



Commonwealth Veterinary Association e-Newsletter

Vol 2. Issue 3

March 2016

Getting the edge, surviving tough economic times

Partnering for the mutual benefit of members, is perhaps the best way of describing the collaborative effort between the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the Trinidad and Tobago Veterinary Association. On the 1st of May 2016 the two associations will cohost a one-day workshop entitled: *“Getting the edge, surviving tough economic times”*.

The workshop is scheduled to be held at the Marriott Hotel Trinidad. It will target final year veterinary students, small animal practitioners of Trinidad and Tobago, clinic owners, managers and Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) councilors of the Canada/Caribbean region. Final year students from the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM), University of the West Indies (UWI) will be given special attention to assist their attendance. The seminar will cater for approximately 40 veterinarians and 10 students.

Organizers included the outgoing CVA councilor Dr. Michelle Mellows, current CVA councilor Dr. Lisa Benjamin and CVA Regional Representative Dr. Curtis Padilla. This seminar will cater to the business needs of veterinarians and help veterinary clinics to review their economic business models.

The feature speaker for the event will be Dr. Henry Baily (Lecturer in Economics and Applied Economics) of the Arthur Lok-Jack Graduate School of Business and Ms. Ann Marie White Senior library assistant (Library Services (UWI)). The seminar will consist of a series of lectures and an open discussion to assess the mechanisms for implementation by veterinarians and clinics. The workshop will conclude with a compilation of thoughts and suggestions which would be available to participants.

A live webcast will be made available to TTVA members and CVA councilors.

An inclusive commonwealth

Commonwealth Day is marked every year on the second Monday in March. In 2016 it was celebrated on 14 March. It provided the opportunity to promote understanding on global issues, international co-operation and the work of Commonwealth organisations, which aim to improve the lives of citizens.

The day was marked across the Commonwealth by a range of [activities](#), including the Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey in London. This year's theme celebrated the diversity of the Commonwealth, which is made up of more than two billion people.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma said: “An Inclusive Commonwealth refers to the values of tolerance, respect and understanding, as well as equity and fairness, set out in the Commonwealth Charter, and the richness of the Commonwealth as a family of nations in which each member state is valued equally and has an equal voice. In changing times, the need for the Commonwealth to act as an inclusive network for mutual support, development and growth of opportunity and rights for all is as great as ever.”

The Commonwealth Secretary-General hosted a reception attended by The Queen and representatives of the 53 member countries of the Commonwealth at the Commonwealth Secretariat's headquarters, Marlborough House in London. Karen Reed (RR for UK/Med region) attended on behalf of the CVA and met Her Majesty the Queen as well as representatives from many of the 600+ other Commonwealth Associations.

Supporting the movement of veterinary professionals across East Africa

Regulators of veterinary services in the East African Community (EAC) met last week to conclude negotiations for a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) to facilitate the movement of veterinary doctors, specialists and other veterinary professionals across the EAC.

MRAs are internationally recognised agreements, most commonly applied to goods and services, where partnering countries agree to recognise one another's conformity assessments, thus negating the need for duplicate authorisation processes.

The EAC, comprised of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, has enormous animal resources which contribute significantly to the economy of the region. Modernising the livestock sector is thus an important element of the EAC's development plans, and having efficient supporting services, such as veterinary doctors, is essential to ensure these plans are achieved.

The Commonwealth Secretariat, in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) provided advisory services to support the conclusion of this Agreement, which will begin operation immediately for Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. The MRA will then be expanded to all partner states once they have completed the necessary domestic processes.

The Commonwealth-GIZ partnership is also providing support to the EAC to advance MRAs for land surveyors and lawyers, as well as helping to create a framework for the mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications.

Legal advisory support will also be provided by the partnership to support the strengthening of the EAC Common Market. The Common Market guides the free movement of goods, people, labour, services and capital from one EAC partner state to another.

Recipes from the world – from Australia

ANZAC biscuits - A traditional Australian biscuit, they were sent overseas to serving ANZACS in World War I due to their excellent keeping properties.

Ingredients:

1 cup plain flour
1 cup rolled oats
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup coconut
125 g butter
2 tbs golden syrup
1 tbs water
1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda

Method

Sift the flour into a bowl. Add the sugar, rolled oats and coconut. Melt the butter in a saucepan and add the golden syrup and water. Stir the bicarbonate of soda into the liquid mixture. Add the liquid to the dry ingredients and mix thoroughly. Place walnut-sized balls of mixture on a greased tray and bake at 175C for 15-20 minutes. Biscuits will harden when cool.

Note: For crunchier biscuits, use more golden syrup. *optional for a delicious summer treat, sandwich 1 scoop of vanilla ice cream between two ANZAC biscuits.

