Veterinary Association of Namibia

The MANGA

ISSUE 2 OF 2024 MAY 2024

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VETERINARY ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

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PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear colleagues,

Another three months have passed since the last Manga and quite a few things have happened:

In March WSAVA invited Dr Shalom Phiri and myself to the Sub-Saharan Members Forum in Nairobi. It was great to meet the WSAVA Board as well as the representatives form the various Sub-Saharan veterinary associations and discuss the problems and future of veterinary medicine in Sub-Saharan Africa. We've had good discussions and interestingly all share similar problems.
The results of these discussions will be published by the WSAVA in due time. Furthermore, the WSAVA wants to offer more continued education to their Sub-Saharan members and we discussed topics and modes of delivery. So….exciting things ahead!

From a CPD point-of-view: we've had our first hybrid (in-person and online) discussion evening on Malignant Catarrhal Fever with Dr Ulf Tubbesing in early April. It was well-attended and served its purpose of stimulating some good discussions.

Then mid-April the World Veterinary Association's Congress took place in Cape Town - a couple of Namibian veterinarians attended lectures and Dr Tubbesing lectured on "Rabies in kudu, eland and rhino in Namibia". VAN members could attend at the discounted SAVA rate.
End of April we had a small animal webinar with live Q&A on "The two-step approach to otitis externa", by Dr Sonja Zabel, who is an American Board-Certified Dermatologist, specialising in Otology. She is part of the AFSCAN Twinning Project and kindly offered to give this lecture.

VAN Congress preparations are underway, please diarise the dates: 21-23 November 2024, Swakopmund.

VAN has decided to get more involved in the Namibian rabies elimination project. The information was sent out to you.

Right in tune with the theme of 2024's World Veterinary Day, 27th April
"Veterinarians are essential health workers".

Wouldn't this rabies campaign be a great opportunity for all of us to work together and at the same time achieve something so meaningful and significant -not just for animals, but also for our fellow Namibians?

We are here to make a difference -let's give a bit of our time and tackle a disease that affects us all.

All the best,

Alexandra Marko,

VAN President

VAN NEWS

Dr Alexandra Marko and Dr Shalom Phiri attended the WSAVA Regional Member's Forum in Nairobi, Kenya on the 19th of March. *Photo: WSAVA*

Dr Jolandie van der Westhuizen and Dr Olebile Olibile attended the Joint Rabies Planning Workshop on 7-8th of March. Dr Jolandie gave a presentation on behalf of VAN.

Photo: Dr Olibile

Antimicrobial Resistance Meeting

By: Dr Shalom Phiri

The National AMR stakeholder meeting and workshop was held from the 17th to the 19th of April at AVANI hotel in Windhoek. The workshop was centred around collective efforts in creating awareness about AMR. The meeting was attended by a variety of stakeholders within MOHSS, MAWLR and MET. Some Key findings from the meeting pertaining to Veterinarians are as follows:

- A national action plan combating AMR exists and is signed off by MAWLR.
- Meetings will continue to happen on a yearly basis to report on the progress we are making to spread education and collect AMR data.
- The University of Namibia is engaged in AMR surveillance research and encourages more students to be AMR stewards.
- Research at CVL is limited as not enough veterinarians send in samples for culture and antibiograms.
- Veterinarians need access to more rapid diagnostic tools in order to promote evidence-based antibiotic prescriptions.
- AMR stewardship and research needs to be encouraged amongst companion animal veterinarians as well.

Stakeholders receiving a tour of the NPI lab. ***Photo: Dr Shalom Phiri***

Dr Olebile Olibile also in attendance at the meeting (far left) ***Photo: Dr Shalom Phiri***

Bovine Malignant Catarrhal Fever CPD

On the of 12th of April 2024 we held a hybrid CPD evening at the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Windhoek.

Dr Ulf Tubbesing stimulated discussions with his presentation on the latest Bovine Malignant Catarrhal Fever research and the current MCF Regulations in Namibia.

38 participants attended, both online and in person.

Thank you to CVL, Vtech and Geka Pharma for their support and sponsorship, and Dr Tubbesing for giving his time free of charge.

Dr Arthur Bagot-Smith and Dr Minty Soni

Mariska Bijsterbosch, Drs Arthur Bagot-Smith, Andrea Klingelhoeffer, Maaike de Schepper and Lyndsay Scott

Dr Chantal Hansen, Dr Alexandra Marko and Pierre Tanneberger from GEKA

Photo: Dr Alexandra Marko

Bovine Malignant Catarrhal Fever CPD

Photos: Dr Alexandra Marko

Overview of VAN Rabies Vaccination Support 2024

By: Dr Jolandie van der Westhuizen

VAN will provide equipment and technical support, but the campaign organization and logistics are left to the discretion of each team

VAN has a very big focus on rabies prevention for 2024 and will assist each private veterinarian together with their local state veterinary office to plan a rabies vaccination campaign for 2024. VAN's proposal was presented at the 2024 Rabies Project Review and Planning Meeting/ Workshop in March and the effort was approved of, encouraged and applauded by DVS.

VAN will procure the vaccine at a reduced price from the World Organisation for Animal Health's vaccine bank and it will be distributed free of charge.

We expect that each private veterinarian engages with their local state veterinary office (and vice versa) as well as other private vets in their local town in order to make this a success. We would suggest that you focus on the rural areas of each town first and then regular clients.

We will be using the GARC rabies surveillance app to capture vaccination data. Each team should identify a data officer that will receive training on using the App.

We recognize that this will be a huge effort for you on top of all your other responsibilities.

As an incentive, each team will be scored on their efforts and the winning team will receive recognition by having a donation made in their name to a Charity of their choosing.

Your rabies campaign can include but is not limited to:

- Awareness activities in schools
- Social media awareness
- Awareness at Farmer days
- Planning vaccination points and dates and doing vaccinations

What is the support you can expect from VAN?

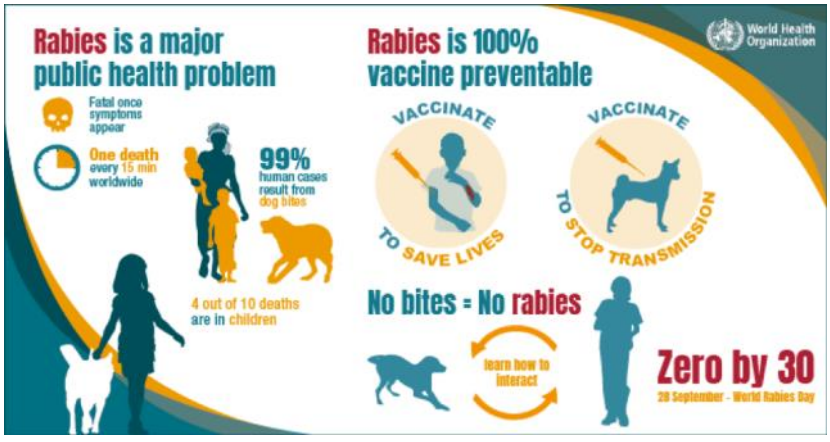
- Awareness broadcasted on radio stations
- Awareness in newspapers and magazines
- Rabies vaccine and consumables
- Campaign T-shirts
- Social Media posts that you can share
- Material to use for school visits

How to get started:

1. Create your vaccination team (this can be as a private practice, state vets with private vets, or several private vet practices/individual vets together).
2. Plan your event points and vaccination dates in advance. Send them to us to share and connect other individual veterinarians to the team if needed.
3. Follow the Vet Campaign Kit that was e-mailed.

Important deadline for planning: 31st of July 2024.

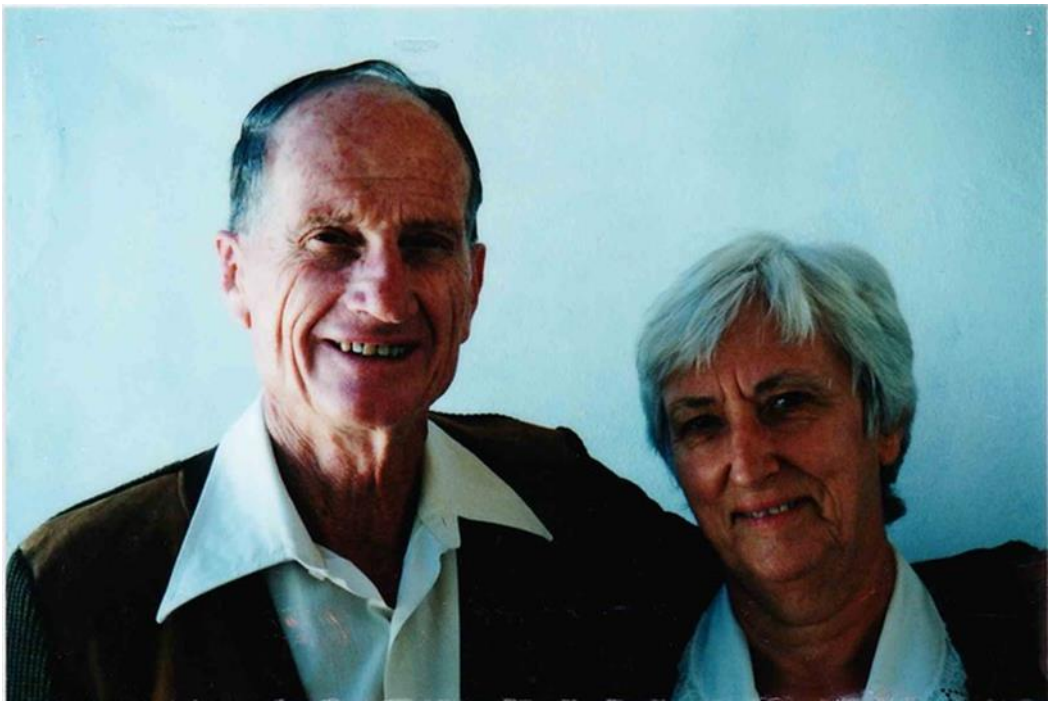
Namibia's Rabies Control Strategy was one of the first national rabies plans to be endorsed by WOAH in 2021 and this effort from all local veterinarians will greatly contribute to eliminating rabies from Namibia.



In Memory of Dr Piet Basson

By: Dr Beate Voigts

Dr Piet Basson passed away on the 17th of April at the age of 93. He was VAN's oldest member and made significant contributions to our veterinary community.



Dr Piet Basson with his wife Heidi

I had the privilege to work with Dr Piet Basson in Grootfontein for 2 ½ years and experienced him as a very humble and knowledgeable man.

He was born 20.05.1931 in Grootfontein, Namibia.

1954 he qualified as veterinarian in Onderstepoort.

1955-1963 he worked in Namibia.

1963-1972 he worked at the South African Veterinary Institute at Onderstepoort. There he held the position of Assistant Director from 1970-1972.

1972 he requested to be transferred to Namibia. There he was employed as State Veterinarian and build up the Regional Veterinary Laboratory in Grootfontein from 1972-1995.

His special fields of interest were mainly research and diagnostics especially pathology, toxicology and wildlife. He was also involved in developing production programs for farmers.

Dr Piet Basson

He was involved in Foot and Mouth Disease campaigns in Namibia:

1959-1960 Ovamboland

1961-1962 Omitara, Gobabis

1962-1963 Ovamboland

He produced more than 80 publications. Some other research was not published like "The role and pathogenicity of *Enterococcus casseliflavus* in outbreaks of abortions in ruminants in Namibia during 1991-1992." The published articles are now at the Namibia Scientific Society and have valuable information on Namibian disease conditions.

For his extraordinary work he received several rewards like Senior Captain Scott memorial medal of the South African Biological Society (1978), gold medal from the South African Veterinary Association (1995), Certificate of Merit: Veterinary Association of Namibia (1994) and Lycaon reward of the South African Veterinary Association: Game group (2008).

He lived on his farm Varianto near Tsumeb where he was farming with Bonsmara cattle.

He had a keen interest in insects and had recently donated his substantial collection to the Namibia Scientific Society: Scientific legacy preserved: Pieter Arnoldus Basson's insect collection safeguarded by Namibia Scientific Society | Namibia Economist

He will be remembered and missed by his colleagues and friends, and we send our condolences to his family.

Photo: Mandisa Rasmeni, the Namibia Economist

Veterinary Association of Namibia

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CONTACT US

We would love to hear from you!

Have an interesting case, story or pictures to share with us?

Please send them to:

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