



Veterinary Association of Namibia

OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER
OF THE
VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION
OF NAMIBIA

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PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear VAN members,

As 2024 is coming to a close, I would like to thank you all for supporting VAN!

To those who joined the CPDs and Annual Scientific Congress - thank you, it was great seeing you all there. A special thanks to all Exco members who have helped make this a success!

I also want to thank all our members for your efforts around World Rabies Day -it is greatly appreciated!

I hope that you can spend time with your loved ones and rest a bit before the new year starts!

We have lots of things planned for the next year and are looking forward to sharing these ideas with you soon!

Have a blessed Christmas and rain-filled 2025!

All the best,

Alexandra Marko,

VAN President



VAN NEWS



The EXCO for 2025:

- Dr Alexandra Marko: Chairperson and Council Representative
- Dr Cveta Pudar: Vice-President & WVA rep
- Dr Vincent Sevenster: Treasurer and UNAM rep
- Dr Andrea Klingelhoefter: Secretary and Manga Newsletter
- Dr Jolandie van der Westhuizen: Industry rep, Rabies Activities rep
- Dr Shalom Phiri: WSAVA rep, Animal Welfare Committee
- Dr Clemens Lichtenberg: Animal Health Forum
- Dr Kristen Rajzman: CPD Coordinator
- Dr Hubertus Otto: Animal Health Forum

Welcome to the new committee members– Clemens, Kristen and Hubertus. We are excited to have you as part of the team!

A big thank-you to the previous committee members—Chanel van der Merwe, Olebile Olibile and Christian Lichtenberg- for all their hard work and valuable contributions!



Dr Vincent Sevenster (Photo: Shalom Phiri)



Alexandra Marko, Cveta Pudar, Andrea Klingelhoefter and Shalom Phiri



Dr Chanel van der Merwe




An interesting read on companion animal veterinary medicine and it's challenges and opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa:

<https://wsava.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/The-State-of-Companion-Animal-Veterinary-Practice-FINAL.pdf>

Plans for 2025

Exciting news:

As you know the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) as well as the African Small Companion Animal Network (AFSCAN) have supported our VAN congress and hence also paid for the small animal lecture recordings, which will be made available to AFSCAN member countries during the "AFSCAN Virtual Congress 2025"

in January and February 2025.

Thanks to the support of Hills, the Hills-sponsored lectures will be available too.

All VAN Congress 2024 attendees will have free access to these lectures, which will be streamed via Zoom every Wednesday and Thursday evening 20h00 GMT+2 from Wednesday 22nd January 2025 till

Wednesday 19th February 2025.

So, if you have missed a few details during the congress lectures, you can listen to those once more.

VAN members who have not attended the 2024 VAN Congress: N\$100 per lecture or N\$650 bundle rate

Non-VAN members: N\$200 per lecture, or N\$1300 bundle rate



**"Lifelong Learning"-
Become the
vet your
patients need**

2025 Calendar

22nd January– 19th of February: AFSCAN Virtual Congress

March/April: Livestock CPD Weekend

29th of March: Prof Schoeman CPD

21-22 June: Small Animal CPD Weekend– Emergency & Critical Care Medicine

20-22 November: Annual Scientific Congress 2025

VAN ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS 2024

This year's Congress took place at the MTC Dome in Swakopmund again. We had amazing participation by 121 attendees, including AFSCAN delegates from Kenya, Angola, Burundi, Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, South Africa and Slovakia.

Same as last year, the first day of Congress was allocated to public health and production animals.

Speakers included Dr Reinhold Haimbodi, Dr Jolandie van der Westhuizen, Dr Lee-Monique Anderson, Dr Magrencia Hausiku, Dr Vistorina Benhard, Prof Dietmar Holm, Ian Peter Busuulwa and Dr Tom Tolmay.

On the second day, Hills sponsored a four hour stream with Dr Brandan Wustefeld-Janssens, a specialist surgical oncologist.

Dr Johan Marais, specialist equine and wildlife surgeon followed with 3 hours of lectures.

The last day of Congress was dedicated to the BSAVA Prof Michael Day Stream with an amazing array of speakers including Dr Remo Lobetti, Dr Martin de Scally, and Dr Johan Marais.

The day was wrapped up with research presentations by Dr Lourens de Villiers and final year UNAM students.

The evening function was held at the Swakopmund Hotel & Entertainment Centre.

Dr Vincent Sevenster broke the ice by starting the event with a quiz night.

Thank you to all of our amazing sponsors, without whom Congress would not be possible:

BSAVA, AFSCAN, Hills Pet Nutrition, Auas Vet Med, Design Biologix, DiagSA, Hipra, Vtech, Idexx Laboratories, MSD Animal Health, Zoetis, Swavet, Namib Laboratories, Virbac, Vetsfocus, Westmed, Montego, Vetplus International, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health South Africa, Kyron, Dogsense, Strategic Marketing and Corporate Guarantee!



Industry sponsors introducing themselves on the first day (Photo: Alexandra Marko)



Photos: Shalom Phiri



Ian Peter Busulwa lecturing on Bioterrorism Dr Remo Lobetti

Dr Johan Marais

(Photos: Alexandra Marko)



Dr Gabriel Varga and Alexandra Marko
(Photo: Vincent Sevenster)

Dr Brandan Wustefeld-Janssens

Dr Vincent Sevenster
hosting the quiz



Photos: Shalom Phiri



Lauren and Martin de Scally, Remo Lobetti, Gabriel Varga, Kevin Stevens, Gill Koller, Ana Cristina Oliveira and Alexandra Marko (Photos: Andrea Klingelhoefter)



Drs Diethardt Rodenwoldt, Franz Klein, Arnold Olivier and Tom Tolmay



Drs Utaara Murangi, Muesee Kasaona and Trevor Nzehengwa

Industry Prize-giving



Montego with Kristen Rajzman (Photos: Alexandra Marko)



Christiane Smith (Hills) with Paaka Kapimbua



Swavet with Mercelin Gawanas



Hipra with Jaco Brink



A Christmas Story Excerpt from James

Herriot's "Let Sleeping Vets Lie"

Chapter 16, pages 154-163

Due to copyright protections, this story was only distributed for entertainment purposes to VAN members and will not be published publicly.



Veterinary Association of Namibia

VAN

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CONTACT US

We would love to hear from you!

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

Please send them to:

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Merry Christmas!