THE YEAR IN REVIEW

By Lucy Bright (IVSA Publications Officer 2011-12), IVSA UK and Ireland

With its increasing diversity of nations and local chapters emerging all over the world it is ever more important that the IVSA Executive Committee (ExCo) continue to work hard for the growing IVSA family. The ExCo have been working with various projects and partner organisations. Over the course of the year we have joined together at the Symposium in Serbia and then at two live meetings. The first in October at the University of Nottingham, UK and the second in March at the SAVMA Symposium at The University of Purdue, USA. The latter of which saw funds raised for the IVSA Development Fund (DF) during the DF auction.

The Development Fund team have been busy and have been working to complete a project with a vet school in Nepal. More details of there work can be viewed in the Development Fund section of this edition of the International Veterinary Student (IVS), page 25. Thank you to everyone that has raised money over the year. In particular fund raising events that have taken place on a local level. Your work has been tremendous and vital to helping the IVSA Development Fund achieve its aims.

Local Chapter activity has been spectacular with many group and individual exchanges taking place. Many of these can be read about in the IVSA exchange section of this IVS. Moreover, there have been many special events taking place at a local chapter level including those that marked the Veterinary year 2011. One of the most successful projects undertaken by the ExCo this year has been the formation of both Exchange Officer (EO) facebook page and the EO wiki page, www.ivsaeo.info. We have been able to help to facilitate contact between local chapters all over the world with more ease than ever before.

We continue to work with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United nations in the Wildlife Disease Task Force. It has been a pleasure for the IVSA to be involved in this partnership. We hope that this relationship will go from strength to strength and lead to more opportunities for IVSA to participate. Furthermore, we have attended events and meetings of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA), Federation of Vets in Europe (FVE) and the Informal Forum for International Student Organisations (IFISO). These have helped to increase awareness of IVSA and allowed us to exchange knowledge and ideas.

One of the projects that was continued this year from the previous ExCo was the Revision of the Constitution and bylaws of IVSA. The document has been fully revised by the ad-hoc constitution committee that formed in South Korea following a proposal from the General Assembly, further details are available on page 13. The hard work, time and dedication they have put in has been phenomenal. We are very grateful to all their efforts. We will meet for the final time as an ExCo at Congress in Norway. Where the voting for the constitution by the General Assembly of the IVSA will also take place.

It has been a fascinating term for the ExCo and we have all grown in our understanding of our organisation, it’s aims, the realisation of them and each other. We hope that by our hard work and by making small vital changes we have made progress to build a sustainable and healthy future for the IVSA.
# Contents Page

**WELCOME TO THE INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY STUDENT**  
THE JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

Editor and Designer: Lucy Bright IVSA Publications Officer 2011-12  
Assistant Editor: Sunghyun Hong IVSA Publications Officer Trustee 2011-12

## IVSA NEWS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Year in Review</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVSA ExCo 2011-12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVSA Congress South Korea 2011</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The revision of the constitution and bylaws</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIVER/FVE GA in Amsterdam</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVSA Asia Conference</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVSA Symposium Serbia 2011</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVSA Ankara Vet 2011</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVSA Thessaloniki</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSAVA Congress 2011</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSAVA Congress 2012</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFISO: Informal Forum for International Student Organisations</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## IVSA DEVELOPMENT FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development Fund 2011</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Fund 2012</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Fund 2011</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Fund 2012</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Fund Workshop</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to organise a book drive</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## IVSA EXCHANGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top Ten Exchange Officers</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to organise a successful group exchange</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paris to London</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helsinki to Hannover</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copenhagen to Dublin</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham to Ljubljana</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barcelona to Turkey</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Exchange to Barcelona, Spain</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Exchange to South Africa</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## IVSA SCoMTE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standing Committee for Modern Technology in Education, Serbia Symposium Workshop</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentals in Veterinary Science: Cambridge Summer School</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Article: Investigating post-operative changes in muscle mass following cruciate ligament deficiency in dogs</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why choose a Phd</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WikiVet</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## IVSA Animal Welfare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standing Committee for Animal Welfare: The Future of the Asian Elephant</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with: Critically Endangered Rhinos</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Your IVSA Executive Committee
What we do; could this be you?

By Kamilla König (President Trustee 2011-12) and Lucy Bright (Publications Officer 2011-12)

The Executive Committee – ExCo as it is known affectionately – are elected each summer during the General Assemblies of the annual summer Congress. A year in ExCo is whatever you want it to be – of course there is a lot of work to be done, I take my hat off to the Development Fund Officer. But we, the ExCo, are a great bunch of fun veterinary students who all want this association to work hard and to improve for you our members. We believe that we have a very unique potential as a global organization for veterinary students to benefit people and animals all over the world.

So how do we meet our goals for the year and help you – the veterinary students from all over the world? We have live-meetings five times a year during Congresses and Symposia and then we meet where ever is the cheapest for the officers to travel to. Last year one of the meetings was held just before SAVMA. We work in teams and help each other. Now that I’m a trustee my job will be to supervise and help the officers and make sure our president, Cihangir always makes us proud – I’m sure he is going to make it a great year!

One of the strengths of ExCo is that we all have different background. An example is having a Publication Officer who speaks (and writes) English as her first language – that is really helpful for the rest of us! At the same time this is also a HUGE challenge – we all have different timetables and someone is also reading for an exam. But luckily each officer is assigned a trustee and then the trustee can take some of the workload. Our board consist of great students from all over the world and it is quite inspiring to work closely with future colleagues from countries you may never have visited.

So is this something for you? Sure it is – and I’ll let you in on a big secret; once you are in...

one year is never enough!

Could you be the next ExCo?

Are you a highly motivated team player? Do you think that IVSA ExCo could be for you?

Whether you have been an active member of IVSA and are considering running for an Officer position, or if you are new to IVSA, or feel that you’d be better suited to the supportive role of the trustee this article is for you. We hope that by sharing our best moments of IVSA and a brief description of our roles we can help you to make the big decision to run for ExCo elections held at the IVSA Summer Congress, this year in Norway 2012. And, if not I hope that by the end of it we will have inspired you!

For further information please visit the ivsa.org for ExCo contact details and the IVSA constitution and bylaws.
Officers:

President, Cihangir Dursun

IVSA Chapter: IVSA Ankara

Best IVSA moments: Meeting new people and making lifelong friends. Traveling the world and partying in the different cities.

Your role in ExCo: Lead the Executive Committee in the day to day running of IVSA. Preparing and leading the General Assembly at Symposium and Congress. Attend events IVSA is invited to as the official representative of IVSA. Network with potential partners and sponsors to try and offer more value to our membership for our members. You need to be prepared to do anything, go anywhere and love every second of it! It requires a lot of time and commitment but will be one of the best years you’ll have with the IVSA!

Secretary, Sophie Bromilow

IVSA Chapter: IVSA UK and Ireland

Best IVSA moments: That rush of happiness you get on the first day of Congress/Symposium when you see a good friend you haven’t seen since the last IVSA event!

Your role in ExCo: Write the minutes during every meeting. It’s a fairly easy-going position on the whole, but the minutes can be time-consuming to edit and your English must be near-to perfect to do the job successfully. You must be present at every meeting and be prompt in returning the final copy of the minutes and everyone’s list of jobs after each meeting to enable the other positions to continue smoothly. The position also involves seeking sponsorship, which my trustee and I decided to tackle together.

Treasurer, Bohye Shin

IVSA Chapter: IVSA South Korea

Best IVSA moments: Declaring the opening as OC president in IVSA South Korea Congress stands out in my memory. And also, I learned very valuable lessons and made new IVSA friends during IVSA events. Whenever IVSA related memories unexpectedly recur to my mind, I think IVSA is the best present which god gave me.

Your role in ExCo: Mainly the Treasurer should manage IVSA group & individual & supportive membership fees, sponsored money and all IVSA related funds. So I need to check IVSA accounts periodically and send invoices to all chapters, individuals and sponsors. Moreover, reimbursing EXCO’s expenses is an important job. All jobs are done by internet banking. Though dealing with computers ably is not a requirement, it is highly useful. On account of working with computers chiefly, I can work everywhere, anytime as long as I can access my computer. It’s the greatest advantage of being treasurer.
Information Officer (IO), Louise Albrechsten

IVSA Chapter: IVSA Denmark

Best IVSA moments: Meeting new vet friends from all over the world, Vet-Inn party in a bicycle basement in Utrecht, rakija in Belgrade, the first new chapters being accepted in my term, fooling around with charity dogwash with IVSA Denmark and so much more!

Your role in ExCo: The main job for the Information Officer is to manage the IVSA Information Office in Denmark along with organization of the IVSA paperwork and receiving incoming mail. It also involves sending out application forms and information regarding IVSA membership and organizing the new incoming individual, supportive and chapter memberships. You also assist in the daily management for the IVSA and answering emails and attend live and skype meetings and it’s a great way to get involved and get more out of the IVSA experience.

Information Technology Officer (ITO), Dae-Sung Yu

IVSA Chapter: IVSA South Korea

Best IVSA moment/s: Since 2008 that was my very first participation in IVSA annual congress, every time I’ve spent with IVSA guys gives me a strong sense of belonging. But given that my first presentation about myself seemed to be not bad, actually I was starting as Exco’s member from it, I bet all presentation times I had are most successful and happy moment, for example, presentation regarding serious situation in our countries giving a rising to members’ worry and fear, which was designed with the objective of changing serious mood into hilarious by the name of how to prepare a war in Korea which is offering student discount in weapons. I cannot forget that moment every wrote their favorite weapons down, especially Tomas chose a bow with Cupid’s arrows.

Your role in ExCo: I have been taking on the responsibility of IVSA website management, putting the posts each of members requests, keep update in IVSA to facilitate joining in IVSA membership. Plus, I and Jan built additional website in accordance with my commitment that new wiki-style website trying to meet the needs for better communication between exchange officers. New website www.ivsaeo.info is up and running.

Chief Exchange Officer (CEO), Alexandra Lebas

IVSA Chapter: IVSA Alfort

Best IVSA moments: Being CEO, it is a great job and I really enjoy doing it. The friends I made all over the world and how easy it is to meet amazing people. I also love the congress and symposiums and the incredible moments you get to share.

Your role in ExCo: You get to be in contact with all the chapters and know many people. However, it is very time consuming (around 5 – 10h / week) and you need to like writing emails.

Basically, you are THE contact between the ExCo and the delegates; the organising committee of the Congress and Symposium, the applicants and of course the fantastic Exchange Officers.

As CEO you also are in charge of leading the exchange program, making the chapters more and more active and connected and to help new chapters to be created.

Development Fund Officer (DFO), Eva Augstein

IVSA Chapter: IVSA Hannover

Best IVSA moments: New Years Eve with a Pina Colada in the Caribbean, going on a Hash on Grenada, starting a local IVSA chapter in Hannover (2009), sunbathing at Suomenlinna, Finnish Mämmi for Easter, Jeju Island in South Korea, Chatsworth castle in Nottingham, looking back at the successful DF auction in Serbia

Your role in ExCo: The main task is to take care of the Development Fund. This includes everything from sending out the applications forms of the Development Fund and Scholarship Fund and organising the DF auction at the IVSA Congress and Symposium, to following through with the chosen DF projects and helping the SF recipient realise his/her projects. Fun parts are attending the live meetings of ExCo throughout the year, working as a team on all IVSA matters, and of course the pleasure of looking back on a year full of fun, work and great achievements. It doesn’t take too much time writing emails to organise things, maybe coming down to 30 min a day. It would be great if you could attend the upcoming events, in order to organise the auctions :-)}
Publication Officer (PO),
Lucy Bright

IVSA Chapter: IVSA UK and Ireland

Your role in ExCo: The main task is to produce 4 editions of the IVSA Newsletter and produce the IVSA Journal the “International Veterinary Student”. You also need to be available for the day to day running of the IVSA with the ExCo. It takes quite a lot of work putting a Newsletter together and sending emails to collect articles, it can be at least 2 hours a day when you have a deadline. However hectic, it is a great opportunity to meet people, keep in touch and give back to IVSA.

Janina Janssen, CEO Trustee

IVSA Chapter: IVSA Austria
Best IVSA moments: Learning to cook Bipimbap in Korea, partying in a summer cabin in Norway, eating ice cream at the sea in Slovenia, being taught the great taste of wine in Hungaria… there are just so many wonderful things I’ve experienced, it’s all a blur! Of course there is also the incomparable feeling of having guests in Vienna and showing them your city and university! And last but not least: becoming CEO trustee!

Jason Holloway, DFO Trustee

IVSA Chapter: IVSA SAVMA Grenada
Best IVSA moments: This year has shown some great advances and progression for IVSA. Being a part of these changes has been wonderful. Some of the highlights that will stick with me are swimming/washing in the fountain in South Korea, making food in South Korea, taking a body shot off a beautiful woman and then getting an invite to Poland, and attending my first full monty show in Serbia!!! That last one I do not wish to repeat!

Being a member of the ExCo, no matter which position, forces a complete emersion into the IVSA experience. This is such a wonderful opportunity to enhance yourself and the organization. The group of ExCo members that I have been working with has been wonderful and very supportive.

Manel Millanes, DFO Trustee

IVSA Chapter: IVSA Barcelona
Best IVSA moments: Formal dinner in one of the best restaurants in France (Paul Bocuse) during Lyon 2011 event. Dress party and mud festival in South Korea Congress. Dancing disco music in Antalya Sea at night. Limousine night during Turkey Exchange in Barcelona. Seeing a turkey with a 20 Lira note in the peak during Turkey Exchange in Istanbul. The satisfying feeling after surviving Serbia’s auction for the DF.

Sunghyun Hong, PO Trustee

IVSA Chapter: IVSA South Korea
Best IVSA moments: Being elected as a trustee, and watching the “likes” going up on our IVSA newsletter release post on Facebook. And all the great trips with the people who know the area best, of course!
The 60th IVSA Summer Congress
Harmonise the World and Beyond

By Sunghyun Hong (Organising Committee (OC) South Korea Congress and Publication Officer Trustee 2011-12), IVSA South Korea

On a sunny summer afternoon, one week before the Congress began, the entire OC team from all over the country gathered in Jeonju for the first time. Being spread out in 10 different faculties all over the country, the OC had been relying on internet meetings for discussions and preparations. It looked like we were to have a summer full of sun and heat as usual. After double checking everything all the contacts and reservations, it was time to invade Incheon international airport.

July 20th.

After heavy pre-congress partying the night before, thirteen hung over OC members headed up to Incheon at 5 am. The airport was still and quiet - only the sound of feet shuffling toward the international arrival gates could be heard. Soon the airport started filling up with people. We separated into groups and stationed in front of the gates according to the flight numbers that the delegates had sent us and attracted the attention of the delegates that had arrived the day before with our flashy welcome cards held high in the air. After 14 hours we were taking the last delegates on the three hour bus ride down to Jeonbuk National University. Meanwhile, the delegates who had arrived earlier that day were enjoying the welcoming party, with breaded chicken-meat sausages fresh from the factory we were visiting the next day and delicious Korean beer.

July 21st.

After the wakeup call (missing Barbra Streisand from Winter Symposium in Slovenia), half of the delegates went to Harim Chicken processing plant, and the other half went to “Hanok (Traditional Korean house) Village”. At the chicken processing plant the delegates watched an introduction movie about the company and learned briefly about the poultry industry in Korea. And then took a tour of the plant following through the steps of the chicken processing procedure. We were able to watch the chickens as they glided through the machines and turned into packaged products.

At the Hanok Village the delegates admired each different Hanok and experienced the traditional life style of Koreans whilst appreciating the architecture of the buildings. After that, they tried some real Korean cooking. The menu was Bibimbab, which Jeonju city is very famous for. We had fun cutting up various vegetables and mixing the ingredients and then eating them ourselves. After each group finished, they switched locations.

In the afternoon of the same day, we had our first General Assembly (GA) chaired by Jan Mattila (IVSA President 2010/11) shortly followed by the Formal Dinner. The OC were truly impressed at how fast everyone could change from ordinary vet students to well-dressed fashionable people!

The evening began with the Opening Ceremony celebrating that IVSA had arrived at it’s 60th birthday and that the
IVSA Congress, and its 120 delegates, had arrived in Asia for the first time in IVSA history. After the Opening ceremony, where the Jeollabukdo province governor welcomed us in a hurry before leaving for his next schedule, the formal dinner began. We had a feast with makkoli (Korean rice wine) and the buffet until our buttons were strained. After the feast, we went to a fairly “modern styled” club in front of the school until each of us were tired and decided to walk back through the quiet campus, and back to the dorms.

July 22nd.

In the morning we divided into 3 groups and had practical workshops – equine acupuncture, small animal hospital visits, and live stock experiment center. The delegates enjoyed learning about the role of a veterinarian in Korea and the different therapies and their origins. After lunch, IVSA attended the annual Korean Vet Student’s Festival (KVSF), which was held in Jeonnam province. There we had some time to cool down and lie on the green grass and explore Jeonnam University. Meanwhile the Exchange Officers (Eos) had the EO meeting. Afterwards we joined in the treasure hunt with several short games and then had our awesome out-door cultural evening and ended with an almighty food fight and a splash in the pond. After we all managed to get the food and left over ingredients out of our clothes and hair, we got on the bus ride back to Jeonbuk University.

July 23rd.

The day began with one of the highlights of the scientific programme a lecture from the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC). The lecture was not only fascinating but also greatly significant, especially for the members of the IVSA Executive Committee that have worked hard over their term in office to form a partnership with the organisation. They hope this new partnership will benefit both GARC and the IVSA for many years to come by encouraging vet students to become more active in the global campaign against rabies as, shockingly, 150 people die every single day from rabies when vaccines could save them.

After the lecture we had the chance to get thoroughly muddy at the Boryeong Mud Festival! With muddy memories and muddy pictures, we arrived at our second faculty - Chungbuk National University. Following, the near impossible task of scraping all the mud out of our ears the DF Auctions began. The Silent Auction was as tense as ever with so many amazing items from the whole list of countries that attended. The Live Auction was a tremendous success. With the help of Jason Hollaway, IVSA SAVMA Granada, we even managed to donate Jimmy Bost’s, IVSA UK and Ireland, colorful hair!

This is often one of the favourite nights of the Congress. The Development Fund raises money through auctions at Congress and Symposium; and local chapter fundraising activities, and this is spent on sending resources and teaching materials to vet schools in the developing world. Last year schools in Mozambique, Ethiopia and Zambia were provided with books, computers and microscopes which will undoubtedly make a huge difference to the students; and ultimately the animals and communities in their countries.

July 24th.

The IVSA workshops started the fifth day of the congress and it was a fanatastic opportunity for delegates to chat with ExCo Officers, learn more about the IVSA and get involved. The workshops ranged from how to organise a Symposium or Congress to how to fundraise for your local chapter. Following this the second GA was held and we heard reports of the ExCo’s activity over their year in office.

After a lecture about viral diseases of swine in Korea we had some time to learn some Korean culture – Taekwondo (martial arts) and K-pop dance moves. That same evening, it started raining... Naturally we held the
Talent Show in-doors, and the crimson light gave us a warm glow. After appreciating some traditional cultures and some not-so-traditional but all the same fascinating cultures, we started dancing in the drizzling rain.

July 25th.

In the morning the programme of lectures continued. In between the lectures, loads of information was exchanged during the International Stands, along with brochures and pens from Veterinary Faculties all over the world. After a quick lunch, we then left the campus to check out Biotoxtech, a CPO company. We had a lecture about "the role of a veterinarian in drug development", and the third GA took place. Highlights if the GA included the announcement and discussion of IVSA’s relationship the FAO task force from DaeSung Yu (IVSA Information Technology Officer 2010/11 and 2011/12), which is a very exciting new development for IVSA, and Nominee presentations for new Officer and Trustee positions. That evening, with several excited nominees amongst the crowd, we dined in a Traditional Korean Restaurant and ate over thirty different dishes of Korean food in the company of the Governor of Chungbuk Province. After this night, IVSA will remember to invest in our future :)
history. With rain falling more heavily than your heaviest shower - it was natural that we cancelled the morning sightseeing schedule to the royal palace. However it wasn’t enough to dampen our passion for academics! We had several sessions of lectures and tea breaks all afternoon. When the darkness swallowed up the day we went to an underground bar which was a former club called "Bunker" and made it into a club so the delegates could again dance into the night :)

July 28th.

Korea Racing Authority (KRA) and Seoul Grand Zoo workshops were the original itineraries, but due to the rain we set up an emergency schedule in the National Museum instead of the zoo workshop. First all delegates went to KRA to get an introduction of the company and watch a short and somewhat amusing movie. Remember? Those IVSA delegates with video game addictions found a new therapy in horse riding. The team of delegates that were exploring KRA were split into four groups and attended workshops on the equine hospital, dentals, hooving, and riding. The zoo team spent some time in the national museum where they had a lecture about Hangeul (Korean letters) and got the chance to try on Hanbok (Korean traditional clothing).

It was still raining when we arrived back at the school. At GA 4 we had some of the most heated discussions of the Congress, questioning of the nominee candidates for the Executive Committee which included a high tech online discussion with Milan Marcovic who was on the opposite side of the globe! After 3 hours, the new ExCo for 2011-2012 was elected.

July 29th.

It was another foggy morning until the lectures, but after lunch the sun was shining and the perfect weather for a flashmob came around! In small groups we all moved to the location chatting excitedly. The idea was to surprise the pedestrians by suddenly all jumping into dance (using the routine we had learnt previously) - but we were such a big group of foreigners that we ended up being pretty obvious :) We still managed to entertain the area and ourselves also, and came streaming back for the last GA. After Cihanigir Dursun, our new President declared the end of the last GA, only the farewell party was left. Again Konkuk University was thrown into confusion as American lions, English zebras, and multi-continent origined bees marched across the campus. At the party we had some delivery food and soft drinks, and some of the animals started breast feeding Soju to each other. The "best dresser award" was immediately changed into the "best dancing creature award" where we couldn’t help but award all the hot animals with books and gifts. The Norwegian gecko was apparently everyone’s favorite.

We then lit up a few floating lanterns and watched them until they flew out of sight. It was a beautiful clear night.

July 30th.

On the final day we all said our goodbyes to each other and exchanged gifts and mementos. For many it was buses to the airport but for the lucky group of delegates attending the Post-Symposium at Jeju Island more fun was about to begin.

As always, the IVSA congress came to a tearful end. It was the most busiest, if not craziest ten days of my life. I can tell you I’m so glad I spent the time with the most amazing delegates ever.

Thank you all for coming all the way to Korea and sharing your presence with us :)

IVSA NEWS 2011-12
WHAT THE DELEGATES HAD TO SAY

South Korea was an amazing first impression for me and wonderful induction into IVSA. All the wonderful sights and amazing lectures just added to the time spent with such amazing people.
I miss you all and South Korea!!!
Cheers from Grenada!!!

Jason Holloway, IVSA SAUMA USA AND GRENADA

Korean Congress to me was very amazing. Being in an Asian country is like entering to a new world. Not only the culture and buildings are different from at home in Austria. But also the mind and beliefs. Even more impressive was to find so many different people connected to one theme VET MED. It was a grand feeling how IVSA members not only got together but also grew together to form one big friendship. Sights and lectures to me become unforgettable. I am sitting here my head full of memories and impressions of sights and science. Koreans do think large, like KRA showed. To me it seems there are interesting ways for Vets to practice and develop. THANKS TO ALL for this incredible program you prepared. See you all around the world.

Daniela Schäfer, IVSA AUSTRIA

The IVSA Congress in Korea was more than I ever could have dreamed it would be. I met so many amazing people from many different countries and got to learn how veterinary medicine is practiced in those countries. I also learned how much international students want to come to the US for educational purposes. Therefore I am in the process of starting a local IVSA chapter at my school to accommodate exchanges with other countries.

I also enjoyed experiencing the Korean culture again. Korea will always hold a special place in my heart and being able to eat the delicious food and trying on a hanbok made the trip extraordinary.

Lindsay Ann Smith, IVSA SAUMA USA AND GRENADA

Well, this is the first time for me and my Indonesian friends to be in IVSA’s congress and it was soooo amazing and unforgettable! Thank you South Korea and IVSA for all of the good things. Thanks for the chance, the wonderful sights, the experience, the knowledge, the super nice friends and everything! (I can’t stop saying thank you :p ) I will never forget the 60th IVSA congress and I wish I can meet you soon in Norway! :D

Resnu Caesia Retorika, IVSA INDONESIA

Though travelling is a huge part of IVSA, and extremely fun, what makes the IVSA Congress so spectacular is the people. Meeting people from all over the world that have similar goals to you; while completing them in a totally different way with distinct emphasis, languages and cultures is the thread of the rich fabric of IVSA. Travelling to South Korea was amazing, but meeting the people involved in IVSA was unforgettable!

Julie Stafford, IVSA SAUMA USA AND GRENADA

IVSA Congress in South Korea was a perfect opportunity to catch up with IVSA friends from earlier congresses, but also meet loads of new people. The best thing with IVSA is to see how much vet students (and some graduates as well) from all over the world are very much alike. Even though studies, curriculums and traditions may vary from country to country, vet students have so much in common other than just the study. The IVSA combination of lectures, wet labs, sightseeing, partying and making friends is simply genius. Many more should join and share the joy of cultural and academic exchange!

Magne Wathne, IVSA NORWAY, Supportive Member
THE REVISION OF THE IVSA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

By Jan Mattila (InformationTechnology Trustee 2010-11, President 2010-11), IVSA Finland

Currently the constitution and bylaws of IVSA are in a pretty sad state. They have been amended a multitude of times over the years. Several of these changes have caused unfortunate contradictions either between the constitution and the bylaws or even within the constitution and bylaws. In addition to the numerous changes there are several parts of the constitution and bylaws, which are unclear or where the content should perhaps be voted on to make sure the members of IVSA agree with it.

It can be argued there are many changes which should be made, the General Assembly (GA) in South Korea decided to create an ad hoc committee for figuring out what to do with the constitution and bylaws. This Constitution Committee (CC for short) includes five people: Jan Mattila (chairman, Trustee), Heidi Vesterinen (IVSA Finland), Jimmy Bost (IVSA UK & Ireland), Julie Stafford (SAVMA) and Tahiyya Shaik (IVSA South Africa). The CC was tasked with suggesting the required changes, even if this meant a revision of the whole constitution. The timeline was that they needed to report back to the GA in Serbia 2011 about their progress and finish the work by the GA in Norway 2012.

The members of the CC have invested a significant amount of their time to reading the constitutions of other organizations in our field and comparing them to ours trying to find ideas for improvements. The main organizations we’ve benchmarked our constitution to are the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) the International Federation of Medical Student Associations (IFMSA) and the Association of Veterinary Students (AVS), which is the student organization for UK vet students. We’ve also looked at Robert’s Rules of Order with respect to running the GAs.

The CC has come to the conclusion that in order to get a good constitution and bylaws we need to make a full revision. However, there are major issues in the constitution, which have several different solutions and coming up with a draft including all of these different variations is an unreasonable task for the CC. Instead, the CC have identified the most important decisions to be made before a draft can be written and these issues will be presented to the GA in Serbia. The following four topics are what the CC thinks are the major issues:

1. Number of separate entities (chapters or groups) per country and number of votes per entity
2. How to count chapter/group members and how to calculate the membership fee for each chapter/group
3. Dates of the financial year and the term of office for President, Treasurer and rest of Officers and Trustees
4. What is required for a chapter/group to change from "active" to "not active" and back to "active" and how does this affect participation at symposia and congresses

Once the GA votes on how to proceed with each of the matters, the CC will continue to produce a draft of the constitution and bylaws, which is in line with all of the decided points as well as any other improvements, which are suggested to the CC in the GA in Serbia or before the end of April 2012. After April 2012 the CC will "lock" the constitution and bylaws from outside suggestions and attempt to compile a draft which will be presented to the GA in Norway 2012 for voting.

EVERI/FVE GA IN AMSTERDAM

By Frederic Lohr (Secretary Trustee 2011-12), IVSA Germany

Who hasn’t asked this question? What am I gonna do after my studies? Of course rotations and internships might help - or even bring you to the point of sheer desperation.

For all of you who want to explore more than the usual fields of veterinary medicine and are happy about investigating even more career options for you to choose from, there’s the Extra Mural Study Scheme (EMS) of the EVERI (European Veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry), a section of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE).

How to promote this EMS program and how to extend the further collaboration between IVSA and EVERI were key topics at this years summer joint congresses. The joint program with the Norwegian Vet School in Oslo will be presented at the upcoming IVSA congress in Norway.

Should you be interested in an "exotic field" of veterinary medicine and you want to see it as a part of the EMS Scheme, just feel free to contact the author to get the information to EVERI. So you can help to shape the program and probably get one of the places at the EMS Scheme. By the way...EVERI provides every participant of the EMS with a scholarship to cover travel costs and living.

For further information about the EMS Scheme, just contact EVERI directly via everi@fve.org
Since early this year, IVSA have inaugurated collaboration with several international organizations in scientific task force on wildlife disease by authentic help from Scott Newman, FAO Wildlife Health & Ecology Unit Coordinator. This task force has been mainly organized by the Food Agricultural Organization and Convention on Migratory species which are one of a subordinate organization of United Nation. Many different kinds of international organizations, which including African Union, Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat, CITES, World Health Organization, Ramsar convention, Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, have affiliated with the scientific task force on wildlife under the one health concept. IVSA joins the scientific task force in wildlife disease as both a student’s association and co-affiliate that is expected to take over primary task and participate in decision-making activities for next few years.

The IVSA conjoins the task force with the hope of helping to reach out to the general public and to gain a better understanding of role of students to succeed in it. There have been many different type of student associations or unions running on a global scale although, it is evident that only few of them had conducted practical works apart from contributing to multinational campaigns to reinforce their own interest. This seems to be partly true of IVSA. We have a very comprehensive goals, alongside foundation, that is to benefit to human and animal. IVSA has made a commitment for veterinary students to develop their ability to cure and treat animals in pain, supposing that a competent veterinarian is able to not only save more animals’ life but deal with the problems human face such as food safety. The Development fund and scholarship fund awarded to students having educational desire comes with the effort in pursuit of our goal. Now that IVSA have a ability enough to fulfill our goal in a pragmatic way, I strongly believe we should move forward to contribute ourselves strenuously to assist the scientific task force on wildlife to accomplish the purpose which make world the better place for wildlife to live and maintain biodiversity under one health concept. On top of that, IVSA is a strong student’s association with a very tight bond and this is what we should be capable of for animal and human in reality.
What is the purpose of the scientific task force on wildlife disease?

To facilitate coordination, information sharing, communication and understanding between relevant organisations, networks, administrations, and professional disciplines on prioritised diseases at the human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface within the context of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) so as to better enable the integration of relevant work and decision making by governments, agencies and other stakeholders to ensure that disease dynamics are considered in the broader context of sustainable natural resource management, expanding and intensifying agriculture, socio-economic development, environmental protection and conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes.

Work plan

1. Identify disease of greatest priority to T/F members
2. Bridging the Gap between Natural resource professionals and Health Professionals.
3. Wildlife Morbidity and Mortality event monitoring and Disease intelligence
4. Human-wildlife-Livestock-Ecosystem interface
5. Migration Ecology
6. Wild birds & avian Influenza
7. Communication
8. International networking
9. Fundraising / sustainability

What are the tasks IVSA takes over?

The first task was to form a list of the most important diseases affecting wildlife health (5 maximum) in each of the areas listed as follows:

1. Wildlife Populations in general, Rabies, Tuberculosis, African horse sickness, Nipah virus infection, West Nile fever
2. Zoonotic diseases from wildlife, Brucellosis, Avian influenza, Trichinellosis, Tuberculosis, Rabies
3. Wildlife and livestock: Foot and mouth disease, Newcastle disease, Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, PRRS infection

The main task the IVSA must be held accountable for is to develop and implement communication outreach measures, to be specific, the measure of harnessing social media networking, press releases, twitter feeds and other appropriate communication methods to inform interested parties and the public about the Task Force.
This summer IVSA Chapters from all over Asia joined together for the IVSA Asia Conference 2011, 22nd-25th August.

Day One

On the first day of the IVSA Asia Conference participants were welcomed by the Japanese Organising Committee at Narita airport. That evening everyone joined together for the Welcome Party. A lot of fun was had by all.

Day two

In the morning the opening ceremony took place. Each attending country gave a presentation introducing their country. In the afternoon the delegates attended a lecture about infectious diseases. That night we had a party, we love to party!

Day Three

Sightseeing was the order of the day. We divided into groups and went to “Zoorasia Yokohama Zoological gardens”. This is one of the most famous Zoos in Japan. You can see Okapis there. However, Okapis were in an enclosure most far away from the entrance, so we had a lot of walking to do. We also had chance to ask some question to one of the veterinarians working at Zoorasia. He gave us a brief lecture where we learnt about the schedule, pleasures and difficulties he faces as a vet.

After the zoo we rambled to the Yokohama City. Some of the group went to the Chinatown. The others went to the port, the landmark tower and the Yokohama red brick warehouse. After
sightseeing, we ate dinner at a buffet restaurant. Completely exhausted, we ate lots of pasta and sweet foods such as cakes, puddings, ice creams and so on!!

**Day Four**

The day began with the first lecture from Dr. Yoko Nishiyama, a general clinical veterinarian working in America. Some of the Korean delegates had mentioned that they would like to work in America. The lecture was definitely impressive, not only for them but, for all the participants of the Asia Conference.

The second lecture was from Dr. Kiyomi Kress about Natural Therapy. We didn’t know too much about this area. Special thanks must go to her for taking us on our first steps towards learning about this exciting field.

The third part of the programme that day was a workshop about the earthquake that happened on the 11th March 2011. Some of the Japanese veterinary students gave a presentation about their support activity as a volunteer. Referring to their presentation, we discussed some topics for example, “What can we do for people suffering serious damage from this earthquake?”. We also wrote messages on fans for the victims of the earthquake.

The workshop was followed by the closing ceremony. The delegates received original t-shirts and diplomas for the delegates as a token of their appreciation.

This was followed by the closing party! We cherished our farewells to each other and talked together celebrating our new friendships. There was lots of eating, drinking and laughter; it was awesome!
On arriving in Belgrade for the 60th IVSA Symposium, my friend Eva (from Germany) and I were met by two friendly Serbs who immediately started chattering at us in what we assumed was Serbian, a language which neither of us spoke. After guessing that they were asking us our names and replying tentatively, they fell about laughing and began to explain, in fluent English, that they had been playing a practical joke on us by speaking Russian - just in case we were able to speak Serbian! The next moment, the chivalrous Serbs were carrying our luggage and whisked us off to the sole airport cafe where they treated us to a shot of rakija, the national drink. Well, when in Serbia!

That night, we were taken to the vet faculty in Belgrade, the larger of two institutes teaching veterinary medicine in Serbia. The IVSA office was a hive of activity; the Organising Committee of the Symposium buzzing around us, putting the final preparations in place before the delegates arrived. Having accepted their offers of Snickers and energy drinks, we were buzzing with them until the small hours. We slept in a very traditional apartment in Belgrade, where we were given very stiff, woollen house socks to keep our feet warm as we padded around making up our beds with several thick blankets. The next morning, Dejan, our host, had made a feast for our breakfast. We enjoyed a meal of polenta and natural yoghurt - the Serbian equivalent of cereal and milk, along with bread, cold cured sausage, gherkins and ajvar - a tomato, pepper and aubergine-based sauce served with most meals.

After relocating to our hostel, we had a meeting followed by some sightseeing. Our hostel overlooked a botanical garden and we strolled around taking in Belgrade and its rather unpredictable landscape. As you walk along the street, the buildings change drastically from one to the next - a grandiose governmental building, centuries old, followed by a towering 70’s apartment block, with just one ramshackle house squashed between the two, which will remain there until it is too dilapidated to be ignored any longer. The sad fate of these buildings was that they would be knocked down and replaced by new apartment blocks and offices, but no one, including the government, has the money to maintain them as they are or to repair them, so for the meantime they are left standing. Later in the trip, we were driven past several enormous buildings which had been destroyed in the 1999 NATO bombings. These buildings, it transpired, had been the Yugoslav Ministry of Defence building and neighbouring governmental department buildings, and the damage was appalling. To see this level of devastation was truly shocking for most of us, and the fact that Serbia was still reeling from the impact of a war which took place over a decade ago was almost unbelievable.

The rest of the capital city was beautiful, bustling and brimming with an intriguing cocktail of modern Eastern European and old Soviet cultures. Belgrade is surprisingly green for a capital city; it has 59 parks within its boundaries. We continued exploring, did a bit of shopping, visited some Christmas markets where we ate palačinke (pancakes) to get in the festive spirit, and then we happened upon the St Sava Temple. White marble pillars and green domes adorning the roof, this stunning building is the largest Christian Orthodox church in the Balkans, and the second largest in Europe. Building commenced in 1895, but has been postponed on many occasions due to several wars, and is now funded entirely by donations, so the interior is progressing slowly.

On the first official day of the Symposium, we met all 80 delegates at the vet faculty, and were given a tour of the facilities. It is very much what we’re used to – a small animal clinic and surgery, a farm animal clinic, pathology
and biochemical labs, dissection rooms, an x-ray room and other treatment rooms. However, facilities within these areas were minimal; for example, an old army generator was being used to power the monitoring machines in surgery. Considering that Serbia is not a terribly affluent country, and that in this faculty they were struggling for money to provide better drugs for their patients, they surprised us with the fact that they had a phototherapy machine which looked incredibly modern and which many of us had never seen used.

Students were entrusted to do group consultations, and took part in offering a free animal birth control service to dog owners in Belgrade. IVSA Denmark had been collecting hundreds of books in their own country for the university here in a project called ‘Books for Belgrade’; the collection had been shipped to coincide with the Symposium and the Serbian students were very grateful for the donation to their library.

One particularly chilly day, we drove a long way through the countryside to a remote monastery, tucked into the Fruška Gora Mountains, behind a dense forest, the fir trees thick and black. As we meandered around the sacred grounds of the Novo Hopovo monastery, admiring the beautiful, gold-embellished chapel within, it began to snow. It all felt so atmospheric, even when we saw the rakija stall on the way out – rakija made by monks? It’d be rude not to.

That evening, we made our way back to the vet school for the cultural evening – the most important night of any IVSA Symposium or Congress, where each country in attendance showcases its best food, soft drinks and alcohol. We were provided with lively entertainment by two dance troupes who showed us the different folk-dancing styles from Eastern and Southern Serbia, and wore gorgeous, traditional Balkan costumes.

The next day we were whisked off to a bull farm in Velika Plana, and offered us a traditional Serbian welcome tipple – more rakija, served with a chunk of bread dipped in salt. Trust me – these two do not go well together, especially so early in the morning. Having recovered from that, we were taken to watch the collection of bull semen, and later to a rotary milking unit, which was enormous and the largest dairy farm in Serbia – the carousel milked 50 cows at any one time. On the same evening, we were taken to a veterinary high school where we were to stay the night, and we visited Novi Sad, the second largest city in Serbia, where we enjoyed an astonishingly beautiful view of the city skyline over the Danube River.
To celebrate the “World Veterinary Year” IVSA Ankara, Turkey, chose to organize an event for vet students all around the world. For IVSA Ankara this event had a special meaning. This is because we are very proud to be on the bridge of Asia and Europe. Veterinarian students from different cultures and countries came together and shared their schools’ histories, visions and problems. This event was also a really good experience to get to know each other and have fun together.

Day One
The first Day proved not to be as hard as we thought. We had some ice-breaking games but we did not need them because everyone was trying to be a part of IVSA soul. But, still it was funny (Funny Farah). Therefore it did not take long to warm up to each other.

Day Two
Students from France, Taiwan, the UK, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Tunisia, Spain, Iran, Poland, Malaysia, Slovenia, and Turkey presented the schools’ histories. Each country shared important information about their education system. In 250th anniversary of Veterinary Education, we were proud to have a chance to see the very significant improvements that have been made over the years.

In the evening we had our formal dinner in “Boyaczade Konagi” that is on the top of the city, with an amazing view. We enjoyed the last night in Ankara with Turkish musics, food and drink. Everyone was cheerful with all stylish ladies and gentlemen. Afterwards we left from the faculty and road to Antalya.

Day Three
On the third day we went to a farm first and then to our first leader’s mausoleum; which is very important and valuable for Turkish people. It was a big honour for us to go there with all of our friends from different countries.

In the evening we had an interesting Tunisian clothing, France’s chocolate (chocolate war!!), Greek’s Ouzo, Turkey’s Rakı and all the many different flavours we were lucky to enjoy.

Day Four
We arrived to the camp in Antalya (or maybe I should say we arrived to the sea). During the afternoon we spent our time on the beach. After dinner we had the “Talent show” and learnt how to prepare Sangria! We also experienced the delight of belly dance, daily life in Taiwanese kan kan dance and Zeybekiko (Greek Dance). It was fantastic! Then we went to an interesting foam party with no foam around... When we turned back to the hotel we learnt that some of our participants haven’t been in the sea at night before! Of course we forced them to do that, fortunately, the sea was really warm.

Day Five
The fifth day was full of IVSA soul, lots of alcohol and fun! After breakfast we went to Manavgat Creek and enjoyed the boat trip. Shinning sun and wonderful sea was worth seeing. At the camp the beach party was great with, music, sand, sea and smiling IVSA friends.

Day Six
Our rafting day started really fast. We jumped from a height of 5 meters to the ice-cold water! After getting a little bit (only a little bit) cold we went to Side “the ancient city”. Then we turned back to the hostel. During the night we talked about our daily (sometimes special life) on the beach. Some of us fell asleep on the beach.

Day Seven
We went to Düden Waterfall and then Antalya city center to do some shopping. Then we visited Antalya Castle and Port that have wonderful view. Antalya’s palm-lined boulevard, amazing nature and preserved traditional architecture is very nice.

Day Eight
The last day was a resting day. Some of the participants preferred to do parasailing some of them just wanted to lie on the beach. After dinner participants were presented with their certificates and promised to come together again.
IVSA Thessaloniki, Greece
Our first Veterinary Students' Meeting
By Georgios Evangelou (President 2010-2011), Rafailia Karaisof (Vice President 2011-2012, Secretary 2010-2011) and Eirini Kamenaki, EO 2011-2012, IVSA Thessaloniki

It was with great pleasure and honor that the I.V.S.A. Thessaloniki Greece hosted the 1st Veterinary Students' Meeting, that took place on Saturday, May 7th 2011, at the Telogleion Foundation of Art of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. This Meeting was one of the various events organized by I.V.S.A. Thessaloniki and our faculty in order to celebrate the “World Veterinary Year: Vet 2011” which last year coincided with the 250th anniversary of the foundation of the first Veterinary Medicine school in the world, in Lyon of France. So this meeting represents our way to spread our enthusiasm about the 250th anniversary of veterinary education.

The Organizing and the Scientific Committee took responsibility for this Meeting, hoping it would be a fertile start for an important scientific event; one that will become an institution in the years to come. Indeed we are pleased to announce that we are currently organizing the 2nd Veterinary Students’ Meeting that will take place on the 19th May 2012.

The purpose of this Meeting is to give the veterinary medicine students the chance to practice the procedures of searching and presenting classical and recent bibliographical data, on subjects of veterinary clinical science and research. The response from the students was unexpectedly high, and this is reflected by the diverse subjects of the presentations, including issues regarding Companion Animal Medicine, Farm Animal Medicine and Animal Food Products Hygiene and Safety. In total, there were 37 presentations delivered by 47 students.

Each presentation lasted ten minutes and there was time for questions and conversation on the subjects afterwards. Under the guidance of our professors each student conducted research, wrote a paper and presented a topical speech. This project was the initiative of I.V.S.A. Thessaloniki and was designed to improve scientific knowledge and to promote friendly cooperation between students and teaching staff.

The Veterinary Students’ Meeting was supported by the Hellenic Veterinary Medicine Society and was published on their website hvms.gr. Furthermore, it was broadcast through live streaming on the official website of our university, auth.gr. In that way students or anyone interested who wasn’t able to attend had the opportunity to watch the meeting online.

Our secretary and her trustees welcomed and registered more than 200 attendants. The majority of them were students but there were also members of the teaching staff of our faculty and veterinarians. They were all provided with an identification card as well as a CD with the proceedings of the meeting, a bag, a diary and other small gifts. After the meeting all the delegates were given a certificate of attendance and also completed an evaluation form in order to assess the meeting and give us ideas for future events. Their positive comments were very encouraging and gave us a lot of ideas for future activities. All those who made a speech were given a special certificate.

Finally, we owe our warmest thanks to our sponsors for their support, our speakers, that responded to our invitation with enthusiasm, and aided in the materialisation of this meeting. Attending and even more organizing such an event was beneficial for all of us. The attendants learnt a lot and were motivated to be more active and take part in more IVSA events. The speakers had the rather stressful experience of presenting their assignments to a live audience and learned how to overcome their anxiety. The organizing and scientific committee realized how important team work is and how it can help us expand our potential.
The Annual World Congress of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) took place in Jeju, Korea, from 14 - 17th October 2011. It was attended by over 3,000 delegates from 50 countries and included meetings of the WSAVA Assembly members and committees, a cutting edge scientific programme, and numerous social events that provided a wonderful cultural experience for all attendees including myself BoHye Shin, IVSA Treasurer and DaeSung Yu, IVSA Information Technology Officer, who were representing the IVSA Executive Committee.

The General Assembly (GA) commenced with a welcome from WSAVA President, Jolle Kirpensteijn followed by presentations about the past year at WSAVA. Following lunch we reconvened and gave a presentation about IVSA activities. WSAVA President, Jolle Kirpensteijn, told us WSAVA would like to form a strong partnership with IVSA. We distributed some proceeding books from the South Korea Congress to WSAVA committee members. One interesting thing! The representative of Spanish Veterinary Association told us he was the IVSA Secretary-Treasurer Officer 8 years ago. Also vet school professor from Norway told us IVSA Norway OC members are working very actively on the IVSA Congress 2012.

The next day WSAVA Congress began. There were so many commercial booths and small events. Internationally renowned scholars and veterinary professionals held world-class lectures and reports on the latest trends and new technologies. The Opening Ceremony was more than just pomp and pageantry. There was a story telling performance drawing illustrations with sand, tap dancing and pop songs. And also excellent foods couldn’t help being absent! :-)

Whenever I met representatives of other country’s veterinary associations and companies, I would request that their organization, company or clinic which they represented would accept IVSA members periodically for Exchange Programs because many students want to do internship in other countries or companies. Their answers were positive. It seems WSAVA congress is a great event for someone who is interested in small animal medicine.

In April 2012, IVSA President, Cihangir Dursun and Publications Officer, Lucy Bright, attended the largest ever World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) World Congress on behalf of the IVSA. There were over 10,000 in attendance at the National Indoor Arena and International Conference Centre, Birmingham. WSAVA had joined forces with the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) and the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) to host a sensational five day world class veterinary programme and the IVSA were honoured and very grateful to be invited.

There were over 40 streams of lectures covering a wide variety of topics and as undergraduates we learnt a tremendous amount in a very short space of time. There were also some very interesting Clinical Research Abstract presentations delivering the latest in veterinary research which were very interesting, especially for the future academics amongst us.

Not only was the Congress a great opportunity for us to meet with members of the profession and industry but also with other IVSA members, past and present, that were in attendance. It was not really surprising nor unfamiliar to see so many people catching up with old friends during the Congress. It is inevitable when we are so privileged to part of such a small, unique and engaging profession.

The primary purpose of the WSAVA is to advance the quality and availability of small animal veterinary medicine and surgery. It achieves this goal via the exchange of scientific information between both individual veterinarians and veterinary organisations. This is very similar to some of the principles of which IVSA itself is based upon. Furthermore, attending the Congress was not only a great opportunity to raise awareness of IVSA in the veterinary community and a rewarding educational experience but also exciting for us to see what we as students may aspire to be a part of in our future careers.
While not being a formal entity (no by-laws, no obligations, no fees, no official spokespersons or officers, etc.), IFISO as an informal forum is still quite influential because it creates the necessary environment for international student organizations to collaborate on all possible levels in order to strengthen their capacities through knowledge sharing and identification of synergies.

IFISO meetings happen every 6 months. The spring IFISO meeting took place in Lodz, Poland this May. Cihangir (IVSA President) and myself (IVSA CEO) were joining. We were pleased to meet 17 other students, from several organisations and fields (engineering, psychology, human medicine, forestry, business, etc.) and countries (Serbia, Turkey, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Belgium, Germany, etc.). We participated in 3 days of 8-hours a day meetings. 5 The main topics were to structure the Online Training Material, The Mailing List Structure and Information, to define the Aims of IFISO, to organise the Knowledge Management between the organisations, Structure the IFISO & Membership System and some networking sessions. Most of our work was therefore to improve the knowledge sharing between organisations, communication, thinking about the IFISO aims and the creation of a coordinating team. This team’s role is to coordinates the internal and external communications and follow up the work between 2 meetings. I am the main coordinator for 6 months; if you have any further question about IFISO, I would be pleased to help you (ceo@ivsa.org). We also enjoyed typical polish food, parties, traditions and Vodka!
Project Updates
Mozambique, Ethiopia and Zambia

By Maria Novo Santamaria (Development Fund Officer 2010-11) IVSA Leon, Spain

Eduardo Mondlane Veterinary Medicine School, Mozambique
Our first recipient vet school is Eduardo Mondlane Veterinary Medicine School, Mozambique. Since the last Congress in South Korea we are still working on the shipment of the books (which were collected at the book drive ran in last SAVMA Symposium) with Deirdre Murphy, IVSA SAVMA USA.

The Wollega University, Ethiopia
The second vet school in our list is The Wollega University, Ethiopia. We have already bought a hot dry sterilizer (7 L capacity). So we are currently organising the shipment of it with the four large boxes of vet supplies, including suture materials, gloves, gowns and various swabs and bandages collected by Bristol Veterinary School and it’s amazing students and staff.

Moreover, last August they received a big amount of books collected by the students at Colorado Vet Faculty (USA). They collected more than 1000 books, and most of them were sent to Ethiopia. I want to express a special thanks to Emily Melhman for all her efforts for this.

The Samora Machel Schoool Veterinary Medicine, Zambia
And finally, The Samora Machel Schoool Veterinary Medicine, Zambia. They were really in need of computer and printing facilities. So, in cooperation with the Veterinary Faculty in León (Spain) we are working to find a great software company that can provide the much needed equipment.

Moreover a printer has been donated from personal staff of this faculty. And of course we have books for Zambia vet faculty as well!!! They are currently on their way to Zambia. Thank you to Kelsey and Brooke, IVSA SAVMA USA, for all your effort to do this.
This year the Development Fund recipient is the IVSA Chapter of Nepal!

They have expressed their urgent need for laboratory equipment at their university. Nepal is a developing country facing political instabilities which means most equipment cannot be purchased locally. What is available is still out of reach due to the limited funds of the university.

The equipment asked for will help the students in gaining practical experience in their teaching hospital. It will be free for all students to practice their skills and finally be able to practically apply their theoretical knowledge. Furthermore this donation will help a large number of animals and farmers in the surrounding area by allowing the staff to diagnose accurately and start a suitable treatment in time. Congratulations to IVSA Nepal!!!

A big thank you also goes out to all the applicants that have not been selected this year. Please apply again next term and never give up on your goals!
California appeared to be a great place for prospective vets interested in equine medicine. Horses are everywhere: you can find them living in private backyards, shelters, majestic dressage and jumping barns, circuses and repro barns. I was lucky to work close to Frisians and Andalusians which are my favourite horse breeds, but, unfortunately, are not represented in my country at all.

At the beginning of my Externship I had some problems with understanding vocabulary and abbreviations which are met very often in Veterinarians’ speech, but I figured it out very quickly. I was always asking lots of questions, even if I thought they may sound silly. It helped me to minimize a huge gap in my knowledge as soon as possible. All the Veterinarians, especially Interns were friendly and willing to explain everything to me. Sometimes they even asked externs a bunch of questions trying to help us to get involved into diagnosis evaluation. Usually there was a variety of nice books in the hospital I could borrow. It helped me to learn and finally I realized that I need some of them in my library as well.

There are usually two externs in the same time at the hospital, thus I made some good friends among American vet students. I was working under Intern’s supervision who usually informed me about what is going on at the hospital. However, extern’s position is not a
planned program. In order to benefit from it, you will have to be self-motivated and a self-starter.

Our working day was always very busy starting at 6-7 AM and finishing at 8-10 PM. All the Hospitals took emergencies, thus I had some amazing sleepless nights assisting the surgeries as well. Most of my time was spent observing surgery, handling the animals, doing laboratory work or scrubbing. I also took part in the lameness examinations, assisting in the taking of radiographs during the day, but I also had a lot of hands-on experience in the mornings and evenings and during the overnight treatments including:

- Monitoring and recording the vital signs,
- Administration of IV fluids and other medications,
- Administration of eye meds via catheter,
- IV catheter placement and suturing under direct supervision,
- Nasogastric intubation and siphon for reflux via NGT,
- Took a blood sample from the facial sinus for the first time and successfully!
- Reproductive exam
- Used hoof testers and performed flexion tests
- Bandaging

I completely appreciate that I had possibility to participate in both working at the hospital and in the field. I got acquainted with the modern technologies and equipment at the hospitals: treadmill for the race horses, nuclear scintigraphy, CT-scan, digital X-Ray, endoscopy, arthroscopy and others. I was able to watch how to work out different clinical cases such as lacerations and colic in the field in conditions of limited opportunities. I'm convinced it would be very helpful for me to use those skills in my own country. I was really excited to take part as a volunteer vet in the huge county fair and visit a real western store!

In the last place of my practice I had a possibility to work with other animals like cows, goats, pigs and sheep. It was a wonderful experience as well!

My living conditions were awesome at every hospital. I was provided with a room upstairs or in different building 10 meters far from the Hospital usually shared with the other extern and close to Intern's apartments. I had everything I needed: bathrooms with towels, sleeping area with all the pillows and sheets, a kitchen with all the staff, laundry facilities. I even had a car to go to the store in one of the hospitals and in the other someone always picked me up there.

Finally, I can say that it was the best summer ever! A very long one and short in the same time. I'm really grateful to IVSA and particularly to everyone who let my dream come true. I would also like to thank Deirdre Murdy, previous SAVMA IEO and all her family. She picked me up from airport and drove me to every hospital, I was living in her house between the externships and she showed me the Pacific Ocean for the first time in my life, Hollywood and Universal Studios. We had a lot of fun together! I wish that more and more students can have this amazing possibility to have the same experience as I had. I'm ready to do everything for this.

The most amazing cases:

- Embryo transfer
- Wire and blade in guttural pouch
- Permanent tracheostomy
- Numerous colic surgeries: resection, displacement correction, enterolith removal, impaction
- Intestinal rupture with the enterolith in abdominal cavity found during the necropsy
- Temporohyoid osteoarthropathy
- Palatinum bone fracture
- Sarcoma
- Working with the orphan foal, introducing him to a new mare kept on hormones
- Wobbler syndrome
At the 60th Symposium in Serbia in December 2011 the Executive Committee decided on the projects for this year’s Development Fund.

After thorough consideration of all applications we have come to the conclusion that Miss Elena-Madalina Vasiloiu from Romania would be best suited to receive the Scholarship Fund.

In her application letter she explained that her intention to go abroad is solely to gain knowledge that is yet unknown in her country. Upon her return she aims to support her country’s veterinary education with what she has learned during the time of her placement.

We congratulate her to her and wish her a wonderful experience during her placement!
The Development Fund Workshop was held in Serbia’s winter Symposium while other IVSA workshops were going on. Around ten people met together to talk and make decisions about the DF activities and how to improve them.

The workshop started with an explanation about what is the Development Fund, its objectives and how it helps underprivileged countries. After a short introduction we went to the main point of the meeting: new ideas for raising funds.

First of all, we start discussing from whom the DF could get money. For sure an important part of the funds and materials come from companies, but we thought that Universities (both professors and students) are important to get money or help us in our program. We talked about asking friends and family as well as professional vets. At the end we decided that hopefully we could get funds from anyone who has money, just we have to think how we could manage to make them give it to us!

Then we started a brainstorming session. We talked about active activities such as dog grooming, car wash, sell goods, parties…, where you have to work directly to earn the money; and other passive activities such as workshops, classes, tutors, poker tournaments (or other kind of event)…, where you just have to organize. There are many activities that can be done even if you have little money at the beginning.

Also it is important to get contact with a sponsor and that’s why we talked about writing a Sponsor Letter for local chapters to attract sponsorship for their activities.

We know that it is difficult to raise money even for the local chapter, but I want to encourage everybody to start with it. At the beginning it may be hard, but with patience and hard work we could get more funds for our chapters and one day maybe we could help the Development Fund with its task of helping other vet students with less resources than us.
HOW TO ORGANISE A BOOK DRIVE

Top Tips

By Judith LaBounty, IVSA SAVMA, USA

A book drive at your veterinary faculty is an easy way to contribute the Development Fund. Here at Oklahoma State University, we have already done a book drive and have books waiting to be sent to a deserving school.

So, here are a few tips to help you get a book drive up and running:

1. Plan to have somewhere to store the books when they are all collected.

2. Start your book drive at the end of the semester, when everyone is sick of looking at their old anatomy and pharmacology books. As soon as final exams are over, that donation box will begin to fill.

3. Be sure to put the donation box in a convenient location. At Oklahoma we put our box in the lunchroom, where everyone passes by on their way to class and picks up their mail.

4. Set up a donation box in the teaching hospital. All those new graduates are ready to get rid of all those old textbooks.

5. If you collect some books that might not help a student in another country, sell those books online and donate the money to the Development Fund.

6. Also, teaching faculty sometimes get free books from publishing companies. They might have old editions that they are ready to get rid of.

7. Collect a list of all the books you have and make sure that those that you choose will be suitable.

Of course, when your book drive is all done, it is time to let Eva (our Development Fund Officer on ExCo) know that you have books to donate to our colleagues at other schools.

I hope these tips help!

Good luck with your book drives!
To be honest, I was in utter shock and surprise upon hearing Klaske call out my name as the Top EO for the year. As I had only been holding the position since February, I felt as if I had not done enough to deserve the award. I was convinced that someone else would have been chosen as the competition was so tough. So many people have done such amazing work for their chapter!

Nevertheless, although speechless, I accepted the award graciously and cannot thank Klaske enough for choosing me!

Over the past 7 months I tried very hard to not only to increase awareness about IVSA in my local chapter but also encourage students from Malaysia to go on exchanges as well as getting people interested in coming to Malaysia for an exchange. I do believe that Malaysia, being a tropical country, has an amazing biodiversity of wildlife to offer. Diverse is certainly one word that can be used to describe Malaysia, as our culture, food and mix of people really do make us a unique country for others to open their eyes to.

Through many of our faculty events I have done my best to ensure that students were aware of the opportunities that IVSA could offer. I was amazingly proud of my fellow coursemates for being so willing to help me out when we received a Korean exchange student! They really did assist me a lot in making her feel welcomed here and many of them also showed up to hear her speech on Korea and I had used that opportunity to let them know about the South Korean Congress (which many Malaysian students had scrambled to apply for!) as well as other IVSA programs. The Malaysian students are also extremely excited about the upcoming South African exchange we have in the works now! They are even willing to contribute their time to assist me in fundraising although they won’t be going on the exchange. How amazing is that?!

Receiving the award has certainly motivated me to push even harder for IVSA and hopefully by the end of my term as EO I would have made a dent in the history of IVSA Malaysia!

In random order the TOP TEN EOs

Inge Slenter, IVSA Gent, Belgium
Taz Namraabi, IVSA South Africa
Hanna Telama, IVSA Finland
Eva Tsantila, IVSA Thessaloniki, Greece
Sinjun de Aguiar, IVSA UK & Ireland
Milan Markovic, IVSA Belgrade, Serbia
Lee Yee Cheng, IVSA Malaysia
Alexandra Lebas, IVSA Alfort, France
Ayano Nakashima, IVSA Japan
Dorka Ivanyos, IVSA Hungary
Getting started
First of all, you need a great group of IVSA members from your chapter who are MOTIVATED: willing to host foreign students, search for sponsors, get very little sleeps for many days in a row and who are ready to prepare sandwiches at 5 AM after a very long night … Once you have a team you know you can rely on you need to...

Contact your school staff
A good relationship with the school is very important. Moreover it is quite nice to have an official introduction by the dean or a staff member as a formal visit of the school, the clinics, etc…

Choose a Chapter
You need to decide which chapter you want to have an exchange with and the practicalities. Here you have to consider all:

Travel expenses: if you don’t have big enough or any sponsors, are students willing to pay for a flight ticket to the other side of the world?

⇒ Find a chapter according to what you can afford. Of course, if you can make it, exotic exchanges are amazing!!

When: Host the exchange chapter when as many students from your chapter are around, this way you can get them involved into IVSA and you will have more help. Try to avoid exam period as well. An exchange takes time and energy! Dates should be agreed by both EOs as well to be sure everyone is available at this period of time.

For how long: Consider how long you can stay without any sleep and how much you can afford ;) (don’t worry, you do get a few hours of sleep, eventually). This depends on countries of course, for western Europe you can consider 20-25 euros/day/student (for food, activities, etc…)
Finances:
Money is unfortunately the limiting factor in exchanges. You need to plan a budget and make sure that you set realistic fundraising targets to go along side it. You need to make sure you plan for food, transport, entry to places of interest and nights out. If there is something that you would really like to do but are out of your budget consider asking the exchange group joining you if they would mind paying for this additional activity and have an alternative option that is within your budget for those that don’t want to spend the extra money. When organising the exchange make sure you are clear with each other of what you will provide for your guests and if they are going to need to pay for extra things on top.

Plan your Itinerary
Everyday needs to be busy to make the most of every second, but be aware that everything takes more time when there is a group. A public transportation trip that takes 15 minutes usually will take 40 minutes!!! Organise your itinerary according to this. It’s also always nice to have a bit a free time and resting time in an exchange, therefore don’t feel guilty if your delegates have a few hours of free time, they will enjoy it.

Visits:
• Sightseeing bus tour
• City rally, use a map and set challenges to be completed along the way
• Discounts for museums, monuments, places…
• Zoos
• Tour the faculty & speech from the dean
→ Be flexible, adapt to what they want

Scientific:
• A few lectures, why not?
Remember to choose accordingly to those visiting on the exchange as there will be people form different years
• Local clinics
• Workshops
• Visit pharmaceutical companies

Great ideas to raise money for your exchange.

A) Organise an event:
• A long WE on one topic (Tip: one that is not taught at school and keep it open to other vet schools).
• Organise everything from the lectures and workshops to the parties and housing:
• But make sure you make a profit! So charge accordingly!

B) Organise a lecture evening: charge 5 euros per person

C) Sponsors:
• Ask them to sponsor something in particular: T-shirts, a meal, etc.
• Local supermarkets can sponsor food
• Veterinary companies are always interested
• Be open to new ones (chocolate companies, energy drinks, insurance…)

D) Charge the vet student from your school for the exchange (ex. 275 euros) & organise everything: flights, etc…

E) Organise parties & sell drinks & food

F) Lottery

G) Hold a bake sale

Parties:
• Bars, clubs
• One evening with the rest of the group, at least, to meet and chat with each other
• Party games & local drinking games are always fun

Others:
• Theme dinner
• Free time is important

Food and Housing

Food: What are you going to feed them? Delegates eat 3 – 4 times a day and will be hungry! Provide a large variety of different food & if possible typically local. Restaurants & Barbecue evenings (get them sponsored). Another great idea is colding a evening when you cook together and take them to the supermarket. Make sure that you cater for those with specific dietary requirements

Housing: It’s great if the exchange students can be hosted by a local student, they make friends, discover the real culture and local student life. We all love this.

Here are the tips given by delegates in the symposium in Serbia:
• Vet students & OCs houses, match people if possible

• If you can’t provide everything explain in advance
• Near campus & close to each other
• Be careful of animal allergies

Transportation
How are you going to transport your delegates …? It’s one of you major cost and potentially one cause of trouble, here are a few tips to make it go all smooth.

• Cheap or free (agreement with public transportation)
• Accessible
• Safe & comfortable
• Describe it & explain how it works (local map in their language, at the least in english, with places of interest on it)
• Universal tickets if possible (the same one during the all exchange)
• Efficient
• Transportation from the airport / train station is mandatory! They won’t find their way to Uni on their own …

You now have most of the clues to organize a successful exchange, get in touch with other EOs and book one!

Last but not the least, here is a breaking news: we will be electing the best exchange in the congress in Norway (criteria are: length, cultural exchanges, number of participants, …)… be creative!
Day 1: Vet Stuff
When we arrived at Saint-Pancras, we first took a coffee at Costa, waiting for the two French students (freshmans of course) who missed the train... Then we went to Potters bar in North London, the location of the clinical campus, and were taken on a great tour of the RVC campus (small animal-clinics, classrooms,...) with a professor. We were very surprised by the number of nurses working there and want as many in our hospital!!! Lucky you ;)
We then had our first “Fish and chips” at the cafeteria, and played a game (veterinarian questions) with some clinicians and students of the RVC. We also had a chance to visit the equine clinic facilities, very nice!

After these long visits, Hannah and Will took us home to have some rest and get ready for a BBQ party at Will’s house: there we enjoyed English BBQ food such as ribs and chicken wings, home made cookies (thank you Will), and some English drinks too (they put ginger in everything and I totally recommend ginger beer :P), we also met a lot of RVC students. To end a very nice day, we all went to a club where we met many English students and danced all night long 😊. That was amazing 😍.

Day 2: Marathon in London
We started the second day with a French breakfast with croissants, pains au chocolat, orange juice and coffee, of course! We took a train to London to visit the RVC re-clinical campus in Camden (central London). The English students had organised an incredible tour of London and we were able to see so many beautiful places in a very reasonable walking time. Some of us discovered for the first time Westminster, Big Ben, and the Tate modern. We had lunch next to Saint Paul’s...
Cathedral, and had a walk in the greatest parks of London. Such as tourists, we took a lot of photos, and as vet-students some photos of the animals of St James’s park. We finished this tour at Piccadilly and had a look at the Gay pride street party in London’s Soho.

In the evening, we ate pizzas, salad and very good desserts in a great Italian restaurant, and then took a cab to a fun bar to have some drinks and dance. Hannah Fry and Hannah Jordan gave us a lesson about English humour and courage, but I won’t say more...

**Day 3: Relax and shopping**

After a long night (exactly what we needed if we wanted to survive all the day), and a french breakfast (thank you Alex), we went to Camden market to shop, shop and shop again (French girls...). We spent our time walking along the little streets of this wonderful place, spending all of our money on dresses, T-shirts and gifts. For lunch, we bought food from all over the world in the Camden market (Indian, Turkish, Argentinian...) and sat just next to the little bridge over the river. Then we did some more shopping and went to the bar 55, where we took our last cocktail all together.

The “au-revoir” at Saint Pancras was a little bit sad, but we all agreed that this was the first exchange between London and Paris but not the last! We hope we will see each other soon and all french people say a big thank you to London-IVSA guys for this beautiful week-end they organised in the British capital!!!
Monday, 26th of July 2010: It was quite early in the morning when a group of German and Finish veterinary students say goodbye to each other at the small airport in Tampere. Hugs and sad smiles are being exchanged and above all the promise of seeing each other again as soon as possible. Eventually the Germans leave and everyone recalls the wonderful week in their mind, already looking forward to the return exchange in Germany.

Saturday, 9th of July 2011: Five Fins get off the plane at Bremen Airport to be welcomed by members of the IVSA Chapter Hanover. It has been a year since the exchange in Helsinki. But everyone still remembers it well and is in high spirits looking forward to the week ahead.

And a great week it was. Unfortunately only three of the hosting Fins were able to come, but they were reinforced by two lovely newcomers. It didn’t take long for the group to warm up and regain the old familiarity. The Fins quickly adapted to the German customs at the live-screening of the world cup of women’s soccer. On the first night they already in perfectly as they cheered for the German players against Japan, wore the German flag and felt with the disappointed team after the defeat.

More typical German traditions were to follow, for example a dinner at a traditional German “Brauhaus” or a visit to the “Schützenfest”-fair where the Fins (and some of the Germans) learned how to drink “Lüttje Lage”, a Hanoverian drink of beer and schnapps which requires some skill to drink it the right way without spilling everything. Another chance to learn more about the historical and
modern aspects of the city and its lifestyle was the city rally. The Fins got a thorough first impression of the city and the Germans got a first impression of their friend's creativity, as some parts contained tasks like “take a picture of the oldest Hanoverian you can find” or “try to trade a 100 cents coin against something better”.

Naturally the reason that brings everyone in IVSA together was going to take up a lot of the short time: Animals. A guided tour through every one of the university clinics was a given, the displaced abomasum operation on a cow or the larynx-endoscopy on a moving were a nice bonus organized by the enthusiastic clinic-staff. A small highlight was also the tour through the quite recently founded clinic for exotic animals, birds and rodents, which is the only existing university clinic combining those species.

The horse-focused veterinary students especially enjoyed the visit to the “State Stud Celle” with its overwhelming range of top-class breeding stallions and the centre for Stallion Performance Tests belonging to the Stud Farm. Quite a different aspect of Veterinary Medicine and Biology was covered at the German Primate Center: The responsible vet gave a very detailed insight into the depths of Primate Research and the benefits and disadvantages for humans and animals evolving from it.

The absolute highlight for everyone however was the day at Hanover Zoo, including a tour by the zoo vet, a look behind the scenes and some hand-on-contact with the sea lions.

Next to all those educational events there was always enough time for yet another animal: party animal. Whether it was cocktails in the city, a café or a new-fashionable “roof garden” – basically cocktails everywhere – or a night of games and punch where the Fins educated the Germans with the unique drinking songs of their college, there was never a dull moment. Therefore the karaoke-night in the most popular Irish Pub was only a worthy end of a wonderful week where unforeseen talents were discovered and the Backstreet Boys tried a ground-breaking revival.

Far too soon the week was over and another round of goodbyes had to be said. However a lot of great pictures and wonderful memories remain and as it was the first exchange for both chapters it can be said the project Hanover to Helsinki and vice-versa was a huge success for all the participants.

Thank you IVSA!
Up until the very last moment, and by which I mean only when the Danish were standing directly in front of me in Dublin airport, was I finally able to breathe a sigh of relief and relax just a little, in fact, a smile even sprang upon my face. I mean absolutely anything could have gone wrong. What if there are two Dublin airports in the World and they don’t turn up at the Irish one! Imagine if we end up standing there at 11:00, waiting for their arrival, whilst they in contrast are still sitting in on lectures, intending to come March 2012 instead!! Whatever will happen to all those sandwiches waiting patiently in reception for our triumphant return and the electronic board flashing ‘Welcome Copenhagen’? I mean, I could eat the sandwiches, but there is no way I’m getting through that board! Thankfully however for all twenty of us and the board, none of these, in my opinion, highly plausible twists in the story line occurred. Instead, of being a unwitting character in 24, I have a bordering romantic memory of me, Mette, Trolls and my dear friend El, making our way to the college under a unusually perfect blue sky and at one point even driving towards a glistening Irish sea.

The whole Danish exchange, from this point onwards, rushed by in the mere blink of an eye. We were constantly kept on our feet, but in a good way. For the first time ever, I felt like a giddy tourist in the same city I had spent the last two years treading the streets of be in snow, wind or more likely in Ireland, rain. Yet, no matter how small Dublin is, I do not think this could have purely been due to the re-invasion of Vikings 1,000 years later having that significant effect on the cultural balance or the fact that the day they arrived, the Emerald Isle turned into something  more reminiscent of Casablanca in Morocco for seven days. More likely, I think it was because it when you live in a city, you take it for granted. I mean, why do something now (e.g. tidy your room being a perfect example), when it can be done later? Despite it being a shocking two whole years late, finding myself in Dun Loaghaire, Temple bar, Dublin Zoo and all the other touristy places a tourist would go, opened my eyes to what was around me and just what I had been missing out on. I swear I was almost shushing people on the Dublin city tour!

So what were the best moments? I am going to have to use a cliché and say there were just too many to pick one, so I am afraid I shall have to fill you in on a few. So first, I will return to the point where El’s car ‘romantically’ pulled into the grand entrance of University College Dublin Vet School where upon walking into the foyer, with the small screen flashing ‘Welcome Copenhagen’, we were led in to one stuffy packed room filled with people, sandwiches and coffee. A perfect combination! The coffee smelled and
tasted delicious, but after only a brief period of the expected initial awkwardness, the conversation became delectable too. With anticipation in the air, the Dean along with other staff members graciously welcomed the exchange group to the school and then following a hospital tour and humorous-hat-quiz campus tour we sat down to watch the second year vets lose not so graciously, this time, to the first years in football! A night of dancing in Temple bar carried the first day on to the next and we awoke the next morning, somehow, for a 9:00 lecture.

As well wanting the whole exchange to be fun, we also wanted it to be educational to a certain extent as well, so we could really ‘show off’ just what being an Irish veterinary student is like. So in addition to having a full ‘mix and match’ lecture programme arranged for both Thursday and Friday, we also took the group on a visit to Lyon farm and two of our favourite lecturers, also kindly gave interesting yet humorous guest talks to the group. One was on the Irish dairy industry and ‘the high proportion of butterfat’ in our milk here which was of great interest to the Danes considering their course has limited material on ruminants. Whilst lecture two on the other hand, was meant to be about the equine industry in Ireland, but with the lecturer deciding last minute this was too intense, it changed focus instead to a very fun, light hearted recount on ‘how he thought we could be good vets’. Squeezing a visit to Lyon farm in the exchange programme was also a good choice. Not only for the Danish first years who got to have their first ‘hands on’ practical farm outing of their veterinary course, but also for the some of the older years who got to do some well-loved, ‘hands-in’, rectal examination!

One of the best days of the exchange, was definitely the Sunday when after some sightseeing, shopping and a traditional Irish pub lunch, we headed off to the coastline. Again, it was a perfect day and walking along the beach with a famous Irish Teddy’s ice cream in hand, we got to reflect on some of our time spent together before departure. Including Sinead and her thankfully high standards for well cooked sausages in the Irish breakfast, me kicking Amy off at the wrong stop on the mystery tour of Drogheda and Dundalk, walking around Dublin Zoo with a massive green leprechaun hat, the beautiful food of the in-door BBQ because we had no charcoal... As the beach lanterns began to sparkle against the background of a calm blue sea, I also had time to reflect. Reflect on what interesting and fun people I got the chance to meet because of this exchange and just how lucky I am to have met such a great bunch of people at UCD who were fantastic hosts and without whom, the first Irish IVSA would not have been possible. Thanks guys!
IVSA Group Exchange

By Živa Černe, (Exchange Officer Assistant) IVSA Slovenia

After more than half a year after the first part of our epic exchange Mallory, Sinjun, Becca, Chaz, Annette, Pid, Allie and Louise landed in Slovenia. We got a South African and a Croatian joining as well for «support», and of course there was the organising team from the veterinary faculty in Ljubljana. We tried to show our guests some jewels of our country; and beautiful sunny weather in July generally helped us a lot!

We started with a welcoming dinner at our students’ room at the faculty, serving 3 versions of traditional Slovenian dish called »štruklj» (cooked pastry with different fillings). There was enough wine and »IVSA« beer (brewed at home by one of our vet students) to keep us in the party mood and we finished in the club, dancing the night away.

Next day we got up, packed ourselves in the vans and drove in the direction...
We visited dairy Celeia, a small but successful dairy that is using only the local milk and is specialised in delicious yogurts. Then we headed to Laško, town known by its famous beer Zlatorog (»Goldhorn«). We had a city tour; visited the town museum and of course the brewery itself, including beer tasting afterwards! Tired and hungry after the long day in the sun we drove to the family farm Arlič, home of one of Slovenian students, where we did ultrasound examination for pregnancy on their cows and then had a nice picnic – they prepared an entire goat for us! We were a bit tired after coming back to Ljubljana late in the evening, but we continued with the party in the club anyway.

Early in the morning we were in the vans again, heading north and over the Vršič mountain pass in the beautiful sunny morning. We came to the valley of river Soča, which is called «the emerald river» due to its special colour. We went rafting down the river and had lots of fun jumping in the icy cold water (it has about 8°C in the summer and wetsuits don’t help much!). We had the bravest non-swimmer as well – she dared to jump off the rock 7 meters high like everyone else! After rafting we drove to the Vremščica hill where our faculty keeps a herd of milking sheep (not to mention some donkeys, pigs and horses) and a small cheese production facility. We pitched tents for the night, went through the stages of cheese production and then had a picnic with lamb. Most of us went to bed a bit earlier (well, there are always exceptions!), but still managed to socialize before with some drinking games.

Next day we went to Lipica stables, home of the Lipizzaner horse. They prepared us a nice programme; from taking semen from a stallion jumping on a phantom and ultrasound examination of mares to the classic tourist tour of the stables. Something for all horse lovers! We also got the opportunity to watch mares and foals running to their pastures in the morning, which was really fascinating. After that we were off to the seaside and enjoyed swimming in the sea under the cliffs for a few hours before sightseeing of medieval coastal town Piran just before sunset. We had some pizza on the beach for dinner and then we got ready with more drinking games for the foam party in one of the clubs in Portorož. We left for Ljubljana only at about 4 o’clock in the morning.

Next day we took it easy – it was raining, so we had to cancel the trip to the waterfalls and went to the bowling center instead. Unfortunately some English friends left after that as they had to fly home for their graduation (the first ever vets from the University of Nottingham). With the other ones we went to the city center of Ljubljana, in two canoes! It was the easiest way to park around there. We climbed up the castle hill and walked around the city center. We spent the first part of the evening on the river bank, drinking and talking, and then went to the center of alternative culture Metelkova, which is very much alive on Friday evenings.

On the last day we visited Bled, swam in the famous lake with an island and a church on it and ate delicious Bled Cream Cakes, made at home by one of our students. From there we drove the last of the English friends to the airport.

The exchange was absolutely awesome – epic win! We were a bit sad when it all ended, but cheap airline connections have made England very close, so we will see each other again for sure, hopefully soon.
After waiting for more than four months to see each other again and after travelling for almost a whole day, finally we arrived to Ankara. There, in the bus station, at about 10 degrees below zero and snowing, the Turkish guys were waiting for us, the wait finally reached its end!

**Vet Faculty and Erasmus Party**

The first day we had to wake up early and some of us had to have breakfast on the way to the Faculty. When we arrived, the dean received us and after some conversation we drank the first Turkish tea of the trip. After that we took part in a meat hygiene workshop where we learnt how to make sucuk (a Turkish sausage) and we could taste it and in case some of us were still hungry we had lunch at Kümer’s restaurant, we ate enough food for one month!

In the end of the educational day we had an udder’s wounds and pathologies workshop!

After resting for a while (and some of us drinking some sangria...), we had dinner at Zeynell Çilli restaurant and then we went to a party in white for Erasmus! It was so amazing that some days later “Catalan Erasmus” appeared in the newspaper!

**Anitkabir, nargile & backgammon**

Only few hours had past since we went to bed but at first thing in the morning we woke up to visit Anitkabir; Atatürk’s mausoleum, one of the most important figures in Turkish history (we would need a couple of pages to explain all what we learnt about him there!).

After having lunch we went to a Turkish cafe to spend there the afternoon, while some people smoked nargile and others drank Turkish coffee (and guessed their future one each other), some of us decided to learn how to play backgammon and we finished with the game under our arm (it means that we lost...) but we had our rematch some days later!

At night, we had formal dinner in a riding club. We visited the stables and...surprise! The Turkish Agriculture’s Minister received us and we could see how he trained with his horse (sincerely, he has to train a little bit more...). After eating our dinner, almost everybody finished dancing Turkish songs around the table.

**Ilgaz Mountain**

We went for the last 3 days of the exchange to a ski’s resort that belongs to Ankara’s University in Ilgaz Mountain, about 3h far away from the city.

For many of us it was the first time in lots of years that we had seen snow and the first feeling that we had was...cold. During those three days we sledged and skied, for some people it was their first time in life but other people could show all their skiing skills and for those that felt uncomfortable at -20ºC we went to drink a hot chocolate in a bar at the top of the mountain, from there, we could observe the spectacular views of the landscape!!

And to be able to put up with the cold nights, we made pre-parties and drinking games in the bedrooms and after that, we went to a party in the resort’s disco until early hours of the morning! And talking, skiing and sledging the days passed and before we realized it, it was time for our departure and time also for hugs, kisses and last photos. We came back to Ankara with some of the Turkish guys (we abandoned some of them in the mountain) and to finish the last day, nothing better than a good kebap’s dinner and hot Turkish wine.

And we were there again, in Ankara’s bus station, thinking about when we would be able to see each other again and asking ourselves why Ankara’s guys always say that there’s nothing in their city when there are the best people of the world there!!
Barcelona to Istanbul

After Ankara, the second part of Exchange in Turkey was coming! Istanbul!!!! We took a night bus to waste as less hours as we could! Istanbul is really big and any amount of days is not enough to enjoy it! When we were getting off, we already realized how Istanbul is working, it’s a chaos! Every driver makes whatever wants and you are in dangerous continuously, trying to follow a wise Turkish, trusting on him or her, for example: if she or he is crossing the street nothing wrong will happen!

Horse day
The first day we went to a Jockey Club; during the morning we visited the horse hospital, horse stables and met Jockeys… they are amazing!!! We also watched a mobile endoscopy! In the evening, we were ready to bet in the races! Some of us won a “lot of money…” I wish, but we are kidding, they won 50 cents or less…

Grand Bazaar
Friday was the tourist day!! Or maybe… shopping day? We went to the Grand Bazaar; there is a cool and magical atmosphere in this market, with around 1300 shops, it’s like a labyrinth…we wanted to find again a shop where we had been, and it was really difficult, believe us. We also visited Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and the Basilica Cistern. In the evening, we were like an agglutination of shopping plastic bags that was going somewhere.

For dinner, we tasted Iskender, it is a delicious Turkish meal!!! A kind of kebab with tomato sauce. Kebab is a famous word in Turkey… just for curious people; kebab only means “meat”. For example in Spain a lot of people have a wrong idea about it, and they believe that kebab is just that big piece of meat that is spinning all day and is eaten with bread like wrap. This one is only doner kebab. Actually, there are a lot of different ways to cook it and not always with bread like a sandwich.

Riding helicopters in the Turkish sky!
On Saturday morning, for reasons that we don’t know… (Hangover 3: now in Istanbul), we rested and in the midday, we met to visit Sapphire observation deck (at 236 meters height) where we could enjoy a beautiful landscape. On the top, we watched a simulation as we were driving an helicopter and had the chance to see all Istanbul. It is a 4D simulation and it was really funny but also some of us felt a little bit dizzy after. That afternoon, our girls went to a Turkish bath, they enjoyed that experience!

We are writing “see you later IVSA Ankara and IVSA Istanbul”, because that exchange was really amazing and Turkish people are so funny, happy, kind and warm and all good adjectives we can remember now. So I recommend to you (IVSA Chapters all over the world) to try to get an exchange with them!!!

Thank you very much IVSA Ankara and IVSA Istanbul for those days!
We love you (and kebap)!!!
Zoos, Surgery and Tomatoes

By Minjong Ha, IVSA South Korea

Why did I decide to apply for the exchange?

I am currently looking for what to do in my future as a veterinarian. Since there are a lot of jobs that veterinarians dedicate for this society and it is so varied from the inspector in the airport to doctor in the animal hospital. And of course the reality of working in the field would be very different from what I thought just in my mind. So the best thing I thought for finding out what job fits for me is to get hands on experience with what veterinarians do at this moment. And the advantage of doing practices in another country is that I can compare various features between the reality of veterinary field in my country and the other country, so that I can think about developmental ways that can be helpful for veterinarians all over the world as well as veterinary field in South Korea.

Zoo de Barcelona: 2 days

The practice in the zoo of Barcelona can be abbreviated in a word, “Amazing.” The wild life and the wild vets were there in the zoo of Barcelona. I didn’t stay there for a long time so I can’t say I know everything about their work but as far as I’ve experienced, they managing four important areas in the zoo.

A. Prevention
B. Management
C. Treatment
D. Research

Working hours of the vets were 4 or 5 hrs a day and it was flexible by vet to vet. For example, 9am to 1pm or 10am to 2pm. However, in case of emergency, they took turns every week to set a vet to be stand-by for the situations after the working hours. Compare with Korea, it is much shorter. Usually vets in the zoo of Korea work from 9am to 6pm, and they also have to be ready in their home even after the job or on weekends for the emergency.

And the zoo vets has to be very creative. They face some cases, and they have to figure out how to treat them from A to Z, not just following the books. That was the most attractive part for me. When a dolphin had a serious problem in their eye, the vet had to think about finding out some viscoelastic
material which can be used to replace the dolphin’s eye. Also, when kangaroos had some problems in their legs, vets had to gather to discuss the most efficient way of surgery to sustain the flexibility of the hind legs.

Ars Veterinaria: 2 weeks

Ars Veterinaria is one of the finest animal hospital in Spain. It is a second opinion hospital working 24 hours, therefore hard and rare cases were coming to this hospital. I stayed a week in the consulting room, and the other week in the operating theatre. I could watch many interesting small animal cases, go into surgeries and help vets.

The thing amazed me in the Ars is its facilities first of all. It looked like just a beautiful old Spanish house from the outside, but in the inside, it was equipped with the latest veterinary facilities. 3 Consulting rooms, 2 Operation rooms, X-Ray, Ultrasound, Labs, Hospital rooms, Emergency room and a library, all these cutting edge facilities were very well organized in the four story hospital.

Vets were also really good and famous in their field, and they were taking care of patients with all their efforts. Usually they work from 9am to 6pm, the same to Korean small animal vets, but they took longer time to consult with owners. Usually it took 30 to 40 minutes minimum, and sometimes more than an hour. And the vets tried to answer all the questions from owners very sincerely and they also tried to let owners know all the necessary cautions and knowledge about their animal. I watched several surgeries like over the top for the cross ligament, feline phalanges fracture surgery, to make prosthetic bone and joint on legs, and so on. It was quite interesting to watch those surgeries from skilled doctors.

Another thing which was quite impressive in the Ars was that the atmosphere among hospital staffs was really good. All the nurses, technicians, vets and other staffs were very tightly bonded. They were like friends, more than coworkers. And vets could ask about the case to each other, discuss about it and figure out the best solution. This collaboration was absolutely great. It appears it starts from those good atmospheres and I really respect that point in Ars.

Sightseeing Barcelona

Barcelona is full of amazing festivals and interesting things to see. The Festes de Gracia is a Catalan celebration, held around the 15th of August each year to commemorate the Assumption. During the week of festivities that mark one of Barcelona’s most important fiestas, the city of Gracia explodes with fun, excitement, color and fireworks. Many streets are decorated by the neighbours, live music, food in the street, and the parties continue all night.

Gaudi’s Parc Güell is a must see in Barcelona. Gaudi architecture includes the Parc Güell in Gràcia, the still unfinished Sagrada Familia in Eixample and the houses La Pedrera/Casa Milà and La Casa Batlló both in Eixample.

La Tomatina, giant tomato fight in Bunol. I went Valencia after my practice for a week and visited there. The La Tomatina festival is held every year on the last Wednesday of August. Upwards of 40,000 people descend on the town for a massive tomato fight that literally stains the entire town red.

In Conclusion

I was really satisfied with this exchange. I met so many nice people over there and made good friends with them. Also, I’ve experienced a lot of things as a veterinary student. I think the more we experience, the more we can see this world and we can dream bigger. With this IVSA Exchange, I feel that I earned really precious thing which is worth than anything else, the experience. I never can buy this thing in anywhere, nor get this thing easily in somewhere. But I believe this experience will lead me to the better way of living a life, with the bigger dreams of mine. Finally, I really would like to thank Ferran, the E.O. of IVSA Barcelona, who helped me so much in this exchange for 4 weeks.
Rewind to late November, I was going to the clinic in the morning in darkness and coming home in darkness. The trees were bare and the weather was wet, windy and cold. Finally the Friday of my rotation block arrives. I go home and manically I begin to pack my suitcase; overalls, sun screen, scrubs, bikini, stethoscope, sunglasses, thermometer and sandals. Twenty-four hours later I am in the air and flying high! I begin my IVSA individual exchange at the legendary OP, the University of Pretoria Onderstepoort Campus, the home of the only vet school in South Africa based in the countries legislative capital city Pretoria. After a quick tour of the campus and the veterinary hospital from my fabulous host Nicky Frohlich, IVSA Exchange Officer South Africa, I settled into my new home for the next two weeks in the campus Residence. I unpacked my recently crammed full suitcase and gathered my thoughts for what was to come. The next day I joined the Equine medicine and surgery rotation. From day one I was warmly welcomed into the team and got stuck in with inpatient care and observing the skilled clinicians in both medicine and surgery. It was to my great surprise to be joining two IVSA friends Riette Van Zyl and Steph Friedman - what a small world - and of course to be making new friends! One of my favourite parts of the day was the afternoon teaching rounds where we discussed the cases in the hospital and deepened our knowledge in this discipline. The enthusiasm of the staff and students was infectious and I was glad to be in a supportive learning environment. After morning rounds in the hospital and completing the inpatient care at the weekend I visited Riette’s beautiful family home. It was wonderful to meet her family and to get a glimpse of her home life. It goes without saying that the people that you meet on trips such as these are what make it. I spent hours with Riette discussing the diversity of South Africa from it’s people to the career path of vets, it was truly fascinating and I hope that there will be many more hours to follow. We both had so much to say and it was great to be able to learn from her and deepen my appreciation of what a truly diverse and inspiring place South Africa is.

The two weeks at OP flew by and over that time I was able to learn a great deal and see several interesting cases. In particular I enjoyed working up the foal cases and their intensive care with my good friend Franz, and it has sparked a great interest in equine neonatal medicine for me. I also enjoyed learning about the epidemiology of infectious disease in comparison to the UK and understanding how disease is managed in the South African population. The rotation finale was the Friday afternoon brai (barbecue), lekker (great)! This is something that I will take back as a suggestion for clinics at Nottingham. I will also take back many happy memories that I would like to thank all of the staff and students that were so patient with me and made my time at OP a really great experience.

The next stop on my South African adventure was Cape Town and after a 18hour coach journey through the Caroo I was grateful to see the beautiful wine.
lands that gently meandered down to the stunning coastline. For the next two weeks I joined a class friend of mine from Nottingham, Alicia, and was very kindly hosted by two friends of Alicia’s; originally from the UK that now live and work in Cape Town; James and Polls. Staying with friends gave us a great local knowledge and opportunity to make the most of exploring the area, something that wasn’t so easy to do in Pretoria.

The typical Cape Town day began with a run along the promenade before driving against the commuter traffic down to the SPCA Veterinary Hospital in Cape Town’s Grassy Park. There we joined the veterinary team for the day Alicia and I swapped between surgery, taking part in the birth control program, and medicine, leading consultations, performing diagnostic tests and administering treatment on a daily basis. At lunchtimes we would take a trip to the beach for a coffee and picnic lunch before heading back to the clinic for afternoon surgery. Then if we had time after work we headed back to the beach for a dip in the ocean and one day for my first ever surf lesson! Bliss.

Exploring Cape Town and the local area was such fun and made all the better for being guided by such fun and generous hosts, thank you for making the trip so energetic and inspiring. Climbing Table Mountain was an unforgettable highlight and the view from the top made the ache in my legs all the more satisfying. It was incredible to explore the coastline on the Chapman’s Peak Drive, dine out in the beautiful restaurants, shop at the Biscuit Mill, hang out at the waterfront, wave at the penguins in Simon’s Town and surf at Muizenburg. When in Cape Town you can not miss the opportunity to visit a wine farm and do some wine tasting!

After exchanging a thousand thank yous and promises to see each other again soon I left the Frohlich family for England. I was greeted with horizontal rain whipping through London but this was soon appeased with a cup of tea, which always makes me feel I’m home. Bathed in winter sunshine and a thirst for travel I return from South Africa with an open mind.

Exploring Cape Town and the local area was such fun and made all the better for being guided by such fun and generous hosts, thank you for making the trip so energetic and inspiring. Climbing Table Mountain was an unforgettable highlight and the view from the top made the ache in my legs all the more satisfying. It was incredible to explore the coastline on the Chapman’s Peak Drive, dine out in the beautiful restaurants, shop at the Biscuit Mill, hang out at the waterfront, wave at the penguins in Simon’s Town and surf at Muizenburg. When in Cape Town you can not miss the opportunity to take time to visit a wine farm and do some wine tasting!

For my last few days in South Africa I headed back up North before flying out of Johannesburg. There I joined Nicky and her family and again was treated to staying in yet another beautiful home in Benoni. I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to visit the Pilanesberg National Park in the North West Province to go and look at the world famous South African Game. There Nicky and I were lucky to see Rhino and Leopard; that was truly breathtaking. We also saw wildebeest, hilledbeest, Hippo, Ostrich, Zebra, Giraffe, Baboon, Water Buck, Wart Hog and even a speedy Tortoise! This was without doubt one of the greatest days of the trip and will give me memories to cherish for a lifetime.

People say that when you reach your final year of veterinary school you will know what you want to do, I’m still searching for that answer. But I do hope that whatever path I choose I will continue to enjoy the diversity of our profession. Despite still not really knowing what it is I want to do I hope that the answer isn’t too far away from my experience in South Africa.
Serbia Symposium Workshop

By Jan Mattila (Information Technology Trustee 2011-12 and President 2010-11), IVSA Finland

SCoMTE has for a little while been dependent on just a few people, mainly the trustee or officer placed in charge of it and the people given the task of hosting the SCoMTE workshop during symposia and congresses. However, the latest workshop, in Serbia, was a great success with almost 30 people attending a room fit for maybe 15. The workshop was hosted by yours truly and I promised the listeners would not have to make notes as all the information would be handed to them in a convenient way. At first I said this would be a mailing list, but when I thought about it more, it became clear the time of the mailing list was long gone and a Facebook group page would be more appropriate. After all, almost all of the attendees of the workshop already had a Facebook account and could thus be added to the group. And what better way to spread the idea of using modern technologies in education than by using a modern technology for the distribution of that knowledge.

The Facebook group page is public and open to anyone. The current admins are the chair of the SCoMTE, Sunghyun Hong, our lovely PO, Lucy Bright and myself. The initial batch of information on the SCoMTE page is mostly remnants of the material we covered in the workshop. Links to the videos mentioned, links to the free veterinary resource websites available for vet students and a few words about some software that might be useful. I’m hoping the members of the group will add their own comments and ideas to the page and that the page will continue to be updated every now and then, when new ideas of info is available. As for the previous workshop and future workshops, I’m really happy that so many delegates chose to come and listen to the talk. I feel that by using modern technologies, mainly computers but also other things, veterinary education could be not only a lot easier, but also a lot more advanced. Especially with classes getting bigger, opportunities to take part meaningfully in surgeries and pathology teaching diminishing, having more material in video or other electronic form could help students still get the most from the few chances for contact learning they have.

But I digress. I hope to see you all on the SCoMTE Facebook page, which can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/148842261903007/
Everything started two years ago when I heard about it for the first time. It seemed already to be amazing; but I could not imagine how great it was! Even if research does not seem for you at the moment, I think you may change your mind by the time you finish reading this!

After being plunged into research for nine weeks, I have discovered its numerous facets. To start, I learned a lot about current topics in veterinary medicine research - oral presentations and workshops were a chance to experience team work and to have true debates with researchers. What is a PhD? A residency? What are the differences between research in academia and industry? Such career sessions, debates and visits have answered these questions and many others that I shall use to help me better plan my career route. Besides this, the summer school challenged and developed my personal ethics. For example, the GlaxoSmithkline lab gave me the chance to ascertain my view on the pharmaceutical industry and their lab animal welfare which can often be viewed in a dim light. And you have not heard the best yet - the project itself!

How better a way to know what just what is involved in veterinary research, than by doing some research yourself? On this principle, I carried out a highly interesting research project at the Department of Pathology, in Christine Watson’s lab. I was in good and capable hands as Christine leads the Mammary Apoptosis and Development Group and has been committed to research in mammary gland biology and breast cancer for a long time. Furthermore, a friendly veterinary PhD student was always around to give me advice and help at any time. My own project dealt with mammary gland involution, inflammation and tumorigenesis. Specifically, I studied the expression and role of arginase-I in mammary gland involution and equine mammary tumors.

So after many weeks, of learning new techniques and applying some ones I already knew to these protocols, I got my first results. Some were very exciting but other ones were disappointing. It was hard to know if I had made a mistake or whether my results were good or not. After reading more papers, than I have ever read at any one time in my life, the mystery was being solved. It is known that arginase-I is a marker for alternatively activated macrophages which are observed during normal mammary gland regression post weaning (involution). My project shed further light on arginase-I expression in the mammary gland during late involution and in equine mammary tumours.

The grand finale of the summer school was when all the participants presented their work in front of a large audience of students and researchers. All the projects were very interesting, some had encountered more technical challenges than others and all reflected that research, despite its potential for making great advances to veterinary medicine, also brings with it many difficulties to veterinary researchers. Things do not always work first time!

As you can guess, I met many people during my project that I had to say goodbye to after our presentation including researchers, PhD students and Summer School participants. Indeed, the Summer School is a true human expedition. We were 16 students from the 4 corners of the world: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kansas, Scotland, Sweden, Spain. This meant we learned a lot from each other: our various cultures and backgrounds about veterinary practice abroad and about each others’ desire to travel. We also got the chance to have a lot of fun along the summer: BBQ, parties, punting, strolling around the streets and colleges of Cambridge, visits to London and we even ran off to the sea at one point.

With the report returned and luggage packed, a page was turned. I left the Summer School with 15 new friends and a lot of memories, but above all I have changed. The program had done its duty: I know much more about the careers available in research and their pros and cons. It has also greatly reinforced my desire to work in research, removed any doubts I had beforehand and has given me all the support and many contacts I may need for my future.

How can you have this experience? Believe in yourself, show how interested you are in your application and get started writing it. Step 1, send your application. Selected? Well done! This is the most difficult part. Step 2, book tickets to Cambridge. Step 3, be there in good time and enjoy your Vet Summer School in Cambridge!
Investigating post-operative changes in muscle mass following cruciate ligament deficiency in dogs

Leighanne Kursey

Dr Paul Loughna

Background
Cruciate ligament deficiency:
- Most common orthopaedic condition
- Costs USA $1.32 billion/yr
- Numerous predispositions and stifle stabilisation techniques
- Affected hindlimb suffers muscle disuse atrophy

Aims and objectives
Changes in dog thigh muscle mass over 12 post-op weeks was investigated.

Null hypothesis
No difference in muscle mass in affected hindlimb over time.

Materials and methods
- Pre and post-op questionnaires
- Tape to measure thigh circumference
- Callipers to measure width and depth of thigh
- Time points: 0, 6 & 12 weeks

Discussion
- Muscle disuse atrophy greatest at 0-6 weeks
- Muscle mass recovers from 10 post-op weeks
- Recovery slower in dogs over 6 years
- Post-op lameness and % muscle loss related
- Limitations - Sample size, vet preference, client cooperation, referral
- Improvements - More clients, more time points over longer period, use ultrasonography

Clinical implications
Rehabilitation therapy may be useful at reducing % muscle wastage in first 6 post-op weeks
Thoughts and advice
From Norway and Austria

By Ola Brynildsrud, IVSA Norway and Andreas Wimmer, IVSA Austria

Wassup world? This is your favourite non-bald male Norwegian IVSA member who is also a certified veterinarian writing. Hope you are all fabulous and enjoying yourselves on your individual roads towards this great profession. Me? Oh, I’m great, thanks. Fame, money, power; I’ve got it all. But let me get to the point: I am here to tell you… Why I chose a PhD.

As you probably know, a veterinarian is like duct tape, in that they can and should be used for everything. When I finished my DVM with a large animal specialization in spring 2011, I felt a world of opportunities open to me. Eventually I settled on getting thicker glasses and even more letters attached to my name – I went for a PhD.

As a vet, I love animals. I also love knowledge and nerdiness. I finally settled on writing a thesis on “the bioinformatics and applied epidemiology of actinobacteria.” Basically, what I want to do is to use a technological approach to fight outbreaks of disease or participate in the design of animal vaccines.

The PhD program I started goes over four years. Yes, that’s 4 more years as a student, but WITH a salary. In Norway, the institution that hires you, in my case the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, pays you (i.e. no having to apply for scholarships). The wage is decent but not great. At around 400,000 NOK (50,000 €) per year, it is quite average for someone with a university degree. Also, one of the years is usually reserved for “other work for the school,” in effect meaning you will end up teaching or working at the school clinics for 25% of your time.

The requirements for being awarded the degree are simple enough: You need to document a training component of at least 30 ECTS, and you have to do a dissertation. The dissertation requires a lot of work, and you need to have published several articles in international, peer-reviewed journals.

Want to do your PhD in Norway? No problem! All vacant PhD positions MUST be publicly announced, and you can read about and apply for these at www.nvh.no. There are several English-speaking candidates accepted each year. A good place to go for non-vetschool-PhDs is studyinnorway.no, where you will find a list of all higher learning institutions. You can enter the individual schools and universities to find a list of available programs.

Questions? I am (occasionally) available at kenkumle@hotmail.com. Godspeed all, and good luck!

Ola Bronstad

I graduated from Vet school in 2007. In that year the PhD program hasn’t been started in Vienna. I got an offer for an Doctoral thesis at the Institute for Animal Husbandry and Welfare at my university. I was allowed to join the team which was working on a 3 year research project about an alternative housing system for laying hens (aviary system).

As the project was financed by the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, I was paid for two years (about 700€/ month). After completing the official reports for the ministries at the end of 2009, I started to work on my own thesis (which should be submitted in January 2012).

Working in research was a really good experience, but i definitely know that I don’t want to work in research any more. As I’m a more practically oriented person, scientific work (especially statistics) gives me hard times sometimes. Also the fact that I was only paid for the official project was suboptimal.

As I started a job after the project was finished to earn money for living I didn’t have time anymore to work on my thesis. That’s why I quit my job some months ago and went back to university to finish my thesis. That’s definitely a thing I can recommend: finish all stuff at vet school before you start working - because both doesn’t really work out!

As there is just one Vet school in Austria, I can give a short overview about the possibilities of postgraduate education in Austria.

1.) Doctoral thesis program
2.) PhD program

1.) To receive the honour of “Doctor of Veterinary Medicine” in Austria, students have to attend the Doctoral thesis program. After six years in Vet school and graduation you are a qualified vet, called “Veterinarian” or “Magister medicinae veterinariae” (which is like a masters degree). The doctoral thesis program is a 3 year program which can be done on every institute or clinic at our campus. Lucky ones get employed and paid for their research, unfortunately most students are unpaid. The thesis can be written in German or English as a classical doctoral thesis (so called monography) or you can also submit a paper which has already been published in a scientific journal.

More information about the PhD program (English version): www.vetmeduni.ac.at/phd/

Andreas Wimmer

2.) The PhD program has been set up just two or three years ago. This international program is (like all other PhD programs) an opportunity to start a (inter)national career in research. The operational language is English. Only peer reviewed PhD projects are offered to students; also a guaranteed salary 30.000 €/year, (30hrs/week, but you will do more) health insurance and social benefits for three years are included.
Everyone’s heard of Wikipedia right?

How about WikiVet...?

WikiVet is an international collaborative effort to create a complete undergraduate veterinary curriculum online.

Registration is FREE, and is limited to people related to the veterinary profession because once you become a member, you’re able to edit pages – just like Wikipedia.

Find out about some of the things WikiVet has to offer to all of you as IVSA members around the world

By Chris Trace, WikiVet eLearning coordinator, UK

Encyclopaedic content
WikiVet has over 5,000 pages of encyclopaedic content that has been written by recent Veterinary graduates. The pages have been designed to contain what we think you need to know as an undergraduate – we have included lots of references so you know where the information came from, and often have links to full text articles if you want to find out more. Our content is being reviewed by experts from Veterinary schools globally, and any minor changes made by users are checked by our team of recent veterinary graduates every day.

Navigating through it all
We know that your time is incredibly valuable, so we’ve made it really easy to find what you’re after as quick as possible. You can either search for the page you’re after, or browse through our navigation system to get to what you’re after. We’ve organised all of our encyclopaedic pages and learning resources into species, body systems and veterinary disciplines. This means if you’re learning about the cardiovascular system you can get to all of our cardiovascular content, then when you get into practice and you want to revise canine endocrine diseases, you can do that too.

Learning resources
We also have lots of ways you can test your knowledge, including thousands of flashcards, multiple choice quizzes, drag-and-drop anatomy resources, and also lots of ways to help you learn such as PowerPoint presentations, videos and podcasts. These resources are all integrated into our encyclopaedic pages, so if you’re learning about Laryngeal anatomy for instance, you’ll find related resources linked into the text and grouped together at the bottom of the page.
We now have almost 15,000 registered users across the globe, of whom around 60% are Vet students, 30% are Vets and the rest are Vet Nurses, Student nurses and academics. WikiVet has over 260 vet schools registered in over 85 countries, and we’ve even started translating our content. Our main site (en.wikivet.net) is in English. In the last year we’ve launched our Spanish (es.wikivet.net) and French (fr.wikivet.net) sites, and hope to have more sites in the future.

How you can get more involved

We want to spread the use of WikiVet to every vet school in the world, so every vet student can have access to the highest quality, expert-reviewed educational learning material from the best vet schools around the globe. To do this, we believe in student power: Our core project team who work on this every day consists of Vets who have all graduated in the last few years, so we know what you can achieve with a bit of student power!

We're looking to recruit a WikiVet student ambassador in every vet school around the globe. This person would need to be dynamic, resourceful and dedicated to furthering veterinary education – we feel this describes all of you as IVSA members! You have all chosen to become involved in the IVSA because you care about veterinary education around the world, and you are exactly the kind of students we’d love to recruit. You can find out more about being a student ambassador by searching WikiVet for “WikiVetStudent Ambassadors” You can also create a page in WikiVet about your Vet School, or your IVSA chapter. Get in touch with our team at wikimaster@wikivet.net if you decide you’d like to help us out!

Connect with us

There are lots of ways to find out more about WikiVet and to get involved in building the site for future cohorts of students. We’re on facebook (www.facebook.com/WikiVet), twitter (http://twitter.com/WikiVet) and NOVICE – the Network Of Veterinary ICT in Education – which you can find at www.noviceproject.eu. We also send out a monthly newsletter which you can subscribe to by going to http://newsletter.wikivet.net if you want to stay in touch. Hope to see you all there!
In summer 2011 I went with some friends to carry out a clinical veterinary placement with FAE (Friends of the Asian Elephant) Foundation. FAE is located in Lampang, Thailand, and was founded by Soraida Salwala. During our time at FAE, we not only gained a large amount of hands-on veterinary experience with elephants, but also learned of the huge conservation problem threatening the current Asian elephant population.

To give you a brief history of FAE, Soraida Salwala (in short) is one gutsy woman! The second you meet her you can feel her drive, passion and solemn determination to help the endangered Asian elephant. Soraida told us the idea to found FAE first came to her at 8 years old when she saw an injured elephant lying on the side of the road. It outraged her that nothing could be done to help and that there was nowhere for this elephant to be taken for veterinary care. From that day onwards she has committed her life and soul to setting up FAE- the world’s very first elephant hospital.

Since it’s opening in 1993, FAE has treated over 3,000 elephants; protecting them from injury, sickness and abuse from humans. The most common presentations encountered at FAE are elephants who have stepped on landmines crossing the border from Burma to Thailand. These landmines cause brutal injuries to elephants—often involving the partial/total loss of a limb.

During our placement, five of the nine patients were landmine casualties; some of which had been recovering at the hospital for over 10 years. Motala, a 48 year old landmine survivor was the hospital’s very own ‘celebrity elephant’. The media attention her injury received generated a large amount of funding—leading to the development of the world’s first elephant prosthetic limb.

Every day at the hospital was spent working alongside elephant vet Dr Preecha (i.e. the ‘Yoda’ of elephants). No other person in the world has more experience with Asian elephants than Dr Preecha and it was a privilege to learn from him. As well as teaching us to perform routine treatments (a favourite memory was treating an elephant head wound from a precarious 15ft platform...)

Dr Preecha also gave us lectures about the history of the Asian elephant, and its contact with humans. He used to refer to us as ‘the children’. We felt even more like children when he sat us in front of the Disney classic— ‘Dumbo’, in an attempt to make us consider how the elephant is portrayed in Western countries! By the end of the placement, we couldn’t help but look up to him as our estranged Thai father...

On a more serious note, it is important to emphasise the problems facing Asian elephants in our world today. The current main threats to the Asian elephant population are:

- Illegal poaching
- Loss of habitat
- Abuse of elephants in tourism
The key issues here seem to be based on a tussle between humans and elephants. As man tears more of our forest down (often illegally) the land elephants can occupy is shrinking by the day. To make matters worse elephants in the wild are regarded as a pest in rural areas of Thailand. They feed and trample crops, having detrimental effects on the livelihoods of Thai farming families.

As well as wild elephants being a concern we also have elephants being ill-treated in captivity. A century ago ~100,000 elephants worked in the logging and transport business; too often being abused by their keepers and worked to death. Dr Preecha was the resident vet with a logging group for 20 years. He described the brutalities of many badly-trained keepers towards their elephants.

Sometimes the elephants would even retaliate- Dr Preecha told us he had seen men before his eyes have their heads ripped from their necks by an elephant. He had even seen a keeper eaten whole by his Asian elephant; “One minute he was there, the next all that was left were his shoes and watch!” (We all sat gasping in horror at the idea of an elephant eating a man- but he seemed to find it quite amusing...) What this proves however, is that these strong animals are not meant to be tamed and that they are not meant to be used as working tools for our own industries.

Elephants in tourism do not present a prettier picture- It was recently common in Bangkok to see elephants being paraded through hot and noisy streets. They would have to pose for pictures whilst being force fed rubbish by tourists and were often struck by vehicles.

In the last 10 years Soraida and her organisation have been successful in the official banning of logging and use of elephants for tourism in cities. However, enforcement of these new laws has been next to impossible. It also does not help us solve the problem- where can the elephants go? What can they be used for in Thailand besides Tourism? Can they ever exist peacefully in the wild or has man left no room for them to survive?

Soraida’s fight for the welfare of elephants has gained her very few friends. Over the last 10 years she has received many death threats, anonymous phone calls and a gang even planted a King Cobra in the hospital. Through this her strength has never wavered: “We do our best and things have certainly got better for elephants, but we know we are up against a tremendous problem. God willing, I will devote my every waking hour to helping our elephants.”

Spending 2 weeks with these beautiful, gentle animals has been a life changing experience. It has truly highlighted to me the plight of the Asian elephant—something that I wasn’t aware of before this placement. There appears to be no single, easy answer to Thailand’s elephant problems. In the mean time, FAE has set an example to the world of the need to conserve our Asian elephants. Since FAE, further sanctuaries have opened in other countries in an attempt to care for these amazing creatures.

For anyone who feels moved by this issue, I would advise you to check out “The Eyes of Thailand” project website. Their film crew is making a documentary of FAE to raise awareness and encourage governments to ban the use of landmines and cluster bombs. To quote the writers; “Ultimately, the film hopes to convey the added sense of urgency for people and organisations worldwide to pressure Thailand to change the laws in order to protect the dwindling number of Asian Elephants. If nothing is done, the species will become extinct within the next 50 years”.

FAE’s work is in a constant battle to continue with little funding available to support the elephants needs. In the meantime a vital question urgently needs an answer:

What is the future of the Asian Elephant?
I have recently returned from an Extra Mural Studies placement in South Africa’s Eastern Cape. While there I was fortunate enough to work with many endangered species, the most critically endangered of which is the Black Rhino (Diceros bicornis). There are 5 species of Rhino currently in existence with 11 subspecies: African White Rhino, African Black Rhino, Greater one-horned or Indian Rhino, Sumatran Rhino and Javan Rhino.

Within Africa the both the black and white rhino are confined to the south of the continent, mostly Botswana, Namibia, Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Only one of the 5 species, the White Rhino, is not on the critically endangered list! Black Rhino number fewer than 4000 individuals. There are less than 3000 Indian Rhino. Only 200 Sumatran Rhino!

The Javan Rhino population is estimated at a pitiful 50 individuals! (IUCN)

There are several reasons for the drastic decline in Rhino population numbers including destruction of habitat and political disturbance (e.g. wars) however by far the biggest cause of rhino depletion is poaching. Today, the biggest driver behind rhino poaching is the demand for traditional Eastern remedies. Powdered rhino horn is used by many to cure everything from impotence to cancer and some estimates value it at £50,000 per Kilo (more than gold or cocaine – rhinoconservation.org 2011).

Poaching in South Africa is a highly organised process. Groups have access to vehicles, including helicopters, and veterinary drugs and dart guns. However the men employed are unskilled with the drugs and equipment, working quickly in the dark with very dangerous animals. Rhino are frequently found on disturbed ground, the erratically placed gashes on the face evidence of the struggle to remove the horn. A rhino’s horn goes deep into the bone of the skull, to remove all of the horn requires removal of the majority of the front of the face. Horrifyingly, it appears many animals are subjected to this whilst still alive. They are then left to die.

Working with: Critically Endangered Rhino

By Rebecca Amos, IVSA UK and Ireland

This is Geza with his mother, growing up on the South African plains.
Some however do not die. Dr William Fowlds, a wildlife vet on the Eastern Cape was called last year to the scene of a poaching attack. A young male named Geza (“The Naughty One”) had been found with both horns removed, struggling in the bush. The front of his skull had been removed down to the sinuses and nasal turbinates. The ground nearby was soaked with litres of blood and he was weak and struggling to breath. It is thought he could have been like this for up to 2 days.

Geza was unable to run from William as he approached. An adult rhino weighs over a tonne and the muscles on Geza’s left side were destroyed by pressure myopathy having been left recumbent by the poachers. Geza was euthanised but his last moments were caught on camera. It is hoped that the footage will help encourage people to oppose poaching.

A similar story occurred on a different reserve only last month. 3 rhino were shot and their horns removed, one survived in this terrible condition for several days before eventually dying.

The reserves in South Africa are on high alert. A recent surge in demand for powdered rhino horn has lead to an increase in poaching. In South Africa alone for 2011 the current official figure for rhino killed by poachers stands at >270 (more than 1 per day). Some believe the actual figure to be up to 3 times this!

There are many protocols in place to try to minimise trade of rhino horn. Veterinary teams are routinely micro-chipping rhino horns and a DNA bank is being set up to trace any sample picked up at customs. Unfortunately, the resources available to the reserves’ anti-poaching units are not sufficient to keep poachers at bay and animals are still being killed. Demand has even lead to museums and auction houses being ransacked for ornamental, mounted rhino heads.

The rhino’s best hope lies in education. Rhino bring hundreds of thousands of pounds of tourism into the countries that have them. Educating the public would help people to appreciate these creatures and what they bring to their unique environment. It could also encourage support and much-needed funding for the anti-poaching teams.

Ultimately, unless demand for powdered rhino horn stops, extinction for this magnificent species is inevitable. Below is a link to wilderness foundation’s Save The Rhino campaign website. On it you will find some of the footage of Geza’s last moments and also a petition. The petition will take not thirty seconds to sign. Your support could help spread the message in both Africa and Asia and help put an end to the needless, useless, slaughter of these beautiful and unique animals.

References:
2. www.iucnredlist.org/initiatives/mammals
3. www.rhinoconservation.org

Thanks to Dr William Fowlds at the Amakhala Game Reserve, South Africa.
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