

FASCINATING VETERINARY HISTORY TO FALL UNDER SPOTLIGHT AT MOTHER CITY HOSTED WORLD VETERINARY CONGRESS 2011

MEDIA ACCREDITATION: Please e-mail Greta Wilson at greta@wam.co.za and ideally also indicate which topics are of particular interest so we can match-make you to a speaker/s ahead of the Congress (also helpful if you are able to indicate your wish list with regard to interview dates, times and whether in-studio or to mobile telephone (landline may be possible but limited access during the Congress). Kindly note that only editorially oriented media (not those selling advertising) will be granted accreditation.

[SOUTH AFRICA – Cape Town] Papers covering the fascinating history of the veterinary profession both from a South African and global perspective are certain to attract a high number of the 2,000 delegates attending the 30th World Veterinary Congress (WVC2011), being held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) between Monday 10 and Friday 14 October.

All kudos to the Mother City for hosting the most extensive veterinary scientific showcase yet to emerge on African soils – the perfect opportunity to give credit to icons in the history of the veterinary profession such as Dr Jotello F. Soga, the Xhosa Edinburgh University graduate who was South Africa's first veterinarian yet who – despite umpteen achievements – was denied a permanent position in the the Cape Colonial Administration on racial grounds.

Other papers being delivered will cover a great many topics of historical interest.

Consider the following...

The veterinary art is inseparably allied in its destiny with progress in social evolution, beginning in around 3500 BCE (Before Common Era). Veterinary medicine as a distinct art has three evolutionary roots:

- *China*: early defined veterinary professionals;
- *India*: high animal welfare standards and first veterinary hospitals;
- the *Middle East*: provided the genesis for our current veterinary attainments.

In terms of animal nutrition, the first records of man's effort to probe the mysteries of nourishment of the body were in ancient times, and the search has continued ever since. In the first century BCE, Egyptians believed that excessive eating was the cause of many diseases. This belief was valid for both man and his companions, that is, animals. The ancient Egyptians drove their herds to the pastures to graze. They cultivated wheat, barley, linen and many other types of seeds for their own use and the rest were given as food to their animals (seeds were found in the tombs of Meer from the 4th dynasty, Tut Ankh Amon from the 18th dynasty, Der Al-Madina from the 18-20th Dynasty). Bean was found in Sahura pyramids (15th dynasty). Clay and oats were also cultivated for the sake of animals (seeds were found in Isis Temple from the Greek-Roman times). Forced feeding was also practiced for animals as pigs and hyenas and for birds as cranes and geese. Sick animals received health care and were also fed by hand. There is no doubt that the healthy and fat animals and of great number depicted by the ancient Egyptians on their temples reflect a very good system of feeding, watering, managing and curing of their animals, although the nutrients with their modern and scientific definition were not known yet.

Babylonian and Egyptian cultures linked to Greek knowledge of anatomy and disease, leading to Greco-Roman veterinary medicine. While European learning decayed, this experience was preserved by Arab scholars. Arising from the Enlightenment, veterinary education was born at Lyon in 1761. Claude Bourgelat's school triggered rapid growth in European veterinary colleges, driven by fear of epizootic diseases (disease that can affect various animals at the same time) and a need for cavalry horses. Education spread followed colonial patterns, first to Egypt, then gradually globally. Initially teaching concentrated on equines (horses), then embraced livestock and now pet and zoological species. The importance of education was that it also created veterinary scientific method and productive research with impressive successes, but resources were usually limited by funding. Veterinary history reveals a unique comprehension of animal disease and its control, which has enabled human and animal health, food safety, animal welfare and human wellbeing. Since most human infectious disease is animal derived, now intensified by globalisation, this invaluable resource needs understanding. The history of a disease is part

of the case history and should always be taught to every student both as an aid to diagnosis and to encourage knowledge of the history of their profession.

As for zoonotic diseases, depending on how zoonoses are defined and classified, they either comprise hundreds, or else potentially thousands of diseases. At the simplest level they are diseases communicable from other animals to humans, but the reverse is also true, and in many instances there are complex and indirect modes of transmission. Historically, zoonoses presented an obstacle to human settlement and population growth in Africa, and due to negligence there has been recrudescence of many of the major scourges of the past. Recent international initiatives distinguish between zoonoses for which cost-effective diagnostic and control measures exist, and those for which further research is needed, with prioritisation of a few diseases in both categories for funding and action.

The first record of animal diseases in southern Africa was by Jan van Riebeeck at the Cape of Good Hope in 1654 and the first legislation concerning an animal disease was published in 1693. Exotic animals, namely horses and swine, were introduced in the 1650s as well as the first European sheep. Cattle mortalities were recorded amongst the Khoi cattle in 1661 and the diseased carcasses also caused the disease in humans. A list of local cattle diseases was published in the 18th century while the first recognised exotic disease, Glanders, entered South Africa in 1844. The report of a commission to investigate the diseases of cattle and sheep, published in 1877, is an invaluable source of information about livestock diseases and veterinary perceptions at that time. During the 27 years, 1880 to 1907, the Cape colonial veterinary services had to contend with existing diseases as well as introduced diseases such as Lung sickness, Redwater and Rinderpest. Veterinary scientists began to map the epizootiology of many serious diseases, developed and produced vaccines and establish effective dipping programmes to combat the newly confirmed disease vectors. The significance of veterinary research in the Cape Colony declined with the closing of the Colonial Bacteriology Laboratory in Grahamstown in 1905 and the veterinary services and legislation of the Cape were incorporated into those of the Union of South Africa in 1911.

A paper being delivered at the Congress will provide a brief overview on the evolution of veterinary services and the important role played by pioneers of the previous two centuries until today to make South Africa relatively free and safe from the most important trade sensitive and economically important animal diseases. The historical evolution of the veterinary services in South Africa is closely linked to the colonial history of the past and the political unification into the Union of South Africa in 1910 and eventually the establishment of a democratic South Africa in 1994. The majority of the early pioneering veterinarians had a close linkage to military activities and were mostly of British origin and also later from Switzerland, Germany and France. The appointment of the first Colonial chief veterinary officers in the late 1800's - Natal in 1874, Cape Colony in 1876, Free State in 1896 and the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (Transvaal) in 1897 was dictated by the need to combat devastating animal diseases such as Rinderpest and African horse sickness, mainly because they affected the animals used in combat such as horses for travel and oxen as draught animals. It was only in 1911 that the first Chief Veterinary Officer (Arnold Theiler) and the first Principal Veterinary Officer (C.E Gray) of the Union of South Africa were appointed. The national veterinary field services, veterinary research and also veterinary training remained very much institutionally integrated until 1962 when veterinary services were established as a separate functional entity within government services. The final institutional separation of veterinary training took place much later. Paging through the history of veterinary field services in South Africa confirms that the problems faced by the veterinary services of today were just as real during the times of our pioneers. The advantage that we experience today is that they paved the way by applying rational and analytical thinking to transform unknown animal disease syndromes that already existed in southern Africa for many years, into textbook descriptions of diseases still acknowledged and applied all over the world. This they did by also demonstrating the important link and use of the observations made by farmers and the need for continued basic and applied research on animal diseases.

As for Namibia, until the middle of the 19th century, very little references exist as to the occurrence of animal diseases there. With the introduction of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in 1859 this picture changed completely and livestock owners implemented various forms of disease control in efforts to contain the spread of this disease and minimise its devastating effects. After the establishment of the colonial administration in 1884, the first animal disease legislation was introduced in 1887 and the first veterinarian, Dr Wilhelm Rickmann, arrived in 1894. CBPP and the outbreak of Rinderpest in 1897 necessitated a greatly expanded veterinary infrastructure and the first veterinary laboratory was erected at

Gammams near Windhoek in 1897. To prevent the spread of Rinderpest, a veterinary cordon line was established, being the very beginning of the Veterinary Cordon Fence as it is known today. After the First World War a small, but dedicated corps of veterinarians again built up an efficient animal health service in the following decades and veterinary private practice developed as from the mid 1950's. The veterinary profession organised itself in 1947 in the form of a veterinary association and in 1984 legislation was passed to regulate the veterinary profession by the establishment of the Veterinary Council of Namibia. The outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth disease in 1961 was instrumental in the creation of an effective veterinary service, meeting international veterinary standards of quality and performance, which is maintained until the present day.

During the first half of the 20th century, veterinary involvement with wildlife in southern Africa appears to have been limited to captive wildlife in zoos and collections, as well as domesticated camels, ostriches and eland. In addition, during outbreaks of certain diseases in livestock (e.g. FMD, anthrax), a certain amount of wildlife disease surveillance, sampling and research was done. Some wildlife populations were also lethally manipulated in certain geographic areas as part of a tsetse fly and Nagana management strategy. The second half of the 20th century saw two important developments with regard to wildlife veterinary medicine: Firstly, the development of the "flying syringe", together with powerful immobilization agents for the chemical capture of wild animals. In addition, effective mechanical mass capture techniques as well as passive capture techniques were developed. These improvements in the field of wildlife capture and manipulation facilitated wildlife translocations which allowed for the re-stocking of species into areas where they had become locally extinct, and also opened the door for the development of the wildlife ranching industry. In addition, these developments accelerated the evolution of the science of practical wildlife management. Success stories include bringing the white rhinoceros, black wildebeest and bontebok back from the edge of extinction. Secondly, the fact that certain wild species were found to be the natural endemic hosts of specific livestock disease agents resulted in a new focus on wildlife disease surveillance, monitoring and research. Armed with the new wildlife capture tools, there followed a "golden era" of veterinary infectious disease research, focused primarily on the disciplines of infectious disease epidemiology, parasitology, veterinary public health and pathology. The majority of this research took place in southern and eastern Africa. As a result, in the early 1960's, veterinarians were being employed by the public sector to address these responsibilities in National Parks and Provincial game Reserves. In addition, the wildlife ranching industry expanded and niches opened up for veterinary colleagues in the private sector as well. One of the first government wildlife veterinary posts to be created was in the Kruger National Park, and in collaboration with the Veterinary Faculty, the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute and several other institutions, diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease, African Swine Fever, Malignant Catarrhal Fever, African Horsesickness, Anthrax and Theileriosis were intensively researched. Inventories of endo- and ecto-parasites for a range of species were developed. New emerging diseases such as Bovine Tuberculosis, Bovine Brucellosis, Encephalomyocarditis, Rift Valley Fever, Cyanobacterial Biointoxications and Pansteatitis were discovered and investigated.

The concept of formal training in veterinary nursing originated in England and America. In 1958 Professor CFB Hofmeyr, then head of the Department of Surgery at the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort motivated for employment of medical nursing sisters. The appointments were granted in 1962 but the medically trained nursing sisters had their shortcomings in the veterinary field. A two-man committee was appointed to investigate the feasibility of training veterinary nurses in South Africa. The committee recommended that a full-time two-year university diploma be offered. The first, female only, students were submitted in 1977. The veterinary nursing students worked in the same clinics as the veterinary students which promoted the idea of teamwork. The first group of veterinary nurses qualified in 1978 and had to register with the South African Veterinary Board. The Veterinary Nursing Association of South Africa also came into being in 1978. Qualified veterinary nurses received the title of "Sister". A re-qualification process took place in the early 1990s which resulted in restructuring and some alterations in some of the courses presented in the veterinary nursing programme. The fourth semester of the course became a full-time clinical semester. When the new Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital was opened in 1992 students rotated through the clinics according to a roster which gave students practical exposure in all the clinics. By 2000, the University of Pretoria had produced 483 and by 2010, 814 very well qualified veterinary nurses. Qualified South African veterinary nurses are increasingly sought after locally as well as internationally. Their training has been a remarkable success story despite initial problems.

In terms of early veterinary institutes in South Africa, at the outbreak of Rinderpest in 1896 in the Marico district of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek, only the two British colonies of South Africa, the Cape and Natal, had the services of Government Veterinary Laboratories. In 1895 Arnold Theiler, was appointed Veterinary Surgeon to the ZAR to investigate Rinderpest and various folk remedies were tested at a field camp at Taung. In 1897 he returned to Pretoria where most of the serum-vaccine experimental work was carried out. In 1898 Theiler received funds to establish a laboratory on the outskirts of Pretoria and was appointed as Chief of this Bacteriological Institute and Laboratory. Apart from the manufacturing of Rinderpest serum, vaccines against Blackquarter and Lung sickness for cattle and Smallpox for man were produced here. In 1901, after the occupation of Pretoria by British troops, Theiler was appointed as Bacteriologist of the Transvaal, posted at The Daspoort Bacteriological Institute and Laboratory where Redwater, Blackquarter, Pleuro-pneumonia, African Horse Sickness, Glanders and Rinderpest were investigated. Extant unhygienic conditions led to a new laboratory, inaugurated in 1908 on the farm De Onderstepoort. By 1926 several million doses of Anthrax, Bluetongue and Blackquarter vaccines, Wireworm remedy and African Horse Sickness serum were produced here and various diseases such as Gouwsiekte, Sweating-sickness, Infectious Anaemia, Bovine Contagious Abortion and Snotsiekte, as well as diseases and conditions caused by external and internal parasites had been researched and results published in the Director's Reports. The early Medical / Veterinary Institutes in the then British colonies in today's South Africa were the colonial bacteriological institutes at Grahamstown and Allerton.

As for the first concrete step in the development of an organised veterinary profession in South Africa, this was taken in 1903 when the Transvaal Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) was inaugurated. On 1 April 1920 the latter and its sister organisations in the Cape and Natal were amalgamated into a single body, thus creating the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA). It changed its name to the South African Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) in 1922, but reverted to the original one in 1971. As its membership grew and employment evolved from largely governmental to self-employment (private practice) and later also to commercial enterprises, the SAVMA's structure and functions developed accordingly. Its management component was gradually enlarged, it accommodated the establishment of regional branches and specialist groups within the profession and its office facilities grew to meet these demands. The Association graduated from using government offices, to hiring office space from parastatals and private enterprise to its current situation of having built an office block on its own premises. The SAVMA accentuated and promoted its scientific basis by launching a highly rated veterinary journal, now known as the Journal of the South African Veterinary Association, in 1927 within 7 years of its inauguration. It has liaised with sister organisations in other countries and international veterinary bodies on many noteworthy scientific and other occasions, as evidenced by this WVC 2011 Congress. The SAVMA has had close ties with veterinary education institutions, particularly the Institute at Onderstepoort (now known as the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute) and the Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty for almost a century. More lately, close ties have also developed with the emerging para-veterinary organisations in South Africa. It has always endeavoured to liaise closely with appropriate government departments and its political office bearers in the interest of the profession and its members. A second veterinary association, called the Black Veterinary Forum, was inaugurated on 11 September 2008. It was specifically launched to further the interests of non-white veterinarians in South Africa, whose numbers are slowly increasing, and is in the early stages of development.

Regarding the history of the South African Veterinary Council, prior to 1933 the Union of South Africa had no statutory regulation of the veterinary profession. In 1933 the Veterinary Act, No. 16 of 1933 was promulgated and served to regulate the profession with amendments in 1963, 1972 and 1974 by means of an appointed Veterinary Board. Main reasons for repealing and replacing this Act were to comply with Government policy for professional statutory bodies to become self funding with fees paid by registered professionals and, congruent with that, to constitute Councils more representative of the profession with an elected component, serving a three year term. The Veterinary and Para-veterinary Professions Act No.19 of 1982 fulfilled these requirements in the form of the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC). Since 1992 South Africa has undergone unprecedented change with the advent of a multi-racial democracy and new democratic Constitution. In addition there have been numerous changes within the veterinary profession globally such as increasing specialisation.

In terms of the history of veterinary education in South Africa, indigenous knowledge of animal diseases and treatments probably go back to the introduction of livestock by migrating tribes over 1500 years ago, and Europeans brought their own folk medicines starting 350 years ago. However, modern scientific approaches only came with European-trained veterinarians in the last decades of the nineteenth century.

For 40 years, foreign-trained veterinarians supplied the relatively small numbers required, but increasingly it became evident that South Africans, locally trained to deal with the large number of uniquely African livestock diseases, were needed and preferred. Negotiations began in 1913 and a decision was made in 1918 to establish a faculty of veterinary science at Onderstepoort, to be run jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Transvaal University College, subsequently the University of Pretoria, in 1920. For the first 20 years there were frequently more lecturers (all part time) than students per year. The course was 5 years long. Originally the first 2 years could be taken at other universities but this soon dropped to just the first year. Much later the course was extended to 5½ years, then 6 years, and currently 7 years, but this is due to revert to 6 years soon. Course content was initially heavily weighted towards basic sciences, research and state veterinary medicine, but after the Second World War moved increasingly towards clinical medicine and surgery of companion animals. Over the same period female students progressed from the occasional rarity prewar to the current two thirds. Racial policies prevented or discouraged black, coloured and Indian South Africans from training in their own country and this led to the establishment of a second essentially Black faculty at Medunsa, only 20 kilometres from Onderstepoort. This small faculty did good work in graduating veterinarians up until the decision to amalgamate with Onderstepoort in 1999. The undergraduate degree is recognised by Britain, New Zealand, Australia and Malaysia, amongst others and graduates are highly sought all over the world. Many have achieved international prominence. Elective courses allow a small degree of undergraduate focus but specialisation requires a post-graduate degree, of which 18 are offered. Veterinary Technicians and Animal Health Technicians qualify for registration with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) by attending approved courses at several Technical Institutes, while Veterinary Nurses get their training at Onderstepoort. Apart from training undergraduates and postgraduates (MSc, MMedVet, PhD and DVSc) the Veterinary Faculty also assists SAVC by examining foreign veterinarians for registration, and is involved with basic and applied research. Continuing professional development and community service are other services supplied by the Faculty.

In terms of veterinary toxicology, a presentation will take place at the Congress which covers the history of research into plant poisonings. South Africa is blessed with one of the richest floras in the world, which - not surprisingly - includes many poisonous plants; estimated at well over 600 species. The poisonous plants are unique to South Africa and this is where veterinarians, botanists and other scientists have made the largest contribution in the sub-region. Although the history of research on poisonous plants in South Africa is inextricably linked to Onderstepoort, where research has been conducted for over a century, the valuable contributions by state veterinarians and veterinarians and scientists employed at regional veterinary laboratories and other institutions cannot be excluded. Government employees such as Hutcheon, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon of the Cape Colony, induced Krimpsiekte in 1884 in two goats, but the aetiology of the disease was only resolved in 1891 when Soga, the first South African-born veterinarian, succeeded in reproducing Krimpsiekte by dosing a 'plakkie' *Tylecodon ventricosus* to goats. Theiler, who founded the veterinary laboratories at Onderstepoort in 1908, believed that plants could be involved in the aetiologies of many of the then unexplained conditions of stock, such as Gousiekte and Geeldikkop. His subsequent investigations of plant poisonings largely laid the foundation for the future Sections of Toxicology at the Institute and the Faculty of Veterinary Science (UP). The research on plant poisonings drew the attention of noted botanists such as J. Burtt-Davy, I.B. Pole Evans and A.O.D. Mogg, initiating a fruitful collaboration between botanists and veterinarians that has persisted to this day.

The history of participation of the pharmaceutical and chemical companies in the Southern African market from 1950 to the present time will also come under the spotlight at the Congress, focusing on presenting the contribution made by various companies and the historical changes that took place within the companies that marketed products in the animal health industry. In addition, a review of the changes in the regulatory situation in South Africa – and its impact on the companies marketing veterinary and animal health products in this market. It is postulated that the change in products available to the veterinary and farming community – from initially patent protected products to generic products, was based on economics, livestock health challenges, regulatory requirements and market opportunities. The impact of the change in regulatory patterns internationally and the development of the generic market, has played a large role in changes that have been seen particularly after the expiry of most of the patents on specific active ingredients. Changes in companies as a result of either mergers or takeovers took place due to economic and political pressure plus the need for the development of new products. South Africa in particular has seen a situation where at one point there were nine research farms conducting local research for registration of products in the Southern hemisphere. This has diminished to one research farm due to economic pressure.

The Jotello F. Soga Library, for its part, plays a key role in the preservation of the history of veterinary science in South Africa. The history of veterinary science in South Africa can only be appreciated, studied, researched and passed on to coming generations if historical resources are readily available. Material and resources with historical value in any country are often difficult to locate, are often dispersed over a large area and not part of the conventional book and journal literature. The Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Pretoria, the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute of the Agricultural Research Council and the libraries of both institutions have access to a large collection of historical resources. The collections consist of photos, slides, documents, proceedings, posters, audiovisual material, postcards and other memorabilia. In 2006 the University of Pretoria's institutional repository, UPSpace, was launched. This provided the Jotello F. Soga Library with the opportunity to populate the repository with relevant digitised collections of diverse heritage and learning resources that can contribute to the long term preservation and accessibility of historical veterinary sources. These collections can be utilised not only by historians and researchers in South Africa but also Africa and the rest of the world. Important historical collections such as the Arnold Theiler collection, the Jotello F. Soga collection and collections of the Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research and the Journal of the South African Veterinary Association will be discussed. Under discussion at the Congress will be the benefits of an open access digital repository, the importance of collaboration across the veterinary community and other prerequisites for the sustainability of a digitisation project and the importance of metadata to enhance accessibility.

As for the Congress as a whole, matters of real importance to the health and wellbeing of all South Africans as well as to the national economy and the continental and global economy will be under discussion as the Congress explores the theme "Caring for animals: healthy communities." Worldwide, there are an estimated 70 billion poultry, 12 billion cattle, sheep and goats, 1.5 billion pigs, 223 million domestic dogs and 220 million domestic cats.

2011 holds much significance for the veterinary profession as the Congress takes place during World Veterinary Year, with the related theme of "Vet for health, vet for food, vet for the planet!" In this regard, the Congress will play host to the closing event for the global World Veterinary Year celebrations. 2011 furthermore represents the 250th anniversary of veterinary education and of the veterinary profession. It is also 250 years since the concept of 'comparative pathobiology' first came into being. The World Veterinary Association celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2013, while Onderstepoort held their Centenary celebrations in 2008. The South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) is 108 years old.

Almost all of the scientific wildlife sessions will be presented by South African wildlife experts.

Continuing veterinary education and professional development are the cornerstones of a healthy, responsible and competent veterinary profession. With this in mind, veterinarians, para-veterinarians and other animal healthcare professionals from across the globe, together with their families, are set to descend on the Mother City – among the world's Top 10 tourist destinations.

The Congress theme ties in well with the One Health initiative, which will be unpacked in certain sessions. One Health is a worldwide strategy for expanding interdisciplinary collaborations and communications in all aspects of healthcare for humans, animals and the environment, in a bid to sustainably manage our collective global survival. The programme will explore in-depth the triangle formed by the Human / Animal (both domestic and wild) / Ecosystem interface, with the veterinarian central to this relationship.

The Congress will touch on the companion-animal, production-animal and / or wildlife animal veterinarian's role in positively impacting on a community's social, economic and environmental sustainability. The Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, for one, will host two very stimulating parallel programmes for each of the core three days of congress sessions and these stimulating programmes will cover their integrated livestock and wildlife health programme.

Congress components include:

- National Veterinary Clinicians Group Pre-Congress Day sessions (Monday 10 October)
– *these sessions are specific to small animal veterinarians – these veterinarians service small animals that, not least, may serve as companion or therapy pets in human mental*

- rehabilitation facilities, prisons, hospitals, children's hospitals, retirement centres, and working with adults or children living with disabilities or autism;*
- Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management- multiple sessions – *presented by the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations;*
 - the World Veterinary Association Summit (Tuesday 11 October) – the World Veterinary Association Summit (Tuesday 11 October) – WVA President Dr Tjeerd Jorna will welcome delegates to the Congress, followed by an opening word by Director-General of the OIE Dr Bernard Vallat, Dr. Scott Newman from FAO and Dr. Awa Aidara-Kane from WHO. The Summit will investigate and interactively discuss the benefits and challenges encountered with using antimicrobials. (“Antimicrobials: use them responsible today to safeguard them for tomorrow”);
 - the International Veterinary Behaviour Congress (Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 October);
 - the World Veterinary Dental Congress (Tuesday 11 until Thursday 13 October);
 - the World Veterinary Association Presidents Assembly Meeting (Wednesday 12 October);
 - a Wildlife Immobilisation Course conducted in Kruger Park by Dr Cobus Raath and other veterinarians [2-8 October and 16-22 October)
 - pre- and Post- Congress tours;
 - a large trade exhibition which could open many doors for trade into Africa and internationally

The World Veterinary Association serves as the Custodian of the 30th World Veterinary Congress 2011. Among those organisations also dispatching delegates are: OIE (the World Organisation for Animal Health, formerly known as the Office International des Épidémiologies); FAO (the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations); WHO (the United Nations World Health Organisation); the WMA (World Medical Association); University of Pretoria (UP), Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort; World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association (WAVMA); International Veterinary Behaviour Meeting (IVBM); Federation for Animal Health (IFAH); World Veterinary Dental Association (WVDA).

Congress sponsors are as follows:

- “Guardian of the Wild” sponsor – World Veterinary Association
- “Big Five” (Platinum) sponsors – Pfizer; OIE
- “Revered Wildlife” (Gold) sponsors – Iams; Nestlé; Hills; Piramel Health Care; Ross University; South African Veterinary Association (SAVA); SAVA Community Veterinary Clinics; University of Pretoria; Instavet and Equine International; NW Parks
- “Antelope” (Silver) sponsors – Cipla Vet; FAO; Afrivet; Western Cape Department of Agriculture; Karl Storz; Merck Sharpe & Dome; Deltamune; Lomaen Medical; SVD; National Department of Agriculture (DAFF); Bayer; Medpet; OPB; Avimark; Boehringer Ingelheim; Lakato; Virbac; Kyron; Merial; Imagex / Xerikona; Daro Enterprises;
- “Small Five” (Bronze) sponsors – Otomys; PB Mayer Medical Books; Mouldmed; SAVC; Unisa; SA Biomedical; WVC 2013; Abaxis; Medical Books; Randox Laboratories; Cabi; Axim; Cassim Medical Repairs; Biotech; Health & Hygiene; MDS; Brothers Safaris; World Society for the Protection of Animals; Envirocin; High Tech Medical; Performance Pet Foods; Pharm4Game

The Congress Secretariat is SAVETCON Event Management.

While members of the public are welcome to follow the Congress by joining the Congress groups on Facebook or Twitter, physical presence at the Congress is exclusively open to the veterinary trade. Registrations have closed. The scientific sessions are open only to those registered, that is, veterinarians (public and private sectors), veterinary nurses, veterinary technologists, some laymen such as aquaculturalists who will also attend the on-farm workshop in Franschoek on Friday 14 October. The Veterinary Nursing Association of South Africa (VNASA) and South African Association of Veterinary

Technologists (SAAVT) are also greatly involved in both the organising committee as well as in terms of Congress attendance.

For further information, visit www.worldvetcongress2011.com or telephone +27 +12 346 0687. Visit the Congress on Facebook at WorldVeterinary Congress and on Twitter at WorldVeterinary Congress2011.

The World Veterinary Association website can be viewed at www.worldvet.org and the One Health Initiative website can be viewed at www.onehealthinitiative.com. Visit the World Veterinary Year website at www.vet2011.org.

E N D S

EDITOR'S NOTES

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

(An updated programme will shortly be supplied to media – for example, the OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health - initiative at the Congress includes the setting up of collaboration in not least the SADEC region, with Deans and Registrars at veterinary academic institutions meeting up at the Congress).

Saturday 8 October

Set up exhibition (contractors only).

Sunday 9 October

Contractors for stand-only spaces move in. Registration and Information desks open for delegates.

Monday 10 October

Shell-scheme exhibitors move in. Registration & Information desks.

Pre-congress day (small animals).

COCKTAIL FUNCTION in Exhibition Hall (media welcome – Exhibition Hall, CTICC). At this event, the Trade Exhibition will officially be opened, with SAVA President Dr Riaan du Preez welcoming delegates and the trade. (To date, close on 1,000 individuals have RSVPd and plenty more are likely to RSVP).

Tuesday 11 October

OPENING: PLENARY SESSION (media welcome – Auditorium 2, CTICC).

Parallel sessions to follow. (Plenary session programme will shortly become available to media on request).

Wednesday 12 October

Parallel sessions.

SOCIAL EVENING OFF-SITE (please note: media can attend this if purchasing a ticket at R685 per person from petrie@savetcon.co.za – venue: Grand Café and Beach, situated between Cape Town Stadium and the V&A Waterfront.

Thursday 13 October

Parallel sessions.

Closing Ceremony (media welcome – Auditorium 2, CTICC).

GALA DINNER (please note: media can attend this if purchasing a ticket at R685 per person from petrie@savetcon.co.za).

EXHIBITION CLOSES.

Friday 14 October

Workshops.

ADDENDA:

- Congress programme
- List of exhibitors
- Speaker bio's will become available to media shortly (presentations available with speaker permission by date of Congress, in some instances pre- Congress)

- Speaker photo's will become available to media shortly
- Further historical articles of interest:
 - The history of foot and mouth disease (FMD): An African perspective;
 - Now Rinderpest is really history!
 - The socio-political impact of sheep scab
 - History of Orbivirus Research in South Africa
 - The History of African and Classical Swine Fever in southern Africa
 - Lamsiekte – solving the aetiology riddle
 - The Impact of Lungsickness on the Eastern Cape

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