



Veterinary Association of Namibia

OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER
OF THE VET-
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ASSOCIA-
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MIBIA

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THE MANGA

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Presidents Desk

Greetings to all VAN members!

For most of us , the year is well and truly underway with all thoughts of New Year resolutions now a distant memory.

It's probably even more important now to take a moment to revise our goals for the year and ensure that we do not fall into the trap of simply being too busy to pay attention to the important things in our lives.

For most of us, a career in veterinary science , was more of a calling than anything else , so it's sometimes very difficult to not make your job and it's daily challenges become your main focus , to the detriment of your family, your spouse, your own health and ironically ,your financial well-being.

I used to believe that if I obtained a good university education and worked hard most days, I would be financially secure especially at retirement.

The reality is very different however. Statistics from Australia indicate that most vets there will **retire on less than 70% of what the average Australian employee earns** (this includes street sweepers etc!)

In South Africa ,something like 90% of people who retire will obtain less than 60% of their last salary as their monthly income and this at a time when medical costs are likely to be a significant and rising expense.

The days when veterinarians could sell their practice at retirement as a going concern including "goodwill" seem to be numbered as few new grads want the stress of running bigger practices or simply rather start their own.

So what can we do? I think we have to do a number of things :

invest in veterinary business management CPD
dedicate enough time to manage our business
maximise monthly profitability (this is the new and main criteria when it comes to selling your practice)
become financially "savvy" and invest in alternatives including the property from which you practice.

The IVPD (Institute for Veterinary Practice Development) offers veterinary business CPD in South Africa and I can recommend this highly to colleagues as I attended one of their courses last year.

We also have to make time to take our children to soccer or gymnastics or ballet , take our wives out to dinner (without being on call) and to take care of ourselves through exercising or practising our hobby whatever this may be.

If we don't , we may just become another statistic.

Sincerely,

Mike Beggs

MCA-Namibia Livestock Market Efficiency Fund Project

“Sero-Epidemiological and Parasite Survey in Livestock in the Northern Communal Areas of Namibia”

Dr. Rainer Hassel, AGRA Professional Services Division

Short Project Summary

- (i) Aim: Due to the virtual complete lack of baseline epidemiological and parasite infection data for the NCAs, this project aims at collecting that such data by systematic sampling of blood, faeces and other samples in five regions of the Northern Communal Areas (NCA's).
- (ii) Intended impact and intended beneficiaries: Animal health is known to be a major factor in sustainable ranching and pastoralism, and once sufficient baseline data are available, appropriate intervention techniques can be designed to improve livestock production in the NCAs and reduce rural poverty.
- (iii) The main activities include identification of research sites and communities, collection, processing and dispatch of samples, processing of data, publishing of data and results, developing a diagnostic tool kit and investigation protocols and training of Animal Health Technicians.
- (iv) The eventual outcome of this action fits the objective of the LMEF to increase income to livestock producers and ensure the continued growth of the livestock sector and improving the marketability of livestock. This in turn fits the overall objective of MCA-Namibia to reduce rural poverty.
- (v) Once the research data are available appropriate control measures and remedial actions can be developed and implemented later.

The Main Objectives of the project

This project is implemented by AGRA Professional Services Division on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Directorate of Veterinary Services, with funds provided by MCA- Namibia.

To compile baseline epidemiological data for certain infectious diseases and internal parasites in cattle and goats in the NCA's

To make data available to Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS)

Develop a diagnostic toolkit and disease investigation protocols and provide training for DVS field staff

Disseminate information to local communities and wider stakeholders

Monitoring and Evaluation and Reporting of Results to MCA-Namibia

Research data and training for Animal Health Technicians are for the exclusive benefit of the Directorate of Veterinary Services

Main Activities associated with each Objective:

- 1.1 Collect serum samples of 4000 cattle and 2000 goats from Caprivi, Kavango, Kunene, Omusati and Oshikoto regions
- 1.2 Serum analyzed by CVL for Bovine Virus Diarrhoea antibody and antigen (cattle) and Brucella melitensis and Chlamydia abortus antibody (goats)
- 1.3 Collect faecal samples of the same number of cattle and goats from the same regions
- 1.4 Faecal samples analyzed by CVL for internal parasites and coccidia
- 1.5 Compile data on the occurrence of bovine cysticercosis (measles) in the above areas
- 1.5 Collect sheath washing samples of 240 bulls from the same areas and have them analyzed by CVL for Campylobacteriosis and Trichomoniasis

- 1.6 Collect peripheral blood smears from the same number of animals from the above regions to be kept by CVL for future research
- 1.7 All remaining serum to be stored by CVL for future research and inventory kept
- 1.8 Develop a database

- 2.1 Compile an epidemiological report for parasitology data obtained
- 2.2 Compile an epidemiological report for the venereal diseases in bulls
- 2.3 Compile an epidemiological report on BVD in cattle
- 2.4 Compile an epidemiological report on Brucellosis and Chlamydiosis in goats
- 2.5 Present reports and data base to DVS

- 3.1 Compile a tool kit containing all necessary equipment for sample taking
- 3.2 Prepare one sample tool kit for demonstration and training
- 3.3 Develop standard operating procedures and protocols for disease investigation by Animal Health Technicians
- 3.4 Compile and print a Manual for Animal Health Technicians for the above
- 3.5 Provide training for Animal Health Technicians regarding disease investigation SOP's and the use of the diagnostic tool kit
- 3.6 Compile Training reports

- 4.1 Inform local communities of the intervention
- 4.2 Hold community information sessions regarding the outcome of the research in the Caprivi
- 4.3 Community information sessions in the other areas will form part of Dr. Axel Rothauge's project: "*Baseline survey of animal nutrition in the NCA's*"
- 4.4 Publish results in AGRA newsletter "Ring" as well as "Agriforum"

Completed Activities

Specific project tasks

The diagnostic tool kit has been compiled and one sample kit procured for demonstration and training

Disease investigation protocols for DVS Animal Health Technicians have been compiled

The training course for Animal Health Technicians, theory and practical, has been compiled

A manual for AHT's, containing disease investigation protocols, instructions for diagnostic tool kit, selected sampling techniques and veterinary necropsy has been compiled and printed and distributed to AHT's

A total of 43 AHT's has been trained in East Caprivi, Kavango, Kunene, Ohangwena, Oshana and Oshikoto

Sampling of animals in East Caprivi: 800 plus cattle blood samples, stool samples and blood smears; 300 goats blood samples, stool samples and blood smears.

Samples of animals in Omusati Region: 764 cattle and 130 goat stool samples of the rainy season, as well as 387 bovine and 140 caprine serum samples have been submitted to CVL. Also 399 bovine and 134 caprine blood smears.

Laboratory results of the samples from East Caprivi show a very high seroprevalence of BVD antibody (68%) but low BVD antigen and quite a high prevalence of Coccidia in the warm dry season. No serum antibodies for Brucella or Chlamydia have been detected in goats so far.



Above: Animal Health Technicians of Eastern Caprivi

Below: Learning to make a good blood smear



Editors Note

I want to congratulate Dr. Shepherd Sajeni on his twin boys (Chishuo Thabo and Shuwai Thapelo), born 6th February 2012 at Rhinopark Hospital.



Invitation to the 2012 Congress of the Veterinary Association of Namibia

On behalf of the Veterinary Association of Namibia, it is with great pleasure that we once again invite you to join us for our Annual Scientific Congress to be held in **Swakopmund from the 17th to 19th of October 2012.**

The venue for this year's congress will be the Swakopmund Hotel and Entertainment Centre.

The scientific program will once again include a variety of topics on production animals as well as companion animals.

Dr. Mike Beggs

President of VAN

Dr. Anselm Voigt

Vice-President of VAN