



Veterinary Association of Namibia

# The Manga

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MAY 2025

OFFICIAL  
NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
VETERINARY  
ASSOCIATION  
OF NAMIBIA

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Dear Colleagues,

I was just thinking about the time between our last Manga in February and now... and what comes to mind are the awesome rains we've been blessed with.

It is just amazing to see how our country was transformed into a magical wonderland.

I know the rain has brought a whole new set of challenges and diseases, but still, every time I see the lush landscape or water in the dams I am reminded to be grateful.

The last few months have been quite busy and your exco is working on a few projects, as you will see in this Manga and later this year.

Please consider joining our rabies awareness and vaccination campaign again in 2025.

## PRESIDENT'S DESK

More information will be shared soon.

This year we are focusing a bit more on education and will also have activity booklets for children -covering rabies, antimicrobial stewardship and One Health -see on page 7.

We would like to also shine a light on Mental Health Awareness, as you have probably noticed from our survey.

Based on your responses, we might be looking at planning some activities around this topic - so, watch this space.

We are excitedly looking forward to the rest of the year and have a couple of things to share:

- Small Animal CPD in June
- Livestock CPD in September

- Ongoing Cytology-Antimicrobial Stewardship series Part I (11 lectures)
- VAN Congress 2025 in November
- Rabies Vaccination Campaign
- Mental Health Awareness
- Rabies Video Rabies/Animal Welfare/Antimicrobial Stewardship workbooks for children
- Antibiotic Amnesty project
- Farmer education videos

-Alexandra Marko,  
VAN President

# VAN NEWS



## Planned CPDs for 2025:

Ongoing *Cytology-Antimicrobial Stewardship series Part I* (11 lectures)

*Small Animal Emergency "in-person" CPD* (see flyer):

21-22 June 2025

*Livestock "in-person" CPD with Wetlab:*

5-7 September 2025

Save the Date!

*Advising the small-scale chicken farmer CPD:*

Date TBC

*VAN Congress:*

20-22 November 2025

Location: Arebbusch Travel Lodge, Windhoek

## Small Animal Emergency CPD 21st-22nd June

This will include several practical sessions, for which Dr Ladan has already sent extensive notes and additional video content.

We are aware that some might be working on Saturday and will divide the practical session into groups, so that those who are working in the morning can still join the later group, from 12h00 onwards.

So, please let us know if you can only join later Saturday and we will try our best to accommodate you.

### Registrations now open!

JUNE  
21-22



- Saturday morning:**  
*Practical session in smaller groups:* 08:00 – 13:00  
 Emergency techniques and tips:
- Tubes: Naso-oesophageal, Oesophagostomy, Nasal oxygen catheter, Naso-tracheal, Cricoid catheter, Thoracocentesis, Chest drains,
  - Difficult IV access: cut-down, intra-osseous
  - Catheterising the female dog
  - Paracentesis
- Saturday afternoon:**  
 Lectures: 14:00 – 17:00
- Feline Urthral Obstruction -what's new?
  - Acute Kidney Injury in dogs and cats
  - Immunosuppressant Drug Therapy -what to choose and what complications to look out for?
- Practical session:* 17:00 – 18:00  
 Blood transfusions tips - from collection to in-house cross-matching
- Sunday morning:** 08:00 – 14:00
- Diabetic complications
  - Non-cardiogenic pulmonary oedema
  - Recognising and managing medical errors and adverse events
- RECOVER Guidelines 2024 - what's new? CPR update  
 Practical CPR session



### SMALL ANIMAL EMERGENCY CPD

Ladan Mohammad-Zadeh graduated from the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine in 2002. She completed a rotating internship and residency in emergency and critical care medicine at Angell Animal Medical Center and gained her ACVECC diplomate status in 2010. Ladan has focused her career on incorporating teaching and education with clinical work. She is a regular contributor at local and regional veterinary medical associations meetings. She is a subcommittee member of the Veterinary Committee on Trauma (VetCOT), contributed work for both RECOVER and RECOVER 2.0 guidelines and serves on a joint VECCS/ACVECC committee that is developing an ER competency framework and ER certificate program for US veterinarians. Ladan is currently a consultant for Critical Consults DVM, a 24/7 case helpline for veterinarians working in the field of emergency and critical care medicine.

Improving patient care through education and training\*

**Venue:** Windhoek Show Grounds  
**Time:** See above program

NS1 200.00 both days VAN Members  
 NS600.00 one day only VAN Members  
 NS1 800.00 both days Non-VAN Members  
 NS1 000.00 one day only Non-VAN Members  
 NS900.00 Nurses and Students

[Click here to register](#)

Save your spot and RSVP before the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2025



\*Disclaimer: only individuals registered with the Namibian Veterinary Council can register or the respective veterinary council, if foreign.

## Livestock CPD 5th-7th September

Again, we wanted to provide some hands-on sessions in addition to lectures .

More information will follow soon!



## Cytology-Antimicrobial Stewardship series

Antimicrobial resistance is becoming increasingly common -also in Namibia! This series was launched based on this realization and in an attempt to make it more applicable, hence including cytology as this is something we can all do in-house and because it is such an important tool in empowering us to make the right antimicrobial choices.

## SEVC Scholarship

Don't miss this opportunity! A chance to join the Southern European Veterinary Conference, including flight tickets and accommodation.



## AFSCAN Research Project

This opportunity is available to individuals working at an African Veterinary School or private practice in an AFSCAN-participating country [Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia]. It allows them to apply for a grant (in 2025 maximum of US\$10,000) to fund a clinical research project of their design. Applicants must be active members of their National Association. The project should address a specific question related to the disease or welfare of companion animals in Africa, preferably from a One Health perspective. The research will be conducted in veterinary schools and/or private practice laboratories.



AFSCAN is a ProSalus Foundation initiative that facilitates capacity building in the African community to enhance quality in small companion animal medicine, promoting a One-Health perspective.

The AFSCAN Research Award

## AFSCAN Undergraduate Studentship

AFSCAN Studentships are designed to allow an undergraduate veterinary student in their 4th or 5th year to spend a 6 – 8-week period working in a research laboratory as part of extramural experience. The laboratory may be at their own institution or at another institution.

The value of these awards is US\$1,000. Of this amount, \$500 is allocated to the student as a living stipend, and the remaining \$500 may be used for bench fees or consumables for the research project. The project supervisor, through their institution, will be responsible for managing and allocating the budget.

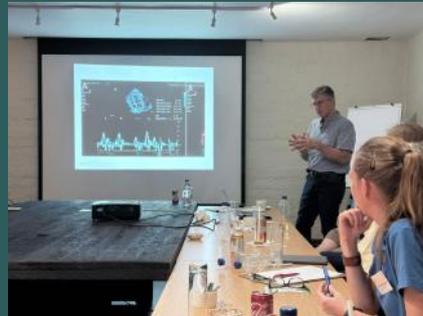
Please visit

<https://prosalusfoundation.org/our-projects-2/>

Please note: in 2025 there are new “Application Forms” as well as new “Terms and Conditions”! These need to be reviewed by the respective AFSCAN Ambassador (Namibia: Alexandra Marko) by the 30th of June 2025, just to ensure correct completion of all documentation, with the final submission date to the AFSCAN Board: 30th September 2025.

# VAN NEWS

A huge thank you to everyone that attended the Decision-Making in the Cardio-Respiratory Compromised Dog CPD presented by Prof Schoeman on the 29th of March 2025. It was a highly informative session, we delved into ultrasonography, ECG's and Echocardiograms, with lots of discussions among participants.



## Antimicrobial Resistance Stakeholder Meeting

VAN had the privilege to attend the National Antimicrobial Resistance Stakeholder meeting held in Windhoek from the 13th of May to the 15th of May 2025.

All the different stakeholders shared their work done in the field over the past year or two. Some of the stakeholders present included MAFWLR, MoHSS, MEFT, WOAHA, WHO- AFRO, Africa CDC, FAO Regional office for Africa.

Several discussions were held and key points that were mentioned is the need for public awareness, education and most importantly surveillance.

Emphasis on including aquaculture and apiculture in combating AMR was discussed and the focus on beekeeping in Namibia triggered an array of interesting questions.

The apiculture industry in Namibia are faced with a lot of challenges and there is a need to support and collaborate.

A panel discussion was held on integrating infection, prevention and control across sectors, showcasing the importance of team work across these sectors.

Research showing the knowledge, attitudes and practices of specific sectors in Namibia illustrated the importance to educate and create awareness, wherever we go.



# Rabies & TADS Project Annual Review and Planning Meeting

On the 26th of March 2025, VAN was invited to participate in the "Rabies & TADs Project Annual Review and Planning Meeting" by the Directorate of Veterinary Services.

Other stakeholders included representatives from the Ministry of Health and Social Services, The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Have-a-Heart Namibia, The Cheetah Conservation

Fund, the Friedrich-Loeffler Institute-Germany, WOAAH as well as delegates from neighboring countries.

VAN had the opportunity to give a short presentation on the planned rabies activities for the year 2025, which was well received by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land

Reform.

The Meeting included group work/discussions with all the stakeholders, facilitated by WOAAH, DVS and FLI.

VAN is excited to be part of the effort for Namibia's "Zero by 30" rabies elimination vision!



## VAN NEWS

# WHAT HAVE WE CELEBRATED SO FAR FOR 2025

## World Veterinary Day 2025 - 26th April 2025

The 2025 World Veterinary Day theme of “Animal health takes a team” celebrated the efforts of everyone involved and to shine a spotlight on the dynamic nature of veterinary medicine. We would like to thank everyone that sent pictures and all the contributions. If you missed the video that VAN created, please have a look on our Facebook page or on YouTube “Namibia Veterinary Association World Vet Day”.



## World Bee Day 2025 - 20th May 2025

This years theme for World Bee Day is to “Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all”, this highlights the critical roles bees and other pollinators play in the agrifood systems and the health of our planet’s ecosystems. Emphasis was placed on what we can do to safeguard the future of pollinators.





## World Rabies day 28 Sept: the time to act is now!

What Does the Theme Mean?

**You – Take action in your personal life:** vaccinate your dog, educate yourself about how to prevent rabies and Pre- and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, or advocate for better policies.

**Me – Lead by example:** inspire others, train professionals, or support rabies elimination efforts in your community.

**Community – Work together:** organize vaccination campaigns, educate learners and their families, and push

for stronger rabies elimination programs.

VAN invites all members to continue supporting rabies control efforts in the coming months.

These activities may include vaccination campaigns, awareness initiatives, or a combination of both.

To assist with educational outreach, VAN has developed a workbook designed to teach children about rabies, One Health, and antibiotic stewardship.

These booklets will be distributed to members for use during school or community visits.

\*Kindly indicate how many booklets you require.

We also still have a limited stock of flyers, vaccination booklets, and vaccines available.

Orders can be placed with the secretary and will be fulfilled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

*“Mental health is just as important as physical health . It is time to stop the stigma and start the conversation.”*

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

VAN circulated a mental health awareness survey with a couple of questions, this survey is completely anonymous.

We would like to evaluate what the true situation in our veterinary community is and how VAN can assist our community either with a support structure, CPD events or group discussions.

Mental Health is just as important as physical health.

Awareness and support are crucial in our community.

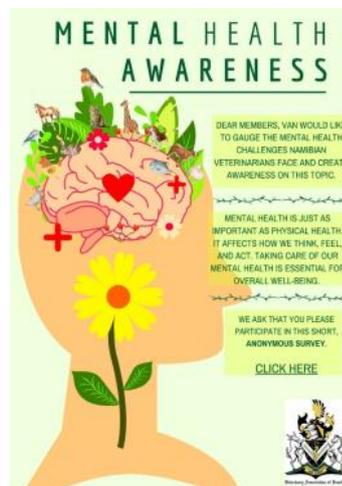
Tips for maintaining mental health:

- Prioritize self-care
- Seek support
- Practice mindfulness
- Recognize and address burnout and compassion

fatigue

- Talk about mental health

If you would like to participate in our anonymous survey please visit our Facebook page or see the VAN members WhatsApp group.





Veterinary Association of Namibia

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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:  
[secretary@van.org.na](mailto:secretary@van.org.na)**

