



EUROPEAN SOCIETY of VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY

BULLETIN

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Dear fellow dermatologists,
(or 'Greetings Dermoids' if you live over the Atlantic),

This is the first (and hopefully not the last) issue of the Bulletin under my command. My predecessor, David Scarff, was the first Bulletin editor and responsible for its excellent format and lay out. Unfortunately he has had to hand over control to me due to the pressure of work running the Beaumont Small Animal Hospital for the Royal Veterinary College in London.

In this issue

Didier Carlotti on Specialisation in Europe

Chris Chesney – a delegate's view of the workshop on birds, reptiles and amphibians

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I hope to challenge, provoke and generally antagonise ESVD members so that they feel driven into writing articles and letters for publication. Otherwise the Bulletin will just turn into a very glossy vehicle for the advertisement of forthcoming meetings. I do not want this to happen.

If you have anything you want to say, then write to me. Remember, this is your Bulletin so contribute!!

Two of the many aspects of veterinary dermatology which I do not understand are facial pruritus in cats and food allergy in dogs.

I'll talk about canine dermatoses which appear to respond to dietary manipulations in the next issue. If you have any observations regarding this syndrome, then why not write in and try to pre-empt me?

I see a number of cats with multiple self-inflicted lacerations to the face and neck. My success rate despite rigorous diagnostic testing is less than 40%, yet a large number of dermatologists insist that the majority of such cases result from food allergy. I have only convinced myself that diet was involved in two or three cases. I have also seen cats which responded completely to flea eradication. Incidentally it would appear that notoedric mange does not occur in the UK. Recently I have been presented with 2 Persian cats with *Microsporum canis* and facial dermatitis. Were they carriers and was isolation of this pathogen co-incident? Had previous glucocorticoid therapy so immuno-suppressed the animals that they now had dermatophytosis along with their initial idiopathic problem? Did the dermatophyte induce pruritus via some type of hypersensitivity-like phenomenon? How should I treat these intensely pruritic cats without recourse to glucocorticoids? Any comments? Finally, is there a reliable method of performing intradermal skin testing in this species?

Ian S Mason

President's Report: Specialization in Europe

Dear Friends,

Let me first tell you that I am happy to see things moving quickly in Europe in the field of Veterinary Specialization, particularly in the European Community. National schemes for specialization in veterinary dermatology exist in Europe; national groups are usually very active and so participate at least partially in specialist training, national certificates (i.e. specialization at a moderate level) exist already in France and the U.K., and national diplomas (i.e. specialization at a high level) exist in the Netherlands and the U.K.

But I would like to underline that a European scheme does exist too: ours! Actually the ESVD is the only pan-European dermatology speciality organisation. Our workshops form part of the ESVD diploma, and the first examination are likely to be held in 1992. The members of the ESVD further education sub-committee are: David LLOYD, Luis FERRER, Richard HALLWELL, Hans KOCH, Claudia Von TSCHARNER, Ton WILLEMSE and myself. They constitute the examination board.

I have been recently contacted by a member of the consultative committee for veterinary training from Brussels, Pr TOMA of Alfort. We have been asked to make proposals for a European Specialization Programme in Veterinary Dermatology in the E.C. I have responded immediately to this request, with the help of David LLOYD, the chairman of the further education subcommittee and of Hans KOCH, who leads a working party for veterinary specialization in the EC.

Of course, we recommend first an adequate general level of competence at the university graduate level. This is not often the case . . .

There is clearly a need for two levels of specialization within the E.C.: a moderate level of competence – the certification – and a high level – the diploma representing the true specialist level. The ESVD continuing education programme includes both levels. To ensure that there is no disparity between levels of these two qualifications and between different nations and regions, and to maintain the relationship between the two levels, a single European specialist authority should be charged with the control of the courses and examinations.

The certificate level courses and examinations could readily be organized and examined at a national level, provided that European quality control can be maintained. Courses and examinations could be held in the E.C. official languages. The diploma level programme should be organized at a European level and courses held in appropriate European locations. Examinations could be centered at a single academic establishment. Owing to the small number of specialist teachers and the small number of potential specialists as well, courses would have to be held mainly in English for the first few years.

Such a system would be essentially self-financing, with the help of sponsors. ESVD could thus play an important role in veterinary specialization in the E.C., being the scientific authority required for supervising all aspects of the problem . . . in dermatology.

What an exciting future!

I hope that non-E.C. countries will recognize such a scheme, so that a real pan-European system could be set up. Actually, I am convinced that some of these countries will become E.C. member states in the future . . .

I hope that all of you have had the opportunity of enjoying holidays and are ready for a busy end of the year . . .

See you in Stockholm!

Didier Carlotti, President

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Although the administration of membership applications have been improved during the last year, occasionally I have been faced with minor problems. Therefore I like to inform the members about the preferred application protocol, so that they can tell new applicants about the procedure.

Applicants should send an official *application form* only to the *membership secretary*. Upon receiving this form, they will be sent a letter by the membership secretary telling them that they will receive all information about the Society from that time on. In addition they will be informed that their application has to be approved at the next annual meeting, and that payment of dues should arrive at least 6 weeks prior to the annual meeting. *Payment* should be carried out according to the instructions on the application form, and should be sent to the *treasurer*. Cheques etc. in the name of the membership secretary give a lot of unwanted trouble. *Changes in address* of members should be sent directly to the membership secretary, who will inform the people in charge of the mailing of the annual report, the Bulletin etc., and the treasurer.

I hope to see you all in Stockholm at the next annual meeting of our Society!

Ton Willemse, DVM, PhD
membership secretary

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMME:

THE DERMATOLOGY OF BIRDS, REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS – A DELEGATE'S VIEW

This ESVD meeting was called a "Workshop". A dermatology workshop which can find only two microscopes cannot be called a total success. Eighteen members attended the course, in the stimulating surroundings of the Jersey Wildlife Trust. The curriculum included basic biology, normal plumage and moult, the role of nutrition and management. It covered studies in behaviour and handling, including the privilege of being taken behind the scenes. Interestingly, some members of the staff said that they learned something of dermatology from the "students". Students in turn learned that the dermatologist's basic skills are still of value when faced with the unfamiliar. So – compare what seems to be pathological with what appears normal, compare one side with another. Take a history, make a clinical examination and apply the techniques of skin scrapings, bacteriology and the rest. Although avian, and especially herpetological, science is fairly new, there *is* a growing literature on the subject, available in the usual way. Sadly, it must be said that on this course the standard of lectures was uneven. Also, while we learned much from some members of the Wildlife Trust staff, it was most disappointing that more facilities, eg microscopes, were not available. The chief organiser, John Cooper, must be congratulated, not only on the work which went into it, but also in subjecting himself each day to a group discussion. As well as clarifying minor points, this meeting allowed participants to express their worries. Organisers clearly face problems in anticipating the knowledge possessed by course members. There was also a marked difference of opinion as to whether the Course Notes should be "a text to be used daily in practice", or more limited, to encourage the students to write up their own notes. Future organisers must begin to solve these problems, and ESVD must develop a cadre of lecturers who can relate to the required standard – which for ESVD courses must be high. Equally, *all* course members must be prepared to contribute to discussions too. But it was enjoyable, talking with ESVD members is always stimulating, and we may yet see "The ESVD Standard Report Form for Avian Dermatology"!

Chris Chesney

Stockholm – 1990

I hope to publish a report of this meeting in the next Bulletin.

Forthcoming Meetings

ESVD Annual Meeting 1991. It is hoped that next year's meeting will be held in Luxembourg. Colleagues in Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany and France are already starting to organise this event. Details will appear in the Bulletin as they become available.

British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group The group's Autumn meeting is on comparative aspects of infectious skin disease and will be held in Glasgow on 9th November 1990. Details from Dr P McNeil, University of Glasgow Veterinary School, Bearsden Road, Glasgow G61 1QH, UK.

Royal Veterinary College Occasional Seminars in Dermatology The next seminar in this series will be on the diagnosis and management of otitis externa in the dog and cat on 31st October 1990. Details from Polly Curds, Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Herts AL9 7TA, UK.

FURTHER EDUCATION NEWS

Plans for a European scheme of specialisation are moving ahead (see article by Didier Carlotti). This is likely to generate a greatly increased demand for space at further education courses. We are looking at ways in which this can be done. In the meantime our Diploma course programme continues.

Workshop on Skin Diseases of Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians

This course was held in Jersey in March and is reported elsewhere in the Bulletin.

Workshop on Skin Oncology

This course is being held in Barcelona from 14th-16th September, 1990. The tutors are Luis Ferrer, Neil Gorman, Jean Pierre Magnol and Stephen Withrow (USA). The course is fully subscribed and promises to be very good. It is organised by Luis Ferrer.

Workshop of Dermatopathology

The second workshop in this series will be held at Oaklands College, an old country house near the Royal Veterinary College, London on 8th-14th April 1991. Tutors are Tony Stannard, Claudia von Tscharner and Julie Yager. The course is organised by David Lloyd. There are fifty places and a large number of members have already made reservations. Final registration will be completed by the end of September 1990. If you have not requested a place and wish to take part please let David Lloyd know at the Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Herts AL9 7TA, UK. As with the last course we expect it to be over-subscribed.

Workshop on Skin Biology

This is the last of the four "core curriculum" courses in the ESVD Diploma programme. It will take place in Bern. Provisional dates are 26th-29th August 1991. The Scientific programme is being co-ordinated by David McEwan Jenkinson. Course organiser is Claudia von Tscharner. Further details are available from her at Institut für Tierpathologie, Langgasstrasse 122, CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland.

Courses in 1992

This promises to be a busy year. We are hoping to have courses on Feline Dermatology in Amsterdam and Canine Dermatology in Hannover but dates have not yet been confirmed. We intend to repeat the Workshop on Clinical Pathology again in Lyon in June 1992.

European Satellite Broadcasting

ESVD will organise an *experimental* satellite transmission programme on otitis externa on 31st October 1990. This will be broadcast via the Olympus satellite and can be received over most of Europe. A telephone conference from different locations in Europe will be organised to enable "live" discussion of broadcast making it truly interactive. As yet few veterinarians have Olympus receivers and we do not expect it to be received by many members. However if you are interested please contact David Lloyd (address above).

Registration and Further Details

Please contact the organisers to obtain further information. Advertisement and registration forms are sent to all members but it is very important to ensure that we have your *correct and up-to-date* address. Please notify the membership secretary, Ton Willemse (State University SAC, Yaleaan 8, De Uithof, 3584 Utrecht, Netherlands), if your address has changed or if you think you are not receiving all ESVD notices.

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