VET COLLEGE NEWS

Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons
(Company Registration No. GA 2976)

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The tenth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons (SLCVS) will be held on **28th June 2025**, commencing at **5:00 PM at the Renuka City Hotel, Colombo 03**. It will be followed by the Induction of the Sixth President, award of Fellowships and Memberships, and a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the SLCVS, at the same venue. The agenda of the AGM and the programme for the Induction and related activities are given below. All Fellows and Members are cordially invited to attend.

AGENDA OF THE 10th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Reading the notice convening the meeting
2. Welcome speech by the President
3. Congratulatory notes on the achievements of Members and Fellows
4. Confirmation of the minutes of the 9th Annual General Meeting
5. Matters arising from the minutes of the 9th Annual General Meeting
6. Report of the General Secretary
7. Report of the Treasurer for the financial year 2024/2025
8. Matters arising from the Treasurer's report and approval of the accounts
9. Appointment of Company Secretary and Auditors
10. Appointment of New Members, Fellows, and Promotions
11. Election for the 6th Executive Council
12. Adjournment

In this issue

Contact

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INDUCTION OF THE SIXTH PRESIDENT
AND AWARD OF FELLOWSHIPS & MEMBERSHIPS

06:00 PM: Registration
06:15 PM: Arrival of the ceremonial procession
06:20 PM: National anthem and traditional lighting of the oil lamp
06:30 PM: Welcome address and highlights of the College activities by the President
06:40 PM: Address by Dr. Oswin Perera – The Founder President of the SLCVS
06:50 PM: Address by the Chief Guest, Vidya Jyothi Professor Vajira H.W. Dissanayake.
Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.
07:00 PM: SLCVS oration by the Guest of Honor, Dr. Dynatra Subasinghe.
Associate Dean of Education, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Surrey, UK.
07:40 PM: Honoring of the past Presidents and senior Fellows
08:10 PM: Launching of the e-souvenir
08:15 PM: Induction of the Sixth President
08:25 PM: Address by the new President
08:35 PM: Induction of Fellows and Members
08:45 PM: 10th anniversary celebration of the SLCVS – Cake cutting
08:55 PM: Vote of Thanks
09:00 PM: Ceremonial procession leaves the Auditorium
09:05 PM: Fellowship Dinner

CPD ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN 2025

Report on the Pre-Conference Workshop on "Rodent Anesthesia and Analgesia"

Ms. Piumika Yapa

Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science

The Pre-Conference Workshop on “Rodent Anesthesia and Analgesia” was successfully organized by the Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SLALAS) in collaboration with the Medical Research Institute (MRI) and the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons (SLCVS) on 23rd of January 2025 from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm as a full day workshop. This workshop, held onsite at the MRI, aimed to enhance the knowledge and practical skills of participants in the critical field of rodent anesthesia and analgesia. These aspects are essential for ensuring the proper care of laboratory animals while maintaining high standards of research integrity.

The resource persons: Prof. Pacharinsak and Dr. Patrick with some members of SLALAS.

The primary objective of the workshop was to provide participants with both theoretical and practical knowledge concerning rodent anesthesia and analgesia. Aimed at undergraduates, postgraduates, and veterinary surgeons, this workshop offered an opportunity to refine techniques and gain a deeper understanding of animal care and the scientific protocols involved in anesthesia and analgesia for laboratory rodents. The event was designed to be both educational and interactive, ensuring that participants could apply the knowledge gained in real-life scenarios.

The program included lectures and hands-on practice sessions, which enabled participants to gain a balanced understanding of the subject. Expert resource persons, Prof. Cholawat Pacharinsak and Dr. Patrick E. Sharp, were invited to lead the sessions. Prof. Pacharinsak, a well-respected figure in the field, focused his lecture on the physiological aspects of rodent

anesthesia, as well as best practices for ensuring animal welfare during anesthesia procedures. Dr. Sharp, a specialist in veterinary anesthesia, shared his expertise on pain management techniques and the use of analgesics, equipping participants with practical skills for alleviating pain in rodents both during and after procedures. Their combined expertise provided invaluable insights into the techniques and ethical considerations for anesthetizing and managing pain in laboratory rodents.

Capturing moments from the hands-on practical session of the workshop, where participants refined their skills in rodent anesthesia and analgesia under the guidance of expert instructors.

The workshop saw participation from 20 individuals, including undergraduates, postgraduates, and veterinary professionals. This limited number of participants ensured a focused and intimate learning environment, where attendees could receive personalized instruction and engage in one-on-one discussions with the resource persons. This approach allowed the participants to deepen their knowledge and refine their skills in a hands-on, supportive setting.

To recognize the efforts and commitment of all attendees, a Certificate of Participation was awarded to each participant. Furthermore, for the veterinary professionals in attendance, 2 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points were granted, further emphasizing the workshop's value for professional growth and the enhancement of skills in the field of veterinary care and laboratory animal science.

The Pre-Conference Workshop on "Rodent Anesthesia and Analgesia" proved to be an exceptional learning opportunity for all involved. Through the collaboration between SLALAS, MRI, and SLCVS, participants gained a wealth of knowledge, both theoretical and practical, that will undoubtedly benefit their future work in animal care and research. The expertise of Prof. Pacharinsak and Dr. Sharp further elevated the experience, providing high-quality instruction and guidance.

SLALAS would like to extend its deepest gratitude to the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons (SLCVS) for their support and collaboration in organizing this important event. Their contribution helped ensure the success of the workshop and the advancement of knowledge in rodent anesthesia and analgesia. Lastly, SLALAS would like to express its sincere appreciation to the participants, the expert speakers, and the collaborating institutions for their hard work and commitment to advancing ethical practices in laboratory animal care. The success of this workshop is a clear reflection of the collective efforts of all those involved, and it marks an important step toward improving the standards of animal care and research in Sri Lanka.

Group photo of participants, resource persons, SLALAS members, and MRI staff, capturing a memorable moment at the Pre-Conference Workshop on 'Rodent Anesthesia and Analgesia' held at the Medical Research Institute (MRI).

CPD Seminar at National Zoological Gardens, Dehiwala

Dr. Sampath Lokugalappatti & Prof. Anil Pushpakumara

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science at the University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons and the National Zoological Gardens, Dehiwala, organized a CPD seminar on January 15, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the auditorium of the National Zoological Gardens, Dehiwala. This insightful CPD seminar was attended by more than 25 veterinarians.

Topics Covered:

- Avian Radiographic Anatomy
- Rabies: An Old Disease with Many Challenges
- Veterinary Care of Crocodilians

Resource Persons:

Dr. Judilee Marrow
DVM, DACZM
College of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign, USA

Dr. Will Sander
DVM, MPH, DACVPM
College of Veterinary Medicine,
University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign, USA

Report on the Pre-Conference Workshop on “Exploring Analgesia and Green Practices in Animal Vivarium”

Ms Piumika Yapa

Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science

The Pre-Conference Workshop on “Exploring Analgesia and Green Practices in Animal Vivarium” was organized by the Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SLALAS) in collaboration with the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons (SLCVS) and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya. Held onsite at the University of Peradeniya on January 24, 2025, this workshop focused on enhancing knowledge of participants and skills in the ethical and sustainable practices of animal care, particularly in the areas of analgesia and green practices within animal vivariums.

A discussion with the resource persons during the Pre-Conference Workshop on 'Exploring Analgesia and Green Practices in Animal Vivarium' at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya

The main objective of the workshop was to provide both theoretical and practical knowledge to participants related to analgesia and sustainable, green practices in animal vivariums. The focus was on improving animal care quality while adhering to ethical standards and minimizing environmental impacts. By providing participants with practical tools and knowledge, the workshop aimed to prepare students for the challenges of applying these practices in future research and professional careers in laboratory animal science and veterinary medicine.

The program consisted of a combination of lectures and hands-on practical sessions. Prof. Cholawat Pacharinsak and Dr. Patrick E. Sharp, both of whom are experts in the field, shared their extensive knowledge in the areas of analgesia and green practices. Prof. Pacharinsak's lecture focused on the essential concepts of analgesia, emphasizing the importance of effective pain management in laboratory animals. Dr. Sharp’s session addressed sustainable practices in vivarium management, offering strategies to reduce environmental impact while ensuring animal welfare and research integrity. The blend of theoretical and practical approaches allowed participants to gain both knowledge and skills in these vital areas.

The workshop attracted approximately 60 participants, predominantly students from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya. This large turnout reflected the

high interest in ethical and sustainable practices within the field of veterinary science. The event facilitated an interactive and engaging learning environment, where students had the opportunity to engage directly with the expert speakers and gain practical insights that will be valuable in their future careers.

Group photo of the resource persons, Prof. Mangala Gunatilake, and participants at the Pre-Conference Workshop on 'Exploring Analgesia and Green Practices in Animal Vivarium'

SLALAS would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons (SLCVS) for their invaluable support and collaboration in organizing this workshop. Their assistance was crucial to the success of the event, and their continued commitment to advancing veterinary knowledge and promoting ethical practices in animal care is greatly appreciated. Additionally, SLALAS extends its deepest thanks to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya, for hosting the event. Special recognition goes to Prof. Mangala Gunatilake, Dr. Shashikala and Prof. Dangolla for their efforts in organizing and facilitating this workshop. Their dedication and hard work were instrumental in making this event a success and ensuring that participants had a meaningful and rewarding learning experience.

Webinar on Cytology of Body Fluids and Effusions

Dr. G. M. Vidura and Dr. Kalaichelvan Nizanantha

Department of Farm Animal Production and Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science at the University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons, organized a webinar on the Cytology of Body Fluids and Effusions. The event was conducted online via Zoom on March 26, 2025, at 7:30 PM. This session was made possible through the ongoing partnership between the University of Peradeniya and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The webinar was well attended by veterinary undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic staff, and veterinary practitioners. We sincerely thank the Sivanathan Laboratory for their continued support in the success of this event.

Resource Person:

Dr. Samantha Lee
Clinical Pathologist,
Department of Clinical Sciences
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Illinois

Webinar on Equine Colic: What Owners Need to Know?

Dr. Kalaichelvan Nizanantha

Department of Farm Animal Production and Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya

The webinar on Equine Colic was organized by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya in collaboration with the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons and the Royal Turf Club, Nuwara Eliya. It took place online on January 22, 2025, at 7:30 PM Sri Lankan time. This event was made possible through the partnership between the University of Peradeniya and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The attendees were veterinary undergraduates, veterinary surgeons, as well as equine owners and trainers. In parallel to this event Royal Turf Club arranged a gathering at Colombo Riding Club for equine owners to participate in the webinar through a common digital screen. Nearly more than one hundred participants participated in this webinar. Participants were not only from Sri Lanka, but also from many countries of Asia as well. Further, on behalf of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya, I would like to express special acknowledgement to Prof. Sivalingam Sivananthan and Sivananthan Laboratories, Inc., USA for the initiation of collaboration between the Collage of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya.

Resource Person:

Prof. Annette McCoy
Associate Professor in equine surgery
Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Webinar on Liver and Spleen Cytology

Dr. G. M. Vidura and Dr. Kalaichelvan Nizanantha

Department of Farm Animal Production and Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science at the University of Peradeniya, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons, organized a webinar on Liver and Spleen Cytology. The event took place online on February 6, 2025, at 7:30 PM. It was made possible through the partnership between the University of Peradeniya and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The webinar attracted veterinary undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic staff, and veterinary practitioners. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Sivanathan Laboratory for their valuable contributions in making this event a success.

Resource Person:

Dr. Michael Rosser
Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Professional Efforts by Veterinarians in Solving Human Monkey Conflict

Ashoka Dangolla

Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya

Macaca sinica (rilava) is not protected but endemic and is in conflict with people in at least 15 out of 25 districts. Many citizens have adopted monkey detrimental mitigatory measures, of which some results can be seen if you visit the wildlife ward of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH). Several short, medium and long term, solutions have been suggested by few professionals through several committees including a Presidential Committee, to political and administrative authority. Interestingly and importantly, several groups on animal rights, animal welfare and zoological aspects, have come forward to protect monkeys in this regard. Ministry of Agrarian Services has shown that 13 species of animals are in conflict with humans. It has been long since the estimate of 20% crop destruction by wild animals, has been pronounced. Questions are that why were these estimates derived? Wasn't it to find solutions? Who is responsible for finding solutions etc. It is apparent that there are several government ministries, departments and authorities in action on this issue and new ones are being formed but the conflict seems to be escalating geographically and in its intensity. Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) is the authority on all wild animals and has given several proposals to the state to be implemented such as capture, transport to Giritale for surgery to prevent breeding and transporting back to original location, but at a prohibitive cost. Most government institutes involved are very knowledgeable on the problem and solutions, but nothing has been taken off the ground so that the victimized people can be helped. Is it because we are a poor country? Changing human behavior, attitudes and lifestyles are important so that waste disposal is given its due priority and to make every citizen responsible for waste he or she is producing. Waste disposal is legal responsibility of local governments which has its own reasons for reduced efficiency of work. The scientists are responsible in inventing novel methods of such waste recycling and value addition so that industry can implement.

Animal related issues, zoonotic infections and hypothesis testing in science are introduced in Science curriculum to school children, very early. It is disappointing however to note that agriculture, zoology, environment science or botany teaching has not seen the monkey conflict as a challenge. Almost every student in science in schools and 14 higher educational institutes in the country are essentially required to conduct a student project. It is rare to see occasions in which such school children or undergraduates working on this real-life problem to apply any science they learn. Free availability of water and food increase birth rates and offspring survival rates of monkeys, though it is difficult to restrict such food and water availability. Monkeys being intelligent animals and genetically related to humans, are fast learners to access food and water and if not available to demand or even to rob. Once leant, monkeys never forget and will improve on learning different methods of accessing food and water evading all mitigatory measures adopted by people. Some monkeys live in jungles with little or no contact with people, while others mostly live in human habitats and retrieve to areas away from people to spend the night. With increasing jungle clearance for human activities and jungle fragmentation, monkeys rapidly adjust to approach human habitat. Currently, this is happening in Gampaha district in Pilikuttuwa area where monkeys did not approach pineapple cultivation but now have started doing so possibly because of the unavailability of food and water in the jungles. In time to come, this

will aggravate and add to the existing problem in a different and a novel dimension in a new geographical area. Finding easy and rapid solutions, may not be realistic in this regard, since monkeys are intelligent.

Repellants as a short-term solution, such as leopard feces or its extracts, and sound emitting devices as we have trialed, are transient since monkeys are fast learners. Medium term solutions of establishing hedges and boundaries does not work well, since our living and agricultural areas have not been pre planned but merely are extensions and expansions of existing human habitat. For example, if human habitat and agricultural areas are separated as in a planned city, adopting any of these methods would be easier. At present, any such short term or medium-term solutions must be adopted by individuals who live in 10-20 perches of land which is not practical. These evidence, show that expecting a prompt reduction of the conflict is less or not practical but long-term solution is possible while changing methods of waste management. If all living requirements are met, monkeys live 20-30 years, and hence any impact on population control methods, would be slow to be noticed and quantified. I am not sure whether this duration is politically palatable enough, though postponement of solution makes it worse. People have adopted various detrimental methods such as poisoning them and shooting at them. No animal rights or welfare organization has come forward to help VTH in treating, curing or managing monkeys injured by people adopting various measures to control conflict. It is the funds generated by VTH, with required approvals from the University and with consent from DWC that is spent in this regard while many keep talking about shooting and poisoning monkeys and others getting annoyed due to presence of monkeys in public places.

The monkeys do not follow government administrative boundaries and at present their population is not known but geographical distribution of the three species (red, black and grey) is well established. In order to quantify impact of any population control method, it is essential to know the population, at least a decent estimate. Counting monkeys in the wilderness, in people's dwellings and in public places is a challenge. Counting exact numbers of animals, including household dogs or even elephants, has not properly happened in Sri Lanka and only estimates are available, which shows counting monkeys would be even more difficult. Any figure of such estimates can be questioned on their validity but is extremely important to have such an estimate to decide on the carrying capacities and to see impact of any adopted control measures. Translocating trouble making monkeys is not approved by DWC due to various real life and scientific reasons.

We in the VTH, have shown open surgical methods and modern equipment dependent (rigid endoscopic) population control methods can be adopted on monkeys but they require surgical theatres, involve post-surgical complication and are costly. Introducing a modified intrauterine device (IUD) for non-pregnant females after performing an abdominal radiograph, have been shown to be successful in a clinical trial at VTH. For this procedure, the developed prototype of IUD must be tested in a field trial. This IUD must perhaps be used simultaneously with castrating sub-adult males in order to maintain an undisturbed social and sexual behavior among targeted monkeys. This method is cheaper, easier to teach, and no post-surgical care is required. Using long-acting birth controlling hormones mixed with food has not been trialed due to various practical difficulties.

Any activity on the monkeys, should not be carried out in isolation and primarily, responsible waste disposal by people, must be adopted. However, monkeys that are used to visit people and at present are in conflict, would

not retrieve back to the wild until immediate drastic measures are taken. Irrespective of the surgeries and population control methods adopted, those that live within human society, would continue doing so. Since lifespan of monkeys could vary from 10 to 25 years, any impact on long term population control methods would take about 10 years to show the impact. Until then, the conflict would remain, but the extent would gradually reduce. Any monkey population control method, if their normal behavior or sexual activity are not disturbed, would be successful. To do all these, practicality must be examined by doing a pilot trial in an affected village and the results be published. It is easier to find technical faults is any procedure or suggested control methods but difficult to invent and adopt such methods. Therefore, Sri Lankans being an animal loving and compassionate nation, an integrated approach must be adopted in a trial, and must find a reasonable, not necessarily a politically palatable, solution without killing them, so that citizens can be benefited at least in 30 long years, if not tomorrow.

Health Conditions in Elephants

Ashoka Dangolla

Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya

Elephants, whether living in the wild, at Pinnawela Orphanage, at Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home, or are privately owned, who serve cultural purposes, suffer from various infectious and non-infectious conditions. This brief write up, organized on their relative frequency, is a summary of all conditions reported in elephants in Sri Lanka. Elephant has a shorter gut, is a caecal digester and digestibility at best is about 55%, which show poor intestinal activity and digestibility.

Regular exercise, at least a daily walk, is a must for their efficient vagal function and hence for gastric and intestinal movements. If elephants do not chew properly, the fiber in diet gets collected, impacted and indigestion, impaction, constipation or obstipation results rapidly. When elephants are born, they have a pair of molars. Each molar (Jaw) tooth has 6 teeth, 3 premolars and 3 molars, stacked together. Approximately every 8 years, the existing Jaw tooth is shed and a new one is erupted, which happens 5 times during their lives. The wear and tear of the last pair of molars determines the time of death in most situations in captivity. When elephants grow older, their capacity to chew and digest is reduced and hence must be managed in a retiring home. Captive elephants eat in a hurry when they are hungry. Therefore, when elephants are likely to be hungry, one must be watchful, not to provide them diets with long fibers unless it is chopped. If not it could lead to caecal or large intestinal impaction. Until the impaction is cleared, affected elephant must be maintained with adequate parenteral (intravenous or subcutaneous) fluids. Para sympathomimetics and per rectal suppositories are included in treatment. Lukewarm soap water enema is not practiced anymore but enema is done using warm water with “Microanema” (about 50 containers per time) or KUDUDAWULA plant extract which has a viscous juice.

Diarrhea due to change in quality or composition of diet, if mild, can be managed by changing or withholding food. Antibiotics are given rarely for diarrhea. There had been situations in which antizymotics, such as Buscopan, has been given orally for worse cases, to prevent further fluid and electrolyte

loss. Gastrointestinal parasites and protozoa are known causative agents for changes in fecal consistency. The oral acceptance of food, vary by privately owned elephants, some keep their mouth completely closed. Therefore, oral administration of any medicament requires understating of eating habits of affected elephant. Most of the time, such tablets must be hidden in a favourite fruit, vegetable or even bread and must be fed by a stranger. Among the nematodes, most commonly, *Mushidia*, *Quilonia*, *Equinubria*, *Decrusia*, *Parabronema*, *Gramocephalus*, *Choniangium*, *Amira*, *Bathmostmum* (Ancylostome/Hook worm), *Coboldia (*stomach bot fly*)*, *Schstosomes*, *Fascioloa (*trematode/liver fluke*)*, *Anaplocephala* (cestode/tape worm) have been reported from elephants in Sri Lanka. These include Strongyles, Trematodes and Cestodes. Some of these worms are opportunistic and erupt when the host is immune compromised, such as in old age and during musth etc. It must also be mentioned that most privately owned elephants now are being given vitamin and mineral supplements daily.

Three species of Microfilaria, whose counts in blood is higher at night towards dawn, transmitted via mosquitoes, have been found. Though it is believed that filaria cause eye conditions, this has not been proven. *Toxoplasma* is also suspected to be causing complications in the eye. Antibodies against *Toxoplasma* have been found in several privately owned elephants though it may not transmit from elephants to other animals or man. Corneal ulcer, believed to be due to exposure to direct sunlight, is common and when it gets worse, *Acanthamoeba* species infests the injury. The roles of own neutrophils (heterophils) and own serum has shown some positive responses. The satisfactory role of elephant heterophils in engulfing microbes, has shown convincing results. Using human Placentrex (placental extract) injection has shown to be therapeutically effective when injected into eye lids. Cataract, though rare, has been reported in elephants and even surgical removal of lens has been successfully performed, but not regularly done. Excessive tearing is a common complaint from elephant keepers and owners. The presence of the naso-lachrymal duct in elephants is being debated because excessive tearing does not drain out via trunk but overflows through the medial canthus which disappears when bathed for long time. Most Sri Lankans also believe elephants cry, and do have emotions. Strong and large third eye lid in elephants makes it difficult for eye examinations and to remove foreign bodies from eyes which requires sedation and at times even local anesthetics. I have witnessed an acute anaphylactic reaction to a vaccine I administered in which eye lids of an elephant calf were swollen, among several other life-threatening signs, which rapidly responded to intravenous corticosteroids.

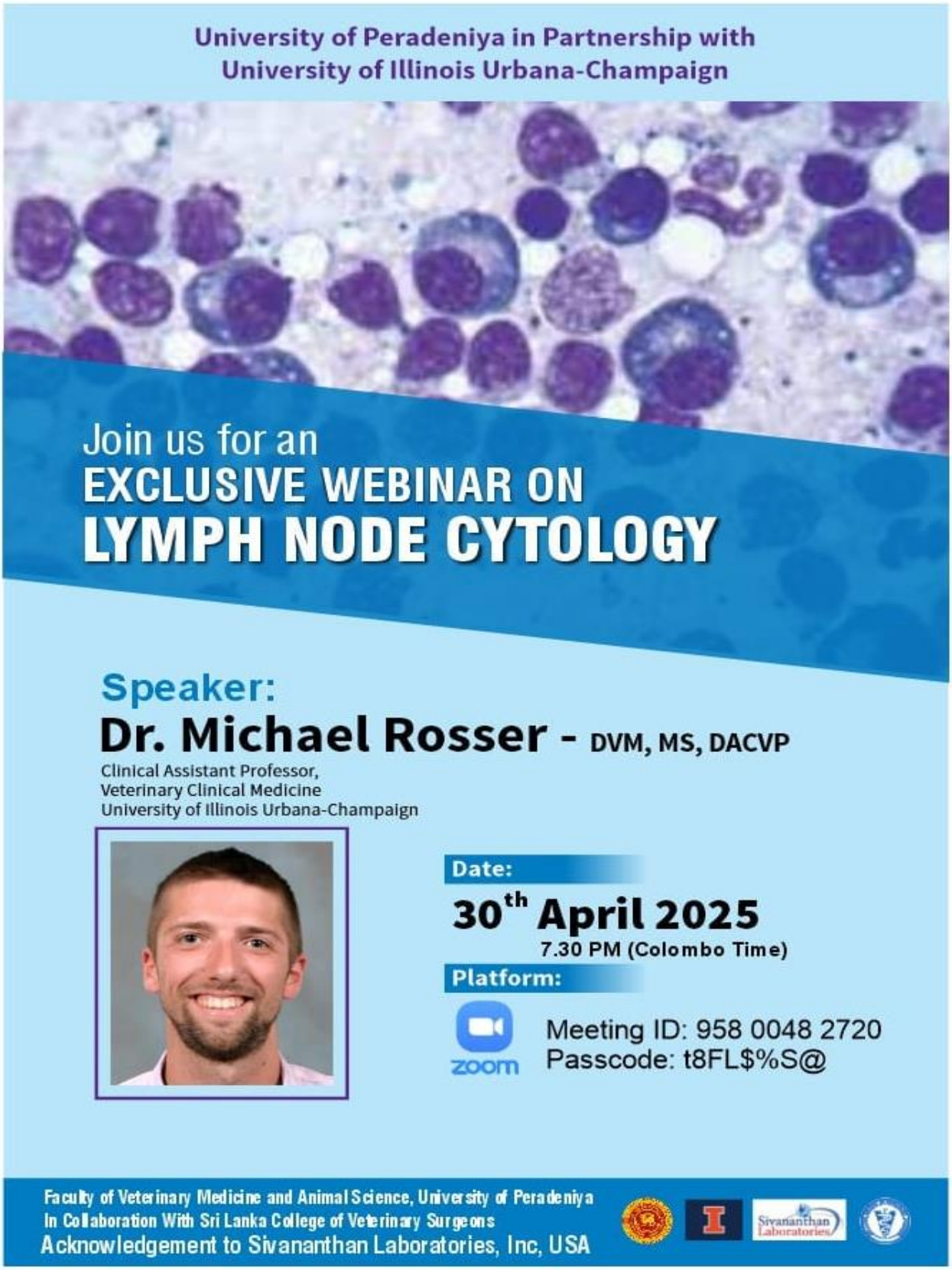
In senile elephants this could lead to coughing and exercise intolerance. Biting louse *Hematomyzus* and tick *Amblyoma* have been reported in elephants from Sri Lanka. Mostly during warmer and humid times and places, that the louse infestation reached intolerable levels. Most ecto-parasiticides, commonly pyrethrins are effective against them. Fleas and midges though present in the country, are not reported on elephants. Various types of biting flies have been noted but species have not been identified and documented. Trypanosomes in elephants in Sri Lanka have not been reported. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) for the first time was reported in wild elephants in 20204 and from a captive elephant in 2025. There is strong suspicion that a few captive elephants died of Tetanus. Hemorrhagic septicemia (HS), Pox and Rinderpest, though have been reported in other ungulates in Sri Lanka, have not been reported. There had been evidence on existence of elephant herpes in the wild, though calf mortality deaths had not been severe. After the first clinical case of TB in a captive elephant with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *Mycobacterium bovis* in 2002, several reports, detection in fecal samples, results of Dual Path Platform (DPP) and a lateral flow rapid test ("STAT PAK") serological testing have appeared. Difficulty in trunk wash procedure for virus isolation, issues with both DPP and STAT PAK,

multiple drug resistance and other issues have made this a complicated illness to deal with. Several elephant keepers were found to be Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) positive but only one so far had been confirmed as a TB patient and being treated.

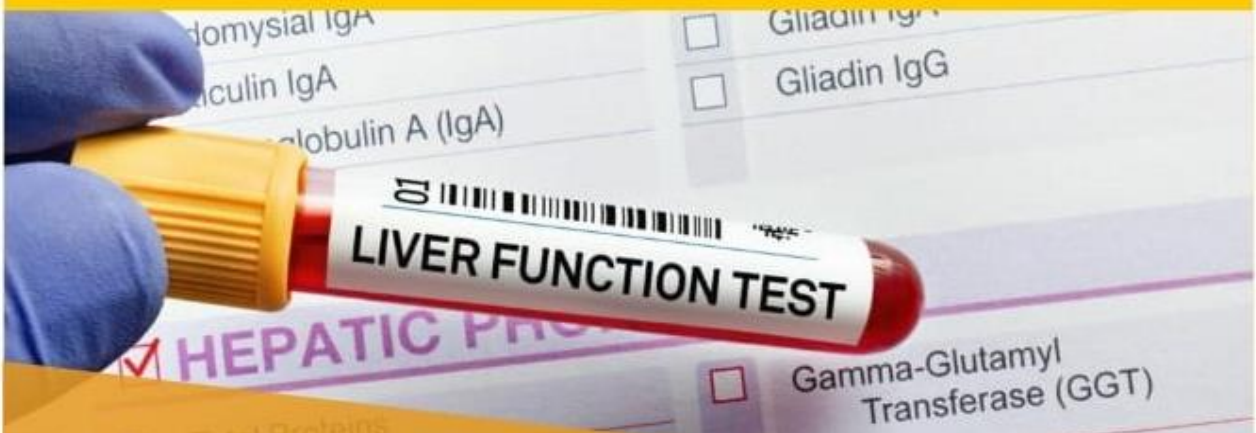
Most of the injuries, abscesses, wounds and sinuses are on their legs and feet. Elephants have a very thick hypodermis and skin grows fast, long before the wound from interior heals. It is advisable to keep the wound opening larger until the interior wound heals which is the principle in ayurvedic treatment. Silver nitrate and phenol are used to destroy the pyogenic membrane while Zinc chloride is well known to have same action. There had been situations in which Zinc oxide was mixed with several other medicaments such as Copper sulphate, for better results. Rarely for elderly elephants or a worse situation in a younger elephant, intramuscular or intravenous antibiotic treatment is used, simultaneously with local treatment. Administration of Tetanus toxoid, keeping in mind that it takes 2 weeks after the injection for the protection to develop, must be mentioned. We have possibly lost a few elephants most likely due to tetanus though it is not documented and not investigated properly. Problems in bones and joints, due to poor nutrition and walking on bad terrain and surfaces have been reported. Foot rot (pododermatitis) and sand cracks used to be common, but now are rare possibly because captive elephant management was changed though the captive elephant owner's association. Use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, mostly Brufen and Aspirin, orally has been of immense help. Involvement of *Mycoplasma* in causing arthritis has also been noticed. Papilloma, reported in a few elephants are difficult to medically or surgically treat, but responds satisfactorily to auto vaccine made specifically from the same tissue. Uterine smooth cell tumors (leiomyomas), have been encountered in a few animals at postmortem, possibly since captives do not breed. Broken or injured tusks or tushes have been treated few times, among the captives. I have also treated a local irritation and tissue necrosis with anaphylaxis possibly due to a sting of a serpent.

Swaying and head bobbing, known stereotypes in elephants, has been noticed in about 50% of the privately owned elephants. It is believed that this is due to stress and/or performed in anticipation of some action that they are used to do. During the perehera, such swaying is noticed when the procession stops for various dancing and drumming activities. Subsequent to these brief stops, when the perehera starts moving forward, such swaying and head bobbing stop. The white blood cell count, similar to serum cortisol, keeps changing when elephants are stressed out In addition to serum cortisol, stress levels can be measured by cortisol levels in saliva, urine or in feces in elephants.

Flyers of Other CPD Activities Conducted



University of Peradeniya in Partnership with
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



Join us for an

EXCLUSIVE WEBINAR ON
EXPLORING LIVER HEALTH WITH SERUM CHEMISTRY PANELS

Speaker:

Amy Schnelle - DVM, MS, DACVP (Clinical Pathology)

Clinical Associate Professor
Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Date:

07th May 2025

7.30 PM (Colombo Time)

Platform:

zoom

Meeting ID: 953 9524 0034
Passcode: ML4+AEzk

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya
In Collaboration With Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons
Acknowledgement to Sivananthan Laboratories, Inc, USA

University of Peradeniya in Partnership with
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Join us for an

EXCLUSIVE WEBINAR ON CLINICAL CASE BASED DISCUSSION

Speakers:

Taylor Hanson, VMD
3rd Year Resident (Clinical Pathology)
Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Aimee Pepper, DVM
3rd Year Resident (Anatomic Pathology)
Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Date:

22nd May 2025
7.30 PM (Colombo Time)

Platform:

zoom
Meeting ID: 988 9395 4236
Passcode: X?5vLYDP

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya
In Collaboration With Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons
Acknowledgement to Sivananthan Laboratories, Inc, USA

New Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science

Dr. A.W. Kalupahana is a Grade 1 Senior Lecturer in Virology attached to the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya since 2004. Dr. Kalupahana graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science in the year 1994. Then, he completed his MSc from the Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK in 2003. His MSc thesis is titled "Analysis of T cell receptor beta variable region usage in sheep with maedi visna virus infection". In 2017, he completed his PhD in molecular virology at the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada. His PhD thesis is titled "Characterization of orthoreoviruses isolated from American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos) winter mortality events in eastern Canada". During his doctoral studies, he received the AVC Department of Pathology and Microbiology Graduate Student Scholarship and the Dr. Douglas W. Ehresmann Graduate Award for outstanding research in virology in two occasions. Dr. A.W. Kalupahana assumed duties as the Head of the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology in 2019 and held that position for two consecutive terms until he was appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science on the 1st of November 2024. Dr. A.W. Kalupahana is the course writer and the course coordinator of Veterinary Virology for veterinary undergraduates of the faculty. He is an accomplished researcher who has extensively published in the field of Veterinary Virology. His other research interests include molecular diagnosis of animal diseases, viral zoonotic diseases, molecular epidemiology of viral diseases, viral vaccines, antivirals and related areas.

New fellows of SLCVS

Professor Rasika Jinadasa

Prof. Rasika Jinadasa earned his BVSc from University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka in 2004. He earned his Master's degree in Veterinary Science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in 2007, and a PhD in Comparative Biomedical Sciences from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University in 2012. He joined the academic staff at Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science, University of Peradeniya in 2012, and promoted to Professor in Microbiology in October 2022. He also serves as the Coordinator of the Postgraduate Education Unit and oversees the Diagnostic Microbiology Laboratory at Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science. He is currently attached to the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Sri Lanka as the National Pandemic Fund Implementation Specialist. His contribution was instrumental for developing the proposal for US$ 18.6 million Pandemic Fund grant, "One Vision, One Shield: Sri Lanka's Integrated One Health Pandemic Preparedness & Response" to Sri Lanka. He previously held a V. K. F. Jubb Fellowship at the Melbourne Vet School and was consultant to World Health Organization, Sri Lanka. Dr. Jinadasa is a Life Member of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists. He is also a Council Member of the Sri Lanka Society of Microbiology and a Member of the Research Committee of the National Science Foundation and National Advisory Committee on AMR for Sri Lanka. He served as the Founder General Secretary/Chief Executive Officer of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons. He was a past Secretary of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association.

Promotion to the fellowship of SLCVS

Dr. G.S. Pemachandra

Dr. G.S. Pemachandra is a distinguished veterinary professional and leader in Sri Lanka's animal healthcare sector. A 2007 honors graduate of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science at the University of Peradeniya, he holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc Hons) and has dedicated over 18 years to advancing veterinary medicine. Dr. Pemachandra currently serves as the Managing Director of Citypet Animal Hospital, Colombo's premier institution renowned for its cutting-edge care and commitment to animal welfare.

Actively engaged in professional leadership, Dr. Pemachandra was the 73rd Secretary of the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association (SLVA) and now holds the role of President-Elect. He further contributes to the field as Vice President of the Companion Animal Practitioners Association of Sri Lanka, advocating for excellence in pet healthcare. A prolific academic, he has authored numerous scientific articles in local and international journals, enriching global veterinary knowledge. His dedication to innovation is reflected in his participation in international conferences focused on small animal medicine, where he stays abreast of global advancements.

Dr. Pemachandra special interest in orthopedic surgery and veterinary ultrasonography, combining technical precision with a passion for improving animal health outcomes. His leadership, expertise, and research continue to elevate standards in Sri Lanka's veterinary community, inspiring peers and benefiting countless animals. Dr. Pemachandra received Membership of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2009.

Promotion to the fellowship of SLCVS

Professor Dynatra Subasinghe

Associate Professor Dynatra Subasinghe is an accomplished veterinary clinician, educator, and academic leader with a global career. She obtained her BVSc from the University of Peradeniya, followed by a Postgraduate Diploma in Toxicology from RMIT, Australia, and an MSc in Toxicology Technology and Management from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand. She earned her PhD from the University of Cambridge and became a statutory member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), UK. After completing postdoctoral research at the University of Oxford, she gained extensive clinical and academic experience in Sri Lanka and the UK, including as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Colombo. At the University of Surrey, she has held several academic leadership roles and now serves as Associate Dean Education for the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, where she oversees teaching, learning, and curriculum innovation across five schools. Her research interests include antimicrobial stewardship in human and animal healthcare and pedagogy in higher education, and she actively contributes to international, multidisciplinary research collaborations.

New Members of the SLCVS

Dr. Pavithra Gyanthi Eshwara

Dr. Pavithra Gyanthi Eshwara is a highly accomplished veterinary professional and the Director of CityPet Animal Hospital. A graduate with honors (BVSc Hons) from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science at the University of Peradeniya in 2007, she has dedicated her career to advancing animal health and welfare. Dr. Eshwara has authored numerous scientific publications presented at the Sri Lanka Veterinary Association's scientific sessions, showcasing her expertise and contributions to veterinary research. Passionate about small animal medicine, she has actively participated in international congresses to stay at the forefront of veterinary advancements, ensuring the highest standard of care for pets. Her commitment to the well-being of animals and her leadership in the field make her a respected figure in veterinary medicine.

Dr. Alexandria De Lima

Dr. Alexandria de Lima obtained her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Universiti Putra Malaysia in 2017, where she was awarded the Gold Coin Award (Excellence in Pre-Clinical) from Gold Coin Feedmills (M) Sdn Bhd. After graduation, she joined a premier veterinary hospital in Colombo where she worked for three years as a small animal practitioner as well as worked to develop and build the equine medicine industry in Sri Lanka.

She has been trained in Malaysia and Thailand in equine medicine and surgery which are her main interests. She has several local and international presentations and publications. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Veterinary Science (Equine Medicine) under the guidance of the Head of the Department of Farm and Exotic Animal Medicine and Surgery at Universiti Putra Malaysia. Dr. Alexandria is a loving and caring veterinarian who treats all her patients like they are her own. Additionally, she is a strong advocate for fear free approaches to ensure all pets experience a positive visit at every visit.

Dr. Thisara Jayasinghe

Dr. Jayasinghe graduated with BVSc (Hons) from the University of Peradeniya, The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, in 2013, obtained an MSc in Poultry Science from the same university, and worked as an Intern at the Colombo Municipal Council and the Rikillagaskada V.S. office.

Dr. Jayasinghe started his career at PetVCare and worked for one year. He then joined City Health and worked as a territory manager for five years. Presently, he has been a Veterinary Consultant at Dymec (Pvt) Ltd. since June 2019. He has thorough hands-on expertise in drug registration, small and companion animal medicine, as well as in the poultry sector and large animals.

Dr. Thisara Withanage

Dr. T.J. Withanage is a veterinary surgeon and a lecturer in the Sri Lanka School of Animal Husbandry (Department of Animal Production and Health), Kundasale and currently on study leave. In 2021, he graduated from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka with a Master's degree in Clinical Biochemistry. He studies for his PhD (to be completed in May of 2025) at the Department of Chemical Sciences, Ariel University, Israel, focusing on “Purification of Biopharmaceuticals”. His research interests focus on the purification of antibodies & biopharmaceuticals and preparation of supramolecular-biomaterials. He used to teach the modules in Animal Nutrition, Anatomy & Physiology of Farm Animals, and Animal Breeding & Fertility Management for the National Diploma Course in Livestock Production Technology.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Members of the Publication Sub-committee-of SLCVS

Prof. R.M.C. Deshapriya- Chair
Dr. Oswin Perera - Editor
Dr. Samanthika Jagoda- Secretary
Prof. M. Pagthyanadan -Member
Dr. R.M.S.B.K. Ransinghe- Member
Dr. Mayuri Thammitiyagoda-Member
Dr. Susantha Mallawaarchchi-Member

Admissions to the College

New Fellows

Prof Rasika Jinadasa

Promotion to Fellows

Prof. Dynatra Subasinghe
Dr. G.S. Pemachandra

Memberships

Dr. Pavithra Gayanthi Eswara
Dr. Alexandria De Lima
Dr. Thisara Jayasinghe
Dr. Thisara Withanage

NOTICE

The time has come to renew your SLCVS Membership or Fellowship If you are below 60 years of age!

It is a requirement for members and fellows to renew their membership or fellowship every 3 years as per the By-Laws of the SLCVS until they reach 60 years of age. It was decided to implement this clause of the By-Laws commencing from 2023.

Please visit the SLCVS website for the application and details.

Hurry Up! Don't delay your renewal.

Information for new applicants and the Application Form can be downloaded from the College website: www.slvetcollege.org

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