



Veterinary Association of Namibia

THE MANGA

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**OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER
OF THE
VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION
OF NAMIBIA**

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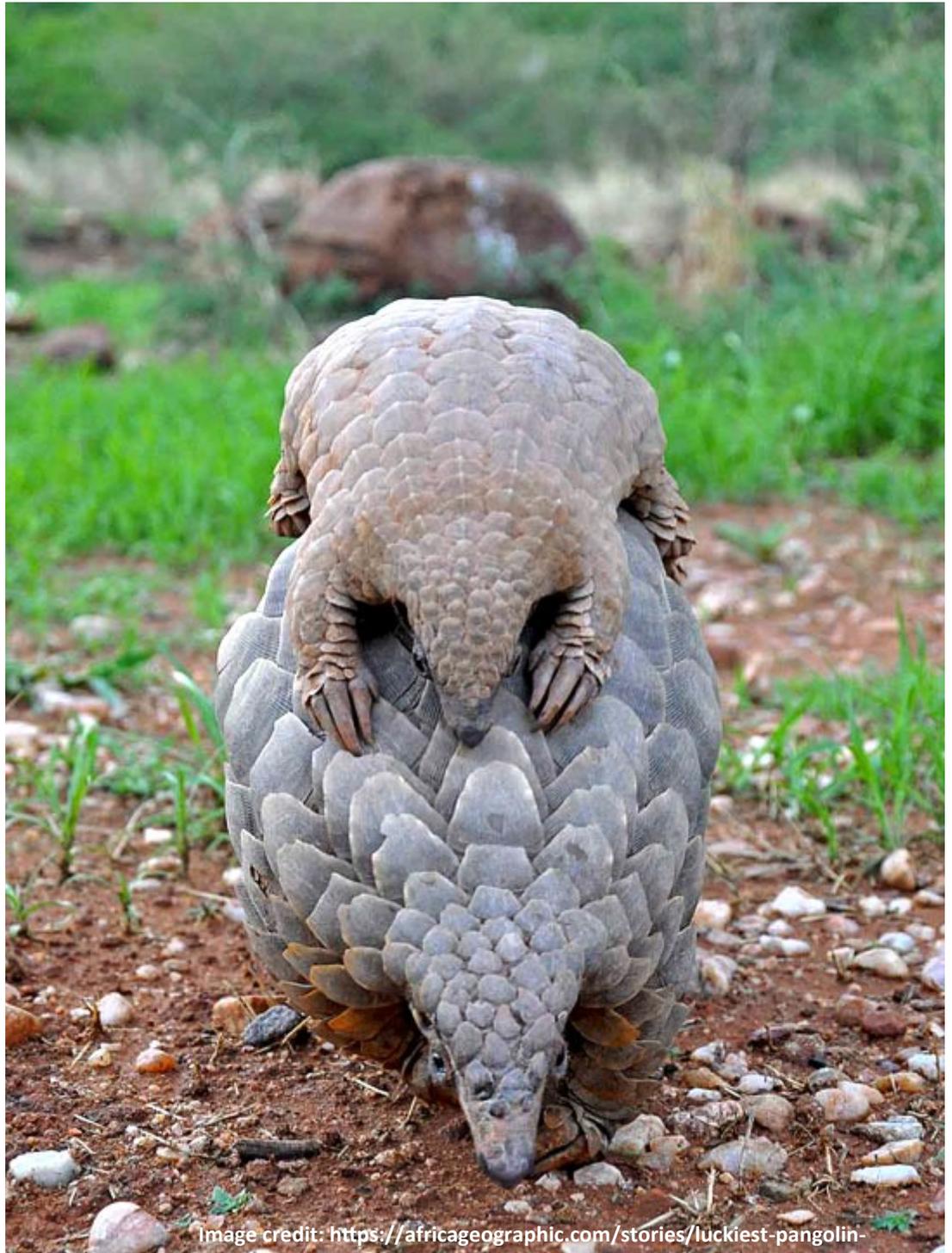


Image credit: <https://africageographic.com/stories/luckiest-pangolin->

PRESIDENT'S DESK

NEWS FOR 2020

The year 2020 has turned out to be very different than everyone expected. Corona has changed the activities and planning in VAN.

VAN Exco meetings, which used to be held in Windhoek with some joining via Zoom, were now held entirely over Zoom only. With our committee spread over the whole country it turned out to be a good solution, saving the stress, cost and time of driving far distances.

Several CPDs were planned for the year. Changes had to be made because of lock-down, restricted numbers of people allowed to gather and the problem that speakers from outside the country could not come to Namibia. So VAN staged a very successful three evening online bovine Webinar 14th to 16th July. Dr Grant van Lelyveld, Veterinarian and Technical Manager for Ruminants HIPRA Southern Africa, was the speaker for the 3 sessions. The topics "Reducing the use of antibiotics in practice", "Bovine respiratory disease in a nutshell" and "The other side of mastitis management" were discussed in a very practical manner. About 40 veterinarians attended each evening.

The planned Ultrasound seminar had to be cancelled for the time being. We also wanted to have an Anaesthesiology Seminar including Small Animal Regional Anaesthesia in Windhoek with Professor Frik Stegmann. We hope to still be able to organize this CPD when we have no lockdown anymore.

For a long time we continued to organize the Annual Congress with very flexible ideas: It was to be held in Swakopmund. We considered having face to face sessions with Namibian veterinarians and Zoom sessions with foreign speakers at the congress centre. At times when the coast was under lockdown we started with plan B holding congress in Windhoek if necessary. Then Windhoek went under lockdown. **Finally we decided to rather still organize some online CPD and cancel Congress for this year.** The main consideration was that if a COVID case should be present at the congress, the majority of veterinarians in the country would be quarantined. So rather play safe. We will inform you soon about new arrangements.

28th of September is World Rabies Day. We hope that our members will be part of it by creating rabies awareness and promote vaccination against it. Material was sent to our members by the VAN Secretary. We will be part of WSAVA World Rabies Day with a talk presented by Dr. Rauna Athingo.

VAN is in touch with the Namibia Pangolin Working Group. We hope to give valuable information via a CPD to all our members who are interested in rescuing pangolins and working with them. It is a work field most veterinarians do not have experience in but which they might get involved in. So let us get informed.

Our new editor of the manga is now Dr Lisa Holtzhausen. We thank Dr Elvira Kleber for the tremendous work she invested into the Manga. It is nice to have such an appealing publication. We do need more veterinarians to share interesting cases.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held for the first time via Zoom. This will be on Thursday the 5th of November 2020 at 19.00. As I have been serving for 4 years as president of VAN, my term will end at the AGM according to the constitution.

Stay healthy and well

Beate Voigts





Guidelines for Safe Carcass Disposal to Prevent Illness or Fatalities to Vultures

Compiled by Liz Komen

Vulture populations across Africa have declined dramatically over the past decades and continue to do so. The greatest threat is the abuse of poisons and pesticides. First just by livestock farmers using poison as a management tool and more recently by poachers using poison to eliminate the possibility of vultures alerting officers to a carcass. All 7 vulture species in Namibia are severely threatened, in some cases to national extinction, for example Namibia's Cape Vulture population.

Poison as a livestock management tool has been a veterinary subject over decades and the first symposium on controlling legally prescribed strychnine was held at the veterinary faculty Onderstepoort, University of Pretoria, in the mid-1970s. However, the continued abuse of strychnine resulted almost 2 decades ago in a veterinary decision to stop its prescription in Namibia. But, there remains for the public an available range of pesticides that can be used illegally and off-label to kill predators. **Veterinarians working in the livestock sector can assist in preventing use and abuse of off-label products by suggesting alternative, rational and ecologically sound approaches to livestock management.**

There is however an insidious other lethal threat to vultures that is within a veterinarian's control. A range of pharmaceutical products are known to be lethal to vultures who feed on a treated animal that has succumbed. The instruction or suggestion by a veterinarian to a farmer may be to destroy the carcass carefully, though often enough there is no specific instruction to the farmer in the case of a treated animal dying. The farmer then innocently places the carcass that is lethal to vultures into the veld with the express purpose of supporting the species known for their useful and efficient consumption of a carcass that is unsuitable for human consumption.

After the diclofenac vulture crisis in India that killed up to 98% of some vulture populations, other NSAIDs were tested and found to be equally dangerous. There are though further classes of drugs that have been found, although often not specifically tested by manufacturers, to negatively affect vultures and possibly other scavenging bird species. Some products are known to be unsafe or lethal in the entire carcass, others products can be removed by cutting out organs in order to make the carcass safe for vultures.

Most farmers and landowners know and appreciate the function of vultures on the land. In an effort to support farmers and vultures a pamphlet "Vulture Management Guidelines" has been published. In this publication is a list of products dangerous for vultures. Farmers need to know and veterinarians can greatly assist by taking the lead in this conservation action for our endangered vulture populations.

The SAFE CARCASS DISPOSAL PAMPHLET is shown on the next page, and is also available as a PDF sent alongside this issue.

SAFE CARCASS AND OFFAL DISPOSAL

**CONTAMINANTS IN MEAT CAN KILL VULTURES AND OTHER BIRDS OF PREY!
ALL CARCASSES AND OFFAL SHOULD BE HANDLED WITH CAUTION!**

Ingesting lead shot, lead bullets, agricultural chemicals and some veterinary drugs will cause illness or fatalities in vultures and other birds of prey.

IMMOBILIZATION AND EUTHANAZIA - NEVER SUPPLY A CARCASS that has died under an anesthetic or from an immobilizing or euthanizing injection.

TRADING AS	ACTIVE INGREDIENT/USE	IMPACT ON VULTURES	ACTION REQUIRED
Euthanze® Euthapent®	Pentobarbitone	LETHAL	BURN WHOLE CARCASS
M99® Zoletil® Dormicum® Xylazine® Medetomidine® Detomidine® Butorphanol®	Pentobarbitone	UNSAFE/LETHAL	BURN WHOLE CARCASS
Lead	Lead	UNSAFE/LETHAL	Remove the bullet or lead fragments from affected areas

PAINKILLERS AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORIES - NEVER SUPPLY A CARCASS that has died within a week of the last treatment with painkillers and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAID). These are Highly Dangerous to vultures and other birds of prey.

TRADING AS	ACTIVE INGREDIENT/USE	IMPACT ON VULTURES	ACTION REQUIRED
Diclofenac® Voltaren® Cataflam®	Diclofenac Sodium Diclofenac Diclofenac Potassium	LETHAL Killed up to 98% of vulture populations in Asia	BURN WHOLE CARCASS
Ketofen®	Immobilization	LETHAL	BURN WHOLE CARCASS
Tomanol® Phenyarthrite®, Equipalazone®, Fenylbutazone®	Phenylbutazone	LETHAL	BURN WHOLE CARCASS
Finadyne® Cronyxin® Hexasol® Pyroflam®	Flunixin	UNSAFE/LETHAL	BURN WHOLE CARCASS
Quadrisol®	Vedaprofen	UNSAFE/LETHAL	BURN WHOLE CARCASS
Rimadyl Aqueous®	Carprofen	UNKNOWN	BURN WHOLE CARCASS

Meloxicam is the **only known safe** veterinary NSAID for scavenging birds.

TRADING AS	ACTIVE INGREDIENT/USE	IMPACT ON VULTURES	ACTION REQUIRED
Meloxicam® Metacam® Mobic®	Meloxicam	SAFE	The only known safe NSAID have the active ingredient Meloxicam



POISONS ARE DEADLY



ANTIBIOTICS - If an animal was treated with an antibiotic more than 72 hours before dying the whole carcass is presumed safe for the feed-station. The liver and kidneys are the organs that eliminate drugs and may contain high concentrations of the injected product.

TRADING AS	ACTIVE INGREDIENT/USE	IMPACT ON VULTURES	ACTION REQUIRED
Gentamycin® Berenil® Veriben® Forray® Imizol® Imidox®	Antibiotics are used for a range of conditions. Especially Rewater/tick-bite fever in Cattle	UNSAFE/LETHAL These products have a withdrawal period in meat .	If an animal has died in less than 72 hours of long-acting antibiotic, cut out the muscle mass at the injection site and remove the liver and kidneys from the carcass.

DIPS- TANK and SPRAY-DIPS are poisons that can be highly toxic to fish, birds and people. Check the product's active ingredient and know the safety precautions.

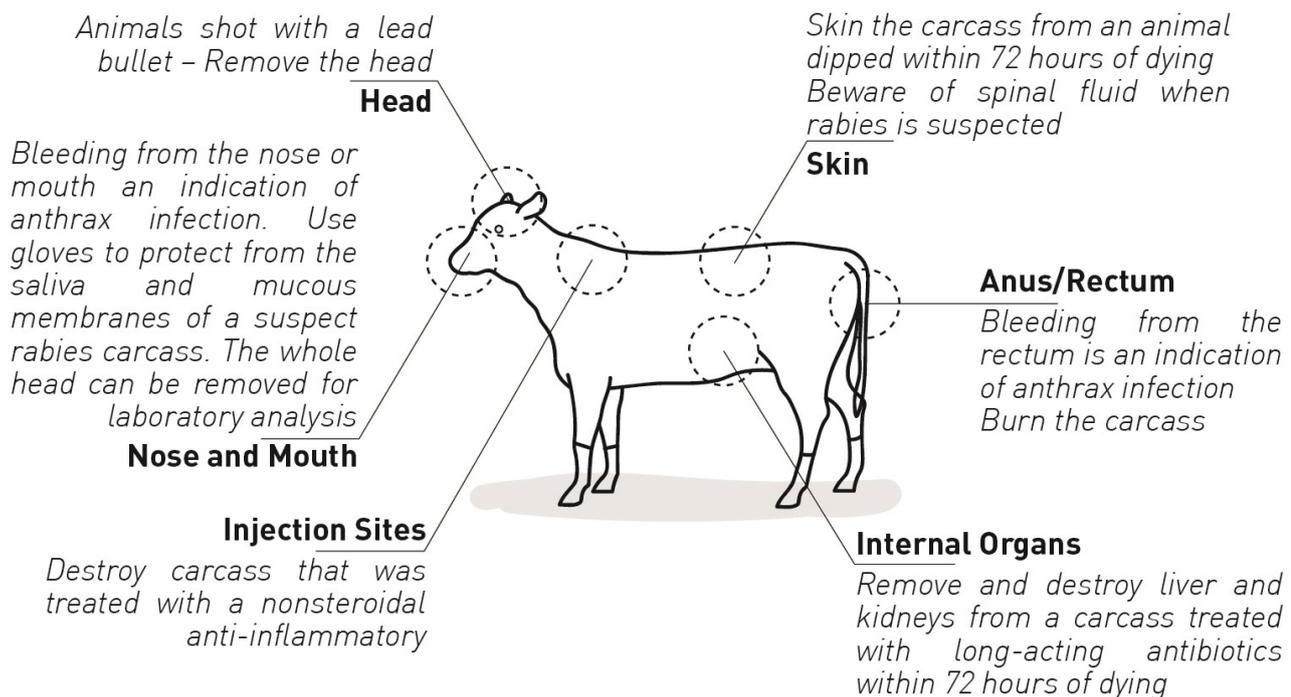
TRADING AS	ACTIVE INGREDIENT/USE	IMPACT ON VULTURES	ACTION REQUIRED
Front-line®. Dectomax® Bayticol® Or any other parasiticide, plunge-dip, spray, jetting, line -spot or injectable	Fipronil Doramectin Flumethrin Organophosphates Amitraz Carbamate External parasite control / Ticks and Mites	UNSAFE/LETHAL If the animal was treated less than 72 hours prior to dying.	If the animal died within five days of being dipped for external parasites the carcass should be skinned. Vultures should not be fed the carcass of an animal that had died within 72 hours of treatment.

ZOONOTIC DISEASE - PERSONAL PROTECTION

USE PROTECTION, GLOVES AND A MASK, AS A PRECAUTION WHEN HANDLING MEAT IN CASE OF ANY ZOONOTIC DISEASE.

A carcass bleeding from the nose or rectum may indicate an anthrax infection. Anthrax must be reported to veterinary services. The carcass must be burnt. Animals that have died from rabies can be safely consumed by vultures. Gloves should always be used when handling a carcass.

BEFORE PLACING A CARCASS AT THE FEEDING SITE - CHECK:



A CURIOUS CASE OF CANINE TRANSMISSIBLE VENEREAL TUMOUR (CTVT)

Dr Andréa Grünewald (BVSc), Gobabis Veterinary Practice

Leo, a three-year-old intact male greyhound, presented to Gobabis Veterinary Practice with a history of a preputial swelling of over 4 months duration.

The presenting complaint was that his eyes were now swollen shut due to masses in the third eyelid. However,

his body was also covered in large, multifocal, raised, firm nodules, some of which were ulcerating.

Leo was sedated and an FNA was performed on the third eyelid mass. A classic round cell tumour could be seen, with a characteristic smoky blue cytoplasm and vacuoles. An impression smear of the penile/preputial mass yielded the same cells.

“Studies have shown increased resistance to vincristine as a single chemotherapeutic agent”

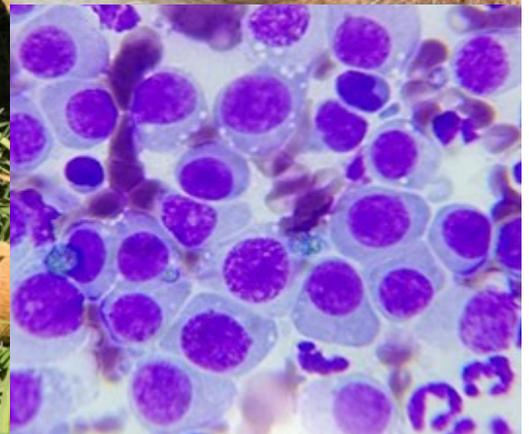
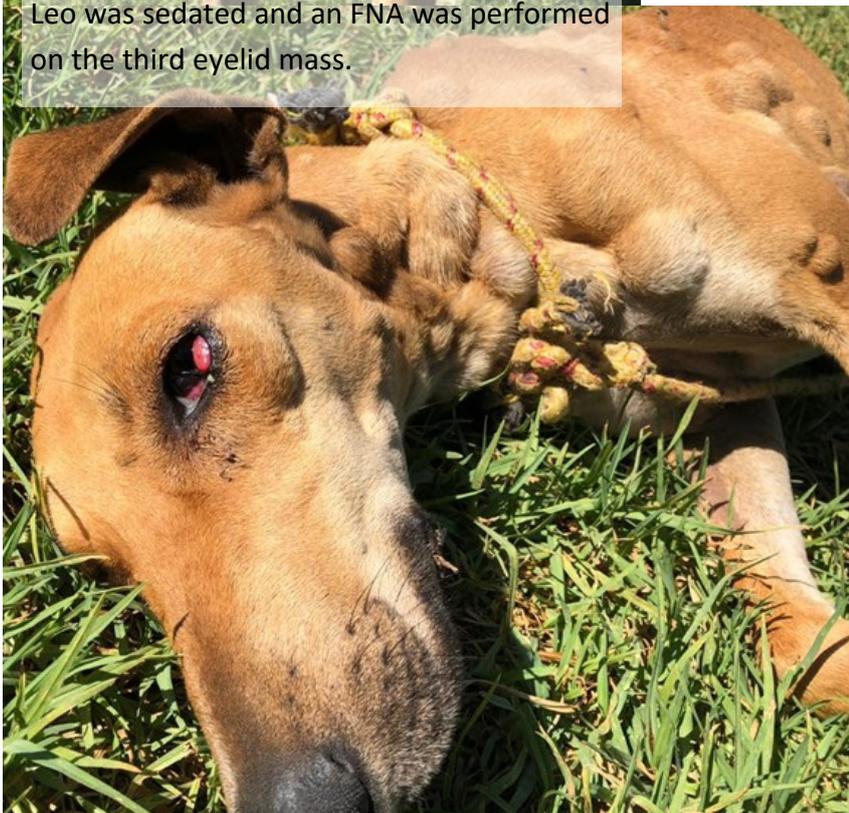
A diagnosis of Canine Transmissible Venereal Tumour was made with severe involvement of the subcutaneous and ocular tissue.

Leo was treated 6 times at weekly intervals with vincristine at a dose of $0.5\text{mg}/\text{m}^2$. Blood smears were performed weekly to monitor his white cell count.

At each treatment he concurrently received a subcutaneous injection of a macrocyclic lactone at a dose of $1\text{ml}/22\text{kg}$. Studies have shown increased resistance to



Leo was sedated and an FNA was performed on the third eyelid mass.



“At each treatment he concurrently received a subcutaneous injection of a macrocyclic lactone ”

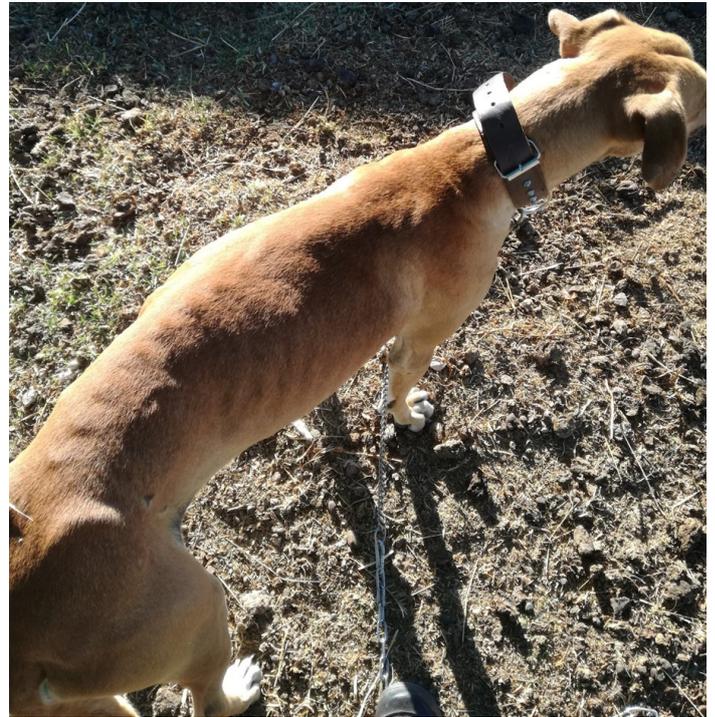
He received a further three treatments at 2-week intervals and a full recovery was made at the end of the 14 weeks.

vincristine as a single chemotherapeutic agent as a result of a large population of animals not receiving enough treatments for clinical/histological resolution, or transmitting the disease during treatment.

This is believed to be due to multidrug resistance of the P-glycoprotein, a transponder for the MDR-1 gene that exists in normal tissues. The theory is that macrocyclic lactones such as ivermectin bind to the P-glycoprotein, thus allowing vincristine to reach the necessary cellular concentrations in order to be anti-neoplastic.

After 6 weeks of treatment, Leo still showed signs of visible swellings but vincristine could no longer be administered as he had become immunocompromised and developed a leukopenia.

Leo was given a two-week break from treatment, after which his white cell count had improved enough to continue treatment.



REFERENCES

Lapa F et al, 2012 'Histopathological and cytological analysis of transmissible venereal tumour in dogs after two treatment protocols' *Colloquium Agrariae*, V.8, n.1 Jan-Jun 2012, p36-45, viewed on 4 February 2020,

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303162574_Histopathological_and_cytological_analysis_of_transmissible_venereal_tumor_in_dogs_after_two_treatment_protocols



UPDATES FROM VAN

We would like to introduce the current VAN executive committee to all our members. Many new members have joined in the last year, and with this team we hope to uplift the veterinary and para-veterinary professions in Namibia ever further.

- Beate Voigts (President)
- Andrea Grünewald (Vice President)
- Philip Groenewald (Treasurer)
- Andrea Klingelhoeffler (Secretary)
- Lyndsay Scott (Vice Secretary)
- Maaïke de Schepper
- Theuns Laubscher
- Jaco Brink
- Lisa Holtzhausen
- Dr Mike Beggs and Dr Anna Marais—co-opted members from the Namibian Veterinary Council

The committee will need new members in 2021. If you are passionate about the veterinary profession and its progress in Namibia, and would like to join the committee, please contact us at:
secretary@van.org.na

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ VAN Annual General Meeting—5 November 2020 via Zoom.
- ◆ Several online / virtual CPD events are being planned as a substitute for the Annual Scientific Congress. Updates on these will be communicated as they develop.
- ◆ A reminder that as a VAN member, you have access to a wealth of educational resources via the World Veterinary Association. Simply create a profile (cost free) to access these resources at: <https://wva.wcea.education/>.
- ◆ If you would like to be involved in the care of pangolins in Namibia, please complete the questionnaire from the Namibian Pangolin Working Group. If you would like the questionnaire re-sent to you, please contact us at secretary@van.org.na



REQUESTS TO MEMBERS

We are always looking for interesting content! If you would like to share a story or case in the Manga, email lisa147h@gmail.com

Please join the Veterinary Association of Namibia Facebook group