



Veterinary Association of Namibia

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OF THE VET-
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ASSOCIA-
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Presidents Desk

Dear colleagues,

The theme for World Veterinary Day 2014 was ANIMAL WELFARE. We as Veterinarians have a core mandate in Animal Welfare. This should play a major role in our professional lives, no matter in which field of veterinary science we are working. A veterinarian should be dedicated to the benefit of society, the conservation of animal resources and the relief of suffering of animals and to promote animal wellbeing. The veterinary community in general, and veterinarians individually must maintain our commitment to animal welfare and fulfil our duties as animal advocates and leaders in the field of welfare, while recognizing the concepts of one health and the multidisciplinary nature of animal welfare.

An animal is in a good state of welfare if it is healthy, comfortable and well nourished, safe and able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress. We as veterinarians must have a sound understanding of pain and stress relief and the implementation of good standards in veterinary practice to support better animal welfare. The veterinary profession must play an active role in disease prevention and veterinary medical treatment, in the advice for appropriate shelter and shade, good management, proper nutrition, free access to clean and suitable water at all times, humane handling and transportation of animals and humane killing.

The veterinary profession also plays a very important role in educating and informing the public at large about good animal welfare practices, and to influence the policy makers to further protect and improve animal welfare legislation.

Amidst the WVA call for Animal Welfare we have 2 serious animal welfare issues within our Namibian wildlife. The ongoing fear that the alarming high incidence of rhino poaching in South Africa may spill over into Namibia has become an appalling reality with the recent killing of 2 rhinos on Dr. Ulf Tubbesing's farm near Windhoek and the conviction of foreigners with a large number of rhino horns from Namibian sources. We trust that our authorities take these criminal actions very serious and that everything possible is done to stop the rhino poaching.

VAN recently circulated an important circular on the "African Vulture Crisis". Most of our vultures are already on the endangered species list and may be extinct in the near future if no serious steps are taken. From the veterinary profession it is imperative that we take note of the list of drugs which are lethal or unsafe for vultures, if present in a carcass – almost everything except Antibiotics and Meloxicam. We must keep this in mind at all times and very importantly educate the public on proper disposal of any carcass which received medical treatment before.

I urge all veterinarians to contribute to the conservation of our wildlife heritage wherever possible to preserve all species for future generations.

Anselm Voigts

CPD

CPD ON AVIAN MEDICINE AS IT RELATES TO PET BIRDS

SPONSORED BY THE WORLD SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

Date: 20th & 21st September 2014

Venue: CVL, Windhoek

This CPD is part of the outreach program of the WSAVA to get companion animal medicine into African countries. It is generously sponsored by the WSAVA. It is only through their support possible to get the renowned Avian Specialist Dr Neil Forbes from the UK to come and lecture for us in Namibia.

Dr. Neil Forbes leads the team at 'Great Western Exotics', a well-known referral practice in the UK. He qualified at the RVC in 1983 with a 1st class honours degree, gained his RCVS Specialist in 1992 and his FRCVS in Exotic Bird Medicine in 1996 as well as his European Recognized Specialist Diploma in 1997. He has received numerous awards and has written and published widely and lectured at many international conferences worldwide.

This CPD is eligible for 8 CPD points

Provisional Program:

Saturday, 20.09.2014

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 12h30 – 13h00 | Registration |
| 13h00 – 13h05 | Opening |
| 13h05 – 15h05 | Introduction to Avian Medicine, diagnostics and anaesthesia |
| 15h10 – 16h10 | Radiology |
| | Teatime |
| 16h40 - 18h10 | Clinical pathology including practical WBC counting in practice |
| 18h15 - 19h15 | Avian Dermatology |
| 20h00 | Dinner (at own cost) |

Sunday, 21.09.2014

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 08h00 – 10h00 | Nutrition of parrots and raptors |
| | Teatime |
| 10h30 – 12h00 | Behavioural issues in parrots including feather plucking |
| | Finger lunch |
| 12h30 – 14h00 | Approach to the avian respiratory case |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Registration Fee: | VAN members – N\$ 900.00 |
| | Non-members – N\$ 1,500.00 including tea and lunch |

Please send the completed registration form **before 29th August** by e-mail to secretary@van.org.na or fax to **0886 25072** with **proof of payment**.

Payment must be done into the following account:

Veterinary Association of Namibia

Nedbank Namibia – Branch: Independence Avenue Code: 461 038

Account Nr.: 1101 000 5355

Please insert your Name and Surname as reference for ALL bank deposits

The Namibian Veterinary Council (NVC) and VAN will be hosting an information day about the Rules and Regulations of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act as soon as the Rules have been published.

Reminder of the VAN Congress taking place 22-24 October in Swakopmund this year , with emphasis on animal welfare.

Snippets

The Regulations of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act (1 of 2013) have been published and are available in print..

The Rules are in process and should be available soon. And thus a new committee of the Namibian Veterinary Council will have to be elected, which also includes two Para-Veterinary professionals.

Namibia has entered into a twinning program on animal welfare with Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e Molise (IZSAM), Teramo, Italy. One of the suggested specific needs for our country for the twinning program is education and awareness. Namibia will greatly benefit from Italy's experience and expertise in maintaining good animal welfare standards in the country. The twinning program with the Italian Institute (IZC) and the University of Pretoria is at an advanced stage.

The Meatboard of Namibia has sponsored a perception survey study on animal welfare as well as the drafting of an animal welfare policy. This undertaking has started end of March and will run concurrently with a study on the inclusion of animal welfare in school and tertiary education to be sponsored by WSPA (World Society for Protection of Animals, regional office Nairobi).

Namibian Agricultural Union: At a meeting about Trichomonas and Campylobacter it was decided to aim at control on all movements of bulls-they must be tested for Trichomonas and a compulsory vaccination for Campylobacter before movement. The aim is the control of the two diseases in the country. There are trial pipettes for sampling of bulls sheath scrapings from the USA. A questionnaire for the private practitioners would help get a statistic of the Namibian situation.

Unusual finding in an Oryx (*Oryx gazella*)

On 1 April 2014 Mr D J Voigts from Okaparakaha no. 514 in Khomas district presented an oryx head. He found three dead oryx on his farm. On the 31 March 2014 he found three live oryx, which according to him were sick with no abnormal salivation, but very tame. At around 19h00 the same day he shot from the three sick oryx an old cow in very poor body condition. The test requested by the owner was rabies. Brain stem was scooped out and subjected for rabies diagnosis. Rabies virus was excluded by FAT (Fluorescence Antibody Test) and IMP (Immuno-Peroxidase).

When rabies was excluded we decided to remove the brain completely. In the process of opening the skull we discovered an adult round worm in the subdural cavity. This was obviously my first time to discover a round worm on top of the brain.

As usual when I have difficult questions regarding veterinary science I have a special consultant, Dr Rainer Hassel. I forwarded the pictures I took to him. You all know what day 1 April is each year. I received a phone call from Dr Hassel the following day and his first words were “*I know yesterday was a fools day*” I was confused for a while and my reply was “What do you mean?”, so he asked “Do you want me to believe the pictures you sent me”. I responded by saying those pictures are for real.

We also opened the nasal cavity only to discover more findings of 5 live mature nasal bots.

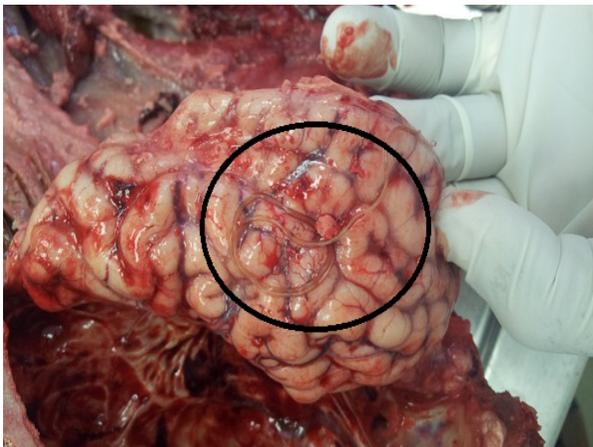
Brain tissue samples were sent for Histopathology and the adult round worm for Identification.

Results

Histopath findings: A moderate generalized microgliosis was observed with multifocal microglial cell aggregates present throughout the white and grey matter. The changes observed in the brain are non-specific.

PARASITE IDENTIFICATION: The single female is identified as *Setaria thwaiti* (Nematoda: Onchocercidae).

The diagnosis of this particular Oryx was meningeal setariosis with nasal bots infestation in the nasal cavity and sinuses



Adult single round worm (Nematoda) visible in the black circle.



Single female is identified as *Setaria thwaiti* (Nematoda: Onchocercidae)

Two still alive mature nasal bots at the time the picture taken.



was

There was a report about meningeal setariosis on two cases in antelopes by Basson, P.A.,* Kruger, S.P.,** McCully, R.M.* And Van Niekerk, J.W.**, Year of Publication-1966

Meningeal setariosis of two species of antelopes in Southern Africa is reported.

1) Waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus* (Ogilby, 1833)). *Artionema labiato-papillosa* (Perroncito, 1882) Yeh, 1959 was found in the subdural cavity in association with eosinophilic cerebrospinal pachymeningitis.

2) Gemsbuck (*Oryx gazella* (Linnaeus, 1758)).

One specimen of *Artionema hornbyi* (Boulenger, 1921) Yeh, 1959 was recovered from the subdural cavity without any related lesions.

There were also studies made on the genus *Setaria* Viborg, 1795 in South Africa. III. *Setaria thwaiti* Mönnig, 1933. by WATERMEYER, R., BOOMKER, J. & PUTTERILL, J.F. 2004. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research*, 71:107-111

DR. MED. VET. SIEGFRIED KHAISEB