

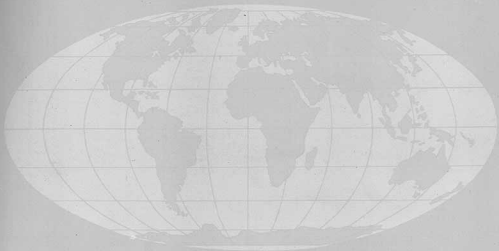
Volume 18

No.2

July 2002



# COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



# NEWS

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Dr. S. Abdul Rahman

## CONTENTS

	Page
President's Column	2
CVA News	3
Book & Journal Programme	5
Regional News	
Asia	8
Australasia/Oceania	10
Canada Caribbean	15
East, Central and Southern Africa	19
West Africa	23
U.K. Mediterranean	26
Abstracts	34
General Articles	35
Calendar of Events	40

CVA Web site

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



## *The President's Message*

A very successful UK-Mediterranean CVA Regional Conference was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, June 13-15, 2002. The theme of the conference was "The Changing Face of Animal Diseases". Distinguished speakers from the UK, Europe, Africa, the Falkland Islands, and Australia provided their perspective of the challenges facing the veterinary profession in these days of liberalisation of trade, recent outbreaks of "old" diseases, new diseases, climate change, ease of transportation, illegal movements of animals etc. The Proceedings of the Conference are being prepared and will shortly be available through your CVA Regional Representative or your CVA Council member.

The Executive Committee took advantage of the above Conference to hold Executive Committee meetings on June 16-18. In addition to housekeeping items, the Executive Committee reviewed the activities of various CVA programmes, reviewed and approved a number of new projects, passed an amendment to the CVA Constitution limiting the term of Regional Representatives to one four year term, except in exceptional circumstances, and set dates for future regional conferences.

CVA members are reminded and encouraged to apply for training through the CVA Study Fund. Briefly, the Study Fund is intended to assist young veterinarians to visit learning institutions within their region to learn new techniques which will assist them in their practice. Details of the Fund can be obtained from the Regional Representative or directly from the CVA Secretary.

Members are also reminded that the Journal Book Audio-Visual Programme is available to any member as long as their national veterinary association is a member in good standing. Dr Brian Derbyshire manages this Programme and is more than pleased to try to meet your book needs. Again, contact your Regional Representative or Dr Derbyshire directly. The CVA website is to be upgraded and will include detailed information on CVA programmes and projects, as well as information on how to apply.

The 3rd Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference is to be held in association with the New Zealand Annual Veterinary Conference, June 27-30, 2003 in Wellington, NZ. Prof. Bill Manktelow, the CVA Scientific Coordinator, is working hard to design a scientific programme that will have something of interest for all Commonwealth veterinarians. Plan now to attend. Details will be published on the CVA website and will be appearing in a number of national veterinary journals. In the meantime if you wish further information, please contact the CVA Secretary.

July, 2002

**Bert Stevenson**  
President

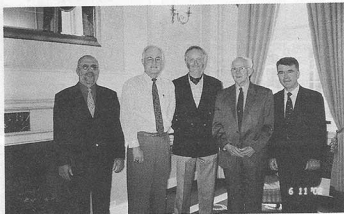
## CVA News

### CVA EC Members visit BVA



*Peter C. Jinman  
Vice President &  
President-Elect, BVA*

Executive members of the CVA Dr Bert Stevenson, President CVA, Dr WJ Pryor, Past-President/Treasurer CVA, Dr Robin Yarrow, Regional Representative, Australasia/Oceania region and Dr S. Abdul Rahman, Secretary CVA, visited the British Veterinary Association enroute Cyprus and had discussions with the Vice-President Dr Peter C. Jinman on various issues pertaining to the CVA and BVA.



*L-R: Drs SA Rahman, Bert Stevenson, Peter C. Jinman, WJ Pryor and Robin Yarrow*

Dr Andrew Scott, President BVA, had a bereavement in the family and hence could not attend the meeting.

### CVA EC Members at Commonwealth Foundation

The CVA EC Members visited the Commonwealth Foundation and met with the Deputy Director Ms Rudo M. Chitiga and Programme Director Ms Sharon Robinson. Various projects and financial assistance of Commonwealth Foundation was discussed.

Ms Chitiga appreciated the activities and work of the CVA. Ms Robinson and Ms Chitiga assured the CVA members of continued support of the Commonwealth Foundation to the CVA.



*L-R: Dr Robin Yarrow, Ms Rudo M. Chitiga, Ms Sharon Robinson, and Dr Stevenson*

## Executive Committee Meeting of CVA

16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> June 2002, Nicosia, Cyprus

The meeting of the Executive Committee of CVA was held at Nicosia, Cyprus on 16th & 17th June 2002. Drs Bert Stevenson, President; WJ Pryor, Past President/Treasurer; SA Rahman, Secretary and RR, Asia; Robin Yarrow, RR, Australasia/Oceania; DS Fofana, RR, West Africa; MR Jaumally, RR ECS Africa; J Cooper, RR, UK/Mediterranean and WO Ogara, CVA Councillor, Kenya participated. The agenda discussed included the workplan, projects to be undertaken in different regions and the schedule of various conferences and workshops to be held during the



*Member of Executive Committee of CVA  
Standing L-R: Drs Ogara, Cooper, Fofana,  
Robin Yarrow and Jaumally  
Sitting L-R: Drs Pryor, Stevenson and  
Rahman*



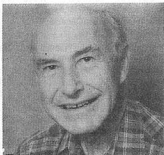
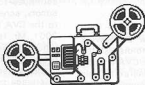
*Member of Executive Committee of CVA at  
the meeting*

next four years. The minutes of the meeting will be published in the next issue of the CVA News.



*Member of Executive Committee of CVA at the meeting*

24



## 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 2002-03

#### A. Introduction

This report covers the period from July 1, 2000 to April 30, 2002. Coordination of the Canadian component of the programme from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) at the University of Guelph has continued. The current inventory of books comprises 455 titles and 1,074 volumes. Most disciplines are reasonably well covered, although additional titles are needed in avian and fish diseases, pharmacology and toxicology. 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 de l'Élevage des Volailles.

#### B. Shipments

During the 22 month period covered by this report, 14 shipments, comprising 183 books, were sent from Guelph to 5 Commonwealth countries as follows: India (9 shipments; 89 books), Uganda (1 shipment; 9 books), Ghana (2 shipments; 63 books), Guyana (1 shipment; 18 books) and The Gambia (1 shipment; 4 books). Seven of the shipments were to institutions, and 7 were to practising veterinarians. In addition, in 2001 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. The number of requests received, and hence the number of shipments, has declined sharply in the last 2 years, since 21 shipments of 255 books were sent to 5 Commonwealth countries in a period of 12 months in 1999-2000.

#### C. 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 was 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.

Requests from Himachal Pradesh were referred to Dr. Rahman for approval. Several requests were rejected since consignments of books had been shipped fairly recently to the same veterinarians.

The most 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.

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 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 planned renovations at the Ontario Veterinary College 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, but a favourable response has yet to be received.

In October, 2001, a copy of the current inventory was sent to each of the CVA regional representatives, who were asked to bring this to the attention of veterinary institutions in their regions. No requests have been received in response to this action.

Dr. Wayne Lees is seeking funds to ship books to non-Commonwealth countries such as Haiti. If he is successful, the books could probably be supplied from the Guelph depot.

#### D. 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.

Mr. David Hull, the Librarian at the OVC, continued to deal with all enquiries from potential donors, screen the donated books, and deliver these to the CVA book storage area until his retirement in 2001. Mr. Hull has been replaced by Mr. Jim Brett, who has kindly agreed to continue to serve the programme in this way. Dr. Lloyd Coleman assisted 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.

#### Finances

Quarterly bank statements have been forwarded to Dr. Pryor. Postal rates increased by approximately 20% on 15 January, 2002. The following is a summary of expenditures during the 22-month period under review. The figures are in Canadian dollars:

#### Expenses

Mailing costs from Guelph	1,054.79
Shipment to Chittagong	
Government Veterinary College	1,131.55
Bank service charge	1.55
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,187.89</b>

#### Revenue

Balance at July 1, 2000	2,374.57
Cheques from CVA	3,621.60
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>5,996.17</b>
Less expenses	2,187.89
<b>Balance at April 30, 2002</b>	<b>3,808.28</b>

#### F. Conclusions

The continuing decline in the number of requests received during the past 2 years is a cause for concern. The readmission of Nigeria into the CVA would probably change this situation, but it may also be appropriate to publicize the programme more effectively among the various veterinary institutions in the developing Commonwealth countries, for which the collaboration of the CVA regional representatives and councillors is solicited. The potential loss of the book storage area at the OVC is a further cause of concern.

Dr. J.B. Derbyshire  
Coordinator, CVA Book Programme



## 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. 2002. RRs to submit their recommendations before 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2002 to the Secretary, CVA.

# Asia

## Report Of Asian Region

*Dr. S. Abdul Rahman  
Regional Representative, Asian Region*

The events in the Asian region have been curtailed due to various political reasons and natural calamities. The earthquake which hit India on 26th January 2001, destroyed many livestock in addition to human deaths and many veterinary hospitals were damaged. The CVA offered immediate help to the Indian Veterinary Association to rehabilitate the destroyed veterinary hospitals.

The Indian Veterinary Association is facing internal problems due to difference of opinion between the office bearers as a result two rival factions are claiming the right to administer. The matter has gone to the court which has stayed all activities of the association until the dispute is resolved. At the time of writing this report, the matter is still pending in the court.

The highlight of activities of the region during the period under the report was the Annual Convention of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association which was held on 27th April 2001 at Colombo. The event was attended by over 500 veterinarians. The scientific session attracted 25 papers.

Prof. H. Abeygunawardena, Dean of the Veterinary Faculty at Peradeniya was appointed as the new Council Member of Sri Lanka. The next convention was scheduled for 27th April this year.

Dr. S.C. Pathak, Professor of Surgery, Veterinary College, Assam, India was selected by CVA to visit Chittagong Veterinary College, Bangladesh and assist and train vets in the college in surgical techniques. This visit was part of the CVA Project to strengthen the newly opened Chittagong Government Veterinary College, which has no properly trained staff. The three-week long programme was held between 13th June to 15th July 2001.

An International Seminar on Animal Welfare was jointly organised by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the World Society for the Protection of Animals from 15th - 16th February 2002 at Bangalore, India. The theme of the seminar was "Animal Welfare - Challenges for the Veterinary Profession". International speakers from UK, USA, New Zealand, Nepal and India participated in the seminar.

The CVA adopted village of Muthanallur, India continues to be pro-active and various on-going projects are functioning well.

The 2000-2001 CVA Study Fund award was utilised by Dr. Mohammad Amir Saeed of Pakistan, who visited Sri Lanka from 21st June to 3rd July 2001 to study the reproductive efficiency of cattle and buffaloes in the different agro-climatic regions. His visit was supervised by Prof. H. Abeygunawardena, Dean of the Veterinary Faculty at Peradeniya and Council Member.

The Asian Regional Meeting and Seminar was scheduled to be organised in Bangladesh, but due to lack of communication and active participation from Bangladesh it has been deferred to a later date.

Dr. Sultan Mohiuddin (Bangladesh), Dr. R.S. Sharma (India) and Dr. A.A. Ramzee (Pakistan) continue as Council members. Prof. H. Abeygunawardena, Dean of the Veterinary Faculty at Peradeniya is the new Council Member for Sri Lanka.

June 2002

**S. ABDUL RAHMAN**  
Regional Representative

## Pakistan

### Country Report - Pakistan

*Dr. AA Ramzee*

*CVA Council Member*

As everyone is aware that after the events of 11 September, Pakistan was the country that was affected the most, almost all the flights were cancelled and later on the Indian Government blocked air space and severed all links, further hampering activities in Pakistan.

At national level, Government of Punjab raised the status of College of Veterinary Sciences Lahore, the oldest veterinary college of Asia, founded on 1882, to the University of Animal Sciences, Lahore.

After initial hiccups, Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council (PVMC) has started its work as an independent body. PVMC has ruled out the two degree system of DVM and BSc AH and from 2002 onwards there would be only one degree program of DVM throughout Pakistan. BSc AH cease to exist in Pakistan. Graduates of Animal Husbandry are offered deficiency courses to get the degree of DVM, if they so want.

PVMC opened two separate registers for registration of DVM and BSc AH graduates for the record. I have been appointed as registrar of PVMC for province of Punjab by PVMC.

A member of FVAP, Society for Advancement of Poultry Sciences (SAPS) has planned a national seminar to address current disease situation in Pakistan in June in Lahore.

Pakistan Veterinary Pharmaceutical Association (PVPA) has elected new office bearers for the year 2002-03. Dr Jawad is elected as president while Mr. Tariq Lodhi is elected as secretary. Newly elected cabinet is also planning to hold a training seminar and oath taking ceremony in July at Lahore.

The Government of Pakistan has imposed 15% GST on all veterinary medicines from 20th March except few life saving drugs used in Human medicine despite protests from public and industry.

Currently commercial poultry industry is under going severe economic crisis due to over production and lower cost rates, and GST has added salt to the injury. Reason for over production is also cancellation of flights as all export orders of the hatchable eggs were cancelled and producers were forced to sell these eggs in Pakistan. To overcome this crisis Pakistan Poultry Association destroyed 15% of the hatchable eggs from hatcheries but so far no relief is observed.

Commercial crisis of poultry is coupled with the out break of avian Influenza in layer flocks throughout Pakistan, H9 strain of Influenza virus has been isolated as cause of current influenza out break.

### Antidote to Anthrax

American scientists reported that they have found a potential candidate for an antidote to anthrax, the microbe that is the bioterrorist's weapon of choice.

Biochemists lead by George Georgiou of the University of Texas said they had isolated antibodies that neutralise the poison exuded by anthrax bacteria. The antibodies have been tested effectively on germs in laboratory dishes and in rats who were then infected with anthrax, they reported in Nature Biotechnology journal. They believe that - if further test hurdles can be overcome - such antibodies could be injected as an antidote in patients who have already been infected with anthrax but have yet to fall sick. They could even help people who already show mid-term symptoms of infection.

*Bacillus anthracis* is a bacterium that comes in a tough, protective shell, enabling it to survive harsh conditions in the soil, its natural home. After being inhaled, ingested or entering the body through an open wound, these spores are confronted by defensive white blood cells called macrophages.

Some spores are gobbled up but other survive and are transported to the lymph nodes. There, they germinate. Multiplying bacteria then rampage through the bloodstream, excluding deadly poison as they go.

Times of India, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002

# Australasia/Oceania

## Report Of Australasia/Oceania Region

*Dr. Robin Yarrow*

*Regional Representative, Australasia/Oceania Region*

1. The CVA Australasia/Oceania Regional meeting in Kuala Lumpur in August, 2001 was an excellent opportunity for Councillors, both old and new, to meet and update on issues of common and individual concern. The further opportunity to participate in the 2nd International Congress and 13th Veterinary Association Malaysia Congress was an added bonus and great eye-opener for those from Oceania in particular. The visiting CVA participants were, without exception, greatly impressed with the strides taken and progress made the veterinary services and the livestock sector generally in Malaysia. Some wonderful hospitality was extended to the CVA visitors and many valuable contacts and friendships were made.
2. Following the Regional Meeting, Dr. Bill Pryor and the new Regional Representative - designate met in November with Nestle' Australia's Product Manager, Dr. Karen Johnston [a veterinarian] in Sydney, on future cooperative arrangements with the CVA given the latter's impending takeover of the Ralston Purina Petfood Company. This discussion turned out to be a very useful one.
3. Two of the Oceania members were visited during the first part of 2002 and most Councillors were contacted by email. Unfortunately, a planned visit to Australia and NZ to meet their Councillors and to Malaysia and Singapore had to be re-scheduled to later in the year.
4. The region is delighted to have Dr. Helen Beban elected as NZ's new Councillor. Helen is from the Wairarapa region of the North Island of NZ and brings with her a wealth of experience - current responsibilities include President of the NZ Companion Animal Society and Adviser to the New Zealand International Trade Team on Biosecurity.
5. Two new lady graduates have returned to their home countries to join the veterinary services in Fiji and Samoa respectively. The Councillor in Kiribati is programmed to complete her assignment for VSO in August.
6. Several discussions have been undertaken with the Animal Health Service of the SPC [Secretariat of the Pacific Community, an inter-governmental organisation which provides a wide range of mainly grass roots services to it's 22 island members]. Half of SPC's island members are CVA members and only 6 have resident veterinarians. Two areas of growing concern are Animal Welfare and Urban Dog Control - a possible joint regional workshop to address both issues is being considered.
7. SPC is implementing a number of very relevant regional projects for the Pacific Island states, including in the zoonotic diseases eg. Leptospirosis and Trichinosis. The Australian Council for International Agricultural Research [ACIAR] also works closely with SPC and in PNG is to fund diagnostic capacity in the national veterinary laboratory for Surra [Trypanosome evansi], which has not yet been diagnosed, although present in Indonesia.
8. The priority planning exercise is in respect of the next Regional Meeting scheduled to be held in PNG. Initial planning has commenced in coordination with PNG Councillor, Dr. Ilagi Puana.
9. In conclusion, after a slower start to the year than envisaged, due to the impact of a number of the Regional Representative's 2001 commitments, which carried over into this year, contact will be increased in the second half.

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002

**ROBIN YARROW**  
Regional Representative

## Australia

### Country Report - Australia

There has been no change in Australia's animal health status since the last report to CVA in Vanuatu in October 1999. In that report, it was noted that Australia had suffered an outbreak of virulent Newcastle disease, caused by a mutated form of an endemic lentogenic strain of NDV. Eradication was achieved by destruction of all infected flocks and disinfection of the premises, followed by re-stocking with closely monitored sentinel birds.

**Sydney 2000 Olympic Games** - In what was the largest single group of horses to ever enter Australia, the 216 equine athletes arrived on six chartered flights, underwent quarantine, competed in the games and then left without any major animal health incident.

Since the beginning of the FMD outbreak in Europe, Australia has sent 126 veterinarians and livestock officers to the UK to assist with the eradication campaign. From their reports it was clear that Australia needed to re-think many of its current contingency plans to ensure that a outbreak similar to that occurring in Europe could be rapidly contained.

**Dr. David Banks**  
CVA Council Member

### AVA Meritorious Service Award

Dr David Banks, BVM, BSC, MACVSC, PhD graduated in veterinary science from London University in 1975 and after a period in mixed practice in England, he undertook postgraduate studies in tropical veterinary medicine at the University of Edinburgh. He then took up the position of Regional Veterinary Officer



*Dr David Banks*

for the Highlands region of Papua New Guinea where he stayed until 1984 when he became PNG's Chief Veterinary Officer. After undertaking a PhD at James Cook University and working for a period in Indonesia, David was posted by CSITO to Fiji, where he managed research projects in that country as well as Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa and Tonga. In 1990, he returned to join the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry working in quarantine, where he has stayed ever since. He is currently General Manager of Animal Biosecurity. For 10 years he was the AVA's Councillor to the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

### NZVA Councillor Retires

Dr Derek Timbs who has been the CVA Councillor for the New Zealand Veterinary Association has recently retired and moved to another position in the United Kingdom. He graduated BVSc from the University of Queensland and subsequently obtained the additional qualifications



*Dr Derek Timbs*

of MVSc (Massey University, NZ), MACVSc (Epidemiology) and MRCVS. Derek served in the Field services in NZ from 1969-73 and then worked in the Central Animal Health Laboratory in Wellington NZ from 1973-79. He has worked overseas for 12 years as Veterinary Investigation Officer, 5 of these in Singapore and Malaysia. From 1984 - 2002 he served as Veterinary Officer, MAF, Hamilton, with special responsibility for animal exports, animal health field surveillance and Tb control.

Derek has had a deep involvement with field and laboratory aspects of the New Zealand brucellosis eradication scheme during the height of the campaign in 1970s and with animal disease control and investigation in Singapore and Malaysia. In more recent times interests have been in field services with emphasis on livestock imports and exports, disease control particularly bovine tuberculosis, disease surveillance and exotic disease contingency planning. He has specific knowledge of international animal transportation and trade issues.

He became CVA Councillor representing the New Zealand Veterinary Association in 1993 and CVA Regional Representative for the Australasia/Oceania Region in 1996 and as such has convened three highly successful workshops on "Animal Quarantine in the Asia-Pacific Region and its Influence on Trade for Pacific Island Nations", Wellington in 1993, on "Contingency Planning and Disease Control", Singapore 1996 and on "Livestock Production in the South Pacific Islands", Port Vila, Vanuatu in 1999.

In 2001 he was leader of New Zealand MAF Veterinary Reserve Team sent to Britain to assist UK MAFF with Foot & Mouth Disease control.

More broadly Derek has assisted all of the CVA programmes in this region. He has been especially effective in securing funding to allow Pacific Island vets to participate in Regional CVA activities. The NZVA has been very well served by Derek for almost a decade and the CVA expresses its appreciation for his conscientious and effective service to it.

## New Zealand

### New CVA Councillor for New Zealand

Dr Helen Beban has been appointed the New Zealand Veterinary Association representative to the Commonwealth Veterinary Association to replace long standing representative Derek Timbs.

Helen graduated BVSc with distinction from Massey University in 1975. She worked as a companion animal veterinarian and eventually settled in Levin, a small town north of the capital city Wellington. Helen and her veterinarian husband, Russ, developed Horowhenua Veterinary Services into a thriving dairy and companion animal practice.

Helen became interested in quality management as the result of a desire for practical improvement and Horowhenua Veterinary Services has won a number of regional and national awards. Helen completed a Masters in Business Administration with distinction in 1997.

Helen is the current President of the New Zealand Veterinary Association Companion Animal Society and an NZVA Board member. She is convenor of the NZVA Veterinary Practice Standards Scheme.

Helen has recently joined the International Animal Trade team in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Animal Biosecurity as a National Adviser.

Her address is:

6 Hillview Terrace  
Levin, New Zealand  
Email: helenbeban@extra.co.nz



### Are We Undervaluing Ourselves?

Dr Lewis Griffiths  
President, NZVA

It contains a wealth of information, which at some stage in the future will be analysed in detail and presented to the profession. I would just like to quote you one set of figures.

The veterinary charge-out rate per hour varied considerably!



Dr Lewis Griffiths

- \* The median rate was \$107 per hour.
- \* Practices appearing in the top 75% of those surveyed (for profitability) were charging \$122 per hour.
- \* Practices in the bottom 25% of the survey were charging \$90 per hour.
- \* This means that the top practices are charging more than 30% more for the veterinarian's time than the least profitable practices.

I believe that many of the issues we face in the veterinary profession today are based on low profitability. I make no apology for repeating my long-held hypothesis that: "excellent vets don't necessarily make excellent business managers".

When we look at issues such as succession, veterinary retention rates, shortage of veterinarians, and career structures, many of these problems can be laid squarely at the door of practices not making enough money. If the most profitable practices in this country can charge 30% more for their veterinarian's time, why can't all practices in New Zealand charge their time at a similar rate?

I will leave you to ponder that issue but if I hear from the echoes of the corridors the comment 'my customer will not pay those prices', I have to ask 'how do you know?' One of the fundamental mistakes many businesses make is thinking that they know what their customers want! Your customers will decide the value of what you offer; the value consists of much more than the price you charge.

Let's look forward to a profitable and progressive future for our profession.

VetScript, March 2002

## Kiribati

### Study Visit to Fiji

The purpose of the study tour to Fiji was to broaden the knowledge and skills of Animal Health Assistants which focused mainly on animal health services and pathological lab work. It was a two week attachment and I was assigned a week each to two work places. Field trips to animal farms were also organised during the second week.

#### Week 1. 24.5.99 to 28.5.99

I spent the first week with SPCA Vet Clinic where I observed and participated a little in clinical services and house calls. The clinic also provides kennels for stray dogs where they are sterilised and later sold to the public. Stray cats were treated the same way. Clinical services were similar to services provided in Kiribati except that there were many breeds of dogs and probably many diseases as well, for example Parvo viral disease was very common in dogs and cats especially in their early age. Gas anaesthetic was usually used on dogs and cats.

#### Week 1. 31.5.99 to 4.6.99

The second week was spent at the Veterinary Pathology Laboratory in Nausori. I was introduced to various sections of lab. Bacteriology, Serology, Parasitology and observation on several other diagnosis practices such as McMaster egg counting technique on sheep and goats, faecal culture, diagnosis of mange, etc. Field visit was also arranged by a Senior Livestock Officer from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Government abattoir and private pig farms, and also bee farming was visited. One private pig farmer owned more than 60 sow units, which is quite amazing compared to our Government Livestock Unit.

The visit altogether was exciting, interesting and enjoyable.

My sincere gratitude and thanks to Dr Hilary Liebeschutz, Vet Officer (VSO), Kiribati Government for arranging the study visit, CVA for providing the fund and Dr Trevor, Veterinarian SPCA, and all the staff in Veterinary Pathology Laboratory in Nausori.

Dr Teaeiki Iuta

Animal Health Assistant (Agriculture Division)  
Tarawa, Kiribati

## Malaysia

### 14th Congress of Veterinary Association Malaysia (VAM) and 12th FAVA Congress

Malaysia will host the 12th Federation of Asian Veterinary Association (FAVA) Congress in conjunction with 14th Veterinary Association Malaysia (VAM) Congress from 26th - 28th August 2002 at Sheraton Subang Hotel & Towers, Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia. The theme of the Congress is "Globalisation - Challenges to the Veterinary Profession". Distinguished members of the profession in the international arena as well as prominent local speakers will be participating in the Congress. A stimulating scientific programme and exciting recreational activities are being planned for participants and accompanying persons.

In conjunction with the Congress, regional organisation such as FAVA, APHCA and OIE will be holding their meetings. Besides that, local associations like VAM, SAPAM and UVA will be having their Annual General Meetings.

The Congress is jointly organised by Veterinary Association of Malaysia; Dept. of Veterinary Services Malaysia; Small Animal Practitioners Association, Malaysia; Malaysian Equine Veterinary Association; Malaysian Association of Food Animal Veterinarians; Malaysian National Animal Welfare Foundation and UPM Veterinary Alumni.

## Western Samoa

### New Councillor for Samoa

Dr Fa'afetai Fata has been elected as the new Councillor for Samoa and his address is:

Principal Animal Health Officer  
Livestock Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Meteorology  
PO Box 1874, Apia, Samoa  
Fax (685) 28532  
Ph (685) 21052/28531

## Lady Vets In Pacific Island Countries

*Dr. Robin Yarrow*

*Regional Representative, Australasia/Oceania Region*

This is just a few details on some of the new lady vets who have returned to Samoa and Fiji respectively. Dr. Sina Taulealo of Samoa, graduated late in 2001 from Queensland University and commenced duties in the Livestock Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries under PVO Dr. Faafetai Fata. Dr. Taulealo is the second local veterinarian in government, although a Japanese volunteer vet is also in the service as well as 2 additional volunteer vets who are employed by an NGO, "the Animal Protection Society", one from Japan and the other from Australia. Dr. Taulealo is especially interested in cattle, horses, pigs and chickens although she does attend to small animals when required. In addition 3 Samoan vets work in neighbouring American Samoa.



*Dr Robin Yarrow*

In the case of Fiji, another new lady graduate who has just returned after completing her studies at Melbourne University, is Dr. Riteshni Tarak. She is only the second local lady vet after Dr. Asha Reddy, who graduated also from Melbourne, 18 months ago. Dr. Tarak has joined the Animal Health and Production Division of Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture and is based in the capital, Suva. In February, 2002 Dr. Reddy created history by becoming the first local veterinarian to join Fiji's SPCA - at present she is the SOCIETY's only vet but there are plans to recruit a second in the future. In neighbouring Kiribati, the sole veterinarian, VSO Dr. Perpetua McNamee is to return home to Ireland in August after completing her assignment.

### Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference

The Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference is scheduled to be held from 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2003 at Wellington, New Zealand.

## Cloning fears grow after Dolly contracts Arthritis

The creator of Dolly the sheep warned against plans to clone humans after he disclosed that the animal had contracted premature arthritis, which raised questions about the safety of mammal cloning.

'I think there was already plenty of evidence that it would be completely irresponsible to think of producing a person', said Prof. Ian Wilmut, who led the team which cloned Dolly in 1996.

Experience with animals has already shown that most clone pregnancies fail, or result in offspring that were stillborn or deformed. 'I think in a wider context, we have to be cautious about the way in which we think of using this technology', Wilmut told. 'The fact that dolly has arthritis at this comparatively young age suggests that there may be problems. We do not know and it's very important that we look', he said. There was no way of knowing if the five-year-old's condition was a result of the cloning process, he added. He said: "Dolly has arthritis in her left hind leg at the hip and the knee. We can't tell how it will develop but she is responding well to treatment with anti-inflammatory drugs".

Dolly the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell, was being closely monitored by veterinary staff at the centre, Wilmut said. Sheep have a life expectancy of 13 years.

Times of India, January 5, 2002

- *Do all the good you can,*
- By all the means you can,*
- In all the ways you can,*
- In all the places you can,*
- At all the times you can,*
- To all the people you can,*
- As long as ever you can.*

*- John Wesley*



## Canada Caribbean

### Report Of Canada/Caribbean Region

*Report prepared by Secretary, CVA*

The Canada Caribbean region suffered a major setback when its Regional Representative Dr. Val Mohabir passed away in 25th October 2001 at Trinidad.

Even before his death and on his recommendation, the Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, which was scheduled to be held in Jamaica in November 2002 was cancelled by the CVA Executive Committee, due to the absence of proper communication and lack of advertisement. This was a difficult decision but was made necessary because of various factors.

In order to fill-up the vacancy of Dr. Val Mohabir, the Secretary informed all Council Members of the Canada Caribbean region, the procedure for electing a new RR in the vacancy created by Dr. Mohabir's death. This was with reference to the procedure outlined for electing an RR as printed on Page 37 of the CVA Hand Book, Third Edition, 2001. Nominations were called from among Council Members so as to reach the Secretary not later than 31st January 2002 and once the nominations were received a postal ballot was scheduled to be held. Unfortunately, no nomination was received except for Dr. Wayne Lees, who volunteered to be considered for the post of RR. In consultation with the officers of the CVA, this item was deferred and would be discussed during the EC Meeting at Cyprus in June 2002.

The Canada Caribbean region officially launched the first issue of the Journal of the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association. The Officers of the CVA were impressed with the journal and agreed that it was a major step in helping to communicate veterinary scientific

information as well as keeping each country up-to-date on national veterinary association issues within the Caribbean.

In order to assist this endeavour, the CVA has donated A\$1,500 for the fiscal year 2001-2002. Contingent upon the Caribbean National Veterinary Medical Association, remaining financial of the CVA a similar be donated for the year 2002-2003.

Bermuda, which was not represented in the CVA is considering joining the CVA. Dr. Andrew Madeiros is in communication with CVA. Bermuda has three-Bermuda born vets and five non-Bermudian vets on the island in addition to one Bermudian government veterinarian. There are three practices and the mobile practice currently operating on the island. All vets on the island are graduates of US, Canada or EU countries and all must meet licensing requirements in the above before being able to practice here. The standard of care is quite high comparable to an affluent suburb practice in the US or Canada. There is an informal Veterinary Association, which is drafting a new Veterinary Act this year to replace the very brief and antiquated present one.

The Canada Caribbean region is contributing immensely to the Commonwealth Veterinary Association through Officers and Programme Directors who include the President Dr. Bert Stevenson, the Coordinator of CVA Book and Journal Programme Dr. Derbyshire and the Coordinator of the CVA website Dr. Wayne Lees.

June 2002

**S. ABDUL RAHMAN**  
Regional Representative

## CVMA's Important Initiatives

When the Council of the CVMA met in fall, it approved a number of important initiatives that will enable the Association to fulfil its overall mission and implement its new priority: The successful practice of veterinary medicine.

### National Benchmarking Project

As a follow-up to the series of "Decoding Success" articles on the performance of veterinary practices, the Council gave its approval in principle to a brand new business management initiative, the establishment of a national "Benchmarking" project. To implement this economic project, the CVMA has begun discussing direct collaboration with the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues (NCVEI) in the United States. The CVMA Business Management Committee, chaired by Dr Lynn Webster, is currently laying the foundation for a cooperative project with the provincial veterinary medical association in order to maximize resources and avoid duplication of efforts. Members of the CVMA will be kept informed of the evolution of the project.

### Support for veterinary students

Council approved the recommendations a special CVMA Action Team on Veterinary Students, and a series of measures will be implemented to support students at the 4 Canadian Veterinary Colleges. The Action Team was composed of Dr Jeanne Lofstedt, CVMA President-Elect, who served as Chair, Dr John Prescott from the Ontario Veterinary College, and Dr Diane Blais from the Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire.

Can Vet J., Vol. 43, February 2002

## 54th Annual Convention

The 54th Annual Convention of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association will be held from 17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> July 2002 at Halifax, Nova Scotia. The CVMA Annual General Meeting will take place on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

For more information regarding the 54th Annual CVMA Convention, please contact:

**Ms. Mireille Motpetit**  
Canadian Veterinary Medical Association  
339 Booth St., Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7K1  
Call: 1-800-567-2862 Ex. 23 (in Canada) or  
(613) 236-1162 Ex. 23, Fax: (613) 236-9681  
Email: [admin@cvma-acmv.org](mailto:admin@cvma-acmv.org)  
Website: [www.canadianveterinarians.net](http://www.canadianveterinarians.net)  
and [www.animalhealthcare.ca](http://www.animalhealthcare.ca)

## Pet Travel Scheme in UK

The pet travel scheme, which allows dogs and cats meeting certain conditions to enter the UK without quarantine, is to be extended to cats and dogs from rabies-free islands including Australia, New Zealand, Cyprus and Japan.

The scheme was launched on 28th February this 2002 and has been a great success, with more than 5000 pets entering the UK without having to spend six months in quarantine. The scheme currently applies to 22 countries in Western Europe.

The changes are planned to come into effect at the end of January 2001 but pet owners in qualifying can start preparing now so that their animals are ready to travel by next year, since the process take at least six months to complete.

In addition, to widen opportunities for people to use the scheme, MAFF has approached all transport companies running scheduled passenger services into England to invite them to apply to join, to provide additional routes as the scheme develops.

In addition to extending the Pet Travel Scheme, the Government is also to launch consultation on quarantine reform this September, to bring quarantine kennels' standards up to the best modern practice, and to introduce statutory welfare provisions.

Baroness Hayman, Minister of State at MAFF, said: "The Government was committed to extending the scheme to qualifying rabies-free islands by April next year and I am delighted that we will be able to do this ahead of schedule".

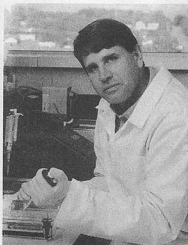
"Feedback from the public shows this is an aspect of the scheme that has been eagerly awaited, particularly by service personnel stationed overseas and expatriates".

"The scheme was warmly welcomed by pet owners when it was introduced in February. Since then thousands of dogs and cats have successfully entered the UK using it. There are enormous benefits for both pets and their owners in avoiding the lengthy and costly quarantine that was required before this".

**PETS is a Government Scheme**  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Pet Travel Scheme New Release, August 2000

## First Canada Research Chair

Dr Alastair Cribb, a professor of Clinical Pharmacology from Atlantic Veterinary College, has been named the University of Prince Edward Island's (UPEI) first Canada Research Chair in Comparative Pharmacology and Toxicology. The University will receive \$500,000 over the next 5 years from the Government of Canada through Canada Research Chair (CRC) program to support



Dr Alastair Cribb

Dr Cribb's research program into adverse drug reactions and breast cancer. Dr Cribb's chair will be administered through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, which, along with the Canadian Breast Cancer Research Initiative, is the primary supporter of Dr Cribb's research. Dr Cribb will also receive nearly \$75,000 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation to fund infrastructure that supports his research.

Can Vet J., Vol.43, February 2002

*\* I could not say I believe. I know ! I have had the experience of being gripped by something that is stronger than myself, something that people call God.*

- Carl Jung

## AVMA Accreditation Team visits Western College of Veterinary Medicine

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accreditation team visited Western College of Veterinary Medicine in March. At the last accreditation visit in 1998, the Council on Education (COE) decided that instead of giving the College full accreditation for 7 years, they would give full accreditation for 3 years and then revisit to see the progress made in the College on the points raised by the Committee. The College made significant progress in all the issues raised, both organizational and structural, but it still has some anxieties around the funding issues in terms of both the interprovincial agreement and the level of operating budget. The report will be discussed at the meeting of the COE of the AVMA in Ontario in November 2001, when a decision regarding the accreditation status will be made.



Dr Alex Livingston

A second significant event for the College was the visit in January of the Alberta Ministers, Dr Lyle Oberg (Learning), Dr Tye Lund (Environment), and Dr Steve West (Finance), to announce a \$1.5 million donation from the Alberta Ministry of Learning to fund a professorship in Beef Health and Herd Management at the College. Recently, the College has received a donation of \$500,000 from the Alberta Cattle Commission to add to this sum to bring us closer to the amount needed for the chair to exist in perpetuity.

Can Vet J., Vol.42, December 2001

### INTERNET HUMOUR

**TEACHER:** Correct the sentence, "A bull and a cow are grazing in the field".

**STUDENT:** A cow and a bull are grazing in the field.

**TEACHER:** How?

**STUDENT:** Ladies first.

Times of India, June 17, 2002

## New Executive Director at CVMA

Mr Jost am Rhyn joined the CVMA on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002, as its Executive Director replacing Mr Claude Paul Boivin. Mr Jost am Rhyn, who has been involved in association management for 20 years, graduated in Switzerland in business administration and economics.

Prior to joining the CVMA, Mr Jost am Rhyn led the Canadian Synchronised Swimming Association Inc. (Synchro Canada) as its Executive Director for 10 years.



*Mr Jost am Rhyn*

Mr Jost am Rhyn also served as Manager of Finance and Administration for the Canadian Legal Information Centre. In Switzerland, He managed the business of the Swiss Florist Association and FTD (Florist Transworld Delivery service) as Executive Director for 7 years, also he worked for the Swiss Insurance Company and later served the Mövenpick Enterprise Headquarters in Zurich in business organisation and restructuring.

He sits on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Society of Association Executives (CSAE), where he served as a Co-Chair of the Membership Committee and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Advocacy Committee.

Can Vet J., Vol.43, March 2002

## LAUGH

A news item appeared in the local English daily: "In California, a husband exchanges his wife for a new Cadillac". The husband reading this news to his wife took a deep sigh and softly murmured "I cannot expect even an old bicycle in exchange".

Star of Mysore, June 5, 2002

## Head of Public Service Award to Dr Brian Evans

Dr Brian Evans, Canada's Chief Veterinarian was presented with the Head of Public Service Award in December 2001 for his work at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.



*Dr Brian Evans (right) receives the award from Mr Mel Coppe, Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet*

Dr Brian Evans was awarded the Head of the Public Service Award (Excellence in Policy Category). Dr Evans's commitment, his sound decision-making and his communication and cooperation skills combine to make him a highly regarded and valued professional. Among his many accomplishments, Dr Evans assumed a leadership role in implementing risk management policies and emergency measures to protect Canada from foot and mouth disease. He was also instrumental in suspending the importation of animal products from Brazil. In addition, Dr Evans has shown his dedication to building strong partnerships with all levels of government and non-government organisations to enhance Canada's emergency preparedness measures.

Can Vet J., Vol.43, March 2002

# East, Central and Southern Africa

## Report Of ECS African Region

*Dr. Jaumally M Reshad*  
Regional Representative, ECS African Region

A report on activities of the region year 2001-2002. The region is by far the largest group with 13 members most of which are financial. Communication with members, has tremendously improved over the past year but is still very difficult to harmonise the communication process with all countries of the ECS Africa region.

### 1. Stellenbosch Meeting follow up

1. Additional funding for the region
2. Workshop in Veterinary Education
3. Failure of councillors to attend regional meetings
4. CVA Study fund
5. New projects from the region

### 2. New Contacts established

An exercise was conducted by Dr. Gwaze who visited CVA councillors of Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland on behalf of the Regional Representative. The main objective of this project was to find out reasons of non-participation of the three countries in CVA activities for the past decade. The visit was a fruitful experience, the outcome of which was shared by one and all. The reasons were explored and the specific need of the region were underlined. The EC has taken into consideration the contents of this report and future involvements of CVA in the region will be in line with the recommendations in the report. The ideas submitted in the report necessitate further discussion. The regional representative has invited the new councillors to participate actively in the regional activities.

### 3. New Councillors

Changes in the CVA councillors are as follows:

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Botswana councillor  | Dr. K Ranthoakgale |
| 2. Lesotho councillor   | Dr. Lerotholi      |
| 3. Swaziland councillor | Dr. N Gumede       |
| 4. Zambia councillor    | Dr. Minoyi         |
| 5. Tanzania councillor  | Dr. Uswege U Minga |

### 4. CVA Study Fund

The fund has not been utilized and no recipient from the region has benefited. The councillors have constantly been reminded to make good use of the fund. Councillors from Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana in particular have been urged to submit potential candidates.

Some councillors have promised to propose names soon. Zimbabwe has proposed the name of Dr. Godfrey Tevera to study 'Draught Animal Power' - Course to be undertaken at Onderstepoort, South Africa.

In the absence of logistic support, the proposal from Kenya submitted last year has not gone through. The same candidate (Dr Muthoka) has again submitted to study poultry production in Mauritius or alternatively study the Giriraja birds in Bangalore, India.

### 5. Reports from Councillors

Councillors have been requested to send relative information on their region for publication in the CVA News and many interesting episodes of current events of the region have regularly been published in the News.

The annual reports from Namibia, Malawi and Zimbabwe have been received. South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya and Mauritius have promised to send their respective reports before the Cyprus meeting.

## 6. Annual Subscription

Most of the countries are financial, some communication problem is being experienced with Councillor for Zambia and Dr. Minoyi has not responded to any of my mails. Zimbabwe is at war and the country has suffered a lot. Zimbabwe veterinary Association has temporarily suspended its subscription to CVA due to chronic shortage of foreign currency. Councillors from Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana have been sent invoices by the Treasurer and their payments awaited.

## 7. Regional Projects

One of the outcome of the Stellenbosch Meeting was the submission of projects from the region. The following projects have been accepted by the EC and respective councillors have been urgently requested to submit financial breakdown for implementation.

- \* Establishment of Goat production unit at Women's group in the village of Chickwanji in Choma, Zambia.
- \* Famacha System of controlling Haemonchiosis in Sheep
- \* Introduction of semi scavenging model for rural poultry holdings in Uganda
- \* National Rabies Campaign in Uganda 2001- 2002

The financial statements from councillors are awaited. South Africa has promised to send a breakdown in the days to come.

## 8. The Gwaze Report

The report makes references to specific needs and requirements of the region and the following ideas have cropped out of the report which also require special attention:

- \* South African councillors to meet on a regularly basis,
- \* Visit to a successfully run veterinary association,
- \* CVA assistance to organize meetings on transboundary diseases,
- \* Opportunities for short courses/attachments,

Dr Gwaze has been informed on above points and some details on above points are expected from him.

## 9. Book Donation

Uganda has benefited from book donation. As a matter of fact, four cartons of books were sea mailed to Dr. Rose Azuba, President of the Uganda Veterinary Association. The latter has written to thank Dr. David Banks.

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002

JAUMALLY M RESHAD  
Regional Representative

### Blonde and the Rabbit

A man is driving along a highway and sees a rabbit jump out across the middle of the road. He swerves to avoid hitting it. But unfortunately the rabbit jumps right in front of the car.

The driver, a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulls over and gets out to see what has become of the rabbit. Much to his dismay, the rabbit is dead. The driver feels so awful that he begins to cry.

A beautiful blonde woman driving down the highway sees a man crying on the side of the road and pulls over. She steps out of the car and explains the man what's wrong. "I feel terrible", he explains, "I accidentally hit this rabbit and killed it".

The blonde says, "don't worry". She runs to her car and pulls out a spray can. She walks over to the limp, dead rabbit, bends down, and sprays the contents onto the rabbit. The rabbit jumps up, waves its paw at the two of them, and hops off down the road.

Ten feet away the rabbit stops, turns around, and waves again; he hops down the road another 10 feet, turns, and waves; hops another 10 feet, turns, and waves; and then repeats this again and again and again, until he hops out of sight.

The man is astonished. He runs over to the woman and demands, "What is in that can? What did you spray on that rabbit?" The woman turns the can around so that the man can read the label.

It says ... "Hair spray - Restores life to dead hair, adds permanent waves".

Dr Dennis Guenther, Red Deer, Alberta  
Can Vet J., Vol. 43, January 2002

## SAVA Award Winners 2001

The South African Veterinary Association applauds the efforts of Steve Cornelius, a most worthy recipient of the 2001 Young Veterinarian of the Year Award. Gary Norman Eckersley is a worthy recipient of the 2001 Clinical Award of the SAVA. The SAVA is proud to bestow the Boswell Award on Mary-Louise Penrith and salutes to the efforts of an exemplary servant Dr Peter Christopher Ardington. Dr Brian Louis Romberg has been made an Honorary Life Vice President of the

Association and his more recent appointment as Treasurer of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association unreservedly qualifies him as a true ambassador for the South African veterinary fraternity.

Vet News, December 2001



*Dr Steve Cornelius*



*Dr Gary Eckersley*



*Dr Mary-Louise Penrith*



*Dr Peter Ardington*



*Dr B L Romberg*

## Mauritius

### Country Report - Mauritius

The Mauritius Veterinary Association meets regularly and matters related to the profession are discussed.

#### Veterinary Profession in Mauritius

At one time, it was felt that Mauritius had too many veterinarians, especially when there was a drastic drop in the livestock rearing. At present, 55% of the registered veterinarians (44) are government employees, the remaining are either employed by private enterprises dealing with rearing of monkeys, crocodiles, stags and poultry, or are active in private practice.

Only 60% of the registered veterinarians are members of the Mauritius Veterinary Association. From late 2001, some of the members (12%) of the association have joined agencies abroad.

The most recent registration of new veterinarians was carried out in 1997. Five students are studying veterinary medicine abroad. There is no veterinary faculty in Mauritius. Some of these students may come back in the year 2004.

#### International Cooperation

Mr. Vinay Kumar, the Vice Chancellor of the Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, India, visited Mauritius in April 2002. The Mauritian graduates from the Veterinary and Agriculture Schools of HAU gave him a hearty welcome. During his one week stay, he delivered a talk at the University of Mauritius and attended meetings with the Mauritian Tertiary Education Commission and the Mauritius Veterinary Association.

Prof. R.N. Srivastava, eminent virologist, who was on a three year contract with the Division of Veterinary Services left in March 2002, and has joined as Director of the Directorate of Human Resource Management, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, India.

Dr. V.B. Groodoyal  
CVA Councillor, Mauritius

### SAVA Congress

The First National Veterinary and Paraveterinary Congress will be held from 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> July 2002 at the Sandton Convention Centre, Gauteng, South Africa.

## Kenya

### Country Report - Kenya

The Kenya Veterinary Association Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference was held in April 2002 at Kakamega Golf Hotel.

The meeting was well attended by over 150 vets. A National field day also took place on 24th April 2002 with farmers from the region attending. At this annual event a good number of drug companies attended and displayed products of veterinary interest to the broad market of veterinary professionals. This was followed by Scientific Conference, and WVA celebrations on 25th and 26th April 2002. The theme of the conference was "The Role of the Veterinary Profession in Poverty Alleviation".

Various discussions were held, this included a resolution on strengthening veterinary practitioners Bill, launching of KVA West Kenya Branch Born from the dissolved KVA Western Branch.

Following the dissolving of Western Kenya Branch three branches have been, born namely the Rift Valley, the West Kenya and Nyanza branches.

The Rift Valley branch was launched during the year 2001 AGM held in Nakuru (K) Stem Hotel.

The Nyanza branch is in infancy stage yet to be launched. As the Nairobi branch is still in its gestation stage. Its birth will bring the number of KUA branches to seven.

The KVA Executive Committee elected for the year 2002-03 at the 2002 AGM Kakamega consisted of:

Dr Mandieka, J.M.	Senior Vice Chairman
Prof Agumbah, G.J.O.	Chairman
Dr Wang'a, C.H.O.	Junior Vice Chairman
Dr Ndirangu, M.	Treasurer
Dr Kuria, J.K.N.	Secretary

#### Committee Members

Dr Wahome, R.  
Dr Muthoka, J.  
Dr Kajume, J.

Dr William O Ogara  
CVA Councillor Kenya



# West Africa

## Report Of West Africa Region

*Dr. Duto S Fofana  
Regional Representative, West Africa Region*

In general, several of the activities proposed did not go as planned. The lack of communication existing between the Regional Representative and several councillors has seriously frustrated all efforts to coordinate CVA programmes in this region. For example, Nigeria, Cameroon and Sierra Leone still remain inactive and their lack of participation has resulted in the postponement of the Fertility and Regional Workshops scheduled for last year.

However, the other two member states, namely Ghana and The Gambia are fully financial and are actively undertaking some aspects of the CVA Workplan, including the proposed Regional Workshop.

### THE GAMBIA

#### 1. Annual General Meeting

The Gambia Veterinary Association (GVA) held its Annual General Meeting on 6th April 2002 in Jenof, Lower River Division.

#### 2. National Workshop

GVA has recently organized a two-day workshop on "Sensitisation of Veterinary/Livestock Assistants on the Provision of the Veterinary Council Act, 2000" from 6th - 7th April 2000. The workshop was well attended and all stakeholders were invited. Details of this workshop will be published in the CVA News very soon.

#### 3. Other Activities

The Association, through its establishment GAMVET Company is playing a leading role in providing an efficient and reliable veterinary healthcare delivery system in the country. In this regard, the participation of other private companies owned by members of the Association is also acknowledged and highly appreciated.

Members of the Association have, in no small measure, participated in the Annual National Livestock Show which was held in March this year. The Show provided a very good opportunity for veterinarians in both research and extension to organize talks on various topics and to exhibit materials to livestock farmers and the public at large.

### GHANA

#### 1. Annual General Meeting

The 26th Annual General Meeting of the Ghana Veterinary Medical Association (GVMA) was held in the Eastern Regional capital of Koforidua from 11th - 14th October 2001 on the theme "The Veterinary Profession in Ghana - The Way Forward". It was well attended by members. Also in attendance were the Agriculture and Research Ministers. A communiqué was issued at the end of the AGM.

#### 2. Image Building

GVMA has organized several activities in various regions of the country with the aim of promoting the image of the veterinary profession. Some of the activities included TV/FM programmes on zoonotic diseases, talks in high schools and public fora, etc. In addition, some villages which were adopted by GVMA were offered free animal healthcare occasionally.

#### 3. National Anti-Rabies Forum

GVMA in conjunction with FAO, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Rural and Local Government organized in June 2001, National Anti-Rabies Forum to create awareness of the danger posed by rabies and the control of the disease. A communiqué was issued at the end of the forum. Government has since taken up plans for a nationwide anti-rabies vaccination campaign.

## Future Activities in West Africa Region

### 1. Regional Workshop in The Gambia

A proposed Regional Workshop is to be held in Banjul, The Gambia in October/November 2002. Preparations are well on the way and a revised budget proposal will be presented to the next Executive Meeting in Cyprus in June 2002. The last Regional Workshop was hosted by Ghana in September 1996.

### 2. Disaster Relief Fund for Sierra Leone

The idea of providing some relief assistance to Sierra Leone, after such a devastating civil war, is being conceived. Details about the kind of assistance will be worked out when contact with the National Vet

Association is established. We regret to inform that contract with the relevant authorities has not been possible up to now.

### 3. Other Activities

The Regional Representative is strongly pursuing matters related to the Study Fund, Book Programme, Project Proposals and other issues in the two active countries (Ghana, The Gambia). Members are being urged to make good use of such CVA Programmes.

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002

**DUTO S FOFANA**  
Regional Representative

## Gambia

### Country Report - The Gambia

A two-day workshop was organised by The Gambia Veterinary Association (GVA) to introduce the Veterinary Council's Act to stakeholders and to sensitise Livestock/Veterinary Assistants on the provisions of the Veterinary Council's Act enacted by the National Assembly in the year 2000. The workshop was held from 6th to 7th April 2002 and was well attended. Suffice it to say that about 90% of the veterinarians and 40% of the Assistants attended the workshop. The Council is comprised of 4 veterinarians, 2 livestock farmers and one legal advisor from the Attorney General's Chamber.



*L-R: Dr DS Fofana chairing the session and Dr BN Touray, Past President CVA, presenting his paper*

This was the first time GVA has organised a workshop of this magnitude and its importance cannot be over-emphasised. During the workshop, several papers were presented including: "The Code of Conduct for Veterinary Practice" by our doyen, Dr BN Touray. Other members of the association also took this opportunity to talk on topics pertinent to the veterinary profession such as Disease Reporting Systems, Diagnosis, Prophylaxis and Treatment,

Rational use of Drugs, Disease Control, etc. It should be noted that GVA has endeavoured to hold this workshop as one of its general activities in promoting professional development as stipulated in the CVA general workplan. Furthermore, the establishment of a Veterinary Council in The Gambia was recognised as a significant turning point in the annals of the association's history in the new millennium.

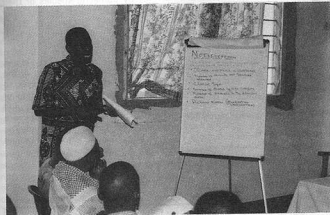
On the second day of the workshop, a general meeting (AGM) of the association was conducted, where the CVA workplan was revisited among other things.

Dr Loum, Registrar of Vet Council, Mr Fatty, Lawyer & Member of Vet Council and Dr F.B. Sanyang, Chairman of Vet Council also participated.

The following were elected as office-bearers at the general meeting of GVA in October 2001.



L-R: Dr Loum, Mr Fatty and Dr F.B. Sanyang



Dr S. Sonko delivering a paper on "Disease Reporting Systems"

- Dr B. Loum     President
- Dr DS Fofana   Vice-President and Councillor
- Dr E Forster   Secretary
- Dr B Faburay   Treasurer

At this meeting, GVA also increased its membership with four newly qualified veterinarians who are determined to play active role in the promotion of the affairs of the association in particular and the veterinary profession in general.

- Dr DS Fofana



Vet Council members with participants to the Workshop

## U.K. Mediterranean

### Report Of UK Mediterranean Region

*Prof John E Cooper  
Regional Representative, UK Mediterranean Region*

The UK/Mediterranean Region is an unusual one in that it consists of only four countries which are geographically widely separated, with one (the Falkland Islands) in an entirely different part of the world.

The Region has, traditionally, kept in touch primarily by correspondence and by exchanging e-mails. The Regional Representative is in a strong position to maintain contact with the other Councillors because of his being based in the UK, with access to a number of Commonwealth and other Institutions in London, and because he has the support of the British Veterinary Association. As a result, it is possible for veterinary and other literature to be sent to the other three Councillors with relative ease and to keep the Region up to date with current developments and thinking within the Commonwealth.

During the early part of the year 2001 it was suggested that there might be a UK/Mediterranean Regional Meeting and originally this was to have been held late in 2002, or early in 2003. Due to other unrelated circumstances, however, it was then suggested by the CVA Executive Committee (EC) that such a meeting might be held at an earlier date, in mid-2002, and in so doing provide a focus and location for the EC's annual meeting. This suggestion was accepted by the Region and the offer made previously by both Cyprus and Malta to serve as host meant that a venue could quickly be arranged - Cyprus was chosen. The past few months have, therefore, been devoted to organizing this Regional Meeting which is scheduled to take place from 13th - 15th June, in Nicosia. The theme will be "The Changing Face of Animal Diseases". The local organizer on Cyprus is the Councillor, Dr. Andreas Emmanuel, who has been working very hard - in consultation with the RR - to produce a comprehensive programme of scientific lectures and field visits. It is hoped that a substantial number of people will attend this meeting, which promises not only to be of relevance to the four countries represented in the Region, but also of topical interest and significance to others. The subject

of new and emerging diseases is important internationally but especially pertinent to countries that are islands and which regularly face the challenge of how best to exclude animal diseases, which can be introduced not only by domestic species or their derivatives, but also by human beings and by other means, such as migrating birds and their ectoparasites. There are practical, political and legal implications to such exclusion and control.

In addition to co-ordinating the activities of the Region, the Regional Representative continues to extend a welcome to colleagues who are visiting or passing through the UK. As a result veterinary and other visitors from Commonwealth countries are regularly received at BVA Headquarters in London. The continuing support of Mrs. Helena Cotton in this and other Regional activities is much appreciated.

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002

**JOHN E COOPER**  
Regional Representative

### BVA Congress

The British Veterinary Association looks forward to welcoming delegates to its Annual Congress to be held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2002 at The Moat House Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. The scientific and contentious issues programmes will be complemented by a social programme that will make the most of this delightful market town - synonymous with William Shakespeare and steeped in culture and history.

For further information please contact the

**British Veterinary Association Congress Office**  
7 Mansfield Street  
London W1G 9NQ  
Tel: +44 20 7636 6541  
Fax: +44 20 7436 2970  
Email: congress@bva.co.uk.

## Second UK/Mediterranean Regional Meeting and Seminar – The Changing Face of Animal Diseases

13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> June 2002, Nicosia, Cyprus

Report by John Cooper  
RR, UK/Mediterranean

The Second Commonwealth Veterinary Association UK/Mediterranean Regional Meeting and Seminar held on 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> June 2002 at Nicosia, Cyprus. The theme of the conference was "The Changing Face of Animal Diseases".

The Meeting, which was opened by Dr Tsangarides Louis representing the Minister of Agriculture for Cyprus, Mr Kostas Themistocleous, took place over three days. The first two comprised lectures and discussion on topics relevant to the theme of the Meeting - that is, the changing face of animal diseases and how this may be influenced by such factors as climate change, liberalisation of trade, illegal movements of domestic animals and their products and by migrating birds. The particular risks posed to Europe and other areas by, for example West Nile disease and bluetongue, were explored, as were related topics including disease exclusion and biosecurity, successes and failures in the control of rinderpest, the spread of lumpy skin disease, the spread of insect-borne infections and current legal controls on the international movement of diagnostic samples. The main theme was complemented by papers about



L-R: Drs Loukaldes, Stevenson, Tsangaridis Louis, A. Emmanuel and John Cooper

diseases on Cyprus and the effect that these are having on animal and human health and the work of the veterinary profession. A session on small animal health and nutrition completed the programme.

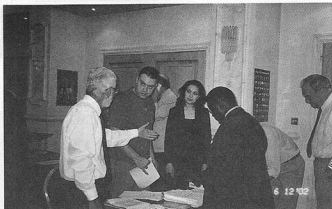
The scientific sessions started with a series of lectures on Farm Animal and Public Health and provided an opportunity for Cypriot veterinarians to tell delegates about veterinary services and disease control in the host country. Dr. George Christofi reviewed the situation regarding echinococcosis/hydatidosis in Cyprus and reported the advances made in control of this disease. Dr Christofi drew attention to the problems presented by the political division of Cyprus: 37% of the island is occupied by Turkey and, for a considerable period, co-operation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish /Turkish Cypriot veterinarians was minimal. In recent years, however, there had been collaboration and encouraging progress was now being made. The second speaker, also from the Cyprus Veterinary Services, was Dr Charalambos Kakoyiannis whose subject was the contamination of



Registration Team of Cypriot Vets

food origin. Dr Kakoyiannis reviewed the role of *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, *Campylobacter* and *Escherichia coli* O<sub>157</sub> in human food-poisoning and explained how on Cyprus outbreaks are investigated and action is taken.

After lunch (during which registrants were able to view scientific literature and; with the aid of a video, learn more about the history of Cyprus), the opening paper was presented by a Cypriot pathologist, Dr Pavlos Toumouzos. The subject of this lecture was a topical one - the pathogenesis, lesion and epidemiology of scrapie - and it was illustrated with images of histological lesions. As with other



*Delegates registering for the conference*



*Delegates at the conference*

presentations, a lively discussion ensued, with far-ranging debate about spongiform encephalopathies in general, as well as specific questions about scrapie.

Rather appropriately, the next lecturer also covered an ovine topic. Dr Stephen Pointing gave an overview of the sheep industry in the Falkland Islands, where he is Senior Veterinary Officer. This presentation helped to advance the theme of disease control and its special importance for island communities.

The final paper of the day was by Dr Roland Minor, a British

veterinary surgeon with many years' experience overseas, especially in Africa. Dr Minor described his work on the control of rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and also made some observations on the time he spent in Britain in 2001, working on the foot-and-mouth epidemic. In each case the control of the disease could be hampered by poor organisation, inadequate planning, bureaucracy and a lack of suitably experienced personnel. Much debate followed this presentation.

An Evening Workshop by Dr Dick Lane, a British veterinary surgeon with



*Delegates at the conference*



*Delegates at the conference*

an extensive background of practice, heralded the first part of the special session on Small Animal Nutrition and Health. Dr Lane discussed diagnosis, with special reference to radiology and radiographic interpretation, and used x-ray plates to illustrate conditions of the canine hip and elbow. He also discussed atopic skin disease. The Workshop was attended by Cypriot veterinarians, a number of whom had not been able to participate during the day because of their practice commitments.

The small animal theme continued on the second day. Dr Lane gave a presentation on health



*At the Question & Answer Session*

A special lecture followed, given by the Director of Veterinary Services, Cyprus, Dr Phedias Loucaides. This dealt with the epidemiological investigation of Q fever in human and animal populations of Cyprus. It was encouraging to learn of the close collaboration between the Cypriot Medical and Veterinary Departments. Dr Loucaides also outlined the organisation of his department and explained some of the changes that are becoming necessary because of Cyprus's bid to join the European Union (EU).

The next series of lectures explored Disease Exclusion and Biosecurity and commenced with



*Dr Cooper chairing the session*

another contribution by Stephen Pointing, who described how the Falkland Islands manages to keep its livestock free of many important infectious diseases. This was followed by a presentation on the Australian perspective, by Dr Linda Corner, who is currently based in Brussels with the EU. Dr Corner explained how Australia co-ordinates its animal health programme, with particular reference to the exclusion of disease. She emphasised how valuable it had been for Australian veterinarians to spend time in the UK during the 2001 foot-and-mouth disease epidemic and she stressed the value of international



*Dr Stevenson chairing the plenary session*



*Dr Jan Slingsburgh from FAO presenting his paper*

collaboration in surveillance, in exchange of information and in the development of protocols.

A session on legal issues was opened by Mrs Margaret Cooper, a British solicitor (non-practising) who has extensive experience of animal law, especially in the UK and Africa. Mrs Cooper reminded the audience that international movement of animals and their products was covered not only by animal health legislation but also by an array of other regulations, such as those controlling despatch of pathogenic material by post, national legislation

regarding exportation of indigenous material, customs controls and, in some cases, The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Veterinarians were often ignorant of the CITES regulations whereas biologists, while usually well aware of conservation controls, could be blissfully ignorant of the need to obtain animal health permits when they send blood or other samples overseas. These omissions could present a serious breach in biosecurity, of which veterinarians need to be conscious.

Dr William Ogara, from the



*Dr Linda Corner, invited speaker from EU with Dr Robin Yarrow, RR Australasia/Oceania*





*Dr Emmanuel, Org. Sec. and CVA Councillor Cyprus being presented a memento  
L-R: Drs Emmanuel, John Cooper, Helena Cotton, BVA Overseas Group*

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Kenya, continued the legal theme with a paper entitled "Delivery of veterinary services: justification for a new umbrella law". Dr Ogara described the current situation in his country and stressed how measures such as a reduction in government services and the promotion of privatisation could adversely affect disease control. He concluded his paper by stressing that young veterinarians in his part of the world were beginning to ask questions and to query assumptions: they wanted to play a full part in decision-making. The two papers on law prompted a lively discussion and it was clear



*L-R: Drs Fofana, Ogara and Jaumally at the Conference*



*L-R: Drs Stevenson, Fofana, Ogara, Jaumally and Emmanuel*

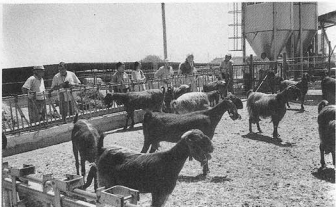
from comments made that exclusion of infectious disease - and prompt action if it arose - depended upon a sound legal framework, with legislation that had not only been properly formulated but could also be readily enforced.

The final session of the Meeting dealt specifically with emerging diseases and was subtitled *The Risks and the Profession's Responsibilities*. Professor John E. Cooper, a British veterinary pathologist with a background of work overseas, gave a paper entitled "What are emerging diseases? The new and the old". He emphasised that plagues are not new and that the pattern of disease is constantly changing: as one eminent authority put it "Emergence is none

other than the dark side of co-evolution, a typical, inexorable biological phenomenon". Nevertheless, the appearance of "new" diseases or the unprecedented spread of others, was a cause of great concern: it was often exacerbated by immunosuppression in human and animal hosts. If the veterinary profession was to contribute fully to the control of such diseases it needed to have broader horizons, to embrace (for example) the monitoring of ecosystem health, and to be able to sample and to carry out tests in the field in a proficient and standard way.

Dr Joe Woods, another British veterinarian with extensive knowledge of tropical medicine, developed the theme by discussing lumpy skin disease (LSD). This is a condition of domestic cattle, caused by a pox virus, that has spread in recent years and which has now reached the Eastern Mediterranean coast. Despite research on LSD and similar arthropod-borne conditions, much remains to be learned and the need for studies on epidermiology has never been greater.

The final paper of the Meeting was by Dr Jan Slingenbergh from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. Dr Slingenbergh is a specialist in insect-borne diseases



*Field visit of delegates to a goat farm*

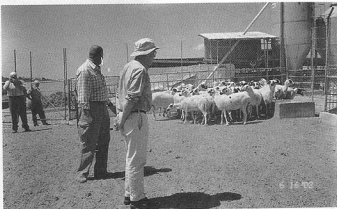


*Delegates at the goat farm*

his closing remarks, the theme of "changing diseases" was most topical and pertinent. The world was changing fast and the profession had to be prepared to deal with both truly novel diseases and with "old" diseases that were now spreading or changing in character. Cyprus, being a Mediterranean island within reasonable distance of Southern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and historically a crossroads for people and animals, was ideally located to have hosted a Meeting with this theme. The papers and discussion during the previous two days had drawn attention to some of the challenges that face veterinarians in

and his lecture concentrated on the environmental management of these and other emerging conditions. He illustrated his talk with detailed, high quality, digital world maps that combined such features as terrain, climate and the distribution of different types of livestock. Dr Slingenbergh emphasised the importance of tackling arthropod-borne diseases on a global scale.

Regrettably, time did not permit further detailed discussion of the theme but, as the Chairman for the afternoon, Dr Bert Stevenson, President of the CVA, pointed out in



*Field visit of delegates to a sheep farm*

many parts of the world. The CVA, with members in over fifty countries, embracing both tropical and temperate areas, poor and rich nations, with populations of different cultures and creeds, was in an excellent position to contribute not only to disease surveillance but also to the provision of training opportunities in appropriate techniques. Dr Stevenson added that the CVA Executive Committee would be following up the topic with the establishment of a working group on emerging diseases, papers on the subject in the Association's publication ("CVA News") and elsewhere and in addition there would be a session on the theme at the next Pan Commonwealth Conference, to be held in New Zealand in 2003.

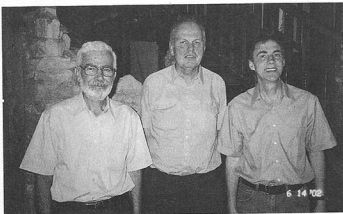
The third day was set aside for field visits during which registrants were able to view some of the features of the dry, rocky, Cyprus countryside and to glimpse its long and varied history. An informal trip two days later, organised by local Cypriot veterinarians, permitted some of those from overseas to see a local farm where sheep and goats are bred for distribution on the island and to discuss livestock matters with colleagues.

This was a lively and highly interactive meeting that enabled members of the veterinary profession from different countries to meet and to confer in attractive surroundings. It marked a milestone in the CVA's involvement in a highly topical and globally important field - the rapidly changing face of animal diseases.

Further information about the Meeting or the work of the CVA is available through

Professor John E Cooper  
CVA Councillor  
Email: NGAGI@compuserve.com; or

Helena Cotton  
British Veterinary Association  
7, Mansfield Street, London W1G 9NQ  
Email: helenac@bva.co.uk  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7636 6541  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7436 2970.



CVA Council members of UK/Mediterranean Region  
L-R: Drs A Emmanuel (Cyprus), John Cooper (UK), Stephen Pointing (Falkland Island)



Dr Takis Koliandris,  
President, Cyprus  
Veterinary Association

## Cyprus

### Cypriot Veterinarian receives Award for his Poetry

Dr. Andreas Emmanuel, the CVA Councillor for Cyprus and local organiser of the recent UK/Mediterranean Regional Meeting, is an accomplished poet and in 1990 received a national award for his achievements.

Dr Emmanuel's poems reflect his love for Cyprus and his distress at the divisions that have befallen that island over the past three decades. He writes with a strong sense of history and an awareness of the rich fabric of tradition and culture that are the backcloth of his native land. The poems are written in Greek but an English translation of one is given below:

#### LIGHTNING

*There's lightning in the west.  
In the soul of Captain Andreas  
confusion*

*His mind runs to the lamp of his fishing hut  
hanging with the fish trap  
like a garland full of cobwebs.*

*It is swinging  
and goes with the wind  
it bangs furiously*

Dr John Cooper  
RR, UK/Mediterranean

## Abstracts

### Origin of a New Sleeping Sickness Outbreak in Eastern Uganda

Sleeping sickness, a major public health problem caused by *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense* in sub-Saharan Africa, and transmitted by the tsetse fly, was introduced from an endemic area of Uganda to a new focus as a result of cattle moved for sale in a local market. This case control study showed that the distance from the market was a highly significant factor for the development of sleeping sickness ( $P < 0.001$ ), with a significant clustering of cases (27/28 patients) close to the market at the start of the outbreak. Over half of the cattle traded at this market originate from endemic sleeping sickness areas. Public health measures directed at control of the infected animal reservoir are urgently needed to prevent spread of this disease.

FEVER, E.M., COLEMAN, P.G., ODIIT, M., MAGONA, J.W., WELBURN, S.C. AND WOOLHOUSE, M.E.J. (2001). The origins of a new *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense* sleeping sickness outbreak in Eastern Uganda. *Lancet*, 358: 625-628.

### Identification of human infective trypanosomes in Ugandan cattle by serum resistance-associated gene

Large-scale livestock movement has been responsible for the extension of sleeping sickness caused by *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense*. Human infective *T b rhodesiense* must be distinguished from the non-human infective *Trypanosoma brucei brucei* because both parasites can be present in cattle. A simple genetic marker was successfully used to characterise the parasites collected from cattle. The human serum resistance-associated (SRA) gene was present in samples of all 29 patients with sleeping sickness in Toró district, Southeast Uganda in 1989/91. Of 41 cattle samples collected at the same time, the SRA gene was present in the eight samples that tested resistant to human serum *in vitro*, but it was absent from all 33 isolates that were sensitive to human serum *in vitro*. Of 200 cattle sampled in 2000/01 in Soroti district, East Uganda, up to 18 per cent were infected with *T b rhodesiense*. Therefore, detection of the SRA gene could be a simple diagnostic test to enable targeted control of *T b rhodesiense* in the domestic animals reservoir; and

so reduce the public health burden of sleeping sickness in east Africa. The potential for drug resistance could also be minimised by appropriate chemotherapy directed at cattle infected with *T b rhodesiense*. (A programme to treat cattle in transit for trypanosomiasis before issue of a movement permit was instigated in Uganda in January 2002).

WELBURN, S.C., PICOZZI, K., FÈVRE, E.M., COLEMAN, P.G., ODIIT, M., CARRINGTON, M. & MAUDLIN, I. (2002). Identification of human-infective trypanosomes in an animal reservoir of sleeping sickness in Uganda by means of serum resistance-associated (SRA) gene. *Lancet*, 358: 2017-2019.

### Leucocyte adhesion deficiency in Irish red and white setters

Seventy-six Irish red and white setters were tested for the CD18 point mutation which causes the fatal immunodeficiency disease leucocyte adhesion deficiency in Irish setters. Six carrier dogs were identified, all from a lineage within which there had been sporadic deaths from signs consistent with the disease. This is the first time that the mutation has been observed outside the Irish setter population, and shows that it is present in a significant minority of Irish red and white setters. The disease could be eradicated by not breeding from carrier dogs.

DEBENHAM, S.L., MILLINGTON, A., KUAS, J., ANDERSON, L. AND BINNS, M. (2002). Canine leucocyte adhesion deficiency in Irish red and white setters. *Journal of Small Animal Practice*, 43: 74-75.

### Rabies in North America and Europe

During 1998, wild animals accounted for 92.4 per cent of all cases of rabies in animals in North America with, in decreasing numbers, raccoons, skunks, bats and foxes being the most commonly infected. Between 1998 and 1999 there were small decreases in the numbers of cases in cats, dogs and horses, but increases among cattle, sheep and pigs. Iowa had 57 cases and Texas had 54 cases in domestic animals. Human cases are rare, but between 16,000 and 39,000 people are exposed and receive treatment each year. In Europe, 8155 cases of animal rabies were reported in 2000; wild animals accounted for 72.1, with foxes (83.4%) and raccoon dogs (10.5%) accounting for nearly all of them. Among domestic animals, dogs (32.4%) and cats (26.1%) were the most common hosts for the virus, and most of them were in the Russian Federation and Turkey.

FINNIEGA, C.J., BROOKES, S.M., JOHNSON, N., SMITH, J., MANSFIELD, K.L., KEENE, V.L., MCELHINNEY, I. AND FOOKS, A.R. (2002). Rabies in North America and Europe. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 95: 9-13.

## General Articles

### A Strange Relationship With the Python

I live and work on a Research Station as a Veterinary Officer and Station Manager for the past 13 years. The Station is situated in Keneba, Kiang West District, Lower River Division, about 150 km from Banjul, the capital city of The Gambia. Among other things, the station is engaged in breeding and selection of indigenous breeds of livestock mainly cattle, sheep and goats. About 600 cattle, 400 sheep and 400 goats are always maintained on the station. They mostly feed on communal grazing which consists of woody grassland, swamp fields and farmlands around the station. As a result, the animals are exposed to numerous predators including reptiles but until then, I was made to believe that the python is a harmless creature to man.

My first encounter with a python was five years ago when my attention was drawn to the noise and shouts of our herdsmen (animal attendants) who were standing over a living object with sticks raised high in their hands. On arrival at the scene, I saw a big python (about 10 meters long) wriggling and trying to escape for dear life. They said it was a snake that meant harm and should therefore be killed. Anyway, I managed to convince them not to do so this time.

Two months later, one of the herdsmen had a very close contact with a python whilst herding the cattle with his partner. According to them, he was working along a bush track when an object leapt from the grass besides attempting to hit him but missed the target. When it landed on the ground, he shouted in panic and his partner immediately came to his rescue. This time, the poor snake was beaten to death. According to local hunters a python could lay waiting for its prey for days and weeks. When it hits the victim unconscious, then it would pour some slimy slippery stuff over the body for easy swallowing. They say when the python is hungry it can even prey on



man. Since then our relationship with the harmless python became sour. All the field workers vowed to annihilate any crawling creature that came in. This situation frustrated me because I could no longer guarantee the friendly atmosphere that existed between us and the dwindling wildlife around the station.

In the same week in broad daylight a python entangled one of our goats which was grazing with the flock. Again, the herdsmen disentangled the goat and killed the python. It was about 8 meters long. The villagers told me that winding itself around the victim and chocking it to death was another method the python uses to hunt down its prey. I was made to understand that the bush we cleared for grazing some years ago has re-grown and therefore provided a perfect habitat for the pythons that prey on our animals.

Soon it was mid-rainy season. The grass had grown taller (tropical pasture) and our calving season had begun. The pythons which had now increased in number would crawl at night to our cattle holding ground and attempt to drag and swallow the newly born calves. On all four unsuccessful attempts, the victim was found dead in the morning and the snake would crawl back to the bush on empty stomach. I was blamed for not allowing the herdsmen to kill the first big python (parent) we saw. We struck a compromise by removing and resettling our animals on the other part of the station until dry season. However, I later learnt that even the treacherous bush fires and village children had not spared the poor pythons on the communal pastureland. Occasionally, one or two are seen around but most of the survivors have taken refuge in a nearby forest park where livestock are not allowed to graze.

Dr DS Fofana  
RR, West Africa

## Animal Health Facilities in East Timor, Past, Present and Future

*Dr. Stephen Dunn*

*NSW Agriculture Gunnedah Consultant to Division of Livestock  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Dili, Timor Leste*

Before East Timor was liberated there were 23 animal health posts and a veterinary diagnostic laboratory established throughout the then province of East Timor. Australia played a major role in the development of these facilities through the AusAID funded Eastern Island Veterinary Services Project, Phases I & II. Until the very close to the close of the project in late 1998 all the veterinarians and a lot of the paraveterinary workers were from other provinces of Indonesia. Two East Timorese who had studied Veterinary Science in Indonesia returned to work in East Timor in 1998. At this time there were over 4,000 public servants employed in Agriculture throughout East Timor.



With the events of September 1999 all the infrastructure that had been developed was destroyed and the workforce returned to other provinces of Indonesia.

With the implementation of UNTAET (United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor) a Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with 124 persons has been established.

The focus of the department in animal health has been to re-establish vaccination programs for cattle and buffalo (Haemorrhagic Septicaemia), pigs (Classical Swine Fever) and provide Newcastle disease vaccine for poultry. The programs for the HS and CSF are funded by the administration with temporary vaccinators employed to carry out the program at the village level. A major effort has been placed in re-establishing infrastructure like the cold chain and transport to allow the implementation of the vaccination programs.

The two East Timorese veterinarians are employed in the Ministry.

There is very little in the way of individual animal health treatments available to the farming community. Some medicines have been supplied by the government and are dispensed on an ad hoc basis. With the lack of available trained manpower and the paucity of communications the vast majority of animal health incidents are reported "Post Mortem" and generally after the animal has been consumed - so little in the way of pathology is available.



The Australian Government via its Northern Australian Quarantine Surveillance program has conducted several surveys for both animal and plant diseases and weed species throughout East Timor. This has provided some support for the current administration in providing some knowledge of the health status of the nation herd/flock and plants in East Timor. This is conducted under an MOU between the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and the East Timorese administration.

There are several East Timorese who were studying Veterinary science in Indonesia but were prevented from completing their degrees by the events



24. 4. 2002

of September 1999. Hopefully with outside support some of these will be able to now complete their degrees and return to work as veterinarians within East Timor and hopefully be able to continue their education with Masters and PhDs in other countries.

To provide access to animal health services it is planned to develop a cadre of "Village Livestock

Workers" who with appropriate training and monitoring will be able to treat cases on a "fee for service basis". A similar program is in place in Cambodia.

A lot has been destroyed. Hopefully the human resources and infrastructure can be increased over time to provide a suitable level of service to the animal industries of East Timor. □

## Israeli Scientist Develops Featherless Chicken

Chickens with feathers are no longer efficient for meat production in hot climates, according to Professor Avigdor Cahaner of the Rehovot Institute at the Hebrew University, Israel, who yesterday presented for the very first time his research on featherless chickens at the Agriculture Research Institute in Nicosia, Cyprus.

When he was a small boy, Cahaner explained, chickens hardly suffered from heat, but heat waves from the late 1950s onwards caused increased mortality in chickens bred for meat production, otherwise known as broilers.



In 1950, it took 90 days for a broiler to reach the average market weight of two kilos. At present, a broiler requires six to seven weeks to reach market weight, which is about half the original time scale. "The average of genetic improvement in broiler growth rate is equal to one day less per year. It is quite possible, therefore, that by 2010 growth rate will reduce to 32 days", said Cahaner.

Rapid growth results from a higher rate of feed intake and metabolism, which increases the amount of internally produced heat, making modern broilers more sensitive to higher temperatures.

So broiler breeders and farmers in hot countries are faced with a dichotomy: the faster their chickens grow, the more sensitive they become to the heat and the easier they perish.

In Saudi Arabia, chickens have the luxury of spending their time on death row in the cool environment of air conditioning. Most farmers in hot-climate regions, however, cannot afford costly artificial temperature controls or wait for slow-growth chickens to reach market weight because they are simply too inefficient in today's global market.

### Growth Rate

Cahaner and his team searched for ways to help broilers tolerate heat when reared in hot climates and so reach the potential growth rate. After a number of tests, they concluded that feathers hindered the broiler's ability to radiate internally produced heat.

Thus, by crossbreeding naked neck genes with rapid growth broilers, chickens were able to keep eating while not suffering from the heat. This method reduces feather coverage by about 30 per cent, reducing the growth rate of broilers in hot climates by about one week.



Prof Avigdor Cahaner

Given the positive results of the half-hairy chickens, Cahaner utilised the recessive spontaneous mutation called 'scaleless', found in California in 1954, in order to maximise heat-tolerance of fast-growing broilers. The results of the 'featherless chickens' experiment have so far been positive in their artificial environment.

Cahaner believes the featherless chickens will be more efficient in tropical climates, given they need to be in temperatures no less than 20 degrees. However, climates like Cyprus and Israel are apt for the naked neck crossbreed which can handle summer and winter temperatures. International breeders are ready to produce commercial naked neck broilers within a year or two, said Cahaner, but the featherless broilers will take more time.

He highlighted the advantage of the new chickens having thin skin with very little fat, and said the elimination of feather coverage, which improves heat tolerance, would increase consumption of poultry in hot-climate countries, especially the poorer ones.

Cahaner clarified that the process was pure application of conventional genetics and had nothing to do with genetical modification.

Asked to comment on the latter, he said some applications of genetic modification could be dangerous and therefore, should be closely monitored.

Cyprus Mail, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002

## Kenya Veterinary Association Privatisation Scheme (KVAPS): An Update

*Dr Judy Kimaru*

*Project Manager, KVAPS, Kenya*

### Current status of KVAPS beneficiaries

Seventy-one have been supported under the scheme and the following is the summary of their status.

Status	Number	Percentage
Graduated/fully paid	36	51%
On schedule	9	13%
Classified*	14	20%
Under process	6	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the vets who have graduated from their first loan, six have received their second loan. In the past six months, loans have been mainly to expand existing clinical and small agrovet shops. KVAPS is encouraging vets to go into securing their position in their areas by expanding and diversifying their business. New business proposals in other areas other than the traditional agrovet shops are being encouraged and private vets are taking up the challenge.

The practices are found in 25 districts in Kenya in mainly high and medium potential areas. Vets are beginning to venture into areas that border Arid and Semi-arid areas as well.

### KVAPS extension after December 2003

The steering committee of KVA is in the process of extending KVAPS project for another two years. Within this period, KVAPS plans to achieve the following.

1. Revise the model currently used by KVAPS in the privatisation process.
2. Make KVAPS self-sustaining.
3. Increase KVAPS involvement in advocacy on issues that effect privatisation
4. Continue to place graduate vets in HMPA as stated in the original project objectives.

They will be carried out within the two years of extension. By December 2005, KVAPS will hopefully be a new redefined project which facilitates the veterinary privatisation process within the context of the Kenya environment.

### Services and products being offered by KVAPS

The scheme provides financial support, training and economic market support for veterinarians wishing to go into private practice.

### Financial support

The financial support to veterinarians is provided as loans through Barclays Bank of Kenya under a guarantee fund arrangement. Barclays has been extending loans under the arrangement to be repaid over three years at three percentage points over the prevailing bank base rate instead of the normal seven percentage points. KVAPS further subsidised interest payments by refunding, as a bonus to the loanees up to 50 per cent of the total interest paid on a quarterly basis. The participating veterinarians provide secondary security such as debentures, little deeds of land or saleable property, fixed deposits, and insurance policies.

The scheme's management also closely work with the bank, with the clients to sort out any issues that may arise in the course of the loan.

The scheme is in the process of exploring opportunities for cheaper and long-term loans, which will allow for capital financing.

### Training Support

The scheme also offers 2-3 days trainings on business practice management for all beneficiaries of the scheme. Areas of marketing, financial and accounting management, diversification, taxation, costing & pricing, market dynamics are taught. The scheme also endeavours to provide continuous veterinary education by inviting experts in various animal production and management field.

### Monitoring and counselling support

The scheme management keeps in close touch with the clients to support and liaise on all aspects of their business. The aim is to help the client grow and prosper their business.

### Liaison with NGOs and Industry

The scheme actively seeks out collaboration arrangements with various industries in the agricultural sector and NGOs. This is to help the clients with increase business contracts and expose them to market trends, technology changes and opportunities.

### Products currently available

1. Milk master - sachet milk packer and pasteurisers. Ideal for home-based industry in a high population urban centre consisting of mid to low income earners.
2. Farmers days - organised in collaboration with the DVS for specific practice areas where vets are operating.



### Collaboration with the Department of Veterinary Services and Kenya Veterinary Board

The scheme management assists in arbitrating on behalf of the clients issues that may arise that will need the DVS and KVB intervention. Examples of issues that have been handled in the past are relationships between local DVOs and private vets, vaccination contracts and disciplinary cases with the KVB.

### Who can benefit from KVAPS services

The overall beneficiary is the farmer who will have more veterinary doctors available to provide a higher quality of animal health care. □

### KVAPS main targets

1. Veterinary surgeons who are already in private practice
2. Veterinary doctors who wish to go into private practice
3. Veterinary doctors who are interested in Business Management and Continuous and Veterinary Education (CVE) but are not necessarily taking a loan with KVAPS.

## Beam Me Up, Mate

In a world breakthrough out of the realms of Star Trek, scientists in Australia have successfully teleported a laser beam of light from one spot to another in a split second but warn: don't sell the car yet.

A team of physicists at the Australian National University (ANU) announced yesterday they had successfully disembodied a laser beam in one location and rebuilt it in a different spot about one metre away in the blink of an eye.

Project leader Dr Ping Koy Lam said there was a close resemblance between what his team had achieved and the movement of the people in the science fiction series Star Trek but reality was still light years off beaming human beings between locations.

"In theory there is nothing stopping us from doing it but the complexity of the problem is so huge that no one is thinking seriously about it at the moment", Lam told a news conference.

However Lam said science was not too far from being able to teleport solid matter from one location to another.

"My prediction is ... it will probably be done by someone in the next three to five years, that is the teleportation of a single atom," said Lam, who was worked on teleporting since 1997.

But he said humans posed a near-impossible task as we are made up of zillions of atoms - quantified by a one with 27 zeroes - so forget Star Trek where the Starship Enterprise crew step into a transporter, vaporise, then re-assemble elsewhere.

### Teleportation

The laser beam was destroyed during teleporting which is achieved using a process known as quantum entanglement.

However, the breakthrough opens up enormous possibilities for future super-fast and super-secure communications systems, such as quantum computers over the next decade.

Physicists believe quantum computers could outperform classical computers with enormous memory and the ability to solve problems millions of times faster.

Teleportation became one of the hottest topics among physicists in quantum mechanics in the past decade, after the IBM lab in the United States provided theoretical underpinning for the work in 1993. Since then about 40 laboratories globally have been experimenting in this area.

Although teams in California and Denmark were the first to do preliminary work on teleportation, the ANU team of scientists from Australia, Germany, France, China and New Zealand was the first to achieve a successful trial with 100 per cent reliability.

The idea is if quantum particles like electrons, ions, and atoms have the same properties, they are essentially the same.

So if the properties of quantum particles making up an object are reproduced in another particle group, there would be a precise duplication of the object, so only information about the particles' properties need be transmitted, not the particles.

The inability to pass the information reliably has been a major stumbling block in past "entanglement" experiments.

Cyprus Mail, June 18, 2002

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS****2002**

Eighth International Symposium on Equine Reproduction, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA. July 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>.

Biennial Congress of the South African Veterinary Association, South Africa. July 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>.

12th Federation of Asian Veterinary Association Congress and 14th Veterinary Association Malaysia (VAM) Congress, Malaysia. August 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>.

27th World Veterinary Congress, Tunis, Tunisia. September 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>.

British Veterinary Association's Annual Congress, Warwickshire, England. October 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>.

**2003**

CVA Asian Regional Meeting and 2nd International Seminar on Animal Welfare, Bangalore, India. February 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, Wellington, New Zealand. June 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>.

CVA Regional Meeting of Australasia/Oceania Region, Papua New Guinea. (Date and Venue to be announced)

CVA Regional Meeting of West African Region, Banjul, The Gambia. (Date and Venue to be announced)

**2004**

CVA Regional Meeting of ECS African Region, Lusaka, Zambia. (Date and Venue to be announced)

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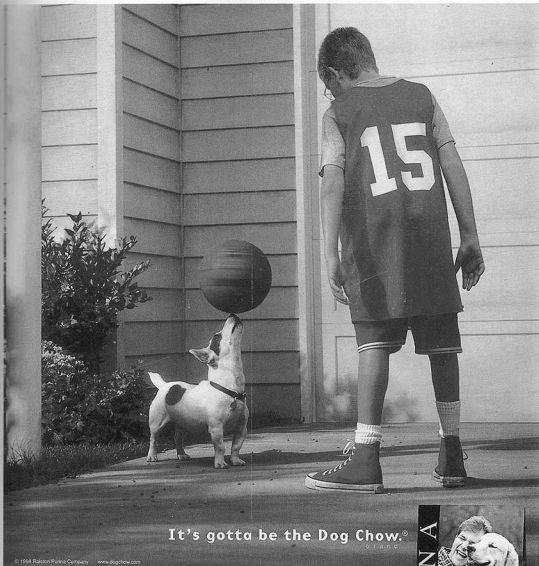
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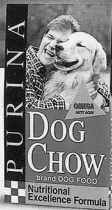


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