

Vet Scope

...Veterinary Insights: Narrate, Impact, Care



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The Future of Veterinary Medicine in Kenya

**Small Steps to
a Better Future**

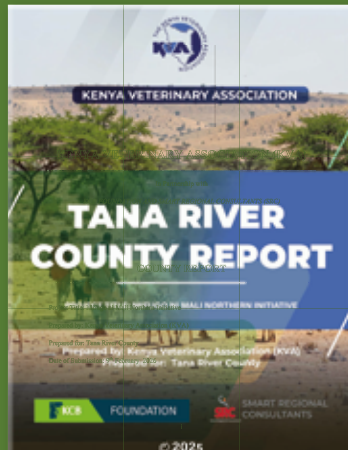
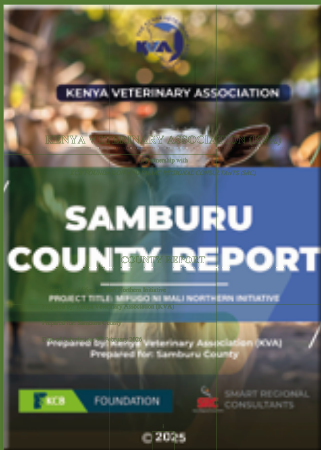
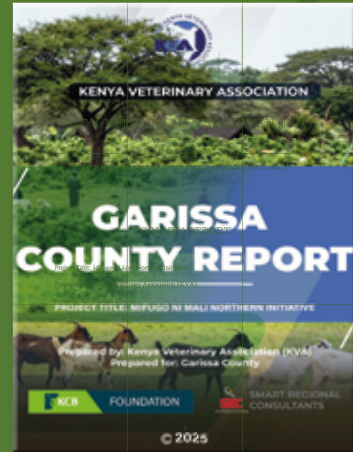
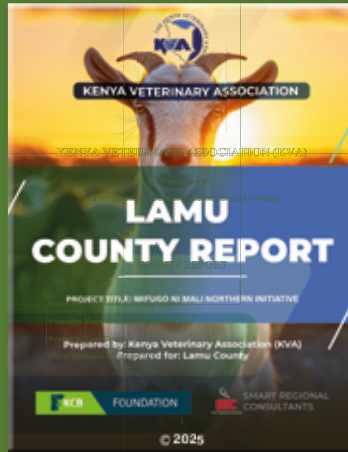
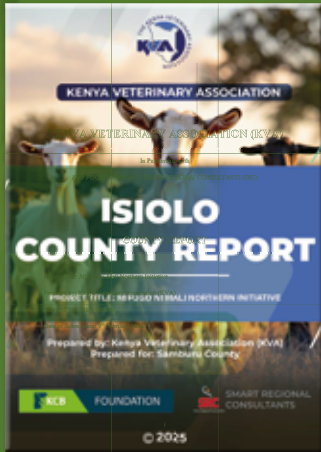
**Transforming
Kenya's Livestock
Sector:** Milestones and
the Road Ahead

by Dr. William Ruto, CGH,
President of the Republic of Kenya

**Conservation
Efforts to Safeguard
the Hirola antelope
A Vet's Perspective**

**Innovation and Biosecurity
in Poultry Production**





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Letter from the Editor

KVA is pleased to present the 14th issue of the KVA Magazine, Vet Scope. This edition is slightly larger than previous issues, a reflection of the growth in depth and diversity of contributions from the Veterinary Community. It features a wide range of articles covering animal health and welfare, wildlife conservation, food safety and trade, and communication—topics that continue to shape the profession in Kenya and beyond.

Issue 14 is particularly special as it includes high-level commentaries from H.E. Dr. William Ruto; Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service; Hon. Mutahi Kagwe and the President of the World Veterinary Association (WVA). Their perspectives highlight the increasing recognition of Veterinary Medicine as a critical pillar in National Economic Development and global Veterinary initiatives.

Guided by the theme “The Future of Veterinary Medicine in Kenya,” this issue brings together thought-provoking articles that explore where the Practice of Veterinary Medicine intersects with Innovation and Technology. From emerging diagnostic tools to new approaches in animal disease control, the contributions in this edition point toward a Profession that is evolving to meet the challenges of a dynamic world.

To provide a softer and more personal dimension, the magazine also documents stories from leaders within the Kenyan Veterinary community, offering insights into their journeys, experiences and inspirations. In addition, readers will find moments of lightness and creativity through humor, fiction, poetry and art, reminding us that the Veterinary Profession is as rich in humanity as it is in science.

We received an overwhelming number of article submissions from you, our readers, a clear testimony of the strong support for the Vet Scope Magazine, and the vibrancy of our Vets. We are sincerely grateful for this engagement and warmly encourage you to continue sharing your ideas, experiences and research through future contributions.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved in the creation of this issue—authors, editors, designers, publishers and partners. Their dedication has made this publication possible and stands as proof that the Future of Veterinary Medicine in Kenya is indeed bright.

Enjoy the read.

Agnes



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President's Perspective: Small Steps to a Better Future



It is my pleasure to address you in this edition of the KVA Magazine at a time when our Association continues to make significant strides in strengthening the Veterinary Profession and advancing the livestock sector in Kenya. We remain firmly committed to ensuring that KVA is both responsive to the needs of its members and influential in shaping the future of Animal Health, Public Health and Livestock Development.

One of the most significant milestones achieved recently has been the adoption and ratification of the new KVA Constitution 2026. This important step modernizes the governance of our Association, aligns it with current legal and professional realities, and provides a stronger institutional framework for the growth and sustainability of KVA.

We are also delighted that KVA has become the implementing partner in Kenya for the GALVmed Vital 2 Project. Through this initiative, KVA will play a direct role in improving access to quality Veterinary Medicines and strengthening Livestock Health Systems, ultimately benefiting farmers, Veterinarians, and the broader agricultural economy. Furthermore, our partnership with KCB Foundation under the *Mifugo Ni Mali* initiative has also been extended for another year. Strategic partnerships such as these demonstrate the growing recognition of KVA as a credible stakeholder in the livestock value chain.

In addition, I am pleased to report that the study commissioned by KVA to determine the safety of chicken consumed in Nairobi has now been completed. As Veterinarians, safeguarding the health of both animals and people remains central to our mandate, and such research strengthens the profession's voice in these critical discussions.

Looking ahead, this year promises to be an exciting one for our members. We will soon gather for the 60th KVA Congress, scheduled for April 21–24, culminating in the Annual General Meeting on April 23 and the World Veterinary Day on April 25. I warmly invite all to attend, actively participate, and consider offering themselves for leadership by vying for positions in the NEC.

The NEC has also intensified efforts to resolve long-standing labour issues affecting Veterinarians in the Public Service. Among the key priorities are the harmonization of allowances with those of other Healthcare Professionals, the increase of the Veterinary internship stipend, and improvements in overall terms of service. I am pleased to report that the NEC has already engaged the leadership of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission, including the Chairman and CEO, and these discussions have resulted in encouraging commitments toward addressing these concerns.

At the same time, we are determined to position KVA for the future. Plans are underway to begin development on the Association's Loresho plot, a project that will provide a permanent home for KVA and create opportunities for long-term institutional growth. In parallel, we are developing a Strategic Plan for 2026–2030 that will guide the Association's priorities and strengthen its impact.

Our vision is clear: KVA must become the most authoritative voice on matters of Public Health and the Livestock Sub-sector in Kenya. By strengthening Veterinary Services and advocating for sound policies, we can protect Public Health and unlock the full potential of Livestock Production and push its contribution to National GDP even higher.

Dr. Kelvin Osore, President
Kenya Veterinary Association

The Future of the Veterinary Profession in Kenya

Dr. Samson Muchelule, Chief Executive Officer – Kenya Veterinary Association

The Veterinary Profession in Kenya stands at a defining moment shaped by evolving disease patterns, climate change and technological advancement.

As this landscape becomes more complex, Veterinarians must continue to adapt, innovate and lead. Central to the profession's future is the One Health approach. As zoonotic diseases, environmental degradation and public health threats continue to rise, Veterinarians are uniquely positioned at the intersection of animal, human and ecosystem health. This places the profession at the forefront of collaborative and multi-sectoral solutions that protect livelihoods, strengthen food systems and safeguard public health.

The livestock sub-sector contributes approximately 12% to Kenya's GDP, with Veterinary Surgeons playing a pivotal role in sustaining this economic value. Through disease prevention, surveillance, certification and extension services, the profession safeguards animal health and productivity while enabling safe trade and market access. Veterinarians also protect public health through food safety oversight, zoonoses prevention, antimicrobial resistance stewardship; and the promotion of internationally recognized animal welfare standards, reinforcing livestock's contribution to national development. It is within this context that the Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA) will host the Annual Scientific Congress and World Veterinary Day (WVD) Celebrations at the Diamonds Leisure Hotel in, Diani, Kwale County from 21st to 25th April 2026. The Congress will bring together Veterinary Surgeons, animal health professionals, researchers, policymakers, industry partners, and development actors to reflect on the profession's trajectory and chart a path forward. The Congress will provide a critical platform for professional development, scientific exchange, and strategic dialogue on emerging and re-emerging diseases, food safety, antimicrobial resistance, animal welfare and sustainable livestock production. These greatly underscore



the expanding scope and relevance of the Veterinary Profession.

As we celebrate WVD, we honor the resilience, dedication and expertise of Veterinary Professionals across Kenya. Together, we have the opportunity and responsibility to shape a Profession that is bold in leadership, grounded in science and driven by purpose. I invite all members and stakeholders to join us as we collectively advance a future that safeguards livelihoods, protects public health, and delivers a healthier, more sustainable tomorrow through One Health.

Dr. Samson Muchelule,
Chief Executive Officer – Kenya
Veterinary Association



The Veterinary Profession must remain bold in leadership, grounded in science, and driven by purpose.

Transforming Kenya's Livestock Sector: Milestones and the Road Ahead

by Dr. William Ruto, CGH, President of the Republic of Kenya

The livestock sub-sector is a vital pillar of Kenya's economy, supporting millions of households and contributing significantly to food security, employment, and exports.

Guided by the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), Vision 2030, the Kampala CAADP Declaration 2025, Africa Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the government has prioritized livestock development as a key driver of inclusive growth and resilience.

The government is modernizing and transforming the livestock sub-sector through targeted interventions, including breed improvement, strengthened extension services, enhanced animal health and welfare, value addition and market development, increased local capacity for feed manufacturing, technology adoption, improved pasture and rangeland management, climate resilience and environmental safeguards, expanded access to finance and insurance, streamlined policies and regulations, and the inclusion of youth, women, and persons with disabilities in livestock enterprises. These efforts are ensuring that the livestock sub-sector contributes more effectively to food security and economic growth.

Recent achievements are noteworthy. In the dairy value chain, Kenya currently produces over 5.4 billion litres of milk annually, representing a 15% increase since 2022. Dairy exports have risen

by 92% (KSh 4.5 billion), supported by key interventions such as the distribution of 230 milk coolers across the country, guaranteed milk returns of KSh 50 per litre, registration of 173 new cooperatives, and the rollout of quality-based milk payment systems.

In the meat value chain, Kenya is shifting from live animal exports to processed products, thereby boosting local value addition and employment. Since 2022, meat exports have grown by 29% (4,343 metric tonnes), with export value increasing by 45% (KSh 4 billion), while live animal exports have declined by 31%. To sustain this progress, model feedlots are being established in Kitui, Baringo, Meru, and Wajir counties. Additionally, honey production has increased by 17.6% since 2022, reaching 20 million kilograms.

Animal health remains central to productivity. The National Mass Livestock Vaccination Campaign against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) is currently ongoing across the country, with all vaccines manufactured locally at KEVEVAPI. Genetic improvement is also advancing, with KAGRIC supplying over 2.5 million straws of bull semen, including subsidized sexed semen. In addition, a Goat Artificial Insemination Centre has been established in Kirinyaga County. To strengthen animal health and food safety systems, the government is establishing a National Veterinary Medicines Quality Control Laboratory, a biosafety level 3 veterinary laboratory, and a honey quality assurance and testing laboratory.

On technology adoption, the government has developed the Animal Identification and Traceability (ANITRAC) system, currently at the pilot stage. Livestock farmers are also being registered under KIAMIS, enabling the rollout of an e-voucher livestock vaccination programme, with plans to expand to other livestock-related products and services. Youth



I commend our Veterinary Professionals for being at the heart of this transformation-ensuring animal health, productivity, food safety, and sustainable growth.

empowerment remains a priority, with over 2,500 veterinary interns deployed nationwide, 6,500 youths trained, and three new Livestock Training Institutes established in Baringo, Migori, and Kitui.

Looking ahead, Kenya is finalizing the Livestock Master Plan, alongside other strategies aimed at guiding and de-risking investment in the sector. Infrastructure development through County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) will further accelerate aggregation, value addition, market access, and competitiveness for small-scale producers.

I commend our veterinary professionals for being at the heart of this transformation-ensuring animal health, productivity, food safety, and sustainable growth. Together, we are building a livestock sector that is resilient, innovative, and globally competitive.



Strengthening Veterinary Services for National Growth, Innovation and One Health under BETA

by Mr. Felix K. Koskei, EGH. Chief of Staff and Head of The Public Service

The Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) places livestock at the centre of Kenya's strategy for inclusive growth, job creation and economic resilience. It recognizes that a modern, competitive livestock sector cannot be built on production alone, but must rest on strong Veterinary Systems that protect animal health, public health and market integrity. Within this framework, Veterinary Services are not peripheral support functions; they are strategic infrastructure for national development. In advancing these priorities, KVA and the wider Veterinary Profession act as key partners in translating policy into operational systems.

Veterinary Professionals design and sustain the architecture of Animal Health Governance. Their work spans epidemiological intelligence, biosecurity design, regulation of Veterinary Medicines, and Certification Systems that enable safe domestic consumption and international trade. Effective Veterinary oversight reduces systemic risk in livestock value chains and protects the economic returns that BETA seeks to scale. A critical strategic shift under the livestock agenda is the movement from reactive disease control to predictive, data-driven management. Modern Veterinary Systems increasingly rely on integrated digital platforms that combine field reporting, laboratory diagnostics and real-time analytics. These systems allow early detection of outbreaks, faster containment of transboundary diseases and more efficient allocation of resources. Precision livestock technologies, digital traceability and electronic certification strengthen accountability while improving productivity and investor confidence in the sector.

International experience demonstrates the importance of technologically-enabled Veterinary Governance. Countries such as Italy have embedded digital animal identification and traceability frameworks within broader European systems that link Animal Health Surveillance with trade facilitation and food safety assurance. Such models show that Veterinary modernisation is not merely a technical upgrade but a strategic enabler of competitiveness, consumer trust and access to high-value markets. Kenya's livestock transformation under BETA increasingly draws on these lessons, adapting them to local institutional and economic realities.

The Veterinary Profession also operates at the center of the One Health interface, where animal, human and environmental health converge. Strengthened collaboration between Veterinary Services, Public Health Institutions and Environmental Agencies enhances preparedness against zoonotic disease and antimicrobial resistance. This integrated approach is essential to National health security and aligns livestock development with broader Public Health objectives. Equally important is sustained investment in human capital. Advanced training in epidemiology, data science, laboratory science and regulatory practice is expanding the profession's capacity to manage complex and evolving risks. At the same time, structured integration of Veterinary Paraprofessionals extends service delivery into



Effective Veterinary oversight reduces systemic risk in livestock value chains and protects the economic returns

under-served areas, ensuring that national programmes translate into practical benefits for farmers and communities. Veterinary leadership also supports innovation in breeding, genetics and husbandry systems that raise productivity while improving resilience to climate and disease pressures. By linking scientific research, extension services and private sector participation, the profession helps to drive value addition across dairy, meat, honey and allied industries.

Taken together, these dimensions position Veterinary Services as a strategic pillar of Kenya's livestock transformation. Through strong professional institutions, technological modernization and cross-sectoral collaboration, the Veterinary Profession underpins a livestock economy that is more productive, secure and globally competitive. This foundation is essential to achieving the ambitions of BETA and to ensuring that livestock contributes fully to national growth, public health and long-term economic stability.



The Vital Role of Veterinarians in Kenya

By Sen. Mutahi Kagwe, EGH. Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development

I wish to commend The Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA) for their strategic advocacy and policy dialogue. By engaging government and stakeholders, the Association has helped shape policies that advance the livestock sector.

Through robust frameworks and collaborative initiatives, KVA has continuously promoted the welfare of veterinarians, while also promoting animal welfare by advocating for responsible animal ownership and care.

The government acknowledges the vital role veterinarians play at the intersection of public health, food safety, and economic growth. Veterinarians provide frontline services in the rapid detection, response, and prevention of animal diseases. Veterinarians have done a commendable work in improving policy and governance, capacity building and research, and in the private sector. Their expertise highlights the strength of Kenya's veterinary ecosystem and the dedication of professionals working tirelessly to safeguard both animal and human health. Equally commendable are veterinarians' contribution in providing extension services and awareness, which have positively impacted farmers. These initiatives not only protect animal and human

populations, but also strengthen food security and livelihoods.

Significant government investments in the livestock sector have opened pathways for increased productivity and expanded market access, positioning livestock as a key driver of national development. We reaffirm our commitment to supporting development of the livestock sector by allocation of more resources, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and fostering strategic partnerships. These efforts will ensure that Kenya's livestock sector remains resilient, productive, and aligned with global best practices.

I wish to challenge veterinarians to adopt modern technologies in digital veterinary services, telemedicine, and AI driven solutions such as in diagnostics. Further veterinarians should champion initiatives promoting climate smart agriculture.

On behalf of the government, I extend heartfelt gratitude to the Kenya



Veterinarians stand at the vital intersection of public health, food safety, and economic growth, safeguarding both animal and human well-being.

Veterinary Association for its leadership, collaboration, and providing a platform for continuous engagement. Together, we are building a future where animal health service providers are empowered, and the livestock sector continues to contribute meaningfully to job creation, farmer incomes, and Kenya's economic growth.



The Future of Veterinary Medicine in Kenya

by John de Jong, DVM.

President 2024-2026, World Veterinary Association



It gives me great pleasure to write about a topic that I have little specific knowledge about with the belief and conviction that the Future of Veterinary Medicine is broad and interconnected. There is a lot in common, globally, that Kenya and our Profession must face in the years to come. Kenya is not alone in facing the challenges that are seen across the Profession. There are numerous ones and, while they might differ somewhat in level of importance geographically, these challenges are universal and I urge my colleagues to see them not necessarily as challenges but as opportunities to make substantial and effective changes as they present themselves.

The first challenge that Kenya, and all of Veterinary Medicine, must deal with is the lightning speed evolution of Artificial Intelligence and all of the technologies that are either utilized or can be potentially used in Veterinary Medicine. Of utmost importance is that Veterinarians be at the table in helping to develop these advances rather than letting them be done for us. Veterinarians are highly intelligent and well-trained individuals that have the capacity to do so. Kenyan Veterinarians can be instrumental in assuring that new developments are useful to themselves and their colleagues.

It is well understood and accepted that there are shortages of Veterinarians globally and I suspect that Kenya is no different. This is because Veterinary Medicine is more than just taking care of pets and companion animals. Veterinarians are involved with food safety, food animal production, epidemiology, public health, animal welfare, aquaculture, research and

education, the human animal bond, wildlife and exotics, One Health; and so much more. Kenya must do what it can to meet the demand for Veterinarians to fill these roles in the nation or others can and will do it for us. This might mean expanding academic opportunities in Kenya for Veterinary and Veterinary Paraprofessional training. Additionally, as we have seen a demographic shift in the Profession over the last several years to see a predominance of women in many countries, Kenya must recognize and support Female Veterinarians as the significant and growing part of the workforce that they are.

I mention One Health. Veterinarians have been the most important and vocal leaders of this. Kenya, like the rest of the world, will need to look at the health of animals, humans and the environment together as a whole to optimize the health of all beings. This being because we are all inextricably intertwined for sustainable life on earth. With the increasing amount of emerging disease and zoonoses, it is more important than ever that Kenyan Veterinarians are adequately prepared to meet the challenges that these bring. The Future of Veterinary Medicine in Kenya should be in working with physicians and environmentalists to assure this within the One Health framework. Kenyan Veterinarians need to advocate for Veterinary drug availability with suppliers. They also need to work with the government and regulatory bodies to have the assistance needed to provide for the availability of Essential Veterinary Medicines. This is in order to provide for the delivery of care for animals as necessary. The World Veterinary Association (WVA) can be of great support in these efforts.

“

The challenges facing veterinary medicine are not barriers, but opportunities for innovation, leadership, and meaningful change.

Beyond the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, I believe that the Future of Veterinary Medicine in Kenya is bright! Kenya is increasingly serving as a Center for Diplomacy, Commerce and Innovation. This should lead to economic growth, and it will be critical to support this with strategic thinking and strong financial policies. This will provide opportunities for Kenyan Veterinarians to work collaboratively in all of these areas. The Veterinarians and Veterinary students from Kenya that I have either known or come to know about have impressed me with their skills, knowledge and aptitude. I urge Veterinarians in Kenya, and around the world, to be loud and proud for Veterinary Medicine. Kenyan Veterinarians that have worked with the WVA have shown themselves to be able stewards of whatever lies ahead in the nation and represent Kenya well at the international level. The WVA looks forward to seeing all that Kenya can and will do for our noble Profession.



One Profession, One Future:

Why Institutional Synergy will Define the Greatness of Veterinary Profession in Kenya

by Dr. Moses Olum

There is a moment every Veterinarian remembers. It may be standing in a dusty cattle *boma* at sunrise, vaccinating calves as herders look on with quiet hope. It may be in a laboratory, confirming a diagnosis that will stop an outbreak or a pandemic before it happens. Or perhaps it is in a lecture hall, when the weight of the oath, to protect animal health, public health and livelihoods, first settles on young shoulders. Or on the road, delivering critical Vet inputs and supplies to those who need it most. *We all make a difference; These moments feel personal. Yet they are never individual.*

These moments are held up by institutions, policy bodies, universities, regulators, researchers, producers, input suppliers, paraprofessionals and professional associations, each carrying a fragment of the Veterinary Mandate. The future of the profession, and indeed of Kenya's livestock economy, rests on how well these key players come together. At the centre of this collective identity stands the KVA, not as a regulator, not as an employer, but as the Profession's conscience and convening voice. Civil society in its truest sense, holding space for dialogue, defending professional dignity, and reminding all actors that Veterinary Services ultimately exist to serve farmers, citizens and national prosperity.

Policy and Regulatory bodies form the governance backbone of Animal Health Systems. The Directorate of Veterinary Services shapes disease surveillance, outbreak response and trade certification frameworks that determine whether Kenyan livestock products access regional and global markets. Alongside it, the Kenya Veterinary

Board safeguards the integrity of the profession itself, who is trained, who is licensed and what standards define veterinary practice. Complementing both is the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, ensuring that the drugs used to treat animals are safe, effective, and responsibly deployed in an era increasingly threatened by antimicrobial resistance. Individually, these mandates are powerful. Collectively, they are transformative. When regulation aligns with surveillance, and drug control aligns with professional standards, farmers experience not bureaucracy, but protection. They gain confidence in Animal Health Systems, and that confidence drives uptake of Veterinary Services, compliance with vaccination programs, and trust in food safety systems.

Upstream from regulation sits academia, quietly shaping the profession's future long before graduates ever enter the field. Universities do more than confer degrees. They shape how Veterinarians see farmers – and how farmers see Vets, how they understand public health, and how they position themselves within national development. Yet the transition from lecture hall to industry reality remains one of the profession's most delicate fault lines and times. It creates unrest, unmeasured exchange of words and distrust amongst the professionals. Young Veterinarians often step into a labour market that feels uncertain, competitive and under-structured. Many struggle to access internships, mentorship and practice capital. Creating a softer landing for them is not an act of charity. It is an investment in the profession's longevity. Structured internships, stronger clinical residencies, exposure to research and industry, and mentorship platforms anchored by Professional bodies can

transform early career anxiety into confidence.

Science and innovation complete the ecosystem. National Research and Vaccine Production institutions translate laboratory discovery into field solutions, vaccines, diagnostics, breeding technologies and disease control tools that sustain productivity. Their work ensures Kenya is not merely a consumer of Animal Health Technologies but a producer, securing both biosecurity and regional influence. Locally produced vaccines reduce outbreak response time, lower farmer costs and strengthen national preparedness. Research innovations improve breeds, feeds and resilience to climate stress. Together, they anchor livestock growth on science rather than chance.

Industry occupies a powerful enabling space within the Veterinary Profession. Beyond products, pharmaceutical firms, vaccine manufacturers, distributors and private Veterinary enterprises hold the capacity to accelerate innovation and strengthen service delivery. In more advanced Veterinary systems globally, industry co-invests in research translation, supports clinical training, equips laboratories and funds continuous professional development. This ensures that science moves quickly from bench to field. Working alongside regulators, universities, research institutes and professional associations, industry helps operationalize disease control programs, strengthens medicine stewardship and prepares young Veterinarians for modern practice realities. Positioned within ethical and regulatory guardrails, the private sector therefore becomes not just a market actor, but a co-steward of professional growth, livestock productivity and farmer prosperity. >>

« However much we put in place strong policies, training and innovation frameworks, Service Delivery would remain incomplete without Veterinary Paraprofessionals. Across Kenya's vast rangelands and smallholder systems, Paraprofessionals form the Profession's last mile presence. They vaccinate, advise, report disease events and sustain Animal Health access in areas where veterinarians are few. Their proximity to farmers makes them indispensable in preventive health systems. Framing them as competitors or inconsequential juniors misunderstands both hierarchy and service demand. The more progressive view, and the one the Profession must continue to nurture, is that Paraprofessionals are structured support cadres operating under Veterinarian oversight. In this tiered model, Veterinarians retain diagnostic authority, surgical practice and prescription control, while Paraprofessionals extend preventive and routine services. If this is adhered to, coverage expands without compromising standards. Collaboration replaces tension, and farmers receive more consistent care. Though even they too, must recognize this tiered model and remain accountable. Here

again, KVA holds a delicate but vital space, advocating for Professional Protection while fostering cooperation frameworks that strengthen, rather than fragment, Service Delivery. When these relationships function as intended, synergy becomes visible not in boardrooms but in villages. Disease outbreaks are detected earlier. Vaccination coverage rises. Drug misuse declines. Productivity improves. Market access stabilizes. Farmer incomes grow. National food safety strengthens. Livestock contribution to GDP expands, not through abstract economics, but through healthier animals and more secure livelihoods – the dream of increasing the livestock sub sector GDP to 20% could become a reality.

If this is intentionally and deliberately achieved, the Veterinary Profession then steps into its full modern identity, not only as animal doctors, but as custodians of One Health. Zoonotic disease prevention, antimicrobial stewardship, climate resilience, and food system safety now sit squarely within its mandate. Institutional fragmentation in such a context is not merely inefficient. It is risky. Great professions are not defined solely

by technical skill, but by cohesion of purpose where;

- Policy arms regulate with foresight.
- Universities train with relevance.
- Researchers innovate with industry urgency and relevance.
- Professionals and Paraprofessionals serve with accountability.
- Professional Associations unifying with vision.
- Industry delivers with a focus on prosperity

This is the architecture that will determine whether Veterinary Services in Kenya merely function, or flourish. And perhaps that is the profession's enduring call, the Future of Veterinary Medicine in Kenya: To see itself not as separate offices, titles or mandates, but as one ecosystem bound by service to farmers, to citizens and to the nation's prosperity.

For when livestock thrive, livelihoods rise. And when livelihoods rise, the country stands taller, supported quietly but powerfully by one united Veterinary Profession.

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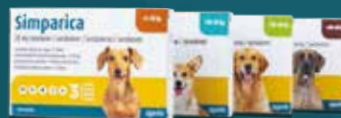
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Horse-Racing and Polo:

Social and Practical Insights from Clinical Practice

Dr. Lesley Sercombe

I was introduced to horses from birth. My grandfather trained racehorses, my mother trained racehorses; and both my parents are Veterinarians. Horses were never an external interest; they were part of daily life. Over the years, thousands of horses have passed through my hands, first as a jockey and now as a Veterinarian. That lifelong exposure has shaped a practical, welfare-driven approach to equine sport.

One of the most consistent lessons from working in racing and polo environments is that treatment alone is never enough. Every case requires a structured pathway: Diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and re-evaluation. These plans must be written down and explained clearly. In reality, much of a horse's daily care is carried out by grooms, not owners, so education at that level is essential. Clinical histories are frequently incomplete or inaccurate, and horses are often more chronically affected than initially reported. This requires Veterinarians to be observant, investigative and thorough in every examination. Preventative care forms the foundation of welfare. Parasite control, vaccination, dentistry and hoof balance are non-negotiable. In bush environments where horses share grazing with wildlife such as zebra, parasite exposure is high. Single faecal egg counts can be misleading unless repeated over time, and in many cases routine three-monthly de-worming remains the safest option. African horse sickness vaccination must be planned strategically, ensuring adequate immunity before the rainy seasons.

Nutrition is frequently under-estimated. Thoroughbreds have substantially higher energy requirements than breeds such as warmbloods or Friesians. They are also particularly prone to gastric ulcers if access to forage is restricted. Frequent feeding and continuous forage access are essential for both physical and gastrointestinal health. In regions with high environmental phosphorus levels,

calcium availability is compromised. While commercial supplements exist, cost can be prohibitive. In practice, feed lime provides an affordable and effective calcium source that works well within limited resources.

Correct tack, particularly saddle fit, is another major welfare issue. Poorly fitting saddles are commonly associated with shoulder restriction, back pain, muscle atrophy and behavioural problems. Ill-fitting tack can undermine both training and veterinary treatment. Thus, it should be assessed routinely as part of clinical care. Every injury or illness needs a clear plan that includes treatment, rest, rehabilitation and follow-up. These instructions must be followed carefully, especially by the people handling the horse daily. Routine care is essential. Horses must be de-wormed regularly, vaccinated correctly, have their teeth checked; and their hooves trimmed and balanced. Poor hoof care or badly fitting saddles commonly cause lameness and back pain.

It is also essential to recognize that the true cost of a horse is not buying it, but keeping it. A horse is a continuous monthly financial commitment with no guaranteed return. It requires quality forage, regular healthcare and skilled management. When this reality is overlooked, welfare suffers.

Collaboration remains central to good practice. Seeking second opinions, sharing experience and learning openly improves outcomes. Knowledge grows when it is shared, and professional humility ultimately benefits the horse, which must always remain the priority. Owning a horse is enjoyable, however, it is also a long-term financial and ethical responsibility. When owners understand this and work closely with their vet, their horses stay healthier, happier and sounder for longer.

Know your Horse Breeds

Horse breeds can be divided into four groups: Light horses, draft horses, gaited horses and ponies. Light horses are suited for riding and racing, draft horses for heavy work, gaited horses for smooth, long rides, and ponies are small yet strong and versatile. Knowing these categories helps in appreciating each breed's qualities and making informed decisions when choosing a horse.

Light Horses

Light horses are typically taller, leaner and faster than other breeds. They excel in activities like racing, jumping and endurance riding. Examples of light horses include the Thoroughbred, Arabian and Quarter Horse.

Draft Horses

Draft horses are large, muscular breeds built for heavy work, such as plowing fields or pulling carriages. These gentle giants include the Belgian, Clydesdale and Shire.

Gaited Horses

Gaited horses have unique, smooth gaits that make them comfortable for riding long distances. They are known for their natural rhythm and grace. Examples of gaited horses include the Tennessee Walking Horse, Paso Fino and Missouri Fox Trotter.

Ponies

Ponies are smaller breeds, usually under 14.2 hands high, with sturdy frames and friendly dispositions. They are popular among children and novice riders. Examples of ponies include the Shetland Pony, Welsh Pony and Haflinger.



THOROUGHBREDS - Known for their speed and agility. They are the stars of horse racing.



WARMBLOODS - Middle-weight athletic horses. Excel in dressage and show jumping.



TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE - Easy going horse known for trail and pleasure riding.



FRIESIAN - Elegant, powerful horse. Often used in dressage and driving competitions.



SHETLAND PONY - small, hardy horse. Popular for children's riding lessons.



BELGIAN - Among the largest and strongest horses. Used for heavy work tasks e.g. farming and logging.

(Adapted from: <https://www.sstack.com/blog/schneiders-saddlery-news/horse-breeds-101/b/r0196/>)

Small Animal Practice in the ASALs of Kitui

by Jeffrey Kyalo Musya

Small animal practice in Kitui County has undergone a transformative journey shaped by the unique environmental, socioeconomic and cultural dynamics of arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs).

Historically, Veterinary Services in this region primarily focused on livestock due to their central role in livelihoods and food security. However, the growing significance of companion animals, particularly dogs and cats, has created new avenues for Animal Health Professionals.

Kitui County faces harsh climatic conditions characterized by persistent drought, unpredictable rainfall and limited natural resources. Small animal practice has had to evolve in a context where priorities often favor livestock, and where pets are perceived as having limited economic value. Community attitudes are changing with increased appreciation of pets for security, companionship and a status symbol for the youthful generation. This transformation is broadening the scope of Veterinary Practice in a region long dominated by ruminant medicine. It is in this that I saw an opportunity to address health challenges affecting small animals. Infectious diseases, including canine parvovirus, distemper, rabies and parasitism, remain prevalent due to limited vaccination and inadequate preventive care. Cats often present with malnutrition, ecto-parasites and trauma. These are linked to free-roaming lifestyles and insufficient feeding. These realities demand practical innovations to address constraints in diagnostic tools and medication supplies. Strong clinical judgment, field-based management and community outreach remain essential to delivering effective care. Rabies control stands out as a critical public health responsibility linked to small animal practice in the ASALs. Dogs are widely kept for security yet inconsistently vaccinated. This creates a persistent risk of zoonotic spillover. Veterinary Practitioners in Kitui actively participate in awareness campaigns, mass vaccination drives and school-based education to improve responsible dog ownership. These activities align with One Health principles.

The economic realities of Kitui also shape the business model of small animal practice. Many households have limited financial resources, making affordability crucial for access to services. Mobile Veterinary Services have proven effective in reaching remote communities by reducing travel costs and bridging geographical barriers. A hybrid model combining clinic-based care with field interventions will be the future of small animal practice in the ASALs.

Technology increasingly influences Veterinary Service delivery in the County. Urban pet owners with rural roots frequently use social media to locate Veterinarians for their pets at home. Wider mobile phone access has created pathways for tele-consultations, appointment booking and the dissemination of educational content. Although network coverage and electricity remain inconsistent in some areas, digital platforms continue to support disease awareness

and promotion of vaccinations and sterilization programs. Continuous professional development has strengthened clinical and surgical competence. Knowledge exchange has improved the management of small animal conditions.

Cultural perceptions influence the growth of small animal practice. In Kitui, cats are still associated with superstition, while dogs are valued for security. Changing such beliefs requires patience, consistent stakeholder engagement and education that highlights the emotional, social and public health benefits of animal welfare.

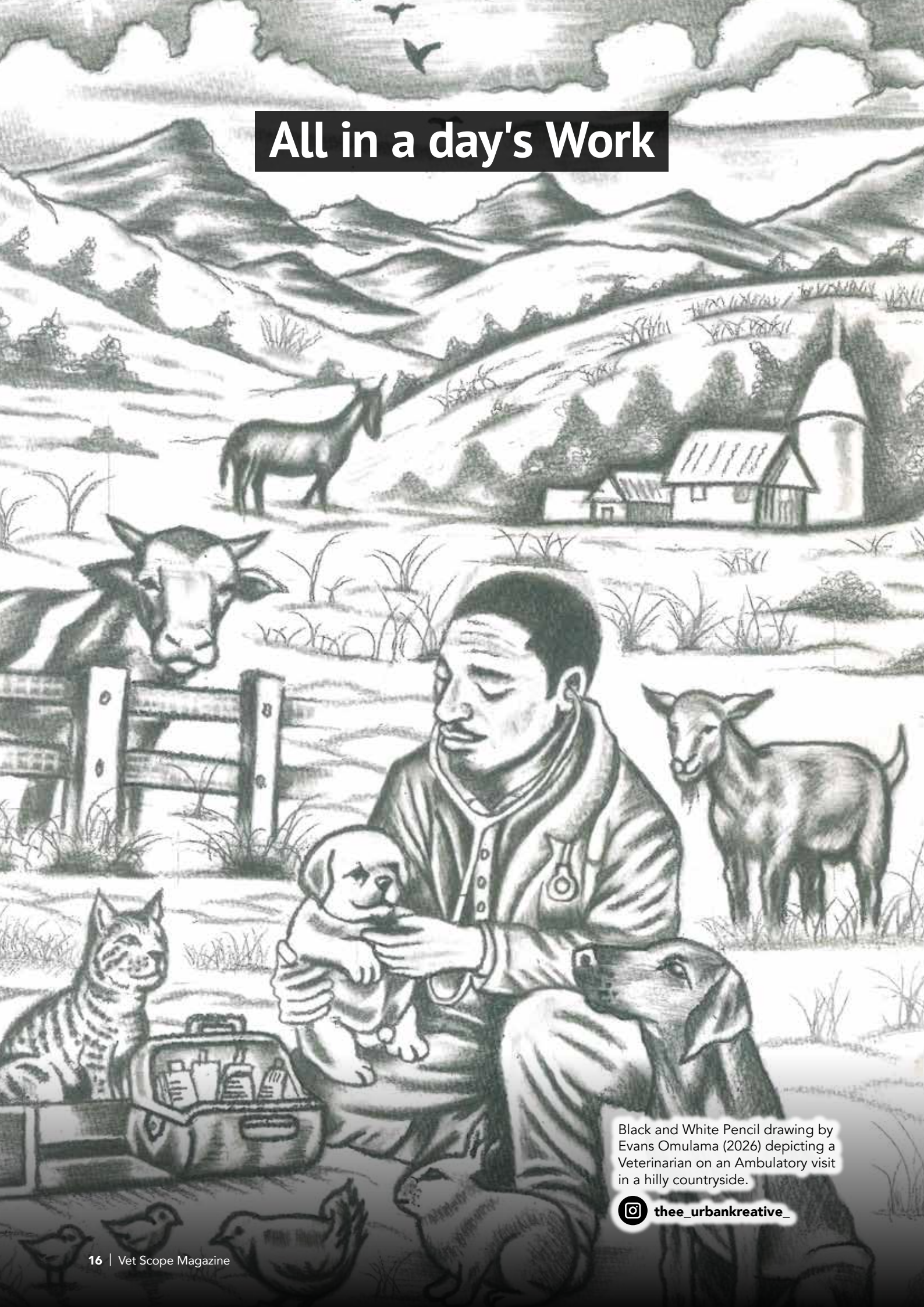
Looking ahead, sustainability and resilience will shape the future clinical landscape. Veterinarians must adopt adaptive strategies that safeguard animal welfare while responding to shifting epidemiological trends. Strengthening Veterinary infrastructure in ASALs will require collaboration among Government agencies, communities, civil society groups and private sector organizations. Investment, especially in diagnostic and imaging equipment; and laboratory capacity will enhance service delivery. Integrating animal welfare and disaster preparedness within Veterinary planning will improve readiness for drought-related challenges and emerging diseases.

The future of small animal practice in Kitui will increasingly align with global advancements in One Health, telemedicine, community-centered models and preventive healthcare. Resilience, innovation and dedication remain essential to success in environments where challenges are prominent. The growing recognition of pets as valued family members signals rising demand for professional Veterinary Services.


In conclusion, the experience of small animal practice in Kitui demonstrates a compelling narrative of transformation. From minimal emphasis on companion animals to a progressive shift in community expectations, the region illustrates how Veterinary practice evolves through necessity, adaptation and collaboration. Although progress is gradual, the future is bright. It promises a more robust, inclusive and technologically driven Veterinary Profession.

“ Veterinary practice evolves through necessity, adaptation and collaboration.”

All in a day's Work



Black and White Pencil drawing by Evans Omulama (2026) depicting a Veterinarian on an Ambulatory visit in a hilly countryside.

 [thee_urbankreative_](https://www.instagram.com/thee_urbankreative_)

Conservation Efforts to Safeguard the Hirola antelope

A Vet's Perspective

by Dr. Steve Chege

As a long-time wildlife Veterinarian, I have worked with many species across Africa, particularly in Kenya—ranging from wildlife in abundance to those at the brink of extinction.

One such critically endangered species is the **hirola antelope**. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defines *critically endangered* as species facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. It is the most severe conservation status short of “extinct in the wild”. The hirola antelope falls into this category, and without urgent action, it risks disappearing within our lifetime.

The hirola (*Beatragus hunteri*), also known as Hunter's antelope, is a medium-sized antelope and the only surviving member of its genus. It is naturally found only along the Kenya–Somalia border in North-eastern Kenya. Its global population is alarmingly small, estimated at 300–500 individuals in the wild, with an additional 70–80 animals in the Tsavo ecosystem. Historically, hirola numbers were estimated at 15,000 in the 1970s, but a devastating rinderpest epidemic in the 1980s caused a dramatic crash and hindered recovery. This decline has been worsened by habitat degradation, woody plant encroachment, livestock

overgrazing, human settlement, competition with domestic animals, drought, predation, disease and poaching. Current conservation efforts focus on community-based habitat protection and restoration, predator-proof sanctuaries such as Ishaqbini Hirola Conservancy, livestock disease control, translocations to establish new populations and the revival of protected areas like Arawale National Reserve. These integrated approaches, involving communities, Government and conservation partners offer the best hope for stabilizing and ultimately recovering the hirola population.

Running the vaccination programme together with the Ishaqbini community since 2016 has been a game changer. It has led to lower disease incidence among livestock, hence minimizing disease spillover to the Hirola antelope. Further, the efforts have led to hirola conservation support by the local communities. I have played my role in hirola conservation efforts, what about you? Let's join hands and conserve this endangered species.

Dr Stephen Chege is a seasoned wildlife Veterinarian and can be reached via vetinwildke@gmail.com



Hirola antelope
Photo Credit: Dr. Stephen Chege

The idea of the campaign was mooted during this meeting





Dog Breeding in Kenya: A Looming Fiasco

By Dr. Nyathira Irene

Everyone knows that one dog that roams the village and has no particular owner. This dog randomly mates with another dog of its caliber, and the puppies grow up to continue the cycle. That has been the culture of dog rearing all over Kenya, until recently, when the pet culture emerged. While this culture might have emerged from the leafy neighborhoods in major towns, it is not a wonder to see pet dogs in most neighborhoods these days. Pet ownership, especially dog ownership, has always had a prestige tag to it, and since some modern-day dog owners and aspiring owners want this emblem of high social standing, the dog breeding business has become a hit. This is because dog owners are more than willing to part with not-so-little sums of money to acquire themselves the coveted furry companions from breeders. Worst of all is that most of these breeders run “breeding factories” that are more concerned with producing puppies in the hundreds to maximize profits, than their welfare.

While Chapter 360 of the Laws of Kenya clearly states the standards of animal welfare, it is often treated as a casual suggestion by most of the emerging breeders. Amateurs with no regard for animal welfare are running puppy mills, which always have

puppies ready for sale. Puppy mills, always have ready puppies in the tens because they operate on the principle of over-breeding. There is no wonder that when you visit puppy mill breeding locations, you are met by the sight of adult dogs and puppies in the worst of conditions including limited space, inadequate food and non-existent veterinary care. These puppy mills will commonly breed under-age dogs without screening for genetic factors consequently leading to production of puppies with a myriad of medical issues.

Since they are in business, some breeders specialize in breed scams where the most common practice is selling non-pure breeds as pure breeds. This can partly be blamed on the unsuspecting masses who desire traits that are considered fashionable and popular. It is, therefore, easy for breed scammers to sell particular popular traits in the guise of pure breeds. Aspiring dog owners interested in pure breeds can avoid getting scammed by conducting background checks on the dogs with the dog breeders, and also investigating the breeders themselves. In Kenya, the East African Kennel Club maintains dog registries for pure breeds, so an aspiring pure-breed owner is invited to consult them. If a breeder cannot

provide a history and documents of their proclaimed pure breed puppies, then it is only wise to think twice.

A dog breeder operating within the confines of the law is an easy hand-pick. Good breeders are more than just about the money; they consider animal welfare. Good breeders will not display their dogs on highways like sundry wares. They have proper establishments from where they operate.

It has proven difficult to regulate dog breeding in Kenya due to a lack of clear and specific policies. Most of the work is left to animal welfare organizations and individual enthusiasts. Apart from causing the problem of dog over-population, it poses the challenge of animal welfare. Aspiring pet dog owners are encouraged to adopt their dogs of choice from animal shelters. This move is effective in taking unethical breeders out of business and maintaining a manageable dog population. While breeders should maintain ethical standards in dog-breeding; dog owners ought to be active participants by conducting due diligence during purchase to help prevent the looming fiasco in the uncontrolled world of dog breeding in Kenya.

The Digital Trough: Technology Revolutionizing Animal Nutrition

Dr. Onesmas Ngure Kibuu

Animal nutrition is undergoing a seismic shift, moving beyond traditional formulation based on crude protein and energy levels into a new era of hyper-precision, predictive analytics and targeted gut health management. This transformation is driven by a suite of technologies turning the feed bunk and the water trough into rich data sources; fundamentally changing the approach to animal health and productivity.

Precision Nutrition and the Power of Real-Time Data

The cornerstone of this revolution is Precision Nutrition. The goal is no longer to formulate a diet for an average animal in a herd, but to create dynamic rations tailored to specific sub-populations, or even individual animals, in real-time. In modern production facilities, sensors continuously monitor a wealth of data individual animal feed and water intake (using RFID tags), real-time weight gain, and environmental conditions like temperature and humidity. This Internet of Things (IoT) network provides a live dashboard of flock or herd status. AI algorithms then crunch this real-time data, alongside information on feed ingredient quality and cost. The system can then automatically adjust the ration. For example, during a heat stress period, the algorithm might increase the dietary nutrient density as consumption drops, or optimize electrolyte balance, all without human intervention. This ensures animals receive exactly what they need, when they need it, maximizing efficiency and minimizing waste.

Advanced Diagnostics for a Deeper Nutritional Insight

Our ability to peer inside the animal's metabolic and microbial world has grown exponentially, moving nutrition from a black box to a transparent system. An example is Nutrigenomics. This is a technology that allows us to understand how specific nutrients influence gene expression. By analyzing genetic markers, we can identify which animals are best suited to utilize certain feedstuffs or who may have higher requirements for specific nutrients like

methionine or lysine. This allows for the creation of genetically-tailored feeding programs that unlock an animal's full genetic potential for growth, milk yield or disease resilience. Another one is Microbiome Sequencing where the gut microbiome is now recognized as a virtual organ. Next-generation sequencing technologies allow us to map the entire microbial community in an animal's gut. We can now move beyond generic probiotics and prebiotics. By analyzing the microbiome, we can prescribe specific nutritional interventions, such as a particular type of fiber or a novel feed additive, to selectively encourage beneficial bacteria that improve feed efficiency, strengthen the gut barrier and out-compete pathogens like *Salmonella* or *E. coli*.

Targeted Delivery and Functional Feeds

The future of feed delivery is not just about what's in the mix, but how and when the nutrients are delivered. Nanotechnology and encapsulation techniques allow for the protection of sensitive additives like vitamins, enzymes, and probiotics from degradation in the stomach or during feed processing. These "micro-shuttles" ensure the active ingredients are released in the specific part of the digestive tract where they are most effective, dramatically increasing their efficacy and reducing the required dosage. Moreover, while still emerging, 3D printing of feeds holds immense promise, particularly for companion animals and aquaculture. It allows for the creation of custom-shaped feeds with precise internal structures that can control the release rate of different nutrients or incorporate personalized medication dosages based on an individual's health profile.

The Integration with Veterinary Practice

For the Veterinarian, these technologies are a game-changer. A drop in productivity or a spike in disease incidence can now be investigated with a nutritional lens that was previously impossible. Instead of waiting for clinical signs, Vets can work with nutritionists to interpret data from microbiome screens and nutrigenomic profiles to identify nutritional deficiencies or imbalances that predispose animals to disease. This facilitates a shift from treatment to true prevention. Through Objective Welfare Monitoring, technologies like computer vision to analyze gait (for lameness detection) and thermal imaging to spot inflammatory hotspots provide objective data on animal welfare. Nutritionists can then use this data to refine diets to support musculoskeletal health or mitigate inflammation.

The convergence of data science, biotechnology and engineering is propelling animal nutrition into a new frontier. The "digital trough" is no longer a concept of the future; it is live today on farms and in feed mills around the world. For Veterinarians and Nutritionists alike, embracing these technologies is no longer optional, it is essential. The future of animal health is in the data streams from smart farms. It is a future where nutrition is precisely prescribed, not just broadly provided.

Dr. Onesmas Ngure, BVM is a student of Masters in Animal Nutrition and Feed Sciences at the University of Nairobi



Because Emergencies Love Disorganization

Let's be honest: Animal health emergencies in Kenya don't send calendar invites. One day things are quiet, you're catching up on reports, the next it's FMD in one County, RVF and rabies alerts in another and a mysterious "hii ugonjwa haijawai onekana" case blowing up the Vets' WhatsApp groups. When outbreaks hit, the line between control and chaos is determined by how fast we move, and how coordinated we are while moving. This now is where the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) comes in critically handy.

An EOC is not just a room with big screens, maps and people pointing at dashboards. It's the brains of an animal health emergency response. It's where surveillance data, lab results, field reports, logistics and decisions finally sit at the same table; in real time. Instead of ten phone calls passing ten different messages, delayed emails and parallel responses heading in opposite directions, the EOC helps us speak in unison, while moving coordinatedly unidirectionally. For the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS), the upcoming EOC is a big deal. It means shifting from reactive, to proactive. When an outbreak hits, roles are clear, information flows faster and decisions are based on evidence — not guesswork, panic and mayhem. With an EOC, Counties, Laboratories, Border Points and One Health partners are better connected, which matters when diseases completely ignore County boundaries and Country borders. And here's the underrated part: An EOC isn't only for crisis mode. During the "quiet" periods (yes, they exist albeit briefly), it is used for preparedness planning, simulations, data reviews and honest after-

action discussions. It's where we fix the roof while the sun is still shining, before the next outbreak reminds us why preparedness matters.

As DVS moves closer to operationalizing its EOC, it is a moment worth paying attention. A functional EOC means faster responses, smarter coordination and better protection for our livestock sector and by extension, trade, the economy and public health. For Vets on the front line, this isn't policy talk or another circular. It is the difference between firefighting and being at the ready.



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Tracking the Scent:

Harnessing Nature's Chemistry to Outsmart Tsetse Flies

By Kennedy Ogolla, Benson Wachira and Paul Mireji



If there were a contest for Africa's most annoying insect, the tsetse fly would easily make the finals. Not only does it deliver a nasty bite, but it also comes with a deadly gift; trypanosomes. Trypanosomes are the microscopic parasites responsible for sleeping sickness in humans and nagana in livestock. Every year, Kenya loses an estimated US \$200 million to tsetse-related livestock deaths, infertility and poor milk yields. With no vaccines and drug resistance on the rise, scientists have gone back to the drawing board; and by drawing board, we mean nature's very own perfume laboratory. At the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), our team has been sniffing out, quite literally, new, eco-friendly ways to trap and repel tsetse flies by copying and improving on the scents they love and hate most.

The "Push-Pull" Revolution: Nature's Perfume Wars

Like picky diners at a buffet, different tsetse species have distinct tastes. Some prefer buffalo, others fancy bushbuck or monitor lizards (yes, lizards). We've designed clever "pull" tactics that mimic the irresistible aromas of the tsetse's favorite meals, luring them into traps. To complete the trick, we add "push" tactics; repellents that mimic the odors of animals' tsetse absolutely can't stand, sending them buzzing in the opposite direction where they meet insecticide-treated targets. From this knowledge, we have successfully developed and patented a i) **Novel Attractant Blend (NAB)** – a buffalo-inspired semiochemical that's five times more attractive to tsetse than the old commercial standard, and ii) **Novel Repellent Blend (pictured)** – based on the famously unappealing scent of the waterbuck, which keeps flies at bay with twice the power of existing repellents. Together, they form a



"push-pull" dream team. However, effective attractants and repellents for riverine tsetse species (*Glossina fuscipes fuscipes*) are still lacking. To fill this gap, we have continued to explore the tsetse's molecular, olfactory mechanisms and host preferences/avoidance to enhance sustainable, eco-friendly control of these disease vectors.

Following the Trail of Nile Monitor Lizard: New Odor Adventures

Our exploration led to identification of Nile monitor lizard as the preferred host of *G. fuscipes fuscipes* tsetse fly for bloodmeal. In Ndere Island National Park, Kisumu, we collected headspace volatiles and skin swabs from monitor lizards using an innovative sampling technique that allowed the reptiles

to move freely during collection. These odors are believed to attract *G. fuscipes fuscipes*, a tsetse species poorly responsive to existing lures. Samples are being analyzed using Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry linked to Electroantennogram Detection (GC-EAD), or in simpler terms, high-tech "nose-testing" to see which chemicals make a tsetse's antennae wiggle to identify responsive odor constituents.

New Odor Sources: Bushbuck, Suni Antelope and other Unsuspecting Co-stars

Our field escapades didn't stop with monitor lizards. In Shimba Hills and Arabuko Sokoke National Reserves, we've been chasing down harnessed bushbuck, suni antelope and common >>

« warthog— not for dinner, but for their body odor. It turns out these animals hold the secret to attracting (and controlling) *Glossina austeni*, another notorious savannah tsetse species. By identifying their key chemical cues, we aim to create species-specific “designer perfumes” — only, instead of luxury fragrances, ours promise fewer tsetse flies and healthier livestock. We are also evaluating odors from selected livestock species (goats), aiming to integrate multiple repellent sources into cost-effective blends that enhance tsetse control efficiency.

Decoding the Language of Tsetse Flies

Tsetse flies locate mates using chemical signals called pheromones. Building on Yale University’s discovery of methyl palmitoleate, a pheromone from *G. morsitans morsitans* tsetse fly, we are now additionally isolating pheromones from local *G. fuscipes*

fuscipes, *G. austeni*, and *G. pallidipes* populations. These pheromones are being analyzed in partnership with Yale University to identify their key components. Once characterized, they will be blended with our novel attractant and other host odors to create enhanced lure formulations for integrated trap-based control.

Protecting Livestock, Empowering Farmers

Our repellents and attractants aren’t just lab curiosities; they’re already being tested in the field. In Nagana - endemic Kwale County, our Novel Repellent Blend is helping protect herds from infection. The early results? Fewer bites, fewer infections and happier farmers. Ongoing studies in Marsabit and Isiolo aim to extend this protection to camels threatened by biting flies that transmit Surra. Less need for trypanocidal drugs means healthier animals, safer milk and improved livelihoods. It’s science with a scent and a purpose.

Toward a Tsetse-Free Future

From buffalo breath to lizard headspace volatiles, our journey shows that sometimes, the best way to fight nature’s pests is to think and smell like them. Our innovative approaches, anchored in local ecology, collaboration and farmer participation, signals a major step toward sustainable control of tsetse and trypanosomiasis in Eastern Africa. Through partnerships with major stakeholders, we are not only advancing scientific discovery but also translating it into practical solutions for communities most afflicted by vector-borne diseases. As these eco-friendly innovations move from the laboratory to the field, they promise a future where livestock thrive, farmers prosper, and the deadly buzz of the tsetse fly fades into history.

The future smells good — and that’s bad news for tsetse flies.



Sampling of headspace volatiles of suni antelope (first picture) and harnessed bushbuck (second picture) in Shimba Hills National Reserve



An Insight into the Future of Veterinary Practice

by Dr. Tom Joseph Odula

The Future of Veterinary Practice will be greatly influenced by the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI is rapidly transforming Veterinary Practice by improving diagnostics, streamlining operations and enabling more personalized care. While it offers significant benefits in efficiency, AI is considered an assistive tool rather than a replacement for Veterinarians, whose hands-on clinical judgment and compassionate care remain irreplaceable.

Key areas of AI integration

- **Diagnostics:** AI algorithms are becoming adept at analyzing large medical datasets, including imaging and pathology samples, often detecting subtle patterns that may elude human detection.
- **Radiology:** AI-powered software can quickly analyze diagnostic images e.g. radiographs, CT scans and MRIs to flag potential abnormalities.
- **Pathology:** AI is also used to analyze pathology slides, which can quickly detect and grade certain cancers more thoroughly than a human can.
- **Practice Management:** AI automates routine administrative tasks, which helps reduce Veterinary staff burnout and frees up time for patient interaction.
- **Automated record-keeping:** AI-powered voice-to-text tools can listen to consultations and automatically generate medical records and notes.
- **Workflow optimization:** AI can streamline scheduling, send appointment reminders, manage inventory and automate billing processes.
- **Predictive Analytics:** By analyzing an animal's medical history, genetic makeup and environmental factors, AI can help predict health trends and proactively identify individual patients at risk. This enables:
 - **Personalized Medicine:** AI can recommend tailored treatment plans, suggesting drug combinations or dosages for patients.
 - **Disease Monitoring:** In large animal medicine, AI can predict livestock disease outbreaks and monitor animal health by analyzing data from sensors.
- **Telemedicine and Remote Monitoring:** AI enhances virtual care by assisting with client communication.
- **AI-driven triage:** Chatbots can help pet owners assess their pet's signs to determine if an in-person vet visit is necessary.

- **Wearables:** Smart collars and other devices monitor real-time vital signs, alerting Veterinarians and owners to potential health issues.

Challenges and ethical considerations

As AI becomes integrated into Veterinary Practice, a number of challenges must be addressed:

- **Reliability:** AI is not infallible and can make errors. Veterinarians must maintain a "trust, but verify" mindset, and human oversight is crucial for interpreting AI-generated data.
- **Data privacy and security:** Practices must safeguard the sensitive medical information of both animals and owners, especially when utilizing large datasets to train AI models.
- **Lack of regulation:** Currently, there are few regulations governing the use of AI in Veterinary Medicine.
- **Bias in data:** AI models can only be as good as the data on which they are trained. A lack of diverse or sufficient data can lead to biased or inaccurate results.
- **Cost:** The high initial cost of implementing AI technology may limit its adoption.

The Future role of the Veterinarian

Despite the rise of AI, the human role in Veterinary Medicine will remain critical and will likely shift toward higher-level functions.

- **Enhanced Expertise:** Veterinarians will leverage AI as an advanced assistant to augment their skills allowing for faster diagnostics.
- **Holistic Decision-Making:** AI cannot account for the emotional, ethical and legal complexities of clinical practice. Veterinarians will remain responsible for final disease diagnoses and management decisions.
- **Building Relationships:** With more time freed from administrative tasks, Veterinarians can focus on the core areas of Veterinary practice.
- **Continuous Learning:** The rapid evolution of AI will require Veterinary Professionals to engage in continuous education to stay current with new technologies.

Dr. Tom Joseph Odula is a BVM graduate with vast experience in the Animal pharmaceuticals, Pesticides, Devices and Public Health Products.

Dr. TikTok vs Dr. Vet: Who Will Kenyans Trust?

By Dr. Purity Kwamboka

Once upon a time, if your cow had a fever and refused to eat, you called the Vet. Simple.

Fast forward to 2026 and the average Kenyan farmer's first instinct is to grab their phone and type in the farmers' *chama* WhatsApp group: "Ng'ombe wangu hatafuni cud, naona kama analia machozi. Any ideas?" Within five minutes, they will have twenty responses, ranging from "Just give it Flagyl, it worked for my chicken." Another swears by pouring Blue Band into warm water. And of course, someone will always suggest the legendary Coca-Cola cure, because apparently, soda is the Swiss Army knife of rural medicine.

Welcome to the University of TikTok, Department of Veterinary Sciences.

Social media has produced a new breed of "Animal Health Experts." They have no license, they may have a lab coat, but they for sure have followers! Thousands of them. A TikTok video with a catchy song can convince more Kenyans than a carefully written Policy brief from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. *Ati*, who needs years of training when you can get 10,000 likes and a blue tick?

But let's be honest, Vets are also to blame. While the rest of the world is busy creating memes and reels, some of us are still writing 20-page reports that nobody reads (except maybe the donor). The truth is, Kenyans are on social media, not in conference halls. If Vets want to remain relevant, they need to show up where the people are, on Facebook, on TikTok, on Instagram, and come armed with facts, humor and maybe a dance challenge or two.

Picture this: A Vet doing the Jerusalem challenge while explaining why you shouldn't use human antibiotics on chickens. Or a funny meme of a goat refusing to eat, captioned, "When you think Google knows more than your Vet." That's the future, whether we like it or not.

Of course, this doesn't mean every Vet should suddenly become an



influencer. Of course not. It means that the Profession has to adapt swiftly. Trust will not only be built on stethoscopes, syringes and scrubs, but it will also be built on wi-fi connections, web pages and witty captions. So, will Kenyans trust Dr. TikTok or Dr. Vet in the future? Honestly, probably both. But if Vets

learn to claim their digital space, then the next viral trend might just save a cow instead of confusing it.

Until then, dear reader, remember this: If someone on WhatsApp tells you Coca-Cola can cure bloat, just laugh, scroll past and call your Vet. The cow will thank you.

Formula 1:

Speed, Rivalry and the Pursuit of Greatness

By Dr. Kelvin Osore

A way from the World of Veterinary Matters, one of the ways I unwind is by following the electrifying World of Formula One. Few sports combine technology, strategy, human skill and raw adrenaline quite like Formula 1. Every race weekend is a spectacle of speed and precision, but also of drama, heartbreak and triumph. For me, the driver who best embodies the spirit of modern Formula 1 is Lewis Hamilton, the seven-time world champion. His pursuit of excellence, discipline, and ability to deliver under immense pressure has been remarkable to watch over the years. Like many fans, I still feel the heartbreak of the 2021 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, when Lewis lost what would have been his historic eighth world championship to Max Verstappen in circumstances that sparked debate across the sporting world. It was one of those moments where sport reminds us that greatness does not always guarantee fairness. Many of us still believe that the championship should have been his.

Last year, a new chapter began as Lewis moved across the channel to Italy starting life at Scuderia Ferrari, after so many years with the UK-based Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team. The first season for Lewis in front of the Tifosi, as Ferrari fans are popularly known, was challenging. It will undoubtedly take time to adapt to a new environment, culture and car philosophy. This season, with the sport moving toward new technical regulations, there is every possibility that the new era could suit Lewis's driving style far better than the diabolical ground-effect cars introduced in recent seasons.

Still, one cannot help but wish that his long-time race engineer Peter Bonnington, the familiar voice of "It's hammertime, Lewis" could be beside him during this new adventure. It is my hope that the smaller, lighter cars suit Lewis's late-braking driving style better than the previous ones, which have seen the F1 icon struggle to leave a mark on a sport he previously dominated with ease.

Of course, Formula 1 is defined by rivalries and the extraordinary talent across the grid. Four-time world champion, Max Verstappen, now firmly established as a dominant force, is arguably one of the most naturally aggressive and fearless drivers the sport has seen. His racecraft and relentless pace are undeniable strengths, though his uncompromising style sometimes leaves little room for diplomacy on track. However, with the departure of the much-celebrated Adrian Newey, credited with building one of the most dominant one-seaters of this generation and former Team Principal, Christian Horner, it remains to be seen whether Redbull will still come up with the package to compete with the rest of the Top Four Teams.

At Mercedes, George Russell has proven himself to be one of the most technically sharp drivers on the grid. Although he is fast, analytical and consistent, he is still working to fully stamp his authority as a championship leader within the team. Then there is the young and exciting Andrea Kimi Antonelli who took over Lewis' spot on the Brackley based team and who represents the next wave of prodigious talent entering the sport. With immense expectation already

placed on his shoulders, the challenge will be balancing speed with patience as he grows into Formula 1.

The evergreen Fernando Alonso continues to amaze fans with his race intelligence and tactical brilliance. Even after two decades in Formula 1, his hunger and defensive mastery remain unmatched. Yet the question remains whether machinery will again allow him a realistic shot at another title, expectations boosted by the hiring of the aforementioned Adrian Newey by Aston Martin.

The McLaren Formula One Team pairing is another thrilling storyline. Having won his first world championship last year, Lando Norris has matured into a genuine front-runner with exceptional qualifying pace and race consistency. On the other hand, Oscar Piastri has demonstrated remarkable composure and race intelligence for someone so early in his career. Their intra-team rivalry could define the next era of Formula 1 competition.

Ultimately, what makes Formula 1 so captivating is that it is never just about speed. It is about engineering brilliance, split-second decisions, and the personalities of extraordinary drivers competing at the very limit. Every race carries the promise that history might be written that day. As a fan, I watch with anticipation each season, hoping that Lewis Hamilton will once again find himself fighting at the very front where he belongs. And whether the races bring joy, tension or heartbreak, my love for Formula 1 remains as strong as ever.

The writer is the KVA President and a F1 Enthusiast



One Country's Lessons for Another

Namibia is the driest country in sub-Saharan Africa. Its agriculture sector relies largely on groundwater. Despite this, Namibian farmers have been raising beef cattle, sheep and goats successfully for decades. Livestock farming contributes around 66% to agricultural production in Namibia. In 2024, Namibia's export abattoirs shipped a striking 22.7 million kg of beef, a leap from the previous year. The European Union, as the top destination, received over 13.25 million kg, while South Africa, the UK, Norway, and even China each secured growing shares. This boom was fuelled by increased slaughtering, boosted by a plentiful cattle supply, where total slaughter throughput surged nearly 20% year-on-year. Sheep marketing also rose sharply in 2024 with domestic abattoir capacity nearly doubling output in mid-2024. Goat exports declined modestly (~6%), however, yet still represented a consistent share of farm income. Namibia's trailblazing journey reached a milestone in February 2024, when it exported its first beef consignment to the US, becoming the first African nation to gain U.S. market access.

Other than the consistent production of slaughter stock further reason for Namibia's success in beef production is the country's massive investment in Animal Health. The Country has controlled trade-sensitive diseases including Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) by way of vaccination, movement control and zonal restriction through the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF). The VCF, which is 1393km long, is aimed at inhibiting the movement of cattle between the northern and southern parts of the country. The southern parts of the country are free from FMD. Moreover, Namibia has successfully implemented an effective, nationwide, online traceability system (NAMLITS), for farm to fork traceability of livestock, history and ownership. It also has in place the FANMEAT, quality assurance and certification scheme developed collaboratively by the Meat Board of Namibia and the DVS to provide quality and safety assurance to consumers. FANMEAT and NAMLITS are both supported by a functional, real-time data management system along the entire value chain from the stable to the table.

Namibia's meat sector has overcome adversity to emerge as a global success story. From EU-led growth to U.S. breakthroughs and Middle East ambitions, the nation is proving that with vision, investment, and resilience, even countries in harsh environments can become champions in global markets. Namibia stands out in Africa for its well-organized and export-oriented meat industry. Despite its arid climate, the country has carved out a niche in global markets through smart policies, strong institutions, and consistent investment in quality and traceability systems. Kenya, which has a larger livestock population and growing regional demand, can draw valuable lessons from Namibia's experience as below:

Robust Traceability and Quality Assurance Systems
Namibia has in place NAMLITS and FANMEAT systems for traceability and Quality Assurance implemented by the DVS and the Meat Board of Namibia.

Lesson for Kenya: Kenya should effectively implement livestock identification and traceability.

Strong Institutional Support

The Meat Board of Namibia is a key regulator that manages standards, promotes meat exports, and coordinates among producers, processors and exporters. It acts as a bridge between government policy and industry needs.

Lesson for Kenya: Strengthen relevant institutions to play more active roles in livestock production, market access and food safety.

Veterinary and Animal Health Services

Namibia invests heavily in animal health, including vaccination programs and zoned disease control. It has maintained an FMD-free zone, crucial for accessing global markets.

Lesson for Kenya: Intensify animal health investments, establish zonal disease control and work towards international disease-free certifications to enhance marketability of Kenyan meats.

Market-Oriented Strategy

Namibia exports beef to the EU, China and the US. This success is driven by strict compliance with sanitary standards and a national vision to position meat as a major export commodity.

Lesson for Kenya: Support livestock producers and meat processors to improve compliance to animal health and food safety standards.

Farmer Empowerment and Training

Namibian farmers are supported with training on animal husbandry, pasture management and marketing. The Meat Board provides regular feedback to producers and processors to align supply with market needs.

Lesson for Kenya: Increase investments in training and extension services for value chain actors.

Kenya has the potential to become a regional and global meat producing powerhouse. By studying Namibia's model with its emphasis on quality, traceability, disease control and market orientation, Kenya can unlock the potential of its livestock sector. Strategic investment, policy reform and institutional strengthening are essential to take this leap forward.

(Adapted from Farmer's Weekly)

Why our love affair with meat should never end

by Dr. Daniel Muasya

As you make a stop over along the way to enjoy the breathtaking picturesque scenery, you are greeted by the irresistible aroma of meat snacks like *mishikaki*, *mutura* and *nyama choma* at the roadside eateries. You grab enough for the road trip crew and jump back into the car after religiously taking selfies. The price is higher than usual, but you console yourself that the snacks are exceptionally yummy and worth the cost. It is late lunch by the time you arrive at the rural town hungry and tired. The road trip crew is in agreement that sizzling *nyama choma* with a side of *ugali* and greens is the only reward for making it through the trip. As you select the beef cuts on the grill, the barbecue chef boasts of their special marinating process that will make you a regular client. The trend continues and we can all bet that your dinner will most likely include more meat, this time chicken or fish. Upon concluding your trip and returning to the city you make a stop somewhere and buy live chicken to later slaughter and stock up deep freezer.

Majority of middle class and working population especially in the urban areas consume meat most often if not daily. Cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and chicken are part and parcel of rural livelihoods across the country. It is these livestock from small scale farmers that quench the demand created by meat product appetite. Livestock and the meat trade holds profound importance for the small-scale farmers, offering a pathway to improved livelihoods and economic stability. By selling their animals for meat once in a while when needs arise, these farmers are able to meet important daily needs. The high demand for meat and meat products, has enabled farmers to sell their livestock at more competitive prices compared to other economic activities. I bet that most of us, at some point, had our school fees redeemed, or secured pocket money courtesy of the sale of a cow, a goat, or some chicken. Also, I can wager that at least one point, someone made it back to the city thanks to *kuku kienyeji* sale at the local market.

As you enjoy your *kuku choma* served with *ugali* and *kachumbari*, you are not only taking care of your nutrition but also stimulating economic growth of livestock producers.

Enjoying the finger-licking and mouth-watering meat gourmets for Kenyans does not come without fear and caution. The most common questions that linger in your mind when waiting for your *Nyama choma* order to be ready will include the following concerns: Did a corrupt trader poach wild animals, or slaughter in an unlicensed slaughterhouse, or is the meat free of chemical residues or did someone slaughter a sick dying cow? These valid concerns should ring a bell for all to be watchful; to go for quality, safe meats. We can win against the threats posed by unscrupulous traders if we source meat products from reputable establishments.

Dr. Daniel Muasya, a Member, National Executive Council, KVA. He is also a Lecturer- Department of Clinical Studies, University of Nairobi
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One Health Surveillance at the Human–Livestock–Wildlife Interface

By Drs. Mercy Akinyi and Stanislaus Kivai

Soil-transmitted helminths (STH) represent a significant public health challenge and a biodiversity threat, particularly for populations living at the human-livestock-wildlife interface. These neglected tropical diseases impose substantial health and economic burdens in countries like Kenya, where they are endemic among humans and animals. Similarly, STH have adverse effects on species reproductive potential, which exacerbate extinction risk for threatened groups of biodiversity. Infections by these parasites can adversely affect nutrition, immune responses, vaccine efficacy, prevalence of chronic diseases and individual's reproductive fitness.

Despite their impact, data on how human-animal interactions in both domestic and wild settings contribute to STH transmission due to shared habitats remains scarce. As the global human population continues to grow, a comprehensive approach that links human, animal and environmental health has never been more crucial. At the Kenya Institute of Primate Research (KIPRE), we are committed to conducting surveillance on emerging public health threats, including STHs, which are often overlooked despite their significant consequences. One of our ongoing studies focuses on epidemiological surveillance of STHs not just in humans, but also in wildlife, soil, water and livestock.

Our research is centered in the lower Tana River region, a wetland area rich in biodiversity and home to a community of livestock herders. Over the decades, this region has experienced exponential human population growth, dramatic climatic shifts, erratic flooding, unpredictable rainfall, prolonged droughts, habitat destruction and escalating human-wildlife conflicts. These factors collectively heighten the risk of STH transmission. To tackle this issue, we have developed a coordinated surveillance system that encompasses human populations, domestic animals, wildlife and environmental factors.

An improved understanding of the epidemiology and risk factors of the most prevalent STH of public health importance may allow improved decision-making on STH control. Further it will promote biodiversity conservation and contribute to the achievement of various sustainable development goals (SDGs). This in turn will provide valuable information to public health practitioners and guide decision-making on zoonotic disease management, antihelmintic resistance, and development of interventions to prevent the looming extinction of critically endangered species such as the Tana River Red Colobus, Tana River Mangabey, Hirola Antelope. Further, it will contribute to the overall enhancement of ecosystem health by biodiversity sustenance. Together, we can create a healthier future coexistence of people domestic animals and wildlife in Kenya.

Drs. Mercy Akinyi and Stanislaus Kivai work at the Kenya Institute of Primate Research



Codex Alimentarius Commission

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) has a broad membership open to all member nations and associate members of the FAO and WHO. Kenya is an active member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), with the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) acting as the National Codex Contact Point to align local food safety standards with international FAO/WHO guidelines. Kenya has adopted over 200 Codex standards to facilitate trade and protect consumers. Kenya is the current CAC Chair. The CAC publishes internationally adopted food standards



and related texts. These food standards and related texts aim at protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in the international food trade.

Innovation and Biosecurity in Poultry Production

Kenya's demand for poultry continues to grow rapidly, bringing with it greater responsibility for food safety, animal welfare and public health.

As the sector expands, strong biosecurity systems and responsible farming practices are no longer optional; they are essential for building a resilient and competitive poultry industry. Kenchic PLC has made these principles the heart of its operations, embedding strict biosecurity, traceability and disease-management practices throughout its entire production chain. From breeder farms and hatcheries to feed production and processing, every stage is designed to minimise risk, improve animal health and deliver safe, high-quality poultry to Kenyan consumers. Central to this approach is Kenchic's Antimicrobial Usage Policy, which ensures that antibiotics are used only when prescribed by a Veterinarian and only after culture and sensitivity testing, ensuring treatment is precise, necessary and effective rather than routine. This not only protects animal welfare but also plays a critical role in reducing antimicrobial resistance, a growing global public health concern. Kenchic's leadership in this area has received international recognition. In November 2023, the company became the first African poultry producer to formally adopt the International Poultry Council's antimicrobial stewardship principles, positioning Kenya on the global map for responsible poultry production. The company has also actively contributed to industry awareness and education. During World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) in November 2025, Kenchic opened its Kakuzi North broiler farm to demonstrate how strong preventive systems can curb infections without relying on routine antibiotic use. These measures help reduce disease outbreaks, lower the risk of residues in meat, and support Kenya's broader food-safety goals.

Kenchic's vertically integrated "farm-to-fork" model strengthens accountability and transparency across the value chain. With every batch of chicken traceable from day one and processing facilities certified under FSSC 22000 Food Safety standards, the company continues to raise the bar for quality and consumer trust in the poultry sector.

But beyond its own operations, Kenchic's practices offer a blueprint for the wider industry. As Kenya's poultry sector grows, biosecurity and antimicrobial stewardship are no longer matters of compliance alone; they are central to long-term sustainability, consumer confidence and the sector's ability to compete beyond our borders. The future of poultry production in Kenya will depend on stronger collaboration between farmers,

veterinarians, processors, regulators and industry leaders. This includes wider adoption of preventive health systems, continuous farmer education, investment in traceability, and a shared commitment to responsible antimicrobial use. Kenchic remains focused on playing a leading role in this transformation, expanding training programs, strengthening veterinary partnerships, and continuing to set benchmarks that others in the sector can learn from and replicate.

By combining innovation, rigorous biosecurity, and a strong public-health focus, Kenchic is not only producing safe and nutritious poultry today, but also helping to shape a more sustainable, trusted, and globally competitive poultry industry for Kenya's future.





Role of VPPs in AMR Prevention

by Calvin Ninga

The Future of Animal Health identifies, biosecurity and vaccination among the first lines of defense. This is as driven by the National Action Plan on AMR (2023–2027). To achieve this, Veterinary Paraprofessionals (VPPs) ought to be effectively included in Delivery of Veterinary Services such as Extension Services, Animal Disease Control, Veterinary Public Health, Animal Welfare, Clinical Service Delivery, Animal Husbandry and Reproductive Services. This Service Delivery should be carried out under the supervision of Veterinary Surgeons as guided by the Law.

As Frontline Health Workers, VPPs are critical in Early Disease Detection and Reporting. They are critical, more so because they form the bulk of the Animal Health Workforce in Kenya. Looking to the future, plans should include a Digital Animal Health Tracing System supported by the Services of VPPs as the key frontline and last mile Animal Health Workers.

Calvin Ninga is the Organizing Secretary, Animal Health Technologists and Technicians Association (AHTTAK)

Vet Scope Humor

Just remembered the time I was doing work experience at a Vet Clinic. It was my third day. I was sitting at the kennels and there was an alsatian in for treatment. He looked bored so I started playing with him. I was throwing a golf ball into his kennel under his door. I had found the ball with his leash and medical card. We were playing along quite happily until one of the Vets came running. Frantically, he asked me what on earth I thought I was doing, giving back the golf ball that had just been removed from the Alsatian's stomach.



Mental Wellness in the Vet Profession

Wired for profound emotion, our capacity for empathy is our core resource. But, it can be poisonous if overstimulated. Thus the need to protect our humanity, for it is the very essence of our healing power.

Prescribing the power of presence: In every heart beat and wagging of tail, we find an antidote for professional isolation; we are never alone.

Rest for the compassion heart: Even healers need rest. "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest," says the Lord.

"When I grow up, I want to be a Vet Surgeon," she said, with eyes gleaming, smile wide, full of promise. Now she is one, always on call. But in her journey, she has learnt

that growth isn't just about mastering the scalpel, but also nurturing her own mind and heart.

The best medicine for burnout is kindness to yourself.

The way to a Vet's heart is through music, every day, find your rhythm in the musical moos.

We survive because you care, our hero in scrubs.

What goes around, comes around; Every act of care leaves a mark, may kindness circle back to you.

Your smile says, "It'll be okay," even before the medicine kicks in, so keep smiling, someone is counting on it.

My Life in National Politics: Lessons from a Veterinarian's journey

by Dr. Mathew Owili, CBS (Deputy Governor, Kisumu County)

Veterinary Medicine was not merely my first love; it was my formative lens on leadership, service and problem-solving. Long before I entered National politics, my training as a Veterinarian shaped how I understood systems, ethics and the delicate balance between human livelihoods, animal health and the environment. Politics did not replace that foundation, it deepened it.

As a Veterinarian in Public leadership, I quickly learned that policy decisions made in boardrooms and Parliamentary chambers have far-reaching consequences in farms, clinics, abattoirs and households. Animal health is inseparable from Public health, food security and economic stability. Yet, without Professional engagement, these connections are often under-appreciated in Policy formulation. My journey into National Politics has therefore been driven by one conviction: If Veterinarians are absent from decision-making spaces, critical perspectives are lost.

One of the most important lessons politics has taught me is the power of **Policy Literacy**. Laws and regulations shape everything from disease control frameworks and animal welfare standards to Veterinary education, workforce deployment and research funding. Understanding how policy is made, and actively participating in those conversations, allows Veterinarians to influence outcomes rather than react to them. Whether the issue is compensation for disease control, antimicrobial regulation, or recognition of Veterinary Public health; informed engagement matters.

Politics has also reinforced the truth that **collaboration is non-negotiable**. No Profession advances in isolation. Progress requires building alliances with policymakers, agricultural stakeholders, human health professionals, environmental experts and the private sector. The most effective reforms I have witnessed emerged not from confrontation, but from sustained dialogue grounded in evidence and shared interests.

For Veterinarians, this means learning to speak the language of economics, public health and development, without losing scientific rigor. Another enduring

insight is the centrality of **advocacy**. Good ideas do not implement themselves. Advocacy demands clarity, consistency and persistence. In politics, I have seen how well-articulated, data-driven arguments can shape budgets, influence legislation and shift national priorities. Veterinary Surgeons must confidently champion issues such as workforce shortages, mental health support within the profession, fair remuneration and investment in surveillance and laboratory systems. Silence is often misinterpreted as satisfaction.

Leadership, I have learned, extends far beyond the clinic. **Leadership beyond clinical practice** requires the courage to engage uncomfortable spaces, the humility to listen and the discipline to balance competing interests. Veterinary training equips us exceptionally well for this, diagnosis, risk assessment, ethical judgment and systems thinking; all which are daily tools in both Medicine and Governance.

Perhaps the most compelling intersection between Veterinary Science and Politics lies in the **One Health approach**. Zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, climate change and food safety are no longer sectoral issues; they are National and Global security concerns. In my political work, One Health has proven to be a powerful framework for collaboration, linking veterinarians with doctors, environmental scientists and policymakers to protect lives and livelihoods. From rabies elimination to avian influenza preparedness, Veterinarians are indispensable.

My life in national politics has affirmed this: Veterinarians belong at the center of

leadership and policy discourse. Our profession carries not only clinical responsibility, but societal trust. The future of animal health, public health and food security depends on Veterinarians who are willing to step beyond traditional roles and help shape the decisions that define our collective future.



A Chat with Professor Susan Mbugua



With Jua Cali at Mashujaa Day 2025



At the WVA Award Ceremony



Following Professor Susan Mbugua's win at the WVA (World Veterinary Association) 2025 Global Awards, Vet Scope Magazine had a chat with her as below:

Award

Congratulations, Professor! How did it feel to hear your name announced as the winner of the Global Veterinarian of the Year Award and Global Veterinary Education Award 2025?

I already knew about the global education award because Nick the Photographer had come to the clinic and spent a whole day taking pictures. He had already been alerted that I had won so this award was not a surprise. The overall award was the one that came as a surprise because I did not expect it. I was competing against two Americans and one Sri Lankan, and they were all qualified so I didn't expect it to be me.

Can you take us back to that moment: Where you were, who you were with, and what went through your mind?

My husband had come with me and he was there at that moment. He was very proud of me and he still is. Dr. James Ouma and Dr. Mandieka were also present. The winners were seated on the front row both from WVA and AVMA. The AVMA team was very big. From Kenya we were only four. We all knew what we had won so we were just waiting to get up to receive the award. I was wowed in that moment when my name was mentioned. Nick was interviewing people. He didn't ask me questions after the first award, he asked when I won the second award, the overall.

Could you briefly tell us about the award?

The Global Veterinary Education award is the one I applied for and I am proud of myself for winning it. Thinking back I almost didn't apply, I didn't think I stood a chance. Dr. Samantha Opere and her team pushed me to submit my documents. I put my documents together in a file, collected photos and summarized my entire career. For this award they have a criteria for what to submit to them, they expect you to show them an all-rounded contribution not just in education. I think what caught their attention is the years I taught in university (43 years) and what I taught (Veterinary Surgery).

What inspired your award?

My upbringing. My parents worked hard and were honest Christians. I learnt from them. My mother is my biggest inspiration.

How do you feel this achievement contributes to Kenya's reputation in global veterinary circles?

Kenya is very well known in other fields for example sports and wildlife, I'm glad to have added another feather.

What other awards have you received throughout your career?

- The National Heroes Council Medal – Shujaa 2025
- Certificate of Declaration of National Hero – 20th October 2025
- RCVS International Award – July 2024
- KVA Companion Animal Veterinary Award – 23rd April 2009
- Lifetime Veterinary Award by KVA – 2009
- Recognition Award KVB Member of Board 1985 to 2006

This year, you were recognized as one of Kenya's heroes during the National Mashujaa Day celebrations, Congratulations again! Could you tell us about the recognition you received. What was the specific award or title and what does it represent?

I felt honoured and was excited to be among some unsung heroes who have quietly contributed immensely to bettering the lives of other Kenyans. I was awarded The National Heroes Council Medal for Shujaa 2025 (Category: Scholarship, Professionalism and Research) and a Certificate of Declaration of National Hero, both awarded on 20th October 2025.

Mashujaa Day is about collective progress as much as individual achievement. Who are some of the "unsung heroes" in your field you'd like to acknowledge?

Dr. Rachael Masake who has done a lot of work on Trypanosomiasis at ILRI, she also has an NGO. All the lecturers I have worked with in Kabete are heroes too.

Any final words of appreciation to your colleagues, students, or the institutions that supported your journey?

My appreciation to KVA 'young turks' for pushing me to apply for the global awards. I also appreciate UON and all the students who went through me (1976 to 2019). I thank my colleagues in the Clinical Studies who worked as hard as I did, they too are heroes.



« Career

You've had an outstanding career in Veterinary Medicine and Academia. What initially inspired you to pursue this career?

My Uncle who had studied Agriculture in Makerere University suggested Human Medicine to me. After a short discussion we settled on Veterinary Medicine.

Over the years, you've held key leadership and academic roles. Please tell us about these.

First of all, I went to the University of Nairobi to teach so I did not aim to hold any leadership position. I have only acted in leadership positions at the University as Head of the Small Animal Clinic, and Head of Surgery (I found this very stressful, but not as stressful as being Head of Department. I was the KVA Secretary for a long time, I was a Board Member at KVB for 21 years. I was also a Founding member of KWWA and KESCAVA.

What milestones stand out most in your journey?

First, that I managed to get a PhD scholarship in small animal studies, they are very rare. Secondly, at KVB we were able to revise many of the outdated laws at that time.

Were there moments of doubt or challenge? How did you navigate them?

There was racism when we were joining the University, white clients wouldn't allow African Vets to touch their animals. Dr. Sayer came up with a timetable and stood firm that every vet or client should adhere to the timetable. No vet would treat or do surgeries on request by clients but the Vet on duty would take charge whether they were Black or White.

In your practice of Veterinary Medicine over the years, tell us in brief of a difficult case you handled. What were some learnings from it?

There are many. There was a rich client who ran over his wife's Pekingese dog while the wife was away. He told me this dog must not die. The dog had multiple pelvic fractures. He had come in at night when I was on duty. I didn't have small equipment to do the surgery for the pelvis on a small breed dog, so I called my friend who was a human orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Ben Chiwenga. He was very happy to come and help. So he got his pediatric set, came to Kabete Small Animal Clinic, we did the surgery together and the dog lived. This was not the first time I had called Dr. Ben, I had called him previously when a cheetah broke its cruciate ligament. We operated with him and Dr. Vijay Varma. From these cases I learnt that collaboration is so important. You must maintain relationships with other Vets, even if you don't like them.

Tell us of an interesting case that you managed.

One day I spayed 4 hyenas in Kabete

Small Animal Clinic. Another time I spayed a monkey.

What are some of the changes you've witnessed in the Veterinary field over the years, and where do you see the biggest growth opportunities?

When we went to vet school everybody preferred large animals. Students only studied what they needed in small animal medicine to pass exams. Now the interest has shifted to small animals. Telemedicine is slowly picking up. The internet has also made work easier, you can easily look up things.

What advice would you give to Veterinarians, especially women, entering and aspiring to make a global impact in this field?

Go for it, never say 'never', and do it well.

What has been your biggest source of inspiration along the way?

My husband because he has allowed me to do what I do without restrictions and interference.

Describe your career journey in one phrase.

It has been rewarding and I never had a dull moment.



Home-coming party organized by KVA

Quick-fire Questions

Tell us "Five Things not known about Prof. Mbugua".

I am shy and I find it difficult to address a group of people.

I enjoy cooking, baking and washing dishes. I have taken a short cooking course.

I am not obsessed with tidiness but I know where all my things are.

I love flowers and plants though I do not have a green thumb.

Favorite colour?

Blue.

Favorite Kenyan Dish?

Boiled githeri, microwave-dried with salt and no other seasoning.

Outside of work, what do you enjoy doing to unwind or stay inspired?

I try to read. Sometimes I have up to 4 books to read simultaneously. I bake. I could watch movies but I never seem to have time. I watch news; BBC, Al Jazeera and Citizen

Cats or dogs?

Dogs.

Field work or lab work?

Field work.

Early bird or night owl?

Early bird.

Hiking or beach?

Hiking

Vet Scope Humor

Did you know that Female spotted hyenas are notoriously difficult to differentiate from the Male spotted hyenas? This makes it tricky to determine the appropriate surgery (that is, spaying versus neutering) challenging for inexperienced individuals.

Drafting the Blueprint:

My Journey as KVA Constitution Review Taskforce Secretary

Since joining KVA, I have been a front-row witness to a recurring tragedy. I watched year after year as critical motions, ground to a halt because the association's Annual General Meetings lacked quorum to deliberate on them.

The old constitution, though functional, no longer reflected the realities of the Association's operations and needed an overhaul. So, when I was nominated to the Constitutional Review Taskforce in 2025, I felt the weight of history. Could we actually do it? Could we get a quorum at an AGM/SGM to discuss the Constitution for approval? I had seen the previous administrations, fight to push through reforms that didn't see the light of day. This wasn't just a drafting job, it was a battle against apathy. From the outside, a Constitutional review, looked like a simple exercise full of legal clauses. But from the Secretary's lens, it looked like a marathon. We weren't just reviewing KVA's Constitution; we were re-drafting the blueprint of Veterinarians in Kenya.

As a taskforce, our role was to examine the existing Constitution, identify gaps and propose amendments. We benchmarked against Constitutions of similar associations, consulted legal counsel, Mr. James Nombi, and engaged members through virtual meetings. Drafts were circulated, feedback was collected, and revisions were made. The journey was not without challenges. Some members resisted change, fearing loss of influence or disruption of tradition. Legal language was often complex, and that's where the legal counsel came in.

We retreated to Naivasha, and this one had a lot of back and forth. We resolved that every new clause and every amended provision must be anchored, not in personal preference, but in the spirit of the law and its ability to serve the Veterinary fraternity. Once we had the first draft ready, we submitted it for input to stakeholders namely; The National Executive Committee, The Council, Past KVA Chairpersons and Trustees; and KVA members. After getting feedback from the stakeholders, the taskforce retreated to consider the comments that had been raised. The document was then submitted to a validation meeting where more comments were collected forming the final draft for presentation to the SGM for Approval. This is where the nightmare awaited. Would we get quorum to discuss the motion on amendment of the Constitution? The SGM was convened, and there

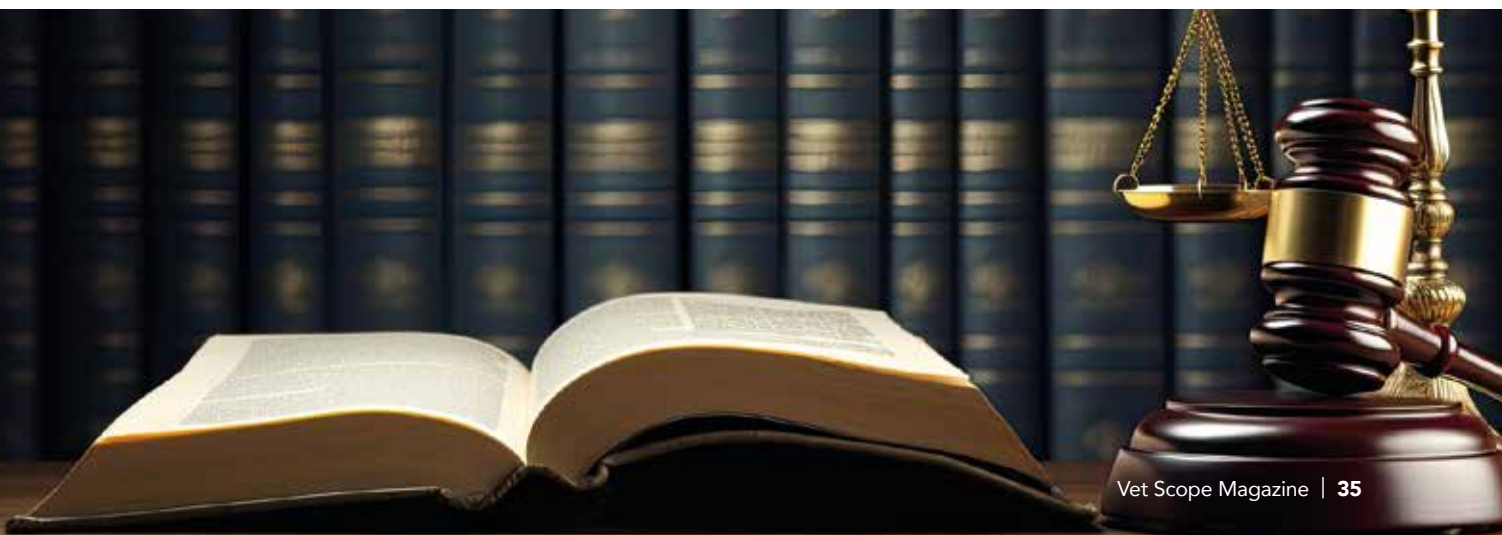
was quorum! The motion was introduced, discussed and approved. First step was successful. The ratified Constitution was submitted to the Registrar of Societies. The Registrar reviewed the Constitution, provided feedback, and eventually granted approval on Friday, 16th January 2026. The approval was a moment of pride.

For me, the Constitution review was a profound learning experience and an opportunity to put into practice the knowledge and skills I had garnered while at the Directorate of Livestock Policy, Research and Regulations. No single person could have achieved this, but through the collective effort of the Taskforce, Counsel, KVA NEC, Council, Trustees, Former Chairpersons and KVA members, we were able to deliver a progressive, new Constitution for KVA.

The Constitution review journey reminded us that governance is not static, it is a continuous process of reflection and improvement. As we move forward under the Constitution 2026, I am confident that KVA will thrive. A Constitution is only as strong as its practice, and we must ensure that leaders and members uphold its provisions.

It was a great honor working with the taskforce Chairman Dr. Joseph Omega, PhD, and taskforce members; Dr. Dennis Nyakundi, Dr. Faith Mukuna, Dr. Peterkin Nzomo, Dr. Mary Mathenge, Dr. Edward Musya, Dr. Kennedy Ogola, Dr. Daniel Karugu, Dr. James Ouma Opondo, Dr. Brenda Machoka and Dr. Henry Maduma Kamagy. The Chairpersons of Governance Sub-Committee of KVA National Executive Committee, Prof. Kimwele, Dr. Joel Ruto and Dr. Carol Khaemba offered the support to the taskforce as necessary.

Dr. Ruphline Margaret Anyango served as the Secretary of the Taskforce that reviewed the KVA Constitution. She is a Veterinary Surgeon currently working for Veterinary Medicines Directorate. She has previously worked for the County Government of Nyamira and Directorate of Livestock Policy, Research and Regulations. She has previously served KVA Women Branch as a Committee member and Nairobi Branch as a Treasurer.





VOYA Memoir

By Kabugi Ndi, Veterinary Students Association (VSA), University of Nairobi

Scene 1: In the beginning

On the sixth of December, around 5:13 PM, I was seated on a brown executive seat. The seat stood on fours, the fours on the floor, the floor supported by 15 floors and two more levels in the basement. The table beside this seat was round, with five more seats spread evenly around, and creamy covers on top. The curtains were as huge as the windows behind them, and tan in colour. Above, a creamy ceiling not only covered us but also held strings and wires, suspending warm round lights. The stage was set, raised half a metre or so, behind it a screen as big as the ones they use in advertising billboards. Thinking about its length, it could fit at least five men standing side by side. Then there were three more screens, two across the longer room margin, while one stood alone along the short wall's length to my furthest right. In the conference centre, people poured from two doors; one was the main entrance immediately past the photo booth, the other piercing the room around seven metres away, along the same margin. Here the sound systems were erected, a DJ booth set up, ready to explode with jams once the time was right. But for now, it was time for some saxophone. Setting a jazzy mood, the one they feel in the high ends, we were living lavishly.

Scene 2: From where I sat

From where I sat, the lights were multi-coloured and vibrant like everyone here. I identified many prominent faces, thanks to the internet and being sponsored to represent the Veterinary Students' Association (VSA) at this event. Right behind me, two to three steps from where I sat, I glanced at the Small Five crew taking a seat. Dr. Gabriel, the owner, was prominently seated, and easy to spot. It was contrary to what I heard folks say in the old days, that the name's fame never matched the person. For us who are actively seeking light at the "tunnels" of PHPT UON, it was rejuvenating to go online, dopamine hunting mid-burnout, just to see the new heights being set by the Small Five Clinic. Airborne, flying is routine for them, and they are not even pilots, just Vets. They've pioneered something new; another day, another pet flight. On the same table, to my upper left, was the CITYPAWS Vet. I might not know her name, but I know her account; I see what she's been doing since I stumbled upon her account sometime last year. It was a new concept to me, having never seen a Vet do voice-overs: The kind that is smooth on the plot, the kind that feels like what the animal getting attended to would say. Needless to say, virology in BVM2 was getting utilized with her videos going viral, shedding new light on the Vet profession, away from merely *Daktari wa ng'ombe*.

Chapter 1: This field

The Veterinary field is vast; that's what exposure has shown me lately. The personnel, not so much. Everyone here, with only a few years in the field, knows everyone else. If I get to enough of these events, I'll know almost everyone too. The number of Vets is manageable, so you end up not forgetting who you met. I was seated with Dr. Kenneth and he almost knew everyone, and by virtue of sitting together, I was receiving greetings by extension. Then the person disappears, and I'm asked,

"Do you know who that is?"

"No idea... a nice guy."

"That's the CEO of..."

"But he's so humble, you couldn't know unless you know."

"Yes, that's how Vets are."

I was soon internalizing the range of Vets, from Pharma, clinics, NGO's, spreading out to government slots and private practice. Lots of opportunities there in the multi-coloured lights of Hyatt Regency. I realized at the end of lectures in the lecture halls, there was indeed light at the end of Vet School.

Chapter 2: VOYA

The main event, VOYA, was a moment to assemble vets, reflecting on the year's achievements, lessons, losses and resolutions. Mostly, it was about awarding the exemplaries who did the extraordinary, in service to animals and humanity. From where I sat, I could locate the Guest of Honour, CS Mutahi Kagwe. Sitting at least five tables away, straight on my right just below the stage. And I'm not convinced they could have chosen anyone better; I was sure of it just as he started his speech, serving us with several quick-fire Vet puns. One was based on how the rough Vet duty required vigour, hence it's 'taking the bull by the horns', sealing off with a "no pun intended" to make his intentions clear. He also admitted that Vets must be the busiest bees, appreciating the vast range of work covered. Here in Vet practice, your next patient can be anything, literally anything, to which you have to do something about. In fact, your patient can be a chameleon, changing. No pun intended.

Chapter 3: Flowers went to...

Big bouquets went to every Vet, but most notably; flowers went to Dr. Yamo, a familiar face in UoN mentorship sessions, a One Health champion. My latest sighting of him being at the last and first Vet Students' Summit. He had a dark red coat, which



coincidentally (or not) matched that of his Vet of the Year predecessor, Dr. Kamagy Maduma. The latter, by the way, subjectively and factually, has been redefining Vet Medicine locally and internationally. Rising to a key figure in large animal medicine in the United States of America, in a board of practitioners that flew over many people's heads, including myself. As many stare at the snare of deportation, he gets imported from Kenya to work there, sifted among the finest.

The awards were spread across 10 plus categories. Young Vet of the Year went to Dr. Brian Mwaura, who, on his bike, has traversed the country spreading the good news of animal welfare. Focusing mainly on donkey welfare, he followed the course in road campaigns, vocal for the voiceless beasts of burden. Also on that breath of starting something, the Vet Student of the Year went to Marion for her groundbreaking work on mental health. Clinic of the Year was a highlight and although my friend Kenneth's Tornado lost,

the winners, Garden Vet Clinic, delivered a heart-wrenching speech on borrowed time. Agitated by the current semi-skilled job grouping for Vets. This was later noted by the CS Mutahi Kagwe, as an issue which is making the KVA President, a young and vigorous Dr. Osore, a familiar nagging face at his office. Dr. Kamagy, in his speech left tongues wagging by pulling a, "You knew I was going to say this," moment. Highlighting how the latest BVM 2025 cohort was actively "beefing" with the board. This issue, he and others advised, should be solved amicably, without removing each others' clothes.

Final Chapter: Earth colours

The theming of the event in earth colours had everyone dressed to kill, not literally, of course. What stood quite literal about the colours, however, was the profession's down-to-earth stature.

My sincere gratitude goes to the KVA, for including student slots in their events and activities.

Vet Scope Humor

I don't know all the rules of the game that my cats play,
but I have learned the most important one: Under no
circumstances is there to be screaming, fighting, running
around frantically or jumping on things until Dad is in bed.

Egerton Veterinary Students Association (EVESA)

By **Ogalo Victor (EVESA Chairperson)**

The Egerton Veterinary Students Association (EVESA) is a vibrant student organization within the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at Egerton University.

EVESA is composed of students pursuing Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Health Management programmes. EVESA was established to promote academic excellence and professional development among Veterinary students, while also advocating for animal health, animal welfare and public health through student-led initiatives.

EVESA has successfully conducted numerous mentorship programs, community outreach activities and celebrations of key Veterinary-related days, including World Rabies Day and World Egg Day.

On 27th October 2025, EVESA received approval to collaborate with KVA, CKL, KESCAVA, Brooke East Africa among other sponsors for an outreach activity. Through this partnership, the association mobilized 64 students who actively participated in vaccination campaigns targeting dogs, cats, and donkeys against rabies. Neutering and spaying services were also conducted. In total, over 105 dogs and cats were successfully vaccinated. In addition, EVESA spearheaded an aggressive campaign against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) through a youth awareness walk along the streets of Nakuru City. This initiative was organized in partnership with the One Health Club, the Nakuru County Government, and other key stakeholders. The walk was followed by a seminars and panel discussions involving participants from various African countries, including Nigeria and Ghana. The WAAW week concluded with student presentations held at Kabarak University.

In December 2025, EVESA invited the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) to participate in a mentorship program aimed at creating awareness on the roles and functions of the Directorate. The session also provided guidance on career pathways within the Veterinary and Animal Health sectors. It offered a



networking platform with potential employers and industry stakeholders. Over time, EVESA has engaged numerous organizations including Cosmos (participating for the second time), KVA, Ultravetis, Small Five Veterinary Clinic and Utunzi Animal Welfare for similar mentorship and professional engagement programs.

In terms of community outreach, EVESA in partnership with IVSA–Kenya and the One Health Club coordinated major community

programs in February 2025 in Njoro Town and in April 2025 at Egerton Wright Grounds near Rehoboth Shopping Centre. The February 2025 outreach saw over 200 animal owners present their animals for vaccination and health checks. This included 250 dogs, 31 cats and over 30 donkeys. Approximately 600 community members were sensitized on rabies prevention and control. During the April outreach, over 50 animal owners participated, with services provided to over 60 dogs and 10 cats.

Loneliness

by Elizabeth A. Khaemba

Loneliness used to be rare in Africa. Community was a part of everyday life. People raised children together. Neighbors knew each other's names and stories. Elders were revered sources of wisdom. You didn't look for belonging; you were born into it.

Something has quietly changed today. You can be in a crowded *matatu*, scroll through hundreds of contacts, and go to meetings all day and still feel alone. Not only has social media changed how we talk, it has also changed how we connect with each other. People used to talk to each other in schools, markets, churches, and family gatherings. Now they do it through screens. We are "in touch," but deep friendship is now considered needy, or weird. We have surface conversations; we stopped talking about hard things. We have slowly drifted away from the way of being that once supported us. In Kenya, loneliness often hides behind strength. It hides in constant work, degrees and certifications, side hustles and busy schedules. It hides in words like "No Kugeria Mani", "I'm managing" or "I don't want to burden others." In a society that values strength and determination, emotional isolation is goes unnoticed.

The World Health Organization has declared loneliness to be a pressing global health threat. It is a slow growing cancer. It is becoming more common in our homes, schools, workplaces and clinics. It affects people of all ages, genders and income levels. It is connected to depression,

anxiety, burnout, drug use and thoughts of suicide. It has been known to be a leading factor in completed suicides. Even though they are always on their phones, young people feel alone. Even with family and colleagues, adults feel alone. In a world that moves fast, old people are now forgotten in villages.

Community has always been what keeps us safe. Social support helps with stress, makes us feel better emotionally. It is a strong defense against mental illness. Being a part of something bigger than yourself, like your family, your faith group, your neighborhood, or your work group, helps you feel grounded and reminds you that you matter. Small, deliberate actions like going back to face-to-face conversations, checking in on a neighbour, sharing a meal without phones, reviving communal rituals, and speaking honestly rather than impressively are the first steps. This means seeking assistance before a crisis compels you to do so. Above all, it necessitates remembering our identity. Africans have always understood Ubuntu; that a person's identity is derived from other people. One of the most effective mental health interventions available today might be regaining that truth. In the presence of others, the community heals.

Elizabeth A. Khaemba is a Clinical Psychologist and Learning Specialist



CURRICULUM VITAE

JOHN DOE

RELEVANT
EXPERIENCENEWS – Roanoke
Multimedia Journal
Report for donor
Anchor five by
Serve as editor
Analyze data

The CV: Your Professional Story

By Dr. Nicholas Muyale

Make your Curriculum Vitae (CV) count because it gives your Professional story and summarizes your education, experience and skills. Below are tips for crafting a CV that lands a job.

Use clear, action-oriented language to describe what you accomplished. Instead of vague descriptions like *"Was involved in surgeries,"* highlight your expertise: *"Managed surgical procedures, including soft tissue surgeries such as spay and neuter, orthopedic procedures like amputation, extra-capsular stabilization for CCL, and Femoral Head Osteotomy (FHO)."* Avoid generic statements like *"Responsible for managing the sales team."* Instead, demonstrate your impact: *"Streamlined the sales team by setting and tracking performance targets, leading to a 10% increase in sales turnover."*

Let your experience speak for itself. Use numbers and metrics to showcase your contributions, such as *"Boosted client satisfaction scores by 15% in one year by implementing a new follow-up call system."* These details make your CV more persuasive and credible, ensuring potential employers see your true value.

Keep your CV concise, aiming for no more than two pages. Keep it short and simple (KISS principle). A brief CV shows you respect the reader's time and can communicate your value. Omit irrelevant personal details or experiences. Details like hobbies, marital status, date of birth/age, religion and gender are unimportant and can be provided during the interview.

Customize your CV for each job application. If the job emphasizes surgical skills, highlight your surgical experience. If it values client communication, showcase your ability to connect with pet owners. Tailoring demonstrates genuine interest in the specific position and that you are very serious. Include technical skills (e.g., small animal surgery, avian medicine, diagnostic imaging) and soft skills (e.g., communication, teamwork, problem-solving). Showcasing a balanced skill set makes you a well-rounded candidate. List your degrees, certifications and relevant continuing education. Showcase your ongoing professional development to demonstrate your commitment to staying

current in your field of interest. Proofread meticulously! Even one or two errors can make you appear careless and unprofessional. Ask a friend or colleague to review your CV before submission. Maintain a consistent font, style and layout throughout your CV. Inconsistent formatting can make your CV look disorganized and sloppy. Present your information in a logical and easy-to-follow manner. Use clear headings, bullet points and chronological order to make your CV scannable. Carefully review the job posting and incorporate relevant keywords into your CV. Many employers use applicant tracking systems (ATS) to scan CVs for specific keywords, so make sure you're using the right language

A professional CV follows the chronological order: Contact information (your name, phone number, and email); professional summary or objective (a summary of your skills, experience and career goals); work experience (list jobs in reverse chronological order starting with the most recent, including job title, company name, dates of employment, and key accomplishments using quantifiable metrics); education (details of your degrees, institutions, and graduation years, in reverse chronological order); skills (highlight relevant technical and soft skill); certification and training (any additional professional qualifications); projects/publications (significant work you've completed or contributed to); professional membership (any industry organization you belong to e.g. KVA), volunteer experience; and references ("available upon request" is usually sufficient).

A well-crafted CV is a powerful tool that can open doors to exciting career opportunities in areas of your interest. Following the tips outlined in this article, you can create a CV highlighting your skills and experience, avoiding common mistakes, and projecting a professional image that will set you apart from the competition. Invest the time and effort to perfect your CV and watch your career prospects soar!

Delivering a winning speech

Writing and presenting a speech is just like dialing a phone number. When you want to call someone, you dial the right numbers in the right order, and you're connected. When you want to give a successful speech, the same rules apply.

1 Implement the Rule of 3's

Structuring your speech outline should be as simple as 1, 2, 3 – literally. The basic flow of your speech should be:

1. Your opening
2. Your key points
3. Your closing

Try to stick to three main points. You may have a lot of supporting ideas and examples, but they should all relate to one of your three overarching points.

2 Use Stories to Link It All Together

Once you have the main three points of your speech, use stories to help further illustrate your points. The stories you include in your speech act as anecdotes for the points that you are trying to make and help the listener better relate to your message. You can tell stories that are motivational. You can tell stories that are emotional; that make people feel a bond with your journey. They can be stories that inspire or persuade. However, DO NOT tell a story just to tell a story.

3 Remember That Less is More

Always aim to be as clear and concise as possible. This will help you get your point across as the audience won't be distracted by fluff, and when every word carries meaning, they will listen even more intently. When everything is clear, concise and related to the point you are trying to make, it'll be much easier for the audience to understand.

4 Starting Your Speech

You have heard the saying "First impressions are lasting; you never get a second chance to create a good first impression." When you start your speech, you must focus everything on making a positive first impression on your audience members as guided below:

- **Make A Strong Statement, Then Ask A Question**
If you start by making a strong statement and then ask a question, you can then follow with an answer and ask another question. This gets people immediately involved and listening to your every word. Here's an example: "Twenty percent of the people in our society make 80 percent of the money. Are you a member of the top 20 percent? If not, would you like to join the top 20 percent or even the top 10 percent? Well, in the next few minutes, I am going to give you some ideas to help you become some of the highest-paid people in our society. Would that be a good goal for our time together today?"
- **Start Your Speech by Referring to Current Events**
Use a current event to transition into your subject and to illustrate or prove your point. You can bring a copy of the newspaper and hold it up as you refer to it in your introduction. This visual image of you holding the paper and reciting or reading a key point rivets the audience's attention and causes people to lean forward to hear what you have to say.

- **Make a Shocking Statement**

You can start your talk by making a shocking statement of some kind. For example, you might say something like: "According to a recent study, 72 percent of the people in this room will be doing something different within two years if they do not rapidly adapt to new technological advancements in marketing." This is the kind of gripping introduction that you want to lead with – something that surprises the audience and leaves them wanting more.

5 How to End Your Speech

So, as we know with our rule of 3s, a good speech is like a good play. It opens by arresting the listener's attention, develops point by point, and then ends strongly. To ensure that your conclusion is as powerful as it can be, **you must plan it word for word**. Here are three techniques to end your speech:

- **Give A Clear Call-To-Action**

Tell your audience what you want them to do as a result of hearing you speak. Ask yourself, "What is the purpose of this talk?" Your answer should involve the actions that you want your listeners to take after hearing you speak. For example, you might say: "We have great challenges and great opportunities, and with your help, we will meet them and make this next year the best year in our history!" Whatever you say, imagine an exclamation point at the end. As you approach the conclusion, pick up your energy and tempo. Speak with strength and emphasis.

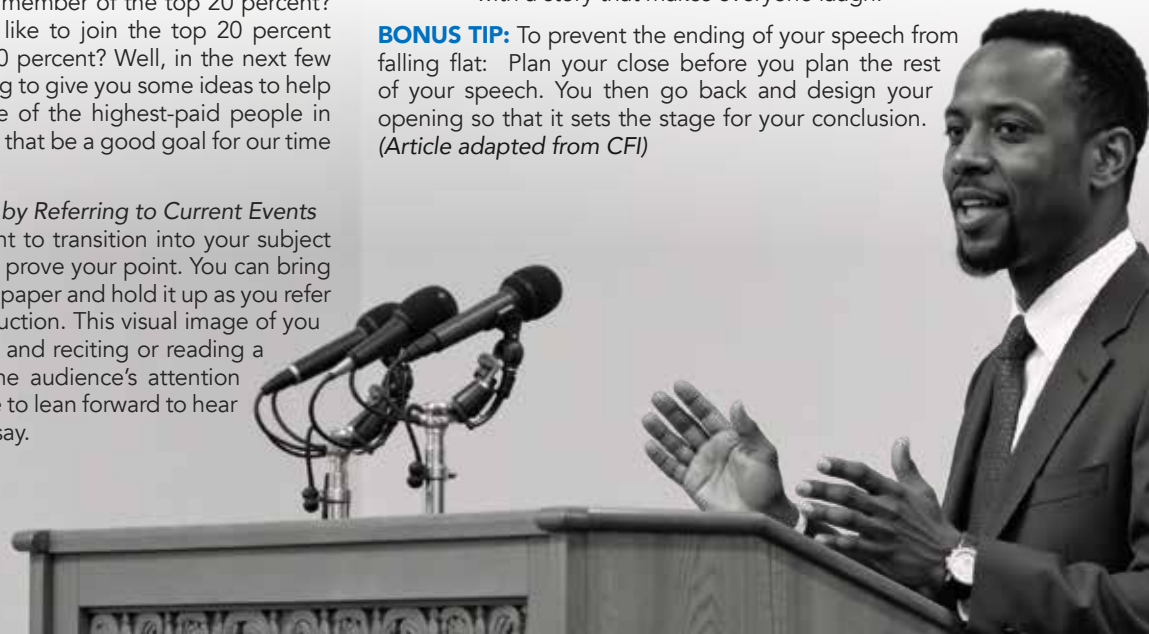
- **Share an Interesting Quote**


End your speech with something motivational. People love to be motivated. Find a quote that is memorable, and make it relatable to your talk. For example, if you've just given an inspirational speech about starting your own business, you could close out with this quote from Steve Jobs: "If you are working on something that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you." Remember, everyone in your audience is dealing with something, and for this reason, everyone appreciates some encouragement that gives them strength and courage.

- **Make Them Laugh**

Another closing option is to tell a joke that loops back into your subject and repeats your main point with a story that makes everyone laugh.

BONUS TIP: To prevent the ending of your speech from falling flat: Plan your close before you plan the rest of your speech. You then go back and design your opening so that it sets the stage for your conclusion. (Article adapted from CFI)





A Veterinary Practice is a Business System:

Why Culture, Not Capital Determines Practice Success

by Dr Andrew Matole Konde

Veterinary Medical practice is an exceptional convergence of science, ethics and commerce. Even though the Profession is established on animal welfare and public trust, most practitioners discover themselves operating in distinctly competitive business environments. Environs that demand efficiency, financial sustainability, and regulatory compliance. Progressively, it has become clear that the long-term success of any Veterinary Practice is not determined by capital investment or technology alone but dependent on the quality of leadership and the organizational culture that governs its daily professional behavior.

In Veterinary Medical Practice, the performance and the thousands of daily routine decisions made by the Vets and the support staff significantly determine the clinical and financial outcomes. These comprise how patients are triaged, how diagnostic uncertainty and wariness are communicated, how medicines are dispensed, how therapies are conducted and managed, and how complications are recorded. Research in Professional Service organizations has shown that such behaviors are sculpted less by conventional rules and more by shared values, norms and identity. Organizational scholars and intellectuals refer to these as culture. When an organization's culture is frail or inconsistent, protocols get ignored, ethical standards get eroded, and the quality of service becomes unpredictable.

A useful way to conceptualize Veterinary business performance is through behavioral systems theory. Outcomes such as profitability, client retention, and reputation are downstream of human behavior, which is influenced by three core elements: Goals, technical competence and attitudes. While continuing professional development ensures that Vets possess the necessary skills and knowledge, evidence from organizational psychology shows that attitudes, shaped by underlying values and beliefs play a dominant role in determining how individuals act under pressure. In high-stress clinical environments, these ingrained attitudes determine whether protocols

are followed, errors are disclosed and ethical judgment is maintained.

This dynamism is particularly relevant in emerging Veterinary markets such as Kenya, where many Professionals have developed their skills in diverse practice environments and must now adapt to increasingly structured regulatory and professional standards. Without deliberate cultural leadership, these patterns can be reproduced within clinics, leading to stock losses, poor documentation and client mistrust. International Veterinary governance standards emphasize that high-quality practice depends on structured clinical protocols, transparent record-keeping and ethical accountability systems. However, such systems function only when staff are internally committed to Professional norms rather than merely complying under supervision.

From a business perspective, this makes culture a strategic asset. Studies of healthcare organizations show that strong professional cultures are associated with better patient outcomes, lower error rates and superior financial performance. For Veterinary Practices seeking to scale, the challenge is not primarily one of capital or branding but of behavioral consistency. The key question is whether the ethical, clinical and customer-care standards of the founding clinic can be reliably reproduced in locations where the owner is not physically present.

Vets, therefore, need to re-conceptualize leadership as a form of institutional design. By clearly defining values, embedding professional standards into daily routines, and holding teams accountable to behavioral expectations, practice owners create environments in which high-quality medicine and sustainable business performance reinforce each other. In an era of rising client expectations and increasing regulatory scrutiny, organizational culture is no longer a "soft" issue in Veterinary Practice, it is the foundation upon which both professional credibility and commercial success are built.

I Have Seen The Future

By Dr. Lynn Dorice Namarome

I have seen the future of Veterinary Medicine in Kenya.
It is not clean, not comfortable, doesn't arrive gently.

It smells like cow breath at dawn,
like dust, disinfectant, blood and responsibility.
It wakes before the sun remembers its name,
in Turkana, where drought counts ribs,
in Samburu, where survival is not a theory,
in Githunguri, where milk decides the day.
Here, a sick animal is never just an animal.

It is livelihood!

And disease,

It does not announce itself,
it arrives uninvited!

Spreads faster than a rumor, Spreads on Whatsapp.

Rift Valley Fever, Foot and Mouth Disease, African Swine Fever,

These are names that empty kraals, that erase savings and rewrite futures overnight.

But the future Vet is ready and does not wait for disaster.

They read warnings in blood and patterns in data,
Signs that others overlook.

They understand that prevention is cheaper than regret,

Vaccination is not charity,

Biosecurity begins at the gate, and not at the slaughterhouse

At the border, the future of Veterinary Medicine stands firm, because exports carry more than meat.

They carry trust, they carry the name of a Nation.

Making sure that "Made in Kenya" must never mean almost safe, almost clean, almost acceptable.

But yes, the Future Vet is getting tired! Understaffed, Underpaid, Overworked.

Walking long distances, carrying heavy responsibility, serving systems that do not always serve back.

But still, they show up.

Because purpose feeds what salary cannot, service speaks louder than neglect,

Because integrity matters, even when no one is watching.

The Future of Veterinary Medicine in Kenya is not limited to the field.

It is in the laboratory, in policy rooms,

in public health, in climate conversations,

in the understanding that human health, animal health and environmental health are one story,

One Health!

Not a concept but survival.

And that future, is not coming.

It is already here.

In muddy boots.

In cold labs.

In slaughter lines.

In decisions made under pressure.

As long as Kenya eats,

As long as Kenya farms,

As long as Kenya lives,

The Future of Veterinary Medicine will always matter!

Do you see like I see?



Digitising Disease Control

How Kenya's E-Voucher Vaccination Initiative Is Protecting Livestock and Livelihoods



VACCINATION



Digitising Disease Control: How Kenya's E-Voucher Vaccination Initiative Is Protecting Livestock and Livelihoods

Principal Secretary Dr. Kiprono Ronoh leads the launch of the digitised e-voucher vaccination exercise in Uasin Gishu County, joined by Governor H.E. Jonathan Bil, marking a major step in strengthening livestock disease control.

Kenya's livestock sector is central to the country's economy, food security, and rural livelihoods. For pastoralists, dairy farmers, and mixed crop-livestock households, healthy animals mean stable incomes, nutritious food, and resilience in the face of climate shocks. Yet diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) have long posed a recurring threat to productivity and market access.

In response, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development has rolled out a national, digitised e-voucher vaccination initiative under the National Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP) and the Food Systems Resilience Project (FSRP). Anchored on the Mifugo 360 application, the initiative represents a fundamental shift in how livestock disease control is managed in Kenya, moving from paper-based campaigns and cash transactions to a transparent, technology-driven and traceable system.

Across the counties, veterinary surgeons, veterinary paraprofessionals and representatives of Farmer Producer Organizations undergo structured training on the e-voucher vaccination model ahead of rollout. These sessions equip service providers with the skills to operate the digital platform, manage real-time data entry, validate vouchers and coordinate vaccination logistics effectively.

The training also emphasizes collaboration between veterinary teams and organized farmer groups. Farmer Producer Organization leaders are encouraged to take the lead in mobilizing farmers, ensuring animals are presented for vaccination and supporting digital registration processes. This structured preparation ensures that the vaccination exercise is not merely a campaign, but a coordinated system involving service providers, institutions and farmers working together.

During the vaccination exercise, farmers are digitally enrolled on the Mifugo 360 app using their national ID numbers and mobile phone contacts. Once registered, livestock details are captured in real time, forming part of a growing national database that supports traceability and better planning. The system issues an electronic voucher to the farmer, who pays a subsidised contribution, approximately KSh 50 per cow, through mobile money. The Government covers the remaining cost of the vaccine dose, ensuring affordability while maintaining accountability. Cash transactions are not permitted, reinforcing transparency and eliminating leakages that have historically undermined subsidy programmes.



An Animal Health Assistant captures livestock data in real time using the Mifugo 360 app during the digital e-voucher vaccination campaign in Kajiado County.

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DIGITISING DISEASE CONTROL - E-VOUCHER VACCINATION INITIATIVE | February 2026

The impact of this approach is already visible. During the most recent reporting quarter for the NAVCDP project, 64,466 farmers in project counties redeemed the e-voucher vaccination subsidy, leading to the vaccination of 435,281 cattle against Foot and Mouth Disease. These figures signal both farmer acceptance of the digital model and the strengthening of structured disease control systems at scale.

Beyond the numbers, the initiative is reshaping livestock health management. Vaccination records are captured instantly within the app, preventing duplication and enabling real-time monitoring by veterinary authorities. This digital

backbone enhances surveillance, supports faster decision-making, and strengthens Kenya's ability to comply with national and international animal health standards.

The programme targets high-impact diseases including FMD, PPR and, where necessary, Rift Valley Fever. National ambitions are equally bold: the initiative forms part of a broader drive to vaccinate over 22 million cattle and 50 million sheep and goats, while contributing to Kenya's goal of eliminating PPR by 2027. By strengthening animal health systems, the Ministry aims to enhance productivity, reduce economic losses from outbreaks, and improve the livestock sector's contribution to GDP.



Vaccination teams conduct the digital e-voucher livestock vaccination exercise in Narok County, strengthening disease control and livestock productivity.

Importantly, the vaccination drive is not an isolated intervention. It is integrated into the Ministry's wider ecosystem of farmer profiling, digital agriculture, agripreneur engagement and producer organization strengthening. The same digital systems that support vaccination also link farmers to advisory services, financial institutions, and market opportunities. In this way, disease control becomes part of a broader transition from subsistence production to structured, market-oriented livestock enterprises.

Vaccination in action: A veterinary officer immunizes goats and sheep during the national e-voucher livestock campaign in Taita Taveta County.



As rollout continues, the integration of livestock health data into broader agricultural planning systems will further strengthen Kenya's disease preparedness and market competitiveness.

In safeguarding Kenya's herds, the Ministry is also safeguarding livelihoods, food systems and the future of the livestock sector.



DIGITISING DISEASE CONTROL - E-VOUCHER VACCINATION INITIATIVE

February 2026

Advancing Professional Excellence and Collaboration In Animal Health and Livestock Development

by APSEA

As Kenya's livestock sub-sector evolves in response to increasing demands for food security, public health protection, climate resilience and economic sustainability, the role of strong professional coordination has become more important than ever.

The Veterinary Profession stands at the heart of these National priorities, requiring not only technical excellence but also strategic leadership and collaboration. As an umbrella body of Professional Associations established in 1961, comprising of a corporate membership of thirty-four (34), Association of Professional Societies of East Africa (APSEA) provides a unifying platform for engagement, advocacy and capacity strengthening across sectors, including Animal Health.

APSEA's foremost strategic priority is the promotion of professionalism, ethics and accountability across all disciplines. In the Livestock sub-sector, these principles are essential for ensuring quality service delivery, safeguarding public health and maintaining confidence in Veterinary Services. Equally important is APSEA's commitment to strategic partnerships and policy advocacy. The association actively fosters collaboration among professional bodies, government institutions, academia and the private sector. These partnerships strengthen coordinated responses to critical challenges, such as transboundary animal diseases, antimicrobial resistance and emerging biosecurity

threats. Working closely with KVA, APSEA supports harmonization of Professional standards, ethical guidelines, and regulatory frameworks that promote disease prevention, animal welfare, food safety and safe trade in livestock and livestock products. Capacity development remains central to APSEA's mandate. By supporting continuous professional development, mentorship and knowledge sharing, in partnership with KVA, APSEA contributes to a skilled and responsive workforce capable of addressing emerging animal health challenges.

APSEA has made significant strides in strengthening professional coordination within the livestock sub-sector. APSEA has successfully convened multi-stakeholder forums that bring together Veterinary Professionals, Regulators, and the Private Sector to address shared Animal Health challenges i.e. Single Business License. These platforms have enhanced dialogue, fostered partnerships, and promoted evidence based decision-making. APSEA has also played a critical role in safeguarding the interests of Professional Societies by representing them in national discussions and

supporting their institutional strengthening. Through advocacy and engagement, the association has helped elevate the profile of Animal Health Professionals as key contributors to food security, public health and economic development.

Looking forward, APSEA aims to deepen and strengthen its role and impact as a unifying professional voice by expanding strategic partnerships, strengthening continuous professional development initiatives, and supporting innovation within animal health systems. This it intends to do by collaborating with Professional bodies such as the KVA and KVB to enhance continuous professional development programs, and supporting digital innovations in Animal Health Service Delivery. APSEA is also committed to advancing sustainable livestock development by promoting climate-smart practices, improved animal welfare and resilient value chains. By empowering Professionals and strengthening institutional linkages, APSEA will continue to contribute meaningfully to a robust Animal Health System and a thriving Livestock sub-sector in Kenya and beyond.



KVA-KCBF Partnership

KVA and the Kenya Commercial Bank Foundation (KCBF) have established a strategic partnership aimed at strengthening Animal Health and Livestock Productivity. In 2025, the two organizations formalized their collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which laid the foundation for joint programming and capacity-building initiatives targeting livestock-dependent communities. Following the signing of the MOU, the *Mifugo ni Mali* Project was launched and implemented between September and December 2025. The project focused on enhancing knowledge and practices among livestock farmers, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions, to improve livestock productivity.

Through the project, over 3,000 farmers were trained on key thematic areas including Animal Health, Animal Welfare, Breeding, Food Safety and Animal Nutrition. The trainings were conducted across five counties namely; Tana River, Lamu, Isiolo, Garissa and Samburu.

The *Mifugo ni Mali* Project was successfully completed, with strong participation from farmers and positive feedback from County Stakeholders. Building on the resounding success of the first phase, KVA and KCBF have now commenced on the second phase of the project that will run between March and December 2026.

KVA-KMA Partnership



KMA and KVA Presidents sign the MOU at the KMA's President's Dinner



KMA and KVA CEOs sign the MOU at KVA's VOYA Event, witnessed by the KMA and KVA Secretaries

KVA and Kenya Medical Association (KMA) established a strategic partnership to strengthen collaboration on shared health priorities, particularly in the area of One Health. In December 2025, the two Associations formalized their collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which provides a framework for joint activities, knowledge exchange and coordinated advocacy on human, animal; and environmental health issues. The MOU was signed in a

colorful ceremony during the KMA President's Dinner in December 2025. The signing was also highlighted during the Veterinary of the Year Awards (VOYA) Award Ceremony and Gala Dinner, underscoring the importance of inter-professional collaboration in advancing Public Health.

Before the MOU came into force, the partnership between KVA and KMA had already yielded tangible outcomes. The two Associations had

jointly planned virtual Conferences during the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Week in November 2024, promoting awareness on responsible antimicrobial use across the human and animal health sectors. Additionally, the partnership had facilitated the joint planning and implementation of the Kenya One Health Conference held in October 2025.

Both KVA and KMA anticipate a fruitful and long-term collaboration, leveraging their collective expertise and networks to strengthen One Health initiatives. The partnership also represents a significant step toward fostering interdisciplinary cooperation and advancing national health and development priorities in Kenya.

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Chicken Research Project

Financed through a Strategic Partnership between KVA and a Key Industry Player, KVA through its Food Safety Technical Working Group (TWG), implemented a Chicken Research Project in Nairobi aimed at assessing Food Safety at the market level. The project ran through the second half of the year 2025 coming into completion in December 2025. The project sought to generate evidence on potential food safety risks within the chicken meat value chain, with an aim of



diseases not only cause direct livestock losses but also trigger trade restrictions and market closures, compounding economic hardship for farming communities. By increasing vaccination uptake, the programme aims to reduce mortality and morbidity, stabilize household incomes and safeguard domestic and regional trade. A core pillar of the initiative is strengthening private sector-driven vaccine supply chains to create access to ruminant vaccines, including combination vaccines which provide coverage against multiple diseases, rather than simply one livestock disease.

The programme is also creating and supporting crucial linkages across numerous stakeholders to enable private sector ruminant vaccine enterprises to become established as a key contributor to the Government's livestock development plans and then rapidly expand. Equally important is building trust and awareness among livestock keepers. Community engagement campaigns will provide practical information on the benefits of vaccination, address misconceptions, and promote timely vaccinations. GALVmed is working closely with KVA to achieve these goals. The initiative is aligned with Kenya's broader livestock development strategies. Increased vaccination coverage will not only protect animal health but also strengthen food security, nutrition and climate resilience in vulnerable communities.

Ultimately, this VITAL 2 represents more than a Disease Control effort. It is an investment in livelihoods, economic stability and the long-term sustainability of Kenya's livestock sector. By closing the vaccination gap, VITAL 2 will unlock the full potential of its ruminant value chains while protecting the farmers who depend on them.

informing interventions that enhance public health.

The study focused on evaluating handling, hygiene practices and potential contamination risks associated with chicken products in selected market outlets. Findings from the research are expected to support evidence-based recommendations for market actors, regulators, and policymakers to improve hygiene standards, strengthen food safety regulations and promote best practices. The project also contributes to KVA's broader mandate of promoting One Health through improved Animal-Source Food Safety.

Closing the Vaccination Gap for Kenya's Ruminant Livestock

Cattle, sheep and goats are central to the Kenya's food systems, rural incomes and export earnings. However, preventable livestock diseases continue to undermine productivity and resilience across many Counties. A new programme is working to address this through vaccination of ruminants in the Country. **The Veterinary Innovations Transforming Animal Health and Livelihoods 2 (VITAL 2)** is a programme by the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (**GALVmed**) aimed at tackling low vaccination coverage among ruminant livestock.

Livestock contributes roughly **12–14% of Kenya's GDP** and supports millions of pastoralists and small-scale producers, particularly in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). However, vaccination coverage for key transboundary and endemic diseases has remained inconsistent due to logistical constraints, limited cold chain infrastructure, vaccine hesitancy and gaps in last-mile service delivery.

VITAL 2 seeks to address these barriers through a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach. Target diseases include highly impactful infections such as Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), Sheep and Goat Pox, Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) amongst other diseases affecting ruminant livestock. Outbreaks of these



VOYA 2025: A Symphony of Excellence, Unity and Celebration

By The VOYA Planning Committee

The End of Year Dinner and Veterinary of the Year Award (VOYA) Ceremony 2025 was a memorable night. A masterfully curated celebration that rose beyond formality to become a statement of identity, pride and collective achievement for Kenya's Veterinary community.



The VOYA journey began quietly but purposefully in July, with months of careful visioning and planning. What unfolded was not merely an event, but an experience that culminated in an evening of elegance and resonance. Every detail spoke of care. Every moment reflected purpose. The theme, Earth Tones, was both symbolic and profound. It honored the profession's deep connection to land, life and animals. On the night, over 300 Veterinary Professionals answered the call, arriving resplendently dressed in warm browns, olive greens and plum burgundies. The visual harmony struck an embodiment of unity, sophistication and grounded excellence.



Development and Food Security. His attendance was not only ceremonial; it was symbolic of a nod to the Profession's expanding influence on Policy and Society.



From the very first step onto the red carpet, VOYA 2025 made a powerful declaration: Every Veterinarian deserves to be celebrated. The red carpet was alive with bright faces, camera flashes and warm embraces. Guests were welcomed by the melodies of the saxophone, setting an atmosphere of class and calm before the evening crescendoed into celebration. As the night progressed, DJ Soxy took charge with effortless mastery hosting with precision and flair. The transition from elegance to exuberance was seamless. Good food, laughter and networking filled the air. It was a full house of professionals young and senior, private and public gathered not as titles, but as a family bound by calling and service. What set VOYA 2025 apart was its radical inclusivity. No hierarchy. No exclusions. Every Veterinarian was equally welcomed, served and honoured.

The ceremony was graced by the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock Development Senator Mutahi Kagwe. His presence elevated the evening and reaffirmed the growing national recognition of Veterinarians as essential pillars in Public Health, Animal Health, Economic

Then came the moment that anchored the night of the awards. VOYA 2025 celebrated Veterinarians who have made exceptional contributions across diverse spheres of practice. It was a declaration that service, and dedication do not go unnoticed, and indeed the winners were recognized:



VET STUDENT OF THE YEAR
Marion Yego



YOUNG VET OF THE YEAR
Dr Brian Mwaura



ANIMAL WELFARE AWARD
Dr Jane Njuguna



ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH AWARD
Dr Joshua Onono



CLINIC OF THE YEAR
Garden Veterinary Services Ltd



BRANCH OF THE YEAR
KESCAVA



COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Dr Stephen Chege



MERITORIOUS AWARD
Dr Raphael Kinoti



VET OF THE YEAR
Dr Victor Yamo

And just when it seemed the night had reached its peak, the celebration found a new rhythm. The dance floor opened and the Veterinarians responded. Coats were shed, and the room transformed into a vibrant expression of joy with

music pulsing and the professionals dancing unapologetically. Fun was not optional; it was inevitable. As the final notes faded and the night drew to a close, one thing remained clear: This was not merely an end-of-year dinner.

It was a mirror of a Profession coming into its own, both united and confident. VOYA 2025 did not just raise the bar. It redefined the celebration of a Profession.

Voya Celeb Speak



As a proud parent of three dogs, I truly appreciate the incredible work Veterinarians do every day. For many years my dogs have not just been pets, they are part of our family. Through our many visits and interactions with the amazing team at Small Five Vet Clinic, I have witnessed first-hand the care, patience and dedication Vets have for animals. Their compassion and professionalism make such a difference, not only for our pets but also for us as pet parents. As a matter of fact, the experience has been so inspiring that my daughter now dreams of becoming a Veterinarian in the future. I thank God for the selflessness, kindness and commitment Vets show in caring for the animals we love so much.

It was truly an honor last December to serve as the MC for VOYA 2025; an incredible event that brought together dedicated Veterinarians from across the country. The evening was a beautiful celebration of the passion, commitment and selfless service that Vets give every day in caring for animals. I was especially honored to host such a distinguished gathering graced by the Guest of Honor, Hon. Mutahi Kagwe – CS Agriculture and Livestock Development. It was inspiring to witness the recognition of professionals whose work often happens quietly but has such a huge impact on our communities. As a proud fur parent, moments like these remind me just how important Veterinarians are, not only to our animals, but to our families and society as a whole. *Truly an amazing night celebrating excellence in Veterinary Care.*

From DJ Soxy



Atending VOYA 2025 was a truly memorable experience for me. I had the opportunity to interact with a few Veterinarians, and I was immediately impressed by how friendly, warm and passionate they are about what they do. From the conversations we had, it was clear that Veterinary Medicine is not just a Profession for them, it is a calling. As I sat through the awards and listened to the different categories and nominees being recognized, I began to appreciate the diversity and breadth of the Veterinary field. The range of categories showed the many areas in which Veterinarians contribute. It also highlighted how much teamwork and collaboration exists within the Profession. What stood out for me most was the genuine passion Veterinarians have for their work. Their dedication to caring for animals that cannot speak for themselves, while also supporting farmers, protecting food systems and strengthening communities. It is truly admirable.

The evening also had a joyful moment when I challenged the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, to try a little *Odi* dance on stage. To his credit, he accepted the challenge, and the room erupted in laughter and cheers. It was a beautiful moment that captured the warmth and unity of the Veterinary community. My experience at VOYA 2025 left me with deep respect for Veterinarians. They are passionate professionals doing incredibly meaningful work, and their impact quietly reaches across many parts of our society.

From Timeless Noel

World Rabies Day Conference

In commemoration of World Rabies Day (WRD), celebrated annually on September 28, KVA in collaboration with partners and stakeholders, successfully held the WRD Conference on September 26, 2025 in Naivasha, Nakuru. The Conference was followed by field activities on September 27, 2025.

The Conference was well attended, providing a platform for stakeholder discussions on Rabies following One Health Frameworks. Participants shared experiences and best practices, reaffirming the importance of coordinated multi-sectoral efforts to achieve Rabies Elimination Targets.

The field activities were conducted in Naivasha, focusing on community-level interventions to support Rabies Control. Dogs, cats and donkeys were presented in overwhelming numbers for Rabies vaccination. In addition, many dogs and cats were spayed and castrated during the KESCAVA-led operation. This went into supporting responsible pet population management and reducing the risk of Rabies Transmission.

The combined Conference and Field activities significantly strengthened Rabies Advocacy, Community awareness and practical action toward its elimination by 2030. The event underscored KVA's commitment to One Health collaboration and its role in supporting Kenya's Rabies Elimination Efforts.



The KWVA Turkana–Vetlabs Initiative

In May 2025, KWVA partnered with the Turkana County Directorate of Veterinary Services to implement the *Kick Rabies and Hydatidosis out of Turkana Campaign*. Conducted in Lodwar Township and Kanamkemer wards, the campaign focused on zoonotic disease control, animal welfare and community awareness. Over a three-day period, 185 dogs and cats were vaccinated against rabies, 61 sterilization surgeries were conducted, and 144 donkeys received treatment and welfare interventions. In addition, deworming activities targeting hydatidosis were undertaken, alongside sample collection for laboratory surveillance, strengthening evidence-based disease control efforts. Beyond disease control, tree planting exercises were conducted, reinforcing the link between environmental health and resilient livelihoods. Complementing the Turkana outreach was the 2025 Adopt-a-Girl Project. Beneficiary institutions included St. Michael Napetet Primary and Junior School in Turkana; and Kabete Vetlabs School, directly supporting retention, attendance and confidence among learners.

KVA Partners' Breakfast Meeting

KVA held a successful Partners' Breakfast Meeting in late January 2026, at the Kingfisher Hotel, Westlands. The Breakfast brought together nearly fifty partners. The purpose of the Breakfast was to foster stronger collaboration and engagement with the Association.

During the meeting, partners were briefed on KVA's key activities and achievements over the past year. KVA also shared the Association's calendar of events for the Year 2026, outlining upcoming activities.

The breakfast meeting was highly interactive and well received, providing an excellent platform for dialogue, networking and reinforcing partnerships. Overall, the event was an outstanding success. It underscored KVA's commitment to building strong and mutually beneficial partnerships.



KVA TWG Activities

During the last few months, the KVA TWGs (Technical Working Groups) have continued to play a key role in advancing technical, research and policy-related initiatives in priority areas of the Veterinary Profession.

The One Health TWG successfully developed and released the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Fact Sheet, aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of AMR among Veterinary Professionals, stakeholders and the public. The fact sheet highlights key drivers of AMR, the role of Veterinarians in Antimicrobial Stewardship, and practical measures to promote responsible antimicrobial use across Animal Health Systems.

The Food Safety TWG completed the Chicken Research Project, which focused on Food Safety aspects within the chicken value chain in Nairobi County. The project generated evidence to inform best practices in chicken

meat handling and processing, thus contributing to strengthening Food Safety standards and risk mitigation strategies in the sector.

The Artificial Intelligence TWG that designed the Drug and Disease Tracking System started the piloting phase with Safaricom PLC.

The Disease Control TWG has embarked on the development of a position paper aimed at supporting the improvement of Veterinary Services at County level. This is informed by the just concluded *Mifugo ni Mali Project* bolstered by KCBF.

Overall, the TWGs demonstrated strong Technical leadership and collaboration, contributing to KVA's mandate in Research, Policy Support and Professional Advocacy.

KVA ONE HEALTH, AMR AND ZOOZOSES TWG
Fact sheet on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
 Understanding Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Transmission from Foods of Animal Origin

What is AMR?

- AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites develop the ability to defeat the drugs designed to kill them.
- Humans and animals do not become resistant to drugs; the bugs that make them sick do.

Why is AMR a Public Health Concern Worldwide?

- Reduced effectiveness of drugs particularly antibiotics therefore;**
 - Common infections become harder to treat in humans and animals.
 - Longer hospital stays or treatment of animals.
 - Higher veterinary and medical costs.
 - Increased mortality.
- Food safety risks:**
 - Overuse of antibiotics in food-producing animals can contribute to the development and spread of resistant bacteria.
 - Resistant bacteria can be transmitted to humans through the consumption of contaminated animal products.
- Global impact:** Resistant bacteria can spread between humans, animals, and the environment, and can spread across large geographical areas through wind, water, animal and human movement.

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2. Transmission Through Animal Products:

- Contaminated Meat and Animal Products:** Bacteria carrying genes of resistance from animals can be present in meat, milk, and eggs.
 - If these products are improperly handled or undercooked, resistant bacteria can enter the human body.
- Contact with Animal Waste:** Animal waste containing resistant bacteria can contaminate water, soil, and crops.
 - People may feed on these bacteria through contaminated farm produce or water.

3. Environmental Spread:

- Animal manure used as fertilizer can spread resistant bacteria to crops, which are then consumed by humans.

Common Foods Linked to AMR Transmission:

MEAT

(Beef, Poultry, Pork and Fish): Improperly cooked or handled meat can contain bacteria like Salmonella or E. coli that are resistant to antibiotics.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

(Milk, Cheese): Unpasteurized milk and products can carry resistant bacteria.

EGGS

Contamination during production at the farm, processing or handling can transmit resistant bacteria to consumers.

How Can You Protect Yourself and Your Family?

- Practice Good Food Hygiene:**
 - Cook food thoroughly:** Ensure meat, poultry, and eggs are well cooked to kill bacteria.
 - Wash hands and utensils:** Clean hands and all items used in handling raw meat and animal products to avoid contamination with resistant bacteria.

2. Responsible Antibiotic Use:

- Promote biosecurity and proper hygiene:** Enhance farm biosecurity and hygiene to reduce use of antibiotics in farms.
- Promote sustainable farming practices:** Support and advocate for use of antibiotics in farms only when unavoidable.

3. Avoid Consumption of Raw Animal Products:

- Avoid consuming raw or undercooked meat, unpasteurized milk, or undercooked eggs.

What Can We Do as a Community?

- Promote Awareness:**
 - Educate others about the dangers of AMR and how antibiotic use in animal farming contributes to the problem.
- Advocate for Policy Change:**
 - Support policies that regulate and reduce the use of antibiotics in livestock and aquaculture production.
- Support AMR Research:**
 - Advocate for scientific research to find alternatives to antibiotics in farming, such as vaccines, non-antibiotic growth promoters or improved hygiene practices in livestock production.

KVA Constitution 2026

KVA successfully developed and adopted the KVA Constitution 2026, marking a vital milestone in the modernization of the Association's Governance. It aligns it with best practices and standards applied by other Professional Associations in Kenya. By aligning KVA's Governance with contemporary Professional Association frameworks, the Constitution enhances institutional credibility and positions KVA as a modern, responsive and member-driven organization. The development process was inclusive and consultative, involving both KVA leadership and members. The adoption of the new Constitution portends a new beginning and a bright future for KVA.



Reflections from Leadership at Kenya Veterinary Association (NEC 2024-2026)

By Dr. Sakwa Kamama

Two years into Kenya Veterinary Association leadership, my experience is similar to climbing Fisher's tower at Hell's Gate National Park.

The association has provided a challenge and path, Dr. Osore the chair is visionary and always keeping every team member on toes. The vice chair Dr. Flookie is quiet and very instrumental in knitting the team together, Dr. Kipyegon listens more while ensuring every detail is captured.

Dr. Wamai strong and questioning every cent used or proposed to be used. Dr. Carol and Dr. Samantha are the Gems and logistical gurus always ensuring all events are in order way before the real activity.

Dr. Agnes is meticulous and thorough when it comes to communication within and outside NEC, Dr. Muasya is calm but when it comes to running conferences, nobody beats the focus.

Dr. Rutto is the tough guy, rules by an iron fist to ensure parrots like Dr. Sakwa are put on check least they take over the meeting. Prof Kimwele brings years of experience and pour wisdom that ensure the environment.

Dr. Lang' at is the tech mind, sharp and bright driving IT while giving plans their light. With publicity mastered, his touch is seen in every event KVA convenes. And Sakwa, a thinker, so quick on his feet turning aside the harsh critiques we meet. A shield from the noise, yet ready to spar.

Dr. Muchelule has been key in ensuring implementation of all resolutions. A perfect definition of cool, calm and collected. He doesn't talk much, but will see a point fifty meters away. He is a man wearing many hats, and you can never predict whom he will pull out of his deep pool of friends.

Dr. Valentine, silent, organized, exact, a project manager who never cracks. Timelines obey her careful design, every project completed on time. Dr. Gillian, smiling through night and day, working round the clock to deliver the way. Relentless in effort, committed and true, carrying projects through.

The secretariat has been instrumental in ensuring day to day activities at the office go on. Millicent is calm and ready to listen; Mary carries the institutional memory and always ready to give a historical perspective. Joseph is always accounting while laughing, but let not the laugh fool you, when it comes to money the smile vanishes.

Above all, the veterinarians and members of KVA are amazing. The democracy therein is unmatched. Sometimes the members can be demanding congratulating and demolishing the leadership at the same time. At one time the support can be overwhelming, the next second you are on the receiving end. Be it as it may, it is still beautiful to lead learned people who can question decisions and actions. It is the backbone of any progressive society.

The WhatsApp platforms are amazing and hyperactive, capable of keeping you awake the whole night. Vet parliament is one such forum, where as you join, you meet the caution; We are here because we are Vets.

As we finish our first term at KVA leadership, I couldn't ask for a better team and organization; I am proud of the team elected into office, proud of the secretariat, the members, and more importantly I am proud of what we have achieved as an office.

Kudos! KVA NEC 2024/26

KVA Branches

KVA has both Regional and Specialized branches. The Regional branches include KVA – Nairobi, Central, Rift Valley, Coast, Eastern, Western and Nyanza. The six specialized branches include KEPPOVA, Wildlife, SEVET, KWVA, KESCAVA and Vet. Pharma Branch. The Regional branches remain active, and continue to hold CPD events, Field days and their Annual General Meetings. Specialized branches have also had activities and this issue of the Vet Scope Magazine will pay special attention to two specialized branches namely: VetPharma and Commerce Branch; and Keppova.



KEPPOVA

The Kenya Pig and Poultry Veterinary Association (**KEPPOVA**) is one of the specialized branches of KVA, bringing together Veterinarians with a strong interest in pig and poultry health. The branch plays a critical role in strengthening Veterinary Practice within Kenya's rapidly growing pig and poultry sectors, which are key contributors to food security, employment and agricultural development. KEPPOVA provides a professional platform where Vets engaged in pig and poultry practice can share knowledge, discuss emerging disease challenges, and promote best practices in animal health management. Through Continuous Professional Development activities, seminars and technical discussions, the branch supports Veterinarians in keeping up with advances in diagnostics, disease control, biosecurity and production systems.

As the pig and poultry sectors in Kenya continue to expand, KEPPOVA remains an important professional forum supporting Veterinarians who are at the forefront of improving productivity, disease control and sustainable livestock production.



Vetpharma and Commerce Branch

The KVA Vet Pharma & Commerce Branch is a specialist branch of KVA that brings together Veterinarians engaged in the pharmaceutical and commerce sector. This sector is currently the largest employer of Veterinarians in practice. Its members play a vital role in supporting livestock farmers and animal enthusiasts through innovative tools and solutions that enhance animal production and welfare.

Though still a young branch, with 20 active members, Vet Pharma is steadily growing in both membership and influence. The branch members operate at the critical intersection between Veterinarians, Paraprofessionals and Livestock producers. This makes this branch a key platform for advancing Professional practice, industry development and farmer empowerment. Importantly, major research outputs and technological advancements in pharmaceuticals, nutrition and animal health equipment are developed and distributed through Veterinary Trade and Commerce. The branch recognizes its responsibility to collaborate with Veterinary institutions, Government and industry stakeholders in promoting policies, advocacy and knowledge-sharing; including in the broader One Health agenda.

The goal of the branch is to help members achieve sustainable returns on investment while strengthening the collective voice of Veterinarians in Commerce. As Dr. Ivan Misner once said: "Networking is more about farming than it is about hunting. It's about cultivating relationships." This is the spirit that guides Vet Pharma branch, growing strong professional and business connections that not only benefit Veterinarians but also advance Animal Health and Production in Kenya.

KVA Journal

KVA is in the process of reviving the KVA Journal, a flagship publication aimed at promoting knowledge-sharing and professional discourse within the Profession. The revival of the KVA Journal underscores KVA's commitment to research, knowledge dissemination and professional excellence.

Kenya One Health Conference

The first Kenya One Health Conference was successfully held in October 2025 at the Emaar Ole Sereni Hotel, Nairobi marking a landmark event in Kenya's interdisciplinary health agenda. The Conference was jointly planned and hosted by the KVA and KMA, reflecting the growing collaboration between the human, animal and environmental health sectors.

The conference brought together professionals, policymakers, researchers and stakeholders from multiple disciplines to share knowledge, experiences and strategies for addressing health challenges at the human-animal-environment interface. The event was a resounding success, with high participation and engagement from attendees. Its success sets a strong foundation for the establishment of more One Health Conferences. Further, this positions the event as a flagship forum for interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange in the Country.

Vet Scope Humor

Vet Parliament is one of the oldest Veterinary Surgeons-only WhatsApp platform. There the love for profession is more than just word.

My task is simple, give you a quick run-down on how it operates

Once you join Vet Parliament, very quickly you will meet many virtually people. There will be debates, discussing a myriad of topics.

There are minutes we try to focus on vet matters but we also discuss concerns that affect us in different ways.

All you need to do is contribute by posting or just sit back and enjoy.

If you exasperate someone and they let you know, please apologize. Virtually shake hands and move on.

In the course of time, you will come to appreciate everyone. We have people of all ages present, but focus on one principle: We are there because we are Vets.

From young to old, we stand as peers, bound by a calling we have held for years. One principle only, firm and true: We are Vets

That is Vet Parliament!

Adapted from a Vet parliament Post by Kamagy Maduma (CPH).



SCAN



Special Tributes

The Veterinary and Scientific community mourns the loss of several distinguished Professionals whose dedication, service and leadership left a lasting impact on their fields and the communities they served. Through their work in Research, Education, Public Service, Conservation and Veterinary Practice; they advanced knowledge, mentored future generations and strengthened institutions across Kenya. The following tributes honor the lives and contributions of colleagues whose legacy will continue to inspire the Profession.



Dr Vijay Varma – KESCAVA

Dr Varma was a pioneering figure in Equine Medicine in Kenya and a leading expert in horse health. He served as a Private Veterinarian at Ngong Jockey Club and was for many years a trusted Veterinarian to the Nairobi Polo Club. He also served as a Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Surgery at the University of Nairobi, where he taught for decades and mentored generations of Veterinarians. Deeply respected within the Veterinary fraternity, he was widely admired for his generosity in sharing knowledge and for the guidance and encouragement he offered to many young professionals. A distinguished leader in the Veterinary Profession, Dr. Varma was a founder member of the Kenya Small and Companion Animal Veterinary Association (KESCAVA), a former Chairman of KVA, a Board Director at The Donkey Sanctuary Kenya, and a Trustee of the Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (KSPCA). His mentorship and leadership left an enduring mark on the Profession.



Dr Batula Awale – Rift Valley Branch

Dr Awale graduated in 1993 and went on to serve in various management roles within donor -funded projects. She was particularly notable for her work with the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Kenya, where she applied her expertise in freshwater resource management and conservation. Her passion for sustainable water management helped advance community-led conservation initiatives along the Mara River and at Lake Naivasha. At the time of her passing, she was serving as the Technical Director at Turbo Feeds in Eldoret, leaving behind a legacy of commitment to Environmental Stewardship and Community Development.



Dr Joseph Njuguna Kamau – Central Branch

Dr Kamau graduated in 1985 and served in the Civil Service at various stations across Kenya. Prior to his retirement in 2022, he worked with the Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP). Throughout his career, he was widely respected for his dedication, professionalism and unwavering commitment to Public Service. Known for his jovial nature, he fostered warm relationships with colleagues and mentees alike, leaving a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of working with him. His legacy of service and mentorship continues to inspire those in the Agricultural Sector and beyond.

Prof Donald Namasaka Siamba – Western Branch

A Professor of Microbiology and Biotechnology, Prof. Siamba had over 30 years of experience in Research and Teaching. He played a pivotal role in the development of the Kenya Agriculture Research Institute (KARI) Improved Kienyeji Chicken. He was widely recognized for his significant contributions to academia. At the time of his passing, he served as the Deputy Vice Chancellor at Kibabii University, where he is credited with strengthening governance and financial management. Beyond his academic and administrative roles, he was a dedicated mentor and an active supporter of Community initiatives, positively impacting many lives and inspiring future leaders in Science and Education.



Dr. Nicholas Muthini Kivuvo

Dr. Nicholas Muthini Kivuvo devoted nearly three decades to the Directorate of Veterinary Services, serving with unwavering commitment from October 1991 to January 2020. Rising to Assistant Director, he exemplified professionalism, integrity, and quiet leadership.

He is fondly remembered by colleagues as ever jovial, bringing warmth and positivity to every workplace, and as diligent, consistently giving his best to his duties. His legacy is one of service, dedication, and humanity. Dr. Kivuvo's impact will endure in the lives he touched, the standards he upheld, and the example he set for those who had the privilege of working alongside him.

Upcoming Events

KVA has lined up a series of exciting events over the coming months, offering members valuable opportunities for professional development, recognition, networking and leadership participation. Key among them include:

KVA Annual Scientific Congress and Field Day

The upcoming Congress promises engaging scientific presentations, exhibitions and opportunities for collaboration across disciplines. The event is planned for April 21-25, 2026 in Diani.

KVA Elections and AGM

KVA will convene the AGM for its General Assembly to review achievements and plan future activities. Further, KVA will hold elections to usher in new National Executive Council (NEC) leadership. The Election and AGM 2026 will be held on April 23, 2026. The General Assembly is encouraged to exercise its democratic and governance rights as enshrined in the KVA 2026 Constitution.

WVA Council Meeting

The WVA has plans to hold its first ever Council meeting in Nairobi, in June 2026; a mark of confidence in both Kenya and KVA.

Golf Day

As per tradition, KVA will celebrate its anniversary and sponsor the Golf Day on the second Saturday of July 2026. Join us, in the tee-off and other engaging activities.



World Rabies Day

KVA will mark World Rabies Day in September 2026 with a Conference and a Field day. This global day of action highlights the role of Vets in the fight against rabies.

VOYA Gala Ceremony and End of Year Dinner

The prestigious VOYA Gala Ceremony planned for end of the year will once again celebrate excellence in the Profession.



Climbing the Fischer's Tower at Hell's Gate National Park

By Dr. Sakwa Kamama, Member, National Executive Council, KVA

As I ascended the rugged rock face, the determination was palpable.

Each handhold and foothold required focus, strength and trust.

But I wasn't alone.

Below, Ellena the belayer stood firm, anchor secure, rope taut, ready to catch any fall.

The rock, unyielding and ancient, provided the challenge and the path.

Its crevices and ledges were the stepping stones to the top.

The anchor, steadfast and strong, held fast against the force of a potential fall.

It was the foundation of trust, the safeguard that allowed me to push higher.

The rope, flexible yet unbreakable, connected the me to the belayer, a

lifeline that absorbed the shock of each move. It was the symbol of partnership and reliance on one another.

In this dance of ascent, each role was crucial. The climber's courage, the belayer's vigilance, the rock's solidity, the anchor's stability, and the rope's resilience all intertwined to reach the summit.

Leadership is like this climb.

It requires courage to take the first step, to face the unknown.

But it also demands trust; trust in your team, trust in your anchor and trust in the process.

A good leader knows when to push forward and when to hold steady, just like the belayer, managing the rope's tension.

As a leader what kind of a belayer are You?

The rock face represents the challenges we face.

Unyielding at times, unforgiving, but also providing the opportunity for growth and ascent.

The anchor reminds us of the importance of a strong foundation, of setting clear goals and values.



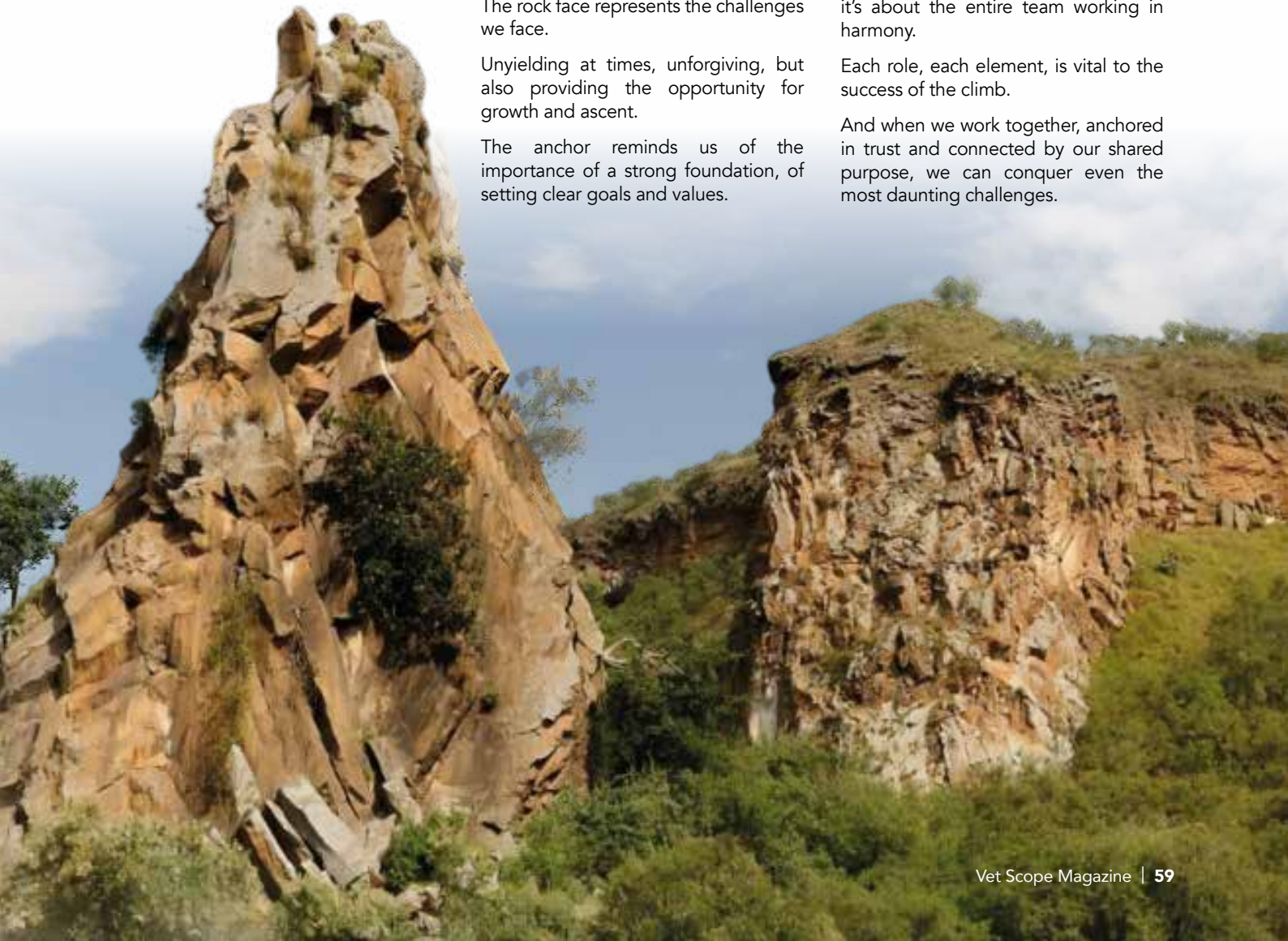
The rope symbolizes the connections we make; the relationships we build.

It's about communication, support and flexibility in the face of adversity.

As we reach the summit, we realize that leadership isn't just about the climber; it's about the entire team working in harmony.

Each role, each element, is vital to the success of the climb.

And when we work together, anchored in trust and connected by our shared purpose, we can conquer even the most daunting challenges.





The Weight of a Broken Heart

Part I: The Double Life

By Dr. Kelvin Osore

Marvin had always carried two lives on his shoulders. By day he was a junior accountant in Nairobi, locked behind spreadsheets and deadlines. His office sat on the seventh floor of an aging building along Tom Mboya Avenue, with windows that rattled when matatus roared by below in a world of traffic jams and hurried footsteps. The fluorescent lights hummed faintly above his desk, and the air smelled faintly of old paper mixed with ink toner. His colleagues knew him as quiet, disciplined, always on time and always buried in work.

Numbers filled his waking hours, endless rows of transactions, reconciliations, invoices, balances and petty cash reports; all of them flowing like a tide he could never quite control. His colleagues joked that accountants lived and died by decimals, but Marvin knew there was little humor in it. The slightest error could unravel a client's trust, and with trust went the fragile security of his job.

At dusk, when the city lights flickered awake, Marvin's second life began. He shed the starched shirts for a reflective jacket, strapped on a helmet, and mounted his motorbike. His helmet was scratched, the seat patched with duct tape, but the engine still roared faithfully through the gridlock. His

clients were the restless pulse of the city: Young professionals ordering takeout, couples needing last-minute wine and families requesting groceries at odd hours. To them he was a fleeting figure—another rider among thousands – but for Marvin, each delivery was survival. The pay from his accounting job barely covered rent and loan repayments. The bike, with its steady hum and fuel-scented promise, was his lifeline.

He ferried everything – burgers to students in Kilimani, documents to offices that had closed hours earlier, and once, an engagement ring a panicked groom had forgotten. The neon signs of the city blurred around him, headlights cut sharp lines across his visor, and the cold night air stung his face as he sped past the endless jam. The city never rested, and neither did he. Sleep became a rationed commodity. Two hours here, three there, never enough to restore him. His body begged for pause, but his spirit pressed forward, insisting he must endure.

It was in this cycle - day locked in fluorescent light, night swallowed by headlights - that family slipped into the margins of his life. Calls from home went unanswered or cut short with hurried promises: *I'll call tomorrow...*

tell her I love her... I'll visit soon. Survival swallowed tomorrow, whole as it was always consumed by deadlines and deliveries.

His grandmother had raised him in the soft green folds of Western Kenya. She had been a woman of resilience, a farmer who knew every trick of coaxing maize from reluctant soil, a caretaker who woke before dawn to light the firewood for breakfast and a master storyteller who knew just what tales to spin to send her obstinate grandchildren to bed. Marvin remembered how she could laugh at her own stories, shoulders shaking until her head scarf came untied. Marvin always looked forward to Friday evenings when, after school, he packed a few clothes and headed across the village to spend the weekend with his grandmother. Her bedtime stories, woven so expertly, leaving Marvin and his cousins clutching at every word as they lay in bed at night next to her. Her food was cooked with plenty of love and the mornings spent gathering wild mushrooms in the expansive fields were some of his main highlights while growing up.

He remembered her hands – calloused but gentle – as she tied his shoelaces on his first day of school. She was the matriarch; her voice steady even when



visits from the Father were made, more holy water and more prayers. Yet still, very little medical intervention was sought. Marvin, lost in Nairobi's storm of deadlines, never questioned the arrangement.

In fact, Marvin was aware of her beloved grandmother's fading health, but each week blurred into the next. "Next month, I'll visit," he told himself. Every day Marvin promised himself he would call home more often, ask sharper questions, and insist on proper care. Every day, work pulled him under again. On the occasional times he checked in, he made mental notes to make more comprehensive follow ups the following day. The calls he meant to make dissolved into exhaustion by the time he returned home from his night shifts. The guilt nagged quietly, but the weight of bills and the pressure of city life drowned it.

Weeks became months. By the time his grandmother was finally rushed to hospital, pneumonia had tightened its grip. Complications from vestibular infections left her weak and disoriented. Marvin's mother and aunt stood vigil by her bedside, their voices hushed, clasping her hands as though...

This excerpt is adapted from the **AfricanTroll** @wordsaladkev run by Kelvin Osore

You can read the full story at <https://thirdwordsalad.wordpress.com/>

the world faltered. She was more than family; she was the anchor, and their compass, their north star. Yet distance, work, and the quiet arrogance of youth had convinced him she would always be there, waiting. To Marvin, she had always been unshakable, like the old *mugumo* tree behind their homestead.

But even *mugumo* trees weaken.

Far away in the green quiet of Western Kenya, this matriarch who raised him with quiet wisdom and firm hands, on stories, porridge and patience—was growing frail and slowly fading. Her hitherto unshaken strength had begun to fray. And as she slowly faded, she waited on the other end of those unmade calls. She may have been old but was not immune to nostalgia. She missed taking care of her children's children as she fondly referred to her grandchildren in Luhya. She missed the sense of purpose and kinship that waking up early to go till the land with them in tow gave her. She missed the innocent way they hung onto every word as she narrated a fable today and sang a folk song the following day. She even missed their mischievous nature. How they would hide behind the door to startle her then burst out loud in their tiny, sweet laughs when she fell for it. She was now just an old lonely woman, an occasional principal in their lives but for the most part, a worry, a distraction. Her children loved her and took good care of her, but no amount of care would replace the feeling of relative youth and usefulness. She felt like a burden. And this was reinforced by all her missed calls to Marvin. With time, this feeling became more intense as the health complications of old age crept in.

First came the fatigue, then the coughing, then dizziness that left her seated more than standing. Marvin's

aunt, who had taken her in when old age started advancing menacingly, placed her hope in faith rather than medicine. She summoned the Parish Priest again and again, inviting him to sprinkle holy water, to anoint, to chase the sickness out by divine force. To her, the illness was spiritual warfare. The Priest obliged, murmuring blessings and touching her forehead with cool fingers, but no doctor was summoned. Holy water sprinkled across the old woman's forehead stood in place of antibiotics. And as her health deteriorated further, more

by Dr. Emily Isoe



The Totality Paradox

by Akihiro Moroto

- **Mon Apr 8, 2024, at 2:04 PM-**
- **New version of iOS upgrade is available-**
- **Would you like to schedule the upgrade tonight? -**
- **YES/NO-**

... To be honest, I didn't care either way as long as the phone worked. I had way too many things to juggle in life. Can't my phone just automatically do so without asking me every few months? I cannot micromanage everything. Without much thought, I agreed to the upgrade and went about my workday...

After being obligated to sit in meetings, put out fires, get my Ducks in a row, and delegating tasks to a burnt-out skeleton crew all morning, I had to stay late to complete the piled-up work. It's always 'Busy-Season' in the M&A world after all, and the company certainly picked an awful time to downsize the workforce. The higher-ups were convinced that 'AI would streamline everything. Deal-making will become effortless.' It's just their excuse to pay their remaining staff the same, while we are dumped with more and more responsibilities. There was no end in sight. The news mentioned something about a Solar eclipse but didn't even have the time to appreciate the phenomenon.

- **Mon Apr 8, 2024, at 10:06 PM-**
- **Would you like to sche...**

YES, I said! Ugh... I'm so exhausted... Did I even eat today?

I contemplated getting a slice of Pizza from the corner joint for dinner again, but it was already so late. I'd rather beat traffic and get home to continue working.

- **Mon Apr 8, 2024, at 11:28 PM-**

...Zoned out, being in bumper-to-bumper gridlock, I was jolted back to reality from the impatient honk of the pickup truck behind me. As I reciprocated with my one-finger salute, I groaned at the serpentine glowing taillights ahead that led to the Jersey side of the Lincoln Tunnel. At this rate, I wouldn't get back home before midnight. I turned on the automated driving system on my EQE SUV. Might as well get some use out of the \$2,500 'Drive-Pilot' annual subscription from the German automaker. I'll let my car deal with this traffic so that I can get back to focusing on engagements with looming deadlines.

Minutes to midnight, I finally passed the EZ-PASS scanning booth and faced the tunnel. My phone pinged sharply, reminding me of the update.

- **Mon Apr 8, 2024, at 11:59 PM-**
- **New version of iOS upgrade is still available-**
- **Would you like to schedule the upgrade now? -**
- **YES/NO-**

Aggravated by being persistently prompted to update, I tapped the phone screen.....

This excerpt is adapted from reedsyprompts. You can read the full story at <https://reedsy.com/short-story/puy5us/>





DID YOU KNOW WE'RE STRENGTHENING ANIMAL HEALTH SYSTEMS?

WE ARE DOING THIS BY:

- Providing structured mentorship and targeted training for both current and future animal health practitioners
- Partnering with industry stakeholders to improve access to essential animal health medicines
- Partnering with veterinary training institutions on curriculum development, review, and implementation to ensure training remains relevant and competency-based
- Supporting governments to develop essential veterinary medicines lists and livestock treatment guidelines, advancing animal welfare and a One Health approach for a sustainable future

Together, we can build stronger
animal health systems
that create lasting impact.

Scan here to learn
more about us.



OVIVAX PPR

RELIABLE AND LONG-LASTING PROTECTION
AGAINST PPR FOR HEALTHY SHEEP AND GOATS

COMPOSITION

Live attenuated
sheep pox virus
Nigeria 75/1 strain $\geq 10^{2.5}$ TCID₅₀

VACCINATION SCHEDULE

Primary-vaccination:
-At 2 months of age,
for young animals from
unvaccinated
mothers.

-At 4 months of age,
for young animals from
vaccinated mothers.

Booster :
1 annual injection.

DOSE

0.5 ml per animal.



OVIVAX PPR: Live attenuated freeze-dried vaccine against Peste des Petits Ruminants. **COMPOSITION:** Each dose of vaccine contains: Live attenuated Peste des Petits Ruminants virus, Nigeria 75/1 strain $\geq 10^{2.5}$ TCID₅₀. **INDICATIONS:** In sheep and goats: Prevention against Peste des Petits Ruminants. **DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION ROUTE:** The vaccine must be dissolved in the sterile diluent. Inject 2-5 ml of diluent into the vial of the vaccine, as soon as the vaccine is completely reconstituted, transfer the vaccine suspension into the diluent vial using a sterile syringe, then shake lightly to homogenise. Inject subcutaneously behind the elbow, the dose of 1 ml per animal. **Vaccination schedule:** Primary-vaccination: At 2 months of age, for young animals from unvaccinated mothers. At 4 months of age, for young animals from vaccinated mothers. Booster vaccination: 1 annual injection. **PRECAUTIONS FOR USE:** - Vaccinate only healthy animals. - Apply usual aseptic procedures. - Disinfect the inoculation site and avoid inadvertent trauma. - Use only clean, antiseptic and/or disinfectant free equipment for vaccination. - Because of the particular sensitivity of the pregnant goats to injection, it is not recommended to vaccinate them, except in emergencies. **CONTRA-INDICATIONS:** None. **SIDE-EFFECTS:** None. **WITHDRAWAL TIME:** Zero days. **STORAGE:** Store between +2° and +8°C, protected from light. After reconstitution, use immediately. **PACK SIZE:** Vial of 100 doses of freeze-dried vaccine and vial of 50 ml of Solvent MCI.



www.mci-santeanimale.com
www.surgipharm.com



VACCINE STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

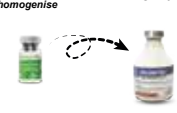
Store and transport the vaccine
between +2°C and +8°C.



Inject 2-5 ml of diluent into the
vaccine vial and mix gently to
homogenise.

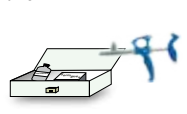


Transfer the vaccine suspension into
the diluent vial and mix gently to
homogenise.



MATERIAL

Prepare all necessary equipment:
syringes, needles, cool box,...



ANIMALS

Ensure the good health of the animal.



Avoid any stress to the animals.



DURING VACCINATION

Dose

Inject the prescribed dose.
**0.5 ml
per animal**



Vaccine

After reconstitution, use the
vaccine immediately.



Asepsis

Respect aseptic conditions to avoid
any risk:
- Use clean equipment and sterile
needles...
- Properly disinfect the injection site.



Vaccine handling

Gently mix the vaccine before use.



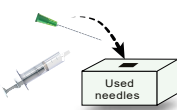
Injection site

Inject the vaccine subcutaneously,
behind the elbow or at the lower part
of the neck.



Needles

Change needles frequently.



ENSURING HEALTHY
ANIMALS AND SUSTAINABLE
PRODUCTIVITY.



(OV-PPR) EXPIRY DATE: V01-2025

www.mci-santeanimale.com

Kingdom Animalia



Oil on Canvas Painting by Evans Omulama (2026) depicting a Veterinarian with some of the animals she treats, being both domestic and wild animals on land, sea and air.