



VETERINARIANS WITHOUT BORDERS
VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES



2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT



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THE BIG PICTURE

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A SNAPSHOT OF THE YEAR

The last year at VWB/VSF has been a year of collaboration both at home and internationally and a year of great progress and development for Veterinarians without Borders. 2011 was also a year of sadness with the tragic loss of our dear friend, colleague and committed VWB/VSF volunteer, Dr. Bruce Hunter. Thanks to Bruce's commitment and hard work, we are now working in Ghana to improve livelihoods of families in the Upper West region by

strengthening small scale poultry production. We are delighted to announce that this project received funding from the Ghanaian Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

Bruce taught us so much about how to be in this world and where it is important to focus our energies. He had a deep understanding of the enormous importance of healthy agro-ecosystems and of ensuring that they are well managed so they provide food, fibre and

other valued products but also their role in effectively delivering critical services such as habitats for plants and wildlife, erosion control, abundant and healthy water sources and so on. He knew that the care and attention we put into the health of our animals, our people, our communities and our land, are key to the well-being of all of us, together.

The knowledge of this interconnectedness is what drives the passion we have to build a healthier world

through partnerships with organizations around the world. Whether we achieve this by helping women raise healthier chickens, by encouraging children to provide excellent care for their dogs and cats, by empowering women with business skills to market their livestock products, or by building the capacity of government workers and researchers to navigate successfully through complex global health problems, our ultimate objective is to do everything we can to create a healthier future.

Looking back on the last year it is apparent how the successful relationships we've built and nurtured with our funding and project partners has allowed us to achieve many positive outcomes. This past year in Asia we've successfully leveraged our core funding from the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency (CFIA) to create stronger networks and address the issues of sustainability, food production, disease emergence and health. In Laos, community health days in 11 villages helped promote health and raise awareness about improved livestock production and sound environmental

management. We received new funding from the International Research Development Centre (IDRC) for two new and exciting projects. The first is the Field Building Leadership Initiative that brings together partners from China, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam. The

The second IDRC grant that VWB/VSF was awarded was for a pilot project to develop a smart-phone application to increase knowledge sharing for frontline community animal health workers on livestock health and production. The project will explore the role and suitability of this



WE ALSO RECEIVED NEWS OF VWB/VSF'S FIRST GRANT FROM THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA)

intent of the project is to build the field of ecohealth in Southeast Asia and to nurture a new generation of leaders through research, knowledge translation, training and practice – developing and scaling-up innovative solutions to pressing ecosystem and health problems in the region.

technology for community-based animal health workers. Our partners in this exciting initiative are LifeLearn (www.lifelearn.com) and the National University of Laos.

We also received news of VWB/VSF's first grant from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA),

which will provide support for the expansion of our work on our Community Health and Rural Livelihoods project in Laos and expansion of the project into neighbouring Cambodia with Agronomes and Vétérinaire sans Frontières (avsf.org). CIDA's critical support for this project will allow us to significantly scale up on a host of activities – from training Primary Animal Health Workers, to

capacity building on poultry production. It will help our community partners explore other livelihood strategies such as insect production, and provide faculty development at the National University of Laos; all with the aim of making the lives of families in the Xathany district stronger and more productive.

In Latin America, our team continues to find culturally

appropriate solutions to dog over-population challenges in Chile. We started a groundbreaking study on the population and behavioural effects of using a canine chemical sterilant to control free-roaming dog populations. We worked to educate communities on the care of dogs and to provide vaccinations and health care for free-roaming dog populations in rural areas. In Guatemala, VWB/VSF is continuing work and education projects with the Mayan Mam in Todos Santos, to assist them in controlling their dog populations as well as exploring avenues to improve poultry productivity and food security, using an ecohealth approach.

In Africa we are using integrative approaches to improve livelihoods and food security in targeted communities. Livestock have been shown, particularly in Africa, to be an effective resource to build pathways out of poverty.

**IN GUATEMALA,
VWB/VSF WORKS WITH
THE MAYAN MAM IN
TODOS SANTOS**



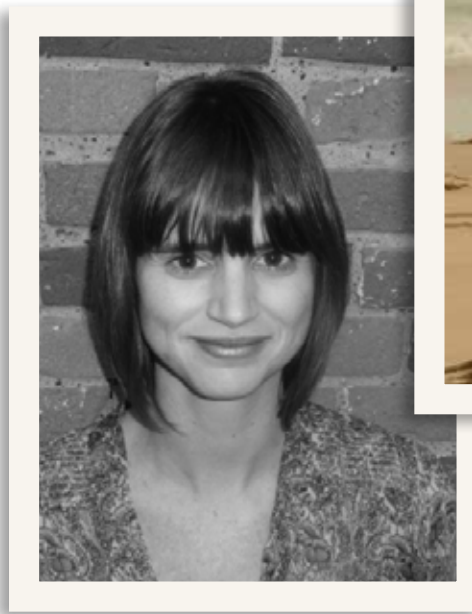
There are many roles that livestock play for subsistence farmers, including providing livestock products (meat, milk, eggs, manure, draught power) and security, accumulating assets, helping with savings, and improving household nutrition. Poor animal health and productivity contributes to the cycle of poverty. Limited animal health services in remote and underserved areas are also a major roadblock to improving food security and livelihoods that are heavily reliant on livestock. VWB/VSF is focused on minimizing these challenges so that subsistence farmers can build healthier, more productive lives for themselves.

In 2011, we were invited to work with a consortium of VSF groups (VSF-Belgium, -Germany, and -Switzerland) to begin building a large-scale project in South Sudan aimed at increasing food security and the social and ecological resilience of the communities in three states. Although funding is still being secured for the project, the preliminary meetings proved to be an excellent opportunity to build new partnerships with like-minded agencies. VWB/VSF is increasingly

being recognized internationally as a reliable, trustworthy, effective partner in promoting our One Health vision. This year we also saw a significant increase in sponsorship from private companies and donors who believe strongly in our work. Thanks to this support we will be launching our new Red Bandana Clinic Campaign, which will help us raise awareness among pet owners about our work and encourage veterinary clinics to get involved.

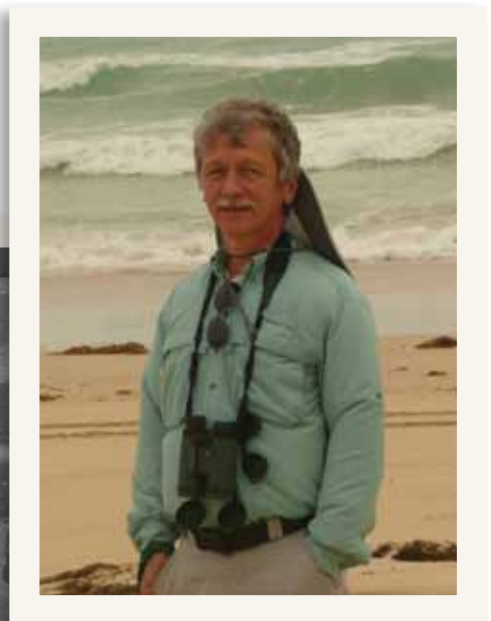
We are deeply grateful for the many volunteers that have contributed to making the year such a success; your dedication and drive are an inspiration to us. We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of our supporters who have contributed so generously.

Thank you!



Erin Fraser

Dr. Erin Fraser,
Managing Director



D. Waltner-Toews

Dr. David Waltner-Toews,
President



PORTRAIT OF A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER



Dr. Bruce Hunter received the 2011 VWB/VSF Volunteer of the Year Award for his dedication to his work on developing a project to help guinea fowl farmers in Ghana. Dr. Salia, Deputy Directory of Veterinary Services in Accra, Ghana worked with Bruce to develop the project and sent this tribute:

"I was in the north of Ghana having travelled from Accra to meet farmers on a poultry vaccination project in Wa and Tamale when the news of the passing of Professor Bruce Hunter came to me by phone like a thunder bolt. It was shocking! Questions

that raced through my mind were: How? Was he sick? How did we not hear about his ill-health?

Our relationship with Bruce was short-lived but rewarding, having only started just last year (2010),

when he paid a visit to us with Dr Isaac Luginaah of University of Western Ontario, Canada to learn at first hand problems confronting rural poultry farmers in the Upper West Region of Ghana. He was taken around some communities to meet with the farmers who enumerated a litany of challenges they had in raising rural poultry particularly, the Guinea fowl which is indigenous to the area but whose young are very fragile and perish easily. He returned to Canada and with the help of Veterinarians without Borders/Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VWB/VSF), Canada, sent two Veterinary Students (Kirstin Macdonald and Steven Kruseniski) to come down and collect data during the holidays. Two more interns were sent from Canada this summer (Ilona and Doris, (2011)). His decision to help these farmers made him visit Ghana a couple of times and one could see that his desire to help the rural farmers was really genuine.

We pay tribute to Dr Hunter's warm-hearted disposition, his intellectual prowess in the analyses of new problems, his invitation to debate on issues. He was a team builder as he

believed in team work. Thus, by the time the framework of the project proposal we envisaged to help the farmers had taken shape Dr Hunter had built a team that comprised himself, VWB/VSF- Canada, Lecturers from the University For Development Studies (UDS), Staff of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), myself and Mr Charles Adams, Mr Emmanuel Eledi and Priscilla Ang-Leuha in the UWR and the Association of Churches Development Projects (ACDEP) led by Malex Alebikiya and Joseph Apeeliga. His vision was not only to solve the farmers' problem of Guinea keet losses alone, but also to ensure that long after the project comes to an end, the farmers would continue to derive benefits from the project. Thus he included training of farmers and even post-graduate training of UDS students who would act as consultants to the farmers. The Canadian students, apart from the data collection, were directly benefiting as they were in a position to see and diagnose some tropical animal diseases which cannot be found in Canada.

Though his departure has left a void, I have no doubt that his inspiration and ideas

for the project proposal dubbed "Promoting Economic Empowerment and Health in the Upper Region of Ghana through Participatory Community-Based Poultry Health Management Training Programs for Women and Men in Response to Increasing Environmental Change and Food Insecurity" would live on. Dr Bruce Hunter put all his heart in it just to help the rural poultry farmer of North-west Ghana.

May Professor Bruce Hunter rest in perfect peace."
Dr Philip K. B. Salia

VWB/VSF received notice in early 2012 that the Ghana guinea fowl project has received CIDA funding through the Ghana's Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and in September 2012, Dr. Kirstin McDonald and Dr. Trace McKay will travel to Ghana to continue work on the project.

**SINCERE THANKS
GO TO ALL THE
GENEROUS DONORS
WHO CONTRIBUTED
TO VWB/VSF IN
MEMORY OF
DR. BRUCE HUNTER.**



ASIA

It's been another exciting year for our programs in Asia. The newest development this year was the award of our first grant from the Canadian International Development Agency for our community-based livelihoods project in Laos with the National University of Laos.

This grant will allow us to significantly scale up the project as well as to extend it into Cambodia through a partnership with Agronomes et Vétérinaires sans Frontières (www.avsf.org). Together with our partners we are already seeing many signs of the target communities raising healthier animals, and improving their well-being through enhanced agricultural and ecosystem health-promoting practices. As this ambitious program unfolds, we are learning with our colleagues and beneficiaries from our successes but also from our mistakes. This is the benefit of using participatory community development approaches; with the commitment of the community, there is increased adaptiveness built into the process.

In 2011, with support from Aeroplan and the 13th World Congress Foundation, our project team launched a poultry component to the project in Laos. This included

community consultations in three villages, training of participating farmers, sourcing of Egypt yellow chicks, chick distribution, follow-up mentoring and repeat vaccination campaigns. In this pilot phase 66 households in total participated in the program; receiving chicks (420 birds in total) and training and mentoring on improved poultry production. Helping to improve chicken survival rates and egg productivity is a central component of the training and mentoring. A baseline survey was conducted of all participating households in July 2011 to inform future stages of the project.

One of the central aspects of the project in Laos is the training and mentoring of primary animal health workers or PAHWs so that they have the knowledge and skills to promote animal health in their respective communities. One mechanism that the

project uses to provide intensive field experience to the 33 PAHWs and to expose them to a range of different livestock conditions is through offering livestock clinics in the communities. These clinics also provide a vehicle for raising awareness of the importance of preventive health and of the role of the PAHWs in the villages.



SINCERE THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS DR. ANNE DREW AND THOMAS DREW FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE LAOS PROJECT FROM 2010-2012.



A CENTRAL ASPECT OF THE PROJECT IN LAOS IS THE TRAINING AND MENTORING OF PRIMARY ANIMAL HEALTH WORKERS

The planning of clinics was formalized and the process involved discussion with PAHWs and village chiefs to determine villages and dates for clinics; the clinics are held in one village per 'group' of villages and PAHWs from the whole group attend. Households are consulted in advance and those who wish to receive services notify the PAHWs of the number of animals they own. On the set date, the team (veterinarian, project coordinators, mentors and PAHWs) meet at the village early in the morning and visit the households sequentially. They provide subsidized services and advice to farmers during their visits.

In February this year, the project launched Phase II of the poultry project, including training of a new cohort of participating farmers and the pass-on of healthy chicks from Phase I households. Activities in 2012 have included:

- 5 days of community-based training on poultry husbandry
- 26 poultry mentoring visits
- Pass on of chicks in 3 villages
- A total of 24 participant households in Nakhao village (12 from 2011, 12 from 2012)
- A total of 24 participant households in Thachampa village (12 from 2011, 12 from 2012)
- A total of 18 participant households in Hatviengkham village (12 from 2011, 6 from 2012)

RABIES CAMPAIGN IN LAOS

- A rabies campaign was launched in October 2011 after World Rabies Day in participating communities
- A total of 1194 dogs and 27 cats were vaccinated over the 10 day campaign. This represented participation of between 19% and 100% of households in each village. In 4 villages over 50% of households participated, and in 5 villages between 36% and 47% participated.
- Only 11% (77/677) of respondents had previously had a dog vaccinated against rabies – showing a need for the campaign



A GLIMPSE INTO OUR DIGITAL FUTURE

As part of an innovative project to launch later this year, VWB/VSF is working with educational publisher and new media developer, LifeLearn, to develop and pilot a smartphone application as a training tool for primary animal health care workers in developing countries. There is global recognition that smartphones and new media technology can have a huge impact on smallholder agriculture, from sms updates on crop prices and weather, pest management to outbreak and emergency response. There is tremendous interest and investment in mobile-based knowledge dissemination. With the rapid growth of mobile connectivity (networks

are now available to 90% of world's population) there is a significant opportunity for mobile phone-based tools to make information available for service towards solving critical global challenges.

In the context of farm level mobile phone applications, there is an urgent need for more evidence on the adaptability and appropriateness of smart phone tools for local animal health workers that are equitable, accessible and responsive to changing local needs. This project will help fill a gap in knowledge and research in farm level applications of mobile phone technologies for

both training and information exchange.

In this ambitious project, project team members and NUOL faculty will train Primary Animal Health Workers (PAHWs) to use a smartphone-based application with training resources to provide mentoring and training resources as a supplement to in-person resources. The PAHWs will also be able to SMS each other about latest developments and upload photos of the cases they encounter. The focus of this pilot stage of the project will be around poultry nutrition. In researching topics for the mobile training application, our team was excited to learn about various methods households employ to feed their chickens and use resources efficiently. Our volunteers, Anne Drew and husband Thom met a woman farmer who uses pickled banana stem, grasses and amaranth to prepare feed for her poultry. We hope that through this technology we can help facilitate more farmers to share their techniques and train and support each other. Thanks to the IDRC, Lifelearn and University of Calgary for their generous funding and in-kind support.



ECOHEALTH IN ASIA

In Asia, and with the support of the International Development Research Centre, VWB/VSF has continued to build the capacity of policy-makers, researchers and other NGO staff in the region to integrate ecosystemic approaches to their work. We are also working with regional partners developing ecohealth teaching methodologies and materials.

BUILDING ECOHEALTH CAPACITY IN ASIA (BECA)

One of our keystone projects, Building Ecohealth Capacity in Asia (BECA), which is

funded by the International Development Resource Centre, continues to build capacity in six Southeast Asian countries: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. By bringing

actors together from different countries and institutions with an array of experience and expertise in the prevention of emerging infectious diseases (EIDs), public health, and health promotion this work is enabling participants to investigate and respond more effectively to complex ecohealth issues, with a particular focus on EIDs. This work will contribute in the longer term to an effective network of expertise in ecosystem approaches to managing health, contributing to ecohealth skills and knowledge development in the region including input to ecohealth policy formulation. VWB/VSF is working with academic researchers, government staff, and extension personnel in the target countries who are and will be involved in promoting integration and application of ecohealth approaches in activities which directly benefit communities in need.

One of the many activities of this program last year was a small workshop for project participants that took place in Bali in October 2011, where the main focus was on exploring how the rabies control team in Bali might incorporate understanding of complexity – particularly at the village level – in order to

benefit control efforts. One of the key points of the discussion was that the understanding of dog ecology and rabies epidemiology remains as important as understanding social and motivational issues in controlling rabies in Bali. This speaks to VWB/VSF's programming approach to rabies and dog population control, where baseline research, ongoing monitoring and thorough stakeholder engagement are recognized as critical aspects to any effective and sustainable rabies control program.

FIELD BUILDING LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (FBLI)

In 2011, VWB/VSF was invited to be a part of the Field Building Leadership Initiative (FBLI) Consortium. Funding from the International Development Research Centre was awarded in October 2011. This initiative is led by a regional group, and supports a range of integrated activities implemented by ecohealth research teams at the national (field research sites: learning by doing) and regional (partnership and network: learning by sharing) levels. The initiative also aims to develop centers of excellence in ecohealth for training, capacity building and policy analysis, which

will contribute to sustainable development of this field in Southeast Asia. Partnerships and outputs generated will lead to the increased uptake of ecohealth-based policies, practices, and professional studies, thus contributing to

more resilient ecosystems and healthier societies throughout the region. In 2011, VWB/VSF coordinated the collaborative writing of an Ecohealth Trainer Manual for Southeast Asia; the pilot manual is now available on our website.

FBLI OBJECTIVES:

- Conduct transdisciplinary, multi-country, multi-institutional, gender-sensitive and participatory ecohealth research to address human health problems related to agricultural intensification.
- Strengthen the capacity within South East Asia for ecohealth research and practice by developing institutional capabilities to deliver ecohealth training, provide a range of training materials and course offerings, and mentor early-career professionals to build leadership and expertise in the ecohealth field.
- Engage key policy makers – at local and national levels – to interact with the ecohealth research teams, sites and communities to ensure that the emerging research findings will inform and positively influence policy and practice in the field.
- Facilitate networking-of-networks and knowledge sharing at national and regional levels – linking with key events in the region – to mainstream ecohealth approaches and foster the development of the ecohealth field in the region.



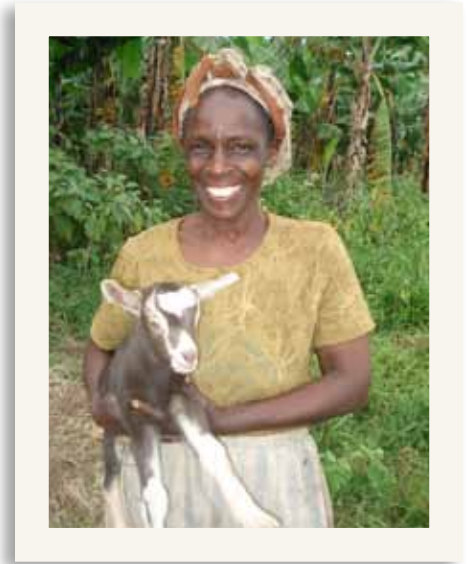
AFRICA

Veterinarians without Borders has continued to build on it's work in Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. In 2011/2012, we sent over 15 Canadian veterinary volunteers to work with smallholder farmers to help improve the health of rural subsistence farming communities.

VWB/VSF is helping to transform the community of Mbarara, one goat at a time. Goats are hardy, fertile and easy to transport. They are also one of the few animals that women can traditionally own, making them a great animal to promote the empowerment of women. In rural areas, however, veterinary care and nutrition for goats is hard to access, resulting in high rates of goat mortality and a degraded environment from overgrazing.

The goat pass-on project helps to:

- Raise socioeconomic status
- Improve nutrition
- Develop sustainable goat production practices
- Improve gender equality
- Protect the environment from overgrazing
- Train local community members to encourage long term project sustainability



VWB/VSF HOSTS WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING SESSIONS FOR FARMERS, STUDENTS AND WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY

The goat pass-on project provides goats and goat training to Mbarara's most vulnerable families. As they reproduce, goats are paid forward throughout the community, in order to repay the cost of the goat and benefit a wider group. VWB/VSF also hosts workshops and training sessions for farmers, students and women in the community, to teach goat management, including nutrition, sanitation, disease prevention and low-impact grazing.

FOCUS ON UGANDA

Human Development Index: **161**
 Area: **197,058,000 sq km** (93,104 sq miles)
 Population: **32 million**
 Percentage living on less than \$1.25 per day: **38%**
 Life expectancy: **53 years**
 Infant mortality: **63 deaths/1000 live births**
 Child malnutrition rate: **16.4%**
 HIV/AIDS prevalence: **6.5%**
 Children Living with HIV/AIDS: **150,000**
 Employment in agriculture/animal husbandry: **75.3%**

A F R I C A

GHANA

In Ghana, our partnership with the University of Wa led to some exciting new developments. We began working with the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Development Studies and the Veterinary Services division of Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture. In August 2011, we submitted a grant application called "Enhanced guinea fowl production in the Upper West region of Ghana" to Ghana's Ministry of Agriculture and in February we were awarded the grant. VWB/VSF professional volunteers will contribute their expertise to this initiative but our Ghanaian partners at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Development Studies will lead the project. Bruce Hunter was one of the major guiding forces behind this project and, as David mentioned, as well as a terrible personal loss his passing also left a gaping hole in the project team. Bruce was well respected by the communities and our project partners; there are big shoes to fill. Fortunately with key support from Trace Mackay, Stephen Woeller, Issaac Luginaah, and former student intern, Kirstin MacDonald, VWB will be in

a strong position to help our partners make this initiative a success.

TANZANIA

VWB/VSF continued working in Ilima, Tanzania to reduce poverty and increase food production by helping smallholder farmers improve poultry health and production practices.

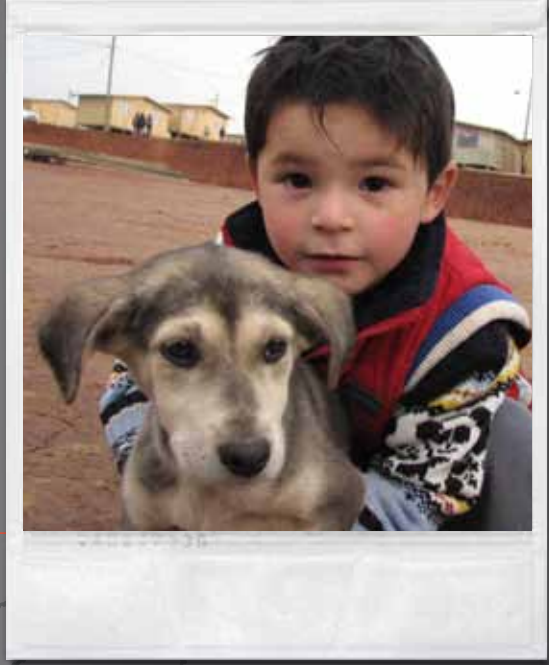
1. We worked with local partners to develop and implement a vaccination strategy to minimize poultry losses to vaccine-preventable diseases.
2. We delivered farmer training sessions on poultry health and management.
3. We supported two veterinary students to participate in the project.
4. We've had incredibly capable student interns contribute significantly to the growth of this project and we're getting positive feedback from the farmers that we're working with. Last year, representatives from nearby Lubanda were anxious to see the program expand into their communities which our interns this summer were able to initiate.



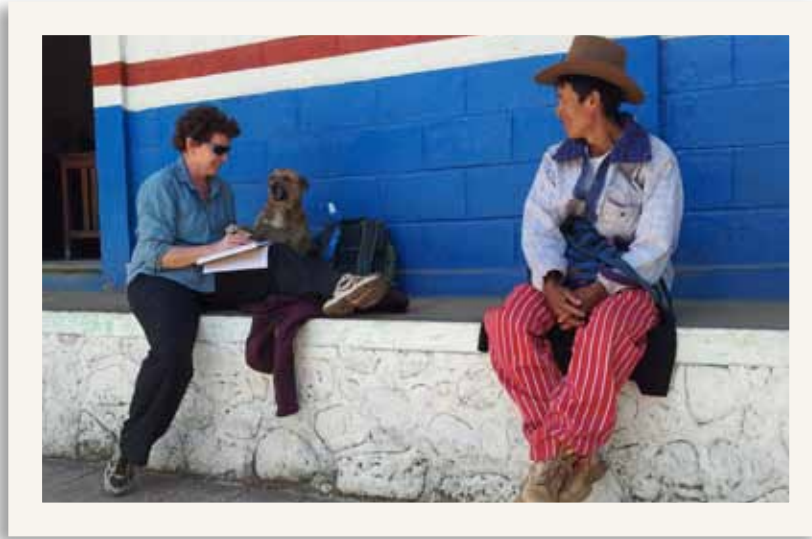
MEET SAPHINA

Saphina's husband died two decades ago, leaving her to raise her three children and one foster child on less than a dollar a day, growing vegetables for food and saving constantly for school and medical fees. The future looked bleak. Women have few rights in Uganda and without livestock or inherited land, she couldn't support her children.

Then, in 2008, Saphina became one of the first members involved in VWB/VSF's Mbarara Goat Pass-on Project. She built a beautiful goat pen in her yard, started a garden and successfully paid off the loan for her first two goats. She became a model for her community; villagers chose Saphina to train as a para-veterinarian. Now she provides animal health services and education for her entire village.



AMERICAS



In 2011/12 our programs in Latin America unfolded in some very exciting ways.

CHILE

This year we saw the official launch of a project in Puerto Natales, Chile to undertake a ground breaking study with partners from US, Italy, Canada and Chile; the project is comparing the behavior of male dogs pre- and post-sterilization using chemical and surgical approaches. This research will fill a critical knowledge gap on the potential role of chemical sterilization as a tool for governments, communities, NGOs and others around the world that are currently challenged to contain burgeoning free roaming dog populations. The majority of funding for this initiative is from the Alliance for the Contraception of Cats & Dogs, Ark Sciences, and the Instituto G'Caporale (Italy's

OIE collaborating centre for animal welfare), and private donors. For the sterilization phase of the project volunteer Canadian vets Jack Gewarter and Susan Kutz, provided invaluable assistance to the team in Chile.

An important element of this work is to build the knowledge and skills of Chilean vets so they are able to confront challenging animal health issues. As part of a grant from the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at the University of Prince Edward Island, Dr. Angelica Romero will be visiting the Atlantic Veterinary College to learn new laboratory techniques and test canine samples for testosterone levels.

Alongside the project in Puerto Natales, our team in Chile engaged local stakeholders and community leaders to begin developing a Community Action Plan to address their local free roaming dog problem, and mitigate the secondary negative effects on public health, agriculture and environment, with feasible, humane and sustainable solutions.

GUATEMALA

Considered a “neglected zoonotic disease,” rabies often falls under the radar, as many global health initiatives tend to focus on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and avian influenza. Dogs continue to pose the greatest risk to people; rabid dogs contribute to over 90% of human exposures and over 99% of all human deaths. Post-exposure treatment is crucial; unfortunately, for many developing communities the cost of medical care is simply unaffordable. With effective programming, community education and community involvement, the global rabies problem is solvable. VWB/VSF has been working Todos Santos, Guatemala since 2007, building community-based, sustainable strategies

that are working to stop the spread of rabies and control free roaming dog populations. Consultations with community stakeholders in November 2011 demonstrated that VWB/VSF's long term commitment to Todos Santos is starting to make a real difference. Data from the municipality showed that there had been no cases of rabies in the previous two years. However, in the outlying agricultural area in which 23,000 people reside, cases continue to emerge. Using the support of volunteer veterinarians, we will continue to build capacity

of the veterinary facility located in the nearest urban centre (Huehuetenango) and training the veterinary students from the only veterinary school in the country in Guatemala City, through regular veterinary service campaigns in Todos Santos.

We also learned from our meetings in March that there is still much more that we can do to help improve human and animal health in the region. VWB/VSF is now engaging with community-based organizations to explore how food security and livestock health and production programming

can help the communities become more resilient and food secure.

Regular veterinary services contributes to overall community health through education, prevention of zoonoses (diseases that are transmitted between animals and people), improved food animal production with immediate human health results, and increased food security. VWB/VSF is committed to improving animal health capacity in Todos Santos to work toward alleviating poverty, malnutrition, public health issues and zoonoses, and food-borne illness.



**CONSULTATIONS WITH COMMUNITY
STAKEHOLDERS IN NOVEMBER 2011
DEMONSTRATED THAT VWB/VSF'S LONG
TERM COMMITMENT TO HELPING TODOS
SANTOS IS STARTING TO MAKE A REAL
DIFFERENCE.**



HAITI

In 2012, VWB/VSF was encouraged to take a leading role on an initiative to strengthen community level animal health groups or GSBs (Groupements de Santé Bêtes) in 16 Haitian municipalities along the border with the Dominican Republic. Volunteer veterinarians, Drs Sandra Vokaty and André Vallières, both employees of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency travelled to Haiti in February to begin developing a project proposal with local and regional actors. The

project, currently called “Improving food security and public health in Haiti by strengthening community-based animal health organizations (Groupements de Santé Bêtes)”, will bring together partner agencies such as Haiti’s Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (the Director of Veterinary Services, Dr. Max Millien is one of the key collaborators), Inter-American Institute for the Cooperation in Agriculture, the Canadian Veterinary Reserve, CUSO International, among

others.. This project will ultimately benefit vulnerable families in the targeted communities along the border with the Dominican Republic through activities aimed at strengthening the community animal health groups in 16 communities. Particular attention will be paid to the priorities and needs identified by rural women and youth.



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

The 2011 cohort of student vets in our summer internship program was an incredible group of adventurous, open-minded and bright individuals.

In February they came from all across Canada for our pre-departure workshop to prepare them for their field placements. Once armed with the knowledge about their tasks for the summer and strategies to keep themselves safe and healthy, they were sent off in their teams to seven international development projects around the world. Each placement offered its own unique opportunities

and challenges: in Guatemala they counted dogs and spoke with community members about dog ownership, they held kitchen meetings with women farmers in Tanzania to talk about raising healthier chickens, they worked with the local vet to treat sick goats in Uganda, and they ventured into the Dongsakee Sacred Forest of central Laos to survey silver and red-shanked

doe langurs. They came back from the field changed beings in many ways; they learned about building linkages across cultures and languages, about the limits of their personal stamina, strengths and weaknesses, about how poverty changes everything, and they learned that there is no end to what they, as future veterinarians, can contribute to making the world a better place.

**THEY CAME BACK FROM
THE FIELD CHANGED
BEINGS IN MANY WAYS**



“VWB/VSF’s internship program had a large impact on my education and initial development as a veterinarian. Time spent working with the Foundation for Aids Orphaned Children in Mbarara, Uganda was extremely eye opening and life changing. The experience altered my perspective of veterinary medicine for the better. I have VWB to thank for supporting and developing my interest in international development work. Many lessons I learned in Uganda, I apply to my daily practice in Regina.”

DR. LAURA MCDONALD, WCVM 2011

The aim of this program is to train the next generation of animal health workers so that they will be better prepared to address complex public health issues and work in cross-disciplinary settings. In this program, we select veterinary students who are motivated and suited to working on global animal/public health challenges such as emerging diseases, poverty-reduction and sustainable livelihoods. Selected students are placed in a team with their peers and work on an international development project for three months. We aim to provide our participants with a unique learning opportunity that will arm them with the knowledge and skills to contribute in a meaningful way to global public health issues upon graduation.

2011 PARTICIPANTS

GHANA

Ilona Houston, UCVM
Doris Leung, OVC

GUATEMALA

Kelleigh Waters, AVC
Valerie Bissonette, FMV

KENYA

Laura Field, WCVM
Valerie MontPetit, FMV

LAOS

Nicole Mayne, AVC
Tiffany Gamelin, FMV
Jen Bottaro, AVC
Alison Ferguson, WCVM

TANZANIA

Andrew Wiskin, OVC
Patricia Kelly, WCVM

UGANDA

Dr. Laura McDonald, WCVM
Dr. Jessica Gonazalez, OVC

AVC - Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island

OVC - Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph

FMV - Université de Montréal - Faculté de médecine vétérinaire

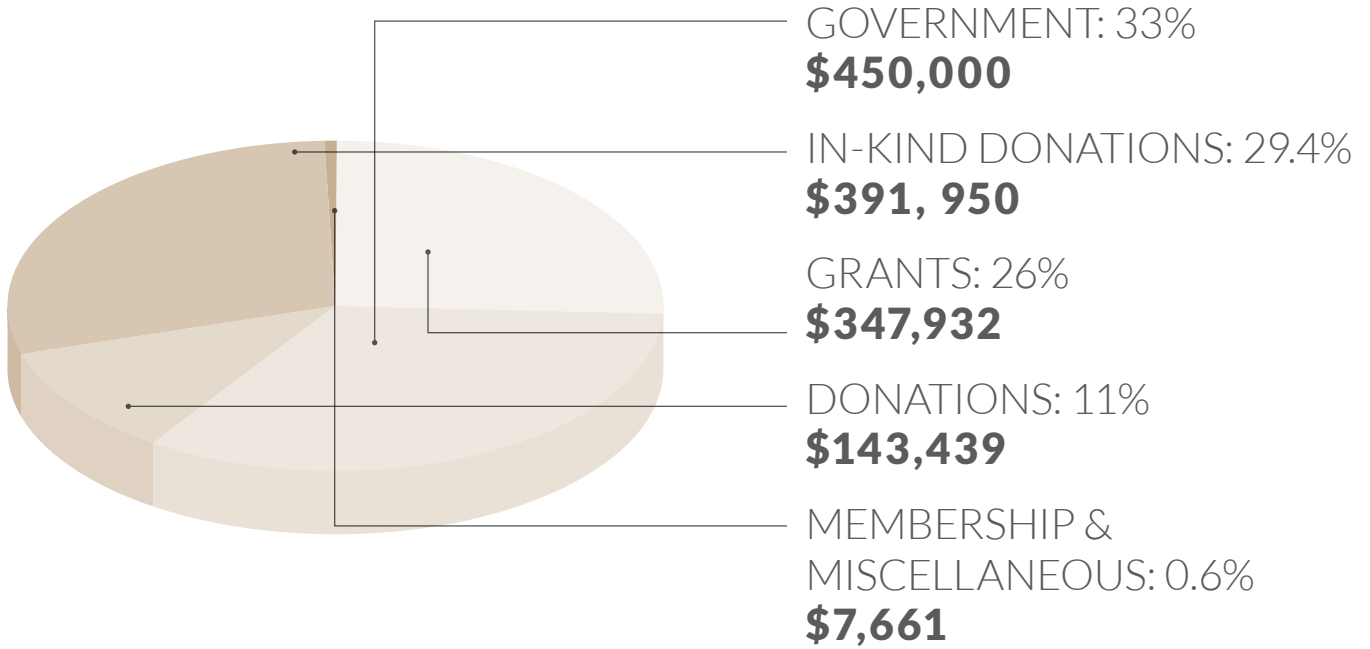
UCVM - University of Calgary, Veterinary Medicine

WCVM - Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

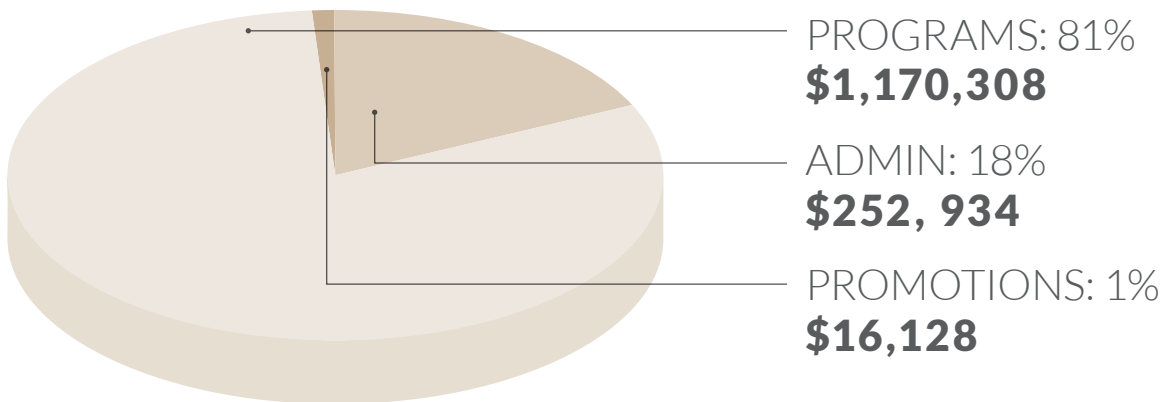
TOTAL REVENUES

\$1,340,982



TOTAL EXPENSES

\$1,439,370





OUR HEARTS HAVE TAKEN WING.

As one of the founding partners of Aeroplan's Beyond Miles Program, Veterinarians without Borders benefits from earning donations of Aeroplan Miles in order to fly volunteers and staff around the country and the world to carry out our work.

Every year, Aeroplan and one of its Beyond Miles charitable partners sends Aeroplan employees on an engagement trip. These trips were created to inspire and engage Aeroplan

employees by helping them see how and where our charitable partners use donated Aeroplan Miles. In 2011 Aeroplan employees Alison, Amanda and Luis joined Aeroplan's Beyond

Miles charitable partner Veterinarians without Borders (VWB) on a trip to Laos.

The group travelled together with VWB employees, 45km from Vientiane City to visit VWB's Village Eco-health and Veterinary Extension project.



The following is an excerpt from Luis' blog.

"Vientiane enhances a cultural and relaxed atmosphere. Life in this pleasant capital is slow-paced. We have visited the National University and some of the communities where VWB/VSF Canada is presently working. In these communities, it is exiting to know how Aeroplan miles have been utilized to fly Anne Drew, an amazing Canadian woman. Her work with VWB/VSF Canada in Laos's communities is making a great difference. We had the opportunity to visit three villages to hear and see first-hand the experiences that the Laos Veterinary Extension and Ecohealth Project is creating. We attended a presentation by Veterinarian Anne Drew where she shared her experiences about the project. We met with a group of PHAW (Primary Animal Health Worker) and witness the hard work and training they go through to successfully become an Animal Health provider.

The University team and the VWB/VSF team shared with us Most Significant Change stories, an evaluation method used for this project. In one of them, Ms. Khammoun Keomany from Nakhao village explained: "Before, there was no village veterinary worker. We had to look for vet workers in other areas for vaccination services or treatment for sick animals. Since we had so much difficulty to contact veterinary workers, our sick buffalo and cows died one by one... Luckily, the project has come to the village and several people have been trained to be village veterinary workers. There are now 3 PHAWs who have completed the training."

During evaluations and further consultations with the villages, the local women asked VWB to help them improve poultry production before the next rainy season. In response to this request, Aeroplan wanted to support Vets without Borders to work on the poultry project and devised a fundraising campaign. For every photo or drawing submission they received of a chicken, Aeroplan donated \$5 to VWB. The campaign ran for the month of November in 2011 and there was an overwhelming response from people all over the world! Aeroplan received 2000 drawings of chickens which helped to raise \$10,000 for our project in Laos. Thank you to Aeroplan for selecting VWB/VSF for their employee engagement trip and for running such a successful campaign. Many thanks also goes to everyone who took the time to draw a chicken and submit it to Aeroplan!



SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS & VOLUNTEERS



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments



IDRC | CRDI

International Development Research Centre

Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Alliance for the Contraception
in Cats & Dogs

Ark Sciences

AUSAID

Bloorcourt Veterinary Clinic

Burnbrae Farms

Charity International
(Guatemala)

CHIRON Compounding
Pharmacy Inc.

Greater Good Foundation

Humane Society International

Idea Wild

IDEXX Laboratories

International Livestock
Research Institute

Iams

LifeLearn

PAWS for a cause

Prevost Veterinary Clinic

Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero
de Chile

Sherwood Park Animal Hospital

Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare
Centre

University of Guelph

University of Saskatchewan

13th World Veterinary
Congress Foundation

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PRIVATE DONORS

MONTHLY DONATIONS



Become a VWB/VSF monthly donor and help provide a stable flow of funding to support communities around the world. VWB/VSF monthly donors help create healthy animals, healthy people and a healthy environment for all.

Monthly giving also reduces administrative costs so a higher percentage of funds go directly to our programs for those in need.

To join VWB/VSF's monthly giving program, visit vetswithoutborders.ca or call our head office: **250-590-3340**.

“I GIVE MONTHLY TO VETS WITHOUT BORDERS BECAUSE I FIND IT VERY CONVENIENT TO SPREAD MY DONATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. I LIKE KNOWING THAT EACH MONTH VETERINARIANS WITHOUT BORDERS IS USING MY DONATION TO HELP COMMUNITIES AND THEIR ANIMALS WITH THE GREATEST NEEDS.”

- ANONYMOUS MONTHLY DONOR.

THE TO-DO LIST

1

DONATE TO THE BIG PICTURE

Be part of the big picture. Your contribution to Veterinarians without Borders is grounded in the philosophy that the health of animals, people and the ecosystems we share must be treated holistically. VWB/VSF can't do the work it does without you. Monetary donations support VWB/VSF-Canada programs, including the support of educational activities, and responses to requests for Canadian veterinary professionals and students who are volunteering their time and skills.



2

DONATE AEROPLAN MILES

Veterinarians without Borders (VWB/VSF) is proud to be one of the founding member charities supported by Aeroplan's Beyond Miles Program. Through Beyond Miles, Aeroplan members are able to donate unused reward miles to VWB/VSF. To date, Aeroplan and its members have contributed more than 14,257,209 miles to VWB/VSF. Donated miles allow us to send volunteer veterinarians and vet students to partner and work with local communities in over a dozen countries around the world and educate entire villages. Spread the word about Beyond Miles and double your donation, by giving your Aeroplan Miles to Vets without Borders on October 18. Aeroplan will match your donation of miles, to help our volunteers get into the field!

3

VOLUNTEER

Please visit our website for volunteer opportunities with Vets without Borders and other organizations. Sign up for our newsletter to have volunteer postings sent straight to your Inbox.

4

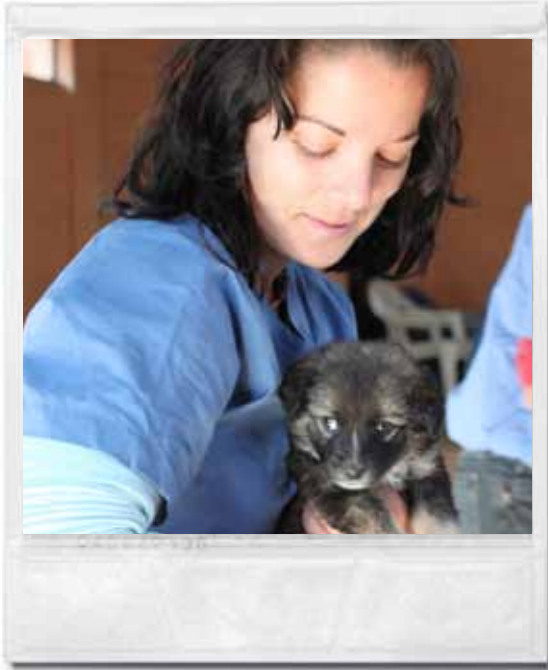
TELL YOUR FRIENDS

Present to your local school, club or your fellow colleagues and spread the word about Vets without Borders. If you would like a speaker, promotional materials or tips on how to fundraise for our programs, please contact us at info@vetswithoutborders.ca

5

SEND AN E-GIFT

Low on carbon, but full of heart. When you send an e-gift from Vets without Borders, not only are you giving to your friends and family, you are giving to families around the world. Our e-gifts help to educate and empower communities in need around the world. Farmers, families and children can start to improve and decide their futures and have healthier lives. Send our special e-gift, show how good multiplies.



THE PICTURE OF HEALTH.

A very special thank you to all of our field volunteers who work every day to realize our vision: healthy animals, healthy people and a healthy planet.

CHILE

DR. JACK GEWARTER
DR. SUSAN KUTZ

GHANA

DR. BRUCE HUNTER
DR. ISAAC LUGINAAH
DR. KIRSTIN MACDONALD

GUATEMALA

DR. ENID STILES
DR. TRACY CORNISH
MS. STACEY NESS
DR. ROBERTO MARTINEZ

KENYA

DR. JOHN VANLEEUEWEN

LAOS

DR. ANNE DREW
MR. THOM DREW
DR. BLANAID DONNELLY

NEPAL

DR. CLAIRE WINDEYER
DR. MELISSA WENTZELL

MALAWI

DR. BILL HAZEN

SRI LANKA

DR. KATE SAWFORD

CAMEROON

DR. ABOUBAKAR MOUNCHILI

TANZANIA

DR. ROGER THOMSON
ADAM LITTLE

UGANDA

DR. CLAIRE CARD
DR. ADIL NAZARALI

SOUTH SUDAN

MS. JOANNE OWENS
DR. DAVID WALTNER-TOEWS

HAITI

DR. ANDRÉ VALLIÈRES
DR. ALEXANDRA VOKATY

TANYA MURPHY



MOVING PICTURES.

These are the people who help shape our vision of the big picture by generously contributing their images of our projects from around the world.

CLAIRE CARD

TRACY CORNISH

LAUREN CRAWSHAW

ANNE DREW

THOM DREW

VIVIAN FAN

SONIA FÈVRE

LUIS GARCIA

ELENA GARDE

JACK GEWARTER

CARLOS JOHNSON

DORIS LEUNG

TRACE MACKAY

SCARLETT MAGDA

LAURA MCDONALD

GUILLERMO PÉREZ

KATHLEEN SARY

ALISON SHARP

AMANDA SITAL

ERIN SKILLEN

ENID STILES

SHEILA TAYLOR

ROGER THOMSON

MIRA ZIOLO



VETERINARIANS
WITHOUT BORDERS



VÉTÉRINAIRES
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VETSWITHOUTBORDERS.CA

Canadian charitable number: 84146 9547 RR0001