

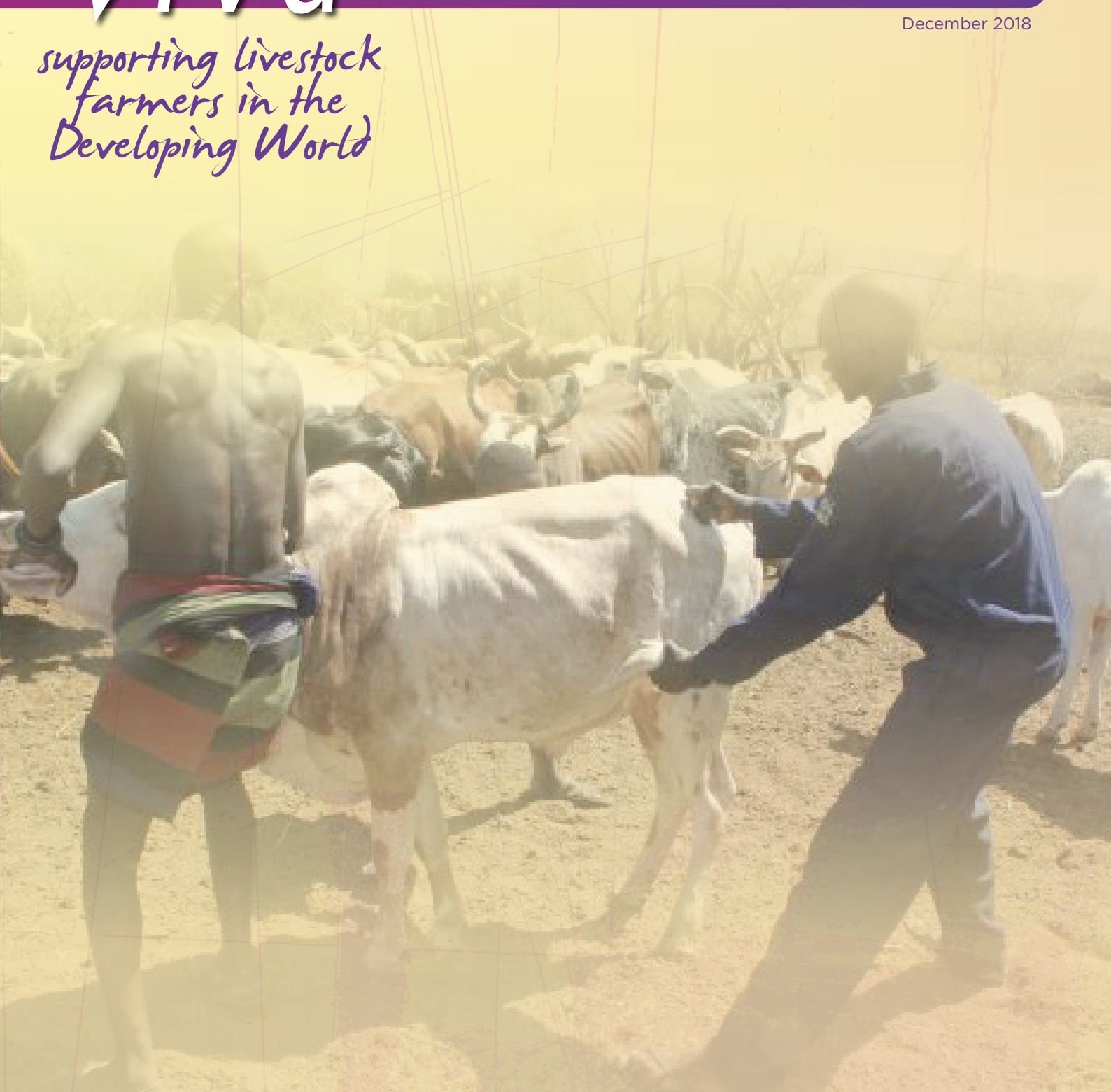


# Viva News

Volunteers in Irish Veterinary Assistance  
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*supporting livestock  
farmers in the  
Developing World*



## VIVA RETURNS TO UGANDA

# VIVA Returns to Uganda

Dear Supporter,

This year has been a busy year for VIVA. We are now active members of the Veterinaire sans Frontiere (VSF) network which comprises 13 organisations in Europe and Canada working to support families and farmers' organizations in 36 countries in Africa, the Americas and Asia. In 2017, the members of VSF International implemented altogether 209 projects, reaching over 6 million direct beneficiaries, with an overall budget of €48.5 million (see below). Through this network we have partnered with VSF Belgium to co-fund a livestock project in the Karamoja region of north-east Uganda. Over the five years VIVA will be contributing €100,000 to the project. Over the following pages you can see what the project entails and also get an insight into the lives of a local farmer and a Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW) in the region.

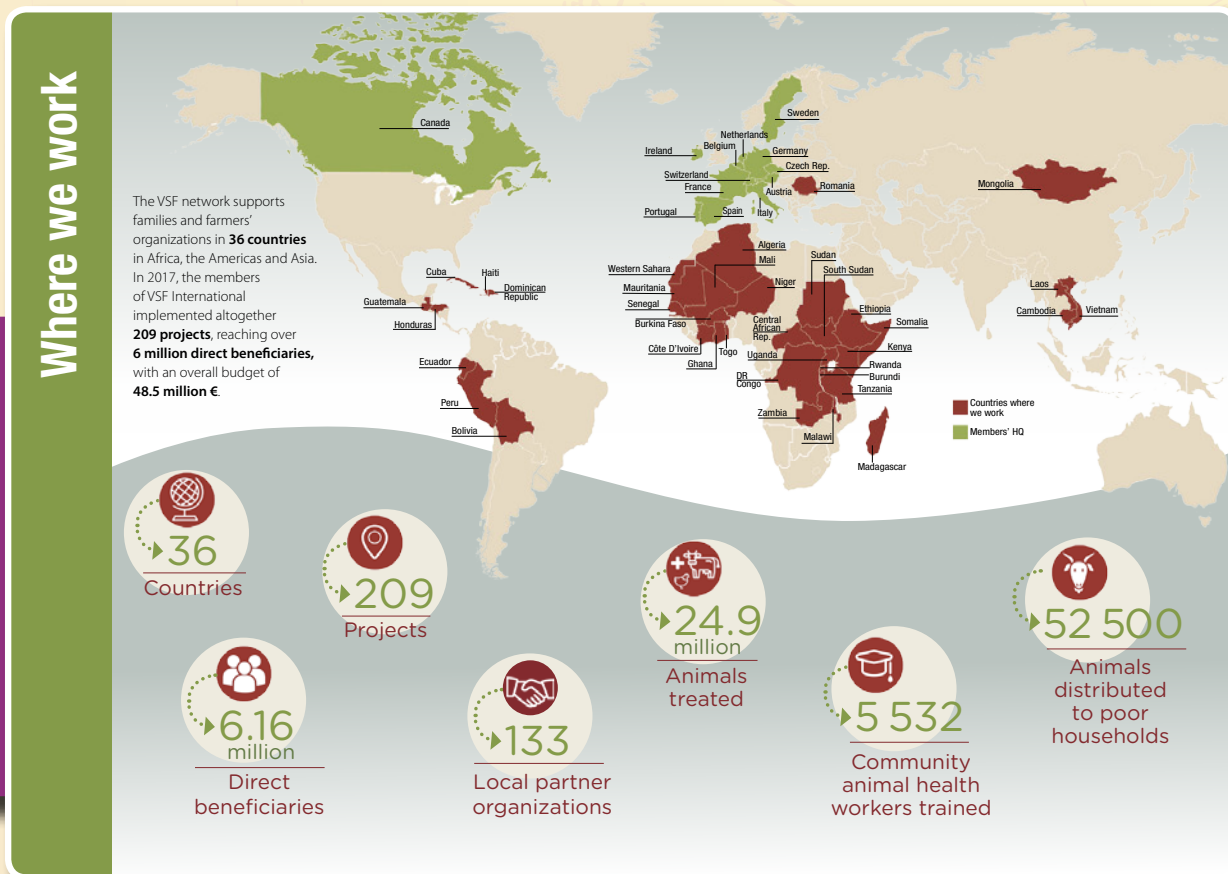
A recent study by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) based in Nairobi highlighted the influence of livestock-

derived foods on nutrition during the first 1,000 days of life and found demonstrable nutritional benefits in providing children, particularly in countries in Africa and South Asia where undernutrition is highest, with livestock-derived foods such as meat, milk and eggs where other sources of protein and micronutrients are not available or not customarily used. This is where VIVA sees its role in supporting small scale livestock farmers in developing countries to enable them to use their livestock as income generators and a source of high quality nutrition. This concept is central to the Karamoja project.

Again, we would like to thank everyone who supported our fundraising in 2018. We hope that you will be inspired by the impact of your contribution in the stories we tell here.

We look forward to your continued support in 2019.

Pat Murphy (VIVA Chairperson) & Mike Burke (VIVA CEO)



# VSF Belgium & VIVA in Karamoja

Karamoja is one of the poorest regions of Uganda and chronic conflict over four decades has added to the poverty. However, since 2006 peace has prevailed allowing some development to occur. One of the main issues for the agro-pastoralists of the region (who combine livestock rearing with subsistence crop rearing) has been the poor productivity and high disease levels associated with the cattle and sheep populations. As veterinary services in the region are totally inadequate, Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) have been trained to offer basic veterinary services and husbandry advice to the community. To create a sustainable business model the CAHWs have been organized into associations to which the project provides technical support. In their first year (2017), the CAHWs associations and their outlets have provided veterinary services to over 24,000 livestock farmers in the target area. In addition, 4,200 sheep and goats have been vaccinated against Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), a viral disease which is widespread in the region. VIVA has committed €100,000 to this project over 5 years.

In 2018, VSF-Belgium / VIVA have continued to build on the gains made in animal health interventions in 2017. The following actions have been implemented to further improve the animal health situation in the area.

- Refresher training for CAHWs

80 new Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) have been trained in Kaabong district. It is envisaged that the training provided will enhance disease diagnosis, treatment and control in the district and hence reduce mortality rates of livestock in the district. CAHWs associations have been restructured and re-stocked. Record keeping templates suitable for low literacy levels have been designed and installed at all eight veterinary outlets to track profitability. Two associations have been supported with small motor bikes to enable them to reach more remote areas.



Going forward the project will continue to link farmer groups to CAHW associations with the farmers making contributions to the CAHWs in return for veterinary services (such as vaccination & worming) to be delivered at agreed intervals. Given that over 50% of livestock mortalities in Karamoja are caused by diseases for which vaccines are available these linkages are vital in reducing livestock mortality. CAHWs associations are also being supported with cold chain facilities such as solar-powered fridges to store vaccines.

- Vaccination campaigns

In Moroto district an outbreak of Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) was recorded in the first quarter of 2018. This disease is a major cause of economic losses to goat keeper in Africa and is highly contagious leading to very high morbidity and mortality rates. Initially, over 5,000 goats were treated prophylactically with antibiotics to reduce mortality (for our veterinary readers, CCPP is caused by a Mycoplasma species and tylosin is the drug of choice). One week later over 10,000 goats were vaccinated against the disease.



# The RUPA CAHW Association

This is one of the CAHW associations supported by VSF Belgium / VIVA. This association was created almost 10 years ago with 15 initial members. At that time they were employed by FAO (United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation) and the local District Veterinary Office to carry out vaccination campaigns. They had a small retail outlet for medicines but it turned out to be unsustainable.

In 2008 VSF-Belgium got involved. They provided capacity building training and raised the number of CAHWs to cover more communities. VSF-Belgium also stocked the veterinary medicines outlet and in 2015 helped them build a new outlet. Currently, there are 48 members, of which 24 have managed to pay their subscription fee of 35,000 Ugandan shillings (approx. 8€). This money assures that the association can stay operational and cover basics.

The rest of the funds are generated by sales of medicines in the outlet. However, due to the illiteracy of many of the members it was difficult to monitor transactions and ensure medicines were sold at a profitable margin and the outlet was suffering losses. However, the VSF-Belgium / VIVA project has worked hard on improving the sustainability of the outlet. Business training has been provided and monthly visits are made to monitor the records. An attendant was hired to manage the outlet and although he is not a CAHW, he can read and write. Due to its prime location it has attracted a large clientele of livestock farmers who now account for 70% of the turnover. The other 30% income comes from the CAHWs themselves who buy veterinary drugs for their own use in the community. However, some challenges remain. For example, some medicines in the outlet do not get sold on time and as they have passed their expiry date have to be discarded so training has been provided in stock management.



RUPA CAHW veterinary outlet centre

# A day in the life of a Karamoja farmer

Lucy Angella is 39 years old and is the mother of 5 young kids trying to earn enough to feed them and keep them in school. She is married, but her husband works far away. That leaves her to take care of her five kids on her own. The youngest, a girl after her four boys, is only 2 years old. Her eldest is nine years, or fourteen – she is not sure. The goats she has received from the project are a new opportunity to have a steady income and the supported animal health services in her community ensure her herd is healthy and productive.

Lucy is a member of Looreng Husbandry Group and lives in Lorukumbo village in Rupa parish. The group saves together and allows members to take loans for so called Income Generating Activities (IGAs). This has allowed the members benefit from the introduction of an improved goat breed by the VSF-Belgium / VIVA project. Lucy was among the first members to receive her allotment of 1 improved buck and 4 female goats of the local breed. She was also trained on best husbandry practices for goats. She has a raised shelter, treats the goats when necessary and provides extra feeding in the form of brewer's grains. Together with her children, she takes care of her goats and sheep as well as 25 chickens and 9 ducks. They all live together in a small compound surrounding the little semi-permanent (wood and clay) house.

Every morning after Lucy wakes up, she washes her face and sweeps the house. Next she instructs the boys to “open the animals”. Her second-eldest son usually takes the goats and sheep for grazing. The other three boys go to school. “Then I go and look for what the family will eat,” Lucy continues. “I try to buy booze from town early that I can then sell.” Selling and brewing local beer, made with sorghum and yeast, remains her main source of income. “Sometimes I borrow money from relatives,” Lucy tells. When she has made some money, she starts cooking for the family. The shepherd brings the flock back at 6 p.m. “I check if all the animals are there. If not, I go and look for it.” Lucy cannot count, but she monitors the animals based on their genealogy. “I know which goat produced which kids and which kids after that,” she clarifies. She knows each animal and which one is missing.

The health of the flock is still hard work as every month or so animals get sick. Before Lucy relied for treatment on local CAHWs but now she has learned how to treat the animals herself unless they are very ill. She is very thankful to her Livestock Husbandry Group for nominating her to benefit first. “Before I didn't have any goats. Now I do everything in my power to keep them well and to gain something from it.” Lucy says



Lucy with some of her fellow farmers



Lucy's sons with some of their goats



Lucy Angella and her kids

# A day in the life of a Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW)

Ayopo Andrew Lomurumoe is around 40 years old – he is not sure of his exact age – and lives in the village of Lopur, in Nadunget sub-county in Karamoja. He has 4 wives and a total of 25 children, the eldest being 17 years old and the youngest only 13 months. One of number of CAHWs trained by our local partner, Madefo, his group is now supported by the VSF-Belgium / VIVA project and he has participated in several refresher trainings as a result.

Before this support he was struggling. He had a cattle herd of his own but animals were stolen regularly and he often joined raids to recover his livestock. His name, 'Lomurumoe', recalls those times. Like for all Karimojong men, his name refers to his name-animal, often a bull, and describes some characteristics. 'Lomurumoe' symbolises toughness.

This toughness he can now put to use in his work as a CAHW and small business owner. Ayopo describes a regular day as follows: "I wake up when I do. Then I start getting calls from people to come and help them with their animals and treatment. Sometimes I leave before taking tea (i.e. breakfast of milk

tea). When I get back from there, I open the veterinary medicine shop (operated by the local CAHWs group). "On Mondays, Ayopo goes to sell drugs at Naitakwae market, the big livestock market in Moroto, near town. He often brings his own medicines to sell as his small enterprise. But he also sells medicines for the CAHW association. On a good day, he can make around 400,000 Ugandan shillings (approx. 90€). Avopo does well as he has a reputation for supplying quality medicines. He also visits other markets if he can, like Kangole and Napak, about 30 km away. Other times he travels on his motorcycle through the rural areas bringing medicines to the manyattas (villages) or kraals (cattle enclosures) to see if he can sell any. As he cannot read or write he does not keep records of his sales and expenses. However, Ayopo says "But I count, I know what I have and what I spend here and there. So I know what I have left."



*Ayopo with his medicine stall at Naitakwae livestock market*

*Ayopo sprays local cows with insecticidal spray*



*Ayopo Andrew Lomurumoe*



# VIVA partners with Animal Care Egypt

This year we also linked up with Animal Care Egypt (ACE), a charity based in Luxor in Egypt which works with the owners of working equines (donkeys and horses) in that region. ACE was founded over 18 years ago by English woman, Julie Wartenberg and her niece Kim Taylor, who were so moved by the plight of the animals they saw while on holiday in Luxor that they decided to do something about it. In the beginning, they did little more than offer a free place for locals to bring their animals for a wash. They showed them that a little preventative cleaning could keep their animals healthy, free of sores and better able to work. Over time, they expanded their efforts to offer

free veterinary services. Several full-time Egyptian veterinarians work alongside volunteer vets from overseas to provide the necessary expertise. Now they are seeing between 3,000 and 5,000 animals a month. Dr. Joe Collins, the Veterinary Director at the Donkey Sanctuary in Lisscarroll in Co. Cork, had volunteered with ACE for a period. He identified diagnostic imaging as a particular training need in ACE so with funding from VIVA Joe arranged for one of their vets, Dr. Hana Salana, to visit Ireland this summer for a three-week internship in UCD's Veterinary Hospital, the Donkey Sanctuary and Blackwater Veterinary Clinic in Mallow.



*Dr. Hana with one of the Donkey Sanctuary's long-term residents*



*Dr. Hana with Mike Burke (VIVA) and Joe Collins (Donkey Sanctuary)*



*James Dunne (Blackwater Veterinary Clinic) with Dr. Hana*



*Owners washing their donkeys at ACE's clinic in Luxor*



Supporting livestock farmers in  
the Developing World

## The VIVA Wheelers

The VIVA Wheelers are a group of cyclists of all ages and abilities who have raised €286,000 for VIVA's projects worldwide since 2005 with fundraising cycles and hikes in Vietnam (2005), Morocco (2007), the Burren (2009), Bantry (2010), Westport (2011), Dungarvan (2012), the Glen of Aherlow (2013), Leitrim (2014), Westport (2015), Kilkenny (2016), the Burren (2017) and the Slieve Bloom mountains (2018)

This year the VIVA Wheelers headed for the Midlands and the Slieve Bloom mountains. Again, the weather was kind to us and a great day was had by all. The lunch for the cyclists at Killanure NS (courtesy of the Parents' Assoc.) was a particular highlight with everyone leaving there a few kilos heavier (an inspired selection by Paddy O'Donoghue on his recce of the route!)

A special note of thanks to Eamon O'Sullivan who organised the Zoetis sponsorship of the meal in the County Arms (as he has done for a number of years).

Our thanks also to Paddy O'Donoghue and some of his colleagues (including Olaf O'Neill, Frank Conway and Donal Lynch) for organising the recce of the route. Paddy's company, Veterinary Instruments Ltd (VIL), also sponsored the lunch for the cyclists.

All told, the event raised almost €11,000 for VIVA. This brings the total raised by the VIVA Wheelers since 2005 to €286,000.

In 2019 the VIVA Wheelers are heading to Mallorca for our first overseas cycle since 2007. Participants will ride with Sportsactive Cycle Training for a week in September. This event is suitable for cyclists of all levels as there are several groups heading out each day tailored to different paces so you will be cycling with others with the same level of fitness. This is your chance to be one of the estimated 150,000 cyclo-tourists that head to Majorca each year. For more info contact Mike Burke on 086 2568357 or [mike@viva.ie](mailto:mike@viva.ie)







Ollie Baker and Paddy O'Donoghue help Donagh McDonnell with his second puncture of the day



L - R: Brendan Leslie, Conor O'Scanaill, Niamh Reynolds (Principal - Killanure NS) and Conor Sheridan



L to R: Lucy Fabby, Cathy Waddell and Mary Sadlier enjoy a well-earned break.



The Hikers (L to R) - Gerry Hanlon, Pat Kirwan, Edgar de Manzilla, Mary Rafferty, Niall Burke, Sarah, Shane McAuliffe, Karen Dunne, Paula Bergeson.



The elite cyclists of the Class of '92 have been some of our best supporters. Here we have (L to R) Des Broome, Andrew Doona, Tadgh Murphy, Liam Burke and Michael Sexton. Separating them from the Class of '89 is Paddy O'Donoghue with Enda Finnerty and James Madden



The Hikers photographer, Karen Mulherin



Donal Duggan, Finola McCoy, Clodagh Muldowney Rebecca Fabby.

## Clare Vets

Every year the Clare veterinary community make a donation to VIVA from their Christmas Dinner with the total raised so far coming to almost €3,000. This very generous contribution is much appreciated. Special thanks to Erica Borge for facilitating this. Up the Banner!

## Merial donate banners to VIVA

Having helped VIVA with a dodgy pull-up banner at an industry event, Joe Broderick of Merial (now part of the Boehringer Ingelheim family) offered to sponsor two new banners which had their first outing at the VIVA Golf Classic in July. A big Thank You to Joe for a very practical gift.



*The new VIVA banners on display*

## Annual "People who humiliate themselves for VIVA" award

And the winners this year (drumroll!) are Cathy Waddell and John Henry who participated in a "Stars in their eyes" event in Westport raising funds for VIVA and a local sports club. They didn't win on the night but they did raise €1,000 for VIVA.



*Anneka and Frida have a well-earned drink*

## Maurice O'Reilly – An Appreciation

On October 4 of this year Maurice O'Reilly MVB passed away after a lengthy illness borne, to quote his obituary, "with courage, dignity and good humour" which really summed up Maurice. Since its inception, Maurice and his wife Paula have been one of VIVA's most generous supporters. In keeping with his "no fuss" attitude to life, Maurice never sought recognition or the limelight for this generosity. However, we would like to assure his family that many lives were impacted by his generosity over the years and this legacy will continue well into the future. All the VIVA team would like to offer our sympathies to Paula, Daragh, Eoghan, Killian and Oonagh.

# The Heifer Draw

The “Heifer Draw” this year raised almost €5,500. VIVA would also like to acknowledge the support of our new sponsor, Duggan Veterinary Supplies in Thurles who generously sponsored all the prizes. We wish their MD, Dónal Duggan, and his staff the best of luck with the opening of their new premises in Thurles in the spring.

## Heifer Draw Winners 2018

- The heifer goes to Shay Grennan, from Milltownpass in Mullingar (Seller - Enda Finnerty of Auburn Vets in Mullingar)
- Second prize of a €500 voucher goes to Celine McParland, Cavan Town
- Third prize of a €250 voucher goes to Mary O’Neill, Carrigaline, Co. Cork



*Altamira Jordan and Babs*

On a side note the first “VIVA Heifer”, Altamira Jordan, has given birth to her second calf, Babs, in Mayo. Here she is with the man who won her, Liam Garvan!

## “It’s Your Field” Animal Health Awards

The second annual “It’s Your Field” Animal Health Awards, which recognise vets, vet nurses, researchers, responsible persons and advisors in the industry, was held in the Clayton Hotel in Galway in September. A raffle held on the day raised €1,235 for VIVA.

Special thanks to Michael Coyle of Coyle Veterinary in Galway who organized the awards and the raffle.



*At the VIVA stand: L - R - Michéal Ó Muircheartaigh (MC for the event), Brendan Mimmagh (VIVA), Lyndon Cox and John Neville.*

# The "Univet" and "C & M Vetlink" Golf Classic

The 16th annual VIVA golf classic returned to its usual haunt, Tullamore Golf Club's 18-hole parkland championship course, in July. VIVA would like to thank Tony McManus for organising the event and to all the competitors who played on the day with over 30 teams competing for an array of prizes. Once again the VIVA classic was sponsored by Univet and C&M Vetlink. Without their valued support it would be very difficult to stage this most successful annual competition that raised over €4,000 bringing the total raised since 2003 for VIVA's projects to €90,000.

Special thanks also to the following for their sponsorship:

Liam McEldowney and Anthony Sweeney.



L to R - Paul Redmond, Seamus Beecher, Kevin Lynch, Peter Redmond



Christy Grogan, Brian Cowen, Seamus Hayden, Michael Finneran



Tony McManus with the winning team: L to R - Tony McManus, Seamus Tubridy, Pat Murphy, Paul McGann (Missing - John Tobin)



The sponsors: L to R - Dermot Melody (C & M Vetlink) and Stephen Lyons (Univet)