

Overseas Newsletter - September 2006

Volunteer vets needed – Animal Protection Society, Samoa

Due to Samoa's dog overpopulation problem, volunteer veterinarians are always needed to help with surgeries and consultation at the Animal Protection Society's vet clinic, and during house calls and village visits. Vets will often be exposed to animals that have been poisoned or struck by cars. The Animal Protection Society is situated in Apia and is run by dedicated and passionate people who are a joy to work with. You will find the team warm, welcoming and energetic. Qualified volunteers interested in this position should ideally possess at least two years of experience working with small animals, and is willing to be flexible, culturally sensitive and to work as part of team. To volunteer as a veterinarian for the Animal Protection Society, please contact the APS clinic on APS.Samoa@gmail.com or +685 22403. You can also visit www.samoa.ws/aps/ for additional information.

Volunteers scheme – 'Tree of Life for Animals', Rajasthan, India

The charity, 'Tree of Life for Animals' (TOLFA), is hoping to raise money by a volunteers scheme aimed at final year veterinary students, new graduates and vets wanting to do something different, as well as veterinary nurses. Volunteers would be able to help with clinical work and surgery and receive free board and lodging for one month or more. In return TOLFA asks that they raise £300 in sponsorship to help towards their running costs. For further information visit www.tolfa.org.uk and contact Rachel Wright at rtwright@hotmail.com or Alison Hardie at alison.p.hardie@talk21.com.

BVA Overseas Travel Grants – reports

The following reports by recipients of BVA overseas travel grants (2006) can now be read on the BVA website:

[Anisha Aiyappa – Thailand 2006](#)

An education strategy focusing on the perception of stray dogs with respect to welfare and public health

[Louise Appleton – Zambia 2006](#)

An investigation into livestock diseases in the Liuwa Plains National Park

[Amy Jennings – Tanzania 2006](#)

Research into tsetse flies and sleeping sickness

Harry Steele-Bodger Memorial Scholarship – report

[Saul Ing's report](#) on his ultrasound and small animal emergency service externship at North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine is now available on the BVA website.

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)

The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) are being developed as a set of international guidelines and standards for the design, implementation and assessment of livestock interventions to assist people affected by humanitarian crises.

LEGS grew out of recognition that livestock are a crucial livelihoods asset for people throughout the world, and livestock interventions are often a feature of relief responses. Yet in spite of many individual agencies' experience, there are no widely-available guidelines to assist donors, programme managers or technical experts in the design or implementation of livestock interventions in disasters. LEGS mirrors the process for developing the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response – the Sphere Project, a process based on multi-agency contributions, broad reviews and collation of practitioner experience.

The LEGS website contains background information on the process and how to contribute: www.livestock-emergency.net

The Trevor Blackburn Award

At the recent BVA Annual Congress, Jack Reece was announced as the winner of the first Trevor Blackburn Award in recognition of his contributions in the field of animal health and welfare in a developing country. As many of you will know, Jack has spent much of his career in Jaipur, India, serving as a veterinary officer with the charity "Help in Suffering" which is concerned with street dogs and methods of animal population regulation as well as other aspects of livestock care. The Overseas Group's citation for Jack can be viewed [here](#).

Destination 5: Memories of an Irish Veterinarian – Robert P Lee MRCVS

Following the account of his experience in Tanganyika during the forties and in Tanzania from 1977 onwards, Professor Lee touches on his time in Nigeria in the fifties and his role as Project Leader of the Japanese Government's Veterinary Education Project in Zambia from 1984 to 1987.

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"Fascinating ... written in an easy self-effacing and often humorous style ... this book is compulsory reading for any veterinarian or others with an interest in global animal health problems as well as for nostalgic expatriates and indeed all those interested in Africa." Professor Sir James Armour CBE, Former Dean of Glasgow University Veterinary School.