

# BVA Overseas Newsletter



NUMBER 3/2009

## Overseas Group at BVA Congress, Cardiff – 24-26 September

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the Overseas Group's sessions at [BVA Congress](#) on the morning of Friday 25 September (9.30am – 12noon). Our subject matter includes support to overseas health professionals and how organisations working overseas in animal health can work together for greatest benefit. We are fortunate in having three speakers with strong backgrounds in delivering animal health services in different parts of the world and their presentations will be followed by a half hour discussion session which, we hope, will allow for plenty of debate.

The first session will focus on support to the animal health profession overseas. Dr S Abdul Rahman, Secretary of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA), will describe how the CVA has advanced animal health, welfare and productivity and living standards, especially of rural women. He will highlight how climate change and emerging diseases constitute new challenges, whilst in the Pacific Islands a shortage of veterinarians is a special constraint.

'Unlocking the potential of Africa's livestock keepers: a new approach to veterinary service delivery' will be addressed by Dr Christie Peacock of Farm Africa who will look at the use of paraveterinary personnel in areas with low vet density.

In our final presentation 'Working together to improve animal health, integration and cooperation of NGOs', Stephen Blakeway of the Donkey Sanctuary will consider the spectrum of organisations involved in animal health and welfare aid and development. Contrasting the view from within two case studies (one in Afghanistan, the other a Donkey Sanctuary project) Stephen will promote the idea that all organisations need to cooperate, particularly in sharing best practice, if animal health and welfare services are really to improve around the world.

It promises to be an interesting debate. I do hope you'll be able to attend - and please encourage others to do so.

*Karen Reed*

Chair, BVA Overseas Group

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## The Role of Livestock for ACP Countries

The 12<sup>th</sup> Brussels Development Briefing, held on 1 July, dealt with 'The Role of Livestock for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries: challenges and opportunities ahead'. This Briefing discussed key issues on livestock for ACP countries and reviewed the role of livestock for ACP economies and the drivers of change. Reports, summaries of key issues and videos are available on the [Brussels Briefing](#) website.

## Fourth Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services (PHOVAPS) Meeting



A PHOVAPS meeting was held in Nadi in June to review animal health and production issues. Mr 'Aleki Sisifa, Director of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) [Land Resources Division](#) (LRD), expressed concern at the low priority given by most Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) to developing their domestic livestock sector. He stressed that in PICTs with a strong tourism sector, opportunities existed for supplying hotels and associated facilities with fresh produce, animal products and substitutes for current imports, but the necessary linkages and systems must first be in place. Productivity could be improved by developing breeds adapted to Pacific conditions and through training programmes for livestock farmers. The meeting also heard of a shortage of qualified vets in the region (one of the issues we'll be discussing at the forthcoming BVA Congress). In commenting that the LRD's para-veterinary training programme was vital, Mr Sisifa "acknowledged the effort of Dr Robin Yarrow and colleagues in the taskforce that is working hard to progress the effort to sustainably build the veterinary capacity of the PICTs. The Commonwealth Veterinary Association and the animal welfare organisations including the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) provide much-needed financial and technical advice."

## Heather Armstrong thanks the veterinary profession

"On behalf of Dr. Kebba Daffeh, Veterinary Director, The Gambia and [The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust](#), I would like to extend very sincere thanks to all the members of the veterinary profession who responded to our appeal for vaccination syringes and needles to help with a rabies outbreak in The Gambia. Particular thanks go to Roger Baker MRCVS and Mayes and Scrine Equine Veterinary Practice as well as The Donkey Sanctuary and Worldwide Veterinary Service. We are extremely grateful to you for your help." *Heather Armstrong, GHDT*

## New CVA Councillor – Tess Sprayson

The Overseas Group is delighted to announce the appointment of Tess Sprayson as the new CVA Councillor for the UK. Tess has considerable experience of overseas veterinary work and has been involved with the BVA Overseas Group as coordinator of the new Disaster Management resource. She currently works as a freelance consultant on animal-based disaster management and sustainable development issues both in the UK and overseas. Looking forward to taking on the CVA role, Tess commented: "I believe the CVA to be in a unique position to help capacity build not only within the profession but within communities looking to find sustainable solutions to livestock keeping in evermore challenging environments. I relish the opportunity to further my work within the Overseas Group and help strengthen ties with colleagues within the Commonwealth and beyond – and also to bring the role of the CVA to the attention of those in other professions with whom we have similar objectives."

## Mad scientists up a hill

Tony Fooks will be leading a [team from the Veterinary Laboratories Agency](#) in an exciting challenge to scale Mount Snowdon in aid of [World Rabies Day](#). The VLA team will be competing against a [team from Defra](#) to see who can raise the most money for the Alliance for Rabies Control. Do join in the fun, make the blisters worthwhile and help to alleviate the burden of rabies around the world.



## DIARY DATES...

**2-4 September 2009:**

[VLA International Conference](#) – Egham, Surrey

**23 September 2009:** [Medical](#)

[Consequences of War and Conflict](#) – RSM, London

**20-24 September 2009:**

International Dairy Federation [World Dairy Summit](#) – Berlin, Germany

**24-26 September 2009:** [BVA](#)

[Congress](#) – Cardiff, Wales

**28 September 2009:**

[World Rabies Day](#)

**12-14 October 2009:** [Evolving](#)

[veterinary education for a safer world](#) – OIE Paris, France

**29 Nov-2 Dec 2010:** 6<sup>TH</sup>

International Colloquium on Working Equids – New Delhi, India

**10-14 October 2011:**

[30<sup>th</sup> World Veterinary Congress](#) – Cape Town, South Africa

[The Gambia Blog](#) shares experiences of The Gambia and includes articles by volunteers who have worked at [The Gambia Horse & Donkey Trust](#).

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

### Major drive launched against FMD

A [major offensive](#) aimed at bringing Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) under global control has been launched by FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). According to FAO Chief Veterinary Officer Joseph Domenech, "The FMD situation worldwide merits the attention of the international community and donors and it needs to be controlled at source and step by step."



FMD control will safeguard small farmers  
 Photo: FAO

### OIE: guidelines on veterinary legislation

The [OIE](#) has developed and published [guidelines](#) on the essential elements to be covered in veterinary legislation. Legislation should protect animal health and food security; food safety; public health (zoonotic disease) and security (stray animals); and animal welfare.

### Influenza A/H1N1

Read about the [OIE's role](#) in the pandemic influenza H1N1 2009.

### FAO: greenhouse gas emissions

The FAO is seeking data on [greenhouse gas emissions from animal food chains](#) and would welcome any information.

### China's first animal protection law

China is preparing proposals for the country's first ever law to protect animals from cruelty. The draft recommendations, drawn up in consultation with RSPCA International, include laws both to protect pets and cover how farm animals should be raised, transported and slaughtered.

### The "Africa Call"

The European Commission has launched a [call for proposals](#) entirely dedicated to research for Africa. As part of the [EU-Africa Strategic Partnership](#) up to €63million will be allocated to projects in 2010 aiming to improve health conditions, and water and food security in Africa.

### Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC)



The [July issue](#) of the ARC's newsletter includes articles on rabies control in Canada and India, World Rabies Day activities, a rabies outbreak in Namibian wildlife, vampire bat rabies in Latin America, new strategies being developed in the ASEAN+3 countries and others.

[Sign up](#) to access rabies education resources for vets, newsletters and updates on World Rabies Day (28 September).

### Donkey Sanctuary

This year's [Donkey Sanctuary](#) travel grant has been awarded to Lucy Lin (Glasgow) to assist with a humane education project in Ethiopia.

### OIE adopts guidelines on stray dog control

Guidelines on stray dog control, using only humane methods, were adopted by the OIE in May. They were proposed by the [OIE's working group on animal welfare](#) whose Chair, David Bayvel, stressed the important role of veterinary authorities in ensuring that the animal welfare principles expressed in the guidelines become reality and called for vets to "be part of the solution". Although falling short of the fuller guidelines produced by the [International Companion Animal Management](#) (ICAM) Coalition in 2008, they are an important step towards the compassionate treatment of the estimated 400 million stray dogs worldwide.

### South African Veterinary Association (SAVA)

[SAVA](#) has recently pledged support to a [Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare](#) (UDAW).

### World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

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

### World Veterinary Association (WVA)

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

### The 6th International Colloquium on Working Equids



29 November–2 December 2010, New Delhi, India

There are 100 million working horses, donkeys and mules in the world. Ninety-five per cent of all donkeys and 60 per cent of horses are found in developing nations. The majority are owned by individuals who use them as their sole means of income. Working animals are integral to rural transport systems and food production, distribution and security. This colloquium will appeal to an international audience of veterinary and animal scientists, agricultural researchers and practitioners, community development workers, policymakers, educators and trainers, project managers, technical advisers and equine welfare NGOs. The 2010 colloquium will be hosted by [The Brooke](#). The colloquium committee will be inviting submission of short papers under the identified themes. For further information please see the official colloquium website, [www.icwe2010.com](http://www.icwe2010.com), which will be on-line from August 2009.

## NOTICEBOARD

Overseas work opportunities; publications; CPD

### THE GAMBIA HORSE & DONKEY TRUST

The [GHDT](#) is looking for veterinary and VN volunteers for short term (up to three months) placements. Please contact Heather Armstrong on 01306 627568 or email [heather@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk](mailto:heather@gambiahorseanddonkey.org.uk)

### OTHER VACANCIES

For further information on any of the following vacancies please contact **Worldwide Veterinary Service** on [info@wvs.org.uk](mailto:info@wvs.org.uk):

**Thailand charity** - require a vet to work at their clinics for the whole of November as holiday cover for their resident vet. Accommodation provided.

**External Fundraiser, UK based** - an animal welfare charity in Uganda, require an External Fundraiser initially for one year. This paid position is based in the UK. Deadline for applications is 30th September 2009. (Full application details are available).

**Thailand Charity** - is looking for an experienced Veterinary Nurse to join them asap. 6 week commitment - 2 weeks training-in period (unpaid) followed by 4 weeks of full time cover (paid). Accommodation provided.

**Wildlife Veterinary Officer, Malawi** - A full time veterinary officer is required in Malawi.

**Nigerian wildlife charity** - is urgently recruiting for a volunteer veterinarian to start asap to manage the veterinary programme for a busy rehabilitation (over 160 primates of 6 rainforest species) and conservation project in southern Nigeria.

**Thailand Charity** – is advertising for a General Manager to take on a range of responsibilities include HR, Financial and Project management, fundraising, budgeting, strategic planning and PR. A veterinary background is not essential but would be a bonus.

**In addition** there are several places available on forthcoming WVS trips. For further details contact [info@wvs.org.uk](mailto:info@wvs.org.uk) or visit the [WVS website](#).

### URGENT NEED FOR A VOLUNTEER AT HELP IN SUFFERING, INDIA (JAIPUR)

[Help in Suffering](#) urgently needs a volunteer veterinary surgeon to assist in the work of its busy animal shelter in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The shelter has projects with equids, camels, street animals though it is expected that the volunteer will spend most time in the ABC project which aims to control street dog population. The position requires cultural sensitivity, adaptability, the willingness to share clinical skills with colleagues, the ability to keep accurate records and willingness to become involved in a range of professional duties. MRCVS required. Start as soon as possible. Simple accommodation and food would be provided. A commitment to at least 3 months work is required. It is possible that an opportunity to visit and be involved in other projects may occur. For further information contact Jack Reece at [hisvet1@helpinsuffering.org](mailto:hisvet1@helpinsuffering.org)



Photo: Help in Suffering

### Journal of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (JCVA)

If anyone would like to receive a copy of the latest (July) JCVA please contact Helena Cotton [helenac@bva.co.uk](mailto:helenac@bva.co.uk)

### Donkey Sanctuary Handbook

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

### Diseases of the travelling pet

This [Central CPD](#) course being held on 14 October and taken by John and Margaret Cooper, is intended for veterinary surgeons who deal with dogs, cats and other pets that have been taken overseas under the Pet Travel Scheme, that have been recently imported or may have been exposed to exotic infections. For further information contact: [enquiries@centralcpd.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@centralcpd.co.uk)

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