



Commonwealth Veterinary Association e-Newsletter

Vol 2. Issue 6

June 2016

CVA/TTVA Workshop – Getting the edge: surviving in challenging times

On the 1st May 2016 the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the Trinidad and Tobago Veterinary Association held its inaugural one-day workshop entitled, "Getting the Edge Surviving in Challenging times". The event was convened at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel on the island of Trinidad. While catering mainly to private practitioners of the twin island republic, it was able to attract the CVA councillor for Barbados, Dr David Walton, thus making it a truly regional workshop. Also present was the President of the Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association, Dr Paul Crooks. Though inclement weather dissuaded several individuals from attending, 32 of the expected 50 veterinarians were present to hear discourses by the very competent speakers. There were 15 of the estimated 35 clinics on the island.

This workshop was quite historic in marking TTVA's first one-day workshop to include four speakers and its first collaborative effort with the CVA. It was also significant, in being the first official national/regional veterinary workshop to focus on pricing and fee issues, as part of clinic management.

Thanks to the significant support of Purina the workshop was hosted at the Marriott.

The presenters were all professionals in their fields. The opening speaker Ms Keri Bailey of Purina was exceedingly helpful as she explored the opportunities for veterinarians to augment income in the sale of pet foods. Her presentation was stimulating as it featured interesting trends in the pet industry and looked at future perspectives.

Dr. Henry Bailey from the Authur Lok Jack School of Business University of the West Indies (UWI), was the feature speaker. His presentation gave much food for

thought. His words were insightful, useful and applicable to the situation of nearly all participants. Dr Bailey's discourse challenged veterinarians to consider the methods by which their fees were set and to determine if they were price takers or price setters. He helped vets to better appreciate how their fees were commensurate with their services, the categories of consumers and approaches to deal with complaints on pricing.

Mrs Ann Marie White a librarian at Cave Hill UWI, gave a most useful presentation on proper data storage and its application in the clinic. She explored the common approaches to storing clinic data, errors in data collection and security measures in preventing data loss.

Stimulating, exciting and informative, could best describe the time of Mr Roger Moore, our closing presenter. Mr Moore the director of Cash Flow Club, explained differences between employees, self-employed, investors and business owners. He also explored the connections between Mission, leadership and teamwork in the clinic.

This workshop gave our vets an opportunity to share lunch and time together. It was a moment to also review the information of the morning and renew friendships. For the recent graduates it was a chance to learn from established colleagues. At various intervals, colleagues were invited to share a poolside snack or drink. Those moments were truly helpful in strengthen bonds developed over the day.

Before completing the day, there was a CVA book distribution. Books were presented by the CVA's immediate-past councillor Dr Michelle Mellowes, Current Councillor Dr Lisa Benjamin and Dr Karla Georges.

The day culminated with a lively, interactive discussion on the challenges of dealing with individuals

masquerading as veterinarians and solutions to this problem. Veterinarians concluded by exploring the worth of their professional service and agreeing to develop the foundation for a common veterinary business venture.

The vote of thanks was given by the president of the TTVA. Dr, Karla Georges, who thanked all participants, sponsors and the planning team. All participants were given parting gifts of non-alcoholic wine. Fruit baskets were also given to all presenters.

I would personally wish to acknowledge the hard working plan committee which consisted of Drs Michelle Mellows, Lisa Benjamin, Ayesha Alexander, Sabrina Thomas and Mrs Samantha Padilla.



CVA Book Program

Over the years hundreds of books have been sent to veterinarians in the developing countries of the commonwealth through the CVA book program. The books are donated by veterinarians in Australia and New Zealand, all of whom are thanked for their generosity.

Requests for books should be made to Dr Jim Connah at jimconnah@bigpond.com It is suggested that those wishing to submit a request should first obtain a copy of the current inventory of books available by contacting Dr. Connah.



CVA Country Councillor Profile – Dr Said Gul Safi of Afghanistan

Q1. Tell us about you, your family and where you live?

I have big family with my sons (4) and daughters(6) and live in Kabul, Afghanistan.



Q2. What is your favourite food?

Usually as other Afghan preferably meat and then vegetables.

Q3. Do you have any favourite music?

I enjoy all music preferably Asian and our native music.

Q4. What is your favourite sport

Doing nothing at the moment but during school I was doing volleyball.

Q5. Tell up in a paragraph what your current veterinary position is.

I am president of the Afghanistan Veterinary Association.

Q6. What influenced you to become a veterinarian?

Nothing influenced me to be a veterinarian. Due to policy of our government all high school graduates has to pass entrance examination and based on the score they will go to different colleges whether someone likes it or not.

Q7. What do you enjoy most about being a veterinarian?

All my efforts were to establish private practice officially with government and change the by-law to allow private practice and support private sector in term of logistic, cold chain, transportation and clinical equipment followed by continuing education. Thanks god I have succeeded and now more than 800 district base such clinics have been established supported and practicing as private vets. And closely in contact with government to report public concern diseases and implement sanitary mandate. My second wish was to establish a technically sound association which is in place and our continuing education is continuing without any break.

Q8. What are some of the main challenges for you and your national veterinary association?

We believe all the challenges could be overcome if we are committed and keep hard working.

Q9. How do you communicate to your organisation about the CVA and its activities?

We and specially I am in direct contact with CVA management but unfortunately due to visa problem we have been kept away for the last four years and being not able to attend the CVA congress.

Q10. How do you think the CVA can assist you in your Councillor Role?

Continue contact and assisting them in developing technical back up of vets.

Brookes new Global Strategy

In May, Brooke launched its new 5 year Global Strategy accompanied by a new website and new logo. The new

website launched on 9 May and, as well as being much easier to use and navigate than the old site, it has new sections for professionals working in animal welfare, healthcare provision, community engagement, research and advocacy whether in the academic, INGO or public policy sectors.

Brooke is an international animal welfare organisation with over 80 years’ experience dedicated to improving the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules. Brooke protects and improves the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules that fundamentally underpin the livelihoods of some of the world’s poorest communities.

100 million working horses, donkeys and mules provide invaluable support to daily life for an estimated 600 million people in some of the poorest places in the world, through haulage, transportation and production. Healthy working horses, donkeys and mules help to put food on their tables, send their children to school and build better futures for themselves and their families.

The Strategic Goals for 2021 are:

Global Reach: To help more working animals in need in more places around the world.

Sustainable Improvement: To make lasting change by working with a wide range of people and organisations that can directly or indirectly improve the lives of working animals.

Brooke’s integrated approach has evolved into the theory of change model. Animals can’t change their welfare, but people can. The work builds on this in three ways:

Communities: working with communities to provide them with the skills and support to unlock their compassion for animals and to feel the benefit that brings to their livelihoods.

Services: working with local health services, farriers and others to strengthen their skills so owners can get their animals the help they need when they need it.



Advocacy: working with governments at all levels and international bodies such as the UN to provide support and prevent abuse for practical and long-lasting change.

Recipes from the world – from Jamaica

Jamaican Mango Smoothie

Ingredients:

- 2 ripe mangos
- 2 oranges
- 2 cups yogurt (plain or flavored – vanilla or orange are both good)
- 2 teaspoons honey

- 1/4 cup dark rum (optional)
- 10 ice cubes
- A dash of ground nutmeg
- A dash of ground cinnamon

Directions:

1. Peel the mango and dice into ice cube sized chunks. Place in a plastic bag and freeze for an hour.
2. Remove the mango chunks from the freezer and place in a blender container.
3. Add yogurt, honey, ice cubes and rum (if you're using it).
4. Juice the oranges (with a juicer or by squeezing) and pour juice and pulp into the blender.
5. Blend on high for about 1 minute or until smooth. Add the nutmeg and cinnamon on top. Stir.
6. Divide into glasses and garnish with spears of mango or thin slices of orange.

