



The Veterinarian

Official Newsletter of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association

ISSN: 2279-2082

Issue III - 2019

July-September

2019

MESSAGE FROM THE 72ND PRESIDENT OF THE SLVA - DR. D.D. NIRANJALA DE SILVA

- In this Issue -

	Page No.
Message from the 72 nd President of SLVA	1 & 2
Message from the past President	2
The 72 nd Executive Committee	3
71 st AGM	4
Year Plan for 2019/2020	6
Workshops & Programs conducted recently	
• Mindset transformation through soft skills enrichment	6
• Brainstorming Session with VIOs in VICs	7
• Eradication of Rabies from SL - A Collective Effort	8
SLVA Proposals	
• Dairy Development policy	9
• Eradication of animal rabies - the way forward	11
Announcements	13



My dear colleagues,

It is with great honour that I pen this message as the 72nd President of this prestigious professional association, the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association. At the outset I wish to thank my colleagues who urged me to take up this position with the hope that I would make a significant contribution to the progress of this noble profession. Since the inception of the SLVA in 1940, the past presidents and their executive committees had strived to elevate this profession to what it is today. The general membership too has been positively contributing to the upliftment of the profession through the support extended in various forms. *Cont. 2*

Mindset transformation through soft skills enrichment of veterinary internees..



The executive committee of the 72nd SLVA identified the importance of developing positive attitudes of fresh veterinary graduates and decided to conduct a one day workshop targeting them on 'Mindset Transformation through Soft Skills Enrichment'. SLVA outsourced a professional team 'Ennovate' for the session and 64 internees participated in the program. *Cont. 6*

Brainstorming session with VIOs in VICs

The SLVA as the professional body of veterinarians in the country identified the importance of improving animal disease investigation capacities of veterinary investigation officers all over the country. *Cont. 7*

Eradication of Animal Rabies from SL

The SLVA is in the opinion that it is their prime duty to intervene to address the issues pertaining animal rabies control program in the country. The animal rabies control measures are vital and important when rabies eradication is concerned in the *Cont. 8*

Let me brief you on my thoughts for the ensuing year. The theme of the 72nd Executive Committee is “Education to enhance the quality of veterinary service through unity & collaboration” and we will collectively strategise our activities to achieve this task of enhancing the provision of quality veterinary service to all stakeholders.

As education could bring about significant changes in any entity, our primary objective is to conduct continuing professional development (CPD) programs for veterinarians and their support staff not only focusing on imparting technical knowledge and skills but also the soft skills such as effective communication, work ethics, interpersonal skills, problem solving etc. Education of livestock, poultry and aquaculture farming communities on proper husbandry, hygiene, rational use of medicines, value addition to animal products, disaster mitigation, farm waste disposal etc. and empowering them to contribute to the national GDP is also in our agenda. Close interaction and deliberation with animal pharmaceutical & feed industry personnel on proper practices to prevent negative impact on animal, public and environmental health is another area that we will be dealing with. Consumer education programs with regards to benefits of consuming animal proteins and addressing myths associated with consumption of such products, proper storage, preparation and cooking of animal proteins etc.; client education on responsible pet/animal ownership, health and other benefits of companionship, animal assisted therapy also will come under this purview. Awareness programs for school children and general public regarding compassion

towards animals, zoonotic diseases, nutrition etc. are also in the pipeline.

As we all are aware our colleagues are serving in various capacities in government, semi-government and private sector organizations while a few of them are entrepreneurs. There is a pressing need for collaboration among these sectors and the unity among the veterinarians need no emphasis if our profession is to move forward. Our profession cannot work in isolation when it comes to addressing the issues of national importance viz. Self-sufficiency in milk, Human-Animal or Human –Elephant Conflict/Coexistence, Control of Rabies, Mitigation of Antimicrobial Resistance etc. As the 72nd executive committee we are ready to negotiate with ministries, departments or any other organizations concerned to promote collaboration among them and actively participate in policy formulation, drawing up action plans and implementing them with the participation of experts in the given fields. I must also emphasise the fact that the 72nd executive committee is planning to work in collaboration with national and international veterinary and allied organizations and universities for mutual benefits.

Let's join hands and march forward towards a better tomorrow!

Thank you.

Dr. D.D. Niranjala de Silva
72nd President, SLVA

MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT OF THE SLVA



It is indeed a great pleasure to issue a message to SLVA Newsletter as the Past President of this prestigious Association (SLVA).

I am proud to mention that it was possible to embark on and complete many projects successfully during 2018-2019, to uplift the Veterinary

profession in the country. I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to the 71st Executive Committee for their unstinted support extended towards reaching significant milestones during my tenure as the 71st President.

- For the first time in Sri Lanka a Veterinary week was declared and the National Veterinary Exhibition 'VET-EXPO 2019' was held on 5th, 6th and 7th of April, 2019 at the BMICH representing all segments of veterinary profession with Technical Sessions and a series of Special Programmes, which was a great achievement.

- A Public Awareness Programmes was conducted on the importance of fresh milk consumption in collaboration with GMOA and Sri Lanka Medical Nutritionists' Association, to popularize the consumption of milk among the school children and public., Many Public Awareness Programmes were conducted throughout the year to educate the farmer community on the services provided by the Veterinarians.
- Workshops and training Programmes were conducted to improve the practical knowledge and skills of field Veterinarians, Improve the writing skills of Veterinarians.
- Annual Sessions of SLVA were held in Kandy during June 2019.
- International collaborations with Commonwealth Veterinary Association, (CVA) was strengthened and Membership of World Veterinary Association (WVA), Taiwan Veterinary Association (TWA) and Japan Veterinary Medical Association (JVMA) was obtained. TWA was generous to pay the outstanding Membership fees to reinstate the SLVA Membership of Federation of Asian Veterinary Association (FAVA) that was inactive for a couple of decades.

- Two Veterinarians, Dr. J.P.C. Chandana and Dr. Samantha Senaratne, received scholarships by courtesy of Japan Veterinary Medical Association (JVMA).
- A 'Life Membership Card' was issued to each of the Life Members, with a special Quick Response Code.
- Introduced a 'Life Membership Card' for Life Members, with a special Quick Response Code.
- The SLVA Office at the OPA was refurbished to the International standards with facilities to conduct International Webinars; A Name Board at the entrance; and the photographs of Past Presidents of SLVA were displayed inside the office.
- The AGM and the Annual Convention were held on 3rd of September 2019 at Shangri-La Hotel Colombo, in a grand scale, followed by a Dinner with the participation

of Member Veterinarians and Guests totaling 600 persons.

I have no doubt that the incumbent President and the Executive Committee would continue to develop the Veterinary Profession to improve the living standards of people in Sri Lanka.

I wish the 72nd Executive Committee all success in all future endeavours.

Good Luck!

Dr. Keerthi Gunasekara
Past President (2018-2019)
Sri Lanka Veterinary Association

72nd Executive Committee 2019/2020

The new executive committee of the SLVA was elected unanimously at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 3rd September 2019 at Shangri La Hotel, Colombo with a participation of 330 members of SLVA. The President Elect of the 71st Executive Committee, Dr. Niranjala de Silva was inducted as the new president at the Annual Convention which was held following the AGM.



President
Dr. D.D. Neranjala
de Silva



President Elect
Dr. Erandika
Gunawardana



Vice President
Prof. Neil
Alles



Vice President
Dr. M.A.S. Mallawa
Aarachchi



Secretary
Dr. Suneth
Disnaka



Treasurer
Dr. Anil
Kalupahana



Asst. Secretary
Dr. Tharanga
Thoradeniya



Asst. Secretary
Dr. Chamari
Kannangara



Asst. Treasurer
Dr. R.A.J.U.
Marapana



Member
Dr. Eranda
Rajapaksha



Member
Dr. Kaundika
Wanigasundara



Member
Dr. Sugath
Pemachandra



Member
Dr. M.N.M.
Fouzi



Member
Dr. W.W.
Abeygunawardena



Member
Dr. M.A.M.
Fazi



Former President
Dr. Keerthi
Gunasekara



Former Secretary
Dr. Dilan
Satharasinghe



Former Treasurer
Dr. Janaka
Amarakoon

71st AGM & Annual convention

The 71st Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 3rd September 2019 at Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo from 3.30pm onwards with a participation of large number of SLVA members and during AGM, the 72nd president and executive committee for SLVA were elected.

Honorable Minister of Public Administration, Disaster Management and Livestock Development, Mr. Ranjith Madduma Bandara arrived as the chief guest to the Annual Convention of SLVA. The 71st president of SLVA, Dr. Keerthi Gunasekera warmly welcomed the chief guest to the event.

Felicitation of Dr. A. Shakthivale & Dr. L.A. Godwin

Felicitation of Dr. A. Shakthivale, the former Additional Secretary (Livestock) of the Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development, was done by presenting an honorary award by the Honourable minister and he was introduced by Dr. Sivasothy, Former Director General of Department of Animal Production & Health. Dr. A. Shakthivale has served for more than 40 years for the betterment of veterinary profession.

Dr. A.L. Godwin who has worked as a Director in Department of Animal Production & Health and served as a former President of SLVA was selected by the SLVA Executive Committee for felicitating at the Annual Convention. She was introduced by Dr. Pushpa Wijewantha, former Additional Secretary (Livestock) of the Ministry of Livestock & Rural Community Development.



Induction of 72nd president of SLVA

Induction of 72nd president of SLVA was held during the event and the new president, Dr. Niranjala de Silva addressed the gathering on her plans to uplift the profession during her tenure.



Awards presented at 71st Annual Convention of SLVA

List of Presentations and Authors who were awarded at 71st Annual Convention

Award Name	Title	Names
HECTOR C. PERERA MEMORIAL AWARD	Surgical Repair of Distal Femoral Fractures Using Positive Threaded Steinmann Pins	G.S.Pemachandra, P.G.Eshwara, K.D.C.K.Hemachandra, D.Rajapaksha and S.Wijayarathna
AIR COMMODORE Dr. R.M.P.H. DASSANAYAKE AWARD	An Empirical Study of Consumers' Perceived Risk on Consumption of Chicken Meat and its Effect on Intention to Purchase: A Case Study in Central Province	W.M.J.B. Wijesinghe and P. Koralagedara
Dr. and Mrs. A.R. MOHAMED AWARD	Diagnosis of Helicopter Chick Disease Caused by Avian Orthoreovirus in a Large Broiler Farm in the North Western Province of Sri Lanka	N.de Silva and A.W. Kalupahana
Dr. ARUNASIRI IDDMALGODA AWARD	The Efficacy of a Locally Produced Formalin Killed Aeromonas veronii Vaccine to Prevent Fin Rot in Goldfish (Carrasius auratus)	W.P.R. Chandrarathna, M.N.M.Fouzi and S.S.S.de S. Jagoda
Dr. PERUMAL PILLAI AWARD	Water Hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) leaves as an alternative protein source for feeding early phase of Tilapia	M.N.M. Fouzi and M.L.A.N.R. Deepani
Dr. KEERTHI De S. A. GUNASEKARA AWARD	Antimicrobial Resistance Profiles of Escherichia coli from Urban Wild Birds in Eastern Wildlife Health Region of Sri Lanka	N.G.R.N. Neelawala, D.B.N. Pushpakumara, H.M.T.K. Karunarathna, R.S. Kalupahana and K.S.A. Kottawatta
GROUP CAPTAIN Dr. P. ERANDIKA GUNAWARDENA AWARD	Detection of Canine Distemper Virus in Wild Animals in Sri Lanka	G.I.S. Perera, B.A.D.S. Jayawardena, B.V.P. Perera, D. de Silva, C.A. Jayasinghe, H. Philibert, F.A. Leighton, P.S. Fernando, S. Nanayakkara, R. Muthugala, R.P.V.J. Rajapakse and G.S.P. de S. Gunawardena

71st AGM & Annual convention



Year Plan of 72nd Executive Committee 2019/2020

Year Plan of 72nd Executive committee under the vision of 'Developing the Profession through Education'

The first executive committee meeting of the 72nd Executive Committee was held at SLVA office in OPA Building, Prof. Stanley Wejesundara MW, Colombo 07. The committee discussed and planned a tentative year plan for the year ahead.

SEPTEMBER 2019 Ex-co meeting 2 Training for internees Workshop for VIOs	OCTOBER 2019 Ex-co meeting 2 CPD Programme 1 Policy planning 1	NOVEMBER 2019 Ex-co meeting 3 CPD Programme 2 Policy planning 2 Newsletter 1	DECEMBER 2019 Ex-co meeting 4 CPD Programme 3 Policy planning 3 Media conference 1 TV programme 1	JANUARY 2020 Ex-co meeting 5 CPD Programme 4 CPD Programme 5 Policy planning 4 Newsletter 2 Journal	FEBRUARY 2020 Ex-co meeting 6 CPD Programme 6 Public awareness 1 TV programme 2
MARCH 2020 Ex-co meeting 7 CPD Programme 7	APRIL 2020 Ex-co meeting 8 CPD Programme 8 Newsletter 3	MAY 2020 Ex-co meeting 9 CPD Programme 9 Public awareness 2	JUNE 2020 Ex-co meeting 10 CPD Programme 10 TV programme 3	JULY 2020 Ex-co meeting 11 VETEXPO 2020 - International Exhibition & Trade Show International Symposium Newsletter 4	AUGUST 2020 Ex-co meeting 12 AGM 72 nd Journal

Workshops and Programs conducted recently

Mindset Transformation through Soft Skills Enrichment – Workshop for Veterinary Internees

Cont..

It was a very innovative and novel experience to the fresh graduates and they actively participated in the event. The session consisted of several activities including concepts on public speaking, personnel grooming, design thinking, leadership and team work. The internees enjoyed the entire session spending nearly 10 hours starting from

sharp 9.00 am. The participants were very happy about the outcome at the end and SLVA expects that the young veterinarians will work enthusiastically in the future when they are employed. The SLVA wishes them all the very best in their future endeavors.



SLVA organized this workshop with the support of Director General of Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) and the Director/– Animal Health of DAPH. SLVA invited Prof. Neil Horadagoda, University of Sydney as the moderator of the workshop. Eighteen Veterinary Investigation Officers (VIOs) from different Veterinary Investigation Centers (VICs) and Veterinary Research officers from Veterinary Research Institute and officers from DAPH participated in the session.

During group discussions, the participants were encouraged to identify the areas to be improved and to suggest the

necessary actions to be taken. The findings were presented to the gathering and finally the moderator summarized the findings for future actions. The contribution of the Director General Dr. Ariyapala and the Director/ Animal Health, Dr. S. Hettiarachchi are highly appreciated. The President SLVA Dr. Niranjala de Silva, Dr. Eranda Rajapaksha, Prof. Neil Alles and Dr. W.W. Abeygunawardana also participated in the event. A comprehensive report on the session will be presented to the Director General of the DAPH for necessary actions and SLVA will support the VIOs continuously towards development of their capacities.



country. The OIE ,WHO, FAO and Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) have plans to eradicate rabies from the world by 2030. There is a golden opportunity to work with the local and international partners in achieving this target which should be led by veterinarians when animal rabies is concerned. The animal rabies control program which was handed over to the DAPH in last year was retaken over by the Ministry of Health disrupting the planned program. The SLVA understood the importance of preparing a platform for all related government and non-government institutes and personnel to work together in order to prepare and implement a proper strategic plan. Hence, we invited all respective parties for a discussion forum which was held on 18th October 2019 at Oak Ray Regency, Kandy.

All invitees participated in the discussion forum and actively contributed to the session. All participants were given an opportunity to express their past experience, views, plans and suggestions during the discussion. Their ideas were given due consideration and suggestions on achieving the objectives namely collaboration, capacity building and policy changes were tentatively identified. SLVA agreed to conduct a few more rounds of discussions in the near future and prepare an action plan to achieve the ultimate goal. The SLVA convey its gratitude the participants for their active contribution to make the session a success.



INTRODUCTION

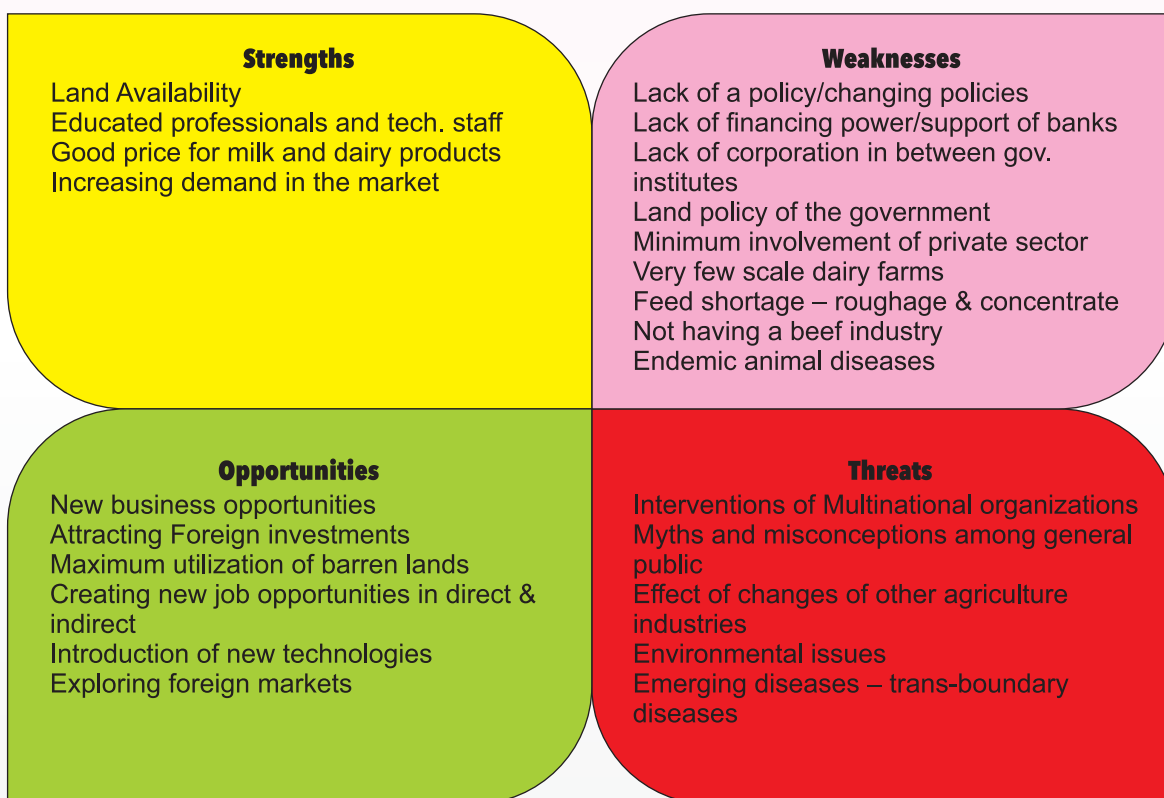
As a country, Sri Lanka has not been successful so far to become self-sufficient in dairy although numerous concepts were brought forward by government and non-government institutes during last many decades.

Sri Lanka produces only 42% of the consumption domestically according to the Central Bank Reports. The balance is imported as different dairy products and the main product is milk powder.

Sri Lanka has spent Rs. 55 Billion for importation of dairy products last year. Milk powder importation is approximately 100,000 Metric tons.

There is an increase of demand for dairy products with the population growth and the changes of consumer behaviors. People prefer consumption of value added dairy products over consuming as fresh milk. Changing consumer behavior in to fresh milk consumption is essential and instead producers should be motivated to produce dairy products locally replacing the imported brands in the market. For this purpose the current domestic milk production is not sufficient. The last year domestic milk production was only about 470 Million liters but country needs additional 800 Million liters to replace the imported dairy products by local production. It is a gigantic task and a holistic approach is essential considering all aspects including economical, socio-cultural, quality standards, animal welfare and environmental aspects.

A SWOT Analysis on Dairy Sector



KEY POINTS to be considered

- Private investors are reluctant to invest on dairy mainly due to uncertainty of government policy on dairy
- Investing on dairy is a long term investment and the investment is massive
- Cost of production of milk is increased day by day mainly due to increase of raw material prices
- Government takes favorable decisions on importation of dairy products

- Government changes its decisions on import taxes which directly affect investors badly
- Financing institutes do not identify dairy farming as a sustainable business in the country and they are reluctant to finance for dairy investors
- Government has not identified large scale dairy projects as a potential segment to fulfil the production gap
- There is no any lands devoted for dairy development in this country

Other reasons

- It is very vital to have a Dairy Development Policy for the country if the country wants to develop this segment.
- It should come under the Livestock Development Policy which comes under the National Policy of the Country.
- The country should have a dairy development policy in order to achieve the self-sufficiency in milk. It should be under the livestock, poultry and fisheries development.

National Policy of Sri Lanka

Livestock, Poultry and fisheries Development Policy

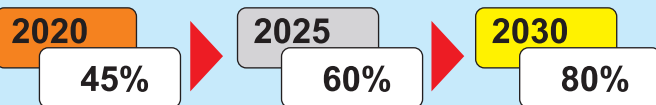
Dairy Development Policy

Policy should cover followings

- Objectives
- Government contribution
- Uplifting the existing farming community
- Private sector contribution
- Land allocation
- Financial facilities
- Dairy imports
- Taxes
- Animal Health
- Breeding
- Dairy related professions
- Research & Development (R&D)
- Educating public

Objectives

Producing local dairy requirement domestically



- Cut-off outflow of currency on importation of dairy product
- Motivating private sector to invest on dairy
- Effective contribution of government for dairy development

Government contribution

- Assurance on Stability on the policy
- Implementation of the policy
 - > Department of Animal Production and Health
 - > Department of Agriculture and
 - > other related government and local government bodies

- Developing and maintaining different dairy models and dairy farms in different scales
- Gov. owned dairy processing institutes with a reasonable market share
- Supplying breeding materials for farmers by local supply or importation
- Developing and maintaining dairy related research, educational and extension service providing institutes

Uplifting the existing farms

- Mainly the small scale contributes to the current domestic production
- They face numerous problems
 - > Unavailability of lands for grass
 - > Unavailability of breeding materials
 - > Poor extension service
 - > Poor milk collection network and low farm gate milk price
 - > Low quality of milk
- Productivity of this model should be increased
- Youth and women should be encouraged
- New technology should be introduced
- Social recognition

Private sector contribution

- Small scale farms should be developed as sustainable businesses.
- More market oriented medium scale farms should be started.
- Private investments on large scale farms should be encouraged. Value added products which can compete with imported brands should be introduced and they should lead the market.
- Strong public/private extension services should be established. Veterinary services, breeding services, other extension services providing government set up should be strengthened. More private institutes should be established.
- ‘Just in time’ extension services should be assured.
- Commercial scale farms should be;
 - > the main contributor of dairy production
 - > introducing new technology
 - > having plans for export market

Land allocation

- Government should identify and allocate suitable lands in the country for dairy development from different agro-climatic zones. Investors should be invited for investing on them.

Financial Facilities

- Dairy investment is a long term investment & very sensitive on changes in the global market. Low interest financial facilities should be available for investors.

Dairy imports

- Gradual phase off of imported products in the market.
- Replacing competitive local products in to the market.
- Quality standards of local products should be in international levels.
- Discouraging imports by various modes.

Taxes

- To discourage imports gradually while local products coming in to the market.
- Agriculture byproducts which are inputs for dairy husbandry in the country should not be allowed for exportation.
- Local dairy products should be given tax concessions until the dairy become a viable industry.

Animal Health

- Top priority should be given for disease prevention and control while the authority is assigned to the Department of Animal Production and Health. Resources and facilities in the department should be improved up to the international standards. Disease investigation technologies should be upgraded and staff should be recruited.
- A strategic plan for disease prevention and control should be established
- Eradication plans on selected economically important diseases should be conducted.

Breeding

- Upgrading of the existing population by local or international inputs
- Breeding committee under the Ministry should be empowered for planning and implementation
- New facilities for producing Embryos, sex sorted semen ...etc should be established.

Beef Industry

- For sustainable dairy industry the country should have a good beef industry as well.
- Areas should be selected for beef cattle farming
- Barriers for disposal of unsuitable animals should be removed
- Commercial scale slaughter houses with modern technologies should be started in selected areas
- Investments for export oriented Beef cattle farming and beef industry should be encouraged.

Developing professional institutes

- Institutes which are producing professionals and other technical service providers should be uplifted up to the international standards
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
- Faculties of Agriculture and Technologies, Animal Sciences,
- Animal Husbandry schools, Agriculture school, Animal Science Schools...etc
- Studies on Graduate degree, Diploma and Certificate courses related to dairy should be upgraded up to the international standards
- Government and private sector investments on development of dairy technicians should be encouraged and standardized

Research & Development (R&D)

- The government institutes (Universities, Faculties, Colleges and schools, research institutes ...etc) should be facilitated on dairy development researches
- Foreign collaborations should be motivated
- Private sector should be allowed to work collaboratively on research and development projects

Educating general public

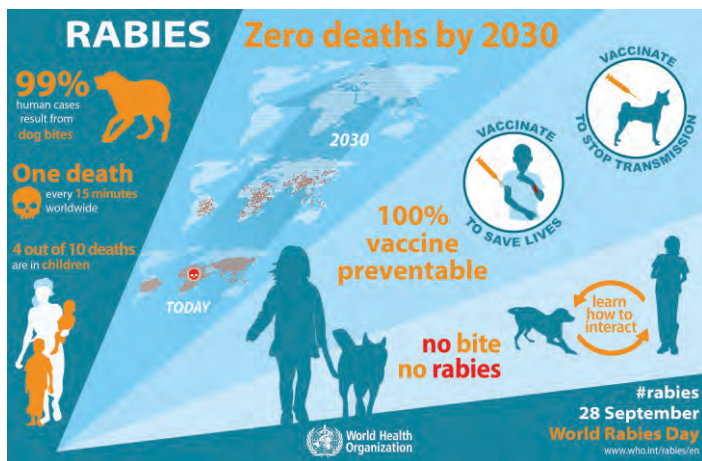
- General public and school children should be educated on benefits of dairy consumption
- Myths and misconceptions should be eliminated from the society

Eradication of Rabies in Sri Lanka: the way forward**Background**

Rabies is one of the oldest zoonotic diseases with a history of over 4000 years. It is endemic in more than 150 countries including Sri Lanka. It is a fatal disease, but it is 100% preventable. The disease prevention and eradication plan in Sri Lanka commenced in 1953 with

the establishment of the Veterinary Public Health (VPH) Unit under the Ministry of Health (MoH) headed by a public health veterinarian.

In 1959, the initial a five-year plan to eradicate rabies by 1963 was planned but never implemented. Then again in



1975 another World Health Organization (WHO) assisted, five-year plan (1976-1980) for rabies eradication was approved by the Cabinet yet the project proved unsuccessful. In the latter project, emphasis was given to establish a laboratory for production of live attenuated chick-embryo (Fleury type) anti rabies vaccine for animals at the Veterinary Research Institute of Ministry of Agriculture in Peradeniya.

Rabies continued as a major zoonotic disease in Sri Lanka and yet again another five year rabies eradication program was planned from 1982-1985. This too ended with the fate. In the year 1989, the island wide rabies control program was decentralized, and the responsibility was handed over to the provincial councils. Up until 2007, capturing and destruction of stray dogs or dogs that were not claimed by owners was practiced mainly through municipal councils as one of the strategies to control dog population, but program did not produce expected results, was not sustainable and was not acceptable by the public and the authorities from welfare and social perspectives.

In 2007, chemical and surgical dog sterilization was adopted as a dog population control measure. The Ministry of Livestock and Rural Community Development with the Cabinet Paper on “Spread of Rabies” dated 13.07.2012, became a collaborative partner in control of rabies in the country. Although rabies could not be eradicated, the number of human deaths over the past 2 decades have dropped from around 150 to 20 which is mainly attributed to increased post exposure prophylaxis and treatment at a phenomenal cost.

The present Sri Lankan policy has assigned dog rabies control to the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Local Government. The animal health sector (Department of Animal Production & Health) functions under the Ministry of Livestock (which existed under

different names) has only limited involvement in rabies control. Its main focus is on economically important agricultural animals, their health and production.

Events took place in the recent past

In April 2016, difficulties encountered by the public due to stray dogs in many parts of the country were brought to the notice of the Cabinet. As a result, the Secretary, Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Council (LG & PC) was directed to formulate a suitable mechanism to curb this problem in consultation with the Secretaries of the Ministries of Health and Rural Economy (which dealt with livestock) and submit a proposal. In May 2016 the Minister and the Secretary of LG & PC met with the relevant officers, and a steering committee was appointed consisting of officials of the three ministries, provincial Chief Secretaries and Provincial Directors. All three ministries agreed for the proposal prepared by the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) and with the signatures of all three Secretaries the committee report was submitted to the Cabinet on 2016-09-07 and was approved.

In this proposal the responsibility of implementation of both dog vaccination and population control through sterilization was assigned to the Provincial Directors of DAPH with the support of provincial and municipal veterinary surgeons. It was decided to conduct rabies vaccination programs by DAPH from January 2018 but due to financial constraints at the time the program was postponed until April 2018. In the first eight months (from April to December 2018) of the program, DAPH conducted 1.2 million vaccinations and 68,000 dog sterilisations. This was a remarkable achievement and the program was moving well. However, on 2019.01.18, a cabinet paper was submitted by the Minister of Health to take over the functions of dog sterilization and rabies vaccination program back to the Public Health Veterinary Services of MoH supposedly based on information provided by a pressure group indicating that the rabies incidence was escalating after DAPH has taken over the program. This claim was not substantiated by any relevant data. It is also learnt that no observations were requested from the Ministry of Rural economy under which the DAPH functions. However, observations were submitted by His Excellency the President, Minister of Finance and the Minister of Local Government. On 2019.02.12 the cabinet defer the confirmation of draft decision dated 2019.02.05 and requested the Minister of Health to submit his views on the matters highlighted by the Minister of Provincial Council and Local Government. Subsequently the cabinet approved the proposal of the Minister of Health on 2019.03.12 and

currently the rabies eradication program is back in the hands of MoH.

The way forward

As Rabies is a national issue which has an impact on lives of both humans and animals and country's economy, engagement of multi-sectors and One Health collaboration across all levels with public support is mandatory towards the efforts for its eradication. At present, as the dog registration and vaccination against rabies fall under the purview of local government authorities, their contribution is essential. In fact, it is accepted world over that the animal rabies control is a responsibility of animal health (veterinary) authorities and that of human is a responsibility of the human health authorities. Political will and commitment remain key factors for sustaining and driving progress of eradication program which call for that government authorities provide the leadership and coordination. Strengthening rabies surveillance through capacity building and coordination between human and animal health sectors are also crucial in achieving success. Sri Lanka being an island with no physical connections to neighbouring countries has the benefit of having natural rabies biosecurity and potential of elimination of rabies. If this dog-mediated disease is to be stopped, over 70 per cent

dog vaccination coverage must be achieved at least for 3 consecutive years, public awareness and education on dog bite prevention, post bite wound care, post exposure prophylaxis, responsible pet ownership etc. also must be continued. If the veterinarians in the private sector, state sector including provincial and central government, Public Health Veterinary Services of the MoH could join hands, elimination of rabies in the country would not be a difficult task. It is also possible to solicit the support of WHO, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) whose collective goal is to eliminate dog-mediated rabies from the world by 2030. It is worthwhile mentioning that the World veterinary Association and the World Medical Association too have joined forces to mark World Rabies Day on 18th September 2019 in collaboration with the GARC and pledged to end dog-transmitted human rabies by 2030.

Dr. Niranjala de Silva

Acknowledgement: Dr. Chamari Kannangara, Dr. Nimal Jayaweera, Zero by 30-the global strategic plan, <http://www.rabies.gov.lk>

Announcements

1. Short Course on Scientific Writing (20 Hrs)

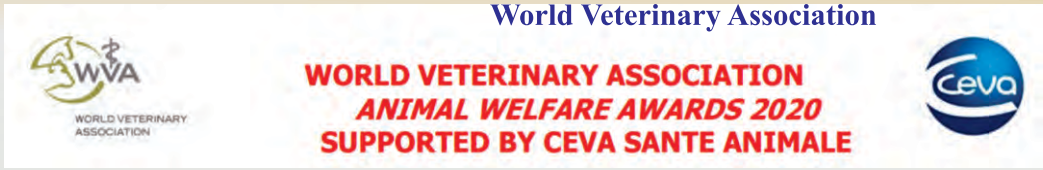
This programme is designed mainly to increase the writing ability of postgraduate research students, Veterinary practitioners who are interested in publishing their studies and other officers who are involved in Veterinary research and investigations. This programme will improve their writing capabilities that help to publish the finding in reputed journals. Further, it will improve their writing skills on project proposals and reviews. The course will be organized and coordinated by the SLVA. A team of highly qualified scientists will conduct sessions. Total course duration will be 20 hours and to be completed within 3 -4 months from December 2019 to March 2020 tentatively. A certificate will be awarded to each participant upon successful completion of the course. Maximum of 20 participants will be given the opportunity to participate for this valuable course. Applications and application procedure will be published in www.slva.org website, newsletter and social media forums in future.

The course content will be as following:

1. Writing up & publish your research
2. Basics on research Methodology
3. How to write a research abstract
4. Pathway of publishing in a scientific journal
5. Introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics
6. Introduction to research methodology and basic statistics
7. Documentation procedures and How to apply for an ethical clearance
8. Thesis writing
9. How to write a project proposal
10. Narrative review writing
11. Systemic review writing and meta-analysis

Congratulations!!!

Dr. Tharanga Thoradeniya for winning 'the Animal Welfare Award 2020' of World Veterinary Association



The World Veterinary Association (WVA) had called applications from members in member veterinary associations all over the world to recognize and reward persons and entities who are contributing in their daily lives to the protection and welfare of animals and have provided outstanding and exemplary welfare-related services to animals, animal owners and the public. Being a member of WVA, Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA) requested from our members to apply for the award.

WVA had received many outstanding applications with equally exceptional qualifications making the selection process very competitive. The WVA Review Committee has selected Dr. Tharanga Thoradeniya, Asst. Secretary of SLVA as one of the 6 winners of the WVA Animal Welfare Award 2020.

Congratulations! The 2020 Global Animal Welfare Award will be presented to her at the Awards Ceremony on 6 th April 2020 in Auckland, New Zealand during the opening ceremony of the 36th World Veterinary Association Congress. SLVA is proud of her achievement and wish all the very best.

Sri Lanka Veterinary Journal

Sri Lanka Veterinary Journal volume 66(1) January - June 2019



SLVJ is an annual, peer-reviewed publication that covers all aspects of veterinary science with a special emphasis on the Sri Lankan veterinary profession. Sri Lanka's sole veterinary publication, the SLVJ provides original research

findings, continuing education, clinical reports and review articles to subscribers.

The current volume 66(1) can be accessed through the journal website : <http://www.journal.slva.org/> & <https://www.slva.org/>



Dr. Dhanapala Research Fund

SLVA offers research grants worth Rs. 20,000.00 each for field veterinarians who are interested doing research studies mainly on livestock sector. They can apply the grant from SLVA by forwarding a research proposal to the Secretary, SLVA. For more details contact the Secretary, SLVA on 077 3782138 or by an e-mail (secretary@slva.org). The researcher should publish the study at Annual Scientific Sessions of SLVA.



SINGAPORE VET

**23-24
October
2020**

SLVA becomes an Official Association Partner of Singapore VET 2020.

Singapore VET is a two day conference-led exhibition with a comprehensive high quality CPE program presented by world class professionals (<https://singapore.vetshow.com/>). There are opportunities to meet up with friends and to be inspired by vets from around the world, meet with suppliers, discover ground-breaking technologies and source new equipment that will help you in your practice.

Benefits to the SLVA

- Acknowledgement of SLVA as an Official Partner, acknowledgement with SLVA logo across show promotional materials – both online and print, social media support to promote SLVA as an Official Partner in the run up to the event.
- Discounted passes at \$179 (USD) for passes booked before 31 Jan 2020.

Organized by:



Sri Lanka Veterinary Association



345
JULY 2020
BMICH

Sri Lanka's No.1

International Poultry, Livestock, Feed Industry Exhibition & Trade Show

Pet Trade Show Conditioning Show Health Clinics | Dog Shows

Wildlife & Zoo Animal Exhibition



It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me and the 72nd Executive Committee of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association to initiate the International VET Expo for the 2nd consecutive year. The prime objective of this exhibition is to showcase the role of veterinary profession in building a healthy nation and economy. To suite the industry and business type, the exhibition consists of four pavilions as follows:

- **POULTRY TEC PAVILION**
- **LIVESTOCK PAVILION**
- **PET PAVILION**
- **WILDLIFE & ZOO PAVILION**

Many other parallel events will be organized in the same premises.

- **Pet shows and pet socialization**
- **Pet clinics**
- **Discussion forums**
- **TV shows**

On behalf of the organizing committee, I take this opportunity to invite all stakeholders of the veterinary related industries to participate at the exhibition.

Dr. Niranjala de Silva
President, Sri Lanka Veterinary Association

Our sponsors for VET EXPO 2019

Main Sponsor



Platinum Sponsors



FORESIGHT
Engineering (Pvt) Ltd



STN STAR
Property Developers
Live with Extraordinary Lifestyle



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Supported by



Department of Animal Production & Health



Department of Wildlife Conservation



Department of National Zoological Garden

Media Partners



Digital Media Partners



SLVA Secretariat, OPA Centre, No. 275/75,
Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 07.

If undelivered, please return to:



To:



3 4 5
JULY 2020
B M I C H

Pedigree
We're for dogs.™

Before After*

ADULT
Chicken & Vegetables

5 SIGNS OF GOOD HEALTH™

6 WEEKS TO THE #1

- Proven Healthier & Shinier coat
- Strong muscles
- Digestive health
- Strong bones & teeth
- Strong immune system

Feed 2 Bowls of Pedigree® a day.

*Customer Used Pedigree for 45 days as per feeding guidelines on the pack to see the difference.