



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

### From the President's Desk



We are now going into our third year as a selected member country of phase I of the AFSCAN project. The African Small Companion Animal Network is an initiative of the WSAVA Foundation under the very capable leadership of Dr Gabriel Varga.

This year Namibia is honoured to be the host of the AFSCAN board meeting, followed by the AFSCAN board and ambassador strategic planning meeting. Both meetings will be held in Swakopmund just prior to our annual scientific congress on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October. The AFSCAN board and ambassadors will subsequently attend our congress from 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October.

It is through AFSCAN that we are able to have Dr Remo Lobetti, an AFSCAN board member, and Dr Greg Irvine-Smith as our main speakers at congress. Remo is already well known to many of us. He is a small companion animal specialist physician in private practice in South Africa. Greg is a well-known specialist surgeon, also in private practice in South Africa. Both colleagues are well known as excellent speakers. Together with many other well-known speakers this promises to be a congress of excellent quality.

This years congress will be dominated by small companion animal medicine and surgery, but we will also present interesting and important large animal lectures – last years congress was almost exclusively wild life and large animals.

AFSCAN's initiative facilitates capacity building in the African veterinary community to enhance quality in small companion animal medicine with a One Health perspective.

The very intensive Rabies Eradication Campaign running currently in the NCA (see article in this edition of the MANGA) fits totally into the AFSCAN Mission. We will also get reports on this campaign at our congress. The engagement and commitment of the teams running this campaign is exemplary and we wish them all the success which we envisage. Rabies is 100% fatal and 100% preventable – therefore we strive for a 100% eradication of rabies in Namibia.

*Anselm Voigts*

# Rabies Control Pilot Project, Oshana

The vaccination campaign for the Rabies Control Pilot Project which was launched by the Hon. Anna Shiweda, Deputy Minister for The Ministry of Agriculture Water and forestry on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2016, started off on the 02/05/2016 after a delay with one week due to the unavailability of vaccine. The first week covered the Ondangwa urban constituency.

The Rabies Control Project is co-funded by the Government of the republic of Namibia using recurrent budget and donor funds from Federal Government of German administered through the OIE. The Rabies Control Project will run for three years while the pilot project is for one year. After a one year period the project will be evaluated and once successful will be rolled out to the rest of the hotspot regions in the NCA, then thereafter to the rest of Namibia.

## **The Donor funds cover the following areas:**

Rabies vaccine

Training

Diagnostic

There are certain levels of flexibility which can be considered through a strong motivation. Handling equipments were procured through donor funds following a strong motivation.

## **The Project has one main objective:**

To demonstrate a marked reduction of canine rabies cases in a definable pilot area, Oshana region, as a result of mass vaccination, rabies surveillance and response, community education and awareness over a period of 12 months. This can be achieved with a 70% or more vaccination coverage of pets, especially dogs of which the estimated figures from 2014 census are 12 000 pets. Such coverage has been proven to demonstrate adequate herd/population immunity.

## **The project has seven sub-objectives with several activities under each, namely:**

Objective 1: Increase education and awareness of Rabies

Objective 2: Increase vaccination coverage of pets to at least 70%

Objective 3: Stray pets management

Objective 4: Promote surveillance and case response

Objective 5: Inter-regional coordination

Objective 6: Strengthening inter-sectoral coordination

Objective 7: Project review

## **The project is being implemented through the following structure:**

National coordinator- Dr. Rauna Athingo (State veterinarian, Oshana Region)

Epidemiology coordinator- Dr. Immanuel Hikufe (Chief Veterinarian for Epidemiology Division)

Education coordinator- Dr. Pricilla Mbiri ( State veterinarian- public health, Oshakati abattoir)

Education Coordinator Assistant- Mr M Shambwila (Control animal health technician, NW subdivision)

Seven AHT from the seven regions in the NCA who are team leaders

26 casual labourers employed as vaccinators, data collectors and dog catchers.

Seven staff from public health of which 4 are surveyors and 3 educators

The project has three components to feed the main objective and sub-objectives of the project. These components are carried out concurrently namely;

Rabies mass vaccination of pets (dogs and cats),

Community education and awareness and

Survey

#### **Training of staff**

Training of staff took place the 12-14 April 2016 at Ekamuti Lodge, Ondangwa. Main trainers were Dr. Johann Kotze, a Veterinarian by profession and Mr. Daniel Stewarts with special knowledge in animal behaviour and animal handling. The trainers were sourced out from South Africa who has successfully implemented their Rabies project in a province in SA. The training agenda items focused on rabies clinical signs, campaign management and design, surveillance, dog population control, Rabies basic epidemiology, dog behaviour, dog bite preventions, dog welfare, capture methods and handling of capture equipment. The project overview was done by Dr. Rauna Athingo, Project coordinator. Dr. Immanuel Hikufe, a Chief Veterinarian for Epidemiology, presented the Rabies trends in Namibia. Dr. Juliet Kabajani presented on diagnostics with emphasis on proper sampling, proper samples packaging and shipments and personal protection when sampling.

#### **Vaccination Campaign**

There are seven vaccinating teams of five staff members, two survey teams of two staff members and three educational teams of one on the ground. All participating staff received pre-exposure rabies vaccination weeks before training.

The vaccination campaign is planned for 6-8 weeks and booster campaign 6 months later. The campaign is being carried out per constituency which will allow good coordination of activities and vaccination coverage. The Oshana region has 11 constituencies.

Dr. Johann Kotze was tasked by OIE to oversee the project take off for a period of 4 days. With him were 2 volunteers from the Vetforchange organisation, one from UK and the other from Germany. They donated three megaphones on behalf of their organisation.

#### **Stakeholder meetings**

Being one of the sub-objectives of the project, a number of stakeholder meetings as they are identified in the rabies strategy document were contacted prior campaign. The aim of these engagements is to sensitize the stakeholder about the rabies control pilot project, get inputs on how they will contribute to the success of the project and seek collaboration in engaging the public.

#### **Donations to the project**

The following companies and individuals donated to the rabies project.

Veterinary Association of Namibia (VAN) donated 7600 multiple certificates

Shoprite donated vouchers to the value of N\$10 000.00 (food items for staff in the campaign)

Oshakati Pharmacy under the management of Mr. Piet Williams donated 10 000 needles, 100 2cc syringes and 100 ice packs.

Ondangwa Farmers Market under the management of Mr. Otto donated 35 \*10kg maize meal to the value of N\$ 3000.00.

A family of Tatekulu Asser Lamek from Ongwediva constituency donated a goat to the project.

The Vetforchange, a non profit international organization based in UK, donated three megaphones which are battery operated to the value of N\$2000.00.

The project management highly appreciates the good gesture made with the aim of combining efforts towards rabies eradication in Namibia.

We call upon every Namibian citizen to take responsibility in the fight to end rabies in Namibia.

**Report compiled by Dr. Rauna Athingo**



This responsible young citizen did his part by making sure that his friend is vaccinated and marked as prescribed.



Hon. John Mutorwa with the rest of the rabies team.



Dr Karen Schwabenbauer, explaining the techniques as well as the importance of rabies vaccination to the audiences who are mainly learners from local schools.

## New Van Members

- 1) Dr. Mariette Beukes, qualified at Onderstepoort, working at Windhoek Animal Hospital
- 2) Dr. Valeria Andreeva, qualified St. Petersburg, working at Pride Vet Clinic
- 3) Dr. Saara Sunday Uusiku, qualified Tanzania, currently an intern veterinarian (her studies were supported by a VAN bursary)
- 4) Dr. Mxolisi Moyo, qualified in Zimbabwe, working as a state vet
- 5) Dr. Basiamisi Victor Ernest Segwagwe, qualified in Zimbabwe, masters done in Australia, working at the University of Namibia
- 6) Dr. Vistorina Benhard, qualified in Zambia, working as a state vet
- 7) Dr. Reinhold Haimbodi, qualified in Cuba, working as a state vet

# VAN News

Dear Members of the Veterinary Association of Namibia

Thank you for taking the time to read this mail, it contains important information and it may be a good idea to print it and keep it in an easily accessible place for your reference.

## **Membership Details, Fees and Banking Details**

BANKING DETAILS HAVE CHANGED to the following: First National Bank, Ausspannplatz (280272), Account nr. 62256015465

Please state your Initials and Surname as reference on any payments.

Please send the proof of payment to [bookkeeper@van.org.na](mailto:bookkeeper@van.org.na)

Membership to the VAN runs from 1 July to 30 June the following year.

Membership fees are invoiced on 1 July (and are payable by 30 September) for membership until 30 June the next year.

Please be advised that membership fees will be invoiced every year to each member on record and payment will remain the responsibility of the member concerned.

**If a member wishes to terminate his / her membership, then this must be communicated to the VAN secretary in writing ([secretary@van.org.na](mailto:secretary@van.org.na)).** Failure to do so will result in yearly invoices being generated and payable by the member.

Any terminated membership will not be re-instated unless a new application is received and approved.

If written termination of membership is received and confirmed by the secretary between the date of invoice (e.g. 1 July '16) and the date of fees payable (e.g. 30 September '16), then the member will not need to pay for membership of that following year (e.g. July '16 – June '17) and the vet / para veterinarian will no longer be a member until a new application is received and approved again.

## **WSAVA / WCEA Online CPD Website and Login Steps**

All VAN members have been sent emails (around 9 & 10 March) containing a link to the VAN Online Education Portal registration page. If you have not received this email, it means that your email address on record is incorrect. Please send an email to [secretary@van.org.na](mailto:secretary@van.org.na) with your correct correspondence email address as well as your name, surname and Veterinary Council number (e.g. 99/123). If you have received this email, but cancelled the registration process prematurely due to being unsure about CPD details in Namibia, please follow the link again and complete the registration with the following information in mind.

CPD categories are “structured” (at least 20 points per 3 year cycle) and “non structured,” maximum of 40 points per 3 year cycle. You can change any details at any time in the future by going into your profile tab, Namibia’s first CPD cycle commenced on 1 April 2014 and the declaration date is during March each year.

Once you are registered on this Portal, you will be able to visit the online CPD content by going to <http://van.wcea.education/> (save this in your browser). This portal allows VAN Members access to currently more than 900 online CPD talks / webinars / courses. Most of the courses are free, and as VAN is a member of WSAVA, all of the payable courses are offered at a highly reduced fee. The courses are constantly updated and the portal keeps a track of your progress. It also allows you to add certificates obtained from other CPD events and you can print out your log once a year and use it to fill in your VCN CPD points log form.

## **Vetfolio / Vetstream /Vetlexicon Online Website and Login Steps**

Through VAN's affiliation / association with AFSCAN (the African Small Companion Animal Network) our members are given the opportunity to obtain subscriptions to Vetstream's Vetlexicon for Canis and Felis. This is at no direct charge to members, per se, and allows access to a comprehensive, peer-reviewed digital library providing 'point of care' information for the veterinary treatment of dogs and cats.

To set up your access, please go to [www.vetstream.com/register/AFSCANCF](http://www.vetstream.com/register/AFSCANCF) and complete Create Account with your details. You will then receive an email asking you to confirm your email address.

**Please note that we do need you to respond to the above-mentioned email confirming your email address within 30 minutes of receipt.** This is to confirm that the person registering is not a bot-spammer. Once your registration is complete you can login at <http://www.vetstream.com/login>. Please save these to your browser.

The Veterinary Association of Namibia trusts that you find the above information useful

Yours sincerely



Dr Adriaan Adank for VAN's Executive Committee

## Foot And Mouth Information Day

The Veterinary Association of Namibia hosted a FMD information day on the 10th of June. The response of the veterinarians was overwhelming. 60 vets registered for this course. The venue was changed from Central Vet Lab to the Agra Ring at the show grounds due to the amount of participants. We had many state vet speakers ( Drs. Milton Maseke, Alec Bishi, Siegfried Khaiseb, Umberto Molini and Frank Chitate) who informed the vets about their experience of the 2015 outbreak. Mr. Esegel Serogwe talked about FAN meat system and traceability. Dr. Gavin Thomson and Dr. Mokganedi Mokopasetso (Botswana Vaccine Institute) were the international experts on this topic.

A special thanks goes out to the sponsors: Botswana Vaccine Institute (sponsored Dr. Mokopasetso and financial sponsorship) and Meat Board (sponsored Dr. Thomson)



At the registration desk: Dr Adriaan Adank

**Dr Anja Boshoff** and Mrs Christiane Hass



The day was well attended by private and by state veterinarians; it was attended by young and by pensioned vets.

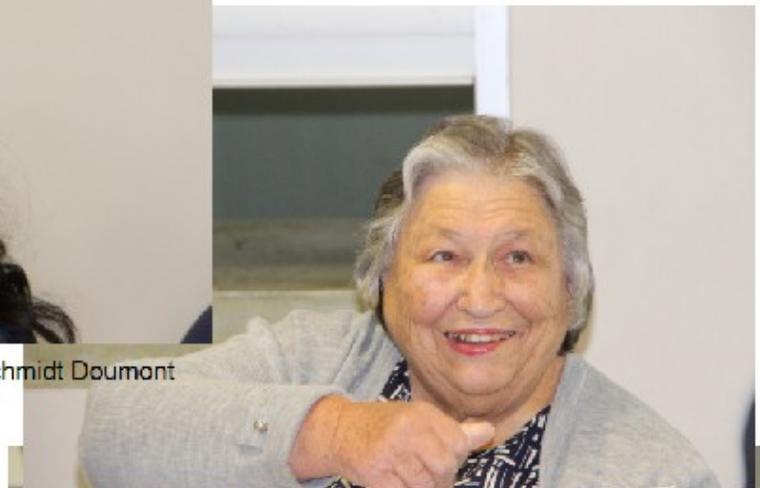


Top: Dr Jessey Kamwi Right: Dr Ada Schmidt Doumont

Bottom: Dr Elvira Kleber

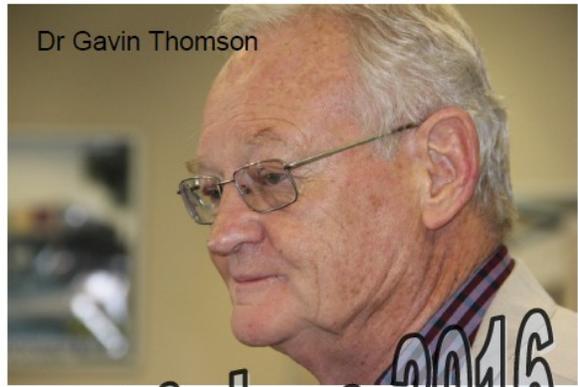
Right bottom: Dr Frans Joubert and

Dr Diethard Rodenwoldt



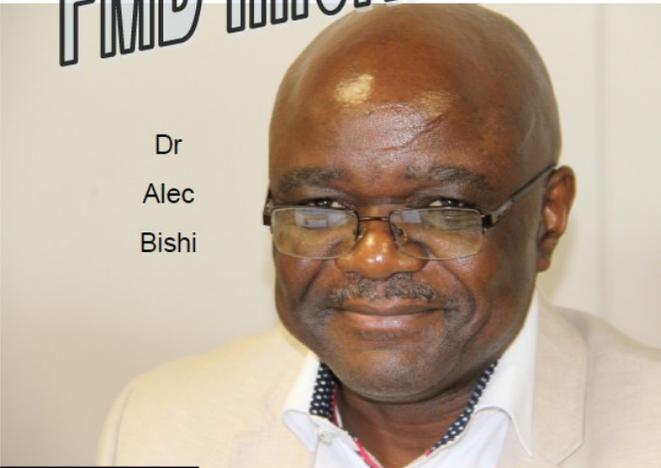


Dr Mokgamedi Mokopasetso



Dr Gavin Thomson

# FMD Information day 10 June 2016



Dr  
Alec  
Bishi



Dr Milton Maseke

**Speakers  
of the  
day**



Mr Esegiel  
Serogwe



Dr  
Frank  
Chitate



Dr Umberto Melini



Dr Siegfried  
Khaiseb

## We Congratulate our Lifetime Member Dr. Schmidt-Dumont on her 80th Birthday

When on 12 July 1961, after four years of drought, FMD was found on the farm Esperance in the Windhoek district on the border to Gobabis the country was completely unprepared for such a virulent outbreak which spread like wildfire. There were 3 stock inspectors in the country and every control measure had to start from scratch – talk about chaos. The farmers were not used to any sort of control and the harsh measures that had to be taken made that Veterinary Services became the most unpopular department in the country for many years but within a year marketing could be resumed.

Four days after graduating in that year and returning home the then director, Dr Ike Viljoen, summoned me to start work immediately. During the minor FMD outbreak in 1965 near Kalkfeld I had to look after the then still export abattoir in Otavi and the surrounding districts while all the colleagues were busy with control. What a start to my veterinary career - dominated by FMD.

I had been the only woman in my class of 27 at Onderstepoort and was only the third woman vet to work in the country and the only one in the state service at that stage. Dr Ursula Schreiber-Sigwart had left the service by then and Dr Annemarie Lorenz was in private practice.

Two months after I started work I had to take over the animal health lectures at Neudamm Agricultural College and that is what I did on and off right up to the end. A little later Dr Viljoen puts a file on my desk and says: these are the papers of the Veterinary Association, bring it to life again and arrange a congress by the end of the year. And that is how it was for more than 25 years, organising congresses, first for the SWA Branch of the South African Veterinary Association and after 1984, after our own Veterinary Act was promulgated, the Veterinary Association of Namibia. In between I did post grad studies for the M.Med.Vet degree.

For many years I offered AI courses for cattle, sheep and goats and pregnancy examination courses for cattle farmers all over the country. Later I had to prepare and organise the first training courses for stock inspectors.

The years at CVL, Reproduction Section, were characterized by the testing of just about every bull in the country for *Trichomonas* and *Campylobacter* – or so it felt as CVL was the only lab in the country at that stage and many samples came from far, late in the afternoon or were flown to Windhoek and we had to work into the night to process them.

Then came the years, until retirement, as registrar of the Veterinary Council, the first veterinarian to be appointed in this post. Shortly after independence the first examinations for veterinarians whose graduating universities were not listed in the act, were held.

And now for that last stretch, the toughest of them all, of which they say that getting old(er) is not for sissies but maybe it is parties all the way as it says in the attached prose – who knows?



## **LIFE BEGINS AT 80**

*I have good news for you. The first 80 years are the hardest, the second 80 are a succession of birthday parties.*

*Once you reach 80, everyone wants to carry your luggage and help you up the steps. If you forget your name or anybody else's name, or an appointment, or your own telephone number, or promise to be in 3 places at the same time, or can't remember how many grandchildren you have, you need only explain that you are 80.*

*At 80 you have a perfect excuse no matter what you do. If you act foolishly, it's your second childhood. Everybody is looking for symptoms of softening of the brain anyway.*

*If you survive until you are 80, everybody is surprised that you are still alive. They treat you with respect just for having lived that long. Actually they seem surprised that you can walk and talk sensibly.*

*So please folks, try to make 80. It's the best time of your life. People forgive you for everything.*

*If you ask me, life begins at 80.*

*Author unknown*