Dear colleagues and friends of the WVA,

After a successful first meeting of the WVA Executive Committee and Council held in Prague on 6th and 7th February 2012 after the board election in Cape Town, the World Veterinary Association is aiming to strengthen the role of veterinarians worldwide and to give more visibility to our global association.

WVA decided to organize the first World Veterinary Conference on Veterinary Statutory Bodies VSB in Hammamet, Tunisia on 7th and 8th December 2012 and will take the leadership by gathering all the national veterinary statutory organizations and international institutions partners with the veterinarians. This event will be an important opportunity to better organize the exercise of the veterinary profession,
harmonize good veterinary practice worldwide and give better visibility, transparency and good governance in managing public and animal health as well as animal welfare, food safety and food hygiene.

Also, the World Veterinary Association will organize the third World Veterinary Conference on Veterinary Education in Bangkok, Thailand in May 2013 and will confirm leadership of our association in this important field.

Among the main activities developed by the newly elected WVA Council this year, is the establishment of a WVA Working Group representing all the continents and regions in charge of the revision of the WVA Constitution and By Laws. Their first meeting is scheduled for March 28th in Brussels.

Following up the Cape Town Presidents’ Assembly recommendations, the new WVA Executive Committee is looking to strengthen the structure of the WVA secretariat and to increase its involvement for better communication both internal towards WVA members and external by updating and improving the website. We would like also to build a strong liaison and have joint actions with international organizations WHO, FAO, World Bank and OIE following Memorandum of Understanding.

WVA will build and develop a strategic plan and will focus on education, antimicrobial resistance and animal welfare. We will work on identifying the WVA services that are needed to attract new members and retain the existing members.

The World Veterinary Association will continue to support WVA members and attend and support both international and regional congresses to strengthen the necessary partnership and positive veterinary influence in their countries.

As President of the Global Association I attended visits to Egypt (November 2011), and Serbia together with our immediate Past President (December 2011). I gained some appreciation of veterinary life in these countries and I was made to see how important is the good image and “power” of WVA. We should support the actions of other international organizations, for example the PVS tool, twining programs and many others development projects. These visits were well covered by the media and WVA visibility was largely expanded.

I have also, on behalf WVA, forwarded opening addresses to the 20th Anniversary of the Mongolian Veterinary Medical Association organized in connection with their celebration of the Vet2011 in Mongolia and the 120th Anniversary of the Distinguish Cuban Veterinary Savant Dr Idelfonso Perez Vigueras 1892 - 1959 organized in Pinar Del Rio, Cuba during their annual scientific congress from 9th to 11th February 2012.

WVA received many invitations from national association members and will try to attend certain of them depending on our busy schedule and activities. We will continue to support regional meetings and international conferences.

The WVA President and Immediate Past President attended the 1st FAO Global Multi-Stakeholders Forum on animal welfare supported by the European Union in Brussels in March. WVA made a presentation focusing on the important role played by veterinarians in animal health and animal welfare.

The EXCOM and Council will pursue monthly telephone conferences and will progress discussions on the different activities and the expectations of the profession worldwide.

Finally I would like to support all members in celebrating World Veterinary Day 2012 on the selected theme of
antimicrobial resistance. I encourage all members to apply for the award and urge all of you to prepare your plans to come to the beautiful and tourist focused city of Hammamet, Tunisia on December 7th - 8th, 2012. You will then take an active part in the 1st global Veterinary Conference on Veterinary Statutory Bodies VSB

organized by the WVA with the support of international organizations and partners.

Welcome to Tunisia and best regards.

Faouzi Kechrid
WVA President

World Veterinary Association Constitution and By-Laws

WVA Members will know from the discussions at Presidents’ Assembly in Cape Town that a decision was made to form a representative group to consider any necessary changes to the WVA Constitution and By-Laws.

Membership of this Sub Committee was approved by Council at its meeting in Prague. With a specified time line and intended outcomes, all seven members of the group were mobilised to a first meeting in Brussels on the 28th and 29th March. An initial introductory session, presented by Past President Tjeerd Jorna enabled the Sub Committee to proceed by addressing this crucial area of endeavour on behalf of WVA.

Under the focussed direction from the Chair (Dr Rene Carlson) full participation and expression of views resulted in a most productive first meeting with a plan to achieve the intended outcome within the specified time frame. Interim reports will be received by WVA ExCom in May and again in September. Wider consultation, as specified by Council, will take place as directed. Further progress will be reported.

Sub Committee Membership: Dr Abdul Rahman, Mr Bob Stevenson, Dr Clive Marwick, Dr Khaled elhicheri, Dr Pat Turner, Dr Rene Carlson (Chair), Dr Vincent Ng In Hooi.

WVA policy and Position Papers

One of the significant activities of the World Veterinary Association (WVA) is to engage the global veterinary community in discussion on current issues of importance to the veterinary profession. The process of developing and publishing policy and position papers is aimed at this objective. At the most recent council meeting of the WVA in Prague, Dr Walter Winding, Councillor for associate members and Mr. Robert Stevenson, Councillor for Europe, were appointed to join the policy committee.

A number of issues were identified by council as worthy of discussion. These include:

♦ Dangerous Dogs
♦ Code of Good Veterinary Practice
♦ Essential Core Veterinary Curriculum
♦ Defining the Veterinarian and Use of Title for Recognition
♦ Defining the Veterinarians Role in Animal Welfare

The policy committee, with the support of various Councillors will draft initial papers on these topics. Once council as a whole has decided that the content is worthy of discussion and is on track to establish a position for the WVA, the documents will individually be distributed to all WVA member organizations and posted on the WVA web site. Feed back will be received and incorporated into revisions, with an ultimate goal being to prepare a series of policies for presentation at the 2013 Presidents Assembly in Prague.

Dr. Duane Landals
World Veterinary Association
Vice President, Policy
The Prague WVC 2013 Organising Committee is actually finalising the structure of the Congress Scientific Program. A number of streams will include Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, Bovine, Swine and Poultry streams, Equine, Exotics and Aquatic Veterinary Medicine, Food Hygiene, Epidemiology and Welfare streams; all disciplines joined with all star lecturers names. Potential partners and sponsors are encouraged to join for satellite symposia up to time and rooming limits.

Details on the developing program, social events including a parallel organised 1st World Veterinary Golf Championship and other relevant information are currently updated on www.wvc2013.com

The Prague WVC 2013 promotion campaign starts at spring BSAVA/WSAVA Congress in Birmingham and include many important professional gatherings as IPVS Congress in Jeju and WBC Congress in Lisbon in June, AVMA Convention in San Diego in August and bigger meetings of European professional associations as autumn German bpt. Congress in Hannover or FVE General Assembly in Brussels.

Come to see us at our WVC 2013 information stand in one of these professional events exhibition areas, where you might also win a free registration for Prague WVC 2013. And please start your countdown for the World Veterinary Congress 2013 and World Veterinary Association 150th Anniversary Celebration 17th – 20th September in Prague, Czech Republic.

K. Daniel
on behalf of WVC 2013 Organising Committee
World Veterinary Day was instigated by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in 2000 to be celebrated annually on the last Saturday of April.

In 2008 the WVA and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) agreed on the creation of the World Veterinary Day Award aimed at rewarding the most successful celebration of the veterinary profession by national veterinary associations, alone, or in cooperation with any other selected veterinary body.

Selected theme for 2012: Antimicrobial Resistance

Antimicrobials have revolutionised medical and veterinary practice since their introduction more than 60 years ago. Today they are essential tools for ensuring health and welfare of animals.

Loss of efficacy in antimicrobial treatment through resistance development is an ever-present risk both towards animal as well as public health. Especially in the context of the growing global demand for noble proteins along with the crucial need for sufficient and safe production of animal products such as milk, eggs and meat, the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in animals must be promoted.

That is why delivery of antimicrobials and treatment of animals should be done directly through well-trained veterinarians: WVA and OIE strongly advocate for the reinforcement of the good governance of Veterinary Services - both in their public and private components – for better control in registration, import, distribution and on-farm use of antimicrobials.

All parties involved must work together to harmonize national and international antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes as well as implement risk assessment measures.

The winner will receive 1,000US$ at the 80th OIE General Session to be held in Paris (France) on 20th – 25th May 2012.
Interest in antimicrobial resistance shows no sign of abating, with the latest manifestation of this being publication by the World Health Organization this month of a document called ‘The evolving threat of antimicrobial resistance – options for change’ (see: www.who.int/patientsafety/implementation/amr/publication/en/index.html). Like most publications on this subject, and as one might expect from the WHO, it is primarily concerned with preserving the efficacy of antimicrobials for use in human medicine, and includes a chapter on reducing antimicrobial use in animal husbandry with this aim firmly in mind.

This is by no means the first time the WHO has focused on antimicrobial resistance, which a press release about the document describes as ‘a crisis [that] has been building up for decades’. In 2001, for example, it published a strategy for tackling the problem and, in 2011, it chose antimicrobial resistance as the subject for World Health Day. Using the slogan ‘No action today, no cure tomorrow’, the WHO used the day to highlight the threat posed by resistance and also published a six-point policy package to tackle the problem (see: www.who.int/world-health-day/2011/policybriefs/en/index.html). Its latest publication aims to assess progress since the original strategy was published in 2001, highlight areas where action is still needed and stimulate more coordinated action globally.

An introductory paragraph to the chapter on animal husbandry leaves little doubt as to its thrust: ‘Antibiotics are used widely and in vast quantities to ensure the health and promote the growth of livestock, poultry and fish reared for food production. The fact that greater quantities are used in healthy animals than in unhealthy humans is a cause for serious concern, particularly as some of the same antibiotics are involved and food animals have been shown to carry resistant human pathogens. Some countries have banned the use of antibiotics as growth promoters, but the practice remains widespread. Legislation and regulation with enforcement are needed to control the use of antibiotics for these purposes in many countries.’

Other chapters consider the use of antibiotics in people, both in healthcare institutions and more widely, as well as rightly highlighting the need for more information on antibiotic usage and better surveillance for resistance worldwide. However, the chapter on animals, along with various other comments in the document, tends to reinforce the impression – evident when the European Parliament unveiled its 12-point action plan to tackle antimicrobial resistance last November – that political efforts to deal with the problem are focusing particularly on use of antimicrobials in animals at present. This is unfortunate, because antimicrobial resistance is a problem for animals as well as people and effort is needed across the board (VR, November 26, 2011, vol 169, pp 564, 565–566).

Tackling resistance requires a ‘one health approach’ and, in this respect, a symposium to be held in London on October 2 should prove helpful. Organised by the RCVS, the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Pathologists, in association with the Health Protection Agency (HPA), it will bring together medical and veterinary scientists and practitioners to discuss antimicrobial resistance in the spirit of one medicine. Speakers will review the scientific evidence base to help inform a rational debate; as well as discussing the origins and spread of resistance between humans, animals and the environment, they will consider the importance of antimicrobial use and misuse globally, the impact of travel and the outcomes of previous interventions. Details are available at www.rcvs.org.uk/amrsymposium

Antimicrobial resistance will be discussed, too, at this year's BVA Congress, in a debate that will consider the issues from both a veterinary and public health perspective. It is also likely to feature in the plenary Wooldridge memorial lecture, in which David Heymann, chairman of the HPA, who contributed to the recent WHO report, will discuss the veterinary contribution to public health. The congress will be held in Liverpool from September 28 to 29 and details
are available at
www.bva.co.uk/events/BVA_Congress.aspx

As these meetings and other developments make clear, attention seems set to continue to focus on resistance for some time yet. There are good reasons for ensuring that effective antimicrobials remain available for use in veterinary as well as human medicine and therefore for ensuring that products are used responsibly. Meanwhile, given the current level of political interest, and with the EU in the process of reviewing veterinary medicines legislation and animal health law, it remains important not only to ensure responsible use, but to demonstrate that this is happening.


Survey on antimicrobial prescribing habits

The Heads of Medicines Agency (HMA) together with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) set up a survey on antimicrobial prescribing habits of European veterinarians.

The goal of this survey is to provide a better insight into the decision making process of the veterinarian when he or she is considering antimicrobials as a therapy. This insight is essential to understand why and whether the measures taken so far to control veterinary antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are effective or not, and will serve as a basis for future actions.


Successful strategies to safeguard medications

The evolving threat of antimicrobial resistance - options for action, is a new book launched by the WHO. It showcases examples of actions taken to slow down drug resistance and preserve the ability of medicine to effectively treat many diseases.


World Health Organisation to Maintain Official Relations with the World Veterinary Association

The President of the WVA, Dr Faouzi Kechrid, received a letter on the 7th of February to advise that the WHO Executive Board has reviewed the collaboration between the WHO and the WVA and decided to maintain the WVA in official relations with the WHO. In making its decision, the Board commended the continuing dedication of the WVA in support of the work of the WHO.

The WHO has conveyed its thanks to the members of the WVA for their work with the WHO.

The WVA has made a very strong commitment to One Health and the management of Antimicrobial Resistance. This was demonstrated at the First WVA Summit held during the 30th World Veterinary Congress in Cape Town, October 2011. The theme for World Veterinary Day on the 28th of April, 2012 is Antimicrobial Resistance.
Nepal Veterinary Association 10th National Conference in Kathmandu

The Nepal Veterinary Association concluded its 10th National conference under the theme "Veterinarians for Safeguarding Animal, Human and Environment" on 30th March, 2012, with the election of new executive committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Bimal Kumar Nirmal.

Nepal's PM Dr Baburam Bhattarai and WVA President Dr Faouzi Kechrid

The Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr. Baburam Bhattarai inaugurated the function. Dr. Faouzi Kechrid, President, World Veterinary Association presided as a special chief guest of the function. Around 450 veterinarians participated in this National conference.

Nepalese Vets during the conference
More than 60 technical papers were presented and issues like animal production, poverty reduction, food hygiene, animal reproduction, food security, animal welfare, zoonoses were discussed vigorously during the technical session. A brief amendment in by-laws of the association was also made by the general assembly in the closed session.

The 13 membered elected committee includes Dr. Bimal Kumar Nirmal as President, Dr. Bansi Sharma as vice president, Dr. Sital Kaji Shrestha as General Secretary, Dr. Jeevan Adhikari as Secretary, Dr. Hari Prasad Suwal as Treasurer, Dr. Peetambar Singh Kushuhawa as Chief Editor. Similarly Dr. Mukul Upadhyay and Dr. Sita Acharya were elected as central members. Dr. Lekhraj Dahal, Dr. Mogal Prasad Sah, Dr. Ashesh Bhattarai, Dr. Tapendra Prasad Bohara and Dr. Hemraj Awasthi were elected as Regional members.
4th HVMS Food Congress

Organized by: Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society

With very great success completed the «4th HVMS Food Congress» of the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society and the Branch of Veterinary Public Health held in the new Convention and Cultural Center of Thessaloniki, at 11, 12 and 13 November 2011.

With this congress the HVMS brought food to the foreground, raising the successful food symposium 2004 into a modern congress which became once again the great scientific event in our country with the subject «Modern Approach to Food Hygiene and Safety».

The topics covered were: Meat and meat products, Milk and milk products, Fisheries, Public health and Food safety, Plant food and plant products, Feeding stuffs and water, Legislation and Education, Laboratory methods and Special topics.

Also, during the congress five (5) Round Tables took place with specific lectures on issues: Food and Public Health, Emerging technologies in food, Food crises, Bioterrorism-Food and Food-Feed-Water.

The opening ceremony honored by his presence Prof. Emeritus Constantine Genigeorgis, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, USA and Prof. Emeritus School of Veterinary Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GREECE, presented a lecture with the title «Food Safety in a Globalized Food Chain».

This conference has been a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions from leading scientists and experts of the food sector from Greece and abroad but also from universities, research centers and government agencies who shared their knowledge and experiences with us and discussed the latest scientific and technological developments.

Dr Athanassios E. Tyrpenou
President of the Organizing Committee
India needs to double the number of veterinarians in practice in order to meet the food security needs of its growing population and the increasing demand for animal protein as diets change with increasing living standards. This was one of the reasons put forward by Shri Rhudra Gangodharan, Secretary at the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, at an international consultation, for strengthening the Indian veterinary profession.

There are about 80,000 veterinarians registered in India of which 50,000 (62%) are in practice. In the next 5-year plan (2012-2017), India will be concentrating on improving livelihoods and boosting trade, and a modern veterinary profession is needed to ensure sufficient food of the right quality is produced, and that the people are protected from zoonotic diseases. Zoonoses are a particular concern in India as about 80% of India’s population live in close contact with animals.

The consultation, organized in New Delhi by CABI and ICAR, together with Edinburgh University, WikiVet, and Pfizer Animal Health, brought together senior veterinary officials from research, academia, professional bodies, NGO’s and industry, for two days of discussion on how to ensure the profession develops to meet the demands of the future. The report from the meeting has recently been published and is available at: http://www.cabi.org/uploads/file/VetMedResource/India_Vet_Report_2012_Final_G.pdf.

A number of themes emerged from the speakers and from the general discussion, including the need for more veterinarians, a higher quality of veterinary services from current veterinarians, better provision of continuing professional development (CPD), and the importance of quality information at all stages of a veterinary career. Partnerships between the public sector and the private sector, and between Indian organizations and international organizations, could also provide a real opportunity for the profession to develop.

There was general agreement from representatives of the Indian Government and veterinary organizations that the profession needs to be strengthened to meet the future demands of a growing population, and the challenges of emerging zoonotic diseases. This shortage of veterinarians was also emphasised by Dr Ayyappan, Secretary, Department for Agriculture, Research and Education (DARE), and Director General of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) who suggested that the number of veterinary universities should be increased, and that the Government of India was planning to increase investment in higher education from 11% to 15%. As well as increasing the numbers of veterinarians, the level of service that they provide needs to change so that veterinarians become “dispensers of knowledge, and not merely dispensers of drugs”.

The role of veterinarians in improving human health was also highlighted by Dr. Mahesh Kumar of Pfizer Animal Health, who spoke about the globalization of animal diseases and the “one health” concept. This concept seeks to enhance collaboration between veterinarians and physicians, and other health professionals, to promote the health and well-being of all species. He used the examples of developing vaccines for zoonotic diseases to demonstrate how a more cohesive approach between medics, veterinarians and ecologists would help address the challenge of emerging diseases.

The value of partnerships, particularly public-private partnerships, as a way of meeting future needs of developing veterinary expertise and building capacity, was one of the conclusions from the workshops. Siddarth Shah (Pfizer Animal Health) described how such partnerships between industry and academia can be mutually beneficial with both parties bringing different value contributions. Academia can bring knowledge and expertise, awareness of local needs, access to local resources, and connections and networks, whereas industry brings R&D capabilities, advanced technologies, finance management skills, commercialisation, and reach.

International partnerships enable the sharing of knowledge and use of expertise from abroad.
This was demonstrated by Professor Neil Sargison in his description of the Indian Education Project currently being developed at the University of Edinburgh. The educational needs of veterinarians and farmers are assessed after a detailed examination of livestock health problems and their causes, considering husbandry as well as diseases. Then training tools, conventional and web-based, are developed to enable local veterinarians to deal problems holistically.

**Dairy focus**

Much of the discussion focused on the needs of the dairy sector which is central to India’s livestock industry. India is currently the world’s largest producer of milk, but still struggles to meet domestic demand. Dr D. K. Sharma of the National Dairy Development Board described a fragmented dairy sector where 86% of dairy animals are on holdings of less than 4 hectares where the average herd size is 3.6 animals, and 46% are on marginal holdings of less than 1 hectare. Productivity varies widely across the country with the average yield of cross-bred cows in the Punjab being 10.54 kg/day compared with 3.3 kg/day in Assam. He identified some of the main problems facing the dairy sector as: the seasonality of milk yield in buffaloes (buffaloes produce 53% of milk), which dips in the summer; the difficulties associated with culling cows; lack of veterinarians; and the need for veterinarians to cover animal husbandry issues such as nutrition and breeding. His recommendations for veterinary education to benefit the dairy sector included: more hands-on training in school; more study time spent on production and husbandry subjects and their better integration into the course; more continuing education and exchange programmes; more emphasis on herd health management; and sensitization to communication skills, economics, and international developments.

**Mobile information**

Throughout the workshop, the need for veterinarians to have access to current information was a key theme. The rapid development of mobile communication technology raises the possibility that mobile phones will be the main way that veterinarians and farmers will communicate and access information in the future, and could be the preferred medium for accessing information and CPD. Andrea Powell (CABI) described a pilot project for delivering animal disease data via smart phones that CABI was working on. Nick Short (RVC) in his presentation on ‘Technology in the veterinary field’ pointed out that there were over 940 million mobile phones in India which is equal to about 70% of the population. This relatively new avenue of communication has the potential to effect significant change in all areas of agriculture including animal health and production.

The recommendations from the report will be examined by the veterinary authorities of the Government of India and will be worked into a ‘roadmap’ for the veterinary profession.

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**Do citizens and farmers interpret the concept of farm animal welfare differently?**

Animal welfare is of increasing importance in livestock production and consumption debates. However, discordance exists between citizens’ and farmers’ perception of animal welfare. Since the search for, and the realization of, improvements towards farm animal welfare is strongly driven by citizen expectations, it is of utmost importance to better understand this perceptual discordance.

A quantitative study was done in Flanders, Belgium during 2006, including citizens as well as farmers, to obtain a detailed insight in the way the multi-dimensional concept of farm animal welfare is valued. Read more at: [www.fao.org/ag/againfo/themes/animal-welfare/news-detail/en/?dyna_fef%5Buid%5D=122981](http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/themes/animal-welfare/news-detail/en/?dyna_fef%5Buid%5D=122981)
Enriched Housing for Laying Hens

Congressman and veterinarian, Dr. Kurt Schrader, has introduced legislation in the US Congress called the Egg Product Inspection Act Amendments (HR 3798) that would require enriched housing for laying hens. These cages would provide perches and additional space, with these new requirements being implemented over the next 15-18 years. This legislation came about because of an agreement between the United Egg Producers (representing the majority of egg producers in the US) and the Humane Society of the United States.

The legislation would improve the welfare of laying hens; however, there are concerns that it would also provide for federal oversight of farm animals on the farm – a heretofore off-limits area in the USA. Because of the AVMA’s primary concern with the welfare issue, the AVMA Executive Board recently approved AVMA “support” of HR 3798. For a summary of AVMA federal legislative activities, please see www.avma.org/advocacy/federal/legislative/default.asp. For a JAVMA news story on this issue, please see http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/mar12/120315h.asp.

Iraqi Delegation Visits AVMA

From February 27-March 2, the AVMA hosted a delegation from the Iraqi Veterinary Medical Syndicate (Association).

The four member delegation, accompanied by two staff members of the Borlaug Institute (http://borlaug.tamu.edu/), were visiting the USA for approximately two weeks to gain insight and ideas as they grow their own association back home.

Prior to coming to AVMA Headquarters in Schaumburg, Illinois, the Iraqi delegation participated in the Midwestern Veterinary Conference in Columbus, Ohio. While in Ohio, the delegation also visited the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and met with USDA personnel in Ohio and the Ohio state veterinarian.

While at the AVMA, the Iraqi delegation met with most divisions to learn more about how associations operate in the USA….and in particular, how the AVMA interacts with its members, the federal government, state associations, and schools/colleges of veterinary medicine.

During their stay in the USA, the Iraqi delegation also met with testing vendors to learn more about what goes into making rigorous and fair licensing or certification examinations.

Syringomyelia scheme launched at Crufts 2012

A new scheme to screen dogs for syringomyelia was officially launched at Crufts, at the NEC in Birmingham (8th – 11th March 2012).

The British Veterinary Association/Kennel Club Canine Health Schemes team educated Crufts visitors (breeders, owners, potential puppy buyers and dog lovers) about the new scheme and encouraging breeders of the most affected breeds to get their dogs scanned and screened.
WVA Council and Excom meet in Prague

The first meetings for 2012 were held in Prague in February.

From the left: Bob Stevenson, Karel Daniel, Lyle Vogel, Past-President Tjeerd Jorna, Walter Winding, John Drake, Vice-President Duane Landals, President Faouzi Kechrid, Clive Marwick, Vice-President Johnson Chiang, Jan Vaarten, Jean Hokayem and Rafael Laguens

WCVM Research Survey Targets Cushing’s Disease

Researchers from the University of Saskatchewan’s Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) are asking how common is Cushing’s disease internationally if it is considered one of the most commonly diagnosed endocrine disorders of horses — especially as the equine population continues to age in Canada?

The researchers are conducting a 16-question survey of international equine practitioners.

Australia's new world-first system to support pet food safety

A new tracking system, the first of its kind in the world, has been launched to track health problems in dogs and cats that are suspected of being related to pet food.

The Pet Food Adverse Event System of Tracking – or PetFAST– is a joint initiative of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) and the Pet Food Industry Association of Australia (PFIAA).

Schmallenberg Virus
“Veterinary Vigilance for Vector-borne Virus”

Blue Tongue virus in 2008 now a new virus in Europe. Schmallenberg virus (SBV) was first detected by the Friedrick Loeffler Institute in Germany following the emergence of a novel virus described by both Dutch and German authorities late in 2011.

Dramatic models are available to illustrate a projected pathway of “plumes” of insects being blown from mainland Europe to South-East England in the later months of 2011. Enhanced surveillance identified evidence of SBV virus in samples in the UK in January 2012, within an identified risk region in South-East and Southern England.

Though mosquitoes, and even ticks, are known to carry viruses that are the closest relatives to SBV, the Orthobunyaviruses, the focus is on the Culicoides midge as the vector in this instance. Certain species of ruminant are now presenting with clinical evidence of infection.

The clinical signs, that European veterinarians are now alerted to, appear to be as the result of damage to the in-utero foetus in the first trimester of pregnancy. Ankylosed limb joints, with the consequent “fixed” appearance of the limbs, in new born offspring, is the more frequent report in the UK. The severe manifestation is illustrated in the accompanying photograph other signs might be neurological including blindness. Up to the present time, few foetal abnormalities in bovids and none in goats have been reported in UK.

The model, based on meteorology information, is useful in both explaining and perhaps in helping to anticipate outbreaks and to the development of contingency plans. However, the veterinarian remains the crucial clinical diagnostician. Clinical signs in adult cattle first alerted veterinarians in Europe. In these instances decline in milk production with some temporary diarrhoea and an increased rectal temperature, was the first alert.

Veterinarians are reaffirmed as the eyes and ears for their country. We need always to be in alert mode! Perhaps in a more rapidly changing Global climate, countries not so used to vector transmitted disease, with or without host-to-host transmission, need to differentiate when faced with varying clinical manifestations of disease.

The World Veterinary Association supports good strategies and Lab diagnostic capability in all countries. New and emerging infectious disease that has the potential to adversely affect animal health and welfare pose a challenge for veterinarians in the WVA and its “partner” organisation OIE. The different response to any trade restriction when any new disease appears and to ensure compulsory notification, or otherwise, clearly needs scientific assessment on a country by country basis. The European centre for Disease Prevention and Control considers zoonotic transmission to people unlikely.

What about preventive strategies? Veterinarians are asking this question. Vaccination is likely to be some two years away. Vector control strategies might lower the risk and any purchase of susceptible species from high incidence areas requires more than normal risk evaluation.

Bob Stevenson European Councillor

Photo credited to: RVC-AHVLA Surveillance Centre
WikiVet (http://en.wikivet.net/) is an international collaboration to develop a complete undergraduate veterinary curriculum online. Its mission is to become the most respected online educational resource for the international veterinary community.

WikiVet has over 15,000 registered users in almost 100 countries around the globe. To register, simply visit the registration page. Follow progress on WikiVet’s Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/WikiVet).

Asia Oceania Veterinary Group

A meeting of the Asia Oceania Veterinary Group (AOVG) was held in Bangkok on the 2nd March 2012 during the 37th International Conference on Veterinary Science 2011, Bangkok.

Dr Achariya Sailasuta welcomed the participants. Dr Shane Ryan introduced AOVG which is aimed to be an informal group for veterinarians in the region to meet. While education is the group’s main focus, the group can get together anytime and anywhere to share problems and experiences.

It is also a beneficial channel to communicate and representatives from each country can raise anything they learn from the group to their national body.

The AOVG calendar is at: https://sites.google.com/site/asiaoceaniaveterinarygroup/AOVG_calendar

The provisional date for the next AOVG meeting is June 14, 2012 during the WSAVA in Hochiminh City, Vietnam.

Left to right: Geoffrey Chen (ShSAVA / CSAVA); Tom Mangan (HKVA); Bashir Ahmad Fateh Mohamed (Dean, Veterinary Faculty, UPM); Huynh Thi Thanh Ngoc (VVA / VSAVA); Shane Ryan (SVA); Achariya Sailasuta (TVMA); Maturawan Tunhikorn (VPAT); Ong-orn Prasarnphanich (TVMA / WSPA)
Massey University is excited to offer Production Animal courses within its successful Master of Veterinary Medicine distance programme. Take the opportunity to join a group of like-minded cattle vets - the MVM courses enable veterinarians working in large animal practice to upskill and advance knowledge and job satisfaction. Massey’s MVM programme offers specific, detailed learning that will give you an in-depth insight into the issues you may face when dealing with Production Animals.

The MVM offers flexibility – students can opt for single subjects or a full qualification through our world-leading distance education programme. Starting in July are two courses:

• Calf Medicine, Health and Management
• Advanced Mastitis Management for the Production Animal Veterinarian

Upcoming courses in 2013 and 2014 are: veterinary clinical reproduction, lameness investigation and control, and advances in ruminant nutrition.

Reasons to study:

• Gain a Master level qualification through distance learning that translates the scientific knowledge to practical applications for the veterinary clinician
• Make informed decisions based on current literature.

Method of delivery:
By interactive distance learning. Peer-to-peer discussion and course work is all done in the online classroom and at the on-campus workshop (practical element) that is offered with each course. We have been working with our lecturers to produce relevant, science-based and targeted courses for the practitioner.

2012 courses are:
Calf Medicine, Health and Management
Lecturer: Anthony Andrews BVetMed MRCVS PhD DipECBHM DipECSRHM FBIAC FRSM
Youngstock are the future of the farm and veterinary involvement with youngstock rearing has never been more important. This course will give you the skills to maximise your on-farm involvement with calves and develop your skills and understanding in this important area. The course will give participants a greater understanding of the differing approaches to calf management in New Zealand and around the world. The course will update knowledge on the latest approaches to tackling disease and also cover other new developments in calf management.

Advanced Mastitis Management for the Production Animal Veterinarian
Lecturer: Andrew Biggs BVSc MRCVS
Mastitis remains the most important disease on dairy farms. Our understanding of mastitis and how to control it continues to expand year-on-year. This course will help you maximise your knowledge of mastitis and show how across different countries and continents, mastitis plans are being developed which focus on the science and how to get science on-farm.
ANNOUNCEMENT FOR AN INTERNATIONAL
VETERINARY SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

JOINT FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE (FVM) 8TH BIENNIAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE &
46TH KENYA VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (KVA) ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

DATE: APRIL 25TH – 27TH 2012
VENUE: SAFARI PARK HOTEL, NAIROBI

THEME:
Evolving the veterinary profession towards safeguarding the human well-being in a dynamic environment

Subthemes:
1. The role of the veterinary profession in achieving Kenya’s vision 2030: Veterinary education and training for the future, food safety and security, veterinary ethics and governance
2. One health and climate change: Changing disease patterns in animal and human, sustainable management of livestock and wildlife, effect of climate change in animal production, human-wildlife and livestock-wildlife interphase, response to predicted disease epidemics, drought and flooding, disease prevention and control (including ethno-veterinary medicine)
3. Innovative and relevant research and technology: Regional disease mapping and prediction, improving and sustaining local animal genetic pool, challenges in sustainable animal production, value addition and marketing of animal products, non-conventional livestock research

Stakeholders in the animal industry, scientists and veterinarians are invited to attend the conference. Abstracts should be a maximum of 250 words and should be submitted to assoosean_vet@uonbi.ac.ke and gathumbi@uonbi.ac.ke, pgathumbi@gmail.com

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: January 31st 2012

Registration fees
FVM and KVA Members
Early Registration (By January 31, 2012) Ksh. 11,000.00
Normal registration (February 1 – March 31, 2012) Ksh. 13,000.00
Late Registration (From April 1, 2012) Ksh. 15,000.00

Non FVM and KVA Members
Early Registration (By January 31, 2012) Ksh. 14,000.00
Normal registration (February 1 – March 31, 2012) Ksh. 16,000.00
Late Registration (From April 1, 2012) Ksh. 18,000.00

Students from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine KShs. 5,000.00
Veterinary Para-professionals Kshs. 7,000.00

International & Regional Participants
International Participants USD 400
East African Community-FVM and/or EAC Vet Association members USD 240

All payments should be made to: Dean’s office, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine / KVA National office / KVA branch offices
Cheques should be written to: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine- Kenya Veterinary Association

All payments should be accompanied by completed registration form and available in conference website or at the point of payment. Conference Website: kenyavetgoldjubileecelebration@uonbi.ac.ke

Payment can also be made by direct deposits to Equity Bank Community Corporate Branch, Account Number 0180 2986226669 or for international transactions Kenya, electronic swift transfer to EQBLKENAACCOUNT NUMBER 018 029 822 8869

Other pre-and on-conference activities include a Rabies Campaign on 24th April 2011 in Nairobi and KVAAGM on 26th April at the Safari Park Hotel.

Exhibition facilities and space will be made available at the conference venue for institutions and companies to showcase their products and services to the conference participants. More information on this is available at the conference website and at the under listed offices.
Calendar of Events

12th Pan-Hellenic Veterinary Congress
Animal Production and Productive Animals' Health
5th – 8th April 2012
The Athens Hilton
Website: www.hvms.gr/en/events.html

12th Indian Veterinary Congress
12th Indian Veterinary Congress
XIX Annual Conference of IAAVR
20th - 21st April 2012
College of Veterinary Science
Mhow (MP)

Joint Faculty of Veterinary Medicine 8th Biennial Scientific Conference & 46th Kenya Veterinary Association Annual Scientific Conference
25th - 27th April, 2012
Venue: Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi
More at: www.worldvet.org/docs/KVA2012Poster.pdf

1st Annual Veterinary Microbiology and Public Health Conference
19th May 2012
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Website: http://bsvmpsh.org/

AVA Annual Conference
Sustainability
20th – 25th May 2012
Website: www.ava.com.au

General Session of the OIE
May, 2012
Paris, France
Website: www.oie.int

World Buiatrics Congress 2012
June 3rd – 7th, 2012
Lisbon, Portugal
Website: www.wbc-2012.com

FAO/OIE global conference on foot and mouth disease control
27th - 29th June 2012
Bangkok, Thailand
Website: www.oie.int/eng/A_FMD2012/Background.html

Minding Animals Conference
4th – 6th July 2012
Utrecht University, The Netherlands
Website: www.mindinganimals.com

2012 CVMA Convention
July 11-14, 2012
Montreal, Quebec
Website: http://members.cvma-acmv.org:8080/Newsletter_2010/Redirect.aspx?LinkID=836253333370

International Conference on Diseases of Zoo and Wild Animals 2012
16th to 19th May 2012
Parco Natura Viva (Bussolengo/Verona, Italy) and Parc Hotel Paradiso (Castelnuovo del Garda, Italy).
Website: www.zoovet-conference.org
Joint WDA EWDA conference
Convergence in wildlife health
22nd – 27th July 2012
Lyon, France
Website: http://wda2012.vetagro-sup.fr

International Congress on Animal Reproduction
Jul. 29th - Aug. 2nd, 2012
International Congress on Animal Reproduction
Website: www.icar2012.com

AVMA Convention
7th August 2012
San Diego
Website: www.avmaconvention.org/avma12/public/enter.aspx

1st International Conference on Dog Population Management
September 4th – 8th, 2012
York, UK
Website: https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/docs2012/index.cfm

11th World Congress of Veterinary Anaesthesiology
24th to 26th September 2012
Cape Town, South Africa
Website: www.wcva2012.com

BVA Congress 2012
Delivering a healthy future
27 – 29 September
Maritime Museum
Liverpool, UK
Website: www.bva.co.uk/congress

EcoSummit 2012
30th September - 5th October, 2012

Antimicrobial resistance Symposium
2012
London
‘Antimicrobial resistance in human and veterinary medicine – one health, one problem?’
Website: www.rcvs.org.uk/amrsymposium

Third OIE global conference on animal welfare
6th – 8th November, 2012
Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Website: www.oie.int

2013

8th International Sheep Veterinary Congress
18th – 22nd February 2013
“Connecting Science and Sheep”
Website: www.conference.intsheepvetassoc.org

Medical Library Association Annual Meeting
May 3rd – 8th, 2013
Boston, MA, USA
Website: www.mlanet.org/am/am2013/

Website: www.wvc2013.com/en/