

BVA Overseas Newsletter



NUMBER 1/2010

BVA overseas travel grants

A final reminder that the closing date for applications for the [BVA, TAWS and Donkey Sanctuary travel grants](#) is 22 February 2010. The grants are aimed at veterinary undergraduates (at UK veterinary schools) who intend to undertake projects in a developing country. Do also remember that the [Harry Steele-Bodger Memorial Scholarship](#) is open to graduates from veterinary schools in the UK and Ireland who have been qualified not more than three years, and to penultimate and final year students. The deadline for applications for this scholarship travel award is 12 April 2010.

Volunteer veterinary student for zoonotic disease research in Kenya

An opportunity is available for a veterinary student to spend June and July 2010 in Kenya working as part of a field team investigating the epidemiology of zoonotic diseases within the human and animal populations. See page 5 for more information.

Tanzania project report

The report by Ashley Morgan, a 2009 BVA travel grant recipient, is now on the website. Ashley carried out a [study of the health and welfare status of domestic cats](#) in the Serengeti.

Trevor Blackburn Award

Nominations are invited for this year's [Trevor Blackburn Award](#) which recognises the contributions made by a veterinary surgeon in the field of animal health and welfare in a developing country. The closing date for nominations is 28 May 2010.

Feedback from volunteers

The Overseas Group is always keen to hear from volunteers about their experiences overseas: these reports provide a useful reference for potential volunteers as well as giving publicity to the charities concerned. Do please send any reports and updates to Helena helenac@bva.co.uk so we can add them to the website.

CONTACT

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Overseas Group at BVA Congress

This year's BVA Congress will be held at the Marriott Hotel, Glasgow, on 24-25 September 2010, the theme being 'Vets and the Public Good'.

The Overseas Group has once again been invited to contribute a session and will be discussing improving livelihoods of farmers in resource-poor communities. Nearly 700 million of the world's poorest people rely on livestock for their survival: the widespread loss of animals through disease devastates the lives of individuals, families and communities around the world.

Do join us at 4.00pm on Friday 24 September to hear from two Scottish-based NGOs, Vetaid and GALVmed, on how they work to improve livelihoods in developing countries.

World Veterinary Association (WVA)

In January the [Federation of Veterinarians of Europe](#) (FVE) took over from the Danish Veterinary Association as host for the Secretariat of the [World Veterinary Association](#) (WVA). Both professional veterinary organisations look forward to a fruitful cooperation. "In a globalised world strong co-operation between the European Federation and the World Veterinary Association are needed, not least underlining the 'One World – One Health' concept," said FVE President, Walter Winding. The [February 2010 WVA Newsletter](#) is now available.

World Veterinary Day – Saturday 24 April 2010

This year's theme will be '**One World, One Health: more cooperation between veterinarians and physicians**'. For more information and instructions on how to participate in World Veterinary Day please visit the [WVA website](#).

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

The [WSAVA's February Monthly News](#) is now available.

Chinese Veterinary Medical Association inaugurated

"This is an important event for veterinary medicine across the globe," said AVMA CEO Ron DeHaven as he congratulated Chinese veterinarians on forming their [first national veterinary association](#) in October 2009.

FOCUS on Mayhew International



[Mayhew International](#) works to promote companion animal welfare and the humane management of homeless cats and dogs through a network of community animal care initiatives. Their work with vets interested in this area of animal welfare has a special significance for international development, benefiting communities in developing countries, many of whom rely on their animals for support.

Mayhew International advocates neutering as the most humane method of dealing with the overpopulation of companion animals; offers information and advice on the setting up and running of sterilisation programmes; collaborates with other welfare organisations and university veterinary faculties to provide low-cost veterinary services for local communities; works with governments and local authorities in an advisory capacity to improve companion animal welfare conditions under their jurisdiction; and offers training for overseas veterinary personnel and animal welfare organisations.

DIARY DATES...

21-22 March 2010:

TAWS/GHDT Seminar Better Management/Improved Performance – Bakau, The Gambia
For further info see page 4

29-31 March 2010:

[VET Middle East](#) – Dubai UAE

2-5 June 2010:

[WSAVA Congress](#) – Geneva, Switzerland

3-6 November 2010:

[Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association Conference](#) – Ocho Rios, Jamaica

17-19 November 2010:

[International Companion Animal Welfare Conference](#)

29 Nov-2 Dec 2010:

[International Colloquium on Working Equids](#) – New Delhi, India

6-8 December 2010:

[OIE's First Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation](#) – Djerba, Tunisia

Thank you to David Clarke (Kings Lynn), Chrissie Fuggle (Brighton) and Stewart Jennings (Oldham) for kindly donating books to the BVA Book Aid scheme.

CARING FOR THOSE THAT CARRY THE LOAD

A report published in [JAVMA News of 1 February](#), from the American Association of Equine Practitioners' first Equitarian Initiative forum held in December 2009 focused on the estimated 100 million equids in developing countries, the majority of which make up an essential component of the workforce: the session was dedicated to spreading the word about projects benefiting the world's equids and improving developing communities that rely on them for subsistence. Speakers included Professor Derek Knottenbelt who stated that 200 million families rely on working equids in sub-Saharan Africa alone: with little veterinary support available he stressed the importance of education as a sustainable and effective way to counteract the poor conditions for the animals and the people.

Visit the
[Overseas Group's section](#)
 of the BVA website
www.bva.co.uk

Veterinary relief effort in Haiti

The Animal Relief Coalition for Haiti (ARCH) - jointly led by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) in partnership with over a dozen of the world's leading animal protection organisations - is making preparations for a veterinary relief effort in Haiti following the earthquake on 12 January. There are an estimated five million livestock, mostly goats, in Haiti, plus an unknown number of companion animals and a large stray dog population. There are immediate concerns about a possible outbreak of rabies, leptospirosis, or another zoonotic disease.

The relief team is also helping to work up an extensive long-term plan which includes options for creating and improving infrastructure for veterinary care, a large-scale vaccination programme and animal population control services.

Regular updates can be found on the [AVMA](#) and [WSPA](#) websites.

Why no thought for food?

[An article in The Ecologist](#) (3 February) drew attention to a new report [Why no thought for food?](#) from the [All Party Parliamentary Group \(APPG\) on Agriculture and Food for Development](#) which revealed that spending on agricultural programmes currently makes up just 3 per cent of DfID's total annual aid expenditure. MPs called on DfID and the UK Government to raise that figure and commit to 10 per cent of overseas aid to food security and sustainable agriculture. They said the funding should, as the findings of the [groundbreaking IAASTD report](#) recommended in 2008, focus efforts on small-scale farmers, especially women smallholders.

The World Wild Vet

As part of a new TV series BVA member Luke Gamble has spent much of the last ten months in different parts of the world helping animal shelters, charities and local communities with their livestock, pets and exotic animals.

The first five programmes of the 'The World Wild Vet' series is scheduled to start on Sunday 28 February, 7pm on Sky One and will focus on India, Grenada, Malawi, Mexico and Thailand.



Luke in India [Photo: www.lukegamble.com]

Commenting on the experience, Luke said: "Not only has this series been an incredible opportunity for WVS, it has been a really great privilege for me personally to meet and work with so many fantastic and inspiring people. The amazing people who run animal shelters and charities battle against the odds to make a difference for animals that have no one else to turn to – they champion animal welfare and often have a big humanitarian impact in their work as well. I sincerely hope that the programmes capture that and the series does them justice. I know the film crew, none of whom had any animal background, all ended up caring deeply about the charities we worked with and the animals we treated which really said a lot about the organisations we visited. It has been a fantastic year and thank you to everyone who has helped make this series happen."



Luke in Zambia [Photo: WVS]

The second part of the series, visiting Zambia, Peru, Nepal, Costa Rica and Uganda, is due to start sometime in May or June.

Do also visit www.lukegamble.com for further information and to read the blogs written by Luke and the film crew on their travels.

NOTICEBOARD

Overseas work opportunities; publications; conferences

VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS (VSO)

VSO is still looking for a volunteer to work in veterinary research in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. For further information please contact Carol Hatchett at carol.hatchett@vso.org.uk

GAMBICATS

GambiCats runs neutering clinics in The Gambia for stray cats and dogs. If you have relevant experience and may be available for a minimum of one week from September 2010 please contact the charity at gambicats@aol.com

IFAW'S COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

IFAW seeks qualified vets and VNs to work at their community projects in Johannesburg (Community Led Animal Welfare) and Cape Town (Mdzananda Animal Clinic). Both projects arrange safe, secure accommodation and provide free transport where possible although volunteers would be required to fund their own travel to South Africa as well as any additional activities. For further information contact Christina Pretorius: CPretorius@ifaw.org

[George Lightfoot](#) and [Laura Dobson](#) are happy to talk to anyone who might be considering volunteering at these IFAW community projects. Please email Helena helenac@bva.co.uk for George and Laura's contact details.

WORLDWIDE VETERINARY SERVICE (WVS)

WVS supplies veterinary resources, in the form of volunteer teams, drugs, equipment and advice to help animal charities and non-profit organisations around the world. Visit the [WVS website](#) for updates on planned trips.

JOURNAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

The January 2010 edition of JCVA is now available. As well as a round up of news from the CVA regions, there are papers on 'The Qur'an, Shari'a Law and the Exclusion of Nonhuman Animals', the frequency of heat stress in cattle and water buffalo at livestock markets in Bangladesh, and studies on experimental infectious bursal disease virus infections in chickens, turkeys and ducks. Please contact Helena helenac@bva.co.uk if you'd like to receive a copy of the journal.

THE EU ASIA-LINK PROJECT ON MANAGING THE HEALTH AND REPRODUCTION OF ELEPHANT POPULATIONS IN ASIA

The [training course](#) comprises distance learning (26 April-10 May) and lectures/practicals at Chiang Mai, Thailand (24-28 May). The deadline for registration is 31 March.

TAWS SEMINAR 2010 in association with THE GAMBIA HORSE & DONKEY TRUST (GHDT) 'Better Management – Improved Performance' 21-22 March (optional extension to 26 March), Bakau, The Gambia

This first Pan-African [conference on working equids](#) will focus on themes of education and prevention. There will be an optional extension to the GHDT base for practical demonstrations. The conference will be of interest to those working with traction and pack animals and to those who would like the opportunity to work in developing countries for the welfare of animals and the benefit of the owners dependent on them. For further information contact TAWS on +44 (0)1932 564366 or email suzanne@learningaboutanimals.co.uk or visit the [GHDT website](#) where there is additional information about flights and accommodation.

The 6th International Colloquium on Working Equids



29 Nov–2 Dec 2010, New Delhi, India

The aim of the 2010 Colloquium is to bring together the world of working equids from animal scientists and project managers to veterinarians and policy makers with disciplines such as international development, social sciences, human health and education. By doing so, those involved with the care and utilisation of working equids will explore new approaches to benefit both animals and their owners in the developing world. The Colloquium committee is now inviting submission of short papers under the identified themes. For further information please visit the [Colloquium website](#).

DONKEY SANCTUARY HANDBOOK

The Professional Handbook of the Donkey (4th Edition) is available free to any vet. Please email name and address to: Kate.Selley@thedonkeysanctuary.com

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People, Animals and their Zoonoses Linking Veterinary and Medical Research in Western Kenya

Lian Doble MRCVS



The close association between livestock and their keepers in the developing countries makes people especially vulnerable to zoonotic infections, the majority of which are essentially neglected when it comes to global health policies.

A new Wellcome Trust supported project, based out of Busia in Western Kenya, aims to understand more about the epidemiology of a large array of zoonotic diseases in the cattle, pig and human population. Our multidisciplinary team, led by Dr Eric Fèvre of the University of Edinburgh and the International Livestock Research Institute, brings together epidemiologists, veterinarians and medical health professionals in a practical example of the 'One Health, One Medicine' ethos.

The study area covers a large proportion of the Western and Nyanza Provinces of Kenya, stretching from Lake Victoria in the south along the Ugandan Border to Mount Elgon in the north. It is expected that our field work will run over the next two years, during which time we will be visiting homesteads where our medical and veterinary teams will conduct health checks and collect samples from all human and livestock members of the homestead.

The project is an incredibly exciting one to be involved with as a vet, not only for the opportunity to work with East African livestock in often remote rural situations, but also for the opportunity to work with our medical collaborators, KEMRI (Kenya Medical Research Institute), and to really appreciate the relationship between animal and human health. My particular research interest is the epidemiology of *Taenia solium* cysticercosis, which is the leading cause of acquired epilepsy in the world today but has a terribly low international profile compared to the burden it causes in terms of economic and public health.

We very much look forward to keeping the BVA Overseas Group informed of our work. For more information on the project see <http://www.zoonotic-diseases.org> An opportunity is available with this group for an enthusiastic student to join the field team for a couple of months this summer, for more information please contact me on L.Doble@sms.ed.ac.uk