O39. Continuing Professional Development for Veterinarians Working in Africa

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Abstracts
Livestock production in Africa makes a vital contribution to livelihoods, food security, income generation and gross national product. With its enormous forage production potential and current livestock population of more than 191 million cattle, 340 million sheep and goats and 700 million poultry, Africa has a largely under-recognized and grossly under-exploited potential to sustainably supply the rising global demand for livestock products. Livestock service delivery personnel, lead by veterinarians, can play a major role in meeting this demand for increased livestock production by acquiring updated relevant knowledge and extending that knowledge to livestock producers in the form of skilled practice and informed technical advice and to policy makers by way of effective advocacy. To achieve these outputs our current and future generations of veterinarians working in Africa need to update their “knowledge, skills and personnel qualities” by undertaking an appropriate form of Continuing Professional Development [CPD]. This need has been recognized by the Kenya Veterinary Board that requires veterinarians registered to practice in Kenya to undergo formal CPD programmes / activities measured by a points system. Each KVB registered veterinarian must accumulate at least 60 CPD points over three years with a minimum of 15 points per year. This paper describes how the Department of Veterinary Services Kenya, with DFID funding, aims to assist veterinarians meet KVB requirements by providing accessible, affordable and relevant CPD content by way of on-line e-learning.

O40. “Veterinary forensic medicine: an emerging and important discipline”

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Abstracts
“Forensic veterinary medicine” can be defined as “the applied use of veterinary medical knowledge to the purpose of the law.” In recent years, there has been an increase in many parts of the world in lawsuits concerning animals and their products. Factors that have contributed to this include a growing tendency for owners of animals to resort to litigation, the escalating financial value of many animals, the global trade (some of it illegal) in wild species and greater public concern over conservation and environmental issues. The veterinarian of the 21st century cannot afford to be complacent. Whether interested in legal cases or not, s/he is likely to become involved – and certainly must be prepared for - that eventuality. This requires familiarity with the demands of forensic work, in particular the detailed investigations and meticulous record-keeping that are its essential features. Such skills will also prove of value to the veterinarian when dealing with such matters as contested insurance claims and disciplinary proceedings. Although forensic medicine offers exciting challenges, it is, as yet, not a true “bona fide” discipline within the veterinary undergraduate curriculum in most parts of the world. Few opportunities for specialised post-graduate training in the subject are available. This means that veterinarians generally have to rely largely on experience or advice from others, rather than receiving specific teaching. The lack of training opportunities, coupled with relative paucity of literature and baseline data, can hamper the ability of veterinarians to contribute their skills and knowledge to the necessary standard.
In Kenya, veterinarians frequently meet forensic cases and yet they are inadequately prepared with skills, practice and knowledge to document them appropriately and confidently - while they miss others cases for lack of ability to recognise them as forensic. Kenyans have increasingly become aware of both human and animal rights, including animal safety and wellbeing, as well as the ethical requirements that are necessary when conducting research. Veterinarians are required to provide expert evidence for litigation on cases where animals are associated with crime. Insurance for animal losses or compensation for chicks that die due to diseases from mother hens or during disease pandemics pose forensic issues that require Kenyan veterinarians to have specialised training to enable them to correctly recognise, document, preserve and confidently present the data gathered from such forensic case. Dog-bites, cases of poisoning, assaults on animals including bestiality, investigation of causes and time of death and homicides associated with animals including cattle-rustling and ordinary thefts: all would be better resolved by a veterinarian well-skilled in forensic sciences. In addition, there are increasing numbers of cases of wildlife-associated human deaths or crop destruction issues that can only be satisfactorily resolved with a forensic approach. Also, some human crimes could be solved using animal-associated information gathered at the scene of crime which the specially-trained veterinarian would readily provide. However, there is no local training facility offering forensic veterinary sciences nor are there any supporting diagnostic services that are specifically geared to veterinary forensic sciences. In this regard, giving a course in integrated veterinary forensic sciences (incorporating environmental and agricultural issues) would be timely as would the setting-up of a well-equipped forensics laboratory. Both are long overdue in Kenya.

WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE DISEASES

O41. The African green monkey (cercopithecus aethiops) as a non-human primate model for infections with cyclospora cayetanensis

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Abstracts

Cyclospora cayetanensis is a protozoan parasite causing gastroenteritis in immunocompetent as well as immunocompromised humans worldwide. Clinical epidemiology and pathogenesis of Cyclospora species was studied in 64 wild-trapped Cercopithecus aethiops at Institute of Primate Research, Nairobi. The monkeys were screened for Cyclospora parasites by conventional microscopy, examination of hot safranin stained faecal slide smears, Cyclospora specific antibody responses and molecular characterization of DNA following nested PCR amplification. Efficacy of trimethoprim-sulphamethoxazole therapy for Cyclospora positive monkeys was evaluated. Experimental Cyclospora infections were established by oral inoculations. Oocyst shedding was used to confirm establishment and duration of infection. Gross and histopathological characteristics were described. The animals remained asymptomatic, Cyclospora parasites were identified in 41 (64%) of animals with infections mostly in male adults. Incubation period was 14-17 days, the duration of infection one to two months. A PCR product of 294 base pair was visualized, confirming Cyclospora species in the natural and experimental infections. Cyclospora specific antibody responses were recorded in
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Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
8th Biennial Scientific Conference
and
The 46th Kenya Veterinary Association Annual Scientific Conference
and
The 12th World Veterinary Day celebrations

Programme and Abstracts

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25 - 27 April, 2012
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