

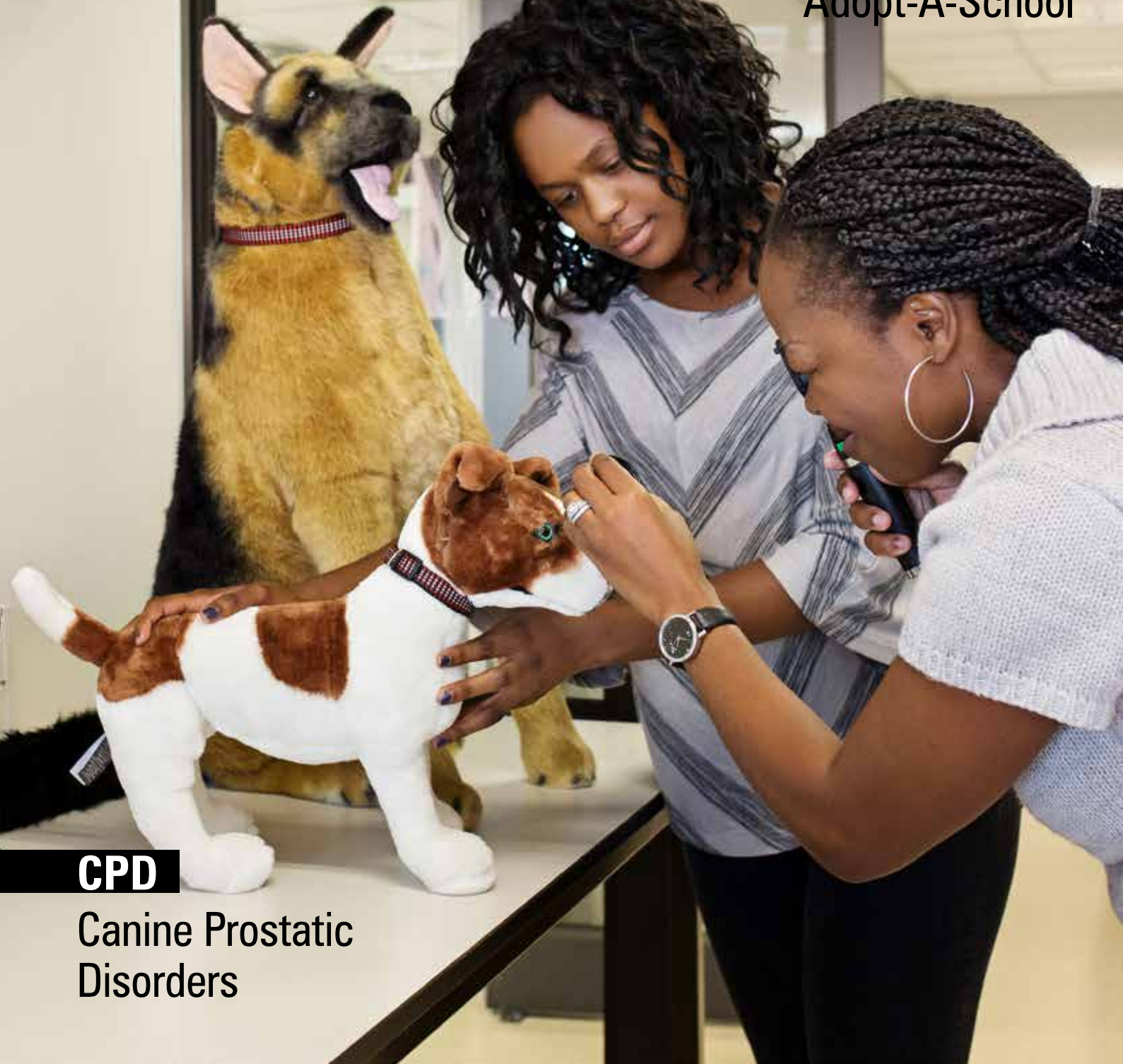
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Die Maandblad van die SUID-AFRIKAANSE VETERINÊRE VERENIGING

# vet *nuus*·news

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#### STREET ADDRESS

47 Gembok Avenue, Monument Park, Pretoria, 0181, South Africa

#### POSTAL ADDRESS

P O Box 25033, Monument Park Pretoria, 0105, South Africa

#### TELEPHONE

+12 346-1150/1

#### FAX

+12 346 2929

#### WEB

[www.sava.co.za](http://www.sava.co.za)

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify the SAVA by email: [debbie@sava.co.za](mailto:debbie@sava.co.za) or letter: SAVA, P O Box 25033, Monument Park, Pretoria, 0105, South Africa

#### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

(Text to a maximum of 80 words)

Sonja van Rooyen

[assistant@sava.co.za](mailto:assistant@sava.co.za) / 012 346 1150

#### DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS

Sonja van Rooyen

[assistant@sava.co.za](mailto:assistant@sava.co.za) / 012 346 1150

#### DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Fréda van Wyk

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Bookkeeper  
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Marketing & Communications  
Vaccination booklets  
South African Veterinary Foundation  
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SAVETCON

[president@sava.co.za](mailto:president@sava.co.za)  
[md@sava.co.za](mailto:md@sava.co.za)  
[vetnews@sava.co.za](mailto:vetnews@sava.co.za)  
[accounts@sava.co.za](mailto:accounts@sava.co.za)  
[elize@sava.co.za](mailto:elize@sava.co.za)  
[marketing@sava.co.za](mailto:marketing@sava.co.za)  
[debbie@sava.co.za](mailto:debbie@sava.co.za)  
[savf@sava.co.za](mailto:savf@sava.co.za)  
[reception@sava.co.za](mailto:reception@sava.co.za)  
[cvc@sava.co.za](mailto:cvc@sava.co.za)  
[petrie@savetcon.co.za](mailto:petrie@savetcon.co.za) /  
[admin@savetcon.co.za](mailto:admin@savetcon.co.za)



Johan Marais

# Don't buy the world's most expensive bed...

All of us, including me, want more money. Money buys stuff, nice stuff – a large house, a bigger car, a better swimming pool, a Jacuzzi, etc., etc... So most of us chase money; the big pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

few years, Apple Inc., had this to say a few weeks before his death last year:

"I have come to the pinnacle of success in business. In the eyes of others, my life has been the symbol of success. Apart from work, however, I have little joy. Finally, my wealth is simply a fact to which I am accustomed. At this time, lying on the hospital bed and remembering all my life, I realise that all the accolades and riches, of which I was once so proud, have become insignificant with my imminent death.

In the dark, when I look at the green lights of the equipment for artificial respiration and feel the buzz of their mechanical sounds, I can feel the breath of my approaching death looming over me. Only now do I understand that once you accumulate enough money for the rest of your life, you have to pursue objectives that are not related to wealth. It should be something more important; for example, stories of love, art, dreams of my childhood.

No, stop pursuing wealth; it can only make a person into a twisted being, just like me.

*Life is short. Treat everyone well. Give a compliment. Don't criticise. Help each other. Why? Well, why not?*

God has made us one way, we can feel the love in the heart of each of us, and not illusions built by fame or money, like I made in my life. I cannot take them with me. I can only take with me the memories that were strengthened by love.

This is the true wealth that will follow you, will accompany you, and will give strength and light to go ahead. Love can travel thousands of miles and so life has no limits. Move to where you want to go. Strive to reach the goals you want to achieve. Everything is in your heart and in your hands.

What is the world's most expensive bed? The hospital bed. You, if you

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## CREDO

**We, the members of the Association, resolve at all times:**

- To honour our profession and its Code of Ethics
- To maintain and uphold high professional and scientific standards
- To use our professional knowledge, skills and resources to protect and promote the health and welfare of animals and humans
- To further the status and image of the veterinarian and to foster and enrich veterinary science
- To promote the interests of our Association and fellowship amongst its members.

**Ons, die lede van die Vereniging, onderneem om te alle tye:**

- Ons profesie in ere te hou en sy Etiese Gedragskode na te kom
- 'n Hoë professionele en wetenskaplike peil te handhaaf en te onderhou
- Ons professionele kennis, vaardigheid en hulpbronne aan te wend ter beskerming en bevordering van die gesondheid en welsyn van dier en mens
- Die status en beeld van die veearts te bevorder en die veeartsenykunde te verryk
- Die belange van ons Vereniging en die genootskap tussen sy lede te bevorder.



# Moenie die wêreld se duurste bed koop nie...

Ons almal, myself ingesluit, wil meer geld hê. Geld wat dinge, mooi dinge – soos ‘n groot huis, ‘n groter kar, ‘n beter swembad of ‘n jacuzzi, kan koop. Meeste van ons jaag dus agter geld – daardie groot pot goud aan die einde van die reënboog – aan.

**D**eur die soort werk wat ek gedurende die laaste paar jaar gedoen het, het ek met ‘n klomp ryk, werklike ryk, mense in aanraking gekom. Ek kan dus getuig dat die gesegde – “hul het baie probleme, maar geld is nie een daarvan nie” beslis waar is. Ek besef dat daar iewers ‘n balans moet wees. Sonder geld kan mens nie ‘n goeie mediese hulpfonds bekostig of kinders na ‘n goeie skool stuur nie. Maar wanneer is dit genoeg? Daardie syfer sal van mens tot mens verskil en sal waarskynlik met verloop van tyd verander. Lees asseblief die volgende gedeelte!

Die HUB van die mees suksesvolle maatskappy ter wêreld, Apple Inc., het enkele weke voor hy gesterf het die volgende gesê:

“Ek het die hoogste punt van sukses in besigheid bereik. In die oë van ander was my lewe ‘n simbool van sukses. Maar, met uitsondering van my werk, gee min dinge my plesier. My rykdom is nou net iets waaraan ek gewoon geraak het. Terwyl ek hier in die hospitaalbed lê en dink oor my lewe, besef ek dat, noudat ek die dood in die oë kyk, al die toekennings en rykdom waarop ek eens so trots was onbenullig geword het.

Wanneer dit donker is, kyk ek na die groen liggies en voel ek die meganiese geruis van die apparaat wat kunsmatig vir my asem haal.

*Die lewe is kort. Behandel almal goed. Deel komplimente uit. Moenie kritiseer nie. Help mekaar. Waarom? Wel, waarom nie?*

Dan voel ek ook die asem van die naderende dood wat oor my hang. Nou besef ek eers dat, wanneer jy genoeg geld bymekaargemaak het vir die res van jou lewe, jy dinge moet najaag wat niks met rykdom te doen het nie. Die dinge moet van groter belang wees, soos bv. stories van liefde, kuns, drome van my kinderjare. Hou op om rykdom na te jaag; dit maak van iemand net ‘n verdraaide mens, soos ek ook is.

God het ons so gemaak dat ons die liefde in elkeen se hart kan aanvoel en nie die illusies wat met roem en geld gebou word, soos wat ek gedoen het nie. Ek kan dit nie saamneem nie. Ek kan net die herinneringe wat deur liefde versterk is, saamneem.

Dit is die werklike rykdom wat jou sal volg, wat oral saam met jou gaan en wat jou krag en lig gee vir die pad wat voorlê. Liefde sal duisende myle saam met jou reis en jou onbeperk lewe gee. Verhuis na waar jy regtig

wil wees. Werk daarvoor om jou doelwitte te bereik. Dis alles in jou hart en jou hande.

Watter bed is die duurste ter wêreld? Die hospitaalbed. Ja, as jy geld het kan jy iemand betaal om jou kar vir jou te bestuur, maar jy kan nie iemand betaal om die siekte wat besig is om jou dood te maak, oor te neem nie. Wanneer jy materialistiese dinge verloor, kan jy dit weer terugkry. Maar die een ding wat jy nooit kan terugkry nadat jy dit verloor het nie, is jou lewe. Ongeag die stadium van die lewe waarop ons onself nou bevind, sal ons vorentoe almal die dag waarop die gordyn val in die oë moet kyk.

Koester jou liefde vir jou familie, jou liefde vir jou vrou, jou liefde vir jou vriende. Behandel almal goed en wees vriendelik met jou bure...”

Vir my sê dit baie. Een van die mees suksesvolle mense ter wêreld beveel aan dat ons almal goed moet behandel en dat ons vriendelik moet wees met ons bure... Bure, soos die veearts om die hoek, die man oorkant die straat, die kollega saam met wie jy werk en die kollega op die punt van die gang.

Die lewe is kort. Behandel almal goed. Deel komplimente uit. Moenie kritiseer nie. Help mekaar. Waarom? Wel, waarom nie? Moenie wag tot jy in die duurste bed ter wêreld lê voor jy besluit om te verander nie... **V**

*Johan Marais*

THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE BED <<< 2

have money, you can hire someone to drive your car, but you cannot hire someone to take your illness that is killing you. Material things lost can be found. But one thing you can never find after you lost it: life. Whatever the stage of life where we are right now, at the end we will have to face the day when the curtain falls.

Please treasure your family love, love for your spouse, and love for your friends...

Treat everyone well and stay friendly with your neighbours....”

To me this says quite a lot. One of the most successful people in the world recommends that we treat everyone well and stay friendly with our neighbours...

Neighbours, such as the veterinarian

around the corner, the guy across the street, the colleague you work with and the colleague at the end of the passage.

Life is short. Treat everyone well. Give a compliment. Don't criticise. Help each other. Why? Well, why not? Don't wait until you lie in the most expensive bed before you decide to change... **V**

*Johan Marais*



Paul van Dam

# On the Dam Wall

It took me almost 60 years. Call me a slow learner, if you want – but I am convinced that I am no different than others. Almost sixty years to realise that we should listen to the advice of others when it comes to living life, that we should not bump our heads or toes against the same obstacles that others did, but that we should listen and learn to avoid such.

**W**e hear and talk about “evidence-based medicine”, which is formally defined as the “process of systematically reviewing, appraising and using clinical research findings to aid the delivery of optimum clinical care to patients.” Our clients expect this, and do their own search for information on Google (although this often is without being able to distinguish fact from fiction, leading to misinformed clients), but also expect us to provide more detailed reasons for the treatment of choice. Veterinarians use personal experience, but also other sources such as colleagues, CPD events and published evidence to improve their own knowledge-base and so do the best for their clients.

Why do we not also implement an “evidence-based living” approach? Why can we rely on others for information on cases and their treatment, but not when it comes to living life? Why do we often say “Thanks for your input, but it will not work for me” (without even trying)? Why do we believe that we are different, that we (unlike others who tried before) will be able to retire at a younger age if we work long hours every day of the week for 10 or 15 years, and that we will spend more time with family once we have made enough money? Why are we willing to be on call 24/7 to see patients, but not for our life-mates, children and other loved ones? Come to think of it, why do we believe that we will live to see retirement?

Listen to those who came before you. Read scholarly articles on the topic, if you require research-based evidence. Evidence shows that most people are not able to stick to the grandiose plans of early retirement. The 15 years will become 20, will become 25 and eventually 50 years of slogging. You cannot make up for time not spent with your children when they were growing up. The expensive, fancy cricket bat/ Barbie doll/iPhone/game station will never replace a hug. You will never see the musical/show that you postponed because there was no time. The wedding anniversary you pushed aside to make room for yet another emergency can never be repeated.

There are no medals for being available 24/365 to your clients. When, still slogging away, you pass away, your clients will sooner rather than later adapt to your replacement.

On the other hand, all around you there is evidence that there are huge rewards in living a balanced life, in continuously building your relationship with your life-partner, with your children, with your friends. In enjoying “Swan Lake on Ice” or a live performance by the Parlotones/ Guy Buttery/Adam Tas/Freshlyground or whoever is to your liking, an impromptu beer with friends, a pizza at home, a ball game with your kids or drinking that special bottle of wine you were saving for that special occasion, right now.

Invest in time, not money! **V**

*Paul van Dam*



Do not live to regret the opportunities that passed by, the relationships that never were, the chances you did not take, the sunsets you never shared. *Carpe diem!*

# Investing in the Future: Adopt-A-School Pilot Project

Prof Darrell Abernethy, BVSc, MSc, PhD  
Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria



It is essential for the future of the veterinary profession in South Africa that black learners, particularly from rural areas, apply to study veterinary science. The Faculty has made significant progress in recruiting black students with a record number present in 2015 - 55% of BVSc I as at October 2015. However, there is a widespread belief that many black African learners are unaware of the profession and of the work undertaken by veterinarians. Together with limited exposure to animals in their school curriculum, this results in relatively few learners applying for animal-related courses at university.

**F**urthermore, many black African learners who choose veterinary science often indicate it as their second choice – an insurance policy in case they are not successful in their first choice – and when offered a place, do not actually register. In 2015, for example, places were offered to 67 black African applicants but only 45 registered.

Many veterinarians have a strong desire to invest in veterinary students or potential students. They willingly spend time and effort in allowing learners or students to see practice with them; they take the message into schools or, through their work, inform and educate communities. The Faculty seeks to match the need of the country with this willingness of the profession in order to realise a vision: a countrywide system of practices “adopting” selected, gifted learners and with the assistance of state veterinarians and the Faculty, mentoring them through their last years at school, helping them in

applying for veterinary science and thereafter, through their studies at UP. Funding has been obtained from the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA) to run a two-year pilot and a workshop was recently held with representatives of the profession to

see how best to deliver on such a vision.

The proposed pilot consists of the following:

1. Ten veterinary practices, targeting ten schools from across the country and differing in education standard and income, will be

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INVESTING IN THE FUTURE <<< 5

- invited to participate in the pilot.
- 2. Educational materials, including a marketing DVD aimed at teenage black learners, posters and booklets as well as guidance material for the practice will be prepared by the Faculty of Veterinary Science in conjunction with local educational experts.
- 3. Veterinarians from the participating practices will join with local state veterinarians and veterinary students to visit the selected schools, talk about animal health and veterinary matters and, with assistance from the teacher(s), identify a small group (ten per school) to visit the practice and learn more about the work and role of a veterinarian.
- 4. Two learners per school will be selected from this group and offered the opportunity to see practice over the lifetime of the project. They will also be invited to visit the Veterinary Faculty twice



to learn more about veterinary science, meet students and participate in the Junior Tukkies programme (University of Pretoria programme to support learners with academic potential through their late school years and into university life).

*It is essential for the future of the veterinary profession in South Africa that black learners, particularly from rural areas, apply to study veterinary science.*



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INVESTING IN THE FUTURE &lt;&lt;&lt; 6

So here's the rub: the Faculty cannot do this alone – we need practices and veterinarians – private/regulatory/industry – with a passion for making a difference in their world – to sign up for the pilot and join with us in making a difference. If you are interested to become involved, or simply want to know more, please contact Mrs Rene Perridge at [Rene.Perridge@up.ac.za](mailto:Rene.Perridge@up.ac.za) or call her at OP – 012 529 8537.

Some years ago a college professor transformed the world around her, despite huge personal problems, by following a simple but profound calling: "I'm out to change my world, you watch, you wait, you'll see". At the Faculty we are committed to making a difference and changing our world – one student at a time – and through them to better our country and world. **V**



*"Many veterinarians have a strong desire to invest in veterinary students or potential students. They willingly spend time and effort in allowing learners or students to see practice with them; they take the message into schools or, through their work, inform and educate communities."*

## New SAVVA logo launched

The SAVVA Board of Directors recently approved a new logo for the SAVVA. The new logo is clean and orderly (representing a professional association), yet modern and easily recognisable.



The colours remained the same as before, as these emphasise what the association stands for:

- **Blue:** conveys a sense of trust, honesty and loyalty; also reliability and responsibility.
- **Yellow:** produces a warming effect, arouses cheerfulness and stimulates mental activity.

In Greek mythology, the "Rod of Asclepius" (also known as the "Staff of Asclepius, sometimes spelled Asklepios of Aesculapius) is a serpent-entwined rod wielded by the Greek god Asclepius, a deity associated with healing and medicine. This symbol has been continued to be used in modern times, where it is associated with medicine and health care.

The "V" is a widely recognised symbol of the veterinarian and can be seen in many veterinary logos world-wide. **V**

How veterinary practices can benefit from design.

# GREAT DESIGN = Great Vet Hospital

**Written by Tahlia Berelowitz and Timme-Loise Burger on behalf of 6D Creative. info@6dcreative.co.za**

**C**an design optimise efficiency and contribute to the patient's health? Can it ensure a friendly and welcoming environment that is easily understood by all, and form part of the identity of a veterinary practice? And can design increase overall user performance, comfort and financial profit? These are just some of the many veterinary design-related questions that can be asked.

There is a lot more to design than what one would think. It does not only consist of what you see, the physical beauty, but how you experience the space consciously and subconsciously. The spaces should fulfil a myriad of functions that must be coordinated and operate in relation to each other in order to provide user wellbeing, comfort, productivity and focus. Designers create your dreams into physical and experiential realities and if the design is done correctly it can be a very powerful tool in changing the ways a living being experiences the built environment.

There are numerous studies done on the human psychology in the built environment, especially in hospitals. These study and experiment with ways in which inclusive and considerate design can speed up recovery and overall wellbeing of users. Such studies are just as critical in the veterinary or animal related industry, but it is currently vastly undervalued.

Spaces designed to cater for the wellbeing and comfort of the user



"Reception designed for Atterbury Bird and Animal Hospital by 6D Creative - Connecting Animals and Design"

within the built environment leads to positive wellbeing for the people and animals who share these built structures.

Consideration for the relevant material specification in the correct application is of paramount importance. One example of this is how finishes fulfil and aid the function of the space they occupy, its hygienic properties and how well they age with strenuous use and high traffic. Design should also cater for the current requirements with future expansions of the space in mind, as well as the future environment and how the function of the spaces will evolve.

Current restrictions to the water and electricity supply can lead to interruptions in the specialized field

of veterinary health which could cost lives and compromise the comfort factor of a building. Design should allow for this by means of alternative energy resources like rainwater harvesting, correct orientation of a building on site, roof overhangs to let the right amount heat in and the use of natural light in spaces.

As designers, we envision the veterinary space and how its users will interact with it in totality. It is very important that more attention and thought be put into animal-related buildings. It should cater for their needs, wellbeing, confidence and comfort, just like human-centred structures do. Consider the positive impact such designs would have on animals in the built environment.

We are all aware of the famous quote by Benjamin Franklin: "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!" A greater investment in the initial cost of planning a practice can ensure it operates like a well-oiled machine that will consistently save time and money.

If you are considering improving your practice or if you are taking up the challenge of a new structure, ensure you employ suitable designers to fulfil your practice's needs. **V**

*It is very important that more attention and thought be put into animal related buildings. It should cater for their needs, wellbeing, confidence and comfort, just like human-centred structures do.*



**New website!**  
[www.sava.co.za](http://www.sava.co.za)

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To get access to the new member section:

1. Register a new account
2. Login with the details you registered with
3. Use the correct code (members or cadet) to unlock the member section

Members code  
**SAVAVET**  
 Cadet code  
**SAVACADET**

Please visit the new  
 "Find a SAVA Vet"  
 page and make sure your  
 details are still correct.



For enquiries contact Christelle Fourie [marketing@sava.co.za](mailto:marketing@sava.co.za)

# Africa's Vultures are Collapsing to Extinction

(Compiled from material published in National Geographic and by BirdLife International)

Eight of Africa's vulture species have declined in number by an average of 62 percent during the last 30 years, according to the first estimates of a continent-wide decline in the large birds. While vultures are not cute and cuddly, they are one of nature's most important scavengers – a flock can strip a carcass in a matter of minutes, said study leader Darcy Ogada, assistant director of Africa Programs for the Peregrine Fund, an Idaho-based non-profit dedicated to saving birds of prey. Ogada predicts that these natural recyclers, which breed slowly and need years to mature, could be extinct in Africa in the next 50 to 100 years.



White-headed Vulture  
(photograph by Michael Gäbler, via Wikimedia Commons)

**S**ix vulture species are now on the edge of extinction, according to the latest assessment of birds carried out by BirdLife International for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. In the last update of the List, six vulture species have seen their status worsen:

- **Hooded vulture** (*Necrosyrtes monachus*): Endangered to critically endangered
- **White-backed vulture** (*Gyps africanus*): Endangered to critically endangered
- **White-headed vulture** (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*): Vulnerable to critically endangered
- **Rüppell's vulture** (*Gyps rueppellii*): Endangered to critically endangered
- **Cape vulture** (*Gyps coprotheres*): Vulnerable to endangered
- **Lappet-faced vulture** (*Torgos tracheliotos*): Vulnerable to endangered

Five other species of vulture are found in Africa, and one of these, the Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) is already classified as endangered, with two others, the bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*)

and cinereous vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) as near-threatened.

Just two species that occur in Africa, the Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), a predominantly Southern European and Central Asian species, and the mainly vegetarian palm-nut vulture (*Gypohierax angolensis*), are still regarded as least concern, though

numbers of Griffon vulture in Africa are also thought to be declining.

In Africa, the main causes of a drop in vulture populations appear to be poisoning and traditional medicine.

- Scientists studied the major threats to African vultures based on data from published and unpublished articles, as well as



Rüppell's vulture (photograph by Lip Kee Yap, via Wikimedia Commons)

media reports, drawn from 1961 to 2014. That work revealed that poisoning from eating pesticide-laced carcasses caused as many as 60 percent of the vulture

deaths recorded since the 1970s.

Poisoning takes two forms:

- Indiscriminate poisoning of vultures – a by-product of

people trying to deliberately eradicate mammalian predators of livestock (and in some areas feral dogs), with the poisoned carcasses or baits inadvertently attracting vultures.

- Poachers deliberately targeting the birds to avoid them giving away the presence of their illegally killed big game carcasses, such as rhinos or elephants. Between July 2011 and 2014, at least ten such poisoning incidents were discovered, which resulted in the deaths of at least 1,500 vultures across six southern African countries.

- The use of vulture body parts in traditional medicine – a recent scientific paper found that 29% of the vulture deaths recorded continent-wide could be attributed to this secretive trade. These practices are thought to be widespread in West Africa, as well as Southern Africa. Body parts of vultures are used by the traditional medicine industry for a number of purposes.

Other factors thought to play a role in the declines include habitat loss, human disturbance and collisions with wind turbines and electricity power lines (as well as electrocution by the latter). v

In a personal post Darcy Ogada, assistant director of Africa Programs for the Peregrine Fund writes in Explorers Journal on 30 June 2015:

Among members of the public, I describe myself as a conservationist, or more typically my response is, "I study birds." Among my conservation colleagues, I have to go a step further – "I study vultures" – to which the near-unanimous reply is "I just don't see vultures anymore." Sigh ...

Sadly, that statement reflects the reality on the ground these days across Africa. In particular, the past five years have been brutal for what are arguably nature's most important scavengers.

Poisoning, poisoning, and more poisoning. Whether you're a fan of vultures' unique lifestyle or not, you can't begrudge an animal a safe meal when that animal does such ubiquitous good for mankind. Yet for a vulture, to eat and be poisoned or not to eat: that is the question.

Sixty-six vultures were poisoned in one incident at Derby farm, Limpopo, South Africa on May 7, 2015. Poisoning is the biggest threat to Africa's vultures. Majestic to those who know them, yet unloved by many, vultures bear the brunt of retaliatory poisonings targeting predators that have killed livestock. The poaching crisis facing elephants has also quietly resulted in the carnage of thousands of vultures. Over the last three years poachers have relentlessly laced elephant carcasses to eliminate vultures and prevent their overhead circling from giving away the scene of the crime.

Then there is the unsustainable harvesting of vultures for traditional medicine. How "traditional" (or medicinal?) is your vulture-based medicine when 40 percent of parts on sale come from birds that have been killed by pesticides? That Africa's vultures are in crisis is no longer in doubt. Our most recent study confirms that eight species of African vulture have declined an average of 62 percent over the past three decades. Given annual decline rates, they are projected to decline from 70-97 percent over three generations, or approximately 50 years. Without conservation intervention, extinction is certain. And because vultures don't breed like rabbits, their declines will be felt for many decades to come.

For those of us working to conserve Africa's vultures, we are a beleaguered bunch. Vultures in the wild desperately need our help to raise awareness about the need for better regulation of pesticides and other poisons, particularly in Africa. To find out how you can help, log in to [www.peregrinefund.org](http://www.peregrinefund.org)



Hooded vulture (photograph by Bernard Dupont, via Wikimedia Commons)



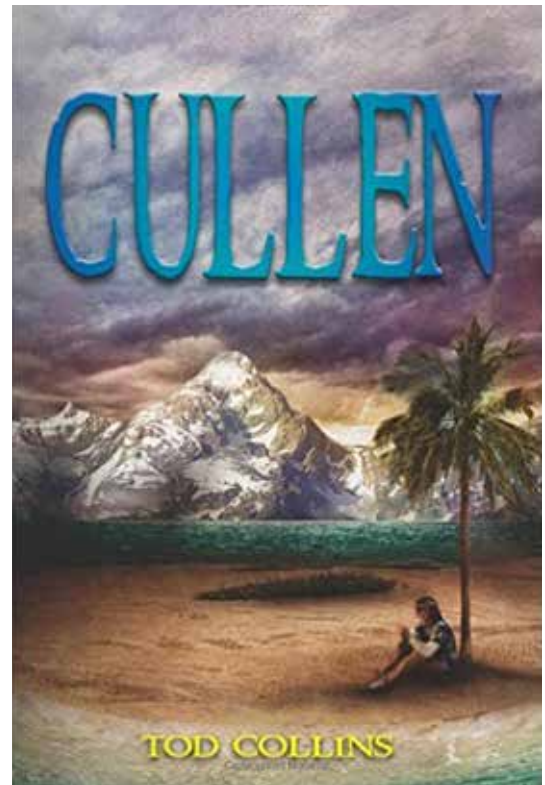
Cape vulture (photograph by Derek Keats, via Wikimedia Commons)

# Well-known Veterinarian launches first novel

Well-known veterinarian and author Tod Collins, from Underberg in KZN, recently launched his 300-page novel, CULLEN.

**"A** small parcel travels halfway across the world, reaching a desk on a Pacific island where it waits for someone to return... Part One: Nobody on the islands could say they saw him arrive, or when, and, afterwards, none of them could say they saw him go either, and that's what made the chief of police pretty fed up during his investigation. Mid 1970s: A young pakeha – white man – with a burdened past appears on Tonga. The wayfarer's sojourn in the region sees him joining the crew on a shark-fishing boat; he faces situations that challenge his past and his hidden talents; he falls in love; a sea pinnacle off the coast captivates him, until that fateful day... Part Two: The author visits the Himalaya of Nepal several times

between 1992 and 2008; he learns of some apparently unrelated and unresolved events that occurred over two decades previously, and encounters some intriguing people, including the enigmatic storyteller, Cullen. Part Three: Cullen relates his story of a private Himalayan expedition, the events leading up to it, its dramatic culmination and the repercussions. Exactly who the wandering pakeha and Cullen are remains a question, though discerning readers might link the fleeting clues that sprinkle the book, and reach their conclusions. ...Then the small parcel is opened." "This very human true-life drama



weaves a story of adventure, love and tragedy, and the author toys with and marries these elements in his tantalising style." – Vanessa Finaughty, who edited the manuscript for Reach Publishers.

## REVIEWS ON AMAZON

*"Brilliant!!!"*

*"An absolutely brilliant novel, a truly exciting adventure taking you around the globe on a journey with 'Cullen'. A most enjoyable, riveting novel."*

*"A magical mystery tour!"*

*"A must read, can't put down: delightful, cleverly crafted, weaved and sutured story; told by a many talented veterinary surgeon who can write, that is for sure! Just like an unforgettable wine, the South Pacific or the Himalayas, it will linger, with you, mysteriously, for a long time. Who is 'Teemu Cullen' then? Could it be T.T.C?"*

(After reading the novel, I can only confirm the above reviews. Get your copy, now! – Paul)

Available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and from the author. 

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# WORLD SPAY DAY

## World Spay Day 2016 – What can you do?

Annually, World Spay Day is organised on the last Tuesday of February. Emphasis is placed on the need for affordable services, particularly in communities that do not have easy access to veterinary services.

**T**he aim is to reduce the numbers of unwanted litters, which inevitably lead to more strays. Animal welfare organisations all over the world cannot cope with the large numbers of strays that they are expected to care for; reducing numbers through the sterilisation of as many cats and dogs as possible could go a long way in reducing these numbers and also prevent the euthanasia of so many healthy animals for whom a loving home cannot be found.

It is a well-known fact, supported by research done in various countries, that “once-off” spayathons or sterilisation campaigns do not have the desired effect. Continuous involvement in communities, education of pet owners and ongoing sterilisation projects are required. World Spay Day thus is a noble effort, especially if it is linked to February as a “Spay/Neuter Awareness Month”,

>>> 14

### WHY SPAY AND NEUTER?

<p><b>REDUCE SPRAYING &amp; MARKING</b></p>	<p><b>REDUCE ROAMING</b></p>	<p><b>REDUCE AGGRESSION</b></p>
<p><b>LOWER RISK OF CANCERS</b></p>	<p><b>DECREASE OVERPOPULATION</b></p>	<p><b>INCREASE LIFESPAN UP TO 3-5 YEARS</b></p>



An initiative of the  
**SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION**

Non-profit Company: 1998/016654/08  
 Non-profit Organisation: 000-234 NPO  
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WORLD SPAY DAY <<< 13

but more is needed.

This is one of the main reasons why the “South African Veterinary Association Community Veterinary Clinics” was established in 1998. Since its inception, the SAVA-CVC has continued to provide primary veterinary services (sterilisation, vaccination and deworming) to animals from disadvantaged communities, linked to education on basic pet care.

All the Community Veterinary Clinics are linked to a registered veterinary practice, which is regarded as the home base. The approach differs from area to area and even from clinic to clinic, but all aim to provide primary animal health care services to indigent communities. In all cases, the rules for the veterinary profession (and veterinary para-professions, where applicable) as compiled by the SAVC, have to be adhered to.

One of the essential components of CVC work is that a means test must

be used to determine whether any individual qualifies for the services rendered. Proof of income, proof of residential address and a certified copy of the owner’s identification document must be submitted by animal owners. The CVC Principal has final say in who qualifies, but the CVC may not be in competition with existing veterinary practices in the area. Owners who have the means to pay the fees charged by the local private practice (based on the guidelines and means test) must be referred to this practice.

Most of the current CVC’s deal primarily with companion animals; efforts are underway to change this and to also establish CVC’s in communities where the need is more towards production animals. Many CVC’s raise funds for their activities themselves; central support consists of the provision of education material, special deals with pharmaceutical companies and some financial support aimed at specific projects. The SAVA-

CVC head office is working on a new approach, aimed at more intensive central fundraising efforts, to so be able to provide support for projects countrywide.


### Everyone can make a contribution!

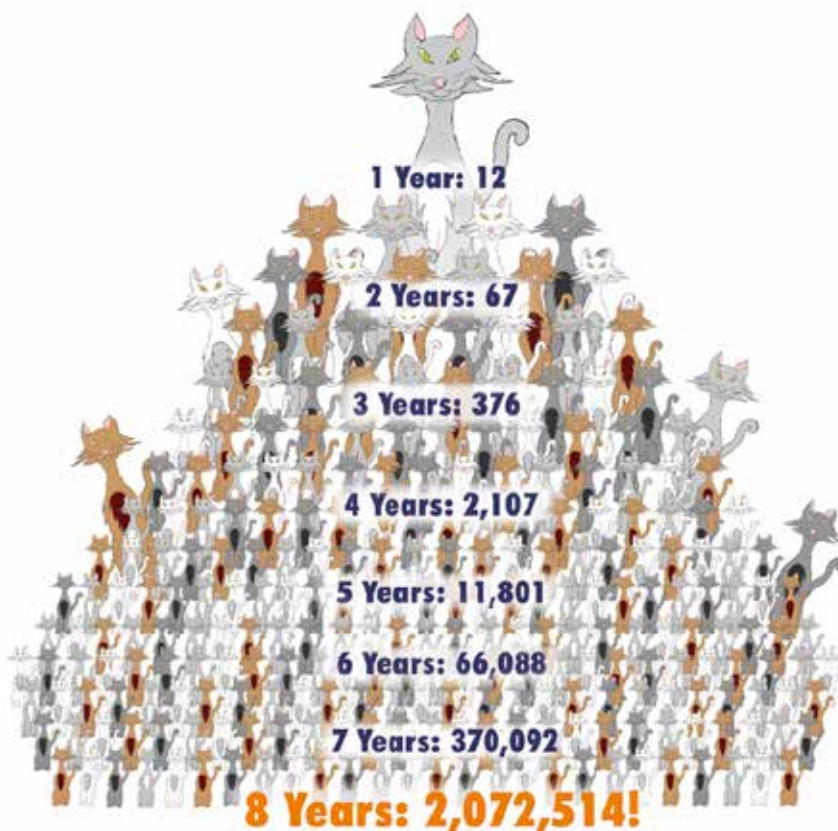
- **Veterinarians can**
  - Establish new CVC’s, or
  - Make time available to support current CVC’s (please refer to the list below), or
  - Offer to perform sterilisations for free or at a huge discount (even one-vet practices can find the time to do some), supporting existing CVC’s in this way.
  - Donate material/vaccines/dewormers and other parasiticides/other products (either specifically purchased, or stock that is close to expiry (not already expired) that you know you will not use before the sell-by date, to existing CVC’s.
  - Donate money.
- **Veterinary nurses and other practice staff can**
  - Volunteer to assist at one of the existing CVC’s, or
  - Support the principal of the practice they work for in the establishment of a new CVC).
  - Assist with fundraising campaigns.
  - Donate money.

**Please contact the SAVA-CVC Head Office at Vethouse in Monument Park if you can make a contribution.**

Elmien Delpont – fundraiser@cvetc.co.za or 082 897 8575

Elize Joubert – cvc@sava.co.za or 012 346 1150 (general enquiries/CVC’s outside Gauteng)

Elsa Daniels – gauteng@cvetc.co.za or 012 346 1150 (CVC’s in the Gauteng area). 



## OPERATIONAL COMMUNITY VETERINARY CLINICS

CVC NAME	PLACE	RESPONSIBLE VETERINARIAN
<b>GAUTENG</b>		
1 Booyens CVC	Booyens, Pretoria West	Dr Marianne Semelink
2 Claw Group CVC	Johannesburg	Dr Saskia Karius
3 Danville CVC	Danville, Pretoria West	Dr Kate Morris
4 Dube CVC	Soshanguve, Mabupane, Wintersveldt	Dr Ampie Viljoen
5 Kayasands CVC	Kayasands, Johannesburg	Dr Clare Speedy
6 Loate CVC	Soshanguve, Mabupane, Wintersveldt	Dr Hermien Viljoen
7 OptimaVet CVC	Cullinan and surrounds	Dr Renee van Oudtshoorn
8 Son Skyne hoekie CVC	Pyramids, Hammanskraal, Pretoria North	Dr Nenene Qekwana
9 Vaal CVC	Vaal Triangle	Dr Andre Greyvenstein
10 Wollies CVC	Hestea Park, Pretoria North	Dr Dave Kenyon
11 Wolmer CVC	Wolmer, Pretoria North	Dr Amy Saywer
<b>NORTH WEST</b>		
14 Flamwood CVC	Klerksdorp, Orkney, Stilfontein, Hartbeesfontein	Dr Nicolene van den Berg
15 Makapanstad CVC	Makapanstad, Wintersveldt	Dr Adél de Haast
16 Ratjjeplane CVC	Ratjjeplane, Wintersveldt	Dr Adél de Haast
<b>WESTERN CAPE</b>		
17 Bitou CVC	Plettenberg Bay	Dr Bert van Reenen
18 Ebervet CVC	Helderberg & Klein Karoo	Dr Hilldidge Beer
19 EnviroVet CVC	Stellenbosch, Capetown, West Coast	Dr Annelize Roos
20 Kleinmond CVC	Kleinmond	Dr Peter Dave
21 George CVC	George	Dr Awie de Villiers
22 Hermanus and Overberg CVC	Hermanus and surrounds	Dr Sandy Waddingham
23 West Coast	Saldanha, Vredenburg, Lambertsbay, Langebaan and Elandsbay	Dr Derette Kotze
24 Elgin Valley	Grabouw	Dr Michelle Lawrance
<b>EASTERN CAPE</b>		
24 Vallei CVC	Uitenhage, Kirkwood	Dr Anton Kruger
<b>NORTHERN CAPE</b>		
25 Richtersveld CVC	Richtersveldt	Dr Lina Gerber
<b>KWAZULU NATAL</b>		
26 Bizana Project CVC	Bizana	Dr Rissa Parker
27 Durban South CVC	Durban	Dr Sanissha Venkatrathnam
<b>LIMPOPO</b>		
28 Polokwane CVC	Polokwane	Dr Xander de Kock
<b>FREE STATE</b>		
29 Botshabelo CVC	Bloemfontein	Dr Lizanne Meiring
30 Zamani CVC	Memel	Dr Heather Nixon

# RhODIS® and eRhODIS™ come out on top!



RhODIS®  
Rhino DNA Index System



On 21 January 2016, the 16 winners of the Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge were announced. The challenge is an initiative of USAID, in partnership with National Geographic, the Smithsonian Institution and the TRAFFIC wildlife trade monitoring network. Launched in 2014, the Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge is finding new, innovative solutions to the most intractable issues in the fight against wildlife trafficking. The program represents one component of USAID’s efforts to support the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking.

**O**ne of the prize winners was the entry by the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL) of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, entitled “Internationalisation of RhODIS® and eRhODIS™ as benchmark forensic tools to combat wildlife crime”

USAID awards USD10 000 to each winner and provide technical support to help them advance their solutions to stamp out illegal trade in wildlife and winners are eligible to compete for a grand prize of up to USD500 000. USAID will use grand prizes to target and invest in the most promising solutions.

“Wildlife trafficking not only threatens to wipe out iconic animals such as elephants and rhinoceroses, it is also

devastating communities worldwide through associated criminality, violence and theft. Through this program, we are bringing in new ideas and engaging with new audiences to halt the devastation before it is too late,” said Cynthia Gill, Director of USAID’s Forestry and Biodiversity Office.

Prize winners were selected out of a pool of 300 applicants from 52 countries. Winning innovations include a variety of solutions at all stages of innovation that address four critical issue areas: detecting

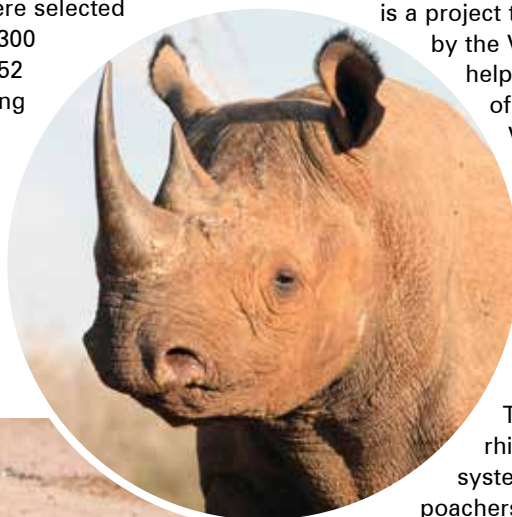
and predicting transit routes; strengthening forensic evidence; reducing consumer demand; and addressing corruption.

Internationalisation of RhODIS® and eRhODIS™ was a winner in the “strengthening forensic evidence” category.

RhODIS® (Rhino DNA Index System) is a project that was initiated by the VGL in order to help with the plight of the rhinos. The VGL is collecting DNA samples of rhinos across the country to create a database using the unique DNA profile of individual rhinos. The goal is for all rhinos to be on the system. This will deter poachers and assist in forensic prosecutions.

RhODIS® was first used in a rhino poaching case in 2010 and resulted in a Vietnamese citizen being

sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for having rhinoceros horns from poached rhinos in his baggage when he was apprehended at OR Tambo International Airport. SANParks have partnered with RhODIS since 2010 and in association with the Forensics Science Laboratory of the South African Police Services





**eRhODIS™**  
RhODIS™ Mobile Application

have played a key role in the development and implementation of the RhODIS Kit for sample collection.

The South African Department of Environmental Affairs introduced amendments to the norms and standards for sample collection

and identification of live and poached rhinos under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004 which requires that samples are collected from all poached rhinos and other rhinos that are immobilized or die using RhODIS® kits which then have to be submitted to the VGL for inclusion on the RhODIS® database. A number of other bodies including the South African National Parks Honorary Rangers, the World Wildlife Fund, corporates and individuals have donated funds to support the development and implementation of RhODIS®.

eRhODIS™, a mobile application (app), has been developed as an adjunct for RhODIS® to aid in the collection of samples and information relevant to the RhODIS® project.

The app is used to gather DNA evidence, geographical data and upload photographs. In addition to the forensic uses of the app, it is also used to collect information of live rhinoceros and horn in stockpiles, which further provides a powerful tool for authorities to trace and link each animal and horn individually. The archive presently includes over 15 000 samples from black and white rhinoceros from all over Africa.

The eRhODIS™ app has been designed to guide the user through the standard procedure of collecting samples and completing required data fields. During a rhino poaching investigation, data is initially collected at the crime scene. Equipped with a Samsung tablet loaded with the application, investigators are able to collect data related to the DNA evidence and upload information to a secure cloud server as soon as the device is within network range.

The laboratory receives this information instantly and is able to view who submitted the report. A completed sample collection form, in PDF format, is emailed to the investigator which is then printed and added as a paper copy to the evidence bag with samples for submission to the laboratory.

Our congratulations to the team! **V**

## THE ENTRY

### INTERNATIONALISATION OF RHODIS® AND ERHODIS™ AS BENCHMARK FORENSIC TOOLS TO COMBAT WILDLIFE CRIME

#### University of Pretoria, South Africa

Science and Tech Type: DNA Analysis or Databases

The DNA- and IT-based Rhino DNA Indexing System (RhODIS®) and Electronic Rhino DNA Indexing System (eRhODIS™) provide forensic tracing for African rhinoceroses and their parts (including horns), linking parts back to source animals and criminals to specific crimes. The project aims to increase its impact through development and validation of an internationally available rhinoceros nuclear DNA analysis kit.

**The Problem:** although adopted by all the African Rhinoceros Range States, RhODIS® has received samples from less than 50 percent of media-reported horn seizures. DNA samples collected are frequently of varying quality, held up by red tape, or face chain-of-custody issues. An international system that standardizes DNA and data-collection processes and facilitates delivery to forensic testing labs may help authorities' better monitor illegal trade involving rhinos.

**The Team:** RhODIS is led by the University of Pretoria's Veterinary Genetics Laboratory. The team includes a chief analyst, six technicians, two administrative staff members, a systems developer, and a quality manager.

**Solution Partners:** The South African National Parks, which provided initial project funding, and the South African Police Service.

# Obituary: Dr Nicolene C. Swanepoel

(Born 31 March 1962 - died 9 January 2016)

Nikki passed away unexpectedly of a stroke on the morning of Sunday, 9 January 2015. She was visiting her brother in Tulbagh at the time. Her passing left the Grabouw community in shock and sadness. She was very valuable to the community, being active in amongst other things a hiking group, the gardening club, the local art scene, animal welfare, puppy training classes, neighbourhood security and Siphila Sonke (a local community charity).



**O**h Nikki, my dear friend, if only you were here to read what is being written about you! Comments from members of the Grabouw community of which you were an integral, active and valuable member describe you as a wonderful soul who inspired a lot of people, with a passion for life, art, gardening, nature, and animals. "Nikki was a kind, gentle, intelligent, loving and wonderful soul who touched and enriched all of our lives in so many ways".

"Beautiful, she had such a beautiful passion for life, nature and animals. Beautiful person, many ways".

She was also an enthusiastic photographer, who recorded much of what went on in her surroundings, and illustrated many organisations' Facebook pages with her photos.

Nicolene was an active member of the Western Cape SAVA branch. She was also active in the Animal Welfare Committee of the SAVA. She

regularly rustled up the local vets to drive to meetings and lectures in Cape Town together. Although she no longer practised as a vet, she kept up her CPD and encouraged others to do the same.

Nicolene initially obtained a degree in visual arts, before completing a BVSc at Onderstepoort in 1991. She lectured at the faculty in the nineties and has been a regular external examiner for ethology since. She was acting as an external examiner for the honours in behavioural medicine at the time of her death. Many of her early art works are still on display at the Faculty.

After her time as an ethology lecturer, she completed an MTech Fine Art at the University of Johannesburg in 2008. Her research project was entitled "Representations of Cattle as Cultural Markers towards South African Identities". She then settled in Grabouw and worked productively at her art, predominantly ceramics, holding many well-received exhibitions and winning several national and international awards for her work. Nicolene's art was inspired by the human-animal bond and she explored human relationships and attitudes towards animals in her art. She also explored gender-stereotyped discrimination in her art. She wrote regular informative articles on animal behaviour and care for "Marktoe!" – a publication distributed at Cape Agri stores in the Western Cape and also available online.

Although I spent many pleasant hours in Nikki's company, I am sure I did not

mention nearly all that she achieved and did. My one consolation at her untimely passing is that she packed a lot more living into 53 years than the majority of people into much longer lives! She will be sorely missed by so many. Her many friends had the pleasure of regularly sharing a braai and a beautiful sunset with the always hospitable and sociable Nikki on the lovely koppie behind her home.

Nikki is survived by a brother, Francois F. Swanepoel, a photographer, who lives in Tulbagh, and a sister, Annemarie, a retired medical practitioner, who lives in Barrydale. Nikki was the youngest. **V**  
*Joan Kleynhans, colleague and friend*



## Ancient giants reveal the realities of climate change

When a giant baobab toppled over in the Pafuri area in the northern-most part of the Kruger National Park a number of years ago, researchers from the University of Pretoria (UP) had a hunch that the fallen giant could give them access to a wealth of information about the past. The team seized the opportunity and travelled to Kruger to collect samples. The hunch turned into a research project that has now evolved into an international collaborative study that covers Southern Africa and Madagascar.

The objective of the study is to determine the effects of climate change over the whole of southern Africa over the past 1 000 years by using trees to reconstruct rainfall patterns. The researchers are in the process of producing a mega-map of rainfall and drought and the study is providing valuable insight into both the natural and anthropogenic effects of climate change.

The study aims to determine the extent of change in areas with varying rainfall. Baobab trees, which are found predominantly in summer rainfall areas, are excellent study models as they can live for more than 1 000 years. In winter rainfall areas, the study looks at trees such as the yellow wood, while camel-thorn trees provide similar information about desert areas.

Information is retrieved from these trees by applying a method known as coring, which does not require the trees to be cut down. Coring involves the study of tree rings to determine the age and growth rate of a tree. Samples are taken to the UP Mammal Research Institute's isotope laboratory where isotopic analysis of the samples' properties and the age of the tree is undertaken to reconstruct rainfall patterns. The chemistry of the wood reflects the growing conditions and the periods during which growth occurred (rainfall periods), as




well as the periods during which the trees were under water stress (drought periods). As a tree grows, new rings are formed on the outside of trunks or branches year after year, and the chemistry of each ring gives insight in the climate changes in the area where the tree is located.

The study has also allowed researchers to develop an age model for baobabs. Giant baobabs are often mistakenly believed to be just one big tree, while in fact they often consist of multiple trunks that have fused together. This explains why only some trees have hollows in their trunks.

The study has also provided insight in how communities have adapted culturally in response to the significant climate changes that have occurred over the years. Areas such as the Limpopo valley, where livestock farming and agriculture once thrived, are now desolate as they have become too dry for such activities.

Information gained from the different baobab sites to date confirms the major climate shifts in southern Africa with, for example, the expansion of the Kalahari eastward to areas that were once characteristically summer rainfall areas. The study of the giant baobabs has put an end to the debate on whether climate change is real or not and has confirmed the very serious effects of climate change and greenhouse gases.

*(From an article by Louise de Bruin, University of Pretoria)* 

## Valuing your time more than the pursuit of money is linked to greater happiness, according to new research

In six studies with more than 4,600 participants, researchers found an almost even split between people who tended to value their time or money, and that choice was a fairly consistent trait both for daily interactions and major life events.

According to the researchers (from the University of British Columbia), it appears that people have a stable preference for valuing their time over making more money, and prioritising time is associated with greater happiness.

The researchers found an almost even split with slightly more than half of the participants stating they prioritized their time more than money. Older people also were more likely to say they valued their time compared to younger people.

The researchers conducted separate surveys with a nationally representative sample of Americans, students at the University of British Columbia, and adult visitors of a science museum in Vancouver. Some of the studies used real-world examples, such as asking a participant whether he would prefer a more expensive apartment with a short commute or a less expensive apartment with a long commute. A participant also could choose between a graduate program that would lead to a job with long hours and a higher starting salary and a program that would result in a job with a lower salary but fewer hours.

A participant's gender or income didn't affect whether they were more likely to value time or money, although the study didn't include participants living at the poverty level who may have to prioritise money to survive.

If people want to focus more on their time and less on money in their lives, they could take some actions to help shift their perspective, such as working slightly fewer hours, volunteering to work at a charity or paying someone to do disliked chores like cleaning the house. While some options might be available only for people with disposable income, even small changes could make a big difference.

*(Source: Whillans, A., Weidman, A., and Dunn, E. Valuing Time Over Money Is Associated with Greater Happiness. Social Psychological and Personality Science, January 2016 DOI: 10.1177/1948550615623842, through [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/01/160107094105.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/01/160107094105.htm))*



## World Small Animal Veterinary Association Launches Updated Vaccination Guidelines

The Vaccination Guidelines Group (VGG) of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) has updated the vaccination guidelines it offers to veterinarians. The WSAVA's "Canine and Feline Vaccination Guidelines" aim to provide globally applicable recommendations on best practice for the vaccination of dogs and cats to help veterinarians to undertake the practice in a standard and scientifically justified fashion. The VGG has also updated the vaccination guidelines it offers to pet owners and breeders, as well as the series of fact sheets it has created on key global vaccine-preventable diseases of dogs and cats.

The original vaccination guidelines were published in 2007 as the WSAVA's initial response to the need for globally applicable recommendations on vaccination best practice. They were updated in 2010 and, since then, the VGG, which is supported exclusively by MSD Animal Health, has been focusing on issues relating to small companion animal infectious disease and veterinary education in Asia.

The 2015 release of the "Canine and Feline Vaccination Guidelines" is based on a new evidence-based classification system for vaccinology. It also includes a number of additional FAQs (110 in total). The guidelines for both veterinarians and owners/breeders are available for free download at <http://www.wsava.org/educational/vaccination-guidelines-group>. Currently available in English, they are being translated into a number of languages.

Professor Michael Day, Chair of the VGG, says: "The Vaccination Guidelines are one of the most frequently downloaded

## Early separation of cow and calf has long-term effects on social behaviour

In a recent study, researchers from the Vetmeduni Vienna examined a total of 26 differently reared cows. Eleven animals were separated from their dams immediately after birth before entering the calf group and being fed milk via automatic feeder. The remaining 15 calves were kept with their dams in the calving pen for the first five days and were able to



establish a dam-calf bond during this time. These calves were then also moved to the calf area, but continued to have contact to their dams. Nine of these calves were allowed access to their dams twice a day, while the remaining six were able to move between the calf group and the cow herd at all times.


The scientists performed different tests with the grown-up animals to determine whether the different rearing strategies had a long-term effect on the behaviour of the animals in stress situations.

Cattle which grew up with their dams expressed the highest levels of cortisol during isolation, but the heart rate (another way of expressing stress) measured in these animals was the lowest. This could possibly indicate that the different rearing

treatments result in different reaction types to stress.

Differences could also be seen in the animals' behaviour. Calves reared with their dams, especially those who had constant maternal contact as well as contact to the herd, were more active during isolation: they moved more in their calving boxes and explored their surroundings more actively than cattle reared without their dams. This could indicate a higher level of motivation to re-join the herd and a more active way to cope with the challenge of isolation.

The research shows that a richer social environment during rearing, i.e. with contact to dams and to other cows, makes animals more sociable and socially competent as adults. We must increasingly consider whether a socially restricted early environment represents the ideal form of animal husbandry.


(Source: [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150428081801.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150428081801.htm)) 



### ANTIBIOTICS AND ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE <<< 20

resources on the WSAVA's website and are gradually driving a change in vaccination practice throughout the world - a change which is set to have a major impact on day-to-day small animal practice."

"We are delighted to launch these updated versions both for veterinarians and for pet owners and breeders. We hope they will prove even more helpful and ensure that more small animals are vaccinated in a more scientifically-based, robust and safer fashion."

"We would like to thank MSD Animal Health which has been the sole sponsor of the VGG since its inception. Its support enables us to undertake our valuable work." 



Prof Michael Day



# Letters | Briewe

••• LETTER FROM ...

Colleagues Neels & Ingrid Roos

*The Editor*

*VetNews*

Please allow us to add some fond personal memories to the recently published obituary of Hym Ebedes.

Hym Ebedes (Hymie, to his colleagues), was a very private and modest person and very loyal to his friends. He was born in Ermelo in June 1936 and “remembered that it was very cold!” He jokingly referred to himself as the only English-speaking Boere-Jood in the Hoërskool Ermelo where he matriculated. His somewhat exceptional arrival at Onderstepoort as a 2nd year student was early one morning on the back of a “nagkar” (older colleagues will be acquainted with the term!) joined by future classmate “Ford” Bezuidenhout.

As a cultivated person he was a lover of good music and good wine. I remember the impromptu celebrations we occasionally had as students after finishing examinations listening to his George Feyer piano recordings while enjoying a glass of jeripigo and his company in his hostel room.

Not long after qualifying in the later fifties he invited us for a meal at a restaurant in Springs where he practised at the time and treated us with caviar amongst other delicacies. After that our paths separated for a number of years. Like most of his colleagues he tried out several avenues of our profession before finally settling for a career in managing and treating wild animals. In this he became a well-known expert, as was well-documented in the obituary submitted by the Ebedes family.

During the last few years we were his only classmates left in Pretoria and we sometimes enjoyed pizzas together at the open-air restaurant in Magnolia Dell where his wife Audrey once joined in. Being a vegetarian he even wrote a book based on his feelings of empathy for a poor lobster that he saw in a restaurant aquarium somewhere, and which was not only in captivity but also oblivious of its eventual fate to be prepared for consumption. This was submitted to publishers but we do not know the outcome.

After a heart attack some years ago, a successful cardiac bypass was performed and he joined us for our 50-year class reunion in 2008. More recently spells of incapacitating gout plagued him. In July 2015 he ended up in the ICU with severe pleural effusion following a flu attack, but recovered well only to collapse and die suddenly on 24th November 2015 aged 79.

Colleagues Neels & Ingrid Roos ■

*As a cultivated person he was a lover of good music and good wine. I remember the impromptu celebrations we occasionally had as students after finishing examinations listening to his George Feyer piano recordings while enjoying a glass of jeripigo and his company in his hostel room.*



## *In Memoriam*

*A list of veterinarians, both SAVA members and non-members, who passed away recently. Non-veterinarians who made a positive impact on the profession are also included. Please provide us with information you might have in this regard.*

*The following colleague passed away recently:*

*Dr Nicolene C. Swanepoel*

*31/03/1962 – 09/01/2016*

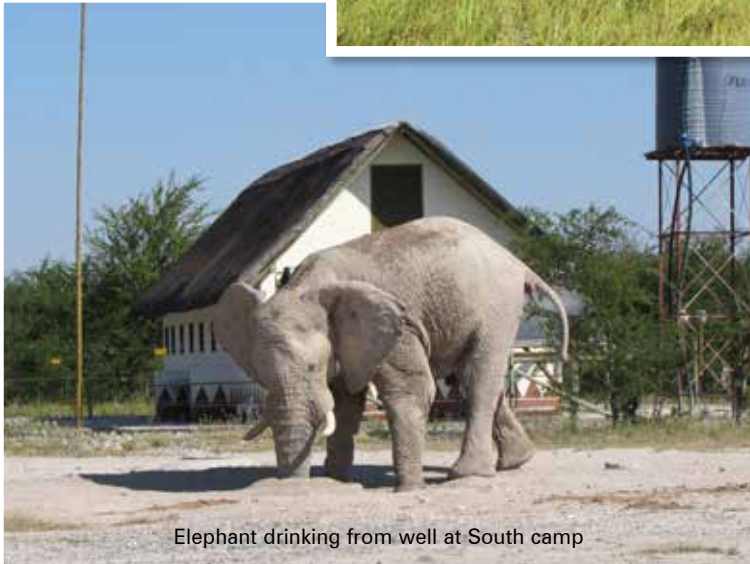
*We honour her contribution to our profession and society in general.*

*Our sincerest condolences to the family and loved ones!* ■

Dear Paul

I read the article, 'Thirstlands: Water Quality and Availability in the Chobe Region' on page 9 of the December, 2015 issue of VetNews with interest.

It has been estimated that the African elephant can eat up to 300 kg of fodder and drink up to 100 litres of water a day. Elephants are known to rip up water supply pipes to quench their thirst. In the dry season they can



Elephant drinking from well at South camp

cause considerable damage. Alternative sources of water can be laid on close to areas of human habitation.

Botswana authorities created ingenious methods to prevent damage to water supplies. On a trip to South Camp, in the Nxai Pan National Park, we were privileged to watch an elephant drinking from a purpose-built well, encased in concrete. The ablution block in the background was surrounded by a concrete apron embedded with iron spikes long enough to discourage elephants but short enough as to not produce much more than sufficient discomfort to the pachyderms' footpads.

Ingenious inventions include encasing water piping and faucets in concrete – as we found in the campsite at Savute, Chobe National Park. One inserts one's hand into a pipe, up to the elbow, to access and open the tap – a somewhat disconcerting manoeuvre since one never knows whether one of Nature's creatures may be in residence there.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Dr Martin Briggs BSc, BVSc, MSc(Med), FRCVS* 

Left: Spikes to prevent elephants damaging water supplies



Dear Paul,

Regarding the article, 'Illegal poisoning of wildlife on the increase' on page 19 of the October, 2015 issue of VetNews, I was enamoured to come across this sign (attached) on a farm in the Overberg, Western Cape. There also appear to be more, and larger flocks of blue cranes (*Anthropoides paradiseus*) on farms in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Martin Briggs BSc, BVSc, MSc(Med), FRCVS



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# Dermatology Quiz

**Dr Martin Briggs**  
BSc, BVSc,  
MSc(Med), FRCVS

Registered Specialist  
in Veterinary  
Dermatology



## QUESTION

A five year old spayed, female golden retriever, 'Prudence', was presented with superficial circular scaling lesions on the ventrum (Figures 1 and 2).



Figure 2



Figure 1

- 1 Describe the most obvious lesions in Figures 1 and 2.
- 2 What other pathological lesions are visible in the figures?
- 3 List some differential diagnoses.
- 4 What tests should be performed?
- 5 What treatment would you advise?

See answers on page 27

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## FAST MAIL • BLITSPOS

## How temperature determines sex in alligators

Some reptiles such as crocodylians and some turtles are known to display temperature-dependent sex determination (TSD), where the ambient temperature of the developing eggs determines the individual's sex. For example in the American alligator's eggs, incubation at 33 °C produces mostly males, while incubation at 30 °C produces mostly females. An international joint research team between Japan and the US have determined that the thermosensor protein TRPV4 is associated with TSD in the American alligator. TRPV4 is present within the developing alligator gonad inside the egg. Alligator TRPV4 is responsive to temperatures near mid-30s and can activate cell signalling by inducing calcium ion influx. The current study also demonstrates that by specific pharmacological inhibition of TRPV4 protein function in the developing egg, genes important for male development are influenced, and partial feminization at male producing temperatures have been observed. This is the first demonstrated report of a biomolecule associated with regulation of the very unique temperature-dependent sex determination mechanism.

(Source: [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/12/151223134112.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/12/151223134112.htm)) 



## FAST MAIL • BLITSPOS

## New NDV-H5NX avian influenza vaccine has potential for mass vaccination of poultry

A team of researchers has developed a vaccine that protects poultry from multiple strains of avian influenza found in the U.S., including H5N1, H5N2 and H5N8. The vaccine can be administered through water or into embryonated eggs, making it easier for poultry producers to vaccinate flocks. In addition, when using the NDV-H5Nx vaccine, it is possible to differentiate infected from vaccinated animals. Researchers developed the NDV-H5Nx vaccine with a recombinant virus technique similar to the one used to make NDV-H5N1 and NDV-H7N9 vaccines in 2015. The extracellular domain of the H5 or H7 protein of the respective avian influenza viruses was transplanted into the Newcastle disease virus vaccine strain LaSota in order to make the vaccine constructs.

(Source: [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/01/160107131015.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/01/160107131015.htm))



## FAST MAIL • BLITSPOS

## Reproduction, stem cell researchers set up a rescue plan for Northern White Rhino

International scientists set up a rescue plan for the worldwide last three northern white rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*). The plan is to reproduce northern white rhinos using natural gametes of the last living individuals as well as using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells). The iPS cells can be gained from rhino somatic cells, for example from the skin. Subsequently, in the future, it might be possible to specifically mature the iPS cells into neurons, heart muscle cells or even gametes. If everything goes according to plan, in vitro fertilised gametes can be introduced into surrogate mothers and fertile northern white rhinos will be produced. Mice have already been grown out of skin cells and an international team of researchers is now working on transferring this model of success to northern white rhinos. This first use of stem cell technology in animal conservation is ground breaking.

Only three individuals, a male and two females, presently live at Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya. Age and reproductive challenges make the possibility of natural reproduction unlikely, but the DNA of a dozen individual northern white rhinos has been preserved in genetic banks in Berlin and San Diego. The experts are using this genetic information to bring back the species.

(Source: [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/12/151222082248.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/12/151222082248.htm))





# Dermatology Quiz



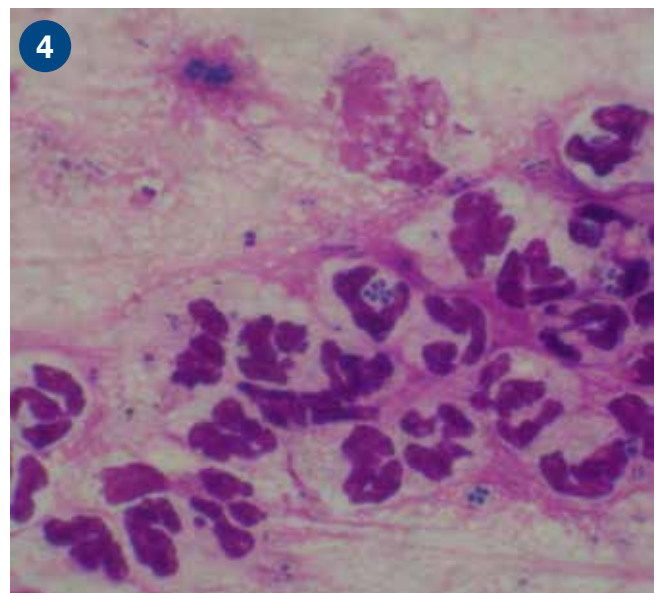
1. Circular scaling lesions or plaques are referred to as epidermal collarettes. These circular lesions in Figures 1 and 2 have hyper-pigmented centres.
2. Intact pustules (Figure 3).
3. Demodicosis, dermatophytosis, and other conditions characterized by papules, pustules, and plaques, such as erythema multiforme, canine eosinophilic dermatitis, superficial pyoderma, pemphigus foliaceus, infectious dermatitides, adverse drug reactions, and toxic shock syndrome
4. Ultraviolet light examination in a darkened room. Cytology of an intact pustule stained with Diff-Quick stain for microscopic examination under high power.
5. The primary treatment of superficial pyoderma is with appropriate antibiotics for at least 21 and preferably 30 days. All clinical lesions (except for complete regrowth of alopecic areas and resolution of hyper-pigmented areas) should be resolved for at least 7 days before antibiotics are discontinued. Antibiotics effective against *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* should be selected.

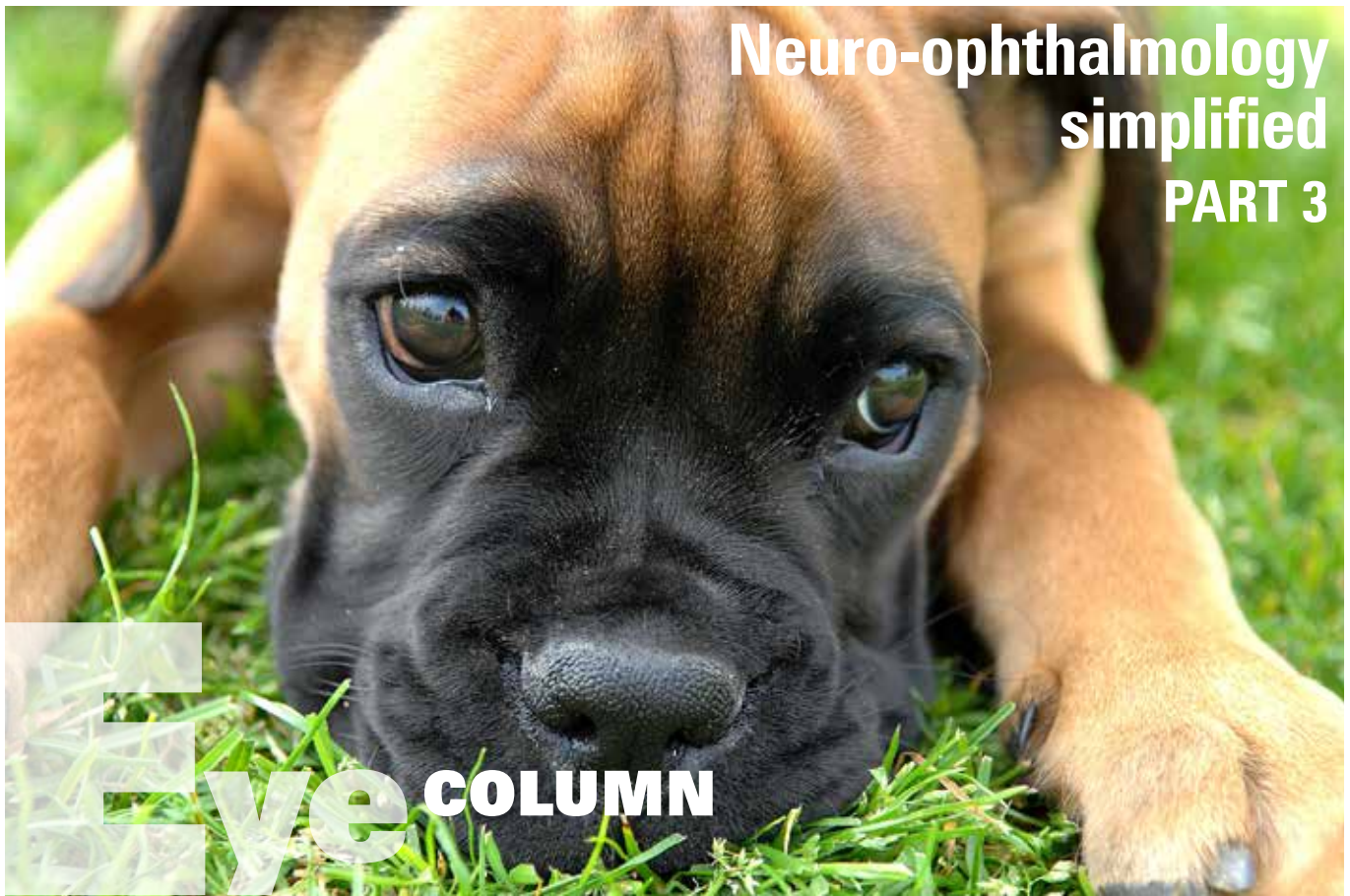


## DISCUSSION

Ultraviolet light examination in a darkened room failed to reveal fluorescence. Fluorescence under ultraviolet light is a strong indication of dermatophytosis. Not all dermatophytes fluoresce, but 60% of *Microsporum canis* lesions will fluoresce. Circular scaling lesions such as these are often misdiagnosed as dermatophytosis. Careful removal of the 'roof' of an intact pustule and an impression smear stained with Diff-Quick revealed numerous neutrophils (Figure 4). Phagocytosed coccoid organisms are present in one of the neutrophils – indicative of superficial pyoderma caused by *S. pseudintermedius*. Cephalexin was prescribed at 20mg/kg three times daily for 30 days. Prudence improved and was maintained on a chlorhexidine-based shampoo and the coat on the ventrum was kept short. The owners were cautioned to examine Prudence for any developing pustules and apply an antibiotic ointment effective against *S. pseudintermedius* (Mupirocin, Bactroban, GlaxoSmithKline) daily until resolution.

There is a need to reduce evolutionary pressures which encourage the growth of resistant strains, and at all times, the phenomenon of multidrug-resistant bacteria needs to be kept in mind when prescribing antimicrobials. Although scientific evidence points to the use of antibiotics in man as the most important factor promoting resistant strains, fluoroquinolones, macrolides and cephalosporins remain important drugs in human medicine. **V**





# Neuro-ophthalmology simplified PART 3

## Eye COLUMN

*In this part we look at the pupillary sympathetic efferent pathway, anisocoria and provide advice on how to examine an eye to localise pupillary abnormalities.*

**Dr Antony Goodhead, Dr Izak Venter & Dr Lo-An Odayar**

Specialist Veterinary Ophthalmologists, Johannesburg and Cape Animal Eye Hospitals  
([www.animaleyehospital.co.za](http://www.animaleyehospital.co.za))

### **Pupillary sympathetic efferent pathway**

**T**he sympathetic innervation of the iris consists of a three-neuron pathway. The sympathetic nervous system begins in the hypothalamus. Upper motor neuron fibres (first order) descend through the lateral tecto-tegmento-spinal tract to the first three thoracic spinal cord segments, where they synapse on the cell bodies of the lower motor neurons in the intermediate grey matter.

Preganglionic axons from these cell bodies travel in the vago-sympathetic trunk through the thoracic cavity to the cranial cervical

ganglion, where they synapse on the postganglionic cell bodies.

The postganglionic fibres continue through the middle ear and reach the eye in association with the ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve, where they innervate the dilatory muscles of the iris, as well as smooth muscle in the peri-orbita and Muller's muscle.

### **Localising pupillary abnormalities**

Pupil symmetry and size should be evaluated in both bright and dim environments. Examination in bright light when pupils should be miotic is used to accentuate mydriasis caused by parasympathetic lesions. Examination in dim light when pupils should be more mydriatic is used

to accentuate miosis caused by sympathetic lesions.

For PLR's done in dim light, the swinging flashlight test is done by moving a flashlight from the tested eye to the other eye and observing the direct and consensual response. In a normal animal the pupil that is not directly stimulated will constrict and then constrict further when directly lit with light.

A positive swinging flashlight test is obtained when the pupil dilates during direct stimulation instead of constricting further as expected. This is called the Marcus-Gunn sign. A positive swinging flashlight test is pathognomonic for unilateral retinal disease or unilateral prechiasmal optic nerve disease.

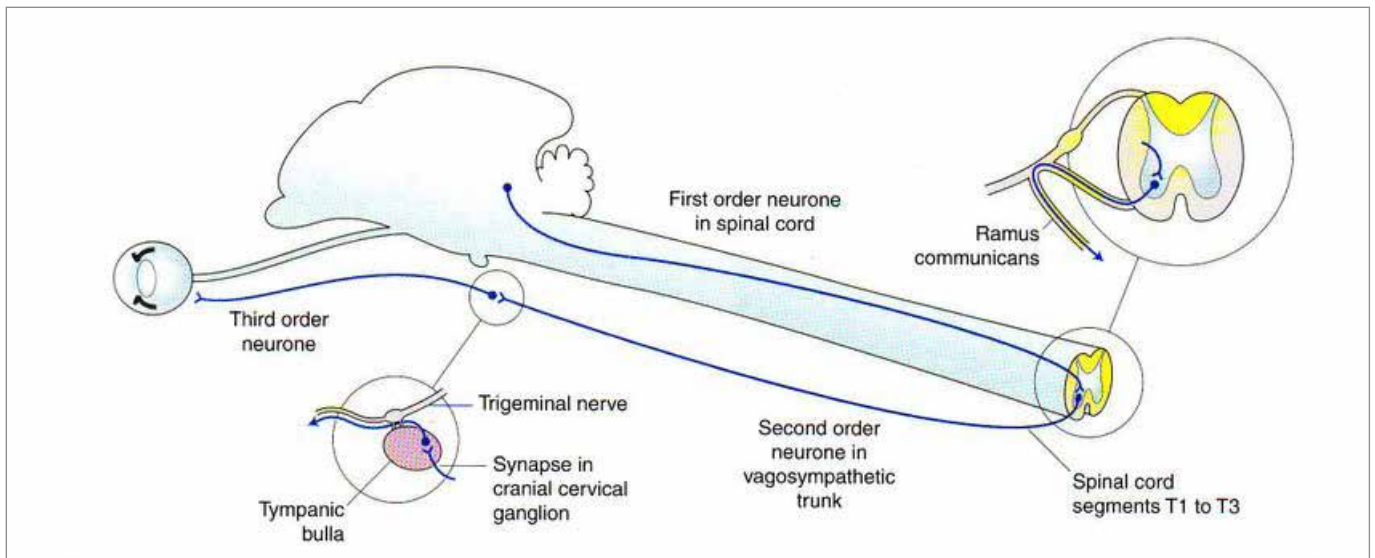


Figure 1: Sympathetic supply to the eye

**Anisocoria**

Anisocoria refers to pupils of different size and this can be static or dynamic. Dynamic anisocoria is a normal finding. This form of anisocoria alternates from eye to eye depending on which eye is stimulated with light. The direct pupillary response is more

pronounced than the consensual, because more than 50% of the fibres cross over at the optic chiasm and the posterior commissure.

Static anisocoria is present if both pupils are equally stimulated in normal or dim conditions and one pupil is consistently more miotic or mydriatic than the other. One should

always exclude any ocular disease before looking for a neurological dysfunction. Corneal ulcerations and uveitis may lead to miosis. Retinal disease, optic neuritis and glaucoma will cause mydriasis.

Next month Horner’s syndrome (sympathetic efferent lesions) will be discussed. **V**

**The SAVA Stress Management Hotline is there to assist members who are experiencing personal problems by offering access to professional counselling/advice.**

**The hotline can assist with referrals or simply offer much needed emotional support when anxiety, depression, anger, grief, loneliness and fear are at their highest.**

**The following SAVA members are available on the SAVA stress management hotline. If required, they will refer you to professionals.**



- Prof Ken Pettey            082 882 7356    ken.pettey@up.ac.za
- Dr Sunelle Strydom       083 287 2196    drsunelle@vodamail.co.za
- Dr Aileen Pypers           072 599 8737    aileen.vet@gmail.com
- Dr Willem Schultheiss    082 323 7019    willem.schultheiss@ceva.com
- Dr Henk Basson            082 820 4810    hjbasson1@gmail.com
- Dr Joseph van Heerden   083 305 6474    doretha@global.co.za
- Dr Stuart Varrie            083 650 3651    stuartvarrie@gmail.com

# Influential Life Coaching

## Assumptions



### Dr Mats Abatzidis

B.Sc. B.V.Sc.

New Insights Certified VIP Life Coach

mats.abatzidis@yahoo.co.za

Founder of Influential Life Coaching

Author of the published book "Life outside your comfort zone. Better and beyond all expectations".

[http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss?url=search-alias%3Ddigital-text&field-keywords=Abatzidis](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Ddigital-text&field-keywords=Abatzidis)

Blog: <https://drmatlifecoaching.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.life-coach-directory.co.za/mats-abatzidis>

I grew up in a typical Mediterranean family that created a very sheltered existence. Part of my upbringing was my family's constant worrying over me and making sure that I was protected from as many things as possible. One of the many things that contributed towards my parents' need to raise me the way they did is because they had made certain assumptions about me and the world around me. They had made assumptions about what I was capable of, what I needed and when, etc. In order for me to help you minimise or remove as many of the potential obstacles you may have towards achieving your goals, I need to make certain assumptions and they are as follows:

- Our past, present and future is about choices – I want to provide you with new choices and resources to use that will allow you to realise your true potential.
- The past does not dictate the future. The past cannot be changed but the future can.
- There is no such thing as failure, only feedback; there are no mistakes, only results. Without failure and mistakes learning would be impossible. Living is learning.
- The response that you get is your responsibility. If you are not getting the response you want, it's your responsibility to change your approach until you do. Einstein told us that we do the same thing over and over again and expect a different result, we are insane.
- You are not broken. You are

perfectly well. You do not need to be fixed.

- You have all the resources and skills to make any change you want. Most of the time, these resources are within us. More often than not, uncovering and eliminating destructive behavioural and thinking patterns in itself is an extremely powerful resource.
- People make the best decisions given the resources that they have.
- All external behaviour is the result of an internal process. Peoples' actions tells me what they are thinking.
- Our perception of reality is not reality. It is, however, real to us. We perceive the world through multiple filters of our past experiences and associations with events.
- Flexibility is King. The person with the most behavioural flexibility will be in control under any given situation. Emotional intelligence has been recognised over the years as more valuable than the measure of our IQ.
- The meaning of your communication can be found in the response you receive, regardless of your intention when you communicate. It is not the listener's responsibility to 'get' the message as you intended it.
- The highest quality of information in any interaction is behavioural. Listen to the body, not the words.
- The mind and body are parts of the same cybernetic system.
- People communicate on two

levels; the conscious and the unconscious. Accessing both levels will reveal much more information.

- Driving every behaviour is the positive intent either to gain pleasure or avoid pain. They are the great motivators of everything we do.
- Success leaves clues. If you do what other people have done you will get similar results.
- We do not operate directly on our world, but rather through our perceptual 'maps' of the world. The map is what we believe the world to be and how it works. Information that relates to our perceptual map is entertained and possibly accepted/adopted, while incongruent information is generally discarded and ignored.
- Providing you with empowering, specific tools and scientifically tested techniques that work can have a significant impact on your life, your ability to achieve your goals and your approach to life.
- Ultimately, it is not important what I believe about you and your abilities, but what you personally think about yourself that will make all the difference. I am merely facilitating the process.

Consider all of the above and understand that accepting or rejecting any of them can have a vitality

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# Mac and the goats

Philip Kretzmann

Tertiary education is not only about academics. Sure, the fundamental objective is to learn, but the student ends up studying his/her chosen subjects with like-minded people and it is this interaction, networking and experience-sharing with these peers that have a great impact on the student's future. So, the learner that gets the balance right benefits the most out of his/her university career.

**M**ac is one such person. He is consistently in the top academic tier but is also socially very active. In other words, he learns hard and he parties full tilt.



It was after one such Jol that he returned to his room in Old Res, to find it occupied by a family of goats. This was, of course, unexpected but not altogether unusual because he, himself, had been the instigator of many practical jokes. The goats had been there for quite a while and had left their personal imprint on his room. Dung pellets everywhere, books nibbled and, of course, the all-pervading odour. But Mac, being a vet student, a caring soul and in that benevolent frame of mind which is the inevitable consequence of a liberal quantity of Charles Glass's finest, was more concerned with the welfare of the goats than for household hygiene. He knew from his studies that the

ruminant's digestion was based on fermentation and for this to occur they needed a constant supply of green feed and that the text books upon which the goats had chewed were unlikely to supply them with their requirements. Then, he remembered, there was a girl in the women's res., a colleague and an acquaintance, who was the proud owner of an ornamental tree, a healthy, green leafed and much loved botanical specimen, a meal, he reasoned, which was fit for a family of goats. And she was not at home.

The mechanisms of how he managed to get into her room is quite vague in the memory but, a while later, he returned to his room with the tree.

The activity in the meanwhile had attracted the attention of another returnee from the late nigh revelry and the two of them sat watching the goats demolish the tree. This entertainment was enhanced by the imbibition of further bottles of wisdom. As I was not



present, I can only surmise that the topic of conversation between the two of them, being diligent students, revolved around ruminant physiology and that they regarded their present situation as practical experience on the topic. I do know, however, that as the evening progressed and as the tree started looking decidedly second hand, they proceeded to water it with the by-products of copious amounts of Castle Lager filtered through their respective urinary tracts.

At a stage in the evening they tired of their practical. The goats were

released to who knows where and the tree was returned to its rightful room, a pale shadow of it erstwhile magnificence, its plumage denuded and smelling like a Pretoria North nightclub after a big night.

And, the next morning, there was a very confused female student wondering why her *Ficus* had moulted and now smelt very strongly of wee, testosterone and goat. **V**



## LIFE COACHING <<< 30

important influence on your ability to achieve your goals, experience growth and how you experience life. Ponder each assumption individually and determine the relevance it may have in your own approach to life. The conscious level of realisation will be revealed by this cognitive exercise

and the subconscious level is often depicted in your daily activities, habits and subsequent results. Figuring out what you do subconsciously may be difficult and it would be wise to employ the help of trusted friends and family that can describe your habits to you.

I wish to empower you to believe

in, appreciate and use your own strengths; make it easier for you to identify and take advantage of the many opportunities that are presented to you throughout your life, thereby helping you achieve what it is you truly desire.

Enjoy the process and enjoy the results even more! **V**



# Nutritional Insights



## How the diet can have an influence in dermatology

By Dr Debby Bain

The skin is the largest organ in the body. It has a protective role both physically and by stimulating an immune response. It is constantly rejuvenating itself and the skin uses a large portion of the macro- and micronutrients provided in the diet.

**A**n imbalanced intake of amino acids, fatty acids, vitamins or trace elements disrupts the barrier function and the immune protection provided by the skin.

The following are potential issues:

### Vitamin deficiencies

- **Vitamin A (Retinol)**

Retinol is a fat soluble vitamin which is essential to the differentiation of epithelial cells; therefore a deficiency will cause generalised keratinisation with scaling.

- **Vitamin E**

The most common form of Vit E is tocopherol. It is a fat soluble vitamin with antioxidant activity in the cell membranes. Deficiencies in dogs provoke the appearance of dry seborrhoea, diffuse alopecia, erythroderma, secondary pyoderma and anomalies of the immune system.

- **B vitamins**

These are water soluble vitamins, deficiencies are rare.

Vit B2 (Riboflavin) deficiencies lead to xerosis localised to the peri-orbital and abdominal regions.

Vit B6 (niacin; nicotinamide) deficiency can cause pruriginous dermatitis of the abdomen and hind limbs.

Vit B8 (Biotin) deficiency leads to erythema, facial and peri-orbital alopecia, generalised scaling, leukotrichia, dull and brittle hair.



### Trace element deficiencies

- **Zinc**

Deficiencies provoke immunity problems and major para-keratosis in

the epidermis and the follicles.

• **Copper**

Deficiencies lead to changes in the coat with discoloration beginning in the face; it also causes a thin, dull, brittle coat.

• **Iodine**

Deficiencies lead to hair loss, excess shedding, dry and/or lustreless hair coat, excessive scaling and recurring skin infections.

**Essential fatty acid deficiencies**

Essential means that they are not able to be synthesised by the animal and need to be provided for in the diet. They are primarily the precursors of two families of poly-unsaturated fatty acids (PUFA), omega 6 fatty acids and omega 3 fatty acids.


Linoleic acid is a precursor of omega 6 fatty acids and is found in vegetable oils, primrose oil, sunflower oil, wheat, corn and soy. Alpha-linolenic acid is a precursor of omega 3 fatty acids, found in green vegetables, fruits, grasses, plankton, soy and flax. Fish oil is rich in eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) which are both derived from alpha-linolenic acid. Cutaneous signs of deficiencies include xerosis, dull hair and a kerato-seborrheic disorder.

**Overall protein deficiency**

Hair growth and the regeneration of skin mobilises almost 30% of protein intake and because of this protein deficiencies can lead to keratinisation problems and diffuse alopecia with dull, brittle hair.

Therefore the specific nutritional role in helping to prevent and treat certain skin diseases is based on the balance of both macro and micronutrients in the diet:

1. Strengthening the effectiveness of the skin barrier with the use of four group B vitamins, namely niacin, pantothenic acid, inositol and choline, and one amino acid being histadine. These were selected based on their synergistic action on limiting water loss through the epidermis and the synthesis of skin lipids. These have a beneficial effect after approximately 3 weeks, due to the time needed for the epidermal cellular differentiation process.
2. Controlling inflammation with essential fatty acid is a dual role: rebalances the composition of the superficial lipid film to limit skin dehydration and decreases the synthesis of inflammatory mediators.
3. Ensuring the vitamin intake meets the major requirements of the coat, this is met with Vit A, Vit E and Vit H (Biotin).

References available on request. 



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## Zoetis Production Animal Column

FOR ANIMALS. FOR HEALTH. FOR YOU.

# Responsible antibiotic use on farm – The future is in our hands

By Dr B.B. Van Houten, Technical Manager: Zoetis South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Antimicrobial use in animal production systems is under more pressure than ever before, and this pressure is here to stay. The responsible use of antibiotics encompasses various different aspects and is an extremely complex topic. We as veterinarians are pivotal in managing this situation and ensuring the future use of these products for years to come.

**S**topping the use of antibiotics isn't an option. These products are essential in maintaining a safe food supply to people all over the country and protecting animal welfare by preventing pain and suffering due to disease. It is important to understand that although we can't stop the use, we can reduce it and find the balance between multiple elements in maintaining healthy animals. Responsible use, also referred to as judicious use, can help sustain the efficacy of antimicrobials, assure safe food and minimise the emergence of resistance.

Our focus as vets needs to be on various aspects of our clients' operations where we can make a difference. There is no "one size

fits all" plan; each and every plan needs to be devised according to the individual farm.

Three aspects that need to be considered are:

- Animal specifics
- Husbandry system
- Management

The first two involve the specific species, breed and husbandry systems the farmer has on his/her farm. For the most part, veterinarians don't have much control over these aspects. However, management is where we should play a large role.

**Management:** Can be defined as all the activities of the farmer regarding the care of animals. Increased client awareness, biosecurity, nutrition, and animal health are all included in this definition.

- **Increased client awareness and education:** These are essential and involve increased knowledge about various diseases, antibiotic resistance and good record keeping. Educating farmers around the importance of how various types of stress predispose to disease will hopefully change the way they think about husbandry. Educating farmers on the importance of weighing their animals and treating them with the correct dose of antimicrobials, informing them about the consequences of under-dosing animals with antimicrobials and getting them to understand that these processes are not a waste of time, but rather an investment in the future of their herd.

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Figure 1. Visualisation of the complexity regarding use of veterinary medicines

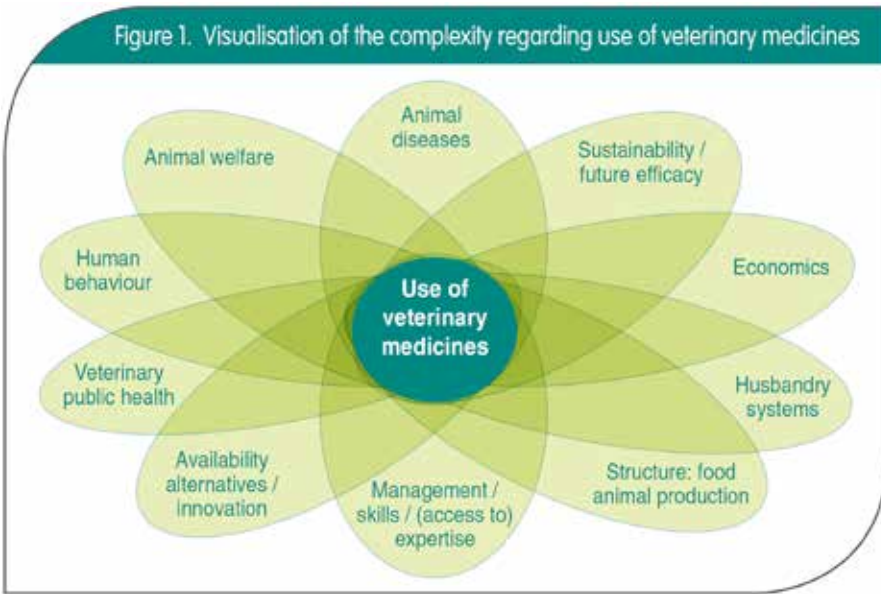
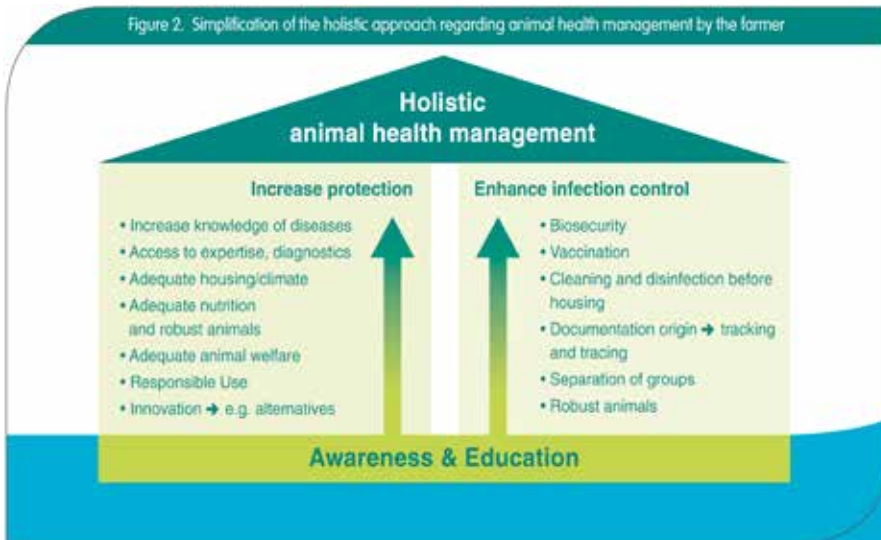


Figure 2. Simplification of the holistic approach regarding animal health management by the farmer



*It is important to understand that although we can't stop the use of antibiotics, we can reduce it and find the balance between multiple elements in maintaining healthy animals. Responsible use, also referred to judicious use, can help sustain the efficacy of antimicrobials, assure safe food and minimise the emergence of resistance.*

All this may be key in getting the required compliance from them.

- **Biosecurity:** The main objective for biosecurity is to protect animals on the farm against any infections from elsewhere. This includes restricting visitors onto/ into premises, wearing protective clothing, rodent and bird control, having a closed herd, testing new introductions for various diseases as well as good cleaning and disinfection procedures.
- **Nutrition and drinking water quality:** These have an important impact on the animals' health. Any diets deficient in macro/ micro minerals, vitamins, protein or energy will have a profound effect on the ability of any animal to fend off or recover from disease. As veterinarians, we tend to look the other way when it comes to nutrition; however, there is a lot of room for the veterinarian to be involved in these processes.
- **Animal health aspects:** Definitely the area where the veterinarian can and does have the biggest role to play. Individual herd health plans are essential in protecting herds from the dangers of disease. A well-planned vaccination program goes a long way in protecting animals from diseases prevalent in that specific area, but vaccination can only do so much. The ability of a vaccine to work correctly is completely dependent on the ability of the animal's immune system to respond to the vaccine.

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# USING ANTIBIOTICS, AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE AS MUCH AS NECESSARY, IS A RESPONSIBILITY IN OUR HANDS AND IN YOURS.







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## The Hermanus and Overberg Community Veterinary Clinic

The Hermanus and Overberg Community Veterinary Clinic is situated at Hermanus Animal Hospital in Hermanus. For the past two years we have been fortunate to be able to assist our lower income communities with quality veterinary care.

**T**hanks to generous donations, fundraising projects and the vets from Hermanus Animal Hospital giving their time and services, we vaccinate, sterilise and treat the pets of hundreds of underprivileged families. Through word of mouth, owners brought 134 animals to be sterilised and 362 to be vaccinated throughout 2015.

We also work with Rescue Animal Drive (RAD), a local animal welfare organisation. RAD obtains consent from pet owners to collect their animals from their homes and bring them to us for sterilisation or treatment if they are ill. We also go with them to vaccinate animals at their homes and do follow-up treatments where necessary. Through this combined effort, we have sterilised and vaccinated about another 394 dogs and cats in 2015. In September, ABSA kindly sponsored a stall for us in their building at the Mega Agri week in Bredasdorp. We



handed out booklets and brochures concerning the raising and keeping of pets, and took the opportunity to make people aware of what we do and why it is important.



ZOETIS <<< 35

If the nutrition isn't correct, or the husbandry system results in excessive stress or disease challenge, the vaccine won't perform as it should and more antibiotics will need to be used.

A good colostrum management program is something that is often forgotten. A calf is born wholly dependent on receiving the antibodies that are going to protect it for the first few months of its life from colostrum. Ensuring they

receive the right quality and quantity at the right time is essential to giving these young calves the best possible start to life.

Administration of antimicrobials to sick animals is essential. Using the correct antimicrobial, at the correct time and at the correct dose is just as important. Animals that are at high risk of suffering from disease also warrant receiving antibiotics. Certain times of the year or stages of animals' lives are high risk periods for specific diseases. Using antimicrobials strategically during these times not only reduces the incidence of disease but also the pain and suffering of a number of animals, improving their welfare. The use of antibiotics in these animals requires in depth consultation between farmer and veterinarian to determine when and for which animals this kind of metaphylactic treatment is justified.

All these aspects are so interlinked that you can't focus on one without getting involved in another. The essential message regarding responsible antibiotic use is using antimicrobials as little as possible, but as much as necessary.

It is a holistic approach between nutritionist, farmer, manager and veterinarian all working together toward a common goal; healthy productive animals.

**Reference:**

EPRUMA (European platform for the responsible use of medicines in animals) best-practice framework for the use of antibiotics in food-producing animals. Available at [www.epruma.eu/publications/brochures](http://www.epruma.eu/publications/brochures)

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CVC <<< 36

We are looking forward to every new opportunity to help, and are sincerely grateful to First National Bank for their generous donation which enables us to continue making a difference in this new year. We hope to reach and educate more and more people and to be there for their pets. **V**



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Ref: 1. Laredo FG, Belda E, Murciano J, et al. Comparison of the analgesic effects of meloxicam and carprofen administered preoperatively to dogs undergoing orthopaedic surgery. *Vet Rec* 2004; 155:667-671. 2. Mathews KA, Pettifer G, Foster R, et al. Safety and efficacy of preoperative administration of meloxicam, compared with that of ketoprofen and butorphanol in dogs undergoing abdominal surgery. *AJVR* 2001; 62(6):882-888.

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## Go out and feel

Coming home after an amazing time of rest and travelling, I was once again made aware of how fast time goes by and how easy it is to live a life focused on yourself. I glanced at my colleagues' children, who grew so tall that I thought I missed a year somewhere. My own baby boy is developing faster than what I can keep track of. A dear friend's father passed away. Two others got engaged. Day by day the clock is ticking and life just goes on.

**A**s part of my new year's resolution of trying to live less self-centred, I was faced with the question of how to do it practically. I don't want to just give away the clothes I don't wear anymore, or find a coin to give to a car-guard and then convince myself that I care. I want to feel the care. When considering ways to be practical about truly increasing my input in my system, deep down I knew that I already learnt this lesson during this past holiday.

Empathy. True and raw empathy. That is what will help us to really care.

Let us take the drought as an example. In all honesty and to my own shame, I knew about the difficulties the farmers experience. I even talked about it. But I still watered my garden a bit, and in doing I experienced a feeling of guilt. Then I travelled to spend some time with family in the Free State. I saw the dry riverbed myself. I felt the panic when the borehole suddenly ran dry. I experienced the fear when another fire broke out. After I felt and saw all of this, I started praying that the rain on my Johannesburg garden should rather be sent there. I don't feel guilty because I am not doing my part



anymore, I rather feel a deep sorrow and concern. Now, I care.

Empathy is defined as the ability to understand and share the feelings of another – "to stand in someone else's shoes" – I was taught. One quote I read said that, through empathy, a great painting becomes a mirror of the self. Empathy is thus considered a motivating factor for unselfish, pro-social behaviour.

As veterinarians, empathy probably is a concept that you are very familiar with. In a way, it is linked to having compassion with animals in their suffering. I have come to realise that is also expected of me, in my own line of work, to have empathy. But I am sure that you will agree with me that there are some cases, some clients,

some stories and some situations that just rock your boat. Where tears will spontaneously appear in your eyes. Where you will still ponder on what happened long after you were supposed to sleep. These are the times we have the most empathy and in a way, feel most alive.

As always, I again give you a challenge for this month. Go out and feel. Experience the lives and circumstances of others in the deepest possible way. Allow yourself to risk your own comfort and have true empathy. See then how easy it becomes to care. **V**

*Regards*

*Carien*

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# Your SAVA has been active – thanks to you



During the course of the past few months, the SAVA has been involved in a variety of activities, all on behalf of its members. These included the following:

## A: Legal matters

1. Based on our complaint to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) regarding a pet food product that claimed (on the bag) that it was formulated by a "veterinary dietician", the ASA made a ruling that the company should remove this claim from its product. The company was given six (6) months to comply, allowing them to use up the printed bags in stock.
2. Representatives of the SAVA will attend the workshops on the review of the rules pertaining to the veterinary para-professions.
3. Input on Veterinary Procedural Note 9: Buffalo Disease Risk Management was submitted to DAFF by the Wildlife Group, on behalf of the SAVA.
4. The Board of Directors has requested Groups and Branches, and the Wildlife Group specifically, to provide input on the draft amendments of the norms and standards of the marking of rhinoceros and rhinoceros horn and for the hunting of rhinoceros for trophy hunting purposes. The board will collate all input and make a submission to Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in this regard.

## B: Veterinary Strategy

1. The invitation from the DAFF to participate in workshops on a National Veterinary Strategy was forwarded to Groups and Branches, with a request that representatives should attend each of the workshops (across the country).

## C: SA Veterinary Council

1. The board of directors submitted a request to the SAVC to reconsider the decision that all veterinarians who had, in the past, not registered a practice/worked from a registered practice were expected to pay an "admission of guilt" fine. This was especially aimed at veterinarians who work as consultants and not from a specific facility/building. The SAVC subsequently decided to postpone a final decision in this regard and to, in the interim, refer suspect registrations to the Investigation Committee. The Investigations Committees will make an assessment of these suspect registrations on a case-by-case basis, each case on its own merit.

## D: Education and Training

1. Information on the HWSETA Workplace Skills

Programme and Annual Training Report Workshops

has been distributed to Groups and Branches.

2. SAVA members now have access to the World Veterinary Association Education Portal (managed by WCEA) through the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. Please note that this will be regarded as unstructured CPD, as the various courses have not each been accredited by the SAVC.

## WVA Education Network's CVA Portal

*The CVA is delighted to be offering a new online education portal for all CVA members. We are trying to make continuing education easy for our members. As the course materials increase, you will be able to stay up-to-date with the latest veterinary innovations and developments. Many courses are free to take. Others have fees ranging from \$US5 upwards. There are already hundreds of online courses available. There is also the ability to have the system track your online courses for you and provide certificates of completion.*

*Everyone that registers will have their own account and can create their own profile, thereby getting the education that is most relevant to their requirements. The system will allow you to record all continuing education undertaken, both online and live events.*

*Please support this initiative by registering at <http://cva.learning.education/>*

## E. Medication and related

1. As a result of pressure exerted by the SAVA, animal health and animal production organisations, OBP is doing an online survey to improve their service. It is a short questionnaire and takes just a few minutes to complete. Every veterinarian who uses OBP products should take the time to complete the survey at <http://www.obpvaccines.co.za/survey>

## F. Marketing

1. The new SAVA Website has been launched – more information elsewhere in this issue of VetNews.
2. We still continue to distribute a regular newsletter by e-mail to all members. If you do not receive this newsletter, please contact Christelle on [marketing@sava.co.za](mailto:marketing@sava.co.za)
3. A fruitful meeting with the veterinary industry was held towards the end of 2015. Representatives from industry will assist the SAVA Congress Committee to make the next SAVA Biennial Congress (to be held in 2017) a huge success. ■

# Certified Veterinary Acupuncture Course

July 25-30, 2016, Onderstepoort, South Africa



Chi Institute

## Highlights:

- Learn from leaders and professors of the world TCVM community
- Equivalent to the first 2 sessions of the Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist (CVA) Program
- 13 hours of intensive hands-on wet labs
- Choose either the Small Animal or Equine track to study
- Become a Chi graduate along with over 5,000 veterinarians from the USA, Europe, China and over 50 other countries
- Earn 30 Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points

## First Chi Institute Veterinary Acupuncture (Basic Level) Programme

Time/Date	July 25, Monday	July 26, Tuesday	July 27, Wednesday	July 28, Thursday	July 29, Friday	July 30, Saturday
8:00 to 8:50 AM	Program Goal History of Acupuncture Dr. Xie	How to Understand Acupuncture Points Dr. Xie	TCVM Diagnosis Intro Dr. Xie	How to Treat Bi and arthritis Dr. Xie	How to Treat Gastro-Intestinal Disorders Dr. Aituan Ma	Integrating acupuncture into Small Animal Practice Dr. Sarah Peters
9:00 to 9:50 AM	What is Acupuncture Dr. Xie	How to Understand Meridians/Channels Dr. Xie	TCVM Diagnosis Intro Dr. Xie	How to Treat Lameness in horses Dr. Xie		
10:00 to 10:50 AM	Five Elements I Dr. Xie	Five-shu Transporting Points I Dr. Xie	Other Special Points Dr. Xie	How to Treat Seizures Dr. Aituan Ma	How to Treat Respiratory Disorders Dr. Aituan Ma	Integrating TCVM into Equine Practice Dr. Xie
11:00 to 12:00 AM	Five Elements II Dr. Xie	Five-shu Transporting Points II Dr. Xie	Scientific basis (evidences) Dr. Elize van Vollenhoven	How to Treat IVDD Dr. Aituan Ma		
12:00 - 1:30 AM	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
1:30 to 5:30 PM	Yin Yang and Eight Principles Zang-fu Physiology Dr. Aituan Ma	Acupuncture Point Lab Dr. Elize van Vollenhoven Dr. Sarah Peters Dr. Roselle Hartwigsen	Acupuncture Point Lab Dr. Elize van Vollenhoven Dr. Sarah Peters Dr. Roselle Hartwigsen	University hospital tour and free activities Dr. Elize van Vollenhoven	Acupuncture Point Lab Dr. Elize van Vollenhoven Dr. Sarah Peters Dr. Roselle Hartwigsen + Acupuncture techniques (aquil EAP and Mobilisation)	Demo Lab How to Practice Acupuncture in Small Animals and horses <b>(Demo with Real cases)</b> Dr. Shen Xie

The seminar will be offered in English.

All the lectures will be same for the Equine and Canine track. The only difference will be the lab portion: Equine track will go to the equine lab only while Canine track will go to the canine lab only.



Shen (Huisheng) Xie, DVM, PhD is a 3rd generation practitioner of Chinese Medicine born and educated in China. He is a leading instructor in Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM). His teachings draw from his deep understanding of and enduring commitment to Chinese medical philosophy and its way of life.

Dr. Xie obtained his DVM in China in 1983 from China Southwest University, and his master's degree in veterinary acupuncture from China Agricultural University in 1988. In 1993, he was awarded an advanced training diploma from the Advanced Acupuncture Continuing Education Program at the National Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Beijing. In 1999, Dr. Xie obtained his PhD from the University of Florida for his study of the neurophysiology of acupuncture for pain relief in horses. Dr. Xie has been invited to lecture about TCVM around the world, and has published 20 books and over 100 scientific papers.

Having taught TCVM to university students since 1983, Dr. Xie recognizes the importance of presenting complex TCVM principles in a way that is easily understood and readily applied to everyday clinical use. He is highly esteemed by his students for his ability to present Eastern concepts in a way that is palatable to Western minds.

The 6-day seminar will be equivalent to the first 2 of the five sessions of the Certified Veterinary Acupuncture (CVA) program of the Chi Institute. Session 3 will be online.

Sessions 4 and 5 can be completed in South Africa in 2017, or in Spain, Australia or USA.

Tuition\*: The basic level (sessions 1 and 2): R20,000, including classnotes, lectures/lab instructions, 6-month online professional support for acupuncture clinical practice, and reception dinner.

Session 3: US\$ 500

Session 4: US\$ 700

Session 5: US\$ 700 + \$350 for certification processing fee (internship/case report/finals)

\*To receive this special rate of tuition, all participants must be from South Africa and other African countries.



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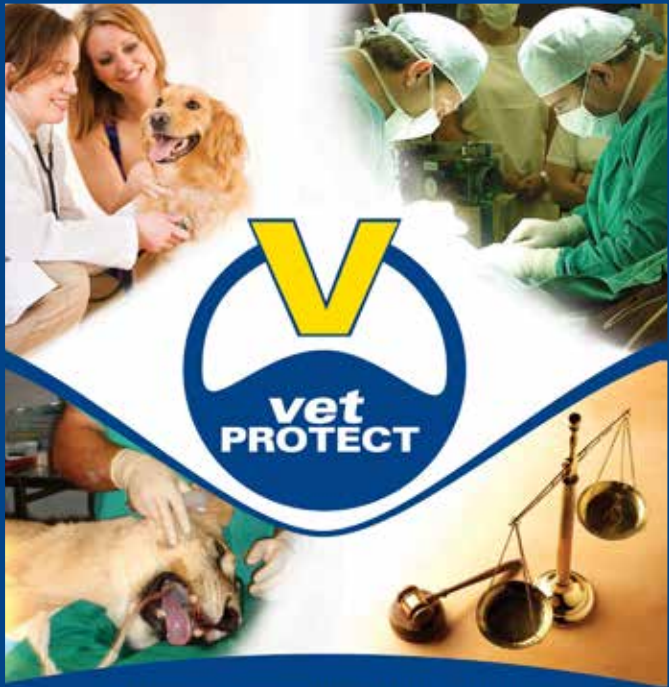
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**Friday, 3th June 2016**

**SURGICAL WETLAB**

08:00 - 12:00 Dr Neels du Plessis. Surgery (Limited availability)

13:30 Welcome SAVA & Trade introduction

14:00 The yellow cat - Dr Liesel van der Merwe

14:45 Diarrhoea in practice - Dr Liesel van der Merwe

15:30 Tea

16:00 To be confirmed: Skin - Dr Dave Miller (Eukenuba)

17:00 Academic program finished

18:00 Dinner and stargazing with talk and telescopes

**Saturday, 4th June 2016**

7:30 Registration & Trade

8:00 Equine passports requirements (Extra: Aging horses)

Height certification (Extra: Measuring horses) - Dr Ingrid Cilliers

9:00 Wildlife: New drug cocktails & alternatives for out of stock items

- Dr Katja Koepel

9:45 Cattle: Surgical procedures in cattle - Dr Stephen Hughes

10:30 Tea

11:15 Cattle: What happened to my expected calf crop?

Dr Stephen Hughes

12:00 Wildlife: New colours & genetic profiling of colours - Dr Katja Koepel

12:30 AGM

13:30 Lunch

14:30 Equines: Lameness due to hoof defects and shoeing problems.

Dr Ingrid Cilliers

15:15 Cattle: IV & ET : conception & calving - special problems.

Dr Stephen Hughes

16:00 Wildlife: Handraising-getting it right & wrong. Dr Katja Koepel

16:45 Closing and thanks

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[Cenvet@connix.co.za](mailto:Cenvet@connix.co.za) or

Dr Ryan Niemand 082 772 9598

Ref15MA02

### BLOEMFONTEIN

Vethealth kleindierpraktik soek 'n 2de veearts op 'n permanente basis so gou moontlik. Nuut-gegradeerde is ook welkom. Salaris volgens SAVV se aanbevole salarisskale plus na-ure. E-pos CV na [vethealth4@gmail.com](mailto:vethealth4@gmail.com) of skakel

Dr. Nico Labuschagne by 0795281079.

Ref16JA04

### MPUMALANGA SECUNDA

Eendedam Dieriekliniek benodig dringend die dienste van 'n veearts in veteriniere vpleegster. Ons doen hoofsaaklik net kleindiere en is geleë in die Secunda (Mpumalanga) area SAVV tariewe geld. Stuur asb. CV's na [eendedamvet@gmail.com](mailto:eendedamvet@gmail.com). Eendedam Animal Clinic urgently requires the services of an assistant veterinarian and veterinary nurse.

100% Small animal practice in Secunda (Mpumalanga) Salary according to SAVA rates. Please email CV's to

[eendedamvet@gmail.com](mailto:eendedamvet@gmail.com)

Ref15NV11

### GROBLERSDAL/MARBLE HALL

Loskop Dieriekliniek benodig die dienste van 'n veearts. Ons is 'n gemengde plattelandse praktyk met 'n goeie balans van kleindiere, grootdiere en wild en is geleë in die Loskopvallei (Groblersdal en Marble Hall) omgewing. Aangename werksomstandighede met unieke uitdagings elke dag. Bel Sr. Corne Steenkamp by

013 261 1167 of stuur u

CV na [Loskopdieriekliniek@gmail.com](mailto:Loskopdieriekliniek@gmail.com)

Ref16FE04

### NORTH WEST/NOORDWES RUSTENBURG

Gemengde praktyk in Rustenburg op soek na 'n veearts met belangstelling in produksiediere en wild, om by ons in te skakel. Ondervinding in die twee velde sal handig te pas kom, maar pas-gegradeerde is ook welkom. Kontak ons by 014 533 2084 vir meer inligting.

Ref14OC06

### POTCHEFSTROOM/FOCHVILLE

Troeteldierartse: Geleenthede in die universiteitstad – baie vakansies – Potchefstroom en vir 'n arts wat onafhanklik kan werk in die plattelandse Fochville (75km vanaf Jhb-middestad) met die oog op eienaarskap. Skakel

Douw van der Nest: 018 297 1846.

Ref15MA14

### LICHTENBURG

Besige 3-man praktyk soek 'n assistent-veearts om by ons span van 10 persone aan te sluit. Ons is 'n gemengde-dierepraktik, (70% kleindiere, 20% beeste, 5% perde, 5% skape) geleë te Lichtenburg.

Ideaal vir 'n veearts wat ondervinding wil opdoen van alle aspekte van 'n privaattpraktik of nuwe graduant met tot en met 3 jaar ondervinding. Dienste (na-ure, naweke) word gelyk verdeel. Kontak Anton/ Andrea, 018 632 3011/ 084 970 8146.

Ref15SP07

### RUSTENBURG

Praktik in Rustenburg benodig dringend die dienste van 'n veearts. Ons beskik oor 2 praktyke: Een 'n moderne kleindier en eksotiese praktyk, die ander 'n gemengde praktyk, wat ook perde en produksiediere doen met geleenthede vir wildwerk. Daar is toegang tot Idexx bloedchemiasjien, ultraklank, IM3 tandemasjien en indirekte digitale radiologie. Plasing van geskikte kandidaat by 'n spesifieke praktyk, sal afhang van ondervinding en belangstelling. Kontak Dr Sparks of Dr Grobler by tel. 014-533 2084 of 0836531081 vir meer inligting.

Ref15NV02

### WESTERN CAPE/WE-KAAP KNYSNA

Animal Antics veterinary consulting rooms in Knysna is looking for a vet to join our mixed practice. New graduates welcome.

E-mail [vetwtait@gmail.com](mailto:vetwtait@gmail.com)

Ref15JN15

### PLETTENBERG BAY/KNYSNA

Small animal vet assitant required urgently for Plettenberg Bay and Knysna.SAVA rates apply. Please send CV to

[plettvet@pixie.co.za](mailto:plettvet@pixie.co.za)

Ref16JA05

### FISH HOEK

Fish Hoek Vet Clinic has sat in the heart of the valley for the last 30 years and has built up a family of animal-loving clientele. We are looking for a "can do" vet to join our established team in a fully equipped two-vet practice. We'd prefer someone with experience as you will be consulting and operating alone for some of the time. 2 - 3 afternoons off in the week. Remuneration negotiable.

Call Susan on 083 225 1866 for details.

Ref16FE02

### KNYSNA

The Knysna Animal Welfare Society is looking for a veterinarian for its clinic. Working hours are Monday to Friday 8.15 to 16.15 and every second Saturday 8.45 to 11.15. Please e-mail CV to Colleen Cooper on [ccbck@mweb.co.za](mailto:ccbck@mweb.co.za)

Ref16FE05

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**WES-KAAP**

Benodig veearts in Wes-Kaap vir gemengde praktyk. Verkieslik met 2 - 3 jaar ondervinding. Kontaknommer 084 585 5730 Ref16FE07

**GAUTENG**

Position available at VetCare Clinics. Graduates and experienced vets welcome to apply. Fully equipped facilities with up-to-date technology. Salary according to experience and ability. Send CV to practice manager, Brad Parfitt. [brad@vetcareclinics.co.za](mailto:brad@vetcareclinics.co.za) Practice tel number 011-795 2034. Ref15MY04

**NORTHRAND ANIMAL CLINIC (KYALAMI)**

We are looking for an equine veterinarian for a busy equine practice in Kyalami to start as soon as possible. Salary negotiable according to experience. Contact: Dr Mike Ross (011) 4683100 or email CV to [mike@nrac.co.za](mailto:mike@nrac.co.za) for further details. Ref15AU10

**JOHANNESBURG (NORTHERN SUBURBS)**

Experienced vet required for well-established small animal practice group in Jhb northern suburbs. E-mail CV to [trish@codeco.co.za](mailto:trish@codeco.co.za) Ref15OC02

**MULDERSDRIFT (WEST RAND)**

Our mixed animal practice is looking for a third vet to join our team as soon as possible. Must have a special interest in large animals and equines. Please contact us on: [muld\\_vet@mweb.co.za](mailto:muld_vet@mweb.co.za) or 0832944238 / 011-795 2025 Ref15OC07

**BENONI**

Oakfields Veterinary Hospital is a busy 3-4 vet small-animal practice in Benoni and has a vacancy for a full-time veterinary assistant. We strive to practice good quality veterinary medicine with dedication and professionalism being important. Excellent working hours and remuneration.

Please e-mail cv to [oakfieldsvet@telkomsa.net](mailto:oakfieldsvet@telkomsa.net) Ref15NV12

**VEREENIGING**

Drie Riviere Dierekliniek benodig 'n veearts in groep van 3 praktyke met 7 veeartse.

Ons soek 'n tweetalige assistent met oog op vennootskap. Leef jou passie uit in kleindiergeneeskunde en –chirurgie, grootdiere, wild en eksotiese spesies. Goeie dienslewering is vir ons belangrik. Pas-gegradueerdes welkom. Ons 74-hok kleindierhospitaal is goed toegerus met digitale x-straal, endoskope, ultraklank, EKG, kliniese patologie-masjiene en meer.

Goeie salarispakket. Kontak Dr. Willem Van Niekerk 016-4231104 of e-pos CV na [vets@threerivers.co.za](mailto:vets@threerivers.co.za) Ref16JA02

Three Rivers Veterinary Clinic requires a veterinarian in group of 3 practices with 7 vets. Bilingual assistant needed, aimed at partnership. Live your passion in small animal medicine and surgery, large animals, game and exotics. Excellent service delivery is important to us. New graduates welcome. Our 74-cage small animal hospital is well equipped with digital XR, endoscopes, ultrasound, ECG, clinical pathology machines and more. Excellent salary. Contact Dr Willem van Niekerk 016-4231104 or email CV to [vets@threerivers.co.za](mailto:vets@threerivers.co.za) REF16JA03

**VANDERBYLPARK**

Driehoek Dierehospitaal is opsoek na 'n gemotiveerde 2-talige veearts-assistent 1-3 jaar gekwalifiseer. Tenvolle toegeruste praktyk, hoofsaaklik kleindiere maar ook groot diere en wild. CV's na [driehoekacc@telkomsa.net](mailto:driehoekacc@telkomsa.net) Ref16FE03

**KWAZULU-NATAL KOKSTAD**

A successful three-man, rural veterinary practice in Kokstad in the Drakensberg foothills has a vacancy for a full-time veterinarian with partnership opportunity. Well-equipped companion animal hospital including digital x-ray, ultrasound, blood chemistry, haematology, etc. Dairy, beef and equine work. Starting salary R 40 000-00 per month increased commensurate with experience. New graduates and locums are welcome. Duties shared equally. Phone Dr Nischk 083 305 3093 or Dr Kilian 083 557 3388, clinic 039 727 1899 Ref15AP03

**PIETERMARITZBURG**

Well established small-animal practice in Pietermaritzburg looking for 3rd full-time vet to join the team in Feb 2016. Reasonable hours; A/H and weekends shared equally with reasonable time off. Email CV to [longmarketvetclinic@gmail.com](mailto:longmarketvetclinic@gmail.com) Ref15DC06

**NOORD-KAAP/NORTHERN CAPE KIMBERLEY**

Ervare assistent benodig vir 'n goed toegeruste kleindier praktyk in Kimberley. Salaris volgens SAVA aanbevole skale. Vennootskap moontlikhede vir die regte persoon. CV na [arkdierekliniek@gmail.com](mailto:arkdierekliniek@gmail.com) Kontak Dr. Harry Sliet 053 832 8456 / 081 897 4879. Ref15DC05

**LOCUM/LOKUM**

**ORANGE GROVE VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

Locum required February – June 2016. Contact Dr's Moore, Romberg or Macwilliam 011-728-1371, [ogvh@iafrica.com](mailto:ogvh@iafrica.com) Ref15NV06

**LOCUM AVAILABLE/ LOKUM BESKIKBAAR**

**GAUTENG**

Locum vet in Gauteng. 17 years experience in small animals. Willing to travel for locum work. Contact Dr P Moodley on 072 536 0926 / 079 197 9849/ [pulenmoodley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pulenmoodley@yahoo.co.uk) Also now seeking permanent position to commence during 2016, Centurion/Pretoria preferred for permanent position. Ref15DC09

**VETERINARY NURSE/VETERINÊRE VERPLEEGSTER**

**GAUTENG**

**JOHANNESBURG**

Johannesburg SPCA is looking for a motivated veterinary nurse or animal-health technician to join our veterinary team. Should have genuine interest in animal-welfare work. Duties involve predominantly companion-animal and a small percentage of livestock. Great opportunity for new graduates to gain experience with our veterinary team. Kindly forward CV and SAVC registration to Dr A.F. Suleyman at [jhbSPCA@jhbSPCA.co.za](mailto:jhbSPCA@jhbSPCA.co.za) or [vets@jhbSPCA.co.za](mailto:vets@jhbSPCA.co.za) Ref13SP13

**GAUTENG**

Position for veterinary nurse available at the VetCare Clinic Group. Send CV to [brad@vetcareclinics.co.za](mailto:brad@vetcareclinics.co.za) or phone 011 795 2034. Practice manager – Brad Parfitt. Ref15AU09

**JOHANNESBURG**

Veterinary nurse required for established small-animal practice group in Johannesburg. Forward CV to [trish@codeco.co.za](mailto:trish@codeco.co.za) Ref16FE06

**PRACTICE FOR SALE/ PRAKTYK TE KOOP**

**GAUTENG PRETORIA**

Very well equipped, 25 years established small-animal practice for sale. Owner wants to relocate. Please phone 082 554 7312 after 19:00. Ref15DC10

**NOORD-VRYSTAAT**

Gemengde plattelandse eenman-praktyk te koop in die Noord-Vrystaat. 70% produksiediere, 30% perde en kleindiere. Uitbreidingsmoontlikhede, veral in wild. Ideale geleentheid om jou eie praktyk te besit. Kontak Nico by 076 269 0722. Ref16JA07

**FOR SALE/TE KOOP**

**ANAESTHETIC MACHINE**

New vet anaesthetic machine with refurbished TEC4 vaporiser R35,500 or with New MSS3 Forane vaporiser R41,500.



# Dagboek Diary

## General

Online Course in Non-radiological Diagnostic Imaging of the Horse. Covers the various applications of diagnostic ultrasonography, CT, MRI and scintigraphy in the horse online. From 20 January to end August 2016. Council CPD accredited. Contact Prof Carstens at [ann.carstens@up.ac.za](mailto:ann.carstens@up.ac.za) or Ms Saskia Moritz at [saskia.moritz@ce.up.ac.za](mailto:saskia.moritz@ce.up.ac.za) CE@UP at 012 434-2606.

## February 2016

Young Members' Group of the SAVA CPD event, 04 Feb, Johannesburg (venue to be confirmed).

Info: Ellené Kleyn, [elly1@mweb.co.za](mailto:elly1@mweb.co.za)

Wildlife Group of the SAVA Congress, 05 – 06 Feb, Onderstepoort.

Info: Madaleen Schultheiss, Vetlink, 012-346-1590, [www.vetlink.co.za](http://www.vetlink.co.za)

SAEVA Congress, 14 – 17 Feb, East London Convention Centre.

Info: Madaleen Schultheiss, Vetlink, 012-346-1590, [www.vetlink.co.za](http://www.vetlink.co.za)

Western Cape Branch Tietiesbaai weekend, 19 – 21 Feb, Tietiesbaai

## March 2016

RuVASA Congress, 10 – 12 March, The Ranch Hotel, near Polokwane. Theme "Nutrition for Health, Production and Profit".

Info: Madaleen Schultheiss, Vetlink, 012-346-1590, [www.vetlink.co.za](http://www.vetlink.co.za)

Endocrinology Medical Mystery Tour, 14 – 15 March, Cape Town, and 17 – 18 March, Johannesburg.

Info: Madaleen Schultheiss, Vetlink, 012-346-1590, [www.vetlink.co.za](http://www.vetlink.co.za)

## April 2016

10th International Equine Diseases Conference, 4 – 8 Apr, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Info: [www.internationaleidc.com](http://www.internationaleidc.com)

## May 2016

Eastern Cape & Karoo Branch mini-congress, 06 - 07 May (venue to be confirmed, Port Elizabeth)

Info: Madaleen Schultheiss, Vetlink, 012-346-1590, [www.vetlink.co.za](http://www.vetlink.co.za)

KZN Branch mini-congress, 21 – 22 May (venue to be confirmed)

Info: Madaleen Schultheiss, Vetlink, 012-346-1590, [www.vetlink.co.za](http://www.vetlink.co.za)

Veterinary Public Health Group workshop, 25 - 27 May (venue to be confirmed)

Info: Nenene Qekwana, [nenene.qekwana@up.ac.za](mailto:nenene.qekwana@up.ac.za)

## June 2016

Oranje-Vaal Branch of the SAVA mini-congress, 03 – 04 June, Sunwa River Lodge.

Info: Madaleen Schultheiss, Vetlink, 012-346-1590, [www.vetlink.co.za](http://www.vetlink.co.za)

Southern Cape Branch mini-congress, 10 & 11 June 2016, Simola Golf Estate, Knysna.

Info: Madaleen Schultheiss, Vetlink, 012-346-1590, [www.vetlink.co.za](http://www.vetlink.co.za)

## July 2016

Mpumalanga Branch mini-congress, 22 & 23 July 2016, Pine Lake Inn, White River.

Info: Madaleen Schultheiss, Vetlink, 012-346-1590, [www.vetlink.co.za](http://www.vetlink.co.za)

## September 2016

Free State & Northern Cape Branch mini-congress, 02 & 03 September 2016, Illanga Estate, Bloemfontein.

Info: Madaleen Schultheiss, Vetlink, 012-346-1590, [www.vetlink.co.za](http://www.vetlink.co.za)

Western Cape Branch mini-congress, 16 & 17 September 2016, Vineyard Hotel, Cape Town.

Info: Madaleen Schultheiss, Vetlink, 012-346-1590, [www.vetlink.co.za](http://www.vetlink.co.za)

WSAVA Congress, 27 – 30 Sep 2016, Cartagena, Columbia

## October 2016

Northern Natal & Midlands Branch mini-congress, 21 & 22 October 2016 (venue to be confirmed)

Info: Madaleen Schultheiss, Vetlink, 012-346-1590, [www.vetlink.co.za](http://www.vetlink.co.za)

## December 2016

4th International One Health Congress & 6th Biennial Congress of the International Association for Ecology and Health, Melbourne Australia 4th – 7th Dec 2016

Info: [www.oheh2016.org](http://www.oheh2016.org) 

**For an up-to-date calendar, visit "SAVA Events" on the member section of the SAVA website.**

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Ref13JA01

### PRACTICE EQUIPMENT

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- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 6. Dental instruments  | R 1000        |
| 7. Dan-Inject dart gun | R 30 000      |
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| 9. Otoscope            | R 4000        |

Please send e-mail to  
[pritchett@r62mail.co.za](mailto:pritchett@r62mail.co.za)  
Ref16JA08 

# Life plus sixteen without parole

By Mike Lowry

Mike Lowry has been in veterinary practice for "Life Plus 16", with no parole. In this column he shares his experiences and opinions.

"**D**octor, do you give pensioner discounts?" This was the question from a well attired lady, new to our practice. She was driving a fairly fancy, recent model car and her jewellery also indicated that finances were not that tight. She was probably in her late 40's.

"Yes, we do." I replied.

"OK, then please put all my dogs on my mother's name – she is a pensioner; and all the dogs are rescue dogs and that way we can get a reduced fee." She nonchalantly stated.

Oh yea, I thought, here we go again.

I questioned her further – yes there were seven dogs in all and some had been in their care for many years whilst others were more recent acquisitions.

After all these years, I still cannot get my head round the reason that we as vets should discount our fees for rescued dogs. After all, we did not ask people to rescue them. On top of this, people being blatantly dishonest with regard to the ownership of the animals, to get a 10% discount.

"Oh, Mr. Garage owner, this is a second hand car, I rescued it – can I get a discount?" No, you don't!

Then there are any number of questionable animal rescue establishments which expect likewise. One of the major animal rightist groups has a mega-buck budget and the money just rolls in after every demonstration – not unlike some of the charismatic churches where the line between spirituality and business is poorly defined. All these also expect veterinary support at little or no cost and one has to wonder what the exact motives are. Are these people seeking self-indulgence, or are their motives genuine?

And how do we as a profession handle them?

Another client brought in a dog she had spent a small fortune on and had visited many vets in the area – same old story "the vets have done everything at a huge cost to me and look at her!" First thought that crossed my mind was "beware, you are next on the list to be complained about". Secondly, the diagnosis was not that difficult; a very severe case of Demodectic mange. Next question was why had the other vets battled with the problem?

The answer became more than evident in a very short while – a non-compliant owner! And certainly one no practice in their right mind would want. We all know those clients very well – "Oh is it that expensive" "we have had a very bad month and I cannot afford it right now" "can we pay you off"

After a relatively short while I was more than happy to be the next vet that she complained about, but was not that fortunate – she stuck to the practice like glue! Maybe she had run out of vets in the area.

And what happens next – "Oh, we have managed to adopt two more rescue dogs (making the count now 8 or 9) – they so needed a home and with those big brown eyes who could resist them" It was about as much as I needed.

"That's fine but please; I never want to hear about you being unable to afford treatment and please don't expect me to reduce fees for them."

"Oh, of course we will meet all costs; if needs be we will take the food off our table to give to them, you need not worry about that."

In a very short time I was to worry about it – "Please, we have had a very bad time with my daughters divorce



and grandkids having to go to a new school and needing new uniforms – can we pay you at the end of the month"- real heart-strings stuff.

I made one mistake in agreeing to settlement at month-end – I never asked which month! I am still waiting and although all contact has been maintained my trough is still empty.

And then, I was approached by the divorced daughter to attend to her animals. From the outset I was extremely strict with her and she met her commitments albeit with difficulty. And low and behold – I like that good old stiff-upper-lip English cliché – the daughter arrived with another rescue dog.

This dog beat all the others – it was uncontrollable and before we got it into the consulting room the entire surgery had to be sterilized and deodorized – there were faeces, urine and anal gland excretions all over the place. It took a good dose of tranquilizer to get the animal into a position to be examined by which time the owner was beside herself trying to explain just how she loved the dog – love at first sight stuff.

The final blow was "Dr, can I settle at the end of the month please"

Yes, the life of a vet is not that easy. I feel for all the rural practitioners, with what they are having to put up with, with the drought and severe water shortages and extremely compromised farmers. We hope for adequate and gentle rains in the not too distant future.

Oh, by the way, my New Year's resolution was that I would state both the month and the year when settlements were to be made; so far it seems to be working, but we have not met the end of January at the time of writing.

Have an excellent new year. **V**

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*Reference:* 1. Wernham BGJ, Trumpatori B, Hash J, et al. Dose reduction of meloxicam in dogs with osteoarthritis – associated pain and impaired mobility. *J Vet Intern Med* 2011; 25:1298-1305. [S3] METACAM® oral suspension. Veterinary medicine. Each ml contains 1.5 mg meloxicam. Reg. No. 94/3.1.2.1/15 (Act 101 of 1965). Namibian Reg. No. V11/3.1.2.3/1154 (Act 13 of 2003). For full prescribing information refer to the package insert approved by the Medicines Control Council. Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd, Animal Health Division, 407 Pine Ave, Randburg, 2125. Tel: +27 (011) 348-2400. Email: [salesAH@boehringer-ingelheim.com](mailto:salesAH@boehringer-ingelheim.com). Cpy. Reg. No. 1966/008618/07. BI Ref. No. V30/2015 (May).

