

BVA Overseas Newsletter



NUMBER 1/2011

Vet2011: WORLD VETERINARY YEAR

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, France, in 1761. The slogan adopted for this year of celebration '*Vet for health, Vet for food, Vet for the planet!*' evokes the all-important role that veterinarians play in safeguarding human and animal health, in working to enhance food security and in protecting the environment.

Vet2011 is running a [photography competition](#) to find the best pictures of vets in your daily life. The closing date is 31 March 2011, so get snapping!

BVA CONGRESS

It is anticipated that 2011 will also see the official declaration that rinderpest has been eradicated worldwide. After smallpox, this is only the second viral disease to have been eliminated by man. The BVA is delighted that this monumental achievement 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 on Friday 23 September a full day's programme at [BVA 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.

A WORLD WITHOUT RINDERPEST

In the *Veterinary Record* of 29 January Peter Roeder provided an update on progress towards the official declaration that the disease has been eradicated worldwide. The global declaration is not expected until the middle of this year. The Editor of the *Veterinary Record* has kindly made Dr Roeder's article available to readers of this newsletter: please [click here](#) for the relevant link.

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BVA OVERSEAS TRAVEL GRANTS

A reminder that the closing date for applications for the 2011 [BVA Overseas Travel Grants](#) is 21 February. These grants, of up to £500 each, are awarded annually to enable student members in their clinical years to undertake research projects in developing countries.

Other awards available through the BVA are the [TAWs travel grants](#) for projects involving working animals used for draught and pack purposes including transport and cultivation in developing countries, and the [Donkey Sanctuary grants](#) to support veterinary undergraduates visiting a Donkey Sanctuary project site. Again the closing date is 21 February for both these awards.

There is also the [Harry Steele-Bodger Memorial Travel Scholarship](#) for penultimate and final year veterinary students - as well as graduates who have been qualified not more than three years. The deadline for this award is 11 April.

GUIDANCE NOTES ON WORKING OVERSEAS

The Overseas Group has added three new chapters to its [Guidance Notes on Working Overseas](#), covering:

- [EMS overseas](#)
- [Taking medicines overseas](#)
- [Importing animal products from abroad for research purposes in the UK](#)

The Overseas Group has also produced [FAQs on working and volunteering abroad](#) in response to the many requests for advice it receives from vets, students and nurses.

2010 BVA TRAVEL GRANT REPORTS

Reports from three of last year's recipients are now on [the website](#). They are from Laura Cole (Kenya: field investigation of the parasites of *Papio anubis*), Claire Coombe-Jones (India: challenges faced when establishing a high quality dairy herd) and Katie Wu (Egypt: prevalence of equine piroplasmiasis in working horses). Recommended reading!

TREVOR BLACKBURN AWARD 2011

The Overseas Group invites nominations for this year's [Trevor Blackburn Award](#) which is made to members of the BVA in recognition of contributions to animal health and welfare in a developing country.

5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference 21–25 March 2011 - Accra, Ghana *The Role of Veterinarians and Livestock Farmers in Food Security and Poverty Alleviation*



Organised by the CVA and the Ghana Veterinary Medical Association this conference has an exciting, vibrant and informative scientific programme with sessions focussing on animal welfare, the future of livestock in Africa and advances in veterinary science. The role of women in livestock development, food safety and security, and zoonotic diseases will be discussed as will the alleviation of poverty, wildlife conservation, and aquaculture. The programme will be held in conjunction with a number of workshops and specialist sessions such as rabies, one health/one medicine and working animals. The programme aims to address the many issues that face all countries in a time of accelerated change and economic uncertainty.

For further information visit the [PCVC5 website](#).

DIARY DATES...

21-25 March 2011

[5th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference](#)
Accra, Ghana

30 April 2011

[World Veterinary Day](#)

7-9 September 2011

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

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

A big thank you to David Clarke, Sara Fleck, Andy Hutcheson, Ian Keymer, Fred Nind, Christine Rice, Abbey House Vets (Leeds), and Eastgate Veterinary Group (Bury St Edmunds) for kindly donating books and equipment for use overseas. These donations are hugely appreciated.

The Future of Food and Farming: Challenges and choices for global sustainability

The UK Government Office for Science Foresight Report calls for a fundamental change in the global food system, along with better governance, noting that much will have to change in order to feed a projected global population of 8 billion by 2030, and probably more than 9 billion by 2050. Several hundred experts from around the world have been involved in the project. The final report, along with supporting project reports and papers, is available at www.bis.gov.uk/foresight

FARM-Africa launches ground-breaking business model

[FARM-Africa](#) has received funding to develop the first franchise business model that will establish a chain of new veterinary stores to provide quality, accessible and affordable livestock services including clinical services, veterinary drugs, farm inputs, animal feeds and artificial insemination in Africa. FARM-Africa aims to establish at least 150 livestock franchises and will work with public and private partners to improve the incomes, welfare and household of 300,000 livestock keepers in Kenya.

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

FAO Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare: Dog Population Management Forum

A new forum that provides an opportunity to exchange information, engage in professional discussions and request or provide advice on issues related to dog population management, dog health and welfare, and socio-economic assessments of the importance of dogs. Anyone involved or interested is welcome to use [this Forum](#).

First Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation

The conference, organised by the OIE, in Tunisia in December 2010 was successful in [highlighting the significance of veterinary legislation](#) as a cornerstone of national veterinary good governance and infrastructures. Many countries lack updated veterinary legislation to address today's animal health and welfare challenges and those of the future.

OIE's new website

The OIE has launched a [new website](#).

Global fish consumption reaches all-time high

Fisheries and aquaculture support the livelihoods of an estimated 540 million people, or eight per cent of the world population. Total world production of fish and fish products rose from 140 million tonnes in 2007 to 145 million tonnes in 2009: much of the fish now comes from aquaculture, which is growing at the rate of almost seven per cent a year. The FAO's report on the [state of the world's fisheries and aquaculture](#) (31 January 2011) stresses that the status of global fish stocks has not improved and examines the growing legal efforts to enforce tighter controls on the fisheries sector.

World Veterinary Association (WVA)

Read the [February WVA newsletter](#).

World Veterinary Day

[World Veterinary Day](#) will take place on 30 April 2011. This year's theme is rabies.

Alliance for Rabies Control

Read the [latest ARC newsletter](#).

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

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

WSPA's Animals in Disasters blog

[Animals in Disasters blog](#) covers work in Colombia, Brazil, Sri Lanka and Australia.

6th International Colloquium on Working Equids Post-conference Report

'Learning from Others' was the theme of the 6th International Colloquium on Working Equids held in India. Keynote speakers from the fields of international development, social science, bioethics, disaster risk reduction, human health and education and other working animal species shared their experience and expertise with delegates. In a series of discussions, demonstrations and interactive sessions, participants made links between keynote presentations and their own experiences working with draught and pack animals. Individuals identified learning points to inform their own work and expressed intentions to continue learning and sharing with others after the event.

[The Post-conference Report](#) is now available on the Brooke website.



Photo: The Brooke

Electronic consultation on the role, impact and welfare of working (traction and transport) animals

Following on from the 6th International Colloquium on Working Equids, FAO and the Brooke are hosting an electronic consultation throughout February on the role, impact and welfare of working (traction and transport) animals. The consultation will address the following aspects and will focus on each one for a week:

Week 1: A review of the current state of knowledge on the contribution of working animals to livelihoods (food security, poverty alleviation, income generation, gender equity etc.) worldwide.

Week 2: More detailed analysis of the role and contribution of working animals to one or more of the livelihood components described above, selected on the basis of participants' contributions and highlighted areas of importance in the first week.

Week 3: Existing standards and guidelines, case studies and good practices addressing the health and welfare of working animals.

Week 4: Policies, legislation and recommendations for further action at national and international level.

You can register for the e-consultation at Working-Animals@FAO.org and send relevant documents to the same address. Moderated contributions will be made accessible on the Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare at www.fao.org/ag/againfo/themes/animal-welfare/en/

Effect of anthelmintic programme for working equids in Morocco

A recently published paper on a randomised triple blind trial to assess the effect of an anthelmintic programme for working equids in Morocco is available free on line at: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1746-6148/7/1>

NOTICEBOARD

Overseas work; feedback from volunteers; networks

DOGS TRUST – MALTA

DogsTrust is looking for an experienced vet (preferably at least five years small animal practice) to work in one of its partner charities, Happy Paws, in Malta. Mostly neutering but also other general practice work. Initial six-month contract. Temporary accommodation provided. Reasonable salary. Start as soon as possible after February. For further information contact David Newall david.newall@dogstrust.org.uk

LILONGWE SPCA (LSPCA) - Malawi

The charity works to improve welfare standards of domestic and farm animals through direct animal care, education, workshops and re-homing. LSPCA is seeking a full time vet with experience of working in a developing country: to be responsible for developing its new veterinary clinic, managing its quarantine facility and be involved in its neutering programmes nationwide; also to be involved in advisory work with local councils and governmental agencies on animal welfare legislation and stray animal management programmes. Local salary. Accommodation provided. Closing date 28 February 2011. For further information contact Dr Richard Ssuna at rssuna@gmail.com



Dr Ssuna treating a donkey. Photo: LSPCA

HIMALAYAN ANIMAL RESCUE TRUST (HART)

Based in Pokhara, Nepal, HART is working on neutering programmes, rabies eradication and training programmes in the region. They urgently need volunteer vets and vet nurses. HART cannot fund travel costs but can provide basic accommodation. For further information visit www.hartnepal.org or contact Barbara Webb at barbara.webb@zen.co.uk

TANZANIA ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

TAWESO runs dog and cat population control projects in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma and a donkey welfare project in Mpwapwa district as well as providing animal health care for strays and running humane education programmes in schools and communities. The charity welcomes volunteer vets to help with its programmes.

DOGSTAR FOUNDATION – SRI LANKA

The Dogstar Foundation provides access to free veterinary care, sterilisation and vaccination for dogs and cats from low income communities in Sri Lanka. They welcome volunteer vets, nurses and students.

LANTA ANIMAL WELFARE – THAILAND

Lanta Animal Welfare on the island of Koh Lanta (south Thailand) seeks volunteer vets to treat sick and injured stray animals and help run its neutering programme.

FREE THE BEARS - CAMBODIA

Free the Bears aims to protect, preserve and enrich the lives of bears throughout the world. It runs a short-term volunteer programme at its Cambodian sanctuary (currently the world's largest Sun bear sanctuary) and has started a research volunteer programme for vet students and vet nurses.

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. For further information contact Christina Pretorius: CPretorius@ifaw.org

Recent RVC graduate Claire Chadwick volunteered at the Mdzananda Animal Clinic last August. Read about [her time at Mdzananda](#) which she describes as 'one of the best things she has ever done'.

WORLDWIDE VETERINARY SERVICE (WVS)

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

SOME GOINGS ON IN RWANDA

British vet Stephen Hipkins has been in Rwanda since the beginning of 2010 while his wife is on a VSO placement. Stephen has taken up a post as lecturer for ISAE (Institute Superior d'Agriculture et de l'Elevage) veterinary school, Busogo. Visit www.melissawanda.blogspot.com for their fascinating accounts of life in Rwanda – plus some wonderful photographs.

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 Rachel rachelk@bva.co.uk or Helena helenac@bva.co.uk so we can add them to the website.

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

FOCUS on...**GambiCats** by Frances Miller

GambiCats started working with cats in The Gambia, West Africa, in 1998 and became a UK Registered Charity in 1999. Our objectives are to encourage neutering, and help improve the welfare of the cats and dogs.



Bringing the family dog to the clinic! Photo: *GambiCats*

GambiCats is holding its 11th Neutering clinic in April. The clinic will run over 7 days and its target will be the neutering of stray cats and dogs. Pets of Gambians on low incomes will also be given free neutering and welfare help.

Stray dogs will be microchipped and ear-notched and all animals will be given anti-rabies vaccinations. Owners will be issued with cards to remind them of the date to renew the vaccinations.

Our vet will be Rob Schell from the Netherlands who has carried out 3 clinics already. He will be working with local vets as well as his son who is training to be a vet.

The charity is hoping to operate on two sites; a local village where the strays and locally-owned dogs and cats can be neutered; a beach hotel where we can concentrate on strays.

Thanks to our supporters, we have our own equipment which is stored with full-time Administrator Dodou Bojang.

We will be needing items such as worm & flea preparations, antibiotics etc, as well as collars & leads to help dog owners.

Further information from *GambiCats*, Parc Llwyd, Aberporth, Cardigan SA43 2DU; tel: 01239 810595 email: gambicats@aol.com website: www.gambicats.org.uk



Sick kitten at Palm Beach hotel. Photo: *GambiCats*

Vets with relevant experience are welcome to contact us about possible clinics in the future.