Fulfilling a long-felt need for SLVA, the 73rd executive committee embarked on a program to formulate a strategic plan for SLVA. A session to draft a medium to long term strategic plan was held at Sir John’s Bungalow in Matale on 1st, 2nd and 3rd April 2021. This was guided and facilitated by the leadership and professional training institute, Smart Quest Company, and funded by the individual members of the committee.

The process consisted of three phases: (1) A brainstorming session which was aimed at identifying all possible and viable future activities of SLVA (2) A selecting/sorting session at which the order of importance of these tasks was identified and sorted under common categories, and (3) A refining session where reasoning done to select the best possible and practicable tasks. All members actively participated in these sessions. The leadership training session held in January for Ex-Co members under the theme “empowered to serve” helped the members to effectively contribute to this.
The SLVA celebrated the World Veterinary Day 2021 with several key features, at an event held at Hotel Taj Samudra, on 24th April 2021. The Chief Guest was Mr. D.B. Herath, Hon. State Minister of Livestock, Farm Promotion, Dairy and Egg Related Industries, while the keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Oswin Perera, retired professor of the faculty of veterinary medicine and animal science. The event was also graced by a recorded speech by Dr. Patricia Turner, the president of the World Veterinary Association (WVA).
One of the key features was the launch of the Vet Mobile App., a digital consultation platform. This was the culmination of a series of discussions held between the SLVA and Dialog Digital Health (Pvt.) Ltd., a subsidiary of Dialog Axiata. This App can be used to conduct virtual consultations by veterinary surgeons, and has the potential to revolutionize the veterinary industry in Sri Lanka, fulfilling a long-felt need.

Another key feature was the launch of the Public Communication Platform of SLVA, the objective of which is to disseminate accurate scientific messages to the general public, and to make the public aware of misinformation circulated in the social media etc. The media-spokesperson of this is the President SLVA by position power, and there are seven senior resource personnel under seven categories, viz. pet animal, dairy, poultry, public health & food safety, nutrition, wildlife & zoo and international relations.

Grand launch of the magazine “Your Veterinarian” heightened the glamour of the event. This first volume consisted of several articles under different specialties in all three languages. The aim was to make the general public aware of the different aspects of veterinary science.

Launching the video series titled “Voice of Veterinarians” too attracted the attention. This video series is aimed at educating the general public on different roles of veterinarians, under different specialties.

Award of certificates to the winners of the Drawing Competition and Photography Competition, conducted in line with the world veterinary day 2021 was also held. Several school children received their winning awards by the chief guest.
Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, physical gatherings and activities had to be done away with. The SLVA responded to this new normal scenario by going virtual: Conducting Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities through zoom platform. The first three sessions were conducted during the quarter under review.

06th June: Communicating Science to Public: How to engage Hearts and Minds by
1. Dr. Piyal Ariyananda
2. Mr. Chameera Dedduwage
3. Ms. Sandini Tennakoon
4. Mr. Nalaka Gunawardena

18th June: Cardiology-Back to Basics: Dr. Senura de Silva (Live from Australia)

20th June: Cruciate Ligament Rupture: Dr. Bhagya Don (Live from Australia)