

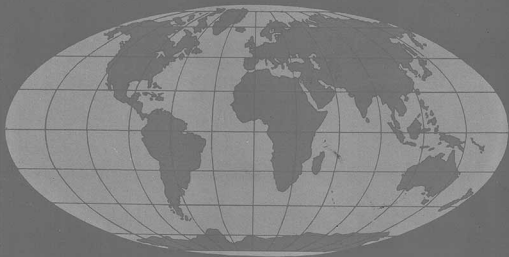
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8
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January 1999

COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



NEWS

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CVA Web site

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



President's Column

I've had the opportunity to work with member associations in two regions since my last report. In October / November 1998 I was in Fiji and met with the members of the Fiji Veterinary Association where a *lovo* (a traditional Fijian feast cooked underground) had been arranged. It was by a happy coincidence almost twenty years to the day since the Fiji Veterinary Association was formed. Present were three of the original members and several young women veterinarians, testimony to the changing gender ratio of today's veterinary undergraduates. We spent time in valuable discussions on the two forthcoming CVA activities in the South Pacific Region, the Fertility Workshop in Fiji and the Regional Conference in Vanuatu in October.

I greatly admire the work of the members of this association. The only problem is that the government with its fine appreciation of their skills and ability, keeps removing them from the veterinary scene to high level appointments in other areas.

With the assistance of the CVA's official sponsor, I spent time in the Caribbean attending the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association's (CbVMA) conference in Georgetown, Guyana and later in visiting Trinidad and Jamaica where a topic of great interest was the venue of the Third PCVC which is to be held in the Caribbean sometime in the year 2002. The President of the CbVMA (Dr Mark Trotman) and the organising committee chaired by Dr. Nicholas McLean arranged a very fine conference, possibly with a little less concern for tight punctuality than I was used to (true Caribbean flavour ?) which was opened by Sir Shridath Ramphal, the Chief Negotiator for CARICOM and a former Secretary - General of the Commonwealth. He certainly appreciated the work of the veterinary community in the Region and was able to tell a good joke as well. His message centred around a plea for the preservation of the planet, an appropriate theme for the Guyana setting where eco - tourism is a burgeoning industry.

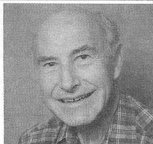
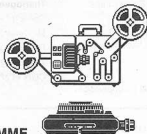
In Trinidad and Jamaica I was delighted to meet many veterinarians not only those in the urban areas but also academic and rural vets and small farmers. Dr. Val Mohabir took special responsibility in Trinidad and Dr. Dingle Foote did likewise in Jamaica. I was much impressed by the kindness of past Regional Representative, Dr. Keith Amiel of Jamaica and generally by the vibrant nature of the veterinary associations. In all three countries the committees were characterised by their youthfulness (but perhaps I'm just getting older) and by the significant roles played by women members. In its programmes CVA has tried hard to give recognition to this fact.

All in all I again felt honoured to meet so many of our Caribbean members and to have detailed discussions on work programmes and the forthcoming regional and Pan - Commonwealth conferences and to discuss present employment problems with refreshing openness. CVA will continue to work vigorously in helping to develop means of supporting Commonwealth veterinarians and helping to prepare them for future change.

January 1999

W.J. Pryor
President

CVA News



JOURNALS, BOOK AND AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAMME

Contact : Dr. J.B. Derbyshire, Coordinator,
CVA Book Programme, Department of
Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College,
University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
N1G2W1.

CVA Book Programme

Since July, 1998, the Book Programme has been coordinated from the Ontario Veterinary College at Guelph. Many outdated texts have been discarded, and the current holdings comprise 857 volumes and 362 titles. Journals are no longer shipped, and few audiovisual aids have been donated. Books are available to graduate veterinarians in CVA member countries in good standing. Priority is given to requests from Institutional Libraries, and requests from individuals are met as funds permit. Shipments are made by surface mail, and may take up to 8 months to reach their destination. The following is a summary of the books currently available by discipline, as well as the titles of some popular texts of which multiple copies are held.

Anatomy : 36 titles, including

Getty : Sisson & Grossman's Anatomy of Domestic Animals,

Evans & Christensen : Miller's Anatomy of the Dog,

Habel : Guide to Dissection of Domestic Ruminants

Sack & Habel : Horse Dissection.

Anesthesia : 7 titles, including

Soma : Textbook of Veterinary Anesthesia

Hall : Wright's Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia

Animal Science : 22 titles

Avian, Wild & Laboratory Animals : 26 titles

Biochemistry & Biology : 5 titles

Equine Medicine & Surgery : 11 titles including

Adams : Lameness in Horses

Farm Animal Medicine & Surgery : 14 titles, including

Blood et al : Blood & Henderson's Veterinary Medicine,

Leman et al; Diseases of Swine

Fish Diseases : 2 titles

Histology & Haematology : 22 titles, including

Banks : Applied Veterinary Histology,

Delman & Brown : Textbook of Veterinary Histology,

Schalm et al : Veterinary Hematology

Immunology : 7 titles

Microbiology : 34 titles, including

Prescott & Baggot : Antimicrobial Therapy in Veterinary Medicine, and Gyles : Pathogenesis of Bacterial Infections in Animals

Parasitology : 15 titles, including *Tizard* : Veterinary Immunology

Soulsby : Helminths, Arthropods & Protozoa of Domestic Animals

Georgi : Parasitology for Veterinarians

Pathology : 19 titles, including

Thompson : General Veterinary Pathology, Jubb et al : Pathology of Domestic Animals,

Smith et al : Veterinary Pathology

Pathology - Clinical : 4 titles, including

Duncan & Prosse : Veterinary Laboratory Medicine

Sodikoff : Laboratory Profiles of Small Animal Diseases

Pharmacology : 6 titles

Physiology : 15 titles, includingSwenson : *Dukes' Physiology of Domestic Animals***Public Health & Zoonoses** : 26 titles, including*Martin et al* : *Veterinary Epidemiology***Radiology** : 8 titles, including Owens : *Radiographic Interpretation for the Small Animal Clinician**Douglas* : *Veterinary Radiological Interpretation***Small Animal Medicine & Surgery** : 55 titles, including*Archibald* : *Canine Surgery*,*Kirk et al* : *Current Veterinary Therapy*,*Brinker et al* : *Handbook of small Animal Orthopaedics*and *Fracture Treatment*,*Lewis & Morris* : *Small Animal Clinical Nutrition*,*Muller et al* : *Small Animal Dermatology*,*Ettlinger* : *Veterinary Internal Medicine***Theriogenology** : 31 titles , including*Carlson* : *Patten's Foundations of Embryology*,*Mc Donald* : *Veterinary Endocrinology & Reproduction*,*Roberts* : *Veterinary Obstetrics & Genital Diseases***Toxicology** : 7 titles, including*Clark et al* : *Veterinary Toxicology*.

Pet Food Regulations Workshop

CVA has become aware of the increased interest in companion animals in many countries in the developing world and has included the topic in a number of its programmes. For example, at the Second Pan-Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in Bangalore, India in February 1998 certain parts of its programme gave recognition to this fact and it will continue to encourage education in pet animal nutrition as well as that of food animals.



President Addressing the workshop

It was of special interest that the President of CVA, Dr Bill Pryor, was invited to the Petfood Regulations Workshop in St. Louis, Missouri, USA to give the keynote address in November last. Although necessarily taking a very broad perspective of veterinary science in his CVA leadership role, his personal research and teaching interests covered animal nutrition across the species.

The Workshop was attended by three hundred participants including fifty from overseas. Also present were a number of veterinarians prominent in CVA from such countries as the UK, Canada, Australia, Namibia, South Africa, New Zealand, India and Trinidad.

In his address Dr Pryor called for improved teaching of nutrition in veterinary courses, global harmonisation in the regulation of petfood labelling and composition, problems of animal vs human use of foodstuffs in the developing world and how the pattern of nutritional disease had changed in the last thirty years.

The Proceedings of the Conference have been published and information can be obtained from Dr Avi Deshmukh of Ralston Purina Company, one of the four workshop sponsors, whose e-mail is: adeshmukh@ralston.com

Other international speakers included Dr Roger Clarke, Past President of the Australian Veterinary Association, Dr Buks Wandrag of Onderstepoort, South Africa and Dr Jim Edwards, Vice-President of the World Veterinary Association from New Zealand.

Dr. Blackburn Made Honorary President For Life of CVA



Dr. J.T. Blackburn former President of CVA has been made Honorary President for life by the CVA. Dr. Blackburn first served the CVA as Council member for U.K., Regional Representative of U.K. Mediterranean and then as Vice President and Programme Director of CVA. Dr. Blackburn was also the former President of British Veterinary Association from 1984 - 1985 and the President of the World Veterinary Association from 1991 - 1995.

The contributions of Dr. Blackburn to the CVA have been enormous and in recognition of his services to the CVA he has been honoured as a honorary President for Life.

CVA Officers Meet in Australia

The officers of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association met in Australia in September 1998 for the first time in this part of the world. The series of meetings was sponsored by Ralston Purina Co. who also underwrote visits to the four Australian Veterinary schools in Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and Brisbane. The officers taking part were led by Dr. W. J. Pryor, President, with Dr. B.N. Touray, Past President, Dr. Bert Stevenson, Programme Director, Dr. S. Abdul Rahman Secretary/Editor and Dr. Derek Timbs, Australasia/Oceania Regional Representative. Ralston Purina was represented by Dr. Avi Deshmukh and Dr. Dottie Laflamme who gave presentations on small animal nutrition to staff and students at each school visited.

In Melbourne, the Dean of the Veterinary school Prof. Ivan W. Caple organised a meeting with his staff and a visit to all the labs of the school both at the Melbourne and Werribee campuses. A dinner was organised by CVA to meet the leaders of the Australian Veterinary Association, Victoria Division, Dr. Mike Sheedy, President the Veterinary Surgeons Board, practitioners Branch and Chief Veterinary Officer.

At Murdoch the Executive Dean Prof. John V. Yovich, organised the visit of the Vet school and in particular to the division of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences, where Prof. John Howell and Assoc. Prof. J.A. Reynoldson explained in detail the activities of the Department. In the evening the officers met leaders of the AVA, W.A. Division including Dr. Peter Punch its President to discuss collaboration programmes.

In Sydney the Pro -Dean Assoc. Prof. Wayne Bryden and Assoc. Prof. William Porges, Associate Dean, guided the visitors through all the facilities of the school. A special meeting was held with Dr. Henry Collins, sub-dean Student Welfare and Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Parasitology and Wildlife diseases. He has programmed a special computer-linked project to help developing countries access facilities in various veterinary schools in developed countries via internet, with special reference to reading, practical and laboratory material. Collaboration with CVA in this project is being explored. The members also had discussion with Assoc Prof. Frank Nicholas and Assoc. Prof. Paul Canfield, plus staff of the post-graduate foundation.

In Brisbane Prof. Keith Hughes, Head of School of Veterinary Science and Animal Production, arranged a visit to the school and its Mogill campus. CVA officers also met other leaders in the veterinary profession in Queensland at a hosted dinner.

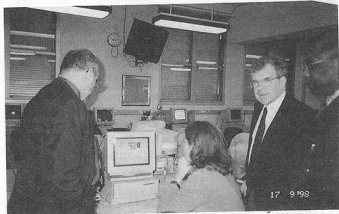
At all the vet schools Dr. Pryor, President CVA spoke to the students and staff and highlighted the activities and the role of CVA supported by his four colleagues. He stressed the special role of CVA an active association catering to the needs of less developed countries of the Commonwealth through programmes which support training of veterinarians and livestock farmers in those regions using a wide spectrum of methods.

The President, Programme Director and Ralston colleagues also visited the veterinary school at Massey University, New Zealand and carried out programme organised by Associate Prof. Grant Guilford and Tony Charleston

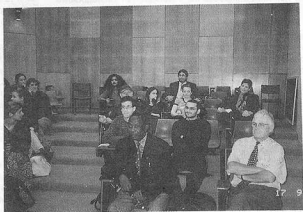


L-R Dr. Bert Stevenson, Prog Director, Dr. Peter Thornber, Commonwealth Chief Veterinary Officer, and Dr. Touray Past President CVA

CVA Officers Meet in Australia



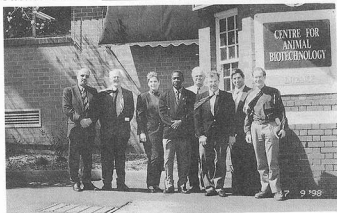
Prof. Ivan Caple, Dean with officers of CVA at the Computer lab of Melbourne Vet. School



Dr. B Touray (left) and Dr. Bert Stevenson (right) at the Nutrition Seminar at Melbourne



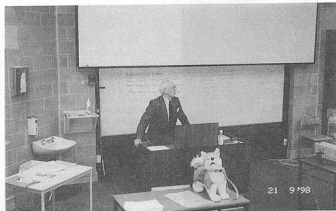
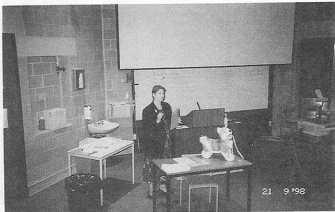
Dr. Avi Deshmukh of Ralston Purina speaking at a CVA dinner at Melbourne



CVA / Ralston Officers at Melbourne Veterinary School -

(L-R) S. A. Rahman, Sec., W. J. Pryor, Pres., Dottie Laflamme, Ralston Purina, B. N. Touray, Past President, Bert Stevenson, Prog. Director, Prof. Caple, Dean Vet School, Avi Deshmukh, Ralston Purina, Derek Timbs, RR Australasia/Oceania

Dr. Dottie Laflamme giving her presentation on Small Animal Nutrition



Dr. W.J. Pryor, addressing the Staff and Students of the Murdoch Veterinary School



*Dr. Peter Punch , President AVA,
W.A. Division, speaking at a dinner
at Perth*



*Prof. John Yovich, Executive Dean,
Murdoch Veterinary School at a dinner.*

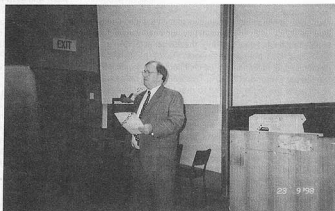


*Students of Veterinary School Melbourne,
at the Nutrition Presentation
by Dr. Dottie Laffamme*



Dr. Henry Collins with the officers of the CVA at the Sydney Veterinary School

Dr. Keith Huges, Head of the School of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Production, University of Qld., introducing the members of the CVA & Ralston Purina to the students.



■ Applications And Outcome Of Haemodialysis In Cats : A Review of 29 Cases

Haemodialysis (HD) has been used in the management of renal failure in dogs, but its feasibility has not been reported for uremic cats. Therefore, we investigated the technical possibility, efficacy, and complications of intermittent HD in cats with severe uremia. A total of 160 HD treatments were performed on 29 cats with acute renal failure (ARF) ($n = 15$), chronic renal failure (CRF) ($n = 6$), or acute on CRF ($n = 8$) between November 1993 and June 1996. Haemodialysis treatment were performed with transcutaneous dialysis catheters using a bicarbonate-based delivery system, sodium modelling, and volumetric - controlled ultrafiltration. Presenting serum chemistries (mean \pm SD) for all cats were creatinine, 16.4 ± 7.5 mg/dl; blood urea nitrogen (BUN), 229 ± 87 mg/dl; phosphate, 15.4 ± 5.4

mg/dl; potassium 6.0 ± 1.6 mEq/L; and HCO_3^- , 16.0 ± 4.4 mEq/L. For intensive HD treatments, pre - HD versus post - HD creatinine changed from 10.3 ± 4.4 to 1.6 ± 0.9 mg/dl and BUN from 105 ± 33 to 8 ± 10 mg/dL. One or more adverse events occurred during 111 (69%) treatments. Dialysis-related events included hypotension, dialysis dysequilibrium, clotting, and bleeding. Nine of 15 (60%) cats with ARF and one cat with CRF recovered sufficiently to survive without ongoing need for HD. For the remaining cats, the proximate causes of death were dialysis related in nine cats, uremia related in six cats, and iatrogenic or unknown in four cats. Haemodialysis is technically feasible and effectively controls the biochemical disturbances of uremic cats. It is especially valuable for the management of severe ARF, permitting recovery in a large number of cats refractory to conventional therapy. Technical complications and chronic debility, however, may limit its usefulness for cats with advance CRF. Langston, CE et al (1997) J Vet Intern Med 11 : 348.

Commonwealth News

Commonwealth Foundation Launches New Training Kit

The Commonwealth Foundation, working directly with the NGO sector, has launched a new training kit - **NGO Good Policy and Practice : Training Kit**. Complementing the very successful Guidelines, the new kit will help strengthen the capacity of NGOs. Don Clarke, Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Foundation says: "it will encourage higher standards, efficiency and effectiveness within the sector."

Both the Training Kit and the Guidelines are a response to the rapidly changing role of the government and NGOs. In many countries, governments have redefined their role, making them the provider of an economic and policy framework. Policy itself is being implemented, increasingly, by civil society organisations - the private sector and NGO's. This training kit helps NGOs to develop the skills needed to meet this new challenge. Again Don Clarke says: "In this rapidly changing world, we believe the Training Kit is an essential tool for NGOs seeking to strengthen their impact, professionalism, credibility and sustainability. Like the Guidelines, the Training Kit is a living breathing document which can be used to open doors to a greater understanding."

The kit will prove invaluable not only to NGO personnel at all levels, but also to government and international funding agencies. As an evaluation tool, it can be used as a:

- self evaluation instrument for NGOs, governments and funders
- guide to establish good policy and practice
- source of information on NGOs.

The Training Kit includes a copy of the Guidelines and material for handouts and overhead projection slides. It is available from the Commonwealth Foundation, price 25.00 pounds. For information about discounts and bulk orders, contact :

The Commonwealth Foundation,
Marlborough House,
London SW1Y5HY
Tel : +44(0)171 930 3783
Fax: + 44(0) 171 839 8157
Email : geninfo@commonwealth.int

Back In The Saddle

Seven years after a brief spell as Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Donald Kalpokas, 55, leader of the Vanua'aku Pati , is back in the saddle heading a coalition government. He first became Prime Minister in September 1991, but subsequently lost that position when his party was defeated in the December 1991 elections.



A teacher by profession, Mr. Kalpokas trained at the Ardmore Teacher's College, New Zealand from 1966 - 67, and then went to the University of the South Pacific, in Suva, Fiji, for further studies. He spent a number of years in the teaching field, during which he founded the Teachers Association, of which he became the first President. In 1975 he became an executive member of the National Party and was elected to the first New Hebrides Representative Assembly.

In 1978, Mr Kalpokas joined the Government of National Unity as Minister for Education and was elected to Parliament the following year. From 1987 to September 1991, he served in a number of ministerial positions, including Ministers of Lands, and Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was Leader of the Opposition from May 1997 until elections in March.

Change Of Baton In Botswana

Following the retirement of the President Sir Ketumile Masire on 31 March, after 18 years of office, the vice - president, Festus G Mogae, has become the new President of Botswana .



the University of Sussex in 1970.

Mr Mogae, 58, was appointed Vice President in 1992 after a distinguished career in the civil service. Born in Serowe, Botswana, in 1939, he graduated from Oxford University in 1968 with a BA (Hons.) in Economics. He also obtained an MA in Development Economics at

Mr. Mogae has been a Member of Parliament for the ruling Botswana Democratic Party since 1994, leader

of the National Assembly, and a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He has served in Botswana's financial administration since 1968, as well as with regional and international financial organisations including the Southern African Development Community and the International Monetary Fund.

Married and a father of three daughters, President Mogae's interests include conservation, tourism and scientific research; he is also the President of the Botswana Society for the Deaf.

■ Serum Transferrin In Calves Infected With *Haemophilus somnus*

A Competitive immunoassay, based on time-resolved fluorimetry, was developed and used to measure the serum concentration of transferrin in 10 calves with acute pneumonia induced by an experimental infection with *Haemophilus suis*. The normal range for transferrin (1.37 to 3.72 mg/ml) was established by measuring serum transferrin in 160 normal cattle. The concentration of transferrin decreased after infection in all the calves, although it remained within the normal range. It recovered to pre-infection levels within six days in the six calves which had either no lesions or mild lesions, but remained low in the four which had extensive lesions when they were examined postmortem. These four calves had had lower concentrations of transferrin than the other six before they were infected with *H somnus*.

McNair J. Elliott, C., Bryson, D.G., & Mackie, D.P. (1998) *Veterinary Journal* 155, 251.

■ Genetic basis of epilepsy in labrador retrievers

Seven hundred and ninety two pedigree certificates from a population of labrador retrievers were used to study the familial incidence of epilepsy in the breed. Forty four families from 11 generations were represented and there were 55 epileptic dogs, 31 males and 24 females. The higher incidence of epilepsy among some subpopulations and the repeated occurrence of the condition in different families of the same sires suggested that it had a genetic basis. An analysis of the pedigrees and the use of the binomial test supported the hypothesis of a polygenic, recessive mode of inheritance. Jaggy, A., Faissler, D., Gaillard C., Srenk, P & Graber, H. (1998) *Journal of Small Animal Practice* 39, 275.

Oral Vaccines From Plants

Plant produced vaccines to protect against enteric diseases such as the *E coli* bacterium which causes food poisoning and travellers' diarrhoea, are to be produced under an agreement between the United Kingdom's Axis Genetics and America's Mycogen, largely owned by Dow Chemicals.

Oral consumption of the vaccines will stimulate and protect the body's immune system in the future. By the millennium, Axis hopes to produce edible vaccines for other infectious diseases.

The agreement will allow Axis to experiment with viral subgenomic promoters, transfer vectors, hybrid RNA viruses and methods of inserting viral DNA into plant material. It will enable the Cambridge-based company to develop vaccines not only for infectious diseases but for cancers, auto immunity and allergies for either human and animal use. Three agreements relate to the engineering of plants for use as oral vaccines.

"This combined with the intellectual property we already own, now gives us the freedom to use several approaches in our development programme," said Dr. Ian Cubitt, Chief Executive of Axis.

"We are well advanced on the plant viral route but now add this to the expression of specific immunogenic proteins in plants, the ability to deliver large oral doses and the commercial reality of marketing plant vaccines moves closer," he added.

Axis plans to carry out its first plant based vaccine trial in late 1999. The company believes that the ability to harness the enormous potential of plants for the production of peptide and protein based vaccines will make the introduction of stable vaccines a commercial reality early in 2000.

Mycogen researchers believe that feed grains engineered to produce disease antigens can replace more expensive vaccine injections and antibiotic treatment for animal health.

Edible vaccines could also reduce food safety problems caused by *E. coli*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*.

Scientists have found that tests on mice show that those fed with foods such as genetically altered potatoes, tomatoes or alfalfa sprouts, produce antigens that elicit an immune response to diseases such as hepatitis B, cholera and travellers' diarrhoea.

Using genetically altered potatoes against *E. coli*, trials on humans have already begun at the Maryland University.

For more information, contact : Axis Genetics, Braham, Cambridge, CB2 4AZ, United Kingdom. Tel : 1223 837611. Fax: 1223 837604. Email : axis@axisgen.demon.co.uk

Fifty Sheep Could Supply World Blood Protein Market

British clone pioneers have created sheep that produce so much of a valuable blood clotting protein in their milk, that, it is claimed, just 50 animals could supply the entire 100 million pounds world market.

The break through has been announced by PPL Therapeutics, who produced Dolly, the sheep clone, last year in collaboration with the scientists at the Roslin Institute in Scotland. Dolly was the first mammal to be cloned by the transfer of DNA from a cell taken from an adult.

The Edinburgh-based company has been in the forefront in producing genetically engineered animals whose milk contains therapeutic human proteins. PPL recently announced that it had achieved a level of 300 mg per litre for human Factor IX protein in the milk of transgenic sheep.

Factor IX, known as FIX, is a human plasma protein essential for blood clotting. It is effective in controlling bleeding in haemophiliacs and is increasingly being given as a preventive treatment.

PPL's Research Director, Alan Colman, said, "I am very excited by this very high level result. Levels of FIX in human blood are very low - approximately 5 mg per litre and the sheep have made 60 fold the naturally circulating amount of this high value protein. This means, conceivably, that with reasonable protein recovery after purification, the world market for this high value product could be served by only 50 sheep."

Most FIX preparations now on the market are derived from human plasma. According to PPL, sheep derived FIX offers the advantages of low production costs and improved safety, ensuring the absence of human infectious agents. The company aims to find a partner to co-develop transgenic FIX for clinical use.

To produce human protein in sheep's milk, human DNA is inserted into the genetic material in the animal's embryonic cells. The sheep goes on to develop mammary glands which secrete milk containing the human protein.

- Spectrum June 98

The Importance Of Tourism To Commonwealth Small States

Country	Number of tourist arrivals (thousand)			Tourist receipts (Million US\$)			Total earnings as a proportion of total export earnings		
	1985	1990	1994	1985	1990	1994	1985	1990	1994
Antigua & Barbuda	149	197	255	133	298	394	74.3	86.4	89.3
The Bahamas	1,368	1,562	1,516	995	1,333	1,333	65.8	87.9	75.1
Barbados	359	432	426	309	494	598	38.9	59.1	70.4
Belize	93	88	129	12	51	71	7.9	19.0	24.2
Botswana	327	543	637	24	19	35	2.7	0.8	1.5
Cyprus	770	1,561	2,069	380	1,258	1,700	32.1	43.7	48.1
Dominica	21	45	57	9	20	31	18.1	19.4	28.5
The Gambia	77	100	78	19	26	27	21.6	15.3	12.3
Grenada	52	76	109	26	38	60	48.1	36.0	46.3
Maldives	115	195	280	41	89	181	44.9	48.8	83.5
Sierra Leone	100	98	72	7	19	12	4.4	9.1	7.2
Singapore	2,738	4,842	6,268	1,660	4,596	7,089	6.0	6.8	5.8
Swaziland	200	294	298	13	25	29	4.8	3.0	3.0

*Asia***India**

Indian Veterinary Association Annual General Body Meeting and Scientific Session

The 27th General Body meeting and Scientific Session of the Indian Veterinary Association was held at Madras from 11th to 13th September 1998. Over 1000 delegates from all over the country participated. Various awards for best articles published in the Indian Veterinary Journal, the official journal of the IVA were presented. Eminent veterinarians were also honoured on the occasion.

New Animal Shelter and Hospital

Animal welfare organisations have been playing a



very important role in the welfare of animals in India. There are more than 200 organisations which are registered with the Animal Welfare Board of India.

At Bangalore one such organisation, Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) has come forward to build a modern Animal Shelter and Veterinary Hospital at the Veterinary College, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore Campus. This 10 million rupee project will be funded purely by philanthropic organisations and animal lovers. The project was inaugurated recently by the Chairman of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Lt. Gen. A.K. Chatterjee. The work on the project has started. The shelter will cater to the needs of stray and old cattle, especially male calves (as India does not permit cow slaughter) and dogs. India has a dog population of about 20 million out of which nearly 18 million are stray.

Welfare of animals is jointly organised by NGO's

and the Veterinary College, with conduct of health camps and programme of feeding of dogs.

CVA Aid To Bangladesh

Every year, Bangladesh is hit by cyclones causing huge damage to life and property. 1998 was no exception but the intensity was very severe. A large number of people lost their lives and so also the livestock population. To help build back the livestock loss, and help the farmers to control epidemics which have broken out, massive aid from various agencies is being sent to Bangladesh.

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association has also pledged financial support to the Bangladesh Veterinary Association to carry out the relief work.

New Regional Representative Of Asia

Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Council Member for India has been elected as Regional Representative Asia. He replaces Dr. A.A. Ramzee of Pakistan



Australasia Oceania

New Executive officer for NZ Veterinary Council



Niki Francis, is the new Executive Officer of the Veterinary Council of New Zealand. In the short time she has been there, Niki has found the opportunity to use many of the skills she has acquired working in the range of different positions and living in different parts of the world - from people skills to financial management skills.

Niki replaces Carryl Forrest who left the Veterinary Council in August.

AVA takes a World View



Last month I had the honour and pleasure of being invited to speak at the second Commonwealth Veterinary Association Congress in Bangalore, India. The highly successful conference was host to more than 1200 veterinarians, with 180 delegates from Commonwealth countries

other than India. I was able to meet the President and representatives of many of these countries and to appreciate the wide diversity of veterinary services offered by the profession in many lands. The current President of the CVA, Professor Bill Pryor, is a past President of the AVA and was one of my lecturers at Queensland University. Bill is doing a wonderful job leading the CVA and was ably assisted in India by David Banks, Treasurer of the CVA and AVA/CVA Council representative. India is a fascinating country faced with huge population problems. With 980 million people, India now has the largest cattle population of any land on earth and is now the world's second largest milk producer after the USA. By comparison, the dog

population is only 20 million, of which 70% are estimated to be "strays". Rabies remains a major zoonosis and the majority of infections are contracted via dog bites. All veterinary services to livestock in India are provided free to the farmers, with veterinary services subsidised by the Government. India continues to improve the veterinary services. The Indian Veterinary Association in conjunction with the Indian federal government and State government has obtained agreement for a common "core curriculum" in the veterinary schools and a new 6 year veterinary course. The extra year is to teach farm extension services. Only veterinarians undergoing the 6-year course will be able to obtain registration in the future. Under this agreement, any College attempting to teach a lower standard can be forced to comply or be closed down. Such strong regulatory control seems strange in our current atmosphere of deregulation, but there is a lesson to be learned, as this move was made necessary by the proliferation of inadequately trained veterinary personnel and the lack of uniform standards in the many Indian veterinary colleges.

- Dr. Roger Clarke, AVA President
(Aust. Vet Jour 76 Apr. 98)

Dr. Duckworth Honoured

Dr. Duckworth's outstanding contribution to the New Zealand Veterinary Association was acknowledged at the NZVA conference dinner by outgoing president Ross Blanks who conferred Honorary Life Membership and the NZVA president's Award on Robert Hartely Duckworth.



In his citation, made before an enthusiastic and approving audience, Dr. Blanks listed Bob's involvements with the veterinary profession, from when he first came to this country in 1971 until his retirement from the position of Executive Director of NZVA earlier this year.

During the last 23 year Dr. Duckworth has held positions in the Club Practitioners Branch, the Veterinary Services Council, the Animal Remedies Board, the Society

of Sheep and Beef Cattle Veterinarians, and as Council Member Commonwealth Veterinary Business Management Group, the Veterinary Professional Insurance Society and, of course, NZVA, of which he has been both President and Executive Director

75th Jubilee NZVA Conference

NZVA celebrated its 75th Jubilee conference in Rotorua this year. Hosted by the society of Dairy Cattle Veterinarians, it brought together more than 550 registrants veterinarians, veterinary nurses and industry delegates for four days of talks and socialising.

The plenary sessions attracted good crowds for discussion of topical issues such as new legislation relating to prescription animal remedies, litigation issues and communication. While the DCV programme focused on nutrition, CAS concentrated on animal behaviour, and VBMG and State both covered a range of topics. Keith McGregor's presentation in the VBMG slot on stress management drew a large audience, which overflowed the room.

Achievements Of NZVA

Here are some of the things that NZVA achieved during 1997:

- Customer satisfaction survey
- Change of name from NZVA Council to NZVA Board
- Policy development (as listed in July Vetscript)
- Extensive survey of fees
- Submission to Select Committee on ACVM Bill resulting in recognition of veterinary medicines in the Act.
- Private Members' Animal Welfare Bill introduced into Parliament by Pete Hodgson, veterinarian and MP
- Series of faxbacks asking for member opinion
- Amendments to Codes of Ethical Conduct Regulations providing for exemption from use of an Animal Ethics Committee for veterinarians under certain conditions
- Submissions on range of topics raised by Government
- promotion brochure for Companion Animal Practice Standards
- NZVA Board Liaison Report, Positive results from survey of Vetscript Extra readers
- Development of employment resource kit
- AISET received contract with Ministry of Education to provide material for guide on animals in schools

New Group for Gay and Lesbian Vets

Gay and Lesbian vets have launched a new support group - the Gay and Lesbian Veterinary Association (GALVA). The group aims to : create a network of gay and lesbian individuals within the veterinary profession for mutual support, particularly in cases of discrimination, geographical isolation and 'coming out'

Organise social activities

Enhance the visibility of gay and lesbian veterinarians

Co - convenor Cath Walker said the group was publicising its existence as an access point for gays and lesbians associated with the profession. " We will be lobbying the AVA for inclusion of gay and lesbian issues in its graduate mentor schemes, as well as liaising with international gay and lesbian veterinary associations (eg. the LGVMA in the US) and arrange social activities.

Members of the new group may belong to one of the three categories :

1. Publicly visible Executive (Co- convenors and Secretary/ Treasurer)
2. Members who wish their names to be included on a contact list discretely circulated only to other members of the organisation
3. Members who do not wish to be included on a contact list and whose names appear on a database accessible to the Executive alone.

To become a member of GALVA, one must be a part of the veterinary profession, which includes veterinary nurses, receptionists, technicians and students. GALVA welcomes individuals of any sexual organisation (lesbian, gay or lesbian and gay friendly).

The annual membership fee is \$20 and a reduced membership rate of \$ 10 will apply to veterinary students.

- Aust. Vet J. 74 Oct. 96

New Regional Representative of Australasia/ Oceania

Dr. Choo Hoo Giam CVA Councillor , Singapore and former President of Singapore Veterinary Association has been elected as the Regional Representative of Australasia/Oceania. He replaces Dr. Derek Timbs of New Zealand.

World First Lady Clone Saves Rare Breed

One of the world's rarest cattle breeds, once in real danger of extinction, now looks likely to survive. Thanks to modern science and the generosity of the Auckland Agriculture and Pastoral Association. In a world first, scientists at the AgResearch, Ruakura, successfully produced a clone heifer calf from Lady, the sole surviving member of a shorthorn breed of cattle sent to the Auckland Islands, 400 kms south of New Zealand, more than 100 years ago.



The sole surviving Enderby Island shorthorn cow, Lady

The cattle had developed independently with no human intervention, surviving in an environment of great climatic diversity and almost impossible food varieties including seaweed and coarse sub-Antarctic grasses with high salt penetration.

Lady, now aged around 13, and a young heifer were rescued and brought to the mainland more than six years ago by the Rare Breeds Conservation Society, which located the pair of Enderby, one of the smaller Auckland Islands. The pair were sent to Ruakura six years ago where the heifer died, and attempts to fertilise Lady with frozen semen taken from Auckland Island bulls had proven both costly and unsuccessful.

That's when the Auckland Agricultural and Pastoral Association stepped in and agreed to contribute up to \$8,000 a year over three years to help with new attempts to save the shorthorn breed. The first encouraging steps were taken earlier this year with the birth of a pure bred bull calf, conceived using *in vitro* fertilisation. That involved a surrogate mother carrying an egg from Lady that had been fertilised with sperm taken from one of the dead Enderby Islands bulls.

However, to save the breed from extinction a female

Enderby Island calf was needed. And as Lady had been unable to produce one herself, a cloned calf was the obvious solution. So it was that scientists at AgResearch were delighted to announce the birth of LC (Lady Clone). The small but sprightly black and white calf was revealed as not only the first cattle clone produced from an adult cell, but the first clone in the world to be alive at the same time as her genetically identical adult self.

AgResearch reports that three other cows at Ruakura are pregnant with Lady clones and are expected to give birth in late 1998 and early 1999. As with the birth of LC, cells were taken from Lady's ovaries and cultured in the laboratory. The somatic cell nuclear transfer process involves transferring Lady's DNA from a cultured cell to a host egg from which the DNA has been removed.



Rare Breed Society member Dave Matheson (left), AgResearch scientist Dr. David Wells and Auckland A & P Association president Bob Tilsley with two week old 'LC' (Lady Clone)

New Zealand Veterinary Association



Susan Morris has been appointed as the President of the New Zealand Veterinary Association

In relationships of any sort, it is not how good the good times are, but rather how good you make the bad times. - ABR

Fiji Veterinary Association Australasia

The Fiji Veterinary Association has been in existence for 25 years and by a happy coincidence the President was visiting the country at the time of this anniversary. A traditional feast or *lovo* was held to allow Dr Pryor to meet with FVA members.

All but two members were able to join in the occasion and it became clear that the FVA consists of two distinct groups of members working happily together. Pictured below are three distinguished foundation members of the group, two of whom have moved into high positions in government outside the veterinary sphere. But veterinary work continues in the hands of others including the group of capable young women graduates in the second picture.

CVA interest at the moment centres on the forthcoming Fourth Fertility Workshop to be held in Fiji, in the week adjacent to the CVA Regional Conference in Vanuatu in October 1999.



L- R Fiji - 1. Dr. Numaia Tabunakawai (Director Policy Analysis Unit) - Officer of the Prime Minister), 2. Dr. Robin Yarrow (Permanent Secretary Ministry of National Planning), 3. Dr. Peter Saville, Animal Health Adviser to Secretariat of the Pacific Community

*These are the longest serving members of the Fiji Veterinary Association, celebrating its 20th Anniversary at a *lovo* with the President of CVA.*

Below : Fiji's Women veterinarians meeting with CVA President : L- R Dr. Ayesha Kyari, Dr. Raana Asgar and Dr. Kirsty van Hennekeier

Australasia/Oceania CVA Regional Workshop

This workshop is to be held from 20th to 30th October 1999 at the Le Lagon Park Royal Hotel, Port Vila Vanuatu. The workshop will provide a forum for discussion on aspects of livestock production and health in the Pacific Islands with particular emphasis on poultry, cattle and pigs. With formal presentations in the mornings and field trips in the afternoon this promises to be an informative and enjoyable meeting.

Vanuatu is about 2 hours flying time from Auckland, New Zealand and Sydney, Australia and a little over one hour from Fiji. A warm welcome awaits you.



For further details please contact: Dr Gavin Struthers, CVA Councillor, Department of Livestock, Private Mail Bag 095, Port Vila, Vanuatu. ph 678 23519 fax 678 23185 email laefstok@vanuatu.com.vu Dr Derek Timbs, AgriQuality New Zealand Ltd, Private Bag 3080, Hamilton, New Zealand. Tel : 838 5838, fax : 64 838 5895 email timbsd@agriquality.co.nz

Canada Caribbean

Caribbean Animal News

Dr. Peter Fretz , New President Of CVMA

Dr. Peter Fretz of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, accepted the Presidential chain of office from Dr. Ed. McCall at the CVMA Annual Convention in Toronto, Ontario.

Dr. Fretz has actively promoted veterinary medicine at the local, national and international levels, and is currently a professor of large animal surgery at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.



"Veterinarians are well placed to propose policies and educate animal owners and the public about the health, treatment, and well being of animals," says Dr. Fretz. "I hope to facilitate this process in any way possible."

Dr. Fretz attended Rutgers - the New Jersey State University, where he completed his undergraduate veterinary work. His veterinary degree was obtained from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine in 1970. Following his graduation, Dr. Fretz worked at the New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, until the beginning of his internship at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) in Guelph, Ontario, in the autumn of 1970. After completing 2 years at the OVC and receiving a diploma of large animal surgery, Dr. Fretz emigrated to Australia where he became a veterinary assistant in Melbourne, Australia. He has been a large animal surgeon at the WCVS in Saskatoon since 1974.

In 1978, Dr. Fretz successfully completed the examination process to become a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. He served as a regent to the American College of Veterinary Surgeons from 1986 to 1989, and as a vice chairperson of the Saskatchewan Horse Racing Commission from 1992 to 1995.

Dr. Fretz was the head of the department of Veterinary Anesthesiology, Radiology and Surgery at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine from 1992 to 1997. He is the author of more than 70 research publications in referred journals and has lectured at many universities and national and international veterinary meetings.

Regular visitors to Antigua will have been aware of the absence of the packs of dogs that were often seen prowling around the island. To the holiday makers, and locals alike, the sight of these wretched animals aroused not only fear but also great concern for both their unkempt condition and serious need for medical attention. However, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Antigua and Barbados Humane society, this is becoming a thing of the past. Stray and unwanted animals are now being rescued and taken under the wing of the Humane Society to be treated, spayed and when ever possible, found good loving homes.

The aim of the Society, founded in August 1991 by Karen Corbin and a local veterinarian, Doctor Radcliffe Robins, is to encourage a change in the attitude towards the care of animals on the island. Their policy is to provide a positive, helpful, and friendly approach and this has earned them respect and co-operation of not only the local community but also the Antiguan Government. It is all about 'awareness'. Animals cannot speak for themselves, they rely on us to care for them. Sadly, it is all too easy to take them for granted and forget that, like us, they are living beings, and as such should demand our respect and, most of all, our loving care.

Loving care is just what Karen Corbin, her colleague, Dr Radcliffe Robins, and their helpers are about. The dedication and hard work needed to set up and establish this wonderful project is immeasurable. This was illustrated by the persistence and sheer determination that brought about the successful rescue of the herd of llamas abandoned in Antigua by American investors in 1989. The entire operation provided a springboard for the Society as it made many people aware of their work and aspirations. During the many months that it took to rehabilitate the animals, Dr Robins realised that the amount of emergency help needed was beyond the local scope, so he contacted the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) for help. They responded immediately with a contribution of approximately EC\$10,000 which enabled the Humane Society to purchase water storage tank and organise a regular supply of fresh water. Over the next several months, the Humane Society fed and watered the llamas on a regular basis and they gradually began to recover. Soon the animals were gaining weight and showing signs of regaining their health.

In the meantime, the Society had a meeting with the Government of Antigua and Barbados who agreed to take legal control of the animals under the 'Protection of Animals Act' but left the full time care and management, with full financial responsibility, in the hands of the Humane Society. The Government also agreed to lease 35 acres

of land near Bathesda to be used to provide a sanctuary for the llamas and all other animals coming under the Humane Society's protection.

November 1992 saw the transportation of the llamas and alpacas to the new sanctuary near Bathesda, just over a year since the Society had taken over their full time care. They are now completely settled into their new home and shortly after the move, the first llama cria was born on the mainland of Antigua.

Last May, the Humane Society introduced Antigua's first ever Spay Clinic offering spaying for a nominal fee of EC\$20, a fraction of the normal cost thus making it available to everyone. An English Veterinarian, Andrew Dobbie, spent 3 weeks in Antigua specifically to spay as many animals as possible. At the end of the three weeks, 125 dogs had been spayed or neutered and considering that just one female dog and her offspring can be the source of 67,000 puppies within 6 years this was a terrific contribution to the reduction of the pet overpopulation.

Since this wonderful and successful operation, work has begun on the building of a clinic at the sanctuary. It will hold 12 kennels for adult dogs and room for about 16 cats plus puppies. There will also be a surgery, grooming area, office, display and storage area and a small seminar room. The plan is to use the animal shelter for teaching and public education purposes as well as for the care of the animals. Once the shelter is completed, prospective pet owners will be able to come to the shelter and select their new pet, all of whom will have been spayed or neutered, wormed and vaccinated. Once the shelter is open, young people will be able to volunteer to help care for the animals and at the same time they will be learning what responsible animal ownership is all about. All animals are helped but at present, roaming dogs are the criteria.

The Humane Society's work has been recognised in other parts of the world and recently, The Society's President, Karen Corbin, was presented with an award from The World Society for the Protection of Animals for her work in helping WSPA relocate more than 200 dogs and cats left on Montserrat when their owners had to flee the island during volcanic eruptions.

In England, Mrs Sheila Harvey of Fort Dodge Animal Health Company has kindly donated drugs for the Society's use and Mr John Ruane and Caroline Barker of The Nature Watch Foundation have arranged the transportation of these from England to Antigua. We are all grateful to BWIA who have kindly granted greatly reduced fares for the consignment. It is encouraging to know that so many people are prepared to assist in the care of the world's animals. Once begun, this work has to go on *ad infinitum*, and plenty of help will always be essential. Everyone in the Humane Society working for

the good of the animals, and Antigua itself, is totally committed. As the Society is responsible for funding itself, the work is not only in the care of the animals, but also fund raising. The Society has a growing membership and amongst other things, Karen runs a paperback book stall at Food City, Dickinson Bay on the last Saturday of each month. There is also a 'Be a Mama to a llama' programme and the Society would welcome you as a member.

Whilst I was in Antigua in April I was fortunate to meet Karen and her Field Officer, Cleveland Purton and we visited the sanctuary at Bathesda to see the progress in the work on the shelter. It was very impressive to see just what is being achieved and to hear of the variety of calls received during the day and night. The biggest problem is the shortage of water because of the lack of rain. The twelve donkeys in residence have used their initiative and are helping themselves to the water from the drums of the Public Works Construction Crew and are also being spoiled with tibits from their lunch boxes. How different life would be for them if they had been left to roam once they were not needed any more.

Caring for animals is demanding and very emotional work. Some of the tragic cases of abandoned animals are unbelievably heartbreaking. It is fortunate indeed that there are those with the compassion and commitment needed to devote their lives to the welfare of these defenceless creatures. Animals are an integral part of our lives, they work for us, love us unconditionally and enrich our lives. Please do help the Humane Society in their work, the rewards are great both for you and for the animals.

Wendy Lloyd

Surrey, UK.

Email : wendy.lloyd@lineone.net

■ Treatment of Dogs And Cats With Hiatal Hernias

The mean age of 22 dogs and 5 cats with hiatal hernias was four years. The most common breeds affected were the English bulldog and domestic shorthair cat. The most common signs were regurgitation of food, anorexia, weight loss and aspiration pneumonia. Fourteen of the animals were given a 30 day course of treatment with metoclopramide, sucralphate, ranitidine or cimetidine and one was treated by a change of diet, eight of the 15 were effectively cured; one of the other seven died and the other six were treated surgically. Eight of the ten dogs that underwent hiatal plication, oesophagopexy or gastropexy responded favourably, and the best prognosis was associated with oesophagopexy. Four of seven dogs which underwent fundoplication did well, but the four included only one of the four dogs in this group which showed clinical signs.

Lorinson, D & Bright, R.M., (1998) *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 213, 381.

The XXI Congress Of the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association

- Report by Dr. V. Burnham, CVA Councillor, Guyana

The XXI Congress Of the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association (CbVMA) was hosted by the Guyana Veterinary Association (GVA) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) from November 1st to 5th, 1998 in Georgetown, Guyana. The theme of the Congress was "Veterinary Excellence and Sustainable Regional Food Security into the 21st Century". Our keynote speaker, Sir Shridath Ramphal, Chief Negotiator of the Regional Negotiating Machinery of CARIFORUM gave a very inspiring address on "The Global Phase of Human Evolution". We were also privileged to have with us the President of the CVA, Dr. William Pryor and his wife Mrs. Ann Pryor.

Twenty five Guyanese veterinarians and forty five foreign delegates from Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Antigua, Jamaica, Cayman Islands, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, St. Kitts, U.S.A., Canada, U.K. and Australia attended the Congress.

Scientific papers were presented on a wide range of topics in the areas of Food Security, Small Animal Medicine, Equine Medicine, Poultry Diseases and Food Animal Medicine. Special presentations were also made by the President of the CVA and the Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at UWI. The Scientific papers presented by the CVA sponsored speakers Drs. Jillella, Cooper and Spangler were very informative and well received. Their topics were "Embryo Transfer", "Risk Management and Disease Control" and "New Species for sustainable Food Production" among others.

A round table discussion on the theme of the Congress was held. Panelists included Dr. McLean (President, GVA), Dr. Pryor (President, CVA), Dr. Whittingham (Jamaica), Dr. Surajbally (Guyana), Dr. Cooper (U.K.) among others. Matters raised at this forum contributed to the declaration, which will serve as a blueprint for the veterinary profession in the region in the 21st century.

At the closing ceremony, Dr. Ptolemy Reid (Guyana), Dr. Steve Bennett (Trinidad) and Dr. Cuthbert Padmore (formerly of Grenada now teaching at Tuskegee University) were all honoured for their long and outstanding service to the profession in the region.

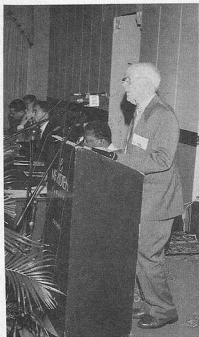
The CbVMA held a meeting during the Congress. It was here decided that Jamaica will host the next Congress in the year 2000.

The CVA also held a meeting during the Congress

It focused, in the main, on the location of the PCVC3. Several countries expressed an interest in hosting this Congress. A list of criteria to be met by countries so interested was distributed to Council members for further discussion with their respective associations.

Tours were made available to Guyana's pristine Eco centres on the final day of the Congress, and many participants availed themselves of this unique opportunity to experience and bask in some of the hidden beauty of the "land of many waters".

Based on the current feedback and our own evaluation the Congress was a success.



CVA President Dr. Pryor brings greetings from CVA at the official Opening



*CbVMA Conference, Guyana,
Official Opening*

CbVMA President, Dr. Mark Trotman addresses participants L- R- Dr. Steve Surujbally, Special Assistant to the Minister, Sir Shridath Ramphal, Keynote Speaker, Dr. Nicholas McLean, President Guyana Veterinary Association, Minister of Fisheries, Crops & Livestock Hon Satydeow Sawh, Dr. Bill Pryor, CVA President Dr. Lennox Applewaite, Chief Crops & Livestock Officer.



Dr. Nicholas McLean, welcomes participants on behalf of his association. Note CVA flag in background.

Intravenous Human Immunoglobulin for the Treatment of Immune - Mediated Haemolytic Anaemia in 13 Dogs

Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVGG) was administered to 13 of 37 dogs with immune mediated haemolytic anaemia. All dogs received concurrent prednisone therapy, 14 dogs received cyclophosphamide; and a single dog received cyclosporin, azathioprine, and danazol. Dogs that responded to prednisone therapy without IVGG generally did so within 7 days (mean \pm standard deviation = 5.6 \pm 2.9 days). Intravenous immunoglobulin was administered after 10.4 \pm 6.6 days of prednisone therapy as an intravenous infusion of 0.5g/kg (range 0.25 to 0.73 g/kg). Eleven dogs received a single treatment; two dogs each received two treatments. No relevant adverse effects

were noted. Eleven dogs, had an increase in PCV of at least 4%, 2.2 \pm 21.5 days after IVGG infusion. In 10 of these dogs, the PCV continued to increase until the time of hospital discharge. One responder died one hour after the increase in PCV, one dog was euthanised within 24 hours of IVGG administration, and one dog had no response over a period of 13 days. Results of this study suggest that IVGG therapy may be of value in dogs with immune-mediated haemolytic anaemia that do not respond within seven days of appropriate corticosteroid therapy.

Kellerman, D.L & Bruyette, D.S. (1997) *J Vet Intern Med* 11 : 327.

Opening Address by Sir Shridath Ramphal

(L- R) Minister of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock, Mr. Satyadeow Sawh, Dr. Bill Pryor, Dr. Applewhite and Sir Shridath Ramphal.



(L-R) Dr. Steve Surujbally, Dr. Bill Pryor, Hon Satydeow Sawh, Sir Shridath Ramphal, Dr. Mark Trotman after Official Opening



Planning for the Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference

The Executive Committee at its Bangalore meeting resolved that the Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference (PCVC3) would be held in the Caribbean in the year 2002.

The member associations in the Caribbean Region have been invited to host this conference. Following the Guyana Conference of the CbVMA the President was able to visit two countries, Trinidad and Jamaica which are highly likely to be interested in hosting the Third PCVC. There are expected to be others.

In Trinidad, the Regional Representative and CVA Councillor, Dr Val Mohabir arranged a tour of possible venues and other facets of life in Trinidad. A tour of the University of the West Indies Veterinary School was hosted by the Acting Dean Professor Eziokoli and showed the new facilities there. One of the staff, Dr Richard Benjamin also took the President to see some of the sites of Trinidad including possible tour routes. Dr Mohabir introduced the President to the President and leading officials of the Trinidad Turf Club and later a dinner hosted by the Trinidad & Tobago Veterinary Association permitted him to have discussions with its Executive Committee members. He found it very pleasing to meet such a young and vigorous group prepared to take responsibility for leading their profession. Dr Pryor regretted not having had time to visit the island of Tobago.

In Jamaica, the President of the JVMA Dr Michael Whittingham with the assistance of Dr Keith Amiel, had arranged an itinerary whereby the CVA councillor, Dr Dingle Foote, took the visitors on a three day tour of Jamaica, meeting veterinarians in the field, studying possible conference venues, and tour routes and meeting practical cattle farmers, visiting a horse stud and meeting executives of a meat processing plant.

Dr Pryor was heard to say later that the dedication of Dr Foote to this chore was unique and greatly appreciated even if he had not understood that the citizens of Jamaica appear to function on less than five hours sleep per night. The tour virtually covered the whole of Jamaica and included a visit to the Veterinary Laboratory where Dr George Grant is Director, to the Phoenix Veterinary practice with JVMA Secretary, Dr Sarah Eyle, the Kingston Zoo and a reception with the Executive and members of the JVMA.

In retrospect the President concluded that both these countries could mount a strong case to host the Third PCVC and that the Executive Committee await formal bids and particularly the views of all Councillors of the Caribbean before taking a final decision.

Prevalence And Risk Factors For Odontoclastic Resorptive Lesions In Cats

The aim was to determine prevalence of, and risk factors for, odontoclastic resorptive lesions in cats seen in a private veterinary practice population. Cats (145, < one year old) were evaluated under anaesthesia for odontoclastic resorptive lesions. Lesions were graded, using a published classification system. Clients completed a standardised survey on signalment, indoor- outdoor status, medications, diet during the past year, number of daily feedings, treat feedings, source of water, and oral hygiene practices. Forty eight percent of cats had resorptive lesions. Lesions were most commonly mandibular, and premolars were more often affected. Compared with cats without oral lesions, cats with oral lesions were more likely to be older, female, taking medications, drinking city (vs. well) water, and playing less often with toys. In addition, cats without oral lesions were more likely to have owners who cleaned their teeth daily or twice a week and to be fed diets with higher magnesium, calcium, phosphorus, and potassium contents. Frequency of teeth cleaning was inversely related to the development of odontoclastic resorptive lesions. Variables significantly associated with oral lesions were age and magnesium content of diet.

Older cats should be examined closely for odontoclastic resorptive lesions. Clients should be advised on methods and frequency of teeth cleaning in cats to prevent lesions. Dietary nutrients may play a role in the development of odontoclastic resorptive lesions in cats. Lund, E.M. et al (1998) *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 212: 392.

Nosocomial Transmission of Cryptosporidium In a Veterinary Hospital

An outbreak of cryptosporidiosis is occurred at a veterinary hospital, involving multiple species, including humans. The index case was an infected dairy calf that presented with diarrhoea. Several other cases of cryptosporidial diarrhoea subsequently developed during a one-month period. The key features of this outbreak were the multiple species affected, the increased morbidity in immunocompromised neonates, and the failure of implemented control measures to contain the disease. KONKLE, DM et al (1997) *J Vet Intern Med* 11:340



*Dr. Steven Bennett - Trinidad Dr. Val Mohabir - Regional Rep (Caribbean Canada) Dr. Bill Pryor - President
At the Guyana Congress*

Dr. Lennox Applewaite, Sir Shridath Ramphal, Dr. Ptolemy Reid , (former Prime Minister of Guyana), Prof John Cooper after Official Opening



Reception of Guyana, President at State House, Georgetown L-R : Ms. Catherine Mc Cann (St. Lucia) talking with President Janet Jagan also Dr & Mrs Cooper (U.K.)



Prof John Cooper gives impromptu seminar as he examines injured Harpy Eagle.

(L-R) : Dr. Dolly Semple, Dr. Karen Pilgrim, Dr. Maxine Parris - Aaron, Dr. Veronica Burnham, CVA Councillor Guyana, women veterinarian members of organising committee

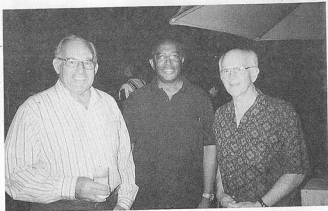


Reception by President of Guyana Mrs. Cheddi Jagan

Dr. & Mrs Pryor, Dr. Patricia Barrow - Smart of Tobago.

Dr. Gus Reader, CVA Councillor Barbados (partially hidden)

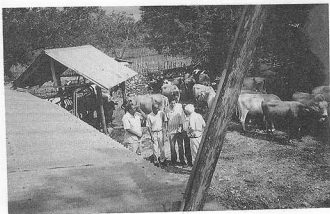
Visit of President CVA to the Carribean



The President Dr. W. J. Pryor after attending the Canada Caribbean Meeting at Guyana visited Jamaica and had meetings with the Veterinarians and Office bearers of Jamaica Veterinary Association.

The President meets with members of the Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association L-R Dr. Gerry Alexander (former test Cricketer), Dr. Keith Amiel, (former RR Canada Caribbean), Dr. Pryor, President

Meeting Country vets and inspecting Edwards Dairy in rural Jamaica. L-R Mr. Edwards Jnr., Dr. Booth, Mrs Edwards, Dr. Thorpe, the President, Dr. Foote, CVA Councillor



Visit with Dr. Foote to Wright's Farm to see herd of Jamaican Hope and Jamaican Red Cattle.

East, Central and Southern Africa

Books For Africa



The Veterinary Science Library of the University of Pretoria (Academic Information Centre) runs a book and journal donation project entitled 'Vet books For Africa'. A voluntary group of senior veterinary students from Onderstepoort are undertaking the mammoth task of travelling through Africa to transport these

donated journals and text books to other southern African veterinary faculties during December 1998 and January 1999.

Books for Africa is a combined effort of the Onderstepoort veterinary students, the International Veterinary Student Association (IVSA) and the Onderstepoort Academic Information Centre. It is a charity project that enables local students to foster international links and brings much needed help in the way of books and equipment to needy African countries.

The project was started in 1993 with a donation of books to the Veterinary University of Zambia. It gained momentum in 1994 when veterinarians from around the world attending the World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress in Durban, South Africa, were asked to bring a few books with them in their hand luggage to donate to the project. Thereafter, the American Veterinary Journal, JAVMA, mentioned this project in December 1995 and further offers of books and journals were received.

The Veterinary Academic Information Centre regularly receives duplicate copies of the latest veterinary journals and textbooks donated by private practitioners, both locally and abroad. A complete list compiled with all the duplicate journal issues and is sent to other southern African veterinary faculties, such as Maputo in Mozambique, Harare in Zimbabwe, Lusaka in Zambia and Morogoro in Tanzania. Request lists are then received and the duplicate journals and textbooks are packaged.

The project then entails the delivery of these veterinary journals, textbooks and equipment to veterinary facilities in southern Africa. The trip is to take place during December 1998 and January 1999. The exact route has

not yet been finalised but the plan is to drive to Mozambique to visit the faculty in Maputo and then to Zimbabwe to visit the faculty in Harare. Thereafter, the group will visit Lusaka and Morogoro and then home again. This will provide the Onderstepoort students with an once in a lifetime opportunity to meet and interact with veterinary students and lecturers of other southern African veterinary faculties.

The success of the trip is entirely dependent on the sponsorship received from both private and corporate industries. Any form of sponsorship, in the form of financial support, food vouchers etc. is at this stage required and will be greatly appreciated. The biggest problem will be the mode of transport. The group require two vehicles, preferably bakkies, in order to manage the amount of equipment and books that have to be transported.

Any surplus funds will be donated to appropriate wildlife charities such as Worldwide Fund for Nature, Animal Rehabilitation Centre (ARC) and the Rhino and Elephant Foundation (REF).

For further details contact : The project coordinators, Edward Evans and Robyn Morris, at Books for Africa, Academic Information Centre, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Private Bag X04, Onderstepoort, 0110 or on tel : (012) 529 - 8009 or fax : (012) 529 - 8302 or Email : bfafrica@opl.up.ac.za

■ Human Erythropoietin As An Aid To Blood Banking For Dogs

The potential value of recombinant human erythropoietin (rhEPO) as an adjuvant in the banking of blood for autotransfusion was assessed in 12 normal adult dogs. Each dog gave three donations of 10 ml/kg of blood on days 7, 10 and 14, and on these days and on days 0 and 3, four of them were given saline, four received 4.1 mg of iron as iron chondroitin sulphate and four received 4.1 mg of iron and 600 µg/kg of rhEPO. The haematocrit of this last group remained virtually unchanged where as the haematocrits of the other two groups of dogs decreased from approximately 50 per cent to approximately 41 per cent in 14 days. It was concluded that rhEPO would be valuable adjuvant in the banking of blood for autotransfusion in dogs.

Suzuki, K (1998) *Veterinary Journal* 155, 239.

MAURITIUS

Reversing The Decline Of Dairy Farming In Mauritius

Dr. Adrian Rhodes

International Expert in AI, Mauritius.

The Republic of Mauritius is a highly populated island in the Southern Indian Ocean with 1.2 million people living on a land area 50 km x 60 km. Sugar production from sugarcane is by far the biggest user of productive land. Sugar accounts for approximately 50% of export income, the industry employs 60 - 70 thousand people and is the country's largest employer.

There are approximately 2000 dairy farmers scattered throughout the villages, each typically owning 1- 2 dairy cows. The animals are kept in corrugated iron or concrete sheds behind the family home. Milk from the cows is sold locally as fresh milk or is used by the extended family. The female head of the family manages the majority of the cows and the sale of milk is normally supplementary income. This income is important in that in many cases it is the only discretionary income available to the female head of the family. Fodder for the dairy animals is cut and carried from the cane fields mainly by the women folk. This diet is supplemented with dairy concentrate rations, which is subsidised by the state.

The number of small dairy farmers has decreased substantially over the last 20 years. Although there are many socio - economic reasons for this decline, the remaining farmers tend to blame this decline on the Government Veterinary Services inability to get their cows in calf through artificial insemination (A.I). Because most cows are kept in very small numbers in urban areas, it is impractical and uneconomical to keep bulls for natural mating. The small dairy breeders are virtually completely dependent on the Government AI service to get their cows in calf and thus maintain the viability of their dairy units.

At the request of the Mauritian Government, the Commonwealth Secretariat has sponsored Dr. Adrian Rhodes, a veterinary expert in artificial breeding from New Zealand to assist the Division of Veterinary Services to "Re-establish the Mauritian AI Industry on a sound footing". The goal is to halt and in time to reverse the trend of decreasing cow numbers in the country. Dr. Rhodes is ideally suited for the role. He is a veterinarian with a PhD. in applied reproduction. For ten years, he managed the technical operation of the New Zealand Dairy Board's Artificial breeding service, regarded as one of not the most technically advanced AI centres in the world. Dr. Rhodes has also a wide experience in assisting with the development of artificial breeding services in countries as far as India, Poland, Indonesia and Mongolia.

To achieve the projects objective on an ongoing basis, Dr. Rhodes has developed a team approach with an overall emphasis Total Quality Management "TQM" at all levels. At a strategic planning session, a vision of 'one cow', one calf per year through artificial insemination' was agreed upon. Seven teams were put together to work on seven key objectives identified at the planning session. The key objectives, which really apply to all struggling AI organisations are:

- Develop a National Breeding Scheme
- Train AI technicians to a high standard
- Approve for use only high quality frozen semen
- Foster a customer focused culture throughout the AI service
- Upgrade IT (information transfer) systems
- Efficiently utilise resources (staff, buildings, transport etc.)

Enhance the fertility of individual cows.

Dr. Rhodes found that when working through the myriad of issues with the seven teams, it became obvious that in many instances to reach the above objectives and thus the overall vision, there needed to be a change in the structure of the organisation and redefining of staff roles. Based on the recommendation of Dr. Rhodes, the 15 district veterinary sub officers have been reduced to four regions with four regional centres. At the same time, there has been a very significant decentralisation and delegation to the new Regional Teams. In the recent past, virtually all the reproductive work in the field was being carried out by technicians. Now there is a regional team approach with veterinary officers being responsible for such things as pregnancy diagnosis, infertility investigations and overall coordination of the services. The improvement in self esteem through a team approach and empowerment at all levels is obvious to all. Through happy productive staff focused on meeting their customer needs, Dr. Rhodes maintains Mauritius will end up with happy satisfied farmers.

Once the main recommendation from the teams are implemented, Dr. Rhodes has confidence that as a customer focused high quality service emerges, there will be a significant reversal in public perception of the Government Veterinary Service, including AI service in Mauritius.

Mauritius Veterinary Association Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Mauritius Veterinary Association held at the Gold Crest Hotel - Quatre Bornes on the 31st August 1998, a new executive committee was elected to serve the Association for session 98/99. The following were elected :

Chairman :	Dr D. Meenowa
Secretary :	Dr. V.B. Groodoyal
Treasurer :	Dr. T Boodhoo
Ex Members :	Dr. K Narrainapouille Dr. M.R. Jaumally
CVA Councillor :	Dr. V.B. Groodoyal

New RR For ECS Africa Region



Dr. M.R. Jaumally (40) has been elected as Regional Representative of ECS Africa. He succeeds Dr. Msolla. At the ECS regional meeting held on July 31st 1998 at Hotel PML Azur, Prof Bath, Council Member (South Africa) proposed Dr. Jaumally and was seconded by Dr. Pandey (Zambia).

Dr. Jaumally graduated from Bombay Veterinary College, Bombay, India in 1982 and joined Mauritius Veterinary Services as technical Officer in Dairy Extension. He was appointed as Veterinary Officer in 1987. He has worked in various diagnostic sections of the Animal Health Laboratory and is presently responsible for virology section and the production of poultry vaccines. Dr. Jaumally has had post graduate training in Virology in France and Diagnostic techniques in virology in Japan. He has many scientific papers to his credit.

He has been very active in the Mauritius Veterinary Association and later on as Council Member of Mauritius Veterinary Association and later on as Council Member of Mauritius to the CVA. As the Organising Secretary for the second International Conference at Mauritius he has shown his organisational capabilities which have been appreciated by all the members who attended the conference. Under his dynamic leadership, the ECS African Region will lead in CVA activities and achieve the goals which have been laid out by the CVA for the region.

A New Flag For Seychelles

Seychelles has a new national flag, as well as a new national anthem. The flag was adopted in June 1996 to celebrate the new constitution of the Third Republic. The five oblique bands radiating from the bottom of the hoist represent the sky and the sea (blue), the sun (yellow), the people and their determination to work in unity (red), social justice and harmony (white) and the land (green). The new national anthem is *Koste Seselwa* (Come Together Seychellois)

New Regional Representative Of West Africa

Dr. Duto S. Fofana Council Member, the Gambia has been elected as Regional Representative West Africa. He replaces Dr. E.B.M. Koney of West Africa

New Council Member of Uganda

Dr. John Ogwal - Okot has been unanimously elected at the Annual General Meeting of Uganda Veterinary Association held on 25th September, 1998 as Council member of Uganda. He replaces Dr. John Mukibi.

■ Familial Cutaneous Vasculopathy and Demodicosis in a German Shepherd Dog

A two-month-old female German Shepherd was presented with a history of ulcerated central pads of all four feet. On physical examination, the footpads were swollen, soft and ulcerated. On the nasal planum there was a partially depigmented nodule. Multiple biopsies were taken from the cutaneous lesions and histological examination revealed focal collagen degeneration and vasculitis. A diagnosis of familial cutaneous vasculopathy was made. Seven months later the nasal nodule had disappeared and the footpads were still swollen but non-ulcerated. At this time, the dog manifested a generalised pustular demodicosis.

FONDATI, A et al (1998) *J Am Anim Pract* 39:137

ZANZIBAR

The Giant Tortoises of Changuu, Zanzibar - An Update

A recent visit to Zanzibar by a group from Britain has permitted health monitoring to be carried out on the giant tortoises (*Geochelone gigantea*) of Changuu Island. The team, which was led by Professor John E. Cooper, included two veterinary students, Sarah Hewitt and Isobel McBurney, and a biologist, Janet Kirk, as well as Mohammed Ayoub Haji, Director of Zala Park, and representatives from other organisations in Zanzibar and Tanzania. Some of the costs of the visit were covered by a grant from the British Chelonia Group (BCG) and donations from individual herpetologists in U.K. and elsewhere.

Tortoises at liberty on Changuu and in isolation on the main island of Zanzibar were examined clinically and samples were taken for laboratory examination. Analysis of findings is still in progress but preliminary results make it likely that most of the animals on Zanzibar will be able to move to Changuu in the near future, making way for, other, confiscated giant tortoises to be brought across from the mainland of East Africa. At present there are 17 adult animals and 27 hatchlings on Changuu and 50 immatures in isolation on Zanzibar.

The health monitoring programme is complementary to other work that has been carried out on Changuu since the plight of its giant tortoises was first highlighted in 1996. The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), through its Regional Manager for Africa, Mr. Mike Pugh, has spearheaded and funded the establishment of secure areas on Changuu, including a "Nursery" where young tortoises will be kept and reared after hatching. WSPA has also been active in promoting educational and publicity measures. The SIT (School for International Training) has played a key part in the veterinary care of the giant tortoises, this being organised formerly by Dr. Meredith Kennedy and now by Dr. Dennis Doughty. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Sokoine University of Agriculture has supplemented this with laboratory investigations under the direction of Professor Gabriel Mbassa. The whole programme has been co-ordinated by Mr. Andrew Katema of the Zanzibar Tourist Corporation.

Although the giant tortoises are not an endangered species, their protection and conservation on Changuu is of importance. The population is a small, isolated, one with an excellent history of breeding. It offers opportunities for scientific study and has already helped in the development and refinement of health monitoring techniques for chelonians. Last, but not the least, the giant tortoises of

Changuu play a key part in tourism as well as providing an ideal focus for Zanzibar's conservation education programme.

The future for this isolated population of giant tortoises appears to be considerably brighter than it was in 1996, but much remains to be done if these animals are not to continue to be poached or to be at risk from introduced diseases. At the same time, as measures to counter these threats are underway, deliberations are planned as to whether Changuu Island might be developed as a centre for wildlife research, such as initiative running in parallel with the ongoing tourism programme. Despite its small size (the island is less than a kilometre in length), Changuu has a remarkably rich fauna and flora, however, most of these plants and animals, some indigenous and some introduced, have not been censused or studied. The establishment and development of a research centre would, provide opportunities for fruitful collaboration between expatriate and Tanzanian scientists and students. The proposal is an ambitious one that will need approval by the authorities and time to implement; it could, however, mark a new and exciting era in the history of Changuu Island.

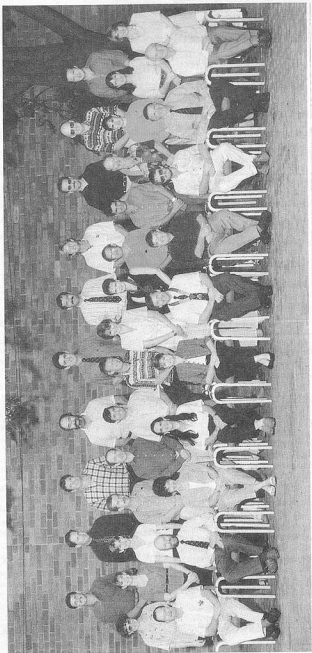
- John Cooper

■ Phonocardiographic Analysis Of Aortic Stenosis In Dogs

Thirty five boxers with ejection type murmurs were used to investigate the relationships between the intensity and duration of the murmur, the time to its peak intensity, its frequency components, and the degree of aortic stenosis. Measurements were made with a phonocardiograph and compared with the results of auscultation and Doppler echocardiography. Both the intensity of the murmur assessed by auscultation, and its duration, expressed as a percentage of systole, were correlated with aortic flow velocity ($P < 0.001$), independent of heart rate. Dogs with early systolic murmurs not exceeding 50 percent of systole had aortic flow velocities of less than 1.5 m/second and no echocardiographic abnormalities, in contrast with dogs with longer murmurs. Dogs with only high frequency components had lower aortic velocities than dogs which also had medium frequency components. Phonocardiography was a more objective technique than auscultation for identifying moderate and severe aortic stenosis.

Kvart, C. French, A.T., Luis Fuentes, V., Haggstrom, J., Dukes Mcewan, J & Schober, K.E. (1998) Journal of Small Animal Practice 39, 318.

South African Veterinary Association Federal Councillors And Vet House Staff - 1998



Back row - Johan Kahis, Gary Bauer, Paul Kloock, Paul Bosman, Gerhard Gillomee, Robin Lindo, Garry Eckertsey, Alan Kloock, Barrie Pentzorn, Danie Ootendaal

Middle row - Quixi Sonntag, Marianne More O' Ferrall, Berndt, Gail v Blerk, Koos vd Berg, Ewald Jooste, Gerry Swan, Joseph v Heerden, Ms. Linda Nel, Mrs. Lusaun Horak, Matt Ekron, Evangelos Nicholas, Brian Corcoran, Mrs. Mia vd Merwe, Ray Joppe, Mrs. Helen Bleasdale

Front row - Glynn Catton, Morkel Turblanche, Mary - Louise Penrith, Jane Pistorius, Mrs Kathy Harpur, Anthony Erasmus (President), Budgie Perchman (Vice President), Ken Schmidt, Brough Coubrough, Rudolph Bigalke

West Africa

Ghana

Executive Committee Members of Ghana Veterinary Medical Association

The 24th Congress and Annual General Meeting was held recently to elect the Executive committee for a period of 2 years. The office bearers are as follows :

President	: Dr. V.T.K. Agbell
Vice President	: Dr. Mensah Agyen - Frimpong
Secretary	: Dr. K.B. Darkwa
Asst. Secretary	: Dr. Joyce Dontwi
Treasurer	: Dr. Helena Aquah

Regional Representatives :

Greater Acara Region	: Dr. Richard Suu-ire
Western Region	: Dr. H.I. Koray
Central Region	: Dr. Eleblu
Volta Region	: Dr. E. Doodoo
Eastern Region	: Dr. Schandorf
Ashanti Region	: Dr. Adam
Northern Region	: Dr. Adda
Brong - Ahafo Region	: Dr. Yiadom Boakye
Upper West Region	: Dr. Mark Hansen
Upper East Region	: Dr. Otsyng

New Regional Representative Of West Africa

In September 1998, Dr. EBM Koney (Ghana) completed his term as Regional Representative for West Africa. He has been succeeded by Dr. Duto S Fofana of the Gambia for a four year term.

Dr. Fofana graduated from Kiev University in 1979 with the degrees of DVM and MSc. and has subsequently carried out post - graduate studies at the University of Edinburgh for an MSc. (Tropical Veterinary Science) and at the University of Reading (UK).

After graduation he was employed as a government veterinary officer in The Gambia until 1987 when he was seconded to the International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC) in Banjul. He has worked in the field within the Livestock Development Project which is part of the Centre's research on the productivity of trypanotolerant livestock.

He is also station manager of one of the ITC's field stations. Dr. Fofana is a past Secretary of the Gambia Veterinary Association and in his new role will be working with CVA Councillors in Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana and Sierra Leone. Discussions are projected with the Nigerian Veterinary Association on its possible return to CVA membership consequent on Nigeria's expected return to the Commonwealth.

Feline Chronic Renal Failure : Calcium Homeostasis in 80 Cases Diagnosed Between 1992 and 1995

Eighty cats with chronic renal failure (CRF) were evaluated in a prospective study to investigate the prevalence and aetiopathogenesis of renal secondary hyperparathyroidism (RHPTH), using routine plasma biochemistry and assays of parathyroid hormone (PTH), blood ionised calcium and 1,25 dihydroxycholecalciferol (1,25(OH)₂D₃). Hyperparathyroidism was a frequent sequela of CRF, affecting 84% of cats with CRF, the severity and prevalence of RHPTH increasing with the degree of renal dysfunction. Compared with an age-matched control population, plasma concentrations of phosphate and PTH were significantly higher and 1,25(OH)₂D₃ concentrations were significantly lower in the two groups of cats presenting with clinical signs of CRF. Significant ionised hypocalcaemia was present number of cats were hyperparathyroid in the absence of abnormalities in the parameters of calcium homeostasis measured in this study. There was a significant correlation between plasma phosphate and PTH concentrations.

BARBER, PJ & ELLIOTT, J (1998) *J Am Anim Pract* 39:108

Women Vets Of Commonwealth

The CVA News will be featuring series of articles on notable women veterinarians of the Commonwealth - The following is the first of the series.

New Zealand

Susan Morris -

Current President of the New Zealand Veterinary Association

by Dr. Derek Timbs -
CVA Coucillor, New Zealand

When Susan Morris graduated from Massey University in the early 1980's with a bachelor's degree in veterinary science, women were in the minority at the veterinary faculty.

Now there are more female than male graduates from the same programme, a trend echoed in other science courses, medical and dental schools throughout New Zealand.



Based in Alexandra in Central Otago, Susan is not only working in the traditionally male dominated veterinary profession, but she is also active in promotion and advocacy on behalf of the profession. She is currently president of the New Zealand Veterinary Association, the third woman in the history of the profession to be elected to this position.

It is a long way from Auckland city where Susan grew up, to the crisp winters and scorching summers of Central Otago, but she has no qualms about her life in rural New Zealand where she divides her time between her mixed animal practice and family life with husband Ben and children James, Helen and Sarah.

After training at Massey, Susan moved to a practice at Gisborne where she gained experience in large animal medicine. Later she moved to Hamilton where she worked in the fledgling goat industry. After that it was a series of locum jobs around the country and when husband Ben started working for the National Institutes of Water and Atmosphere Research Station at Launder, 35 kilometres away from Alexandra, the family relocated south.

With Sarah having recently turned five, the demands of young children are still very much a reality. The ability to juggle these various responsibilities is due to creating an adaptable lifestyle.

Family responsibility is one thing but as the

president of the New Zealand Veterinary Association Susan takes a certain amount of responsibility for the image and welfare of the profession as a whole. She became a vet because the challenges of science and working with animals. But she says the industry is changing, incorporating a wider sphere than what is traditional for vets.

Prior to her tenure as president of the NZVA, Susan authored a study for the association on the gender balance of vets in New Zealand and the balance is heading more the way of female vets. But what of attitudes? Are farmers as receptive to her veterinary advice as they would be to a male vet?

"I have personally never come up against sexism from farmers, in this area or any other. I have occasionally been criticized over a professional matter but that doesn't have anything to do with gender. Farmers as a group have to be relatively forward thinking and have seen a lot of changes in the past few years. It's interesting that 40 percent of farmers have access to the internet, I think this shows they are adaptable to new attitudes and practices."

Combining family commitments, a demanding job and a representative role is something Susan Morris makes look simple.

Induction of Onion-Induced Haemolytic Anaemia in Dogs With Sodium n-propylthiosulphate

The haemolytic effect of sodium n-propylthiosulphate, which had been isolated from boiled onions, was studied to determine whether it could be one of the agents responsible for induced haemolytic anaemia in dogs. The oral administration of 500 $\mu\text{mol/kg}$ bodyweight of the compound to dogs resulted in a haemolytic anaemia associated with an increase of Heinz body formation in erythrocytes, which was more severe in dogs with the hereditary condition which results in erythrocytes with high concentrations of reduced glutathione and potassium than in normal dogs. In the affected dogs there was a 10 fold increase in the concentration of oxidised glutathione in their erythrocytes 12 hours after the administration of the compound, whereas in normal dogs there was almost no change. Yamato, O et al (1998) Vet Rec 142: 216

Jamaica

Marjorie Pronger

by Dr. Dingle Foote -
CVA Coucillor, Jamaica

Born and spent early years at Annadale- a beef cattle property in St Ann Jamaica Attended School in England and returned to enjoy life at Annadale riding horses.

Became interested in cattle breeding. There being no veterinarians in the area learned to treat minor ailments of livestock on the farm and for neighbours. Married and decided she would like to become a Veterinary Surgeon. Thanks to a cooperative and understanding husband they left Jamaica where she attended Glasgow Veterinary College from 1946-1951 spending vacations seeing practice and working at a farm and riding horses.

After graduating in 1951 returned to live in Trelawny, Jamaica and worked for some time with the J.S.P.C.A in Browns Town in a very mixed practice and learning the problems of farmers. Had one daughter. Joined the Government Veterinary Service as Veterinary Officer based in Trelawny. Later became Regional Veterinary Officer for the Western Region of Jamaica.

Government work involved livestock disease eradication and control; External and Internal parasites and Blackleg disease being the main problems. The chief work however was providing a clinical service for farmers which was subsidized by Government as there were few veterinarians in the Country.

Took part in the island wide T.B. and Brucellosis eradication programme.

Further Studies

I. Spent 3 months in South America studying foot and mouth disease at the Aflose Centre at R.O Grand du Son in Brazil

- Tick borne diseases of Cattle and Horses in Paraguay.

- Studying Zoonotic diseases in Argentina.

II. Spent 6 weeks in USA studying Tuberculosis and Brucellosis eradication control and quarantine measures at Kennedy Airport and seaports M.Y.state Ames, Iowa, Tennessee and Texas which include the Screw worm eradication programme.

III. Refresher course in clinical work at Glasgow Veterinary College.

Special Interests

Breeding of Beef Cattle- attended Beef Cattle courses at University of Gainesville, Florida with Trelawny Beef Farmers

Chairman of Hargue Show Livestock Committee.

Hobbies

Horseback riding, swimming, spectator sports, especially horse events, tennis, cricket, football.

Now 99.9% retired

● Prevalence And Risk Factors For Odontoclastic Resorptive Lesions In Cats

The aim was to determine prevalence of, and risk factors for, odontoclastic resorptive lesions in cats seen in a private veterinary practice population. Cats (145, < one year old) were evaluated under anesthesia for odontoclastic resorptive lesions. Lesions were graded, using a published classification system. Clients completed a standardised survey on signalment, indoor-outdoor status, medications, diet during the past year, number of daily feedings, treat feedings, source of water, and oral hygiene practices. Forty eight percent of cats had resorptive lesions. Lesions were most commonly mandibular, and premolars were more often affected. Compared with cats without oral lesions, cats with oral lesions were more likely to be older, female, taking medications, drinking city (vs. well) water, and playing less often with toys. In addition, cats without oral lesions were more likely to have owners who cleaned their teeth daily or twice a week and to be fed diets with higher magnesium, calcium, phosphorous, and potassium contents. Frequency of teeth cleaning was inversely related to the development of odontoclastic resorptive lesions. Variables significantly associated with oral lesions were age and magnesium content of diet.

Older cats should be examined closely for odontoclastic resorptive lesions. Clients should be advised on methods and frequency of teeth cleaning in cats to prevent lesions. Dietary nutrients may play a role in the development of odontoclastic resorptive lesions in cats.

Lund, E.M. et al (1998) J Am Vet Med Assoc
212: 392.

Zimbabwe

*Unesu Ushewokunze Obatolu,
Deputy Director of Veterinary
Services, Zimbabwe*



Zimbabwean women only started to enter training as veterinarians in the mid seventies. My search through reviews and interviews seems

to indicate that I was one of the pathfinders. Of course I was not the first woman veterinarian to work in Zimbabwe. There were others, mainly coming from Europe to work in the country as private clinicians. This pattern was the same for most other professions because Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia/ Southern Rhodesia) was occupied in various forms by Britain as a colony between 1890 and 1965. Colonial rule practically lasted until 1980 with the difference that, between 1965 and 1980, a local group of European descendants had taken siege in spite of the wishes of the British Government to accommodate the local nationalists. Colonial rule had the effect of emphasising the place of women as second class citizens and therefore entry into professions like Veterinary Medicine was anathema.

This is different from the position in the local traditional culture in which the practice of medicine is a spiritual gift which can be given to both men and women without bias. The differences in some of the aspects of delivery between the two systems probably explain the assumption that society made about the non-suitability of women for the "Western concept" of Veterinary Medicine- in the traditional culture, surgery is hardly practised. Secondly therapies are usually effected by invocation of spiritual forces and the use of mainly herbal medicines. This lightens the physical demand on the part of the traditional service provider in which case gender bias are invalid.

While I cannot attribute my entry into the profession to any significant experience I had with animals, nor to spiritualism, nor to any role player (as I had neither met ... nor spoken to one), I had a natural love for the subject of Biology and was fascinated by cattle. Dogs and cats were always part of the household although they were never accepted indoors. Then of course many young school pupils of my time who showed any promise in school were assumed to be most suitable for human medicine, never mind the importance of creativity in other natural sciences! My parents, both of them teachers were not different in this respect, except that they encouraged both girls and boys equally.

As I was sworn not to have the courage to enter human medical school, the next great thing I could do was to take up veterinary studies. I am glad I did because I later realised how important Veterinary services are to livestock production, an important industry both for export of dairy products and meat, one of the biggest foreign income earners for my country. It could also appease my society's quest for greater number of "doctors" by addressing public health issues and help them relate human and animal medicine in ways they could more easily understand from a regulatory point of view. I also realised the importance of livestock as a mainstay for most small-holder producers who make up about 70% of the total population depending particularly on cattle for cultivation, milk, manure and other products. It is estimated that the majority (66%) of small-holder producer population are women who also own some of the livestock both large and small, in their own right, in our largely patrilineal culture.

I see my obligation as a woman veterinarian being to ensure that the interests of women in my society as producers and processors of animal-related products are addressed. Women need to have access to the scientific knowledge and technologies which can enhance optimal production and safe management of animals and their products as important protein rich food sources in order to improve the livelihoods of their families and promote public health. Of equal importance is a need to support small-holder entry into mainstream commercial production and marketing. The greater challenge is to enhance their competitiveness in a free market. Fortunately our current government is supportive, we now have to work hard to realise this vision.

In my present role as a manager of government veterinary research, at the level of a Deputy Director of Veterinary Services I have studied, reviewed and presented such issues affecting women for the attention of policy makers and programme managers. I hope as pathfinder I have been a good role model.

The need for development oriented veterinary medicine remains great and I see one of the ways to address the challenge being to increase the number of women in the profession with the hope that more and more will focus on this need.

Women veterinarians in Zimbabwe have been increasing gradually particularly as our government policies since 1980 have emphasised the advancement of women in all spheres- In 1991 they constituted 20%, and a recent review showed that the proportion may now be surpassing 30%. The main challenge for women veterinarians is to carefully balance family and career particularly in the earlier years of entry into the profession.

South Africa

by Dr. G. Bath -
CVA Coucillon, S. Africa

Prior to the eighties the number of woman allowed to study veterinary science was kept at an artificially very low level. In spite of this, many woman have risen to prominence in the profession and it can now be predicted that they will be followed by many more. This is borne out by the number of woman students (8) who were awarded the premier Theiler medal over the past 15 years. It is always invidious to select just some names from a long list of deserving veterinarians, and I apologise for any oversights which may be found.

Academic Field

The doyenne is, without a doubt, Professor Malie Smuts. She was the fifth woman to graduate as a veterinarian in South Africa, and received the Theiler medal as best graduating student in 1954. Malie was also the first woman appointed as a lecturer in Veterinary Science (1979), the first woman to be awarded a veterinary doctorate (DVMSc 1976) and the first woman to be made Head of a Department (Anatomy 1982 - 1986). She is co-author of the definitive work on the anatomy of the Dromedary (1986) and has received 2 awards (1989 & 1992) for the best tertiary educational videos. Malie produced several scientific publications and conference papers and has worked on both veterinary and anatomical associations. She still keeps active with many hobbies, including writing children's stories.

Other notable colleagues in this field include Ingrid Wolleschak, who was the vital spirit who established and developed the course for Veterinary nursing. Cheryl McCrindle started in private practice, went on to obtain a Ph.D. and is breaking new ground with service to disadvantaged communities. She is also a frequent writer on veterinary matters and served her Association for many years. Claire Marshall has achieved prominence as a veterinary dermatologist while Shirley Yeats has in the field of companion animal medicine and a long list of publications to her credit. She serves with distinction as editor of the journal of the South African Veterinary Association.

Public Sector

Emil Mgaiane was not only the first black woman to qualify in south Africa, but also is the first woman to fill the post of Director of Animal Health and serves on a long list of committees.

Adele Faul was the first woman to serve as a deputy Director and is still active in the import/export sector.

Industry

The first woman to serve in a Pharmaceutical position was Susan Corning, and Rose Peter became the first woman chairperson of this group. Katja Bier serves as chairperson of the SAVA's Public Relations, committee, while Linda Makuleni is the pioneer black woman in this sector.

Private Practice

Large numbers of excellent women serve in this sector, so just a few are mentioned. Vera Amos was probably the first woman in small animal practice in South Africa, while Mariana Thomson played a similar role in equines and L ente van der Merwe in farm animals. There are many more who render excellent service in these fields.

Associations

Apart from those already mentioned, an increasing number of women are taking up leadership positions. Examples are Rae Jeppe (the first to serve on the SAVA's Federal Council), Jane Pistorius, Quixie Sonntag and Marianne Berndt.

Others

Although not veterinarians, the following have distinguished themselves in research in veterinary science. Francis Gilchrist (rumen physiology), Ann Verster (internal parasites), Gertrude Theiler and Jane Walker (external parasites) and Tammi Krecek (parasites and socio-economics).

■ Extraskelatal Osteosarcomas in Dogs : A retrospective Study of 169 Cases (1986 - 1996)

Extraskelatal osteosarcomas (EOSs) are rare tumours that arise in various soft - tissue sites (e.g. gastrointestinal tract, subcutaneous tissue, spleen, liver, skin, kidney, urinary bladder, muscle, thyroid gland, eye and mammary glands). Soft tissue osteosarcomas (STOs) occur in older dogs with no sex predilection; Beagles and Rottweilers are at the highest risk. Mammary gland osteosarcomas (MGOs) occur in older females; mixed breed dogs. German Shepherds and Miniature Poodles are at the highest risk. The median survival time for cases with STO was 26 days, and the major cause of death was local recurrence (92%). The median survival time for cases with MGO was 90 days, and the major cause of death was pulmonary metastasis (62.5%).

Landenbach, A *et al* (1998) *J. Am Anim Hosp. Assoc.* 34 : 113.

Canada

Diane McKelvey

by Dr. Alex McIssac - Wawota
Veterinary Services, Wawota, S.K. Canada

Dr. Diane McKelvey graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1975 with honors in Chemistry and Biology and earned a Bachelor of Science degree. She went on to graduate with Great Distinction from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 1980 with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. She presently resides with her husband and two children in Kamloops and she works at a small animal practice - Kamloops Veterinary Clinic.

Dr. McKelvey has been very deserving of the awards she has received. First proficiency, Medicine, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, 1980; Class Valedictorian, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, 1980, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association President's Award 1993, Excel award in Continuing Education, American Animal Hospital Association, 1990 and Veterinarian of the Year, Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, 1995.

While working at Central College, with the Veterinary Technology Program (1988 - 1994) Dr. McKelvey was responsible for coordinating the continuing education and distance education programs and preparation of course materials. She was also involved in teaching laboratory and lecture courses to animal health technology students. Practical veterinary care was also a part of her workday.

DR. Mc Kelvey works very hard at her profession and has been very involved in putting together such publications as :

WHMIS and Veterinary Hospital Safety and Biomedical waste.

Transport of Dangerous Goods Legislation

New Developments in the Transportation of Dangerous goods.

Halothane, Isoflurane and Methoxythurance, Veterinary Technician

Use of Diazepam in veterinary medicine, Veterinary Technician

New Developments in Anesthesia and Analgesia, Veterinary Technician

Microbiology and Biochemistry (distance education courses)

Anesthetic Emergencies, Medical Emergencies and Practical Bacteriology (continuing education courses)

Hospital Safety Manual (distance course, Alberta and BC edition)

Hospital Safety Manual (distance courses, Ontario edition)

Small Animal Anesthesia (textbook)

Safety Handbook for Veterinary Hospital Staff, American Animal Hospital Association, Scheduled for publication 1999.

Some of her recent activities at the national level currently include such positions as President, OVMA, 1993, Chair, Legislation Committee, OVMA, 1991- 1992, Chair, Biomedical waste Committee, CVMA, 1992 - 1993; Member, CVMA National Issues Committee, 1995 - present, Chair CVMA National Issues Committee, 1997 - 98; Member, CVMA Task Force on the Future of Veterinary Medicine, 1996 - 98, and member WHMIS Biomedical Waste Working Group, 1995 - Present. Dr. McKelvey has never been afraid of getting involved in issues that she believes in. You will see regular reports in the Canadian Veterinary Journal outlining the work of these committees.

Dr. McKelvey is a very popular speaker and renowned for her keen interest in the profession. Not only is she an expert in her field but she is a very interesting person and a delight to meet.

When inquiries were made about a possible candidate to be featured in this section of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association News, Dr. McKelvey's name immediately came to mind. Hats off to a very capable professional and a wonderful person.

■ Skeletal Metastasis In Feline Mammary Carcinoma : Case Report And Literature Review

Despite the highly malignant nature of feline mammary carcinoma, few cases of skeletal metastasis have been reported. In this paper, a case of feline mammary carcinoma with skeletal metastasis to a distal limb is presented. The pertinent literature on feline mammary carcinoma and bone measures is reviewed. Although the metastases of carcinomas in dogs and humans usually exhibit a proximal skeletal distribution, cats are more likely to develop distal extremity lesions. Clinicians need to have an index of suspicion that skeletal metastases may be responsible for lameness in elderly cats. Further investigation of the comparative aspects of bone metastases in cats and other species may elucidate the factors that regulate the development of skeletal metastases.

Waters, DJ et al (1998) J Am Anim Hosp Assoc. 34 : 103.

General Articles

OIE Strengthens Links With Vet Bodies World wide

- Dr. Gardner Murray

Commonwealth Chief Veterinary Officer, Australia



The 66th General Session of the International Committee of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held in Paris from May 25 - 29 this year.

Delegations from 123 countries participated in the General session, reflecting the importance of this international organisation. The Director General reported on OIE key activities achievements over the last, indicating that there had been an emphasis on information (development of a Web site and the HandiSTATUS computer program). The development of standards applicable to international trade through the publication of OIE standards, the holding of joint seminars with WTO and the adoption of a program for the harmonisation of veterinary drug registration were also priority activities.

Actions had also been undertaken or continued with a view to strengthening cooperation with veterinary services world wide. This included the continuation of the foot and mouth disease control program in south - east Asia, along with consultations given by OIE specialists to help in the control of a number of diseases in several other countries.

Other OIE achievements in the past 12 months include :

- ◆ approval by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) of the agreement between the WTO and the OIE.
- ◆ the development of standards for the evaluation of veterinary services.
- ◆ the establishment of an OIE Regional Representation for the Americas.
- ◆ the updating of the OIE standard texts on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.
- ◆ improvement of the surveillance and control of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.
- ◆ improvement of the surveillance and control of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.
- ◆ improvement of the surveillance and prophylaxis systems for fish diseases.
- ◆ strengthening of regional co-operation in Africa,

particularly in the area of harmonisation of veterinary medicines.

The General Session acknowledged the importance of strengthening veterinary services through restructuring and the participation of the private sector, as a key presentation topic. The strengthening of veterinary services was recognised as a key element in the operation of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the WTO which led to a reexamination of the health principles governing trade in animals and animal products. Where official veterinary services are the only protagonists involved in animal health activities, their effectiveness is often hampered by excessive administrative centralisation, and coordination with other social sectors and institutions is generally poor.

The world trend is towards a reduced role for the State as a service provider, hence the need to seek new models for animal health organisations. Solutions that involve giving access to new social players, especially from the private sector, appear to be very attractive because these players generally have a strong capacity to mobilise social, political and financial resources. These new models transfer animal health activities to a geographical micro area consisting of local communities in which the community shares the problems and interests of the livestock sector.

A questionnaire was circulated to 151 member countries and it showed that there is a wide range of approaches and strategies for organising social participation in animal health issues. Most countries have adopted an official policy that aims to involve the livestock farming community in health management. Such participation can range from simple consultation or ad-hoc collaboration with livestock farmers or private veterinarians, to the full participation of the community in all of the health processes.

It was stressed that training in participation is fundamental to this process because it allows the members of the community to become key players in a teaching and learning process that has its origins in day - to day practice, and it confers on individuals the necessary qualifications to initiate and promote changes in the health situation.

Another key area of discussion was the use of forecasting systems using the laboratory and epidemiology to prevent outbreaks of existing and emerging diseases.

The meeting endorsed a number of new and revised International Animal Health Codes :

- ◆ Animal Pathogens
- ◆ Anthrax
- ◆ Aujeszky's disease
- ◆ Leptospirosis
- ◆ Old World screw worm

- ◆ Equine embryos/ova
- ◆ Embryos and ova from cervids and South American camelids
- ◆ Zoonoses transmissible from non human primates
- ◆ Risk analysis for veterinary biologicals
- ◆ Bovine Spongiform encephalopathy

The bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) code was again the most controversial. After a protracted debate lasting two sessions and a substantial rewrite over two days, an amended code was adopted.

- Australian Vet J, 76 : July 1998, p. 510

Epizootic Threat Continues Through 1997

The International Office of Epizootics (OIE) has called for the close study of the role of wild animals, especially migratory species, in conserving or disseminating pathogens, and the consequences for the health of domestic animals. The OIE has also said that a distinction needs to be made, within the context of international trade, between diseases that remain strictly limited to wild, non captive species, and species that are liable to contaminate livestock.

As well as the economic threat posed by animal diseases, there is also a more direct threat to humans. A number of wildlife pathogens transmissible to humans posed a particular threat during 1997. In the U.S., investigations were carried out to explain the presence of the bacterium, *Escherichia coli* O 157 :H7, in dried meat preparations made from American deer. Studies have confirmed that this enterobacillus, which is particularly dangerous to humans, could sometimes be found in the intestine or faeces of healthy deer. However, it has not been possible to isolate the bacterium in the muscle of carrier animals. If the results of this first study were to prove true in general, it would mean that the meat was contaminated at the time the game was prepared in the field. Hygienic handling of the carcass should therefore prevent meat contamination.

Also in the US, the OIE points to chronic wasting disease of the cervids (a spongiform encephalopathy), which has been identified among captive wapiti in Dakota and Nebraska. These two states are remote from a known outbreak of the disease, which occurred at the border between Colorado and Wyoming. The origin of these new cases appears to be linked to a period when the affected animals were kept on ranches located outside the above-mentioned two states, where the disease had already been reported.

During the winter of 1997 - 1998, seven chamois from the Valley d' Aosta, Italy, were reported to be suffering from a new disease, causing nervous symptoms. Laboratory studies suggested a possible arbovirus infection : tick meningo - encephalitis. The presence of the virus had never before been reported in this region. Also in Europe, another disease that seriously threatens human health.

Echinococcus hydatid disease (multilocularis) appears to be more widespread than previously thought. The fact that the parasite is found in areas where it has never before been identified, suggests that either its distribution area has expanded, or there has been a change in human activities favouring its communication from foxes to humans.

Tuberculosis is still a major problem among buffaloes and kudu in the Kruger National Park (South Africa), as well as among lions feeding from their carcasses.

The OIE also reports that cases of rabies have been reported among fruit eating bats sold in Europe. It would appear that the animals are silent carriers of the rabies virus, which could be dangerous to the people breeding them.

A number of diseases affecting only animals has also been identified by the OIE as being significant during 1997. Amongst diseases reported to the OIE last year was Aujeszky's disease in dogs in France. Eight dogs died last winter after having contracted the disease during wild boar hunts. Similar cases had already been reported, in Europe and the US, but never in such great numbers and over such a short period of time.

In Florida, it was discovered that ticks from the *Amblyomma marmoratum* species had been introduced via imports of turtles from Seychelles. This resulted in a public outcry. The tick is alleged to be the reservoir of heartwater, an exotic disease hitherto unknown in the U.S. Several hundred thousand reptiles enter the U.S. every year, nearly one third of which are infested with ticks. Even though this international trade is regulated, there is no quarantine measures for such animals. Plans for regulation are therefore under examination.

In Mauritania, around two - thirds of the last known colony of monk seals died suddenly between May and July 1997. This colony alone represented half of the remaining survivors of this species, which live on beaches and in the underwater caves of the Mediterranean. Various hypotheses could explain the aetiology of the reported new disease : it could be caused by a toxin from a seaweed, or from a morbillivirus, related to that previously identified in dolphins.

In South Africa, and now in Zimbabwe, the cause of floppy trunk syndrome among adult bull elephants remains a mystery. Two affected elephants have been with radio collars in order to monitor the clinical progression of the syndrome more effectively.

During the OIE's 66th annual session, held in Paris, delegates were reminded of how rinderpest spread to the Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions of Tanzania at the beginning of the year, having spread from Kenya. By contrast, several West African countries declared themselves "provisionally free" from rinderpest in 1997. In the rest of the world, only Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the Yemen reported the presence of the disease in their regions.

More than four million pigs were slaughtered in Taipei, Taiwan, because of foot and mouth disease. This resulted in financial losses of more than \$ 2 billion (Animal Pharm No 374, p14). During the annual session, the Brazilian states of Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul

were added to the list of regions free from FMD with vaccination (Animal Pharm No 399, p 11), as was El Salvador. An area of Botswana was declared FMD - free without vaccination. However, despite successes in the fight against FMD, problems remain. The emergence of hitherto unknown variants of the serotype A virus is causing concern in Asia and Europe as existing vaccines give poor protection against these strains.

Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia continued to be a major concern in Africa, with the exception of North Africa. The disease entered Zambia in April 1997. However, it was successfully eradicated in Botswana. In the rest of the world, only Bangladesh, Pakistan, Portugal and Qatar reported the presence of the disease in their regions.

Classical Swine Fever (CSF) has made a spectacular comeback worldwide. Following the introduction of infected pigs into Costa Rica, the country experienced 17 outbreaks of the disease in 1997. In the Dominican Republic, the disease, which was first identified in the border zone with Haiti, then spread to other regions of the country. In Mexico, there was an increase in the number of reported outbreaks in 1997 due to the strengthening of surveillance in the still infected zones, whereas the number decreased in Cuba. In September 1997, for the first time, Indonesia reported the appearance of CSF, in the province of East Timor (Animal Pharm No 385, p 15). The disease was also reported in pigs in numerous western and central European countries, and in some cases, among wild boar.

.....Avian Influenza In Hong Kong

During the second quarter of 1997, three outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza were reported in Hong Kong. In this region, 18 human cases of influenza were attributed to a strain of the serotype H5N1 influenza virus, which had hitherto been isolated only in birds (Animal Pharm No 387, p 21)

- Animal Pharm No. 401, 1998

■ Elimination of *S. intermedius* from healthy dogs with topical fusidic acid.

The populations of *Staphylococcus intermedius* on the skin and mucosal surfaces of six healthy beagles were measured before and after they were treated with fusidic acid. One drop of a 1 per cent viscous ophthalmic preparation was applied into each eye and each nostril, and a small amount was also applied into the anus and vulva, twice a day for seven days. The overall cutaneous and mucosal populations of *S. intermedius* had decreased significantly by two days after the last

treatment, but whereas the mucosal populations remained lower for a further week the cutaneous populations had returned to pretreatment levels. There were no comparable degrees in a group of untreated beagles. The results indicate how important the mucosae are for the carriage of *S. intermedius* in dogs, and suggest that fusidic acid may be useful in the treatment of recurrent pyoderma.

Saijonmaa - Koulumies, L., Parsons, E., & Llyod, D.H. (1998) Journal of Small Animal Practice 39, 341.

Where There Is No Veterinarian

From the balcony of my office I could see a hen leading a convoy of single coloured, 8 - 10 day old chicks that chipped excitedly as they walked in a flood of the Monday morning sunlight. The brown hen kept calling her chicks as she headed purposefully towards a nearby compost heap to scrounge for food: "One - two - three", the hen scratched the ground; "coo - coo - coo", continued the caring hen which found time in between meals to take a thorough sandbath and preen her plumage methodically.

Fifty meters away, a beautifully - coloured cock crowed and an assorted flock of hens acknowledged daddy's presence with soprano and respect as they conducted the business for the day almost in unison. "One - two - three"; they attacked the ground, then peck, pause and suspiciously check the sky. "One - two - three"; peck, pause and again check the sky. Occasionally, the cock would decoy one of his concubines to share a meal with him, but then suddenly changed his mind and romantically chased the hen over the compost heap, through an old open drum, around a lantana bush before she succumbed. Afterwards the cock sealed the deal by performing an impromptu, ritual dance round the hen.

Perched high on top of a tall Acacia tree was a black - flawn eagle which watched the movements of the brood of chicks with averse interest, turning its big head left and right; as its moist, round, smiling eyes rolled 360°. The upper beak was curved over the lower one. The eagle yawned, looked left then right. Ceremoniously it unclasped its semi circular claws, swiftly swooped down, expertly snatched its prey and graciously landed back at its safe sentinel post. Rather belatedly (but appropriate), the cock shouted at everybody to take cover. Oblivious of the resultant pandemonium, the eagle settled down to its breakfast without bothering to kill its prey first. Starting from the abdomen, it extracted a long loop of intestines, lifted its head and swallowed effortlessly. It corked its head, looked left then right, and extracted another mouthful of internal organs from the now quiet prey.

The phone rang through the direct line

Caller : Can I speak to Pikinini please.

Veterinarian : Pardon me.

Caller : Please Can I speak to Pikinini.

Veterinarian : I think you dialled the wrong number.

Caller : Is that the Veterinary Department?

Veterinarian : Yes, that is correct.

Caller : Let me have Pikinini on the line.

Veterinarian : There is none by that name here.

Caller : Oh, I mean the black veterinarian.

The former head of the station, a white colleague, had died 12 months earlier thereby creating a promotional vacancy for an indigenous head. The largely white farming community continued to address post - independent blacks using pre colonial appellations and pseudonyms.

Veterinarian : Can I help you?

Caller : One of my Pikinini neighbours has a problem with his cows. What drug can he inject ?

Veterinarian : What is wrong with his cow?

Caller : I donot know. Pikinini came to my house and informed me that his cow is sick.

Veterinarian : Where is the cow?

Caller : (almost shouting) At Pikinini's house.

Veterinarian : Where are you calling from?

Caller : What has that got tot do with the sick cow?

Veterinarian : Since I cannot talk to your neighbour, and you do not know what the cow is suffering from, I want to come and see the animal myself, Mr. Eh - eh.

Caller : Oh, of course, how stupid of me! Can you really come out doctor?

Veterinarian : Yes, Mr. Eh - eh.

Caller : Mr. McFallowish. Come straight along Nyamandlova road and you will see Pikinini standing by the side of the road at 52 km peg.

Surprisingly, for the first time in many weeks the Mazda B16 bucky's ignition started after misfiring only once. Its whole body rattled ominously as if shaking with fear. Despite that the exhaust fumes were darker than smoke of burning coal, the turbo, was commendable for a government vehicle in its prime : 15 years old. The drive was uneventful.

Mr. Cheziya, who could have been a contender in the Guinness book of records for being short, was standing right at the 52km peg. He was relieved to see the ubiquitous, monotonously painted vehicle rattling, squeaking and belching smoke. He looked stone faced and down hearted. Mr Cheziya must have been standing there for some time because he skipped the usually long Zimbabwean greeting formalities and instead tried in vain to describe the signs the sick animal was displaying. He was clear and emphatic in saying : "the cow is sick doctor". So I tried history taking, praying that the answers would be at least reliable.

Veterinarian : How many animals do you have ?

Client : One cow is sick.

Veterinarians : What type of animals do you keep?

Client : Rosemary got sick on Friday .

Veterinarian : What was the first sign you saw?

Client : No animal has died.

Veterinarian : How long have you been keeping cattle ?

Client : Rosemary was donated by Heifer Project International (HPI).

Mr. Cheziya was definitely not deaf. He was probably too forward, and determined to chart the course of the conversation. I gave up. We drove in silence, bouncing alternately in our poorly padded seats like two loonies. We pretended to cough; otherwise occasionally we yawned. The dusty road rose and fell, twisted and turned, sometimes it reduced itself to a footpath crossing creeks, streams and vleis before we reached the homestead.

When we arrived it became apparent that the family were beginners in small scale dairy farming, the proud owners of 1^{1/2} herd of the holstein - friesian cattle which had certainly improved their financial, personal and social status. The family gathered sorrowfully round Rosemary lying on lateral recumbency as if she had given up hope, will and desire to live. Roselyn did not look happy either, as she witnessed the deterioration of her mother's health. Mrs. Cheziya who was either the *de facto* owner or the manager of the family project had other thoughts, she was determined to try and save Rosemary.

Since the conversation with Mr. Cheziya failed to yield any fruits, I deliberately directed my questions towards Mrs. Cheziya who was both knowledgeable and precise. However, like any learner, she did not grasp everything, e.g. how and what to use to treat haemoporozean parasites.

Veterinarian : What is wrong with the cow?

Mrs. Cheziy : Rosemary is passing foul, smelling, dark brown faeces.

Veterinarian : When did you notice this first ?

Mrs. Cheziya : On Wednesday last week. Rosemary produced 6 litres of milk instead of 10.

Veterinarian : What did you do?

Mrs. Cheziya : I went to see the agricultural extension worker on Sunday and he gave me a *muti* (drug) to use.

Veterinarian : What *muti* did he give you?

Mrs. Cheziya : I will show you the piece of paper on which he wrote the name of the *muti*.

Veterinarian : How did you administer the *muti*?

Mrs. Cheziya : I mixed the *muti* with water and drenched the cow.

Veterinarian : Is there any improvement since you treated it?

Mrs. Cheziya : No, Rosemary is becoming worse. That is why we called you doctor.

Veterinarian : What did you use to treat the wound above the back part of the udder.

Mrs. Cheziya : We ground old batteries, wetted the powder and used it to massage the wound.

Veterinarian : Why are tears coming out of her eyes?

Mrs. Cheziya : Rosemary was developing white eyes so we ground shell of a snail and put the powder in both eyes.

In many countries in the world, the livestock owners who require basic professional assistance are the beginners, cooperatives and small scale dairy or beef farmers. But where there is no veterinarian, livestock owners resort to crude intervention or rely on the evergreen traditional medicine. However the combination of depositing ground snail shell grit in the eyes (to treat ophthalmia), massaging a raw wound with pulverized torch batteries and drenching with triatix (Amitraz) dip wash was the least Rosemary bargained for. She could not have been expected to withstand all that assault. Yet Mrs. Cheziya in her desperation was hopeful the veterinarian could save Rosemary and the Family Dairy Project.

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■ Vincristine Therapy for Mast Cell Tumours in Dogs

Twenty seven dogs with naturally occurring mast cell tumours were treated with weekly IV injections of vincristine (0.75 mg/m²) for four treatments. Two dogs (7%) had a partial response. Nine dogs (32%) had treatment stopped prematurely because of toxicity or a perceived deterioration in their quality of life. We conclude that vincristine is ineffective as a sole treatment for measurable mast cell tumours in dogs and produces an undesirable number of adverse reactions.

McCaw DL. *et al* (1997). J. Vet. Intern Med 11: 375.

THE EVILS THAT PETS DO

When my wife decided to call our newly-acquired puppy Skobby Doo, the family institution lost its equilibrium. The instability which resulted almost attracted the fervent interest of marriage guidance counsellors. To my mind, Skobby Doo was a name good enough for a cadaver which has no known cause of death. I shifted ground when I watched a certain SKOBBY DOO on a TV series. Not only was SKOBBY DOO, a super actor, he communicated very well. In English. So, the name of our new family member was commissioned Skobby Doo.

Skobby Doo, fondly referred to as SD, turned out to be not as bad as the name sounded. At a prime age of 3 months, he promised to be cute, rich beige and a bundle of energy. In place of a tail he had a stump. Today, at just under 2 years, his baritone bark scares neighbourhood dogs. His love for children is immense, he is generally obedient but his welcome-home hug disregards pull-over socks or ironed trousers of any colour. Many of his attributes are tarnished by a handful of unacceptable behaviour comparable to Mrs. Bigbottom's pinscher that takes territorial marking so seriously that it urinates on visitors legs. However, SD's behaviour is not as bad as a Gutu district dog which was reported to the radio veterinarian because it behaved like a baboon, eating baby corn in the fields!

Looking back to yesteryears, I used to get distraught when a pensioner came into my office leading a seemingly, obedient, unsuspecting, well-fed, bright-eyed, immaculately groomed dog on leash.

" Doctor put this dog to sleep. He digs holes on the lawn. He has ruined my home and is driving me crazy!"

If you turn the pair away, what will you prescribe for the "crazy owner"? As you very well know, advising the client to acquire another dog may be a recipe for double trouble. What then will you do? Put the innocent dog to sleep and gain a few dollars, or you spare the dog's life and use your 200 mg/ml pentobarbitone sodium on relatively more deserving cases? What would you prescribe for this dog's unacceptable behaviour. Cats too have a fair share of hair-raising misdemeanors.

Imagine a tabby which chooses to poo on the lounge suite instead of using a sand box conveniently placed near the cat hole. It is devastating that when you come back from a very long, not-particularly interesting day's work, the first mishap you encounter in the comfort of your own home is to sit on moist, pasty, feline bowel contents. Nor is it amusing to see a tabby sharpening its nails on the carpet which you have just hire-purchased at

a departmental chain store. That is why Mr. and Mrs. Tombstone were disagreeing on the best form of punishment for their cat which was spraying urine on their furniture and the french door. Mrs. Tombstone preferred to put the cat to sleep. Mr. Tombstone sought advice from the veterinarian.

In my case, I cannot defend SD's acquired or innate or irrational behaviour.

When I tend to the vegetable or flower garden, SD gives me an impression that he is paying attention to the latest developments in gardening; lying as he does in front of the hoe, eyes wide open and watching every movement I make. Next day, I will become livid with anger to find out that while we were asleep, SD was busy imitating what I was doing during the day but then, digging out vegetables or flowers and leaving wet soil full of sheep manure strewn in all directions. As I inspect the damage, SD would follow close to my near side occasionally looking sideways at me, as if he would be asking: "how well did I perform"? I will look back at SD honestly saying: "you performed so well, that you deserve to be put down because of this: is bad behaviour which merits scorn, by both animal and human standards"

At the time we acquired SD, we made it abundantly clear to him that playing indoors is a taboo. There is no misunderstanding there. But either in protest or sheer coincidence SD made up his mind that the best place to site his cloakroom is on the foreground in front of the steps leading into the kitchen or on top of cabbage heads. What a disaster. It is a shame that at a time you become contented that you have successfully, trained your dog or cat, that is when unacceptable behaviour rears its ugly head. You may say chewing shoes bought on Valentine's day or eviscerating your granddaughter's teddy bear are trivial things which do not warrant euthanasia. But, as long as dogs and cats and other incorrigible pets do not pull themselves together, majority will be destined to a hastened departure to eternity assisted by yours faithfully client-driven veterinarians, in the absence of pragmatic ethologists.

Ethologists, gurus of animal behaviour, have a way of icing the cake when it comes to ethograms. They classify behaviours into more than eight types and go on to provide diagnostic definitions to match different types of behaviour:

1. Agonistic behaviour
2. Allelomimetic behaviour

3. Care-giving behaviour
4. Care-seeking behaviour
5. Comfort-seeking behaviour
6. Eliminative behaviour
7. Behaviour associated with prehension
8. Investigatory behaviour
9. Relaxation behaviour
10. Behaviour associated with reproduction

If SD is not digging in the garden or flower beds, he pulls all the laundry from the washing line as a hobby, and drags it on the ground. Maybe in dog's world that is how they do their laundry who cares. But if they think that is how they assist humans, they are likely to be put down as well. In addition to this hobby, SD has also managed to exterminate, for one reason or another, all cats in the neighbourhood. Annoyingly SD appears to think that he is doing me a big favour! That is not all. Try, as I may I fail to classify SD's progression of behavioural patterns.

Moving with changing times, SD has taken gender issues a step further; he bites only female visitors irrespective of age, creed or configuration. After committing this crime SD is neither apologetic nor contrite. In fact when he sees female visitors he becomes disobedient, disregards rebukes and seems to derive earnest ecstasy when the unsuspecting guest jumps, screams and curses. This has reached an embarrassing crescendo. Is this an inevitable reward for naming a dog SKOBBY DOO ?

But then what is in a name? Or are these just the evils that pets do?

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Renal Calculi In Dogs And Cats : Prevalence, Mineral Type, Breed, Age, And Gender Interrelationships (1981 - 1993)

Three hundred and seventeen specimens of urinary calculi of renal origin from 214 female dogs and 103 male dogs, and 71 specimens of urinary calculi of renal origin from 38 female cats and 33 male cats were submitted for mineral analysis between 1 July 1981 and 31 December 1993. Among dogs, 45 breeds were affected with renal calculi. Thirty three breeds and a cross bred group were represented among females, but eight breeds and the crossbred group accounted for 81% of the total. Among male dogs, 30 breeds and a crossbred group were represented, but seven breeds and the crossbred accounted for 60% of the total. Among cats, 10 breeds and a crossbred group were represented. Dogs and cats with renal calculi were older than those of two comparison population groups. More than one-half of the renal calculi in both dogs and cats was from the first known episode of urolithiasis. The risk of formation of renal calculi was found to be higher for cats than for dogs, when compared to other stone forming cats and dogs (approximately 4.95 per 100 stone forming cats and 2.28 per 100 stone forming dogs). Among dogs, breeds at highest risk of developing renal calculi were Miniature Schnauzers, Shih Tzus, Lhasa Aposos, Yorkshire Terriers and female pugs. Also at high risk were male Dalmatians and male Basset Hounds. Among small dogs, females generally were at higher risk of developing renal calculi than were males.

Regardless of size, terrier breed males generally were at higher risk of developing renal calculi. Breeds of dogs at low risk for development of renal calculi included crossbreds, German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and female Dachshunds. When only one kidney was involved, the risk of left renal calculus was greatest for both dogs and cats, but bilateral renal involvement was relatively common in both species (19% and 9% respectively). Among dogs, specimens composed of one mineral substance (e.g. struvite) occurred more often in males (58.3%) than in females (37.9%). Female dogs formed renal calculi containing struvite or oxalate more often than did males, males formed calculi containing urate more often than did females. Calculi containing oxalate, apatite or some combination of these minerals predominated among cats- only one specimen from 38 female cats and only four specimens from 33 cats contained neither oxalate nor apatite. Crossbred cats were significantly less likely to have renal calculi than other breeds. A single renal calculus specimen was identified in several uncommon breeds, including Tonkinese and Birman cats, and Affenpinscher, Clumber Spaniel, English Shepherd and Field Spaniel dogs. No significant differences were observed between male and female dogs or between male and female cats with regard to mineral type of the specimen and the presence of urinary tract infection. Ling, G V *et al* (1998) J Vet Intern Med 12 : 11.

Titbits

Flowers May Disable HIV Virus

Among the numerous research projects involving animals, chemicals and mineral to combat acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), the latest research involves the woodland flower known as the blue bell, common in the UK.

Colin Reynolds from John Moores University, Liverpool, north west England, and Pierre Rizkallah from the nearby Daresbury Laboratory at Warrington, Cheshire, have discovered that a protein found in the bluebells and other common plants may inhibit the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

The team used the technique of protein crystallography to investigate the structure of a family of proteins known as lectins. Found in plants, particularly bulbs such as bluebells and daffodils, lectins play an active role in defending the plant against pathogens and predators. They bind specifically to sugars; the family of lectins in question bind to sugar, mannose.

Complex mannose sugars are found on the outer coat of the HIV. The virus uses them to seek out and bind to the body's immune cells. If these sugars were occupied by bound lectins, the virus would be disabled. But lectins are very allergenic and so could not be administered internally.

The team is now working towards identifying that specific part of the protein that binds the sugar. This research is one of a number of projects supported by the UK's Central Laboratory of the Research Councils (CLRC) which spends 100 million pounds annually, providing facilities for some 12,000 scientists from all over the world to pursue their investigations.

The CLRC maintains facilities at three sites in the U.K.. The research ranges from studying what lies inside the components of atoms to exploring the vastness of space.

For more information contact : Colin Reynolds, Bio - Molecule Department, John Moores University, James Parsons Building, Byrom Street, Liverpool L3 3AF, United Kingdom. Tel : 151 231 2121 Fax: 151 708 7030.

Did You Know ?

The history of the antithrombotic agents - aspirin, heparin, warfarin, and the thrombolytics - is a rich and lively odyssey of serendipity, perseverance, vision, and conflict involving a number of striking personalities. The history of aspirin spans ages and continents, from Hippocrates' analgesic for women in labour to the rediscovery of the white willow bark by the English country scholar Reverend Edward Stone. Bayer chemist Felix Hoffmann reinvented aspirin for his ailing father; suburban physician L.L. Craven pioneered the prophylactic antithrombotic uses of aspirin; and Sir John Vane elucidated aspirin's mechanism of action as the inhibition of prostaglandin synthetase. Heparin was discovered by McLean, working as a medical student in 1915 in search of a pure procoagulant in dog liver. His original impure material differed somewhat from today's heparin, but purified heparin was rapidly accepted for a myriad of clinical uses; to this day, diverse new properties of this complex glycosaminoglycan continue to be elucidated. The oral anticoagulants emerged from veterinary research in the 1920s on a haemorrhagic disorder afflicting cattle that consumed spoiled sweet clover hay. Several chance encounters led Karl Link and his University of Wisconsin team to the identification of dicumarol as the offending agent in 1939 and its widespread therapeutic use by Wright and others in the 1940s. Link later developed Warfarin as a rodenticide, but its therapeutic use in humans soon followed in the 1950s. Vitamin K was discovered in the 1930s. Its involvement in the mechanism of the anticoagulant agents was not delineated until the 1970s. The intrinsic ability of clotted blood to liquefy and the fibrinolytic properties of normal urine were noted in the 1800s. Tillet and Sherry's group stumbled on the fibrinolytic properties of streptokinase in the 1930s and pioneered the therapeutic use of streptokinase in the 1940s and of urokinase in the 1960s. Several teams found tissue - type plasminogen activator in various body sites beginning in the 1940s, leading to its cloning and widespread use in the 1980s; anisoylated plasminogen - streptokinase activator complex is an example of rational drug design. The discoverers of these diverse agents have not only provided physicians with a potent armamentarium of antithrombotic drugs but also helped elucidate much basic science and vividly demonstrated the merits of perseverance, independent thought, and adherence to the scientific method. Mueller, R & Scheidt, S (1994) *Circulation* 89 : 432.

Note : The advances in the use of nitric oxide, a current intensely studied research vasodilator, was first "discovered" by veterinary researchers elucidating the bovine penile erectile mechanism.

Abstracts

■ Bacteria Translocating From The Intestine In Dogs

The intestines of healthy animals harbour multitudes of potentially harmful bacteria, which are prevented from translocating into the circulation by the functional barrier of the intestinal epithelium. This barrier may break down because of immunosuppression, ischaemia, endotoxins, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, starvation and a number of other conditions. As these factors are partly the same as those that predispose to septicaemia, translocating bacteria have been suspected to have a role in bacterial (especially Gram - negative) sepsis, multiple organ failure and abscessation.

Researchers from the University of California - Davis investigated the identity and quality of bacteria translocating to mesenteric lymph nodes of healthy dogs. They cultured lymph nodes, periportal blood and portal blood from 50 dogs undergoing ovariohysterectomy. Bacteria were found in the lymph nodes of about half of the dogs. The genera included variable numbers of many Gram - positive and Gram - negative species but only two obligate anaerobic species. One sample of periportal blood contained two types of bacteria. All samples of portal blood were sterile, which does not exclude the possibility of episodic portal bacteraemia.

Pending more research, the authors do not consider that this study indicates that culturing mesenteric lymph nodes is a useful clinical tool in predicting bacteraemia, in high risk surgical patients for instance. While intestinal bacteria have been implicated in canine septicaemia, translocating bacteria are rarely responsible for post operative infections in human studies. Prevalence and identity of translocating bacteria in healthy dogs. *J Vet Intern Med* 1997 11: 319.

Dahlinger J Marks SL, Hirsh D.C.

■ Hospice : Expanding Animal Care Options

Clients may request hospice care for their animals since increasing numbers of them have experienced human hospice care directly or indirectly. Hospice treats the patient and family as a unit, so the extended family will have contacts with hospice nurses, chaplains, social workers and volunteers. Bereavement counselling and support is usually provided to the survivors for a year after the patient's death.

The hospice philosophies of caring for dying people

offer much food for thought regarding their application to veterinary medicine.

Human hospice care is an alternative to hospitals, "icons of sterility and technology." Hospice seeks to help people deal with all the pain of terminal illness, including the spiritual, psychological, social and financial aspects. Hospice care is aimed at bringing closure, reconciliation and growth to the end of life. Most hospice care occurs in the patient's home, allowing the patient to be surrounded by family, friends and pets.

Why would hospice care for pets be important? For the client, visits to the animal treated in the hospital might be excessive or burdensome. In cases where diagnostic and treatment efforts will not improve the quality of the patient's life, hospice care is an alternative.

Some policies to follow before initiating hospice care are agreement between the family and veterinarian about the life limiting disorder, a desire by the family for hospice care, and diagnostic evidence that further work-up won't improve the quality of life. The next step is a plan of care. This plan is devised with owner/ family participation. It describes the expected outcomes, lists problems, and determines how they will be prioritised and managed in the home under veterinarian care and supervision.

Hancock, G. (1998) *Canine Pract* (1988) 23 :1.

■ Evaluation of a Multidrug Chemotherapy Protocol (ACOPA II) in dogs with Lymphoma

A Chemotherapeutic protocol using cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone, doxorubicin and L- asparaginase (ACOPA II) was evaluated in dogs with lymphoma. The response rate for 68 dogs treated with ACOPA II (complete remission (CR) 65%, Partial remission (PR) 10% was lower than that for 41 dogs treated with a related protocol previously evaluated (ACOPA I; CR 76%, PR 12%). Initial treatment with doxorubicin and prednisone did not decrease the prevalence or severity of toxicity during induction. The mortality during induction was 22%. The median duration of CR for dogs treated with ACOPA II was nine months, with 40% still in remission at one year and 21% at two years. The rate of CR was lower for dogs with signs of illness at presentation (substage b) and for dogs weighing less than 15kg. age was negatively correlated with survival time and duration of remission. Dogs with immunoblastic lymphoma had a more favourable prognosis than did those with lymphoblastic lymphoma. Survival times were also longer for dogs in substage a at presentation. Seven dogs in which treatment was discontinued while in remission had a comparable remission duration to that achieved by dogs receiving long term maintenance chemotherapy. MYERS, NC et al (1997) *J Vet Intern Med* 11 :333

CALENDER**1999**

The Sixth International Colloquium on Paratuberculosis, University of Melbourne, Australia, 14 - 18 February, 1999.

BSAVA, Birmingham, U.K. 8 - 11 April, 1999.

CVA Joint Regional Meeting for ECS Africa and Kenya Veterinary Association Annual Meeting and Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, 19 - 26 April, 1999

AVA Conference, West Point, Hobart, Tasmania 16 - 21 May, 1999.

26th ASAVA Conference, Noosa, Queensland 12- 17 September, 1999.

24th WSAVA Conference, Lyon , France 23 - 25 September, 1999.

World Veterinary Congress, Lyon , France 23 - 29 September, 1999.

Australasia/ Oceania CVA Regional Workshop, Vanuatu, 20 - 30 October, 1999.

2000

BSAVA, Birmingham, UK. 6 - 9 April, 2000.

25th WSAVA Congress, Amsterdam. The Netherlands, in conjunction with the Voorjaarsdagen of the Netherlands Association for Companion Animal Medicine. Full details and dates will be published later.

AVA Conference 2000, Perth, Western Australia May 2000.

2002

Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in the Caribbean (Date and Venue to be announced later)

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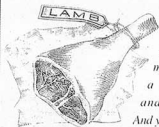
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