



Veterinary Association of Namibia

# Manga

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OFFICIAL  
NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
VETERINARY  
ASSOCIATION  
OF NAMIBIA

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Dear Colleagues,

It's time for another quarterly update.

I'm writing to you all the way from Rio de Janeiro. Shalom and I have the amazing opportunity of attending the WSAVA Congress.

Since both of us are part of a WSAVA committee our flights and accommodation have generously been sponsored by WSAVA. Thank you!

We've attended the General Assembly -a whole day filled with valuable discussions with colleagues from around the world and ample networking opportunities.



## PRESIDENT'S DESK

We'll be bringing back lots of information and food for thought, which we will share with you all in due time.



As you will read in this Manga we've had a few CPD activities:

-An in-person Small Animal Critical Care weekend in June with Emergency and Critical Care specialist Dr Ladan Mohammad-Zadeh.

-An in-person Livestock CPD in September with reproduction specialists Dr Stephen Hughes and Prof Dietmar Holm from South Africa.

-An 11-lecture online series on using cytology to make better informed decisions on

antimicrobial use and hence stewardship.

For this we've had numerous specialists from around the world lecture and be available for live question and answer sessions. This was a collaboration between WSAVA and AFSCAN.

A BIG "Thank you" to all vets who have supported these events and the exco members for organising these.

Thank you to all who have participated in our mental health survey -please save the date 13th-15th March 2026. VAN is planning a weekend titled "Thrive", where vets will be introduced to tools for surviving the veterinary profession.

We are also looking into establishing a helpline or similar; if anyone is interested in helping, please send us an email or speak to any of the Exco members.

## PRESIDENT'S DESK CONTINUE



Thank you to all members who are participating in our Rabies Vaccination Campaigns this September!

“VAN Antibiotic Amnesty” project: our exciting new project in collaboration with GEKA.

The planning for our Annual Scientific Congress is well underway and we are looking forward to hosting you all at Arebbusch from Thursday 20th till Saturday 22nd of November 2025.

Thank you to all members who have given their inputs regarding topics. CPD: We are planning another one or two webinars during the next two months. More info to follow.

AFSCAN Twinning project: If anyone is interested in joining a monthly case discussion session with other African vets and their US- or UK-twins, please send me an email.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Annual Congress!

- Alexandra Marko,  
VAN President

## VAN NEWS



Veterinary Association of Namibia

### Planned CPDs for 2025:

#### VAN Congress:

20th -22nd November 2025

Location: Arebbusch  
Travel Lodge, Windhoek

#### Webinars:

Online Equine Webinar  
5th November 2025 @  
19:30 presented by Dr  
Catriona Lyle.



## In-person Small Animal Emergency CPD in June with Dr Ladan Mohammad-Zadeh

Thank you to everyone who joined this CPD.

It was a weekend filled with hands-on practical's and loads of life-saving information.

A big thank you to the Windhoek Show Society for the venue and their efforts in making this CPD a success. Also a big thank you to SWAVET, Nampharm, and Genmed for your sponsorship, we as VAN appreciate it greatly.





## Livestock CPD 5th-7th September

Another big thank you to everyone that travelled from all directions to Gobabis, for a successful CPD. Hands-on practicals were arranged for the whole of Saturday, with lectures on Friday and Sunday. We could like to say a big thank you to Gobabis Veterinary Practice for offering their excellent facility, equipment and for organizing the clinical cases, VAN greatly appreciate your efforts.



# Annual Scientific Congress 2025 — what to expect

The planning for this year's Congress is in full swing. This year the Annual Scientific Congress will be held in Windhoek at Arebbusch Travel Lodge from the 20th to 22nd November 2025. There will be 3 evening functions to catch up and reconnect with everyone. Thursday night finger food, Friday night pizza and wine, and on Saturday a lekker braai.

We have added an additional day to the congress, Sunday the 23rd of November. It will be divided into two sections; Wildlife and Small Animals, the slots will be filled with more interesting topics, but most important of all, there will be time for discussions.

The draft schedule, together with the registration link have been circulated. The final schedule will be available in due course, although no major changes will be made. If you have not received the document and the link, please contact the secretary at [secretary@van.org.na](mailto:secretary@van.org.na)

Thursday the 20th of November will be dedicated to production animals and public health, with speakers such as Prof Anita Michel and Dr Danie Odendaal that will be joining us.

Friday the 21st of November will be for production animals, companion animals and wildlife, with speakers such as Dr Vanessa McClure and Dr Pete Morkel.

Saturday the 22nd of November there will be two sessions running parallel to each other, wildlife and small animals. The first part of the morning session until Tea/Coffee Break (10:40-11:00) will be together. Between the first Tea Break (10:40-11:00) until the second Break (16:00-16:20) Small animals and Wildlife sessions will be running in parallel in different conference rooms, after which everyone will meet up again for the last part of the program.

All VAN members should please choose their bodywarmer size at the end of the registration form. All paid up VAN members will receive a bodywarmer.

Please also note that the Early Bird Special for VAN members will close on the 16th of October 2025.



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|  <p><b>Annual Scientific Congress 2025</b></p> <p><br/>Arebbusch Travel Lodge<br/>Windhoek</p> <p> <br/>20 – 22 Nov 2025</p>  | <p><b>What to expect?</b></p> <p>3 Evening functions!<br/>Catch up and reconnect with friends.</p> <p> <b>Industry Evening</b></p> <p> <b>Pizza and Wine evening</b></p> <p> <b>Braai</b></p> | <p><b>23rd Nov 2025</b><br/><b>Optional Post-Congress Breakfast Session for Small Animals and Wildlife</b></p> <p></p> <p><b>Bodywarmers to all paid up VAN Members!</b></p>  |
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# Annual Scientific Congress 2025 - Half Day Registrations

VAN would like to accommodate those colleagues who are working during the congress days. Hence we are offering "Half-Day" registrations options.

## Option 1 Morning Session:

1st Lecture up to and including lunch.

## Option 2 Afternoon Sessions:

Including lunch till last lecture.

This will be offered for Thursday 20th Nov, Friday 21st Nov and Saturday 22nd Nov.

Please note: Evening functions are not included, but can be registered for separately.  
The registration link will be shared with everyone in due course.



The poster features the crest of the Veterinary Association of Namibia at the top. Below it, the title 'Annual Scientific Congress 2025' is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. The location 'Arebbusch Travel Lodge, Windhoek' is listed, followed by the dates '20 - 22 November 2025'. A green horizontal line separates this information from the headline 'Half-Day Registrations NOW OPEN!', which is in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Below the headline, a paragraph in green text states: 'VAN would like to accommodate those colleagues who are working during the congress days. Hence we are offering "Half-day" registration options: first lecture up to and including lunch, lunch till last lecture. Please note: evening functions are not included, but can be registered for separately.'



## VAN Antibiotic Amnesty Project

VAN will start a project in collaboration with GEKA Pharma to support and contribute to awareness creation relating to antimicrobial resistance and to make an active difference from VAN's side.

The project will create awareness among public, clients, farmers, and hopefully will reach a lot more people.

The mission of this project is to specifically create awareness about correct disposal of unused or expired antimicrobials safely and the importance of doing so, but also the consequences of incorrect disposal.

To create awareness, stickers will be created that will be pasted on all dispensed antimicrobials and so encouraging the clients and farmers to bring back expired or unused antibiotics, but also to make them aware of the importance of correct disposal.

The antimicrobials returned will be collected and destroyed correctly, free of charge with proud support from GEKA Pharma.

This project will specifically be available for free to clinics where either the owners are VAN Members or the majority of staff (70%) are VAN

Members.

The project will officially be launched in November and will continue for a trial period of 1 year.

Please keep an eye out for more information!

If you want to take part in this project, please contact the secretary.



# THRIVE in the Vet Profession — SAVE THE DATE!

LEARN TO **THRIVE** AND NOT  
JUST SURVIVE THE  
VETERINARY  
PROFESSION

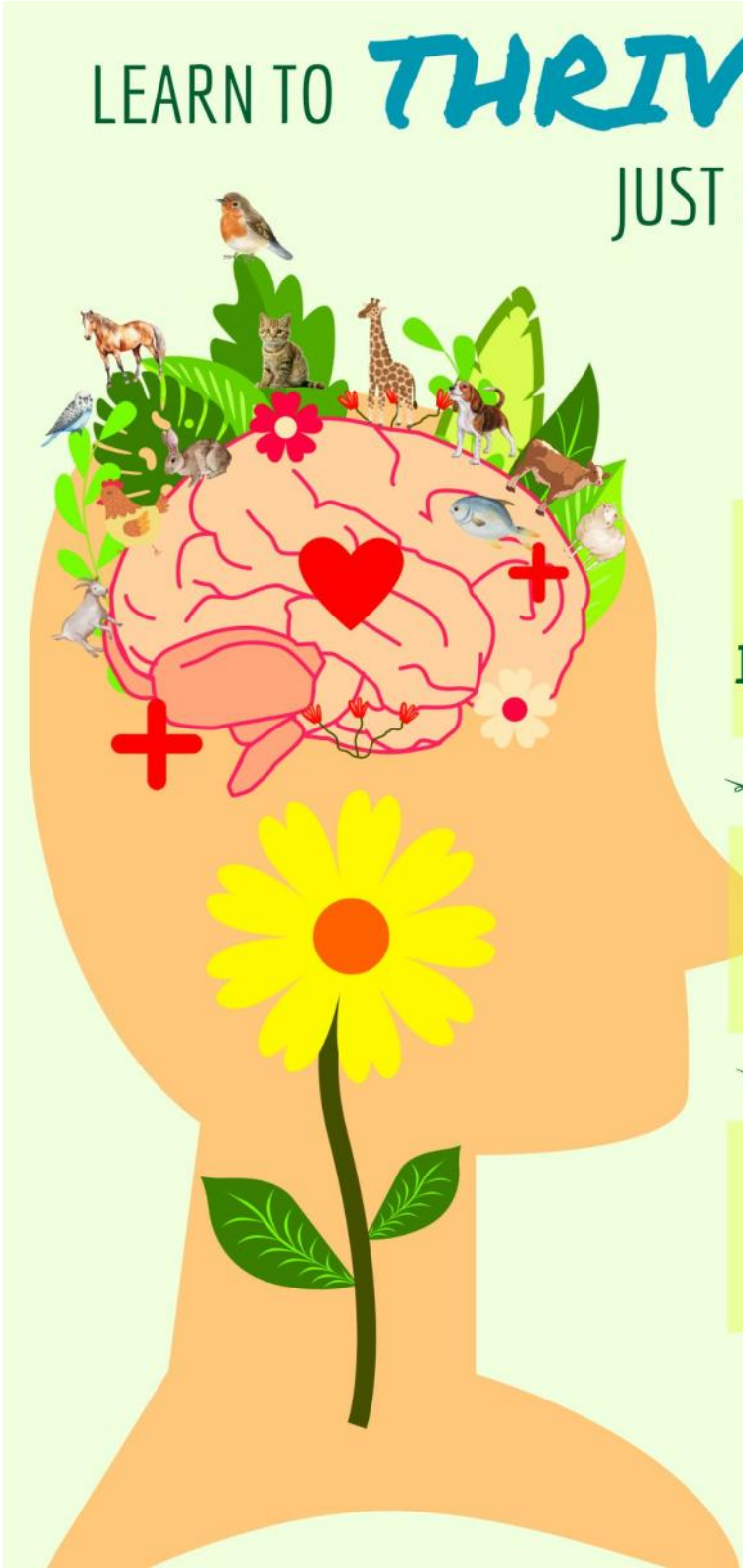
SAVE THE DATE!  
13 - 15 MARCH 2026

WITH DR KENNETH  
JOUBERT,  
JIMMY CARNES, HELEN  
SILVER-MACMAHON,  
ALTA VORBACK

MORE INFORMATION  
TO FOLLOW!



Veterinary Association of Namibia



# Recognizing and managing medical errors

By Dr Ladan Mohammad—Zadeh

## What is Patient Safety?

World Health Organization “the absence of preventable harm to a patient and reduction of unnecessary risk.

## Adverse event vs Sentinel event:

Sentinel event:

- Event or outcome that warrants immediate investigation
- Usually defined as resulting in temporary or permanent severe patient harm
- Medical error, adverse event, or nonmedical event

Adverse event:

- Unintended or unanticipated outcome or response to medication, procedure or environment
- Does not always result in patient harm

## Categories of Errors:

Errors of commission

Simply doing the wrong thing or doing the right thing the wrong way

Errors of omission

Best course of action for a patient (medication or procedure) is NOT taken

E.g. not giving diuretic to a patient in CHF based on radiographs

Errors of communication

Biggest gray-area

Client-said vs doctor-said

Miscommunication regarding an agreed upon procedure

Elective procedure during an urgent surgery (mass removal, spay)

Errors of context

Errors stems from not taking patient's unique situation into account

Giving high dose aminoglycoside to patient with acute renal injury

Giving ivermectin to a dog with a known MDR-1 mutation

Putting a blanket in a kennel with a dog with a documented history of eating blankets

Diagnostic errors

Missing obvious orthopedic injury

Missing severe biochemical abnormalities

Misinterpreting result of metabolic test

Examples of drug errors “5 Wrongs of medications”

- Wrong patient
- Wrong drug
- Wrong dose
- Wrong route
- Wrong time

Contributing factors to drug errors:

Patient is not labelled  
 Transcription errors  
     Illegible handwriting  
     Decimal point  
 Calculation error  
 Mistaken ml for mg vice versa  
 Non-uniformity of how drugs are ordered/documentated  
     Some use mg, others use ml  
 Near-homonyms

**Errors can be fatal!!**More Contributing factors:

Patients not labelled  
 Patients that look similar  
 Patients that have similar names  
 Doctor fatigue  
 Distractions  
 Assumptions

Case Example:

## Case 1: Acepromazine

8-week-old puppy diagnosed with Parvovirus.

Sedation required for IV catheter placement  
 Intended dose 0.05 mg/kg IV  
 Delivered dose 0.5 mg/kg IV  
 Puppy showed signs of heavy sedation

Owners were immediately notified.

BP checked q 15 minutes for 1 hour, then hourly for 2 additional hours. Never became hypotensive.  
 Already on fluid therapy.  
 Did not change what therapies were administered or duration of hospitalization.  
 Sedation wore off after 8 hours.

## Case 2: Activated Charcoal Mishap

Dog presented after ingesting Bromethalin.

Dog was intubated, and gastric lavage was performed.  
 Orogastic tube was removed and an 8 Fr red rubber catheter  
     passed into stomach for activated charcoal administration.  
 When the dog was extubated there was charcoal at the end of  
     the tube.





Owner was notified immediately.  
Hospital assumed financial responsibility for all related treatment.  
Patient placed on a ventilator that day.  
Arrested 48 hours later.

Case debriefing: How could this have been prevented?

What to do when an error occurs:

- Determine if a sentinel event has occurred
- Fill out a sentinel event report
- Investigate cause
- Implement new policy or training

Sentinel Event log:

Simple document with pertinent information.

- Date/Time
- Description of the event
- Action taken at the time of the event
- Outcome

Communicate! Don't cover up!

Medical record must continue to reflect actual events – errors included

Use error as a training tool, not a blaming tool

A single mistake is not a fireable offense.

May help identify trends in your hospital:

- Protocol problem
- Medication problem
- Employee problem
- Equipment problem

**Prevention is key—to follow in next Manga issue.**



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:**

**[secretary@van.org.na](mailto:secretary@van.org.na)**

