

World Association for Transport Animal Welfare and Studies (TAWS)
**The challenge of improving transport animal welfare in the world:
ways forward**

Workshop held 24 April 2003, Silsoe Research Institute, UK

**REPORT OF DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO
INVOLVING STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Group members:

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Undergraduates

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) Scheme of overseas Study Grants (now in its 20th year and extended to TAWS for the last 2 years) was commended and very much appreciated by the recipient students present.

Ideas for improvements included:-

- Better available data on appropriate overseas contacts and potential project areas.
- More positive involvement by Veterinary School staff (a diplomatic letter to Heads of Schools will be prepared suggesting the nomination of suitable points of contact etc).
- Wider use of project reports as per student presentations at recent TAWS events and publications in the Veterinary Times etc.
- Extended contacts with the International Students Association (ISVA) (a representative usually attends meetings of the BVA Overseas Group).
- Consultations and collaboration with other relevant organisations are vital to all areas of activity and a number of commendable links already exists. For example, the TAWS Chairman is a member of the Spana Board and there are on going joint projects with the International League for the Protection of Horses (ILPH). These should be pursued and extended wherever possible).
- Other organisations should be persuaded to participate in the student overseas project schemes.

Young graduates

Attempts should continue to ensure that veterinarians recruited to such organisations as the VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) are employed to better effect. (BVA have had recent meetings with the VSO and these will continue).

- There should be stronger links with organisations such as the Tropical Agricultural Association (TAA).
- The State Veterinary Service (SVS, which was under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food – MAFF and is now part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - DEFRA) used to carry a complement of staff that allowed and encouraged overseas secondments that were considered to extend the efficiency of the SVS and its capability to deal with exotic diseases. There are European Union constraints but nevertheless every opportunity should be pursued to encourage a return to such a policy.

Action

Inevitably progress in all these areas will depend largely on the organisations already involved and particularly the BVA and TAWS but, through stronger collaborative effort, and lobbying of the relevant Government Departments, better progress can and should be made. It is intended that the above lists will help to form a basis for action along these lines.