



Veterinary Association of Namibia

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

Editor: Dr. Elvira  
Kleber

elvirasvetprac-  
tice@gmail.com

Fax:088623454

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# THE MANGA

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## Presidents Desk

Dear colleagues,

Today we can look back on a very successful and informative CPD day held on 13<sup>th</sup> July in Otjiwarongo on snakebite in dogs and other companion animal subjects. The 40 participating Veterinarians and Nurses got a lot of very interesting and important scientific information and attended very interesting and informative lectures. The lectures were presented by Dr Christo Buys, an ENT specialist with a lifelong keen interest in snakes and the treatment of snake bite, mainly in humans, and by Professor Andrew Leisewitz of Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty. Also Andy has a special interest in snakes since his childhood. It was striking how the human and animal aspects of snake bites do have a lot of similarities but also why the effect of for example a Zebra snake bite differs so much in humans and animals.

In the afternoon Andy lectured us on various companion animal topics, giving many good tips on basic diagnostic procedures and common problems encountered in any companion animal practice on dermatology, otitis and abdominal effusions.

The excellent attendance on this day reiterated to us the keen interest and desire of our colleagues for CPD.

On my way home I was thinking again, how much veterinary science has changed only in the last 30 years and how important it is for each and every veterinarian to attend congresses, CPD courses and utilise other means of continued education of which a lot is available these days electronically as well.

In strong support of animal welfare and animal control in the underprivileged community, a group of residents in Outjo together with Dr Frans Joubert and Dr. Vimanuka Mutjavikua from Outjo and Dr. Desmond Stafford from SA have organised a very successful Spayathon over a weekend in May. Dogs of the underprivileged community of Outjo, which would otherwise never see a vet, were spayed and vaccinated during this weekend. The funds were collected by the Outjo community. This initiative deserves applause. Thank you to our VAN members Vimanuka and Frans for your input for our community.

Professor J. Lyaku from UNAM has invited all VAN members to study and comment on the proposed curriculum for the new Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine degree, which will be offered by UNAM in the very near future. This is a great opportunity for all colleagues to give your important proposals and input towards the future curriculum, which will be the basis of education for the upcoming generation of Veterinarians. The curriculum is available from the registrar of the Namibian Veterinary Council, Dr. A. Marais.

With kind regards,

Anselm Voigts



*Dr Christo Buys, Prof. Andy Leisewitz*

## Snippets

Animal Health Consultative forum: The drafts for the accreditation of Namibian private veterinarians were prepared by Dr. C Bamhare as the consultant of the Meat Board of Namibia.

UNAM (University of Namibia) invited representatives of NVC (Namibian Veterinary Council) and of VAN to a two day workshop to discuss the UNAM Veterinary Faculty curriculum. The meeting was very positive and constructive, the comments and inputs by NVC and VAN were received positively and were seriously considered in the amendments promised by the committee.

Congratulations to Dr. H Schneider, he has been nominated by VAN to be the representative at the Biosafety Council of Namibia.

New bull breeding certificates are available from VAN (Dr. Hassel). A packet of 50 cost N\$ 100.

Around 45 Dispensing Licenses have been approved by the NMRC (Namibian Medicine Regulatory Council).

## Namibian Veterinary Council

Veterinarians at FEI endurance rides, working as treatment vets, need to be fully registered at council. Line vets don't need to be registered at council, but a list of them needs to be handed to council at least 1 week prior to the event.

Regulations of Act 1 of 2013 (Veterinary and Veterinary Para-Professions Act) have been signed by Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Mutorwa,. They are currently at the legal drafters.

Namibian Veterinary Council has seen an increased reporting of complaints against veterinarians. Veterinarians are cautioned to keep proper records as this speeds up the investigation.

## CPD

The annual congress will take place at Heja Lodge close to Windhoek from 23rd October to the 25th October 2013. The main focus of the lectures will be on zoonotic diseases.

Zoetis (previously Pfizer) will be holding a CPD day on the 10th August this year. It will be held in Windhoek and the topic is respiratory diseases in ruminants.

# Personal

Congratulations to Dr. Siegfried Kha-iseb and his wife on the birth of their son, Joshua Jayden, 12th June 2013.



Congratulations to Dr. Anja Boshoff on her wedding on the 4th May 2013. The wedding ceremony took place in Swakopmund, on the beach.

Congratulation to Dr. Nadine Wenzel (now Scholz) on her wedding on the 23rd March 2013. She got married to Thorsten in Lueneburg, Germany.



# Have a Heart

Lindie Prinsloo has started the non profit organization 'Have a Heart'. They offer free sterilizations for pets to lower income communities.

Dr. Desmond Stafford (who started non profit organization in RSA called AVATAR) has done the sterilizations at the Outjo spayathon where 62 dogs and 5 cats were sterilized, 10 cats and 212 dogs were vaccinated (booster vaccinations were done 1 month later).

The Outjo spayathon was such a success that the spayathons will expand to Kalkfeld, Otjiwarongo, Windhoek, Rehoboth (and Outjo again) within first three weeks of September 2013.

Lindie Prinsloo goes through all right channels (registering non profit organization, contacting NVC (Namibian Vet Council ) for permission of spay facilities etc). She spends a lot of her time on organizing the spayathons (fundraising, find volunteers, advertising).

It is a great effort shown by Lindie and I hope that the vets will support her with her projects.

# Spirocercosis in an Adult Dachshund

Walter Reisinger

Windhoek Veterinary Clinic

## History:

A roughly seven year old adult female Dachshund was presented to our clinic for post mortem. The owner simply found the patient dead in her yard. Up until that point the owner hadn't noticed anything untoward in the patient, even having seen her walking around normally a few hours before.

## Post mortem findings:

No macroscopically appreciable changes noted in the abdomen.

Upon opening the thorax, a severe haemothorax was immediately obvious. Once the massive blood clot had been removed, a mass, 30 x 15 mm and firm to the touch, was noted in the aorta in the caudal thorax. Closer inspection revealed a number of small (5-10 mm diameter) nodules and aneurisms in this region of the aorta in addition to the large mass. When both the large mass and small nodules were cut open, small (average 5 mm) red worms were seen. A roughly 5 mm rent on the aortic wall was present next to one of these nodules. A diagnosis of aortic rupture due to *Spirocercus lupi* migration was made.

No lesions were noted in the oesophagus.

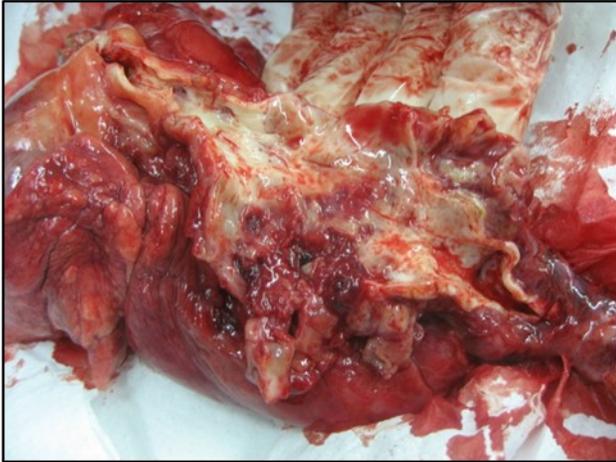


Figure 1 Mineralised parasitic nodule in aorta

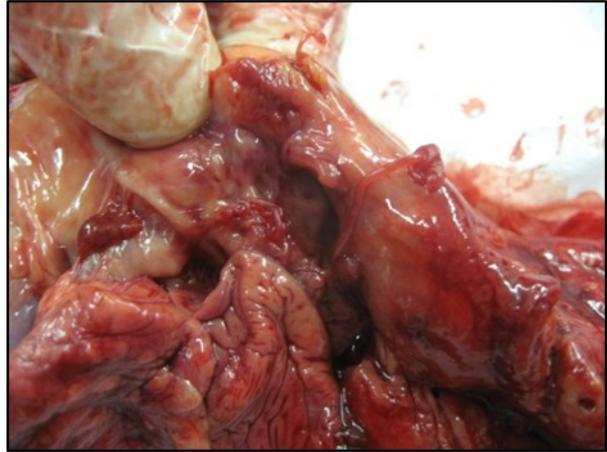


Figure 2 Adult *S. lupi* worm in aorta

#### Discussion:

This case was unusual not only in that it was confirmed in Windhoek, where anecdotal evidence suggests the disease is uncommon, but also that the parasitic nodules were located in the aorta, rather than in the usual caudal oesophagus. Aortic rupture is one of the reported sequelae to *S. lupi* migration- the aortic aneurisms being one of the pathognomonic lesions of spirocercosis, the others being spondylitis of the thoracic vertebrae and a characteristic caudal oesophageal mass (Van der Merwe *et al.*, 2007). The latter however, was not present in this case.

No samples of the lesions were taken for histopath, so no definitive comments regarding the histological make-up of the lesions can be made. The large aneurism/ mass had a gritty feel to it when cut open, suggesting mineralisation, raising the possibility of this having been an aortic tumour or metaplastic mass. Certainly, the oesophageal masses are composed of fibroblasts, and neoplastic transformation into sarcomas can occur (Van der Merwe *et al.*, 2007). Perhaps something similar occurred here in the aorta.

The patient had originally come from Otjiwarongo a few months prior to presentation. Presumably this is where the infective larvae were ingested. A treatment regimen for the remaining dogs on the owner's property was subsequently started. This involved six treatments of *Dectomax* (doramectin 1%) injections (0.4 mg/ kg SC) every fourteen days. To date no problems have been reported in any of these patients.

#### References:

Van der Merwe, L. L., Kirberger, R. M., Clift, S., Williams, M., Keller, N. & Naidoo, V., 2007. *Spirocerca lupi* infection in the dog: A review. The Veterinary Journal 176, 294-309.

Figure 3 Adult *S. lupi* worm removed from aorta



# New Van Members

Van would like to welcome the following new members

- Dr. S Goette (Windhoek Vet)
- Dr. W Reisinger (Windhoek Vet)
- Dr. I Veltmann
- Dr. A Marko (Rhinopark Vet Clinic)
- Dr. Y v.d. Westhuizen (State Vet Gobabis)

