

13

Volume 17

No. 2

July 2001



# COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



# NEWS

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Association

Advertising Enquiries  
President

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Mr. K.K. Anub  
#1105, 15<sup>th</sup> 'B' Cross,  
Yelahanka Newtown,  
Bangalore 560064, INDIA.

Editor

Dr. S. Abdul Rahman

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CVA Web site

<http://freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/cva>



## *The President's New Year Message*

*The past six months have been busy months for the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Officers, Regional Representatives and Council Members for their efforts. The Commonwealth Veterinary Association relies solely on the dedicated work of these volunteers to accomplish its objectives.*

*Since its inception the CVA has been able to maintain its core functions and to operate in a business-like manner but as it grows and takes on new tasks it is becoming increasingly difficult for our volunteers to find the necessary time and energy to keep pace. Each has a real job and all agree that their first responsibility lies with their primary employer.*

*CVA has been fortunate in that most employers have supported CVA involvement but it is recognized that there is a limit to the amount of time a volunteer organization can make on its supporters. That time limit is fast approaching CVA.*

*During my personal involvement in veterinary organizations I have witnessed the move from a volunteer secretariat to a paid secretariat. In each case it marked a dramatic increase in activity and accomplishments by that organization. I believe CVA has now reached that time. CVA will be discussing possible options at its next Executive Committee meeting in October.*

*A successful meeting of the East, Central, and Southern Africa Region was held in Stellenbosch in conjunction with the 5th International Sheep Conference. A major initiative for that region will be the funding of a number of new projects. Proposals are being submitted and will be reviewed over the next several months.*

*In October the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM) will be held in Brisbane, Australia. As part of that meeting there will be a Commonwealth People Centre where NGOs can inform members what they are doing in support of Commonwealth Foundation objectives. CVA will be represented by the Officers and will have an exhibit booth depicting CVA accomplishments.*

*In August, the Australasia Oceania Region will be meeting in Kuala Lumpur. This large Region has great diversity and potential for major accomplishments. I look forward to hearing of their deliberations.*

July 2001

Bert Stevenson  
President

# Commonwealth News

## The Prospect For NGO Participation At CHOGM 2001

Pieter Wessels

*Representative of the Australian branch of the Commonwealth Journalists Association*

With CHOGM in Brisbane, Australia, coming up in October this year, many NGOs and other organisations in Australia are giving very serious consideration to how they can put their case before this meeting of world leaders, and how they might be able to get their pet project included in the agenda. Having it included in the agenda points to the importance of the project and sometimes means that one or more of the heads will take it up and run with it. That can lead to inclusion in the Communiqué, which is an event of world importance.

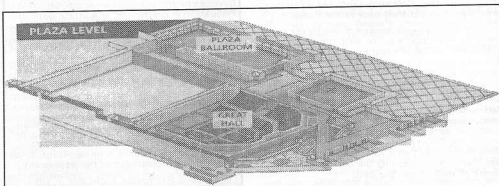
The Australian NGOs and the Australia branches, chapters, affiliates and other related organisations of Commonwealth-wide NGOs have been working hard for about 12 months as the meeting draws close and are now stepping up their efforts.

For most NGOs this has meant meetings and conferences aimed at putting together a consensus, measuring concerns and gathering surveys and facts to make coherent and influential arguments. The biggest and perhaps the most important of these efforts has been the new civil

society and good governance initiative of the Commonwealth Foundation. One of the babies, and perhaps the newest, the Commonwealth Media Association's New Media Initiative proposal.

The Commonwealth Foundation has been following up the report presented to CHOGM in Durban two years ago - Citizens and Governance: Civil Society in the New Millennium. They have been surveying and reporting on every Commonwealth country, and every region, collating and compiling information from which broad general conclusions, and possible courses of action, can be drawn. It's a giant effort and has produced used data and suggestions for the Heads to work on.

The Commonwealth New Media Initiative on the other hand is one of the smaller, more direct proposals which it is hoped the Heads of Government will take up. In brief it is designed to set up high quality training and consultancy to help the less privileged media in the Commonwealth to bridge the information divide, and publish on the World Wide Web. There have been two meetings



*The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre where CHOGM 2001 and its associated events will be held. The Heads of Government will meet in the Plaza ball room on the third level, with the Committee of the Whole in room P6 on the same level. The Great Hall will be the venue for the opening by the Queen. The hall behind the Great Hall is the first of four in a row, and will be the site of the Media Centre. The other halls will be used for the Commonwealth Peoples Centre.*

and one feasibility study, but still it is hoped the Heads will consider the proposal as important to the issues of good governance, and the inclusion of people in the methods of government.

So what do NGOs have to do to get their project on the agenda? First, they have to have a project and a reasoned proposal. The next step is to get it on the agenda for the Heads of Government meeting. The agenda is set by the host government - in this case Australia - and is subject to many pressures, not least the matters that each individual Head wants discussed. The host government usually has some special project as well. Getting on such agenda is not easy, and involves considerable politics.

In Australia's case, there is some resistance from the government to the inclusion of issues from NGOs. Many NGOs have an agenda of their own that the government may disagree with or not find sufficiently interesting for a world meeting. Other NGOs with worthy objectives find themselves in conflict with government by the very nature of their proposal. Such conflict can, and has, led to all NGOs being painted with the same brush.

So if that path to the agenda is blocked, many NGOs look to influence the agenda through governments more in agreement with their aims. This again can lead to disagreement and friction within the Heads' meeting. And any host government can be expected to resist this.

The Australian government is working hard to prevent too much conflict in the NGOs or with NGO concerns at the meeting itself. To give the NGOs a voice the government is assisting the Commonwealth Foundation's Commonwealth People's Centre (CPC)\* with free accommodation and other resources that will make it easier for NGOs and other Commonwealth and Australian organisation to put their case to the Heads.

But this can only happen if the Heads have time, or make the time, to visit the CPC. Such visits have not been a feature of recent CHOGMs but may return because of the proximity of the venue in Brisbane.

The venue is the Convention and Exhibition Centre on the south bank of the Brisbane River, just across the river from the city proper. It is a new, purpose built facility with the resources needed for each aspect of the meeting: the meeting proper, the CPC and the media. Each event is so close to the other that it will be easy for the Heads and their delegations, and the media, to visit the centre of NGO effort, the CPC.

Planning for the CPC is already well advanced with a committee of NGOs and interested bodies putting details on paper at a meeting in Brisbane on 24 January, attended by the Head of the

Commonwealth Foundation, Colin Ball, and his deputy Rudo Chitiga. At that meeting it was decided that in addition to the CPC there would be a Commonwealth Peoples Festival which would include cultural, sporting and entertainment events all over the city of Brisbane and engaging the people of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia and the whole Commonwealth.

NGOs planning to get involved in CHOGM - and it always worth while trying - should consult with the Commonwealth Foundation. Detailed proposals will be sent out shortly.

For more details on the Citizens and Governance: Civil Society in the New Millennium report and the follow up Citizens and Governance Programme see:

<http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/>

For the CPU & CBA New Media Initiative see:

<http://www.compressu.co.uk/>

\* The Commonwealth People's Centre (CPC) was first organised at the Edinburgh, Scotland CHOGM meeting in 1997; the second was held at the CHOGM meeting in Durban, South Africa, 1999.

- CHRI News, Spring 2001

## Summit Theme Announced

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Brisbane, Australia, on 6-9 October 2001, will have as its theme 'The Commonwealth in the 21st Century: Continuity and Renewal'.

In a joint statement issued by the Australian Government and the Commonwealth Secretariat, Prime Minister John Howard of Australia said "This first gathering of Commonwealth leaders in the new century will provide them to the principles of freedom, democracy and mutual assistance".

The meeting will take place at the Brisbane Conference and Exhibition Centre. The traditional 'Retreat' for the Heads Government during the meeting will be on 7-8 October at the Hyatt Regency resort at Coolool, just North of Brisbane.

During the meeting, the leaders will receive a report from the High Level Review Group, set up by the 1999 CHOGM in Durban, South Africa, to consider how best the Commonwealth could respond to the challenges of the 21st century.

Australia last hosted a CHOGM in 1981, in Melbourne. Appropriately, the 2001 CHOGM will take place in the year that Australia celebrates the centenary of its federation.

- Commonwealth Currents 4, 2000

## Gender Programme Makes Impact The People's Commonwealth

The UN Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, Angela King, has commended the Commonwealth's work on gender issues.

Ms King said the Commonwealth could take pride in member governments' achievements in the five years since the 1995 Fourth World Women's Conference in Beijing, China — where the landmark 1995 Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender and Development, a policy framework for achieving gender equality, was launched. Many member countries have taken measures to counterbalance the effects of structural adjustment programme, and in others government interventions have led to improved literacy among women and better health care for women, as well as putting in place measures for the recognition of human rights.

Ms King was speaking during a panel discussion on 'The Progress for Women in the New Millennium: The Way Forward' at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London on 4 December 2000. In her keynote speech she addressed the theme 'Global Perspective: Outcomes of Beijing + 5: gender Equality, Development and Peace'.

The meeting was also addressed by Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon, the UK's Baroness Shreela Flather and Ms Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Director of Akina Mama wa Africa, a UK-based international development organisation for African women. Organised jointly by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the UK Information Centre in London, the discussion was chaired by Ms Nancy Spence, Director of the Secretariat's Gender and Youth Affairs Division.

- Commonwealth Currents 4, 2000

## The Gambia To Repeal Decree 89

President Yahya Jammeh has promised to suspend application of scheduled to Decree No 89 and to repeal it, following a Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) on the Harare Declaration Assessment Mission to The Gambia. The Schedule to Decree 89 bans the main political parties and senior politicians from previous governments from contesting elections.

The visit, from 19 to 22 November 2000, was in response to an invitation by President Jammeh at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Durban, South Africa, in November 1999, to assess The Gambia's compliance with the Commonwealth's Harare Principles.

- Commonwealth Currents 4, 2000

The People's Commonwealth is a network of civil society actors supporting human rights advocacy initiatives to influence the outcome of the 2001 CHOGM so that it better reflects human rights priorities within the Commonwealth.

The principal tool of our advocacy strategy is CHRI's Millennium Report which will be submitted to the 2001 CHOGM. The report focuses on poverty alleviation and economic and social rights. It is the latest in a series of reports that for 10 years have kept human rights on the agenda of the Commonwealth. It will push for change from the leaders of government and spread examples of good practice throughout the Commonwealth.

We need YOUR help to ensure the success of the report. If you have been successful at promoting and defending human rights by:

- Alleviating poverty
- Ensuring access to food, shelter, health, education, opportunities for employment and a clean environment
- Empowering vulnerable groups (women, children, disabled, indigenous peoples, refugees, minorities)
- Taking on the challenge of people-centred development
- Working with national and international bodies in promoting economic and social rights
- Bringing about a respect for human rights in your community

PLAY YOUR PART in making a difference: please send your stories to us...

By email: [wecan@bol.net.in](mailto:wecan@bol.net.in); by fax: +91-11-4326025; by post: People's Commonwealth, A-64, Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110049, India.

- CHRI News, Spring 2001

## Special Envoy For Fiji Islands

Justice Pius N Langa, the Commonwealth Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Fiji Islands, visited the country from 7 to 14 December 2000.

He said that during the visit, he was able to meet with a wide range of people and all his discussions had been constructive and useful. Further, he said, he had come away with a feeling that there were very many good people in Fiji who were committed to national reconciliation and to returning the country to constitutional democracy as soon as possible.

- Commonwealth Currents 4, 2000

## Celebrating A New Generation

In London, the presence of hundreds of schoolchildren at the special multi-faith Observance at Westminster Abbey underscored the theme. The Observance included a well-choreographed cultural show, blending passages from different religions and

guaranteed, or in very short supply. Others had had their lives blighted by war, disease or environmental damage.

"Yet for all its ills and difficulties the world of the new generation also offers opportunities; instant communication, the transfer of knowledge, and advances in science and technology, which if applied sensibly can help people achieve a more fulfilling life".



*Her Majesty The Queen has a word with Lucy Shigikile of the Secretariat as she and Mr McKinnon greet guests at the Commonwealth Day reception*

a variety of performances. There were stirring contributions by groups like the BT Melodians Steel Orchestra, the Boys of Westminster Abbey Choir, the London Adventist Chorale, the Mighty Zulu Nation musical theatre group South Africa and Samoan-New Zealand award-winning bass baritone Jonathan Lemalu.

Each performance was as different and symbolic as the mass of country flags fluttering outside in nearby Parliament Square, collectively demonstrating the Commonwealth credo: unity in diversity.

In her Commonwealth Day statement, read out in the Abbey by Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon, HM Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, said the theme "captured the reality of young Commonwealth. More than half of our 1.7 billion people are under the age of 25. They are the future of the organisation". She said the young people faced a "world of challenge and change" and many had to cope with a life where even the basics of life — food, shelter and clean water — were far from

Referring to the High Level Review of the Commonwealth now under way, the Queen expressed the hope that the review would lead to the association's renewal, emphasising the importance of making the association matter to its younger members: "For what the Commonwealth becomes will depend on its success in engaging with those of the new generation; capturing their imagination; firing their vision; and enlisting their energy and commitment to an association which I believe can be as important to the 21st century as it has been to the 20th".

Similarly, Mr McKinnon's own Commonwealth Day statement stressed the importance of involving the youth: "The Commonwealth recognises that the association's life-blood is its young people". He said the association was committed to helping young people

achieve their full potential, adding: "With our support and willingness to empower them (young people) can be (powerful partners) in tackling many of the problems we face today".

*The first Commonwealth Day of the new millennium was celebrated throughout member countries on Monday, 12 March with speeches, receptions, prayers and colourful events, many of them based on this year's theme, 'A New Generation'.*

Other dignitaries who attended the Observance - organised by the Joint Commonwealth Societies' Council and broadcast live on the BBC World Service - included the Duke of Edinburgh, Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife Cherie, Mr McKinnon's wife Clare de Lore, and High Commissioners. In the evening, the Queen, Prince Philip and Prince Charles attended a reception hosted by the Secretary-General at Marlborough House, the headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

- Commonwealth Currents 1, 2001



## Two New Directors at the Secretariat

### Secretary-General's Office ...

Amitav Banerji (India) was appointed in June 2000 as the new Director and Head of the Office of the Commonwealth Secretary-General. Formerly a Special Adviser in the Political Affairs Division, Mr Banerji succeeded Stuart Mole who has become Director-General of the Royal Commonwealth Society. Prior to joining the Secretariat Mr Banerji, a career diplomat, served as India's Deputy High Commissioner in Malaysia.



His previous overseas assignments with the Indian Foreign Service have been in Spain, Pakistan, and his country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

### ... and Information Division

Joel Kibazo (Uganda) has been appointed Director of the Information and Public Affairs Division and Spokesperson of the Secretariat. He took office on 1 December 2000. Prior to joining the Secretariat, Mr Kibazo worked for more than a decade with the *Financial Times* of London, as a reporter in the financial markets and as a producer on its television service.



Among other things he has written and presented radio documentaries for the BBC World Service and BBC Radio Four, as well as programmes for BBC World Television. He has been a regular contributor to a number of international magazines, and has lectured on the media in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe and at Universities in the UK. Mr Kibazo has also been actively involved in the Commonwealth Press Union. He succeeds Kaye Whitemann who has resumed his career as a Journalist.

- Commonwealth Currents 4, 2000

## Graca Machel Chairs Foundation

Graca Machel, from Mozambique, one of Africa's most prominent leaders of civil society, becomes the new Chairperson of the Commonwealth Foundation on 1 January 2001. Ms Machel was unanimously chosen by Commonwealth Senior Officials at their meeting in Apia, Samoa, last October. She succeeds Ambassador Don Mills of Jamaica who has been Chairperson since 1997.



Ms Machel is currently a member of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters at the United Nations, as well as being on the boards of the UN Foundation, the UN University and the South Centre. Previously she served as Mozambique's Minister of Education from 1975-89. Ms Machel is the wife of Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa.

The Foundation is an intergovernmental organisation of the Commonwealth.

- Commonwealth Currents 4, 2000

## Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2001

Brisbane, Australia, 6-9 October 2001

Theme: *'The Commonwealth in the 21st Century: Continuity and Renewal'*

### Some parallel events

Third Commonwealth Youth Forum: 30 September to 8 October. Venue: Parkroyal on Queensland's Gold Coast. Further information: [www.thesource.gov.au](http://www.thesource.gov.au)

International Young Professionals Summit (IYPS): 2 to 6 October. Venue: Gold Coast, Queensland. Further information: IYPS Secretariat, ICEM, PO Box 1280, Milton, Queensland 4064, Australia. Email: [information@iyps.org](mailto:information@iyps.org). website: [www.iyps.org](http://www.iyps.org)

Commonwealth People's Festival including the Commonwealth People's Centre: 2 to 8 October, Brisbane. Information: Commonwealth Foundation, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HY, UK. Email: [geninfo@commonwealth.int](mailto:geninfo@commonwealth.int), website: [www.commonwealthfoundation.com](http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com)

## Commonwealth Foundation Reviews Relationships Between Official And Un-official Commonwealth Organisations

The Commonwealth Foundation organised a discussion among Commonwealth Associations and Civil Society Organisation which have interests in the Commonwealth. One such discussion was held at New Delhi, India on 2nd May 2001. The discussion was facilitated by Mr James Aggrey-Orleans, Former High Commissioner of Ghana to the UK and he was accompanied by Ms Rudo Chitiga, Deputy Director of Commonwealth Foundation.

The objectives of the review were;

- \* To clarify the present co-operation arrangements between the Unofficial Commonwealth Organisations and the Official Commonwealth, with a view to making proposals for improved arrangements.
- \* To make specific proposals by which the Unofficial Commonwealth Organisations and the Official Commonwealth can better advance Commonwealth values and the welfare of its citizens through practical schemes of co-operation.
- \* To explore ways by which the Official Commonwealth can facilitate the contribution of Unofficial Commonwealth Organisations to the strengthening of Civil Society.
- \* To identify ways by which the Official Commonwealth can better draw on the insights, experience and strengths of the Unofficial Commonwealth Organisations in the conduct of its business.
- \* To develop criteria that can be used to classify, recognise and/or support Unofficial Commonwealth Organisations.
- \* To identify the financial and other resources needed to carry forward any of the recommendations for improved co-operation arrangements between the Official Commonwealth Organisations and the Unofficial Commonwealth Organisations, and ways of funding them.



*Mr James Aggrey-Orleans (3rd from right) and Ms Rudo Chitiga (2nd from right) with representatives of NGOs*



*L to R: Dr S. Abdul Rahman, Secretary CVA, Ms Rudo Chitiga and Mr James Aggrey-Orleans at the meeting*

## CVA News

### Dr Pryor Honoured

Dr WJ Pryor, Past President/Treasurer CVA and former Deputy Chancellor, University of Ballarat, Australia, was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Science.



He was given the award at the graduation ceremony of the School of Nursing and the School of Science.

Dr Pryor first became involved with the university in 1987 when he was appointed as its nominee to the Council of the Ballarat College of Advanced Education.

He took the position as Vice-President in 1990 and was appointed as President in 1992.

In these senior roles with the BUC, he led negotiations which were to result in the declaration of the University of Ballarat in 1994.

In the same year, he was appointed Deputy Chancellor, a position he held for six years.

He was awarded a Fellow of the University in May 1997.

As Chairman of the University Development Appeal, Dr Pryor led a program which raised \$2.5 million for the Institute of Human Performance, a demonstration farm at Bullarook and construction of the Industry Science Building.

His professional interests in tertiary and higher education over many years contributed to his appointment as an Officer in the Order of Australia last year.

Dr Pryor urged the 157 nursing and science students who graduated to take risks in their careers.

He said while he came from a different generation, he believed they had the same opportunities that he had when he graduated.

### New Director General of OIE

The Office International des Epizooties (OIE), the world organisation for animal health, recently appointed Dr Bernard Vallat as its new Director General.



### Anti-Diarrhoea Ice Cream

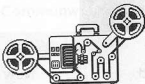
Russian scientists in Siberia have developed a medicinal brand of ice cream they say not only tastes good but guarantees relief from stomach bugs that cause diarrhoea.

The wonder-cure dessert differs from normal ice cream through the addition of microcultures which kill the bacteria behind various gastric disorders. Workers at the Novosibirsk Centre for Virology and Bacteriology told the Interfax News Agency.

The product has particular relevance for Russia, where ice creams are widely bought and consumed on the streets all year round, exposing consumers to bacteria which lie dormant after melting and refreezing during storage.

- *The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress*  
- Charles Kettering
- *There is the greatest practical benefit in making a few failures early in life.*  
- John Keats

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## 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 N1G 2W1.

### CVA Book Programme - ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Coordination of the Canadian component of the CVA Book Programme from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) at the University of Guelph has continued. The current inventory comprises 473 titles and 1,212 volumes. Most disciplines are reasonably well covered, although additional titles are needed in avian and fish diseases, pharmacology and theriogenology. The largest stocks are in small animal medicine & surgery in which the greatest number of donations are received, reflecting current activities in veterinary medicine in Canada. Donations of books have continued at a fairly high level, although more recent editions of some titles are needed. Dr. Richard Julian of the Ontario Veterinary College kindly donated multiple copies of two books which he has recently written: *Poultry Husbandry* and *La Régie del Élevage des Volailles*.

#### 2. SHIPMENTS

A total of 9 shipments, comprising 117 books, were sent from Guelph to 4 commonwealth countries as follows: India (6 shipments; 68 books), (1 shipment; 9 books), Ghana (1 shipment; 22 books) and Guyana (1 shipment; 18 books. Four of the shipments were to institutions, and 5 were to practicing veterinarians. The number of shipments, and the number of books shipped were less than 50% of the 1999-2000 totals. However, the programme contributed £500.00 sterling towards the shipping costs of a large consignment of books and journals donated by Dr. Eric Wells, a

retired member of the academic staff at the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine in Edinburgh, to the Chittagong Government Veterinary College in Bangladesh. The shipment included 24 books and sets of 7 veterinary and scientific journals extending back as far as 1967.

#### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

Information about the **Books for Africa** project was again received from the University of Pretoria, and Graeme Harman agreed to have copies of our book inventory distributed to the Commonwealth veterinary schools to which books were delivered. We also learned from Dr. John Cooper that the International Veterinary Students Association are planning to distribute books to veterinary schools and veterinarians overseas, and that the British Veterinary Association distributes donated books and equipment from time to time to both Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries. It is hoped to include further details of their shipments to the Commonwealth in next year's report. Information on the activities of the Australian depot, which is a component of the CVA Book Programme has not been received in time for inclusion in this year's report.

Requests from Himachal Pradesh were referred to Dr. Rahman for approval. One request was rejected since a consignment of books had been shipped fairly recently to the same veterinarian.

Numerous requests were received from veterinarians in Nigeria, and each correspondent was informed that books cannot be sent to that

country at present. If the Nigerian Veterinary Association rejoins the CVA, many requests for assistance can be anticipated from that country.

Several requests were received from Commonwealth veterinarians seeking sponsorship for graduate studies in Canada.

Dr. George Whittle of the New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association wrote to discuss the possibility of collaboration between the CVA and the Rotary Clubs in Charlottetown and Halifax to ship veterinary books to Rotary Clubs in Commonwealth countries, but it was decided that this would be more feasible as a project with the Atlantic Veterinary College, as the cost of mailing books from the Guelph depot to either of these ports would be prohibitive.

Three suggestions relating to the CVA Book Programme were included in the minutes of the CVA Executive Committee Meeting in St. Louis in October 2000. The suggestion that recipients should acknowledge receipt of books is already in place. Secondly, it is not feasible to inform donors of where their donated books have been sent, since records are not kept of individual donors - many of the books that we receive are dropped off, without attribution, at the annual meetings of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association, and several donors who have been identified have indicated that they have little interest in the final destination of their books. Thirdly, any publicity that could be given to the Book Programme through the CVA web site would be valuable.

We have been notified by Dean Alan Meek that renovations at the Ontario Veterinary College planned in the next year will lead to the loss of the space currently used as the book depot. A request has been made for the provision of replacement space in the Library.

#### 4. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. John Cooper and Ms. Helena Cotton in England, and Dr. David Banks in Australia are thanked for their contributions to the programme, and the continued support of Drs. Stevenson, Lees, Pryor and Rahman is greatly appreciated. Many requests are still directed to Lethbridge, and Dr. Lorne Jordan at ADRI has kindly forwarded these to Guelph.

Dr. David Hull, the Librarian at the OVC, has continued to deal with all enquiries from potential

donors, screened the donated books, and delivered these to the CVA book storage area. Dr. Lloyd Coleman continued to provide invaluable assistance in the packaging and shipping of books. The provision of storage space at the OVC by Dean Alan Meek is gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, all the donors are thanked for providing their gifts of books, without which the programme would not exist.

#### 5. FINANCES

Quarterly bank statements have been forwarded to Dr. Pryor. The following is a summary of expenditures and the year-end balance:

##### Expenses

Mailing costs from Guelph	697.64
Shipment to Chittagong Government Veterinary College	1,131.55
Bank service charge	1.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,830.74</b>

##### Revenue

Opening balance	2,374.57
Cheque from CVA	2,000.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>4,374.57</b>
Less expenses	1,830.74
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>\$2,543.83</b>

#### F. CONCLUSIONS

The 50% reduction in requests for books experienced this year may reflect some degree of market saturation, although it is more likely associated with inadequate publicity for the programme. The collaboration of the regional representatives in publicizing the programme among the veterinary institutions in their regions is solicited. If accommodation for the storage of books at Guelph cannot be found, it will be necessary to make alternative arrangements.

30 June, 2001

J.B. Derbyshire  
Programme Coordinator

## 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 lectures should emphasise 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. 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2001. RRs to submit their recommendations before 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2001 to Programme Director.

## Asia

### India

#### Indian Veterinary Scientist Receives OIE International Award



The Office International des Epizooties (OIE), France, has selected Dr M.P. Yadav, Director of the National Research Centre for Equines, for the OIE Meritorius Award. The research Centre is based at Hisar, India. Dr Jean Blancou, the Director-General of the OIE, conveyed

the decision of the International Committee of the OIE. The award is based on global competition, and has been conferred on Dr Yadav for international recognition of his scientific, technical and administrative contributions. Dr Yadav, a prominent virologist, has earlier received the ICAR Special Award for development of cost-effective indigenous vaccine for equine influenza as well as the Lance Award of 61 Cavalry of the Indian Army. He is also the President of the Indian Association of Veterinary Microbiologists, Immunologists and specialists in Infectious Diseases.

The OIE award was presented during the inaugural ceremony of the 68th General Session of the OIE International Committee held in May 2000.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> SAARC Poultry Conference & Exhibition

The 1st SAARC Poultry Conference & Exhibition being organised by the World's Poultry Science Association (India Branch) and Dr. B.V. Rao Institute of Poultry Management and Technology from 24-26th September, 2001 in Hotel Le Meridien at Pune, India. The Conference and Exhibition will provide an ideal forum for exchange of useful information and concepts for upgradation of technology related to poultry production in the SAARC region.

For further details contact:

The Organising Secretary  
1st SAARC Poultry Conference  
"Venkateshwara House" Pune-Sinhagad Road  
Pune - 411030 (India)  
Tel: +91 20 4338232/4330631/4336230  
Fax: +91 20 4337760/7321711  
Email: balawest@vsnl.com

### Bangladesh

#### The Awakening Bangladeshi Poultry Industry

Latest developments in the Bangladeshi Poultry Industry were showcased in Dhaka on February 16-17 at the 2nd International Poultry Show and Seminar organized by the World's Poultry Science Association's Bangladeshi Branch.

This was a very well attended show, with a cross section of people interested in the poultry industry from academia; government technical officers; imports/exporters; individuals wishing to get into the poultry industry via establishment of hatchery operations; established intergators and small-holder poultry farmers both layer and broilers. As Cemlyn Martin (Alltech's Manager in the region) said: "It is a useful show to network with major poultry intergators and get to know more about this fast growing country".

#### Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference

The Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference will be held at Renaissance Jamaica Grande Resort, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, West Indies from Nov. 3rd - 8th, 2002.

## Pakistan

### FMD: Possible Impact On Poultry

There is serious concern among those with livestock (cows, sheep, swine, goats) and wildlife (deer, elk, moose, bison, wild pigs) interests over the possible introduction of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) into the United States. When you consider how rapidly it spread in the United Kingdom and even to the European continent, that concern is certainly justified in light of all the movement of people and goods in the world.

Should the poultry industry really be concerned since chickens and turkeys are not susceptible to infection with the FMD virus? Its host range includes only those cloven-hoofed animals described earlier. Unfortunately, susceptibility to the virus isn't the only factor that will determine the effect of FMD on the poultry industry.

Should FMD get into the United States, a likely scenario will be a rapidly implemented control effort that will include quarantine and eradication by destruction of animals. The effort will be led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services along with state departments of agriculture and will probably also include military personnel. A key feature of any quarantine is controlling the movement of people, animals, and things into and out of the quarantine zone. Keeping the disease confined to as small a geographic area as possible facilitates the eradication of the disease with minimal loss of livestock and expenditure of funds. What does all of this discussion have to do with the poultry industry?

How many of our broiler growers also have pastures on which to spread their broiler litter? How many of those pastures have cattle grazing on that grass? How many growers also have a few hogs? When and if those multi-species farming operations are quarantined, will it prohibit the integrator's feed trucks from going on the premise to fill the broiler feed bins? Will the regulatory officials in charge of the quarantine allow catch crews and live-haul trucks with fork lifts and transport cages to enter the premise? Will the trucks be allowed to enter the breeder farms to pick up the eggs and deliver them to the hatchery? The questions are endless and the answers will depend upon many currently unknown factors. One thing is fairly certain. With the potential

loss of a lot of beef and pork from our food supply due to its destruction or movement restrictions, the last thing we need is to have the day-to-day operation of the poultry industry impeded or even shut down by FMD control efforts.

Is this an alarmist discussion? Should we even be considering what might be a remote possibility? Well, it has been my experience that all of us think better and more logically "in the cool of the evening" than "in the heat of the battle." That is exactly what we need to do. Federal and state regulatory officials, as well as livestock, poultry and wildlife interest representatives, need to do some advanced planning, ahead of the possible problem. If the problem doesn't materialize, the planning results can be set aside for a future crisis. Based on what we have seen in the United Kingdom, rural roads could be blocked and certain premises with cloven-hoofed animals could be placed off limits due to quarantines.

I don't know the answers to the questions associated with this possible FMD scenario, but I do know that the time to be asking the questions and making plans for operational adjustments is now, not later. It could be a very serious problem for a regulatory official to place a barrier on the entrance to a small premise with cattle infected or exposed to FMD only to then notice there are four 30,000-bird broiler houses on that premise that need to be caught and hauled for processing in a week.

It may be a long shot and not likely to be needed, but we should get clarification on how a FMD control program would be carried out, especially in areas where cattle, hogs, and poultry overlap. Once that is known, the poultry industry can begin to make contingency plans that will allow them to keep functioning and supplying needed food to the consuming public. It is important to the welfare of this country to get this done without delay.

Dr. Charles Beard  
Vice President of Research and Technology  
U.S. Poultry & Egg Association

- Dr Khalid Mahmood Shouq  
Editor-In-Chief  
The Veterinary News & Views Weekly  
< agrilive@fsd.paknet.com.pk >  
392-A, Samanabad  
Faisalabad, Punjab 38000  
Pakistan  
Work: 0092 41 665392  
Fax: 0092 41 665392  
Home: 0303 7658296



## Sri Lanka

### Annual Convention - 2001 Sri Lanka Veterinary Association

Annual Convention of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association was held on the 27th April 2001 at BMICH - Colombo. Her Excellency the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga was the Chief Guest and the Hon'ble Minister of Estate Infrastructure and Livestock Development S.Rm. Arumugam Thondaman attended as the Guest of Honour.

The event was well attended by over 500 veterinarians and it was a complete success. Scientific sessions proceeded to the following day too and 25 papers were presented at this year's session.



*Lighting of the traditional oil lamp by the Chief Guest, Her Excellency, the President and other distinguished invites before commencement of the sessions*



*L to R:  
Prof H Abeygunewardena (President Elect)  
Dr RMPH Dasanayake (President),  
Her Excellency the President  
Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga  
Hon'ble S.Rm. Arumugam Thondaman  
(Minister of Estate Infrastructure and  
Livestock Development)  
Dr. Nalinika Obeyesekere (Secretary)*

### New CVA Councillor of Sri Lanka

Prof. H. Abeygunewardena, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Tel/Fax: 0094 8 388205; email: dean@vet.pdn.ac.lk has been appointed as a New CVA Councillor of Sri Lanka.

# Australasia/Oceania

## Australia

### AVA's Oldest Member Celebrates His 100th! Birthday



A Victorian man believed to be AVA's oldest-living member celebrated his 100th birthday in October 2000.

He is Dr WE (Bill) Chamberlin, who now resides in a staffed minimal care hostel at Forest Hill, Melbourne is an active lifelong supporter of the idea of a professional association for veterinarians, he joined the NSW branch as a student - fully five years before the AVA was established!

Born on 22 October 1900, he has been a Member of the AVA since 1 January 1929. His devotion to the profession is underlined by the fact that he moved from Melbourne to Sydney in 1928 to complete his studies after the University of Melbourne closed its veterinary school. Among his teachers was the legendary, Ian Clunies-Ross.

Dr Chamberlin served as Treasurer of the Victorian Division before moving to Tasmania, where he was largely responsible for reviving the then-defunct Veterinary Association of Tasmania. He was appointed as Secretary of the Tasmanian body once it was up and running.

Dr Chamberlin recently wrote to AVA National to offer thanks for his 25 years or more Membership Certificate.

"I am now 99 and will be 100 in October and, hence, appreciate your wishes for another 25 years!" he wrote.

According to staff at the hostel, Dr Chamberlin is an extremely active, lucid and popular resident, who is regularly visited by his extended family.

"His room is absolutely lined with vet books and he spends a lot of his timing reading them", one staff told the AVJ.

The AVJ's Scientific Editor, Prof Colin Wilks, recently visited Dr Chamberlin at the hostel.

Aus Vet J Vol 78, No.10 October 2000

### FMD: 20 Australian Vets for UK

United Kingdom has been battling a major outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and Europe is on full alert with the first discoveries on continental Europe in France and Holland. The disease has spread very rapidly throughout the UK since it was first detected in mid-February.

Details of the outbreak (and links to overseas sites that have current information) are available on the websites of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry - Australia, AFFA (at <http://www.affa.gov.au>) and of Animal Health Australia (at <http://www.ahac.com.au>).

Australia responded immediately to the outbreak by tightening border security and offering assistance if needed. Permits for all at-risks products were reviewed and suspended and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) increased checks on passengers and cargo coming from the UK. The Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer is working closely with Biosecurity Australia and AQIS to provide up-to-date information to border staff and to ensure that existing procedures for the collection, treatment, transport and disposal of quarantine waste from airport and ports are being followed and checked.

Australia is sending up to 20 veterinary officers drawn from AFFA and State/Territory departments to work with UK authorities to control the outbreak.

Such secondments are made under existing arrangements for supplying veterinary officers to assist in the control of outbreaks and both contribute to disease control and allow participants to gain valuable experience working with emergency animal disease. If necessary, the group sent will be replaced by other Australian veterinary officers after about one month.

Other countries, including New Zealand, Canada and the United States have also sent veterinary officers to assist.

Aus Vet J Vol 79, No.4 April 2001

• *Anger is a weed; hate is the tree*

- St. Augustine

## Continuing Checks for BSE and TSE

Gardner Murray

Commonwealth Chief Veterinary Officer

### Strict TSE surveillance in place in Australia

In addition to its strict quarantine controls, Australia has in place a structured surveillance program to provide reassurance of about its our continuing BSE free-status.

Additional protection is provided by a ban on feeding ruminant tissues to ruminant animals. This restriction was recently extended to ban the feeding of specified mammalian material to ruminants. On 29 June 2000, the EC in Commission Decision 2000/418/EC enacted new legislation related to the abattoir removal of specified risk materials (SRMs), such as brain and spinal cord, considered to be a high risk of carrying the BSE-agent. Countries with an unsatisfactory BSE risk assessment will be required to remove SRMs from 31 March 2001.

Having been classified by the EC in the small group of countries with the most favourable BSE rating, Australia should not be required to implement measures to remove SRMs.

However, the EC has yet to make a formal ruling in respect of Australia or any other third country. Australia is continuing to seek EC Commission interpretation on its criteria for satisfactory/unsatisfactory rating under their SRM legislation.

Similarly, Australia is awaiting further EC legislative proposals for BSE monitoring and surveillance programs which may, or may not be linked to a country's geographical BSE rating.

### A possible new TSE found in sheep in the US

In the United States, four sheep were recently confirmed positive for a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) and three flocks consisting of 376 sheep in Vermont were seized by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The flocks included some East Friesian sheep imported into the United States in 1996 from Belgium and Holland. Initial laboratory tests suggest that these animals show evidence of atypical

scrapie. The possible involvement of the BSE agent is being explored through transmission studies in laboratory animals. However, results of these studies will not be available for several months.



Commonwealth Chief  
Veterinary Officer  
Gardner Murray

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) is monitoring the situation and has checked the details of imported sheep. It is known that the last sheep imported into Australia from the United States were in 1984 through Torres Island Quarantine Station. All the imports went through strict pre-entry and post-arrival quarantine, including the scrapie freedom assurance program. Their offspring were subsequently permitted to move to mainland Australia. No sheep have come from Europe since 1987, when washed embryos were

imported from Cyprus.

### Experimental sub-clinical prion infection watched

A scientific report in the United Kingdom has shown that laboratory mice infected with a form of hamster scrapie can have abnormal prions in their brains without showing clinical signs.

This report has raised speculation that inapparent BSE infections in slaughtered cattle may be a risk for CJD in humans and that people with inapparent CJD might transmit infection through surgical and dental procedures. Australian human and animal health authorities are closely monitoring the potential implications of such work on existing quarantine and other controls.

### Conclusion

The Office of the Chief Veterinary Officers says it is vitally important that all Australian government agencies, and industry and government groups involved in animal and public health, are continuing to work together, to monitor developments with TSEs and actively support the strict feeding measures that have been carefully implemented to ensure that Australia remains free of BSE and scrapie.

Aus Vet J Vol 78, No.10 October 2000

## CVA Participates in PHALPS Conference

In 1999 CVA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to work collaboratively with member countries in the South Pacific Region. CVA member countries in the Pacific include Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

An earlier joint activity was the Fertility Workshop covering large ruminants and pigs held in Fiji in November 1999.

The SPC established a conference of the Permanent Heads of Agriculture and Livestock Production Services (PHALPS) which first met in 1990 and which now meets biennially. Dr Peter Saville of the PHALPS Secretariat invited CVA to participate as an observer in the 14th of these conferences which was held in Nadi, Fiji from 30th April - 4th May 2001.

Dr Robin Yarrow, CVA Councillor for Fiji, arranged for two of his senior colleagues to represent CVA at this meeting. These were Dr Niuaia Tabunakawai and Dr Raana Asgar.



L to R: Dr Niuaia Tabunakawai, representing CVA, Dr Peter Saville, PHALPS Secretariat and Dr Robin Yarrow, CVA Councillor, Fiji

Dr Niuaia has advised the Executive that a number of recommendations in the animal health sector may be suitable for collaborative activities. These include:

- \* addressing animal welfare issues in the region to improve livestock productivity and reduce the impact of urban dog populations;
- \* addressing the emerging problems associated with zoonotic diseases (The spread of human leptospirosis in northern Fiji was highlighted as such an example);
- \* participating in the preparation of a record of animal genetic resources.

The Executive has asked Dr Yarrow to pursue discussions arising from these and other recommendations and to identify specific projects that CVA can support both financially and professionally.

Past President of CVA, Dr Bill Pryor, has also suggested that CVA would be more than happy to again provide some funding to help increase the number of indigenous veterinary graduates in the Pacific region. CVA believes that this need to increase numbers of veterinary graduates and other support staff continues to be a very important regional requirement.

In the spirit of the MOU, CVA plans, following its first participation, to accept all future invitations to participate in the PHALPS meetings with representation continuing at a senior level.

## CVA Representative at PHALPS

Dr Raana Asgar, Secretary, Fiji Veterinary Association represented the CVA at the meeting.



## Australian Honour for Prof Hughes

The retired Dean of the University of Queensland Veterinary School, Prof Keith Hughes, received a major award in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

A Fellow of the AVA and a former long-term Editor of the AVJ, he was appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO).

He was one of 454 people to receive recognition in this honours list and was one of 31 recipients of his award category, the second-highest level under the Australian Honours system, established in 1975. Another AVA Member, Dr Anthony Vigano, of Swanbourne (Perth) was appointed a Member in the General Division (AM).

The official citation for Prof Hughes stated "For service to veterinary science, particularly in the areas of research and education, as a promoter of the use of new medical technology for the benefit of animal health, and as a leading contributor in the areas of public health, foodborne diseases and zoonoses".



Dr Keith Hughes

## New Zealand

### Veterinary Volunteer For Cook Islands



At the end of February, veterinarian Penny Wright leaves for eight months of volunteer work at the Esther Honey Foundation Animal Clinic in Rarotonga. The Esther Honey Clinic was established in 1995 as a non-profit organisation relying on veterinarians volunteering their time, and donations of equipment and drugs.

The clinic provides the only veterinary services to the Cook Islands and deals primarily with dogs and cats but also occasionally horses, cattle, goats and pigs. Most of the caseload is trauma cases, desexing, skin problems and fish (ciguatera) poisoning. Because of the temperature, humidity and level of hygiene in parts of the island, infections take off rapidly and are often advanced before presented.

Penny visited the clinic in August and saw first-hand how essential the clinic's veterinary services are to the welfare of the animals on the island. While working at the clinic for an extended period she plans to institute some preventive programmes and start an education programme in schools aimed at improving the next generation's attitude towards animal welfare.

Any donations of short-dated or even expired products would be greatly appreciated. The wish list includes the following:

- \* sedation or anaesthetic agents,
- \* analgesics,
- \* antibiotics (oral and parenteral),
- \* emergency drugs, such as fluids, steroids, cardiac and respiratory stimulants,
- \* cast and bandaging materials,
- \* needles, catheters and IV sets,
- \* flea control products.

The clinic is also keen to obtain orthopaedic equipment, an autoclave, surgical light and a portable X-ray machine - either by donation or purchase at a favourable rate. For donations please contact Penny by phone/fax 03 3128 788 or email at [piwri@attglobal.net](mailto:piwri@attglobal.net) before 10 February so that pickup can be arranged before her departure.

VETscript Jan-Feb 2001

### Veterinary Council CEO

The new Secretary and Chief Executive of the New Zealand Veterinary Council, Julie Haggie, has been in the job since late February - time enough to become familiar with some of the issues facing the veterinary profession. Julie says she has seen considerable evidence of the stress faced by practising veterinarians and also that experienced by people wanting to enter the profession.



Another important issue is that of the crucial professional role that veterinarians play in the administration of treatment to food-producing animals, and the heavy responsibilities that this places upon them.

A priority for the Veterinary Council will be to bring its legislation up to date. In a number of areas, such as competency, registration and administration, the Council lacks the flexibility enjoyed by other, similar, professional bodies.

Julie's professional background is in secondary school teaching, but for the last three years she has worked in the office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, where she was Manager, Corporate Systems, managing finance, information technology and the support team. Julie says she is loving her role at the Veterinary Council, and relishing the challenges it presents. She will attend the NZVA Conference this year, giving vets a chance to meet her in person.

VETscript May 2001

### World Veterinary Day



The 28th of April has been designated as the inaugural 'World Veterinary Day' and I encourage all veterinarians to consider what it means to be a veterinarian, and to promote the value of veterinarians to the community. To many people, a veterinarian is the person they see may be once a year for the annual vaccination of their cat or dog. I say annual vaccination here rather than annual physical examination because I believe that on the whole we do a poor job of educating the client regarding the benefit of this check-up; the vaccination is seen as the reason for the visit.

by Jenny Weston, President NZVA  
VETscript April 2001

## Chair for Prof Peter Wilson

IVABS staff member Peter Wilson has been granted a 'personal chair' at Massey University in recognition of more than 20 years of excellence in research and teaching related to deer biology, production and health. The university confers personal chairs infrequently and only after rigorous international peer review.



The key capabilities Peter had to demonstrate included:

- \* international leadership in his scientific disciplines (not only in deer production and health but also in deer biology),
- \* national leadership in the veterinary profession in deer health and production,
- \* tangible changes in the deer industry resulting from his research,
- \* teaching excellence,
- \* administrative excellence.

The international referees and the internal and external members of the University selection committee were unanimous in support of Peter's excellence.

VETscript May 2001

## New Governor-General for New Zealand

Dame Silvia Cartwright, 56, a high court Judge, has been named as the New Governor-General for New Zealand. She will take up the position in March 2001.



Dame Silvia's appointment makes her country one of the few with a woman in every constitutional position. HM Queen Elizabeth II is Head of the State and Helen Clark became the country's first elected woman Prime Minister in November 1999. The leader of the opposition National Party is Jenny Shipley; the Attorney-General is Margaret Wilson; and the Chief Justice is Dame Sian Elias.

- Commonwealth Currents 4, 2000

## Death Of Pioneer PNG Veterinarian

There was great sadness in the Australasian/Oceania region when it was learned that Dr Arnold Ningiga the first indigenous veterinary graduate from Papua New Guinea had died suddenly on 8th July this year.

Dr Ningiga won scholarships in the early 70s to study in Kenya then at Massey University, New Zealand where he graduated BVSc in 1978.

Dr Ningiga had a fine career and became Chief Veterinary Officer in the Department of Agriculture and Livestock in 1980 and later, Deputy Secretary of the Department itself with several periods as Acting Secretary.

Later he became Managing Director of a state-owned Livestock Development Corporation before leaving the public sector to become a private practitioner and a leading Port Moresby businessman.

Dr Ningiga was a CVA Councillor representing his country at the First Regional Meeting in Perth, Australia in 1983 and for some years thereafter. Recently he was seeking a political career and stood for parliament in 1997.

In recent years he was also heavily involved in directing rural development programmes.

Dr Ningiga came from the Sepik Region of Papua New Guinea and is survived by his wife Emma and four children. He will be sadly missed as a still young man who sought to serve his country with "pride, dedication and love" to quote his Minister this week.

Arnold had many veterinary colleagues and friends in PNG, Australia, New Zealand and other Pacific countries who will greatly miss this very special man. CVA has expressed to his widow its profound respect for him and deep regret at his passing, a loss the veterinary profession can ill afford.

# Canada Caribbean

## Canada

### People In The News



Congratulations to Dr Dave Perrin, a veterinarian in Southern British Columbia, who is on his way to becoming one of Canada's best-selling veterinarian-authors. In his book *Don't Turn Your Back in the Barn*, he chronicles his first year in mixed veterinary practice in the rural Kootenay River valley town of Creston,

British Columbia in a heart-warming and often humorous manner. The book is available through major bookstores and by contacting Dr Perrin directly at PO Box 337, Creston, British Columbia V0B 1G0, Tel.: (250) 428-3931. Order forms and more information are also posted on Dr Perrin's website: [www.davespress.com](http://www.davespress.com).

Can Vet J Vol 42, March 2001

### New Priority for the CVMA: The Successful Practice of Veterinary Medicine

After 7 years with the same 3 priorities, the CVMA has adopted a new priority: "The Successful Practice of Veterinary Medicine". This new strategy direction will see the CVMA focus its efforts on enhancing the business management skills of veterinarians and on marketing veterinary services to the animal-owning public.

#### Three priorities

The CVMA priorities now are:

- \* the successful practice of veterinary medicine
- \* leadership on national issues
- \* animal welfare advocacy

### Helping veterinarians to be more successful

"With the introduction of this new priority, the CVMA is making a conscious decision to direct much of its efforts to helping veterinarians become more successful", said CVMA President, Dr Darcy Shaw. "The Association will mobilize and develop key resources to support veterinarians in being successful in practice. Specifically, the CVMA will be active in 2 years: 1) providing tools to assist veterinarians, and the practice team, in the sound management of veterinary practices and 2) marketing veterinary services to clients and potential clients", explained Dr Shaw.



Dr Lynn Webster



Dr Terry Lake

Two committees have been created to serve the new priority. The CVMA Business Management Committee and the CVMA Marketing Committee. The former develops programs to assist veterinarians in the effective and efficient management of their business affairs, including the "Decoding Success" project showcasing best practices. The Marketing Committee, on the other hand, develops initiatives to mass market veterinary services with "drive business" messages to encourage animal owners to consult their veterinarians regularly. The chair of the new Business Management Committee is Dr Lynn Webster, who has a long and varied career in management. Dr Terry Lake chairs the Marketing Committee, which is replacing the former Communications and Public Relations Committee, which he has been chairing for the past year.

Can Vet J Vol 42, February 2001

• *Beauty is worse than wine; it intoxicates both the holder and the beholder*

- Zimmerman

• *The profession of soldiers and sailors has the dignity of danger*

- Samuel Johnson: *Boswell's Life of Johnson*

## A World Small Animal Veterinary Congress, Vancouver August 8-11, 2001

The World Small Animal Veterinary Association, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the British Columbia Veterinary Medical Association will jointly organise the congress. There will also be several pre-congress symposia and special meetings. Please refer to the Preliminary Program for full details.

- **Canadian Veterinary Medical Association**, August 9-11, on clinical pharmacology for the large animal practitioner, use of MRI in the diagnosis of equine musculoskeletal problems, lameness diagnosis in horses with difficult lameness problems, equine neurological problems, and case presentations, also radiology of the equine head, neck, and distal limb.
- **World Veterinary Dental Congress**, August 9-11.
- **Technician and Nurses Program**, August 10-11.
- **Association of Veterinary Technical Educators**, August 6-8.
- **American Association of Feline Practitioners and European Society of Feline Medicine**, August 8, on vaccines and their relationship to sarcomas; lymphoma; feline haematology; and disorders of potassium and sodium.
- **3rd International Congress on Veterinary Behavioural Medicine**, August 7-8.
- **Canadian Academy of Veterinary Dermatology**, August 8, on pinna disease, skin manifestation of internal disease, diagnosis of erosive and ulcerative dermatoses in dogs and cats, and claw diseases.
- **International Elbow Working Group**, August 8.
- **Canadian Association of Veterinary Ophthalmology**, August 7-8, a wet lab on ocular examination and the surgical demonstration of selected common ocular surgeries, followed by lectures on corneal surgery, paediatric ophthalmology, and sudden onset blindness in the dog and cat.
- **Association of Canadian Veterinary Acupuncturists**, August 8, on musculoskeletal problems.
- **Critical Care Society**, August 8, for general practitioner, focusing on an introduction to intermediate emergency medicine, and highlighting topics such as laboratory evaluation and monitoring of the emergent patient; how to set up an emergency room area.

Can Vet J Vol 42, March 2001

## Cloning Not Yet Perfected

Despite a few isolated "success", procedures for cloning animals are still essentially experimental and far from reliable, a world expert told the AVA Annual Conference, in Perth. So great were the existing problems that it was likely to be at least two years before any real progress would be made in cloning animals, despite the enormous investment being made into this area of research.

Dr Jonathan Hill, an Australian Assistant Professor at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine, said media publicity had given the world the impression that cloning was now almost a routine procedure. This was far from true. He said there was a range of problems surrounding the few cases where cloning had been achieved, including extremely low birth rates, a very high incidence of abnormalities over sized young and premature aging of the cloned animals. Only recently a new mystery had emerged - the fact that some cloned calves had been found to possess cells indicating they were "younger" than reality said they could be.

"The success of cloning relies on the complete reprogramming of each gene from a somatic cell so that it develops into a normal viable foetus. At this time it appears we cannot completely and reliably accomplish this", Dr Hill said.

He had addressed conference sessions organised by the AVA SIG, the Australian Embryo Transfer Society (AETS). During a later interview with the AVJ he said massive sums were being invested into this area of research because of the obvious potential for huge agricultural revenue flow if cloning of animals could be perfected.

But despite all the money spent to date, the extent of cloning problems were now admitted by every cloning research body in the world. This included the Roslin Group in Edinburgh, the "creators" of the first cloned animal, Dolly, the sheep.

"The debate continues on clones and just how "normal" they are - a lot more time and research needs to be devoted to the subject before any conclusions can be made", Dr Hill said.



# East, Central and Southern Africa

## South Africa

### Dr Cornelius - New Director of Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute



Dr Cornelius

Dr Cornelius started his career by obtaining a BSc (Hons) at the University of the Witwatersrand. After working as a research assistant for 3 years he felt that his qualifications were career-limiting and so decided to further his studies by enrolling at MEDUNSA where he qualified as a veterinarian in 1992. During that year he was awarded

the Soga Medal for best student at the Veterinary Faculty and the prize for the best student in the entire University.

Owing to this keen interest in science, his open-mindedness and his academic qualifications Dr Cornelius started climbing the ladder of success in the agricultural environment.

As Onderstepoort has always been close to his heart, Dr Cornelius decided to accept the challenge of ensuring that the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute retains its long-standing international status of service excellence in spite of current financial and other challenges.

With his wide spectrum of experience, his contacts in agriculture and his veterinary background, Dr Cornelius is positive about the future of the Institute and in which direction the Institute should be moving.

"The ARC-OVI should go back to the farmers' needs. This Institute was founded because of livestock problems. It is known as an internationally-recognised Institute with the capacity and expertise to handle all animal diseases".

Dr Cornelius would like to restore and build the capacity and infrastructure by marketing this Institute not only internationally, but also to become relevant to the needs of developing communities and the Directorate of Veterinary Services.

He intends to do this by means of participatory management, building a closer relationship with the National Department of Agriculture and by assisting the Government in trade on sustainable products and services issues. He believed that the ARC-OVI is the laboratory of the Government and should be utilised to its full capacity.

No amalgamation with any other institution is foreseen but closer co-operation between similar organisations, with no undermining of each other's different cultures, is imperative.

The ARC-OVI presents many opportunities. A culture must be created where the employees believe in themselves and would want to make an impact. Dr Cornelius believes that this is possible, as the researchers at the ARC-OVI are the best in what they are doing.

He agrees with the statement that "Your attitude is the limit, not the sky".

Vet News, April 2001

- *Failure is more often from want of energy than want of capital*

- Daniel Webster

- *There is no great genius without a touch of madness*

- Seneca

## Book Launch on Haemonchosis

A book written by Dr. Gareth Bath, Council Member CVA, South Africa and of University of Pretoria and Jan de Wet, a Private Veterinarian on Sheep Diseases was launched at the International Sheep Conference held at Stellenbosch on January 23rd 2001. Dr Bath has also introduced the Diagnostic Test for Haemonchosis - "The LHPG's FAMACHA System". The system is sponsored by Intervet and is now available to trained veterinarians.



*The launch of the completely revised and extended English edition of the book KLEINVEESIEKTES. (L-R) Frikkie Beukes (Pfizer), and the two authors of the book, Gareth Bath (University of Pretoria) and Jan de Wet (Private Veterinarian)*

## Reducing Methane Emissions From Rice

Rice, one of the most versatile foods, is the foundation of many dishes, including rice pudding, rice cakes, beans and rice, and fried rice. So, it's no wonder that world rice production is 384 million tons. Rice is the primary food for about 50% of the world's population. It may also have a major impact on global warming by contributing to the emission of an important greenhouse gas: methane.

"Rice is a plant that grow best in wet soil, with its roots flooded", says L Hartwell Allen. "But flooded rice crops emit substantial amounts of methane to the atmosphere, especially when fresh organic matter-like plant residues is added back to the soil". Allen is a Soil Scientist in Agricultural Research Service's (ARS) Crop Genetic and Environmental Research Unit in Gainesville, Florida. Methane is a gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect, having a 20-fold greater global warming potential than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Some studies show that up to 20% of global methane emissions come from flooded rice fields.

For the past few years, Allen and colleague Jeff T. Baker, now with ARS' Remote Sensing and Modelling Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, have

studied the effects of global change on flooded rice and found that rice could stand a little drying out. In a recent study, they simulated potential global change conditions-increased drought and rising CO<sub>2</sub>-by growing rice plants in special outdoor chambers. The studies showed that rice yields drop when the plants are shown during short, 2-week droughts occurring when plants flower.

However, when the researchers doubled CO<sub>2</sub> levels by injecting the gas into the chambers, the plants maintained yield while using less water and enduring a longer drought period. Allen and Baker also recently discovered that periodically draining the soil to aerate roots with atmospheric oxygen drastically decreases methane emissions. "This may be an easy on-farm practice that would help manage methane emissions", says Allen. "Our research shows that reducing methane emissions from rice yields is important in helping to reduce or prevent the contribution of rice to global warming", notes Allen. "Since the United States produces only a small fraction of the world's rice, this water management practice needs to be tested and applied more internationally, especially in Asia".

- Agricultural Research (May 2000)


 Kenya

## Country Report - Kenya Veterinary Association

*Dr. WO Ogara, CVA Councillor*

*presented at the CVA/ECS Africa Regional Conference, Stellenbosch, South Africa*

### General

The East Central and Southern Africa Regional Conference was held in Kenya in April 1999. This four day meeting was held at the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) Headquarters in Nairobi. This was a joint Kenya Veterinary Association and the Commonwealth Veterinary Association Conference. The theme of the Conference was "The Veterinary Profession in a Changing Environment" The conference attracted both local and international participants.

The 2000 Scientific and Annual General Meeting was held in April 2000 at Mombasa Beach Hotel. The meeting was very well attended with almost 200 participants. At the AGM held on Thursday 27th of April 2000 various discussions were held and these included the passing of a resolution to dissolve the Western Branch due to non-attendance of council meetings. Nakuru KVA members expressed their interest in forming a branch. It was therefore agreed that the AGM for 2001 would be held in Nakuru simultaneously with the launch of the new branch.

The executive committee elected at the AGM consisted of Dr. Varma (Chairman), Dr. J.N. Kuria (Junior Vice-Chairman), Dr. N. Munene (Secretary), all retaining their seats, while Dr. J. Nyaundi re Dr. M. Ihiga as treasurer. Two committee members, Drs. Makonnen and Wanga were also elected. The executive was asked to nominate two other members as committee members (these are now Dr. Wanjohi, Dr. Rwambo and Dr. Gitau).

### Representation outside KVA

- Association of Professional Societies in East Africa (APSEA) - Dr. Ogara and Dr. Makonnen.

- Commonwealth Veterinary association - Dr. Ogara
- World Veterinary Association - Dr. Kahiu

### KVA Branches

The Coast branch held their AGM on 24th March 2000 at Bamburi Beach Hotel and the new office bearers were Dr. A. Itur (Chairman), Dr. Mwanyumba (Senior-Vice Chairman), Dr. Mwakio (Junior Vice-Chairman), Dr. Omondi (Secretary), Dr. Kivinya (Assistant Secretary), and Dr. Mbai (Treasurer). The representatives to the council were Dr. Itur, Dr. Omondi, or Dr. Mbai. The co-opted officials were Dr. Fazil, Dr. M. Wamai and the DVO, Mombasa. Their next AGM was set for 26th March 2001.

### The Central branch

In the year of 2000 this branch has been involved in various activities that include a vaccination program that included vaccination of cattle against blackquarter and anthrax and of dogs and cats against rabies (18,476 cattle and 3,162 dogs and cats) in Embu/Mbeere. Further vaccinations would be carried out in Nyeri and Kirinyaga. This branch has also been able to register a consultancy known as the "KVA Animal Consult". They have also made it easier for members to pay up for membership. Rather than paying a lump sum, those who wish can now pay their membership through a check-off system in association with their employer. This allows a monthly deduction of KShs 300 towards membership and KShs 200 towards welfare (Yes! They have a welfare fund too). This is especially convenient for civil servant veterinarians who have accepted this system wholly with the co-operation of DVOs.

Women Branch - They held their AGM on 17th March 2000 ushering in the new office bearers. The branch had a workshop for business entrepreneurship for women members conducted by KVAPS. They also had a workshop on 18th August in Mwingi and an open day in Elburgon in September.

### Formation of New KVA Branches

In the year 2000 the Kenya Veterinary Association formed two branches: The Nairobi Branch and the Rift Branch in Nakuru.

**KVAPS Update**

The Kenya Veterinary Privatisation Scheme which was conceived in 1986 and approved by KVA in 1988 was set up to provide a mechanism to support the delivery of private animal health care at a time when the government was withdrawing from service provision and seeking ways of fostering privatisation. Currently the scheme provides for the initiation, development and expansion of private veterinary practices in high and medium potential agricultural farming areas through careful selection of veterinarians to whom subsidised financial and technical support are given. The financial support is provided as loans through Barclays Bank of Kenya under a guarantee fund arrangement.

The scheme faced a potential funding crisis for its management and operations due to reduced interest rates in 1998/99. A proposal was drafted for a two-year extension phase from January 2000 with a request to Treasury for funding for KShs 10 million to support the management office, and to address the future of KVAPS since its five-year work plan was coming to an end.

The Steering Committee that includes representatives of the donor and the Treasury agreed on a need for a review especially of the market for private practice services and constraints to the uptake of loans, as essential information in charting the future of the Scheme. The review was contracted to Dr. P. Blanc (veterinarian) and Mrs. B. O Wilson (a business management consultant).

Since January 2000 KVAPS has participated in the creation of awareness in entrepreneurship for the 35 final year students of the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, 15 members of the Women's branch of KVA and 15 students of the Bachelor of Biomedical Laboratory Technicians.

So far fifty practices have been supported under the scheme.

The breakdown of their status is as follows;

Status	Number	Percentage
Graduated*	8	16%
On Schedule	32	64%
Classified**	10	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* These are loans that have fully been paid.

\*\* The loanees have had difficulties in repaying their loans and the bank is pursuing realisation of security in cases where statutory notices have expired.

The future of KVAPS is dependent on the demand of its services by the veterinarians. The trend of loan uptake in the last three years has been very low but we hope that with an improved practising environment the risk averseness in the veterinarians will be eroded. This will go a long way in promoting the privatisation of Animal Health Services delivery for this is the direction of the wave of change.

### The Kenya Veterinary Association Annual General and Scientific Meeting for 2001 "Animal Health And Productivity - Which Way Forward In The New Millennium?"

This meeting will be held from Monday 23rd April to Friday 27th April 2001 at the Eldorado Hotel in Nakuru. This will coincide with the official launching of the Nakuru KVA branch. The executive would like to congratulate the Nakuru branch on their efforts to form an active branch of the KVA and for their prompt response to members' concern over the lack of an active Rift Valley branch. This is the spirit of the truly noble veterinarian!

Papers and abstracts are to be received by the 31st of March 2001. You may send them by e-mail (attn: Scientific co-ordinator e-mail: kenya vet@iconnect.co.ke or to Dr. Rwambo on e-mail biosystems@iconnect.co.ke).

Scientific Meeting - The KVA in association with the Institute of Primate Research held a joint scientific workshop between 18 and 19th November 1999 at the Louis Leakey Memorial Auditorium at the National Museums of Kenya. The two-day workshop was based on Professional ethics and animal welfare. The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness of the need of high ethical standards and to equip participants with skills to achieve this. Speakers were invited from all aspects of animal ethics and welfare. These include J. Gilchrist from KSPCA who talked on animal welfare and ethics with regard to experimental animals. Other speakers were from South Africa and even Senegal gave their perspectives on animal welfare and experimental animals in research in their countries.

Dr. Lyons from the University of California, Davis gave a talk on removing the negative stigma on the use of companion animals as experimental models. She gave an outline on some of the ethical considerations during such research. There were also talks on the welfare of the donkey (Dr. E.M. Njoroge), Welfare of transportation of chicken (Dr. N. Munene) and the revitalisation of the veterinary profession (Dr. Karuga). Experimental surgical methods that reduced invasiveness and pain to animals such as laparoscopy (as opposed to laparotomy, Dr. Chai) were also discussed. There were also talks on the human-wildlife conflicts and how the KWS was dealing with this.

As a result of this meeting a small committee was formed that would revise the ten-year old "Guidelines for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals in Kenya" which was first published in 1989 by KVA and KLATA in consultation with experts in various aspects of animal welfare and research. The committee consisted of Dr. V. Varma (Chairman KVA), Dr. Robert King (Animal Unit, ILRI), Dr. Paula Kahumbu (Scientific Coordinator, KWS) and Dr. J. Nyaundi (Secretary Animal Care and Use Committee, IPR).

KVA-ASPK Symposium on A.I. was held at the KARI headquarters on 20th and 21st of March 2000 and a paper was presented on behalf of KVA entitled "Legal and Technical Constraints in A.I. Delivery in Kenya".

KVA/KVB Meeting with Veterinary Students took place on 15th March 2000. Dr. Varma gave the principal address on the role of KVA and KVB. Students expressed their deep gratitude and appreciation to the KVA and KVB on their effort made to realise the meeting.

9th DAH Workshop was held from the 12th to 16th of June 2000 at the Olkuruk Hotel in Transmara. The Decentralised Animal Health (DAH) Support Unit of the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) East Africa organises this annual workshop and the theme for the year 2000 was "Strengthening Animal Health Services Delivery in Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASAL)".

Dr. Makonnen attended APSEA Annual General Meeting held on 11th May 2000.

KVA sponsored the 5th year finalist students'

Annual Dinner to the tune of KShs 5,000. The dinner brought together the new graduates, the alumni and lecturers in various disciplines of veterinary medicine. The dinner was held on 9th June 2000.

### The KVA Journal

Currently the Vol 19 and 20 and Vol 24 (CVA Proceedings) are available and have been distributed. There will also be new subscription fees for the journal of KShs 1000 per year or US\$ 50 for foreign subscribers. This will include two issues of the journal in one year. These charges are effective as from 1st January 2001.

## Namibia

### Country Report - Namibia: 1999/2000

*Dr. Diethardt Rodenwoldt, CVA Councillor  
presented at the CVA/ECS Africa Regional Conference,  
Stellenbosch, South Africa*

During the period under review, the Veterinary Association of Namibia was very active in various spheres affecting the veterinary profession.

#### The State of The Veterinary Profession in Namibia

The veterinary profession has shown a growth in registered numbers of veterinarians in Namibia. Currently a total number of 71 veterinarians are registered from which 60 (or 85%) are registered members of the Veterinary Association of Namibia. Of the total of 71 registered veterinarians 5 (or 7%) are not actively pursuing the veterinary profession, 3 (4%) are outside the countries borders, 35 (49%) are actively in private practice or consultancy work. The rest are enrolled directly in either government or parastatal organizations. Two members are registered as associate members of the said Association.

Namibia has got a well-established private enterprise in veterinary practices. In total there are presently 14 functional well-established practices and consultancies.

Namibia is primarily dependent on agriculture. It's present live stock population (as per December 2000 census supplied by the Directorate of Veterinary Services) are as follows:

Cattle: 2,504,930; Sheep: 2,446,146; Goats: 1,849,569; Pigs: 23,148; Poultry: 476,331; Domesticated Ostriches: 47,823; Equidae: 229,333

General good rainfall in the past two years favoured the agricultural sector for life stock production.

### The Veterinary Association of Namibia (VAN)

It is an association formed in 1947 and supported by the majority of veterinarians working and living inside Namibia. One of multiple aims is to promote, improve, protect the interest and status of the veterinary profession, and to maintain the dignity of a honourable profession.

Once annually the Association holds its AGM. This gives the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest. As most members attend this meeting which is always in association with a scientific congress, it creates an excellent platform for internetting between colleagues themselves. It also exposes delegates to representatives from the pharmaceutical, pet food and related sectors to familiarize them selves with latest developments in the respective fields.

At the AGM held in Windhoek in October 2000, the following members were elected onto the Executive Committee of VAN for the term 2000/1:

President	Dr. Diethardt Rodenwoldt
Vice-President	Dr. Axel Hartmann
Secretary (co-opted)	Dr. Michael Beggs
Treasurer	Dr. Rainer Hassel
Members	Dr. Otto Zapke
	Dr. Cleopas Bamhare

Dr. Beate Voigts  
Dr. Donnie Smith  
Dr. Herbert Schneider

Chairman  
Disciplinary Committee Dr. Rainer Hassel  
Editor: "Manga" Dr. Herbert Schneider  
WVA Representative Dr. Herbert Schneider  
CVA representative Dr. Diethardt Rodenwoldt

### Continuous Professional Development

One of VAN's multiple objectives is to further the knowledge base of it's members. Simultaneously with the AGM, a scientific educational program course of 2 days is offered. The composition of such a course is to offer every delegate (whether associated with companion or production animals) some interesting aspects in or around veterinary science.

### Newsletter

By means of a quarterly Newsletter: "Manga", communication between the Executive Committee and it's members is established. It also serves as a publication medium for short scientific communication. News of scientific value or informal interest are conveyed to the reader.

This newsletter is also sent to the CVA and the WVA. On the WVA web page it is included for general information (<http://www.worldvet.org>).

### Namibian Veterinary Clinicians Forum

The Namibian Veterinary Clinicians Forum, a group of clinically interested practitioner, is associated to the VAN. It conducts about three times per year additional continuous professional development courses in the clinical veterinary field. The content of these courses offered in the past varied from "Bull Breeding Soundness Certification", "General ophthalmology and latest developments", "Cheetah related sperm and ophthalmology examination" or "General Cytology".

This forum also worked closely together with the Livestock Health and Production

Group of the South African Veterinary Association to standardize and utilize the same examination protocol for bull breeding soundness certification. This protocol is now presently in use by both countries.

### Student Bursary

After the approval of principles for awarding a study bursary to potential veterinary students at the AGM in 1998, two female students received as first recipients a bursary as financial aid to pursue their veterinary studies at the Faculty of Veterinary Science Onderstepoort, South Africa. Since then it is annually supporting students with bursaries.

VAN also contributed financially to a medical bill of 6 Namibian students, presently in their training at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort, RSA.

### Veterinary Performance Award

VAN promotes openly the working relationship between the veterinarian and the farming community to effectively increase their productivity. To openly honour the best annual performance, an award: "The Veterinary Performance Award", is handed over at the prestigious annual international agricultural show in the capital: "WINDHOEK" to the best farmer in the country. Last year this award was handed over to Mr. P Kretschmar, in the Kalkfeld district for his tremendous achievement in the cattle production with the aid of his veterinarian, Dr. A. Hartmann.

### Office Accommodation of the Veterinary Association of Namibia

Due to the continuous generous support from the Olthaver & List Group, VAN still occupies free of charge an office in the Old Brewery Building. The Veterinary Association of Namibia very much appreciates this generous gesture. On a on and off basis this office was in the past and will in the future still be used by the Veterinary Council of Namibia.

### Veterinary Council of Namibia

The Veterinary Council of Namibia is a statutory body for our honourable profession in Namibia. It is responsible for various matters pertaining to and regulating the administration and the practising of veterinary medicine in this country. The term of a new council started on the 1. August 1999. Their colleagues elected three new council members, three members were appointed by the Department of Agriculture (all veterinarians) and one member with a legal background (non-veterinarian) by the Department of Justice. All members, except the legal advisor, must be Namibian citizens.

The Council members are:

President	Dr. Axel Hartmann
Vice President	Dr. Diethardt Rodenwoldt
Registrar	Dr. Cleopas Bamhare
Members	Dr. John Shaw Dr. Andreas Gaugler Dr. Elizabeth Homateni
Legal Advisor	Mr. Edward Coetzee

The council meets four times a year to discuss matters pertaining to and regulate the veterinary profession in Namibia. Once a year the Council offers entrance examination for candidates to apply for registration to pursue the veterinary profession in Namibia.

### Medicines Control Council (MCC)

The MCC is charged to control all medicines and drugs for the use in humans in Namibia and will also in future be responsible for the control of veterinary medicines. Due to some problems to draft a new bill not much progress had been made so far. The veterinary profession is currently represented by

Dr. Herbert Schneider on this committee to look after the interest of the veterinary profession. His new term in office ends in 2004.

### Commonwealth Veterinary Association

Dr. Diethardt Rodenwoldt has been appointed by the VAN to serve as Councillor to the CVA for the term 2000 - 2003. Towards the end of January 2001 at the International Sheep Congress in Stellenbosch the Regional conference of the ECS Region of the CVA was concurrently held.

Due to the generous financial aid of the CVA for the flight ticket, the accommodation and the attendance of the conference, it was possible for Namibia to attend this regional meeting. The previous Namibian ECS CVA representative Dr. H. Schneider, as an observer, also attended this meeting.

For this generous financial support I want to record my sincere appreciation and thanks to the CVA and it's treasurer to have been so kind to make it possible for Namibia to attend this meeting and establish (from my side), but for Namibia to maintain and foster previously formed bonds with these countries.

### World Veterinary Association (WVA)

Namibia is a member and also strongly represented at the WVA. Our representative is Dr. H. Schneider. First, as an ordinary representative to said organization, he then was elected to the one of the two posts of Vice-president for Africa. In Lyon, France, in October 1999 he was elected to one of the two posts of Vice-Presidents of the WVA, a post he presently holds.

## Mauritius

### Country Report - Mauritius

*Dr. VB Goodoyal, CVA Councillor  
presented at the CVA/ECS Africa Regional Conference,  
Stellenbosch, South Africa*

The Sugar Industry remains the backbone of our economy. However, textiles and tourists occupy the major sectors in the development of Mauritius. Nearly 750,000 tourists visit us each year.

### Division of Veterinary Services

Much emphasis was laid upon the inspection/approval of the European Union for the exports of fish and fishery products to the EEC countries. In 1999, Mauritius

exported more than 11,753 tons of canned tuna and fresh fish. Fish are also exported to non-EEC countries such as Japan, USA and China.

The Africa Bill has boosted the exports of Anthurium blooms, textiles and other products to the USA.

The Division of Veterinary Services maintained its competency as regards inspection of food processing plants (meat and fish) and modification of HACCP plans submitted for approval. The inspectorate team at the Animal Health Laboratory has been visited on two occasions by inspectors from the European Union and Veterinarians are now more confident as to their roles as food inspectors.

Mauritius still imports its stock in red meat. Live cattle have been imported from African Continent especially South Africa and Zimbabwe. Little imports are done from Madagascar and Rodrigues Island (dependency of Mauritius).

All meats are imported except for poultry and pork where we are self sufficient. Day old chicks (broiler and layer) are exported to Rodrigues, Comores, Madagascar and Mozambique.

### Veterinary Council

The Veterinary Council comprises of seven elected Veterinarians, a Veterinarian nominated by the Minister of Agriculture and a (each) representative from the Prime Minister's Office and the Solicitor General. The Principal Veterinary Officer also forms part of the Committee.

Election is conducted once in two years.

### Mauritius Veterinary Association

The Mauritius Veterinary Association held its Annual General Meeting and elected a committee comprising of the following members.



President	Dr. R. Ramchurn
Secretary	Dr. Narainapoullé
Treasurer	Dr. D. Męnowa
Executive Members	Dr. S. Gya
	Dr. V.B. Goodoyal
CVA Councillor	Dr. V.B. Goodoyal

### International Cooperation

Prof. R.N. Srivastava, eminent Scientist from Haryana Agricultural University, helped us in the depistation and isolation of viral diseases occurring in Mauritius and also in Rodrigues Island. Prof. Srivastava is on a 2 years work contract.

### The 2001 Purina Nutrition Forum

The 2001 Purina Nutrition Forum will be held at the Marriott Pavilion Hotel in St. Louis, October 25-28, 2001. The Purina Nutrition Forum organising committee invites the submission of abstracts for oral presentation on research related to the featured topic "Gerontology: Prolonging Health Through Nutrition". Abstracts will be published in the 2001 Purina Nutrition Forum Proceedings.

The registration form and applicable fee of \$200.00 (US) should be mailed to the address below, no later than September 15, 2001.

The Purina Nutrition Forum  
c/o Mrs. Liana Marek  
Ralston Purina Company  
Checkerboard Square, 3RN  
St. Louis, MO 63164 USA

Research abstracts must be received no later than August 1, 2001 to the address below. Presenting author of accepted abstracts will receive complimentary registration for the Forum.

Dr. Dottie Laflamme  
Ralston Purina Company  
3, Research North  
Checkerboard Square  
St. Louis, MO 63164 USA  
Email: dlaflamme@purina.com

*In this world, there is always danger for those who are afraid of it*

- G.B. Shaw

## Tanzania

### New Executive Committee of TVA

The new Executive Committee of Tanzania Veterinary Association has been constituted. The following are the members

Chairman	Prof. Dominic M Kambarage
Vice-Chairman	Dr Adela J Kondela
Hon. Secretary	Dr Peter Z Njau
Treasurer	Dr Niwael Mtui
Immediate Past Chairman	Prof Uswege M Minga
Committee Members	Prof Peter M Msolla
	Dr Henry Mbwile
	Dr Louis MG mbanda

They replace the following out going members.

Chairman	Prof. Uswege M. Minga
Vice-Chairman	Dr Louis MG Mbwambo
Hon. Secretary	Prof Apolinaria E Pereká
Treasurer	Dr Niwael Mtui
Immediate Past Chairman	Prof Peter M Msolla
Committee Members	Prof Amy Maeda-Machangu
	Dr Sinare Y Sinare
	Dr Fokas PA Sunguya

The Ex-Officio members were;

**Dr Reminicere CA Kweka**  
Director of Livestock Development, Tanzania

**Dr Therasa Ponela-Mlelwa**  
Registrar, Tanzania Veterinary Board

**Prof Rudovick R Kazwala**  
Editor, Tanzania Veterinary Journal (TVJ)

**Dr Sharadhuli I Kimera**  
Assistant Editor, TVJ

**Prof Robert M Maselle**  
Circulation Manager, TVJ

The TVA Annual General Meeting was held in Arusha on 6th December 2000. A new TVA Councillor to the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, Prof Uswege U Minga was elected to replace Prof Gabriel Mbassa who had completed his term.

- Prof. Dominic M Kambarage  
Chairman - TVA

# West Africa

## Commonwealth Secretary-General Tours West Africa

Joel Kibazo

*Director of the Information and Public Affairs Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat*

It will be a long time before Aribisala Jehinde of Government Secondary School in Garki, on the outskirts of Abuja, forgets the day the Commonwealth Secretary-General came to town.

Mr McKinnon was sticking to his policy of meeting young people around the Commonwealth, when he met nearly 500 students in the Nigerian capital, on his first stop of a three-country West African tour in mid-February. But instead of just speaking about the Commonwealth, he decided to spice things up a little and set the students the challenge of naming the 19 Commonwealth countries in Africa, raising the stakes with the offer of £10 to the first students to come up with the correct answer.

Many fell by the wayside in the rush to claim the prize but after 45 minutes, it was a rather shy but grinning Aribisala who finally walked off with the crisp brown note. The Secretary-General's first official visit to the region mixed discussions with heads of government, meetings with youth, civil society and political groups, as well as visits and talks with those involved in Commonwealth-funded projects.

In Nigeria, the Secretary-General held talks with President Olusegun Obasanjo about Nigeria's military involvement in Sierra Leone as well as a whole. Ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Brisbane this October, Mr McKinnon also used the meeting to seek the President's views on the agenda for the summit.

The Secretary-General's meeting with senators and members of the House of Representatives was particularly poignant. He said: "I last came to Nigeria when I was Foreign Minister of New Zealand as part of Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group mission when Nigeria was still

under military rule. As a former member of parliament in my own country, I can't tell you how much it pleases me to be returning here to meet people such as yourselves, elected freely in a democratic system\*.

One of the main reasons for his visit to the country was to deliver the closing address at the sixth conference of the Commonwealth Journalists Association, held in Nigeria for the first time.



*Aribisala Jehinde collects his unexpected prize from the Commonwealth Secretary-General as the Minister of Women's Affairs and Youth Development, Hajiya Aisha Ismail, looks on*

The large presence of United Nations troops surrounding the airport at Lungi in Freetown was the first sign of the challenges that Sierra Leone continues to face nearly a decade after the start of the civil war. In talks with President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, Mr McKinnon indicated his support for moves to encourage the rebel Revolutionary United Front to join the political process by turning itself into a political party. The Secretary-General also visited an amputee camp, where he spoke to

victims of the brutal war and befriended a three-year-old victim, part of whose right arm had been chopped off by the rebels.

Yet, there was also much to feel encouraged about. A visit to a roofing tiles factory, supported by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation as part of efforts to provide affordable housing for the many who lost their homes in the war, gave the Secretary-General particular pleasure, as did meeting the Commonwealth funded police officers working to rebuild the local police force.

In The Gambia, Mr McKinnon held talks with President Yahya Jammeh that lasted nearly two hours and met with students of The Gambia High School in Banjul.

- Commonwealth Currents 1, 2001

## U.K. Mediterranean

### Foot-and-Mouth Disease: Lesson for the Future

A meeting of BVA Council on May 15 was devoted to a discussion of the profession's experiences in dealing with foot-and-mouth disease, the lessons to be learned from them and how they might be put to positive use in the future.

What can be learned from the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) epidemic? That was the theme of what the BVA President, Mr David Tyson, described as a 'somewhat extraordinary' meeting of BVA Council on May 15.

The severity of the outbreak had been unprecedented and its ramifications ranged far beyond the agricultural community most immediately affected. Veterinary practices and individual veterinarians had been under strain, both personal and economic, for weeks.

While BVA officers had worked as temporary veterinary inspectors (TVIs) in some of the disease hot spots, enabling them to monitor the situation on the ground, the BVA had acted as an operational centre. Headquarters had coordinated information for members through *The Veterinary Record*, the BVA website, and by telephone. Over 1000 briefings had been given to media; policy lines had been decided; negotiations had been held with outside bodies such as MAFF and the National Farmers' Union; and close liaison had been maintained with the Association's divisions most immediately involved in dealing with the outbreaks.

The Veterinary Record, May 26, 2001

#### FMD Key Statistics\*

Total number of outbreaks	672
Total number of dangerous contact premises	718
Total number of animals authorized for slaughter	719,000
Total number of animals slaughtered to date	442,000
Total number of animals awaiting slaughter	277,000
Total number of carcasses destroyed	323,000
Total number of cattle to be slaughtered	145,000
Total number of sheep to be slaughtered	523,000
Total number of pigs to be slaughtered	50,000
Percentage of outbreaks in Northern England/Southern Scotland	60%
Percentage of outbreaks in Devon	10%
Percentage of outbreaks in Welsh/English border area	12%
Number of vets in SVS	220

\* Situation as at 1500 hrs on March 27, 2001



BVA Officers at the Special Meeting on FMD on May 15. (from left) Mr Andrew Scott, Mr Eifion Evans, Mr. David Tyson and Mr Peter Jinman

### Off to Grenada

Former BVA Press Officer, Miss Michelle Clark, has won a scholarship to study Veterinary Medicine at St George's University School of Veterinary Medicine in Grenada in the West Indies. She was awarded the scholarship, which provides full tuition and administrative fees, on the basis of her essay 'My view of the veterinarian's role in society in the 21st century'. In addition, she had to fulfil the entry requirements for the course.



Miss Clark, who worked at the BVA for six years, has an Animal Sciences degree from London University's Imperial College at Wye. She is the second UK student to be awarded a scholarship to the veterinary school. The first, Mill Lydia Doyle, obtained her scholarship last year and is currently studying in Grenada.

The Veterinary Record, January 27, 2001

## Equipment and Books for Overseas

The BVA's Overseas Group recently sorted various books and items of veterinary equipment, donated by members of the profession in the UK for distribution overseas. Helping out at the BVA's headquarters in London are (from left to right) Helena Cotton, Coordinator of the BVA's Overseas Group, Professor John Cooper, of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, Chris Shepherd, a student who is currently applying to study veterinary science, and Rebecca Dixon, who qualified from Cambridge in 1998 and who is soon to start work in Malawi on a Voluntary Service Overseas posting. The Overseas Group is currently in discussion with the International Veterinary Students Association with a view to developing a more structured means of handling requests for assistance and dealing with discussion.



## Drugs Company Wakes Upto Sleeping Sickness

One of the world's major pharmaceutical companies, which stopped making the only safe medicine for the late, fatal, stage of sleeping sickness because it could not make a profit from it, has agreed to donate the drug, following a public outcry over shortages of medicines in Africa.

In a dramatic turnaround Aventis has signed a deal with the World Health Organisation to supply a five year global need for eflornithine and two other drugs used to treat the parasitic disease. It will also provide funding for the WHO's sleeping sickness treatment and research programmes.

The decision has been greeted with euphoria by campaigners and doctors, who currently have only an arsenic derivative - which can kill the patient - to treat the late stages of the disease.

Aventis dropped eflornithine in 1995 because there was no market for it in the wealthy West. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the Nobel prize-winning volunteer doctors' organisation, and other campaigners have long pressed the company to reconsider.

Sleeping sickness, or African trypanosomiasis, is spread by the tsetse fly and is a scourge of Sub-Saharan rural areas. Left untreated, the parasites spread to the brain, and the patient suffers neurological damage, falls into an irreversible coma and eventually dies. It affects 500,000 people in 36 African countries, and 60m are at risk of its spread. In some villages in Angola, the Democratic Republic

of Congo and Southern Sudan, it is the biggest cause of death, ahead of Aids.

Eflornithine was licensed in 1990 and seemed to meet medical needs, but production stopped in 1999. Last year Aventis offered the licence to the WHO, but the organisation could not find anyone to produce the drug. Now the company has offered as much eflornithine as is needed, together with melarsoprol, an arsenic derivative, and the early-stage drug pentamidine, for five years, and will give \$25m to support the WHO's activities.

MSF thinks public opinion has been crucial to the move. "We feel that the growing public awareness about this and the publicity in the newspapers was a pivotal factor in bringing this drug back into production", says Daniel Berman of MSF, which will distribute the drugs to the places they are needed.

Gro Harlem Brundtland, the WHO's Director General, said: "We can now look forward to halting the spread of sleeping sickness. We are deeply gratified by the commitment of Aventis to this cause. We hope others, inspired by our work, will join us, as much remains to be done".

Richard Markham, Chief Executive of Aventis Pharma, said the company was "committed to playing an important role in improving the quality of human life and contributing to the sustainable development of our world".

- Guardian Weekly, May 10-16, 2001

## Abstracts

### Effect Of The Selenium Content Of The Maternal Diet On The Antioxidant Systems Of The Newly Hatched Chick

Broiler breeder hens were fed on diets (semisynthetic or commercial) supplemented with organic selenium (Sel-Plex, Alltech Inc., 0, 0.2 and 0.4 mg Se/kg). The levels of vitamin E, selenium, reduced glutathione, activity of glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px) and tissue susceptibility to peroxidation were studied in the liver, yolk sac membrane and brain of the newly hatched chicks. The results showed that selenium and vitamin E levels in the egg and chick tissue depends on their dietary provision. Inclusion of organic selenium in the maternal diet increased GSH-Px activity in the chick liver, stimulated vitamin E accumulation and decreased tissue susceptibility to lipid peroxidation.

PF Surai and NHC Sparks. XXI World's Poultry Congress, Montreal, Canada, August 20-24, 2000.

### Commercial Enzymes And Their Influence On Broilers Fed Wheat Or Barley

Two trials attempted to determine the performance of growing broilers fed commercial enzymes added to wheat- and barley-based diets. In the first trial, broilers were fed wheat-based diets and a superior growth rate resulted for all 4 commercial enzyme treatments ( $P < 0.05$ ) to 35 days. The early improvement in body weight did not continue to 42 days, and overall gain was not different among treatments. Feed utilization was unaffected by enzyme supplementation. A second barley-based trial, with diets formulated to contain betagluconase enzymes, resulted in improved bird performance for all enzymes tested to 42 days ( $P < 0.01$ ). Feed utilization was most efficient with Ronozyme B. Intestinal viscosity in 6 wk-old birds decreased significantly in all birds fed enzymes. In a 3rd trial, data from mash-fed 2 wk-old bird showed a numerical lowering of intestinal viscosity. The AMEN of the wheat-based diets was unaffected by enzyme supplementation.

S Leeson, I Caston, MM Lisei and R Jones. *J Applied Poultry Research*, 2000; 9: 242-251.

### Diagnosis Features Of Lethal Acrodermatitis In 28 Bull Terriers

The main characteristics of lethal acrodermatitis in 28 bull terriers born in the UK were stunting, splayed digits, difficulties in eating, skin disease of the face and feet, and increased susceptibility to microbial infections. Paronychia, nail disease and hyperkeratosis of the footpads became severe after the dogs were six months old. The disease can be strongly suspected in any bull terrier showing these signs from an early age, and the diagnosis can be confirmed by the histological demonstration of marked parakeratotic hyperkeratosis. Although many of the signs of the disease suggest a zinc deficiency, the concentration of zinc in blood is of little diagnostic value.

NA McEwan, PE McNeil, H Thompson and IAP McCandlish. Diagnosis features, confirmation and disease progression in 28 cases of lethal acrodermatitis of bull terriers. *Journal of Small Animal Practice*, 41: 501-507, 2000.

### Skin-stretching Device For Closing Wounds In Dogs And Cats

The device uses adhesive-coated pads which are placed on the skin on opposite sides of surgical site and connected with adjustable cables. The tension in the cables can be progressively increased at intervals of six to eight hours, making use of the viscoelastic properties of the skin to recruit skin from areas away from the site to facilitate the closure of the wound, usually within 72 to 96 hours. It has been used effectively in dogs and cats to stretch the skin either before elective surgical procedures or during the management of open wounds before they are sutured, and to alleviate wound tension after surgery.

MM Pavletic. Use of an external skin-stretching device for wound closure in dogs and cats. *Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association*, 217: 350-354, 2000.

• *It costs a lot of money to die comfortably*

- Samuel Butler

## General Articles

Abstracts

### Rural Development Through Livestock Production – The Role Of Women

M.G. Govindaiah and M.R. Jayashankar

Veterinary College, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India

In India, animal husbandry is an age old practice of integration with traditional agriculture. It occupies

smallholdings to achieve green revolution. Following this is the achievement of the dairy sector in the white revolution.



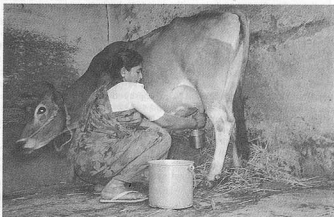
Women farmers with their cattle at health camp

an important position in the socioeconomic and cultural aspect of people in the country. India has made significant progress in the field of food production thereby ensuring national and household food security in the face of burgeoning population. The green revolution (Agriculture) formed the cornerstone of success, followed by white revolution (Milk), blue revolution (Fish) and yellow revolution (Sunflower Oil) in the country. All these success were due to pragmatic planning and implementation of programmes during the 3rd, 4th and 5th five year plan periods and being backed up by the significant investment in agriculture research and extension systems by the Government of India. The animal husbandry sector has played a vital role, especially the bullock power in

Livestock and crop enterprises in India are intimately interlinked and integrated in farming system and are complementary to each other. Next to crop production, animal husbandry is the most important activity in rural parts of the country. About 73 per cent of the rural households own livestock of one kind or the other and derive 30 to 50 per cent of the total earnings of the household from livestock rearing. A large number of agro animal based industries also contribute substantially to the nation's economic prosperity.

Women play a very important role in animal husbandry activities.

India has the highest population of cattle (218.8 mil) and buffaloes (93.8 mil), followed by goat (123.0), sheep (57.9), poultry



Woman farmer milking her cow



Women farmers with specialists at health camp

food grains. On the other hand, there are thousands of families that are still facing difficulty for even one square meal a day. Most of such families are resident in the rural areas.

Rural development has been the slogan for many decades; however, precious little has been done to make life comfortable in the villages. The urban attraction has lured most of the educated, young entrepreneurs leaving the villages without any young for further improvement. Even if any enterprising youth want to take up agriculture or livestock activities he/she is discouraged by many factors. The infrastructure needed for these activities are lacking in the villages.

(402.0) and pigs (16.01 mil). India ranks second in milk production (73 MMT), seventh in total meat production (4.8 MMT) and fifth in primary egg production (1.8 MMT) in the world according to FAO (2000). Of these different species, only dairying has seen concerted efforts to improve milk production through the cooperative sector.

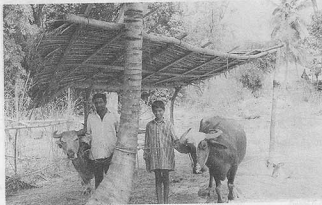
India is a land of villages. Without the improvement of villages, improvement of the country is not possible. Even today, the country's economy depends on agriculture and allied activities. The country appears to be self sufficient in production in



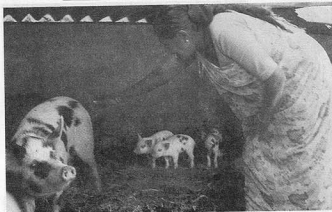
Calves at Calf Rally

Transportation, roads, power, drinking water, drainage, basic necessities for human existence, is hopelessly inadequate. This has resulted in a widening gap between the urban and rural areas, which needs to be bridged, if the rural economy is to be brought on par with the urban economy.

The government has adopted the 20-Point economic programme, which primarily aims at rehabilitating the poor, especially the rural poor who constitute a large proportion of the poor. The number of unemployed people seems to be always on the increase in India. Hence the World Bank has focused the importance of



Temporary shelter for buffaloes



*Woman pig farmer*

generating employment for the surging labour force. The two basic problems of our rural life viz., increasing unemployment and stagnant growth can be solved through integrated approach to the development of poorer section or the lowest strata of the society.

### **Role of women in livestock rearing**

Women largely dominate agriculture including animal husbandry in India. Nearly 60 per cent of farming labour is provided by women in crop production and more than 90 per cent of work related to animal care management and production activities is carried out by women folk of the family in the rural areas. This probably reduces further unemployment and under employment of women in the rural sector. Women farmers are directly involved in animal husbandry and are therefore more knowledgeable about care and feeding of animals. They are aware of the fodder and browse that can be fed to animals during periods of drought. They are able to identify the first signs of oestrus in animals and also to observe the signs of disease and pest problems. These women are generally uneducated. Creating an atmosphere where they can be involved in decision-making, and by working together along with the other women farmers, a change can be brought about in their attitudes and perceptions. This would go a long way in creating sustained enthusiasm and confidence among the women farmers in involving themselves more and more in animal husbandry activities for improving their socioeconomic status. If they were educated about the recent technologies of management of animals, they can achieve more and add to their income from animal husbandry.

It is heartening to note that NGO's and International agencies such as Commonwealth Veterinary Association have taken active role in promoting this. Recently a group of 15 women dairy farmers were sponsored by CVA for training in Dairy farming at the National Dairy Development Board. After their return they have put into practice their training for better dairying.

### **Sustainable approach in animal production - Activities of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**

The production system approach indicated the need to intensify the animal and agricultural research extension activities under field conditions with greater thrust and attention in order to maintain sustainability and containment of potentially adverse environment impact. Besides, there is necessity to tie up with the diversity of agro ecological settings and socioeconomic resource management of producers as bottom up approach to resolve the location specific problems confronting the producers and various animal systems in the country. To cope up with these demands and needs of people, the ICAR has conceptualized, programmed and implemented National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) projects during 9th plan period that are based on facilities created in National Agriculture Research Programme (NARP) and National Agriculture Extension Programme (NAEP). The rain fed agro ecosystem is the largest one covering 63 per cent of the country's cultivated area and endowed with high density of livestock population, wherein a large number



*Composite farm with pigs, sheep and poultry*





*Training session for women farmers*

of small and marginal farmers' holdings exist in addition to a large chunk of agriculture labour work force. Under this approach, it is ultimately aimed at promoting the multi disciplinary, location specific and participatory mode of operation with the involvement of scientific community and farmers together to achieve the targeted objects of sustainability.

#### **Department of Animal Breeding, Genetics and Biostatistics, Veterinary College, Bangalore**

The Department of Animal Breeding, Genetics and Biostatistics has been entrusted to carry out two NATP projects viz. (i) Strategies for Enhancing the Productivity of Pigs for the farming community under PSR, Coastal Agro-System and (ii) Sustainable High Production of Indigenous and crossbred cattle and buffaloes in rural households under Sugarcane based Production System (PSR 22).

Both programs are aimed at solving problems of breeding, feeding, care and management, reproduction and health of indigenous and crossbred cattle and buffaloes in sugarcane production areas, and the pigs in the coastal regions of Karnataka, that limit productivity and/or sustainability. Further, particular emphasis is placed on management of these animals under traditional village level or small farm management systems with the primary objective of devising simple, economical and acceptable methods for overcoming these constraints/problems in respective regions of the state. These problems are supported mainly through technical cooperation

projects, Zonal Research Station and Agricultural Research Stations, training courses, workshops and supply of appropriate technologies for mitigating the problems and assuring sustainability.

Ultimately, these problems aim at bringing out package of practices for the benefit of the farmers to enhance their returns from pig or dairy farming. It is envisaged to involve mostly the women farmers as farmer beneficiaries under these projects, as these women are the ones most commonly involved in livestock activities, especially in the villages.

**a. Pig Farming:** In the rural sector pig husbandry is merely at subsistence or sub-subsistence level. Rural families

maintain a few pigs feeding on domestic waste and whatever they get while scavenging. Pig raising fits in very well with mixed farming, and is complementary to intensive crop production. Pig production can be made economical by upgrading the local pigs or even by rearing exotic breeds like Large White Yorkshire, which adapt very well to the local conditions in Karnataka.

**b. Dairy Production:** Dairy production has seen a tremendous improvement over the past several decades. The major credit should go to the women dairy farmers, who do more than 60 per cent of the work involved with the dairy animals in the country. If these women are better educated then the achievement could have been still better. Women dairy farmers number about 6000 out of 70,000 members of the dairy cooperative societies in India.



*Award for best woman farmer*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS****2001**

- Conference on Wildlife Health and Management in Australia, Tarong Zoo, Sydney, Australia. July 2-6.
- 138th AVMA Annual Convention, Boston. July 14-18.
- 26th World Small Animal Veterinary Congress, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. August 8-11.
- 32nd International Congress on the History of Veterinary Medicine, Oslo, Norway. August 15-19.
- Australasia/Oceania CVA Regional Meeting and 2nd International Congress in Conjunction with the 13th VAM Congress, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. August 27-30.
- 34th International Congress on Physiological Sciences: From Molecule to Malady, Christchurch, New Zealand. August 26-31.
- BVA Congress, The Guildhall, Winchester. October 4-7.
- 28th ASAVA Annual Conference, Rydges Hotel, Canberra, Australia. October 22-26.
- Fifth CVA Workshop on Fertility in Village Livestock, West Africa. Date and Venue to be decided.

**2002**

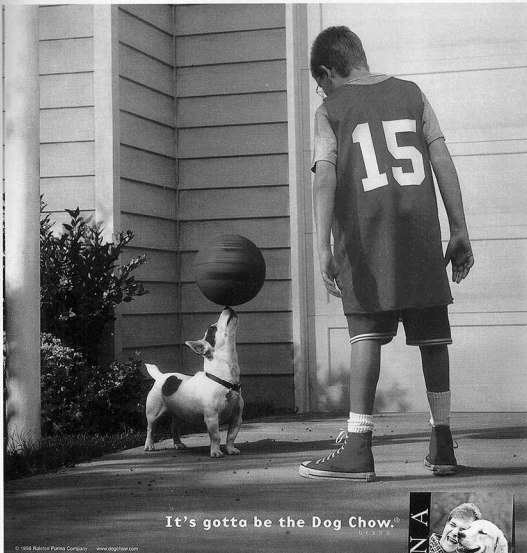
- 12th International Symposium on Lameness in Ruminants, Orlando, Florida. January 9-13.
- 45th BSAVA Congress, Birmingham, UK. April 4 - 7.
- 27th World Veterinary Congress, Tunis, Tunisia. September 25-29.
- Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, Renaissance Jamaica Grande Resort, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, West Indies. November 3-8.

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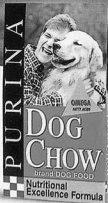


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93 Mount Edward Road,  
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada CIA 5T1  
Tel: (1 902) 3680950 Fax: (1 902) 3680960  
Email : stevensonr@EM.AGR.CA
- Secretary** : **Dr. S. Abdul Rahman**  
123, 7th 'B' Main, 4th Block (West),  
Jayanagar, Bangalore 560 011 India.  
Tel : (91 80 ) 6346857/6548805 Fax: (91 80 ) 6635210  
E mail : shireen@blr.vsnl.net.in
- Immediate Past President & Treasurer** : **Dr. W.J. Pryor**  
Galwiji, Pryor's Road, Scotsburn,  
RMB N141, Victoria, Australia 3352  
Tel : (61 3) 53 413397, Fax : (61 3) 53 412273  
Email : commvet@netconnect.com.au

## Regional Representatives

### ASIA

**Dr. S. Abdul Rahman**  
123, 7th 'B' Main, 4th Block (West),  
Jayanagar, Bangalore 560 011 India.  
Tel : (91 80 ) 6548805/6346857  
Fax : (91 80 ) 6635210  
E mail : shireen@blr.vsnl.net.in

### EAST/ CENTRAL/ SOUTHERN AFRICA

**Dr. M.R. Jaumally**  
Mauritius Veterinary Assoc.  
Division of Vet. Services, Reduit,  
Mauritius.  
Tel : (230) 454 1016/17  
Fax: (230) 465 88931, 243 3654  
Email : jaumally@bow.infn.net.mu

### AUSTRALASIA/ OCEANIA

**Dr. C H Giam**  
# 78, Jalan Haji Alias  
Singapore 1026  
Tel: (65) 4666 486  
Fax : (65) 463 4853  
Email : giamch@pacific.net.sg

### WEST AFRICA

**Dr. Duto S. Fofana**  
International Trypanotolerance Centre  
PMB 14, Banjul, The Gambia  
Tel : (220) 462 928 Fax : (220) 462 924  
Email : dutofofana@hotmail.com

### CANADA CARIBBEAN

**Dr. V. Mohabir**  
Blue Cross Hospital,  
141, Eastern Main Road,  
St. Augustine, Trinidad,  
West Indies  
Tel: (1 809) 8551014 (H)/6631954(O)  
Fax: (1 809 ) 6250818/6631954  
Email : vmohabir@yahoo.com

### U.K. MEDITERRANEAN

**Prof. John Cooper**  
C/o. British Veterinary Association,  
7, Mansfield Street,  
London W1M 0AT, England  
Tel : (44 171) 636 6541  
Fax : (44 171) 436 2970  
Wildlife Health Services  
P.O. Box, 153, Wellingborough  
NN82ZA, U.K.  
Email : NGAGI@compuserve.com

**Dr. S. Abdul Rahman**  
Editor

## COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION NEWS

123, 7th 'B' Main Road, IV Block (West), Jayanagar, Bangalore 560 011 INDIA.  
Tel : (91 80) 6346857/6548805 Fax: (91 80) 6635210; Email: shireen@blr.vsnl.net.in