

The Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA)

The SLVA is the continuation of the Ceylon Veterinary Association (CVA) founded in 1940. The inaugural meeting was held in the office of the Municipal Veterinary Surgeon on 28 July 1940, presided by Honourable Dr. WA de Silva, the Hon. Minister of Health. The other veterinarians at the meeting were Dr. Hector C Perera, Dr. RJ Little The Municipal Veterinary Surgeon, T. Malkani, LAP Britto Babapulle. Dr. RJ Little was the First President of CVA.



W.A. De Silva



R.J. Little



L.A.P. Brito-Babapulle



P.G. Malkani

The western system of Veterinary Science was introduced to Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) during the British rule to attend to the health of the horses in the cavalry units of the Army. Dr. W Arthur de Silva (1869 – 1942), an alumni of Richmond College, Galle, studied Veterinary Medicine through a scholarship, at the Veterinary College in Bombay (present Mumbai) the finest institution then available. He was the first Ceylonese to qualify as a Veterinary Surgeon. Upon his return to Ceylon, he was appointed as the first Municipal Veterinary Surgeon, Colombo in 1896 and became the Head of the Department in 1909. He resigned from Municipal service in September 1912, to enter the legislature as an elected representative in 1921, and was elected to the first State Council in 1931 representing the Moratuwa Constituency. He was elected the first Minister of Health in 1936, which post he held up to a few weeks before his death in 1942.

Dr. R.J. Little M.R.C.V.S., D.V.H., M.V.S. succeeded Mr. D.H. Rylands as the Municipal Veterinary Surgeon. In 1933 was the first President of the CVA. During his tenure as the President, Mr. R.J. Little, had stressed the need for a Veterinary School affiliated to the University of Ceylon as more qualified Veterinary Surgeons were needed in the island.

Dr. PG Malkani B.Sc., B.Sc (Vet.) Lond., M.R.C.V.S. was a specialist in Animal Husbandry (Diseases). He had been the Principal of the Bihar Veterinary College for nine years, Research Officer and Pathologist in the Imperial Research Institute at Muktes-war, and Deputy Director of the Serum Institute, Izatnagar, India.

L.A.P. Britto-Babapulle BSc (Lond.), MRCVS, DTVM (Edin.) was a Veterinary Surgeon in Private Practice, at the time. He was later appointed as a Lecturer in Comparative Anatomy at the University. He later held many positions, including the President of the CVA.

The first Patron of the CVA, the H.E. Governor-General of Ceylon, Sir Henry Monck Mason-Moore

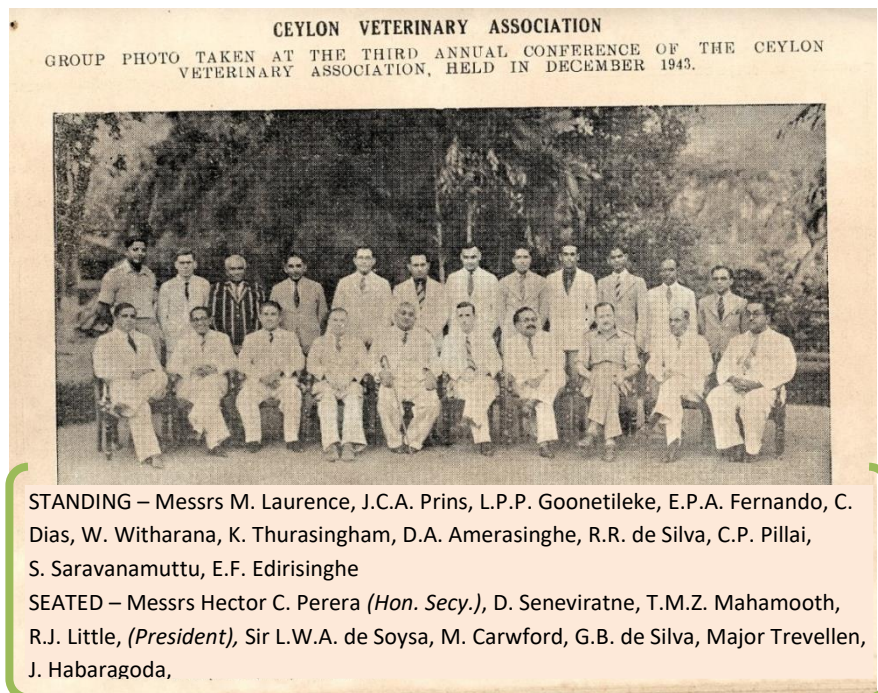
The Vice-Patrons of the CVA were

- the Prime Minister
- Minister of Agriculture
- Minister of Health
- The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ceylon (after the University was created)

Sir Henry Monck Mason-Moore in his message states; “ The necessity for the improvement of our methods of animal husbandry in Ceylon as an integral part of the general development of our agricultural resources is generally recognized. To achieve this objective a well-qualified and equipped Veterinary Service is essential and this is what the Ceylon Veterinary Association is anxious to achieve.”



The earliest photograph of
the CVA in 1943 in the
Ceylon Journal of Veterinary
Science



Extracted from:

“Footprints in the Vet Sands of Time : A brief history of the Veterinary Practice in Sri Lanka”

Authored by: Indira Nanayakkara Silva

