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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Presidents Desk | 1 |
| New Van Members | 2 |
| Vacancy | 3 |
| Congress 2014 | 4 |
| NVC | 5 |
| Clinical Case | 5 |

Presidents Desk

Dear colleagues

We can look back at a successful scientific congress in Swakopmund with very good attendance and fantastic support from industry. Our main theme this year was animal welfare, which was also the theme for World Veterinary Day 2014. We selected our congress as the best opportunity to bring a wide field of information about animal welfare to all participants, and to emphasize the importance of it again.

During our Annual General Meeting 3 new members were elected to serve on Exco for the next 2 years – we want to welcome Dr's Anja Boshoff, Vimanuka Mutjavikua and Adriaan Adank on VAN EXCO and wish them many enjoyable and successful years ahead serving on EXCO (see picture below of new VAN Exco)

I want to call especially on our younger colleagues to be pro-active and take the initiatives to contribute to the improvement and well-being of our veterinary profession in general, this can be on a scientific or social basis or otherwise. Your contributions and initiatives can make a positive difference to your Association and profession in general. We welcome any constructive suggestions and contributions which you can present to any committee member and look forward to hear from you.

With the festive season on our doorsteps, I wish you an enjoyable and peaceful festive season, a good holiday and a prosperous new year.

Anselm Voigt



New VAN Members

VAN would like to officially welcome its new members:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Nehemia T. Hedimbi | University of Zambia Current activity: State Veterinarian Field of interest: Epidemiology |
| Charles Ntahonshikira | University of Ukraine Current activity: Lecturer at UNAM Field of interest: Microbiology and related fields |
| Kanutus Benediktus Shiikufeni | University of Blida / Algeria Current activity: State Veterinarian Field of interest: Reproduction |
| Natascha Minnemann | University of Pretoria / South Africa Current activity: Mixed Private Practice Field of interest: Small animals and large animals as well as exotics |
| Katja Storm | University of Pretoria / South Africa Current activity: Mixed Private Practice Field of interest: Mostly Small animals |
| Adrian Izak Adank | University of Pretoria / South Africa Current activity: Mixed Private Practice Field of interest: Surgery, Poultry, Teaching |
| Gernot Armin Redecker | University of Pretoria / South Africa Current activity: Mixed Private Practice Field of interest: Companion animals, Game and Reproduction |
| Ian Chibasa Kauro | University of Zimbabwe Current activity: Mixed Private Practice Field of interest: Small animals and large animals |
| Werner Rogl | University of Gießen / Germany Current activity: Self-employed Field of interest: Large animals and Game |
| Morgan De Wit | University of Pretoria / South Africa Field of interest: Large animals and Game |

Congress 2014

The annual scientific Congress took place 22-24 October 2014 at the Swakopmund Hotel and Entertainment Centre. It was again very well attended, 81 veterinarians, 20 companies and 37 representatives of the companies were counted.

The main focus of this years Congress was animal welfare. Dr. Stefano Messori gave lectures on animal welfare issues such as transport of animals and humane slaughter practices. Dr. Lynette Bester focused on pain management for small and large animals.

Dr. Mark Walton gave a few lectures on equine related topics.

Local speakers included Dr. Mark Jago, who fascinated the audience with the translocation of wildlife from Namibia to Cuba. Dr. Vimanuka Mutjavikua refreshed every ones memory on poisonous plants.

All in all the Congress was very successful. It was very well attended by the veterinarians and industry.



Namibian Veterinary Council

The first new Council under the Act 1 of 2013 has been appointed and inaugurated by the Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry on the 30th July 2014. Members of the Council are:

- 1) Chairperson: Dr. R Hassel, Vice Chairperson: Dr. J Kamwi
- 2) Legal representative: Adv. Irene Visser
- 3) Chief Veterinary Officer: Dr. J Shoopala now replaced by Dr. M Maseke, State Vet: Dr. J Kapapero
- 4) VAN representative: Dr. M Beggs, Elected members: Dr. R Athingo, Dr. N Haindongo
- 5) Paraprofessionals: Mr. J Shihulingeni and Sr. E Komen

Clinical case: Hoof Crack

This Saddle mare developed 2 hoof cracks over a year ago. One on each front hoof. She was rested, received non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and antibiotics to prevent an infection. Furthermore she received 2 full bar shoes. As both cracks got worse, copper plates were screwed over the cracks to stabilize the two hoof parts a bit.

The one hoof crack healed completely. The other one got wider again, around 1 year later, possibly after a traumatic incident.

Expert advice was given from Prof. Sybrand vd Berg, he also recommended a South African farrier. He recommends one or all of the following procedures:

- 1) Correct the medio-lateral and coronary contour balance
- 2) Un weight the hoof palmar to the crack by taking away hoof wall so that there is no weight transferred to the coronary band. This must be done until the whole new hoof has grown down.
- 3) All above and lacing the crack. A simple hose clamp, opened and screwed to the hoof wall on both sides of the crack works well.
- 4) Nerve block and complete stripping of the hoof palmar to the crack to enable the down growth of a new attached wall (drastic procedure but also allows draining and treatment of any infection underneath)
- 5) Apply a heart bar shoe, D-bar or Z-bar as the need may be.

