



Commonwealth Veterinary Association e-Newsletter

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Samoan veterinarian visits Australia through the CVA study fund

Dr Renee Orange of Samoa recently visited Australia for one month through the CVA study fund during which she visited small and large animal veterinary clinics, a commercial piggery, and a veterinary laboratory. Benny Hill commented that he had learnt as much from Renee as she had from him. Tanya Stephens commented that she had come to take many things for granted that vets in other parts of the world would regard almost as luxuries. Renee brought back new knowledge to use in her veterinary career and a more mature view of the challenges that we face as veterinarians every day. She was inspired by the veterinarians and vet nurses she worked with to not only continue striving for excellence in our work, but to remember that building relationships is key. Caring about people is important, no matter what post you hold. The great thing is that everyone she met is now a colleague she can contact for advice on a wide range of conditions that come her way. Thank you to her hosts Tanya Stephens, Jeff Cave, Benny and Michelle Hill, David Hall, and Grant, Ian, Christina, Mark and Jacek at Agribio for making Renee's visit such a success.



Financial Membership of the CVA

Congratulations to the national veterinary associations of the commonwealth who are financial members of the CVA. Financial membership enables the veterinarians of those countries to take advantage of the benefits that the CVA offers such as requesting veterinary textbooks from the CVA book program and veterinary equipment when it becomes available; applying for a CVA study fund; applying for assistance to bring a guest lecturer for continuous professional development; support in seeking assistance from other organisations; and representation at CVA regional and pan commonwealth veterinary conferences. The material offered on the CVA website and the CVA portal of the WVA Education Network is freely available to all veterinarians.



Survey of veterinarians who vaccinate dogs and /or cats

The Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine at the University of Nottingham is currently conducting a survey of veterinarians who vaccinate cats and/or dogs, and are looking to gather the opinions of as many veterinarians as possible from around the world. The survey should take around 10-15 minutes to complete,

can be completed anonymously, and can be accessed at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/boostervaccinations

CVA Country Councillor Profile – Dr Roy Aronson of South Africa

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

I live in Cape Town South Africa. I was married for a long time but my wife and I parted ways recently. I have three adult children, a daughter of 30 who is an artist and web designer, a daughter of 28 who qualified as a physiotherapist then decided to become a vet and is now 6 months away from qualifying and a son of 17 who wants to be an astrophysicist.

Cape Town is truly an amazing place to live. It is unique. In all my travels I have never encountered a city like it. Maybe it is the proximity of everything. You can get anywhere quickly. Travelling from the top of Table Mountain you can be swimming in the sea in half an hour. After that you can be drinking wine on a wine estate half an hour later. After that you will need to go to bed from exhaustion. Even that is close by.

Q2. What is your favourite food?

I love to bar b que. We call this a braai. We braai three or four times a week in summer. I am a carnivore and eat meat. I try and source my meat ethically. Steak on the braai and a salad and a glass of wine or whiskey in the evening and I am king of the castle, even if my castle is rather smaller than it used to be.

Q3. Do you have any favourite music?

I listen to music a lot. My tastes are eclectic but I also gravitate towards golden oldies. I wonder if it is because I am approaching golden oldie age.

I love Steely Dan, Crosby Stills, Train, Four Non Blonds and many of the older groups. I hear a lot of modern music because my son insists on playing his music in my car. There are some GREAT songs today as well.

The world is a better place for music.

Q4. What is your favourite sport?

I am obsessed with physical fitness. I train between five and six times a week in the gym, mainly cross fit and high intensity interval training, and I paddle an ocean going kayak. I hike but not as much as I used to and I have a mountain bike and do a lot of cycling in summer. I cycle to my practice and back in summer.

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

I am the senior partner in a small animal private practice. I love all aspects of my work but the job of running a business is getting me down.

I think that professionally I am approaching the last lap and will soon look to doing other stuff with my life.

I have published autobiographical and fiction books and I am looking to make a career out of writing.

Q6. What influenced you to become a veterinarian?

I think that many people dream of being a vet but that privilege is give to very few. I am one of the lucky few. Those of us who dare to try and fulfil their dream and succeed.

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

That's a difficult one. What DON'T I enjoy. I love the work, I love the animals and I love the people. I love being able to cure my patients and seeing them walk out wagging their tails or purring with happiness. Sounds kitsch but it's the truth.

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

We live in an African country where more and more we are out of the main stream of modern veterinary. Our clients are more and more financially stressed and making the private practice that I own work and pay for itself is more of a challenge than it used to be. The challenges facing the National association are finding

ways to ensure the continuity and financial wellbeing of their members.

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

I email all the communications to the SA Vet association. I used to attend the SAVA meetings but the executive of the SAVA do not have the budget to fund this and it has now stopped. Communications are on a needs basis. The CVA is one of a number of organisations vying for attention. I try and keep the SAVA aware of the CVA. Not always as successfully as I would want.

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

I think that the CVA has done a great job of assisting me. Exposing me to other councillors via conferences has been fantastic. Some of the real highlights of my councillor career have been conferences and meeting up with people who I had made friends with from my first CVA congress.

The good will fostered at these places stands the councillors in great stead.

Thank you for this opportunity

With warm regards

Roy Aronson



Recipes from the world – from Montserrat

Montserrat Cocktail

Ingredients:

- 1¼ ounce Tullamore D.E.W. Original
- ¾ ounces cloudy apple juice
- brown sugar cube
- dash Angostura Bitters
- Large orange 'Horses Neck' twist

Directions:

Muddle brown sugar cube, bitters, and small amount of Tullamore D.E.W. in bottom of rocks glass. Fill glass with cubed ice. Stir to dilute, adding Tullamore D.E.W. slowly. Add more ice as necessary. Afterward, add apple juice and garnish with an orange twist.

