

Overseas Newsletter - August 2007

■ ■ ■ World Rabies Day

Working Together to Make Rabies History

Rabies kills 55,000 people every year mainly in Africa and Asia, despite being entirely preventable through vaccination and prompt medical treatment. The first ever [World Rabies Day](#) will be held on 8 September 2007 in order to raise global awareness of rabies prevention and control.

BVA highlights World Rabies Day

The BVA will mark World Rabies Day through a series of articles commissioned by its journal The Veterinary Record.

In its September 1 edition The Veterinary Record will include papers by Deborah Briggs (Kansas State University) and Cathleen Hanlon (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention - CDC) recounting the impetus behind World Rabies Day and events planned; Tony Fooks (Veterinary Laboratories Agency) highlighting the importance of vets and doctors working together to tackle the disease; Charles Rupprecht (CDC) outlining progress towards the elimination of rabies and the role of the vet in the management of this major disease; Jack Reece (Help in Suffering, India) describing the work being done by HIS to eradicate the disease in street dogs in India; and Sarah Cleaveland (University of Edinburgh), Magai Kaare (University of Edinburgh) and Katie Hampson (Princeton University) writing about living with rabies in Africa as well as their work vaccinating dogs against rabies in the Serengeti and its impact on conservation and human rabies incidence.

Alliance for Rabies Control

Read the Alliance for Rabies Control's [August 2007 newsletter here](#). It is dedicated to the inaugural World Rabies Day and highlights some of the many events being planned around the world to celebrate it.

■ ■ ■ News - BVA

Overseas Group session at BVA Congress

Just a reminder that 'Vets in the Wider World' is the theme for the BVA Overseas Group's session on Friday 28 September at BVA's forthcoming Congress in Belfast.



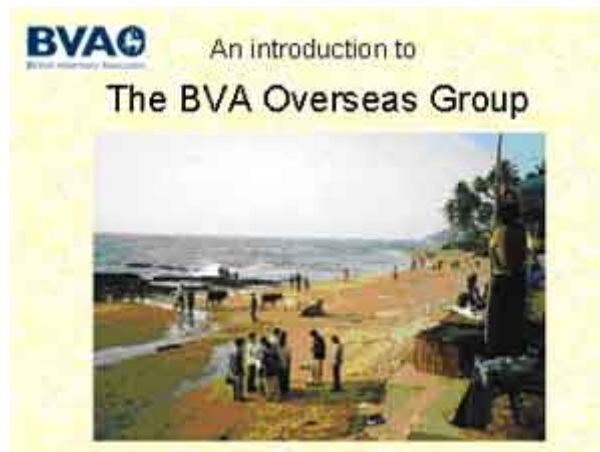
Photo © Paul Starkey

Paul Starkey's highly illustrated talk will focus on the importance of animal traction in rural transport and sustainable agricultural development, and its capacity to empower local communities; Jack Reece, through his experience of working with the charity Help in Suffering in Jaipur, India, will provide an insight into the work done at local community level – and the associated joys and frustrations; Tess Sprayson, whose expertise lies in disaster management, will consider the vet's role in the management of disasters of natural origin and the importance of providing sustainable assistance in the affected areas; and Karen Jones, Veterinary Director at SPANA, will discuss veterinary involvement in disasters post-conflict.

[Further information on BVA Congress](#)

The Overseas Group and its work

A [description](#) and [presentation](#) on the work of the Overseas Group are now available on this website.



Bangladesh floods

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) was extremely grateful to the positive response by members of the BVA Overseas Association in their search for a vet to assist in Bangladesh. We are informed that they have now appointed someone. Thank you very much for your support and for spreading the word.

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) is facilitating flood relief work there by coordinating with the disaster management team of WSPA. The CVA representative in Chittagong, Dr Rasheedul Alam, is coordinating the work.

Sri Lankan strays and street animals

A [new report](#) by Georgina Hyams VN describing the challenges she and her fellow volunteers faced on their Sri Lankan animal charity trip in Winter 2006/7 is now available on the BVA website.

■ ■ ■ News – General

VETAID's work in Africa & the forthcoming BBC R4 appeal (2 & 6 Sept)

VETAID is working with families affected by HIV/AIDS: the pandemic is not just a health issue but affects all aspects of life, including agriculture and food security. VETAID has been looking at ways to alleviate the impact on HIV/AIDS on the communities they work with by helping to support vulnerable families to make their food and income more reliable. By providing tools, skills and knowledge to these young people they, in turn, are better equipped to provide for their families and earn a living from their land.

BBC Radio 4 will be airing an appeal to raise funds for VETAID's work in Africa on Sunday 2 September at 7.55am and 9.26pm and again on Thursday 6 September at 3.26pm. Do try to tune in (92-95 FM and 198LW) and inform friends and family who may be interested.

For further information on the work of VETAID, or to make a donation, please visit www.vetaid.org.

Commonwealth Scholarship awarded

Dr. Aminu Shittu, an Assistant Lecturer with the Department of Public Health and Animal Production, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto in northwestern Nigeria has won a Commonwealth Scholarship Commission's scholarship to support his studies on the University of Edinburgh's International Animal Health online (Distance Learning) MSc programme. He is one of the scholarship beneficiaries allocated to successful applicants from the developing West African countries.

World Health Report 2007: A safer future

More than ever before, global public health security depends on international cooperation and the willingness of all countries to take steps to tackle new and emerging threats. That is the message of this year's World health report entitled A safer future: global public health security in the 21st century, which was launched on 23 August.

[Read the news release](#) and/or the [world health report 2007](#).

World Veterinary Association – news

For up-to-date veterinary news from around the world visit the WVA website at www.worldvet.org/

The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust Christmas Pudding Sale!

We know it's a little early to be thinking of Christmas, but this year the GHDT will be selling award winning Christmas puddings. They come complete with GHDT label on them and would make ideal gifts around the festive season, a wonderful way to help a charity and give a very special gift as well. The 1lb puddings will be

priced at £6 each and the larger 2lb puddings will be selling at £10 each. To order, please contact Heather Armstrong at: gambiahorseanddonkeytrust@hotmail.com

■ ■ ■ Overseas Postings and Requests for Volunteers

(Disclaimer: Please note that inclusion of organisations on this list does not imply endorsement by the BVA).

Fiji SPCA

The SPCA, Fiji's only animal welfare organisation, is looking to immediately recruit a fulltime veterinarian. The bulk of activities are related to companion animals: neutering constitutes a major focus as part of national efforts to better manage stray dogs. A rewarding opportunity for an experienced and motivated individual who is interested in working in a developing country. The remuneration package will include a modest salary with accommodation and the use of a vehicle provided for reasonable private use. For further information please contact Mr Deepak Rathod, President of the Fiji SPCA at: rathod@connect.com.fj

Asian Veterinary & Livestock Services (ASVELIA) - Hanoi, Vietnam

ASVELIS, which provides services in the field of animal health and livestock in South East Asia, is looking for a veterinary practitioner for companion animals and a poultry production & health specialist. Both positions require at least one year's relevant experience in a developed country. Six months contract renewable. Start September-October 2007. Salary package to be discussed. For further information please contact Dr Patrice Gautier at: patricegautier@hotmail.com

FAO vacancies

We have received notification of a number of vacancies at FAO:

- Animal Health Officer (Bacterial and Zoonotic Diseases)
- Animal Health Officer (Virology)
- Animal Health Officer (Animal Disease Emergencies and Early Warning)

Closing date for applications varies but all are in early or mid-September. Please contact Daniela Battaglia at FAO for further information, email: Daniela.Battaglia@fao.org

Vets Beyond Borders – vacancy in Sikkim

Vets Beyond Borders (Australia) currently have the following vacancy: Director - Sikkim Anti-Rabies and Animal Health Programme. Applicants should possess a veterinary degree registrable in Australia and have experience or specific interests in animal welfare issues and India. For more information on this post please email sikkimproject@vetsbeyondborders.org Applications including CV and contact details of two referees should also be sent to this address. The closing date for applications is 31 August 2007.

Asociacion Humanitaria San Fransisco De Asis (AHSFA) - Northern Peru

AHSFA runs a small shelter in Colan (a fishing village on the north west coast of Peru) concentrating mainly on spay and neuter and educating local schools on animal wellbeing. It also works with horses, donkeys and mules in nearby rural villages. The charity would welcome volunteer vets, vet students and VNs. For further information please contact Rosemary Gordon at rosagordon2003@hotmail.com (but please note that she will be away during November/December 2007).

The Kismet Account & Portugal Animal Welfare UK

The Kismet Account and Portugal Animal Welfare UK are looking for volunteers - nurses and vets - for spaying trips due to take place this year and next - most trips being about 10 days duration:

- September or October 2007- flexible dates - Gibraltar - vet & nurse needed;
- November 2007 - 10th to 19th - nurses and "trappers" needed for both feral cat neutering and shelter neutering, Algarve area;
- Jan 2008 - flexible dates - Coimbra in Northern Portugal - Shelter neutering with some feral cat work - experienced vets and nurses.

Throughout 2008 the Kismet Account needs experienced vets and nurses to help them on training projects further afield - Eastern Europe, Asia and Far East. At this stage an expression of interest is welcome.

For further information visit www.pawuk.org.uk and click on 'Volunteer Info' – submit your application by email using the downloadable volunteer form.

Worldwide Veterinary Service – requests for vets and VNs

WVS has places available for vets and veterinary nurses on trips to Costa Blanca and Greece. For further information please contact Luke Gamble info@wvs.org.uk or visit the website www.wvs.org.uk

■ ■ ■ Reminders & Dates for the Diary

4-5 September 2007: Afghanistan Veterinary Association (AVA) Congress

The AVA's first National Veterinary Congress - Food Security & Safety through Delivery of Animal Health Services – being held in Kabul, has been brought forward to 4-5 September 2007 (not 9-10 Sept as stated previously). David Love reports that they have had a reasonable international response but alas no enquiries from the UK. For further information contact David at david.love@arrivain.com

8 September 2007: World Rabies Day

Working Together to Make Rabies History: the WRD coordination team hopes to engage at least 55,000 people on this inaugural World Rabies Day – one for each person who dies needlessly of rabies each year. For further information visit: www.worldrabiesday.org

28 September 2007: Overseas Group session at BVA Congress

The BVA Overseas Group session on Friday 28 September, 'Vets in the Wider World', will focus on the importance of healthy animals to livelihoods in developing countries and will look at the contributions of UK vets working within local communities. The second half of the programme will consider the role of the vet in disaster management, looking at both 'natural' and 'man-made' disasters. For further information on BVA Congress visit: www.bva.co.uk/congress/

4-8 November 2007: 4th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference

The 4th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference takes place between 4 – 8 November 2007 in St Michael, Barbados, West Indies. The Conference is entitled 'Animal Health and Welfare: Constant Challenges for Veterinarians'. More information is available at: www.commonwealthvetconference.com

27-31 July 2008: 29th World Veterinary Congress

The 29th World Veterinary Congress 'Celebrate our Diversity' will be held on 27-31 July 2008 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. [Click here for further information.](#)