/Tres of CVA, Dr. Nazir Ahmed, Director of Livestock services Govt of Bangladesh, CVA Asian Regional Representative Dr. Fazli Hoque, and finally the inauguration speech by the Hon. Prime Minister Mrs. Khalida Zia. In her speech, the Prime Minister stressed the need for livestock development. She said that she was confident that this conference would tackle the problems of disaster which frequently ravish Bangladesh causing loss of life and property including livestock.

Crests were presented to the Prime Minister on behalf of the

Meetings of the CVA Asian Region

- I Meeting June 6 - 8, 1972 at Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- II Meeting Feb 4 - 5, 1975 at Madras, India.
- III Meeting Dec 28 - 29, 1977 at Mymensingh, Bangladesh.
- IV Meeting June 6 - 7, 1979 Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
- V Meeting Nov 25 - 27, 1983 Hissar, India
- VI Meeting Dec 11 - 12, 1985 Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- VII Meeting Feb 27, 1989 Bangalore, India
- VIII Meeting Nov 9, 1991 Mymensingh, India
- IX Meeting Jan 12, 1995 Mymensingh, Bangladesh

Vet School Death

The head of Algeria's veterinary school, Bekkouche Muhammed, was shot dead at the school earlier this month, according to the Algerian news agency APS. The shooting was among several attacks which, according to Algerian officials, were made by Muslim militants.

Vet. Rec. July 30, 1994.

Commonwealth Veterinary Association Asian Regional Conference and Seminar on Veterinary Education and Disaster Management Dhaka, Bangladesh, January, 10th - 12th, 1995.

**Address by
Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh
Begum Khaleda Zia**

10 January, 1995

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Colleagues, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Representatives of International Organizations, Members of Commonwealth Veterinary Association, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum.

I am very pleased to be present at this inauguration ceremony of Asia Regional Conference of Commonwealth Veterinary Association. The veterinarians are dedicated to the service of mute animals. They render valuable service to the society and the economy in the process. I felicitate the veterinarians who have assembled here from home and abroad to take part in this Regional Conference. My greetings and best wishes to you all.

The significant contribution of livestock to the economy of Bangladesh is well recognized. But this sector is beset with many problems which constrain its proper growth. Prominent among these are poor breed, inadequate feeds and prevalence of a variety of diseases.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The policies and programmes of our government have been directed towards the livestock sector not only to improve the nutritional status of our people but also to mitigate poverty through promotion of livestock farming. It is one of the most promising sector in our economy which can create large-scale self-employment opportunities for the unemployed youth and women.

During the past few years, we have been doing our best to promote poultry and dairy farming, increase availability of draught animals, upgrade local breeds, invigorate animal health services, improve institutional services such as credit, marketing, extension, and integration of livestock farming with crop-production, forestry and fisheries. Particular attention is being paid to greater participation of women in livestock farming. With a view to ensuring sustained development of the sector we formulated a National Livestock Development policy in 1991. It is now under implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our dedicated veterinarians have been using their knowledge, skill and experience to solve our veterinary problems. However, global and regional cooperation in the field and extensive interaction between veterinarians of different countries of the world would help improve the situation further. It is in this context that professional bodies like the Commonwealth Veterinary Association has much relevance for the development of livestock sector at national, regional and global levels.

It is crucial for us to develop and adopt viable and sustainable technologies which enhance livestock production without causing deterioration of the environment. Indeed, set with the stark mural of today's environmental crisis, livestock development is now an absolute necessity for survival.

Distinguished Delegates.

I am hopeful that this conference will identify links between biodiversity and bio-technology and provide guidelines for sustainable livestock development. I am confident that the collective wisdom engendered by this conference of eminent veterinarians will be accorded meticulous attention and consideration not only by our government but by the international community as a whole. Let this conference mark the beginning of a new era of cooperation and solidarity among the professional bodies of Commonwealth countries for mutual benefit and uplift.

I would like to thank the Veterinary Association of Bangladesh for taking initiative to hold this conference of Commonwealth Veterinary Association and wish it a complete success.

Allah Hafez.
Bangladesh Zindabad.

**Address by
Mahboob Zaheidi
Minister-in-Charge
Animal Resources Development Department,
Minority Affairs Wakf and Haj
Government of West Bengal, India**

Respected Mr. Abdulla Al Noman, Hon'ble Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh, D.D. Wanasinghe Vice-President, Commonwealth Veterinary Association, Dr. W.J. Pryor, Secy. Treasurer, CVA., Dr. Nazir Ahmed Director, Dr. B.C. Ramakrishna, Council Member, CVA., Dr. A.A. Ramzee, Council Member, CVA., Dr. Rahman, and distinguished delegates

This is indeed a great privilege for me to attend this great occasion of Commonwealth Veterinarians Conference at Dhaka on this auspicious day in the inaugural ceremony of the Seminar arranged by C.V.A. I am beholden to the organisers for extending invitation to me to address the Seminar at Dhaka. I am extremely happy and delighted to meet the Veterinary Scientists, distinguished professionals and people of Bangladesh in particular. It is my conviction that Veterinarians with ideas can alter the economic and health aspects of the rural community blighted by animal diseases. The topic of the Seminar on Veterinary Education and disaster management happens to be very relevant today when the entire planet is facing the vagaries of the challenges of nature. The humanity and our civilisation has seen enough of the violent of nature in the form of disasters occurring naturally and at times induced by the folly of mankind as it appears to me.

Due to my long association with peasant movement and agrarian revolution I am prone to believe that the rural community in the Subcontinent has to face the challenge of the improving quality of life through technological advancement. In spite of much crescendo of developmental dialogue the protein calory malnutrition is still a disease of millions which is very evident in the perpetual hunger, prevailing in the villages of most of the third World Countries in general. We are to over-come this malady of impovegishness and inannition in some areas which is crippling the nation, particularly the weaker section of the community. In our long march for development of civilisation we have been closely associated with productive species of livestock. But, unfortunately, productive livestock in our country mostly in India and Bangladesh has not reached the desired height of production and productivity. In West Bengal, we have celebrated the centenary year of Bengal Veterinary College, Calcutta. I firmly believe that the Veterinary Colleges with all components of other faculties like fisheries, dairy science can deliver the best technologies appropriate for livestock production to the greatest advantage of the people. These Institutions should not suffer from dichotomous restrictions and preclusions for technological development.

There should be ample facilities for applied research, fundamental research, curricular education and development with man-animals - land-nature complex. With this end in view a full-fledged Veterinary University in West Bengal will start in the month of January, 1995. This will be the second of its kind in India.

There are very many constraints in transfer of appropriate technology in the areas of livestock production. The Scientists and Extension Specialist of the Universities are required to play the role of first line extension technologists through organisation of operational demonstration, projects, training and transfer technology programmes may be on the limited scale but forceful enough to have catalytic influence on other extension systems or sub-systems e.g. the State Departments, Non-Govt. Organisation, Business house etc. The first line extension system should be designed and devoted to serve the livestock farmers and extension functionaries. The livestock farmers are the target groups and are really effective. It may be worthwhile to mention that the famous breeds of cattle like Sahiwal, Haryana, Red Sindhi, Tharparkar and buffaloes like Murrah, Nili, Ravi and Surti were probably the best type of animals developed in this part of Asia in a particular environment to meet the desired objective. These were surely a highly sophisticated technical achievement made by the farmers and breeders. I implore on the Scientists and professionals to realise this fundamental truth that it was the farmer or breeder who did the job in the past not only in this part of the world but the world over.

Therefore, we should pull up our resources to shape livestock production technology for adoptability by the farmers in real terms. The scientific community can properly motivate the farmer or breeder for change and progress through educational and organisational methods. This truth is often ignored in our development approach. As a result most of the ties we feel content in the development of institutions and the agencies with little concern about developmental transformation at the farmer level.

I take this opportunity to extend adulations and accolade to the Veterinary Scientist in particular for spectacular achievement in livestock development in organised herds. It is now possible to achieve 50% conception rate on first service with an average of 1.5 to 1.7 service per conception through Frozen Semen Technology. Multiple ovulation and Embryo Transfer Technology is now a reality in many organised herds. Considerable achievement has been possible in the areas



Mr. Mehboob Zaheidi
with Indian delegates from L-R
Drs. Salahuddin, Ramakrishna, Hon.
Minister, Gnanaprakasam and Rahman.

Dean of Veterinary faculty, Mymensingh
Agricultural University, Dr. Abdul Jalil
Sarkar addressing the CVA delegates.



CVA Asian Regional Meeting
In Progress
L-R Drs. Ramakrishna, Ramzee, Hoque,
Wanasinghe, Pryor and Rahman.

of disease control and it is a matter of pride that the South East Asian Countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan are now enjoying freedom from Rinderpest. We are now in the take off stage to eradicate the greatest killer of cattle, the Rinderpest finally from Indian Sub-continent. Vaccine production Unit at Calcutta have been modernised and fulfilled Cell Culture Laboratory have been established. Cell Culture freeze dried Rinderpest Vaccine with high titre are being produced.

It is appalling to know that earthquakes are shaking the planet 20 times a year with enough force in some places to result widespread death and destruction. Every year flood water ravages some part of the subcontinents. People of India and Bangladesh have been worst hit in flood prone areas. Natural occurring phenomena like flood, draught, earth quake, cyclone, hurricane, volcanic eruption etc. are the extreme evidence having disastrous effects on mankind and with all their living and non-living assets, besides these consequences there are man induced phenomena like wars, accidents, building collapses, fires often take heavy toll of lives of man and animals. On any place of disaster of any description animals may be injured, rendered homeless and forced to go without food and water indefinitely. The fate of domestic animals will be the same as that of humans. But unfortunately data on the losses of livestock or wild animals due to natural are often very incomplete and sparse in the records.

Disaster management has assumed great significance to combat the violent face of nature. It is now admitted on all hands that ad-hoc measures of transient nature are not enough to meet the natural hazards and their distributive effects. Relief efforts if unorganised may prove wasteful or misuse of emergency resources. Immediate measures of rescue of injured or trapped animals and their treatment should be effective. Scientific measures for control of disease spread and environmental pollution is very important. These efforts should be effective. Scientific measures for control of disease spread and environmental pollution is very important. These efforts should be supported by arrangement of shelters, provision of food and clean drinking water, essential items of medicines. It should be always kept in mind that the shelters or homes which are provided for human beings are often refused to admit animals for sanitation reasons forcing farmers to either abandon domestic livestock or forego shelters. It should be realised that human and animal problem in a disaster are intimately intertwined and it is impossible to deal one without the other. Therefore, the action plan should be prepared by any agency constituted with the faculties of the University and the Government Officials and other Non Government Officials to meet any veterinary emergency during disaster. It may so happen that the plan intended for a human disaster relief programme may be theoretically similar to Veterinary emergency. A skeleton action plan should be prepared at the national level, depending on the conditions, extent of the disaster and resources available. Spot assessment can be made of the disaster and the resources available. Spot assessment can be made for a particular disaster. During October, 1993, devastating earth quake in Maharashtra in India around 2000 animals died in the district of Latur and Osmanabad. The devastation and damages in the lives of the domestic animals will be the same as that of humans. It is evident that the Veterinary experts must be included to manage disaster of all sizes. A Veterinarian as an individual to working in the thick surge of the country, is best suited like other individuals to advice central authorities, any problem concerning animal welfare and feed supply. It is now evident that the formulation of the disaster plan which can prevent the impacts of natural calamities, is a dire necessity.

Animals travel alongside humans during times of prosperity and scarcity. They assist and accompany us in our travails and adapt themselves to our strange ways. It is only fair that we reciprocate this in times of emergency as well.

Resolutions of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association Asian Regional Seminar on Veterinary Education and Disaster Management

VET. EDUCATION.

1. All the Commonwealth Countries in the Asian Region namely : Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka should award only one composite Veterinary degree instead of two separate degrees namely : A degree in Veterinary Science and a degree in Animal Husbandry.
2. This composite degree in Veterinary Science should encompass relevant animal husbandry, animal production and animal health syllabus.
3. The duration of the Veterinary degree should not be less than four and half (4 1/2) years.
4. A period of supervised practical experience (internship) of not less than six (6) months duration should be made mandatory for registration of Veterinarians with the Veterinary Councils of respective countries.
5. The Veterinary Council of respective countries should be empowered to periodically examine the veterinary curriculum and suggest to the respective Universities necessary changes to the curriculum.

6. The undergraduate and post graduate study programs should be designed to solve field problem and farmer needs than fundamental research.
7. Continuing Veterinary education programmes should be made available to update the knowledge of Veterinarians already in service.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

1. A livestock disaster preparedness and management committee be constituted in the Asian Region under the auspices of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA)
2. This Committee should consist of voluntary representatives nominated by the Veterinary Associations of respective countries.
3. This Committee should meet at a convenient date and venue to draw up a protocol to handle livestock disaster situations in relation to the Asian Region.
4. This Committee should explore the possibility of obtaining assistance from CVA, SAARC, APHCA, FAO etc. to draw up a Charter and to implement the decisions.

Minutes of the IX Commonwealth Veterinary Association Asian Regional Meeting held at Mymensingh, Bangladesh on 12th January, 1995

The IX Asian Regional Meeting of the CVA was held at the Conference Room of Department of Parasitology, Mymensingh Agriculture University, Mymensingh, Bangladesh on 12th January, 1995. Dr. Fazlul Hoque, Regional Representative CVA (Asian Region) and Council Member, Bangladesh chaired the meeting. The following were present:

Dr. B.C. Ramakrishna, Council Member, India

Dr. A.A. Ramzee, Council Member, Pakistan

Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe, Vice President CVA and Council Member, Sri Lanka.

The following were present as observers on the invitation of the Regional Representative :

Dr. W.J. Pryor, Sec, Tres. CVA

Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Editor CVA News

The Agenda of the Meeting was read by Dr. Hoque and adopted.

It was proposed that Dr. B.C. Ramakrishna keep the minutes assisted by Dr. Rahman.

The minutes of the VIII CVA Asian Regional Meeting held at Bangalore, India on 9th November 1991 were read by Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe. Dr. Ramzee proposed and Dr. Ramakrishna seconded the adoption of the minutes.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the VIII Regional Meeting.

John Anderson Travel Grant.

Dr. Pryor informed the members that the grant was now renamed as CVA Travel Fund (Anderson-Choquette Travel Fund). He also brought to the notice of the members that a sum of A\$2000 was available for the award of the grant. The grant is meant exclusively for field veterinarians, preferably below 35 years of age. The fund would be made available for a South South cooperation rather than sending members to UK, Canada, Australia etc., Dr. Rahman suggested that for the Asian Region, India was prepared to offer any higher training in various fields to Veterinarians from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan under the fund at very nominal boarding expenses, thereby saving funds for the CVA. Dr. Wanasinghe, brought to the notice of the members that a Herbal medicine company in India was prepared to sponsor a veterinarian from Sri Lanka for his post graduate degree program in India on herbal medicine and whether the CVA Travel grant could be used as a part of the fund for this purpose. Dr. Rahman and Dr. B.C. Ramakrishna informed the members that in India, there is no separate teaching program in herbal medicine. Dr. Rahman categorically stated that it would be better if the fund is used to train a field veterinarian in a short term training program rather than a degree program.

Dr. Pryor informed that for the current program, the last date for submitting proposals for the travel grant was 31st July, 1995.

Presentation of Reports

It was resolved that all country reports be presented one month before the next meeting.

Asian Regional Representative

Dr. Hoque stated that the region had been very active during the last three and half years since the last meeting. All the associations have had their General Body meeting and have had many conferences and workshops (see Country reports). He informed that the last one year has been a busy one in the organizing of the Regional Meeting and conference on Education and Disaster Management. He thanked the CVA Executive, especially Dr. Bakary and Dr. Pryor for their support in getting this conference organized and also to the three Council Members of India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan for their support. He also thanked Dr. Rahman, the Conference Co-ordinator and Editor, for his untiring efforts in getting the conference organized as he had made 3 trips to Dhaka especially to see that the conference was organized there.

Activities of the National Associations in the Region.

Sri Lanka

Dr. Wanasinghe informed that the Sri Lankan Veterinary Assoc. has been very active and has been organizing various activities during the last three years including Scientific conferences, the latest which would be held in the last week of January 1995. He informed that the Govt. had granted an half acre land for the construction of the building for the SLVA and had also promised 2 million rupees for it. Another important milestone was the passing of the Council Act which makes 6 month internship training compulsory before practice.

Pakistan

Dr. Ramzee informed that in Pakistan also the Govt. had passed the Veterinary Council Act and it was before the Senate for approval. He also informed that the Govt. also had cleared the proposal of the Pakistan Veterinary Association to have a separate Veterinary University, and very shortly the Lahore Veterinary College will be under the Veterinary University.

Bangladesh

Dr. Hoque informed that the veterinary association has been leading the protests of the veterinary profession against the award of separate degree of Animal Husbandry from the Mymensingh Agric. University. He hoped that this conference would pave way for the Govt. to consider this serious anomaly and abolish the award of this degree and have a composite Veterinary Degree.

India

Dr. B.C. Ramakrishna, informed that the IVA has been very active in holding number of conferences and workshops in various parts of the country on various topics, especially Animal Welfare and Disease control. There were many programs taken up by the IVA for the benefit of field veterinarians such as Veterinary Benevolent fund, etc., He also informed that the association was pursuing the matter of forming Veterinary Universities in each state on the same pattern as that of the state of Tamil Nadu which has the only Veterinary Univ. in Asia and the Commonwealth. He also informed that the Veterinary Council of India has formulated a uniform syllabus and regulations of education in all the 34 veterinary colleges in the country and the same will be implemented from the academic year 1995-96.

Secy. Tres

The Sec. Tres. Dr. Pryor informed that the finances of the CVA were slowly improving, especially with subscriptions from member countries. He was very happy that the Asian Region was not only upto date but Bangladesh had paid in advance. He suggested that this meeting consider an increase in the subscriptions. The members in response to the Secy. Tres's request agreed to increase the subscription rates as follows:

India from (A\$) 450 to 500, Pakistan 400 to 500, Bangladesh from 350 to 500 and Sri Lanka from 175 to 225. Dr. Pryor briefed the members about the availability of the travel grant and also requested that personal contributions or on behalf of the National Associations would be most welcome for augmenting the resources of the Travel Fund. Dr. Ramzee donated US\$100 as his personal contribution to the fund.

Dr. Pryor appraised the members of the success of the Large Ruminants Workshop held in Sri Lanka which was the second workshop organized by the CVA and held in the Asian region the earlier one being held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Election of Regional Representative

Dr. Fazlul Hoque proposed and Dr. Wanasinghe seconded the name of Dr. A.A. Ramzee Council Member from Pakistan as the new Regional Representative of CVA Asian Region till 31st December, 1996. Dr. Ramzee thanked the members for their confidence in him and assured the members his help and cooperation in fulfilling the objectives of the associations from the region.

Any other business

Dr. Wanasinghe explained in detail his proposal of the International Blue Cross as presented in his paper in the seminar. He stressed that CVA should play an active role and proposed that a committee named Disaster Preparedness Committee be appointed to coordinate the program of effective relief in case of disasters within the region. After a detailed discussion it was agreed that a committee be constituted for the Asian Region with the following as members, Council Representatives of CVA from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, the Regional Representative of the Asian Region

and the Editor of CVA News. The Committee will be chaired by Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe, Vice President CVA. It was decided that Dr. Wanasinghe would draft the detailed references of the committee and its role and circulate to the members.

Dr. Ramzee, informed the members that the Pakistan Veterinary Association had taken exception to a news item in the CVA News regarding the refusal of the Pakistan Govt. to grant a visa for Dr. Rahman from India to participate at a Poultry Conference in Lahore, Pakistan. It had been mentioned in the News (CVA News July 1994) that CVA should take serious note of the issue. Dr. Ramzee explained that it was only an occasional incident, and it should not be taken seriously. After detailed discussion it was agreed that in future, any conference organised by CVA either in India or Pakistan, should be canceled in case of any hindrance. Further it was proposed that the CVA write to all Commonwealth countries not to refuse visas to members of the Commonwealth countries.

Dr. Ramzee proposed that the next Regional Meeting and conference in 1997 be held in Lahore, Pakistan. It was approved subject to the condition mentioned above.

Dr. Wanasinghe, brought to the notice of the members that exchange of journals from member countries was not taking place especially the Indian Veterinary Journal was not being received there. It was agreed that the four countries exchange journals with each other.

Dr. Wanasinghe proposed that non-Commonwealth neighbouring countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives in the Asian Region be given membership. Dr. Pryor informed that already CVA has initiated action in this regard and granted associate membership to such countries, which will enable them to participate in conferences, seminars workshops etc., but with no voting rights. Dr. Wanasinghe was requested to take suitable action in the matter.

Dr. Pryor informed that funding for travel especially for the Regional Representatives to attend Executive meetings, had become a great problem and sought measures to overcome it. Dr. Rahman suggested that there should be a "staggering" of Regional Representatives. As an example, he suggested that for one term the Asian and Australasian region should have only one RR, similarly the ECS Africa and West Africa. These RR's could be appointed alternatively from each region. For example, if during 1995-97 the RR is from ECS Africa then during 97-99 the RR should be from West Africa. Similarly in the Asian and Australasian Region. Thereby there would be a reduction in the number of RR's attending the meeting by two. Dr. Pryor suggested that the proposal be placed at the next EC meeting in London in August this year.

Dr. Rahman proposed that the services rendered by the outgoing Regional Representative Dr. Fazlul Hoque had been tremendous, especially the organization of the Regional Seminar and conference at Dhaka, and the committee should record their appreciation of his services. It was unanimously approved.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. B.C. Ramakrishna the Council Member from India.

Report Of The Pakistan Veterinary Medical Association

On behalf of Pakistan Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) and on my personal behalf, we express our gratitude to the Bangladesh Veterinary Association for hosting CVA regional workshop and CVA regional meeting at Dhaka and Mymensingh respectively.

In 1989 Central Executive Board of PVMA proposed major amendments in the constitution, which we adopted unanimously by the PVMA. According to the new constitution, the office of Central Executive Committee will be rotated for a term of two years among the four provinces, namely Sindh, Punjab, NWFP and Balochistan.

In July 1994, office of the Central Executive Committee was shifted to the province of NWFP. Provincial chapter of PVMA NWFP nominated Dr. Ajmal Qureshi as President and Dr. Siraj ul Haq as Secretary General for the next term.

For the last few years PVMA is involved in a number of activities for the uplift of veterinary profession and successful in achieving few of the targets set by PVMA since its inception in 1983.

In 1994, after a long struggle, PVMA is finally able to have the Pakistan Veterinary Council Act passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan and it is hoped that Senate of Pakistan will also adopt this act unanimously. PVMA is lobbying very effectively in this regard.

Last year in March/April 1994, PVMA held an International Poultry Conference and hosted meeting of the Council of Representatives of Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations. The conference was a great success and more than 500 delegates attended this conference from Pakistan and abroad.

During the International Poultry Conference, one of the

recommendations of the conference was a University of Animal Sciences should be established. It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction for the Veterinarians of Pakistan that Prime Minister of Pakistan has announced that college of Veterinary Sciences, Lahore will be upgraded as University of Animal Sciences..

This is also during 1994 that PVMA has been able to convince Government of Punjab for a better service structure for the veterinarians employed in Government sector.

In the end, I once again wish to convey my sincere thanks to Dr. Fazlul Hoque and Bangladesh Veterinary Association for having provided us the opportunity to visit Bangladesh and to attend this highly successful conference.

**Dr. A.A. Ramzee - CVA
Council Representative.**

Report Of The Indian Veterinary Association

The Indian Veterinary Association is an autonomous body representing the veterinary profession. It is proud to state that it is one of the countries having the largest number of veterinary colleges (34) and 36,000 veterinarians belonging to 34 states and Union territories who are its constituent members. The Association was founded in 1922 and is totally committed to the cause of the profession. All the State Associations are affiliated to the parent body i.e., the Indian Veterinary Association (IVA). The office bearers of the association are elected bi-annually in its general conferences which is the National Executive Council. The Council regulates the associations activities and those of the State units.

The prime object of the association is to safeguard the interests of the profession, veterinary education, research and allied activities. The association is represented on national bodies, such as the Animal Welfare Board of India, the Veterinary Council of India, etc.

The Association by itself and through its affiliated bodies conducts various symposia, seminars and workshops relating to animal health and production. Further, in joint collaboration with the Veterinary Council of India, it looks into the professional ethics, educational standards and the registration of qualified veterinary practitioners.

The association is closely associated with the Animal Welfare Board of India and is committed to

animal welfare programmes and prevention of cruelty to animals.

In close liaison with the State Governments and the Government of India, the members of the association are engaged in controlling diseases of economic importance namely, Rinderpest, Foot and Mouth disease, Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Pullorum etc.

Being affiliated to various international organisations such as the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations, World Wildlife Fund, it gets tremendous help by way of scientific literature, exchange of scientists, veterinarians etc.

The association is deeply concerned with the stray dog menace and prevalence of rabies, so much so it has conducted mass vaccination of dogs against rabies in various metropolises of India. It has also conducted training in surgical means of spaying for animal birth control in dogs.

The members of the association were actively involved in giving relief to the earth quake victims and their animals in Latur of Maharashtra. The IVA gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance given by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association towards relief of the earth quake victims.

The State of Karnataka in India is the fore runner of benevolent

activities for the veterinarians, wherein a trust has been formed which helps the family of the deceased veterinarian financially and also helps them in their hour of grief.

The Indian Veterinary Association this past year has conducted seminars on embryo transfer technology, biotechnology, equine diseases, zoonosis and veterinary epidemiology. Those slated for this year are the National Poultry Seminar and the Seminar on Animal Production during February 1995.

The Indian Veterinary Journal is the official organ of the Indian Veterinary Association and publishes articles of scientific excellence benefiting the veterinarians. It has also instituted various endowment awards for best articles published under different topics. This journal is recognised by the Government of India and is abstracted by the Institute of Scientific Information (ISI) Philadelphia, U.S.A. and other international abstracting journals in English and other European languages.

The Indian Veterinary Association strives for the better future for the veterinarian through various facets of continuing education, so that the Indian live stock sector is brought on par with any developed country.

- Dr. B. C. Ramakrishna,
Council Member, CVA, India

Inverted Sense

A catfish, *Synodontis nigriventris*, native to the rainforest streams of Central Africa, swims with its belly upwards, but not because it is afraid that the heavens will crash on its head. The strange behaviour, say researcher Lauren Chapman and her colleagues at the University of Florida, is to help the fish make the most of the scarce oxygen, much of which is in the streams of central Africa (BBC Wildlife, Vol 12, No. 8).

By switching into an upside-down position, the catfish is able to absorb oxygen from a thin layer just below the oxygen-rich water surface

CVA REGIONAL NEWS

Australasia

Northern Star Is Leading Light In IVF Technology

A research facility near Hamilton has revolutionised bovine *in vitro* fertilisation technology in New Zealand. The birth of pure-bred Piedmontese calf 'Northern Star' at the New Zealand Animal Breeding Centre in September this year is the first time a cow has been bred using eggs taken from a live donor.

In a joint venture at the New Zealand Animal Breeding Centre, Embryo Technologies Limited scientist Danny MacMillan and New

forward but exacting procedure, fertilising and culturing the eggs in a laboratory, and then transferring the embryos to recipient cows.

Northern Star's birth is the result of a year of research and development of a process that allows large number of embryos to be produced cheaply. The main benefit of the new system is that eggs can be taken from a lightly sedated elite donor using ultrasound equipment without any adverse effects on the cow.

Embryo Technologies Ltd. applied for Technology for Business Growth funding to support their research into the new IVF process. The success with Northern Star has seen NZABC further their TBG-funded research into taking eggs from young heifers to reduce the generation interval and

increase the rate of natural genetic gain.

According to John Hepburn, the research programme is highly market driven:

'Asian nations, in particular Japan, pay a premium for well marbled beef from breeds such as the Japanese Black or Wagyu. If that's what overseas markets want, the New Zealand scientific and agricultural

Office Bearers of Hong Kong Veterinary Association

President : Keith Watkins
(Nominated as C.V.A. Councillor)

Hon. Secy : Ian Anderson

Treasurer : Mennon Vos

Committee Members : Fiona Rogers
Simon Safe

communities should aim to maximise New Zealand's natural agricultural advantages to meet this demand. Our IVF technology is a big step towards helping New Zealand farmers breed livestock to cater to the international market place'. - *Vet Script* 'Aug 94



Embryo Technologies Ltd scientist Danny MacMillan (Left) and New Zealand Breeding Services veterinarian Dr. John Hepburn (Right) with purebred Piedmontese calf Northern Star.

Zealand Breeding Services veterinarians Dr. John Hepburn and Dr. James Quinn have been working with Professor Sir. Graham Liggins from the University of Auckland Centre in Reproductive Medicine to establish New Zealand's first commercial bovine IVF laboratory. The joint venture's research to date has focussed on taking eggs from high genetic merit cows in a straight

Kiribati Joins CVA

Kiribati, formerly Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the Island nation of the Pacific Ocean has joined the CVA.

Big is not beautiful

Once upon a time, big was beautiful in the tiny South Pacific island kingdom of Tonga. Now, fat is out, reports AP from Suva in Fiji.

Alarmed by recent survey results showing increasing obesity among its 105,000 people, officials have launched a weight awareness campaign.

A national slimming competition is among measures planned to encourage healthy, weight-watching.

New Zealand Veterinary Association Conference at Queenstown



New NZVA President, Catherine Smith, and AVA President-elect, Pam Scanlon, catch up at Queenstown

In his address to the Queenstown conference, outgoing President of NZVA Jim Edwards decried the current political approach to education, which he sees as reducing the nation to mediocrity. Instead of veterinarians graduating from university with a debt the size of a house mortgage, the government should continue to fund veterinary education as a national investment, believes Jim.

He also sees the move to a national qualifications framework as threatening the veterinary degree. 'If future veterinarians emerge from their education with a conglomeration of papers passed in a number of lesser institutions, they will not compare at all favourably with those who are trained within a dedicated facility such as our own Faculty of Veterinary Science, because they will not have been exposed to an environment that instils

the ethical and behavioural qualities of the professional veterinarian'.

In his speech Jim referred to the life cycle of services offered by the profession. With competitors entering the veterinary field, we must either divest ourselves of out of date services or modify them to ensure that we give uniquely veterinary added value for our clients, says Jim.

He identified some of the services already under threat: the removal of deer velvet, ultrasound scanning for pregnancy, cheap neutering clinics and, recently, the move to train grooms so they can use animal remedies during the transport of horses by air. He noted that animal welfare is a significant factor in all of these services. The veterinary profession's skilled use of a wide knowledge base that is applied in such procedures should be promoted, according to Jim.

Jim concluded by predicting that the role of the veterinarian will become pivotal for the nation's success and wealth as New Zealand encounters more technical barriers to trade. As the growing world population demands primary produce, it will require sustainable agriculture and a supply of food that is free of disease, toxins and residues.

Vet Script Aug '94

Tigers Await The Stork

Vets attached to Taronga Zoo's assisted breeding program were anxiously awaiting some important new arrivals as Australian Veterinary Association News went to press - two baby Sumatran tigers. The cubs were conceived in the first week of August. Their birthdate is uncertain because the tiger gestation period can vary by about a week either side of 104 days. Taronga's director of veterinary services, George Russ, said recent ultrasound tests by fellow vet Larry Vogelnest confirmed that Selatan, a four year old tiger weighing 130 kilograms, was pregnant with two cubs. Staff at the zoo are understandably anxious about the births, with only 400 Sumatran tigers remaining in the wild and another 50 in captivity. Zoos around the world are working towards maintaining a healthy tiger gene pool. Selatan and her mate Shiva, a 9-year old born at the Zoo, are highly valued for their different bloodlines.

AVA News, Dec. 1994

CVA REGIONAL NEWS

Canada Caribbean

Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association 19th Biennial Congress

Global Perspectives

The 19th Biennial Congress of the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association was hosted and organised by the Trinidad and Tobago Veterinary Association. A co-ordinating committee of eight veterinarians worked since November 1993 to make this Congress a reality.

The Grafton Beach Hotel in Black Tobago, as the venue for the gathering of Veterinarians..

For the first time, the Congress was promoted beyond its traditional North American confines to Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, Cuba, the francophone Caribbean territories and the Netherland Antilles.

Delegates from Canada, the USA, Latin America, Central Europe, India, Turkey, Ireland, the UK and the non-English speaking Caribbean attended the conference.

The Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA) also organised workshops and meetings with governmental veterinary regulatory authorities, to coincide with the Congress.

The 19th Congress, had chosen the theme "Veterinary Perspectives in Globalisation." Recent developments do not augur

well for livestock production in the Caribbean and it is with urgency that certain situations highlighted and discussed at the conferences were :

1. Divestment and Privatisation strategies and their effects on the delivery of veterinary care.
2. The need for training veterinarians in business management as a pre-requisite to private practice.
3. The effects of international trade and political agreements on the local livestock industry.
4. The recent rulings of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), whereby livestock and other agricultural products have unfettered access to local market with deleterious consequences to the viability of regional livestock production.
5. The use of bureaucratic and sometimes out-moded quarantine measures to limit trade.
6. Dislocation in the international disease surveillance and animal health care in "War Zone" areas. The recent political crisis in Haiti and the military restrictions imposed could adversely affect the quality of the animal health care delivery system.

It is interesting to note that Haiti is the only country in the Western



Keith Amiel, Regional Representative Hemisphere where African Swine Fever has been reported. This disease could be devastating to regional pig industries.

Delegates to the congress had an opportunity to listen to Professor Opendra Narayan, Director of the Laboratory of Viral Pathogenesis, University of Kansas, School of Medicine. He spoke on the contributions of natural Lentivirus animal models to the understanding of the HIV disease complex.

Dr. Narayan is world renowned for his contribution to the study of the HIV virus.

Other distinguished speakers included Robert Mohrmann, Director of Professional Services for Ralston Purina, the largest pet food company in the world; Dr. Lynn Schmeitzel, University of Tennessee School of Veterinary Medicine, an authority on Veterinary dermatology, Dr. Don Franco, Director Scientific Services, National Renderers Association, Alexandria, Virginia.

Dr. Margaret Thorburn, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, a specialist in fish diseases; Dr Scoot Gillingham, Director of Technical Services, Intervet Ltd, major supplier of poultry vaccines worldwide; Dr Mark Hurtig, University of Guelph, specialist in equine surgery, especially arthroscopy, and Dr John Sankey, a specialist in porcine disease.

There was also a significant Caribbean component with papers as varied as studies on the mineral status of cattle in Jamaica being presented. More than 30 papers had been accepted for presentation at this Congress.

Several local and international organisations and companies exhibited their products at this Congress. A full and varied recreational and social programme was also organised, highlights being a welcome cocktail party kindly sponsored by Angostura Ltd, a Caribbean fiesta-night and a formal banquet.

Visit to Trinidad to expose the veterinarian to the Santa Rosa Racing facility at Arima and a tour of School of Veterinary Medicine, Mt Hope was also scheduled.

Lennox Denoon Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly formally declared open the Congress on Tuesday November 22.

Members Of The Organising Committee

Dr. H. Pidduck - **President**
Trinidad and Tobago Veterinary Association.

Dr. P. Fernandes **President**
Elect Trinidad and Tobago Veterinary Association.

Dr. V. Mohabir - **Secretary**,
Trinidad and Tobago Veterinary Association and Co-ordinator.

Dr. C. L. Rahamut-Ali
Treasurer.

Dr. H. Narinesingh.

Dr. W. Less

Dr. J. Castagne.

Dr. S. Bissessar.

Miss Saleena Ali-

Public Relations.



Dr. V. Mohabir

Message from His Excellency President Noor M. Hassanali, on the occasion of the 19th Biennial Caribbean Veterinary Congress.



I am pleased to extend greetings to delegates and observers on the occasion of the 19th Biennial Caribbean Veterinary Congress, with the hope that visitors to Trinidad and Tobago will enjoy their brief stay in the country.

I am sure that Algernon S. Logan excluded members of your profession, when he wrote, "The way most people 'like animals' is very insulting to them. They look down upon them from the height of 'superior intelligence' When I feel for a moment a 'superior being,' I remember the hawk's optic nerve and compare it with my own. Or I compare my powers of scent with those of the dog, or my nerve telegraphy with that of the cat, or my strength with that of almost any animal." ("*Vistas from the Stream*" Vol. II).

On the other hand, it was the famous Mark Twain who once commented: "It is just like man's vanity and impertinence to call an animal dumb because it is dumb to his dull perceptions."

We should do well to appreciate the simple but fundamental message in the James Herriot series on animals, which may or may not have been inspired by the words of the hymn (by Mrs C.F. Alexander 1823-1895), the first stanza of which reads:

Messages

"All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all."

Whether or not James Herriot was influenced by the verses of that hymn in the selection of the titles of some of his books, both the hymn and his books identify the same message viz, that the Lord God made US all i.e., to say human beings as well.

I extend my best wishes to you and members of your respective families for health and happiness. I extend my best wishes for the future of the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association.

Message from Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago



On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, I take this opportunity to welcome all visiting delegates to the 19th Biennial Caribbean Veterinary Congress.

As professionals in the area of animal science you are no doubt aware of the implications of the recently concluded Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations for global agricultural trade, specifically the initiatives aimed at reducing (if not eliminating) non-tariff barriers to trade.

These changes will lead to greater competitiveness in agricultural trade and call for enhanced productivity and efficiency

if Caribbean countries are to survive the challenges of trade liberalisation.

Your theme "Veterinary Perspectives in Globalisation" is therefore relevant in the present scenario of reduced protectionism and the reform of global trade systems for agricultural commodities.

Clearly, the role of the veterinary scientist in the international marketing and movement of animals and animal products is important and will continue to become increasingly

so. This importance emanates from the concern to minimise the risk of transmission and spread of animal diseases amongst countries and to safeguard and maintain public health. It is a challenge which I am confident you are fully prepared to meet.

I wish the 19th Biennial Congress of Caribbean Veterinarians every success in your deliberations in Tobago during the coming week and I call upon you to advance the

possibilities of expanding livestock production and trade within the Caribbean and between the Caribbean and the wider world.

Finally and notwithstanding your full agenda, I am sure that you will avail yourselves of the opportunity to enjoy the world-renowned hospitality for which Tobago is famous.

ISVEE '94, Nairobi, Kenya, August 15-19

Dr. Fonda Munroe is a veterinarian from Canada who attended the ISVEE Conference in Kenya in August as an observer. The CVA strongly supported this conference and the Kenyan CVA Councillor, Dr. J. Kamau, conveyed CVA's best wishes at the official opening for a successful ISVEE Conference. It also provided some small support for Dr. Munroe and requested her to give her impressions of the conference for the CVA News. Her report follows :-

I left Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada on Friday, August 12, 1994 to attend the Seventh International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics

Registration and the Opening reception on Sunday, allowed me to meet delegates from other countries as well as most of the Canadians who were attending the conference. It was great fun and marked the beginning of a fantastic week. It was also becoming apparent that the organization of this conference was superb. The facilities and program promised to be outstanding.

The three main themes of the Seventh International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics were methodology, new horizons in the discipline, and issues relevant to the host country. Eleven, thirty-minute plenary papers were presented. These covered a wide

range of subjects in veterinary epidemiology and economics. Several were of particular interest to my employer, the Food Production and Inspection Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. These included:

"Molecular epidemiology - the rabies virus as a model" (Dr. Herve Bourhy, France)

"New trends in the organization and financing of livestock and animal health services" (Dr. T.W. Schillhorn Van Veen, U.S.A.)

"The epidemiological approach to animal health - building on strong foundations" (Professor R.S. Morris, New Zealand)

"Mathematical models in veterinary epidemiology; why model building is important" (Dr. M. de Jong, The Netherlands)

There were over one hundred and seventy-five, fifteen-minute presentations on the following topics.

Animal Health Information Systems

Health Constraints in Productivity

Applications and Statistical Methods

Economic Analysis and Disease and Control

Companion Animal Epidemiology

Molecular Epidemiology

Wildlife Epidemiology

Databases in Animal Health Monitoring

Epidemiological Studies in Developing Countries

Disease Modelling and Decision Support

Transmission Dynamics of Diseases

Spatial Methods in Veterinary Epidemiology

Delivery of Animal Health Services

Public Health Epidemiology

Statistical Evaluation of Diagnostic Tests

Training in Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics

I was most interested in the sessions dealing with delivery of animal health systems, disease modelling, molecular epidemiology and evaluation of diagnostic tests. I feel that they are related to the work of the FP & I Branch and the efficiency with which we fulfil our mandate.

Dr. T.W. Schillhorn Van Veen, a veterinarian employed by the World Bank in Washington, D.C. spoke to the delegates on the changes in the world's agriculture sectors. These changes are a result of many factors including the new

world order, budget restraints, GATT, an evolving ecosystem view of agriculture, and a rethinking of development assistance. The general result is a need for government to become more efficient and to shift, at least in part, the responsibility for implementation to the private sector.

Modelling of both disease outbreaks and control may be a very useful tool to aid decision makers. Models may also add significantly to our understanding of disease processes. They can be readily modified for different situations and circumstances and may generate multiple control options. Examples of models presented at the conference include those for sheep blowfly strike, tuberculosis control, and a model to estimate the efficacy of post milking teat disinfection in dairy cattle.

Molecular epidemiology, which relies on elegant laboratory techniques, has a role to play in both Food Safety and Animal Health programs. Molecular techniques allow reliable differentiation between strains of organisms and truly clarify transmission patterns. Thus, conclusions based on filed data are greatly enhanced. A technique to distinguish strains of *Mycobacterium bovis* using DNA restriction endonuclease analysis was developed in New Zealand. It allowed inferences regarding transmission between cattle, brushtailed possums and other species, to be made.

Presentations on statistical evaluation of diagnostic tests covered many topics. Of particular interest to

me was one entitled, "Utilization of Five Antigen ELISA System and PCR Techniques for the Screening and Detection of Bovine Tuberculosis" (U.S.A: M.D. Salmon, R.P. Ellis, C.M. Gaborik, J.M. Triantis, R.J. Todd and C.W. Black) Statistical evaluation diagnostic tests are an important part of our Quality Assurance Program. "A robust alternative to kappa: sensitivity and specificity correlations as measures of diagnostic test agreement" (Canada: A.W. Donald and I.A. Gardner) was a coherent, practical presentation that would be useful to anyone evaluating a diagnostic test.

On Wednesday, August 17, I had the opportunity to tour the International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases (ILRAD) It is one of the 18 international research centers in the world belonging to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) It was established 21 years ago and has carried out basic strategic research on developing methods of control for two of the world's most intractable parasitic disease complexes, trypanosomiasis and tick-borne diseases. It is housed in eight laboratory wings and has a large farm complex to support its research. In 1995 it will, together with the International Livestock Centre for Africa, (ILEA) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, become part of a new global livestock research center known as the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) This four hour tour gave me an insight into two of the major problems faced by African

livestock owners. It certainly was in tune with one of the main themes of the Symposium.

The formal banquet for the Symposium was held at the Karen Blixen Museum on the outskirts of Nairobi. The book and film, "Out of Africa" are based on the story of Karen Blixen's life in Africa.. The Museum is housed in her former home. It was an exquisite evening and I had no difficulty imagining what life must have been like for this very adventurous woman. The African Heritage Society treated the delegates to a show of native African costume. A sumptuous buffet and dance capped an unforgettable evening.

I have touched on some of the highlights of the trip and the Symposium. However it is far more difficult to describe the intangibles which will remain with me forever. There is the enhanced awareness of global veterinary and agricultural communities and the realization that we share common concerns and responsibilities. There is the overwhelming realization that I am very fortunate to live in a prosperous country like Canada. The overall experience was educational and humbling. I fell very fortunate to have been given this opportunity.

Fonda Munroe, D.V.M., M.B.A.
Health of Animals and Plants
Laboratory,
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada,
Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.

New Executive of Veterinary Association of Malaysia.

President Dr. Abd. Rehman Md Saleh.; **Past President;** Prof. Dr. Abdul Latif Ibrahim; **Vice President;** Dr. Abdul Aziz Saharee.; **Hon Secretary;** Dr. S. Vellayan.; **Asst. Hon. Sec.;** Dr. S. Mohammed Azmie Zakaria.; **Hon. Treasurer;** Dr. Peter Chew Huat Chin.; **Asst. Hon. Treas.;** Dr. Kok Poe Chu.; **Committee Members;** Drs. P. Loganathan, S. Sivagurunathan, Fatimah Iskandar, Sharif Bin Haron, **Editor;** Dr. M.K. Vidyadaran.; **Hon. Auditors** Dr. Ng Si Siang, Dr. Mohd Nordin Muhamad Nor.

Australian And Canadian Experts Help Mozambique Improve Health Care

Children in a rural area of Mozambique were hit by a mystery illness: they would go to bed well but wake up in the morning unable to walk. The same illness, which soon became an epidemic, also affected adults, particularly younger women who would fall down while travelling on foot.

An investigation by a team of health professionals revealed a strong link between the illness and the villagers' staple diet of cassava, an important food crop and major source of energy for people in many countries.

Julie Cliff, an Australian doctor who played a key role in the investigation, explained that the area suffered from drought and people were forced to eat unprocessed cassava, the only crop to survive the drought. This caused cyanide intoxication, leading to the disease.

Dr Cliff is now helping with a campaign aimed to avoid a repetition of the epidemic. Warning people of the dangers of eating unprocessed cassava and teaching proper methods of preparing it for consumption form an important part of the project.

Simple implements to grate, squeeze and roast cassava are being introduced to make the tropical plant safe for eating.

Dr Cliff was sent to Mozambique by the Commonwealth Secretariat through the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CETC), as was Monica Morrison, a Canadian who has helped improve Mozambique's health information system. Both experts speak Portuguese, Mozambique's official language.

Their services were initially provided under the Special Commonwealth Fund for Mozambique, created by Commonwealth leaders in 1987 in recognition of the country's strategic role in the region.

Although not a Commonwealth member, Mozambique received help because it had to bear the brunt of neighbouring apartheid South Africa's destabilisation activities opposed by the Commonwealth.

Since July 1993 Dr Cliff has been funded by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) under the Commonwealth Capacity-Building Facility for Mozambique which replaced the special fund. Australia was the biggest contributor to the fund.

Dr Cliff, from Melbourne, has been working as an epidemiologist and university teacher in the capital, Maputo; Ms Morrison, who comes from Saint John, New Brunswick, with the National Institute of Health is also in Maputo.

Both have significantly contributed to the rehabilitation of health services, a top priority for Mozambique as it consolidates peace and democracy following years of civil war.

There is a shortage of trained personnel in a country where health services have been coming under increasing pressure from diseases such as Aids, besides dysentery, cholera and malaria. Training has formed an integral part of the duties of both the experts.

Monica Morrison was sent to Mozambique to help strengthen its capacity for health research. She was to manage and operate the documentation centre of the National Institute of Health which serves the information needs of doctors, nurses, researchers and students, among others.

Mozambique's main problem, she found on arrival here in 1992, was lack of trained people. The challenge was to make the best use of existing talents and experience, where to direct training and how to recruit for future needs, she said.

"I felt that if I could make some contribution in this area, the decision to send me here would have been justified," said Ms Morrison, who previously worked as a senior consultant in library services in Zimbabwe.

Under her guidance, local staff gained new skills after being exposed to a variety of new methods and systems.

Dr Francisco Songane, 39, an obstetrician and gynaecologist who regularly uses the centre, said the improvements had greatly helped him in his work.

- Commonwealth Feature Oct. 1994



Dr. J. L. Robinson Honoured

Dr. J.L. Robinson former Regional Representative of Canada Caribbean Region of CVA and Council Member Antigua, West Indies was honoured on 1st November, 1994 at The Anniversary of Independence of Antigua and was awarded "Order of Merit - Gold" for his services to the veterinary profession.

On behalf of CVA we congratulate Dr. Robinson on his achievement.

Freud is the father of Psychoanalysis, it has no mother - Germaine Greer, 1939

CVA REGIONAL NEWS

East, Central & Southern Africa

Minutes of the Eastern, Central And Southern Africa Regional Commonwealth Veterinary Association Held At Mokuti Lodge, Namibia On 15th September, 1994

Present

Dr. Bakary Touray - President, CVA, Gambia - Chairman

Dr. W. J. Pryor - Secretary-Treasurer - CVA Australia

Dr. I. T. Ndzingo - CVA Councillor, Botswana

Dr. Herbert Schneider - President, Veterinary Association of Namibia

Dr. Rainer Hassel - CVA Councillor - Namibia

Dr. Josephat Nyika - President - Zimbabwe Veterinary Association

Dr. Johnson NKUUHE - Vice-Chairman Uganda Veterinary Association

Prof. Gareth Bath - CVA Councillor - South Africa

Dr. Douglas Bruce - CVA Councillor - Zimbabwe

Peter Msolla - CVA Regional Representative and Representing TVA Recorder - Tanzania.

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Dr. L. Khomari - Lesotho

Dr. S. Y. Sinare - CVA Councillor - Tanzania.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 17.30 hours by welcoming all the members present. He thanked all the members present for the personal efforts they had made to be present at the meeting.

The Chairman made a special welcome to the South African Veterinary Association which had now formally joined the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. He also introduced Prof Peter Msolla as a new Regional Commonwealth Veterinary Association Representative effective 1st October, 1994.

ITEM NO. 1

Adoption Of The Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented by the Secretariat after adding the following items under Any Other business:

(i) Oversupply of Veterinarians

(ii) Lack of drug legislation

(iii) Projects.

ITEM NO. 2

Report On Dr. Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara - Patron-CVA

The meeting was informed that the Patron of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and President of the Gambia Dr. Sir Dawda K. Jawara was overthrown by the army in July, 1994 in a bloodless coup and was now living in asylum in Senegal. INFORMED further that the military Government in Gambia had invited him to go back and live as an ordinary citizen.

Informed further that Dr. Dawda K. Jawara still remains Patron of CVA in his personal capacity.

Suggested that Dr. Dawda K. Jawara be made life President of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

Agreed to recommend the same to the CVA Executive Committee for consideration.

ITEM NO. 3

Progress Reports

Annual Subscriptions

Informed that the East, Central and South African Region was fully paid up and thanked the National Associations for being up to date in items of annual subscriptions. URGED Member Associations to uphold the spirit.

Book-Audio visual Programme

Informed that the programme was going on well under the stewardship of Dr. Mitchell of Canada. INFORMED further that some one from Australia had been identified to assist in the programme.

Workshop of Deans of Faculties of Veterinary Medicine

Informed that the Commonwealth Veterinary Association had set aside a small amount of funds to organise a workshop for Deans of Faculties of Veterinary Medicine in the Region to discuss "Veterinary Continuing Education".

Informed that Prof. W.D. Semuguruka - Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Sokoine University of Agriculture - Tanzania had been requested to organise the workshop.

Noted that Prop. W.D. Semuguruka had already written letters to various Deans in the Region BUT was yet to receive response.

Urged respective Deans in the Region to respond and give their views on the proposed workshop.

Recommended the following additional topics to be discussed at the workshop.

- (i) Mutual recognition of degrees
- (ii) Standardisation of the undergraduate curricula in terms of content and duration.
- (iii) Formation of an accreditation scheme.

Recommend further that countries without Veterinary Schools should, funds permitting, be represented at the workshop by their Directors of Veterinary Services since they are end users of the graduates.

Requested the convenor to urgently come up with the venue and date of the workshop.

ITEM NO.4

Privatisation Of Veterinary Services In Africa

Noted that privatisation of Veterinary Services was being adopted in many African countries.

Informed however that a number of problems had been experienced in the implementation of the scheme.

Informed further that Dr.L.K.Khomari-then CVA Regional Representative had sent a questionnaire to member Associations seeking information on their experience with the scheme.

Noted that only Tanzania, Uganda, Botswana and Zimbabwe had responded to the questionnaire.

Urged other member Associations to respond to the questionnaire so that a comprehensive report could be compiled.

Emphasised that the essence of the exercise was:

- (i) To learn from each other's experience.
- (ii) To draw up a list of essential items in setting up a private veterinary clinic.

Urged Member Associations to learn from the South African experience.

Travel Fund

Noted that a Zimbabwean Veterinary Association member had been given travel fund to Australia to gain experience on Tick Fever while a Ugandan (REPEAT) was granted travel fund to Britain to gain experience on veterinary practice.

Urged Member Associations to encourage colleagues where possible to visit countries within the Region where there was more relevance.

ITEM NO.5

Any Other Business

Overupply of Veterinarians

Noted that there was seemingly an over supply of Veterinarians in Africa.

Noted further that in some Universities the admission requirements were very low and thus affecting the quality of graduates.

Agreed to discuss this issue at the planned workshop of Deans of Faculties of Veterinary Medicine in the Region.

Lack of Drug Legislation

Noted with concern that there was no drug legislation or where there was one, there was no reinforcement resulting into haphazard use of drugs culminating into wide spread drug resistance.

Noted further that although there were Pharmacy Boards as well as veterinary Boards/Councils, drugs were still being misused.

Agreed to adopt Regional standards (CVA blue print) and recommend the formation of the "Medicines Committee of each Member Association".

Projects

Noted that there was need to come up with a project to make small holder farmers operate profitably.

Requested Prof G.Bath, President of the South African Veterinary Association to come up with a paper to that effect. There being no other business for discussion, the Chairman thanked the participants and declared the meeting closed at 19.00 hours.



Opening Ceremony of Veterinary Association of Namibia Centenary Congress.

L-R; Dr. Rainer Hassell, V.P. VAN;
Dr. B. Touray, President CVA; Hon. Prime Minister of Namibia, Mr. Hage. G. Geingob;
Dr. Herbert Schneider, President VAN;
Hon. Minister of Agriculture
Mr. Nangolo Mbumba,

Prime Minister of Namibia, Hon. Hage G. Geingob opens the Centenary Congress



Address by Prof. Peter Msolla
Reg. Rep. CVA ECS Africa

**CVA working breakfast
Right-Left; Dr. Bakary, Dr. Pryor and
Dr. Josphat Nyika,
Pres.Zimbabwe Vet. Assn.**



**Dr. Rainer Hassell CVA Council Member
Namibia, addressing the gathering**

**Prof. Gareth Bath, CVA Councilor South
Africa, brings greetings to Veterinary
Association of Namibia**



CVA President's Address To The Veterinary Centenary Congress Organised By The Veterinary Association Of Namibia 14-17 September 1994

**Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Prime Minister
Your Excellencies, Members of the
Diplomatic Corps
Honourable Guests
Dear Colleagues,**

On behalf of the entire membership of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, which comprises 44 National Associations I feel greatly honoured to be with you today to celebrate the centenary of the introduction of formal veterinary medicine to Namibia. Before proceeding I would like to take this opportunity to join the Vet Association of Namibia in welcoming you all to this important event and to thank you all for the effort you have made to participate in the congress. I wish to particularly pay tribute to His Excellency The President of Namibia Hon. Sam Nujoma who had very kindly agreed to grace this occasion but could not come to join us today as he has to attend to a visiting Head of State. He has therefore delegated the Rt Honourable Prime Minister to perform the opening of this Centenary Celebrations and seminar on his behalf. I see His Excellency's support as a good omen for the profession because one of the objectives of our Association is to seek and maintain public recognition and who better to recognise us than the Head of State himself. May I ask the President of VAN to convey CVA's appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency The President and his Government, and our thanks for their encouragement and support.

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Guests, Dear Colleagues

The veterinary profession has played an important role in the development of society all over the

world since time immemorial. Our contribution to the development of mankind has been in such areas as agriculture and food production, the development of therapeutic agents for the benefit of mankind, the prevention of disease in humans, just to name a few. Today, this role is no less important than ever before. For this reason, the profession must continue to braise itself so that it is properly equipped to maintain its 'avant garde' status in the overall socioeconomic development of mankind. It is in this regard that the CVA is actively supporting the development of the profession all over the Commonwealth with special emphasis in the developing states. The theme of the scientific congress "**Animal Health and Development in Africa - Achievements and Challenges**" is therefore very pertinent and I hope the presentations as well as the discussions will highlight our seminal role in the development process of the continent.

Dear Colleagues, in order to help strengthen member associations to enhance their ability to fulfil their role in national development, the CVA has put in place various projects both at the group and individual level. These include the organization of seminars and workshops, the dissemination of professional knowledge and information through a journals and books programme, the awarding of travel grants to individuals as well as promoting veterinary education through the establishment of an accreditation scheme for veterinary schools in Africa, the training of animal health assistants and the encouragement of continuing professional development.

It is the considered view of the executive of the CVA that these programmes can help our member associations to contribute their quota in national development. The challenges to national development are many and varied and in several cases formidable. Sometimes these are not even directly related to our profession e.g. how to eliminate harmful trade practices which act as disincentive to local production. On the other hand we have to contend not only with problems of increasing food production to meet the needs of the ever growing human population but also with how to protect the environment for sustainable development.

Finally, Dear Colleagues, allow me to express my sincere thanks to the Veterinary Association of Namibia, in my own name, and in the name of the entire Executive of the CVA, represented here today by Prof. Bill Pryor of Australia, who is our Secretary/Treasurer, Prof. Peter Msolla of Tanzania, the Regional Representative for the E/C/S. Region, and my humble self for inviting us to participate in this historical event. By the same token I wish to thank all the representatives of the national associations who have come to join the Vet Association of Namibia for this centenary celebrations. May I also formally welcome to the CVA our newest member, the South African Veterinary Association. I wish you all a fruitful and enjoyable stay in Namibia

Bakary N. Touray
President. CVA

CVA Travel Fund In Action Visit Of Dr Thokozani Hove To Australia

The first CVA travel fund has been awarded to Dr Hove who has been working in the Protozoology section at the Veterinary Research Laboratory in Harare, Zimbabwe on a joint project of Zimbabwean and Australian scientists set up by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The project No 9118 is entitled: "Improved methods for the diagnosis and control of bovine Babesiosis and Anaplasmosis in Zimbabwe and Australia". The project was set up to provide Zimbabwe with the methodology to produce live tick borne disease (TBDs) blood vaccines and to improve on diagnostic tests for *Babesia* and *Anaplasma*. Her visit to Australia supported by CVA was to familiarise herself with the work at the Tick Fever Research Centre in Brisbane, Queensland.

Here are some extracts from her report:

"The Protozoology section with the help of FAO/DANIDA has produced a ground up tick vaccine against bovine theileriosis in Zimbabwe. However, there is still very little satisfaction with the quality control/quality assurance of this product. The Tick Fever Research Centre (TFRC) in Brisbane has been in vaccine production for years and has an established system.

Zimbabwe also plans to market the TBDs vaccines in the foreseeable future. Again since TFRC markets its own vaccines, we thought a lot would be gained from visiting them.

The visit lasted two weeks. Most of the time was spent at TFRC and two days at the Agricultural Research Institute (ARI). AT TFRC I

had the opportunity to talk to the key staff involved in vaccine production. I spent some time with the manager who gave an outline on how the Centre functions and its source of funds. There was an opportunity to actually participate in some of the activities. At ARI I met scientists including Drs Bob Dalgliesh and Chris Baldock working on diagnostic tests for TBDs: an ELISA for *Babesia* and a PCR for *Theileria buffelli*. I also visited the other sections of veterinary importance.

The objectives of the visit were fulfilled. At least, I managed to browse through diagnostic tests, pre-and post-production vaccine testing. I am very grateful for the assistance of the CVA Travel Fund in supporting my very useful visit."

Thokozani Hove
7 August 1994

Mauritius Veterinary Association

The following have been elected as office bearers of Mauritius Veterinary Association.

Chairman: Dr. L.L. Beeharry

Secretary: Dr. M.R. Jaumally

Treasurer: Dr. V. Jusrut

Executive Members: Dr. Y. Kurihashi
Dr. V.S. Jugessur

CVA Councillor: Dr. M.R. Jaumally

Visit of Mauritius Veterinarian to India

Mauritius Veterinary Association's Treasurer Dr. Jusrut visited India in Nov. 1994 and had discussion with office bearers of the Indian Veterinary Association at Bangalore. He also met the editor of the CVA News. Incidentally Dr. Jusrut is a student of the Bangalore Veterinary College, India and was a student of the editor Dr. S. Abdul Rahman.



L-R; Malika Jusrut; Dr. Rahman; Vidya Jusrut; Dr. Jusrut;
Ms. Rahman; and Amrsh Jusrut.

Jubilant Malawians Embrace Democracy

Just three weeks after South Africans voted in their first non-racial democratic elections, Malawians were able to exercise their full democratic rights for the first time in nearly 30 years and Commonwealth observers were again on hand to monitor all aspects of the electoral arrangements.

After nearly three million votes in the presidential and parliamentary elections of 17 May 1974 were cast and counted, Ngwazi Dr. H Kamuzu Banda and the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) were voted out of office and Bakili Muluzi and the United Democratic Front (UDF) voted in. More important than the result, however, was the way politicians and public alike took multi-party politics in their stride after three decades of a one-party system.

Long before the final results were in, Dr Banda, who had led Malawi to independence in 1964 and ruled it since, had graciously accepted defeat and asked that all Malawians support the new president. In praising both Dr Banda and Mr Muluzi for their dignity in accepting the voters verdict, Commonwealth Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoku described Dr Banda's concession speech as a show of "remarkable confidence in the electoral process".

Muluzi makes poverty his main priority

The new President of Malawi, Bakili Muluzi, 51, is a politician, farmer, businessman and educationist. At one time, he was a minister in Dr Banda's government and secretary-general of the Malawi Congress Party. He resigned from the Cabinet in 1982 and went into business.

In the years that followed, Mr Muluzi was active in a secret network of people critical of the government. With political liberalisation in 1992, he helped to set up the United Democratic Front (UDF), first as a pressure group, then as a political party. After his victory, President Muluzi, a Muslim from the south, vowed to improve the lives of Malawians. "My priority in this government is poverty alleviation," he

said. "I'm talking about the provision of social services. I'm talking about roads. I'm talking about hospitals and classrooms."

MALAWI Land

Area: 118,484 square kilometres (45,747 square miles); **Capital:** Lilongwe (population 220,300); **Largest city:** Blantyre 402,500; **Elevations:** highest - Sapitwa, 3,000 metres (9,843 feet); lowest - 37 m (121 ft), along Shire River.

PEOPLE

Population: 9,605,342; density: 81 persons per square km (210 per square mile); **Distribution:** 22% urban, 78% rural; **Annual growth:** 1.8%; **Official language:** English; **Main religions:** traditional religions, Roman Catholicism, Presbyterianism, Islam

Education And Health

Literacy: 41.2% of adult population; **Universities:** 1; **Hospital beds:** 12,617; **Doctors:** 262; **Life expectancy:** women - 51; men 48; **Infant mortality:** 134 per 1,000 live births.

Economy

GDP: (1991): 1.26 billion; 135 per capita; **Labour distribution:** agriculture - 82%, manufacturing - 3%, services - 4%; **Foreign trade** (1990): **imports** - 375 million, **exports** 260 million; **principal trading partners:** Britain, United States, South Africa, Germany; **Currency:** 1 Malawi kwacha=100 tambala.

COMMUNICATIONS

Railways: 797 km (495 miles) total; **Roads:** 12,215 km (7,590 miles) total; **Airports:** 1

South Africa Joint CVA

Republic of South Africa is the new member of the CVA. Prof G.F. Bath, has been nominated as the Councillor of South Africa.

Professor John Cooper and Margaret Cooper have returned to Kigali, Rwanda, where they are establishing a new head quarters for the Volcano Veterinary Centre. The centre's based in Nairobi, Kenya, is being retained by Prof. Cooper's Rwandan colleague, Dr. Jean Bosco Nizeye.

South African Veterinarian Elected Member of Parliament

For the first time a member of the SAVA has been appointed as a Member of Parliament. Dr Trish Hanekom has been appointed to the PWV Legislature.

Publication is the male equivalent of Child Birth

- Richard Acland, 1906 (Observed 19 May 1974)

Namibia celebrates its century

During September 1994 the Veterinary Association of Namibia (VAN) celebrated 100 years of veterinary services with a Centenary Congress which recognised the arrival of the first veterinarian to work in the country (Dr Wilhelm Rickmann from Germany). The Commonwealth Veterinary Association also met to examine the major veterinary issues of the region. A brief report by Secretary of the CVA, Bill Pryor, follows:

Southern Africa is undergoing major change. In a thoughtful letter of congratulations to the VAN on its centenary, President of the AVA Michael Banyard alluded to the great historical changes occurring in southern Africa, particularly the independence of Namibia and the new multi-racial government of national unity in South Africa.

He also referred to the diminution in recent years in the level of Australia's involvement in Africa in terms of political and development co-operation but hoped that the trend would be reversed because of the above changes and the ties between Australia and Southern Africa would be strengthened.

From my own observations and other work in southern Africa I believe Michael is absolutely right. Another major factor has been the return of South Africa itself to the Commonwealth and specifically of the South African Veterinary Association to the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

The SAVA is set to become a very important player in CVA activities in central and southern Africa.

Perhaps a further sign of the emerging advancement of veterinary science in this region is the publication this year of two very important, veterinary books

These are:

1. *Infectious Diseases of Livestock with Special Reference to Southern Africa* JAW Coetzer, GR Thompson, RC Tustin (1994) Oxford University Press 2 Vols 1605 pages.
2. *Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine in Namibia (1994)* Herbert Schneider, Agrivet PO Box 178 Windhoek, Namibia, 272 pages.

Hopefully these will be reviewed in the AVJ since the quality of work in them is undisputed.

The southern African countries including Namibia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa have always had a unique range of animal diseases to contend with. The development of suitable infrastructure is still a major problem in many.

There are English speaking veterinary schools in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia but not all are richly resourced.

A major problem of the least developed countries in the region is the poor state of veterinary services available to the animal owners.

The biggest source of frustration appears to be the contraction of government veterinary services and moves to develop private practice.

CVA has adopted as one of its major objectives in the region analysis and development of private practices.

Some of the European Union countries are financing studies on privatisation and some are financing actual establishment of practices.

The lack of affluence of the livestock owners is clearly a problem to be solved and a deeply ingrained reliance on the government to solve all problems is an expectation that cannot be maintained.

Increasing numbers of Australians are developing interests in tourist visits to these countries but there are many veterinary interests too, the development of private wildlife/game parks is but one.

In Namibia I was told that there are more wildlife in private parks than in the national game parks. The road systems established in colonial times are particularly good in Namibia and Zimbabwe.

For example I was driven by the president of the Zimbabwe Veterinary Associate, Dr Josaphat Nyika, from Harare, Zimbabwe to Etosha National park, Namibia via rather remote areas including the Caprivi Strip and northern Botswana.

More than 90% of the 230km was high quality sealed road.

Australia has excellent links with the veterinary professions in all these countries via the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and other personal contacts.

I'd be more than happy to provide contact addresses for any member of AVA. I can't speak too highly of the veterinary profession of the Anglophone countries of southern Africa, black or white.

It's very intriguing that the two Portuguese speaking countries in the region have expressed interest in joining the CVA and sharing in its programmes of continuing education, regional technical workshops and book exchanges.

Southern Africa has now to be one of the most exciting areas of the globe and major veterinary inputs are needed in many areas.

Wherever I travelled almost every veterinarian or other scientist expressed to me, as the only Australian present, their keenness to do collaborative work with Australia.

What a challenge to us all!

- From AVA News Dec. 1994

Launching Of Kenya Veterinary Association Privatisation Scheme

- Report by J.M.N. Kamau, CVA Councillor for Kenya

October 1st, 1994 will remain a landmark in the history of the Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA). On that day, Hon. Simeon Nyachae, Minister of Agriculture Livestock Development and Marketing, officially launched the Kenya Veterinary Association Privatisation Scheme (KVAPS). Members of KVA are now eligible for a maximum of Kenya shillings 1,200,000/- (U.S \$/ 30,000) loan to start a new or expand an existing food-animal practice.

Besides the Minister, the function was attended by the Director of Veterinary Services Dr.R.S.Kimanzi, the Head of European Union Delegate Mr.J.M.Filori, the Director of OAU/IBAR Dr.W.N.Masiga and the KVA Executive Council Members.



Standing : Hon. Simeon Nyachae, Minister of Agriculture
 Sitting from right to left : Prof. E.R. Mutiga Junior Vice Chairman : KVA Dr. W.N. Masiga Director : OAU/IBAR Mr. J.M. Filori Head : European Union Delegates Dr. H.S. Kinyua..... Chairman KVAPS Steering Committee Dr. R.S. Kimanzi Director of Veterinary Services Kenya Mr. Murage Head : Small Business Unit : Barclays Bank of Kenya

The backup money has been made available by the European Union through the organisation of European Unity International Bureau of Animal Research (OAU/IBAR). This is a grant to KVA and will form a revolving fund. The loans to the participants will carry an interest, half the current commercial rate.

The Scheme will be overseen and directed by a steering committee composed of representatives from KVA, Veterinary Department, Ministry of Finance, European Union, participating bank, the donor, and the Project Manager. The primary responsibility of this committee is to set the policy of the scheme, and to select and recommend potential loanees to the bank.

It is hoped that the scheme will diversify to include other areas of veterinary concern beside the food animal practice.

The disbursement of the loan is the responsibility of the participating bank. The potential loanees will be expected to sell their project proposals to the bank. The reason for this requirement is to ensure success of any funded practice besides cultivating a sense of serious commitment to the general KVA membership.

The scheme was mooted way back in 1984 when deterioration of quality and delivery of veterinary service by the government became evident to the profession. The government simply did not have the resources to sufficiently provide for operational costs, drugs, equipment, and transport. It has therefore taken a decade of concerted effort by KVA to celebrate the day. The Executive Committee of KVA hopes that this lengthy gestation period has laid a firm foundation for the successful privatisation of veterinary services in Kenya.

On its part, the Kenya Government is providing an enabling climate for the scheme and has promised to "ensure there will be no undue competition from state services in areas with well established private practice" (Hon.S.Nyachae's words).

The thing that impresses me most about America is the way parents obey their children

- Duke of Windsor.

CVA REGIONAL NEWS

West Africa

News from Ghana

Report On 20th Annual GVMA Congress

The Ghana Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA) held its 20th Annual Congress with the theme **Veterinary Practice, Livestock and Poultry Production** in the Brong Ahafo Regional capital Sunyani from the 7th - 10th September 1994. The opening ceremony of this impressive meeting which was attended by more than 150 participants, took place at the West African Examination Council Hall, Sunyani, Ghana.

The Chairman for the occasion was Mr. Thomas Ahimah, a former National Best Farmer. The Brong Ahafo Regional Minister, Honourable

Mr I.K.Adjei Mensah was the guest of honour. The president of the GVMA, Dr. William Amanfu welcomed participants to the function and later, a keynote address was delivered by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Brong Ahafo Region Mr George Mason on behalf of the Hon. Regional Minister who was present but could not deliver the speech himself. In his address the Regional Minister urged Veterinarians and their medical counter-parts to work closely and co-ordinate their efforts in the control of human tuberculosis.

A plenary session at which four papers were presented followed

the opening ceremony. Fifteen (15) Scientific papers were presented later by members of the association and scientists from the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, and the Animal Research Institute, Achimota, Accra.

Various issues of interest to the Association were discussed by one hundred members of the GVMA at a general meeting after the scientific sessions. Things deliberated on, included Privatisation of Veterinary Services in Ghana and refresher courses for Veterinarians. Later the Chairman of the Veterinary Council, Dr.S.B.K. Quartey briefed participants on activities and responsibilities of the Council.

Dr. Quartey generously donated a cash prize of 150,000 Cedi to the GVMA annually. The association is to decide how the money is to be disbursed.

After these healthy and fruitful discussions, elections were held and the following officers were chosen to serve in various positions for two years term:

President Dr.W.Amanfu
Vice President Dr.B.Awumbilla
Secretary Dr.E.B.M.Koney
Vice Secretary Dr.F.Toninga
Treasurer Dr.G.G.Nipah

Regional Representatives:
Greater Accra Dr.G.A.Darkwa
Eastern Dr.L.K.King



Dr. William Amanfu, President of the GVMA delivering his welcome address. In the rear is Dr. S.B.K. Quartey, Chairman, Ghana Veterinary Council



Delegates attending the
20th Annual Conference of GVMA

Central	Dr. Filson
Western	Dr. H.I. Koray
Volta	Dr. S.M. Opoku
Ashanti	Dr. Osei Acheampong
Brong Ahafo	Dr. S. Ockling
Northern	Dr. J.K. Tuekpe
Upper East	Dr. C.T. Quist
Upper West	Dr. A.E. Ghamli

Kumasi, in the Ashanti Region was selected to host the 1995 Annual General Meeting of the GVMA.

A grand dinner dance was held at the Tropical Hotel on September 9th to crown a very successful congress. At the dinner the maiden award of Dr. Wemah's 100,000 annual cash donation was made to two deserving members. An amount of 50,000 went to Dr. Thomas Adaa as the best Veterinarian for 1993-1994, while Dr. S. Ockling received 50,000 for presenting the best Scientific Paper.

E.B.M. Koney

Hon. Secretary

Uganda Veterinary Association's New Executive

The Uganda Veterinary Association (UVA) at its Annual General Meeting in Kampala, at the Nile Conference Centre, elected the following Office bearers for the years 1994-1996.

Dr. S. Mugombe Kafumisi	- President
Dr. Johnson Nkuuhe	- Vice President
Dr. Margret Makuru	- Secretary
Dr. Benon K. Mwesigye	- Asst. Secretary
Dr. M.M. Omega	- Treasurer
Dr. L. Kirinya	- Asst. Treasurer
Dr. Opuda-Asibo	- Member
Dr. F. Masembe Kasirye	-
Dr. Mujuni Kasisi	-
Dr. J. Mukibi	- CVA Councillor

The UVA has been mandated to implement a project "Privatization of Veterinary Services." This is funded by both the world Bank and EEC. Veterinarians would opt to leave Government Service to concentrate on delivery of Veterinary Services. This is in line with the overall structural adjustment of the economy and specifically reducing the civil service personnel. The Veterinarians shall be facilitated with a loan to purchase equipment, veterinary drugs, transport, hire of premises, funding of a small agricultural enterprise and working capital.

New Regional Representative of West Africa

The new Regional Representative of West Africa Dr. E.B. Mensah Koney, Senior Veterinary Officer Acra, Ghana has been nominated as a New Regional Representative of West Africa. He succeeds Dr. Wellie Amanfu. Dr. Koney a graduate of University of Saskatchewan, Canada did his Post Graduation at University of Edinburgh obtaining his Master's degree in 1984 and Ph.D. in 1992. He is a recipient of many awards and scholarships for research especially on "Diseases transmitted by ticks". He has also worked as part-time lecturer in Parasitology at the University of Ghana. He has attended many Workshops and Seminars both national and International, has published 11 papers and written two books.

CVA REGIONAL NEWS

U.K. Mediterranean

CVA Represented At Second International Colloquium On Working Equines April 19th - 22nd, 1994 Rabat, Morocco



Laura Bowen Reg. Rep

Dr. Laura Bowen, CVA Councillor for the British Veterinary Association, is working to produce a handbook on draught animal welfare and management which CVA will make available to all veterinary associations in Commonwealth countries where equine draught power is used.

To provide an opportunity to update herself on latest research she participated in the Second International Colloquium on Working Equines, held in Rabat, Morocco in April 1994.

She was jointly funded to do this by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and Royal Army Veterinary Corps. Dr. Bowen advised the Executive as follows:

The 2nd Colloquium successfully continued on from where the 1st Colloquium, held in Edinburgh, Scotland had started. 56 delegates from over 25 different countries were present. These included veterinarians, field workers, researchers and agricultural scientists.

Of major issue, were discussions relating to the welfare of working equines especially amongst donkeys and mules traditionally held in low esteem. Social and economic issues were discussed; health, husbandry and welfare; harnesses, implements and farriery; and also education - widely regarded as the important issue which effectively controls all others. Research work was discussed: that of veterinarians and biologists relating to the equine directly; also, however, that of agricultural engineers looking at the potential power

of the donkey/mule/pony and the ideal field implements to harness that power to maximum effect.

The Colloquium was jointly organised by the Agricultural and Veterinary Institute, Rabat and the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPA/SPANNA).

Support was received from the World Bank and the British Council amongst others. The centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, Edinburgh (CTVM), the International League for the Protection of Horses (ILPH), the International Donkey Protection Trust (IDPT), the Brook Hospital and several animal welfare agencies were represented.

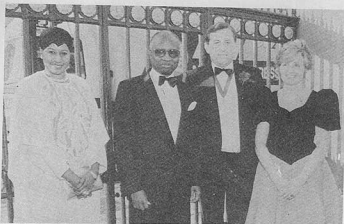
The Colloquium was an undoubted success from which one can hope that steps have been made towards improving the utilization of working equines. To essentially maximize their use and minimize their abuse.

What Do Past Presidents Of CVA Do On Retirement?



Dr. J. T. Blackburn former President CVA showing how to improvise treating dogs with skin conditions

Veterinary Profession Celebrates 150 years of Service to Agriculture



Sir Dawda Jawara, together with Lady Jawara, are joined by the then RCVS President, Mr. Barry Johnson, and his wife Carolyn, outside the Banqueting House

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' Charter 150 celebrations featured prominently at the Royal Show, held at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, from July 4 to 7 1994. The Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) marked the occasion by inviting Sir Dawda Jawara, President of the Republic of the Gambia, and a veterinarian, to open the event.

Sir Dawda, who qualified from Glasgow Veterinary School in 1953, said that he was pleased to see a large cross-section of visitors from all over the world attending the show. It was, he said, 'a profound testimony to the fact that British agriculture, its products and technology are highly appreciated worldwide'.

He spoke of the 'tremendous changes' in agriculture over the years, which he related to some of the advances made within veterinary science. He gave, as an example, work

being carried out by the International Trypanotolerance Centre in The Gambia, to enhance the resistance of indigenous breeds of cattle to trypanosomiasis, which is transmitted by the tsetse fly. He said that this type of biotechnological research was 'gaining ground' and that such advances had improved the lot of animals.

BVA Congress 1995, 28th September to 1st October

The British Veterinary Association looks forward to welcoming delegates to its Annual Congress to be held on Sept 28 - Oct 1st 1995 at the Guild Hall, Winchester. For further details contact Congress Secretary, British Veterinary Association, 7 Mansfield Street, London W1M OAT. Tel: 0171 636 6541 Fax: 0171 436 2970

The Institute Of Zoology Zoological Society of London and The Royal Veterinary College (The University of London)

MSC in Wild Animal Health

This is a twelve month course for European and overseas graduates in veterinary and relevant sciences making a career in wild animal health. The course includes practical and theoretical instruction in the husbandry and nutrition of wild animals, taxonomy, population biology, conservation genetics, welfare and ethical aspects, epidemiology, immunology, infectious and non-infectious diseases, disease investigation, restraint, preventive medicine and surgery, together with an individual research project. Training will be given by staff at The Institute of Zoology and the Royal Veterinary College, as well as invited speakers from other veterinary and zoological centres. Applications are now invited for the 1995/96 course starting in October 1995.

Full particulars and an application form are available from the Registrar, The Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 OTU - UK. Tel: 44-(0)71 387 2898. FAX: 44-(0)71 388 2342.

The new officers of the British Veterinary Association line up following the Association's annual general meeting, which was held during the congress at Bath. The new President, Mr Paul DeVile, is shown with (from the left) vice-presidents Mr Howard Rees, Dr Kari Linklater, Mr Bob Stevenson and (on the right) Mr Bob Young.



The Queen opened a new small animal wing at the University of Cambridge's veterinary school hospital last month. The hospital was renamed the Queen's Veterinary School Hospital to mark the occasion of her visit. This latest addition to the hospital cost 1.4 million Pound Sterling and consists of four dog wards, two cat wards, a large treatment area, an intensive care unit, an isolation ward and five additional examination rooms. Around 3000 animals are referred to the hospital every year.

Membership of British Veterinary Association

The Chief Executive of BVA reports that the BVA's total membership to date was 8991. An increase of 186 on the previous year.

- Vet. Rec. Jan 21. 1995

Cattle tags

All newborn cattle will have to be tagged with new-style ear tags, bearing the UK's country code, from April 1 this year. This will be in addition to the herd mark and the animal's own unique number. The tags will be introduced under the new Bovine Animals (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 1995 which comes into effect on January 30 and will include requirements for registration and record keeping.



Pictured with the Queen are, from the left, Mr Michael Herrtage (hospital superintendent), Mrs Tanya Mills (deputy head nurse) and, on the right, Professor Leo Jeffcott (Dean of Cambridge Veterinary School)

There are one hundred and ninety three living species of monkeys and apes. One hundred and ninety two of them are covered with hair. The exception is a naked ape self named *Homo sapiens*.

- Desmond Morris

Abstracts

An Easily Constructed Anaesthetic Face Mask For Dogs

A novel design of anaesthetic face mask for dogs, which has been in regular use for some months at the Sydney University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, was described by **Pearson MRB (1993) Vet Rec 133:477**. The mask consists of a rigid outer shell encasing a deformable liner, which is easily constructed from readily available materials which closely conforms to the shape of the dog's nose. The deformable liner ensures a good fit for a wide range of facial shapes and thereby minimises the dead space and the leakage of gases and vapours or the entry of air, which might dilute the inspired gas. The use of transparent materials facilitates the prevention of obstruction of the nares and, to some extent, allows the colour of the mucous membrane to be observed.

Treatment Of Pelvic Canal Stenosis In Three Cats

Three adult cats with constipation due to stenosis of the pelvic canal were treated by symphyseal distractionosteotomy using an ulnar autograft by **McKee WM and Wong WT (1994) Vet Rec 134: 132-135**.

The duration of clinical signs before the surgery in the three cats was one, three and 19 months; the first two cats had no recurrence of signs after surgery, and the third had less severe and less frequent bouts of constipation.

Chicken Feed

What, thought **J Pen et al (1993) Biotechnology 11:811-814**, can be done to avoid the need to supplement the diets of some domestic animals such as pigs and and chickens, with inorganic phosphorus? Feed supplementation with the enzyme phytase, which releases the nutrient from phytase (the main form of phosphorus in many plant seeds), is one way. But Pen and colleagues have tested another by engineering the DNA fragment encoding phytase in the fungus *Aspergillus* into tobacco.

Transgenic seeds stored the phytase stably, and were effective in releasing inorganic phosphorus in experiments *in vivo*; moreover, poultry whose diet was supplemented with the modified seeds showed significantly higher growth rates than controls. The authors now plan to try the approach with plants whose seeds are more commonly used as feedstuff.

Diagnosis By Telephone For Asthma Sufferers

A new device developed in Israel enables asthma sufferers to anticipate an acute attack by regularly monitoring their breathing over the telephone. The patient need only breathe into a specially designed tube once or may be several times a day as prescribed. The tube is connected to a telephone, which automatically dials through to a hospital computer that analyzes the health of the asthma sufferer.

"If the computer reading determines that the patient's health shows cause for concern", explains Dr. Marcel Topilsky of the Department of Internal Medicine at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, who helped develop the device, "then the asthma sufferer can be immediately summoned to the medical center or warned to rest."

Known as the P-100, the innovative instrument was developed by Shahal Medical Services and the Israeli electronics conglomerate Tadiran, in collaboration with an American partner, Servable Technology Inc., of Washington, D.C.

New Brain Monitor Devised

A new device to measure various brain functions during neurosurgery has been developed by Bar Ilan University in Israel and an international patent has been applied for. The instrument allows the surgeon to proceed more safely without harming any brain function while he operates. It was developed by Prof. Avraham Mayevsky of the Life Sciences Department and is being used experimentally at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv. Prof. Mayevsky said the instrument is equally useful in surgery on blood vessels, and can determine the exact movement of brain death before existing neurological tests are able to do this. It follows the flow of blood in the brain, measures the oxygen level in the cells using sensors and optic fibers and also checks the potassium level.

When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder a second seems like an hour. That is relativity. - **Albert Einstein**.

CALENDAR - 1995

7th European Congress on Biotechnology 19-23 February; Nice, France

28th Annual Conference on the Physiology and Pathology of Reproduction and 20th Joint Veterinary - Human Reproductive Medicine Convocation. 9 - 10 March; Giessen, Germany

Veterinary Orthopedic Society, 22nd Annual Meeting 4-11 March; Whistler, BC, Canada.

Association of Equine Sports Medicine, Annual Meeting 9-12 March; Fallbrook, California, USA

Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Annual Conference 29-31 March; Reading, UK

British Small Animal Veterinary Association Annual Meeting 6-9 April; UK

The Third Biennial Meeting of the Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine 8-12 May; San Jose, Costa Rica

Australian Veterinary Association, National Conference 20-26 May; Melbourne, Australia

CVA Executive Committee Programme Review Meeting August, London UK

XXV Congress of the World Veterinary Association and XX Congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association 3-9 September; Yokohama, Japan

XII International Symposium on Problems in Listeriosis and Workshop on Detection and Typing Methods for *Listeria monocytogenes* 1-6 October; Perth, Australia

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