



Veterinary Association of Namibia

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## VAN AGM and CPD 2011

VAN hosted a CPD event on Friday the 12th August. Dr. R Hassel spoke about the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 2003 (Act 13 of 2003). He touched on the most important topics.

Scheduling has changed from 0-5 (0 are OTC's, 1 can be sold by vets, medics, pharmacists, 2 onward needs a prescription). The (Namibian Medicines Regulatory Council) NMRC now faces the task to fill in all the drugs into their relevant schedules. It has been noticed that the list of drugs is incomplete, especially when it comes to game capture drugs.

Dr. Hassel pointed out the importance of permanent records and identification of patients (cattle ear tag numbers).

It is forbidden to repeat schedule 4 drugs on the same prescription, and a register for schedule 4 drugs has to be balanced at least quarterly.

All vets that started practicing after 2008 need to apply for a dispensing license.

Vets are only allowed to destroy schedule 0 drugs, all other drugs need to be destroyed by a pharmacist.

You are encouraged to visit the NMRC website under [www.nmrc.com.na](http://www.nmrc.com.na).

Dr. A Marais then took over and spoke on behalf of the VCN about Veterinary Ethics and Prescription Pitfalls. She showed the audience some prescriptions being issued by vets in Namibia, which are not acceptable. Vets are advised to read the Regulations of Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, 2003 (Regulation 23 on page 23) for details on prescribing medicines.

After the CPD's VAN held their 28th Annual General Meeting and the day was concluded with a braai sponsored by Meatco.

On Saturday the 13th August Mr. Bertus Kruger facilitated the Strategic Planning Session. It dealt with the Veterinary Association of Namibia.

The Vision/Mission statement is the following: 'To represent and promote the professional interest of all vets in Namibia'. To achieve this one needs networking, CPD's, information sharing, marketing and VAN management. There after objectives were created and ways to achieve these objectives were listed.

All this info was collated and a draft strategic document created. This will be circulated to all members for comments.

## VAN bursary



VAN is currently supporting Mrs. Saara Uusiku during her veterinary studies in Tanzania.

Saara is a bright and determined young lady as she is completing her studies in Tanzania while raising 2 small children.

She has been advised that she has passed the first half of this year's studies including anatomy, embryology, pasture science amongst others.

Saara expressed her gratitude for VAN's support without which she would not be able to manage financially at all.

## Editors note

I want to congratulate Dr. Siegfried Khaiseb on his wedding which was held on the 3rd September. I wish him and his wife Helena Khaises all the best for the future.



I also want to congratulate Dr. Schneider for receiving an honorary membership award from the World Veterinary Association at the gala dinner in Cape Town during the World Vet Congress.

## Case study

A 3 year old male Bullterrier was presented with complaint of depressed habitus, no appetite and vomition of yellow slime approximately 2 weeks post castration (by owners) with a rubber ring (elastator).

He was severely dehydrated and had a gaping wound where his testicles used to be. Temperature was normal and blood smear showed no sign of infection (the owners had given him tetanus vaccination (expired) and sulpha antibiotics a few days after the application of the rubber ring). The front legs were slightly stiff.

The dog was re-hydrated with Ringers drip, put on to metronidazole and ampicillin, the wound was surgically debrided and a tetanus vaccine was administered.

The next 2 days the symptoms got worse as the dog was getting increasingly stiff (ears pricked up, pilo

erection, front and back legs very stiff and standing on toe nails when picked up). He got increasingly sensitive to noise and breathing became more and more difficult with a lot of effort.

Tetanus was suspected and the owners were given the option of anti-toxin treatment (only available from Blood Bank in Windhoek, cost of treatment depends on dose needed, for this dog the costs would have been between N\$ 1000 -N\$ 10 000).

Owners opted for euthanasia.



## VAN

From the Presidents Desk.

Spring has arrived and with it all the new challenges that come with good, possibly even excessive rains . Horsesickness, Bluetongue, Footrot , Anthrax and even Rift Valley Fever not to forget about verminosis and for those in small animal clinics the emergence of an old enemy... the FLEA!

The CPD day and Strategic Planning Session held in August at the AGRA Conference Centre was a big success. The venue was kindly sponsored by AGRA and evening braai by MEATCO. Lots of questions from the floor about the new Medicines Act and Veterinary Ethics lead to lively discussion amongst colleagues. Mr.Bertus Kruger was invaluable as facilitator at the Strategic Planning Session and great contributions were obtained from this workshop. A summary of the SPS objectives will be circulated to all members shortly together with AGM minutes.

I would like to thank Rainer Hassel and Anna Marais for their stimulating presentations which only proves once again that we must continue to make use of our own local expertise and not always look to expensive international speakers for CPD.

A request was made to VAN to pass an opinion on the issue of green hunting which involves veterinary involvement in darting animals for recreational purposes. VAN unanimously supported a ban on green hunting and VAN EXCO was asked to formally request Council to support this ban and declare such activities as unethical.

# World Rabies Day

Introductory remarks were made by Dr C Bamhare (Acting Chief Veterinary Officer), followed by the statements from the Ministry of Health and Social Services by Hon. Minister Dr R. Kamwi, Ministry of Environment and Tourism Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. The World Health Organization was represented by Ms Amaambo who also delivered a fruitful speech. The key note speech was delivered by the Minister of MAWF Hon. J Mutorwa.

The main event ended with musical and dance entertainment from Uno Boy and his crew followed by a DVD show titled – “Rabies – If I only knew”.

## Vaccination Demonstration

The pet vaccination was demonstrated by Dr S Sajeni (left) and Dr Y B Kaurivi (right).

## Attendance

The attendance was very low at the beginning of the program but more and more people turned up towards the end of the event, especially when the entertainment group started to perform. It would have been wise to start the program with them, we learnt.

## Vaccination Campaign at UN Plaza, Katutura

The notification for the pet owners to take their dogs and cats for free Rabies vaccination was in fact poor and as a result we experienced low turn-ups. We managed to vaccinate around 300 pets.

Dr. S Khaiseb



# VAN continued

To end off , a quote from the Star Wars movies made by the wizened old Jedi teacher, Yoda, “ Do or do NOT ....there is no TRY”.

And congrats to Jacques Burger and the entire Namibian rugby team... they have done us proud!