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COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



NEWS

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Dr. S. Abdul Rahman

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President's Column



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

CVA is an organisation which I have been proud to lead for this time. It is a concept which has grown since its establishment over thirty years ago and thanks to all who have worked in it over those years, it is now widely recognised and respected working with a very limited budget to deliver encouragement and support to veterinarians Commonwealth-wide. This has been achieved mainly through our conferences and workshops but the other activities including the study fund and the book exchange programme are also an integral part of CVA's work.

Undoubtedly the most dramatic exposure of CVA's work came about through the Second Pan-Commonwealth Veterinary Conference held in Bangalore, India, a conference which though not without its problems, (800 registered, 1200 turned up on the first day!), brought together veterinarians, both those who came to share their knowledge and expertise and those who came to learn. Both teachers and learners contributed greatly to each other. It must be seen as an outstanding success, organised by Dr Rahman and his many volunteers without any professional help.

Regional conferences held in this period have included those held in Barbados, Mauritius, Guyana, Singapore, Kenya, Bangladesh and next will be Vanuatu. I believe all have been most beneficial to the attendees concerned, not least because of the exchange of ideas which only personal contact can facilitate maximally. I still believe that meetings such as these are of great value.

In addition, special projects have continued. The fertility workshops on village cattle run by Prof. Jainudeen are now into stage 4 with the next being held in Fiji in November. New CVA initiatives will be training in bovine embryo transfer being facilitated by Dr Jillella in Australia and the sponsorship of an Indian women's dairy cooperative.

At all stages the CVA Workplan has been our guiding light. I know too well the distractions that are always tempting organisations that don't focus on their priority areas. Conferences which do not have follow-up programmes can lose a deal of their impetus. We've worked hard to avoid this.

During my four years as President which finish on 31/12/99 it has been pleasing to note steady growth in membership, sponsorship and expansion of programmes. I have said at many addresses that CVA is "a mean, and lean organisation but very friendly". It has no paid staff other than for incidentals including wordprocessing.

When I finish my term I'll reflect on unbelievable assistance and kindness from so many of our 52 member countries. I've visited twenty-three of these countries over the years (and there are two or three more before the year's end) and have been touched by the appreciation of CVA's work and by the many friendships I have made. I've appreciated the tremendous support of Dr Bakary Touray, Past President, Dr Abdul Rahman, Secretary and Dr Bert Stevenson, Programme Director who continue to be untiring in their efforts for CVA.

The new CVA Officers will take up their positions in January 2000 and I wish them similar support and satisfaction as CVA enters the new millennium. The need for its work is so great.

CVA's Role in Developing Countries

Ever since the CVA was formed 30 years back with the sole aim of interchange among professional associations within the Commonwealth, it has successfully helped Veterinarians from all the Commonwealth to promote their activities to reach the less privileged farmers of the developing countries of the Commonwealth.

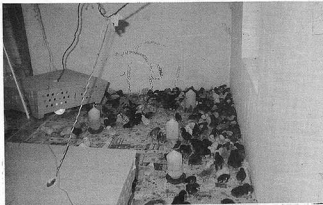
CVA Projects

Detailed work plans were prepared every two years especially after each Regional Workshop and Pan Commonwealth Conference and the objectives from these were well defined and the CVA has been striving to achieve these goals. The professional role the veterinarian can play in the developing countries is illustrated by the CVA through the CVA Muthannalur Project. Muthannalur a tiny village at the outskirts of Bangalore, India, was host to delegates from 65 Commonwealth and Non-Commonwealth countries during the 2nd Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in February 1998 at Bangalore, India. The delegates were so impressed with the warmth and hospitality of the villagers, especially



Backyard Poultry rearing

to visit a National Dairy Institution for a short term training in collaboration with the Veterinary College and Extension Directorate of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. The knowledge obtained by these farmers has been put to practical use and the progress is being monitored regularly by the CVA. Last year a further sponsorship by the CVA has helped six poor farmers to obtain heifers and subsidised feed and free veterinary care during initial phases of dairy rearing. Once these animals start lactating it will help the farmers to stand on their own feet and the village co-operative will take over their welfare. Similarly 10 women farmers have been given a local breed of bird which has been experimentally produced in the Veterinary College, UAS, Bangalore known for its hardy trait and high feed conversion ratio. Hundred birds have been given to each of these 10 farmers in addition to free feed.



Brooding house at the village

the women dairy farmers, that a resolution was passed to adopt this village by the CVA. In response to request from this village 15 women dairy farmers were sponsored

This year a free anti-rabies vaccination programme and fertility camp has been organised. The villagers of Muthannalur are overwhelmed with CVA's response and number of families have been benefited.

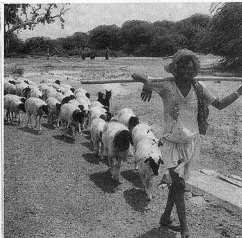
At the CVA meeting in Calgary, Canada on the

recommendation of the Regional Representatives ECS Africa a similar project as Muthannallur has been proposed for Mozambique on Poultry Farming. It is envisaged Small Scale Poultry Production Unit Collaboration and Co-operation from Veterinary College, UAS, Bangalore in providing the new variety of broiler breed "Giriraja" is also proposed.

Veterinarians from Mozambique who were in Nairobi recently attending the ECS Africa Regional Meeting had an opportunity to see the poultry farming activity in Kenya.

Few Sheep have also been given to farmers on a subsidised basis enhancing their livelihood. Cross breeding programmes involving exotic and local sheep breeds are being undertaken with the collaboration of National and State Sheep boards.

Cattle have been the main source of animal farming in all regions of the World and especially in the developing countries of Africa, Asia, Caribbean and Oceania, where milk production is given great importance. Most often advanced veterinary technology available in the developed countries are wanting or insufficient and bridge this gap the CVA has embarked on a ambitious plan of training



A farmer with his flock

veterinarians from these developing countries in the field of embryo transfer and frozen semen technology.



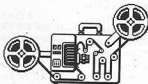
Animals at fertility camp



A young girl with her sheep

Dr. Jilliea Daniel of Queensland Australia, an authority on embryo transfer has volunteered himself to host and train veterinarians from Commonwealth countries free of charge. During this year field veterinarians from developing countries will be identified and selected to undergo training under Dr. Daniel. These trainees will then go back to respective countries and in turn train veterinarians so that this knowledge can be put to practical use. These are few examples of CVA's current activities in the Commonwealth countries.

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

Founded over 30 years ago, the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) is made up of the national veterinary associations of most of the Commonwealth countries. Currently the CVA has 52 members, and each member association is represented on one of 6 regional Committees, each of which elects a representative to the Executive Council of the Association. The mission of the CVA is to promote the veterinary profession within the Commonwealth by encouraging the highest professional standards of education, ethics and service, in order to advance animal health, productivity and welfare and thereby improve the quality of life of its peoples. Veterinary education features prominently in the CVA work plan, and through the journals, book and audiovisual programme, veterinarians in developing Commonwealth countries have access to veterinary literature not otherwise available.

For the past 10 years, the CVA Book programme has been coordinated, initially by Dr. Wayne Lees and more recently by Dr. Douglas Mitchell, from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Animal Diseases Research Institute at Lethbridge, with support from the Atlantic Veterinary College, The Animal Diseases Research Institute at Nepean, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the Ontario Veterinary College. With the establishment of a distribution depot at the Ontario Veterinary College 3 years ago, it became evident that this would be the preferred location for programme coordination. Dr. Brian Derbyshire assumed the coordinator's role on January 1, 1998. He is assisted by Mr. David Hull, the Ontario Veterinary College Librarian, and Dr. Lloyd Coleman. The books at the Lethbridge depot were transferred to Guelph in June of this year and all future shipments to Commonwealth countries will be

made from Guelph. The other locations will continue to serve as collection depots from which some outdated titles have recently been discarded, currently includes close to 1000 volumes of veterinary texts, for which a revised inventory is being prepared. The programme no longer receives or distributes journals, but a few audio cassette tapes, mainly on small animal topics, and some 2 x 2 transparencies have been donated. Requests for books should be made directly to the coordinator at Guelph, although some requests are forwarded by the British Veterinary Association in London. Priority is given to requests from libraries in veterinary schools and research institutes, although individual veterinarians in Commonwealth countries may also make requests. Books are also supplied to animal health technology programs, but requests from individual students are not acceptable. The books are shipped by surface mail, and may take up to 9 months to reach their destination. Twenty - four shipments were made during 1997 and 1998 to India, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Uganda, Trinidad, Guyana, Pakistan and Kenya.

Canadian veterinarians who are interested in donating books to the programme are asked to ship these to Guelph (C/o Mr. David Hull, Ontario Veterinary College Library, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1) or, if more convenient, the books may be dropped off at one or the other depots mentioned above. Donors should note that texts published before 1980 are not required and that books related to food animal veterinary medicine are particularly acceptable. Thanks are expressed to those who have donated books in the past and to the many volunteers who have contributed to the programme.

(Dr. Brian Derbyshire, Guelph, Ontario)

CVA STUDY FUND

The Fund

This fund has been established by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) in conjunction with the Commonwealth Foundation to honour the contributions made by Mr. John Anderson and Dr. L.P.E. Choquette in establishing and promoting the activities of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

Financial support to match the funds contributed by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the several national and local veterinary associations throughout the Commonwealth may be provided by the Commonwealth Foundation.

The Fund is independent and separate from the operating funds of the CVA. The money will be deposited in an appropriate bank at the discretion of the CVA treasurer subject to approval by the Commonwealth Foundation, to provide income to finance the fund.

1.Purpose : Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to:

1. Veterinarians who are members of their respective national associations to undertake short term study visits to schools, institutions or to undertake short term study courses in veterinary medicine, animal production or related areas in other Commonwealth countries.

2. Animal Health Assistants, recommended by the appropriate CVA Council Member and Regional Representative, to undergo further short term training at a school or institution in another Commonwealth country.

It is expected that such visits will promote professional and para-professional contacts and provide grantees with new knowledge and expertise in their respective fields of interest. Study proposals which will directly benefit the rural poor and disadvantaged will receive sympathetic consideration. All proposals will be expected to describe how they will benefit the home institution, veterinary organisation and community. The visit is also expected to result in a broadening of cultural experience and horizons and to promote Commonwealth understanding.

2.Guidelines

1.Preference will be given to visits to related regions with 'south-south' movements being encouraged.

2.The study period should, preferably but not necessarily, be less than two weeks in duration. -

3.The study visits will be financed at a maximum of Aus \$ 2,000 including a prepaid air ticket for the least expensive and most direct route.

4.Usually, although not exclusively, grants will be limited to persons up to 35 years of age with field experience and not available to persons holding senior appointments.

5.Grants are provided only for periods of concentrated study or training on a particular topic activity, and cannot be made for attendance at conferences, meetings etc. nor to underwrite a tour of visits to a number of institutions.

6. A report must be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer, CVA within three (3) months of the completion of the study visit.

7.It will be necessary for the host institution to agree to assist in arranging suitable accommodation etc., within the applicant's ability to finance it.

8.The host supervisor will agree to provide a report on the success of the visit and his estimate of the benefit the applicant has achieved from the study experience.

9. Grantees will be expected to give one or two lectures at the host institution or veterinary association on aspects of animal health and production activities in their home country. These lecturers should emphasize how their studies in the host country will benefit the rural poor and disadvantaged as well as their impact upon the environment.

10. These lectures and the discussions of topics, both professional and social, with the staff of the host institution or veterinary association will serve to further the aims and objectives of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

11. The awards are not normally available for University academic or research staff.

3.Applications

- i) There is no set application form.
- ii) Applications should be submitted to the

appropriate Regional Representative for processing, at least 6 months prior to the proposed visit.

iii) Applicants will provide a complete curriculum vitae to the Regional Representative.

iv) A list of travel and study visits by the applicants and the source of funding over the preceding 5 years is to be included. This should be verified by the applicant's employer or other suitable individual.

v) Applicants will be required to provide evidence that the study visit has the approval of his/her home institution or national association and a letter of acceptance from the person who will supervise the study programme in the host country.

4. Administration

This will be kept simple to reduce costs and ensure that all available funds are applied to the

proposed projects.

i) Applications with supporting documents should be sent to the appropriate Regional Representative.

ii) If the Regional Representative considers the applicant suitable, the application will be forwarded with appropriate recommendation to the Director of Programmes.

iii) The Director of Programmes will select one or more countries to be awarded a Study Fund grant and make a recommendation to the President.

iv) The award will be subject to ratification by the CVA President.

Last date of submission of request to Council Members/Reg. Rep. 30th Oct. 1999. RR's to submit their recommendations before 30th Nov. 1999 to Programme Director.

FAO Urges More Action On Rinderpest

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) called on June 2nd for a renewed effort to rid the world of the few remaining rinderpest foci. Without immediate support for eradication programmes in pockets where the disease persists, the FAO warned, widespread resurgence could undo the progress made by the Global Rinderpest Eradication Program (GREP) over recent years.

The geographically isolated areas of southern Sudan, Southern Somalia and parts of Pakistan are suspected to be the only places left in the world where cattle and bison are threatened by rinderpest. It is not known whether certain other areas, where outbreaks have occurred in the past five years (the far eastern Russian Federation, the southern Arabian Peninsula, the Turkey / Iraq border) are entirely free of the disease. Experts believe that completing the eradication programme in these areas, although expensive, is far cheaper than continuing the vaccination, surveillance and control measures necessary if the disease is allowed to persist.

The mass immunisation programme that GREP began in the 1980s has taken the world towards freedom from rinderpest. However, before global eradication is complete, there will have to be a transition period of high risk. Experts estimate that as little as \$3 million could minimise this risk.

To achieve rinderpest free status, after two years without clinical signs of the disease a country can declare its provisional freedom from the disease and must end all rinderpest vaccination. After three more years with no outbreaks or vaccinations, the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) may declare that country free from rinderpest. As more of the world becomes free of the disease, more cattle is historically susceptible areas lose their protection against the highly contagious paramyxovirus that causes it, and a renewed outbreak becomes potentially more devastating.

"The World is nearly rinderpest-free" said Mark Rweyemamu of the FAO. "Failure to act now . . . will result in a much higher price tag in the future".

. . . African Advances

Cameroon has declared itself provisionally free from rinderpest. In a fax to the OIE, Dr. Hamadou Saidou, Director of Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Animal Production, Fisheries and Animal Industries, states that no cases of rinderpest have occurred in Cameroon since 1986. He adds that the authorities have maintained vaccination campaigns, carried out systematically since 1983, together with serological and epidemiological surveillance.

Benin has also declared itself provisionally free from rinderpest. Benin has recorded no cases of rinderpest since 1987. Its authorities are maintaining active epidemiological surveillance for the disease in both domestic and wild animals, and this is being strengthened within the framework of the Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE). This risk of the disease re-occurring in Benin is low, due to the epidemiological status both of Benin and its neighbouring countries, and the continent's reserve stock of vaccine and rinderpest emergency control fund.

Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture has declared one zone provisionally free of rinderpest. The authorities have divided the country into two zones. Zone A, in the north, comprising high-risk districts and Zone B, which has now stopped vaccination. Zone B is divided into two sub-zones, B1, which is to be placed under intensive surveillance for one year before being declared provisionally rinderpest-free, and B2, which has now been declared provisionally rinderpest-free, and B2 which has now been declared provisionally free of the disease. Sub Zone B2, comprising 22 districts, has recorded no outbreaks of rinderpest for 14 years.

Commonwealth News

A Message For Commonwealth Day 1999

- From Her Majesty The Queen - Head of the Commonwealth



Music is the theme for Commonwealth Day this year. Throughout our fifty four countries, people will be celebrating and making music in as many ways as that, or more. Of course people of different generations and cultures tap their foot to quite different beats. But for all of us, young and old, music is an essential part of life for parties and entertainment; for ceremonies and celebrations.

For music knows no differences of language, no national boundaries. And because it has become such an important part of our cultural lives, it is a universal means of communicating with each other. The variety of music illustrates our diversity, its common tones and harmonies bring us together. Just like the Commonwealth.

In 1999 we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth. Fifty years ago, in 1949, India became the first republic with its own head of state to be a member of the Commonwealth. That paved the way to membership for many other countries, especially from Asia and Africa, all sharing links of history, a belief in democracy, and a will to work together. Today, the Commonwealth includes over a quarter of the world's population, spanning differences in race, creed and language, but sharing the same aspirations towards a better future.

This November, the leaders of the Commonwealth states will gather in South Africa for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. I look forward to joining them there as they discuss the challenges of the new Millennium, as well as celebrating the Commonwealth's achievements in its life so far.

Let us then, in this anniversary year, look both backwards as well as forwards as we mark Commonwealth Day. While we continue to enjoy our favourite music, either by making it or listening to it, let us also celebrate the vigour and creativity that the next generation will bring to their music making. That is just one of the bonds that all the young people of the Commonwealth will share together on this special day.

*Elizabeth R.
8, March 1999.*

Peace, Democracy and Good Governance : The Role of The Modern Commonwealth

Abstract of Address by Terence R. Dormer, NGO Desk Officer at the Commonwealth Secretariat, to the Triennial Meeting of the Commonwealth Association of Museums.

Hotel Pom-Marine, Hastings, Barbados - 6, May 1999.

This is a very important anniversary year for the modern Commonwealth, and last month was the most special in that year. For it was on 27, April, 1949 - exactly 50 years and 9 days ago - that Commonwealth Prime Ministers adopted The London Declaration. That agreement reconciled republicanism with continued membership of the Commonwealth, which transformed our association into a group of fully sovereign and independent countries. As you know, 33 of our 54 members are currently republics and a number of others - some, indeed in the Caribbean region - are contemplating becoming republics.

The London Declaration represented a momentous decision by the Prime Ministers of the eight countries - namely the old Dominions of Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa, and the new nations of India, Pakistan and Ceylon (as it was then) together with the United Kingdom - which at that time constituted the Commonwealth. It transformed its character from a relic of the British Empire into a cooperative association of free, independent and sovereign nations. It was then that it ceased to be "The British Commonwealth" and became "The Commonwealth".

While India was the first country to use the declaration to become a republic within the Commonwealth, it is perhaps a little sad to recall that the agreement was reached just a few days after Ireland formally became a republic and left the association.

The modern Commonwealth is an association of equals, with no centre and no periphery. While some people mistakenly still appear to believe that Britain has a special and leading role in the Commonwealth, that is simply not so. While the United Kingdom is a valued member of our association, it is no more (and of course no less) important than any other member.

It is very clear that the modern Commonwealth represents the antithesis of colonialism, the abnegation of imperialism and a true expression of internationalism. It consists of sovereign and independent countries drawn from every continent. All the planet's oceans wash its shores and its 1.7 billion people comprise more than

one quarter of humanity. They encompass a broad range of races, religions, traditions and language groups, and represent a living demonstration of the successful pursuit of unity in diversity. The world needs organisations, such as the Commonwealth, which bring together different peoples; not in order to make them similar but to foster understanding, cooperation and development within the framework of diversity.

In deference to the historical interests of distinguished museum people such as yourselves, I thought that I should not just refer to our modern Commonwealth but should, perhaps, mention the use of the term in another much older though still appropriate context. In consequence, I should like to quote John Milton. In 1644 - 355 years ago - he wrote the following words.

" For this is not the liberty for which we can hope, that no grievance should arise in the commonwealth, that let no man in this world expect; but when complaints are freely heard, deeply considered and speedily reformed, then is the utmost bound of civil liberty attained that wise men look for."

I hasten to add that the poor man was, of course, writing in times before the language of gender inclusivity had been invented. He did not, I feel sure, intend to exclude the ladies. Be that as it may, in all other respects the modern Commonwealth fulfils his criteria and is, pellucidly, what he wanted his Commonwealth to be. Consultation is indeed the life blood of our modern Commonwealth and helps to soften the edges of confrontation through collective consensus. In the words of our second Secretary - General, Sonny Ramphal of Guyana, while the Commonwealth cannot negotiate for the world, it can help the world to negotiate.

The Commonwealth has at its core the values of democracy, good governance, the rule of law and human rights in all their aspects, as stated in the principles agreed by Heads of Government at their Singapore Meeting in 1971 and reaffirmed in 1991 at their meeting in Harare.

The Commonwealth Secretariat has

programmes of practical assistance in all these areas and, while the task is huge, steady progress has been made.

On the economic front, the debt issue is one in which the Commonwealth has taken a lead in such areas as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative - HIPC for short - by which it is hoped that a considerable percentage of the world's poorest people may be able to escape the crippling burden of debts which their countries, quite simply, cannot repay. Without that path out of poverty, the future for hundreds of millions would be immeasurably bleak. However, these efforts must go hand in hand with the necessary capital for creating the sound employment opportunities on which sustainable development depends. In consequence, the Commonwealth is establishing regional investment funds in Africa, the Caribbean, the Pacific and South Asia to help member countries attract the investment capital which they so desperately need.

Then there is the Secretariat's own Commonwealth Fund For Technical Co-operation (the CFTC) which - despite modest and, alas at present, diminishing resources - continues to do an excellent job with its annual budget of approximately £ 20 million. The CFTC's activities are confined to the provision of experts, technical advice and training. During the last two years, about 700 CFTC experts - mostly from developing countries - have undertaken assignments in countries other than their own and over 9000 citizens of Commonwealth developing countries have received training abroad. On the technical advice front, public sector reform has been facilitated in 20 countries, the development of minerals and petroleum resources fostered in 17 countries and maritime boundaries defined for a further six.

With regard to the environment, the Commonwealth's contribution to the Kyoto Conference on climate change was of crucial importance in ensuring its successful outcome, while - the Commonwealth's Iwokrama Rain forest Programme is making good progress in managing the 3,60,000 hectares of pristine rainforest which the government and the people of Guyana have generously provided for Commonwealth use. Success in this latter venture will show the way for both the conservation and sustainable development of other threatened forest areas throughout the world.

The strength of the Commonwealth - and the fact that it is a growing force for good - is because it is an association of peoples as well as governments. Through a whole range of non-governmental organisations - of which the Commonwealth Association of Museums is one - dedicated individuals work hard and effectively to make the world a better place. All these organisations have important roles in development; helping to raise living standards; for the disadvantaged in health,

education, food production and, indeed, in almost every field of human endeavour. They also assist in educating people and in fostering the friendly co-operation upon which the existence of the Commonwealth depends.

Perhaps the most important events organised by what we like to call "The People's Commonwealth" are the Commonwealth Games, which are held every four years. The most recent Games were held in Malaysia last September: the first time they had been arranged in Asia and only the second time in a Commonwealth developing country (the 1966 Games were in Jamaica). The Kuala Lumpur Games were the biggest ever, with 5,500 sports persons and team officials involved. The number of participating nations was 70 (the highest ever) and cricket, hockey, netball, rugby, squash and ten pin bowling were included for the first time. Given that there was an estimated television audience of over 500 million, they clearly represented the most popular Commonwealth gathering the world had ever seen.

At our headquarters in Marlborough House, London, the Commonwealth Foundation has the task of assisting NGOs. I represent the Secretary - General on the Foundation's Grant Committee and I know that my friends and colleagues in the Foundation have been very pleased to provide annual grants to the Commonwealth Association of Museums since CAM was established. They are delighted also to support this current meeting, with its aim of helping museums to play their full part in facilitating and encouraging people to engage actively in building peace, democracy and good governance. They have like me, admired the courage and imagination of CAM in addressing difficult issues which have not always been among the top priorities of other museum organisations. Among these ground breaking initiatives by CAM are the provision of distance learning opportunities for technicians and, even more importantly, the commitment may be enabled clearly and honestly to inform themselves and others about the totality of their histories, cultures and environments.

Whether we like it or not, we live in an age when we are increasingly an interlocked, interactive, interdependent human community, sharing the global commons of a small planet which is under severe pressure on a number of environmental and other fronts.. The very air we breathe is affected by the behaviour of those in other countries, over whose territories it will have passed days or perhaps only hours before it reaches us. There are many qualitative and quantitative indicators of environmental and other forms of planetary degradation. Unless we cooperate to make our world a decent and habitable place for all of us, matters are, quite frankly, going to get worse. Ask not for whom the bell tolls for, indeed, it tolls for all of us if we do not take the action necessary to solve our global problems and reverse the misery for a substantial proportion of humanity, about

which the revolution in information technology has made the vast majority of us so acutely aware.

Inevitably, in the last year of the millennium, our thoughts turn to the future and to the immediate challenges ahead. Our current Secretary - General - Chief Emeka Anyaoku of Nigeria - has indicated his belief that principal amongst them are the effective management of pluralism, and the proper control of the processes of globalisation so that they result in benefits for all.

Let me address firstly the issue of pluralism. With perhaps half a dozen homogenous exceptions, Commonwealth countries are characterised by cultural, ethnic and religious diversity; for which, of course, they should all be both the happier and the richer. Sadly, however, people from different backgrounds are not always able to even tolerate each other, still less to live in harmony. While the Commonwealth has a relatively good record concerning such matters, it is by no means free of these difficulties.

Outside the Commonwealth, things are a lot more worrying. For example, one study indicates that between 1989 and 1992 there were 82 armed conflicts in the world: the vast majority in non-Commonwealth countries and no fewer than 79 of them (that is 95%) within rather than between countries and linked to ethnic, religious and other differences. In the words of the great Irish Poet, William Butler Yeats:

Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood - dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
- The best lack all conviction, while the
Worst are full of passionate intensity.

Commonwealth to readmit Nigeria

A Commonwealth working group has recommended that Nigeria be readmitted to full membership on May 29, when a democratically elected president takes over from the military government. Foreign ministers meeting in London called for lifting of the suspension imposed in 1995 after the execution of Ken Saro - Wiwa and other Ogoni activists. Since the death of the military dictator, General Sani Abacha, sanctions have been progressively eased; the European Union has lifted all but military restrictions. General Abdulsalami Abubakar, the current ruler, will end 15 years of military rule by handing over to Olusegun Obasanjo, the former general elected President.

- *The Times*, 30th April, 1999

The famous Nigerian novelist, Chinua Achebe, used the first three words of Yeats' poem as the title of one of his most celebrated books. They have a very modern resonance in that the horrors of divisive pluralism which we see today show us all too clearly the drowning of innocence and the evil fruits of the misdirection of passionate intensity. The situation appears to be getting worse during the 1990s and requires urgent and appropriate action, in which the Commonwealth (and your Association as a part of it) is well placed to play a helpful role.

Turning to globalisation, it is evident to all those who have access to the facts that the tendency in most countries - even the most developed ones - is for the rich to get richer and the poor poorer. This is clearly not just unsatisfactory; it is immoral and wrong and must be altered. There is also an imperative to learn the lessons of the past; to avoid actions which lead to boom and bust and to encourage those which result in sustainable growth and prosperity. These two requirements are interrelated. One of the lessons of history - which, perhaps, museums can help to teach - is that the wealth of certain sections of the world's population not only should not but cannot be sustained indefinitely amidst the impoverishment of so many.

I stress again that the Commonwealth is about people. While governments are obviously of crucial importance to us all, it is an essential aspect of democracy that they are not solely responsible for anything, including the Commonwealth. It is for people to make their wishes known; to help governments (which in democracies are, after all, the servants of the people) to be aware of our association's still largely untapped potential to provide leadership to a confused world and to be active in giving practical expression to the principles which represent the heart and souls of the Commonwealth.

Queen's Award for 'Volcano Rose'

Broadcast journalist Rose Willock of Montserrat is used to reporting on people and events in the news - such as volcanoes. However, earlier this year she found herself a news maker, and a special one at that, when for her outstanding work she received the first Queen's Award for exceptional contribution to public service broadcasting. Ms. Willock, nicknamed 'Volcano Rose' was presented with the award at the Commonwealth Broadcasting General Conference in Gibraltar in May



Dame Veronica makes it a Commonwealth first

The Commonwealth's first woman Deputy Secretary - General, Dame Veronica Sutherland, took office at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, in February, 1999. Dame Veronica, who is currently British Ambassador to Eire (Republic of Ireland), will have the responsibility for economic and social affairs.



A career diplomat for 30 years with Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Dame Veronica has served in a number of countries, including as First Secretary (Development) in India and as Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire.

Durban to Host CHOGM

This year's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will take place in Durban, South Africa, from 12 to 15 November. A joint announcement made in London and Pretoria by the South African Government, as host, and the Commonwealth Secretariat said the venue would be the International Conference Centre in Durban. The traditional Retreat during the biennial meeting will be held on 13 and 14 November. Commonwealth Secretary - General Emeka Anyaoku said, "... It is entirely appropriate that this year's meeting which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the modern Commonwealth should take place for the first time in South Africa, a country which has occupied a central place in the Commonwealth's endeavours over many years."

New Government in Malta

Malta has a new Government following the elections of September, 1998 which saw the Nationalist Party (NP) of Dr. Edward Fenech - Adami defeat the incumbent Labour Party of Mr. Alfred Sant. Mr Sant had called the elections three years early after losing his one seat majority in a parliamentary vote. The NP won 51.8% of the vote and the Labour party 46.9% giving the NP a five seat majority in the 65 seat parliament.

The turn out at the elections was high at around 95%. Dr. Fenech - Adami has been a member of parliament since 1969 and had previously served as Prime Minister between 1987 - 96.

Foundation's new Deputy Director

Colin Ball, 55, is the new Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Foundation. Mr Ball took up his post in May 1998. He was one of the co-authors of the Foundation's major 1995 publication, *Non-governmental organisations: Guidelines for good policy and practice*, and since 1996 has been a member of the Foundation's NGO Advisory Committee.



Mr Ball has served with Britain's Voluntary Service Overseas in Malaysia in the 1960s and later worked as a teacher in Ghana and Nigeria. He has spent the past four years based in Brisbane, Australia, working as a consultant, researcher and writer on a range of tasks in Australia, New Zealand and South - East Asian Countries.

Union of 1.5 billion people in 54 States - Facts

- The Commonwealth evolved from the former colonies of the British Empire. Unlike the United Nations, it was not built around a charter. The Commonwealth is a association of 54 nations.

- It includes a third of the world's states and 1.5 billion people, a quarter of the World's population. India has the most people and Canada is the biggest country. The world's smallest republic Nauru, is a member.

- The Queen is head of the Commonwealth's 16 parliamentary democracies. Every state accepts her as head of the Commonwealth.

- It has no Constitution, but the governments of its members work on the basis of understood procedures. They aim to collaborate to influence world events. In 1965, the Commonwealth Secretariat was set up in London to offer members a way of communicating through a neutral intermediary. The Commonwealth heads of government meet every second year.

- South Africa withdrew in 1961 but rejoined in 1994. Pakistan left in 1972 but returned in 1999. Fiji left after a coup in 1987 and rejoined in 1997.

Asia

India

CVA Adopts Village

Muthannallur, a village on the outskirts of Bangalore has been adopted by CVA. Earlier 15 women dairy farmers were sent to National Dairy Institute, Anand for training and after their return have improved the dairying programmes of the village.

In continuation of this project, during this year a second group of poultry farmers were benefited by a donation of 100 "Giriraja" birds to 10 women farmers. Similarly 6 heifers were presented to 6 families with full costs of feed and medicine provided by CVA.

A programme was organised on 22/2/99 and a fertility camp was also organised under the Auspices of The University of Agricultural Sciences, Farmers Training Institute, Bangalore, Commonwealth Veterinary Association, Govt. of India, Food Grain Preservation movement, Bangalore Milk Union (Ltd.), Bangalore, and Sri Shakthi Women Association Muthannallur



Farmers waiting to receive calves

New Council Member From India to Commonwealth Veterinary Association

Dr. R. S. Sharma, President Indian Veterinary Association has been nominated as the new Council Member of India to the CVA by the Executive Committee of IVA at the meeting held in Calicut in January 1999.



Dr. Sharma replaces Dr. S. Abdul Rahman as Council Member. Dr. Sharma retired as Director of Veterinary Services Delhi and was also the Director of Institute of Biologicals, Patna. He is currently the President of Delhi Veterinary Council.



Woman farmer with her birds

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka to achieve self - sufficiency in milk and milk products

Annual Convention and Scientific Sessions of SLVA

The joint venture between the Government of Sri Lanka and the National Dairy Development Board of India - Kiriy Milk Industries of Sri Lanka Private Limited hopes to double Sri Lanka's milk production in order to achieve self - sufficiency in milk and milk products in 10 years, said High Commissioner for India in Sri Lanka, Shishankar Menon.

Addressing the inauguration of the 51st Annual Convention and the Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA) at the BMICH, Mr. Menon said that the joint venture will further help promote bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka. Earlier this year the Government of India, proposed to the Sri Lankan Government a bilateral agreement for co-operation in the veterinary field. This agreement would provide necessary measures by both sides to prevent disease and promote the trade related to animals, animal products, raw materials of animal origin and animal feed. We hope that both sides will be able to jointly prepare protocol for veterinary - sanitary conditions for import export and transport, they will exchange information and arrange mutual visits so that veterinarians from both countries get an opportunity to work together and learn from each other, he said.

Dr. O. Wimalaratne of the Medical Research Institute and Dr. D.S. Kodikara were presented with special awards by the SLVA for the scientific article entitled "First Reported Case of Elephant Rabies in Sri Lanka"



Address by President SLVA Dr. M Hanifa at the 51st Annual Convention and the Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association

published in "The Veterinary Record".

Secretary, Livestock Development and Estate Infrastructure, Dr. P. Ramanujam, President Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka, Lal De Mel, Deputy Director, Commerce, Kulatunga Perera delivered lectures on the theme of "Impact of SAPTA and SAFTA on Livestock Production in Sri Lanka".

The President, SLVA, Dr. M. Mazahim, Secretary SLVA, Dr. D.A. T. Mahagamage and Dr. N.U. Horadagoda and several others were also present.

Meetings of the CVA Asian Region

- I Meeting June 6-8, 1972 at Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- II Meeting Feb 4-5, 1975 at Madras, India.
- III Meeting Dec 28-29, 1977 at Mymensingh, Bangladesh.
- IV Meeting June 6-7, 1979 at Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- V Meeting Nov 25-27, 1983 Hissar, India.

- VI Meeting Dec 11-12, 1985 Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- VII Meeting Feb 27, 1989 Bangalore, India.
- VIII Meeting Nov 9, 1991 Bangalore, India.
- IX Meeting Jan 12, 1995 Mymensingh, Bangladesh.
- X Meeting Feb 25, 1998 Bangalore, India.

When The Threat To Public - Health Is In The Shape Of Dog

India, is facing a serious public-health threat. Animal rights activists have, through litigation a few years ago, virtually blocked the killing or sterilisation of stray dogs roaming the streets of Delhi. This has derailed attempts by authorities to control the stray dog population.

The 250, 000 strays dogs currently in Delhi are a serious nuisance; most are unimmunised against rabies and are breeding rapidly. If, as a resident of Delhi you have never been bitten or caught rabies, it is considered sheer good luck.

The Director of Health Services at the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Keshwa Nand Tewari, is frustrated. 4 years ago 50 000 stray dogs were culled each year, but now the number is about 3500 a year. Meanwhile, the number of deaths resulting from rabies exceeds 200 a year.

Every year tens of thousands of people are bitten by dogs in the city but animal activists have shown no interest in controlling the menace. Also, the government has no national rabies-control policy, which accounts for the low public awareness of the problem.

The tragedy is that people who have rabies face serious problems. Rabies-infected people are often abandoned by relatives so that they are left to die a lonely and agonising death. 2 weeks ago, Jagir Singh and Raghbir Singh were dying from rabies in the prison-like locked cells of Delhi's Infectious Diseases Hospital. With no toilet, both patients were forced to urinate and defaecate on the floor, and died less than 3 days after admission, taking this year's rabies death toll to 93.

The Lancet, Vol. 353, 1999

News in Brief

■ Farmers in Port Dickson, Malaysia, have been reminded to keep to State Veterinary Services guidelines to avoid outbreaks of foot and mouth disease.

Although no cases had been reported, the department issued guidelines as a reminder to ensure products were safe for human consumption.

Pakistan

Poultry Industry in Pakistan suffers Heavy Losses Due to Influenza like Disease

Since April, 99 a severe disease has struck commercial poultry industry of Pakistan, resulting in mortality of upto 90%. Symptoms were predominantly of respiratory nature. Autopsy revealed hepatitis, lesions in respiratory tract, enteritis, and nephritis. This has been attributed to very high temperatures from April to July, Aflatoxins, CRD, adenovirus, influenza virus (H9). Disease has now subsided but has resulted in very heavy economic losses estimated around 300 million Pakistani rupees.

Outbreak of Haemorrhagic Septicemia

With the onset of rainy season, outbreaks of HS have resulted in heavy morbidity among bovine population of Pakistan. Fortunately with vaccination of animals with HS vaccine, heavy losses have been averted.

Pakistan Veterinary Pharma Association

Dr. Iftikhar Faiz was elected as the new president of PVPA last month and announced a two day conference in January, 2000. He informed that the purpose of this conference will be training of in-service workers.

Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council

The much awaited PVMC was launched this January. The President of PVMA was elected as its 1st Chairman with Dr. Mujeeb Pirzada from Ministry of Agriculture as Secretary.

Australasia/Oceania

Veterinary Activities of Kiribati Island (Previously Christmas Island)

A report on a visit to Kiribati Island carried out in January 1999 by Hilary Liebeschuetz, Veterinary Officer for the Republic of Kiribati.

Dr Liebeschuetz is the CVA Councillor for Kiribati which is an Island in the Pacific Ocean east of Nauru.

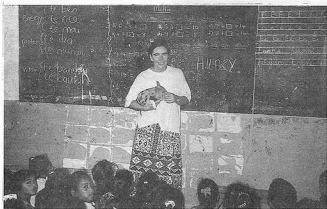
Kiritimati Island is the largest coral atoll in the world. It has a land area of 140 square miles, which amazingly represents almost half of the total land area of the Republic of Kiribati, of which it is a part. The first European to discover the atoll was Captain Cook on Christmas Eve 1777. He however found it dry and uninhabited and quickly passed on. Ironical though it may seem this was to remain unchanged until the British and Americans carried out atmospheric nuclear bomb testing here between 1956 and 63. This brought people, development and infrastructure, and of course radioactivity. The families of some of these pioneers are still on the island living in the village of Tabakea; the radioactivity levels are now supposedly within normal limits. At Kiribati Independence, Christmas Island took on its Kiribati spelling and became Kiritimati. "Ti" is pronounced as "S" in the Kiribati language, supposedly owing to one of the early missionaries having a broken 'S' key on the typewriter. An island previously regarded as too barren for settlement came to look increasingly attractive owing to over population of other Kiribati Islands. Kiritimati may have nearly half the land area but, the capital, Tarawa now has more than a third of the country's total population with 40,000 people, all being housed on a narrow strip of land with a total area of nine square miles. On Tarawa it is almost always possible to see the ocean and lagoon side simultaneously. On Kiritimati however, there is a real sense of open space with miles of salt brush and coconuts interrupted only by pockets of the brightest blue lagoon. On the ocean side huge waves from the Gulf of Alaska crash onto the reef. The beach combers here will find only shells and white coral sand without the usual detritus of disposable nappies, plastic bags and batteries, which western influence all too often brings to Pacific Island nations. Kiritimati Island is now a re-settlement island with more people arriving on every boat from Tarawa. In this respect, it represents the wild west of Kiribati. The land of milkfish and coconuts with opportunities for all. The current population is 3,000 with plans to increase it to 10,000 beyond the millennium.

Kiribati has one expatriate veterinary surgeon based on Tarawa and two agricultural officers based on

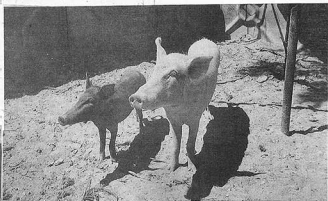
each of the 21 islands carrying out animal health and quarantine work. Each island receives a veterinary visit every two years. Achieving even this seemingly minimal target can sometimes be difficult owing to uncertain airline schedules. There is no direct flight from Tarawa to Kiritimati Island. The route by air resembles an ECG trace, stopping off at Fiji and Honolulu. This takes about a week each way and is very expensive in terms of time and resources for the Kiribati Government. It is possible to travel by a boat but there is no regular schedule. The boats depart every 3 - 4 months, stopping off at the islands of Canton, Tabuaeron and Teraina to load passengers and copra. On a good boat the round trip will take a month. It is best not to think about a bad boat. Not being a good sailor and a little concerned about the consequences of being marooned on even a smaller, more isolated island than the one which I set off from, I decided to take the plane.

Agriculture

Kiritimati Island is a harsh environment for agriculture. There is very little soil and it is of poor quality, so to grow any type of vegetables it requires intensive composting and in times of drought the ground water in many areas becomes salty and can destroy all one's efforts. It is too dry to grow babai (swamp taro) and there are few breadfruit, pawpaw and pandanus trees. There is one area where it is possible to grow bananas, "Banana Village", because it is situated on the water lens. There are however, concerns that the lens is becoming polluted and so the village may need to be relocated. Most families derive their income from copra cutting or seaweed growing. All land is government owned. The only domestic animals on Kiritimati are pigs, chicken, ducks, dogs and cats. Pigs fare well here and each family will own between five and fifteen. They are fed a diet of coconut, fish, crab and green leaves, all of which are in ample supply. Wild pigs also do well eating the road killed crabs. The traditional coconut log pig pens have often been replaced with abandoned military gear such as gas cylinders and piping. Many of the local pigs have been crossed with imported breeds introduced by the agriculture division. These larger and leaner pigs do well here where there is an ample food supply. Marketing pork is more of a problem and currently most pigs are for family use only. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community has a proposal for a small scale



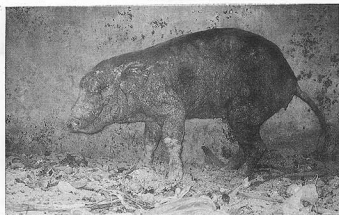
Dr. Liebeschuetz teaching a class at Banana Primary School



Typical I-Kiribati pigs have very long snouts



Pupils of Banana Primary School learning pig handling skills



Severe case of Mange

slaughter house and processing facility with the aim of replacing imported meat products with those originating from local pigs. Currently all the poultry are scavenger flocks for meat rather than egg production. They used to be two commercial egg producers but these were dependent on imported feed from Australia arriving on the boat from Tarawa and when the feed inevitably ran out the birds were eaten. The future development in this sector must be dependant on a small scale feed mill utilising locally available foods. This is currently hindered by the availability of cheap imported eggs from Honolulu. Muscovet ducks have recently been introduced and are kept free range for meat and eggs. A goat project failed here as the goats made themselves unpopular by escaping and eating what few greens the villagers had managed to produce.

Clinical Visits

During my year spent on Tarawa I had sent two lots of medical supplies to Kiritimati, neither of which ever arrived. Each time I asked Burentia, the head of agriculture as to their whereabouts, with true Kiribati optimism he always replied, "they will be on the way."

This long absence of drugs meant that we kept busy treating largely routine conditions. Most visits were to pigs and common presentations were for scratching or poor appetite, caused by Sarcptic mange and heavy worm burdens. Generally though, the pigs were in good conditions and were healthy.

There is a bylaw on Kiritimati that only male dogs are allowed on the island, replacement puppies being brought by boat from neighbouring Teraina (Fanning) island. This is a very simple but effective means of population control and dogs are much healthier, if more

frustrated, than on other islands that I have visited in Kiribati. There is also no problem with stray dogs. Sarcptic mange is however prevalent and is being treated with oral ivermectin.

Quarantine Work

This work is especially important on Kiritimati Island as it is so isolated from Tarawa and has a high volume of shipping and air traffic. Local officers also often miss out on training workshops held in Tarawa owing to cost of transport. I carried out some training on exotic animal diseases and left videos on exotic diseases of poultry, pigs and also on rabies for officers from Kiribati, Teraina and Tabuaeron Islands.

School Visits

These are aimed at primary school children aged 6 - 12 years so that they can learn about animal care. We discuss good husbandry, and the care of pigs and dogs. We then cover what diseases the children have seen in their own animals giving particular emphasis to zoonotic diseases. With older classes we discuss the threats posed by exotic diseases and the important role of quarantine to prevent their introduction. Finally, we have a practical session on pig handling which the children normally enjoy. In Kiribati, this is a job usually carried out by men only and fairly roughly at times so I try to ensure that in the classroom both boys and girls have a go. A slight problem occurred in the village of Poland (the villages were named by a French Priest; he also christened, London and Paris) where a particularly energetic piglet sprinted out of the door. Fortunately class 4 recaptured him before he met a hungry male dog.

If time and resources allow there is an animal

drawing competition. The children draw pigs, dogs or ducks onto a printed poster, which also gives information on animal care. The children can then take these home to show their family.

The children certainly seem to enjoy these sessions and I hope they may remember something of them and so improve both their animals' and families health in the future.

Work With The Wild Life Unit

Kiritimati Island is home to some of the largest and most impressive colonies of sea birds in the Pacific. There are eighteen species nesting on Kiritimati including sooty terns, noddies, fairy terns, bobbies, frigatebirds, wedgetailed sheerwaters and petrels. There are five areas of bird reserves that have protected status. Responsible for the management of these reserves are two permanent and eight temporary staff of the wildlife unit.

The unit is organising a programme to control feral cat numbers on the reserves that involves trapping and killing the feral cats and neutering the female village cats. I ran a refresher course on cat spaying for the wildlife unit staff. It is hard to see how in a country like Kiribati where geography, funds and time severely limit the frequency of veterinary visits, how such a programme could run without the training of non veterinary staff to perform this surgery.

One of the reserves, "Cook Islet" has a reduced number of juvenile sooty terns this year. The wildlife staff attributed this to the increasing numbers of visitors to the islet who arrive from cruise ships and disturb the breeding birds. It is planned to limit visitor numbers during future breeding periods.

The future of Kiritimati Island will surely depend on income from its wildlife resources and the tourists that they bring. Traditionally, Kiritimati has been the preserve of the sports fisherman who arrive to do battle with 'te Kari' or the bone fish. These sleek, silver fish are found in large numbers and sizes, on the coral flats of the lagoon and are famous for the good fight they give the fishermen. In the true spirit of fair play however, if landed by a tourist these fish will be released. This practice puzzles the I-Kiribati for whom te Kari is one of their main eating fish. None of the fishermen that I met had ever tasted the bone fish but luckily I was able to reassure them that it lives up to its name.

Divers, deep-sea fishermen and day-trippers from the cruise ships who all come to enjoy the natural wonders of Kiritimati are now joining the fly fishermen. Wildlife is also being harvested more directly by businesses collecting aquarium fish, shark fins and sea cucumbers. These industries are in need of careful regulation to ensure both

the safety of their workers and their long term sustainability.

There are big plans afoot for Kiritimati Island. The first launch of a rocket from a sea platform in international waters neighbouring it has already taken place. There are rumours of plans to build a satellite launching station at the southern end of the island. The effects of these projects and the infrastructure that they will bring to this isolated, wild beautiful island can only be imagined.

Future developments on this dry and fragile land will always be a balancing act between protecting the environment whilst providing for the needs of Kiribati to increase revenue and accommodate an increasing population. The harshness of the environment on land will limit large-scale development in the agricultural sector. However, the poverty of the land is more than balanced by the wealth of ocean resources and these should be able to ensure prosperous future for the people of Kiritimati Island.

Since the time of writing, the Government of Kiribati has arranged for an I-Kiribati trained diving instructor to visit Christmas Island to train the local divers, with the passing of their certificates becoming a requirement for the issuing of a government approved license.

- Hilary Liebeschuetz

Veterinary Officer for the Republic of Kiribati

Wildlife Centre to be Established at Massey

In an Australian first, a wildlife centre will be established in Palmerston North to help save animals caught in offshore spills. The deal signed between Massey University and the Maritime Safety Authority will ensure a rapid response for wildlife caught in an oil spill disaster.



Dr Grant Guilford, head of Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences and David Crawford, Manager Marine Environment Protection Division, Maritime Safety Authority, sign the agreement.

Mr. Mahendra Pal Chaudhry - Fiji's New Prime Minister Plans to Celebrate Fiji Day In Grand Style

Mahendra Chaudhry, 57, was appointed Prime Minister of Fiji. Mr Chaudhry was Parliamentary Leader and Secretary General of Fiji Labour Party and was first elected to the House of Parliament in 1992 - 94.



Prime Minister, Mahendra Chaudhry, speaking on the occasion of a thanksgiving service for Members of Parliament in the Nausori and Naitasiri areas said that Fiji Day this year will be celebrated in grand style. Mr. Chaudhry was the chief guest at the function held at Vunimono High School in Nausori.

Guests included Cabinet ministers Adi Koila Nailatikatu, Lavenai Pacarath, Pratap Chand, John Ali and MPs Asha Singh and Hikmat Verma.

Mr. Chaudhry said October 10 will be celebrated with pomp, colour and style. Past celebrations have not lived up to the occasion, in his view.

"Former years have been ignored. It is a day to remember and recapture the true spirit of Independence," Mr Chaudhry told guests. He said Fiji citizens should look forward to this day as it signifies historic events of the nation.

"On October 10, 1874, Ratu Seru Cakobau ceded Fiji to Great Britain. And on October 10, 1970, Fiji gained

independence from the British Monarch," he said. These are significant moments in our history.

Mr Chaudhry said an inter-ministerial committee has been planned to organise the celebrations. The Cabinet last week selected Home Affairs Minister Jogi Uluinakauvadara to head the committee.

Mr Chaudhry said that the emphasis this year will be on youth and promoting national unity in their multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society. The celebrations will be held in the main centres around the country, including Suva, Lautoka and Labasa.

Source : The Daily Post, Fiji

McGilvray elected as President Australian Veterinary Association

Members have elected Garth McGilvray as President of the AVA. Dr. McGilvray took his term as President midway through 1999.

Dr. McGilvray said as President he would do his utmost to ensure that the profession was heard in the context of national competition policy and the push by the Federal Government for deregulation of the profession. He said he would support the vet facilities in their need to maintain standards in view of the cutbacks in government funding. A Coffs Harbour small animal practitioner, Dr. McGilvray was the ASAVA representative on the AVA Board.

News in Brief

■ Japanese Officials issued a health warning after a frozen chicken imported from Vietnam was found to contain Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus (VRE), a potentially fatal bacteria.

Immune to antibiotics, VRE can cause inflammation and blood poisoning, although it is more threatening to the elderly and infirm.

The bacteria, which is thought to result from antibiotics used in poultry farms, can be killed by cooking the poultry for five minutes at 80°.

■ Bangladeshi farmers have lost over 20,000 poultry following outbreaks of various diseases. After the devastating floods, poultry suffered with flood related diseases such as fever and dysentery.

The problem has been exacerbated by a shortage of district livestock officials. According to a report in The Independent, Bangladesh, 59 posts are vacant out of a total of 104.

Canada Caribbean

51st Annual Canada Veterinary Medical Association Convention, and Executive Committee Meeting of CVA, Calgary

The 51st Annual CVMA Convention was held from July 28th to 31st 1999 at the Convention Centre, Calgary. More than 250 delegates from all over Canada and overseas participated.

The scientific programme covered such diverse areas as large animal pharmacology and neurology, equine radiology and ophthalmology; dairy cattle, bison and bovine surgery; swine and small ruminant pathology. In the small animal programme, presentations were made in dermatology, ophthalmology, dentistry, radiology, surgery and zoonosis. There was also a full day on cats and half-day on biotechnology. A small animal dentistry wet lab, the regulatory programme and the research rostrum were also included in the scientific programme.

The Exhibition hall featured over 80 booths, containing the latest in veterinary products and services, beginning on Wednesday at the ever popular Meet and Greet. This was a family affair with special treats for the

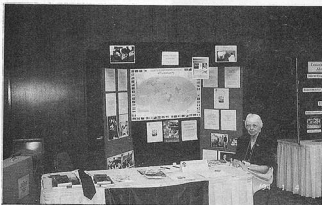


The CVA Executive L-R Drs. C.H. Giam; R. Jaumally; W.J. Pryor; Bert Stevenson; B. Touray; V. Mohabir; Wayne Lees (Council Member Canada - Observer) and S. Abdul Rahman

children. The Calgary Organising Committee had planned an excellent tour and activities programme for adult companions, teens and preteens. The programme had been arranged, so that those parents who are interested in doing so could tour Calgary's Heritage Park together with their children. Adults, teens and children visited the famous Calgary zoo on Saturday, with a unique "behind the scenes" tour of the elephant compound. There was a teen tour to Canada's Olympic Park.

The family Night Hoedown was one of the social highlights. Western flavour and hospitality was abundant as everyone headed to the Western Heritage Center in Cochrane, where dozens of hands-on exhibits revealed the history of the livestock industry and the sport of rodeo.

The Iams Fun Run welcomed first timers with the same enthusiasm as veteran Iams t-shirt collectors.



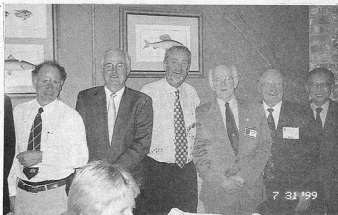
Top - CVA booth at the exhibition - Mrs. Ann Pryor manning the booth

"How to Build a Successful investment Portfolio was the title of the Merrill Lynch Financial Seminar. The Merial Reception was a great success so also a variety of class reunions. The Saturday Awards Luncheon replaced the traditional Saturday evening event, so that all family members could attend.

The meeting was attended by Presidents of British Veterinary Association Dr. Elifion Evans and his wife, the American Veterinary Medical Association Dr. Leonard F. Seda and his wife the Australian Veterinary Association Dr. Garth Mc Gilvray and Singapore Veterinary Association Dr. Giam and his wife.



The CVA Executive at work



The CVA held its Executive Committee meeting at Calgary from 24th to 31st July 1999.

Dr. Touray, Gambia - Past President, Dr. W.J. Pryor, Australia - President, Dr. Bert Stevenson, Canada - Programme Director, Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, India - Secretary and Regional Representative, Asia and other RR's from Australasia/Oceania, Dr. Giam, ECS Africa Dr. Jaumally, Canada Caribbean, Dr. V. Mohabir participated. Dr. Wayne Lees the council member elect from Canada attended as an observer. Dr. Fofana RR West Africa and Dr. John Cooper, RR, UK Mediterranean could not attend the meeting.

L-R Drs. G. Mc Gilvray; Bert Stevenson; E. Evans; W. J Pryor; Leonard Seda; G. H. Giam

Dr. Pryor presenting a memento to Dr. Seda



During the week long meeting amongst other matters the work plan for the next four years was prepared.

Identification of themes for various regional seminars and projects were discussed in the meeting. The minutes of the meeting will be published in the next issue of the CVA News. The members of CVA Executive also had discussions with the President and office bearers of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. During the discussion various issues pertaining to future collaboration between CVA and CVMA were discussed. Members of both the Executives agreed with their future potential of mutual benefits to both the organisations. The CVMA meeting was also host to Presidents of National Associations of UK, Australia, Singapore and USA. The members of CVA Executive had opportunity to discuss and highlight various programmes of CVA with these representatives of other National Associations.



CVMA and CVA Executives meet L-R Dr. Touray (back to camera), Dr. P. Fretz; Dr. Robert Miller; Dr. G. Guernsey and Dr. Darcey Shaw

The CVA hosted a dinner for the office bearers of the CVMA on July 26th.

Dr. Peter Fretz and his wife Judith - CVMA President

Dr. George Guernsey and his wife Linda - CVMA President Elect, Dr. Darcy Shaw and his wife Dr. Shelly Burton - Vice President CVMA, Dr. Micheal Baar - Executive member, CVMA, Dr. Robert Miller and his wife Evelyn - Treasurer CVMA, Claude Paul Boivin - Executive Director CVMA were present along with members of the CVA Executive.

A dinner was also hosted on Friday, July 30, 1999 on behalf of CVA sponsored by Ralston Purina

Prof. Gavin Hamilton, former Dean of Saskatchewan Vet. College

Dr. Tim Keogan and his wife Dr. Cathy Olsen - AVMA (Alberta)

Mr. Eifion Evans and his wife Mollie - BVA

Dr. Leonard F. Seda and his wife Collette - AVMA
G.M. Gilvray President AVA

Prof. Rupert Roy and his wife, Dean St. Hyacintha Vet School, Quebec

Dr. Avi Deshmukh, Ralston Purina participated.

New Office Bearers of Guyana Veterinary Association

The Guyana Veterinary Association held its Annual General Meeting on April 30, 1999. The newly elected executive is as follows

Dr. Lowell Porter -	President
Dr. Ansel Williams -	Secretary
Dr. Sharon Granger - Ba -	Treasurer
Dr. Kenrick Elias -	Committee member
Dr. Bernard Lord -	Reserve Committee member
Dr. Veronica Burnham -	CVA Councillor

New CVA Council Member of Canada

Dr Wayne Lees has been nominated as the new Council Member of CVA from Canada. Dr. Lees has been associated with the CVA in the Book and Journal Programme

East, Central and Southern Africa

Kenya

The Veterinary Profession in a Changing Environment

Review of the ECS Africa Regional Conference

This four day meeting held at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute Headquarters in Nairobi was a combined Kenya Veterinary Association and Commonwealth Veterinary Association conference. The theme was a very tropical one for many African countries today. In the past, veterinary graduates were guaranteed an income via employment by their governments. However, this is no longer financially possible, so the veterinarian in Africa now has to secure his/her own employment and income. The transition from government to private practice will not be an easy one and some of the papers presented outlined the many difficulties which will be encountered and how best to cope with them.

Although the theme of the conference was 'The Veterinary Profession in a Changing Environment', a variety of other topics were represented including animal production, nutrition, anaesthesia, diseases, the veterinary curriculum, anti-parasitic drugs and parasites (lots of parasites!). In keeping with the theme, we heard papers on the role of the veterinarian in emergency and disaster management (such as floods, fires, disease outbreak, civil unrest, terrorist attack), the international meat trade, pest control and community health and yes, even a paper on the veterinarian in laboratory animal science. There was a common emphasis on the need to include consultation with all the parties involved, especially the client. It was also encouraging to hear that some groups are investigating the efficacy and usefulness of the more natural and traditional remedies and medicines and conservation and ecological concerns were often raised.

I learnt some fascinating facts - did you know that the veterinary school in Uganda was set up by Scottish veterinarians and is therefore based on the Scottish veterinary curriculum - and it remains so to this day - (I had visions of Ugandan veterinarians visiting their clients with statements such as "Ooch man, this coo's nae gud") . It was no surprise that the current dean of this faculty discussed the importance of the need to constantly examine and change the curriculum to adapt to different

needs as they arose, for example, business and farm management in arid and semi-arid areas, indigenous wildlife and economics.

The meeting was well attended with an average of 80 - 100 delegates each day, 95% of which were Africans. I was very impressed with the calibre and content of the talks and the general comments and debates at question time. I was also astonished and delighted by the frankness and enthusiasm of these discussions with question time often being as long as the time devoted to the papers. This, coupled with a somewhat 'casual' attitude to general time keeping made for at times frustratingly long and late sessions. But one quickly adapted to 'Kenya time' - real time could wait. The meeting was also well supported by local and international sponsors which contributed to a well-attended exhibitors area. The cocktail party and conference dinner were very popular and all attendees had a good time.

Thanks and congratulations to Dr. William Ogara and his team for the effort and success of this conference. The meeting was interesting, the region was beautiful, the people were wonderful - what more does one ask of a conference?

by - Luana Ferrara B.V.Sc, MACVSc
The Children's Medical Research Institute
Wentworthville NSW, Australia 2145

WSPA's Training Initiative

WSPA, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, is holding a series of training courses this year in Turkey, India, Cuba and Antigua to train veterinarians in the techniques used in more developed countries in the management of animals, especially pets. These include spaying and neutering, vaccination and humane euthanasia. WSPA is also providing mobile animal clinics in some-areas.

Animal Pharm, 18 June 99.

Wildlife Conservation

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) Wildlife Breeding Resource Centre (WBRC), and the Johannesburg Zoological Gardens are leading the way in Africa by applying state-of-the-art scientific developments to the conservation of wildlife. The birth of an eland calf in the early hours of 11, December 1998 at the Johannesburg Zoological Gardens was by no means an ordinary event. This young heifer is the first animal born in Africa and one of the first in the world from sperm taken from a dead animal. Graca - the first lady - symbolises the hope that the new techniques being developed in conservation biology, can be extended to other African wildlife species which are under threat of inbreeding and extinction and especially to those classified as endangered.

The WBRC, a working group of the EWT, is the only Genome Resource Banking (GRB) and assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) centre for wildlife on the African continent. GRB refers to the collection of viable genetic material in the way of sperm, egg cells and embryos from wildlife species. ART refers to the processes employed in transferring the genetic material back into a population, this includes artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer (ET).

The WBRC and the Johannesburg Zoological Gardens are working together on a number of joint scientific projects to use these techniques - originally developed for the benefit of domestic animals and human reproduction - and apply them to threatened wildlife.

- Vet News Feb' 99

Studies on Skeletal Pathology of Gorillas

Since 1995, I have been carrying out a study of skeletal material from gorillas in museums and private collections in Europe. This investigation was a continuation of my research in Central Africa prior to the evacuation of my wife and myself from the war in Rwanda in 1994.

The purpose of this study is to collate information and to develop a database on skeletal disease and abnormalities in gorillas, with particular reference to the mountain gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla beringei*). The results of this study will provide information that can help the conservation and management of gorillas in the wild.

In parallel with this research on skeletal pathology, I am taking the opportunity to examine skins and wet (fixed) tissue from gorillas. This may provide further information on causes of morbidity and mortality in these animals.

This study is already producing interesting results and I am looking for volunteers who are willing to assist. Work that needs to be done includes analysis and collation of data, (typing and computing skills are desirable) and possibly, examination and measuring of museum specimens. An ability to speak French or German may be an advantage in certain circumstances, however, this is not essential. Enthusiasm and some basic knowledge of biology are the main requirements.

Further information about the study and offers of assistance should be directed to Professor John E. Cooper at Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, Les Augres Manor, Trinity, Jersey JE3 5BD, British Channel Islands, Europe. Fax: +44-1534-865161; Email: NGAGI@compuserve.com

Kenya Women Veterinary Association Regional Workshop Held in Nairobi, Kenya from 1st to 7th November 1998

The Kenya Women Veterinary Association held a regional workshop for Women Veterinarians in the Eastern and Southern African region in Nairobi on 1st to 7th November 1998. Participants for the workshop were drawn from Uganda (2), Zambia (2), Zimbabwe (1), Tanzania (2), Ethiopia (1), Botswana (1), Kenya (15) and Swaziland (1).

In preparation for the regional and global changes affecting the profession and women's role in socio-

economic affairs, the Association felt it was important to reach out to other professionals, especially women Veterinarians, in the region and together find ways of working with the regional economic and social fora to brace for the next millennium. It was in this regard that the workshop was organised.

The aim of the workshop was to lay the ground for networking within the region, assess what has been achieved and propose what needs to be done in order to

define their role in the rapidly changing global affairs.

Resolutions

It was agreed that all countries should start by having a women veterinary association. This would make the rest of the resolutions easy to implement.

To address the problems, several projects were proposed. Coordinators from representative countries were chosen who would write proposals for these projects.

The projects were :

1. Formation of a regional veterinary association - East and Southern Africa Women Veterinary Association (ESAWVA).

2. Preparation of videos, promote education of girls, encouraging science abilities and professionalism.

3. Organisation of farmers workshops where farmers are educated on animal husbandry and management of all species of livestock, with a view to improve income and health of families.

4. Preparation of videos on public health. These would bring out public health issues and emphasize gender roles in health and collaboration between the veterinarians and medics in improving public health.

5. Planning, continuing and postgraduate education for women veterinarians. This project would also come up with ways of finding jobs for new graduates and ways of acquiring loans.

6. Planning of courses for women veterinarians to improve the skills. These courses would include management, administration, communication, financial management to name a few.

Annual General Meeting of Kenya Veterinary Association

This meeting was held on 21 April 1999. Major issues of concern to KVA were discussed. Key issues included :

Constitutional Review process in Kenya, Livestock marketing system, Disaster preparedness and management in livestock sectors, and privatisation of delivery of animal health services.

The following have been elected for the year 99 - 2000.

Chairman	Dr. S. Varma
Snr V. Chairman	Dr. W. O. Ogara
Jnr. V. Chairman	Dr. J. K. Kuria
Secretary	Dr. N. Munene
Treasurer	Dr. M. A. Ihiga
Members	Dr. J. M. Mandleka
	Dr. C. Wanjohi
Co-opted	Dr. P. Rwambo
	Dr. D. Kihurani
	Dr. D. Makonnen
	Dr. V. Yamo

The farewell function was held at the Jockey Club of Kenya in the outskirts of Nairobi City and was attended by the president of the CVA, RR, Councillors,

members of the KVA executive committee, both out going and incoming, sponsors and several members of KVA.

The official functions included :

- Presentations to Prof. Pryor (President of CVA) and Prof. Msolla (immediate past RR) for services to CVA.

- Handing of chain of office by Dr. Ogara (immediate past Chairman KVA) to Dr. Varma (incumbent chairman KVA).

There were addresses by Dr. Jaumaly (RR), Prof. W. J. Pryor (President CVA), Dr. W. O. Ogara (CVA Councillor Kenya), Dr. S. Varma (Chairman KVA), Dr. Schneider (President WVA - Africa Region). Other chosen dignitaries Dr. I. G. Kahi, a former chairman of KVA, and Chairman of KVA council was master of ceremonies.

Other important persons at the function that need to be mentioned were Dr. Catherine Wanjohi (Chairperson KVA - Women Branch), and Dr. G. Gachacha (immediate past treasurer).

Dr. C. Nderitu, a former chairman of Kenya Veterinary Association and the director of the institution was very supportive and assisted in providing KVA adequate facilities. Dr. Wafula the Deputy Director KARI was on the ground to make sure that the conference had the best in all aspects. Kenya Veterinary Association and the Commonwealth Veterinary Association are very grateful to KARI for the tremendous support and facilities.

There was a visit by vets from Mozambique to various poultry farms in the region.

- W.O. Ogara

Report On The Commonwealth Veterinary Association ECS Africa Meeting Held At Nairobi, Kenya from 19th to 23rd April 1999

Dr. W. O. Ogara, CVA Councillor, Kenya.

Kenya Veterinary Association hosted the East Central and Southern African Regional Conference from 19th to 23rd April 1999. The theme of the conference was "The Veterinary Profession in a Changing Environment".

The Conference was held at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) headquarters, Kabete.

A total of 180 veterinarians registered for the conference. Although the attendance would have been better considering the population of Veterinarians in Kenya, we consider this a good working number.

There were a total of 40 foreign and one hundred and thirty Kenyan participants. A total of 9 councillors from the region attended the conference. The details are given in the minutes of the council meeting.

Professor W. J. Pryor, President of CVA was present to oversee the organisational activities. His presence was useful in many ways as will be detailed in relevant sections of the conference proceedings. Dr. Deshmukh of Ralston Purina, USA also attended the conference.

The guest of honour at the ceremony was Dr. Walter Masiga, the Director of DAU/IBAR. Other dignitaries present on the dais during the opening ceremony included Dr. Jaumally M. R. (Regional Representative), Prof. W. J. Pryor (President CVA) Dr. C. Nderitu (Director, KARI) Dr. J. Kajume (Deputy Director of Veterinary Services) Dr. Varma (Chairman KVA) and Dr. W. O. Ogara CVA Councillor, Kenya.

Prof. M. Kagiko (Dean FVM, Kenya), Prof Katunguka (Dean FVM, Makerere, Uganda), Dr. Masiga presented key note address on the theme of the conference while Dr. Kajume (DVS) presented a good position paper on important aspects of the Veterinary profession with a National and Global view. These papers and other speeches at the opening ceremony will be published in the conference proceedings.

In his opening address, the Regional Representative Dr. Jaumally emphasised that the KVA had met the CVA standards of conference organisation. He commended the CVA councillor Kenya (Dr. W. O. Ogara) and the entire KVA executive headed by Dr. S. Varma (Chairman) for this no mean achievement inspite of difficulties in the initial stages.

A total of 70 papers were listed for presentation at

the conference. The abstracts were sent before hand. However only 60 papers were presented.

There were 11 sessions for oral presentations while the posters were to be presented at a time convenient to the presenter during the conference period. The papers varied in content and quality of presentation. A wide range of areas were covered with topics on Veterinary Education and Legislation, Environment, Wildlife, Animal Nutrition and Animal Health. There was strong emphasis on need to develop pet animal nutrition in the curricula of vet schools in the region as well as the need for professional development of qualified vets already in the field in this area of speciality. Dr. Deshmukh was a major contributor to this discussion.

The Regional Council Meeting

The CVA Regional ECS Meeting was held on April 21st, 1999 and chaired by the Regional Representative Dr. M. R. Jaumally. The meeting was attended by 9 councillors W. O. Ogara (Kenya), J. L. Caravela (Mozambique), H. Schneider (Namibia), G. Bath (S. Africa), G. S. Pandey (Zambia), R. Busayi (Zimbabwe), S. Y. Sinare, (Tanzania), Ogwai-Okat (Uganda), Groodoyal (Mauritius). Prof. W. J. Pryor (President CVA) was in attendance as an observer.

The councillors from Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland and Malawi were not able to attend the regional meeting.

The highlight of the agenda covered were

- Organisation of ECS Africa Nairobi meeting.
- Review of minutes of the meeting held in Bangalore, India (22-27 Feb., 1998).
- Level of funding for ECS - region.
- Meeting of Deans of Vet Schools in the region to discuss various aspects of veterinary education.
- CVA study fund.
- Regional work programme.
- Country reports from the councillors were presented as well as from the Regional Representative.

Promotion of Private Veterinary Services and Review of Veterinary laws were some of the major issues in the discussions. Other details of the council meeting will be published in the Conference Proceedings.



CVA - ECS Africa Regional Meeting

Council members with Regional Representative and President CVA

Front Row - L-R Drs. G.S. Pandey; M.R. Jaumally; W.J. Pryor; W.O. Ogara; Ogwai-Okat; S.Y. Sinare

Back Row - L-R Drs. H. Schneider; J.L. Caravela; R. Busayi; G. Bath

The ECS Regional meeting



Vets from Mozambique visiting a small scale dairy farm in Kenya

Poultry Industry in Mauritius

Mauritius is self sufficient in poultry for some years now and occasional shortages are only felt during end of year festivities when limited importation is allowed.

Production of poultry is mainly effected by four private commercial companies which are fully integrated. Government has set up a poultry breeding centre which is responsible for the production of day old chicks destined to be sold to small and medium farmers for fattening.

Poultry housing of commercial and some medium operators is made of concrete and corrugated metal sheets and is designed to be cyclone proof. Due to the tropical climate, large openings / windows is a prominent feature of the buildings. In summer, when

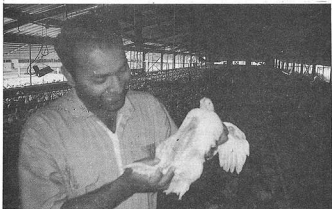


A poultry flock

the temperature is high adequate ventilation is achieved by the use of electric fans.

Poultry feed is produced by two commercial feed factories and these are government owned. The raw materials are imported.

Photos show the poultry houses from inside and the automatic feeders and drinkers. Note the openings / windows all along the sides of the building. The size of the openings can be controlled through a central lever. The fans are centrally located for additional ventilation and elimination of toxic gases. Photos through courtesy of Mantido Poultry Farms Ltd.



Veterinarian Culling a bird

Obituary - Dr. Paul Bosman

Veterinarians throughout the Commonwealth learned with sadness about the tragic death of Dr. Paul Bosman, former Chief Director of Veterinary Services of the Republic of South Africa. He was murdered on the Natal South Coast, South Africa on 10, April 1999, while on a holiday.

Dr. Bosman, a graduate from the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort, University of Pretoria, retired in March after almost 40 years of service as a state veterinarian in the National Ministry of Agriculture of South Africa. He was for many years Deputy Director of Animal Health, speciality

for Herd Health Control, and became the Chief Veterinary Officer in 1995. He was the permanent representative of South Africa to the OIE from 1989 and the first South African to be the President of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and to serve on the Code Commission of the OIE.

Dr. Bosman will be remembered by veterinarians as a most dedicated and outstanding veterinarian, at all times giving his very best for man and animal. We extend our sympathies to his family and the veterinary profession of South Africa.

Post Graduate Studies In Wild Animal Health And Management : A New Course In Uganda

A one-year-post-graduate training course in Wild Animal Health and Management is in progress in Uganda, East Africa. It is organised by WARM (Wild Animal Management and Resource Management), a new Department of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University.

The new course was started in October 1998 and it closes in July 1999. There are ten students, one a Brazilian and nine Ugandans. These are a mixture of veterinarians and graduates in natural sciences : a number are in senior positions in the Uganda Wild Life Authority (UWA). The language of instruction is English and lecturers are drawn from Europe as well as Uganda itself.

The course provides specialised instruction in such fields as animal ecology, wildlife disease, protected areas management and conservation legislation. Formal lectures are supplemented with fieldwork and students undertake their own research projects. Some modules take place in the field, in the stimulating and attractive atmosphere of Lake Mburo National Park, about four hours drive from Kampala, where students and lecturers are able to work with indigenous wildlife and to interact with Park staff and local communities.

At a time when the health, management and utilisation of wild life are attracting both interest and debate, this new course provides much needed training opportunities for those planning to work in these fields, especially in Africa or other tropical regions.

Further information is available from Dr. Christine Dranzoa, WARM, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University, PO Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda; email - warm@uga.healthnet.org or Professor John E Cooper e-mail : NGAGI@compuserve.com

Did You Know?

Ostriches do not have a crop and the liver is located in the thoracic cavity with the heart and the lungs.

Ostriches are susceptible to and can be carriers of *Bacillus anthracis*, Borna virus and Wesselbron disease virus which are also pathogenic for humans and other mammals.

- Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine
(1998) 53.2

Training Workshop On The Management And Health Of Crocodiles

You are invited to attend a training workshop on the management and health of crocodiles in September 1999. This will be organised by Professor John E. Cooper (Wildlife Pathologist), Mrs. Margaret Cooper (Wildlife Lawyer) from UK and Dr. Gladys Kalema (Uganda Wildlife Authority Veterinary Officer). There will be opportunities to learn about crocodile farming with an emphasis on practical aspects and the health and welfare of these animals.

The programme is as follows :

Dates : Tues 14th - Wed 15th September 1999

Venue : Kampala and Crocodile Farm, Buwama.

Tutors : Prof. John E. Cooper DVM, FRC Path, FI Biol, FRCVS, Mrs. Margaret E Cooper LLB, FLS, Dr. Gladys Kalema BVet Med, MRCVS

Duration : 2 days

Content : Lectures : - Introduction, Anatomy, Physiology, General Biology, Husbandry, Hygiene, Handling, Management, Legal Aspects, Hygiene, Health and Disease. Treatment and Control of Diseases.

Practicals : Dissection, Literature, Handling and Restraint (at Crocodile Farm).

Water Testing : Clinical Examination, Sampling Methods, Laboratory Tests, Post-mortem Examination.

Attendance is restricted to 15 people. Each participant will receive course notes and literature.

The fee for this Training Workshop is only : Uganda Shillings 20,000/- for Ugandans and \$20 for non-Ugandans.

For Details and Registration please contact : Dr. Gladys Kalema, Uganda Wildlife Authority Headquarters, Kampala, Uganda, Tel : +256-41-346287/8, Email : gkalema@starcom.co.ug

Dr. John Bosco Nizeye, Wildlife Animal Resource Management (WARM), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Mnakere University, PO Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda Tel : +256-41-534061 or 530065, Email : mgvp@uga.healthnet.org

Additional Information may be obtained from : Prof John E Cooper, PO Box 153, Wellingborough, NN8 2ZA, UK, E-mail : NGAGI@compuserve.com

West Africa

Nigeria

Nigeria Elects New President

Since November 1995, Nigeria has been suspended from membership of the Commonwealth for serious violations of the Commonwealth's Harare Principles on democracy and rights. The international community criticised it; some sanctions had been imposed. However, since Head of State General Abdulsalami Abubakar announced in July 1998 a programme for handing the government back to civilian rule, Nigerians have worked hard to ensure that, as promised, an elected, civilian president would take office on 29 May 1999.

Commonwealth Secretariat staff witnessed the elections.

The observers watched the campaign and all aspects of the preparations for the conduct of the polls, talked to officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), representatives of political parties at national, state and local levels, non-governmental, women's and religious groups and others. They also travelled to different parts of the country in order to assess the situation for themselves.

The voter turnout was low (43.84% for the National Assembly and 52.13 for the presidential elections) and there were numerous technical and logistical difficulties, including a shortage of electoral materials, failure to follow procedures and, most important, failure to ensure secrecy of the ballot in some places, which the Group noted was a "fundamental tenet of democracy" although it did say that Nigerians did not appear concerned about this issue.

Retired General Olusegun Obasanjo of the People's Democratic Party won the presidential election.

The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group of Foreign Ministers is expected to meet soon to assess Nigeria's progress towards the restoration of a civilian democracy with a view to making recommendations to Heads of government regarding the full return of Nigeria to Commonwealth membership.

- Commonwealth Currents 1, 1999

From Prison To President



President-Elect General Oluse Obasanjo (left) and Sir Ketumile Masire former President of Botswana and Head of the Commonwealth Observer group to the Nigerian election

Oluse Obasanjo, a 62-year-old retired general, farmer and former Head of State, is Nigeria's President-elect, having won the country's first democratic elections after 15 years of military rule.

General Obasanjo, contesting on the ticket of the People's Democratic Party, won 62.78% of the votes, while his rival, Chief Olu Falae of the All People's Party, won 37.22%. The 27 February 1999 election was the last of a four-stage electoral programme that began with local government elections on 5th December 1998.

The polls are part of a transition programme announced in July 1998 by the incumbent, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, after his accession to power following the sudden death of General Sani Abacha in June 1998.

It will be General Obasanjo's second time as Head of State. He was the military ruler from 1976 to 1979 when he stepped down voluntarily and handed power to the civilian government of President Shehu Shagari. Following his retirement, he went into farming and became well known as an international mediator and

anti-apartheid campaigner. General Obasanjo was co-chairperson of the Commonwealth's Seven-Member Group of Eminent Persons that went to South Africa in 1986 to promote a process of dialogue towards ending apartheid and installing a non-radical democracy. In 1995 he was sentenced to life imprisonment - later commuted to 15 years - by a military tribunal for allegedly plotting a coup. He was released following General Abacha's death.

Born in Abeokuta, Ogun State, General Obasanjo is a Yoruba. He joined the Nigerian army in 1958 and served with the United Nations Forces in the Congo in 1960.

Sierra Leone

War Rages On

Commonwealth and other international initiatives to bring peace to Sierra Leone continue, amid concerns about the humanitarian and general security situation there. In January, renewed attacks on Freetown by the rebel Revolutionary United Front left in their wake a trail of massive human rights abuses, including rape, murder, amputations and torture. Although the rebels were driven back by Ecomog, the West African intervention force helping the Sierra Leone Government, the fighting displaced more than 150,000 people.

The rebel attacks and savagery were condemned by the Commonwealth and the rest of the international community. In a statement, Commonwealth Secretary - General Chief Emeka Anyaoku called on the International community to take "firm and unequivocal action" to end the tragedy. The statement, issued on 2 February, stressed the need for urgent action to save Sierra Leone and support the democratically elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

President Tejan Kabbah's Government was restored in March 1998 after the ouster of the illegal military junta which committed unspeakable brutalities and widespread destruction during its nine months in power. Chief Anyaoku said Sierra Leone faced a tragedy unprecedented in its history and horrendous even by the standards of a world increasingly inured to the brutalities of war.

He said the defence of Sierra Leone should not be left to the unaided efforts of a few of its neighbours and Ecomog desperately needed material and logistical support to discharge its mission fully and effectively.

The statement urged the international community to send out two clear messages: the one to the governments known to be arming and supplying the rebels that there is a price to be paid for subverting the peace

and stability of Sierra Leone; the other to the rebels that they will not be allowed to shoot and mutilate their way to power in Freetown.

Sierra Leonean refugees arriving in Liberia



El Nino Link With African Horse Sickness

Climatic changes brought about by the El Nino weather system may be responsible for the African horse sickness (AHS). This is the conclusion of scientists at the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, who have discovered that there is a strong link between the timing of epizootics of AHS in South Africa and the warm (El Nino) phase of the El Nino/Southern Oscillation. Writing in *Nature* (February 18, 1999, p 574), the researchers say that the epizootics are due to a population explosion of the biting midge, *Culicoides imicola*, which spreads the disease, and suggest that this association is mediated by the combination of rainfall and drought brought to South Africa by El Nino. Their study showed that, of the 14 major epidemics of AHS that have occurred in South Africa since 1803, 13 were during El Nino periods. The researchers also predict that, with an increasing frequency of El Nino as a result of global warming, similar effects may be seen on other diseases, including those affecting humans.

- Vet Record Feb 27, 1999

U.K. Mediterranean

British Equine Veterinary Association Congress

This year's Annual BEVA Congress will be held in Harrogate - an elegant spa town situated in some of the most beautiful English countryside from 12th - 15 September, 1999.

Following the fantastic success of Congress 98 in Birmingham an equally varied programme in Harrogate, is being offered. A significant part of which will be aimed at the equine practitioner.

A day session will be devoted to equine nursing.

Multitrack presentations will allow a combination of high quality science, specialist sessions, CPD and free communications.

These are accompanied by an attractive social programme.

For further information and full registration details please contact

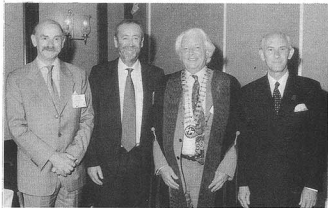
BEVA Congress office, 5 Finlay Street, London SW6 6HE, UK

Tel : + 44 (0) 171- 610 6080

Fax : + 44(0) 171 - 610 6823

email : bevauc@msn.co.uk

New Officers of BVA L-R Mr. David Miller (Vice President); Mr. Eifion Evans (Sr. V.P.); Mr Baker (Pres.) and Mr. Ted Chandler (Past Pres.)



New Officers of British Veterinary Association

The following BVA officers were elected for the year 1998 - 1999

President	Mr. K. B. Baker
Past-President	Mr. E.A. Chandler
Senior Vice President	Mr. G.R.E. Evans
Junior Vice President	Mr. J.D. Tyson
Vice - President	Mr. D.J.S. Miller

Welcome To Britain

The Regional Representative for UK/Mediterranean, Professor John Cooper, reminds CVA colleagues that they are welcome, if they visit Britain, to contact him beforehand with a view to meeting. Professor Cooper is often out of the country so prior notice of a visit would be wise; it may permit arrangement to be made for someone else to receive the visitor and to give any help that is needed.

The contact is **Professor John Cooper/ Mrs Helena Cotton at the British Veterinary Association, 7 Mansfield Street, London W1M0AT**

Tel : +44 171 636 6541; Fax : + 44 171 637 4769 ; email : press@bva.co.uk

Regional Representative UK Mediterranean Visits Cyprus

A short visit to Cyprus in April, in order to lecture at a Scientific Congress, permitted Professor John Cooper, Regional Representative UK/Mediterranean and CVA Councilor for the UK, to meet Dr. Andreas Emmanouel, Councilor for Cyprus.

The two Councilors met first at a Guest Lecture (presented by Professor and Mrs Cooper) at the Congress where Dr. Emmanouel was introduced to the audience and welcomed as a guest. The next day the two Councilors drove to Nicosia where they visited Dr. Emmanouel's practice and discussed CVA and regional activities. One issue that was aired was the possibility of a Workshop in the region; topics that might be covered at such a gathering could include : (a) "new" emerging diseases in the Mediterranean and Europe such as canine ehrlichiosis and leishmaniasis, and (b) prevention of spread from Africa or the Middle East of important infectious conditions of livestock such as bluetongue, African Swine fever and African horse sickness.



Professor Cooper (centre) with Dr. and Mrs Emmanouel in their practice in Nicosia

These relatively brief meetings did much to strengthen CVA links within the UK/ Mediterranean Region and will, it is hoped, lead to closer contact and more collaboration in future.

New CVO for Northern Ireland

Dr. Robert M. McCracken has been appointed chief veterinary officer in the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland. He succeeds Mr. Ron Martin who retired in December 1998.

Dr. McCracken qualified from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh, in 1966 and obtained his PhD. in 1972 for work on Aujeszky's disease. He joined DANI in 1968 as a pathologist at its Veterinary Research Laboratories and was appointed head of the Pathology department in 1973. He became deputy director of the research laboratories in 1987, before being appointed deputy chief veterinary officer in 1990.



World Bank To Improve Ugandan Agriculture

The World Bank has granted Uganda a credit equivalent to \$26 million to support efforts to modernise the country's agricultural sector. The Ugandan government is attempting to disseminate new technology throughout the industry and is keen to promote indigenous knowledge together with modern management techniques. Research and development activities will be decentralised as part of the programme.

Animal Pharm, 18 June 99.

Women Vets Of Commonwealth

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

Guyana

Dr. Iris Craig - Clarke -

by Dr. Veronica Burnham
- CVA Councillor, Guyana

Dr. Iris Craig Clarke completed her studies overseas, graduating with honours from Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) with a degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1980. Her return home to work as the first female Guyanese veterinarian marked the beginning of a new era.

Iris's career started in the Government service, working in the Clinical Pathology Department of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. She also lectured on a part - time basis to students of the Regional Educational Programme for Animal Health Assistants (REPAHA), a programme that trains Animal Health Assistants throughout the Caribbean and further afield.

After leaving the Government service, she became a full time small animal practitioner, working in partnership with her husband Dr. Maurice Clarke (also a graduate of Tuskegee Institute). During this time she also served as a wildlife consultant, providing medical service for exporters of wildlife. She is today considered one of our most experienced "Wildlife Veterinarians".

Iris has published several scientific papers, and has served on the Executive of the Guyana Veterinary Association as Secretary, during which time she focused much of her energies on improving the image of the Association. Being the first female in a traditionally male dominated profession was not without its challenges, but with determination and hard work, Iris managed to overcome these, thereby earning the respect of both colleagues and clients, and emerged as a pace setter for other women veterinarians that followed.

Over the years, the number of women veterinarians in Guyana has continued to increase, mainly as a result of Government policies at that time, which offered equal educational opportunities for women, in even traditionally male dominated professions. Today the number of women veterinarians stands at approximately 20%. Notwithstanding their relatively small numbers, the

contributions of these women, especially at the level of the Association has remained significant. Women veterinarians for example have served as Presidents of the Association for six consecutive years between 1991 - 1997.

Iris currently balances her time between her small animal practice, teaching assignments, wildlife consultancy and the raising of her four children Sean, Rochelle, Astra and Gregory. Her busy schedule does not allow her a lot of free time, but she finds some moments to enjoy the outdoors, read West Indian literature or listen to her favourite music.

Congratulations Dr. Clarke on a job well done!

■ Tata BP Solar, Bangalore India has announced plans to introduce an environmentally friendly egg incubator, to the industry. The Company's managing Director, A.K. Arora, said the solar incubator, designed to hatch upto 60 eggs, reduces mortality rates, is useful where there is no electricity grid and can also be run on battery power.

Multinational Volunteers

Volunteers of any nationality are now eligible to apply to VSO through its recruitment centres in the UK, the Netherlands, Canada and Portugal. The new policy allows those without the right to re-entry into the UK to apply, and is designed to provide maximum flexibility in filling placements in as cost-effective way as possible. Applicants can be selected for interview from anywhere in the world, particularly useful where a volunteer's skills are in short supply in the countries of VSO's recruitment centres. VSO usually pays travel expenses of upto Pounds 200. From now on, however, exceptions will be made for suitable applicants who must travel from abroad. The policy will be reviewed in March 2000.

Zambia

Dr. Anna Songolo



Dr. Anna Songolo born on 13th January, 1963 in the Western province of Zambia, is among one of the first batch of vet graduates, the University of Zambia produced in 1988. Soon after graduation she joined the Ministry of Agriculture as veterinary officer in 1989. She has worked in different capacities since then in the department of veterinary and

tsetse control services. She is at present, Principal Veterinary Officer (Public Health) in the department of Research and Specialist Services of the Ministry of Agriculture. Dr. Songolo has also been very active member of the Veterinary Association of Zambia and at the moment she is Hon. Treasurer of the association for the last three years.

Dr. Careen Hankanga

Dr. Careen Hankanga, was born on 1st June, 1968, in Lusaka, Zambia, and graduated from the University of Zambia, School of Veterinary Medicine in 1992 with an excellent academic record. Soon she joined as a house surgeon and later as Staff development fellow in the School of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her M.V.M in 1995 from the University of Glasgow and since then she is lecturer in small animal medicine and surgery in the faculty of veterinary medicine at University of Zambia. In addition to teaching, research and running the busy veterinary hospital at the University, she is in the executive body of the VAZ as Public Relations Officer, a position she is occupying for the last three years unopposed.



- Dr. Pandey, Council Member, Zambia

Canada

Dr. Jeanne Lofstedt



Dr. Jeanne Lofstedt graduated with her B.V.Sc degree from the University of Pretoria in South Africa in 1975. Upon graduation, she received the Sir Arnold Theiler Medal for the top veterinary student over all 5 years.

After spending 6 months in private practice in South Africa, she and her husband, Dr. Rob Lofstedt, moved to Saskatchewan, Canada where she completed a 1 year rotating Large Animal Internship at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan in 1976, followed by a 1 year stint in the Department of Pathology. Dr. Lofstedt was accepted as a resident in Food Animal Medicine and Surgery at Iowa State University in 1978. She completed her residency programme and was awarded the Charles Davis Foundation Scholarship in Veterinary Pathology in 1980, and received an MS degree in Pathology from Iowa State University in 1981.

Dr. Lofstedt joined the faculty of Tufts University as an assistant Professor in Medicine in 1981, and taught there for 6 years. While at Tufts, she was awarded the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award in 1985. In 1987, she achieved Diplomate status of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, and moved to Prince Edward Island, Canada with her husband and son, Peter, to assume a faculty position in the Department of Health Management, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island, where she became a full Professor, a Canadian citizen and expanded her family to include a son Brian and a daughter, Ainsley.

Recognised for her expertise in large animal neonatology, and large animal internal medicine in general, Dr. Lofstedt has numerous publications in refereed journals and textbooks, and has spoken at many regional, national and international meetings. Dr. Lofstedt joined the College's administration group in July 1997, after a decade of teaching in DVM programme. As the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Lofstedt is responsible for the Curriculum, Student Affairs, and Continuing Education.

- Dr. Timothy H. Ogilvie, Acting Dean, UPEI

Dr. Barbara Kingscote

Barbara Braddy was born on 20th January 1928 in Montreal. From a very early age she showed interest in animals and had natural inclination to farming and keeping of livestock. She got very good encouragement from her family. Throughout her elementary and secondary school she was an excellent student graduating in 1945 and a B.Sc. in 1947. Before enrolling in Ontario Veterinary College in 1950 she worked for two years in a farm. During her entire veterinary course she was in top five and graduated with first class honours in DVM. She obtained her M.V.Sc. from the same college. She worked for 3 years as Research Assistant and then obtained her Ph.D. in 1972 in Zoonosis. Dr. Barbara Kingscote was one of the earlier female students that went into Veterinary Medicine. She was one of four girls in a class of over sixty and had difficulties to be accepted as a veterinarian by the farming community. It was mainly due to the fact that she had worked on farms most of her early life that she was eventually accepted by the farming community. Dr. Kingscote research topics were guided by grass roots problems and needs as she showed them through lab experiments that she was conducting. She tended to be very strong on field observation and when she was in the lab her work was focused on development of better methods by which to do her research. She did extensive research on Leptospirosis including identification of various strains of *Leptospira* in Canadian Livestock. Her work in animal welfare was substantial and she was instrumental in the introduction of humane treatment

standards for laboratory and livestock animals.

Her work in Landscape Epidemiology allows everyone from the local farmers to soldiers travelling abroad to anticipate disease saving lives as well as livestock losses. This work also foisted the need of Canadian disease reporting system similar to one in the U.S and she was put in touch with the Centre of Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta where she built up support for a Canadian system.

Dr. Kingscote's work was sometimes intertwined with political issues and concerns while she was working in Alberta especially with the import of horses and cattle.

She was also the Chairperson of Animal Care Centre at Suffield, Alberta which was the Defence Research Establishment Suffield (DRES). Dr. Kingscote mainly worked with primate housing and care within the family.

She has also been involved in Animal Care Centre Committee, Editorial Review Committee and Safety Committee (Chairperson) at the Animal Disease Research Institution (ADRI). Dr. Kingscote's contribution as a women veterinarian in Canadian Veterinary profession is highly illustrious and deserves to be recorded.

- Dr. G. Harry King, DVM

■ Kosovo Crisis

Around 50 percent of the livestock and domestic animals in Kosovo are estimated to have died during the recent troubles in the region, according to the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). In some areas, the figure may be as high as 80 percent. A WSPA disaster relief team in Kosovo has reported that huge numbers of animals left by refugees fleeing Kosovo died of starvation, while others were injured or killed by gunfire or landmines. It estimates that, before the conflict began, there were approximately 150,000 dogs, 200,000 cattle and 500,000 sheep and goats in Kosovo.

The Veterinary Record, July 31, 1999.

■ EVA Outbreak

An outbreak of equine viral arteritis (EVA) in Devon appears to have been contained. The Animal Health Trust reports that, following diagnosis of the respiratory form of the disease in a gelding, horse owners in the area acted swiftly to follow the voluntary code of practice for controlling the spread of the disease. The animal in which the disease was diagnosed is no longer considered infectious and tests on other horses on the premises have proved negative. Investigations into the origin of the outbreak are continuing.

The Veterinary Record, July 31, 1999.

Abstracts

■ Dangers of Chinese Traditional Medicine

Traditional Chinese medications are gaining popularity all over the world. A group of researchers from Taiwan examined the toxicoses associated with traditional medications that were brought to the attention of a poison centre over a period of three years. More than 300 inquiries were made regarding traditional medications, 273 of which were about a toxicosis. Of these 22 (20 acute and 2 chronic poisonings) were fatal.

Taiwan imports Chinese traditional medicines annually for the value of up to USD85 million. Studies of the action, efficacy, processing and toxicity of traditional medications are urgently needed. The authors stress the importance of collection of toxicological data and call for regulations on shops selling medications and on illegal practitioners of traditional medicine. They also feel that the general public needs to be educated against faith in potentially dangerous quackery. People often have a false sense of security, believing that nothing that comes from "nature" can be toxic. Yet the most potent toxins known are produced by microbes and plants.

Deng J.F, Kao W.F., Chen S.S. The difficulty of handling poisonings associated with Chinese traditional medicine: A poison control center experience for 1991 - 1993. *Vet Human Toxicol* 1997; 39 : 106 : 114.

Thabo Mbeki New President of South Africa

Thabo Mbeki, leader of the African National Congress (ANC), was sworn into office as South Africa's new President on 16 June, two days before his 57th birthday. Mr. Mbeki takes over from President Nelson Mandela who retired as leader of the ANC before the elections.

In his inaugural speech President Mbeki paid tribute to Mr. Mandela and others who had led the struggle to liberate South Africa including his own father, the late Govan Mbeki. He said that although the country was still at the initial stages of a long journey, there was cause for hope.

Deputy President since 1994, Mr Mbeki was elected by the new parliament on 14 June, following ANC's landslide victory in South Africa's second - democratic elections on 2 June.

■ First Reported Case of Elephant Rabies in Sri Lanka

- O. Wimalaratne and D.S. Kodi Kare

An 84 - year old female domesticated elephant was presented with a four - day history of lethargy. During the initial stages of disease, the animal had a normal appetite and water intake. The following day she was unsteady and became aggressive and restless two days later. During this time there were secretions from the temporal glands. On the sixth day she was completely anorectic, had developed paralysis of the trunk and was unable to stand, falling each time she tried to get up. At this time she was also found to be blind. The animal's condition deteriorated rapidly and she died on the ninth day after the first signs were observed. The mahouts who looked after the animal during its illness and the two helpers who assisted in performing the postmortem examination were given post exposure rabies prophylaxis.

At postmortem examination, the brain appeared congested and more vascular than normal. A brain smear examined by the fluorescent antibody test (Dean and Others 1996) was positive for rabies antigen. Subsequently, a serum sample was sent to the World Health Organisation Collaborating Center for Rabies in Bangkok, Thailand, which determined that it contained a rabies virus neutralising antibody titre of 0.68IU/ml determined by the rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test (Smith and others, 1996), when compared to a normal elephant serum rabies antibody titre of less than 0.04IU/ml. The virus was isolated in the Rabies Laboratory, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, as well as in the Bangkok laboratory and was found by antigenic typing and genetic sequencing to be similar to the common Sri Lankan dog rabies variant, even though there was no history of an animal bite to the elephant. Similarly, it was observed that there were relatively minor differences between the Sri Lankan and Thai dog rabies virus variants.

Rabies in elephants is an unusual occurrence. However, rabies should be considered in differential diagnosis of any acute, progressive neurological disease, particularly in an area of endemic dog rabies. Therefore, inactivated veterinary rabies vaccines may be considered for the protection of particularly valuable stock.

The Veterinary Record, Jan 23, 1999

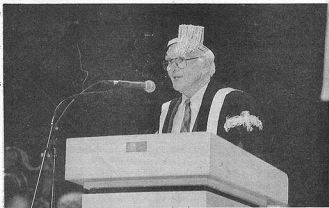
■ An outbreak of Newcastle disease in NSW, Australia, resulted in the slaughter of nearly 120,000 chickens and a cost of \$ 2.5 million to decontaminate three poultry farms.

News

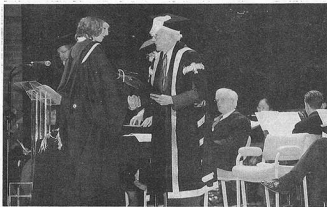
CVA President's Many Roles

Dr. W. J. Pryor President of Commonwealth Veterinary Association has also many other jobs. One such role is his position as Deputy Chancellor of University of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia. On May 13, 1999 Dr. Pryor as Acting Chancellor distributed degree certificates to graduates of the University of Ballarat.

Dr. W.J. Pryor delivering the graduation address



Dr. Pryor presents the degree certificates



New President of Nauru

Rene Harris was elected President of Nauru on 27, April, following a vote of no-confidence in Parliament against the former President, Bernard Dowiyogo. Under the Constitution, the President of Nauru is elected by and from the members of Parliament. Mr. Harris has been a member of Parliament since 1977 and has previously served as Chairman of the Nauru Phosphate Corporation.

"The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get into the office."

Robert Frost

CALENDAR**1999**

Third World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, Bologna, Italy **Aug, 19 - 2 Sept, 1999.**

Persatuan Veterinar Malaysia - National Congress on Animal Health and Production. Malacca, Malaysia **3-5 Sept, 1999.**

British Equine Veterinary Congress, Harrogate, Yorkwhite, U.K. **12 - 15 Sept, 1999**

World Veterinary Congress, Lyon France. **22 - 29 Sept, 1999.**

BVA Congress, Assembly Rooms, Bath. **23 - 26 Sept, 1999**

6th WEVA/ AVEF Congress, Paris, France. **Sept. 30 - Oct 3 , 1999.**

CVA Australasia/ Oceania Regional Workshop on Livestock Production in the South Pacific, Port Vila, Vanuatu **Oct 28 - 31, 1999.**

Tanzania Veterinary Association Scientific Conference, Arusha International Centre, Arusha, Northern Tanzania **Nov 30 - Dec 2 1999.**

2000

North American Veterinary Conference, Orlando, Florida, U.S.A. **Jan 15 - 19, 2000.**

CVA Asian Regional Workshop on Veterinary Public Health, Sri Lanka **April 27 - 29, 2000.**

Third Asian Buffalo Congress, Kandy, Sri Lanka **March 28 - 31, 2000.**

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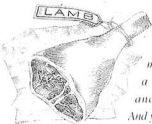
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