

OVERSEAS NEWSLETTER – JULY 2008

News - BVA

Professor John Cooper receives the Trevor Blackburn Award

Professor John Cooper visited BVA HQ in June where he was presented with the 2007 Trevor Blackburn Award in recognition of his contributions to animal health and welfare overseas. John is pictured with Mary Blackburn, admiring his award, a sculpture from The Gambia called 'The Thinking Man'.



[Photo: Gill Harris BVA]

[Further information](#) on the Award

New CVA representative appointed

Karen Reed has been appointed as the new UK Councillor to the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, taking over from John Cooper. A former VSO volunteer in Nepal, Karen completed an MSc at CTVM, which was followed by another posting in Jordan. Since 2002 she has been Veterinary Director at SPANA and has served on the BVA Overseas Group for several years.

BVA Congress 2008 - Overseas Group Session

The Overseas Group's session 'Human/Animal Interface: the veterinary role within international development' will take place between 9.30am-12noon on Friday 26 September at the Royal College of Physicians, London. Chaired by Laura Bowen, the programme will focus on empowerment through livestock and the human/animal bond, health and interdependence. Speakers will include Neil Morrison (Vetaid), Claire Heffernan (Reading), Sarah Cleaveland (Edinburgh) and Tim Leyland (DFID). We look forward to seeing many of you at our session which fittingly precedes the Wooldridge Memorial Lecture 'Climate Change: The Global Challenge' to be given by Professor Robert Watson.

Further information and [registration details](#)

BVA travel grants 2008

The Overseas Group is delighted to announce that this year's grants have been awarded to:

Olivia Avdis (Edinburgh) to undertake a welfare and health assessment of Tanzanian dogs and its

relationship to immunological response to rabies vaccination;

Ellie Milnes (Cambridge) to assess the ethical and welfare implications of game capture techniques in Namibia; and

Emily Newman (Cambridge) to visit Cameroon to assess the efficacy of three anthelmintics used in common chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and Western Lowland gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) in a sanctuary setting.

The TAWS travel grant was awarded to Nichola Robertson (Bristol) to undertake a study of eye lesions in working equids with SPANA in Morocco.

Anna Borlase (Bristol) and Ellie Milnes (Cambridge) were selected by the Donkey Sanctuary to work on projects in Mexico and Egypt respectively.

BVA travel grants – reports by 2007 recipients

Four more inspiring accounts of projects undertaken last year are now up on the BVA website:

An assessment of the current on-farm welfare of Kenyan beef cattle as part of an evaluation of the potential of developing countries to access niche high-welfare beef export markets in the EU by [David Mills](#) (Cambridge).



David on a Masaai smallholding [Photo: David Mills]

[Aniket Sardana](#) (Bristol) reports on the impact of extensive versus intensive cattle systems of livestock and environmental health in the Brazilian Pantanal.

[Kate Woolley](#) (Liverpool) outlines her investigation into blood-borne parasites of domestic dogs in Tanzania: their relevance to public health and wildlife conservation.

[Patrick Sells](#), who graduated from Liverpool last summer, describes the research he carried out with SPANA in Morocco – having raised over £10,000 worth of funds and equipment for the charity by travelling to North Africa on a sponsored motorbike ride. Patrick was the recipient of a BVA/TAWS travel grant.

Christina May – volunteering in Fiji

Earlier this year [Christina May](#) spent some time doing voluntary work with the Fiji SPCA and her report can be read at:



Fiji SPCA [Photo: Christina May]

The islands are suffering from a serious shortage of vets and the SPCA is keen to attract volunteers, especially those willing to undertake a longer-term commitment. If you wish to find out more please contact Christina at christinagmay@googlemail.com or the Executive Director of the Fiji SPCA at: spca@connect.com.fj

Mary Carr – volunteering in Uganda

Mary is currently working with the charity Jenga – linked to another charity, the Bungakho Rural Development Centre - looking into community development using goats and animal health training. The Overseas Group would like to give special thanks to Judy Stack at the VLA who, through David Harwood of the Goat Veterinary Society, has been able to advise Mary as well as providing brucellosis test kits: their help is much appreciated.

Pip Beard – VSO in Mongolia

Pip has been invited to work for the Mongolian government for a year at the State Central Veterinary Laboratory in the capital UlaanBaatar, sponsored by Volunteer Service Overseas (VSO) UK. The Overseas Group is delighted to be able to support Pip further by donating membership of the BVA and we hope that *The Veterinary Record* and *In Practice* will be useful for Pip and her colleagues at the SCVL. If you get a chance, do read [Pip's fascinating blogs](#).

News - General

Aid Workers Network

Read the [AWN newsletter](#)

Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC)

The Alliance for Rabies Control web site has [recently moved](#)

Read the ARC's latest (April) [newsletter](#)

AVMA Disaster Preparedness and Response

A new [AVMA Collection](#), "Disaster preparedness and response", is now available on the AVMA website. Areas discussed include: the veterinarian's role in preparedness and response; biosecurity and bioterrorism preparedness; search-and-rescue dogs; and preparedness and response policy.

FAO Expert Meeting on Animal Welfare

The FAO is organising an Expert Meeting in Rome (29 September–3 October 2008) to review animal welfare standards, practices and policies and to advise on supporting relevant capacity building in developing countries. The deadline for submission of CV's of experts is 6 July 2008 and for the expression of interest to attend the Open Forum is 31 August 2008. [Further information](#)

International Colloquium on Working Equines – Proceedings

Copies of the Proceedings of the Fifth International Colloquium on Working Equines 'The Future for Working Equines' - organised by the Donkey Sanctuary and the Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia in 2006 - are now available. Please contact Joe Anzuino joe.anzuino@thedonkeysanctuary.com or Helena Cotton helenac@bva.co.uk

VETAID recent news

[Vaccinating for Africa Day 2008](#)

VETAID begins mass [vaccination campaign](#) in Somaliland

[Spring Newsletter](#)

World Veterinary Association (WVA) Newsletter

Read the [April Newsletter](#)

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) News

Read the WSAVA Monthly News for [June](#)

The WSAVA semi-annual (published once to twice per year) News Bulletin is [now available](#) in pdf format

WSPA revises Concepts in Animal Welfare syllabus

A revised and expanded international syllabus to assist with the teaching of animal welfare in veterinary faculties has been launched by WSPA in collaboration with the University of Bristol Veterinary School. See: http://wspa-international.org/publicfiles/CAWbooklet_2008.pdf or contact Jasmijn de Boo: jasmijndeboo@wspa-international.org

Overseas Postings and Requests for Volunteers

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

Ankole Western Institute of Science & Technology - Kabwohe, Uganda

This new institute in rural south-western Uganda would welcome volunteer lecturers for its Animal Health and Production Programme for one or more semesters. Housing, meals and small living allowance provided. For further information please contact Dr Carolyn Langford clangford@nrtco.net

Building New Hope (Casa Lupita) - Granada, Nicaragua

The small animal clinic, Casa Lupita, has been set up to address the overpopulation of dogs and cats in Granada, Nicaragua. They would very much welcome veterinary volunteers. To find out more please contact Donna Tabor at donna@buldingnewhope.org or visit <http://www.buildingnewhope.org/casa-lupita.html>

CLAW and Mdzananda Animal Clinic – South Africa

These IFAW-funded companion animal projects in underprivileged areas in Johannesburg and Cape Town would welcome volunteer veterinary help. The baboon rehabilitation project, CARE, would also welcome volunteers. Information on these projects can be found at www.ifaw.org or www.claw-sa.org or contact Christina Pretorius CPretorius@ifaw.org

Esther Honey Foundation – Cook Islands

The Esther Honey Foundation is looking for (experienced) volunteer vets. See: <http://www.estherhoney.org/>

Fiji SPCA

The Fiji SPCA would welcome both short and long-term veterinary and VN volunteers to help at their shelters (see reference to Christina May's report above). For further information contact spca@connect.com.fj or email Christina at christinagmay@googlemail.com

FAO posts

FAO professional vacancy announcements are available at: http://www.fao.org/VA/vac_en.htm

Protection of Animals Welfare Society (PAWS) – Mauritius

The charity is looking for two experienced vets. Contracts commence at the beginning of December 2008 and are each for one year, although six months would be considered. Accommodation and air tickets included. For further information visit www.pawsmauritius.org or contact Dr Sam Naraina Poulle at sam.paws@intnet.mu

Tibet Charity – Dharamsala, India

The charity would welcome volunteer vets to assist with their Animal Birth Control (ABC) and vaccination programmes run from a small, well-functioning clinic in Dharamsala. For further information visit www.tibetcharity.in or contact Tsering Thundup at tibcharity_ind@yahoo.com

VetAdventure

VetAdventure provides opportunities for veterinary students and recent new graduates to participate on Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS) neutering trips and gain valuable clinical and surgical experience while being shadowed by experienced vets and nurses. For more information visit www.vetadventure.com or email aoife@wvs.org.uk

VSFB posts

VSF-Belgium is looking for a Country Programme Manager South Sudan, based in Juba and a Drought Preparedness Programme Manager, based in Nairobi. For further information contact recruitment@vsfb.or.ke NB Deadline for applications is 15/7/08.

West Bengal shelter and sterilisation programme

Run by a newly-formed animal welfare group, the shelter in Shantiniketan would welcome volunteer vets for 2-6 weeks during December 2008 - February 2009. Housing and meals would be provided. For further information contact Sri Louise srilouise@mac.com

WHO

The Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases of the World Health Organization has a vacancy for a scientist post in WHO. See: https://erecruit.who.int/public/hrd-cl-vac-view.asp?jobinfo_uid_c=19522&vaclng=en

Worldwide Veterinary Service

Vets with cattle and/or poultry experience are urgently required to work with the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Department in disaster-affected areas in Myanmar for 4 weeks during July. Must be Asian nationals due to Visa restrictions. Contact info@wvs.org.uk for further information.

There are several places available on other WVS trips this year. For further details contact info@wvs.org.uk or visit <http://www.wvs.org.uk/>

Reminders and dates for the diary

27-31 July 2008: 29th World Veterinary Congress 'Celebrate our Diversity' - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

<http://www.worldveterinarycongress2008.com/>

20-24 August 2008: 33rd WSAVA Congress & 14th European FECAVA Congress - Dublin, Ireland

<http://www.wsava2008.com/>

31 August – 3 September 2008: [2008 AAWS International Animal Welfare Conference](#) 'Animal Welfare - it's everyone's business' – Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia

[http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-](http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/aaws/aaws_international_animal_welfare_conference)

[health/welfare/aaws/aaws_international_animal_welfare_conference](http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/aaws/aaws_international_animal_welfare_conference)

25-27 September 2008: BVA Congress 'Vets in a changing environment' – London, UK

The BVA Overseas Group session (26 Sept) features empowerment through livestock and the human/animal bond, health and interdependence.

<http://www.bva.co.uk/congress/>

28 September 2008: World Rabies Day

www.worldrabiesday.org

29 September -3 October: FAO Expert Meeting on Animal Welfare – Rome, Italy

<http://www.fao.org/ag/aq/aqainfo/home/en/index.htm>

27-29 October 2008: 15th FAVA Conference/OIE Symposium - Bangkok, Thailand

www.fava2008.com

6-9 November 2008: 25th Biennial Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association Conference - Dutch Sint Maarten-French St. Martin

Contact Garry Swanston sxmvetclinic@megatropic.com or sxmvetclinic@caribserve.net

17-21 November 2008: 13th Australasia/Oceania Commonwealth Veterinary Association Regional Meeting and Workshop – *Protection, Production and Progress in the Pacific* - Apia, Samoa

Contact Jeff Cave Jeff.Cave@dpi.vic.gov.au or Sina Moala sina.taulealo@lesamoa.net