

**Crocodile Specialist Group Steering Committee Meeting
Double Tree Hilton, Darwin, Australia
(15 April 2024)**

Veterinary Science

Report on Activities: May 2022-March 2024

1. Veterinary Workshops

Chetumal Veterinary Workshop, 3 July 2022 , Host Jonathan Nacar, information provided by Luis Bassetti via e-mail to Steering Committee 19 July 2022

- One of our missions is to train new generations of veterinarians, so we need to adapt the Veterinary Meeting to the local realities, at the same time we must present new perspectives, discuss trends, show new diagnostic technologies.
- The Veterinary Workshop included 30 participants, with different professional profiles (Zoo, commercial breeding, wildlife veterinarians, biologists, etc.).
- We had an excellent reception by the owner of the commercial breeding site but faced a number of technical challenges including a faulty projector. The following topics were presented:
 - General diagnosis and first signs of disease in crocodylians;
 - Common diseases in crocodylians (signs, control measures and treatment);
 - Anesthesia in crocodylians;
 - Necropsy protocol;
 - Parasitology in crocodylians;
 - Bacterial resistance against antimicrobials.
- Lessons learnt included - coordinating presentations to avoid repetition and follow up after the workshop to assess application/usefulness.
- For the Chetumal meeting in 2022, photographs were prohibited during the performance of necropsies and clinical procedures out of concern that images may be misused by activist or opportunistic groups in a manner that denigrates the work of the CSG.

Darwin CSG Veterinary Workshop, 14 April 2024

- The workshop will be held at Crocodylus Park, following the usual format of presentations in the morning and workshop activities in the afternoon. Participants will be bused in with lunch included in workshop registration.
- An e-mail was sent to the CSG Vet Group e-mail list asking for input into the content of the workshop and soliciting presenters/demonstrators. Only one response was received.
- Presentations currently planned include: Anaesthesia (Annabelle Olsson), Surgery (case presentation, Steve Cutter), Skin Blemishes (Sally Isberg), Diagnostic Imaging (Paolo Martelli) and Necropsy/lesion recognition/sampling (Cathy Shilton).
- For the workshop component, there are 11 carcasses of problem crocodiles available for study. The carcasses can be used for necropsy (small groups of participants performing necropsies assisted by roaming instructors), surgical/anaesthesia technique or imaging demonstrations. There will also be a station for skin blemish analysis (light table).

2. Continuation of Fritz Huchzermeyer Veterinary Science Student Research Assistance Scheme

2021: Kyla Beguesse (USA) - New approach for identifying pathologic bone in crocodylian species

2020: Gervais Habarugira (Australia) - Understanding the mechanisms of West Nile virus (WNV) infection and induced lesions in *Crocodylus porosus*

There were no recipients of the FHVS-SRAS between 2021 and the early 2024. We wonder whether the FHVS-SRAS should just be with the SRAS, although we should continue to encourage Vet Science applications.

3. CSG Veterinary Science Group Expertise Register and mailing list

We have received and accepted a number of veterinarians' requests to join the Vet Group mailing list of the CSG. Recent additions to the vet group e-mail list include Kunda Ndashe (Zambia), Kafula Darlington Kangwa (Zambia), Sergio Alberto Viveros Peredo (Mexico).

The Expertise Register (available on the CSG website, Vet Resources page) has not been updated on the website since 2014, although a 2017 update has been made.

The veterinary group mailing list continues to be a resource but we have seen a drop in usage. Unclear at this point if it reflects users shifting to different media (eg Whatsapp? Google drive?) or a loss of relevance. We will bring this up at the Veterinary Science meeting in Darwin, see also the question of increasing interest in Vet Sc thesis raised in point 2 above.

4. Website updates

For the full content see <http://www.iucncsg.org/pages/Resources-provided-by-the-CSG-Veterinary-Science-Group.html>

As per usual practice we will include this year workshop presentations on the website. Usage of the website resources is not tallied. Feedback from an Iranian colleague in June 2023 was "very great resource for a veterinarian like me who hasn't access to mentor education", suggesting the resources are addressing the intended goals.

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