

SPOTLIGHT ON “CARING FOR ANIMALS: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES” AS 2,000 DELEGATES SET TO DESCEND ON MOTHER CITY HOSTED 30TH WORLD VETERINARY CONGRESS – MINISTER JOEMAT-PETTERSSON TO OPEN CONGRESS

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] The most extensive veterinary scientific showcase yet to emerge on African soils takes place this October when Cape Town – the Mother City – plays host to the 30th World Veterinary Congress (WVC2011). This is the first time in sub-Saharan Africa that the Congress is being hosted, having previously been held in Tunisia. With the welcoming address already delivered to the estimated 2,000 delegates at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) between 10h30 and 12h30 on Monday 10 October, Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry then officially opens the Congress.

Matters of real importance to the health and wellbeing of all South Africans as well as to the national, continental and global economy will be under discussion between Monday 10 and Friday 14 October 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. A wildlife theme prevails, with the exhibition hall laid out as a ‘jungle’. Pre- and post- Congress wildlife tours will take place at Kruger National Park and a wildlife immobilisation course for veterinarians will feature as a first at this bi-annual international Congress.

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 hold 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.

With the Congress theme in mind, the varied, stimulating, all-encompassing scientific and professional programme is attracting favourable comments from key stakeholders in the global veterinary community.

Comments World Veterinary Association President Dr Tjeerd Jorna: “As President of the World Veterinary Association, I am pleased with the organisers’ efforts in providing such broad topics for the Congress and for the global veterinary profession.”

Says Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson of the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: “The one-health concept is a significant approach in ensuring human and animal health. The concept is an interface between wild life, domestic animals and human health and it certainly endeavours to revolutionise health in general”.

Congress Chairperson Dr Anthony Erasmus notes: “The global perspective aside, from a national perspective within South Africa this is an extremely important congress as veterinarians are charged with a dual responsibility: to protect both animal health and welfare as well as human health at the global level. Much emphasis will be on production-animal diseases, cross-border disease control, food safety, food security and public health. There is an enormous amount of lecture time dedicated to issues pertaining to the entire Human / Animal (including wild animal) / Ecosystem interface – the so-called “One Health” approach of interdisciplinary collaboration; that is, the synergy of multiple organisations with very similar missions: there is the OIE – the World Organisation for Animal Health; the FAO – the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations; the WHO – World Health Organisation; the WVA – World Veterinary Association; and the WMA – World Medical Association – but one such example of collaboration. All these organisations will be strongly represented at this Congress. The World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association, for its part, will present a 3-day aquatic veterinary session as well as an off-site Aquaculture Bio-security Workshop. Fin fish, abalone and other aqua cultural products have been cited as the fastest growing source of human protein globally. This, together with aquatic bio-security and the risks of international trade in fish, are of national interest and importance not least to South Africa.”

Comments South African Veterinary Association President Dr Riaan du Preez: “The South African Veterinary Association is proud to host this auspicious event and welcomes all our international and local guests in the Western Cape. As the theme of “Healthy Animals; Healthy Communities” states, we believe the very extensive scientific programme will not only add tremendous value to the knowledge and skills of veterinary and para-veterinary practitioners, but also play a crucial role in safe and secure food production in future as well as help in understanding zoonotic diseases better, thereby assisting in building healthier communities!”

“The South African Veterinary Council is honoured to welcome all delegates to the prestigious event of the World Veterinary Congress to be held in Cape Town, South Africa,” says South African Veterinary Council President Dr Rebone Moerane. “With most developing countries experiencing challenges related to meeting the Millenium Development Goals, particularly related to poverty, food security and joblessness, we are certain that the proceedings of the Congress and participation of the various international experts will highlight the various veterinary technologies that could be adopted to address these challenges. We hope that the important role of the veterinary profession in promoting animal and human health, improving food production and ensuring food security will be highlighted. Not only are we fortunate to host a World Veterinary Congress for the first time in Africa; we are excited for our country being chosen for the closing ceremony in celebrating the 250th year of world veterinary training. In our known spirit of Ubuntu, we would like to say to all delegates, participants, speakers and accompanying persons, “Welcome, Welkom, Le Amogetswe, Siyaalemukela, Amohela, Sondzela, Mi amukeriwile, vho tangeanezwa, Amkela and Emukela!”

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 stimulating scientific programme sessions – open only to delegates from within the veterinary profession – will cover a host of topics, with a strong emphasis on the ever increasing trend for zoonotic diseases (animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans).

Sessions will cover (*note to media: especially media-worthy topics in bold – future media releases will unpack these*):

- **Epidemiology** [Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 October] - *crucial in understanding the evolution (epidemiology) of especially zoonotic diseases (diseases transferred from animals to humans)*
- **History** (including a history of veterinary field services in South Africa and the history of Dr Jotello Soga, South Africa's first veterinarian) [Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 October]
- **Animal Welfare and Community Veterinary Science** [Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 October]
- **Food Safety and Public Health** [Wednesday 12 October]
- **OIE topics** (the World Organisation for Animal Health, formerly known as the Office International des Épizooties –an international intergovernmental organisation founded in 1924) [Tuesday 11 October – *crucial in understanding the evolution (epidemiology) of especially zoonotic diseases (diseases transferred from animals to humans)*]
- **Complementary Veterinary Medicine** [Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 October]
- **Livestock Health and Production** [Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 October] – *crucial in future safe and sustainable food production*
- **Integrated Livestock and Wildlife Health and Management** [Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 October] - *crucial in understanding the evolution (epidemiology) of especially zoonotic diseases (diseases transferred from animals to humans)*
- **Wildlife [Tuesday 11 October]**
- **Small Animal Nutrition** [Tuesday 11 October]
- Small Animal Reproduction [Tuesday 11 October]
- Small Animals and Nurses [Tuesday 11 October]
- **Small Animal Surgery** [Wednesday 12 October] – *Dan Smeak's presentation is likely to attract a notable number of delegates.*
- **Small Animal Medicine** [Wednesday 12 October] – *along with Dan Smeak's Small Animal Surgery presentation, Small Animal Medicine is also likely to attract a notable number of delegates.*
- **Aquatic Veterinary Medicine – General** [Tuesday 11 October] - *crucial in future safe & sustainable food production*
- **Aquatic Veterinary Epidemiology and Biosecurity for Vets** [Wednesday 12 October] - *crucial in understanding the evolution (epidemiology) of especially zoonotic diseases (diseases transferred from animals to humans)*
- **Practical and Applied Aquatic Veterinary Biosecurity for Vets and Producers** [Thursday 13 October] - *crucial in understanding the evolution (epidemiology) of especially zoonotic diseases (diseases transferred from animals to humans)*
- Military Veterinary Science [Wednesday 12 October]
- Exotic Animals [Tuesday 11 October]
- Equines [Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 October]
- Avian Medicine and Surgery [Wednesday 12 October]
- Dermatology [Tuesday 11 October]
- Neurology [Wednesday 12 October]
- Critical Care [Tuesday 11 October]
- Trauma and Emergency Medicine [Wednesday 12 October]
- Anaesthesia [Wednesday 12 October]
- Surgery [Wednesday 12 October]
- Analgesia [Wednesday 12 October]
- Oncology [Wednesday 12 October]
- Veterinary Nurses [Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 October]
- Veterinary Technologists [Tuesday 11 October]
- Practice Management [Wednesday 12 October]
- Babesiosis and Infectious Disease [Tuesday 11 October]
- Spirocerosis – a parasitic condition affecting small animals [Wednesday 12 October]

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 Épizooties); 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 Franschhoek 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.

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