



Veterinary Association of Namibia

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

Editor: Dr. Elvira
Kleber

elviravetprac-
tice@gmail.com

Fax:088623454

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

Presidents Desk	1
African an- nual health checks	2- 4
Personal	4
AFSCAN	4- 7

THE MANGA

ISSUE 2 OF 2014

AUGUST 2014

Presidents Desk

Dear colleagues,

We sometimes tend to forget the very important role which animals play in everybody's life. In Agriculture, production animals are the main source of income for farmers in Namibia, whether it is small stock, pigs or cattle, stud breeders or commercial farmers, poultry or fish farming. Production animals play an important role in our economy, through these animals we create a great number of job opportunities in our country and they are a vital source of protein for humans.

Our Namibian wildlife plays a very special role in this country. It is the biggest tourist attraction to Namibia. It can be enjoyed in various official game parks, private game reserves and elsewhere in the country. Trophy hunting is also an important source of income for many farmers. The increasing incidence of rhino poaching and smuggling of rhino horn and ivory is of great concern, we hope that everything possible is done to stop the brutal killing of one of our biggest treasures.

Companion animals play a vital role in most families, the human – animal bond is very strong and may not be underestimated. Our companion animals have become an integral part of many families. They are not only seen as guard dogs which must protect our property, but have become part of the family in many instances. I find that the human – animal bond is often very strong in families with children or families where the children have left their home to proceed with their own career.

We as Veterinarians play a very important role in all these aspects of human – animal relationships mentioned here. In our hectic day-to-day lives we may forget how important the role of the veterinarian in our society is. At the same time we must at all times also realize our great responsibility towards the animals as well as towards the human society and towards official institutions. At the same time, the veterinary profession must be respected as a vital part of society.

In the previous issue of MANGA I have spoken about the important role of Veterinarians in the maintenance and commitment towards Animal Welfare. This was the theme for World Veterinary Day 2014 and we have selected Animal Welfare as the main theme for our Scientific Congress in October.

Anselm Voigts

Africat Annual Health Checks: Case Study

CURLY'S ABDOMINAL MASS

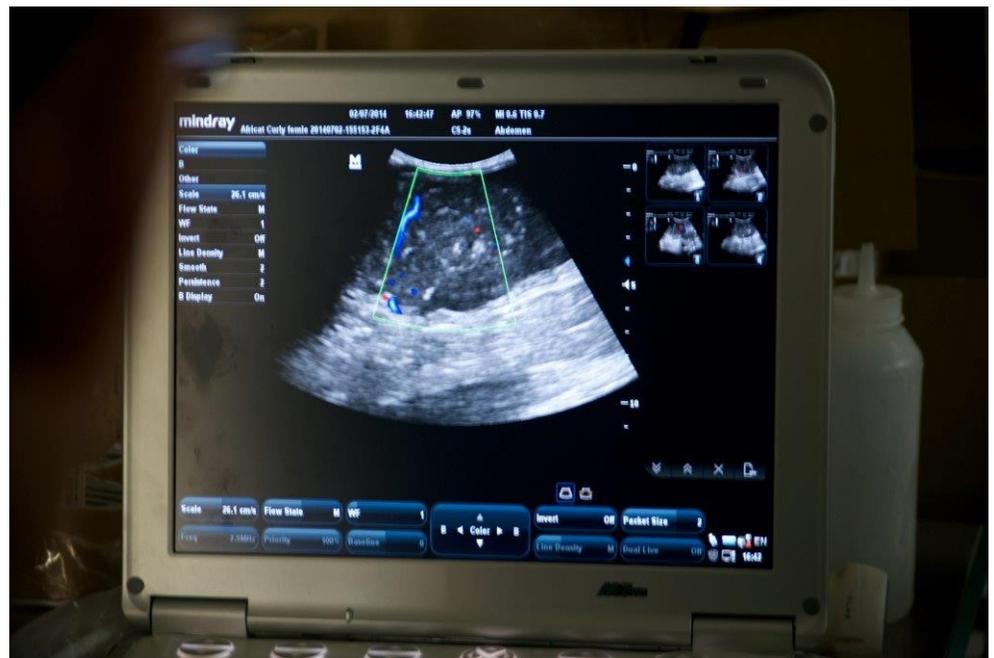
The importance of the annual health examinations was clearly demonstrated in the case of Curly, an eleven year old female cheetah who, on observation, appeared to be quite healthy. She had even gained weight from the previous year.

Once anaesthetised however, we palpated a tennis ball-sized mass in her abdomen.

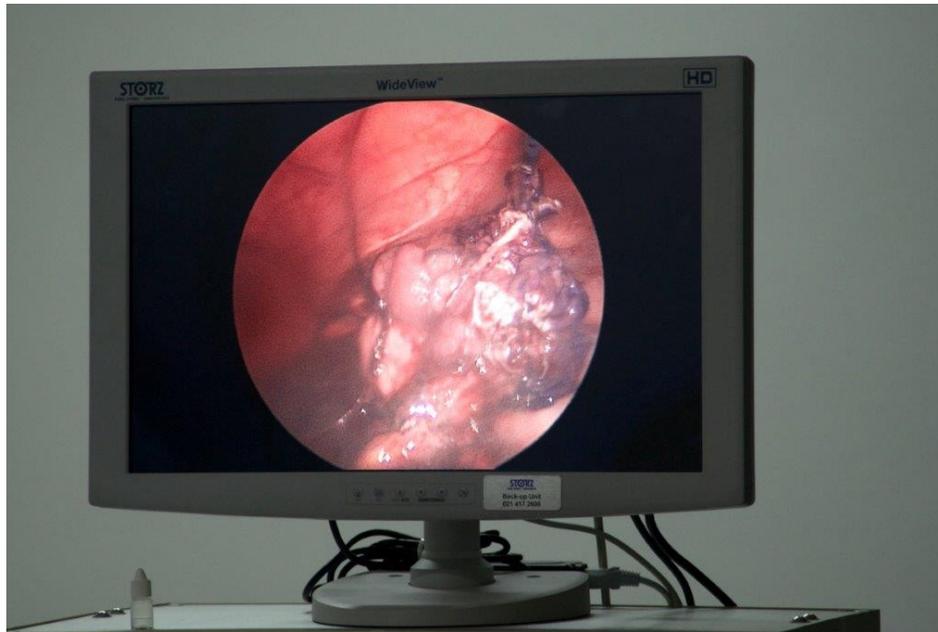
It was not clear if this mass was cancerous or not and, if so, whether or not it could be removed. Curly was also on the sterilization list and so her abdomen was clipped and prepared for surgery.

Prof. Robert Kirberger, a diagnostic imaging specialist from the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria, was fortunately present to perform an ultrasound examination of her abdomen.

The mass did not appear to be attached to any vital organs and Prof. Kirberger felt that there was a good chance that it could be removed. Needle aspirates of the fluid in the abdomen and the cells of the mass revealed that there was a significant inflammatory process taking place, but it was still not clear whether the mass was cancerous or not.

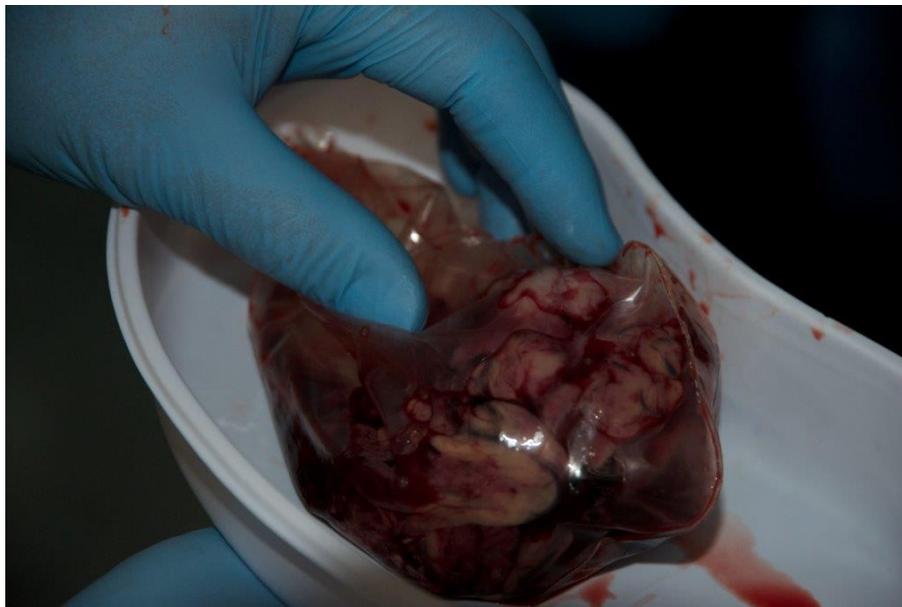


The specialist surgeons (Prof. Eric Monnet and Dr. Marthinus Hartman) used the same high-tech laparoscopic equipment, used for the sterilization procedure, to visualize the mass and remove it safely from Curly's abdomen through a single small key-hole incision. Once removed, the mass was carefully dissected. To our surprise, we discovered a large *Dicrostachys* thorn in the middle of what was clearly a granuloma.



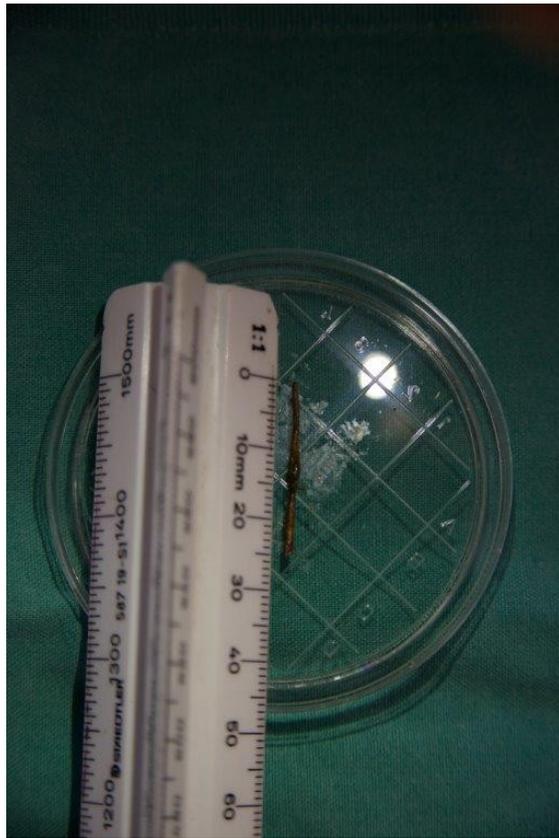
The thorn had most likely been swallowed accidentally by Curly, making its way into her intestine. Here it probably pierced through the intestinal wall and landed up in the abdomen. The bacteria on the thorn would have then elicited a strong inflammatory response. The body would have tried to wall in the infection, preventing it from spreading. A granuloma, made up of a mass of inflammatory and connective tissue cells, would have formed around the thorn. This inflammatory process would have continued indefinitely if the mass had not been removed, as the thorn would have had no way of exiting the cheetah's abdomen. Within a few hours Curly was diagnosed and treated successfully.

She eagerly ate her food soon after recovering from the anaesthesia and showed virtually no signs of having had major surgery. The small wound on her ventral abdomen is easy to miss and we are confident that Curly will make a full recovery. This is probably the first thorn-induced abdominal granuloma that has been found in a cheetah and it is likely the first time that such a mass has been removed via laparoscopic surgery.





Compiled by Dr. Adrian Tordiffe



Personal

We wish to congratulate Dr. Anke Van Wyk on her beautiful baby boy Aidan George Francis. He was born the 10th July weighing 2.63 kg.



AFSCAN

Dear colleagues,

During June 2014 I was invited by the [World Small Animal Veterinary Association \(WSAVA\)](#) Foundation to participate in its African Small Companion Animal Network (AFSCAN) project meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.

The AFSCAN initiative promises to assist invited participating African countries to improve the small companion animal networking in Africa. I quote the chairperson, Dr. Varga Gabriel, President of the WSAVA Foundation, "AFSCAN support will take the form of specific sub-projects providing new opportunities in veterinary continuing education, clinical veterinary research, infectious disease surveillance and control of canine rabies."

You are also invited to follow AFSCAN on Facebook. Here is the link to the AFSCAN fan page: <https://www.facebook.com/afscan>

Please read the following press release, which was published after our meeting.

Dr Anselm Voigts



WSAVA
FOUNDATION

Improving
Animal Care
Through Science
And Education



zoetis

PRESS RELEASE

Priorities Agreed for WSAVA Foundation's AFSCAN Initiative

The [World Small Animal Veterinary Association \(WSAVA\)](#) Foundation took the first steps towards delivering its African Small Companion Animal Network (AFSCAN) project at a recent meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, during which it identified the priority needs of small companion animal veterinarians in Africa and agreed a roadmap of projects through which AFSCAN can help to meet them.

The WSAVA Foundation funds improvements in the veterinary care of companion animals worldwide through science and education. It unveiled its ground-breaking scheme, AFSCAN, at BSAVA Congress earlier this year. AFSCAN aims to advance standards of veterinary care across Africa through facilitating the creation of a sustainable network of companion animal veterinarians, associations and specialist groups in Sub-Saharan Africa. All of its work will have a focus on One Health.

During the three day visit to Nairobi, from 18-20 June, the AFSCAN Project Board met delegates from Kenya, Uganda, Namibia and Nigeria at the Regional Office of the International Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). It also visited the veterinary school at the University of Nairobi and met the Dean of the School and members of academic staff, a student delegation and representatives from the One Health Central and Eastern Africa (OHCEA) Consortium.

The AFSCAN Project Board is chaired by Dr Gabriel Varga, President of the WSAVA Foundation and includes Professor Michael Day (University of Bristol, UK, and WSAVA Foundation); Dr Theo Kanellos and Mr Greg Andrews (Zoetis); Dr Remo Lobetti (referral practitioner, South Africa) and Dr Alex Thiermann (OIE).

Commenting, Dr Varga said: "Working with the national delegates, we identified a range of projects to support small companion animal veterinarians as they work towards establishing the national associations that will become new members of the WSAVA family. AFSCAN support will take the form of specific sub-projects providing new opportunities in veterinary continuing education, clinical veterinary research, infectious disease surveillance and control of canine rabies.

"For example, African practitioners will be given access to the on-line educational content provided by the North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) *Vetfolio* initiative with access to refurbished computers from the UK charity Computers for Africa. Academic practitioners will also be encouraged to apply for AFSCAN funding for targeted research projects linking African universities with partner institutions in other countries.

He continued: "We will meet again during WSAVA World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, in September and will be joined by additional delegates from Angola, Ethiopia, Sudan and Tanzania.

"AFSCAN will assist small companion animal veterinarians in the creation of national associations because it is the creation of these associations leading, as they do, to enhancements in collaboration, training and best practice sharing, which has proved pivotal in driving enhancements in standards of veterinary care in other regions of the world. Through AFSCAN we have a real opportunity to help advance the veterinary profession across Africa and, in so doing, improve the lives of millions of animals and humans."

The AFSCAN project runs under the auspices of the WSAVA Foundation with Zoetis as a major supporter. Other supporters and sponsors of AFSCAN include the OIE, the NAVC and veterinary digital content provider Vetstream; veterinary charity Worldwide Veterinary Services and its Mission Rabies Project; veterinary equipment supplier Kruuse; the Morris Animal Foundation; healthcare advertising agency Circa Health; the University of Veterinary Medicine in Kosice and the WSAVA.

Notes to editors:

The AFSCAN project, the first phase of which runs from April 2014 until April 2016, has been developed by the WSAVA Foundation with the backing of the global animal health company Zoetis and a Consortium of other supporters. It aims to achieve its goal through initiating activities in key areas, including:

Offering grant funding for specific veterinary projects and establishing links between African veterinary researchers and those in institutions in American or European countries.

Increasing support for and coordination of rabies control projects and setting up new projects.

The expansion of training and continuing education programmes for veterinarians and other veterinary professionals.

The support of surveillance systems to monitor infectious and parasitic diseases in companion animals.

The quest for new funding opportunities and co-operation with current and future Consortium members.

For further information:

Rebecca George, George PR

Tel: 01449 737281/07974 161108