

EU Veterinary Week 2009

The European Commission and the Federation of Veterinarians in Europe are launching the European Veterinary Week for 2009 from September 28 to October 4, 2009.

The focus of this week is on the “One Health” concept and how to promote the role of the EU and Member States in safeguarding the health of animals, as well as the health of citizens thanks to safe food and the prevention of zoonoses and other transmissible diseases (<http://ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/conference/>). The week has a special emphasis in TSEs and rabies.

Proposed joint National Promotional Events up to and during EU veterinary Week with GVS representation are;

- SPVS Final Year Veterinary Student Conference – 3 to 6 Sept 09;
- BVA Congress – 24 to 26 Sept 09;
- World Rabies Day – 28 Sept 09;
- OIE Conference – 12 to 14 Oct 09;
- GVS Steering Group – 16 Oct;
- BCVA Conference – 26 to 28 November 09; and
- our various teaching days across the UK vet schools

£750 Student Travel Award – Student Essay Competition

As part of the activities planned for the week in the UK, Defra is again teaming up with the Veterinary Public Health Association (VPHA) with the support of the UK Veterinary schools in launching a student essay competition. The topic for this year’s essay is “the links between animal and human health and its implication on the work of veterinarians in the UK”

Deadline for the competition is Friday 30 October. Successful finalist entries will be judged by the CVO, Nigel Gibbens and President of the VPAH, Jason Aldiss. The winner/s will receive a travel award to attend a conference or undertake a period of planned study in the EU in 2010.

The Awards ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday 15 December and will be hosted by the CVO, Nigel Gibbens with Jason Aldiss (VPHA President) and Bill Reilly (BVA President) in attendance.

Contribution from Defra and VLA colleagues

World Rabies Day – Mount Snowdon Climb

As a contribution to the 2009 EUVet Week Programme, intrepid members of the Rabies and Wildlife Zoonoses group and CERA at VLA Weybridge teamed up with representatives from Defra, IAH, the University of Cambridge, University of

Liverpool, University of Bonn Medical Centre (Germany) and the University of Texas - USA to scale Mount Snowdon in Wales. The aim of this challenge was to raise awareness of World Rabies Day 2009 (which this year took place on September 28th), and to raise money for the Alliance for Rabies Control, a charity which aims to prevent human rabies deaths and alleviate the burden of rabies in animals across the world.



The group (18 participants + 1 dog) was led by Prof Tony Fooks, Dan Horton and Karen Mansfield, and the idea was hatched whilst driving to a conference earlier this year. Over £650 was raised for the Alliance for Rabies Control. The team promises to repeat the challenge again next year!