

The Veterinary Clinic

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” Jim Elliot

***Note from BMDMI about Vet Ministry:** The information below about the vet ministry was compiled by a BMDMI vet volunteer to help to help other teams with establishing a vet ministry. Please note that the team vet ministry can be costly and should be discussed and budgeted for with the team captain. Also, it is very important that you plan to assign someone to do evangelism with the vet ministry. This is really the most important aspect and the greatest return on our investment.

What Team Vets Should Expect on the Mission Field:

First of all let's make it clear that the only certain thing is change. These tidbits of wisdom are only suggestions and observations. Nothing is written in stone and any vet or team member must “BE FLEXIBLE”.

You will quickly realize that the work that you are doing is only a drop in the bucket of what really needs to be done. This can be depressing if you continue to dwell on it. It was not until I was back in Kentucky that I realized that our team's mission was not to provide for medical, dental, or veterinary needs. Our team's mission was to have people accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. The physicians, dentists and veterinarians were merely a means to an end. We were there to bring people to the evangelist so they could hear the word of God and be saved. And every team member plays an integral part in this mission.

The corral is a tremendous place to attract people. It has an air of the Wild West about it and people always want to see what is happening. Each day we would pray before starting our work and after about an hour we would stop as one of the evangelists just happened to stop by and he would give a short talk. Now the people are ready to be talked to one on one or in small groups, and this is where it is important to have someone who can preach the gospel to them on a personal level. If this person doesn't speak the language it will be necessary that they have a translator to help them along and the vet will also need a translator. To be the most effective ask your team leader for 2 translators, an evangelist, and 2 team members to help you do the veterinary work. Also take Bibles and the Plan for Salvation with you to give out to those making a profession at the corral.

Horses: Expect to see from 200-700 in 3 days (1100 is the record). For figuring dosages estimate that the average horse weighs 700 #. Also, vaccinate for Anthrax when in Nicaragua, use the cattle vaccine at the 2 ml dose. Deworm with Ivomec ideally or Panacur if your budget won't allow Ivomec. Spray for external parasites with a permethrin spray. Buy the 10% concentrate and take 2 pump up sprayers with you for application. Give a vitamin B12 shot to each horse. You will be surprised at how important the farmer thinks that B12 shot is and your status will be elevated if you are giving vitamins. You will need to use a different needle on each horse, as EIA is prevalent in Central America.

****Please note new guidelines regarding vaccines allowed in country**

Honduras

If you plan to vaccinate using the encephalitis vaccine this can only be purchased in country. The government will not allow this to be brought in to the country.

Nicaragua

If you plan to vaccinate using the encephalitis vaccine please note the combination vaccine of encephalitis and influenza is not allowed in country. The combination of encephalitis with tetanus is permissible. Also, the leptospirosis vaccine is not allowed in country.

Cattle: Expect to see 500-700 in 3 days. Even though you will see mostly Brahman cross cattle figure on then weighing 1000 # when estimating dosages. Plan to deworm with a pour-on product, this is the easiest and most effective way on the mission field, but also the most expensive. Remember that some of these products are flammable and cannot be placed on an airplane. They can be shipped on the boat with team supplies. If it is not possible to use a pour-on then try for Panacur or Ivomec if the budget allows or albendazole if you need something cheaper.

The dewormers can often times be purchased cheaper in country and this will also save the team on shipping. Vaccinate for Blackleg (cheaper in the US than CA) and Anthrax (Nicaragua only- purchase in country- cheap) and spray for external parasites. B complex should be administered also. It is recommended that the needles be changed after each farmer's herd of cattle, not necessarily after each cow.

Pigs: Expect to see 50-400 in 3 days. Plan to deworm with Ivomec injectable and administer B vitamins and spray for external parasites.

Dogs: Expect to see 100-600 in 3 days. Plan to vaccinate for Rabies (3yr) and deworm. Use pyrantel to deworm the dogs. Get an Ivomec equine oral dose gun and rig the hose to fit the bottle of pyrantel, this will allow you to squirt it in the dogs mouth from a close distance but not so close as to easily be bitten. Most of these dogs are not friendly to strangers and will bite, without notice. It is best to have the owners restrain their own pets so as to not risk exposure to rabies by your helpers. Make sure any helpers you have know to tell you immediately if bitten or scratched and to make sure the animal does not leave the premises.

Cats: Expect to see 0-100 in 3 days. Plan on deworming and Rabies vaccinations. The same handling rules for dogs apply here also.

Miscellaneous thoughts and comments (in no particular order)

- Try to have as many of your supplies and stable (non-refrigerated) medicines available to be shipped with team supplies (approximately 2 months prior to your trip). This will greatly reduce the amount of luggage you have to keep up with through the airport and on your way to the mission field.
- If you find yourself in a village with more prosperous farmers with large herds, the team Vet may want to limit the number of animals seen for any farmer to 10-20 head. This will assure that all the farmers have the opportunity to get their animal seen instead of the vet being

- monopolized by the wealthy farmers. Remember to be flexible as there are exceptions to every rule. Also the villagers can be very good at math. On a recent trip to Nicaragua we put the word out that we would limit it to 10 animals per owner. A rancher rode in a short time later with 82 horses that just happened to belong to 8 different people so we were told. We were short on vaccines and a local vet who happened to be working with us told us that they were all his horses, so we did 10 horses for him and he left with the rest without any complaints.
- If you have medications left over at the end of the mission trip you can take them to the mission house for storage for the next team coming. Please try to accurately inventory them and give this list to the missionary at the house so he can let someone know what is left for them. If you feel led to leave some of the meds in the village, leave them with the local pastor with instructions. In the past some were left with local helpers and wound up being sold instead of used for the good of all the villagers.
 - Remember that any medication being carried or shipped into Nicaragua or Honduras must have at least one year's dating. The government officials are proud people and don't want our leftovers, this would offend National Pride. You must be very clear and sometimes painfully clear to US drug companies and distributors of this rule, as they will often donate short dated goods. If you do receive short dated goods don't refuse them or throw them away, call Dr. Russum, Dr. Peterson, or Dr. Carter for thoughts on the subject. Remember if there is a will there is a way.
 - Request a budget of \$4,000.00-\$7,000.00 for medications and equipment. It is becoming harder to get a substantial amount donated because of the large number of vets answering the call, so we must plan on purchasing a lot of our drugs and supplies. But it never hurts to ask, the worst that they can say is no. If they can't donate can they give it to you at cost?
 - When packing goods be sure to scatter them in different boxes. Don't put all of a particular drug in one box, instead put a bottle in each box incase a box mysteriously doesn't make it to your destination. There would be nothing worse than to find out your syringe box is missing and you have no way to administer the medications
 - Horse twitches are a necessity on the mission field. Plan on taking at least 3 double-ended twitches with you. These can be made cheaply and easily from a piece of schedule 40 PVC pipe (1 1/4 " diameter) with a cap cemented on each end. Then drill a hole through each end and pass a piece of new (ask Dr. Russum) 1/4" nylon cord through the holes and tie it into a loop. If one end of the twitch breaks then just flip it over and use the other end. A pair or two of nose tongs for cattle are also a must. Be sure to attach a 10-foot piece of rope to them.
 - Many villages will not have electricity. You will need to keep your vaccines cold in a cooler with ice. Check with your team leader to make sure you will have access to ice. You can purchase a 5-day cooler at Wally World for about \$30.00 that will hold all of the cold items needed for a week in the field. It is also handy to take a smaller Styrofoam container (like Pfizer ships vaccines in) to carry to the corral each day. Pack it each morning with just what you think you will need for that day and leave the rest at the school.
 - Most antibiotics still work in underdeveloped countries because the farmers are too poor to have tried many of them. You can do a lot with LA200, PPG, and Gentocin. Taking a bottle of the newer antibiotics (Nuflor, Exconel) is not a bad idea, but don't let it break your budget. For saddle sores, which you will see a lot of, you can take a gross of mastitis meds. The syringe packaging is ideal for dispensing and makes for easy application.
 - Clean your deworming guns each day and lubricate the o-rings. Replacement parts are impossible to find when you need them.
 - Large 2 1/2 -3 gallon Ziploc bags (Bass Pro Shops and Cabelas) are ideal for packing a days clothes in before you leave. When you go to the shower just grab a bag of clothes. You will not have to worry about them getting wet while you are in the shower and you can seal the

- dirty clothes in the bags for easy transport to the mission house or home. A shower bag is something you don't want to be without. Water is not constant in many villages. Make sure to fill your bag daily while the water is on so as to not be caught at the end of the day needing a shower with no water available.
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 - Some veterinarians suggest that a vet should take a broad spectrum antibiotic for the duration of the trip. Cipro, Levaquin or Tequin have been suggested. Talk to your physician.
 - Nylon syringes are generally tougher and less prone to breaking and are good for working with cattle. The multidose pistol grip syringes are also worth considering if you can fit in your budget.
 - Contico makes a black footlocker type box for about \$20.00 (Lowe's and WalMart), which is excellent for packing medications and equipment in that will be carried on to the plane. They have 2 hasps to keep the top closed and a place for a padlock for added security. I used one as a suitcase and another to take my other meds and equipment on the plane with me. I would also pack one or two with some of the drugs to be shipped over in advance. These are very handy for carrying the day's supplies to the corral and are lockable to keep unwanted hands out. The people of Central America operate by a different set of values and things tend to disappear quite easily especially on the last day. The fewer hands you have in your supply boxes, the less you will have disappear. On my last day both my sprayers and nose tong were gone by shortly after noon and my nylon syringes disappeared right before we shut down the corral that day.
 - An inventory of each box will need to be done as you pack it for shipment to the mission house. Ask your team leader just how he wants this inventory to be done.
 - Included are spreadsheets I created for my trip to Nicaragua. It made it much easier for me to keep track of what I had and what I still needed. They are a guideline only and will change as time goes by and will vary by team. Feel free to copy them or create your own. If you would like me to e-mail you the excel spreadsheet just send a message to dougsvm@accessky.net. (Also you can find a copy of the Vet Drug Manifest form on the CD in the front of this manual.) I also wrote a personal thank you note to all who donated and included a couple of pictures from my trip. Many of these people I had never personally met, only talked to on the phone, and this allowed them to put a face with a name. Hopefully this made the trip more real for them and possibly will help in getting more donations next time.
 - Mark McBride and the First Baptist Church of Moore OK have begun *Thousand Hills Ministry* to help with supplies for veterinary missions. This ministry is in its infancy so ask Drs. Russum or Peterson for more details.
 - A pair of pliers or a multipurpose tool is invaluable in removing needles from the luer lock pistol grip syringes. Make sure you have one with you.
 - To easily remove a pair of nose tongs from a cow, slip the small looped end of a nylon dog leash over the ball of the free end (the part without the chain attached). Once the rope is loosened you only need to pull on the leash and the tongs will fall to the ground. No more wrestling to get them out.

This document is meant to be a work in progress. It is not the definitive source of information on Veterinary Medicine in the mission field. We would appreciate any suggestions for inclusion in this document. Also we would like to know the numbers of each species of animals that we worked on. This will allow us to further refine the list of supplies needed. This information should be emailed to dougsvm@accessky.net or mailed to the address on the following page.

Butch Russum
8003 U.S. Highway 49
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
601-382-0268
butchrussum@netscape.net

Cary Carter
Bells Animal Clinic
6077 Hwy 412 South
Bells, TN 38006
731-824-0064 H
731-663-3476 W
carydvm@aol.com

Doug Peterson
1777 Campbell Ln
Bowling Green, KY 42104
270-781-5606 W
270-782-6496 H
dougdvm@accessky.net

Chris McAteer
West Main Animal Clinic
1333 West Main St
Lebanon, TN 37087
615-443-0031

Mark McBride
702 Nail Parkway
Moore, OK 73160
markmcbride2@aol.com
405-895-6259 H
405-550-3703 C

(Please see veterinary forms on the next page.)