

BVA Overseas Newsletter



NUMBER 1/2009

BVA Overseas Travel Grants 2009

A reminder that the closing date for applications for this year's [BVA, TAWS and Donkey Sanctuary travel grants](#) is 20 March 2009. The grants are aimed at veterinary undergraduates, attending a UK veterinary school, who intend to undertake a project in a developing country.

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.

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BVA Congress, Cardiff – 24-26 September

Presentations at the Overseas Group's session (Friday 25 September) at this year's [Congress](#) will cover 'Four decades of Commonwealth Veterinary Association activity', 'The integration of the use of para-veterinary personnel in animal health delivery systems in areas with low vet density' and 'Working together to improve animal health, integration and cooperation of NGOs'. An open discussion forum will conclude the programme.

VETS.TV

Recent additions to VETS.TV - the new web TV service hosted by the British Veterinary Association (BVA) at www.vets.tv – include a series of videos offering best practice advice on milking, feeding, stock handling and health issues on a dairy farm, identification of the bulling cow and, from World Horse Welfare, the film 'Is Your Horse the Right Weight'?

For more information visit www.VETS.TV or contact ameliaf@bva.co.uk if you wish to develop the platform for your own use or have video footage you wish to share.

Search for a Chinese cattle practitioner

Roger Blowey and David Weaver, in seeking to prepare the third edition of their Colour Atlas of Cattle Diseases and Disorders, are anxious to find a Chinese cattle practitioner who can advise on any conditions seen in China (and supply illustrations) that are omitted from the 2003 second edition. For further information please contact David Weaver at david@weavervet.demon.co.uk by the end of March 2009.

Harness development or under-development

A recent report on issues relating to the harnessing of equids in developing countries by Terry Davis, on behalf of [Harness-Aid](#), is available from the author. Particular attention is given to the injuries caused by its inefficiencies and the application of intervention methods employed in addressing them. For further information contact Terry Davis at harnessaid@yahoo.co.uk or +44 (0)1694 781206.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

25 April 2009:

[World Veterinary Day](#)

12-16 June 2009:

[7th International Sheep Veterinary Congress](#)

'Sound sheep, safe food, warm clothes and landscape preservation' – Stavanger, Norway

21-24 July 2009:

[34th WSAVA World Congress](#) – Sao Paulo, Brazil

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

10-14 October 2011:

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

Travel grants – reports from 2008 recipients

Ellie Milnes (Cambridge) assesses the [ethical and welfare implications](#) of game capture techniques with the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

Emily Newman (Cambridge) outlines her [prevalence survey](#) of *Blastocystis hominis* and *Dientamoeba fragilis* in the animals and humans in the Limbe Wildlife Centre, Cameroon.

Nichola Robertson (Bristol) reports on the [SPANA project](#) in Morocco to study the aetiology and risk factors of eye lesions in working equids, and to assess their welfare impact. Nichola was the recipient of a TAWS travel grant.



Photo: Aniket Sardana

Visit the BVA Overseas
Group section of the BVA
website:

www.bva.co.uk

Defra's Darwin Initiative

Environment Secretary [Hilary Benn announced](#) in February how more than £8 million for wildlife conservation projects would be allocated across the developing world. The 43 projects under [Defra's Darwin Initiative](#), which gives money and UK expertise to help start up and extend wildlife conservation projects in developing countries, include activities as diverse as the conservation of chameleons in Madagascar and the restoration of habitats in small Pacific islands.

FAO: importance of animal welfare for benefit of humans + animals



The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) organised an [Expert Meeting](#) from 30 September to 3 October 2008 in Rome on the [importance of animal welfare practices](#) for the benefits of both people and their animals. One of the questions raised during the meeting was how FAO could "contribute to inform and support producers in developing countries to access the benefits of good animal welfare practices?" It was decided that FAO would give more explicit and strategic attention to animal welfare in its capacity-building activities in countries with developing economies.

News from other organisations...

Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC)

Read the ARC's [February 2009 newsletter](#). Articles include rabies updates from Kwa-Zulu Natal, Mozambique and Brazil, oral vaccination in wildlife in the US, rabies in Ethiopian wolves and vaccine regimen. There is also news about World Rabies Day, the student essay prize winner and recent developments from the Alliance.

International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA) Symposium

Hosted by the UK & Ireland Chapter of the [International Veterinary Students Association](#) under the dynamic leadership of Jenny Sinclair (Bristol) and her team, the 57th Annual IVSA Symposium brought together 73 students from 21 countries to enjoy CPD, culture and networking in Scotland at the beginning of the year. Well done, Jenny! See BVA News in *The Veterinary Record* of 7 March for a report of the meeting.

RCVS Trust's EMS Vacation Research Scholarships

The deadline for applications for the [EMS Vacation Research Scholarships](#) programme is 31 March 2009. Projects can be based in the UK or overseas.

VETAID Herds & Clans Farming Conference

Read the [report on the first VETAID Conference](#) held at the Moredun Research Institute on 23 January which focused on international trade rules and the way in which they disadvantage African Farmers.

WIN's 'Rabbits: Health and Management'

[Wildlife Information Network](#) (WIN) has recently published its CD-ROM 'Rabbits: Health and Management'. Developing countries may freely access this information resource through WIN's Open Access programme; the only requirement being that the Internet Service Provider (ISP) must be locally based. For further information visit the [WIN website](#) or email info@wildlifeinformation.org

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

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

World Veterinary Association (WVA)

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

NOTICEBOARD

Overseas Postings and Requests for Volunteers

ESTHER HONEY FOUNDATION – COOK ISLANDS

Experienced small animal vets and VNs are needed by the [Esther Honey Foundation](#).

FAO POSTS

For details of FAO (Animal Production & Health Division) opportunities click [here](#)

For details of an FAO (Codex Alimentarius Commission) opportunity click [here](#)

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, the capital. 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

Talia Teren worked as a volunteer for SPCA Fiji in 2005, and would be happy to correspond with any vets or nurses interested in working in the country. Talia revisited Fiji and the SPCA clinic in Suva in September 2008, and was concerned at the ongoing lack of veterinary cover for the islands, for agriculture in particular. Talia can be contacted at tal2000@hotmail.com



Photo: Christina May

IFAW'S COMMUNITY PROJECTS – 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 provide safe, secure, free accommodation and transport although volunteers would be required to fund their own travel to South Africa as well as any additional activities. For further information contact Christina Pretorius: CPretorius@ifaw.org

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](#).

DON'T FORGET...

The [BVA Overseas Group](#) has produced a series of [guidance notes](#) which provide information to those wanting to work or volunteer overseas. As well as general advice and comments there are sections on:

- Cat neutering programmes
- Street dog population control
- Donkeys
- Contributing to animal welfare in developing countries
- Equipment – when working in the field
- Personal safety guidelines
- Health and safety
- Insurance
- North Africa
- Nepal
- India
- China
- Peru