



WORLD VETERINARY DAY 2015

JVMA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association (JVMA) joins the World Veterinary Association in celebrating World Veterinary Day. The theme this year is “Vector Borne Diseases with a Zoonotic Potential”. Vector borne diseases are now increasingly becoming a major public health concern worldwide as we undergo climatic changes which increase the vector populations and with the ease of global travel aiding in the spread of diseases.

Once again the theme highlights the value of adopting the One Health Concept, and the importance of the partnership between the human and veterinary medical communities and the environmental sector as most of the important vector-borne infectious diseases of today are of animal origin with strong environmental influence. To name a few, these include Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis, West Nile Virus, the Plague and even Chikungunya which had its origins in non-human primates. To date, Jamaica has been lucky to be free of many of these diseases, but we must be aware of those we do have and how to deal with them.

The JVMA, which represents virtually all of the veterinarians registered to practice veterinary medicine in Jamaica, is committed via public-private partnerships to preventing those diseases that are “exotic” from entering our country, managing those that are here, and educating the public about them. The JVMA will continue to work to promote animal health, animal welfare, and public health. I hope you enjoy reading and learning from our supplement.

Dr. Kevin Walker
President
Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association