

VSF E meeting 2011 - Innsbruck

The last VSF Europa meeting took place on 6th and 7th October 2011 in Innsbruck. VSF E members were hosted by VSF Austria in the beautiful structure of the Institute for Veterinary Disease Control.

A very interesting symposium was organized on the first day, titled "Why should we engage with livestock issues in development cooperation?". VSF Austria invited some experts to the symposium, Dr. Ulrich Herzog (CVO/BMG) who illustrate the global situation of FMD (Global strategy for control of foot and mouth disease and its impact on the supply chain of food of animal origin) and Dr. Leopold Girsch (AGES), who gave some insights on "Food Security - Agricultural production as a foundation for food safety and quality". The president of VSF Europa, Alessandro Broglia, closed the morning session with an interesting point of view about "VSF perspectives in livestock issues for the next decades" giving some inputs for the discussion. In the afternoon session some of the activities and projects conducted by VSF national groups, were presented. A very important contribution was given in the afternoon by Vincent Briac (IFRC and former VSF Switzerland and VSF Europa founder) about emerging infectious diseases and the role that VSF could have. The final discussion gave some important inputs about the future of the veterinary cooperation.

The second day the VSF Europa Board meeting took place and **Vincent Briac** was invited to lead a brainstorming about how to improve collaboration and strengthen the relationships among VSF E members.

The topic was discussed and many opportunities have been analyzed. After this discussion it was proposed whether it would be

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worth to change the name of VSF Europa in VSF International . A questionnaire will be circulated among VSF Europa members in order to collect views in this issue. In the following pages you can find the news from each national VSF group.

Greetings to everybody...

MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



Drawing from <http://kookoo-dolls.blogspot.com/>



VSFE newsletter
News from members...

News from VSF Portugal

VSF Portugal announced that there will be a **change of the board** for **2011-2013**. The new elected members will be:

- President – Yolanda Vaz
- Vice-President – Manuel Malta
- Treasurer – Isabel Fonseca
- 1º Vogal – Ricardo Romão
- 2º Vogal – Diana Baptista

Concerning the **projects**, 4 main actions have been implemented in 2011:

- The **Vaccination day** has been organized, with the goal of promoting the VSF in Portugal. One hundred vet clinics were contacted and out of these 22 participated.
- VSF Portugal joined actively the **Development day** in Portugal on 5-6 May 2011 in Lisbon, a big fair about development aid.
- The field action in **Cape Vert** continued during 2011, consisting in castration of stray dogs and cats, deworming campaigns, clinical visit and training of local technicians and Authorities.
 - ⇒ The staff was composed by 4 Portuguese vets, one Italian vet, 1 vet, 1 auxiliary, 1 assistant from Cape Vert.
 - ⇒ The donors are the Municipality of Maio Island, “Bons Amigos” Association, Community Radio Voz, Djarmal, Bayer Portugal, Intervet-Schering Plough, Laboratório Sorológico, Merial Portuguesa, Pfizer Saúde Animal, Esteve Farma
 - ⇒ The results achieved: 492 animals were visited; 177 surgeries were carried out: castration of 81 female dogs / 45

male dogs, castration of 31 female cats / 18 male cats, 2 excisions of neoplasias, deworming and external of all animals

- ⇒ Other activities: meetings with the local authorities; educational activities with children at schools; dog count in the town of Porto Inglês; sampling of dogs (blood, smears and faeces); visits to family pig production units; deworming and external parasites control of all animals

Educational project on schools: “Pro-Animal”. Veterinary Medicine Master Thesis about the importance of animal/human interaction and health. The Portuguese citizenship have been involved

News from VSF Germany

A lot of **new projects** and collaborations with other partners started because of the **emergency in Horn of Africa**.

- Actions implemented consisted in alleviating the crisis at the Horn of Africa for the **pastoralists**, especially in Somalia, with commercial destocking, water trucking, and cash for work activities.
- VSF Germany started a new collaboration also in **South Sudan** with VSF Canada.
- **20th anniversary of VSF Germany** has been celebrated in Berlin (4th November) with a congress about pastoralism: “Humans - Animals - Rural Habitat: The future of pastoral animal production in Africa”, VIPs were invited papers about pastoralism were collected. The aim of the event was the interdisciplinary discussion about veterinary cooperation with pastoralists,

which is the core commitment of VSF Germany. The idea was to reflect VSF Germany's work and initiate a discussion process with other organizations and institutions dealing with rural development. Representatives from FAO and OIE, amongst others, also joined). The congress was an official event of the veterinary year 2011 (www.vet2011.org)

- **Vaccination Day** took place on 10th May 2011: 180.000,00 Euros were collected, 1033 vets participated and many persons were involved.

News from DIO – VSF Netherlands

New activities have been conducted:

- **Vaccination Day:** 10 clinics joined (the number of participating clinics has tripled since last year); DIO was able to make packages with flyers, posters, folders and small give-away for the clinics; unlike last year participants were asked to donate a fixed amount (€2.50) for every vaccination, and over €600 have been collected. This coming year the board staff is planning on attempting to incorporate vaccinations for large animals as well.
- **Magazine** (DIO dialogue): to edit this magazine, working groups of 3-4 students were created: this technique let students feel involved and gives good results.
- Project in **Malawi:** Setting up a Model Farm, training of Farmers and VAHW, Matunkha Centre, Rumphi, Malawi. Currently there is intensive contact with a couple of development workers that returned from Malawi to Holland this year. They worked at a local NGO (the Mathunka Centre) which

provides community based orphan care, primary and vocational education and HIV/AIDS/ARVs support. One of the activities of the Mathunka Centre is to provide training and support for agricultural development. Their Donkey Project and Dairy Goat project are two examples. Last year DIO provided the financial support for the annual Donkey Day, a day in which donkey owners were able to show their skills in handling and caring for their donkeys to the communities. At this moment there are plans for setting up a model farm at the Mathunka Centre to provide an adequate training environment for farmers and village community animal health workers. By means of training farmers and animal health workers, knowledge about animal health can be increased and may improve the current situation regarding animal health in this region.

- **Donkey publication.** The process of writing has almost been completed. DIO aims to send the manuscript to various partners – The Brooke, Oxfam/Novib, VSF-B, VSF-P, and lecturers of the Faculty – and ask them to revise the contents, the 'readability' and correct usage of English. It is still to be decided whether to publish the document or only make it accessible via pdf.
- ECF Vaccination & Training of CAHW, Lengasiti, **Tanzania** This past summer DIO financed 50% of the 1000 vaccines that were administered against East Coast Fever. The scheduled refreshment training for the CAHWs should take place in November, with two of the topics that will be addressed being book keeping and stock keeping. Also, there will be a restocking of their medical supplies. This is due to the fact that in the

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evaluation we discovered the CAHWs have very little skill in book keeping and being capable of restocking their supplies in adequate time. Due to the change in government policy with respect to countries receiving aid, it's not possible to receive financial support from Cordaid for this and coming year.

Luckily, the financial gap has been closed due to various sponsor activities. The 2012 will be the last year of vaccinations and training.

- **Symposium: SuperVet in Afrika**

In May 2011 DIO organized a symposium that aimed to describe and highlight the economic, social and veterinary situation a veterinarian will encounter when travelling to a developing country. With the help of 5 fantastic speakers, and the Dean of the Faculty as the master of ceremony, it was successful. Over 200 students attended the symposium, and some also signed up to become members of DIO. It was a good opportunity to highlight who DIO is and what it does, and emphasize the necessity for good, well-informed veterinary care in developing countries.

- **5th Lustrum:** in 2012 DIO will celebrate its 25th birthday. Plans are to celebrate this event with one week of activities under the theme: "The Bigger Picture: Where Worlds Meet". Hopefully there will be an exhibition, with a mixture of photographs and visual arts that represent the differences between the role of animals in western society and in developing countries. In that week also a symposium will be organized, with hopefully a touch of One-Health and medical students joining as well. On Thursday there will probably be 3rd Vaccination Day, followed on Friday by the VSF-E meeting. The last day of our 'celebratory week' will be with a sponsorship/canine

run : *Run for Rabies* and an evening program with a reunion for old-members and partners.

News from AVSF - VSF France

Two main important actions are going to be developed:

- Campaign with **Oxfam France** about land-grabbing (main objective is influence policy makers); title is « *Privés de terres, privés d'avenir* » (*Lands deprived, future deprived*). The reason of this campaign is that small scale farmers have a great potentials on poverty alleviation and environmental management but they also have to overcome many obstacles (access to infrastructures and production resources and climate change). Objective of the campaign is to support small scale farmers for better funds management and consideration of small scale farmers in climate negotiations.
- **Website of knowledge management** (www.ruralter.org): *Ruralter* is a program which aims to support the capitalization of experiences and diffusion of methodologies/references about technical and economics subjects in rural contexts. There are three collections: Metodologica - Praxis - Etudes et témoignages. The program is in French and Spanish.

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News from VSF Belgium

The **main activities** conducted were:

- Project in **East Africa** about food security and sovereignty. This is a big project developing and growing up more and more
- **Education project** in the North has started, the objective is to do advocacy
- **Communication:** a new website of VSF Belgium will be available soon,

VSF Belgium is investing more and more in fundraising.

News from VSF Switzerland

New board members are :

President: Kihm Ulrich

Vice-President: Rusch Peter

Executive committee: Senn Rainer, Maret Cathy, Kohler Samuel

Other members can be found on the new website:

www.vsf-suisse.ch

Activities in the field:

- Joint ventures with other VSFs
 - **Kenya** – ICRD (Improved Community Response to Drought) with VSF-Belgium
 - RAPID (Response in Arid-lands for Pastoralists in Drought affected **Kenya**) with VSF-Germany as the lead agency and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
 - **Sudan** – EVSP (Emergency Veterinary Support Pro-

gramme) together with VSF-Belgium as lead agency.

- CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) – VSF-Spain, Belgium and Germany will work with VSF Canada (still in negotiation stage)
- **Somalia** – SALES (Livelihood Programme to address underlying causes of food insecurity) – project ended in July 2011.

News from SIVtro - VSF Italy

Activities:

- SIVtro have being involved in the new **VSFE DEP** since its design (with AVSF France and VSF Belgium). Nowadays the activities are proceeding: the most important activities in the near future for SIVtro are the field mission in Iran, the website, the follow up of the study
- **Education:** new cycle of 'Wednesdays without borders' at Padua University, and few seminars in Naples, in partnership with some local students' associations (main objective: sensitization of students and let SIVtro known).
- Few activities were organized about the **20th anniversary** (debates - Naples, Round tables and a 2-days happening scheduled for November 4-5 including Conference, debate, dinner, fun, and the annual assembly of SIVtro members).
- SIVtro has worked as **consultant** for an Italian private engineering company, involved in the reconstruction process of **Iraq**. This company is in charge for the watershed management of a broad region in between Tigris-Euphrates rivers. The Na-

tional Authority is planning to realize a Natural Reserve for biodiversity conservation, and guidance in the design of sustainable use of environmental resources was asked for. Among the traditional activities, local peoples keep buffaloes in the wetlands. That's the reason why SIVtro has been consulted, and asked to participate to a field project to improve local buffalo milk production, as well as the whole milk value chain.

- Project "Milk for Hanga children" in **Tanzania** is going on under the coordination of a food and livestock technologist. The project is funded by private donors.

News from VSF Austria

Two main actions:

- John Laffa from **Tanzania** completed successfully a training course in cheese making: John Laffa invited the Team of Veterinarians without borders Austria (VSF-Austria) and the Research Institute for Milk hygiene (University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria) to taste Gouda cheese produced during his training. VSF-Austria support a dairy project in peri-urban areas of Tanzania's informal capital city, Dar es Salaam. Aim of the project is to train the ethnic group of Parakuyo-Maasai in milk handling, processing and marketing. John Laffa, a member of the African VSF-team could complete a special cheese making training program in Austria. At the same time he had the chance to work on his doctoral thesis in milk technology at the Veterinary University in Vienna. After his stay for 3 months in Austria his mission is to forward his knowledge to the local Parakuyo-Maasai community. Adding value to milk is an important aspect when improving the situation of local traditional livestock keepers. Here a farm

family proudly presents its cheese products.

- Small scale **cheese production**; cheese, durable food of high-quality: with the donations of the vaccination day 2010 and 2011, VSF-Austria is going to construct a cheese production plant in the tribal area of Parakuyo-Maasai in **East Africa**. The products produced there, such as milk and cheese could make an important contribution to the livelihoods of the Maasai. This project was launched in October 2010. In the first half of October 2010, Dr. Dagmar Schoder flew to Tanzania to assess together with the Maasai the possibilities for setting up the cheese dairy. With her luggage she took also numerous cheese samples from Austria. With the help from Maasai, it was determined which kind of cheese tastes best and what products are to be finally produced in Tanzania. In addition, a market analysis and a marketing strategy are to be developed together with the project partners.

Why a small scale cheese factory?

Maasai are semi-nomadic people who traditionally live with and from their cattle herds. The cow and sheep milk is the most important basic food of Maasai. Right now the Maasai are only able to sell milk at a very low price. In future the sale of cheese will significantly increase the income of Maasai families. The overall aim of this project is to ensure the production of safe and healthy dairy products.

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DEP 2

AVSF (France), VSF Belgium and SIVtro (Italy), with VSF Czech Republic as associated, are involved in the new Development Education Project "Livestock and climate change: the key role of small scale livestock farmers" also called DEP2. The project will last 3 years thanks to a EU program; the main objective is the sensitization about the relationship between livestock and climate change, with special attention to Small Scale Livestock Farming (SSLF) and his potentials in terms of adaptation and mitigation to sudden changes like long period of drought or rains or cold... We want SSLF to be recognized in its role facilitating the development of vulnerable populations and economic/social dynamics and its role as food sovereignty guarantee. For that reason we are conducting a big study about these subject on 6 different populations of small scale livestock farmers in Africa, Asia, Middle East, Latin America and Europe. We are realizing many communication tools like:

1. A video in Iran, Sudan and Madagascar: each national coordinator of the Steering Committee just came back from the mission with the video maker
2. Publications: we are working on the study and the first position paper about the relationship between Small Scale Livestock Farming and Food Sovereignty
3. Cartoons and banner for the web: we are evaluating propositions of famous cartoonists and designers contacted under terms of references
4. Website: we are realizing a project for a website which will share information and debates

5. Photo exhibition: an exhibition of photos illustrating practices of adaptation and mitigation from SSL farmers is being creating and presenting in different events (like COP 17).

Many other tools are going to be realized to promote debate among experts as well, and will be used in different conferences we will organize in Italy, France, Belgium and Czech Republic during the next 2 years. We would like to reach different target of public, from specialist to large public; we work for example in sensitizing agronomy and veterinary students through guest courses in the faculties.

VSF E next meeting...

VSF Europa will be **10 years** old in **2012!**

We will celebrate this birthday with General Assembly and Symposium on

25th May 2012 in Utrecht

connected to the 25th anniversary of DIO (VSF Netherlands).

