

## Overseas Newsletter - July 2007

### ■ ■ ■ News - BVA

#### Trevor Blackburn Award 2007 – call for nominations

The BVA Overseas Group invites nominations for the 2007 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. For further information and a nomination form please contact Helena Cotton (e-mail: [HelenaC@bva.co.uk](mailto:HelenaC@bva.co.uk)) or visit the [award's page on the BVA website](#). The closing date for nominations is 31 July 2007.

#### Leahurst to Marrakech

In November this year Patrick Sells, a newly qualified Liverpool graduate from North Wales, will be undertaking a sponsored 3,100 mile motorcycle trip from Leahurst to Marrakech to raise money for SPANA. Patrick will then be working as a volunteer vet in the Atlas Mountains for three months at the Midelt SPANA clinic, during which time he will also be carrying out a study on harness-induced injuries.



The trip has already attracted the BVA/TAWS Travel Grant and the UFAW Travel Award, and Patrick gained valuable practical experience in working harness at the TAWS/BVA Overseas Association meeting at Holme Lacy in April. Sponsoring Patrick just ½p a mile (£15.00) would finance the full treatment of one equid in Morocco. You can [make a donation please here](#). Practice/company sponsorship space is available for the motorbike and equipment (please contact [patrickssells21@hotmail.com](mailto:patrickssells21@hotmail.com) for sponsorship forms).

#### Overseas Group session at BVA Congress

Chaired by Laura Bowen, 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 programme will also consider the role of the vet in disaster management, looking at both 'natural' and 'man-made' disasters.

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.

It promises to be thought-provoking afternoon and we would encourage support from all those who share an interest in overseas veterinary activities.

[Further information on BVA Congress here](#)

#### 4th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference – November 2007

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'. This conference provides an opportunity for veterinarians from the 53 Commonwealth member countries to meet other veterinarians from around the world, discuss issues of common interest and benefit from quality continuing education on a vast range of topics based on a multi-faceted approach.

Topics include:

- Advances in companion animal and equine medicine and surgery
- New challenges for veterinarians, stem cell therapy, exotic animal medicine, emerging diseases, marine mammals, emergency medicine
- A full animal welfare programme
- Sustainable development, including climate change and how it affects veterinarians, and the latest efforts in poverty alleviation
- Food safety and biosecurity, zoonotic diseases and public health.

The conference venue is the newly renovated beachfront Barbados Hilton Hotel and Conference Centre at Needhams Point, near Bridgetown. The hotel provides luxurious accommodation, a state of the art conference centre with accompanying facilities, within easy reach of all the activities available in beautiful Barbados. Further details on [registration, programmes and prices here](#) or contact: Dr Gus Reader [organizer@commonwealthvetconference.com](mailto:organizer@commonwealthvetconference.com)

#### First National Congress of the Afghanistan Veterinary Association (AVA)

The AVA will hold its first National Veterinary Congress - Food Security & Safety through Delivery of Animal Health Services - on 9-10 September 2007 in Kabul. The Afghanistan Veterinary Association, formed in 2004, boasts more than 800 full members located throughout Afghanistan working for government, industry, NGOs and the private sector and is now established as the lead organisation for the provision of animal health services in Afghanistan. (It is estimated that up to 80 percent of the total population in Afghanistan depends directly or indirectly on livestock for their livelihood. Twenty five years of war and civil unrest, aggravated by an extended, severe drought from 1998 to 2001 have significantly reduced animal numbers in the country and reversed earlier advances in improved animal husbandry. Clearly, veterinary medicine serves a vital, core function in the social and economic well-being of Afghanistan, its livestock and people).

BVA Overseas Association and AVA member David Love is currently working in Afghanistan and is involved with this congress. He states that any visitors will be welcomed in 'Afghan Style'.

Further information can be obtained by e-mail from the AVA President, Dr Said Gul Safi [sayed\\_gul@yahoo.com](mailto:sayed_gul@yahoo.com) or David Love [david.love@arrivain.com](mailto:david.love@arrivain.com)

## ■ ■ ■ News – General

### Alliance for Rabies Control

#### [Alliance for Rabies Control's May 2007 newsletter](#)

It contains information about rabies in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, India, the Philippines and Thailand, and also an update on progress towards World Rabies Day.

### Final call for RCVS Trust travel scholarship applications

The deadline for applications for the second round of RCVS Trust travel scholarships is 20 July 2007.

[Further information available here.](#)

### Winston Churchill Memorial Trust awards

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust is inviting applications for its travel fellowships for 2008. These awards enable British citizens resident in the UK to travel overseas to undertake a four-to-eight week project in one of a number of defined categories. The categories for the 2008 awards include animal welfare and 'Making a living in the countryside'. Further details about the [Trust and the travel fellowships](#) are also available by telephoning 020 7584 9315. The deadline for applications is 16 October 2007.

### Online MSc in International Animal Health

The University of Edinburgh delivers an online MSc in International Animal Health by distance learning.

#### [Details of the course and the applications procedures](#)

Please check the website for details of scholarships for students from sub-Saharan African Commonwealth countries.

### WVA Launch Veterinary Animal Welfare Network (VAWN)

At its meeting in Taiwan on World Veterinary Day, the WVA Council finalised plans to launch a new global network for veterinarians to communicate on animal welfare matters. This is to be facilitated through the [WVA website](#).

Veterinarians are encouraged to publish news, items of interest, papers and to initiate discussion on animal welfare related topics.

### OIE International Committee succeeds in bringing China and Taiwan to fully participate together in the organisation's activities

The 169 Member Countries of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) that gathered in Paris for the 75th General Assembly of the organisation, voted for the restoration of the exercise of the rights and obligations of the People's Republic of China to the OIE. Taiwan maintains its participation to the organisation. The OIE has been asked by the vote of its Member Countries to refer to it under the new name of "Chinese Taipei".

"This is a historical vote for our organisation", the Director General of the OIE, Dr Bernard Vallat commented. "Nowadays, an effective control of animal diseases, including zoonoses, requires more and more transparent information and cooperation from Member Countries. The international community cannot afford to have gaps in the management of sanitary information and counting both Taiwan and China among our active Members will further improve the animal disease situation in the world", he added. China had become a member of the OIE in 1992 but had not been fully participating to its work due to the presence in the organisation of Taiwan, which joined the OIE in 1954. The OIE now becomes one of the first and few international organisations whose members have facilitated and reached an agreement to have both China and Chinese Taipei as active members.

#### Veterinary Workshops in Kenya

A Workshop on Reptile Care, Health and Welfare was held at the Nairobi Snake Park, National Museums of Kenya, on 13 June 2007. Designed for those who keep and exhibit reptiles, the Workshop was intended to provide an introduction to the care of snakes, lizards, tortoises and crocodiles in captivity and how best to keep them healthy.

A Veterinary and Comparative Pathology Workshop was held in Nairobi from 28 June to 2 July 2007. Co-hosted by the Institute of Primate Research (IPR) National Museums of Kenya, and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Kabete, this Workshop provided training in post-mortem techniques and the interpretation of pathological changes. The Workshop was aimed primarily at veterinary graduates who are embarking on a career in veterinary pathology/diagnostic work or those working in the field who need to carry out post-mortem examinations, especially of wildlife, as part of their professional responsibilities.

Further information about these Workshops is available from the organiser, Professor John E Cooper e-mail [NGAGI@vetaid.net](mailto:NGAGI@vetaid.net)

#### World Veterinary Association – news

For up-to-date veterinary news from around the world visit the [WVA website](#)

#### *Recent requests for volunteers*

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

#### APS Samoa

The Animal Protection Society is seeking a qualified vet for their clinic near Apia in Samoa for a period of up to 4 months from June to September 2007 (negotiable). For further information please contact Junior Ma'alo at [aps.samoa@gmail.com](mailto:aps.samoa@gmail.com)

#### Koh Tao Animal Clinic (Thailand) - Neutering, Vaccination and Mange Treatment Programme (NVMTP) 2008

The clinic is planning an island-wide neutering, vaccination and mange treatment programme for 2008. [Updates on the proposal are available here](#). Qualified vets with at least three years experience or vet nurses who would like to volunteer for this programme please contact [info@kohtaanimalclinic.org](mailto:info@kohtaanimalclinic.org)

#### The Animal House Jamaica

A British-founded and run animal shelter on Jamaica's northcoast would welcome volunteer vets and nurses to assist with their neutering programme. For further information contact Maureen Sheridan at [info@theanimalhousejamaica.org](mailto:info@theanimalhousejamaica.org)

Worldwide Veterinary Service – requests for vets and VNs

WVS still needs vets and veterinary nurses for this year's training trips – and are now also looking for a team of four new graduates to take part in a training trip which has been organised for September. For further information please contact Luke Gamble [info@wvs.org.uk](mailto:info@wvs.org.uk) or visit the [WVS website](#).

## ■ ■ ■ Reminders & Dates for the Diary

World Rabies Day – 8 September 2007

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. [Further information here](#).

Overseas Group session at BVA Congress – 28 September 2007

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

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 here](#).

29th World Veterinary Congress – 27-31 July 2008

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