



# The Veterinarian

Official Newsletter of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association

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April - June 2023

## World Veterinary Day Celebrations - 2023



**T**his year, the World Veterinary Day fell on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Theme for the year was "Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession".

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## Common Emergencies in Dogs & Cats



**W**orkshop on "Common Emergencies in Dogs & Cats" by Dr Bimal Tennakoon was conducted on 20<sup>th</sup> of June at VTH Peradeniya with the participation of 30 vets.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### AGM & Annual Convention

1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

@ Shangri-La Hotel, Colombo

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### Workshop on Swine Breeding Management



**T**he SLVA organized a Workshop on Swine Breeding Management for the range veterinary surgeons in the Western Province.

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**M**r. Peter Van Asten, Sector Coordinator Pig Farming of the Netherlands was the resource person. The event was held at Kotedeniyawa Farmer Training Center with practical sessions on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023. There were more than 50 participants, including the range veterinary surgeons & their staff.

## Preliminary Meeting with Poultry Stake Holders convened by OHPH



**A** preliminary meeting was convened by One Health Poultry Hub (OHPH) in Kandy, on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023, and stake holders in poultry sector participated in this. The aim of this was to facilitate poultry product exports. National Coordinator of OHPH is Prof. Ruwani Kalupahana, and Prof. Dilan Satharasinghe, the president of SLVA, is a co-investigator. This event has been a very successful one.

## Common Emergencies in Dogs and Cats Workshop

Cont. from pg. 1



**A**ll the vets gained a lot of new knowledge on how to handle common emergencies of dogs and cats, both theoretical and practical



## Awareness Program for Veterinarians & Farmers: Northern Province

**A**n awareness program on Poultry Nutrition, Biosecurity & Health was jointly organized by SLVA & OHPH at the Training Center, Kilinochchi, on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Twenty-five (25) range veterinarians and 30 farmers participated in the event.



## ANIMAL WELFARE BILL

**D**r. Chamari Kannangara briefed the Ex-Co Members on Animal Welfare Bill on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023. A preliminary meeting on the Bill was held with the participation of Mrs Deepani Kumarajeewa, former Legal Draftsman attached to the Presidential Secretariat & Dr Nadee Karunaratna on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023, followed up by a zoom discussion on 24<sup>th</sup> June. The SLVA plans to meet the relevant authorities to discuss our suggestions.

### Ex-Co Meetings

April 2023: No Ex-Co meetings were conducted.

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at Organization of Professional Associations (OPA), Colombo 07.

28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Institute of Continuing Education (ICE), Gatambe.

## Webinar: Experience in Desert Dairy Farming



**WEBINAR** SLVA International Webinar Series 2023  
**Experience in Desert Dairy Farming**

**Dr. Janaka Weerasekera**  
BVSc, MVSc (SL)  
Operational Manager Herd and Senior Veterinarian  
Al Raha Dairy Co LLC, Dubai

**Sunday**  
11<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**SL Time**  
1.00 - 3.30 pm

Join us through this zoom link to participate in this important discussion,  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81774399106?pwd=WjhaWnQldkwwUjR6Y3ZLT0JYNnNhUT09>

Meeting ID: 817 7439 9106      Passcode: 253314

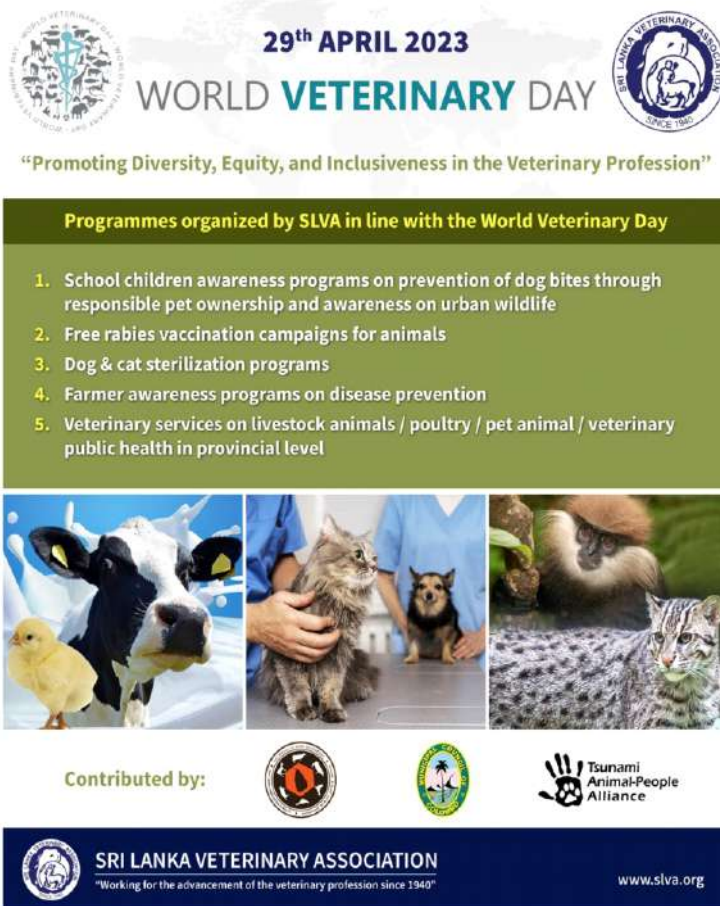
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A webinar was conducted on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 on Experience in Desert Dairy farming by Dr. Janaka Kumara with the participation of over 30 members online. This is in line with the International Webinar Series 2023.

# World Veterinary Day Celebrations

Cont. from pg. 1



**29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023**  
**WORLD VETERINARY DAY**

"Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession"

**Programmes organized by SLVA in line with the World Veterinary Day**

1. School children awareness programs on prevention of dog bites through responsible pet ownership and awareness on urban wildlife
2. Free rabies vaccination campaigns for animals
3. Dog & cat sterilization programs
4. Farmer awareness programs on disease prevention
5. Veterinary services on livestock animals / poultry / pet animal / veterinary public health in provincial level

**Contributed by:**

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**T**he SLVA organized several awareness programs, workshops, professional training, public services etc. targeting veterinarians, companion animal owners, farmers, general public, school children etc. during late April and early May 2023, in collaboration with the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC), Tsunami Animal People Alliance (TAPA) and the VS Offices of Thirappane, Kegalle, Ratnapura, Milleniya, Homagama etc.

**T**opics covered under these programs were prevention of dog bites through responsible pet ownership, awareness on urban wildlife and importance of fresh milk consumption in human nutrition. The resource personnel were companion animal private practitioners, wildlife veterinarians and also range veterinarians. The students from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science also supported the event. The school children had the hands-on experience with practical demonstrations on pet handling.



The collage consists of five photographs arranged around a central pink banner. The banner has a torn-edge effect and contains the text 'World Veterinary Day Celebration' in white, bold, sans-serif font. The photographs show: 1) A large group of students in white uniforms sitting in rows in a hall. 2) A teacher in a pink and yellow sari standing next to a whiteboard. 3) Students in white uniforms holding up small yellow cards. 4) A group of students sitting outdoors under a tent, with a teacher standing nearby. 5) A group of students sitting in rows in a hall, similar to the first photo.

A large group of students in white uniforms are seated in a hall, attending a presentation. The students are arranged in many rows, filling the room. They are looking towards the front of the hall. The room has large windows with red curtains on the right side. The students are sitting on yellow chairs. The overall atmosphere is formal and organized.



Another school children awareness program was conducted in the Northern Province covering 5 districts. These programs were conducted in the first week of May, after the WVD activity week due to practical issues. More than 500 students benefitted from the event.

## Dog Sterilization & Vaccination Program: Ratnapura and Kegalle Districts



**T**he Kegalle VS office and the Ratnapura Veterinary Hospital have requested from SLVA to conduct a free dog sterilization program and a rabies vaccination program in the respective districts. The program was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2023. The Governor, Sabaragamuwa

Province, Mr Tikri Kobbekaduwa graced the Ratnapura program. More than 200 ARV doses and about 50 OHE surgeries were performed. The SLVA provided financial support, while technical and other resources were provided by the DAPH, Sabaragamuwa Province.

## Dog Sterilization & Vaccination Program: Millaniya VS Range, Kalutara



**T**he SLVA specifically selected Millaniya VS range to conduct dog sterilization & free anti-rabies vaccination program due to the rising jackal attacks to dogs in this area, and reported positive rabies cases.

This three-day program, spanning through 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023, was organized by the SLVA to support the community dwelling in the region. Around five hundred dogs were vaccinated and over 200 sterilizations were completed. The technical support was provided by the Tsunami Animal People Alliance (TAPA), Several range veterinary surgeons and their staff.

# Farmer Education Programs: Prevention of Mastitis, Millaniya VS Range



**M**astitis has posed a significant health challenge among the small-scale dairy farms in Sri Lanka. This has created a challenging environment for the field veterinarians and all other large-scale farms around. SLVA has identified that farmer education is crucial in the management of this disease and identified Millaniya VS region, an area in which mastitis is reported frequently. The event was conducted in

the Divisional Secretariat office, Millaniya on 28<sup>th</sup> April, and about 75 dairy farmers participated. The program was conducted by the SLVA in collaboration with the Millaniya Range Veterinary Surgeons and the staff. The guest lecture was conducted by Dr. Devika Gamage on prevention of Mastitis. The Provincial Director (PD) of the Western Province, Dr. K.K Sarath and the officials from PD office were also present.

## AWARENESS PROGRAM ON DAIRY NUTRITION & MANAGEMENT: HOMAGAMA VS RANGE



**S**ri Lanka is currently experiencing an enormous economic crisis, and this has led to the restriction of importations, in order to stabilize the Sri Lankan rupee. Owing to this, several animal feed raw materials, and related products have become very expensive. Feed millers are currently struggling to produce nutritional feed of quality. Considering this, SLVA organized an awareness program on dairy nutrition for the dairy farmers in Homagama VS range. The program was conducted in the Kiriwathuduwa milk collecting center Homagama, on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Over 30 dairy farmers participated in this program and Dr. Shantha, the Veterinary Surgeon attached to the Homagama Veterinary Range conducted the program.

# Health Camp, Sterilization & Vaccination Program: CMC Area

**Y**et another sterilization and vaccination program was conducted in Kibulawa, Colombo municipal area on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2023. A free animal clinic was also organized for the public with the help of 5 Veterinary Surgeons. The pets were screened for diseases, and all other routine health check-ups were provided for free; more than 100 pets benefitted from this combined program. This was organized in collaboration with the Colombo Municipal Veterinary Department.



# Public Awareness on WVD 2023 Activities on Television and Print Media

**T**he representatives from the 75<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee of the SLVA participated in TV programs on Independent Television Network (ITN) and Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC) to publicize the World Veterinary Day program organized for 2023. "Hathwana Peya" TV program of the ITN was telecast on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April at 7.00 a.m. while "Aluth Hetak" TV program on the SLRC was telecast on 9<sup>th</sup> of May at 7.00 a.m. Importance of veterinary profession, the history of SLVA and its services, current industry issues in the animal production sector, world veterinary day and its program/events and items organized etc. were stressed at these programs.



## SLVA marks Int Veterinary Day with host of community welfare programmes

The Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA) celebrated International Veterinary Day (29 April) with a series of animal and community welfare programmes at key locations across the island.

Organised under the theme for the year "Veterinarians: The guardians of animal welfare", it aims to raise awareness of the contributions and the role played by veterinarians in protecting animal health and welfare, public health, and food safety.

"Beyond the challenges that we face today, it is more important than ever to ensure the welfare of animals. As we celebrate International Veterinary Day, we must recognise the critical role that veterinarians play in safeguarding the health and wellbeing of animals, which in turn impacts our own health and the environment. Through our specially designed programmes, we aim to spread awareness on the significance of responsible pet ownership, urban wildlife, and farm welfare programmes. By participating in these activities, we can come together as a community to promote the humane treatment of animals and ensure their welfare in a world that needs more compassion and kindness." SLVA President Dr. Dilan Sathanasinghe said.



The SLVA has organised several activities in different locations to mark this important day. The events include awareness programmes for school children on responsible pet ownership and urban wildlife, farmer awareness and dog sterilisation and rabies vaccination programmes.

Kicking off the series on 24 April, the "Hathwana Peya" programme on ITN highlighted the importance of veterinarians and their role in promoting animal health and welfare.

The initiative was followed by awareness programmes on the "Prevention of dog bites through responsible pet ownership" and "Urban wildlife" for students of the All Saints Girls' School (Colombo 6), Sangathil Vidyalyaya (Theralage), Kalamanchikana Vidyalyaya (Theralage), and Perlas Nabena.



Drug mobilisation and rabies vaccination programmes at Rupavahini Veterinary Hospital with the participation of the Governor, Titian Kobbekaduwa.

Vidyalyaya (Theralage), Dero Balika Vidyalyaya (Colombo 08), Sumanayawardana Boys College (Colombo 15), Wanyapala Sumanapala Vidyalyaya (Kandy), and C. B. K. Karmayaya Vidyalyaya (Colombo 8), and Gorrana Balika Vidyalyaya (Colombo 8).

In addition, the SLVA also organised drug mobilisation and rabies vaccination programmes on 27 and 28 April at Millenium Veterinary Hospital, Rupavahini, VSO office, Kumbura, VSO office, Homagama, Kumbura, M.B. Collecting Centre, and Millenium Divisional Secretariat Office.

Supporting the farming community, the SLVA hosted awareness programmes on "Prevention of Mastitis" at the Millenium Divisional Secretariat Office.

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Several articles on print media were also published, to give publicity of the activities organized by the SLVA to commemorate the World Veterinary Day.

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