NUMBER 1/2012

TREVOR BLACKBURN AWARD 2012
The Overseas Group invites nominations for the Trevor Blackburn Award, given to members of the BVA in recognition of contributions to animal health and welfare in a developing country. The deadline for nominations is 31 May. Tim Leyland was last year’s recipient.

HARRY STEELE-BODGER TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP 2012
The Harry Steele-Bodger Memorial Travel Scholarship is for penultimate and final year veterinary students - as well as graduates who have been qualified not more than three years. The deadline for this award is 11 April. Francesca Scott was last year’s winner.

STRONG OVERSEAS THEME AT LAST YEAR’S BVA CONGRESS
BVA Congress 2011, held in World Veterinary Year, had a strong overseas theme. The Overseas Group organised a full day’s programme exploring livestock and global food security, veterinary involvement in disaster relief and management, and a celebration of 100 BVA overseas travel grants. Summaries of sessions are available. BVA members can also download the presentations and MP3s from these sessions.

Dr Juan Lubroth (CVO at FAO) with Karen Reed (Chair, Overseas Group) at Congress. Dr Lubroth gave an overview of current issues concerning livestock and global food security.

The Wooldridge Memorial Lecture ‘Making a Global Impact’ was delivered by Dr Peter Roeder who talked about the remarkable achievement of the eradication of rinderpest and described how some of the challenges now facing the veterinary profession could be met.

Congratulations to Overseas Group member Professor John Cooper who was presented with the BVA Chiron Award. The award marks outstanding contributions to veterinary science or outstanding services to the profession.

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BVA OVERSEAS GROUP WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

We'd like to say a big ‘thank you’ to Zoe Belshaw and Sean Wensley who stepped down from the Overseas Group in September. They first became involved when they were recipients of BVA overseas travel grants, and have given amazing support and commitment to the Group for several years. We are most grateful to them for their incredible energy and valuable contributions.

We are delighted to welcome Bronwyn Eastwood and Andrew Trawford onto the Overseas Group and look forward to their involvement. Bronwyn participated in research in Sudan during her studies, and qualified from the RVC in 1992 with an intercalated degree from Kings. In 1998, after some veterinary experience in Egypt, she moved to Belize. Whilst there, she set up the Saga Humane Society to help control strays through education and a neutering programme. She was in Belize for the aftermath of two hurricanes and had various involvements in the clean-up efforts. She also founded and managed a veterinary clinic before handing it over to Saga when she left Belize in 2002. Andrew is currently the worldwide veterinary director for The Donkey Sanctuary. Prior to this he worked for over 20 years for British Government Overseas Aid in a number of developing countries providing clinical care and training, and liaising with the relevant government departments to formulate and implement animal welfare and public health strategies. Andrew is a past Trustee of the BVA AWF, and brings a wealth of experience of welfare issues in the developing world to the Overseas Group.

COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to Dr Abdul Rahman (India) who became the new President of the CVA in January, taking over from Dr Richard Suu-Ire (Ghana). Dr Rahman has been involved with CVA since 1986 and has spent more than a decade as Secretary of the association. Dr Peter Thornber (Australia) continues in his role as Treasurer and Dr Bob McCracken (UK), Programme Director. Karen Reed (UK), the Regional Representative for the UK/Mediterranean region, became the Secretary. Commenting on her new post, Karen said: “I am still very excited to have this role of CVA Secretary, even though I am nervous of the shoes I have to fill! The CVA activities are diverse and aim to promote the veterinary profession throughout the Commonwealth, in particular supporting those vets in the less developed parts of the Commonwealth. We do all of this on very limited funding. The financial and moral support from the BVA (though its membership of the CVA) is vital to the continued effective functioning of the CVA and its contribution to animal health projects to improve livelihoods.”

The January 2012 edition of the excellent CVA Journal has arrived at Mansfield Street. Please let Catherine catherine@bva.co.uk or Helena helenac@bva.co.uk know if you’d like to receive a copy.

HIMALAYAN ANIMAL RESCUE TRUST (HART)

In response to a recent donation of books from the Overseas Group, HART sent us this kind message:

"HART is extremely grateful to everyone who has donated books to the BVA. Some of these volumes have been retained by the vets at HART and others have been passed on to the vet training school, IAAS, in Chitwan, Nepal, for the use of the student vets. Although it’s a struggle to physically get supplies to Nepal, the benefit that accrues to the trainee vets is well worth the effort. These books will assist many generations of students and we sincerely thank all the donors."

Chandra Rai at HART with some of the donated books

HART welcomes volunteer vets and vet nurses.

DIARY DATES...

1-4 April 2012
International Symposium on Avian Influenza
Surrey, UK

25-27 April 2012
International Veterinary Conf
Nairobi, Kenya

28 April 2012
World Veterinary Day

16-19 May 2012
International Conf on Diseases of Zoo and Wild Animals
Bussolengo/Verona, Italy

4-8 September 2012
International Conf on Dog Population Management
York, UK

28 September 2012
World Rabies Day

THANK YOU

A big thank you to David Clarke, Patrick Murphy and BSAVA for kindly donating books and journals for use overseas. Also to Eastgate Veterinary Group in Suffolk and Anja Petrie for items of equipment. These donations are hugely appreciated.

BBC RADIO 4’s ‘EXCESS BAGGAGE’ DISCUSSES ANIMAL WELFARE ABROAD

On the programme broadcast on December 17, John McCarthy discussed animal welfare abroad and met two women who decided to devote their life to helping domestic animals around the world. Barbara Webb spent ten years trekking in Nepal before the plight of stray dogs there inspired her to set up HART, the Himalayan Animal Rescue Trust. Caroline Yates is CEO of the Mayhew, an animal home in the UK supporting projects in Moscow, northern Peru, India and Afghanistan. Now she regularly treks in East Africa, Morocco and South America with animal welfare in mind.

You can listen to the programme on BBC iPlayer.
WVI helps tackle Bangladesh conflict tiger resolution

Wildlife Vets International (WVI) is planning a second mission to the vast mangrove forest and tiger stronghold of the Bangladesh Sundarbans to train conservation staff in how to deal with straying tigers.

Last year WVI founder and veterinary director Dr John Lewis tutored forest staff in the safe capture, immobilisation and release of tigers as part of the Sundarbans Tiger Project, managed by the Zoological Society of London and Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh in an area where tigers regularly kill people foraging in the forest.

Dr Shadrack Moephuli (South Africa) took over as chair in October and Professor Peter Wells has been appointed as interim CEO.

WALVmed and Inocul8 aim to include all livestock and poultry vaccines in new global database. Velvac.org is a free to access and easy to use searchable database which provides detailed information about vaccines.

Read the latest WALVmed newsletter.

Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC)’s new website is now live and they would welcome feedback. Read the latest GARC newsletter.

World Veterinary Association (WVA)
Read the latest WVA newsletter. The next World Veterinary Congress will take place in Prague, Czech Republic from 17-20 September 2013.

Read A brief History of the World Veterinary Association - an essay by Erin Asch, Student, USA.

World Veterinary Day
Taking place on Saturday 28 April 2012, this year’s theme is antimicrobial resistance. For more information see the WVA website.

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)
The latest WSAVA monthly news is now available. The WSAVA/FECAVA/BSAVA World Congress takes place in Birmingham, UK from 11-15 April 2012.

WSPA’s Animals in Disasters blog
Animals in Disasters blog covers recent work in Thailand, Brazil, Central America and Mexico. There is also round-up of WSPA’s disaster relief work in 2011 as well as the WSPA film LIT (Creole for ‘Fight’) about their work in Haiti.

New Issue of Healthy Animals Now Online
Read the latest USDA Agricultural Research Service newsletter on the health and well-being of agricultural livestock, poultry and fish. It focuses on developments for Rift Valley fever, East Coast fever and foot-and-mouth disease.
NEWS
from intergovernmental and other international organisations

FAO’s Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare
A single access point for a wide range of information related to the welfare of farm animals, the Gateway is a participatory platform to retrieve and submit information, as well as to engage in commonly developed projects and thematic discussions.

1st FAO Global Multi-stakeholder Forum on Animal Welfare
Taking place in Brussels on 1-2 March, the Forum will be a stocktaking experience convening to share and scale-up best ideas, practices and innovative solutions to complex animal welfare challenges. It will provide a comprehensive overview on activities addressing animal welfare and on the variety of stakeholders providing them.

Livestock from three different perspectives
In a recent report World Livestock 2011: Livestock in food security, the FAO presents a global overview examining the role that livestock plays in human nutrition, the world food supply and access to food particularly for poor families. It gives a human perspective as it analyses how livestock contributes to the food security of three different human populations: livestock-dependent societies, small-scale mixed farmers and urban dwellers. The final part of the report looks to the future: by 2050 an expanded world population will be consuming two thirds more animal protein than it does today. It discusses the expected demand for livestock sourced food and the way that increased demand can be met with ever more limited resources. It reviews the drivers that led to the livestock revolution, how these have changed and what the implications will be for livestock contributing to resilient food systems of the future.

Controlling foot-and-mouth disease in South Asia
FAO and the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) of the Ministry of Agriculture of India is holding a three-day conference this month to gauge how scientific progress on foot-and-mouth disease is changing the potential for control of the disease across large swaths of South Asia, where it remains endemic and has devastating implications for poor families dependent on livestock for food and daily income.

Global conference on FMD control
A joint FAO/OIE global conference on FMD control will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 27-29 June, 2012.

FAO working paper: global rinderpest eradication
Read the FAO’s assessment of the socio-economic impacts of global rinderpest eradication.

FAO EMPRES
Read the latest news from EMPRES (Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases). It includes updates on the One Health conversation; a more powerful mapping tool for fighting global animal disease; preparing for animal disease emergencies ‘by the book’; and a guide to living with bats.

FAO to help conflict-scattered families in South Sudan
The FAO will distribute livestock vaccines, fishing gear, vegetable seeds and tools to help the people of the conflict-affected South Sudanese state of Jonglei feed themselves and re-build their lives. The agency aims to deliver as much assistance as possible in the next two to three months before the rainy season starts and the roads become impassable. In an emergency measure to protect the area’s number one source of food and livelihoods, FAO will provide vaccines and antibiotics to prevent the spread of animal disease and to treat up to 100,000 animals over the course of roughly one month.

Empowering Women to Power the Farm
The FAO and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) held their first joint training workshop in Ethiopia from 22-25 November 2011 to increasingly mainstream gender into livestock programmes designed by FAO country offices and their partners, including government ministries for livestock and agriculture. GALVmed also contributed to the workshop to share how this public-private non-profit organisation is factoring gender into its core strategy.

A vision to end the misery of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)
The World Health Organization (WHO) has produced overwhelming evidence to show that the burden of NTDs - which affect over one billion people worldwide - can be controlled, and in many cases eliminated or even eradicated. A new roadmap shows how this can be achieved.

Wildlife, trade, susceptibility amplify food risks
Dr Lonnie J King sees a “perfect microbial storm” in the increasingly global interactions of people, animals, and environments. Read the article published in JAVMA of 15 February.

Korea displays commitment to end bear farming
WSPA has welcomed the news shared by its partner organisation, Green Korea United (GKU), that the Korean National Assembly has demonstrated political will to end the cruel bear farming practice.
NOTICEBOARD
Meetings and networking; volunteering overseas; appeals; awards; guidance on working overseas; feedback from volunteers

American Fondouk in Fez, Morocco
The American Fondouk (hospital for working equids) would be keen to have veterinary volunteers at any time. See their Facebook page or contact Gigi Kay at gigikayvet@gmail.com for further information.

Help the Street Animals of Morocco (HSAM)
Help the Street Animals of Morocco (HSAM) has continued to neuter and give vital treatment to the street cats and dogs in Essaouira, Morocco since 2007. They run trips twice a year and are always in need of experienced veterinary professionals.

Trips in 2012: 30th June - 8th July & 17th - 25th November. If you are a vet or nurse and wish to volunteer you time, please email Claire Sedgwick info@hsam.org.uk

Fiji SPCA needs volunteers
The SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) in the Fiji islands welcomes any qualified vets (including recent graduates) to do voluntary work at their clinic in the capital Suva all year round. For further information please email servicespca@kidanet.net.fj FAO Irava Raki

GHD bit appeal
The Gambia Horse & Donkey Trust is currently appealing for 4” to 5” snaffle bits so if you have any old or unused bits please consider donating them.

Wildlife Vets International appeal
In June, Wildlife Vets International are providing veterinary support to Painted Dog Conservation and Zimbabwean government vets.

They will be supporting a vaccination programme for domestic dogs around Hwange National Park against mainly rabies and distemper to protect the African painted dog from these diseases. During these vaccination clinics, they will be treating the dogs for parasites, mange, wounds and other minor ailments. Not only does this improve the welfare of the domestic dogs but also increases the good will towards African painted dog conservation. They desperately need equipment (consumerable mainly) that could be used on medium sized dogs – bandages, swabs, needles, syringes, anti parasitic treatment for example. If anyone can help please contact Olivia Walter on 07866 088 989 or info@wildlifevetsinternational.org

1st International Conference on Dog Population Management
Humane, effective and sustainable dog population management is a challenge society will increasingly face. Dogs play an important role as companion and work animals but are also a major source of concern for zoonoses transmission and attacks on people and livestock. The main objective of the conference is to bring the public sector together with ecologists, economists and specialists in animal welfare, animal health and education. The conference takes place in York, UK from 4-8 Sept 2012; it is co-organised by the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), WHO, OIE, RSPCA, WSPA, IFAW and HSI.

International Veterinary Conference in Kenya
The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Nairobi, will be celebrating 50 years of its existence in April 2012 and part of that celebration is a joint scientific conference between the Faculty and Kenya Veterinary Association. Taking place in Nairobi from 25-27 April 2012, the conference theme is ‘Evolving the veterinary profession towards safeguarding the human well-being in a dynamic environment’.

Moredun Scholarship Awards
The Moredun Foundation is encouraging UK-based vets and vet students looking for funding for a short term project - in the UK or abroad - in areas relating to livestock health and welfare and the agricultural industry to apply for Moredun Scholarship Award before the 2012 application round closes at the end of February. Three scholarships of up to £1000 are available from Moredun in 2012.

Get fit, get involved
The Vet Charity Challenge 2012 needs you and a team from your practice or business to raise much needed funds for a number of charities, including SPANA.

Guidance notes on working overseas
The Overseas Group has produced Guidance Notes on Working Overseas covering a range of issues and in-country information for those wanting to work or volunteer overseas. The Group has also produced FAQs on working and volunteering abroad in response to the many requests for advice it receives from vets, students and nurses.

Feedback from volunteers
The Overseas Group is always keen to hear from volunteers about their experiences overseas: these reports provide a useful reference for potential volunteers as well as giving publicity to the charities concerned. Please send reports to Catherine catherinel@bva.co.uk or Helena helenac@bva.co.uk so we can add them to the website.

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

CLIVE WOODHAM
1935 – 2011

Clive Woodham qualified from the Royal Veterinary College in 1960. After being a partner in a successful mixed practice in Suffolk, he sold up and moved to work in a laboratory in El Salvador in 1971. He embarked on an MSc in 1974 at Edinburgh University, and then returned to Latin America, working for the Inter-American Development Bank and other organisations on several projects for over 20 years. He worked in many countries including Peru, Mexico, El Salvador, Brazil and Uruguay.

On his return to the UK, he was closely involved with the Transport Animal Welfare Society (TAWS) – and he kept up his veterinary work at PDSA clinics in London. Clive’s final professional pleasure was as a volunteer with the Zoological Society of London.

Clive was a longstanding supporter of the BVA Overseas Association. He died on October 29, 2011.

PATRICK GUILBRIDE
1919 – 2011

Graduating from the Royal Dick Veterinary School in 1942, Patrick Guilbride immediately undertook a postgraduate research fellowship in colonial veterinary studies at Cambridge University. He then embarked on a career working overseas, first for the Colonial Office and later for the FAO. His experiences with the Colonial Office in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), Jamaica and Uganda form the first part of his autobiographical book ‘Far Away Cows’, published in 1998.

After leaving the Colonial Office in 1963, Patrick worked for 10 years for the FAO in Peru, where he pioneered the use of pressurised poultry incubators to overcome the problem that chicks usually died in their eggs at Andean altitudes, being unable to gain enough energy to break free of the shells due to oxygen deprivation. After a spell in Brazil he moved, still with the FAO, to Mozambique. In 1982 he retired to the Natal Midlands in South Africa where he spent much of his time teaching science in local schools, lecturing and writing.

Patrick Guilbride died at home in South Africa on December 13, 2011.