



Veterinary Association of Namibia

THE MANGA

Official Newsletter of the Veterinary Association of Namibia

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from the President's desk



Dear Colleagues,

The year is moving along at quite a rapid pace. I hope that you all had a relaxing Easter break.

Your Exco is hard at work organizing a number of events and projects.

All of you have already been informed about the activities around World Veterinary Day 2005.

We expect the entries of the picture drawing competition to reach us shortly. The opening of the exhibition of the artwork, at the National Art Gallery in Windhoek and the prize giving will take place on Thursday, 28th April, 2005. It will be done by Dr Herbert Schneider, the current president of the World Veterinary Association. Dr Schneider's term of office comes to an end in July, 2005, when a new president will be elected during the World Veterinary Congress in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The president of VAN will attend this meeting and report back at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. Anyone interested in attending this congress, which is held in conjunction with the annual scientific congress of the American Veterinary Medical Association, can visit the following website: http://www.wvc2005.org. The scope of this CPD event is absolutely

incredibly and the fees absolutely affordable. The registration fees are in fact lower than those of the South African Veterinary Association's biennial congress.

Our annual scientific congress and AGM will take place from the 19th to the 21st October, 2005 in Windhoek.

Windhoek actually received the second largest number of votes during the survey at our previous congress in Otjiwarongo. Please mark these dates prominently in your calendar. A venue still has to be selected. A large number of conference facilities is available, but some are unsuitable and others are extremely expensive. The preliminary program includes plant toxicology, beef herd health, small stock herd health and possibly, equine lameness. As a change of the previous format, it is planned to include a few short presentations by local veterinarians on topics of their choice, to make the scientific program more colorful, without watering down the main topics. Again we hope to cater for everyone. VAN is busy with a feasibility study regarding the establishment of a "Community Veterinary Clinic", based on the South African model in Windhoek, and you will be informed as soon as the study has been completed. Pharmaceutical and other companies have also been approached, and some of them have already pledged their support. We really hope to get this off the ground this year.

Kind regards, Rainer Hassel, President VAN.

VAN OFFICE BEARERS

Composition of ExCo for 2005 is as follows:

- President:** Dr R. Hassel
- Vice-President:** Dr A. Toto
- Secretary:** Dr R. Paskin
- Treasurer:** Dr A. Marais
- Additional Members:**
 - Dr M Masere
 - Dr T. Musilika-Shilongo
 - Dr E. Masaire
 - Dr M. Beggs

India to ban vulture death drug

29-03-2005

The Indian government has confirmed their intent to phase out a veterinary drug responsible for the massive decline in vulture numbers, within the next six months. Diclofenac, used in southern Asia as a livestock treatment, is toxic to vultures when they feed on contaminated carcasses, causing kidney failure and death.

The drug is now proven to have been responsible for the near-total collapse of three species of vulture in south Asia - *White-rumped Gyps bengalensis*, *Indian G. indicus* and *Slender-billed G. tenuirostris*. The species are already locally extinct in several parts of the region, but were formerly among the commonest large birds of prey in the world.

Dr Debbie Pain, Head of International Research at the RSPB, commented, "An alternative livestock treatment needs to be found as soon as possible. Initial trials conducted in South Africa have raised hope that a drug

already available on the Indian market may be a viable alternative to diclofenac, and of comparatively low toxicity to vultures."

Dr Asad Rahmani, Director of Bombay Natural History Society (BirdLife in India) added, "In taking the decision to phase out diclofenac, Prime Minister Mr Manmohan Singh has taken the most important step yet to save these fast-disappearing vultures.

However, the battle is not yet over. We have to develop conservation breeding centres as a further safeguard for these magnificent lords of the sky."

BirdLife is appealing to the governments of Pakistan and Nepal to follow the lead of the Indian government in banning diclofenac. Without further concerted conservation efforts, we could soon be witnessing one of the most dramatic bird extinctions since the previously abundant Passenger Pigeon *Ectopistes migratorius* was lost at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Regards,
Liz Komen
@ NARREC

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Dear Colleagues,

New content has been added to the IVIS website and can be consulted free of charge.

Host Defenses to Viruses
[by G.R. Carter, D. Wise and E. Flores. In: A Concise Review of Veterinary Virology edited by G.R. Carter, D. Wise and E. Flores.](#)
[Take me to the article](#)

Laboratory Diagnosis of Viral Infections
[by D. Wise, G.R. Carter and E. Flores. In: A Concise Review of Veterinary Virology edited by G.R. Carter, D. Wise and E. Flores.](#)
[Take me to the article](#)

Prevention of Viral Diseases, Vaccines and Antiviral Drugs
[by D. Wise, G.R. Carter and E. Flores. In: A Concise Review of Veterinary Virology edited by G.R. Carter, D. Wise and E. Flores.](#)
[Take me to the article](#)

Neutrophils: Overview, Quantity, Morphology
[by A.H. Rebar, P.S. MacWilliams, B.F. Feldman, P. Meltzer, R.V.H. Pollock and J. Roche. In: A Guide to Hematology in Dogs and Cats.](#)
[Take me to the article](#)

Restraint and Anesthesia of Macropods
[by P. Holz. In: Zoological Restraint and Anesthesia edited by D. Heard.](#)
[Take me to the article](#)

Doses of Common Drugs
[by E. Van Erck and P. Lekeux. In: Equine Respiratory Diseases edited by P. Lekeux.](#)
[Take me to the article](#)

Best regards,
Irma Revah, DVM MPVM PhD
Editor-in-Chief



28th WORLD VETERINARY CONGRESS 2005

Minneapolis, USA

16 – 20 July 2005

Please consult the following websites for up-to-date information: www.wvc2005.org
www.avma.org

Dear Colleagues,

I wish to invite you to attend and participate in the 28th World Veterinary Congress (WVC) held 16-20 July, 2005 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. Because it is being held concurrently with the American Veterinary Medical Association's Annual Convention, we anticipate this to be an unprecedented opportunity for professional development, veterinary education and the exchange of state-of-the-art veterinary knowledge and information on a global level. Nearly 1,000 hours of scientific programming will feature world-class speakers in companion animal medicine, public health, food safety, veterinary industry, animal production, animal welfare and international animal health issues.

Much has changed in the United States and veterinary medicine since New York hosted the WVC in 1934. Since that time veterinary medicine has successfully eradicated animal diseases in parts of the world, invented new medical procedures used in both human and animal health, and continued to explore new ways veterinary medicine can contribute to our changing world. As we entered the new Millennium the World Veterinary Association has set a renewed direction for our profession, as new and exciting challenges are facing our profession. The emphasis is shifting away from the traditional role of direct animal health care to issues concerning animal disease control (transboundary animal diseases), food safety and public health, animal welfare and animal production in a sustainable natural environment. To be able to prevent, control and eradicate infectious diseases in the 21st Century, international cooperation is needed and crucial for achieving success. Hence World Veterinary Congress 2005, with participants from around the globe and two full day seminars offered by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN (FAO) respectively, will provide an ideal platform to address these and related issues. Our rapidly increasing human population coupled with our finite resources make this an imperative. Our world has grown smaller, our challenges larger and the veterinary spirit of innovation must continue to be boundless. Do not miss this opportunity to make a difference in our world and our profession.

Often called a city of surprises due to its big city sophistication and small town charm, Minneapolis offers us a perfect setting for making and renewing friendships, as well as a launching pad to explore the USA. I look forward to meeting you at the 28th World Veterinary Congress.

Sincerely,
Dr. Herbert Schneider
President : World Veterinary Association

**DON'T
FORGET
WORLD
VETERINARY
DAY**

Congresses and Continuing Education Courses

JUNE 2005:

The 6th International Sheep veterinary Congress, hosted by the Hellenic Sheep Veterinary Medical Society will take place in Crete, Greece from the 17 -21 June 2005. For more info: G.C. Fthenakis: gcf@vet.uth.gr or visit the Congress website: www.hvms.gr/crete2005.

JULY 2005:

4-7 July: 5th International Conference of Animal Health Information Specialists at Onderstepoort. For more info: E van der Westhuizen Tel: +27 12 529 8007/8/9 Fax: +27 12 529 8302 e-mail: erica.vanderwesthuizen@up.ac.za

4-8 July: A short course on internal medicine will be presented by the University of Pretoria, Department of Companion Animal Clinical studies. Contact: Inge Gaum + 27 12 420 5015 Inge.ce@up.ac.za

16 – 20 July 2005 28th WORLD VETERINARY CONGRESS 2005 Minneapolis, USA (Read letter by dr H Schneider)

30 July – 1 August: Vet Africa 2005: Africa's first congress for practising veterinarians covering practical topics will be held in Johannesburg, SA. For more info visit www.animalafrica.co.za

OCTOBER 2005:

Our annual scientific congress and AGM will take place from the 19th to the 21st October, 2005 in Windhoek.