



World Veterinary Association

www.worldvet.org

Newsletter

No. 2 - April 2006

Tribute to Past President Trevor Blackburn

Trevor Blackburn was an unequalled leader in organized veterinary medicine, having served as president of the BVA, CVA, and WVA. Trevor Blackburn had the rare and sustainable talent to get good results in organized veterinary medicine.

Photo: Trevor with Mary



He had sincere integrity and was willing to pursue the scopes he was putting forward, always after well establishing the preconditions for success. His qualities helped him to have clear vision for the WVA, and the veterinary profession in general. He was able to promote this vision, taking in account the impact it may have on the efforts required to succeed. To achieve these, he could gather appropriate support and assistance by faithful and equally strong personalities, which together formed an impressively efficient team. But he was the leader. He had a broad

understanding of the international scene and this helped him to truly be a representative of the profession at the global level. He was able to see the changes of the societies and the impact they were to have on the WVA, starting the appropriate changes, which clarified and “institutionalized” the latter.

Former President Rantsios said that at his very first meeting in 1989, he distinguished Trevor Blackburn from most of the other national representatives present for his clear mind and acute response in commenting and promoting positions on agenda items. As his immediate successor Dr Rantsios was able to further work and expand many of his ideas. Trevor Blackburn was a most valuable advisor during Dr Rantsios’ term.

From the WVA Secretariat, Dr Lars Holsaae reflected that Trevor Blackburn was a “little” fellow with a big vision. His vision was to turn WVA from an “old boys’ travellers club” to the global representative of the veterinary profession. He worked tirelessly through his presidency of WVA (1991-1995) with great political skill and a deep respect of the differences in culture in the constituency to convince the global veterinary family of the needs of change. Now 10 years later his vision has come through due to him and his devoted successors Rantsios, Edwards, Schneider and Russell.

Dr Shelton Pinkerton, former WVA Vice-President and AVMA President, said that all of Trevor's goals were not accomplished, but it was a great start for the future. He believes that without Trevor's strong leadership and untiring work, the WVA, as we know it today would not exist. Shelton said that like all of us, he was privileged to know Trevor and said it was a pleasure to work with him.

Trevor Blackburn was a special kind of person with an excellent wit and outstanding wisdom. Former President Edwards attributes his involvement in the WVA directly to Trevor's encouragement.

To paraphrase Sir Winston Churchill, "seldom have so many veterinarians owed so much to so few"; Trevor Blackburn the humorous veterinarian, Trevor Blackburn the diligent leader and Trevor Blackburn the wise colleague. The veterinary profession has lost an outstanding member, his family has lost a devoted husband and father.

Leon H. Russell Jr. DVM
WVA President

World Veterinary Day 29 April

The objective of the World Veterinary Day is to highlight the great work of the veterinary profession around the World. Veterinary medicine is a highly respected and compassionate profession. However, its contributions are largely unappreciated because our colleagues have been too busy serving the public to publicize their contributions to animal and human health, animal welfare, food safety and food security.

The World Veterinary Day is celebrated on the last Saturday in April when all veterinarians publicly display their broad knowledge, skills, and the many contributions their profession makes to society and the world at large. It is a day that private practitioners, corporate and public practitioners, educators and students can show the many contributions of their great profession.

The theme for this year's World Veterinary Day is "Celebrate our Diversity". It can be celebrated in the way or ways that each veterinarian, veterinary clinic, veterinary organization or agency believes best demonstrates the contributions of the veterinary profession. Simultaneously, the media, legislators, public officials, and the general public must be bombarded with messages that veterinarians are key players in food safety, zoonotic diseases as well as animal health and welfare.

Have a good World Veterinary Day!
Leon H. Russell Jr. DVM
WVA President

IFAH appoints new Executive Director

The International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH) has appointed Peter Harlech Jones to the post of Executive Director. Pat James, President of IFAH said "Peter Jones is an outstanding candidate for the post and we are delighted that he has accepted". Peter Jones, a veterinary surgeon, has spent much of his career in various animal health industry posts both in Europe and in North America. Most recently, he headed up the veterinary medicines and inspections unit in the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in London. He joined IFAH in October. Dr Tony Mudd, Acting Executive Director at IFAH said "Peter's breadth of experience in the animal health industry both sides of the Atlantic together with his knowledge of the regulatory process will make a substantial contribution to the work of IFAH". For further information on IFAH, please visit the website www.ifahsec.org

1st International Conference of Institute Milton Thiago de Mello

The Brazilian Society of Veterinary Medicine (SBMV) and the Brazilian Academy of Veterinary Medicine (ABRAMVET) celebrated the 90th Birthday of Professor Milton Thiago de Mello with a Conference in Brasilia, 3rd – 5th February 2006.

**Chikungunya virus in the islands of the SW Indian Ocean
Are the macaque (macaco, *Macacus*) monkeys and lemurs at risk?**

Dr. R. Ramchurn, WVA Councillor, Mauritius

Madagascar is well known for lemurs and Mauritius has nearly disease free thousands of macaque monkeys. The other islands of the South West Indian Ocean also have a variety of animals many of which are prone to mosquito bites.

During these recent months there have been outbreaks of Chikungunya in human in these islands. Prof. Claude Chatel (virology and tropical medicine), member of French Academy of Medicine, in a recent (2006) paper observed that there is a possibility of the human Chikungunya virus to mutate, spreading to lemurs in Madagascar and Comores and to the macaque monkeys of Mauritius. Thus, thousands of these animals could be affected with alarming consequences in the region. The disease is transmitted by mosquitoes, *Aedes Albopictus* and *Aedes Aegypti*.

The human victim develops high fever, convulsions and severe pains in the joints so much so that the person cannot walk erect. Hence the term “Chickungunya” or “bent person” in Swahili of Tanzania where the disease first occurred in 1953. Advanced cases are accompanied by hepatitis, cardiac problems and neurological form causing meningo-encephalitis. Since 1954, there have been sporadic cases in Africa, Asia and Pacific islands, but not in the Western world.

In 2005, the disease traveled from east coast of Africa to the islands of Comores, La Reunion, Mauritius, and Seychelles with a few cases in Rodrigues and Madagascar. By end of March 2006, there were 4308 recorded cases in Comores islands of a population of 70000; 8818 cases in the Seychelles of a population of 80000; 1200 confirmed cases out of 6000 notified ones in Mauritius within a population of 1.3 million and in Reunion island an alarming 230000 cases in a population of 800000 (30 %). These past months the French island has witnessed 5000 to 9000 cases per week. It necessitated the personal visit of the French Prime Minister with an emergency help of 76 million Euros and deployment of a thousand French troops.

Contrary to the present belief and existing literature, the virus has evolved and now kills in the Reunion Island. The human cases found in Asia in 1961 were not fatal while 175 deaths have been recorded by the end of March 2006 in Reunion Island, showing an increase in virulence of the virus. The virus is also developing resistance to insecticides that are being extensively used. The use of insecticides also has a negative impact on the environment. However, this may now be avoided by using an organic method: *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti)* is now available in the form of liquid, granules or miniblocks. It attacks the larvae of *Aedes albopictus* and is even safe in drinking water.

The WHO assessment mission in March 2006 has recognized efforts undertaken by respective governments to control chikungunya in human in the wake of the outbreaks. There are also no travel restrictions in Mauritius and tourism has not suffered, unlike the case in the neighbouring island of La Reunion. The latest observations indicate that the peak has been reached and a rapid decline is foreseen.



Veterinary Roles in the Health and Welfare of Animals and Humans

Please visit the Congress website: www.fava2006.org.nz.

10th Anniversary for the Euro-Arab Veterinary Association: PORTO 31May - 3 June

The Euro-Arab Veterinary Association will celebrate this year its 10th anniversary of constitution. The EAVA was created in May 1996 in Tunis in connection with the 1st Mediterranean Veterinary Congress. A big event will be organized in PORTO (Portugal) with the collaboration of the Order Dos Medicos Veterinarios of Portugal from May 31 to June 3rd. During this event, a scientific veterinary congress will take place as well as a general assembly Visits and post congress tours are scheduled. Several International Organisations including OIE, FAO, FVE, AUMV, AVA and veterinary experts are invited for this anniversary. The EAVA will take the opportunity to celebrate officially the World Veterinary Day. For more information, please contact Dr Jose De Resende, President O.M.V of Portugal on his E-mail: omv@omv.pt or Dr Faouzi Kechrid: faouzikechrid@yahoo.fr.

23rd Maghrebian Veterinary Congress, HAMMAMET - April, 14-15, 2006

The Tunisian Veterinary National Association will organise in the beautiful city of Hammamet Hotel Royal -Yasmine Hammamet on April 14-15 the 23rd edition of the Maghrebian Veterinary association. This event is organized each year in one of the 5 North African countries. The UMAVET which is the body governing this regional event, is composed of Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia. Each country chairs the UMAVET during 1 year. Hammamet is a well known tourist beach city (30 minutes from Tunis). For further information, please contact: faouzikechrid@yahoo.fr

11th Arab Veterinary Congress, Amman, Jordan, April 27-29, 2006

The Jordan Veterinary Syndicate is organising the 11th edition of the Arab Union of medical Veterinarian (AUMV) in Amman. The AUMV will take the opportunity to celebrate the World Veterinary Day with the collaboration of the WVA. For more information, please contact Dr Abdelfattah Kilani, President Jordan Veterinary Syndicate: jor_vet_asso@hotmail.com; or faouzikechrid@yahoo.fr

4th Arab Symposium for Antimicrobial Agents, Tunis April, 17-20

The Arab Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials and the Tunisian Society of Infectious Diseases organize their 4th Arab Symposium for antimicrobial agents in conjunction with the 16th national congress of infectiology at the Hotel Renaissance Gammarth, Tunis from April 17 to 20. The Veterinary Profession is strongly involved in this organization and OIE will represent the profession by a lecture which will give the importance of the veterinary role. For more information, please visit the website WWW.infectiologie.org.tnor E-mail: asaa.congress@rns.tn; or faouzikechrid@yahoo.fr

The Executive Committee of the EAVA

The board of directors association for the term 2006-2008 are:

President: Faouzi Kechrid, Tunisia

Vice Presidents: Robert Allaire, France and Jean Hakim, Lebanon

General Secretary: Francisco Orozco, Spain

Treasurer: Georges Astridis, Greece

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