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# ESVD

EUROPEAN SOCIETY of VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY

# BULLETIN

Volume 3, No.2, Autumn 1991

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Dear Fellow Dermatologists,

I have just finished compiling the list of forthcoming meetings and conferences of interest to dermatologists in Europe. I was extremely surprised at the number and scope of these events. The problem is, as ever, to decide which to attend as no-one has the time and money to go to them all. Actually, I'm sure that there are probably veterinary dermatology meetings being held of which I am not being notified as there are a number of European countries from which I haven't heard since the last bulletin was published. Please let me know what is going on! It is literally impossible for me to telephone everyone in the World who might just happen to be organising a dermatology meeting.

I have been lucky this year to have been able to attend a number of excellent meetings. The 2nd ESVD Workshop on Dermatology was even better than the first. I thought that the previous one would have been impossible to better. Two different views of this meeting (one from a clinician, Margreet Vroom, and one from a pathologist, Jo Rest of Rest Associates) are given in this issue of the Bulletin. I then went to the British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group's excellent pre-BSAVA Congress meeting in Birmingham and heard Ed Rosser from Michigan State University talk on food allergy and castration-responsive dermatosis and Ken Mason on *Malassezia* dermatitis. I also attended the American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology meeting in Phoenix, Arizona and one of David Lloyd's Occasional Seminars on Dermatology at the Royal Veterinary College.

This one featured Ken Kwochka as the principle speaker. Naturally the subject was scaling and crusting dermatoses. As a result of all this, I have used up my allocation of time and money for continuing education in 1991 and this is why you didn't see me at the recent ESVD Annual meeting in Luxembourg which I understand was a great success.

In the last issue of the Bulletin a letter requesting a reappraisal of various aspects of the ESVD (signed by 14 full members) was published. The ESVD Board listened to the criticisms and suggestions of the members and a number of changes have been implemented. Among the suggested changes was a request that a constitution be produced, that the treasurer's report be published and that the electoral system be changed. Since then, a constitution has been circulated to ESVD members, the treasurer's report was published in the Annual report and at the Luxembourg congress the Board announced proposals for changes to the constitution allowing a broader-based electoral process employing postal voting. A special General Meeting was approved, to be held during the CNVSPA meeting in Paris on 22nd November 1991. This will allow voting for changes to the constitution. In this way we will have a new electoral system in force for the next Board elections which will take place at the next Annual meeting in Rome. Details of all these proposals will be sent to members in the near future.

In my opinion, the Board is to be congratulated for its prompt action in responding to 'feedback' from the membership of the society. Obviously the signatories of the letter have not yet had all their wishes granted. However, the proposed changes to the electoral system enable those who wish to see change become Board members and so have a direct role in the running of the society.

This issue of the ESVD Bulletin is largely devoted to announcements regarding forthcoming meetings including the Second World Congress of the Veterinary Dermatology. I make no apology for this as these meetings are among the most important events in our speciality.

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**Ian Mason**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir

### ESVD ORGANISATION AND ACTIVITIES

I write to add my comments to those published in Bulletin Volume 3 No. 1 and signed Veruena Affolter and 13 other colleagues.

I think that most ESVD members would agree with those concepts. They embody nearly all of the ideas that have been put forward at meetings and within the ESVD Board over the years. Many of these points were also dealt with in the letters which I wrote in the Bulletin (Volume 3 No.1) and also in the 1991 Annual Report.

Comparisons have been made between the costs of ESVD and the AAVD. Of course, the cost of living in the United States is less and the cost of travel is also lower than in most parts of Europe. However international meetings in Europe are not only difficult to arrange but it is also very difficult to predict the costs precisely; much more complicated than for national meetings. In the early days when ESVD had virtually no money, the meetings were held at considerable risk to the organisers who sometimes ended up paying for them out of their own pockets. Organisers must always ensure that meetings costs cannot bankrupt the Society and thus prices are estimated on a conservative basis. Until very recently, we could not be sure about sponsorship and therefore we made pessimistic estimates of what we would obtain from sponsors. One must always remember that promises from sponsors are not always fulfilled or are sometimes fulfilled very late. Thus the Stockholm meeting, for instance, was planned with pessimistic estimates as to sponsorship and also conservative estimates of the number of people who would attend. In the event it was very popular and proved tremendously successful. The success in attracting new Scandinavian participants was particularly apparent and the appreciation which was felt in Scandinavia is clear from the report on the Stockholm meeting which appears in the Annual Report. As it turned out the Swedish organisers were very successful both in attracting large numbers of members and sponsorship and as a result this meeting made an appreciable sum. This has cushioned us against potential losses at our next meeting and thus the organisers of the Luxembourg meeting have less to worry about in the terms of finance.

We must also remember that most of the organisers of meetings for the ESVD are amateurs who do the work in their own time. Although we are more and more involving professional conference organisers, our experiences here have, in several instances, been disappointing and thus this does not absolve the organisers of their responsibility. Whilst we should make constructive criticism of ESVD it is important to ensure that we fully support those who work for us. More volunteers to take the load of organisation and administration of our increasing level of activities are always needed, particularly those who already have appropriate experience.

The ESVD Continuing Education courses have been very successful. I would disagree that one should limit ESVD activities to two major meetings per year. There is too much to be done and it is impossible to fit this within two short meetings. All members cannot attend every meeting and different times of the year will suit different members in different countries. It is therefore not sensible to try to force everything into a limited period of time. If we did it would take many many years to get through all the important topics and to allow the opportunity for all our members to attend meetings dealing with these topics. Thus I think that we need more, not less, Continuing Education meetings providing an ever increasing opportunity for people to choose when and where and what they will attend.

The annual congresses have tended in the past to have two levels, basic and advanced as suggested. The Luxembourg meeting is constructed in this way and I hope that it will continue. Of course what different people consider to be basic

and advanced varies and there will be some who consider that basic is too basic and others who consider that advanced is not advanced enough. These arguments always go on even in the best regulated families! As always ESVD will continue to solicit short communications.

All members have now received a copy of the Constitution and you will see that we are committed to supporting and advancing research. In the past ESVD has not had the funds or the capacity to do this but we have begun to look at ways in which we can promote research and this will be an active component of our future activities. Of course, many members are already promoting research, of their own accord. Much has already been said about the elections and we have consulted the Electoral Reform Society as well as a variety of other individuals concerning the procedures. It is clear that changes will have to be made because as it stands the Constitution is not clear on this aspect. I have commented on this in the Bulletin, Volume 3 No.1, and also in the latest Annual Report.

As far as costs and expenses within ESVD are concerned we have published the treasurer's report in the Annual Report this year instead of just giving it out at the Annual General Meeting. As members will see, ESVD is not an extravagant organisation but we do spend quite a lot of our resources in communication. This is, in my opinion, absolutely vital. It is one of the major factors which has enabled ESVD to grow and to develop despite the fact that it is so diverse and truly international.

I hope that these comments will help to clarify the debate on the development of ESVD. They are put forward not as the views of a President but as the views of a member. I truly feel that ESVD is a family. But it is a family devoted to excellence and we must always strive towards this. Finding the best way will continue to be difficult and I am sure that our ideas will grow and modify. As long as we continue to discuss them vigorously we will not go far wrong.

DAVID H LLOYD

## DIAGNOSIS OF CANINE HYPOTHYROIDISM

We read with interest the letter by Bigler (1991) on this subject. For some time we have recognised the problems associated with the definitive diagnosis of canine hypothyroidism in a practice situation and the need to conduct a comparative study of the various diagnostic procedures available for the investigation of this fascinating condition.

With funding from the British Small Animal Veterinary Association's Clinical Studies Trust Fund we are in the process of carrying out such investigation. We have further optimised the thyrotropin (TSH) and the thyrotropin releasing hormone (TRH) stimulation tests, the results of which were presented at the recent BSAVA Annual Congress (Henfrey & Thoday, 1991) and are currently deriving reference ranges in healthy animals. It is hoped that the results of these studies, together with other parameters of thyroid status we are evaluating, will demonstrate those tests which are of most value in delineating hypothyroidism from euthyroidism and from situations where low circulating thyroid hormone concentrations are associated with non-thyroidal illness or drug administration.

KEITH L THODAY AND JULIE I HENFREY

### REFERENCES

- Bigler, B. (1991) Diagnostic approach to hypothyroidism. *European Society of Veterinary Dermatology Bulletin*, 3.
- Henfrey, J.I. & Thoday, K.L. (1991) Optimisation of the TSH and TRH stimulation tests for the diagnosis of canine hypothyroidism. *Proceedings of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress*, Paper Synopses, 121.

## SECOND ESVD WORKSHOP ON DERMATOPATHOLOGY A CLINICIAN'S VIEW:

The City of St. Albans is located about 20 miles north of London and is easy to reach by train or car. The area in which we were staying has a small village atmosphere and the venue for the conference, Oaklands College, is an agricultural college which lies amongst farms and grasslands. The main building and the hostel blocks are situated in well kept premises. During our stay lots of flowers were blooming. There was a wonderful view from our primitive bedrooms.

The participants arrived during the Monday before the meeting and many of them seemed to know each other. Among the participants were real pathologists, dermatologists and practitioners interested in dermatology. We all had the same question: "what is going on in the skin and why". The atmosphere from the beginning was informal. Our tutors, Tony Stannard, Julie Yager and Claudia von Tscharnner had already arrived. They were busy arranging and re-arranging their slides, while Ken Mason tried to organise the lecture room.

Tony, Julie and Claudia gave a fantastic course. They taught us not only diseases but more importantly new ways of thinking. A disease has to make sense. Dermatopathology isn't black or white. We were made aware of the many grey zones.

Each morning specific subjects were presented in lectures. After lunch we had to look at several slides by ourselves. These were then discussed after the tea break. Being dermatologists, we discussed these cases during our dinner and throughout the evening. Some people were even catching fleas during the night! Ken collected many slides for the mystery slide session. Consequently he and our tutors had to review more than 150 slides at the end of the week to enable selection of the final few for discussion.

Our social programme consisted of one free afternoon. Everyone took the train to London. The same evening we saw the sad story of the musical 'Les Miserables'. On the Friday evening we had a nice dinner at the school with real bottles of ESVD wine.

During the week we discussed Tony's red flag, Julie invented the third child and horses were shown to be big cats in case you didn't know. Furthermore, it is a sin to destroy history.

Overall this week was unforgettable in many ways. We thank Julie, Claudia and Tony for giving this course in the way they did.

**Margreet Vroom**

## A PATHOLOGIST'S VIEW:

### An Orgasmic Experience

Tony Stannard described my slide: "It's orgasmic! Worth crossing the Atlantic for that!" Could this really be the end of the sixth day of a pathology meeting? Julie Yager ran off a roll of film. The commitment and enthusiasm of the lecturers for their subject were typical of this excellent course. Congratulations ESVD!

The second ESVD Dermatology Workshop at Hatfield followed the pattern of the previous one in 1987 with three expert lecturers teaching dermatopathology by pattern analysis. Half of the fifty international participants had attended the previous course and Claudia von Tscharnner was again lecturing. As a pathologist, I was disappointed by

the relatively small number of pathologists on the course, particularly by the absence of representatives of most UK "academic" pathology departments. The paradox of veterinary dermatology is that "opinion leaders", whether clinicians or pathologists, are often practitioners.

It was a great pleasure to meet colleagues again and share evolution in dermatology. I am pleased I attended both courses. 1987 certainly gave courage and the course book has been an invaluable bench book. However, self doubt is the essence of progress and 1991 has stimulated self questioning by disciplined observation and the "blind" approach to diagnosis. We were challenged to look again, particularly for rarely recognised lesions such as vasculitis. Meanwhile, the course book has become a reference text. One of the most welcome differences from 1987 was the general acknowledgement that positive immunofluorescence or immunoperoxide staining of immunoglobulin in epidermis is not specific for immune mediated disease. All of us who have worked with these pleasing but unpredictable and expensive techniques know that false positive results are frequent in cases with transepidermal fluid flow. Unless there are diagnostic histological lesions, immunofluorescence is not reliable. It is only helpful in discoid lupus erythematosus (although even here a PAS stain gives similar results). It was a personal relief to find that the tutors also found detailed examination of sebaceous and sweat glands of little diagnostic value.

To advance dermatopathology, pathologists need to communicate with clinicians about diagnosis and fellow pathologists about their understanding of pathogenesis. Accurate terminology is therefore vital. Three useful concepts emerged in this area:

1. The term "endocrine dermatosis" implies an endocrinological pathogenesis. It is now recognised that this is a far larger group of diseases which have genetic, traumatic, environmental and toxic causes. Replacement by the term "atrophic dermatosis" increases accuracy.
2. By the end of the week's course the terminology of folliculitis had been resolved by the introduction of the new term "mural folliculitis". Perifolliculitis implies that cells surrounding the follicles have pathogenic significance in that area, folliculitis is defined as inflammatory cells in the follicular lumen and the new term, mural folliculitis, is defined as inflammatory cells in the wall (root sheath) only. These distinctions have useful diagnostic significance.
3. A term with location of an infiltrate combined with an "itis" for inflammation implies localised pathogenic activity. While true of "perifollicular dermatitis", this is not true of "perivascular dermatitis". To my delight, there were early signs that the term "perivascular dermatitis", may be displaced by "dermatitis reaction".

As the 1991 meeting becomes history (like the crust on a skin lesion), we must continue to interpret it in the light of on-going activity. There will be new atrophic and vascular entities. Perivascular dermatitis may disappear from our terminology. There may also be a role for the maligned sebaceous gland.

I hope that specialist clinicians and specialist pathologists continue to work together and learn from each other. However, the next meeting may need to be in two parts - a general course for beginners and an advanced course looking at new advances and specific areas in detail with particular reference to pathogenesis. The certainty is that these workshops are needed and appreciated as much as the ESVD claret and British Bitter consumed with them.

**Jo Rest**

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

### September 1991

27th September: AIDEV (Italian Association of Veterinary Dermatology)  
Topics: Sex hormones: biochemistry, physiology and disease.

This is the day before the AIVPA meeting in Rome  
Details from Antonella Vercelli (telephone 39 11 613987 or FAX 39 11 3173763)

### October 1991

2nd-5th October: XVI WSAVA World Congress  
Venue: Hofburg Congress Centre, Vienna, Austria

Topics and speakers: ESVD Pro-congress day (Penta Hotel, Vienna)  
Physical defence mechanisms of the skin and principles of topical treatment - D. Lloyd  
Immunological defence mechanisms of the skin - F. Elling  
Rare parasitic skin infections - C. Marshall  
Rare bacterial infections - P. Dirke  
Rare fungal infections - Z. Alhaidari

Topics and speakers: Main congress  
Pigmentation disorders - E. Cosgrove & Z. Alhaidari  
Leishmaniasis - L. Ferrer  
Food allergy - D. Carletti  
Atopy - P. Prafoud  
Non Steroidal Antiinflammatory Therapy - D. Lloyd  
Canine Skin Infection - P. Dirke  
Common and Less Common Parasitic Dermatoses - C. Marshall  
Dietary Supplementation and the Skin - D. Lloyd  
Use of Dermato-histopathology in Practice - T. Gross, C. von Tscharner  
Clinical Pathology in Small Animal Dermatology - C. Marshall  
Diagnostic Approach of the Allergic Patient - T. Willemse

Details from: Mondial Congress, Faulmannstrasse 4, A-1040 Vienna, Austria  
Telephone (Austria): 222 588 040; Fax 222 569 185

### 24th - 26th October

European Dermatology Congress, Antwerp, Belgium  
Speakers: Donna Walton Asgaruso, University of Alabama  
Karen Helton Rhodes, Animal Medical Center, New York  
Gail Kunkle, University of Florida  
Danny Scott, Cornell University

Details from The Advanced Center for Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, ruggeveidlaan 753, 2100 Deurne, Belgium. Telephone: 32-3-325-51-50; Fax 32-3-325-46-30

### November 1991

1st November: British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group Autumn meeting  
Venue: Churchill College, Cambridge, UK

Speakers and Topics:  
Hyperadrenocorticism in the horse - M. Corke  
Thyroid function testing in the dog - J. Hanfey  
Hepato-cutaneous syndrome - P. McNeil  
Keratinization disorders: a human perspective - M. Judge  
Bull Terriers: pyoderma or poly systemic disease - S. Shaw  
Neutrophil function testing in the dog - D. Shearer  
Water and the skin - C. Chesney

Details from Janet Littlewood, Animal Health Trust, Department of Clinical Studies, P.O. Box 5, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7DW, UK

17th November: SCIVAC meeting on feline dermatology  
Venue: Brescia, Italy  
Details from: Alessandra Fondati, Centro Veterinario Gregorio VII, Via Gregoria VII, 518 Rome, Italy

20th November: Royal Veterinary College Occasional Seminars in Dermatology.  
Venue: Royal Veterinary College, North Mymms, Herts, AL9 7TA UK

Topic: Skin infections and their complications in the dog and cat. (The unusual pyodermas - including mycobacterial, deep granulomatous, anaerobic infections and cellulitis)

Principal speaker: Carol Foil, Louisiana State University, USA

22nd November: Joint GEDAC & GEO meeting on staphylococcal endology.

Venue: Paris, France.

This meeting takes place on the day before the CNVSPA congress (23-24th November) which also includes a number of dermatological lectures.

### December 1991

7th - 8th December: AIDEV meeting  
Venue: Vicenza (Northern Italy)  
Topics: Facial dermatitis, diagnostic algorithms, identification of skin lesions and alopecia.

Details from Antonella Vercelli (telephone 39 11 613987 or Fax 39 11 3173763)

### April 1992

2nd April: British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group Meeting. Pre-BSAVA Congress, International Convention Centre, Birmingham, UK  
3rd - 5th April: BSAVA Congress, International Convention Centre, Birmingham, UK. More details of these meetings will be in the next ESVD Bulletin

### May 1992

13th - 16th May: 2nd World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology, Montreal, Canada  
Further details are given below

### April 1993

25th - 28th April: ESVD & Voerjaarsdagen joint meeting.  
Venue: RIA Congress Center, Amsterdam  
Topic: feline dermatology

Details will be given in subsequent Bulletins

**Please send details of any meetings you are organising to me. Information regarding topics, speakers and venue are required.**

## SECOND WORLD CONGRESS OF VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

MAY 13TH - 16TH, 1992

ORGANISED BY  
CANADIAN ACADEMY OF VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY  
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY

MAIN THEMES: -The skin as an immunologic organ  
-Keratinisation abnormalities  
-Connective tissue and autoimmune skin disease  
-Neoplasia and pseudoneoplasia  
-Parasitic skin diseases

Deadlines for abstracts: Supporting papers - September 1st 1991  
Free communications and posters - January 1st 1992

Abstracts should be double-spaced, typewritten and of less than 300 words. Please submit abstracts to:

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College of Veterinary Medicine  
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