



# World Veterinary Association

[www.worldvet.org](http://www.worldvet.org)

## Newsletter

No. 8 – November 2007



Dear colleagues and friends of the WVA.

This is another fine WVA Newsletter, which is going to get global exposure and recognition of the quality activities of the veterinary profession and its allied groups.

When I think of global recognition and quality activities, I think of the lifetime work done for the WVA and the veterinary profession by Dr. Bent Christensen through the WVA Bulletin. Dr. Bent Christensen recently passed away and he certainly will be missed. Bent was the heart and soul of the WVA's periodical publication, the Bulletin.

Just like Dr. Christensen, the WVA Bulletin was highly respected in the veterinary profession, and its allied groups, but not really well recognized for all the good it did until the publication was gone. They both deserved much more recognition than they received. The publication was stopped a few years ago, in part, because it depended upon an outdated delivery system - mail, or "snail mail" in computer talk. Soon after the Bulletin was gone, many of us realized the importance of a WVA publication. That is the reason the WVA created the Newsletter. We must have regular distribution of current veterinary issues to keep the world informed about current problems and solutions in animal welfare, animal diseases, veterinary public health, and other critical events.

My condolences go to the Dr. Bent Christensen family. He was a fine person, kind gentleman and a great scholar. Let us keep Bent, his quality work and professional dedication alive in our minds and hearts.

And let us all re-dedicate ourselves to expand our input into and use of the WVA Newsletter.

Leon Russell, DVM, PhD  
President

## World Veterinary Day in Japan "2007 Thanks to animals Day"

"2007 Thanks to Animals Day", World Veterinary Day in Japan, was held at Tokyo Metropolitan Office Plaza in Shinjuku, Tokyo on October 7th 2007.

World Veterinary Day is held annually on the last Saturday of April around the world. However, April is very busy month in Japan, because it is beginning of the fiscal year and academic year. We decided to hold the event not in spring but in autumn under such circumstances.

It was blessed with fine weather and large attendance. Prof. Dr. Yamane, President of Japan Veterinary Medical Association, gave a welcoming speech highlighting the reasons for organizing this event and commented "The global role of the veterinary profession has been getting more important."



A small animal practitioner shows how to encourage contact between children and animals.



Exhibition on "Disaster Relief Dogs".



Filming of TV program with popular movie stars and singers

To promote knowledge of the veterinary work among the public, various attractions were carried out in the venue and the detail of the event were broadcasted on television.

### Dr Bent Christensen

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Dr Bent Christensen, former editor of the WVA Bulletin.



Members of the WVA were very sorry to hear of Bent's death. We will remember him for his dedicated contribution to the WVA Bulletin.

We send our condolences to Bent's family.

## 29<sup>th</sup> World Veterinary Congress



### Second Announcement and Invitation to Register

The 29<sup>th</sup> World Veterinary Congress to be hosted in Vancouver, Canada is now less than nine months away. Once that short gestation is completed we anticipate the birth of exceptional event. I am very pleased to report that program development is on schedule and should exceed all expectations. This is entirely due to the extensive efforts of experts who have been working together to insure that your visit to Canada provides an educational and social experience that will stay with you for years after the congress.

The Second Announcement and Invitation to Register is posted on the web site and is being distributed in hard copy as well. On review of this document you will find a broad list of speakers of international reputation in all fields of Clinical and Public Practice. The list of topics and speakers is too large to include here so I encourage you to take the time to read the entire Announcement to discover which sessions are relevant to you. There are eleven simultaneous sessions over the four day congress featuring contract speakers in all fields of clinical practice with content for veterinarians, animal health technologists/technicians, practice managers and other interested persons. Most days will also feature three simultaneous sessions for individuals in Public Practice or the Public Health field. These are built around the three thematic areas of: disease Surveillance, Biosecurity and Emergency Preparedness, Production Animal Welfare and Animal care, as well as Judicious Use of Animal Health Products. There are a number of renowned speakers engaged for each of these sessions and the agendas will be rounded out with presentations selected from the international call for abstracts (closing on November 16, 2007).

This program has been augmented by the addition of sessions entitled: Veterinary Medicine in Developing Countries, Coordination of Veterinary and Public Health Infrastructure and the Role of the Veterinary Profession in Preserving Food Safety.

Final steps are being taken to provide a pre-conference Wet Lab for Laboratory Animals and a post-conference workshop for Aquaculture.

The program will continue to expand and evolve as we approach the congress date and your source of information is the congress web site [www.worldveterinarycongress2008.com](http://www.worldveterinarycongress2008.com)



Vancouver and western Canada offer an exceptional opportunity for day adventures for congress registrants and companions. A number of optional tours are available through the congress registration site. These include:

- \*Vancouver Snapshot
- \*Coastal Rainforest Walking Tour
- \*Sunset Dinner Cruise
- \*Vancouver's Inspiring Gardens
- \*Wilderness Paddle Adventure & Beach BBQ
- \*Canyon and Mountain Tour
- \*First Nation Tour
- \*A Day in the Mountain- Whistler Resort

Details are posted and included with the second announcement.

So, I believe it is safe to tell you that everything is in order regarding our preparations for the 29<sup>th</sup> World Veterinary Congress, Vancouver, Canada, and July 27-31, 2008.

**ALL WE NEED IS YOU!**

Make plans now to attend. Registration is open.

Dr. Duane Landals,  
Chair 29<sup>th</sup> World Veterinary Congress  
Vancouver, Canada  
July 27-31, 2008

[www.worldveterinarycongress2008.com](http://www.worldveterinarycongress2008.com)



## WVA to Commemorate the 150th Anniversary at 2013 World Veterinary Congress

### WVA meets WSPA

Dr Jim Edwards, past president and chair of the WVA working group on animal welfare met last week with Major General Peter Davies CBE from the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).



They discussed whether and how the WVA could work in closer collaboration with each other in the interests of global animal welfare. Dr Edwards said that "We have a lot in common and we should be able to work together on many issues. The WVA acknowledges the WSPA initiative to develop 'Concepts in Animal Welfare' which has helped the implementation of animal welfare into veterinary undergraduate education."

Dr Edwards has recommended to WVA President Prof Leon Russell that he meet with Major General Davies for formal talks.



## Congresses

### **11th Euro-Arab Veterinary Congress Khartoum, Sudan 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007.**

The Sudan Veterinary Association is celebrating its 60th anniversary in Khartoum, Sudan on 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> December 2007. Beside the official Opening & Veterinary exhibitions, 4 scientific sessions are set including: (1) Zoonosis (rabies, avian flu and foot and mouth disease); (2) veterinary education; (3) animal welfare; (4) veterinary drugs and services.

It will be attended by WVA (Dr H. Schneider (representing Prof L. Russell WVA President), The 2 WVA Vice- Presidents: Dr F. Kachrid and Dr J. Chiang; the EXCOM of the Euro-Arab Veterinary Association, the Arab Veterinary Federation; the African Veterinary Association. For more details:

[www.euroarabveterinaryassociation.org](http://www.euroarabveterinaryassociation.org)

### **Indian Veterinary Conference 22-24 February 2008**

8th Indian Veterinary Congress & XVth Annual Conference of IAAVR and National Symposium on "Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) in Veterinary Research and Education Sector" is being organized by Faculty of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences and Indian Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Research (IAVR) at Kolkata (West Bengal).

The Congress will also include two Round Tables (1) Commercialization of Technologies (2) Diseases of Companion Animals and their Emergency Management.

Further details can be obtained from:  
Prof. Amalendu Chakrabarti, Dean & Organizing Secretary, Faculty of Veterinary Science, West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Science, 37, Belgachia Road, Kolkata-70037

### **Fourth African Veterinary Association Congress, Algiers, Algeria, May 2008**

in conjunction with the Maghreb veterinary congress. Contact: Dr Faouzi Kechrid:  
[faouzikechrid@yahoo.fr](mailto:faouzikechrid@yahoo.fr)

### **2nd International Symposium of Veterinary Surgery (ISVS) 21-24 April 2008**

Iranian Veterinary Surgery Association (IVSA) in cooperation with Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman has planned to organize the 2nd ISVS (International Symposium of Veterinary Surgery), and the 7th ISVSAR (Iranian Symposium of Veterinary Surgery, Anesthesia and Radiology) at Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman, Kerman, Iran.

For more information please visit the symposium website at: [www.isvs2008.ir](http://www.isvs2008.ir)

We look forward to seeing you in Kerman!

### **16th International Congress on Animal Reproduction**



The Hungarian Society for Animal Reproduction and the local organizing committee cordially invite you to participate in the 16th International Congress on Animal Reproduction to be held 13-17 July 2008 in Budapest, Hungary.

Many well-known scientists accepted the invitation to present papers at plenary and symposium sessions. The call for abstracts has been published and the on-line registration is available.

An interesting and varied social program will enhance the opportunities for delegates to network with associates as well as to enjoy the Hungarian cultural heritage. Fascinating pre- and post-conference tours will be arranged to highlight the best that Hungary has to offer. Furthermore, registered accompanying persons are warmly welcomed to join the special programs and tours organized for accompanying persons and also to join the social events of the congress.

The deadline for early bird registration is 29 February 2008.

Website: [www.icar2008.org](http://www.icar2008.org)

### **15<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations 27-28-29 October 2008.**

Congress activities will take place at the Central World Hotel and Convention Center, Bangkok, Thailand.

For more information, please visit:

<http://fava.thaivma.com>

## **Mauritius Loses >50 % of Pig Population Within Weeks**

Dr Dev Ramchurn

Mauritius forms part of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) within the United Nations system. Isolation from the continents has always been beneficial to these developing countries that depend much on tourism and agriculture. They are mostly free from many infections. However, they are now becoming vulnerable and powerless due to globalization, a growing population and fast developing activities at airports and harbours thus increasing their susceptibility to influx of infections from main lands. Further and stronger vigilant systems are therefore needed. Mauritius is currently experiencing this transition that applies to any other SIDS country.

The island, being so far disease free, has been gripped by African swine fever. Laboratory results on 17 October 2007 confirmed the cause of the alarming deaths of pigs. A week earlier it was thought that the mortality was due to classical swine fever and 10,000 doses of vaccines had already been imported. Around 19 October a report from the veterinary services to the government recommended closure of the pig section of the one and only central slaughter house of the country; restriction of all movements of pigs; establishment of a hotline for pig farmers; disinfection of all affected farms; free distribution of disinfectants; incineration of carcasses; importation and distribution of vaccines.

The mode of entry of the disease is being debated. Food sources, contaminated feeds, relatives of breeders or visitors returning from Africa or Madagascar and other possibilities are being explored.

The airports and harbours have been put on extra vigilance. Control measures have been taken at all possible levels. All vehicles at strategic places on main roads are sprayed.

A zone with a 5 km perimeter around each affected farm has been created.

A ministerial committee has also been set up to look into all aspects of the disease impact. OIE dispatched a regional deputy head of department to help the authority to chalk out a plan of work for disease control and prevention.

By 24 October, the pig farmers were exasperated. In case the bad situation persisted entire pig units under the present production system would be wiped out. It was even envisaged to cull all the pigs in the advent of the increasing flare of calamity. Farmers had to be convinced that slaughter was being done in their interest. A list for compensation was being compiled. Arrangements have been made with the Development Bank of Mauritius for loans at a low interest rate.

It is hoped that the only government owned pig farm would be spared to enable breeders to renew their stock later. Fresh breeding animals would also be imported.

Around 28 October, it was feared that the feral pigs found in the extensive farming system of deer production would be at risk. It would be disastrous since the disease would get established and pig production would never take off properly. Indeed, a day later, some wild pigs were found dead in one of the farms and all the animals had to be culled. All the forests and breeding places of feral pigs have been kept under watch with the participation of deer farmers and forest rangers.

Eradication of the disease is in progress while the slaughter of pigs continues. This slaughter is slow with the resistance from the farmers. The negotiation with the farmers continues and so is the spread of the disease! The nightmare of pig farmers will not end so soon.

## BVA Congress moved to Belfast

Mr Bob Stevenson

The combination of Irish hospitality, a well blended programme and a great number of delegates, including WVA President Leon Russell, made this a most memorable two day meeting. This was a true Centenary celebration for the Northern Ireland Division of the BVA. A common theme of “Pulling together” meant that many BVA divisions organised individual CPD events focussing on companion animals, equine and public health. When combined with sessions from the BVA Overseas group and major papers on control of infectious disease in food animals it became obvious that if veterinarians are not updated they are unlikely to be giving cost effective advice to their clients.

Joe Brownlie, Professor of veterinary pathology at Royal Veterinary College London, illustrated aspects of present and future attempts at control of new and emerging diseases. How appropriate with the seemingly impossible task of maintaining any geographical barriers against exotic infectious disease in the UK with the most recent incursion of HP avian influenza virus H5N1. This following the first appearance of Blue tongue disease (BTV serotype 8) assumed to have arrived courtesy of a wind borne cloud of *Culicoides* midges. Both the planning for such contingencies and implementing the strategy for eradication or control is proving ever more challenging for the veterinary profession as the lead profession.

In highlighting the dynamics of disease, Professor Brownlie stated “When we talk to our veterinary students, what we know have to tell them is: we can’t tell you what the diseases are that you are going to be dealing with in your professional lifetime, or even in the next 10 to 15 years because there is

going to be something new. We can’t tell you what it is, but you have to expect it!” “Veterinarians in the wider, and increasingly disaster prone world” was one of three crucial presentations made to a packed-in audience at the session organised by the BVA Overseas group. Tess Sprayson skilfully presented her view of how and where the veterinary profession is, and should be, getting involved in the “evolving sphere of disaster management”. While other presentations concentrated on the crucial needs following man made situations and disasters, Tess illustrated the approach to natural disasters such as:

- “Classic disasters –earthquake, tsunami, floods, drought, war, chemical spills.
- Biological-locust, infectious disease outbreaks
- In many developing regions one “disaster” just follows another, often exacerbated by human action”

Tess pointed out that, in considering justification for aid to animals in the face of a humanitarian emergency, up to 85% of the population is dependent on animals for food and livelihood security. With poignant illustrations she highlighted the need for *Relief* (food, water, first aid); *Recovery* (clinics, medicines & equipment, animal shelter materials); *Mitigation & Preparedness* (research & training on earthquake resistant buildings) While limiting the impact of the spread of epidemic disease, as discussed with Professor Brownlie, is one aspect involving veterinarians world wide, sustaining situations in the face of, and subsequent to, disasters is equally important for such veterinarians as Tess most clearly illustrated.

## Emerging Diseases in Denmark

Dr Per Thorup

### Blue Tongue

A Danish flock of sheep has been infected by the livestock disease Blue Tongue. In order to limit spreading, a number of restrictions have been introduced within a radius of 150 km around the infected flock for farms with cattle, goats, sheep and deer; more drastic measures have been taken in the region in question.

Big parts of southern Denmark have already been affected by restrictions due to outbreaks in Germany.

### Q-fever

The number of registered cases with Q-fever in Danish cattle is growing. As a consequence a number of persons - amongst others veterinarians - have been infected by the disease.

## Asian activities

Dr Johnson Chiang reported that he was invited to join the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of China Peking Veterinary Medical Association from 13 to 16 September to deliver a greeting at the opening ceremony and a speech of renal disease in small animals. In Peking, on behalf of WVA, he presented warm greetings to all the attendants and welcome them to join WVA.

He was also invited to attend the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Japanese Society of Clinical Veterinary Medicine from 15 to 19 November and delivered a greeting on behalf of WVA at the opening ceremony.

Dr Chiang's plans to visit Sudan could not proceed because of transportation difficulties and cost.

## List of Veterinary Schools now on WVA website

The WVA has been fortunate to receive a list of universities, colleges, schools and other institutions around the World that award veterinary degrees. The WVA is grateful to Dr David Scarfe from the USA who has prepared this list and offered to maintain it.

The list can be found at:

<http://www.worldvet.org/Sections-index-req-viewarticle-artid-39-page-1.html>

## Newsletter sponsored by the Taiwan Veterinary Medical Association

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