



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

Our Profession has recently been faced with a couple of big challenges with the FMD outbreak in the NCA being the latest and biggest challenge at the moment. The responsibility and engagement which our colleagues and the Para-professionals are suddenly confronted with is immense. Their professional input to contain the disease and hopefully eliminate it from Namibian soil must be highly commended.

The exemplary well-coordinated control measures between DVS, Meat board, AHCF, all the Farmers unions, farmers associations and individual farmers to work together at all levels to contain FMD, be it with vaccinations, surveillance, movement control or the repair and monitoring of cordon lines which is a major task which can only be effectively done with input from all parties. These tasks would not be possible without the great support given by our Ministry.

The high incidence of Rabies in dogs and resulting there from the high incidence in humans in the NCA has led to international support from various organisations to eliminate Rabies in these areas. The Rabies Eradication Program is being implemented by DVS through the very enthusiastic drive by Dr Luke Gamble from Mission Rabies during his recent visit. There is great international sponsorship and support for this project available to us. The responsibility rests on us to make full use of this great opportunity.

There are also various other challenges which our profession is confronted with. Recent times have again shown the vital role which the veterinary and Para-veterinary professions play in the economy and well-being of our country and this may not be underestimated. It is also with this in mind that we have to ensure that the veterinary and Para-veterinary education will be developed and maintained at high international standards and will comply with the OIE requirements in all aspects.

Anselm Voigts

Clinical Case: Mahira

Mahira is a 2 year old filly who injured her dorsal metatarsal area of the left hind leg in October 2014. What exactly caused the injury is unknown. The fillie was very wild, not even halter tame. She was lame due to pain, but did not show an abnormal gait otherwise.



Bandages were changed twice daily in the beginning, the fillie had to be sedated and handled in the manga at first.. The main aim was to keep the exposed bone wet. Bandage was made up of Acriflavine Glycerine swabs placed directly onto the exposed tissues and bone. Cotton wool around it, then bandage followed by Elastoplast. Pendistrep was used as antibiotic at first and then Peni la. Pain was controlled with Ketofen. The owner was very dedicated and changed bandages on daily basis. After a while proud flesh was visible which seemed to have separated a dry/dead piece of bone from healthy bone. The dried piece just fell off.



After weeks of the Acriflavine Glycerine dressing the dressing was changed to a Jelo Net Dressing (Sterile Paraffin Gauze Dressing). By this stage the wound was not infected anymore. Antibiotics were stopped (Ketofen was given for 5 days only). Bandages had to be changed strictly every day though, otherwise the wound started getting infected again.



Once the bone was covered completely by proud flesh, the dressing on the wound was changed to F10 cream with Proud flesh Powder on gauze swab.

At first there was huge amounts of proud flesh. However, with time the leg started decreasing in size and looks nearly normal now (except for a visible scar). In this whole time the fillie had been walking/running normally, except for the lameness shown at first because of pain.

It took 6 months of bandage changes and dedication for the leg to heal.



New VAN Members

The Veterinary Association of Namibia would like to welcome the following new members:

- 1) Dr. Mari-Ann Da Silva who qualified at University of Copenhagen and is currently working at Cheetah Conservation Fund
- 2) Dr. Barbara Kahler-Guillier who qualified at Freie Universitaet Berlin and is currently employed by UNAM
- 3) Dr. David Gordon Roberts who qualified at Onderstepoort and is working in research and wildlife
- 4) Dr. Hellena Vaino who qualified at UNZA Zambia in 2012
- 5) Dr. Alexandra Carolin Krupp who qualified at University of Giessen in 2013
- 6) Dr. Floris Johannes Bruwer who qualified at Onderstepoort in 1981



VETERINARY JOKES

A guy brings his dog into the vet and says, "Could you please cut my dog's tail off?"

The vet examines the tail and says:

"There is nothing wrong.

Why would you want this done?"

The man replies:

"My mother-in-law is coming to visit, and I don't want anything in the house to make her think that she is welcome!"



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Personal

Congratulations to Dr. Janeke Kirchner and Dr. Nicolaas Buys on the birth of their son Nicholas Buys 27th November 2014. According to his mom he is already a great Endurance and horse enthusiast!



Congratulations to Dr. Siegfried Khaiseb on the birth of his daughter Anja Gaos Kaitlyn Khaises on the 20th February 2015. The picture shows Anja next to her big brother.



CPD Update

CPD ON AFRICAN HORSESICKNESS

Date: 10th July 2015

Venue: CVL, Windhoek

We have invited Prof. Allen Guthrie for an Information Day on African Horse sickness. Prof. Guthrie is the director of the Equine Research Centre at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort. He has been responsible for the research on all aspect of AHS for many years.

There will be discussions on new developments of AHS and specifically on the vaccination schedule of horses, this is very important information. All veterinarians who treat horses in practice should attend this important day.

This CPD is eligible for 4 CPD points

Provisional Program:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 09h00 – 09h30 | Registration |
| 09h30 – 09h40 | Opening |
| 09h40 – 11h00 | African Horse sickness update – Prof. A. Guthrie |
| | Teatime |
| 11h30 – 13h00 | African Horse sickness update – Prof. A. Guthrie |
| 13h00 – 13h45 | Lunch |
| 13h45 – 14h30 | African Horse sickness – laboratory work done in Namibia – Dr. Umberto Molini |
| 14h35 – 15h15 | Field experience in the treatment of African Horse sickness – Dr. Wolfgang Späth |
| 15h15 – 16h00 | Discussion |

More Info on the website www.van.org.na

Dental CPD

Small animal and equine dental CPD is planned for 30 July-1 August. Dr. Cedric Tutt, a Veterinary Dental Specialist, will be the speaker. There will be lectures and a workshop for each section. Final program will be announced soon.



Veterinary Association of Namibia

VACCINATION OF DOGS AND CATS : DOES IT REALLY MATTER WHO GIVES THE JAB ???

There is currently a growing trend for pets to have their vaccinations done by people who are not veterinarians. These people are generally breeders, pet shop owners, “pet agents”, human pharmacists, and pet owners themselves. In most cases this is done because costs of veterinary vaccination are considered too high or vets may not be readily accessible in remote locations.

The problem is that we are seeing an increase in serious illness in puppies that have had one or two vaccinations already and either these vaccinations were incorrectly administered or the puppies were masking some underlying disease that was not detected by the non-veterinarian.

There is nothing more heart breaking then to have to tell a new puppy owner that their pup has Parvovirus or Hepatitis and that treatment is likely to be expensive and their pup may not survive. This is even more so when we know that if vaccines had been correctly given, the pup or kitten may not have fallen ill at all thereby saving costs and preventing unnecessary suffering.

Vaccination is a lot more than just an injection. Probably the most important part of the veterinary vaccination is the health examination of the patient as most vaccines will not work correctly in an unhealthy animal.

Vets are trained to pick up more subtle signs of illness that pet owners may easily miss and can then recommend treatment before vaccinating. Your vet may also pick up certain congenital problems such as heart murmurs, cleft palates, retained testicles or dental problems and ideally this should be done while the pup is still with the breeder. The new puppy owner should then be informed about any such findings and may be able to negotiate a reduced price as a result.

For adult dogs and cats, the veterinary health check will often detect health issues such as obesity, dental disease, heart disease , lumps/bumps that may be cancerous, skin disease as well as reminding owners of the importance of regular deworming especially with regard to risk of transmission of worms to people (especially children, people with chronic illness or immune suppression)

The other critical aspect of vaccination is education of pet owners especially those with new puppies and kittens about feeding, importance of avoiding public spaces to reduce risk of severe viral infections like Parvo virus (“Catflu”), control of worms and external parasites like ticks and fleas, puppy socialisation , benefits of sterilisation.

One other important aspect that is often not considered is that vaccines administered by non-veterinarians are not legally valid when transporting pets across country borders or when a pet bites a person and needs proof of valid Rabies vaccination to prevent possible euthanasia.

There is no doubt that correctly administered vaccination in healthy patients can save lives but the best person do this is your local veterinarian.

In Memory of Namibia's First Female

State Veterinarian (Dr. Ursula Schreiber-Sigwart 1922-2015)

Dr. Schreiber-Sigwart died on the 9th May 2015 at the age of 93 in Windhoek.

She was born on the 13th May 1922 in Tuebingen Germany. After her birth the family returned to Namibia.

Her father was employed as a state vet in Namibia and Ursula often accompanied her father on farm visits.

Ursula went to school in Namibia until the age of 15. She then went on with her school career in Germany.

She started studying veterinary science at the Humboldt University in Berlin (1941-1943). She then transferred to the University in Vienna in 1943 due to the bombings in Berlin. From there she transferred to Ludwig's University Giessen in 1944 until the university was closed due to bombings. Whilst the university was being re-built, Ursula started helping out at a small animal practice in Munich. Finally, in 1947, she commenced her studies at the University in Giessen, where she finished in 1948.

After 12 years in Germany she returned to Namibia.

She worked as a state veterinarian from 1951-1956. She met her husband in 1952. Her son was born 1956 and her daughter in 1961.

Ursula started working again from 1973 until her pension in 1984, at the veterinary laboratory.

Namibian Veterinary Council

To all Veterinarians and Veterinary Paraprofessionals

The Namibian Veterinary Council would like to issue a friendly reminder that according to the Veterinary and Veterinary Paraprofessionals Act 1 of 2013, section 33, relating to Continuing Professional Development, we all have to submit a summary of CPD points accumulated since 1 April 2014 to the Registrar on the CPD form issued to all members.

Please DO NOT at this point submit any supporting documents such as certificates of attendance or invoices unless specifically requested by Council. There are currently plans to develop a website which will allow online logging of CPD points for maximum convenience.

Veterinarians need a total of 60 points (of which at least 20 must be structured i.e. formal course/lecture) while paraprofessionals need a total of 30 (at least 10 structured) over a 3 year cycle from 1 April 2014.

Dr.R.Athingo

Dr.M.Beggs