



The Veterinarian

Official Newsletter of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association

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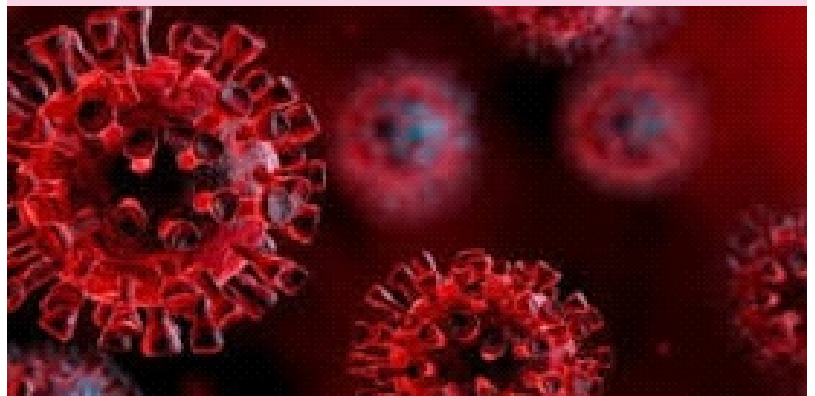
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Message from the SLVA

Dear members of SLVA,

We are experiencing a serious threat to human lives that we have never experienced during the period of last 100 years and definitely from the inception of SLVA in 1940. The novel Corona virus, Covid- 19 has hit all parts of the globe infecting more than 35 millions people resulting in over one million deaths up to the end of June 2020. There are over 2000 confirmed cases reported in Sri Lanka also claiming 11 deaths to date. The impact of the pandemic on regular activities of the public is grave and we experienced a lockdown situation first time ever in our history. People were confined to houses and day to day activities were highly restricted. Moreover, we had to adjust ourselves to a completely different hygienic practices which we had never experienced before.

Cont. 3



Awareness Webinar on 'Role of Veterinarians in the view of global pandemic'

SLVA conducted a Webinar on 26th April 2020 making the veterinarians aware of the virus, epidemiology, susceptibility, incidences reported in animals and the responsibilities of veterinarians during the ongoing pandemic period. Dr. Niranjala de Silva, the President of SLVA conducted the session and large number of veterinarians joined the webinar. It was followed by a Q&A session during which we were able to make the participants aware on recent developments and the role of veterinarians in Sri Lanka if the situation become a serious in future.

Cont. 5

SLVA conducted Executive Committee meetings via digital platforms

The meetings and gatherings were strictly banned by the government as a preventive measure of spreading Covid- 19 and SLVA had to conduct its monthly meetings via 'Zoom' digital platform which was a novel experience.

7th May 2020

The Seventh Executive Committee meeting of 72nd Exco was held on 7th May 2020 as a Zoom meeting. The members joined the meeting via Zoom Platform. The committee could successfully conduct the meeting as a video conference.

6th June 2020

The Eight Executive Committee meeting of 72nd Exco was held on 6th June 2020

Visit Our official website: www.slva.org for updates



SRI LANKA VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

(Incorporated under the Companies Ordinance No 61 of 1938)

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PRESS RELEASE

Poultry and Livestock Products are Safe for Consumption

There are false information and rumors being circulated regarding the spread of 2019-nCoV infection (Novel Coronavirus infection) among general public and most of them are baseless and non-scientific. Poultry or livestock products are not sources of this infection and there is no threat of consumption of poultry meat, egg, other types of livestock products such as milk, pork, beef, mutton, lamb etc. People should not panic on this type false information which is circulated in the mass media and social media platforms.

Poultry industry is one of the self-sufficient industries in the country and the economic impact it provides to the country is massive. We, the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association strongly support all poultry and livestock industries which contribute catering to the needs of animal protein to the nation and finding international markets to support the national economy. The damage which would cause to the poultry and livestock industries due to this type of false information could be irreversible. Therefore, we urge from the media not to spread baseless non-scientific information in this critical stage. Furthermore, we request the general public to consume poultry and livestock products (cooked or processed) without any fear of contracting the coronavirus infection and maintain their food habits as usual.

Thank You

Dr. K.G.J.S. Disnaka
Secretary/SLVA

Dr. Niranjala de Silva
President/SLVA

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Dr. K.G.J.S. Disnaka
(Hon. Secretary, Sri Lanka Veterinary Association)
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Gatambe,
Peradeniya.

At the beginning the spreading of the deadly virus originated in Wuhan, China was like a serious epidemic restricted only to China. However, eventually the entire world became to a standstill with the declaration of pandemic situation on 11th March 2020 by the World Health Organization. There was panic and baseless information spreading through different media platforms confusing people which affects livelihood of the majority. Until some scientific evidence were found based on scientific studies the confused status prevailed which had a negative impact on all sectors including the veterinary related sectors.

As a professional association of veterinarians we also had to be proactive in searching for scientific evidence and accurate information to disseminate among veterinarians in our country and prevent unnecessary panic related to this deadly virus. One of the grave concern was that the animals would act as carriers of the virus affecting people. The SLVA realizing its duties and responsibilities in safeguarding the animal and human health came forward to make the veterinarians, livestock and poultry industry people, pet owners and general public aware that there is no concrete evidence so far to prove that the domestic animals and for that matter even zoo animals spread the disease to humans. Several media statements and voice cuts were released time to time to contain the panic among public. Official statements on responsible pet ownership, role of veterinarians and impact on livestock and poultry products were released in all three languages to safeguard the related professionals, animal lives and animal related industries. Some false information broadcasted on media were corrected by immediate interventions. Necessary information and directives were provided to the government officials whenever necessary to protect the industry.

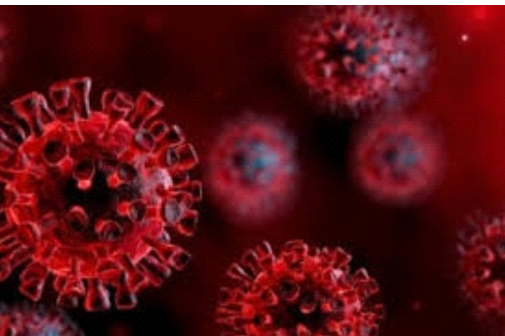
We had to pass through this difficult period abiding by the regulations imposed by the government and local authorities in mitigating the Covid- 19 which is so far successfully controlled in the country. While appreciating the efforts of veterinarians in the country for coming forward to treat and protect lives of animals even during the lockdown period realizing their responsibilities and obligations to animal owners we further urged our members to continue their invaluable commitment for the protection of animal lives.

We were unable to print the newsletter of SLVA, the Veterinarian for the period October to December 2019 as the postal services were defunct during the past few months but we published it as a PDF document in our website (www.slva.org) and emailed to all the members. Further, limited number of copies for the newsletter for January to March was printed and it was also published as a PDF document in our website and the same was emailed to all the members. From this new volume, we will be publishing it online in future also.

The SLVA decided to carry out its activities adhering to the regulations imposed by the government observing the health safety measures introduced to lead a 'New Normal' way of life after controlling the situation in Sri Lanka. The International Veterinary Conference /Annual Scientific Sessions will be held as a Webinar this year with the participation of renowned foreign resource personnel and our members residing overseas which will be a novel experience to the members. The selected venue will be Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science, University of Peradeniya.

The SLVA launched a YOUTUBE channel named 'SLVA' and the videos of the proceedings of the first ever scientific sessions which is scheduled to be launched in July will be available in it.

Covid 19 pandemic and role of SLVA



The Covid 19 pandemic was reported in Sri Lanka since middle of March 2020 and was spreading in isolated pockets since then. The government took measures to lockdown the country with immediate effect and all physical gatherings were banned until further notice. The scheduled workshops and events during the period of March to June were cancelled by SLVA as we were highly concerned about mitigating the effects of the pandemic on veterinarians and animals.



The Sri Lanka Veterinary Association released several press releases on the recent developments regarding Covid- 19 and its impact on animals and veterinarians. Our goal was to prevent unnecessary panic among general public, pet owners and veterinary practitioners making them aware on true facts about incidences reported in few countries while preventing unnecessary panic situation which may complicate the ongoing actions on mitigating the disease spreading in the country.

The first press release was issued by the SLVA on 7th February 2020 when Covid- 19 was spreading in China and few other countries in Europe. The aim was to protect livestock and poultry industries because there were rumors and false information spreading among general public claiming that the virus can be spread through animals and food of animal origin. As the professional body of veterinarians we came forward to safeguard the profession, related industries and animals.

COVID 19 (SARS – CoV-2) is not contracted from Pet or Livestock Animals

The Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA) wishes to inform its members that the Covid-19 disease is not transmitted from pet animals or other livestock species to humans according to the communications issued by the responsible world authorities to date. Therefore, we urge veterinarians, pet owners and farm owners to maintain their limited/routine activities adhering to the general personal protection guidelines stipulated by health authorities in this global pandemic period.



Sri Lanka
VETERINARY ASSOCIATION
Working for the advancement of the veterinary profession since 1940

sources



9th April 2020

What do we know about COVID19 virus and companion animals?

The current spread of COVID19 is a result of human to human transmission. To date, there is no evidence that companion animals play a significant role in spreading the disease. Therefore, there is no justification in taking measures against companion animals which may compromise their welfare.

To date, preliminary findings from studies suggest that poultry and pigs, are not susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection

What precautionary measures should be taken when companion or other animals have close contact with humans sick or suspected with COVID19?

Currently, there is no evidence that companion animals are playing a significant epidemiological role in this human disease. However, because animals and people can sometimes share diseases (known as zoonotic diseases), it is still recommended that people who are sick with COVID-19 limit contact with companion and other animals.

When handling and caring for animals, basic hygiene measures should always be implemented. This includes hand washing before and after being around or handling animals, their food, or supplies, as well as avoiding kissing, licking or sharing food.





WSAVA Moves to Reassure Pet Owners 'No evidence that COVID-19 can be contracted from pets'

20th March 2020



RESULTS OF COMMERCIAL LABORATORIES' TESTING OF SAMPLES FROM COMPANION ANIMALS

Two commercial laboratories in the United States reported they have tested (RT-PCR) thousands of specimens from dogs and cats for SARS-CoV-2 and have obtained no positive results. These specimens have come from the United States, South Korea, Canada, and Europe, including regions concurrently experiencing human COVID-19 cases. While this is encouraging, the specimens tested were originally submitted for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) analysis of more common pathogens causing respiratory disease in dogs and cats and, as such, per-case information as to whether or not these dogs and cats had contact with confirmed COVID-19 positive people is not available.



Covid-19

Role of veterinarians in the view of global pandemic

Dr. Niranjala de Silva
President/SLVA



Sri Lanka VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

"Working for the advancement of the veterinary profession since 1940"

25/04/2020

As pet owners, Should we be afraid of Covid-19?

We would like to answer most frequently asked questions by pet owners to clarify the uncertainties regarding Covid-19.

Is Corona (Covid-19) transmitted to human from cats and dogs?

NO. There are no records anywhere in the world so far

Can cats and dogs get infected with Covid-19?

Very rare. Only a few cases are reported in few countries. It is **negligible**.

If a pet is sick with respiratory signs, do we have to worry?

Animals get respiratory signs due to many other diseases. Consult your veterinarian for advice and treatment.

Do we have to worry about stray dogs spreading the disease?

NO. The handful of cases reported in few other countries were pets which were closely associated with human patients affected with Covid-19. No need to be afraid of stray dogs in your area as a source of infection.

Do we need to test our pets?

No. There is no indication unless you are a Covid-19 patient.

Do we test pet animals for Covid-19 disease in veterinary clinics/hospitals?

No. Even human samples are tested only in special authorized laboratories. Please do not request your veterinary doctor to test your pets. It is not indicated at this moment anywhere in the world.

Do we have to be afraid of keeping pets during this period?

No. Treat them and look after them well as you used to do.

What are the special practices we should follow?

Follow general guidelines issued to public by health authorities. Since human Covid-19 cases are spreading, protect your animals. Wash your hands before and after handling pets. Avoid being licked or kissing and snuggling them. Keep them comfortable providing sufficient food and exercise. Do not keep your pets closer to the other people as much as possible.

Dr. Niranjala de Silva

President/SLVA



Creative Artwork competition among children of veterinary families Organized by - SLVA on virtual platform

SLVA organized a competition among children of veterinary families during the lockdown period (March to June 2020) due to Covid 19 in the country. The schools were closed during this period so in order to keep children active and engaged we organized this event. Any children in families of which at least one of parent is a veterinarian could participate the competition. It was published online in the website, Facebook page and social media. Large number of artworks (drawings and poems) was received from children and winners were selected under two categories. SLVA congratulates the winners and appreciate participation of all the children. They were awarded with a valuable certificate in appreciation of participation.

| Primary Category | The winner | Parent |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| 1 st Place | S.D.S. Randave Grade 5 | Dr. Amila Gunathilake No. 35, 6 th Lane, Rathnagiriya Estate, Hirana, Panadura |
| 2 nd Place | K. Sakindu Menula Grade 4 | Dr: Samantha Lakruwan "Life", Gajaba Mawatha, Retritwatta, Weherahena, Kekanadura |
| 3 rd Place | Saheli Hansanadi Senarathna Grade 4 | Dr. Samantha Senarathne No.66, "Thuruviyana", Bolugolla, Pothuhera |



| Lower junior category | The winner | Parent |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 st Place | K. Chanindu Penula Grade 6 | Dr. Samantha Lakruwan "Life", Gajaba Mawatha, Retritwatta, Weherahena, Kekanadura |
| 2 nd Place | Maleesha Rose Kelly Grade 8 | Dr. Udayakumara 118, Vihara Mw, Nawagamuwa, Ranala |
| 3 rd Place | Senayka Methnuli Atapattu Grade 7 | Dr. Sumith Atapattu |



If undelivered, please return to:
SLVA Secretariat, POA Centre, No 275/75,
Prof. Stanley Wijesundara Mawatha, Colombo 07.

To:



72nd Executive Committee of Sri Lanka Veterinary Association



Front row from Left: Dr. A.W. Kalupahana (Treasurer), Dr. Erandika Gunawardena (President-Elect), Dr. Niranjala de Silva (President), Dr. Suneth Disnaka (Secretary), Dr. Keerthi Gunasekara (Past President)

Back row from Left: Dr. Sugath Pemachandra, Dr. Chamari Kannangara (Asst. Secretary), Dr. Janaka Amarakoon (Ex-officio), Dr. Susantha Mallawa Arachchi (Vice President), Prof. Neil Alles (Vice President), Dr. Kaundika Wanigasundara, Dr. Tharanga Thoradeniya (Asst. Secretary) and Dr. R.A.J.U. Marapana (Asst. Treasurer)

Absent: Dr. Eranda Rajapaksha, Dr. W.W. Abeygunawardena, Dr. Dilan Satharasinghe (Ex-officio), Dr. M.A.M. Fazi, Dr. M.N.M. Fauzi