



## MVA Newsletter

7 January 2019

Welcome to the first issue of the MVA e-Newsletter for 2019. Our apologies for the delay in producing this newsletter. The delay is principally a result of the voluntary nature of work on the MVA Executive. We hope to make the newsletter a regular thing and we very much welcome content from members suitable for dissemination via this publication (see Guidelines for Contributors below).

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### Annual MVA Subscriptions

We make another plea for those members who have not yet done so to pay their annual MVA subscription of K20,000. The current list of financial members is: Drs Anholt, Boland, Chulu, Dumoulin, Kachepa, Kainga, Kamwendo, Karim, Matita, Mwiyeriwa, Njoka, Nkhoma, Owino, Salb. If you are not on this list but have paid, please contact the Treasurer (see contacts below).

#### Ways to pay:

Direct deposit to MVA account, NBS bank, Lilongwe, account number 14334197. Copy the deposit slip to the Treasurer.

By cash or cheque to the Treasurer, Dr Gladson Kamwendo, at Central Veterinary Laboratory Bwemba, tel: +265 996666114; email: [gladsonkamwendo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gladsonkamwendo@yahoo.co.uk)

Please ensure you get a receipt.

### Adam Tjolle, life membership



Adam Tjolle with colleagues, Nov 2018, Lilongwe

Dr Adam Tjolle, a long term and strong supporter of MVA, visited the country in November and took the opportunity to catch up with colleagues from MVA and LSPCA. As a tribute to his unstinting support for the Association, he was awarded MVA Honorary Life Membership.

### First Occurrence of FMD in the Central Region

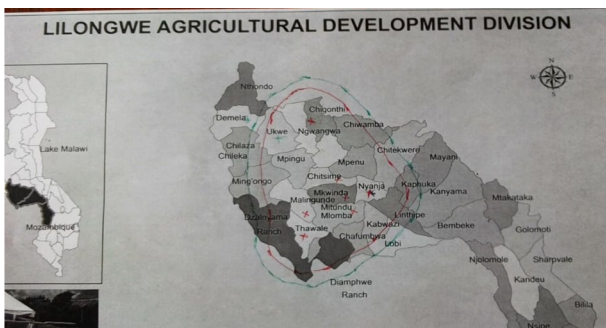
Foot and mouth disease was clinically confirmed in Sukasuka Village, Dedza district, Lilongwe ADD on 3 June 2018. This was the first time ever for the disease to be detected in the central region. It was typically a fast spreading disease presenting signs that included limping, salivation and sores on the feet. Similar rumours were also reported in two

villages of Yakobe and Matcheni on the Mozambican side of the border. Further investigations revealed that the disease had also affected Njolomole EPA in Ntcheu district especially along the main road and on the Mozambican side of the road.



Measures were immediately taken to control the spread of the disease to other areas including intensification of surveillance activities, temporary suspension of livestock markets, slaughter ban in affected areas, livestock movement restrictions and roadblocks, community awareness in and around affected areas as well as vaccinations. A total of 7,339 cattle were vaccinated in the two districts and slightly less were presented for booster vaccination in July and the disease was brought under control.

In August 2018, however, the disease was detected in Lilongwe district, Nyanja EPA. During the mapping exercise conducted from 29-31 August, FMD cases were clinically confirmed in 12 out of the 19 EPAs in the district! Six road blocks were mounted along the major routes.



Map showing infected and free zones in Lilongwe district

Vaccinations were conducted in the district from 14th September and a total 29,059 cattle were vaccinated. A booster vaccination was given a month later and the disease was brought under

control enabling the government to lift movement and slaughter restrictions, with exception of livestock markets, in November.

Over 2,100 households / kholas were affected with over 7,600 out of 10,700 cattle infected in those kholas. The slaughter ban had a huge negative economic impact on the butcher-men immediately and on the farmers too.

The outbreak was reported to OIE and broad details were given through a press release distributed by the Ministry. The restrictions were lifted by the Ministry in late November.

### Fraudulent veterinary training opportunities

Following concerns expressed at the MVA AGM in October, MVA consulted with NCHE to establish the veracity of advertisements for a new "School of Veterinary Sciences" the existence of which was unknown to members. It was agreed that the lay public should be urged to take caution before paying fees in such circumstances.

In late October, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development issued a press release advising the general public that the only recognised institutions for such training were LUANAR and NRC.

### CPE Workshop on Veterinary Dermatology



On 23-24 October 2018. MVA was privileged to host Dr Jeanne Budgin who presented lectures and a hands-on workshop on veterinary dermatology in Lilongwe. Some 30 veterinarians from around the country and several final year vet students were in attendance. MVA is grateful for the financial and logistical support given by the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, the Global Veterinary Dermatology Education Group (GVDEG) and the Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (LSPCA).

## **Anthrax first detection in Malawi**

In late November, Malawi reported to OIE on the first detection of anthrax in Malawi. The disease was found in hippopotami in Liwonde National Park in Machinga District. Although anthrax has been known in wildlife in Zimbabwe and other countries in the region, this is the first time it has been detected in Malawi. The source of the infection has not been found.

### **Some Information on Anthrax Outbreak - Dr J Nkhoma**

The laboratory confirmation of the disease was done on 29 November, 2018

A One Health meeting comprising by the Ministry of Health, DAHLD, Parks and Wildlife, DCD, WHO and others was convened on 30 November. A roadmap was established to develop a fact sheet, sensitise the public through a press statement, sensitise the three districts of Balaka, Machinga and Mangochi which border the affected National Park.

A ban on sale and consumption of hippo and all bush meat was released by the Department of Parks and Wildlife in the Southern Region.

A surveillance system was put in place and weekly reporting schedule was established for the three districts and Liwonde National Park. The surveillance took a format of one health and weekly reports included status in the wildlife, livestock and people.

By 4 January 2019, a cumulative total of 48 Hippo carcasses were detected and buried accordingly. There were no cases detected in humans or livestock. The majority of the hippos were males.



Retrieving Hippo carcasses, Liwonde

Each district developed an action plan adopting a one health approach

### **Guidelines for Contributors:**

MVA Financial Members are invited to contribute articles or letters for publication in the newsletter.

Articles should be brief, typically not more than 500 words, and preferably be accompanied by photographs or other illustrations. The MVA Newsletter is a forum for news rather than a scientific publication. It is not intended for circulation of academic advances. Articles of a commercial nature or otherwise irrelevant, will not be accepted.

To submit material for publication, please email the MVA Secretary at [mva.malawi@gmail.com](mailto:mva.malawi@gmail.com).