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If only I knew

World Rabies Day is an annual event aimed at the prevention and elimination of the disease by combating it in animals.

It is reported that 55 000 people die annually due to this dreadful disease. This amounts to an average of one person every 10 minutes.

This year World Rabies Day will take place on the 28th September.

Dr. Sajeni and Dr. Khaiseb from VAN together with Dr. Bishi (Epidemiology DVS) will be organizing a workshop for this event. The aim will be to bring together the medical profession and veterinary profession. The media will be involved as well, to raise public awareness of this zoonotic disease.



Vet 2011

2011 has been pronounced World Vet Year, as this year, our profession is celebrating its' 250th birthday.

The world's first veterinary school was founded in Lyon, France in 1761, followed by the Alford veterinary school near

Paris in 1764, both on Claude Bourgelats initiative. Bourgelat collaborated with surgeons in Lyon, suggesting that studying animal biology and pathology helps improve the understanding of human biology and pathology.

The veterinary profession has a

very wide spectrum from animal doctor to animal welfare advocates to public health (food security, zoonoses, food safety, biomedical research and to protect the environment and biodiversity).

www.vet2011.org

Tail docking



Lia owned by Dr.
Saskia Stam

Tail docking is the amputation of a dog's tail at varying lengths to suit recommendations of a breed standard. The cut goes through many highly sensitive nerves in tissues such as the skin, cartilage and bone. It is generally performed without anaesthetic when the puppies are 3-5 days of age.

It started hundreds of years ago for reasons such as tax evasion, rabies prevention, prevention of back injuries, to increase speed and prevent tail damage from fighting. Some breeds (Welsh Corgi for example) are born without tails or stumpy tails due to a genetic abnormality, normal littermates are docked to make the breed conform to a uniform appearance.

Tail docking can cause problems such as death of the puppy (bleeding, septicemia) and neuroma formation at the stump.

Tail docking should be discouraged as dogs need their tails to balance and to express their body language.

Tail docking is banned in some countries such as Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

How can tail docking be prevented? Don't buy puppies with docked tails. Kennel Clubs and canine organizations should stop advocating tail docking and modification of Animal Welfare legislation.

Namibia is in the process of forming an Animal Welfare committee consisting of the SPCA, DVS (Dr. Kaurivi), the Meat Board and 2 Private Vets. This committee will be reviewing the out dated Animal Welfare Legislation.

I would like to remind colleagues to look at the Minutes of the AGM of 2009 again. VAN signed the Convention for the Protection of Companion Animals (WSAVA). VAN members agreed that certain procedures like tail docking and ear cropping should be discouraged.

AGM 2011

The VAN AGM of 2011 will take place on the 12th and 13th August at the Agra Conference Centre (Windhoek Show Grounds). During the course of the morning of Friday the 12th August there will be a CPD course followed by the VAN AGM in the afternoon. During the morning of

Saturday the 13th August VAN will host a strategic planning session run by a facilitator.

There will be no Veterinary Congress in Namibia this year as Cape Town is hosting the World Veterinary Congress between the 10th and 14th October 2011.

Surgical Case

A 5 month old Labrador, male, puppy was trapped on a stairway and fell from the stairs. The puppy presented with a non weight bearing lameness of the left hind limb. After clinical examination the following radiograph was taken.

- 1) Identify the fracture and describe it fully.
- 2) How would you surgically treat this fracture

Answers on page 4.



VAN

From the Presidents Desk:

Welcome to the all new improved and revitalised Manga under the capable guidance of Dr.Elvira Kleber. Many thanks to Elvira for accepting this challenge despite opening her own veterinary clinic.

Colleagues , there are many challenges facing all of us these days and hopefully this newsletter will encourage input from all of you to assist shape our future as an association .

Please take note of 2 very important issues, which are the subject of ongoing Council investigations namely:

inappropriate or illegal prescription of phenylbutazone in food producing animals

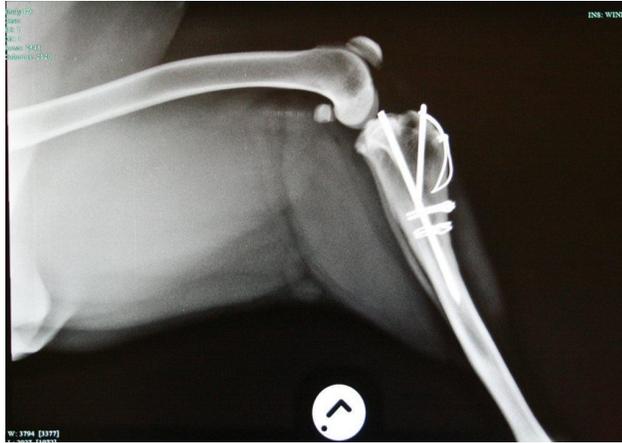
performing of veterinary procedures by non-veterinary personnel resulting in death of a patient

It is critical that all of us are up to date and familiar with all legislation that is relevant to us in the practising of our profession. To assist us all in this regard , we will present a CPD day on 12-13 August on important aspects of the new Controlled Medicines and Related Substances Act as well as information presented by Council on prescriptions and veterinary ethics. I urge all members to attend this valuable opportunity and thank our Council for their willingness to educate/remind us of our duties.

Answers Surgical Case

- 1) Proximal 1/5, complete, transverse Tibial shaft fracture. Fissure in the distal Tibia from main fracture. Tibial crest displacement
- 2) Circlage wires (2-3) to prevent split of the fissure distal Tibial shaft. Intramedullary pin of Tibia. Tibial crest stabilization with pin and figure of 8 wire. Cage rest 4-6 weeks

Surgical case presented by Dr. S Sajeni of Windhoek Veterinary Clinic



VAN continued

As a way of trying to address the current challenges our profession is and will be facing, I would also urge you to attend the Strategic Planning Session planned for the Saturday 13th August. We intend discussing a number of issues and will probably be pushed for time but it will be a start at least.

As an example of such new challenges, it now appears as though the Windhoek SPCA is actively promoting the provision of routine veterinary services such as vaccination, sterilisation and microchipping to all members of the public regardless of income and at fees which would make them guilty of severe undercutting. How we proceed on this and many other issues will come under discussion on the Saturday.

Lastly, I would urge all of you to make this Association yours by giving us input and ideas and raise your concerns about any issues important to you or our profession.

Also don't forget the WSAVA Congress in Cape Town from 10-13 October 2011! This promises to be a once in a life-time opportunity for all of us that can attend.

Best Regards

Mike Beggs