

WORKSHOP ON FORENSIC VETERINARY SCIENCE
Wednesday 18th May 2011

In the Department of Veterinary Pathology, Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences; University of Nairobi

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Background

Forensic science involves the application of science in legal matters and so forensic veterinary medicine involves the use of veterinary medicine in legal situations. From time to time veterinarians are called upon to give technical evidence in courts in cases of animal welfare, insurance, professional negligence among others. Court settings are not interesting to many scientist including veterinarians since they put to test professional knowledge against a not so friendly legal environment. This workshop brings together veterinarians and other scientists to share experience in forensic science and sensitize on the best practices when the profession meets the law.

The General Aims of the Workshop will be:

- To introduce veterinarians, biologists, animal welfarists, conservationists, staff of enforcement agencies, others involved in legal investigations and students to the **principles of forensic science, with particular, but not exclusive, reference to its role in legal cases concerning the health, welfare and conservation of animals.**
- To familiarize such people with the growing importance of forensic studies in East Africa and elsewhere.

The Objectives of the Workshop are to enable the participant:

- To understand the principles of sound forensic technique, in particular the assessment of the crime scene, the collection and storage of evidence,

the maintenance of a chain of custody, the preparation of reports and appearance in Court.

- To appreciate the need for an understanding of relevant national, regional and international legislation, particularly in the context of forensic work relating to animals.
- To perform certain investigative tasks competently and reliably.

The Aims of the Practical Sessions are to help the participant:

- To understand the value of good laboratory and *post-mortem* techniques and the
Importance of correct sample selection.
- To recognize important gross and microscopical changes in forensic material and the need for careful interpretation of these changes in the context of the presentation of evidence.

At the end of these lectures and the practical sessions the participant should be able:

- To understand the importance of good, properly-documented, forensic methods,
- To recognize and interpret important gross and microscopical features of forensic evidence.
- To appreciate the relevance of these to the submission of reports that can be used as part of the judicial process.
- To know how to locate further relevant information (books, journals, reports, websites) how to seek further advice if needed.

The workshop program covers broad topics including:

1) Introduction to forensic veterinary sciences:

- Historical developments in forensic veterinary medicine
- Challenges in forensics
- Current issues in forensics

2) Principles of Veterinary Forensic Medicine

- Definition of forensic medicine
- Theories and practices in forensics
- Issues in veterinary and human forensics

3) Law and veterinary forensics

- Statutes in forensics (International and Kenyan law)
- Crime scenes assessment
- Evidence gathering, preservation and presentation
- Prosecutions (court proceedings and the role of the veterinarians; Appearing in courts)
- Inquests and claims
- Examples of cases and their management

4) Reports of Kenyan forensic cases

5) Wildlife forensics

6) Animal welfare

And practical sessions

The participants are mainly veterinarians but also biological scientists, technologists and veterinary students,

Presenters include: Forensic experts, animal welfare experts, wildlife scientists, pathologists, entomologists, virologists, osteologists and toxicologists. This underscores the multidisciplinary nature of forensic science.

Thank you,

With those remark,

I wish to officially close the workshop.