

OVERSEAS NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2008

Message from Karen Reed, Chair - BVA Overseas Group

As the last Overseas Association Newsletter of 2008 is sent out, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on a busy year and also to thank the many members and associates who have contributed their support, guidance and expertise in overseas issues. There have been generous donations of books and equipment, regular contributions to the newsletter and rapid responses to request for advice. Without this support, the Overseas Association and the Overseas Group could not function. Thank you to all.

In particular, as the new Chair of the Overseas Group, I would like to thank Laura Bowen who stepped down from chairing the Group this year, after ten years of hard work in steering the Overseas Group and raising the profile of overseas veterinary work. The increasing interest in overseas work and the global nature of animal health and development calls for the UK veterinary profession to be fully engaged in the wider arena of animal health and welfare outside Europe and North America. Laura's dedication to the Overseas Association and Group has paid off as the December meeting of BVA Council accepted the proposal that the Group should become a standing committee of the BVA. This means that we now have the possibility to inform BVA Council using the wealth of experience and expertise available through our members and associates. Laura is to be congratulated on this achievement and will continue to be an invaluable member of the Overseas Group.

Our increasing profile has ensured that we had an Overseas Session at BVA Congress in London in September, the second such session at Congress and we hope this will continue as a regular part of Congress. The Group continues to administer the popular BVA Overseas Travel Grants and responds to general overseas volunteering enquiries. We would be pleased to have feedback on the volunteering notes on the website, so that we can keep them as up to date and relevant as possible. Our links with the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) allow us to keep in touch with events in other parts of the world and we supported initiatives such as World Veterinary Day (signing up to the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare) and World Rabies Day. Work on the Disaster Management Resource and the Book Aid initiative also continues and we will also be looking to receiving nominations for the next recipient of the Trevor Blackburn Award in 2009.

I am sure 2009 will bring plenty of challenges. No country is immune from the current economic difficulties and animal health and welfare will continue to be globally important aspects of community development and sustainability.

Please keep in touch and let us know what is happening in your part of the world.

Wishing you all a Peaceful and Healthy 2009.

Karen Reed

Chair, BVA Overseas Group

News - BVA

BVA salary-linked membership category

From 2009 the BVA is offering a [salary-linked membership](#) rate for those earning less than £15,000 per annum. This may be of interest to vets serving overseas if they are undertaking low-paid work in developing countries.

BVA Overseas Travel Grants 2009

Information on the next tranche of [BVA, TAWS and Donkey Sanctuary travel grants](#) is now available. The grants are aimed at veterinary undergraduates (attending a UK veterinary school) who intend to undertake a project in a developing country. The closing date for applications is 20 March 2009.



Photo: Sioned Timothy (Uganda)

Harry Steele-Bodger Memorial Scholarship 2009

The [Harry Steele-Bodger travel 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 closing date for applications is 24 April 2009.

Trevor Blackburn Award 2009 - invitation for nominations

The BVA Overseas Group invites nominations for the [Trevor Blackburn Award](#). This Award was instigated by the BVA Overseas Group in 2006 in memory of Mr J Trevor Blackburn, President of the BVA 1984-85, the Commonwealth Veterinary Association 1988-91 and the World Veterinary Association 1991-95. The purpose of the Award is to recognise 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 29 May 2009.

Veterinary Records

A set of (unbound) archived copies of *The Veterinary Record* from the late 1960s to 1998 is available for any interested institutions or individuals - provided they can arrange transport (from Suffolk). Please phone or fax +44 (0)1638 750189 if interested, or email helenac@bva.co.uk

Veterinary Records and *In Practice* journals from the last five years are available should anyone wish to collect them from South Devon. For further information contact Helena Cotton at helenac@bva.co.uk

VSO – Pip Beard's placement in Mongolia comes to an end

Pip has posted her [final blog](#) as her VSO placement with the State Central Veterinary Laboratory in Ulaanbaatar comes to an end.

News - General

Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC)

Read the [ARC's November 2008](#) newsletter.

Conformation of Working Equines DVD

This DVD produced by Ramsay Hovell illustrates not only good and bad points of conformation but also the sorts of equipment used in remote places which might be struck by disaster. The DVD (recorded in PAL standard) can be purchased for £15 (and is also available as a video cassette). Please contact Ramsay Hovell, Old Stocks, 62 The Avenue, Worminghall, Aylesbury, Bucks HP18 9 LE, tel: +44 (0)1844 339327.

Development Briefings in Brussels

The ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ([CTA](#)), the European Commission, the EU Presidency, the [ACP Group](#), [Euforic](#), [Concord](#), and other partners plan to organise regular [development briefing sessions](#) in Brussels on key issues and challenges for rural development in the context of EU/ACP cooperation.

Draught Animal News

The aim of [Draught Animal News](#) is to provide a means by which people in different countries can exchange information at any level on use of draught animal power. The publication is available free to research workers, field workers and others interested in draught animal power who live in developing countries. The editors are actively seeking funding for future issues: advertising and donations are always welcome. Please contact Dr Anne Pearson at Anne.Pearson@ed.ac.uk

Feeding the world better by controlling animal diseases

The recent food riots in several developing countries serve as a painful reminder of current problems in matching food supply and demand worldwide. With this in mind, Dr Bernard Vallet, Director General of the OIE, has updated his editorial '[Feeding the world better by controlling animal diseases](#)'.

Harness-Aid – workshops for vets and vet students

[Harness-Aid](#) was recently formed to create a better understanding in the use of harness and harness systems used by draught animals worldwide - and to introduce practical and sustainable solutions to the problems encountered.



Photo: Terry Davis

A high percentage of veterinary intervention in developing countries is in the treatment of (preventable)

harness-related injuries. Harness-Aid can provide workshops/programmes specifically for vets and vet students who intend to work with equids in developing countries. For further information contact Terry Davis at harnessaid@yahoo.co.uk or +44 (0)1694 781206.

International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA) Symposium

Glasgow and Edinburgh Veterinary Schools are to be the base for the [57th Annual IVSA Symposium](#), 29 Dec – 5 Jan. Speakers will include Dr Sarah Cleaveland (ARC) and Dr David Main (BVA Animal Welfare Foundation). There will also be workshops from the Animal Welfare Science Ethics and Law Veterinary Association, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, and a Glasgow equine lameness specialist. Organised by the IVSA Symposium Committee (students) throughout the UK and Ireland, there will be many cultural and charitable activities running alongside the educational programme.

OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in Africa

The [proceedings of the OIE Conference on Veterinary Medicinal Products in Africa](#), held in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2008, are now available on the OIE website.

Request from The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust (GHDT)

The [GHDT](#) is in desperate need of several items of equipment including syringes, scalpels, bandage materials, Hausman gag, molar extractors, blades for rasps, examination gloves, large stomach tube with funnel, sterile saline (Hartmanns) and giving sets, iodine and hibiscrub, Duphacycline spray, eye medicines, Finadyne, and antibiotics. If anyone can help please contact Heather Armstrong at gambiahorseanddonkeytrust@hotmail.com or +44 (0)1306 627568.

Request from Zambia

The BVA has received a request from the Chisamba Ranch Churches organisation in Fringilla, Zambia. This rural veterinary-based village group, which runs a mobile veterinary clinic caring for livestock and working animals, is keen to establish links and, if possible, to receive literature and technical assistance. For further information please contact helenac@bva.co.uk

Second Global Conference on Animal Welfare

The [resolution from the Second Global Conference on Animal Welfare](#) held in Cairo (Egypt) on 20-22 October 2008 is now available.

TNRdogs

Dogs Trust and Battersea Dogs and Cats Home have launched a free [guide to trap, neuter and return programmes](#) to help control street dog populations.

Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW)

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has announced [its support](#) for the concept of a [Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare](#). The AVMA joins the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Veterinary Association (WVA), Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA), Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA) and many national veterinary associations – including the BVA – in supporting the Declaration.

VETAID conference

VETAID's conference 'Hungry Farmers: The Root Causes', will bring together farmers, vets, agriculture students, vet students, European and Scottish politicians, agricultural press and national press for a one-day conference about farming in East Africa. It will be held at the Moredun Research Institute, near

Edinburgh, on Friday 23 January 2009. For further information contact John Ferguson john@vetaid.org or call +44 (0)131 445 6244.

Workshop on Health and Welfare of Livestock – Kenya

The workshop, held in July, was directed primarily at Animal Health Assistants and others concerned with domesticated animals in Kwale, Coast Province, a region where agriculture is a vital part of the livelihood of the local rural community. Organised by Dr Ronald Nderingo (DVO Kwale) and Dr Francis Awich (DVO Kinango), in collaboration with Professor John and Mrs Margaret Cooper (University of the West Indies), presentations covered the importance of animal health and welfare, its assessment in livestock, legal and ethical aspects and local considerations. Practical sessions comprised visits to two local shambas and a demonstration of field diagnostic techniques. For further information contact Professor John Cooper ngagi2@gmail.com

World Association for Transport Animal Welfare and Studies (TAWS) guidelines

In addition to the TAWS Guidelines on Equine Draught Harness (2007), two more guidelines in the series have been produced: TAWS Guidelines on Farriery Training in Courses Overseas (2008) and TAWS Guidelines on Design and Construction of Two-Wheeled Carts Drawn by Equids in Developing Countries (2008). Further information is available from info@taws.org or +44 (0)1932 564366.

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

Read the [WSAVA's December 2008](#) newsletter.

World Veterinary Association (WVA)

Read the [WVA's December 2008](#) newsletter.

Overseas Postings and Requests for Volunteers

Disclaimer: Please note that inclusion of organisations in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the BVA.

Fiji SPCA

The Fiji SPCA would welcome both short and long-term veterinary and VN volunteers to help at their shelters. Free accommodation is available in a Government house in Suva. Some opportunities also exist for duty travel to other islands in the Fiji group, with possible stays at tourist resorts – again, at no cost to volunteers! For further information contact spca@connect.com.fj



Photo: Christina May (Fiji SPCA)

Lilongwe SPCA, Malawi

Funded by RSPCA International, the Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals is looking for a vet to manage its project focusing mainly on the mobile veterinary clinic which provides vaccinations and general veterinary care to animals in the poorest communities. One year contract. Flights, accommodation and local stipend covered. For further information contact Donna O'Connell, email: doconnell@rspca.org.uk

Vets Beyond Borders

Australian-based [Vets Beyond Borders](#) seeks veterinary volunteers to participate in their programmes in Asia and the Pacific region.

VSO placements

VSO does not receive many requests for livestock workers or vets from their partners overseas but any placements they need to fill are posted on their [website](#).

Worldwide Veterinary Service

There are several places available on forthcoming WVS trips. For further details contact info@wvs.org.uk or visit the [WVS website](#).

Reminders and dates for the diary

29 December 2008 – 5 January 2009: [57th International Veterinary Students Association Symposium](#) - Scotland

20-21 January 2009: [Conference on Global Trade and Farm Animal Welfare](#) - Brussels

23 January 2009: [VETAID Herds and Clans Project Conference](#) – Edinburgh, Scotland

13-16 February 2009: [International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance](#) – Vienna, Austria

25 April 2009: World Veterinary Day

24-26 September 2009: [BVA Congress](#) – Cardiff, Wales

28 September 2009: World Rabies Day

9-12 March 2010: [14th International Congress on Infectious Diseases](#) – Miami, USA

10-14 October 2011: [30th World Veterinary Congress](#) – Cape Town, South Africa