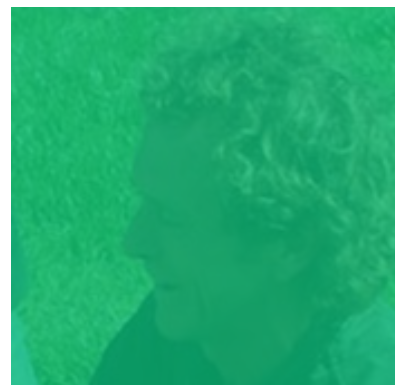




Annual Report

2024-2025



About the CVA

"The Mission of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association is to promote the veterinary profession within the Commonwealth by encouraging the highest professional standards of education, ethics and service in order to advance animal health, productivity and welfare so as to improve the quality of life of all its peoples."

Founded in 1967, the CVA celebrates 58 years without a single salaried staff member. We continue our capacity-building efforts to assist veterinarians in their professional roles and to develop their leadership potential within their communities and public offices. The main aim of the CVA is to help and strengthen the capacities of National Veterinary Associations in Commonwealth countries to improve the health and well-being of their communities and nations.

CVA Executive 2024-2027



PRESIDENT

Dr Sarah Wilkinson-Eytle (Jamaica)



SECRETARY

Dr Jeff Cave (Australia)



TREASURER

Dr Dianne Philips (Australia)



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dr Olatunji Nasir (Nigeria)



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr Abdul Rahman (India)



COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Dr Joshua Ngwisha (Zambia)

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

to be confirmed



Notable Events

The CVA Past-President, Dr Olatunji Nasir, represented the CVA for the fifth time at the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates, where the CVA's ideals were presented and the links between the AVMA and the CVA were strengthened.

Collaborations

CVA UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH MOU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies (R(D)SVS), University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom, and the CVA on 18th February 2025. This MoU sets out each party's understanding of their collaborative activities. The parties intend to promote co-operation in teaching, research, and service to the community by working together on activities and projects that align with strategy and objectives. In the first instance, this will be to develop and promote animal welfare teaching and research collaborations between R(D)SVS and Commonwealth veterinary organisations.

Specifically, this will involve sharing animal welfare teaching curricula and resources; supporting animal welfare training activities in different Commonwealth countries through the delivery of teaching (remotely or in person); and providing training visits to The Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education (JMICAWE) facilities in Edinburgh to assist in the development of animal welfare activities in the home countries.

Donations

CVA BOOK PROGRAM

Every year donated veterinary textbooks are sent free of charge from Australia. Dr Jim Connah coordinates the CVA Book Program in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. Books are donated by veterinarians in Australia, all of whom are thanked for their generosity; without their support, the program would not exist. The books are available for distribution to veterinarians and veterinary students in CVA member countries in good standing. The current inventory in Australia comprises nearly 1000 books with over 700 different titles. During 2024 – 2025, The CVA sent consignments of books to Nigeria (7), Tanzania (2), Uganda (1) and Bangladesh (8)* The CVA thanks Dr Connah for his continued support.



TONGA MAFF RECEIVES A DONATED MICROSCOPE

Agribio Veterinary Diagnostic Services, based in Melbourne, Victoria, kindly donated a reconditioned microscope to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Forest in Tonga. The CVA assisted in sourcing and delivering the microscope to a worthy recipient. We are confident that the microscope will greatly aid procedures such as faecal egg counts and basic haematology.

Regional Conferences

JOINT CVA AND TANZANIA VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (TVA) REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Joint CVA and TVA regional conference, held from 3 to 5 December 2025 at Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge in Arusha, Tanzania, provided an exceptional platform for veterinary professionals from East, Central and Southern African Commonwealth countries to collaborate on addressing critical issues in veterinary medicine.



SECOND PAN COMMONWEALTH VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

The 2nd Pan Commonwealth Virtual Conference was held on Saturday, 2 November 2025. The theme of the conference was "Climate change and its impact on animal health, livestock production, and animal welfare." To see a recording of the conference, click [here](#)



THIRD PAN COMMONWEALTH VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

The 3rd Pan Commonwealth Virtual Conference was held on Friday, 9 May. The guest speaker at the conference was Professor Emeritus Peter Windsor from the Sydney School of Veterinary Science, who gave an engaging and thought-provoking presentation, "How livestock health research led to an international greenhouse gas emissions abatement strategy for large ruminants". To view a recording of the conference, click [here](#)

CVA Activities in the Asian Region

INAUGURATION OF THE KVAFSU-CVA RABIES DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AT HASSAN VETERINARY COLLEGE, KARNATAKA, INDIA

A Rabies Diagnosis Laboratory was inaugurated at the Veterinary College Hassan, India, which will serve as a satellite laboratory of the CVA/KVAFSU Rabies Diagnosis Laboratory at Veterinary College, Bangalore, India, now recognised as a WOAH Reference Laboratory for Rabies.

INAUGURATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE CENTRE AND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ANIMAL WELFARE RESEARCH AT VETERINARY COLLEGE, HASSAN

With the support of KVAFSU and CVA, and financial support from Open Philanthropy, an animal welfare research centre was inaugurated at the Department of Livestock Production Management, Veterinary College, Hassan, on 5 February 2025, to conduct research on animal welfare, behaviour, and the ethics of farm animal management.

An international workshop on animal welfare research was organised at the veterinary college in Hassan on 5 and 6 February 2025. A total of 60 faculty members and postgraduate students from various veterinary colleges of KVAFSU, as well as veterinarians from the State Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, participated in the two-day conference.



AUDIT OF ANIMAL WELFARE RESEARCH CENTRES AT PUDUCHERRY AND BANGALORE

To evaluate the work of the Animal Welfare Research Centre (AWRC), Bangalore, and RIVER-AWRC, Puducherry, the CVA decided to conduct an audit of the two centres. This will help review the strengths and areas for improvement at each centre and help plan future strategies. This was done with financial support from Open Philanthropy.

Two animal welfare experts, Dr. Peter Thornber from Australia and Dr. Kate Littin from New Zealand, were invited to conduct the audit.



NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PROGRESS IN ANIMAL WELFARE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

A national workshop on "Progress in Animal Welfare Research" was held at the Veterinary College, Bangalore, India, on the 23rd and 24th of June, 2025. The conference had a total of 80 participants which included faculty from veterinary colleges and research institutes across India, officers from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services of the Government of Karnataka, India, faculty from veterinary colleges and research centres of Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU) and postgraduate and doctoral students from Veterinary College Bangalore.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. K. C. Veeranna, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, KVAFSU, in the presence of Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Executive Director CVA, Dr. S. Yathiraj, Regional Coordinator, CVA Asian Region, Dr. H.C. Indresh, President Karnataka Veterinary Council, and Dr. N.K. Shivakumar Gowda, Dean, Veterinary College, Bangalore. Dr. Vivek M. Patil, Professor & Head AWRC, served as the organising secretary, and Dr. Mahadevappa D. Gouri and Dr. S.B. Prasanna served as the co-organizing secretaries.



ANIMAL WELFARE TRAINING AT JEAN MARCHIG INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION (JMICAWE)

To strengthen the technical expertise on animal welfare at the animal welfare centres of KVAFSU's AWRC, Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Executive Director of CVA, sought the assistance of JMICAWE to train the centre's staff. Prof. Cathy Dwyer, Director of JMICAWE, designed a week-long training program focused on acquiring knowledge and skills regarding the latest developments in animal welfare. Three faculty members, Dr. R. Guruprasad, Dr. Cheryl Dimphna Miranda, and Dr. C. Kotresh Prasad of the Department of LPM at Hassan, Athani, and Bidar Veterinary Colleges, India, were sponsored by the CVA with financial assistance from the Open Philanthropy Project for training at JMICAWE. The training took place from May 24th to May 31st, 2025.



DONATION OF EQUIPMENT TO CVA ANIMAL WELFARE CENTRES AT BANGALORE AND PUDUCHERRY, INDIA

CVA, in collaboration with Open Philanthropy, has donated animal welfare equipment to the CVA animal welfare centres at the Veterinary College in Bangalore and Puducherry, India, with the aim of enhancing animal welfare related research activities at the Centre. The equipment supplied included FLIR C5 Thermal Imaging Cameras, CCTV Camera System with 6 HD IP camera, Ambient Smart Weather Station WS 2902, and Smart Neck Tag System with Gateway for 100 dairy cattle.

Training Opportunities

VET SUSTAIN

As a part of our ongoing collaboration, Vet Sustain and Vet Salus offered the CVA one free place on the online course entitled "A Veterinary approach to sustainable food and farming". The value of the offer was £1500. To maximize the benefits of the offer for its members, the CVA executive decided to supplement this by extending the award to three additional places on the course to eligible members, with the balance of funding being paid from the CVA Study Fund. The three successful recipients were Nicholas Muyale of Kenya, Chelsea Simo of Vanuatu, and Gabrielle Young of Jamaica. To read a case study written by Dr Gabrielle Young of Jamaica, click [here](#)

ONLINE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Over 600 peer-reviewed online units, many of which are freely available to veterinarians in developing countries, are available through the CVA's association with The World Continuing Education Alliance. Registration details can be found by visiting the CVA's website <https://cva.vet/>.



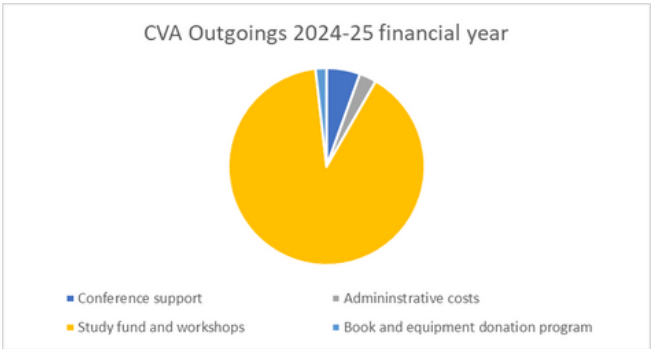
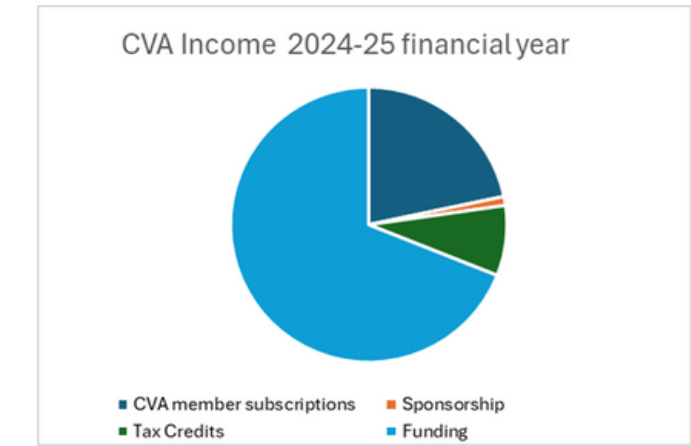
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ANIMAL WELFARE RESEARCH IN PUDUCHERRY, INDIA

An International Workshop on Animal Welfare Research, organised by the CVA and the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER), Puducherry was held on 19 and 20 August 2024 at RIVER, Puducherry, India. This workshop was generously supported by Open Philanthropy.

Administration

TREASURER’S REPORT

For the financial year 2024-25, the CVA received a combined income of AUD 143,503.74 from country memberships, sponsorship and funding from Open Philanthropy.



COMMUNICATIONS

The CVA’s primary means of external communication is through a combination of its website, a regular e-Newsletter, and an active Facebook page. Internally, officers communicate frequently using WhatsApp chat groups.

34th CbVMA Conference and PCVC8 in Jamaica - Update

When Hurricane Melissa swept across Jamaica, it left widespread destruction affecting families, infrastructure, and animals. Veterinary teams in Jamaica responded with resilience and compassion as they addressed the immense animal welfare needs that emerged in the wake of the storm.

CVA President Dr. Sarah Wilkinson-Eytle shared that many communities were still processing the devastation days after the event. Her Kingston office stabilized quickly, but the Mandeville office remained without electricity, water, and internet for an extended period. Despite this, veterinary services continued in limited but determined capacity, ensuring that both community animals and farm animals received urgent attention.

The Caribbean veterinary community, through the CANDO platform, mobilized to coordinate Jamaica’s priority needs and ensure safe, One-Health-aligned support. International partners such as IFAW provided critical assistance.

As Jamaica transitions into the recovery phase, veterinary teams are conducting mobile clinics, providing vaccinations, treating injuries, assessing livestock losses, rehabilitating wildlife, and restoring essential shelter infrastructure.

PCVC8 RESCHEDULED

In light of the hurricane, the 8th Pan-Commonwealth Veterinary Conference was postponed. The conference has been rescheduled to 14–17 April 2026 in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

The conference will surely serve as a symbol of resilience; a celebration of unity, scientific advancement, and the unwavering strength of the Commonwealth veterinary family.

A CALL-TO-ACTION

Support Jamaica’s Veterinary Recovery Efforts
Your contribution will assist with:

- Mobile veterinary clinics
- Vaccines, medicines, and emergency care supplies
- Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation
- Repair of damaged shelters
- Field logistics and farmer support

To contribute:
Email: info@cva.vet



THE CVA IS PROUDLY SPONSORED
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**Commonwealth
Veterinary Association**

Thank You



Here is to a productive year filled with engagement

Contact us :

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