This year, the World Veterinary Day fell on April 29. Theme for the year was “Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession.”

Workshop on “Common Emergencies in Dogs & Cats” by Dr Bimal Tennakoon was conducted on 20th of June at VTH Peradeniya with the participation of 30 vets.

The SLVA organized a Workshop on Swine Breeding Management for the range veterinary surgeons in the Western Province.
Mr. 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 10th 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 28th 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

All 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

An awareness program on Poultry Nutrition, Biosecurity & Health was jointly organized by SLVA & OHPH at the Training Center, Kilinochchi, on 12th May 2023. Twenty-five (25) range veterinarians and 30 farmers participated in the event.
ANIMAL WELFARE BILL

Dr. Chamari Kannangara briefed the Ex-Co Members on Animal Welfare Bill on 9th 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 Karunarathna on 19th June 2023, followed up by a zoom discussion on 24th June. The SLVA plans to meet the relevant authorities to discuss our suggestions.

Ex-Co Meetings
April 2023: No Ex-Co meetings were conducted.

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

28th June 2023 at Institute of Continuing Education (ICE), Gamatbe.

Webinar: Experience in Desert Dairy Farming

A webinar was conducted on 11th 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

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 animals / veterinary public health in provincial level

Contributed by:

SRI LANKA VETERINARY ASSOCIATION
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School Children Awareness Programs

Topics 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 events at Kattamurichchana Vidyalaya, Thirappane and Pethis Rambewa Vidyalaya, Thirappane, North Central Province were jointly organized by the SLVA and the VS office, Thirappane, where more than 150 students participated, while the event at Wariyapola Sumangala Vidyalaya, Kandy was organized by the SLVA. The SLVA wishes to thank all those who helped to make these events a success, including the resource personnel and the principals and the staff of the schools.

The events at All Saints Girls’ School, Colombo 08; Sangabhodi Vidyalaya, Thotalanga; Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Colombo 08; Susamayawardena Boys’ College, Colombo 08; CWW Kannangara Vidyalaya, Colombo 08 and Gothami Balika Vidyalaya, Colombo 08 were jointly organized by the SLVA and the CMC. About 2000 students from grade 6-10 participated in this program. Educational leaflets were also distributed to the school children.
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**

The 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 27th 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**

The 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 27th to 29th 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

Mastitis 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 28th 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

Sri 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 Kiriwatthuduwa milk collecting center Homagama, on 28th 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.

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Health Camp, Sterilization & Vaccination Program: CMC Area

Yet another sterilization and vaccination program was conducted in Kibulawa, Colombo municipal area on the 29th 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

The representatives from the 75th 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 24th of April at 7.00 a.m. while “Aluth Hetak” TV program on the SLRC was telecast on 9th 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.

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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