

Network News

VSF Europa update Juni 2006

VSF-Europa members join Cow Parade in Edinburgh

The latest VSF-Europa Board meeting was held in Edinburgh, Scotland 31st May – 1st June, attended by representatives from 8 member organisations. Thanks to VETAID for hosting a successful and enjoyable meeting. The meeting coincided with Cow Parade in Edinburgh, a public arts event consisting of almost 100 life-size brightly decorated fibre-glass cows which are being displayed around the city and will then be auctioned to raise money for VETAID.



Coordinating VSF-Europe

Since the last meeting Michele Nori consulted with each VSF-E member to compile a funding proposal for a coordinator for VSF-E. This has been submitted to the EC "Raising Awareness for Development" funding line and Tierärzte ohne Grenzen has agreed to look at other potential sources of funding

Twiki has been launched

An interactive web-site has been developed and launched for VSF-E (www.vsf-e.org/twiki). This site will enable member organisations to share useful knowledge, such as project strategies, personnel resources, fundraising techniques, networks and images. All VSF-E staff are invited to have a look at the site (which has both a public section and one for internal use) and pass on comments and suggestions on how we can use this excellent new working tool. If you would like to register on the site, please contact your Head Office.

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"Healthy animals, healthy people!"



VSF
Europa

VSF-E Profile

VSF-E has recently been approached to input into two exciting and important initiatives. Madeleine Onclin (VSF-Belgium) sits on the Technical Advisory Board for GALVmed (see galvmed.org), which aims to provide low-cost animal vaccines and medicines in the developing world. Rob Allport (VETAID) is representing VSF-E on a Steering Group which is developing guidelines for livestock relief interventions.

Code of Conduct

VSF Belgium has agreed to work on the draft for a VSF-E Code of Conduct to formalise the operation of the network the field and in Europe. The draft will be circulated for comments and finalised at the next Board meeting in November.

Cow Parade in Edinburgh



Vaccination for Africa Day

After the meeting in Edinburgh, VSF-E members held a fundraising workshop, where they exchanged ideas on raising core funding. 3 members already hold an annual "Vaccination for Africa Day" when vets donate a proportion of their income from booster vaccinations to the VSF organisation. VSF-E is now planning to expand this idea to include even more member organisations. As well as raising funds, this common action day will also raise the profile of the network.



FEW LINES FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear friends and colleagues,

Since 1983 the VSF Europa framework has been acquiring more and more structure. New members have joined the group, in 2002 we got the registration as international association, and now we are thinking about a full-time coordination for the common projects we have in mind, such as knowledge management, lobbying and advocacy, visibility and fund-raising initiatives. I think that these are symptoms of a common intent of all members. Besides "feeling together", that sounds hippy but is already a helpful thing, we realised that if VSF Europa focuses to

strengthen the VSFs members, then we need something more than annual meetings. VSF Europa should have impact in term of concrete feedback to each VSF and, above all, to the work in the field. When I say concrete feedback I mean, for example, quality information sharing, project and funding opportunities, communication opportunities between VSF members and the field.

In this sense, common activities as the VSF European Vaccination Day in 2007 could be a way to achieve some of these aims, and I hope more proposals like that will come up.

I am glad to welcome new members on the VSF Europa Board for the next three years: Mariska Leeftang for DIO-VSF Holland; Marta R. Ferre for Vetermon VSF Spain; Patrick Simons, an "old friend", for VSF Belgium, who has been also elected as secretary, whereas Carline Mainenti (AVSF France) will be in charge as treasurer.

I also would like to thank VSF Canada that has been introduced in the last assembly. Its presence witnesses that the VSF spirit is not only European but just worldwide: I am sure there will be many opportunities to collaborate with the Canadian friends.

Finally I would like to remind everybody that I am very honoured to be in charge as VSF Europa chairman for the next three year: I hope to give an useful and efficient contribution as Lenny Hogerwerf, the previous president, has done so far.

I wish all VSF staffs a very nice summer and I hope to meet you soon.

Alessandro Broglia, VSF Europa President

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