

THE VETERINARY PATHOLOGY REPORT

Australian Society for Veterinary Pathology P.O. Box 483, Bairnsdale,
Vic. 3875

AUGUST, 1983 NUMBER 1

This is the first newsletter of the newly formed ASVP. We hope it is the forerunner of many more to come.

BACKGROUND OF THE ASVP

This new society was formed on 16th May 1983, as a completely independent body. It is intended to replace the Australian Association of Veterinary Pathologists, whose members voted to disaffiliate from the Australian Veterinary Association.

Letters have been sent to veterinary pathologists all over Australia, asking them to join the new Society. The next few years should see the ASVP grow into a vibrant organization for the advancement of veterinary pathology in Australia.

MEMBERSHIP

For the present, until a Constitution is formulated, it has been decided to limit membership to registered veterinary surgeons. Any veterinarian interested in pathology is welcome to join the ASVP. The membership fee is \$10-00, which should be sent to the Treasurer, Dr. Ian Jerrett. At the time of writing, there are 76 members of the ASVP. Number of members in each state are as follows:

Victoria 23 New South Wales 17 Queensland 14 Western
Australia 11 South Australia 7 Tasmania 2 New Zealand 1
United States of America 1

A list of members is enclosed. Please contact Ian Jerrett if you have paid, but your name is not on the list.

CONSTITUTION

Various constitutional alternatives are being examined by the committee. It is planned to circulate a draft constitution before May 1984, so that it can be reviewed at the Annual General Meeting. A major issue is whether non-veterinarians interested in pathology should be invited to join the ASVP.

ASVP COMMITTEE

The current committee members, elected on 16th May 1983, are as follows:

I. McCausland President
L. Stephens Secretary
I. Jerrett Treasurer
B. Jones Committee
R. Badman Committee

All these members are from 1 state, as has been the tradition in the past, primarily to facilitate organisational communication. However, the committee felt that a "contact person" was required in each state. The following people were contact and have agreed to act as State Representatives:

John Glastonbury New South Wales
Roger Kelly Queensland
Barry Munday Tasmania
Peter Phillips South Australia
David Pass Western Australia

We hope that a representative in each state will result in faster communication of news, ideas, problems etc., to the committee. A volunteer from the Northern Territory is needed!

MYSTERY SLIDES

Dr. Clive Huxtable at Murdoch is organizing the mystery slides as he has done previously. In most instances, Clive will contact labs and request material. However individuals are encouraged to send good cases for use as mystery slides.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM in 1984 will be held in Sydney on May 19th and 20th. We've already made a block booking for accommodation at St. Andrew's College, University of Sydney at approximately \$21.00 per night. The theme of the AGM and a guest speaker has not yet been finalized. Anyone with suggestions should contact Len Stephens as soon as possible please.

Incidentally, our AGM is the weekend after the AGMs of the Australian Veterinary Association and the Australian Society for Microbiology.

Ian Jerrett, our treasurer, will be going to the AGM of the Australian Society for Experimental Pathology next month to check out the possibility of a joint meeting in the future.

PATHOLOGY TRAINING WORKSHOP

Dr. John King, professor of pathology at Cornell University, New York State, U.S.A., will soon be arriving at the Bairnsdale R.V.L. (Vic.) for a 6 month sabbatical. Dr. King is an internationally known pathologist and each year he organizes a pathology workshop as preliminary training for American College of Veterinary Pathology examination candidates. He has agreed to present a similar workshop at Glenfield Laboratory (NSW) early in 1984. More details of this in a later issue.

COMMERCIAL SPONSORSHIP OF ASVP?

Although we are still a small group, it is possible that a number of commercial firms may be willing to sponsor some of our activities, e.g. the newsletter; guest speakers or some sort of annual award. This is not the sort of thing to rush into, especially since we are not short of funds at present. Nevertheless, it is hoped that a number of possibilities can be explored for discussion at the 1984 AGM.

Any suggestions gratefully accepted.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE AAVP

As many members are already aware, the AAVP again passed a motion to disaffiliate from the AVA at a special general meeting on 18th June

1983.

The motion was passed 24 to 5. After the result of the motion was communicated to the AVA the President, Dr. J. Arundel, requested that a plebescite of all members be undertaken. This was rejected by the AAVP committee, and the AVA was again requested to disaffiliate the AAVP, and to recognize the ASVP as an independent body. At present there are 14 financial members of the AAVP, all except 2 being financial members of the ASVP. If the AVA grants disaffiliation, these two members will be invited to join the ASVP and the two organisations will be combined under the ASVP name.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AAVP - MAY 1983 SCIENTIFIC SESSION

A summary of the, cases presented during the neuropathology training session has been prepared by Clive Huxtable. Copies are enclosed for members information.

NEWS FROM VICTORIA

Vaginitis/endometritis in Victorian cattle due to Haemophilus somnus

In 1981 and 1982, a new syndrome of vaginitis and metritis was identified in dairy cattle throughout Victoria. The prevalence of the syndrome has gradually increased, and in 1982 a total of 92 farms were affected. The major effect of the disease is infertility. On some farms, 25% of the herd have been non-pregnant at the end of the breeding season. Field and experimental work performed by the Victorian Department of Agriculture has shown the probable cause to be bacterium known either as Haemophilus somnus or Histophilus ovis. Although both names are in current use, it is now known that these 2 bacteria are identical. Infertility due to H. somnus has previously been recognized only in Europe. Disease in cattle due to H. somnus has not been recorded in Australia, but H. ovis has been recognised for many years as a cause of septicaemia and arthritis in sheep.

Recent work overseas has shown that H. somnus is present in the reproductive tract of many normal cattle. It is not known why some cattle harbouring the bacteria become diseased, while others remain normal, but variation in virulence of bacterial strains, and/or host immunity, are likely to be responsible. Profound differences in virulence between strains of H. somnus have been demonstrated. H. somnus has also been isolated from the semen of 70% of bulls in A.I. centres, and it now appears certain the disease can be transmitted venereally. Len Stephens (Bairnsdale R.V.L., Victoria) is willing to confirm identification of HL somnus isolates from other states.

Massive Distemper Outbreak in Greyhounds

Over 2000 Greyhounds died in the Melbourne area due to distemper in the first half of 1983. Signs were classical - anorexia, ocular and nasal discharges, twitches and convulsions. Inclusion bodies were reasonably easy to find in epithelial cells, and demyelination was a feature of many.

Investigation of the problem has not revealed aberrant distemper strains, and there is no evidence in support of a vaccine breakdown. It seems that in most affected dogs the vaccine was administered improperly (by the owner) or not at all. The outbreak is lessening now, possibly because all susceptible dogs have now succumbed. (Ian McCausland),

NEWS FROM NEW SOUTH WALES

John Glastonbury, in his capacity as state representative, forwarded the following news from N.S.W. We encourage other state reps, and members to send similar reports to the secretary for inclusion in future issues.

The NSW Dept. Agriculture's Veterinary Laboratory Service has recently survived a committee of inquiry, which didn't quite reach the perfection of a Royal Commission. Some of the resulting edicts are:-

- Dr. Peter Mylrea's title has changed from Director of Veterinary Research to Director, Animal Health Research.
- Veterinary Research Station Glenfield has become Central Veterinary Laboratory Glenfield with its own Officer in Charge. Peter Claxton is currently acting in this capacity.
- The functions of Regional Veterinary Laboratories are to be:
diagnostic service to veterinarians
applied veterinary research
definition of new animal diseases
assistance in disease eradication
consultative role on farms
education
control of zoonotic diseases

During March, Peter Harper returned to the R.V.L. Glenfield after spending two years at Cornell University and the San Diego Zoological Park (not as an inmate). Bruce Chick was enlightened by a temporary teaching position at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Saskatchewan for five months in the second half of 1982. Janet Moore has departed from Glenfield to the rarified atmosphere of the University of Sydney and a study of "Causes Of Mortality in Zoological Species of Mammals", for a Master's degree.

After a stint as a small animal practitioner in Sydney and a brief period as a guest of the Tasmanian Government, Jim Rothwell has decided to generate some power at the R.V.L. Wagga Wagga.

Departmental laboratory reports over the past quarter have revealed some interesting conditions:

Sheep:

Nutritional degenerative myopathy due to Vitamin E deficiency in feed-lot lambs in the Cooma area towards the end of the drought.
Spectacular losses due to nitrate/nitrite poisoning in sheep around Young grazing Japanese millet and oats after the drought had broken - you really can't win!

Cattle:

"Milk drop syndrome" in Hunter Valley dairy herds. ,

Theileriosis in stock from southern New South Wales "holidaying" on the north coast.

Interstitial pneumonia associated with the grazing of-.fungial-infested swamp couch at Grafton.

Progressive ataxia in a Charolais herd near Young.

Lymnaea colamella was found in a north coast fish hatchery and subsequently in a neighbouring creek.

Buffalo fly confirmed in a number of north coast herds.

Under the guidance of John Searson at Wagga Wagga the ELISA test has shown great promise for brucellosis testing and it is to be adopted by all laboratories.

Pigs

Encephalomyocarditis virus continues as a festering problem, on the north coast and is providing John Boulton with a master's project.

Goats

Geeldikopp was found to have no species discrimination when confirmed in a herd at Condobolin.

When you've finished reading this, please put it in library, or on the notice board, for potential members to see

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY PATHOLOGY MEMBERSHIP ON 9 AUG 1983

ARZEY, K E
BADMAN, R. T .
BARTON, M.
CANFIELD P J
CARRIGAN, M,
CHICK, B
COOK R.
DANIELS, P
DE SARAM, W
DICKSON J
ELLIS T
FAHY VA
FINNIE JW
GLASTONBURY J.R.
GOGOLEWSKI RP
GREENWOOD, P.
HARPER P.
HARRIGAN K.E.
HARTLEY W J -
HILL BD.
HILL, M.W.M.
HOOPER P.T.
HOPKINS D L
HOWELL JMCC
HUMPHREY J
HUXTABLE CRR
JACKSON ARB
JERRETT I
JONES R
KELLY R
KETTERER PJ
LADDS FW
LAING E
LANCASTER MJ
LAX A
LENGHAUS C
MCCAUSLAND I
MCKENZIE RA

MCORIST S
MUNDAY BL
NICHOLLS T
NORTON J
OBENDORF DL
PASS DA
PEET R
PHILLIPS P
PRITCHARD DH
RAHALEY RS
REUTER RE
RICHARDS RB
ROBINSON WF
ROGERS RJ
ROTHWELL TLW
SCOTT PC
SEAMAN J
SEAWRIGHT AA
SIMS L
STEPHENS L
STRAUBE E
THACKER L
THAM VL
TRUEMAN KF
UTTERIDGE T
WATT D
WEBB R
WHITE WE
WINTER H