British Veterinary Zoological Society

Proceedings of the Autumn Meeting 2010

6th and 7th November, 2010

Village Hotel, Dudley

Recent Updates in Avian Medicine and Surgery

Proceedings Editor: Victoria Roberts
BVZS GUIDELINES FOR MEETING ABSTRACTS

PLEASE NOTE: From the November 2007 meeting all abstracts and extended abstracts will be linked to CABI. This is an important step in helping the Society and members’ work reach a wider audience. While the society encourages authors to include as much relevant data as possible, it is the author’s own responsibility to restrict their data as necessary in order not to prejudice any future peer-reviewed publications they may have planned. While previous humorous biographies have been included, inline with the links with CABI, please adhere to the biography guidelines and keep these to a professional nature. At present BVZS meetings and abstracts are NOT peer-reviewed.

Submissions should preferably be in word (.doc) format, 12 font Times New Roman, single line spacing, not justified.

Biography: This should include the author’s qualifications and institution/ practice/ affiliations, as well as a summary of any particular achievements, career, highlights, or relevant current projects. Please keep the biography to a professional nature. Maximum of 100 words.

Title: Submission should include a title of not more than 15 words, and the names, qualifications and affiliation/ institution of each author.

Abstracts: Abstracts should be a minimum of 200 words, and a maximum of 750 words. A reference list may also be included. Abstracts, with references should not be longer than 1 page.

Extended Abstracts: These should be in the format: SUMMARY, INTRODUCTION, MATERIALS AND METHODS, RESULTS, DISCUSSION, REFERENCES; or if this is a case report or case series: SUMMARY, INTRODUCTION, CASE REPORT, DISCUSSION, REFERENCES. Review articles should preferably be in the format: SUMMARY, REVIEW, CONCLUSION. This may be altered depending on the reviews nature, but must include a SUMMARY and CONCLUSION. The text should be concise and should be a maximum of 2000 words, and not exceed 4 pages in length, including illustrations and references. The summary should not exceed 200 words.

Tables and illustrations: Tables should be kept to a minimum and should be created in Word. The legend should clearly explain what data the table is presenting, without the need to refer back to the text. Tables should not duplicate information presented in figures. Digital images should be GIF, TIFF, or JPEG files, at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. Please label them to correspond with the list of numbered figure captions; for example 'Figure 3.jpg' or 'Figure 7B.jpg', etc.

Style: Measurements should be expressed in the metric system or in SI units. Temperatures should be given in °C. Centrifugation speeds should be given in g. All abbreviations should be spelt out in full the first time they are used in the text. Medicines should be referred to by the generic name (Recommended International Non-Proprietary Name), as used in the sixth edition of The Veterinary Formulary (London, Pharmaceutical Press 2005) and listed on the website of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, followed by the proprietary name and manufacturer in brackets when first mentioned; eg, fenbendazole (Panacur; Intervet). Parasitic infections should be referred to according to the Standardised Nomenclature of Parasitic Diseases (SNOPAD) guidelines, which are summarised by the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology. Spelling should be in British English. Manuscripts should be written in the third person.

British Veterinary Zoological Society

The BVZS, a non-territorial division of the BVA, represents professionals with interests in exotic, zoo and wildlife species. Benefits of membership include bi-annual *Bulletins* and *Proceedings* from meetings. Membership forms and all other details of membership are on the BVZS website (www.bvzs.org) or contact the BVA, 7 Mansfield St, London W1G 9NQ (ask for details of the BVZS Administrative Director).

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PROGRAMME

Main Sessions: Saturday (Parallel Sessions below)

08:00 Registration

09:00 Welcome by BVZS President Victoria Roberts

09.15 Plenary Speaker: Parrot behaviour, Jan Hooijmeier

10:30-11.15 Coffee

11.15-12.45 Session One Internal medicine and reproduction Chair Mark Stidworthy

Preliminary findings for the serological diagnosis of ISD (Iron Storage Disease) in ramphastids: Tai Strike

Diagnosing the dilated proventriculus: John Chitty

Developments in proventricular dilation disease (30 min): Michael Lierz

Avian Artificial Insemination – a useful tool, but not a panacea for treatment of avian infertility: Debra Bourne

12.45-13.45 Lunch

13.45-15.15 Session Two Nutrition (Kindly sponsored by Meadow’s Animal Health) Chair Brian Stockdale

Metabolic Bone Disease in woodpigeons - improving triage procedures: Michael Stanford

Feeding enrichment - not just ketchup: John Chitty

Problems Encountered in the hand rearing of Black Storks (Ciconia nigra) & the subsequent development of an Avian Rearing Resource website: Peter Aylmer

Analysis of vitamin levels in Hyacinth macaw eggs: Michael Stanford

Hand rearing the Hooded Pitta (Pitta sordida mulleri) at London Zoo, a review of protocols: Joanne Phillips

15.15-16.00 Tea

16.00-17.30 Session Three Wild Birds Chair Neil Forbes

The impact of Trichomonosis on British finch populations: Becki Lawson

Risk factors associated with the admission of avian wildlife casualty patients: Marie Kubiak

Chlamyphila Psittaci infection in garden birds in England and Wales: Katie Colvile

Treatment of casualty wild vultures: Michelle Barrows

Mortality associated with immunosuppression and management in reintroduced cirl buntings (Emberiza cirlus) in England: Fieke Molenaar

New and emerging infectious diseases of British Paridae: Becki Lawson

Parallel Sessions

11.15-12.45 B2B: Avian Anatomy and Physiology: student speakers; Steph Jayson, Ben Ayloshkin, Kevin Jones

13:45-15.15 B2B: Treating the pet chicken: Victoria Roberts

16.00-17.30 B2B: Endoscopy techniques: theory and practical: Michael Stanford

17:30 BVZS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20:00 Dinner and dancing at the Village Hotel, Dudley
Main Sessions: Sunday

09:30-11.00  **Session Four  Avian surgical pathology and cytology**  Chair Debra Bourne
Disseminated visceral coccidiosis in Eurasian cranes: Michelle O’Brien  51
Avian skin biopsy – a pathologist’s perspective: Mark Stidworthy  52
Marek’s disease in backyard poultry - a quick clinical update: Julia Henken  53
The avian respiratory system; a survey of pathological aspects (25 min): Peer Zwart  54

11:00-11.30  Coffee

11.30-13.00  **Session Five  Surgery**  Chair Tai Strike  60
Veterinary care of hornbills: Michelle Barrows  61
Sedation of free ranging ostrich: Jane Hopper  62
Management of avian pelvic long bone developmental abnormalities (30 min): Neil Forbes  63

13:00-14.00  Lunch

14:00-15.30  **Session Six  Open**  Chair Katie Colvile  64
Laparoscopic cryptorchidectomy in an adult reindeer: Romain Pizzi  65
Methods of decision making regarding the euthanasia of a high profile animal in a zoological collection: Sarah Chapman (Hewitt)  66
The use of competitive exclusion product Aviguard to exclude Enterococcus hirae in corncrake (Crex crex) chicks: Joanna Reynard  67
The melanophore in amphibians and reptiles in health and disease: Peer Zwart  68

Parallel Sessions

09:30-11:00  **Veterinary nursing of birds**: Carli Dodd  71

11.30-13.00  **B2B  Avian necropsies and cytology**: Edmund Flach  72

15:30 - Prize Giving and Farewell

CPD Certificates will be issued: one day=7 hours, 2 days=14 hours
SPEAKERS

Benjamin Alyoshkin
Ben has BSc in Biology from Kaliningrad State University (Russia) and has completed 3 years at Liverpool. His first dissertation project (1998) was on the abundance and trends in the distribution of the corncrake (Crex crex) in the south-east Baltic region. In 2010 he conducted a retrospective study of the role of pulmonary intravascular macrophages in feline infectious peritonitis. He has participated in wildlife projects in Costa Rica and in 2010 he was awarded a Wellcome Trust scholarship to study canine cruciate ligament cells at Leahurst. Ben has been a year rep in the LUVZS for 3 years, organised the Annual Symposium in 2010 and is now a BVZS liaison rep. He is currently intercalating in veterinary pathology at the RVC.

Peter Aylmer
Peter has spent the majority of a long career in mixed practice in the Cotswolds, including the provision of veterinary services to The Cotswold Wild Life Park at Burford. He also acts for and provides consultancy services to several other smaller collections. He was awarded the Certificate of Zoological Medicine in 2002 and is a Secretary of State appointed Zoo Inspector.

Michelle Barrows
After graduating from Glasgow in 1998, Michelle worked in zoo and exotic pet practice gaining her RCVS Certificate in Zoological Medicine before moving to South Africa in 2003. She then spent 7 years enjoying life in the sun at the Johannesburg Zoo but recently returned to the UK to take up a new position as Head of Veterinary Services at Bristol Zoo. She is the veterinary advisor to the Wattled Crane Recovery Programme and in 2010 was the recipient of the African Association of Zoos and Aquaria Chairman’s Award for her efforts to promote zoological medicine education within Africa.

Debra Bourne
Debra graduated from Cambridge University in 1992, went to the International Crane Foundation in Wisconsin as an aviculture intern in 1993, and completed her PhD on toxoplasmosis and other diseases in the Bennett's wallabies at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park in 1997. Since then she has worked for Wildlife Information Network (WIN) - now part of Twycross Zoo, East Midland Zoological Society, as a Veterinary Editor, producing Wildpro electronic encyclopaedia volumes on wild animal health and management, and emerging infectious diseases. More than 20 years of experience in non-domestic animal husbandry are very helpful when writing the “health and management” volumes. She has a particular interest in the relationships between natural history and behaviour, captive management, diseases and disease management.

Sarah Chapman (nee Hewitt)
Sarah qualified in June 2000 from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. She went into mixed practice in Lincolnshire then East Yorkshire where she also worked with exotics and wildlife. In September 2004 she began the Masters course in Wild Animal Health and completed her dissertation on the Mortality of Captive Gorillas (Gorilla gorilla gorilla). She then worked for the Scott Veterinary Clinic in Bedford where she gained her Certificate in Zoological Medicine and was part of the veterinary team at Woburn Safari Park. She is currently working at Paignton Zoo Environmental Park doing 100% zoo work with a large variety of large and small exotic animals.

John Chitty
John qualified from the RVC in 1990 and gained the Certificate in Zoological Medicine in 2000. After nearly two decades in private practice he now runs a solo mobile / peripatetic exotics-only service in Hampshire / Wiltshire. He is currently a Board Director of AAV and secretary to EAAV. He consults to five zoological collections and has co-edited two avian textbooks as well as contributing on a range of exotics-related subjects to many others. He is veterinary consultant to the Great Bustard reintroduction project.

Katie Colvile
Katie has worked as a wildlife veterinarian at the Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), since 2008. Her primary role is Project Co-ordinator for the Garden Bird Health initiative – a
national disease surveillance project. Whilst at ZSL she has also worked occasionally as a locum vet at ZSL London Zoo. Katie graduated from Cambridge Veterinary School in 2001 and worked in private (predominantly equine) practice until 2006. She gained the MSc in Wild Animal Health in 2007, completed an externship at the Dubai Falcon Hospital in 2008, and has volunteered on various other wildlife and equine welfare projects.

Carli Dodd
Carli is a qualified veterinary nurse and was amongst the first group of nurses to successfully attain the C&G Veterinary Nursing of Exotic Species certificate. She has worked in avian and exotic practice for over 13 years. In April 2010 she and Richard Jones BVSc MSc MRCVS opened Avian Veterinary Services, a dedicated bird clinic based in Knutsford, Cheshire.

Edmund Flach
Edmund qualified at Cambridge in 1982 and then spent three years in general practice before undertaking the MSc in Tropical Animal Science at the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine in Edinburgh. For the next five years he did field research on tick-borne diseases of cattle in Zanzibar and Morocco, before being accepted for the post of Veterinary Officer at the Zoological Society of London’s Whipsnade zoo. For 14 years he carried out the clinical and pathological work at Whipsnade, plus doing research and also teaching on the ZSL/RVC MSc in Wild Animal Health. As well as looking after the animals in the collection, Edmund also got involved in veterinary aspects of reintroduction projects; common dormice and corncrakes in the UK, and scimitar-horned oryx in Tunisia. In 2006 he specialised in pathology and became ZSL’s Zoo and Wildlife Pathologist, based at London zoo, but still involving regular work at Whipsnade. Edmund gained his RCVS Certificate in Zoological Medicine in 1997 and Diploma in Zoological Medicine (Mammalian) in 2001. He has published widely and has presented at many BVZS, EAZWV and international meetings. Edmund was on BVZS council for several years and was President from 2006 to 2008. He also enjoys live music and plays in the band Paradox at a number of pubs in, and around, Leighton Buzzard.

Neil Forbes
Neil heads the avian and exotic department at Great Western Referrals in Swindon, where he provides a clinical first and second opinion exotic service with ECZM residents in avian and small mammal medicine. He gained his RCVS Specialist Status in 1992 and his FRCVS in exotic bird medicine by examination in 1996 and Diplomate of ECAMS in 1997. Neil received the Mackellar Award in 1991, the Dunkin Award in 2002, the Dr TJ Lafeber Avian Practitioner Award in 2004 and the Hunting Award in 2005. Neil was instrumental in changing ECAMS to ECZM and developing the new Speciality opportunities.

Julia Henken
Julia is a Final Year vet student at Nottingham University, and is aiming to specialise in exotics, particularly birds and reptiles. She is the founder and former President of the University of Nottingham Veterinary Zoological Society and is organising their first ever Symposium in December 2010. She has completed the Exotics Summer school in Brno (Czech Republic) and the Veterinary Externship program at ZSL London Zoo.

Jan Hooimeijer
Jan graduated in 1982 from the Veterinary Faculty at the University of Utrecht. He is the owner of the Clinic for Birds (exclusively for birds) since 1983. He is a member of: Association of Avian Veterinarians(AAV), Welfare Committee AAV, Conservation Committee AAV. His other interests and activities include being a certified Parrot behaviour Consultant, member International Association of Animal Behaviour Consultants (IAABC), Founder/Chairman Dutch Parrot Foundation, advisor Poicephalus Studbook the Netherlands, Board member “Lokkerij Foundation”, Dutch White Stork Reintroduction Project, President/founder Avian Healthcare Company (AHC) and enjoys birdwatching. Jan has developed a practical 5-step Behaviour Protocol dealing with and handling parrots; preventing and solving behaviour problems in parrots. He is the founder of the Dutch Parrot Walks, the inspiration for the Foundation’s Parrot Promenade, stressing the importance of the
development of a strong social relationship between parrots and people. He is a frequent speaker at international conferences and has contributed to several text books concerning avian medicine. 

http://www.perfectmanage.nl/sites/1/content.asp?PageID=231&RelatieID=88&lang=1

Jane Hopper
Jane graduated from Cambridge University in 2002. After some years in mixed practice and locum work for several zoos she started working for Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks in 2004 before becoming head of the Veterinary Department there in 2006. This includes being responsible for the Veterinary aspects of the Aspinall Foundation’s overseas projects in West Africa, Indonesia and Madagascar. She is also a founding committee member for the Veterinary charity Worldwide Veterinary Services.

Stephanie Jayson
Steph is a fifth year vet student at the University of Cambridge, having graduated with a Zoology BA degree from Cambridge and written a dissertation in conservation science in her intercalated year. Steph has a strong interest in exotic pet, zoo and wildlife medicine, which began as a preclinical vet student while volunteering as a zoo keeper at a safari park and at wildlife rehabilitation centres. In her clinical years, Steph has worked with a number of exotics, zoo and wildlife vets in the UK and in 2010 was elected President of the Cambridge University Veterinary Zoological Society (CUVZS). Steph is currently organising fortnightly clinical CUVZS talks and the CUVZS Symposium 2011, as well as promoting BVZS in her new role as Cambridge BVZS Rep.

Kevin Jones
Kevin is a veterinary student at Liverpool University. Prior to starting the veterinary course he studied a BSc honours degree in Zoology at Swansea University. He has always had a strong interest in wildlife and conservation, and this year Kevin is intercalating and studying for a Masters degree in Conservation Medicine at Leahurst. Kevin has interests in many aspects of wildlife and zoological medicine and has been involved in a variety of projects including hedgehog rehabilitation, joint disease and arthritis in elephants and Culicoides spp, distribution and Bluetongue virus transmission. Kevin is actively involved with the Veterinary Zoological Society at Liverpool (LUVZS) and was recently elected as their President (2010-2011).

Marie Kubiak
Marie graduated from Bristol University in 2006 following placements within zoos, exotic animal practice and an elective placement in the Exotics department at Great Western Referrals. She spent two years as a first opinion exotics vet, before returning to Great Western as a European College of Zoological Medicine resident in 2008. She is one of only two vets to complete the new RCVS modular certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice with exotics modules, and gained Distinctions in the Avian and Reptile modules.

Becki Lawson
Becki is a Wildlife Veterinarian in the Wildlife Epidemiology research theme at the Institute of Zoology. Her current role is co-ordinator of the Garden Bird Health initiative, a collaborative project with the RSPB, BTO and other organizations, which is also the topic of her recently completed PhD research. Becki qualified from Cambridge in 1997 and completed the MSc in Wild Animal Health in 1999/2000. Her research interest focuses on the effects of disease on free-ranging wildlife populations, particularly where pathogens have significant welfare or conservation implications. Her experience with native species includes disease investigation and clinical management of wildlife casualties.

Michael Lierz
Michael graduated in 1996 and earned his doctorate title by thesis from the Free University of Berlin, Germany. After being the director of the Abu Dhabi Falcon Research Hospital, UAE he worked as a scientific assistant at the Free University of Berlin. In 2009 he became the director of the Clinic for birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish, University of Giessen, Germany. He is a Diplomate of the European College of Zoological Medicine, the European College of Poultry Veterinary Science and a RCVS Diplomate in Zoological Medicine. In Germany he holds the specialist status in Avian Medicine; Zoo and Wildlife Medicine, Microbiology and Species Conservation.
Fieke Molenaar
Fieke graduated from the University of Ghent, Belgium, in 2001 and started her veterinary career looking after a variety of primates at the BPRC in The Netherlands. After emigrating to the UK in 2002, she spent several years in general practice before completing the MSc Wild Animal Health in London. She has since worked on conservation and wildlife projects, including a year as Assistant Pathologist at Vic Simpson’s Wildlife Veterinary Investigation Centre in Cornwall, before taking up her post at the IoZ in 2007. Fieke works at the Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, as Veterinary Officer on the Species Recovery Programme, a collaborative project between Natural England and ZSL. Its objective is the conservation of UK native species through habitat restoration, captive breeding and reintroductions of endangered or locally extinct native species. Fieke is a Council Member of the BVZS and of the Zebra Foundation. Hobbies other than wildlife include sailing, diving, photography and spending time with the latest new addition to the family.

Michelle O'Brien
Michelle is the Veterinary and Wildlife Health Officer for the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) based at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire. After graduating from the Royal Veterinary College in 1999 she spent six and a half years in general practice, seeing a mix of small animal and exotic species. She gained the RCVS certificate in Zoological Medicine in 2005. Michelle has worked in the wildlife health department at WWT since 2006 and has been involved with UK surveillance for diseases such as avian influenza and chytridiomycosis. She now has overall responsibility for veterinary care at six of the nine WWT centres in the UK, including the Eurasian cranes reared at Slimbridge for release as part of the “Great Crane Project”.

Joanne Phillips
Jo is currently a final year veterinary student studying at the University of Nottingham. She has a keen interest in zoo and wild animals which she has further developed through her clinical placements. Jo has combined her passion for travelling with gaining veterinary experience and to date has volunteered in Zimbabwe and India. Her presentation at BVZS is based on a short research project she completed whilst on placement at London Zoo this year.

Romain Pizzi
Romain is veterinary surgeon at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, and the Scottish SPCA Wildlife Rescue Centre. He holds an MSc in Wild Animal Health, the RCVS Certificate and Diploma in Zoological Medicine, Membership of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists by examination in Small Animal Surgery, and is an RCVS Recognised Specialist in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine. Romain has a special interest in veterinary minimally invasive surgery, having performed over 300 endosurgical procedures, and is editor for www.vetlap surg.com, the internet portal for veterinary minimally invasive surgery.

Joanna Reynard
Joanna graduated from Liverpool in 2007 and spend a year in mixed practice and a year in small animal practice before completing the MSc Wild Animal Health in 2010. She is currently working small animal and exotic practice.

Victoria Roberts
Victoria graduated from Liverpool Vet School in 2000, but has had over 37 years of breeding and judging exhibition poultry and waterfowl. She is Hon. Vet to The Poultry Club, edits the British Poultry Standards and has been on their Council for the past eighteen years. She has written four books on poultry, including diseases, is an Honorary Lecturer at Liverpool Vet School, edits the British Veterinary Zoological Society publications and is currently President, plus locums in her spare time.

Michael Stanford
Stan qualified from Liverpool University in 1987 and after working in an avian and small animal referral practice in North Yorkshire, he moved to Cheshire to open his own clinic specialising in birds. The practice now employs five veterinary surgeons with an 80 % case load of exotic pet, zoo and wildlife patients. The practice provides veterinary services to the RSPCA Wildlife Hospital, Stapeley
Grange, and laboratory interpretation for Pinmoore Laboratories which is based within the practice. In 2006 he was awarded the Diploma of FRCVS by thesis for his work on calcium metabolism in Grey parrots and was granted RCVS Specialist status in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine the following year. He is author of various book chapters associated with exotic animal medicine, including several BSAVA manuals, and has published widely and lectured extensively both at home and abroad. He currently works part time in his practice enjoying a varied workload including exotic pets, zoo and wildlife cases and is employed as a Claims Consultant for the Veterinary Defence Society.

**Mark Stidworthy**

Mark graduated from Cambridge in 1996 (taking pathology as his intercalated degree); received pathology residency training and diagnostic experience at Liverpool and Cambridge Veterinary Schools and holds a Cambridge PhD for experimental studies on repair in the central nervous system. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in the specialty of veterinary pathology. Mark has run the pathology section of International Zoo Veterinary Group since 2003, providing dedicated full-time anatomic pathology services (post-mortem examinations and histopathology) for zoo, exotic and wildlife species including fish. Cases derive from collections and aquaria served by IZVG’s clinical veterinarians and by referral from specialist practitioners and other pathology laboratories.

**Taina Strike**

Whilst studying veterinary medicine in her native South Africa, Tai volunteered at the National Zoo, Pretoria and in various national parks. After 8 years in general practice, she completed her MSc in Wild Animal Health based at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) London Zoo in 1999. She has worked for ZSL at both London and Whipsnade Zoos as a Veterinary Officer since 2000. Her duties include treating all creatures truly great and very small – from ants to elephants - as well as teaching post graduate veterinary students undertaking the MSc in Wild Animal Health and undergraduate students at the RVC. Her clinical research work ranges from various aspects of wildlife reproduction to dietary modification of cholesterol in captive meerkats; investigating the use of cardiac troponin in zoo species and serological testing for haemochromatosis in Ramphastids. She has presented papers at many national and international conferences. Tai is the TAG veterinarian for ramphastids and hummingbirds.

**Peer Zwart**

Peer qualified from Utrecht University, The Netherlands in 1955. During military service he was trained as an officer to be inspector of food of animal origin. From 1956-1990, he worked at the Veterinary Faculty Utrecht, the first 7 years at the Department for Tropical and Protozoan Diseases. This included 50 % research on diseases of zoo animals and exotic pets. In 1963 Peer’s thesis was presented on “Studies on renal pathology in reptiles”. He then moved to the department of veterinary pathology, a full time job on diseases of zoo animals, exotic pets and wild life and in 1980, pathology of laboratory animals became a part of the work. Peer was then registered as Laboratory Animal Pathologist and specialist in Veterinary Pathology. He is proud to be awarded Honorary Membership of the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (EAZWV) and in 2007 Honorary Membership of BVZS.