

Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine

Newsletter

A Word From STVM President Jean-Charles Maillard

I am pleased to communicate with you in this, the inaugural newsletter of the society after making significant changes by the Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine (STVM) leadership to be more responsive to the needs of you the membership. It is also the first opportunity to officially address the general membership since our last biennial meeting. The 8th Biennial Conference of the STVM was held from June 26th through July 1st, 2005 in Hanoi, Vietnam and was a great success. This was the first STVM conference in Asia and the theme was the "Impact of Emerging Zoonotic Diseases on Animal Health". The conference format included 12 symposia and plenary sessions and was attended by some 130 participants from 32 countries, 40% of whom came from Asian countries. Oral communications, poster sessions and workshops provided many opportunities for discussions among all participants. The majority of these presentations are collected in a special issue of the Annals of the New-York Academy of Sciences which will be released this coming September 2006.

During the final council meeting closing this conference we identified several issues of concern in the general structure and functioning of our society. As a result we organized a special council meeting in Dallas, Texas USA on March 13-15, 2006. All STVM councillors and several past presidents attended and we discussed the strengths and weaknesses of, and opportunities for STVM. We covered several topics such as the history of the society, previous conferences, structure and function of the council, legal status, financial considerations and sponsorship, membership history and statistics, student awards and participation, publication policy, and communications (website, newsletter...). We reached several general conclusions and made a number of specific recommendations in hopes of invigorating the STVM. Between now and our next biennial meeting in Merida, Mexico next year, we will highlight a number of changes and new initiatives in this newsletter.

The website and newsletter are the first of these changes to be covered. One of our past presidents, Kathy Kocan took the responsibility to have the STVM website re-designed and managed in a way that should improve our means of communication. I thank Kathy for her efforts and extend to her on behalf of the membership a hearty congratulation on a job well done. I now warmly invite you all to visit the website frequently to learn about activities of the STVM.

One of the main information tools is the Newsletter that you are now reading. I would like to sincerely thank Will Goff as Senior Editor for his contribution to the society. He will be assisted by each STVM councillor and a few other regional correspondents in acquiring items of interest to the membership. Please read Will's introductory remarks below for more information on how this newsletter will function as part of the society's website. I encourage you all to actively participate in this newsletter by reading it and by sending Will or a regional correspondent information that you believe would be of interest. Bob Bokma has also initiated an internet chat room that related to topics of interest to STVM members. Please note the information concerning this new communication tool below.

The survival and vibrancy of any scientific society, depends on the number of its membership and enthusiastic participation respectively. I am sure that each of you will recruit new colleagues and students and encourage them to get actively involved. I invite you to look at the registration and payment procedures in the STVM website.

During the last STVM conference in Hanoi, Merida, Mexico was voted as the site for the next meeting. The 9th Biennial Conference will be held on June 17th to June 22nd, 2007. The main scientific theme will be: **"Animal Biodiversity and Emerging Diseases - Prediction and Prevention"**. You might have received the first announcement by email and if not, you can find it below in this newsletter and at the STVM website. The organizing committee headed by Dr. Julio Figueroa (local organizer) and Dr. Olivier Sparagano (president elect) is requesting your assistance in making this conference the best ever. We invite you to email the organizing committee and provide us with topics for specific sessions you would like to see presented during this conference. Please email potential topics to (Olivier.Sparagano@ncl.ac.uk) and let us know if you want to organize a

session or a workshop during the STVM 2007 conference. A formal call for abstracts will be sent in December 2006 and you can find more information on the STVM website (at <http://www.socetropvetmed.org>). There will also be many social events with an amazing tour on archeological sites on the Yucatan Peninsula, dealing with the historic past of the Mayan World.

Once again, I am sure that this newsletter will be a feature of our society and that you will use it as an outlet for scientific and collegial interaction as well as a site for event information. I look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you next year in Merida.

Best regards and friendly,

Dr Jean-Charles Maillard
STVM President

A Message from the Editor

It is a pleasure to introduce you to this new edition of the STVM Newsletter as part of the redesigned STVM Website. As many of you are aware, the current STVM leadership has been busy developing new ways to invigorate your society, making it responsive to your needs. President Maillard has discussed this in the preceding article. As he indicated, this newsletter is one of the recent changes being implemented in an effort to keep the membership informed about society activities and to create an opportunity for each member to express his or her concerns, and ideas of interest to the society membership as a whole. The newsletter together with the website is our means of keeping you up-to-date on activities related to tropical veterinary medicine in general and to STVM specifically. We challenge you to keep in touch by visiting the website frequently where you can access the newsletter. However, for those who cannot access the website, we will be sending you the newsletter periodically via e-mail. We also realize that some of you have difficulty connecting to e-mail attachments. Therefore, the newsletter will be embedded in the basic e-mail message to you. The newsletter will be dynamic, with no volume numbers or deadlines to remember. Instead, you will receive the newsletter via e-mail when there are enough new items or event information to warrant sending it to you. In addition, feel free to send me information that you believe to be appropriate or send it to one of several regional newsletter correspondents listed below. Each correspondent will be doing the same as they learn about events and opportunities related to the society. Examples of items of interest are: meeting announcements, workshops, educational opportunities, job announcements, private and government animal health initiatives, research activities, membership recognition and accomplishments, opinions on controversial issues etc. The success of the newsletter depends on the timely acquisition of information and on the knowledge that this information is being utilized. Please feel free to offer your comments about how we can improve communication within the society and/or how to make it more interesting. In closing, I invite you to read on and to expect more to read in future mailings.

I hope to hear from you and to see you in Merida next year.

Will Goff

STVM Newsletter Editor

Newsletter Correspondents Biographical Sketches

Dr. Will Goff
Editor
STVM Newsletter

Animal Disease Research Unit
Agricultural Research Service
US Department of Agriculture
3003 ADBF, WSU
Pullman, Washington
USA

Dr. Goff earned a B.Sci. degree in biology from Bowling Green State University in 1970 and a Ms.Sci. degree in parasitology and a PhD degree in immunology from Texas A&M University in 1978 and 1980 respectively. He has served as a research immunoparasitologist with the USDA-ARS for over 25 years where his interests have been in the immunology and epidemiology of tick-borne diseases. His research has involved collaborations with a number of international laboratories in Central and South America and Africa. His laboratory has hosted a number of international scientists for diagnostic technique training and post-doctoral fellows in basic studies related to innate immunity of cattle to tick-borne diseases, particularly babesiosis. Dr. Goff has published over 70 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals as well as numerous conference proceedings contributions and several book chapters. He has served as FAO "Expert Consultant" for tick-borne diseases, reviewed scientific papers for a number of journals, and is a member of several learned societies including the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists where he was Secretary/Treasurer for nine years and STVM where he has been active since 1993.

Dr. Zandra Andre
Correspondent for North America

Veterinary Epidemiologist/Public Health Advisor
Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Unit
US Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20523
USA

Dr. Andre earned a DVM degree at Michigan State University in 1998 and a MPH degree in International Health at Emory University in 2003. She practiced veterinary medicine from 1998-2001. Dr. Andre spent 1996 in Zimbabwe involved with ambulatory livestock medicine and prevalence of urogenital disease in dogs. In 1998 she worked in Thailand on a study of the prevalence of parasites in horses and cattle and in 2002 she spent time in the Dominican Republic on a public health practicum dealing with "point-of-use" water filtration systems. In 2003, Dr. Andre joined the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer for Environmental Health and in 2005 was a CDC Consultant to the Polio Eradication Program in India. Dr. Andre recently completed a fellowship at the CDC's Preventive Medicine Residency Program and is now located in Washington DC as a Veterinary Epidemiologist with the USAID. Dr. Andre was recently elected as a STVM Councilor.

Dr. Gervasio Bechara
Correspondent for Latin America

Tropical Animal Health and Production Research Laboratory
Faculty of Veterinary Sciences
São Paulo State University
Via De Acesso Prof. Paulo Castellane
Jaboticabal, Sao Paulo, 14870-000
BRAZIL

Dr. Gervasio H. Bechara earned a degree in Veterinary Sciences at the Veterinary College of the University of São Paulo in 1972, and a MSc and PhD degrees in Pharmacology at the Faculty of Medicine of Ribeirão Preto, University of São Paulo, in 1976 and 1977, respectively. Since then, he has taught General Pathology and Animal Pathology as Professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences of the São Paulo State University, campus of Jaboticabal. Dr. Bechara has also spent two sabbatical years in the University of London, in 1981 at the St. Bartholomew's Medical School and in 1988 at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Bechara organized the Laboratory of Immunopathology of the Tick-Host Interactions in Jaboticabal and was the Local President of the 7th Biennial Conference of the STVM, held in Iguazu Falls, Brazil, in 2003. He has attended many international scientific meetings in the last 30 years and has published nearly 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals and three books as co-editor. With an interest in tick-host relationships, Dr. Bechara has supervised 16 Masters' graduate students, 16 Doctoral graduate students and more than 30 undergraduate students. He is currently a member and steering committee member of the Integrated Consortium on Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases - ICTTD supported by the European Commission, and has been a STVM Councilor for the past 4 years.

Dr. Julio V. Figueroa
Correspondent for Latin America

Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales Agrícolas y Pecuarias
(INIFAP)
Centro Nacional de Investigación Disciplinaria en Parasitología Veterinaria
Apartado Postal #206
Civac, Morelos, 62500
MEXICO

Dr. Figueroa earned the "Medico Veterinario Zootecnista" degree (DVM equivalent) from "Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Mexico" in 1984. He earned a M.Sci. degree (Veterinary Pathobiology) and a PhD degree (Microbiology) at the University of Missouri-Columbia and continued from June 1989 to July 1991 as a pos-doctoral research associate on Molecular Biology at the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri. Dr. Figueroa has been working as a research scientist at INIFAP since 1991, where his interests have been in the area of tick-transmitted diseases of cattle (*Babesia bovis* and *Babesia bigemina*) in Mexico, working on host parasite relationships, vaccine development and molecular epidemiology. He belongs to the CONACyT's National System for Investigators in Mexico, level II, since 1992. He obtained a fellowship from CONACyT, to conduct a sabbatical leave at the "Laboratoire de Biologie Cellulaire et Moleculaire", Faculte de Pharmacie, Universite Montpellier I, in Montpellier, France, from October 1998 to November 1999. Since 1997 he has been a member of the tutorial committee at the graduate school in Animal Production and Health Sciences, Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico. Dr. Figueroa is author or coauthor of 94 publications, including 42 articles in peer reviewed journals; 5 book chapters and 47 technical articles. He has participated in the organization of 4 National Congresses; delivered 33 conferences by invitation; and done 175 research communications (poster and oral presentations) in national and international congresses. Dr. Figueroa has been a member of the STVM for several years and has served as a councilor for the past 4 years.

Dr. Robert A. Heckert
Correspondent for North America

National Program Leader Animal Health
National Program Staff
Animal Production and Protection
US Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
Room 4-2114
5601 SUNNYSIDE AVENUE
BELTSVILLE, MD, 20705
USA

Robert A. Heckert is currently an agriculture advisor to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. In this capacity, he serves as a subject matter expert providing analysis, guidance and program design regarding a wide variety of agriculture security related issues. He earned a BSc (Agr) from the University of British Columbia in 1980, a DVM degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1984, and a PhD degree in veterinary preventive medicine from the Ohio State University in 1990. Dr. Heckert has over 25 years of experience in animal health, research programs related to infectious diseases in livestock and laboratory bio-containment practices. During his career, Dr. Heckert has authored or coauthored over 50 scientific publications and 4 book chapters. Dr. Heckert previously served as the Animal Health, National Program Leader with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service as the principal dealing with emerging and foreign animal diseases. Formerly, he was a professor at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Maryland and has worked with a number of research organizations in Canada, where he was the chief of foreign animal disease diagnosis for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Dr. Heckert has been a councilor for the Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine for the past 2 years.

Dr. Jean-Pierre Hugot
Correspondent for Asia

Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle
Origine, Structure et Evolution de la Biodiversite
UMR 5202 du CNRS / USM 601
55, rue Buffon, 75231 Paris cedex 05
FRANCE

Dr. Hugot earned his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in 1973 and Doctorate of Sciences in 1986, Creteil Faculty of Medicine, Creteil, France. His specialty is zoological biosystematics applied to mammals and their parasites and the epidemiology of pathogenic agents responsible for emerging diseases. He has been working for the past three years at the Research Center for Emerging Viral Diseases / Center for Vaccine Development, Institute of Sciences and Technology, Mahidol University at Salaya, Thailand where he is currently principal coordinator of the Program on Rodent and Hantavirus in South Asia. He served on the French National Centre for Scientific Research's "Commission on Biological Diversification, Populations and Evolution of Ecosystems" from 1991 -1999, was recently elected to a Scientific Commission as part of the Institute for Research and Development, and is a member of the French Veterinary Academy. Dr. Hugot has authored or co-authored over 150 scientific papers and 10 book chapters, is a Lecturer at l'Universite d'Orleans and at the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle and University Paris VI, and has mentored over 40 students. Dr. Hugot has been a Councilor for the Society for Tropical Veterinary Medicine for the past 2 years.

Dr. Abdalla Latif
Correspondent for Southern Africa

Assistant Director
Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute
ARC-OVI
Private Bag X05
0110
Onderstepoort,
SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. Latif earned a B. Vet. Sci. degree and PhD degree from the University of Khartoum in conjunction with studies at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Latif spent 5 years in veterinary practice and the last 27 years in research in veterinary parasitology, mainly in the field of ticks and tick-borne diseases and trypanosomosis and lecturing general parasitology and zoology in a number of universities in Sudan and South Africa. He holds an "extraordinary professorship" on the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, University of Pretoria. Dr. Latif has also worked for several international organizations; the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology ICIPE, Nairobi for 7 years, the Food and Agriculture Organization FAO in Zimbabwe for 3 years and has been a participant in the EU International Consortium on Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases ICTTD (Chairperson of the Action Group on Biosystematics) since its start in 1996. Dr. Latif is founder and curator of the Theiler Tick Museum at OVI and is developing the National Helminth Collection at the same location. He has mentored a number of graduate students and has published 40 research articles in peer-reviewed journals several conference proceedings contributions, co-authored a book and senior authored an interactive CD on African ticks. He regularly attends international conferences related to parasitology, reviews research reports for a number of journals and is a member of several learned societies.

Dr. Dominique Martinez
Correspondent for Europe

CIRAD, EMVT Department
Campus International de Baillarguet
34684 Montpellier cedex 5
FRANCE

Dr. Martinez earned a DVM degree from the Veterinary School of Maisons-Alfort, France and a PhD degree from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. He did post graduate work in tropical veterinary medicine at Maisons Alfort as well as medical microbiology and virology at the Institut Pasteur, Paris. Dr. Matinez gained experience in epidemiology of animal diseases by working from 1981 to 1984 in field projects of infectious disease control in Africa (Republic of Djibouti, Mali, and Mauritania). Since 1986, Dr. Martinez has developed and managed a veterinary diagnostic and research laboratory in the Caribbean (Guadeloupe) specialized in epidemiology, diagnostic and vaccine development for tick borne diseases (TBD) with special focus on heartwater and dermatophilosis, and is OIE Expert and head of the heartwater OIE reference laboratory. He is currently the head of the CIRAD research unit for control of exotic and emerging animal diseases, coordinator of international (Europe, Africa, South America, Caribbean) TBD research networks, and coordinator of a hearwater genome project. Dr. Martinez is also a member of working groups for the development of the European Technology Platform, Global Animal Health at the European Commission, and a member of the scientific council of INRA (french National Institute for Agronomical Research) and CIRDES (international agronomical research centre based in Burkina Faso). Dr. Martinez has authored or co-authored 60 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters, reviews papers for a number of scientific journals and is a regular contributor to scientific meetings and conferences. He has been a councillor for STVM for the past 2 years.

Dr. Maxwell N Opara
Correspondent for Central Africa

Tropical Animal Health and Production Research Laboratory
Department of Animal Science and Technology
Federal University of Technology
P.M.B. 1526, Owerri
Imo State
NIGERIA

Dr. Opara earned a Veterinary Medicine and Masters Degree from the University of Ibadan and is currently completing requirements for the PhD at the same institution. Dr. Opara's primary interest is in veterinary parasitology although he has contributed to a number of publications in a variety of animal health issues. He has over 20 publications in scientific journals. He is also responsible for teaching a variety of veterinary medicine subjects at the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria and the Michael Okpara College of Agriculture, Umuagwo, Ohaji LGA, Imo State, Nigeria. From 1990 -1998, Dr. Opara served as Deputy Superintendent of Prisons in charge of Veterinary Services. From 1998-2001, he served as Director/Consultant at Giantstrides Veterinary Services in Jos, Nigeria. Dr. Opara has participated in several scientific meetings including the last STVM Biennial Conference in Hanoi.

Dr. Varda Shkap
Correspondent for Middle East

Head Division of Parasitology
Kimron Veterinary Institute
P.O.Box 12, Bet Dagan 50250
ISRAEL.

Dr. Shkap earned a MSc degree from Mechnikoff's University of Odessa, USSR in 1970 and a PhD, in 1986 from Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel. As an immunoparasitologist, Dr. Shkap began her career in 1972 as a Research Scientist at the Kimron Veterinary Institute, was promoted to Senior Research Scientist in 1991 and in 1998 was appointed Head of the Department. She has served as Secretary of the Israeli Society of Protozoology and on several scientific committees including Head of the Scientific Committee for evaluation and approval of research proposals, reports and scientific papers at the Kimron Veterinary Institute. As either primary or co-investigator, Dr. Shkap has been awarded 14 national and 10 international research grants for her work on tick-borne diseases of livestock and has published 80 peer-reviewed papers in scientific journals. Dr. Shkap has been active in STVM for several years.

Dr. Olivier Sparagano
Correspondent for Europe

Senior Lecturer
University of Newcastle upon Tyne
School of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development
Agriculture Bldg
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, XL NE1 7RU
UNITED KINGDOM

Dr. Sparagano was educated in Paris. After a degree in Agronomy and another one in Environmental Sciences he earned a MSc in Microbiology and a PhD at the Institut Pasteur in France developing monoclonal antibodies and molecular probes for the detection of the Amoeba: *Naegleria fowleri*. He then moved abroad with his first post-doctoral position at the University of Reading working on DNA adducts in marine invertebrates and after one year joined Professor Duncan Brown's team at the CTVM in Edinburgh, UK to work on *Theileria* vaccination in Kenya. After two additional postdoctoral positions in The Netherlands and back in Scotland developing more molecular probes for species identification, he accepted a permanent academic position in the School of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development at Newcastle University, UK. He is now a Senior Lecturer teaching parasitology, genetics, immunology and animal health (with a personal didactic interest on self and peer-assessment and psychometric tests to improve long-term skills for his students). Dr. Sparagano is currently mentoring 5 PhD students and two post-doctoral researchers in his laboratory. Some work on a broad range of animal health issues such as the development of molecular probes to detect tick-borne pathogens, marine parasites, gut bacteria in pigs and blood-infectious bacteria in humans while others are focused on developing a vaccine against a poultry mite. Dr. Sparagano has published more than 70 refereed papers and over 170 conference abstracts and has been a visiting professor with the Universities of Bari and Teramo in Italy and worked several years as a scientific adviser for the IZS in Sicily. He is also currently a council member of the Institute of Biology and the British Society for Parasitology in UK and serves as a referee for the EU (Marie Curie and INTAS schemes), The Lindbergh Foundation, NERC and from time to time with the MRC. He is also on the editorial board of different journals. Dr. Sparagano is currently the STVM President-Elect.

The STVM Chat Room

A new initiative developed by Dr. Bob Bokma has been launched. A chat room for STVM members to communicate about any number of topics related to tropical animal health is now online. The website for this STVM Tropical Veterinary Medicine discussion site is:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/STVM_SocietyforTropicalVeterinaryMedicine/.

Interested persons can subscribe, and set their preferences (e.g., for a daily digest) by sending a subscribe email to:

STVM_SocietyforTropicalVeterinaryMedicine-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Bob intends to send an email weekly to STVM members summarizing discussion and suggesting that people may want to join this discussion group. This new communication tool is not intended to take the place of the newsletter, but rather to create an opportunity for individuals to discuss current issues, sharing opinions and solutions to problems in a timely manner. You are encouraged to investigate this site and participate on a regular basis.

Regional Disease Report

PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS (PPR) Suspected in Somalia

Contributed by Dr. Maxwell Opara

Tropical Animal Health and Production Research Laboratory
Department of Animal Science and Technology
Federal University of Technology
Owerri, Nigeria

Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) has never officially been reported in Somalia. This is probably only because, it has not been investigated. The disease was not recognized in the country before 1997, when some areas in the East African region, were experiencing epidemics of the plague. It is believed that the first incidence of the disease has occurred in central Somalia where it was introduced by flocks, repatriating from temporary residence in Eastern Ethiopia. Due to the exceptional circumstances in the country, it was not easy to carry out a thorough investigation on the epidemic. However, a team of two veterinarians was mobilized to the area to report on what was happening. Their main tool for investigation was interviews with stock owners who were helpful in providing clues that the disease was new in the area in that they had never experienced it before. The nomads confirmed that the disease started while they were inside Ethiopian territory. Officers in the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture confirmed the existence of PPR in eastern Ethiopia. The AGID test was used to confirm the presence of the viral infection from convalescent animals. Although efficient control measures like vaccination, have not been taken to contain the epidemic focus, the rate of spread of the disease, was not explosive as feared. Natural barriers of low-animal-density areas and restriction in animal movements by tribal conflicts, together with guidelines provided to the nomads by the veterinarians, have helped in bringing the disease under a reasonable control.

Information was provided by Dr. M. A. Sheikh Ali and Dr. A. A. Farah
Somali Veterinary Association

Regional Disease Report

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Fever in Israel

First Report

Dr. Varda Shkap

September 21, 2006

Epizootic hemorrhagic disease in Israel

(a disease never reported before in Israel)

Report date to OIE: 21 September 2006.

Identification of agent: epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus.

Description of affected population: mostly dairy cattle (mainly Holstein breed) and few beef cattle.

Since 4 September 2006, a bluetongue-like (hemorrhagic complex) disease has been observed in more than 55 cattle farms situated along the eastern border of Israel in a 80-km area along the Jordan rift valley from the Arava valley in the south to the north of Galilee in the north. The morbidity has been of 10 to 40%, with very low mortality. No cases have been observed in adjacent sheep and goats farms.

The disease is characterized by bluetongue, udder hemorrhages, edema of the eye globe, local cavity, stomatitis and agalactia (pictures kindly provided by Drs. Jacob Brenner, Hagai Yadin and Neta Bezerano).

The diagnosis has been made by the OIE Reference Laboratory at Pirbright using ELISA and PCR. The results of the pathogen isolation by egg inoculation and the pathogen isolation on cell culture are not yet available.

Source of outbreaks or origin of infection: - airborne spread; - vectors.

Control measures undertaken: - control of arthropods; - stamping out;- quarantine;- movement control inside the country;- screening;- dipping/spraying.

The differential diagnosis taken into consideration have been: - bovine ephemeral fever,- bluetongue,- infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR).





Regional Disease Report

Lumpy Skin Disease in the Middle East

Contributed by Dr. Varda Shkap
Kimron Veterinary Institute
Israel

The following is information on lumpy skin disease in our region. Although commonly known from the African continent, the disease was diagnosed in Israel in 1989 and now in Israel and Egypt in 2006.

The disease is characterized by fever and the formation of 1-7 cm nodules in the skin, which eventually become necrotic. The skin of the muzzle, nares, back, legs, scrotum, perineum, eyelids, lower ear, nasal and oral mucosa, and tail are particularly likely to be affected. Biting insects play a major role, and transmission increases in the rainy season. Morbidity can range from 3 to 85 percent and mortality is usually low, although some high-mortality outbreaks have been documented. The disease occurs over much of sub-

Saharan Africa with previous outbreaks also in Kuwait, Egypt and Israel in the late 1980s.

Egypt reported to OIE in April 2006:

Details of outbreaks: 15 outbreaks in villages in Bani suef, Behera, Ismalia, Menofia and New Valley were reported. Outbreaks occurred between 1 Jan and 9 Apr 2006. In total, there have been 74 deaths and 747 cases from among the 305,576 susceptible cattle. Egypt applies a regular programme for vaccination against LSD using sheep pox vaccine.

Diagnosis: Samples were sent to the National Animal Health Research Institute Laboratory where virus isolation was positive.

In Israel:

Dr. J. Brenner from the Kimron Veterinary Institute reported an outbreak of LSD in June 2006. As a result of this diagnosis, 116 lactating calves, 42 heifers, 32 fattening calves, 15 young male and female calves were destroyed. Please see pictures attached.

Opinion Page

The following statement from the Somalia Veterinary Association was provided by Dr. Opara and has been placed on the Opinion Page unedited, as is the policy of this editor for contributions like this.

Discussions concerning issues like this are encouraged. Either engage in discussion by using the Chat Room available as highlighted above, or send printed opinions for the newsletter to the regional correspondent or the newsletter editor.

No Rift Valley Fever in Somalia. The ban unjustifiable...!

Following the torrential rains and deluge in 1997, emergence of many insect-borne animal diseases were expected in Somalia, but, probably no one was counting RVF. The climatic change was so intense, that the consequent epidemiological change was also huge. Occurrence of RVF in Somalia was not recorded in the past, but, sporadic outbreaks are seen from time to time in many East African countries. If the controversial (to livestock traders) report of the WHO holds true, then the virus must have been maintained in a short cycle of transmission in perhaps wild ungulates or rodents. Moreover, recent introduction of the disease to the area can not be ruled out. This hypothesis is particularly perceptible in view of the enormous disturbance in population dynamics in the region. From Rwanda and Burundi, through Uganda and Sudan, to southeast Ethiopia and northeastern Kenya, natural and man made disasters have evoked unusual movements of animals and wild life above all. It is also known that, there is a seasonal migration of wild ungulates like deer between Kenya and Somalia. Hence animal carriers might have arrived in Somalia and spread the virus. In this case, however, the optimum vector was apparently not available and the disease was slowly and inefficiently transmitted by secondary vectors. It is currently clear that the disease doesn't exist in any part of the country and a long time has passed since the last suspected case was seen. An emphasized risk assessment made by the FAO has concluded in comprehensive results, proving that the risk of the disease being transmitted to the Gulf countries by animals exported from east Africa has now returned to pre-epidemic levels. Therefore, it is meaningless to sustain the ban on animal export from

Somalia. We urge decision-makers in our sisterly Arab countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, to lift the "sanctions" from the Somali people.

By:

The Executive Committee,
Somali Veterinary Association