

BVA Overseas Newsletter



NUMBER 2/2009

BVA Overseas Travel Grants 2009

The Overseas Group is delighted to announce the recipients of this year's BVA overseas travel grants. Abi Collinson (RVC) will be visiting India to look at the setting up of a community based animal healthcare system in Kharekhari, Rajasthan; Holly Marsh (Cambridge) will work with the Borana pastoralist women in Ethiopia in a study of mastitis control and transmission; Ashley Morgan (Glasgow) will consider the health and welfare status of domestic cats in the Serengeti; and Alex Torrance (Cambridge) will also visit Tanzania to investigate pathogens of the straw-coloured fruit bat. TAWS have awarded two grants this year: one to India Martin (Cambridge) to enable her to screen the ocular health in donkeys receiving treatment at a mobile clinic in Mexico, the other to Claire Okell (Liverpool) to assess the occurrence and management of rabies in working equids in Ethiopia.

Harry Steele-Bodger Memorial Scholarship 2009

The Trustees decided to divide this year's scholarship between two students both of whom are involved in humanitarian projects which would benefit communities in developing countries: Abi Collinson for her work in India (as above) and Catherine Wilson (Cambridge) to study brucellosis in domestic ruminants in western Kenya.

Vacancy for CVA Councillor

There is now a vacancy for a Councillor to represent the BVA on the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA). Applicants should have an interest in, and working knowledge of, CVA and veterinary activities in developing countries. If you wish to be considered please contact Helena Cotton helenac@bva.co.uk by 15 June.

Vacancy on the BVA Overseas Group

The Overseas Group has a vacancy for a new member. Applicants should have working knowledge and experience of veterinary work and related activities in developing countries. If you wish to be considered please contact Helena Cotton helenac@bva.co.uk by 15 June.

CONTACT

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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. We look forward to seeing you there!

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) have been published to help co-ordinate the efforts of the many agencies following major catastrophes and thus protect the livelihoods of vulnerable livestock keepers. They are available to download from the newly updated [LEGS website](#). There is much more that can and should be done to support people's livelihoods through livestock-based responses to emergencies. LEGS and the growing body of practical experience are an exciting way forward for improving the expanding livestock responses.

WikiVet

[WikiVet](#) is a website designed to provide a comprehensive online knowledge-base for veterinary students, nurses and graduates world-wide. Covering the entire veterinary curriculum, WikiVet has been created in a similar way to its big brother Wikipedia, but with three distinct differences. Firstly all the content relates specifically to the veterinary curriculum. Secondly all the content has been authored by vets and vet students and is peer reviewed by subject specialists at one of the participating veterinary schools. Finally access to the site is restricted to the veterinary community in order to ensure that the general public is not able to view or edit the content. WikiVet is committed to trying to work more closely with partners in the developing world.

Humane killing of animals for disease prevention

The OIE has strongly advised against the [pointless culling of pigs](#) in relation to the recent outbreaks of novel A/H1N1 influenza. It has reiterated that culling of animals should always be carried out in accordance with [OIE international standards](#) on killing methods for disease control purposes.

OIE and climate change

A worldwide [study conducted by OIE](#) has confirmed that climate change has a considerable impact on the emergence and re-emergence of animal diseases.

Gladys wins top conservation award

HRH The Princess Royal recently presented one of the world's top prizes for grassroots nature conservation – the £60,000 [Whitley Gold Award](#) – to wildlife vet Dr Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, for her work with people and mountain gorillas in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. The award recognises the work being carried out by Gladys and the Kampala-based charity, [Conservation through Public Health](#), which she co-founded, to change local attitudes to conservation and improve healthcare.

[Whitley Fund for Nature](#) (WNF) founder, Edward Whitley, said: "The DNA of people and gorillas is so similar that it is possible for diseases to cross between them. With her work, Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka is not only reducing the risk of gorillas falling prey to human ailments but also improving the lives of local people, by offering them better healthcare, greater knowledge of their gorilla neighbours and more opportunities to benefit from gorilla tourism without harm to the apes."



Dr Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka

[Photo: WFN]

DIARY DATES...

12-16 June 2009:

[7th International Sheep Veterinary Congress](#) – Stavanger, Norway

29 June – 3 July 2009:

[Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine Conference](#) – Lubeck, Germany

21-24 July 2009:

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

2-4 September 2009:

[VLA International Conference](#) – Egham, Surrey

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

Thank you to the Southern Counties Veterinary Society for their generous donation to the BVA Overseas Fund.

Visit the BVA Overseas
Group section of the BVA
website:

www.bva.co.uk

Animal welfare web portal launched

A new internet portal, launched by FAO, will serve as a one-stop-shop for individuals and organisations searching for the latest information about the welfare of livestock. The [Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare](#) is designed to provide a reliable information conduit on legislation and research findings in the sector, as well as on animal welfare standards, practices and policies.



A vet in the DRC gives a goat anti-worming treatment. [Photo: FAO]

Animal welfare accepted in Halal guidelines

Animal welfare guidelines presented to the World Halal Forum 2009 by a [WSPA](#) team were very well received. Including chapters on health, handling, living conditions and transportation up to the point of slaughter, the welfare guidelines will be considered as part of a Global Halal Standard – a benchmark for the Halal industry worldwide. The [International Halal Integrity Alliance](#) invited WSPA to present the guidelines.

European Union (EU) supports UDAW

The [Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare](#) (UDAW), backed by 230 UK MPs and DEFRA, received a major boost from the EU, with all 27 countries voting unanimously in public support. UDAW has also been embraced by the BVA, the international veterinary community including WVA, WSAVA, CVA & FVE, as well as OIE.

News from other organisations...

Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC)



ARC's goal is to eliminate rabies in humans and domestic animals, and to control it as far as possible in wildlife populations. Vets can do more than anyone else in educating the world about how to stop rabies and prevent 55,000 unnecessary deaths a year. [Sign up](#) to access rabies education resources for vets, newsletters and updates on World Rabies Day.

Read the ARC's [April 2009 newsletter](#). It includes news from the Alliance's projects in Kenya and Bohol, articles on rabies awareness, rabies in rural Alaska and contact tracing of cases in Tanzania, as well as other developments in the field of rabies.

Bees for Development

Bees for Development works to alleviate poverty in the developing world through the promotion of sustainable beekeeping. Packed with information on beekeeping, the charity's [website](#) incorporates a new feature, the African Information Portal.

RVC introduces new distance learning course

The course '[Management of Infectious Disease Outbreaks in Animal Populations](#)' forms a module of the RVC's MSc/Postgrad Diploma in Veterinary Epidemiology & Public Health and Livestock Health & Production. It can also be studied as a stand alone 240-hour short course.

VLA International Conference – Animal Diseases 2009

To be held at the Royal Holloway College in Surrey on 2-4 September 2009, the [VLA International Conference](#) will include symposia on wildlife & emerging diseases and improving capability in developing countries. (The deadline for abstracts submission is 1 July 2009).

One Health Newsletter

Read the [Spring 2009](#) One Health Newsletter. It includes articles on bushmeat & human health, baiting Ebola, rabies prevention and a Rift Valley Fever training exercise.

Nepal wins WVA/OIE World Veterinary Day Award

The 2009 Joint WVA/OIE World Veterinary Day Award was presented to Nepal during the General Assembly of the World Animal Health Organisation in Paris. [Read the report](#) of Nepal's celebrations.

World Veterinary Association (WVA)

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

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

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

NOTICEBOARD

Lectures, publications, CPD, overseas work opportunities

JOHN COOPER – LECTURES

John and Margaret Cooper will soon be based again in Britain and will be available after August 2009 to give evening lectures or weekend courses to BVA Divisions and BSAVA Regions. Lectures cover such fields as health of exotic species and wildlife, veterinary forensic medicine, diagnostic pathology, tropical diseases, zoonoses and human health and animal law. They can also offer a range of more 'popular' lectures relating to their life and work in the Caribbean and/or Africa. John can be contacted at ngagi2@gmail.com

DONKEY SANCTUARY PUBLICATIONS

The Professional Handbook of the Donkey (4th Edition) is available free to any vet. Please email name and address to:

Kate.Selley@thedonkeysanctuary.com

The Proceedings from the Fifth International Colloquium on Working Equines (held in Ethiopia in 2006) is available free to anyone working with donkeys. Please email name and address to:

Angie.Garner@thedonkeysanctuary.com

IN PRACTICE & VETERINARY RECORDS

Back copies of In Practice and The Veterinary Record (1995-2005) are available to collect from a practice in Bournemouth. Please contact Helena Cotton helenac@bva.co.uk

JOURNAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (JCVA)

If anyone (UK based) would like to receive a copy of the latest JCVA please contact Helena Cotton helenac@bva.co.uk

SMALL ANIMAL CPD IN KENYA

Following the success of last year's conference near Mombasa organised by the VRCC Veterinary Referral Centre another event is planned for November 2009, this time in Nairobi. VRCC and their Kenyan colleagues hope to attract over 60 delegates from all over East Africa. If anyone is interested in supporting the event, or would like further information, please contact malcolm.holland@vrcc.co.uk

ANIMALS ASIA FOUNDATION SEEKS VET

[Animals Asia](http://AnimalsAsia) is looking for a veterinary surgeon for its Moon Bear Rescue Centre in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China. Ideally with 2-5 years work experience in large/mixed practice, zoological facility or specialist referral centre; clinical aptitude and initiative essential; background in captive wildlife management beneficial. 1-2 year commitment. For details contact the Senior Human Resources Officer at hrhkg@animalsasia.org or phone +852 2791 2225.

FIJI SPCA

The Fiji SPCA would welcome both short and long-term veterinary and VN volunteers to help at their shelters. For further information contact spca@connect.com.fj

UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN FIJI

We have been reassured that while the political situation in Fiji can be a little worrying if one pays much attention to recent headlines, there are no strong reasons at the moment to advise volunteers to not visit the country. Travellers, however, should exercise caution and are advised to monitor the local situation for developments. It is worth checking the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's (FCO) [travel advice notices](http://traveladvice.gov.uk) for updates.

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](http://WVSwebsite).

GUIDANCE NOTES ON WORKING OVERSEAS

The [BVA Overseas Group](http://BVAOverseasGroup) has produced a series of [guidance notes](http://guidancenotes) 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.*

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