

BVA Overseas Newsletter



NUMBER 2/2010

BVA OVERSEAS TRAVEL GRANTS

From this year's record number of 34 applications the Overseas Group was delighted to award grants to:

Laura Cole (Cambridge) whose project in Kenya will focus on the detection and identification of *Schistosoma* sp. and other helminths of *Papio anubis* (the Olive baboon) and review different field techniques of identification;

Claire Coombe-Jones (Cambridge) who will be investigating the challenges faced when establishing a new, high quality dairy herd in the Punjab, India;

Joanna Melliush (Cambridge) who will assess the prevalence and clinical effects of *Babesia* spp. infection in equids in The Gambia; and

Katie Wu (Edinburgh) for her project on the diagnosis and treatment of babesiosis in working equids in Egypt.

TAWS selected Hannah Smith (Liverpool) and Catherine Wilson (Cambridge) as the candidates for the 2010 grants for their projects in Egypt and The Gambia respectively, and the Donkey Sanctuary awarded its travel grant to Kate Milner (Bristol) to undertake a project at one of their sites in Kenya.

Recommended reading - reports from last year's BVA overseas travel grant recipients are now [on the website](#):

Abi Collinson: community based animal healthcare system (India);

Alex Torrance: ectoparasites, alopecia and blood-borne pathogens in the Straw-coloured Fruit Bat (Tanzania);

Ashley Morgan: health and welfare status of domestic cats in the Serengeti (Tanzania); and

Holly Marsh: mastitis in Borana livestock - role of women in transmission & prevention (Ethiopia)

The Overseas Group was impressed by all the reports. Well done to Abi for winning the £50 prize for the best report!

CONTACT

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Overseas Group at BVA Congress

This year's [BVA Congress](#) will be held at the Marriott Hotel, Glasgow, on 24-25 September 2010, the theme being 'Vets and the Public Good'.

The Overseas Group has once again been invited to contribute a session and will be discussing improving livelihoods of farmers in resource-poor communities. Nearly 700 million of the world's poorest people rely on livestock for their survival: the widespread loss of animals through disease devastates the lives of individuals, families and communities around the world. Do join us at **4.00pm on Friday 24 September** to hear Sarah Cleaveland explain how researchers from the UK and Tanzania are developing effective strategies for controlling foot-and-mouth disease in Africa and Steve Sloan of GALVmed describe how the Scottish-based NGO works to improve livelihoods in developing countries.

World Veterinary Association (WVA)

At the recent WVA Presidents' Assembly held in Paris, WVA President Tjeerd Jorna stressed "We need to be more visible" and identified communication as a key element of WVA activities. A more visible WVA was "very important" for the veterinary profession, agreed Bernard Vallet, Director of the OIE. He added that the OIE benefited from "a strong and respected veterinary profession worldwide. Veterinary services – and these include veterinarians both of the private and public sectors – are considered a Public Good. The veterinary profession should use this concept to be better recognised and respected."

The [WVA June 2010 Newsletter](#) is now available.

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

A successful WSAVA Congress in Geneva saw the inauguration of Professor Jolle Kirpensteijn of the Netherlands as the new President, a post he will hold for the next two years. In his message to Assembly Members Professor Kirpensteijn expressed his gratitude to Past President David Wadsworth: "He has moved and shaken the Association in a manner that was both tactful and decisive. Major initiatives were designed and successfully executed. He faced many challenges that he solved with poise and his presidency will be remembered by us all as one of the most successful in WSAVA history."

The [WSAVA July Monthly News](#) is now available.

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 as its theme the use of animals to improve quality of life in the less privileged areas of the Commonwealth, especially in Africa.

It pays particular attention to the role of women and focuses on the role of both livestock farmers and veterinarians in ensuring food safety and security as well as alleviating poverty.

The deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended until 31 August 2010. For further information visit the [PCVC5 website](#).



DIARY DATES...

28 September 2010

[World Rabies Day](#)

3-6 November 2010:

[Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association Conference](#) – Ocho Rios, Jamaica

9-11 November 2010:

[International Companion Animal Welfare Conference](#)
Prague, Czech Republic

29 Nov-2 Dec 2010:

[International Colloquium on Working Equids](#) – New Delhi, India

6-8 December 2010:

[OIE's First Global Conference on Veterinary Legislation](#) – Djerba, Tunisia

21-25 March 2011

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

10-14 October 2011:

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

Thank you to Ariane Neuber, David Clarke, David Bartram (Fort Dodge AH) and Carolyn Shaw (Intervet UK) for kindly donating books to the BVA Book Aid scheme.

Alleviating Poverty through Working Equine Welfare

The Brooke hosted a seminar '[Alleviating Poverty through Working Equine Welfare](#)' in May which brought together international development, veterinary and animal welfare experts to discuss how the needs of working equine animals can be included on the international development agenda. Delegates examined why equine animals do not currently form a key component of many international NGO development agendas, and sought to open channels of communication to see how this issue can be brought to the fore.

DG Dev recognises animal welfare-agriculture link

The European Commission's Directorate General for Development (DG Dev) has now reported on its consultation 'Towards an EU policy framework to assist developing countries addressing agriculture and food security challenges'. [The report](#) notes that animal welfare and the contribution of livestock to climate change need to be integrated into policies on agriculture and food security for developing countries.

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

ALLIANCE FOR RABIES CONTROL

The Alliance for Rabies Control's [July 2010 newsletter](#) is now available. There are articles about the upcoming World Rabies Day, the new Blueprint for Rabies Control, the new MEEREB group and rabies control activities around the world including China, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines, and USA.

NEW TOOL IN THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST RABIES

In an effort to help countries find and implement realistic solutions to reduce the burden of rabies throughout their territory, the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, Partners for Rabies Prevention and FAO's Regional Central Animal Health in Bamako (Mali), under the coordination of Dr Tiziana Lembo, have launched the new on-line 'Blueprint for Canine Rabies Elimination and Human Rabies Prevention', see: www.rabiesblueprint.com

The Blueprint is applicable for countries where rabies is present and also for countries where rabies has been re-introduced. It brings together recommendations from international health organisations and other global stakeholders involved in rabies control. Published data from the field and case study reports are also incorporated into the groundbreaking document.



[Photo: rabiesblueprint.com]

WORLD RABIES DAY

[World Rabies Day](#) – set up to raise awareness and mobilise resources in support of human rabies prevention and animal rabies control - will take place on 28 September 2010.

WHO HIGHLIGHTS CRITICAL NEED FOR LIFE-SAVING ANTI-VENOMS

With snake bites killing at least 100,000 people a year and countries facing a shortage of appropriate anti-venoms, access to and information about available anti-venoms is increasingly important. The World Health Organization (WHO) has published [new guidelines](#) for the production, regulation and control of snake anti-venoms and a website with details on where the venomous snakes are located, what they look like, which anti-venoms are appropriate, and where they can be obtained.

FAO TESTS TOOLKIT TO LESSEN HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

With the world's population growing at some 75 million a year, humans and wildlife are having to squeeze ever more tightly together, increasing the risk of conflict between them. The result is a growing threat to people's lives and livelihoods and to their health from animal-borne diseases. This is a particular problem in Africa, which has the world's largest reserves of wildlife, and where the population is set to double from one to two billion in the next 40 years.



Throwing stones at elephants may drive them off - but don't try it [Photo: FAO]

FAO's Human-Wildlife Conflict [mitigation toolkit](#) largely focuses on problem-solving in Africa. It is designed not only to help protect people, their livestock and their crops from animals but to safeguard animals from people. It suggests policies, strategies and practical tips to make increasingly tight cohabiting safer for everyone. The toolkit is currently being tested in southern Africa.

TACKLING ANIMAL DISEASE THREAT

Governments could save billions of dollars by stepping up the prevention and control of high impact animal diseases, some of which pose a direct threat to human health, [said the FAO](#). Many other animal diseases have a negative impact on people's livelihoods. Pandemic influenza viruses H5N1 and H1N1, foot-and-mouth disease, Rift Valley fever, and rabies are among the more recent disease outbreaks. Land use, climate change, and expanding trade and trade routes are all posing new challenges to animal disease prevention and control. These emerging threats are also related to increased urbanisation and strongly growing demand for meat, milk and eggs. In 2008, over 21 billion animals were produced for food globally, a figure expected to rise by fifty percent by 2020. The FAO has asked nations globally to invest in animal health control and prevention over the next five years through a new One Health initiative.

OIE ADOPTS 5TH STRATEGIC PLAN

At its meeting in May the World Assembly of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) adopted the [5th Strategic Plan](#) which sets out a roadmap for OIE global missions in animal health and welfare 2011-2015. The Plan sets new fields of action for the organisation:

- more activities directed to food security, poverty alleviation and animal health and veterinary public health;
- more focus on the "One Health" concept and other matters of cooperation with partner organisations; and
- the impact of climate and environmental changes on animal disease emergence and occurrence as well as the impact of animal production on climate change.

NOTICEBOARD

Overseas work; books and equipment; courses; networks; consultations

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. Do please send any reports and updates to Helena helenac@bva.co.uk so we can add them to the website.

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 as well as any additional activities. For further information contact Christina Pretorius: CPretorius@ifaw.org

[George Lightfoot](#) and [Laura Dobson](#) are happy to talk to anyone who might be considering volunteering at these IFAW community projects. Please email Helena helenac@bva.co.uk for George and Laura's contact details.

WORLDWIDE VETERINARY SERVICE (WVS)

WVS supplies veterinary resources, in the form of volunteer teams, drugs, equipment and advice to help animal charities and non-profit organisations around the world. Visit the [WVS website](#) for updates on planned trips.

AWARE (ZIMBABWE)

[AWARE](#) is the only veterinary conservation trust in Zimbabwe run by veterinarians, focusing on the welfare of wildlife and conservation of wildlife habitats. The trust has a [wish list](#) of urgently-needed items, including a portable x-ray machine. If anyone can help please contact enquiries@awaretrust.org or helenac@bva.co.uk

TANZANIA ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY

Dr Thomas Kalema thanks the Overseas Group and Worldwide Veterinary Service for their donations of books and equipment for the charity based in Dar es Salaam. Volunteers are welcome to assist with their dog and cat population control programme and basic animal healthcare. Email: tanimal@yahoo.com

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH ONLINE MSc IN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

The first cohort graduating under the [part-time distance learning programme](#) were awarded their degrees last autumn. According to the programme's director, Dr Mark Eisler, the [International Animal Health MSc](#) continues the CTVM's 30-year tradition of delivering world-leading post-graduate education in tropical veterinary medicine to students from the parts of the world where it is needed most.

SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK FARMING IN THE ENVIRONMENT

[RVC's new course](#) aims to provide an understanding of the threats presented by changes in the environment on livestock production and wildlife population, and explains the ways in which global and regional environmental change can impact on sustainability of farming systems, conservation of ecosystems and animal health. This course is available as a 240-hour short course, or it can also be studied as a module as part of the MSc/Pg Diploma in Livestock Health and Production.

FAO NETWORKS ON VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH, ZOOSES, FEED & FOOD SAFETY

[FAO Networks](#) on Veterinary Public Health, Zoonoses, Feed & Food Safety have been created to facilitate thematic discussions and collaboration, to disseminate relevant information and to identify issues to be addressed globally or at regional level.

BEEES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Bees for Development has developed a new web-based [Network Centre](#) to enable communication amongst beekeepers and their representatives around the world.

ProMED IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

ProMed (ISID's global electronic reporting system for outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases & toxins) has added an automatic feed of ProMED posts to its [Facebook page](#) "ProMED-mail" – or you can visit the ProMED-mail web page and click on the Facebook logo.

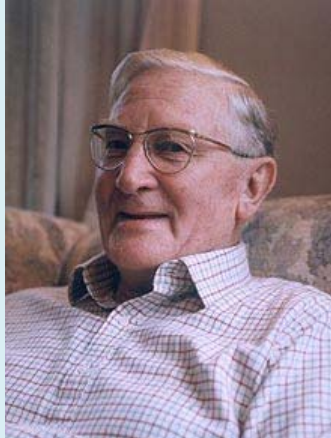
FAO CONSULTATION ON DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

The objective of [this e-consultation](#) is to identify dog population management options with special emphasis on animal welfare and health. FAO will also collect relevant information, data and ideas to prepare background documents for a technical meeting which will be held by FAO jointly with WSPA and other organisations in early 2011.

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

OBITUARIES**WALTER PLOWRIGHT**
20 July 1923 - 19 February 2010

Walter Plowright, a veterinary surgeon and research scientist, developed a vaccine against the cattle virus rinderpest that has effectively eradicated a disease that devastated cattle herds all over the world. After he initiated mass vaccination programmes in the developing world Dr Plowright was hailed for transforming cattle-based economies that had been blighted by the virus. The vaccine has also led to a massive boost in global supplies of meat and dairy products. Walter Plowright died on 19 February 2010, aged 86.



The announcement that rinderpest has been officially eradicated from the world is now [expected in 2011](#) (OIE). It is only the second disease in history to have been eradicated through human efforts, the first being smallpox.

ROBERT MARES
4 December 1918 - 20 April 2010

Robert Mares was a distinguished veterinarian committed to advancing the cause of animal health in Africa. After military service in Iceland and the Middle East – first with the Royal Navy and then as a captain in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps – he was appointed a veterinary officer in the Somaliland Protectorate. He gained clinical experience with all kinds of animals, especially camels, and studied the transmission of rinderpest and the control of pleuropneumonia. Appointments followed in the Gold Coast and Nyasaland. He took a BA in African History from SOAS in 1995 at the age of 78.



Robert was a longstanding supporter of the BVA Overseas Association. He died on 20 April 2010, aged 91.