

BVA Overseas Newsletter



NUMBER 2/2011

A WORLD WITHOUT RINDERPEST

Since the last newsletter we have seen the official declaration that rinderpest has been eradicated worldwide. This is the first animal disease to have been eradicated as a result of human efforts, and is only the second disease of any kind to be eradicated, after smallpox in 1980.

Welcoming the news Dr Peter Roeder, who was Secretary of the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme from 2000 to 2007, commented: "Once a dream, rinderpest eradication is now a reality. Not only does this magnificent achievement help to protect the livelihoods of many millions of livestock-dependent farmers but, because it removes a serious constraint to livestock trade, it has a major positive impact on many countries' economies. If we can truly learn the lessons from rinderpest eradication there is no reason why we couldn't see other diseases brought to global extinction with similar pro-poor and economic impact."



Mucopurulent ocular and nasal discharges in a calf affected by rinderpest.
"The cattle are crying" say pastoralists. *Photo: Peter Roeder*

BVA President Harvey Locke paid tribute to two British veterinary surgeons who made seminal contributions to the global effort to eradicate rinderpest. Gordon Scott, a rinderpest researcher, and Walter Plowright who developed the tissue culture rinderpest vaccine, were both leading lights of the rinderpest eradication effort. Sadly they are no longer with us to witness this milestone in veterinary history.

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Focus on the overseas day at
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RINDERPEST ERADICATED: WHAT NEXT?

The *Veterinary Record* of 2 July 2011 carried a guest editorial by John Anderson and colleagues. Encouraged by what has been achieved with rinderpest and an understanding that the factors that marked rinderpest eradication as feasible apply equally to peste des petits ruminants (PPR), the authors believe that a global programme for the total eradication of PPR should be established as an international undertaking without delay.

A comprehensive review of the PPR (also known as goat plague, pseudorinderpest, pneumoenteritis and kata) by scientists at the Institute of Animal Health (IAH) Pirbright Laboratory was published in the same edition and explains the scientific basis for considering eradication.

The Editor of the *Veterinary Record* has kindly made the editorial and review available to readers of this newsletter. Please [click here](#) for the relevant links.

BVA CONGRESS: making an impact in a changing world

[BVA Congress](#) will be celebrating the eradication of rinderpest in its Wooldridge Memorial Lecture to be delivered by Dr Peter Roeder on Friday 23 September. We hope that many of you will be there to hear Dr Roeder talk about this monumental achievement and discuss how vets can contribute to disease control on a global scale.

To further illustrate how vets and veterinary science can have a global impact the Overseas Group is organising on Friday 23 September a full day's programme at BVA Congress. We are honoured that Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer at FAO, will set the scene with an overview of current issues concerning livestock and global food security. With increasingly frequent natural and manmade disasters Colonel Neil Smith (RAVC), Ian Dacre (WSPA) and Emma Jowett (a specialist in humanitarian relief work) will provide different viewpoints on disaster management and challenge existing perceptions of veterinary work in disaster situations. In our final session we will be celebrating 100 BVA overseas travel grants and hear former grant recipients Harriet Auty, Michelle Barrows, Mark Eisler and Richard Mellanby talk about how their experience overseas as a student has helped to shape their career and changed their outlook on life.

A fuller description of the Overseas Group's programme can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you at Congress.

THE 5th PAN COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY CONFERENCE

The 5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference was held in Accra, Ghana in March. Organised by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) and the Ghanaian Veterinary Medical Association the theme was 'The role of veterinarians and livestock farmers in food security and poverty alleviation'. 720 participants from 39 countries attended the conference where topics included veterinary education, wildlife and One Health, food safety and security, companion animal medicine, the future of livestock in Africa and the role of women in alleviating poverty. Workshops on animal welfare, the welfare of working animals and rabies were also held and recommendations were produced.

The CVA Executive Committee (below) ended with the election of officers. Dr Abdul Rahman was elected the new CVA president (taking over from Dr Richard Suu-Ire) and Karen Reed as the new secretary. Dr Bob McCracken was re-elected as programme director. All will take up their roles in January 2012.

**DIARY DATES...****7-9 September 2011**

[OIE/FAO/WHO Global conference on Rabies Control](#)
Seoul, Korea

12-13 September 2011

[International Conference on Veterinary and Animal Ethics](#)
London, UK

22-24 September 2011

[BVA Congress](#) - London, UK

28 September 2011

[World Rabies Day](#)

10-14 October 2011

[30th World Veterinary Congress](#)
Cape Town, South Africa

14-17 October 2011

[WSAVA World Congress](#)
Jeju, Korea

THANK YOU

A big thank you to David Clarke, Elaine Pendlebury, the Scarsdale Veterinary Group and Dechra Ltd for kindly donating books and journals for use overseas. These donations are hugely appreciated.

BVA OVERSEAS TRAVEL GRANTS 2011

This year the Overseas Group was delighted to award travel grants to:

- **Jodie Hughes & Hayley Chidlow (Liverpool):** a comparison of anaesthesia protocols and associated risks between Fiji and the UK
- **Per Karlsson (RVC student research team):** sustainable shrimp farming in Indonesia
- **Claire Muir (Edinburgh):** a study to determine the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites in working mules in the Kaski province, Nepal

TAWS selected Victoria Savage (Liverpool) as the candidate for the 2011 grant for her project in The Gambia, and the Donkey Sanctuary awarded its travel grant to Claire Muir to undertake a project at one of their sites in Ethiopia.

We wish them well and look forward to hearing about their projects in due course.

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

Global Alliance for Rabies Control

Read the [latest GARC newsletter](#). This issue contains a summary of recent research on the dynamics of bat rabies as well as updates on projects in the Philippines, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, the Punjab and Uganda.

GARC's [new website](#) is now live and they would welcome feedback.

World Rabies Day Webinar

The World Rabies Day international webinar will take place on 21-22 September. Participants will hear peer-reviewed abstracts which cover:

- Eliminating canine rabies
- Monitoring of human rabies
- Controlling rabies in wildlife
- Information and education campaigns
- Building sustainable rabies control programmes

Attendance is free but space is limited. Click [here](#) for further details.

World Veterinary Association (WVA)

The WVA is preparing for the [30th World Veterinary Congress](#) to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 10-14 October 2011.

The first [WVA Summit](#) will be held as part of the Congress. With high level support from FAO, OIE and WHO, the summit will focus on 'Lessons learned and future approaches on the use of antimicrobials'. Peter Jones, Chair of the BVA Medicines Group and incoming President Elect of the BVA, will be speaking on the veterinary perspective on responsible use.

Read the [August WVA newsletter](#) which includes the WVA position on rabies.

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

The [latest WSAVA monthly news](#) is now available.

International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA)

Read the [IVSA summer newsletter](#).

WSPA's Animals in Disasters blog

[Animals in Disasters blog](#) covers recent work in Argentina, Chile, India, Vietnam and Japan.

"Winning Hearts and Minds?" Understanding the Relationship between Aid and Security

The Feinstein International Center (Tufts University) is conducting comparative field research in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Horn of Africa to examine the effectiveness of development assistance in promoting stabilisation objectives. The belief that aid "wins hearts and minds" and is an effective "weapons system" in counterinsurgency operations is having a major impact on aid policies and counterinsurgency strategies. Click [here](#) for case studies and further information.

Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education

This new [International Centre for Animal Welfare Education](#) has been established at the University of Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies as a result of a generous donation by the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust. Officially opened in May, the Centre will provide a hub of animal welfare expertise for animal welfare education across the globe. Professor Natalie Waran is the Director; she is joined by Heather Bacon as Veterinary Welfare Education and Outreach Manager.

Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka wins Women of Discovery Humanity Award

Congratulations to [Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka](#) for winning the 2011 Women of Discovery Humanity Award. The awards are given by WINGS WorldQuest, an organisation dedicated to recognising and supporting visionary women advancing scientific inquiry and environmental conservation.



Photo: Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, CTPH

Read a Vet Record Careers [article](#) reflecting Gladys's road to becoming a wildlife vet and her founding of the charity Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH). You can sign up to the CTPH newsletter [here](#).

Harry Steele-Bodger Memorial Scholarship 2011

This year's grant was awarded to Francesca Scott from Cambridge Veterinary School to enable her to undertake an elective project on bovine tuberculosis in Ghana this summer. Francesca is investigating 300 head of cattle on farms in the Greater Accra region, looking at three different elements:

- efficiency of tuberculin testing materials in Ghana relative to the UK
- demography of TB in herds
- formulating an easy-to-use 'wellness profile' for farmers to use

Her overall aim is to quantify the impact of TB on a cow's productivity and thus see whether culling TB reactors is of greater economic value than keeping them in the herd as 'lower performing' individuals.

NEWS

from intergovernmental and other international organisations

Crisis in the Horn of Africa

As famine spread to three more areas of southern Somalia and threatened to engulf the whole of the country's south, [FAO](#) warned that immediate action is needed to save the lives and livelihoods of millions of farmers and pastoralists across the drought-struck Horn of Africa. Short-term measures to support animal health include the provision of drugs, vaccines and training. The crisis in the Horn of Africa is the most severe food security emergency in the world today. Thousands of people have died since its onset, following a complete failure of seasonal rainfall last year.

Livestock plays a special role in the Horn of Africa and pastoralism provides a critical means of survival, accounting for the livelihoods of millions in Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, and Eritrea. The number of pastoralists varies widely within the region, but reaches as high as 60 percent of the population in Somalia. The welfare of pastoralist communities is directly related to the environment, as livestock production is highly dependent on the availability of natural resources such as water and pasture.

A [recent emergency meeting convened by FAO](#) agreed that support should be given to pastoralists and agropastoralists, who constitute a dynamic and sustainable livelihood system in the region. It was also recognised that the mobility of pastoralists and their livestock within countries and across borders was essential for saving lives and preserving the foundations of food and nutrition security.

G20 Agriculture Ministers recognise the role of animal health global food security

The [G20 meeting of agriculture ministers](#) held in Paris in June 2011 concluded that global food security and sustainable agriculture production must be the ultimate goal of any effective agriculture policy, at global and national level. It clearly identified animal health as a critical component of this goal. An [Action plan on food price volatility and agriculture](#) will be submitted to world leaders in November.

FAO Rift Valley Fever conference proceedings

The [proceedings from a workshop](#) held in January 2011 entitled '*Rift Valley Fever vaccine development, progress, and constraints*' have now been published by FAO. Eleven recommendations to policy makers, industry and the scientific community were formulated.

OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health Programmes

With the world demand for animal proteins constantly increasing, proteins derived from aquaculture are one of the solutions for feeding the planet but disease outbreaks in aquatic animals can cause catastrophic losses. Held in Panama in June 2011, the [conference](#) served to underpin efforts of the OIE and its partners in promoting early detection and rapid response to aquatic animal disease outbreaks, including the role and responsibilities of the public and private sector, including farmers, veterinarians and other stakeholders.

OIE Review: The spread of pathogens through international trade

A collection of well-researched papers by internationally-recognised experts, it aims to document the real, rather than hypothetical, risks from international trade in animals and animal products and compares these with the risks from some of the other means by which pathogens are disseminated. The measures available to mitigate risks are also examined. [Free access](#) to the .pdf version of each paper is available.

OIE seeks to define minimum veterinary competencies

The OIE is working to apply a standardised approach to improving the quality of veterinary education. The effort is largely directed toward developing countries and countries with economies that are in transition. An article [Starting from day one](#) was published in JAVMA, 1 August 2011.

FAO & WSPA: animals in emergencies

FAO and [WSPA](#) have announced an e-consultation (November 2011) and expert meeting (March 2012) the aim of which is to advocate the inclusion of animal welfare into humanitarian practice and emergency planning and at identifying best practice regarding emergencies.

The Role, Impact and Welfare of Working Animals

An expert meeting convened by the FAO and The Brooke took place at the FAO headquarters in Rome on 17-21 June. This followed an e-consultation earlier in the year. A report and recommendations which will act to inform development agencies and government and academic institutions as to why and how the profile of working animals and their welfare should be raised will be made available on the FAO website.

NOTICEBOARD

Meetings and networking; learning resources; articles; survey; overseas work; feedback from volunteers; book aid scheme; Overseas Group secretariat

Open access to wildlife information

The Wildpro[®] Multimedia Website, an electronic encyclopaedia and library which contains a vast amount of scientific information that has been collated over 20 years is now freely available to wildlife professionals, academics and other interested parties. Wildlife Information Network, the organisation that created the concept, is now part of Twycross Zoo, East Midland Zoological Society. For further information visit www.wildlifeinformation.org

WikiVet

[WikiVet](#) registrations are still increasing with 11,065 registered users and 209 vet schools registered in 76 countries around the world. There are lots of new dragster activities that are going into the Anatomy & Physiology section. For those not familiar with WikiVet, it is a collaborative initiative between the UK vet schools to develop a comprehensive on-line peer reviewed veterinary knowledge database. The aim is to cover the entire undergraduate curriculum. WikiVet requires [registration](#), which is FREE, to ensure that is used by people related to the veterinary profession only.

SPORE: June-July 2011

The [June-July 2011 issue of SPORE](#) carried an article entitled 'Livestock disease: a heavy burden' (see pages 4&5).

EMPRES special edition on rinderpest

A [special edition](#) of the EMPRES Transboundary Animal Diseases Bulletin focuses on rinderpest. Click [here](#) for further information on the FAO's EMPRES strategy.

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

You can watch a [video of Jimmy Smith](#), the newly appointed director general designate of ILRI, talking about what he sees as the opportunities and challenges in the livestock sector.

Marjan Centre for Conflict & Conservation

The [Marjan Centre](#), established in 2010, works towards collaboration across disciplines within King's College (London), other academic institutions, as well as charities and NGOs. The name Marjan was chosen in honour of a famous lion in Kabul Zoo whose life in the maelstrom of Afghanistan was a powerful example about the overlap of conflict and conservation. A [conference](#) entitled 'Conflict and Conservation' will take place at King's College on 18 October 2011. Speakers will include environmentalist, Sir Crispin Tickell, and Dr Azzam Alwash of NatureIraq, as well as from King's College, the British Army and NGOs.

Global veterinary survey

The University of Nottingham Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine is conducting a [global veterinary survey](#) and would like to enlist the help of non-UK veterinarians. The aim is to narrow the gap between veterinary research and veterinary practice, using targeted research to answer clinical questions generated by veterinarians in the field.

Help in Suffering, Jaipur

A update on the work being done at HIS can be read in their [latest newsletter](#).

Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS)

Visit the [WVS website](#) for updates on planned trips.

Hands up to help

We are grateful to [BSAVA](#) for giving us permission to reproduce the article 'Hands up to help' in which John Bonner explores the opportunities for members of the profession to do voluntary work abroad. [The article](#) first appeared in the August 2010 edition of Companion, the BSAVA membership magazine

Under the Baobab tree

Recent graduates Tina Nurse and Kim Willoughby describe their [experiences volunteering with TAWESO](#) (Tanzania Animal Welfare Society).

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. Please send reports to Catherine catherinel@bva.co.uk or Helena helenac@bva.co.uk so we can add them to the website.

Overseas Group's book aid scheme

If you're having a clear out and come across any veterinary textbooks you no longer use then please consider donating them to our overseas book aid scheme. For further information on the scheme and the sort of books that are useful click [here](#). There will be a collection point in the Press Room at BVA Congress in September.

Overseas Group Secretariat

Many congratulations to Rachel Keys who gave birth to baby Joshua in June. We'd like to welcome Catherine Lawrence who has taken over the role of OG secretariat at BVA while Rachel is on maternity leave. Catherine can be contacted on catherinel@bva.co.uk or 020 7908 6373.

Disclaimer: Please note that inclusion in this newsletter does not imply approval or endorsement by the BVA

FOCUS on...

BVA CONGRESS 2011: MAKING AN IMPACT IN A CHANGING WORLD

2011 has been named World Veterinary Year in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the foundation of the world's first veterinary school, in Lyon in 1761.

2011 also marks a unique event in the history of animal health. In May the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) announced the declaration of the eradication of rinderpest, one of the world's most dreaded animal diseases; the global freedom status was ratified by Ministers of Agriculture at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conference in June. The BVA is delighted that this monumental achievement - which compares to the eradication of smallpox in humans - will be the subject of the Wooldridge Memorial Lecture to be given by Dr Peter Roeder who led the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme from 2000-2007.

To further illustrate how vets and veterinary science can have a global impact the Overseas Group is organising a full day's programme at Congress: exploring current issues concerning livestock and global food security, veterinary involvement in disaster relief and management, as well as a session celebrating 100 BVA overseas travel grants.

With the world population expected to reach 9 billion by 2050 and global food demand predicted to double in the same timeframe we are faced with the challenge of producing and supplying enough safe and nutritious food in a sustainable way. Global annual meat production is expected to expand from the current 228 million tons to 463 million tons by 2050 with the cattle population estimated to grow from 1.5 billion to 2.6 billion and that of goats and sheep from 1.7 billion to 2.7 billion, according to FAO estimates. FAO in 2010 also called for investments in national animal-health and food safety infrastructure. Vets will need to be actively involved and at the leading edge of new developments. We cannot afford to sit back and leave this to others.

The BVA is honoured that Dr Juan Lubroth, Chief Veterinary Officer at FAO, will set the scene with an overview of current issues concerning livestock and global food security.

Our changing world also means that natural and manmade disasters are becoming increasingly frequent and often affect the most vulnerable communities: many are dependent on livestock and working animals for their livelihoods. Where and when should outside agencies intervene? Disaster mitigation measures, rapid relief or post disaster rehabilitation: what are the strengths and the risks of each? Should hearts or minds lead animal health and welfare interventions into humanitarian disasters? Colonel Neil Smith from the Royal Army Veterinary Corps (RAVC), Ian Dacre from the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and Emma Jowett, a specialist in humanitarian relief work, will each provide a different viewpoint on disaster management experiences and possibilities: this will be an exciting session which should challenge existing perceptions of veterinary work in disaster situations and stimulate healthy debate.

The BVA has long recognised the value in giving students the chance to gain experience in the prevention and control of exotic and emerging animal diseases – ever-present threats in the face of globalisation and climate change. The BVA overseas travel grant scheme, which began in 1983, has also helped students to develop beneficial life skills such as communication, adaptability and open-mindedness. This year the 100th BVA travel grant will be awarded and the Overseas Group felt it would be a fitting gesture to celebrate this milestone. Former grant recipients Harriet Auty (Tanzania 2002), Michelle Barrows (Uganda 1996), Mark Eisler (Paraguay 1983) and Richard Mellanby (Seychelles 1996) will talk about how their experience overseas when they were students has helped to shape their career and changed their outlook on life.



Harriet Auty blood-testing a goat – Tanzania 2002