



Veterinary Association of Namibia

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
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Editor: Dr Andrea Klingelhoefter
secretary@van.org.na

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President's Desk



The year 2022 started with a bang, and it never stopped gaining momentum, it feels like the year just started and it is already on its head.

WHAT A YEAR, it feels like absolute madness. Well, there are two ways this can be allowed to continue, take 2 minutes. I know that sounds like a lot to ask, but take those minutes and decide on the last project ahead, is it going to be finished this year or are you rushing

yourself. If it is worth going for then GO FOR IT, there is enough time in the month left so make it a success. BUT. If it isn't going anywhere then rather plan it properly and take your time, even if it's behind schedule, make it beautiful.

We ended up with a very small but powerful EXCO this year. We had the first Congress in 2 years and we can say with pride that we had one of the biggest turnouts for Industry this year! Each of them so willing and able to share their stock and trade and make it possible for us to even have the Congress. It felt refreshing to again be able to walk amongst their stalls. We all had a wonderful 3 days of Congress with truly excellent lecturers and we are so pleased that it was such a success.

Stand strong for these last breaths of 2022. And may the festive season ahead be one full of Joy and Love.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead VAN this year. I am looking forward to another year ahead.

-Dr Theuns Laubscher- VAN President

VAN NEWS



The New Executive Committee

Introducing new and old committee members for 2023:

Dr Theuns Laubscher (President, NMRC)

Dr Lyndsay Scott (Vice President and CPD Coordinator)

Dr Andrea Klingelhoefter (Secretary)

Dr Saskia Stam (Industry Coordinator)

Dr Cveta Pudar (UNAM, WVA)

Dr Shalom Phiri (WSAVA, Rabies and Welfare)

Dr Olebile Olibile (AHF, Rabies)

Dr Christian Lichtenberg (NMRC)

Dr Philip Groenewald (Treasurer)

The EXCO of 2022 wish you a Merry Christmas!



VAN CONGRESS 2022



The Industry Hall was beautifully set up.



During a lecture by Dr Wilco Botha at the Swakopmund Plaza Hotel.



A unique and delicious biscuit from MSD



First evening function at the BlueGrass Restaurant.



Cveta Pudar and Saskia Stam (with baby Rachel)



*Simon Nambinga, Cveta Pudar, Puna Kaurivi
Kazapua, Israel Amuthitu*



Second evening function at Altstadt Restaurant. The atmosphere was fantastic!



A Hedgehog Spay

By Dr Theuns Laubscher

The clinic received a call from someone outside Windhoek with a Madagascar Tenrec (hedgehog).

Although these animals are not seen frequently in Namibia because of the smaller exotic animal trade, they are quite popular in South Africa as pets. They are insectivores.

Most often an owner might never notice any signs of estrus, however this female was about 3 years old and she had had vaginal bleeding for more or less 3 months according to the owner. We suspected most probably prolonged estrus or cystic ovaries.

Clinically she was still doing fine, severely overweight as many of these domesticated exotics are and eating and drinking well. The owner wanted her to be spayed because the workup done by another vet confirmed prolonged estrus with advice that the treatment with the lowest risk would be an ovariohysterectomy. The owner drove to Windhoek one Friday and on presentation an ultrasound scan confirmed cystic ovaries with a thickened uterine mucosa.

The decision was then made to spay the patient. She was induced and maintained on isoflurane and meloxicam was used for pain management and TMPS as antibiotic.

The ovariohysterectomy was performed by ventral midline incision and proceeded very similar to the surgery of a cat. The uterus was inflamed and when incised showed endometrial hyperplasia. The decision to perform the spay was definitely the correct one for the health of the tenrec as she recovered excellently.

The reason I share this case is because I want to encourage private vets all over Namibia to attempt spays and neuters on these pet animals because it is worth it for the animal's health. In cases where rodents like rabbits are kept together, for example two female rabbits that have conflict, it is better to spay at least one of them. It is an easy enough surgery for any vet to feel comfortable to perform it.



WSAVA Congress 2022 in Peru

By Dr Theuns Laubscher



The WSAVA Congress which was held in Peru this year was the 47th Global Congress held by WSAVA. I had the privilege to attend this year as a VAN representative for the first time in many years. It was a show to behold. I heard one organiser say that there were about 3000 delegates. Compared to our special 80 that seems unimaginable.

There were 9 lecture halls, some bigger, some smaller. Each hall had a lecture and topic being discussed ALL AT THE SAME TIME. You had to make a difficult decision every 45 minutes as to where you were running next. Every 45 minutes a new lecture would start and every 1.5 hours there would be some snacks in the industry hall, for 4 full days. All the way full.

Some of those lectures were only in Spanish and you would think that those would be removed from the smorgasbord of choices, but NO, then they offer live translators for those lectures that you can listen to quietly by yourself while the lecturer is sharing their knowledge in front of the class.

The proceedings started with a social at a beer garden where everyone mixed and mingled (less than 50 of the 3000) and it seemed like you quickly became friends with like-minded people.

There were some South Africans around. Dr Kurt de Cramer shared knowledge about reproduction in small animals and a kinship could be felt to Africa making the world proud.

Topics discussed ranged from feline dermatology (one whole day of it) - to infectious diseases world-wide. A total of 9 lecture halls, 8 lectures per day and 3 days is = 216 lectures.

It was an eye opening experience.

The world of Lima Peru, reminds me a lot of a clean Johannesburg that speaks no English. The lack of English was definitely the most difficult part of the travel, but the friendliness and the helpfulness of the people made it a worthwhile destination.



Contact Us

We would love to hear from you!

Have an interesting case, story or pictures to share with us?

Please send them secretary@van.org.na



Me going to get a patient .

WALKING
BACK TO MY
COMPUTER BECAUSE
I ALREADY
FORGOT THEIR NAME
