

# COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION



# NEWS

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## The President's Message

*I feel greatly privileged to be the 7th President of the CVA and I thank the Executive Committee for their confidence in me. This honour also extends to my country, Fiji, one of some 25 small island CVA members. I am very conscious of the responsibility bestowed on me at this time of considerable change, both globally and for our profession.*

*The recent Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in Wellington, New Zealand was clearly a most successful event and we are indeed grateful to our NZVA colleagues for kindly accommodating the CVA within the framework of their annual conference. Special appreciation is extended to the NZVA Conference Organiser, Dr. Warren Webber, the Director of Continuing Education of the NZVA as well as to our NZ Counsellor, Dr. Helen Beban, for their respective roles.*

*While attendance at PCVC 3 from the wider Commonwealth was made difficult by the high cost of travel to NZ, the participation of veterinarians from small island CVA members was heartening. This included the Falklands, Mauritius, Cyprus, Sri Lanka, and Singapore as well as the Caribbean and Pacific Island regions. In fact, the gathering of indigenous veterinarians from the Pacific Islands was possibly the largest to date. The quality and ready availability of our CVA Conference Proceedings from Day 1 was commended by many, including by several key NZVA conference speakers. This reflected highly on the sterling preparatory work undertaken both by our Secretary, Dr. Abdul Rahman and Mrs. Ann Pryor.*

*All organizations must deliver on their objectives in an effective and timely manner, in order to remain relevant. In this regard, the current review of the CVA Constitution is most appropriate, as this document embodies our guiding principles and detailed terms of reference.*

*I wish to thank the immediate Past President, Dr. Bert Stevenson of Canada, for his exemplary role despite very heavy recent work commitments. Dr. Stevenson's assistance during my term as Regional Representative has been much appreciated and I know I can look to him for further wise counsel and direction in the future. I will certainly work hard to maintain the present forward momentum of the CVA.*

*Dr Bill Pryor, Treasurer and Dr Abdul Rahman, have been excellent CVA mentors for me and I also greatly look forward to continuing to work closely with them both in my important new capacity. Our Regional Representatives are critical "cogs" in our machinery and I know that you will all continue with your good work in your respective regions. I also anticipate meeting as many of you as possible, both at the Counsellor and field level, during my term and to hearing first hand your views on issues and priorities.*

*I wish to extend warm New Year's greetings to all CVA members and their families. I also trust that 2004 will be a meaningful and successful year for each one of you.*

January, 2004

**Robin Yarrow**  
President

## Commonwealth News

### Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was held at Abuja, Nigeria from 5-8 December 2003. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II addressed the Heads of Government of Commonwealth countries.

The four-day summit showcased the problems of the Sub-Saharan Africa including corruption, crime, unemployment and poverty and AIDS. It reinforced the divide between rich and poor and underscored the need for international intervention to bridge the divide.



Dr Don McKinnon

Don McKinnon, 64, was re-elected as the Secretary General of the Commonwealth for a second term.

The Commonwealth has made real breakthrough in recognising the need for members to promote democracy and good governance.



A traditional African dancer at the Commonwealth People's Forum in Abuja, Nigeria

#### Zimbabwe withdraws from Commonwealth; Pakistan's suspension continues

A six-member committee was formed to discuss the situation in Zimbabwe. The members were Jamaica, India, South Africa, Mozambique, Australia and Canada. Zimbabwe suspension was renewed on 7th December following which the country pulled out of the Commonwealth. Pakistan remains suspended.

#### Bowing for Posterity

On her recent visit to Nigeria, Queen Elizabeth II was unable to contain her laughter after a young Nigerian boy made what could be the longest bow in royal history. Aidan Modebe, 4, bowed from the waist and stayed bent over for nearly 30 seconds.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were amused at the boy's exaggerated show of respect when he bent over at 90 degrees and showed no sign of straightening up. The Queen gestured with her gloved hand for him to arise, but he remained looking at the ground with his arms dangling. Onlookers feared his back had locked.

The long bow was delivered as the royal couple were meeting the British Council in Nigeria's federal capital Abuja, and Aidan was presenting the queen with a bouquet.

- The Week, December 21, 2003



Queen Elizabeth in Nigeria

## Commonwealth Foundation launches new look

Following months of research, consultations, and input from staff and stakeholders, the Commonwealth Foundation has introduced a new brand identity that includes a new logo, updated colour palettes and fresh



**Commonwealth  
Foundation**

design standards. The new image is a progressive brand identity that gives the organisation a modern look while retaining elements that reflect its Commonwealth links and its focus on the People's Commonwealth. New logo consists of two separate elements: the ripple and the name of the organisation.

## Concepts in Animal Welfare

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), in association with the University of Bristol Veterinary School, has produced an education resource pack which it hopes will be used in the teaching of animal welfare within the veterinary curriculum.

Entitled "Concepts in Animal Welfare", the pack consists of a CD-ROM containing 30 teaching modules covering a wide range of animal welfare topics, with accompanying booklets which introduce and outline the syllabus. Each module includes a PowerPoint presentation which can be viewed as a slide show or as notes, project and discussion topics to help students assimilate information, and short questions to assess students' understanding.

Most of the modules are independent of each other, but it is intended that they could be used together to provide a comprehensive animal welfare course with approximately 30 hours of teaching material.

A list of organisations and websites from which further information on the topics, covered can be obtained is also provided, to broaden the scope of the resource and encourage students to read around each topic. WSPA says it intends to provide course updates via the internet, and that it hopes to develop further resources to expand on the course.

The Veterinary Record, November 29, 2003

## Passports essential for all horses by 2004

In order to bring the UK in line with existing EU legislation all horses and ponies will need to have full identification documents by the end of 2003. Alistair Barr, President-Elect of the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA), reports.

European Commission Decision 2000/68/EC required member states to introduce legislation to modify existing identification documents or 'passports' and establish new documentation for horses not currently registered.

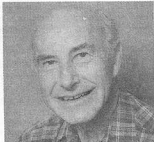
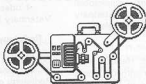
In 2000 the UK Government consulted on the options for implementing the legislation and having considered the responses, announced in February that all equidae would have to have a passport by the end of 2003.

The primary purpose of the original Commission Decision was to allow horses intended for human consumption to be identified and have their medical history checked, to ensure they conformed to the relevant EU legislation (Regulation 2377/90). A greater impact in this country is likely to be the regularisation of the treatment of non-food producing horses with veterinary medicinal products containing substances without established maximum residue limits (MRLs) - a substantive group of medicines vital to equine practitioners and horses.

Without such a mechanism, the marketing authorisations for these drugs were and are threatened and could be lost. Drugs involved include:

- NSAIDs such as Phenylbutazone, Meclofenamic acid and Etenac
- Antibiotics such as Ceftiofur, Metronidazole and Dihydrostreptomycin
- Corticosteroids such as Methylprednisolone, Prednisolone and Betamethasone
- Other drugs such as Halothane, Hyoscine butylbromide and Quinalbarbitone.

Off the Record, September 2003



## 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.  
E-mail: jderbysh@uoguelph.ca

### CVA Book Programme

The CVA Book Programme is coordinated from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph by Dr. Brian Derbyshire, assisted by Mr. Jim Brett, the College Librarian. A depot is also maintained in Australia by Dr. Jeff Cave, District Veterinary Officer, DNRE, 1 McKoy Street, Wodonga, Victoria 3689. Journals are not normally shipped, and few audiovisual aids have been donated. Books are available free of charge to graduate veterinarians in CVA member countries in good standing. Requests for books should indicate the required subject areas (see below) and/or preferred titles where possible, and they should include the mailing address to which the books should be sent. The latter should be abbreviated as much as possible in order that it may be accommodated in the limited space provided on the customs declaration. Priority is given to requests from institutional libraries, and requests from individuals are met as funds permit. Shipments are made by surface mail, and may take up to 8 months to reach their destination. In 2002, books were sent to Ghana, The Gambia, Fiji, India, Kenya and Uganda. Five shipments were to institutions, and seven were to individual veterinary clinics. The following is a summary of the books currently available by subject area, as well as the titles of some popular texts of which multiple copies are held. A copy of the complete inventory may be obtained on request.

#### Anatomy

36 titles, including *Evans & Delahunta*: Miller's Guide to Dissection of the Dog, *Evans & Christensen*: Miller's Anatomy of the Dog, *Habel*: Guide to Dissection of Domestic Ruminants, and *Sack & Habel*: Horse Dissection

#### Anesthesia

12 titles, including *Soma*: Textbook of Veterinary Anesthesia, and *Hall*: Wright's Veterinary Anesthesia & Analgesia

#### Animal Science

44 titles, including *Leahy & Barrow*: Restraint of Animals, *MacDonald*: Pig Husbandry Technology for Warm Climates, and *Cole & Garret*: Animal Agriculture

#### Avian, Fish, Laboratory Animal & Wildlife Medicine

29 titles, including *AAVP*: Avian Disease Manual, *Julian*: Poultry Husbandry, and Guide to the Care & Use of Experimental Animals

#### Biochemistry & Biology

11 titles, including *Mitchell et al*: Zoology

#### Equine Medicine & Surgery

12 titles, including *VLS*: Abdominal Disease in Equine Practice, and *Adams*: Lameness in Horses

#### Farm Animal Medicine & Surgery

19 titles, including *Walker & Vaughn*: Bovine & Equine Urogenital Surgery, *Jensen*: Diseases of Sheep, *Greenough et al*: Lameness in Cattle, and *Radostits et al*: Veterinary Medicine

#### Histology & Hematology

26 titles, including *Banks*: Applied Veterinary Histology, *Bacha & Wood*: Color Atlas of Veterinary Histology, *Delman & Brown*: Textbook of Veterinary Histology, *Rich*: Morphology of Canine & Feline Red Blood Cells, and *Schalm et al*: Veterinary Hematology

#### Immunology

9 titles, including *Tizard*: Veterinary Immunology, and *Roitt et al*: Essential Immunology

**Microbiology**

22 titles, including *Prescott & Baggot*: Antimicrobial Therapy in Veterinary Medicine, *Fenner*: Veterinary Virology, and *Hirsch & Zee*: Veterinary Microbiology

**Miscellaneous**

14 titles, including *Kirk & Bistner*: Handbook of Veterinary Procedures and Emergency Treatment, Merck Veterinary Manual, *VCNA*: Computers in Veterinary Practice, and *Fenner*: Quick Reference to Veterinary Medicine

**Parasitology**

17 titles, including *Georgi*: Parasitology for Veterinarians, *Williams & Zajac*: Diagnosis of Gastrointestinal Parasitism in Dogs & Cats, and *Grieve*: Parasitic Infections

**Pathology**

15 titles, including *Thompson*: General Veterinary Pathology, *Jubb et al*: Pathology of Domestic Animals, *Moulton*: Tumors in Domestic Animals, and *Slausen & Cooper*: Mechanisms of Disease

**Pathology - Clinical**

9 titles, including *Duncan & Prasse*: Veterinary Laboratory Medicine, and *Sodikoff*: Laboratory Profiles of Small Animal Diseases

**Pharmacology**

11 titles, including *Booth & McDonald*: Veterinary Pharmacology & Therapeutics, and *Giavanoni & Warren*: Principles of Pharmacology

**Physiology**

8 titles, including *Eckert et al*: Animal Physiology, *Cunningham*: Textbook of Veterinary Physiology, and *Guyton*: Textbook of Medical Physiology

**Public Health, Zoonoses & Epidemiology**

4 titles, including *Schwabe et al*: Epidemiology in Veterinary Practice

**Radiology**

7 titles, including *Morgan & Silverman*: Techniques of Veterinary Radiography, and *Kealy*: Diagnostic Radiology of the Dog & Cat

**Small Animal Medicine**

59 titles, including *Kirk et al*: Current Veterinary Therapy, *Povey*: Infectious Diseases of Cats, *Ettinger*: Veterinary Internal Medicine, *Muller et al*: Small Animal Dermatology, and *Lewis & Morris*: Small Animal Clinical Nutrition

**Small Animal Surgery**

31 titles, including *Bojrab*: Current Techniques in Small Animal Surgery, *Emily & Penman*: Small Animal Dentistry, *Bojrab*: Pathophysiology in Small Animal Surgery, and *Magrane*: Canine Ophthalmology

**Theriogenology**

31 titles, including *Carlson*: Patten's Foundations of Embryology, *Noden & De Lahunta*: Embryology of Domestic Animals, *Roberts*: Veterinary Obstetrics & Genital Diseases, and *Morrow*: Current Therapy in Theriogenology

**Toxicology**

6 titles, including *Osweiler et al*: Clinical & Diagnostic Veterinary Toxicology

November, 2003

J.B. Derbyshire  
Coordinator

CVA Book Programme

## Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma on the Rise

NON-HODGKIN'S lymphoma, the cancer of the lymphatic system that killed Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Sen. Paul Tsongas, is the most rapidly rising cancer after lung cancer and melanoma.

Two clinical research trials at the University of Miami Sylvester Cancer Centre are enrolling patients to test the effectiveness and safety of a treatment combining two approved cancer drugs, Proleukin and Rituxan.

The studies are testing the ability of Proleukin to boost the effectiveness of Rituxan against the disease. This treatment is a kind of immunotherapy.

"More than 26,000 Americans will die from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma this year. Patients need new and better treatment options", said Dr Joseph Rosenblatt, who is involved in the study.

The trials, to be conducted at more than 40 medical centres, are seeking a total of 250 patients.

Symptoms of NHL, which is difficult to diagnose, may include swollen lymph nodes in the armpits, neck or groin, coughing, shortness of breath, unexplained weight loss, fever, profuse sweating, and severe itching.

In the United States, NHL has increased 75 per cent in the last 20 years. About 3,00,000 Americans are now living with NHL, and more than 53,000 people are expected to be diagnosed with the disease in 2003.

The cause of NHL remains unclear, with possible suspects including autoimmune disorders, viruses such as AIDS, and exposure to carcinogens, herbicides or pesticides.

The Saudi Gazette, October 26, 2003



## 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.

### 1. Purpose

Its purpose is to provide financial assistance to:

1. Veterinarians who are members in good standing 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 organization 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. Grants will be limited to persons with field experience and not holding senior positions.
2. The awards are not normally available for University academic or research staff.
3. Preference will be given to related regions with 'south-south' movements being encouraged. In exceptional cases, visits to institutions outside the regions qualifying under south-south arrangement will be considered as long as the cost of the visit does not exceed the allocated fund award (Aus \$ 3000). In exceptional circumstances and where approved by the President grantees may receive training in a non-Commonwealth country within that Region.
4. The study period should be preferably between 2-3 weeks.
5. Awards will normally be distributed equally amongst Regions, however, on occasion, the President may authorize additional awards to a particular Region in any one year.
6. The study visits will be financed at a maximum of Aus \$ 3000 including a prepaid air ticket for the least expensive and most direct route.
7. Grants are provided only for periods of concentrated study or training on a particular topic or activity and cannot be made for attendance at conferences,

meetings etc., nor to underwrite a tour of visits to a number of institutions.

8. A report must be submitted to the Secretary CVA within three months of the completion of the study visit. At the completion of the study visit, the participant must receive a letter of release, which should clearly indicate duration of stay, and satisfactory completion of course. The letter should also confirm that at the time of departure, the participants have not left any debts unsettled. This requirement must be conveyed by the Regional Representative or Programme Director to the host institution before arrival of participant.
9. It will be necessary for the host institution to agree to assist in arranging suitable accommodation etc. affordable by the applicant.
10. 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 emphasize how their studies in the host country will benefit the rural poor and disadvantaged as well as their impact upon the environment.
11. 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.

### 3. Applications

- i) There is a set Study Application Form/Application. Forms are available from the CVA Secretary, or through the CVA Website.
- ii) Applications should be submitted to the appropriate Regional Representative for processing, at least 6 months prior to the proposal visit.
- iii) The applicants should provide the following:
  - a) A complete curriculum vitae to the Regional Representative
  - b) Two passport size photographs
  - c) A letter of acceptance from the person who will supervise the study program in the host country
  - d) Evidence that the study has the support of his/her home institution or national association

### 4. Administration

- i) The Study Application Form with supporting documents must be sent to the appropriate Regional Representative
- ii) The Regional Representative will review the application and make a recommendation to the Programme Director.
- iii) The Programme Director will make a recommendation to the CVA President, who will make the final decision.
- iv) The Programme Director will then inform the Regional Representative who will inform the candidate.

Last date of submission of request to Council Members / Reg. Rep. is 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2004. RRs to submit their recommendations before 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2004 to the Secretary, CVA.

## Asia

### Pakistan

#### CVA Study Fund

Dr. Isma Amir, a veterinarian working in the Department of Veterinary Services, Government of Pakistan has been selected for the 2003 CVA Study Fund Award. She will be travelling to Bangalore, India to learn advanced diagnostic techniques in Veterinary Parasitology at the Veterinary College, University of Agricultural Sciences.

### Bangladesh

#### International Training Programme in Reproductive Techniques

The international training programme in reproductive techniques (Gynaecology and Obstetrics) for veterinary undergraduate students of Chittagong Government Veterinary College was held from 10-24 December, 2003 at the college campus.

Professor V.K. Sundaravadanan, Retd. Professor of Gynaecology, Bidar Veterinary College, Bidar, India was the Chief Resource person. This programme was sponsored by CVA under the Continuing Programme of Capacity building for veterinary undergraduate education in Chittagong Veterinary College, Bangladesh for the year 2003-04. The details of the training programme will be published in the next issue of CVA News.

• *Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age eighteen*

— Albert Einstein, 1976

## India

#### Prime Ministers of Lesotho and Mauritius visit India

Lesotho Prime Minister Bethuel Pakalitha Mosisili, visited India and visited Bangalore, Karnataka on a three-



Lesotho Prime Minister Bethuel Pakalitha Mosisili and his wife Mathato Mosisili being received by Minister for Tourism and Haj, Govt. of Karnataka R. Roshan Baig at Bangalore

day visit to the State and said that his country was looking forward to business tie-ups with Indian companies.

Mr Mosisili was accompanied by several top ranking officials of his country. He visited a few industrial establishments, and was looking forward to conclude some business agreements with industrial units.

Mauritius Prime Minister Paul Raymond Berenger was in India recently. Speaking to reporters at the Bangalore airport, Mr Berenger expressed confidence that Mauritius will leapfrog as a cyber island with technical assistance and investment help from India.



Mr Berenger arriving in Bangalore

Stating that Bangalore was an important port of call during his maiden visit to India after he became the Prime Minister, he expressed satisfaction with the talks he held in New Delhi both in terms of results and also the mood of friendship and a feeling of brotherhood.

## CVA Muthanallur Project for Women Dairy and Poultry Farmers

Muthanallur, a tiny village 65 kms south of the city of Bangalore in India is inhabited by 3,000 residents whose main occupation is sericulture. This village is situated in a terrain devoid of heavy water source except for a small tank which never gets filled. This village has a water scarcity and for the last three years there has been severe draught. The women of the village tender livestock made up mostly of cattle and poultry with few sheep and pigs. Most of the people are dependent entirely on livestock for their livelihood as there is not enough water for agriculture purposes.



*Inauguration of the programme by lighting the traditional lamp*

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association during the Second Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference held in February 1998 in Bangalore adopted this village and since then have been helping the villagers especially women in training them in better methods of livestock production. Women farmers were sent for training in dairy production to the premier dairy institute of the country, AMUL at Anand, Gujarat. Livestock such as buffaloes, sheep and birds have also been donated to the farmers in the past to eke out a livelihood. Taking the cue from the CVA other agencies such as the Village Cooperative Society, Farmers' Banks, Insurance Companies have contributed subsequently and continued the programme initiated by the CVA.

Coinciding with the International Women's Day on 4th December 2003, the Commonwealth Veterinary Association in association with the University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore organised a programme to donate 1,000 Giriraja

chicks (local indigenous broiler bird) as a community poultry project.



*At the inauguration  
L-R: Dr. Vijaya Raghavan, Shri Ramalinga Reddy and  
Mr. Narayana Swamy, Member of Legislative Assembly of  
Muthanallur Constituency*

This programme also coincided with a joint programme of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) which is also helping the village in upgrading their agricultural activities under arid conditions. This programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Karnataka Mr. Ramalinga Reddy. Dr. Vijaya Raghavan, James McGill Professor, Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, McGill University, Canada



*Women farmers at community poultry brooding unit*

who also is the Project Coordinator, CIDA was the Chief Guest.

A mass animal vaccination camp was also held wherein 1,000 buffaloes, sheep and poultry were vaccinated. The Karnataka Sheep and Sheep Products Board on the request of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association donated 30 crossbred sheep to the women farmers.

This village has a Women's Farmers Cooperative Society under whose auspicious twenty women farmers of the village were selected to jointly rear the thousand chicks until 6-weeks and then distributed among themselves and rear them in their own backyard for another 2-4 weeks before sending them to the market. The feed for these chicks in the initial period of 6-weeks was also provided by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. From the



*Women dairy farmers selected for dairy training*

proceeds of the sale of these birds further batches will be purchased at discounted prices and also feed procured and this will constitute a permanent nucleus poultry unit which will sustain the 20 farmers for quite sometime. Technical help including veterinary and nutritional requirements will be provided free of cost to the farmers.

A group of 15 women actively engaged in dairy husbandry have been selected to undergo basic training in feeding, care and management of dairy animals at AMUL, Gujarat. These farmers after their training can improve the management of their livestock. Each farmer has only one or two cows/buffaloes each and are entirely dependent on its milk for their sustenance to the effect that their own children will not have the luxury of drinking this milk and have to survive on a beverage made up of gruel from millets and tapioca.

## Sri Lanka

### 55th Annual Convention of the SLVA

The 55th Annual Convention and Scientific session of the Sri Lankan Veterinary Association (SLVA) was held at Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo on 30th and 31st May 2003. Dr. A. Shakthivel, President SLVA presided at the inaugural session.

H.E. Mme Marie- France Pagnier Dunavan, Ambassador of France to Sri Lanka and the Maldives was the Chief Guest. In her speech H.E. the ambassador mentioned that "The Future of Dairy Development in Sri Lanka", the theme of the seminar, was very important and a sensitive topic. She further said that the Medical research has now proved the necessity of consumption of dairy products on a regular basis for children as well as for the elderly and that there were products available in hundreds in different types and forms for human consumption. H.E. the Ambassador mentioned that France was renowned for the quality and the diversity of its milk production and the Dairy Industry with 25000 dairy farms having 4 million dairy cows producing almost 23 billion litres of milk, was a major industry in France.

Of the milk produced, 32% was exported (22% to the European Union and 10% to other countries). Further the assistance given by the French Government to the foreign countries in Europe, Africa and Asia was also elaborated. H.E. the Ambassador wished that some guidelines and proposals initiating positive inputs for the future of Dairy Development in Sri Lanka be drawn up at the end of the day. She congratulated the Veterinary Association and its members for their contribution to the Sri Lankan Society.

The following presentations were made.

1. "Dairy Industry in Sri Lanka" by Mr. Cubby Wijethunge, Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Director Nestle Lanka.
2. "Future of Dairy Development in Sri Lanka - A Foreigners Perspective" by Mr. Mathew Oldham, Managing Director, Indian Subcontinent, New Zealand Milk (Pvt.) Ltd.

3. "Experience in Dairy Development in Sri Lanka" by Dr. Jagith Punjath, Managing Director, Cargills Quality Dairies (Pvt) Ltd.

### SLVA Dinner

The association dinner was held on the 30th May 2003 at the Hotel Taj Samudra which was well attended. The third Prof. S.T. Fernando Memorial Orations, the awards presentation and the induction of the new President were the special events that took place after the dinner.

### Third Prof. S.T. Fernando Memorial Oration

Prof. N.P. Sunil Chandra, Prof. of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya delivered the Third Professor Memorial Oration on "Control of Rabies in Sri Lanka: Lesson through the Lens of History".

### Presentation of Awards

Special Awards were presented to Drs. S.B. Dhanapala, K. Balachandran and M. Kopalasundaram for outstanding services rendered to the veterinary profession. H.E. Mme Marie - France Pagnier - Dunavan presented the awards.

### Induction of New President of SLVA

The outgoing President of SLVA Dr. A. Shakthivel thanked the members of the Association and the ExCo. for their co-operation during his tenure of office and ceremonially inducted Dr. (Mrs.) H.M.S.P. Herath as President of SLVA for 2003/2004. Dr Herath thanked the members for the honour conferred on her.

## News from the Department of Animal Production and Health

The Department of Animal Production and Health which was established in 1978 as an independent Department celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 8th October 2003. Series of events were held from 6th October to 10th October 2003. Eighty senior most officers and workers at different levels in the department who had served continuously for more than 25 years were awarded a Sovereign as an appreciation of their services.

### New Director General appointed

Dr. S.K.R. Amarasekara, Director Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Samurthi has been appointed as Director General of the Department of Animal Production and Health with effect from 1st June 2003.

## World Animal Day in Sri Lanka

World Animal Day was jointly organized by the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association & Colombo Municipal Council on 4th October 2003.



*Pet owners lined up for registration for Healthcare and Treatments*

Dr. A. Shakthivel, Past President SLVA 2002, Dr. RMPH Dassanayake, Past President SLVA 2000, Dr. Nalinika Obeysekera, Companion Animal Practitioner and a founder member of the Society of Companion Animal Practitioners (SCAP), Dr. (Mrs.) Herath, President SLVA, CVA Councillor and RR Asia, Deputy Mayor of Colombo Municipal Council and Dr. R. Sikka - the Chief Representative of Intervet International BV of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka participated in the programme.



*Chief Guests at the inauguration*

"Free Animal Camps" were successfully conducted to mark the World Animal Day at Community Centre, Robert Gunawardane Mawatha, Kirulapane and Community Centre, Siddhartha Passage, Kirulapane. The generous support given by drug companies and Nestle-Lanka Limited by supplying essential drugs and liquid milk packets (MILO) promoting liquid milk consumption was highly appreciated by the clients and the organizers as well. Coupled with this a mass vaccination camp against Rabies was also conducted.

These camps were well attended and around 400 companion animals were treated by the volunteer veterinarians, from Society of Companion Animal Practitioners and Colombo Municipal Council.

A CD on Vaccination Techniques on Poultry was presented to the Director General to mark the World Animal Day. Deputy Mayor of Colombo Municipal Council graced the occasion.

## 7th Annual General Meeting of All Island Poultry Association

The All Island Poultry Association of Sri Lanka held its 7th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 9th August 2003. Hon Minister for Livestock, Lands, Agriculture and Irrigation Mr. Dharmasiri Dassanayake officiated as the Chief Guest. Hon. Navis Fernando, Member Pradeshiyasba, and a Large number of poultry farmers



*Inauguration by lighting the traditional lamp.*

*L-R: Dr. S.K.R. Amarasekara, Hon. Dharmasiri Dassanayake, Hon. Navis Fernando, Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe and Dr. H.M. Chandrasoma*

from all over the country, officials of the Ministry of Livestock, Department of Animal Production & Health, field veterinarians and the President of SLVA, CVA Councillor and Regional Representative for Asia participated. The morning session was devoted to a technical session. The business session and the election of Board of Directors for the year 2003/2004 was held in the afternoon.

Dr. D.D. Wanasinghe a founder member of the Association and former CVA Councillor and RR Asia was elected unanimously, as the Chairman for the 7th consecutive time.

## Society of Companion Animal Practitioners of Sri Lanka formed

A Society of Companion Animal Practitioners (SCAP) was formed for the benefit and progress of companion animal practitioners focusing the improvement of the skills and knowledge of the members. It has successfully conducted several seminars and workshops for the acquisition of knowledge and skills with the help of local experts.

Series of Seminars on 'Continuing Education and related topics on Companion Animal Practice' were held on 7th March at Post Graduates Institute of Management, Borella. Dr. Douglas Bryden of Australia was the guest speaker and his presentations were "How to make a clinic an effective learning environment" and on "Approaches to clinical cases". Dr. Niranjala De Silva made a presentation on "Image Diagnosis in Veterinary Practice in Sri Lanka".

Series of Seminars and workshops were also organised with Dr. Jason Fusco, an orthopedic and soft tissue surgeon, of the Department of Surgery, The Animal Medical Centre, New York. Dr. Fusco is a diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Prof. V.K.Gunawardane and Dr. Niromi Jayasekara of FVMAS conducted lectures on Applied Anatomy and Dr. Fusco conducted lectures on Orthopedics, Basic instrumentation for orthopedics surgery, enteric nutrition, and surgical treatment of respiratory emergencies, wound management and minimally invasive surgeries.

An awareness programme and a seminar on Animal Welfare, Behaviour and Stray Dog Control with the assistance of World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) was held on the 6th of July 2003. Dr. Karen Thompson, Mr. Brian Faulkner and Ms. Charlotte Scott were the main speakers.

The following were elected as office bearers of the Society of Companion Practitioners for the year 2003/2004.

Dr. D.S.Kodikara	President
Dr. Janith Gunasekara	Secretary
Dr. Janaki Kollure	Treasurer
Dr. Nalinika Obeysekara	Education Officer

## SLVA News

SLVA organized several lectures under Transfer of Technology (TOT) programme.

First of this series was "Epidemiology and Immunopathology of Leishmaniasis in Central Eurasia" with the participation of two Japanese scientists, Prof. Y. Matsumoto and Dr. C. Sanjoba at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science on 8th August 2003.



*Prof. Yoshitsugu Matsumoto delivering his presentation*

Series of seminars were also organised at provincial level on "Avian Influenza and its Global Situation". Drs. P. Wijewantha, Assistant Director Poultry and Dr. Vasantha Rupasinghe, Veterinary Research Officer (Virology) were the resource personal. This seminar, the first of its kind, was held with the assistance of Western Provincial Dept. of AP&H at Welisara for Western Province Veterinarians on 11th September 2003.

## Continuing Education Programme in Sri Lanka

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA), in collaboration with Society of Small Animal Practitioners of Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka Veterinary Association, organised the WSAVA Continuing Education Programme on 3rd and 4th December, 2003 in Colombo. Dr. Gabriel Varga, President, WSAVA, Dr. Roger Clarke, Registered Veterinary Specialist in Small Animal Surgery, Australia and Dr. Remo Lobetti, Professor, Department of Companion Animal Clinical Studies, University of Pretoria, South Africa were the main speakers.

Dr. Gabriel Varga, spoke on the role of WSAVA and highlighted the benefits of membership of the World Association to the developing countries. This is the 10th year of the Continuing Education project of the WSAVA.

A seminar was organised jointly with the VETSCAN in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Animal Science for Veterinarians of Central province. VRI, DAP&H and FVMAS on "Database and Database Application on Livestock Management" by Dr. Mario Garcia from Peru.

## Sri Lankan Veterinarians visit India

A group of veterinarians led by Mrs. Herath, CVA Councillor/RR Asia, visited Kerala, India on a study tour for two weeks in November 2003. They had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the activities of successful Cross Breeding and Sire Evaluation programme in Kerala. The group visited Mattupathy Farm established in 1963. Valuable informations was received on Embryo Transfer, Sire Evaluation and Milk Recording System.

## Association of Retired Veterinarians, Past, Present & Future

The Retired Veterinarians Association was established in 1997 with eight founder members. Dr.S.B. Dhanapala, Dr P. Kulasekaram, Dr C.J. Arawawela, Dr R.A. Ranasinghe and Dr (Mrs) D. Abhayaratne with the main objective to act as a "Think Tank" and advise the Govt. or Non Govt. Organisations on Animal Welfare, Animal Health and Animal Production matters.

The following were elected as office bearers for the year 2003/2004. Dr. N.B. Ratnathunge, President; Dr. M. Kopalasundaram Vice President; Dr. J. I. Aponso, Secretary/Treasurer; Committee members are Dr. C.T. Janz, Dr.P. Pathmanadan, Dr. L.D.C. Gunawardana.

Dr. Nalinika Obeysekera the Academic advisor for the SCAP briefed the role of SCAP to the international delegates and stressed on the future participation of SCAP in WSAVA. The President SLVA in her introductory speech highlighted the importance of continued learning and the importance of individuals accepting the responsibility for their own improvement in order to raise the standards and the quality of the Veterinary profession in Sri Lanka. There was a significant participation of Companion Animal practitioners who were the members of SCAP and SLVA as well as local participants had a great opportunity to update their knowledge on small animal medicine and surgery and the SCAP look forward for further cooperation with WSAVA in the near future.

– Dr. (Mrs) Herath, President SLVA and RR, Asia

## Australasia/Oceania

### New AVA Media Officer

Ms. Jenny Palmer has been appointed as new AVA Media Officer at AVA. Jenny has Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees and recently completed a contract with TAFE NSW Western Sydney as its media and advertising officer, conducting media campaigns and writing and producing the annual report, internal newsletter and marketing brochures.



Jenny Palmer

Previously she was senior officer for public affairs and government relations with the State Rail Authority and community relations officers with the NSW Attorney General's Department. She also has experience as an adviser to a NSW State Member of Parliament.

Aust Vet J. Vol. 81. No. 9, September 2003

### New AVA House in Queensland

Building of the new AVA House in Sunnybank, Brisbane, is continuing apace and it is hoped that it will be ready by November.

Queensland Division President Dr Gaillie Perry said that the office was situated in an ideal location at the meeting of major arterial roads from the north, south and west.

"Parking will be ample for our needs, there are lots of trees, it is secure after hours - the gates are locked and visitors need to use an intercom to get in - and the completed buildings are very aesthetically pleasing", said Dr Perry. "Also, facilities for staff are good: they finally will have a well equipped kitchen cum tea-making area!"



QLD Division President Dr Gaillie Perry inspects construction of the new building

Aust Vet J. Vol. 81. No. 10, October 2003

## Animal Welfare issues addressed in South Pacific

Dr Mark Lawrie, AVA member and RSPCA NSW's Chief Veterinarian, has been seconded to the International Fund for Animal Welfare's Asia Pacific office for six months to work on projects in Korea and the South Pacific. One of Dr Lawrie's IFAW projects is to develop a template for animal welfare programs in developing nations, based on the situation in the South Pacific. This will encompass education, companion animal care and control, current and proposed projects in Samoa, the Cook Island, Tonga and French Polynesia could be developed.



Dr Mark Lawrie

He will use his experience in the fundamental aspects of animal welfare, such as desexing and

education, to advance the welfare of animals in the region. Dr Lawrie has been one of the leading animal welfare veterinarians in NSW for the past 10 years and is looking forward to the global challenges.

"Many island nations struggle to find the resources for things which are taken for granted in Australia", he said. "For example, veterinary resources, urban animal management and education about welfare and interaction management and education about welfare and interaction with animals.

"In our own country, despite an intrinsic love and appreciation for animals, we still have a challenge to help remote communities reach these same goals. But the benefits are there if we do. Teaching kindness to animals can have a positive impact on reducing conflict in many communities as well as promoting human and animal health".



Dr Lawrie believes the link between violence to animals and violence to people is a critical issue. It affects all societies. If children are taught kindness to animals, they will also show care to people, instead of being dragged into the cycle of crime and violence. "Examining the work happening in many places and blending the best practices in a culturally sensitive way can achieve great and small".

He recently travelled to Fiji, Samoa and Tonga and, as exotic as it sounds, he said it was hard work. "There are 110 veterinarians practising in the South Pacific. Not one practice is in Tonga where there is only one retired veterinarian and a lack of equipment".

"Countries like Tonga could benefit greatly from Australian veterinarians sharing their time, equipment and expertise".

One of the main issues confronting IFAW in the South Pacific is the large number of stray dogs. "Like Australians, people in Fiji or Samoa or Tonga get puppies because they are cute, but as we know puppies can grow up and become unwanted adult dogs", said Dr Lawrie.

"A lack of veterinarians, equipment and sometimes a lack of vehicles to transport stray compounds the problem". The solution is twofold - education about responsible pet ownership and animal welfare, and clinics for care and desexing.

Dr Lawrie hopes to create a database of volunteers who can focus on aid projects and volunteer their time and expertise for a few weeks each year.

Aust Vet J. Vol. 81. No. 11, November 2003

## Origin of SARS remains a Mystery

Work in China seems to indicate that farm animals were not implicated in the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome earlier this year and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation says the source of the SARS coronavirus remains obscure.

FAO's official statement was based on a report by Dr Laurie Gleeson, a senior Australian veterinarian and infectious diseases expert from CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory who visited China recently on a three-week mission to track down the possible source of the virus.

Dr Gleeson reviewed laboratory and field data obtained from animal sources - both domestic species and wildlife - by Chinese investigators during and after the massive spread of SARS among the human population in China. Identifying an animal reservoir would be of great importance for future prevention measures in China or elsewhere if such an association could be made.

He met with Chinese and other scientists investigating the SARS virus to help interpret their findings and recommend possible further studies. Chinese and Canadian researchers have sampled or tested more than 600 farm animals including chickens, ducks, pigs and rabbits, but have not detected evidence of SARS coronavirus infection.

"Based on preliminary laboratory testing, a number of animal species are under investigation

as a possible source for the virus, including the palm civet, racoon dog, a species of fruit bat, and one species of snake", Dr Gleeson said. "But we still don't know the original source as it is possible that these animals were exposed to the virus in the animal markets".



Dr Laurie Gleeson

Dr Gleeson recommended strengthening of epidemiological capability through targeted surveillance studies directed to animal populations in China that were considered to be at high risk of exposure to SARS virus. This would provide information on the roles played by certain animal species and ensure that they were included in an early warning system to detect renewed viral circulation.

His report stressed the urgent need to develop better diagnostic tests in animals and define relationship between the SARS virus isolated from humans and the slightly different virus isolated from animals. Stepped-up surveillance at farms and slaughter houses in China was also recommended.

A CSIRO spokeswoman said FAO and the World Health Organisation were exploring ways to follow up on the Gleeson recommendations for planning further studies that target livestock species in high-risk areas, and for standardising and validating laboratory tests for SARS virus in animals, to further the knowledge of SARS coronavirus.

Aust Vet J. Vol. 81. No. 10, October 2003

## Visit of President CVA to Timor-Leste (East Timor)

The newly elected President of CVA and Australasia/Oceania Regional Representative, Dr Robin Yarrow, made a 3 day visit to Timor-Leste in late October 2003. This followed the Executive Committee's decision in July, to invite Timor-Leste to become an Associate Member of the CVA.

The principal objective of the visit was to meet Timor-Leste veterinarians and to acquire first-hand knowledge of circumstances and priorities in the veterinary sector of Timor-Leste.

Dr. Yarrow's visit was greatly assisted and facilitated by veterinarian, Dr. Stephen Dunn, an Australian who serves as a Livestock Adviser to the



*Dr Robin Yarrow with Dr Stephen Dunn and 3 Timor-Leste veterinarians*



*Dr Robin Yarrow with local buffalo owners*

Ministry of Agriculture under a World Bank-funded Rehabilitation Project. Dr. Dunn also worked in Timor-Leste under an AusAID project during the period of Indonesian administration and is very familiar with development needs.

In addition to meeting 4 of the 5 qualified Timor-Leste Veterinarians, (one was away in Australia attending a training course) the Minister and senior officials of the Ministry were met. Discussions were also undertaken with staff of the National University. (One of the veterinarians also attended the recent Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in New Zealand under funding organised by the CVA.)

Timor-Leste has a land area of 18,000 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 800,000 (both are the same

as those of Fiji) and basically comprises one, fairly mountainous island. A substantial cattle and buffalo population of some 200,000 exists and there are also 50,000 goats and sheep. Village poultry are very common. Several representative farming areas were also visited, including the mountainous central area.

Timor-Leste is facing many constraints and various initiatives are in train to assist with developing and enhancing the livestock sector. The possibility of the CVA assisting with some modest support will be explored.

A more comprehensive article on Timor-Leste will be provided in the next CVA News.



*Dr Robin Yarrow with Bali cattle in the background at an elevation of 1000m above sea-level*

## Veterinary Services In Papua New Guinea\*

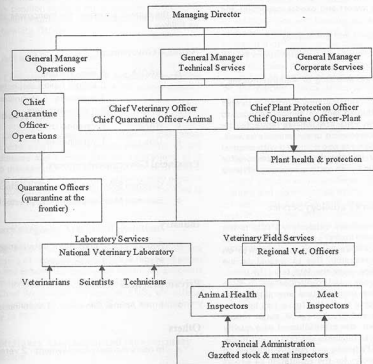
Dr Iligi Puana

CVA Councillor, Papua New Guinea  
Department of Agriculture and Livestock  
PO Box 2141, Boroko  
Papua New Guinea

The National Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA) is the veterinary authority and is responsible for the administration of veterinary services and regulations in Papua New Guinea. NAQIA is also the quarantine and plant health authority and was established in 1998 by act of Parliament as a statutory organisation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MOA&L). The Authority operates on a cost-recovery policy for its operation.

The Structural organisation of the NAQIA veterinary unit as shown above, is composed of two functional units; the Field Veterinary Services (VFS) and the Diagnostic Pathology Services of the National Veterinary Laboratory (INVL). The Chief Veterinary Officer is the operational head of the veterinary services and holds the official title of the Chief Veterinary Officer of Papua New Guinea and is responsible for the administration and management of national animal health programs,

Table 1: Organisational Structure of NAQIA



\* Paper presented at, and published in the Proceedings of the Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2003, Wellington, New Zealand. pp 166-170. Editor, S. Abdul Rahman

veterinary regulations as well as the technical advisor in matters relating to veterinary and animal quarantine.

### Field Veterinary Services

NAQIA veterinary field offices are located in Port Moresby, Lae and Goroka to cover activities in the regions. These offices are equipped with clinics and are staffed by veterinarians and support staff comprising Animal Health Inspectors or stock inspectors and meat inspectors depending on the livestock activities of the regions. These offices are responsible for the day-to-day implementation and management of regional and provincial animal health and quarantine programs. It is planned that a fourth regional office will be established in Kimbe or Rabaul to service the Island regions in the north.

In general VFS is responsible for :

- o Farm health services - clinical services
- o Disease investigations
- o Disease surveillance and monitoring
- o Live animal import and export inspection and certification
- o Disease control and eradication
- o Veterinary public health-meat inspection services
- o Inspection and licensing of slaughterhouses

VFS activities are predominately directed at farmed animals, however, due to lack of clinical services to companion animals in PNG, NAQIA has redirected its services to include companion or pet animals as well. As such regional clinics are also equipped with surgical facilities and supplies. It is also the authority responsible for all veterinary public health matters including advisory and policies.

### Diagnostic Veterinary Pathology Service

The National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL) is the only veterinary laboratory established in PNG. Established in early 1960s its primary focus was on both diagnostic and research. Due to gradual decline in professional staffing over the last ten (10) years, the focus has been redirected to diagnostics. In more recent times and due to continued unavailability of appropriate professional staff, the focus has been on disease surveillance and monitoring. A major recent achievement has been, the establishment of a quality assurance laboratory to facilitate seafood export trade. The latter is a joint Fisheries and NAQIA initiative to developing NVL capacity for the facilitation of export testing and certification requirement for the highly competitive seafood export market to EU.

Attempts are been made in recent times to secure off-shore funded project to re-establish NVL's full operational capacity including professional manpower resource development and technology transfer. Currently a research project in establishing the pathogenesis of the newly discovered *Trichinella* species, *trichinella papuae*, is underway under ACIAR funding.

### Manpower capacity

The Government veterinary service in its current set up has a capacity to employ 7 veterinarians, 8 stock inspectors or animal health inspectors and 10 meat inspectors in the VFS and 5 veterinarians, 5 scientists and 7 technicians in the National Veterinary laboratory. In an ideal situation, the Government veterinary service would have a manpower strength of 12 veterinarians, 8 stock inspectors, 5 scientist, 10 meat inspectors and 7 technicians, a total of 35 officers to provide somewhat sufficient service to the livestock industry in PNG. However, the way things are heading, PNG would probably never achieved such a strength.

In the current situation, the manpower strength is as follows:

#### National Government

- o NAQIA - 5 veterinarians  
3 animal health inspectors  
3 scientists, 4 technicians, and  
8 meat inspectors.
- o NARI - 1 veterinarian
- o DAL - 1 veterinarian

#### Provincial Government support

- o Gazetted Stock Inspectors - 20 livestock officers
- o Gazetted Meat Inspectors - 10 livestock officers

#### Industry

- o Poultry - 2 consultant veterinarians
- o Pig - 3 veterinarians

#### Private practices

- o Small Animal Clinic - 1 veterinarian

#### Others

- o In non veterinary employment - 2 veterinarians

The current veterinary manpower strength in Papua New Guinea stands at 14 veterinarians, 3 Laboratory

Scientists, 4 Laboratory Technicians, 23 Stock Inspectors and 18 Meat Inspectors.

### Animal Regulations

NAQIA as the veterinary administration and authority in PNG is responsible for the implementation of the following animal health regulations:

#### Animal Disease & Control Act and Regulations

This Law regulates identification, reporting and control of animal transmitted diseases which are categorised as Notifiable diseases in PNG, most of which are exotic to PNG. The mandatory position of Chief Stock Inspector responsible for the implementation of the Law is officially held by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

#### Slaughtering Act and Regulations

This Law regulates licensing of slaughterhouses, slaughtering and hygienic preparation of carcasses. The mandatory position of Chief Meat Inspector responsible for the implementation of this regulation is held by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

#### Animal Act and Regulations

This Law regulates livestock brands, trespassing and classification of noxious and feral animal status.

#### Quarantine Act and Regulation

This Law regulates importation of animal and animal products and overlaps with some provisions of the Animal disease and control Act and regulations as it relates to disease prevention through control of animal and animal product importation. The mandatory position of Chief Quarantine Officer (Animal) under the Law is officially held by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

#### Veterinary surgeons Acts and Regulation

Registration and ethical conduct of veterinarians and licensing of veterinary facilities are regulated under this Law and is administered by the Veterinary Surgeons Board established under the Law whose Chairmanship is the Chief Veterinary Officer of PNG, an official position established under NAQIA as the veterinary authority in PNG.

#### PNG Veterinary Association and the veterinary profession

The history of PNG Veterinary Association dates back as far back as early 1970s, however, the available

records are very vague as to the actual date of its inception and its membership status and activities. During those days, the Association Members were predominately Government veterinarians. With the almost mass departure of predominately expatriate vets after independence in 1995, the Association gradually disintegrated and was insolvent for the larger part of the early post-independence era. In 1996, the Association was re-established with a small Membership of about 6 veterinarians at the time. However, since the departure of the President and the Secretary in 1998 and 1999 respectively, the Association was further put in limbo as a result of non quorum and has really not got off on its feet since then. The usual high turnover rate of expatriate vets and presence of a very few national vets (three in total) exacerbated by the lack of self funding capacity of the Association as well as the high cost of travel in PNG has contributed immensely to the inability of the Association to meet regularly. The current situation is that the activities of the PNGVA are overseen by NAQIA veterinary unit through the CVA Councillor and the 5 regional veterinary officers in the system who are members. Recent attempts to re-vitalise the Association have not received positive response from veterinarians outside of NAQIA. Poor self funding ability of the Association and the widely scattered few veterinarians in PNG makes it a difficult task in organising a meeting place that is convenient for everyone concerned. As a result, the Veterinary Association in PNG has not really got on its feet to contribute to the development and impact on the current status of the veterinary profession in PNG.

In spite of this situation, the government and industry veterinary programs have contributed significantly in their efforts to achieving and maintaining a very healthy animal population status quo through an effective bio-security and disease surveillance and control and quarantine strategies. The viable commercial poultry and pig industries in PNG have been as a result of sound bio-security and disease control strategies put in place by their veterinary departments. The veterinarians have played significant roles in the viability of these industries in PNG, attributes which are highly acknowledged within the industry.

However, despite these achievements, the vet profession, has and does not get the same status recognition that is accorded to the medical profession and continues to suffer the injustice of being in the lower category of the Government priority list of budgetary support and improvement including veterinary training policy. With no undergraduate veterinary training scheme for nationals in place, a responsibility which is invested in the Department of Agriculture and Livestock, the profession in PNG will continue to rely on expat vets for more years to come.

## Canada Caribbean

### Meeting of the International Veterinary Officers Council (IVOC)

The International Veterinary Officers Council (IVOC) held its 5th meeting in Chicago on May 9 and 10, 2003. The United States, Great Britain, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand (as observer) were presented by the President and Executive Director of their respective veterinary associations. The purpose of the IVOC is to promote dialogue and collaboration among the chief elected and chief executive officers of a small number of national veterinary associations with a view to harmonising policies and optimising resources.



L-R: Dr Bruce Little, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA); Ms. Henrietta Alderman, British Veterinary Association (BVA); Dr Murray Gibbs, New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA); Dr Jo Toia, Australian Veterinary Association (AVA); Dr Peter Jinman, BVA; Dr Joe Howell, AVMA; Dr Jost am Rhyen, CVMA; Dr Jeanne Lofstedt, CVMA; Ms Margaret Conley, AVA.

The extensive agenda of this past meeting included discussions on veterinary education, food safety, economics of the profession, animal welfare, membership development and retention, quality assurance programs managed by associations, and outcome assessment of various association member programs. Holding the meeting in Chicago allowed the participants to be introduced to the American veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) headquarters and its staff, in Schaumburg.

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### New Chair of the National Examining Board

Effective from 1 January 2003, Dr Sylvie Latour became Chair of the National Examining Board (NEB), and her first meeting in this position took place on March 29, 2003. Dr Latour, who graduated from the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire of the University of Montréal in 1983, had been the Québec representative on the NEB for close to 5 years. During this time, she participated in numerous veterinary school accreditation site visits and made important contributions to the work of the NEB.



Dr Sylvie Latour

Can Vet J. Vol. 44, July 2003

### New Regional Representative of Canada/Caribbean Region

Dr Collin Boyle, CVA Councillor of St. Vincent has been elected as the new Regional Representative of Canada/Caribbean Region of the CVA with effect from 1.1.2004.



Dr Collin Boyle

Dr Boyle graduated in 1986 with a degree in Veterinary Medicine at the Higher Institute of Agrarian Science, Havana, Cuba. He was earlier awarded a Diploma in Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health from Regional Programme for Animal Health Assistants (REPAHA), Guyana.

He started his career with the Agricultural Department, Regional Administration, Linden, Guyana as an Animal Health Assistant in 1983. In 1993, he joined the Division of Ministry of Agriculture and Labour, St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a Veterinary Officer and he was promoted as Chief Veterinary Officer in 1996. In 2001, he was appointed as the Managing Director, Unique Animal Care Co. Ltd.

He is a member of the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association, American Veterinary Medical Association and is the President Elect of Rotary Club of St. Vincent.

## The Veterinary Profession In Guyana\*

*Dr Veronica E. Burnham*

*CVA Councillor, Guyana  
121, Regent Road, Bourda, Georgetown  
Guyana*

The delivery of veterinary services by qualified veterinarians in the eighty three thousand (83,000) square mile territory that is Guyana, the only English speaking country in South America, can be traced to the 1950's. During this period, the country was a colony under British rule forming part of the West Indies and known as British Guiana. The country's agricultural base was sugar and rice but there was a thriving cattle industry in the north of the country, close to its border with neighbouring Brazil. Beef was never in short supply. The domestic rearing of dairy and beef cattle on the outskirts of the capital city and along the countryside was common.

Most practitioners in this early period were employed by the Government. The other significant employer was the United Kingdom based Booker group of companies whose investments in the country spanned most sectors and at one time accounted for well over sixty percent (60%) of the economy. Few, if any, were in private practice.

As the country developed and in more recent times, veterinarians have increasingly been involved in the management of the Government's regulatory and development programmes in the ten (10) administrative regions of the country. More specifically they work out of the Veterinary Support Services Unit of the Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock, the public health unit of the Ministry of Health, the National Dairy Development Programme (NDDP) and the Wildlife Management Unit, all government or quasi government entities. Some have found a home in academia occupying teaching, research and even administrative positions at the University of Guyana (UG), the Guyana School of Agriculture and the Regional Educational Programme for Animal Health Assistants (REPAHA). At least one has always been attached to or employed directly by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), an international organisation based in Guyana. Large private food processors, mainly in the chicken and fish industries, also provide employment. A limited number maintain private practices specialising in small animal care, mainly dogs and cats.

While most vets actually work within the discipline, the profession has been blessed with a number of

persons whose contributions and service have gone well beyond its confines and into the wider social realm. Some have served as Ministers of Government and at one time even as Prime Minister. The current Chairman of the Elections Commission was nominated and appointed to this office while still a practicing veterinarian. These are just a few notable examples of the range of service. Of significance here too is the fact that all of these persons who were elevated to service in the wider society first served as officers of the Guyana Veterinary Association.

Veterinary practice, like most other professions, was a male dominated profession from its very inception. However, females started to enter the profession from the early 1980's bringing new and invigorating perspectives to the practice. Today, nearly twenty percent (20%) of the members of the profession are female.

The Guyana Veterinary Association (GVA) was formed by the early British Colonial Service Officers. The current constitution used to guide its activities was ratified in August 1990. The work of the association is coordinated by an executive which comprises a president, secretary, treasurer, a CVA councillor and two (2) committee members. Positions can be held for a maximum of two years. The records indicate that there have been at least twenty-two leadership cycles and twenty different persons have served as president.

As an association the GVA has gone through cycles of activity and inactivity even as its membership grew. This pattern may be a reflection of the prevailing economic, social and political climate of the country. The most vibrant period was in the 1990's by which time, incidentally, the number of female members had increased significantly. During this period, most of the work of the GVA was service and outreach oriented while continuing education programmes for members were pursued. Among its activities there have been annual dog shows and public education programmes on animal health and care. The radio, television, and print media have all been utilised in the execution of the latter programmes. Special programmes have also been mounted when data suggested that a disease outbreak may be imminent. These have primarily involved the offering of free consultative and treatment

\* Paper presented at, and published in the Proceedings of the Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2003, Wellington, New Zealand, pp 190-191. Editor, S. Abdul Rahman

services to the public during the critical period for the threatened disease. The GVA has also enjoyed the privilege of and has successfully hosted the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association (CbVMA) congress twice, once in 1988 and then again in 1998.

The profession, and as a consequence the GVA, has been hard hit in recent times by the stark conditions of the country. Where in 1998 there were 44 practitioners, there are only 26 in Guyana at this time. Of this number not more than 12 remain in the Government service. The fact is that low morale and dismal remuneration packages in the public sector in an environment of social and political instability has gnawed away at the souls of the professionals. Migration from the senior ranks of the profession is now commonplace. The resultant effect of this situation is that there has been an upsurge of animal technicians and quacks providing services to animal owners without the appropriate veterinary supervision.

While this situation cries out for a firm regulatory response from the GVA, the organisation has been itself weakened by the same issues which gave rise to the situation in the first place. This notwithstanding, efforts are currently underway to revitalise the Guyana Veterinary Association and the results of these should soon be evident.

The current Regional Representative (Caribbean - Canada Region) has been very active in the GVA since the early 1990's. She served in several leadership positions including secretary, treasurer, president and CVA Councillor. At the request of the CVA executive she agreed to serve as the interim Regional Representative until elections are held.

### Rabies in Latvia

May 2004 will change many things in Europe, including the incidence of rabies within the EU. Take Latvia, one of the 10 accession countries that will join the EU on May day. It reports about 500 cases of rabies annually. The most common carriers are wild foxes and raccoon dogs. Although every year more than 8,000 people need emergency vaccination after contact with suspected carriers, people have not died from rabies since 1993.

Sadly, that changed last summer. A man was bitten by a dog at the end of June. The dog died soon after. The man became sick at the end of July and, delirious, was taken to hospital. For a while the doctors suspected BSE, as Latvia had recently had its first case of mad cows disease. However, the patient died in August, and rabies was confirmed in autopsy.

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### New President of CVMA

Dr. Duane Landals was sworn in as the 57th President of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association at its Annual Convention in Winnipeg in July 2003.



Dr. Duane Landals was the Registrar of Alberta Veterinary Medical Association and owns a two clinic practice in rural Alberta. He obtained his bachelors degree in Agriculture at the University of Alberta and a DVM from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 1975.



Dr. Jeanne Lofstedt, the outgoing President handed over the Presidential Chain of Office to Dr Duane Landals at the convention.

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### Rabies in Europe

Officially rabies-free European countries include UK, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Ireland, Finland and Switzerland. Yes, Switzerland, a country that shares borders with France, Germany and Austria, all with continually endemic rabies.

Freedom from rabies is not, however, absolute. Recently a family found and adopted a stray dog close to Geneva. After a month the puppy started to act strangely. It was killed and diagnosed with rabies. Vets suspect the dog had crossed the French border.

Fearing the loss of their rabies-free status, the Swiss were quick to point out that Greece and Italy are also considered free of the disease, although isolated cases are diagnosed in the border areas of the countries and promptly declared "foreign strays".

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## East, Central and Southern Africa

### Malawi

#### New CVA Council Member of Malawi

Dr Edwin M.S. Nkhulungo is the new Council Member of Malawi. He replaces Dr Patrick Chikungwa.

Dr Nkhulungo obtained his Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) degree in 2002 after his Bachelors of Science in Agriculture (BSc Agri) degree in 1992.

He has published many papers in Nutrition and Pathology. He is now employed in Shire Valley ADD (Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation) as Animal Health and Livestock Development Officer.

#### Scientific Conference of MVA

The Malawi Veterinary Association successfully conducted its 2003 Scientific Conference and Annual General Meeting on 5th – 6th September, 2003 in Lilongwe. It was a very successful conference as it tackled important issues pertaining to Veterinary Profession in the country. Dr P.B. Chikungwa (former CVA Councillor) presented highlights of the Third Pan Commonwealth Conference which took place in Wellington, New Zealand. The issue of Animal Welfare as global perception was discussed. The Association has since formed a committee to start looking at welfare issues in depth. A new Executive was elected at the AGM.

<b>Chairperson</b>	Dr (Mrs.) L. Karim
<b>Secretary</b>	Dr K. Mkandawire
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dr Joseph Nkhoma
<b>Finance Committee Members</b>	
	Dr G. Wanda
	Dr G.B Matita
<b>CVA Councillor</b>	Dr Edwin Nkhulungo

The Animal Welfare Committee will be chaired by Dr Grey Matita who is also the Deputy Director of Animal Health & Livestock Development responsible for field services who will continue to furnish an update of MVA activities in due course.

**Dr Patrick Chikungwa**  
Outgoing CVA Councillor  
Malawi Veterinary Association

### Mauritius

#### New CVA Council Member of Mauritius

The Executive Committee of Mauritius Veterinary Association (MVA) has appointed Dr Jusrut Devkaramaschand, as the new CVA Councillor effective for 2003/2004.



*Dr D.K.C. Jusrut*

At the Annual General Meeting of the Mauritius Veterinary Association on the 25th September 2003, elections of the office bearers for the session 2003- 2004 were held. The following were elected.

<b>President</b>	Dr Mamode Mahomed Ismet
<b>Secretary</b>	Dr Jusrut Devkaramaschand
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dr Meenowa Deodass
<b>Members</b>	Dr Goodoyal Vidya Bhushan Dr Ramchurn Ramdeo

## Kenya

### New CVA Council Member of Kenya

The Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA) Executive has appointed Dr JKN Kuria, as the new CVA Councillor effective for 2003/2004.

Dr Joseph KN Kuria graduated from the University of Nairobi in 1985 and obtained his degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and a Master of Science (MSc) in Veterinary Immunology in 1985 and a Ph.D in Veterinary Microbiology from the same institution in 1995.



*Dr Joseph K N Kuria*

Currently he is working as a senior lecturer in the Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Nairobi. He is involved in teaching and research in Microbiology, Immunology and Poultry diseases.

He has been a member of the Kenya Veterinary Association Executive Committee and worked in various positions.

## South Africa

### New President of SAVA

Prof. Banie Penzhorn has been elected as the new President of South Africa Veterinary Association. He replaces Dr Gary Bauer.



*Prof. Banie Penzhorn*



*Dr Sylvester Nokuthula Ntsiki  
(Young Veterinarian of the  
Year Award)*



*Dr Paul Bland van den Berg  
(Hon. Life President of the  
SAVA)*

### SAVA Awards 2003



*Dr Robert Douglas Sykes  
(Hon. Life Vice President of  
the SAVA)*

At the Annual Meeting of SAVA for the year 2003, the following were honoured with various awards in recognition of their services.



*Dr Roy Gordon Bengis  
(President's Award)*



*Dr Johannes Petrus Schoeman  
(Kliniese Toekenning)*

## Country Report: Zambia\*

*Dr Dominic Minyoi*

*CVA Councillor, Zambia*

*Department of Research & Specialist Services  
Animal Production & Health, PO Box 50060, Lusaka  
Zambia*

### Introduction

Zambia is a landlocked south-central country (centrally located between the equator & the southernmost point of Africa) with geographic coordinates: 15 00 S, 30 00 E) sharing borders with Angola, Namibia & Botswana in the West, Malawi & Mozambique in the East, Tanzania & DR Congo in the North and Zimbabwe in the South. The country has a territory of 752,620 square kilometers and lying on a plateau ranging from 900m to 1,500m above sea level.

The population is estimated to be 10,214 million (Central Statistical Office, 2000). The majority of the people 60.4% live in the rural areas. The annual growth rate is 2.0% for the period 1990-2000, while the population density is 13.8 inhabitants/square kilometer. Administratively, Zambia is divided into nine provinces with 72 districts.

The country has a sub-tropical climate and vegetation. It has a warm-wet season stretching from November and April during which 95% of the annual precipitation falls; a cool dry winter season from May to August with temperatures varying between 15°C and 27°C & a hot-dry season prevailing during September and October with average maximum temperatures of 27°C to 32°C. The annual rainfall varies from 1270mm in the North with a wet season of 180 to 190 days to 800mm-1000mm in the Central with a wet season of 160-180 days and the South/South-western areas of low rainfall (below 800mm) with a wet season of 120-130 days.

### Main Domestic Animals

Species	Sector	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Bovine	Commercial	747,538	841,409	870,658	912,000	1,200,000
	Traditional	1,815,303	1,859,043	1,905,519	1,767,377	1,704,880
Sheep	Traditional	77,746	75,245	79,567	72,083	93,707
Goats	Traditional	758,870	718,063	919,121	953,757	1,335,260
Poultry	Commercial	7,000,000	10,000,000	16,000,000	20,000,000	30,000,000
	Traditional	10,000,000	10,300,000	10,400,000	12,369,000	15,344,600

### Meat Production Trend (millions of kg)

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Beef	14.3	17.4	19.8	21.2	22.5
Chicken (meat)	11.0	17.5	19.0	20.5	22.2
Pork	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.1	1.2

### Milk Trade (million litres)

Sector/Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Commercial (Dairy)	64.6	68	71.4	74.97	78.7
Emergent Dairy	12.3	12.8	13.3	13.965	14.7
Traditional Dairy	36.6	37.8	38.9	40.845	42.9
Total	113.5	118.6	123.6	129.78	136.3

### The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

The Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperatives in Zambia comprises the following: The Hon. Minister of Agriculture & Cooperatives supported by two Deputy Ministers, as shown below. The Department of Research & Specialist Services comprising the Soils and Crops Research Branch, Fisheries Research Branch and Animal Production & Health Branch is now undergoing a change to the Department of Veterinary and Livestock Development. The foregoing means that the Fisheries Research Branch shall be called the

\* Paper presented at, and published in the Proceedings of the Third Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference, 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2003, Wellington, New Zealand. pp 225-230. Editor, S. Abdul Rahman

Department of Fisheries while the Soils & Crops Research Branch becomes the Zambia Agricultural Research Institute, each to be headed by a Director. The new structure of the Ministry is as follows:

Hon. Minister of Agriculture & Cooperatives.

- ↳ Deputy Minister (Agriculture) Deputy Minister (Cooperatives)
- ↳ Permanent Secretary (Agriculture) Permanent Secretary (Cooperatives)

There are seven Directors namely:

- \* Agriculture
- \* Planning & Cooperatives
- \* Veterinary & Livestock Development
- \* Fisheries
- \* Human Resources & Administration
- \* Agricultural Research Institute, and
- \* Seed Control & Certification Institute.

Under the Director of the Department of Veterinary & Livestock Development there are three deputy directors namely:

- \* Veterinary Services
- \* Research & Information
- \* Livestock Development

The seven chiefs are: Chief Veterinary Officer, Chief Tsetse & Ecology Officer, Chief Research Officer, Chief Epidemio-surveillance & Information Officer, Chief Livestock Production Research Officer, Chief Livestock Production Extension Officer and Chief Livestock Products Officer.

The Department, in line with the liberalisation of livestock services in Zambia, has revisited its roles such that its core function shall be mainly regulatory with the rest being shed off to the private sector. For this reason, there is a Private Sector Development Unit that facilitates Veterinary Private Practice growth. Under the Chief Veterinary Officer are three units dealing with Public Health, Disease Control & Regulation and Control headed by Principal Veterinary Officers. Under Public Health there are two sections, Food Products and Zoonoses. Under Disease Control, there are three sections, Disease Control, TAD Surveillance & Control and Wildlife Interface. Under Regulation and Control, there are Quarantine & Certification as well as Jurisprudence. The foregoing are headed by Senior Veterinary Officers. There is the Tsetse and Ecology Branch, with Principals and Senior Biologists, Veterinary Research Branch dealing

with Microbiology, Parasitology, Pathology and Laboratory Services, Biochemistry & Toxicology as well as Vaccine Production headed by Principal and Senior Veterinary Officers. The Epidemiology Unit shall comprise an Epidemio-surveillance Officer and an Information Officer at Principal Veterinary Officer Levels the two shall be assisted by Senior Veterinary Officers.

### Disease Situation

Zambia has been experiencing outbreaks of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia in the Western and Northwestern provinces. In the Western Province, CBPP cases have been recorded in Mongu, Senanga, Kalabo and Lukulu. In the latter, 22,249 cattle were vaccinated. Close to 4,000 cattle have died in the past year and over 160,000 cattle were vaccinated by the public sector. In the Northwestern province, CBPP cases have been reported in Zambezi, Chavuma, Kabompo and Mwinilunga where over 350 cattle have died due to CBPP. Public sector vaccinations were carried out last year between August and October and a total of 36,555 cattle were covered. The outbreak in the Western province was attributed to the influx of refugees from neighbouring Angola who fled that country at the height of the civil war in February 2000. Through illegal cattle trade, the disease spread to Zambezi district in the Northwestern province where cattle trade and ox-drawn carts disseminated it to the neighbouring districts of Chavuma, Kabompo & Mwinilunga. Early this year, CBPP were reported in Mufumbwe district which borders Kabompo in which 884 cattle were vaccinated this year. Anthrax was reported in the Eastern province in South Luangwa National Park causing the death of 250 Hippos and 4 buffaloes in 2002. In the Western province, 25 people died after consuming meat from carcasses contaminated with anthrax in Sesheke, Senanga, Mongu and Kapama districts.

African Swine Fever, which is considered endemic in the Eastern Zambia near Malawi & Mozambique, broke out in Lusaka and the Kafue districts of Lusaka province in 2002. The outbreak was traced back to Southern Zambia where backyard pigs had died in large numbers forcing poor farmers into making hasty sales to the capital city's processing plants. In the Southern province, ASF was reported in Mazabuka, Namwala, Monze & Choma districts. Control measures included the test slaughter of all pigs in the affected establishment, quarantine and subsequent disinfection of the plants and closure. Serological testing of pigs in the Southern province was done along with vigorous sensitisation campaigns.

Newcastle disease has been reported mainly from commercial poultry establishments in Lusaka and a stamping out policy was employed. In the provinces, cases of Newcastle disease have been reported and vaccinations using Lasota were done at farmers' cost. The prevention of *trypanosomiasis* is being carried out using the private sector in target deployment. Tsetse surveys are being carried out especially in the Eastern, Western and Southern Zambia.

Rabies cases are on the increase along the line of rail with aberrant cases in some rural areas. Six human contacts died in Mwiniluga in the Northwestern province in 2002 out of 27 dog bite cases. In the Southern Zambia, rabies was reported in Gwembe, Monze, Choma and Namwala districts. A total of 320 dog bite cases were recorded with four deaths among humans. In the Central province, rabies has been reported in Mumbwa and Serenje with 22 human contacts and one death.

#### Other scheduled diseases that occur in the country include

**East Coast Fever:** This is a big threat to the livestock industry in the Northern province, Eastern, Central and Southern provinces. The disease has a more devastating effect in the southern part of the country where significant numbers of cattle have died due to the disease popularly known as Corridor disease. Currently control measures include vector control using acaricides and immunisation using local stabilates. Curative methods are also being utilised using Butalex. *Black-quarter*, *Haemorrhagic septicaemia*, *anaplasmosis*, *heartwater*, *streptothricosis* and *babesiosis* are encountered at endemic levels. Routine vaccination is employed in the control of black-quarter & pasteurellosis, while curative methods are used for streptothricosis. Dipping is advocated for the control of heartwater & babesiosis.

#### Constraints

The Department of Veterinary and Livestock Development is severely hampered by inadequate transport at camp level (motor cycles) and vehicles at district level making it difficult to effectively execute disease control programmes. The other constraint is lack of communication equipment (radio system) to enable far-flung camps relay their reports promptly.

Availability of funds on time is another setback such that quick reaction to emergencies is usually hard to achieve. The porosity of the Cordon Sanitaire between Zambia and Angola is another source of worry but recently

the Government has allocated ZMK3.4bn for the rehabilitation of the Cordon Line and quarantine facilities.

The restructuring process in the Ministry has taken long and most vacant camps cannot be filled until this exercise is over. Cold storage facilities are lacking in the camps for the transfer of vaccines from camp to operational areas and storage thereof.

The control of trans-boundary diseases is now being contracted out to private veterinarians (mass vaccinations) and a Pilot Sanitary Mandate will soon be in place for the control of Foot and Mouth Disease. Paravets are being encouraged to go into private service (delivery of veterinary services). Most Tsetse control operations are being carried out by the private sector; the public sector has been confined to monitoring and regulation.

The Department has since initiated the Livestock Development Trust which though private sector driven, was kick-started by the government. The Department from time to time renders financial assistance to the Veterinary Association of Zambia to assist in the hosting of Annual General Meetings and other fund raising ventures.

#### The Veterinary Association Of Zambia

The Veterinary Association of Zambia (VAZ) is one of the oldest Associations in the country. It was formed in 1948 with only 5 veterinarians. Now the number of veterinarians in the country has increased to 180, and the Association has a membership of over 100.

The objectives of VAZ are as follows:

1. To promote within Zambia, the interest of the Veterinary Profession, allied sciences and animal welfare.
2. To maintain the status and traditional ethics of the profession.
3. To facilitate the dissemination of the professional knowledge and information and encourage the interchange of ideas on and discussion of subjects of common interest.
4. To encourage and assist persons in Zambia desirous of acquiring veterinary professional qualifications.
5. To encourage and assist Government in the preparation of legislation on matters relating to the veterinary profession.

- To ascertain and declare the corporate opinion of members in such quarters as it is deemed from time to time to be desirable and make or support representation to Government and other appropriate bodies on questions affecting the profession.
- To encourage good relations and understanding between members and the public.

The Association has over the years tried to meet the above objectives with some difficulties due to a weak financial base. The Association at the moment is involved in advocating the improvement of veterinary legislation. Draft legislation has already been handed over to Government and it is hoped that it will be passed as law in the near future. The Association has been also been involved in community activities. Last year, it donated several hundred doses of anti-rabies vaccines to districts where there were rabies outbreaks. Through funding from the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, the Association is running a Goat Project in Batoka, with poor rural women trying to improve their livelihood.

#### The Role of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association Councillor

The CVA Councillor's role is that of advocacy for the members of the Association and the Veterinary profession in general. As CVA Councillor, I have to source support for the Association to carry out certain activities that may be beyond the current budget, assist young graduates in furthering their studies as well as in finding employment in the Civil Service through lobbying for vacancies. I am the link between my Association and the Regional Representative and also the conduit for communication with the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and at times the World Veterinary Association through the Commonwealth Veterinary Association.

- One is happy as a result of one's own efforts. Once one knows the necessary ingredients of happiness - simple tastes, a certain degree of courage, self denial to a point, love of work, and above all, a clear conscience, happiness is no vague dream, of that, I now feel certain.*

— George Sand, 1860

## One man's medicine is another man's poison

The humble steroid oestradiol has become a chip in the big game of international trade. Years ago, when the EU first banned oestradiol 17-beta, testosterone, progesterone and a few steroid analogues as growth promoters, the US and Canada interpreted this as an illegal barrier to trade.

The EU countered that the ban was scientifically justified as steroid growth promoters place consumers at risk. Therefore, no hormone-treated meat should cross the EU borders. Outraged, the Americans sued. The World Trade Organisation agreed with them and allowed heavy penalties on European exported goods. A circle of appeals followed. Americans lampooned the fear of oestradiol as a carcinogen by calculating what astronomical quantities of the deadly stuff a breakfast egg contains, not to mention each woman.

The anti-steroid stand in Europe is far from united. The European Parliament, often considered the most populist of European organs, is vehemently opposed to steroid growth promoters. Many veterinary experts disagree. EU's committee for veterinary medicinal products dismissed the fear as alarmist. According to its experts, the genotoxicity and carcinogenicity of oestradiol are insignificant in the concentrations concerned. Just like oxygen and selenium, steroids are essential in physiological concentrations but toxic when taken in excess. The problem is that as long as substance is considered carcinogenic no MRL (minimum risk level) value can be set.

The EU has allowed oestradiol to be used in limited veterinary treatments despite protests from the European Parliament and consumer advocates. This will change in a few years when an absolute ban is expected. Vets are wondering if prostaglandins are a valid replacement for oestradiol in the treatment of bovine metritis. In oestrus synchronisation, removal of the oestradiol capsule from the progesterone-releasing intravaginal device will necessitate extra shots of prostaglandins to bring cows into simultaneous heat. This is the price paid for keeping American (and perhaps Australian) beef off our tables.

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## West Africa

### Gambia

## Report of the CVA Regional Workshop on Swine Fever

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association Workshop on "Harmonising the Control of African Swine Fever in the West Africa Sub-Region" was held at Bijilo Beach Hotel, Banjul Gambia from 13th to 15th October 2003

### Introduction

According to available information, the pig population in West Africa is about 20,500,000. Extensive free-range pigs rearing is of increasing importance to subsistence village farming in the sub-region. Owners of these pigs are mostly women farmers and they play a major role in the feeding and management of these animals.

During the last 10 years, small commercial pig farms have come up in peri-urban areas in parts of West Africa.

The recognition of pigs as a short cycle species is increasing and their significance in assuring food security especially for the rural poor is being recognized.

Outbreaks of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Ivory Coast (1996), Benin (1997), Togo, Nigerian, and Cape Verde Island (1998), Ghana (1999) have occurred on a regular basis. In the Gambia (2000), the virus has decimated most commercial pig farms as well as those on free range. This has thus posed a big threat to the food security of the rural poor whose livelihood depends on the pig industry.

Following the epidemics 95% mortalities have been recorded and various steps taken by individual countries to salvage the pig industry. Ghana used the "stamping out" method where all pigs within the outbreak area were humanely destroyed and farmers compensated. Disease surveillance zones

were then created around the outbreak areas. Those countries, which could not afford the financial cost of compensation, left the decision to the farmers (i.e. destroyed or wait for the disease to kill).

The workshop was therefore organised to discuss the ASF disease and find ways of harmonising the control of ASF in the West African Sub-Region.

### The ASF Workshop

The CVA workshop was attended by participants from Ghana and The Gambia. It was hosted by The Gambia Veterinary Association and sponsored by Commonwealth Veterinary Association. 42 participants from Ghana and Gambia attended the 3-day intensive workshop.

Among the dignitaries who attended the workshop were the Director General of the International Trypanotolerance Center, Dr. Kwaku Agyemang, the FAO country representation, Dr. Heimo Mikkola, Veterinarians, Scientist, Researchers, farmers, representatives of Pig Farmers Association and Veterinary Assistants.

### Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was a colourful one which started with the welcome address by the President of The Gambia Veterinary Association, Dr. Badara Loum. The Director, Department of Livestock Services gave an opening statement. The CVA Regional Representative for West Africa, Dr. Richard Suu-Ire gave an overview of CVA and its activities. He read out a special message from the President of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, Dr. Bert Stevenson.



Dr EN Barnor (right) and Dr Badara Loum (middle)

### Scientific Session

There were four Scientific Sessions. Two sessions were held on the first day and the other two on the second day of the workshop.

Papers presented included:

- An overview of ASF in the West Africa Sub-Region by Dr. Eunice Forster.
- Control of ASF in Ghana by Dr. E. N. Barnor and M.M. Adam.
- Control of ASF in Gambia by Dr. Eunice Forster.

Beside these specific presentations on ASF there were other interesting presentations which included:

- Incidence of Brucellosis in The Gambia.
- Biotechnology: Application in Animal health research.



Closing remarks at the workshop by FAO Representative

L-R: Drs Eunice Forster, CVA Councillor, The Gambia, Helmo Mikkoala, FAO Representative for Gambia and Dr Richard D Suu-Ire, RR West Africa and CVA Councillor, Ghana

- HIV Aids research finding at the Medical Research Center, Gambia.
- Husbandry and Health constraints of equines in The Gambia.

### Recommendation

After these presentations the following recommendations were made by workshop participants:

1. A harmonised programme be prepared for the control of ASF in the West Africa sub-region.
2. The CVA should take the initiative in raising the issue with the EU and solicit financial support for the implementation of the harmonised programme.

The other issue which was discussed during the deliberations was Privatisation of Veterinary Services.

### Privatisation of Veterinary Services

One of the current issues confronting Veterinary Services in the sub-region is the thrust of Donor agencies/countries for privatisation of some activities of veterinary services especially clinical practice in the urban communities.

The workshop had an open discussion on the experiences of the two participating countries which had introduced private practice.

Topics for discussion on privatization were:

"Privatisation of Veterinary Service in West Africa:

1. The Gambian experience
2. The Ghanaian experience

Both countries raised many issues which confront the smooth implementation of privatisation.

Ghana has achieved some success with 18 veterinarians presently in private practice. They cover basically pet practice with a few vets in large animal practices in the rural areas. However most of the private practitioners are centered in the urban areas.

Privatisation in the Gambia has just started only with a few veterinarians in private practice. The workshop was privileged to have a presentation on the experience and a success story of a successful private Veterinary Practitioner in Gambia (Habib veterinary Surgery). There were suggested solutions to some of the challenges hindering this exercise in the sub-region.



## CVA Exhibits



*CVA Exhibition stand at the Workshop*

*Dr B. Touray, former President CVA (right) observing the CVA publications with Dr Kwaku Agyemang, Director General, International Trypanotolerance Centre, Gambia*

There was an exhibition of CVA publication at the Opening Ceremony. This exhibit is the first of its kind. It attracted many participants and was actually a showcase of the activities of the CVA.



*Participants at the Workshop*

## Field Trip

After the two intensive working days, participants were treated to an exciting experience of the countryside of Gambia. There was some memorable interactions with fisher folk, wildlife rangers and Livestock farmers etc. in the far northern Gambia.

## CVA Regional Meeting of W. African Region

Present at the meeting were:

- CVA Councillor for Ghana and Regional Representative for West Africa, Dr. Richard Suu-Ire
- CVA Councillor for the Gambia - Dr. Eunice Forster

- President of the Ghana Veterinary Medical Association, Dr. E.N. Barnor (Observer)
- President of the Gambia Veterinary Association, Dr. Badara Loum (Observer)
- Past CVA President - Dr. Touray (Observer)

The meeting deliberated issues pertaining to the region especially the absence of Cameroon and Sierra Leone and welcomed Nigeria which rejoined the Commonwealth after being suspended and drafted a CVA activity programme for the West African sub-region for the next 4 years.

## Conclusion

African Swine fever is becoming a major disease problem in the sub region. The workshop has sensitised stakeholders especially veterinarians and farmers to the issues and ways to combat it. Harmonising the control is the only way to control the disease.

The pig industry is a "ready cash" to families as the animal holds the key for poverty alleviation. There is therefore a need to fight the disease to achieve poverty reduction in the West African sub-region.

Dr. Richard D. Suu-Ire  
RR, West Africa.

## New CVA Councillor of Gambia

The Gambia Veterinary Association has appointed Dr Eunice Forster as the new CVA Council Member of The Gambia. She replaces Dr Duto S Fofana who completed his term as CVA Councillor of The Gambia and Regional Representative of West Africa.



*Dr Eunice Forster*

**Nigeria**

## Nigeria rejoins CVA

Nigeria has rejoined CVA as a member, and has elected Dr Haroun Yousuf, President of the Nigeria Veterinary Association as CVA Councillor of Nigeria.

## Ghana

### Vet Association urges Govt to Train more Veterinary Surgeons

The Veterinary Association of Ghana on Thursday urged Government to invest in the training of more veterinary surgeons in the country.

The President of the association Dr. E.N. Barnor who made the appeal at the 29th annual conference of the Association in Bolgatanga, said for sometime now scholarships offered to eligible students to study veterinary medicine outside the country have dwindled drastically. He said if care is not taken, the country would be left with fewer veterinary surgeons in the next 15 years when majority of those now in service would retire, adding that "This would not augur well for the poultry and livestock industry."

Dr. Barnor said unlike other professionals who are leaving the country, the veterinary officers are found in all spheres in the national economy even though their salaries are not the best. Touching on the conference theme "Rural Poultry and Livestock Production for Poverty Alleviation", Dr. Barnor said it demonstrates the association's commitment to actively support the poverty reduction strategy embarked upon by the government.

He expressed the hope that members would come out with useful strategies that would increase productivity.

In a speech read for him, the Upper East Regional Minister Mr. Mahami Salifu, said one of the major ways of tackling poverty is through agriculture.

Mr. Salifu said the Upper East Region has abundant potential for poultry and livestock production, and expressed the belief that the association would place its expertise at the disposal of farmers in order to increase production of livestock and generate wealth to reduce poverty.

He said the government has put in place measures to curb the importation of poultry and meat into the country by actively supporting poultry farmers through the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) to produce poultry products that can compete favourably with the imported ones.

He urged members of the association to support the farmers with all the latest expertise at their disposal in order to make them successful and wealthy.

The Regional Director of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and chairman for the occasion, Mr. Edmond Otupiri, urged members of the Association to deliberate on the numerous livestock projects left idle all over the country, as well as the reactivation of the Pomadze poultry farms to boost Ghana's livestock industry.

Source: GNA

### First Ghanaian Veterinary Surgeon Dies

Emeritus Professor Reginald Kojo Gyapanig Assoku, 64, of the Department of Animal Science, University of Ghana, Legon passed away at Accra recently.

He was the first Ghanaian to obtain Ph.D. in Veterinary Medicine and also the first Ghanaian Scientist to obtain a doctorate degree in Medical Immunology.

Prof. Assoku obtained the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery from the University of Glasgow, Scotland in 1960 and a Ph.D in Microbiology in 1966.

He worked briefly in the Departments of Bacteriology and Immunology at the University of Edinburgh Medical School and Veterinary Pathology & Microbiology of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

He returned to Ghana and joined the teaching staff of the University of Ghana in 1970 and worked with the Department of Animal Science. He became a Senior Lecturer in 1975, Associate Professor in 1978 and full Professor in October 1983.

He was also Head of Department of Animal Science and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Professor Assoku retired in 1999 and was taken on contract to teach. He died in the United Kingdom on November 10, 2003 where he had gone for medical treatment.

He had to his credit 80 published scientific works and attended over 120 international and local conferences, symposia and workshops.

Professor Assoku leaves behind his wife, three daughters and two grand children.

## U.K. Mediterranean

### Changes in BVA Structure

BVA Members unanimously approved an amended version of the Association's Memorandum and Articles at their annual general meeting on September 28, at the end of this year's BVA Congress.



*The new officers of the BVA elected at the AGM.*

*L-R: Mr. Peter Jimman, Past-President, Mr Tim Greet, President, Dr Bob McCracken, President-elect*

The amended articles provide the legal framework for a new BVA structure, which aims to strengthen the Association's capacity to represent and promote the interests of its members. It also aims to clarify roles and responsibilities within the BVA, identifying who, in organisational terms, is responsible for the governance and management of the Association, for determining strategy and for putting policies into effect. The main elements of the new structure were described in the BVA's annual report, which was distributed with The Veterinary Record and the thinking behind them was discussed in a Comment in that issue.

Under the new structure, the Council will be the representative body/parliament of the BVA, and the President will continue to be the Association's head. However, an important new aspect will be establishment of a board which will be responsible for the financial direction and governance of the BVA. The board will be made up of the Association's three officers (President, President-Elect and Past-President), four members elected by BVA Council and two non-veterinary directors to be appointed by the board. An interim

board is currently in place and will elect a chairman on October 9. It is made up of the three BVA officers and five interim directors - Mr Brian Hoskin, Professor Karl Linklater, Mrs Nicky Paul and Mr Roger Wilson, who were members of the team which developed the new structure, and Mr Roger Clarke, former Vice-President of the BVA. The names of the interim directors were approved at the BVA Council meeting in July. The interim board will serve until the next BVA Council meeting on December 3, when elections for the four Council-elected directors will take place and the interim directors may either stand for election or step down. The BVA is keen to establish a strong and well-balanced board to see it through the early years of operating under the new structure and invites nominations from its membership for the four Council-elected posts.

The Veterinary Record, October 4, 2003

### Royal launch for Ultrasound Scanner

HRH The Princess Royal visited the University of Edinburgh's small animal hospital at Easter Bush on October 2, to launch the hospital's new ultrasound pet scanner, which is being used in the photograph below. During the visit to the



hospital she was shown a three-dimensional computerised model of the former Clyde Street Veterinary College, the fore runner of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. The original college was founded in 1823 and was the first veterinary college in Scotland. The Princess Royal later unveiled a plaque at the new Saint Andre Square bus station in Edinburgh, commemorating the Clyde Street College, which was situated there until 1914.

The Veterinary Record, October 11, 2003

## New Chief Executive and Scientific Director for Moredun

Professor Julie Fitzpatrick has been appointed as the next Chief Executive and Scientific Director of the Moredun Group, which includes the Moredun Foundation and Moredun Research Institute. She succeeds Professor Quintin McKellar, who was appointed as Principal of the Royal Veterinary College, London, in August 2004.



*Professor Julie Fitzpatrick*

Professor Fitzpatrick qualified from Glasgow in 1982, and spent five years in mixed practice before gaining a Ph.D. at the University of Bristol.

The Veterinary Record, October 11, 2003

## Good progress on 'Tour de Vets'

Seven cyclists set out from the BVA's headquarters in Mansfield Street, London, on September 19, on the first leg of a 420-mile charity



cycle ride to Edinburgh. Mr Stephen Ware, Past President of the RCVS, Colonel Douglas MacDonals and Veterinary Officer Iain Rose of the RAVC, who cycled the entire route, were joined by Mr Adrian Boswood and Dr Mark Holmes representing the BSAVA, the BVA Past President Mr Andrew Scott, and Dr Lesley Young from BEVA, on their departure from London. The group which aimed to raise 10,000 for a number of veterinary-related charities, arrived in Edinburgh in time for the BVA Congress on 25 September 2003.

The Veterinary Record

## CVA President meets BVA Executives

Dr Robin Yarrow, President of CVA met the BVA Executives at a meeting in London recently.



*L-R: Drs Peter Jinman, Past-President, BVA, Bob McCracken, President-Elect, BVA and Robin Yarrow, President-Elect, CVA*

Dr Yarrow discussed various issues of mutual interest to the BVA and CVA.

*Falkland Island*

## Falkland Island

Dr Stephen Pointing, Senior Veterinary Officer and Council Member of CVA, Falkland Island found a 10 day old reindeer fawn. The mother of this fawn rejected it at birth so it has been hand reared since and is doing very well. Dr Pointing says, "from our herd of 15 females we had 11 fawns born including this one. The rest are growing well on their mothers'. It is our plan to hand responsibility for the reindeer herd over to a private farmer in the early New Year".



## Abstracts

### Comparison of PCR and cell culture for the detection of *Chlamydomphila* species in semen

Semen samples from 120 bulls, 60 buffalo bulls and 56 rams on farms known to be infected with *Chlamydomphila* species were examined by PCR and cell culture techniques. The PCR detected 30 positive samples, including the 21 which were positive by culture. The detection limit of the PCR assay, determined with DNA extracted from four-fold serial dilutions of *Chlamydomphila abortus* (B577) and *Chlamydomphila pecorum* (11/88), was 0.25 inclusion-forming units (IFU) per PCR, compared with four-IFU for the culture method.

AMIN, A.S. (2003). Comparison of polymerase chain reaction and cell culture for the detection of *Chlamydomphila* species in the semen of bulls, buffalo-bulls and rams. *Veterinary Journal*, 166: 86-92.

### Epidemiology of Diabetes mellitus in dogs

Trends in the prevalence of diabetes mellitus in dogs were derived from the Veterinary Medical Database records of 6860 dogs with the disease which were examined at veterinary teaching hospitals between 1970 and 1999; the records of 6707 affected dogs were also compared with the records of 6707 dogs with any other diagnosis to try to identify risk factors for the disease. The prevalence of the disease increased from 19 cases per 10,000 per year in 1970 to 64 cases per 10,000 in 1999, but the case fatality rate decreased from 37 per cent to 5 per cent. The disease was most prevalent in dogs aged 10 to 15 years, and significantly more prevalent in dogs weighing less than 22.7 kg; female dogs had a higher risk of developing diabetes than males.

GUPTILL, L., GLICKMAN, L. AND GLICKMAN, N. (2003). Time trends and risk factors for diabetes mellitus in dogs: Analysis of Veterinary Medical Database records (1970-1999). *Veterinary Journal*, 165: 240-247.

### Frequent milkout as a treatment for cows with *Escherichia coli* mastitis

This study involved 16 Holstein cows, randomly allocated to one of four groups (not infected/not treated, infected/not treated, not infected/frequently milked out (FMO) and infected/FMO). The FMO schedule involved quarters being milked out by hand to four-hour intervals from 12 to 26 hours after challenge, and at six-hour intervals from 36 to 84 hours after challenge. Challenge involved intramammary infusion of an *Escherichia coli* suspension. FMO as a treatment for *E. coli* mastitis in this study did not improve the outcome, but neither did it have a negative effect. Although experimentation challenged cows became systemically ill 12 to 20 hours after infection, all recovered full without additional treatment.

LEININGER, D.J., ROBERSON, J.R., ELVINGER, F., WARD, D. AND AKERS, R.M. (2003). Evaluation of frequent milkout for treatment of cows with experimentally induced *Escherichia coli* mastitis. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 222: 63-66.

### Secretory otitis media in 43 cavalier King Charles spaniels

Over 10 years, 43 cavalier King Charles spaniels suffered 61 episodes of primary secretory otitis media which induced signs of moderate to severe pain in the head or cervical area and/or neurological sign. Most of the dogs had a bulging but intact tympanic membrane and a highly viscous plug of mucus in the middle ear. The plug was removed, the middle ear was flushed out and the dogs were treated locally with betamethosone, and some of them were treated systemically with prednisolone and an antibiotic. The treatment had to be repeated up to five times, but in all cases the prognosis was good.

STERN-BERTHOLTZ, W., SJÖSTÖRM, L. AND HÅKANSON, N.W. (2003). Primary secretory otitis media in the Cavalier King Charles spaniel: A review of 61 cases. *Journal of Small Animal Practice*, 44: 253-256.

## General Articles

### Prevention Of Obesity In Dogs And Cats: How Much Food Is Enough Food?

Dr Linda Fleeman

Nestlé Purina PetCare Lecturer in Small Animal Nutrition  
School of Veterinary Science  
The University of Queensland  
Australia

*"There is a difference between eating and drinking for strength and from mere gluttony."*

*"Walking" (Henry David Thoreau)*

Obesity is a major health issue for people and their pets. The World Health Organisation has classified human obesity as an epidemic. In the USA, 65% of adults are overweight or obese. In Europe, one in 13 deaths can be attributed to people being overweight, a figure that is six times higher than the death toll due to road accidents. People are getting fatter at an alarming rate all over the world. One of the major reasons for this is the trend towards a more sedentary lifestyle. Not surprisingly, similar trends are affecting our pets.

Obesity is now the most common form of malnutrition in dogs and cats. The lifestyles of our pets are becoming more sedentary, resulting in an increasing incidence of excessive weight gain. It is estimated that 25-35% of dogs and cats are overweight and, in some parts of the world, the prevalence has risen to almost 50% in middle-aged pets. Excess body weight has negative effects on health and evidence is mounting for strong associations between body fat content and numerous small animal diseases. Overweight dogs have an increased risk of osteoarthritis, pancreatitis, and mammary tumours. Fat cats are prone to diabetes, osteoarthritis and lameness, non-allergic dermatitis, lower urine tract disease, hepatic lipodosis, and mortality.

Prevention of obesity is the most important goal of feeding dogs and cats. Owners require clear guidelines on how to feed their pets to achieve and maintain ideal, lean body condition. They need to understand how to calculate just how much food is enough food.

Basal or resting energy requirements are similar for all animals and are not markedly influenced by age, breed, gender, neuter status, or activity level.

The resting energy requirement (RER) is the amount of calories required by an animal at rest in a thermoneutral environment and does not support any exercise, growth, or reproduction. It is a function of metabolic body weight and can be reliably calculated using the formula:  $RER(Kcal/day) = 70 \times (BW^{0.75})$ . However, because RER does not take into account age, breed, gender, neuter status, or daily activity, it does not give a reliable indication of the actual calorie requirement of an individual animal. Formulae used to calculate daily energy requirements (DER) give a rough estimate based on body weight of the calorie requirements of an average individual. In reality, graphical representation of the actual DER for a population of animals with the same body weight produces a wide, bell-shaped curve. Approximately 50% of the animals will have daily calorie requirements below the average DER and 50% will have requirements above the average DER. If the population has a tendency to be more sedentary than average, then more than half of the animals will have calorie requirements below the calculated DER. Thus, it can be seen that it is very difficult to accurately determine the daily calorie needs of individual dogs and cats. It is common for one animal to have a daily calorie requirement that is 100% more than another animal of the same body weight, breed, gender, and neuter status. If the two animals are fed exactly the same amount of food, the latter will become obese while the former will remain lean. This can be quite confusing for pet owners.

Feeding guidelines on labels of commercial dog and cat food are based on estimation of the calorie requirements of an average animal. They are a rough guide only and are not a reliable indication of individual dog or cat calorie requirements. They provide a useful starting point and pet owners should be aware that re-evaluation of the quantity of food fed is required after an initial trial feeding period. The key is to feed dogs and cats to achieve an ideal, lean body condition, rather than to strictly follow label guidelines.












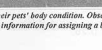
All dog and cat owners should be encouraged to continuously monitor their pets' body condition and adjust food intake to achieve and maintain an ideal, lean body condition. If the animal starts to become fat, then the amount of food fed each day should be reduced. If the animal becomes thin, then more food should be fed. The Nestlé Purina Body Condition System (Fig. 1) makes it easy for owners to determine their pets' body condition. Observation of the animal's silhouette and palpation of skeletal structures and fat deposits provide information for assigning a body condition score on a scale of 1 to 9. For dogs, an ideal, lean body condition gives a score of 4 or 5;

while for cats, a score of 5 indicates ideal body condition.

How much food is enough food for dogs and cats? Owners should begin by following the label recommendations for dog and cat food, yet should understand that adjustment of the quantity of food fed will usually be required. They should then use a method such as the Nestlé Purina Body Condition System to monitor their pets' body condition and adjust the amount of food fed throughout the animal's life to always maintain ideal, lean body condition.

**Nestlé PURINA**

## BODY CONDITION SYSTEM

UNDERFEED	1	Ribs, lumbar vertebrae, pelvic bones and all bony prominences evident from a distance. No discernible body fat. Obvious loss of muscle mass.			1
	2	Ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones easily visible. No palpable fat. Some evidence of other bony prominence. Minimal loss of muscle mass.			3
	3	Ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist and abdominal tuck.			5
IDEAL	4	Ribs easily palpable, with minimal fat covering. Waist easily noted, viewed from above. Abdominal tuck evident.			7
	5	Ribs palpable without excess fat covering. Waist observed behind ribs when viewed from above. Abdomen tucked up when viewed from side.			9
	6	Ribs palpable with slight excess fat covering. Waist is discernible viewed from above but is not prominent. Abdominal tuck apparent.			
OVERFED	7	Ribs palpable with difficulty; heavy fat cover. Noticeable fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent or barely visible. Abdominal tuck may be present.			
	8	Ribs not palpable under very heavy fat cover, or palpable only with significant pressure. Heavy fat deposits over lumbar area and base of tail. Waist absent. No abdominal tuck. Obvious abdominal distention may be present.			
	9	Massive fat deposits over thorax, spine and base of tail. Waist and abdominal tuck absent. Fat deposits on neck and limbs. Obvious abdominal distention.			

The BODY CONDITION SYSTEM was developed at the Nestlé Purina Pet Care Center and has been published or documented in the following publications:  
 Novick D, Barton JW, Messer L, et al. Comparison of body fat estimates by dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry and dissection inside dilated thorax normal dogs. *Compendium* 2003; 25 (MAY): 20  
 Laflamme DR. Development and Validation of a Body Condition Score System for Dogs. *Compendium* July/August 1997; 19:10-13  
 Kruze, et al. Effects of Diet Restriction on Life Span and Age-Related Changes in Dogs. *JAVMA* 2002; 282:1214-1220  
 Call 1-800-332-VETS (9287), weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT

**Nestlé PURINA**

Fig 1: The Nestlé Purina Body Condition System makes it easy for owners to determine their pets' body condition. Observation of the animal's silhouette and palpation of skeletal structures and fat deposits provide information for assigning a body condition score on a scale of 1 to 9.

## Controlling Bovine TB in Kruger National Park Buffaloes with Bovigam™

A recent paper by Grobler et al. (2002) reports on how Bovigam™ has been used in identifying *Mycobacterium bovis*-infected African buffalo herds in northern Kruger National Park, South Africa<sup>1</sup>. The following summary was prepared for us by Anita Michel.

The causative agent of bovine tuberculosis, *Mycobacterium bovis*, infects mainly cattle, although a wide range of other species are also susceptible, including humans, other domestic animals and wildlife. Bovine tuberculosis is thought to have entered Kruger National Park (KNP) in the late 1950s across the southern boundary via direct cattle-to-buffalo contact. Since then, the infection has gradually spread northwards where prevalence rates in African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) now range from 1.5% (northern herds) to 55% (southern herds). Infected buffalo have also transmitted the disease to other park wildlife, such as lion, cheetah, kudu, hyeana, warthog and chacma baboons.

BOVIGAM™ was first described as having similar sensitivity and specificity as the comparative intradermal skin test for bovine tuberculosis in African buffalo in 1993<sup>2</sup>. However, the skin test is costly and impractical for wildlife, as animals have to be captured, chemically immobilised twice and held and maintained during the testing period. The advantage of the BOVIGAM™ test is that most animals only need to be handled once (for blood sampling), and this can be done relatively simply in the field. Only positive animals need be followed up for euthanasia and necropsy if required.

Previously, BOVIGAM™ and the skin test were found to have inadequate specificity (96%) in KNP buffaloes due to non-specific reactions caused by cross-reactions with environmental mycobacteria such as *M. fortuitum*<sup>3</sup>. However, the specificity of the test could be increased to 99.3% if the cut-off algorithm was modified in such a way that animals whose immune response was stimulated by environmental mycobacteria could be differentiated from true bovine tuberculosis reactors (84.6%). The modification involves including a *M. fortuitum* PPD samples as well as bovine and avian PPD. A test positive is defined as:

$$OC_{bovine} - OD_{avian} > 0.2 \text{ \& } OC_{fortuitum} - OD_{nl} > 0.15 \\ \text{and } OD_{nl} < 0.25.$$

In the present study, 608 (7.2%) African buffalo from 29 herds totalling 8,390 animals were sampled for BOVIGAM™ testing. The skin test was not used. Of these, 9 (1.5%) tested positive using the modified cut-off algorithm as above. Eight of these animals were necropsied and 7 (87.5%) were lesioned and *M. bovis*-culture positive. One tested positive animal failed to rejoin its herd and was lost. There were 26 (4.3%) avian reactors found and, interestingly, only 3 (0.5%) *M. fortuitum* reactors in this survey sample.

The results of this study demonstrate a satisfactory sensitivity for BOVIGAM™ under field conditions in KNP. The use of BOVIGAM™ may be an important tool to control bovine tuberculosis in free-ranging buffalo populations. The data further shows that the use of *M. fortuitum* PPD in a triple comparative BOVIGAM™ assay is of distinct advantage situations where are ethical, conservation and financial constraints on culling animals.

1. Grobler, D.G., Michel, A.L., De Klerk, L.M. and Bengis, R.G. (2002). The gamma-interferon test: its usefulness in a bovine tuberculosis survey in African buffaloes (*Syncerus caffer*) in the Kruger National Park. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research.*, 69: 221-227.
2. Raath, P.J., Bengis, R.G., Bush, M., Huchzermeyer, H., Keet, D.F., Kernes, D.J., Kriek, N.P.J. and Michel, A. (1993). Diagnosis of tuberculosis due to *Mycobacterium bovis* in the African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) in the Kruger National Park. In *Tuberculosis in Wildlife and Animals*, Ed. F. Griffin and G. de Lisle, Otago Conference Series, University of Otago Press, Dunedin, pp.313-315.
3. Michel, A.L., Nel, M., Cooper, D. and Morobane, R.N. (2000). Field evaluation of a modified "gamma interferon" assay in African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) and cattle in South Africa. In *Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Mycobacteria bovis*, 14-16 August 2000, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

- By Anita Michel

In: Veterinary Diagnostic Newsletter, Summer 2003

A publication of BIOCOR and CSL Animal Health

Editor: Dr Ralph Slaughter



## Genome Reaches 2 Billion Letters

Fifty years after the discovery of the structure of the genetic code, UK scientists at Cambridge have set a new world record. They have decoded two billion letters of the alphabet of life, and delivered them freely to researchers of 135 countries.

The first of the two billion was G - it stands for the base chemical guanine - from the DNA double helix of a tiny nematode worm called *Caenorhabditis elegans*. It was entered into a database set up by what is now the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute on May 4, 1991. The two-billionth was T, for the base thymine, from a laboratory mouse, and it was placed in the public domain just after 1 am on the morning of October 30, 2003.

In between came an avalanche of the letters GTAC - the other two stand for adenine and cytosine - which together spell the code for the proteins from which all living things are assembled.

Between the first letter of the worm and the latest letter of the laboratory mouse came the entire genetic codes for yeast, the worm itself, a representative human being, and 25 microbes, including some of the world's most dangerous: the malaria parasite, the tuberculosis bacillus, leprosy and meningitis.

DNA is a fine filament of molecules coiled like a spiral staircase into the chromosomes in almost every cell in every living creature. The two billion letters sequenced by the Cambridge team would - if scaled up to the size of a real spiral staircase - stretch from the Earth to the moon. If read aloud at the rate of a letter a second, the sequence would take more than 60 years to recite.

The achievement has led to new sciences - genomics and proteomics - and the identification of a starting array of genes linked to things as diverse as longevity, limb formation and chronic myelogenous leukaemia.

Researchers are racing to complete the DNA sequence of chimpanzees, bananas, farm animals and commercially valuable microbes, and universities and pharmaceutical companies are collecting the millions of genetic variations which make some people more prone to particular diseases or less able to metabolise certain drugs.

All of them use a technique devised in 1977 by the Cambridge double Nobel prize winner Fred Sanger. What has taken the Sanger Institute team to the top of the league tables is an emphasis on accuracy. By international agreement, a "finished" gene sequence will be accurate to one in 10,000. The Sanger Institute is confident of an accuracy of one in 100,000.

To get to those levels of certainty the scientists used sophisticated robotics, state-of-the-art computing power and experienced human oversight to examine up to an estimated 20 billion bases of DNA.

Over the next 25 years the research will complete a revolution in medical science. Until recent times all drugs were devised by trial and error. Doctors sifted through treatments that would destroy a tumour or poison a pathogen without actually killing the patient as well. Now, equipped with the complete maker's manual of both disease and patient, researchers have begun the hunt for a new generation of drugs to provide effective treatment of cardiovascular diseases, viral and bacterial infections, neuro-degenerative disorders, inherited conditions, and cancers, all with the fewest side effects.

In ten years the Sanger team has published more than 100 papers in the world's two leading scientific journals, *Nature* and *Science*. Biologists, doctors, and medical scientists from at least 135 countries look at data from the Sanger Institute at least a million times a week.

"I love to read about how people are using it, but the thing is, it is being used in every way, in every single paper", said Sir John Sulston, founder Director of the Centre, 2002 Nobel prize-winner, and architect of the public partnership between Europe, Japan and the US which completed the text of the human genome this year. The genomic databases have become the "substratum of biology", acknowledged explicitly, but more often implicitly, he said.

The British work began with the nematode worm, a 2-mm creature with an adult-to-adult cycle of just three days, which means that laboratory scientists can identify and observe the action of genes basic to all life in a week or two, rather than a human lifetime or two.

Bart Barrell, a veteran of the institute and now head of pathogen sequencing, said: "We are talking about two gigabases that the Sanger has just completed. But just one large pathogenic worm - if we start sequencing those - could be a quarter of a gigabase".

Maybe a billion people are infested by worms of different kinds around the world and that is one of the bigger challenges: to move up into the larger things.

The Saudi Gazette, November 5, 2003

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS****2004**

OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, Paris. **February 23rd - 25th.**

47<sup>th</sup> BSAVA Annual Congress, ICC/NIA Birmingham, England. **April 1st - 4th.**

8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Goats, Pretoria, South Africa. **July 4th - 9th.**

CVA-Executive Committee Meeting in conjunction with SAVA Congress. **July 27th - 30th.**

29<sup>th</sup> Congress of the WSAVA, the 10<sup>th</sup> European Congress (FECAVA) and the 7<sup>th</sup> Hellenic Congress (HVMS), Rhodes, Greece. **6th - 9th October.**

Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association Conference, Port of Spain, Trinidad. **November 9th - 12th.**

CVA Regional Meeting of Canada Caribbean Region, Port of Spain, Trinidad. **November 9th - 12th.**

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

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

**2005**

CVA Regional Meeting of Asian Region, Pakistan. **(Date to be announced)**

CVA Regional Meeting of UK/Mediterranean Region. **(Date and Venue to be announced)**

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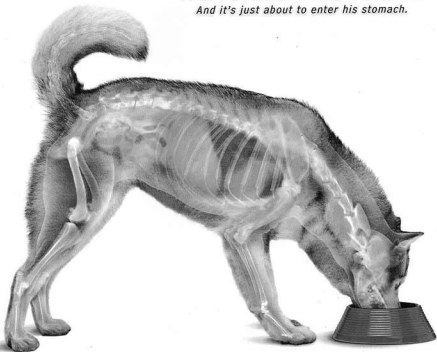
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Dr. S. Abdul Rahman  
Editor

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