



Veterinary Association of Namibia

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

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# THE MANGA

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## Presidents Desk

Dear colleagues,

We can look back at a successful year for our Veterinary Association. After the initial organisational problems in the preparation of congress were overcome, we had a very successful congress at Heja Game Lodge near Windhoek with a record number of registrations and fantastic support from our partners in industry. Financially the congress was also a great success. We also had very positive responses on the high quality of lectures presented at congress.

The record numbers of participating veterinarians and nurses at our various CPD events during this year also proved to us the increasing interest of colleagues in CPD. I request all colleagues, to send us proposals for lecturers and subjects for CPD and for congress 2014 to our secretary.

We welcome Dr Sandra Götte as a new member on VAN Exco – all other elected Exco members were re-elected. At our first Exco meeting after congress, Sandra was appointed as our new VAN Secretary – we wish Sandra a successful time on Exco and appreciate that she is willing to face the challenges ahead.

The discussions with the NAU on the project proposal to investigate the prevalence of Trichomoniasis and Campylobacteriosis and their impact on the cattle industry are ongoing. We are also discussing possibilities on the control of these two diseases and various control measures to decrease the incidence.

With a good start into the rainy season in most parts of the country, we wish all our colleagues a peaceful festive season, a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

*Anselm Voigts*



# VAN Congress 2013

This years Congress was held on the 6-8th November. The Congress took place at Heja Game Lodge just outside Windhoek.

There was a wide variety of topics offered which included small animal cardiology and nephrology, diseases transmitted by fleas, zoonoses, nutritional survey in northern communal areas, Anthrax and Rabies. Most of the lecturers were from Veterinary Faculties, including South Africa, Tanzania and UNAM. There were also a few local speakers that shared their knowledge with their Namibian colleagues, like Dr. Axel Rothauge, Dr. Ulf Tubbesing and Dr. Rainer Hassel.



All in all it was a very successful Congress. The venue was very good with ample space for the lectures and the exhibition of the various companies. All the tea times , lunches and dinners were held at the lodge.

VAN wants to thank all the colleagues for their attendance. A record number of 72 veterinarians attended this years Congress. And most veterinarians stayed right until the last lecture.

VAN wants to encourage its members to please comment on the Congress. Either to the VAN Secretary (Dr. S Goette secretary@van.org.na) or Manga editor (elvirasvetpractice@gmail.com). Any feedback will be appreciated. Topic suggestions for next years Congress are also welcome.



# Personal

Congratulations to Dr. Nadine Scholz on the birth of her son Florian.



# New VAN Members

Veterinary Association of Namibia would like to welcome its new members:

Dr. Kornelia Kandjumbwa (CVL)

Dr. Miachaela-Maria Tubbesing

Dr. Cherie Grobler (State Vet Keetmanshoop)

Dr. B Chiwome

# Snippets

Cape town will host WSAVA Congress 16-19 September 2014. Check out the VAN website for more information (especially about the early bird registrations). The weekend after that Congress (20-21 September 2014), Dr. Neil Forbes will give a CPD in Windhoek about cage bird medicine and surgery.

# RABIES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN KATUTURA

September is the month of World Rabies Day and in Namibia it is the month that we usually do our vaccination campaign across the country.



## RABIES (OMUTJISE UORUNDUMBA)

Rabies is a disease of mammals that affects the brain and spinal cord, it is also a zoonosis. Rabies is caused by a virus that is transmitted through a bite from an infected animal to a non-infected animal. The disease is found throughout the country.

It has been reported that every year, 55 000 people die from rabies and most of the affected population are the children, every 10 minutes there is a person that dies from rabies in the world and what is fascinating is that the disease can be prevented.

The disease has been known to be classified into two forms in Namibia; namely rabies occurring in the Northern part of Namibia, North of Veterinary Cordon Fence of which predominantly found in the dog population and usually human beings are at risk of getting the disease; rabies occurring in Southern part of Namibia, South of Veterinary Cordon Fence of which predominantly found in jackals and kudus, no human cases reported.

The clinical signs of Rabies are: the infected animal will be aggressive towards human beings even the owner or it will have change of behaviour, the animal will be salivating, game animals will not fear human beings and will be seen coming into homesteads, the animal will press its head against object or will walk as if its blind, not able to drink water or fear of water (hydrophobia), the affected animal will die within one to two weeks of infection. For proper diagnosis of the disease, the head of the dead animal must be brought to the nearby veterinary offices, brain sample will be collected and send to the laboratory.



There is no treatment of the disease but it can be prevented. The picture above shows how the vaccination is being administered. Dogs and cats are vaccinated for the first time when they are 3 months old and thereafter a second injection is given at 6 months old and thereafter injected annually.

People that have come in direct contact with the infected animals must go to the nearby clinic or hospital for post exposure prophylaxis.

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> year the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry under the Directorate of Veterinary Services does contact a vaccination campaign in Windhoek in order to reduce the occurrence of the disease within the pets population. This year, the vaccination campaign was conducted as from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September until the 28<sup>th</sup> of September and about 10 000 pets were vaccinated especially in the outskirts of the town. Various stations were placed strategically in Windhoek as points for the vaccination and people brought their dogs and cats for the vaccination as shown in the picture below.

## **DR MESUNAE KAATURA – STATE VETERINARIAN- KHOMAS REGION**

