



Veterinary Association of Namibia

OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER
OF THE VET-
ERINARY
ASSOCIA-
TION OF NA-
MIBIA

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THE MANGA

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Presidents Desk

Greetings Colleagues

As you warm yourselves in the cold winter evenings after a long hard day's work, please enjoy a few moments for our Association's newsletter which has been expertly revitalised by our own Dr.Elvira Kleber.

As some of you may be already aware, veterinarians are already experiencing difficulties with the import and availability of certain drugs which are not financially viable for manufacturers to register in our country under our new Controlled Medicines Act. Some of the drugs include: caniphedrin, M99, euthapent, to name but a few. Currently the only option is a compassionate clearance certificate which can take quite some time and may be costly. We need to be thinking ahead how can we solve this problem and may need to petition the Namibian Medicines Regulatory Council for a special dispensation ,however feedback from members on the Veterinary Medicines Subcommittee does not seem promising.

Another issue that has received attention countrywide, is the increased public awareness of medical negligence or the possibility thereof. The recent deaths of mother and unborn child in Katutura in particular has focused the public's attention on this issue and rightly so.

As veterinarians, we need to ensure that we do everything in our power to serve our patients and clients to the best of our abilities and take all reasonable precautions to prevent negative outcomes.

It is likely we as vets will also come under increasing scrutiny for the quality of service we provide and fees that we charge especially as

most patients do not have medical insurance.

The best way to prevent problems is:

- 1)practise the highest standard of medicine and surgery possible,
- 2)communicate frequently regarding all aspects of each case (Dx, treatment options, prognosis, likelihood of complications)
- 3)quote BEFORE performing procedures
- 4)keep accurate written records including written quotes, consent forms, notes of what has been discussed with client.

Most of the times I believe we as vets deliver a superior service to our patients and clients than many humans receive even in private hospitals (when have you heard of a person receiving blood results back the same or next day?).

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming **SNAKE BITE TREATMENT CPD on the 28 July in Windhoek and at our ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS from 17-19 October 2012.**

Regards

Mike Beggs

Why VAN?

In 1947 a South West African (SWA) Branch of South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) was established.

In 1984 the SWA Branch was dissolved and became VAN (Veterinary Association of Namibia).

VAN is a voluntary organization, but almost all Namibian vets are registered with VAN.

VAN is a professional organization which represents vets and para-vets in Namibia.

VAN serves the veterinary profession by:

1) Promoting continuing education (especially important once this becomes a requirement by the Veterinary Council of Namibia (VCN) to accrue a certain amount of CPD points annually).

2) Ensuring that opinions of VAN members inform policy makers

3) Making the profession visible

4) Promote just and current practice

5) VAN links its members to all sorts of organizations like World Vet Association (WVA) and World Small animal Vet Association (WSAVA)

VAN membership fees are due in July every year. Please make sure that payments are done promptly, payments at annual congress are not acceptable. If you are unsure whether you are behind on annual fee, please contact Dr.

Hassel at hassel@iafrica.com.na

State Vet News

- 1) Hand written permits are no longer allowed (only in extreme exceptional cases).
- 2) The farmer must have his animals registered (RFID tags on his name) to be able to take out a movement permit.
- 3) The quarantine for imports of birds from RSA as not been lifted due to another avian influenza outbreak in RSA.

Goiter: The silent killer

Farmers are observing a strange and disturbing phenomena where goats are giving birth to lambs with extremely massively enlarged neck glands, most of these lambs don't survive the 1st week of their life while others are born prematurely or rather being aborted at a large scale.

These are typical cases of iodine deficiency. The thyroid glands tend to enlarge in severe cases of iodine deficiency especially in goats that seem to have a higher requirement for iodine than other livestock. *Currently an increase of iodine deficiency symptoms in goat kids around the country is seen especially in Otjozondjupa region in sandy areas as well as in Omaruru.*

Iodine is a vital nutrient that is converted into essential thyroid hormones within the thyroid gland. When there is a severe deficiency of iodine in the body, this gland is forced to overwork and thus cause a swelling called a "goiter".

Because thyroid hormones are important for growth and development of the foetus, particularly the brain, lungs, heart and hair, the survival of foetus tend to be compromised. If abortion doesn't occur, the newborn will be born without hair and be weak and most of them die. Adult goats on the other hand tend to be more tolerant to iodine lack.

Just like in phosphate, iodine also gets washed out from the soil after heavy rain causing a deficiency within the plants. In areas where iodine deficiency tends to occur, it is advisable to give extra iodine to pregnant animals. The easiest way is to give salt licks that have iodine added to it.

Although salt licks work well as a preventative method for iodine deficiency, in case of an outbreak, it is advisable to use potassium iodine drench. There is Embamen TE ® that contains good amount of iodine as well.

Another alternative is to use an iodine tincture from our local veterinary drug supplier. This can be applied as few drops under the tail or under the tongue once a day for a few days or until the swelling has gone down. A few drops can also be applied around the swollen glands. Severe cases are usually difficult to treat but the treatment is quite effective when the swellings are not as huge.

The universal climatic environment conditions are changing; increases of severe diseases cannot be ruled out around the country. We must be vigilant, (observe, record and report) these bizarre ailments!

Dr. Baby Kaurivi Katunahange "The Village Vet"

MVet, BVSc, BSc State Veterinarian





For Sale

CAP-CHUR TRANQUILIZER RIFLE

MORE OR LESS NEVER BEEN USED - IT COMES AS A COMPLETE KIT IN A GUN CASE!

WITH VARIOUS CHARGES, VARIOUS POWER LOADS, VARIOUS (COMPLETE) CAP-CHUR SYRINGES, NEEDLES ETC. ETC.

The Extra Long Range (ELR) is a Rifle Type Projector , has a wooden Stock, is Breech loaded and is powered by a .22 cal. Blank Cartridge (Power Load). The ELR comes with Blank Adaptor for the .22 cal. Power loads. Multiple ranges are achieved through the use of four (4) different Power Loads (refer to distance chart for complete information of the ranges achievable with this projector). The ELR has a .50 cal., rifled Barrel. The Barrel length is 25 inches, the overall length is 41 inches and the weight is 7 lbs. The ELR can be fitted with the Ultra Dot Scope.

PRICE: 20.000 N\$



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