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Maart / March 2022

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Die Maandblad van die SUID-AFRIKAANSE VETERINÊRE VERENIGING



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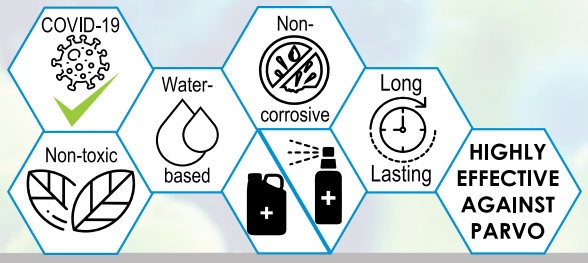
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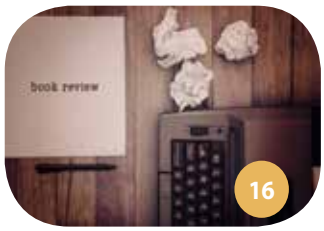
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Paul van der Merwe

Dear members,

The Veterinarian is an expert in a noble profession. Therefore, we as members must claim our rightful place in the animal health domain and beyond, as we notably influence the health of animals, humans and the environment. To this end, I want to congratulate Dr Charlotte Nkuna on her election as the African Representative of the World Veterinary Association. I trust that each member knows her capabilities and can be assured of her commitment to representing Africa and its challenges on the World Stage.

A Congratulation to Dr Chris van Dijk who was appointed as the chairperson of SAVA's newly established Animal Health Committee. He will represent SAVA on all National Animal Health Forum structures and establish a committee representing SAVA on regional animal health forums. His involvement with the NAHF for the past couple of years enables him to improve the animal health status of our national herd. Another word of congratulations to Dr Alfred Kgasi, who was appointed as the only veterinarian to the Board of Directors of the South African Health Products Regulating Authority (SAHPRA).

Through recognition of the excellent work of our colleagues, we keep ourselves motivated and give the necessary credit for their inputs, acknowledgement that is of extreme importance for every individual to actualise their needs and dreams. The lack of self-actualisation and esteem are reckoned to be of significance in the high suicide rate amongst veterinarians. SAVA and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association have invited nominations for the various awards. Let us grasp the opportunity to bestow the necessary accolades on deserving members and colleagues.

One of the functions of SAVA is also to educate, develop and train its members. The SAVA Biennial Congress will be from 25 to 27 October 2022, provisionally at Emperors Palace, Kempton Park, Gauteng. Although SAVA, through SAVETCON, arranges the congress, it is YOUR congress. I urge every member to support the congress actively by making yourself available to present or attend. Dr Leon de Bruyn and I will also participate in the World Veterinary Association Congress and the International Veterinary Officers Coalition meeting at the end of March, beginning April in Abu Dhabi. We trust that we could bring some positive contributions back. The challenges in animal health are mounting daily with more and more reports of deficiencies being experienced; ranging from the failure of Onderstepoort Biological Products to provide the necessary vaccines to continuous outbreaks of diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease, Rabies and Avian Influenza, placing an immense strain on our veterinary resources. SAVA and other animal health industry partners are actively seeking solutions. A meeting was held with the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to seek answers. Minister Thoko Didiza committed to investigating the shortcomings and instituting the necessary actions.

SAVA Exco also had a fruitful meeting with the Exco of the SAVC addressing a wide array of issues such as the mentorship programme, challenges experienced by CCS Veterinarians, the state of state veterinary laboratories, apathy within the veterinary community, progress as to the TOPS permits, ranking of the Faculty, monitors for examinations, the establishment of the Ministerial Veterinary Advisory Committee, student hunger, how to manage the POPI Act and the resolution taken at the last SAVA AGM. Although a concrete proposal was made concerning the SAVA resolution, it will only be tabled at the upcoming SAVC Council meeting for ratification and adoption. Membership, especially with the exodus of many veterinarians, is of significant concern. We were very fortunate to sign almost a third of our new graduates. To ensure SAVA stays relative, we will have to focus on areas that impact our profession. Concerns were raised as to the interaction of veterinarians and the SAVC with the possible establishment of an Alternative Veterinary Forum, legal challenges experienced by members and the establishment of a Wildlife Welfare Forum. It is thus with pride to introduce a new column in VetNews, ……., where legal challenges will be discussed.

May March be a productive, satisfying month, ensuring our animals are healthy contributing to the higher order of health.

Paul

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MISSION STATEMENT

"The South African Veterinary Association aims to serve its members and to further the status and image of the veterinarian. We are committed to upholding the highest professional and scientific standards by utilising the professional knowledge, skill and resources of our members, to foster close ties with the community and thus promote the health and welfare of animals and mankind".

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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.

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- 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.



Andriette van der Merwe

Editor's notes / Redakteurs notas

I personally would like to thank each and every roleplayer in the pork industry for their hard work and dedication that enables me to put a pork roast in the Weber with the confidence that it will be a healthy and hearty piece of meat. Hierdie maand vier Vier van SAVA personeel hulle verjaarsdae, 'n mens kan seker net wonder wat 9 maande vroeër gebeur het….

Volgende maand se uitgawe gaan bietjie loer na die eksotiese spesies wat binne SA behandel word.

Mag Maartmaand U goed behandel.

Regards,

Andriette

Beware the ides of March.

Ek was in die Hoërskool klas wat Julius Ceasar as Shakespeare gedoen het. Arme Ceasar het op die 15de Maart omgekom aan 'n mes in die rug.

'n Datum wat reg deur die eeue gevrees is, en waarop daar 'n klomp geskiedkundig slegte dinge gebeur het. Die mees interessante is dat dit die geboorte dag van die Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrom is.

"A New Global Health Scare, 2003

After accumulating reports of a mysterious respiratory disease afflicting patients and healthcare workers in China, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Singapore and Canada, the World Health Organization issues a heightened global health alert. The disease will soon become famous under the acronym SARS (for Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome). "

We celebrate the pig in this month's edition, and I want to thank all the contributors to this subject. A fascinating article by Dr Gerhard Steenkamp on toothache in a Babirusa is something not to be missed. A strange-looking animal. Look for the request for book reviewers. Three exciting new books are available to be reviewed, and the reviewer gets a complimentary copy as a thank you from the publishers.



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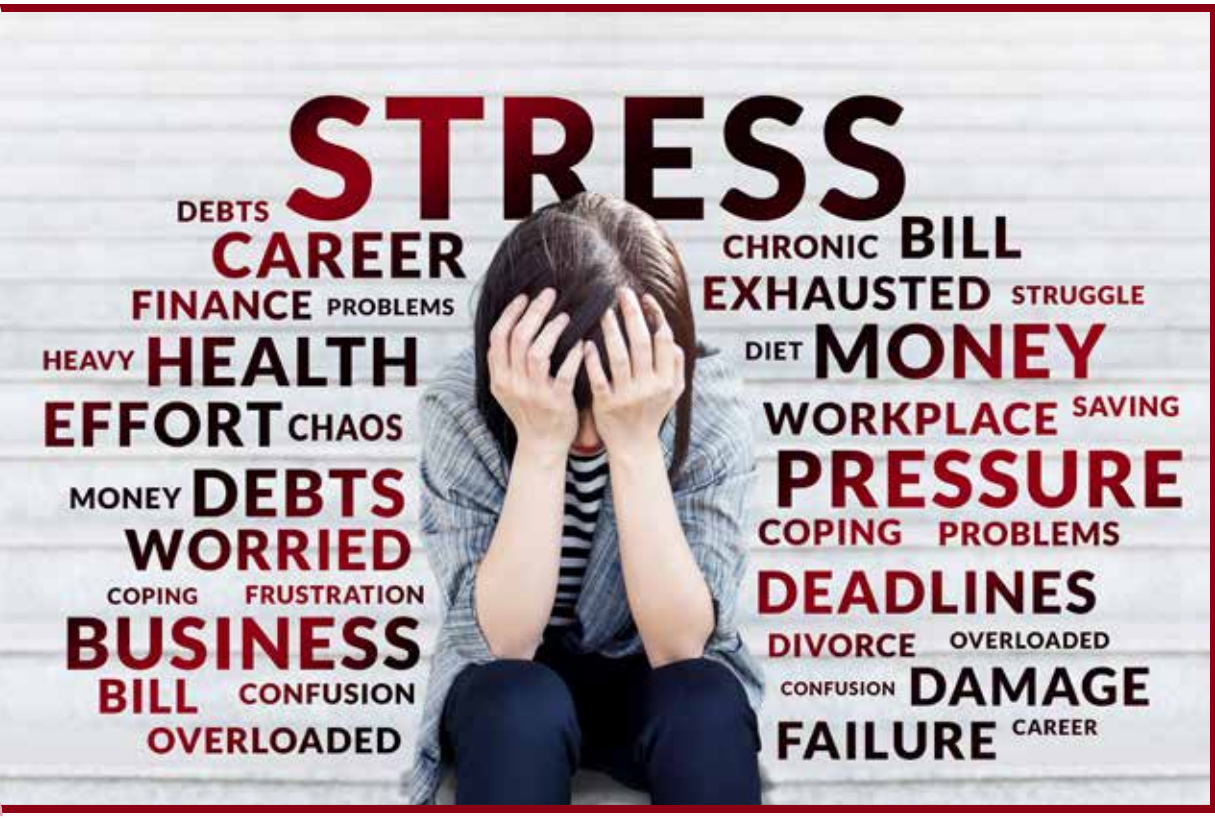
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Swine Diarrhoea: Important bacterial causes

Written by Dr Alex Westerink, CS Vet

Gastrointestinal diseases are among the most important economical diseases in pig production due to the negative effects it has on productivity and profitability.

Diarrhoea in pigs is a clinical sign that is present on most farms and expression of disease can be caused by various aetiological agents. Bacteria are largely responsible for most cases of diarrhoea on pig units in South Africa.

Diarrhoea types vary throughout the different productive stages and can include neonatal diarrhoea, post-weaning diarrhoea and fattening diarrhoea.

Colibacillosis

Colibacillosis is a common enteric disease in swine most often seen in the neonatal and post- weaning phase of production. It is caused by colonization of the small intestine with enterotoxigenic strains of *Escherichia coli* (ETEC).

Neonatal colibacillosis often occurs within the first week of life, piglets from gilts may be more severely affected than piglets nursing from sows.

Post weaning colibacillosis often gets triggered by stress related to the weaning process, hygiene or following abrupt changes in environment or nutrition.

Clinical signs most often include a watery diarrhoea commonly accompanied by dehydration and loss of condition. Piglets in the neonatal phase may have higher mortality rates compared to the weaner phase. In the post-weaning phase, there are generally low to zero mortalities, however marked reduction in the daily weight gain may occur.



Figure 1: Post-weaning diarrhoea

Lesions can be mild and are typically seen in the small intestine. The small intestine may contain excess watery fluid or may be distended, and gas filled.

Diagnosis is based on herd history, clinical signs, and post-mortem findings. Bacterial culture is required for isolation of the pathogen. Treatment and Control: Vaccination of pregnant gilts and sows should be performed to induce colostral immunity.

Due to drug resistant bacteria, antibiotic treatment strategies should be based on antibiogram results. Good hygiene and pig flow in the farrowing and weaner sections play a significant role in reducing bacterial load.

Salmonellosis

In swine there are only a few pathogenic serotypes that can cause clinical disease. The two most important serotypes in pigs are *Salmonella chloleraesuis* and *Salmonella typhimurium*.

Salmonella causes inflammation and necrosis of the small and large intestine resulting in diarrhoea and in some cases septicaemia. *S. choleraesuis* often presents as an acute septicaemia and can result in death without forewarning.

The disease is most often observed in pigs from weaning up to five months of age. Sources of infection are primarily from carrier pigs (bacteria shed in the faeces), rodents, contaminated feed and fomites.

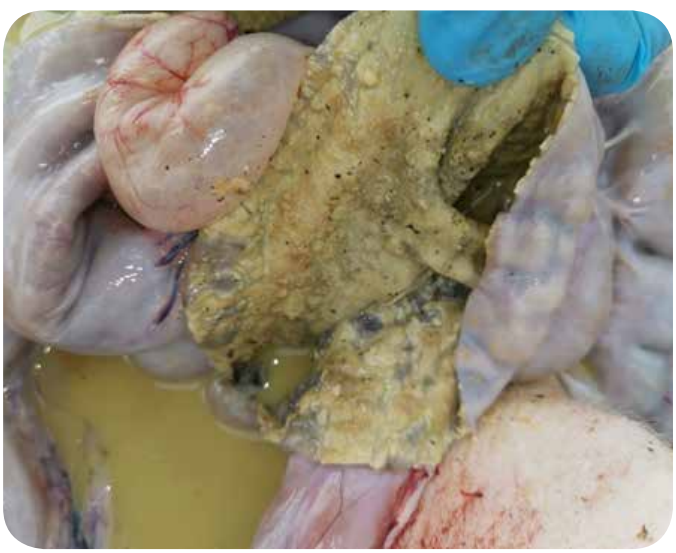


Figure 2: Fibrinonecrotic typhlocolitis

Clinical signs may include foul smelling diarrhoea often containing necrotic debris and mucous. Decreased growth rate may be observed in chronically affected pigs.

Pneumonia and blue discoloration of extremities (ears, tail, nose) can be seen in septicaemic cases. Lesions typically include severely inflamed and necrotic small and large intestines. Necrotic hepatitis may also be apparent.

Diagnosis is initially based on herd history, clinical signs, and post-mortem findings. Bacterial culture and serotyping should be performed to determine the strain. Histopathology of affected tissues can assist with the diagnosis.

For an effective treatment strategy antibiotic treatment should always be based on antibiogram results. Good hygiene practices and all-in-all-out pig flow assists with control of the disease.

Porcine Proliferative Enteropathy

Porcine proliferative enteropathy also known as Ileitis is a common cause of diarrhoea in growing/finishing pigs and young breeding pigs. *Lawsonia intracellularis,* the aetiologic agent of Ileitis is an intracellular gram-negative rod-shaped bacterium. The disease is characterized by thickening of the mucosa of the intestine due to hyperplasia of the crypt enterocytes.

The disease includes acute and chronic manifestations. The acute form generally manifests as a haemorrhagic diarrhoea with sudden deaths often close to marketing age, the chronic form is a milder diarrhoea known as porcine intestinal adenomatosis (PIA) which can result in reduced growth rate in growing pigs.

Lesions are generally located near the ileal-caecal junction, but lesions can also be observed in the jejunum, caecum and colon. Chronically affected pigs have lesions with thickened ileal mucosa and deep folds. In the acute haemorrhagic form, reddish black faeces may be present in the colon and clotted blood can be observed in the ileal lumen. Increased abattoir condemnations due to anaemia from the haemorrhagic form may be apparent.









Figure 3: Acute haemorrhagic form

Figure 4: Chronic Form

Diagnosis is generally based on herd history, clinical signs and post-mortem findings. Culturing of *L. intracellularis* is difficult, alternatively PCR of faeces or affected organs can be performed. Immunohistochemistry can demonstrate the intracellular bacterium.

Treatment and control: Commercial vaccines are available and can be useful in herds with severe disease. Antibiotics such as Oxytetracyclines, Doxycycline and Tylosin are generally affective against *L. intracellularis* and can be used strategically in feed, water or parenterally in the grower phase.

Swine Dysentery

Swine dysentery is a severe infectious disease characterized by mucohaemorrhagic diarrhoea and marked inflammation limited to the large intestine. *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae,* a spirochete, is the main aetiologic agent.

Swine dysentery can survive in faecal-contaminated environments or surfaces for long periods of time.

The disease occurs more frequently during the growing/finishing periods and seldomly occurs in piglets less than 3 weeks old. Swine dysentery is relatively uncommon on commercial pig farms in South Africa; however, it may be more prevalent on smaller scale farms where hygiene and all-in-all-out practices are difficult to implement.

Clinical signs include mucohaemorrhagic diarrhoea, protracted disease leads to dehydration, weight loss and variable mortality rates. Diarrhoea can have variations in colour (gray, yellow, red), consistency and composition (mucous or blood).

Focusing on faecal appearance may lead to a misdiagnosis as salmonellosis, ileitis and Swine dysentery can all appear similar at various stages. Morbidity rate can be high depending on the management system used on the farm.



Figure 5: Mucohaemorrhagic diarrhoea

>>> 8

Swine Diarrhoea: Important bacterial causes..... <<< 7

Lesions are confined to the large intestine, affected mucosa is swollen and congested. Intestinal content is usually foul smelling often containing blood streaked mucous and necrotic material.

Diagnosis is made based on herd history, clinical signs and post-mortem findings. Findings should not be confused with lesions caused by other bacterial agents. PCR of faeces or intestinal content can be performed to confirm the diagnosis.

Treatment and control: Continuous flow pig farms require a high level of hygiene and effective treatment strategies. Antibiotic treatment with Tiamulin tends to be most effective, but treatment with Lincomycin and Tylosin can also be attempted. Swine dysentery can be eradicated though carefully planned depopulation strategies. V

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TO CULL, OR NOT TO CULL, THAT IS THE QUESTION

Written by Dr Nadia de Beer

What did William Shakespeare mean with "To be, or not to be, that is the question? The soliloquy is all about life or death.

Culling pigs is a difficult decision to make, but it is even more challenging to pull the trigger. Every piggery should have a culling policy/plan to avoid rash decisions or the prolonged suffering of pigs in the herd. Your piggery culling policy should not only be for welfare reasons (for example, diseases or injury). There should be a culling policy for the sow herd to maintain or grow production, take advantage of new genetic advances such as the hyper prolificacy of sows, and keep a stable number of sows in the herd.

Why do we cull pigs in a pig herd?

- The first reason for culling is due to welfare reasons. Even though sick pens/ hospital pens have become an industry-standard, which is a valuable tool to help with the welfare of sick animals, producers cannot prolong the suffering of animals if the recovery is doubtful. Pork 360 standards and the Veterinary Procedural Notice 39 standard for registered pig compartment clearly stipulate that a producer should have a written procedure for the culling of sick and injured pigs.

Let us focus a bit more on the culling policy for sows, and the reasons for culling healthy sows:

- The herd/age profile needs to be considered. We usually see a decline in performance trends, including the born alive number and milking ability after the seventh parity. The farmer or manager should consider culling when the individual sow's performance has a downward trend and performs worse than your gilt average.
- There is a high number of regular stillbirths, especially in older sows that are fully vaccinated.
- Sows that fail to conceive after two consecutive oestrus cycles and sows "not-in-pigs" are good candidates for culling.
- If lameness leads to the inability of the sows to get to her feed or water, inability to escape from other sows or unable to stand when mounted.

Factors that should be taken into consideration when drafting your culling policy:

- To make scientific decisions, the producer should have good records.
- Sow cards/records are essential when considering which sows to cull.
- It is essential to update the herd age profile. You don't want to have a too old herd, which may eventually lead to a sudden cull out. It will inevitably lead to an influx of gilts with potentially lower yields and lower the herd's immune status.
- Gilts that provided a small first litter should not be culled.
- Plan for more gilts to be available than you think you will need.
- In periods where problems occur, such as a SMEDI storm or season dependent problems, producers might need to relax their culling strategy.

What is a standard culling rate for sows in South Africa?

In practice, this varies between 20-65% per year. It is recommended that, on average, a 45% culling rate/replacement rate should be implemented on a commercial piggery. This decision should be made in collaboration with the genetic company and consulting veterinarian.

Sows that are identified to be culled for reasons including but not limited to old age, drop in performance, lameness or reproduction abnormalities can be sent to a registered abattoir for slaughter, provide that they are not clinically ill and that applicable withdrawal periods are adhered to.

The SAPPO Code for the Welfare of Pigs published in September 2012 states that euthanasia/culling must be performed on pigs in the herd that are suffering and whose chance of recovery from either a disease or injury is unlikely.

Culling procedures are stipulated; the method depends on the size of the pig and may only be done by trained personnel.

The following table indicates the approved methods of stunning pigs.

	Suckling Pigs	Weaner (>7,5kg)	Grower (>28kg) and Mature Pigs
CO2	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes (not practical)**
Free projectile	**No**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Penetrating Captive Bolt	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Anaesthetic overdose	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Blunt Force	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**

After stunning, the pigs should be bled out immediately (within 60 seconds). A sharp knife should be used.

In my opinion, especially working with small scale pig farmers in South Africa, the most significant challenges with culling policies are financial constraints. Small scale farmers value each pig on their farm, and culling a pig instead of slaughtering means they don't earn money. Culling a sow for poor performance means that finances need to be available to buy a new gilt that will only farrow in 16 or more weeks.

The importance of a well-designed, scientifically based culling policy or plan is underestimated in piggeries in South Africa.

In conclusion, a good culling strategy involves good record-keeping, good stockmanship, and the establishment of ground rules.





Potential animal health hazards of pork and pork products

S. Farez & R.S. Morley

Animal and Plant Health Risk Assessment Network, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, 3851 Fallowfield Road, Nepean, Ontario K2H 8P9, Canada

Summary

The animal health hazards associated with importing pork and pork products include four viral agents: foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever (hog cholera), African swine fever, and swine vesicular disease viruses. The safety of importing pork products that have undergone some form of processing (fully cooked pork products are not counted here) can be adequately determined only through risk assessment.

Introduction

The introduction of animal diseases through importing pork and pork products is a concern for all swine-rearing countries. While the pork trade is intended for human consumption, the intentional or accidental feeding of any uncooked waste to pigs could introduce animal disease. The importation of pork (other than fully cooked products) from these zones is generally considered high risk. Therefore, it is advisable to conduct a risk assessment for both chilled or frozen pork and for pork products subjected to a process such as heat treatment, freezing, maturation and ageing, deboning, acidification, additives, curing desiccation, etc. Initial risk assessment is hazard identification. Hazard identification is the process that identifies potential risk agents and the conditions under which they may produce adverse reactions. Each hazard necessitates a risk assessment.

Hazard identification

The potential hazards associated with the pork trade and pork products are the viral agents of foot and mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF) (hog cholera), African swine fever (ASF), and swine vesicular disease (SVD). In the past and recently, pork and pork products have been incriminated as sources of disease-introduction of all four hazards. The disease introduction often occurs as outbreaks in herds that are fed raw food waste in their swill, despite regulations that may be in place requiring the cooking of such waste before feeding. Outbreaks of CSF have often been traced to the feeding of garbage from ships or aircraft. Notable examples include two occasions, in 1930 and 1953, when the disease was introduced into New Zealand (47). The feeding of swill, presumably containing uncooked waste pork and pork products, to pigs was incriminated in CSF outbreaks in the United Kingdom in 1986 (98), in Switzerland in 1993, in Bulgaria (65), Germany (66) and Poland (67) in 1994 and Austria in 1994 (64) and 1995 (68).

Inputs for risk assessments on the importation of pork and pork products

AGENT PH AND TEMPERATURE LABILITY

The pH and temperature lability of the viral agents represent the two most important biological properties for assessing the safety of imported meat. In the commercial production of pork, the time and temperatures at which the carcasses are held, seldom allow the pork to fall below a pH of 5.7 (10). FMD virus is the only hazard that is labile to pH levels found in pork: however, viral inactivation as seen in the maturation of beef may not be as dramatic.

Temperature lability is an essential consideration for pork products that undergo thermal processing. Although there is a difference between the temperature lability of the viral agents in culture media and that in pork, the laboratory data indicate the ease of inactivation. Generally, the studies involving thermal processing of pork in which particular core temperatures achieve an apparent inactivation would be better to assess.

Target organs

The cell and tissues to which the agent has an affinity and the agent replicates are a vital consideration in importing pork. Virus titres in pork derived from infected pigs may be very low in comparison to the predilection sites of the agent. During the incubation period, the virus may only be found at the site of entry. The adjacent lymph nodes, such as the tonsils and mandibular and parotid lymph nodes, are susceptible for CSF, ASF and SVD or the popliteal lymph nodes of the hind legs for SVD following agent gaining entry through broken skin on the foot. Despite this tissue tropism, titres are detected in almost all tissues during the state of viraemia. A carrier state is noted with ASF but not with CSF, SVD or FMD in pigs.

Agent survival in pork and pork products

The survival in the product depends on the agent properties, especially lability to time, temperature and pH and the inherent properties of the product (e.g. pH, water activity, moisture: protein ratio, the temperature of processing and storage, salinity, additives, etc.). The interaction of these product properties and the enzymatic proteolysis that occurs in many products are significant factors in the inactivation of viral agents. The survival of agents in various pork products has been investigated and reported in the scientific literature.

Agent quantification

Viral titres

Data on titres in tissues, particularly muscle, quantify the amount of agent present per gram. Quantification of viral titres is generally obtained from experimental infection of swine with a specific strain of a virus. The viral titres in muscle and other tissues are measured, often at the peak of viraemia.

Oral infective dose

Uncooked waste of pork or pork products being ingested by swine by one or more scenarios represents the only mode of transmission of interest here. The target species is the pig; the portals of entry are the tonsils, oral abrasions, respiratory tract and gastrointestinal tract.

After contact exposure, the ASF virus primarily gains access through the tonsils and, in some instances, across the nasal, bronchial and (possibly) gastric mucosae (34).

Conclusion

The potential animal health hazards associated with importing pork and pork products, except fully cooked products, are FMD, ASF, CSF, and SVD.

The importation of any pork and pork products from zones infected with one of these hazards necessitates a risk assessment to ensure the animal health security of the importing country.

Source:

https://doc.oie.int/dyn/portal/digidoc.xhtml?statelessToken=MfpS0Td2OsXysxUaySOukhZe9MEGeq2cgNrLA46meAw=&actionMethod=dyn%2Fportal%2Fdigidoc.xhtml%3AdownloadAttachment.openStateless.

Survival in Pork and Pork Products

	Foot and Mouth disease	African Swine Fever	Classical Swine Fever (hog cholera)	Swine Vesicular disease
Different chilled organs such as lungs, stomach, tongue, intestine	30			
Chilled spleen, liver and kidney	83			
Frozen lungs, intestine, stomach, tongue, kidney, spleen and liver	210			
Tongue	10			
Muscle	1			
Frozen meat or chilled meat		104	4.5 years	
Parma Ham	170	399	189	300
Dry salami sausage, dry pepperoni sausage and intestinal casings				200
Dried pepperoni and salami sausage		30		400
Processed intestinal casings	250			780
Intestinal casings processed in water at 42.2°C for 30 minutes			147	
Frozen liver at - 4°C and - 6°C			226	
Salami and pepperoni sausages	7	30	90	40
Unprocessed intestinal casings				509
Iberian loins	42	112	126	28
Iberian shoulder hams	112	140	40	11
Iberian hams	168	140	252	560
White Serrano hams	182	140	140	539
Salted bacon	190			
Ham fat	183			
Sausages	56			
Meat of salt-cured pork			1 month	
Bone marrow of salt-cured pork			2 months	
Italian salami			75	
Ham (muscle and fat)			90	
Neck, lard and bone marrow			70	

Figure 1: Survival in Pork and Pork products per Virus in days, unless otherwise indicated

The Value of In Vitro Embryo Production (IVEP) and Transfers

(Dr Neil van Zyl - In Vitro Africa - Tel 082 317 9350)

The In Vitro Embryo Production Process (IVEP)

The IVEP process consists of three phases:

1. Ovum Collection (OPU)
2. Production of embryos in the laboratory (IVEP)
3. Transfer of the embryos

1. Ovum collection (OPU)

OPU is done by harvesting oocytes (ova) directly from the ovaries. A long thin needle is passed through the vaginal wall under ultrasound guidance. The follicles (in which the oocytes develop before ovulation) on the outer edge of the ovaries are aspirated under a vacuum.

The oocytes are then selected and immediately placed in a transportable incubator in a particular maturating medium to reach the laboratory within 20 hours.

2. Production of embryos in the laboratory

This process takes place in incubators that "imitate" the uterus and is divided into five steps:

- Maturation (ripening) of the oocytes
- Fertilization of the oocytes
- Cultivation of the embryos
- Nutrition of the embryos
- Evaluation of the embryos

Embryos that have been successfully grown are then transferred to recipient animals, or they can be frozen. The latest technique of freezing IVP embryos (In Vitro produced embryos) differs from the previously used vitrification process. Embryos are now thawed using the direct thawing technique resulting in improved results.

3. Transfer of the embryos

Transfer of the non-frozen embryos occurs eight (8) days after ova harvesting or seven (7) days after fertilization. This transfer process is identical to the conventional embryo transfer process. The improved direct thaw technique is used when frozen embryos are transferred.



Prior to the transfer, the recipient animal is examined by a veterinarian to determine if she is fit to receive an embryo. The transfer of embryos involves loading an embryo into a 0.25 ml straw placed in an embryo pistolette.

The vaginal area is cleaned, and the pistolette is carefully manipulated through the cervix, passed down the selected uterine horn, and the embryo is deposited in the last third of the uterine horn. It is important not to damage the inner wall of the uterus, as this will drastically affect the chances of a successful pregnancy.

Benefits of IVEP

The benefits that IVEP offers are as follows:

- Better utilization of the genetic potential of top breeding animals - new herds can be built up from the best breeding animals without disturbing the intercalving period of the recipient herd or donor cows;
- No hormone treatment is applied;
- Donor cows do not undergo conformational changes, such as overdeveloped humps and prominent tail settings;
- Collection of oocytes can start as early as six (6) weeks after calving;
- Oocytes can be collected up to the 3.5 months gestation stage of the donor without affecting the fetus;
- More calves can be obtained during a cow's lifetime;
- Older cows with proven records can be used as donors;
- More effective utilization of recipients.

Facilities required

Because the oocytes are very sensitive to environmental factors, it is necessary to work in suitable facilities. A small room near the cattle crush can be set up to serve as a laboratory where the selection and processing of the oocytes can be done. The room must meet the following requirements:

- It must be dustproof and free of chemical and other harmful fumes;
- The temperature must be controllable;
- Have a suitable work surface that can be sterilized;
- It must have running hot and cold water;
- There must be a power source.

Good cattle handling facilities are also essential. The OPU technique is very delicate, and any unnecessary movement during the collection of the oocytes can affect the results.

The crush where the OPU is performed must therefore preferably meet the following requirements:

- It must be sturdy with a proper neck and body clamp;
- It must be protected from wind, sun and rain - preferably indoors;
- There must be a gate behind the donor animal to access the donor directly from behind.

Frequently asked questions and concerns

Frequently asked questions and issues affecting the economic viability of the IVEP are discussed below:

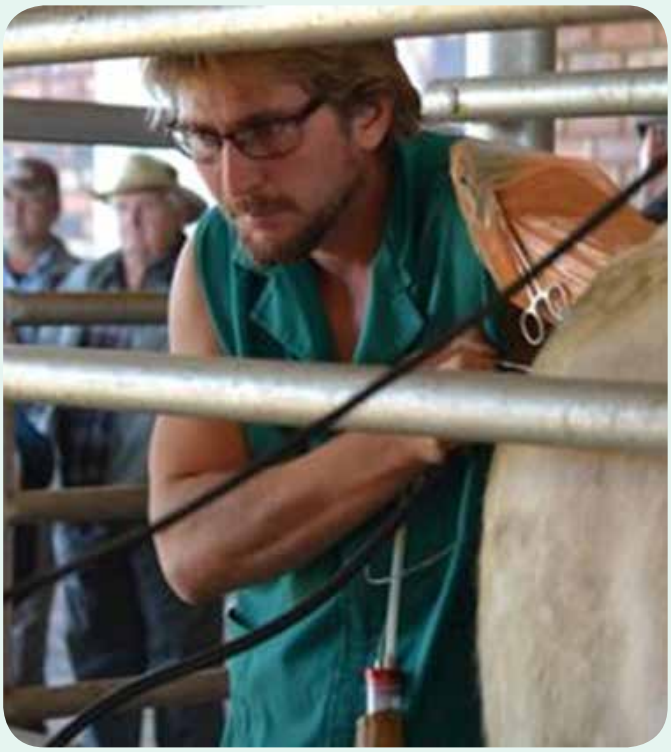
a) How many embryos can be obtained?

Most Bos Indicus breeds are relatively good producers of oocytes. On average, 20 to 30 oocytes can be obtained from one OPU. Other breeds produce slightly lower numbers of oocytes.

If 25% of the oocytes develop into viable embryos in the laboratory, 5 to 7 embryos can be obtained from each cow every two weeks. In the case of young heifers and older cows, fewer embryos can be expected.

b) How is the donor prepared?

Hormonal treatment before OPU is not required. Donors can be presented for OPU at any time between 6 weeks after calving and up to 3.5 months gestation. The OPU technique is very safe and can be applied every two weeks without adverse effects on the non-pregnant or pregnant donor.



The donor animals must be on a balanced ration well in advance - the quality of the oocytes can be influenced 90 days before collection. Oocytes from a donor can then be collected every other week.

>>> 14

c) What is the expected pregnancy rate with embryos directly from the laboratory?

The average pregnancy rate (measured over 12 months) is 55%. Cases have occurred where the conception was as high as 75%.

d) What is the expected pregnancy rate with frozen embryos?

Initially, the general perception was that conception with vitrified embryos (old technique) was very low. Meanwhile, the opposite has been proven with the direct transfer of IVF embryos, where conception rates vary from 55% to as high as 75%.

The most significant single factor influencing this figure is the recipient animal. This factor brings us to the next question.

e) How important is the recipient animal, and according to what criteria should they be selected?

The selection and preparation of the recipients is probably the factor that has the most significant influence on the success of the IVEP process. The breed, age, reproductive status, temperament, physiological condition (condition score), nutritional status and season must be considered when planning an in vitro program. The recipient cost is the most expensive item in the embryo program in the long run.

General recommendations are the following:

- Plan IVEP programs according to the typical mating season of the recipient herd and allow enough time to follow the embryo transfers up with a natural mating period. In this way, the recipient can become pregnant within the specified mating season, and there is no loss of a commercial calf;
- Where possible, use cows that have already had two (2) or more calves;
- The time of transfer must be at least 80 days after the previous calving;
- Avoid cows that have skipped after the mating season;
- Recipient cows should preferably be in an ascending feeding phase;
- All dosing and vaccination programs must be completed three (3) weeks before the start of the program;
- Recipient cows must be accustomed to handling.

f) How does the use of semen in IVEP programs differ from that of regular flushes?

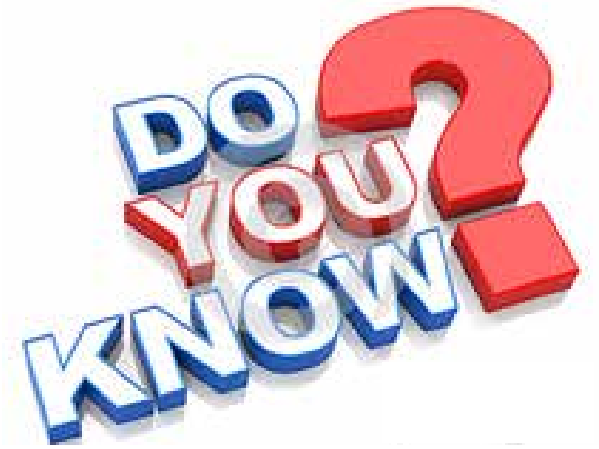
There is no clear correlation between semen quality (% live, motility and morphology normally assessed) and the ability to fertilize oocytes. Therefore, the usual tests performed on semen samples are not sufficient to select the appropriate straw for semen. There are even variations between the same bull's collections ("batches"). Specific batches of bull semen straws that have been used successfully in previous programs contribute better fertilization rates.

One straw of semen is sufficient to fertilize up to 200 oocytes or the oocytes of 6 cows compared to 6 straws of semen per cow in the case of conventional flushes.

Feeding of the recipient cow

Guidelines to follow:

- Recipients must be in a rising level of nutrition at the time of the transfers;
- Additional licks must be given as long as 90 days before transfers;
- Avoid urea in the ration for 60 days before and after transfers (maximum of 100g /animal/day);
- Avoid green pastures high in nitrogen;
- Good quality roughage is the preferred feed, supplemented with concentrates that include a fertility pack.



DEEPING INTO SUMERIAN ZOOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION I: WILD ANIMALS

Silvia Nicolás Alonso Ph.D. in Veterinary Medicine
Biblical and Oriental Institute (León, Spain)

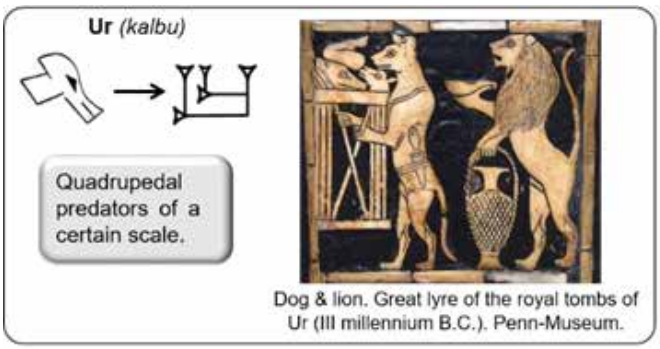
Despite often being claimed, the first known zoological classification system is much earlier than the Aristotelian one and was developed in Sumer. The study of early classifications allows us to understand the worldview of ancient cultures. Texts, such as lexical lists, are essential for this task. They are encyclopaedic compendia on various subjects and were widely used throughout the East for scribes learning. One example is the **Ur$_5$-ra** *Hubullu* series of tablets, with two columns of words: in Akkadian and the Sumerian translation. To make terms easier to find and memorise, words were arranged in order of similarity, either graphically or phonetically. There are 24 tablets, numbers 13 to 15 list different animal species.

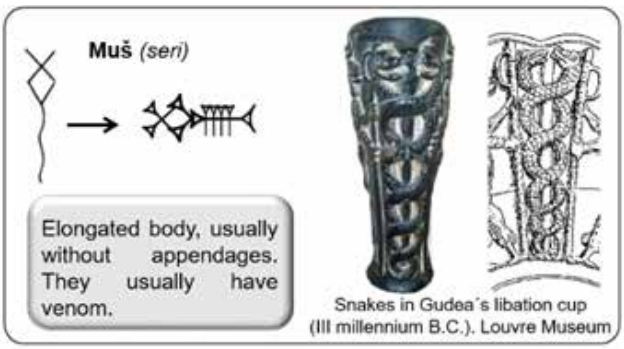
The categories of classification are heterogeneous and have blurred boundaries. Religion, cosmogonic vision, in particular, had significant influence. Thus we have a first classification level that groups animals according to their habitat within the three principles of creation: **a** "water", **ki** "earth", and **líl** "air". In the Sumerian language, there was no such term as an animal, which was introduced by Aristotle (ζῷον).

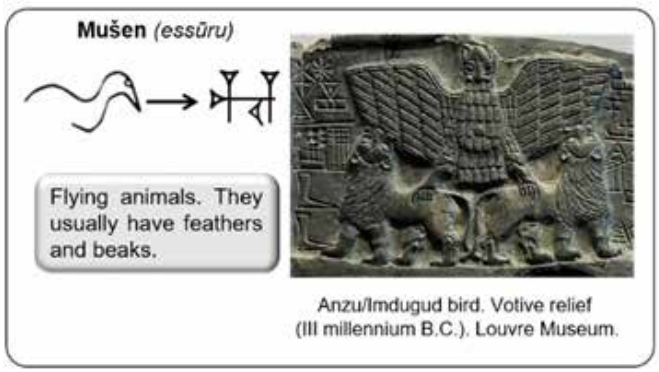
Still, each one was designated by a determinative or primary classifier that automatically included it within a group of creatures with similar characteristics (fig. 1). Thus, the term **ur**, generically translated as "dog", has a broader meaning, including predatory species of a specific size that generally live in packs, such as the lion (**ur-maḫ** or "magnificent dog"). **Muš** corresponds to snakes, **mušen** to birds and other flying creatures, and **ku$_6$** to fish, mainly including other aquatic creatures.

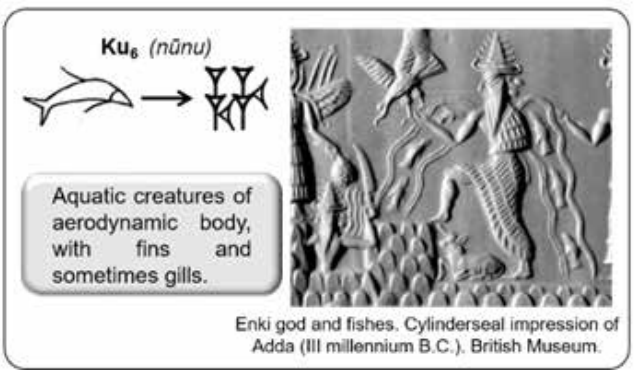
Next, to specify the species, Sumerians added secondary classifiers that, in the case of wild animals, referred to morphological characteristics (size, coat colour or unique anatomical features) or ethological characteristics (habitat and, in general, any characteristic behaviour). Thus**, muš igi-nu-ĝál** "snake with no eyes" could refer to a type of blind snake (Typhlopidae family).

We also have the "surrounding dog", the "runner fish", the "spotted dog", the "bird that carries possessions" (probably the magpie), the "bird of the steppe", etc... Literary compositions also provide valuable clues to the identity of these animals.



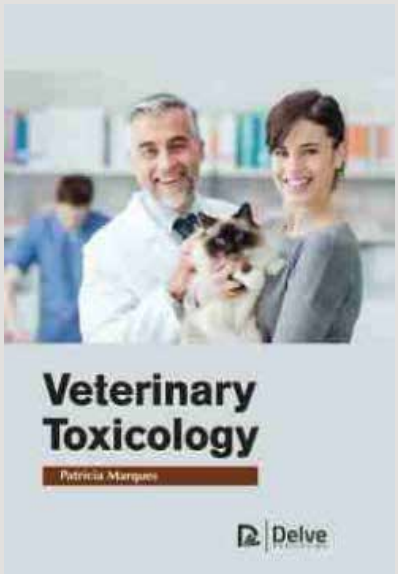








Vetnews is excited to announce a book review column in partnership with African Connection (a book publishing house in the United Kingdom). If you are keen to review a book and become the proud owner of the book, Vetnews needs your help. Here is your chance to delve into recent publications and write a review in return. The three books currently on offer are all from Eurospan publishers. Contact: vetnews@sava.co.za



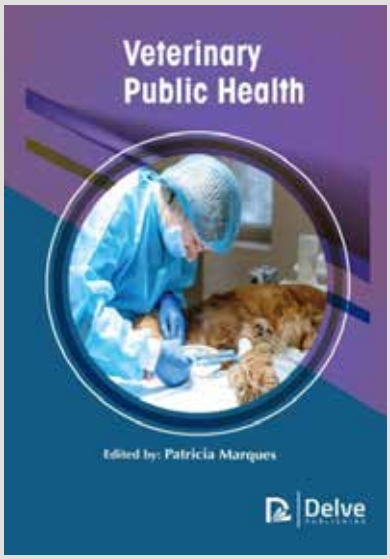
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Veterinary Toxicology (9781774073346)

Introduces the various concepts related to the veterinary field and the ones related to the field of neurotoxicity. The book also explains the subjects such as veterinary immunotoxicity and the radiations in the radioactive materials that affect veterinary.

This book has 290 pages and informs the readers about the various concepts related to the veterinary field and the ones related to the field of neurotoxicity. The book also explains the subjects such as veterinary immunotoxicity and the radiations in the radioactive materials that affect veterinary.

This book also discusses about pesticides, insecticides, rodenticides and herbicides in the veterinary toxicity, the environmental toxicology, the field of therapeutics and the toxicology of diagnostics and genotoxic and cytotoxic effects on the immune cells. It also provides the basic insights on the toxicology of veterinary and the information on the toxicology related to it so that the readers get a deep understanding of the subject.

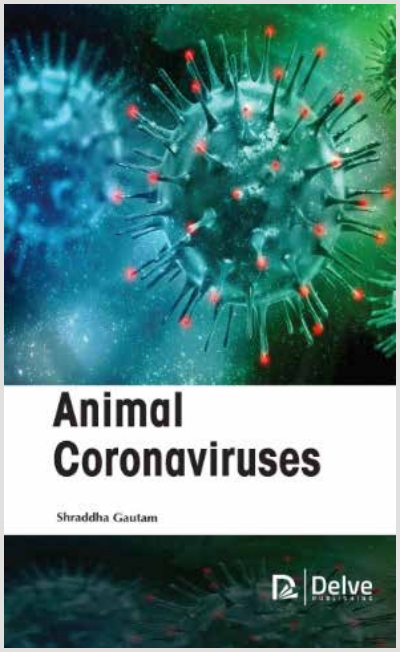


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Veterinary Public Health (9781774691717)

Veterinary public health is a component of public health that focuses on the application of veterinary science to protect and improve the physical, mental and social well-being of humans. Veterinary public health concerns the surveillance and control of zoonoses at different levels.

This comprehensive book has 637 pages and that focuses on the application of veterinary science to protect and improve the physical, mental and social well-being of humans. Veterinary public health concerns the surveillance and control of zoonoses at many different levels be it via disease control programs at farm level or wild animals or in the abattoir. One Health is "the collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally, to attain optimal health for people, animals and our environment", as defined by the One Health Initiative Task Force (OHITF). A major zoonosis is Rabies. Approximately 5,000 animal rabies cases are reported annually to CDC, and more than 90% of those cases occur in wildlife.



https://www.eurospanbookstore.com/book/detail/animal-coronaviruses/?k=9781774690925

Animal Coronaviruses (9781774690925)

Coronaviruses (CoVs) are a family of enveloped single-stranded RNA viruses of medical and veterinary importance that infect mammals and birds. This book draws attention to the lessons accumulated from the large number of studies of the pathogenesis of animals and birds' coronaviruses and their vaccines.

This 280 page publication draws attention to the lessons accumulated from the large number of studies of the pathogenesis of animals and birds' coronaviruses and their vaccines, particularly the bovine, feline, and avian coronaviruses. The lessons drawn from the studies will have an immense influence on how the human coronaviruses pathogenesis and vaccine development will proceed.

In addition, the extensive efforts to designate suitable animal models to study the lately emerged human coronaviruses are one of the invaluable contributions carried out by veterinarian scientists.





DISPATCH FROM THE PROVINCE OF LEGENDS: EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Rabies campaign in Nelson Mandela Bay Metro (Eastern Cape Province)

We are all aware that Nelson Mandela Bay Metro has been experiencing a severe Rabies outbreak since the middle of last year, 2021, and this outbreak is still raging on up to now.

The outbreak started in the city's Western outskirts but quickly spread to Uitenhage and Despatch and then slowly moved into Port Elizabeth. Towards December, all Port Elizabeth's practices were seeing Rabies cases almost daily. The worst affected areas were still Uitenhage, Despatch and Algoa Park, which saw Rabies cases daily.

Since the State Veterinary office in the Metro is staffed by only one State Veterinarian and two Animal Health Technicians, we, as SAVA Eastern Cape and Karoo branch, decided to contact them and offer our assistance. The then acting Director of Animal Health in the Province also approved this.

Their most extensive needs were the shortage of Rabies vaccine as well as vaccinators to help and vaccinate as many animals as possible in the affected townships

In this regard, the committee decided to set aside R50 000 for vaccine procurement. The SAVA-CVC management was a great help in negotiating with the drug companies on our behalf. It managed to get a good deal from Boehringer-Ingelheim. We managed to get 10 000 doses for the money allocated.

An email was sent out to all the practices in the Eastern Cape with a request to participate in this exercise. The vaccines were offered to any practice running large-scale free vaccinations campaigns in their area. It must be commended that many practices started offering free Rabies vaccinations out of their own pockets amid the outbreak. Fortunately, the State managed to source more vaccines at this point and was able to supply the private practices with stock as needed. The Private Veterinarians then gave their time and syringes to administer the pro bono. In this way, 4 000 animals were vaccinated through private practices. It was made possible with the state-supplied vaccine.

The release of an additional 10 000 doses from the vaccine stockpile in Natal was negotiated. All this stock went to the State Veterinarian and his technicians to bolster their vaccination campaign

Initially, Humansdorp, Stutterheim and Grahamstown, with Makana and Grahamstown vets, started running large scale vaccination campaigns independently. We supplied these practices with 1000 doses each that Boehringer-Ingelheim was kind enough to courier directly to them. The rest of the vaccine came to Port Elizabeth

In collaboration, the SAVA Eastern Cape branch then organised a vaccination campaign with the NMB metro on the 2nd of October. Motherwell was "ground zero" of the outbreak; the initial plan was to do a site there. Motherwell also had two human fatalities at this point. The Metro then approached us to do a second site in the Northern areas as minimal vaccinations were happening there, and the outbreak was rushing into that area.

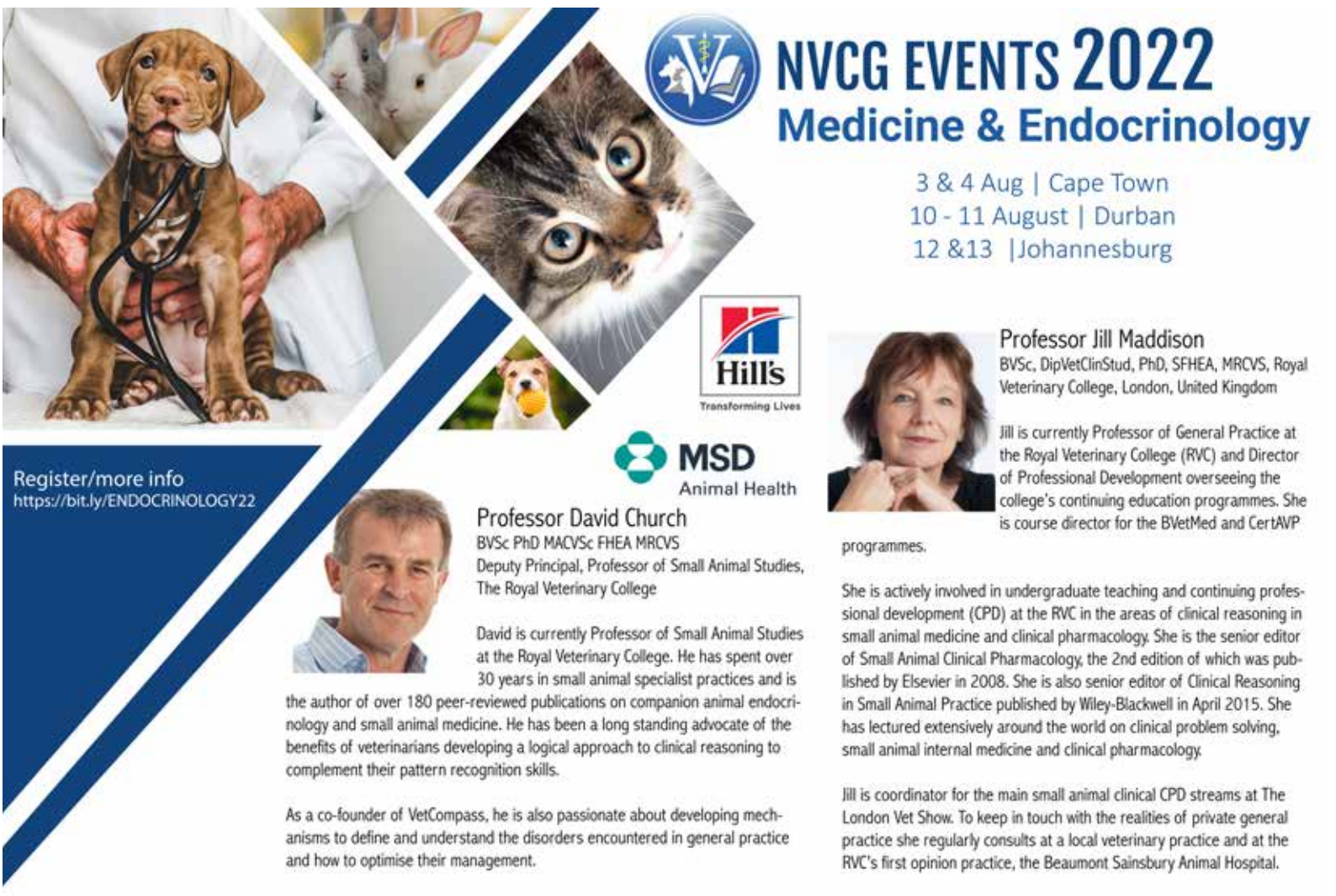
A call went out to the local veterinary community (vets, nurses and technicians). There was a good response with people prepared to give up their time and resources to help with the vaccination campaign; both sites could be set up

due to this overwhelming response. Spar Eastern Cape was kind enough to donate lunch for all the volunteers. So, on the 2nd of October, we set off syringes in hand and cooler boxes full of vaccines on our shoulders. Eight hundred fifty (850) animals were vaccinated in a single day.

Then, after the campaign, there was some stock left over. The Humansdorp vets and the practices in Grahamstown were approached as they were still running vaccination campaigns in their areas. Humansdorp had an effective campaign running by vaccinating all the surrounding communities and in an attempt to establish a buffer between the Metro and the Kouga municipality. They both took another 3 000 doses each for their campaigns, which was used very quickly.

Due to the brilliant effort from local veterinarians, all of the 10 000 doses that were acquired were administered within less than a month. The support from various Community Radio Stations in the Province who have supported this project Pro Bono, needs to be applauded. Special mention must be made of the Wild Coast FM in East London, who ran spots on this outbreak six (6) times a day for more than six (6) months. The State Veterinarian in PE and his staff are thanked for their dedication and are still showing to ensure that this outbreak is brought under control.

Mark Pellissier (BVSc-Pretoria)
Secretary SAVA Eastern Cape & Karoo Branch
February 2022



SAVA Community Veterinary Clinics

An initiative of the SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

Non-profit Company: 1998/016654/08
Non-profit Organisation: 000-234 NPO
Public Benefit Organisation: 130001321

Rabies Outbreak Eastern Cape

Most veterinarians in South Africa are aware of the rabies outbreak in the Eastern Cape. Within 6 months, the stats for this region have grown bigger than the KZN outbreak.

On 7 Sep 2021, 157 officially tested positive rabies cases and no human cases were reported for the Eastern Cape. In spite of the hugely increased number of rabies vaccines done by both the state as well as private veterinarians.

- **On 31 Dec 2021, this figure had grown to 550 positive animals and 9 human deaths.**
- **The reported figure on 9 Feb 2022, is already 65 positive cases but no humans.**

SAVA-CVC has made available R250 000 which will assist animal welfares and private veterinarians to pay for travel, consumables and staff time to increase the rabies campaigns around the Port Elizabeth area. The state will be providing the vaccines required.

We have received a plan from the state veterinarian on which areas should be targeted as well as how many vaccinations they suggest should be done in that area. We are assisting with identifying veterinarians what would like to get involved to perform these vaccines and will help to keep the different parties in contact regarding the progress in each area.

It has been suggested that the best results are achieved if the local municipality, community leaders and police assist to urge animal owners to have their animals vaccinated. Load hailing the day before the campaign will notify animal owners of the veterinary group's visit, branding of the vehicle to identify the team and then the hard work of walking from house to house on a Saturday or Sunday when animal owners are at home.

The team will also be logging all of the animals vaccinated and mark them with cattle markers which should last for a few days to identify vaccinated animals.

Any veterinarians that would like to get involved with the vaccination campaigns or would like to donate to the campaign, are welcome to contact us on cvcmanager@sava.co.za

Claudia Cloete: SAVA-CVC Manager

SAVA Community Veterinary Clinics

SAVA Community Veterinary Clinics



The Eastern Cape and Karoo SAVA Branch purchased 10 000 vaccines in August 2021, which were distributed to SAVA members in the Eastern Cape area to assist with rabies vaccination campaigns. Humansdorp CVC vaccination campaign in St Francis Bay, Sea Vista on 1 Sep 2022 organised by Dr Athony Davis.

EduCVC

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Suid-Afrikaanse Veterinêre Vereniging

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR SAVA AWARDS AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIP 2022

Nominations for the SAVA Awards are invited. These awards are conferred on persons who have made exceptional and significant contributions in the fields of Veterinary Science or the Veterinary Profession and they serve as a prestigious form of recognition of distinguished service. They require sufficient but concise justification for the nomination in the category selected, as outlined in the criteria listed for each category. The presentation of awards will be made at a suitable venue and occasion identified by SAVA and this usually occurs every second year to coincide with the Gala Dinner of the SAVA Biennial Congress. Please adhere to the nomination guidelines as set out below.

1. GOLD MEDAL OF THE SAVA

Awarded to any person, in recognition of outstanding and sustained scientific achievement, with a major impact in the field of veterinary science in South Africa. The medal will only be awarded once to a particular person, and there will be one award per year. The award requires a very comprehensive curriculum vitae and motivation.

2. PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Awarded to any veterinarian registered with the SAVC in recognition of outstanding service to and advancement of the veterinary profession in South Africa. The award will only be bestowed once on a particular person, and there will be one award per year. The award requires a very comprehensive curriculum vitae and motivation. .

3. BOSWELL AWARD

Awarded to any member of the SAVA for eminent service rendered to the profession through the SAVA. The award may be bestowed upon more than one person in a particular year.

4. CLINICAL AWARD OF THE SAVA

Awarded to any veterinarian or group of veterinarians who are registered with the SAVC and have excelled in applied veterinary practice. There is a limit of one award per clinical discipline per year. Past recipients become eligible for another award after a period of five years, for a different contribution.

5. RESEARCH AWARD OF THE SAVA

Awarded to one or more veterinarians for a body of research related to Veterinary Science, and published in scientific journals, that has made an important contribution to a particular field of study. Recipients of this award may be eligible for nomination for new original research. Submission to the Awards Committee may be made by candidates themselves.

6. YOUNG VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded to one veterinarian registered with the SAVC per year, younger than 35 years of age or who has not been registered for longer than 10 years and who has made a significant contribution to veterinary science in his / her work sphere.

7. SOGA MEDAL

Awarded in recognition of exceptional community service rendered by a veterinarian registered with the SAVC or a veterinary student enrolled at a South African veterinary faculty. In addition to veterinary-related services, other forms of community service may be considered to support the nomination.

8. CITATION OF THE SAVA

The SAVA may bestow a citation upon one or more persons, including non-veterinarians, in recognition of specific achievements and / or meritorious contributions to the veterinary profession or the SAVA. More than one citation may be bestowed per year.

9. HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Any SAVA member who has rendered long and outstanding service to the veterinary profession may be awarded Honorary Life Membership. Honorary Life Membership will not be granted to more than three people in one year.

10. HONORARY ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBER

Any person who is not a veterinarian and who has rendered outstanding service to veterinary science, or the veterinary profession may be awarded honorary associate life membership. Honorary Associate Life Membership will not be granted to more than three people in one year.

All nominations must be supported by:

- Submissions must be made on the official nomination form available from the SAVA office.
- A brief motivation in terms of the conditions of the specific award, including the impact the work of the nominee has had. Evidence supporting the motivation, such as testimonials, may be included.
- A full *curriculum vitae* of the nominee, including a list of publication(s) where applicable and all the contact details of the nominee.
- Copy (ies) of the relevant publication(s) in the case of the Research Award.

Please note that:

- Any member of the SAVA may submit nominations. Members are encouraged to channel their nominations via a group or branch.
- Non-SAVA members may be nominated for all categories except the Boswell Award and Honorary Life Membership.
- Unsuccessful nominations of previous years may, at the discretion of the Awards Committee, be held over for consideration in the following year.
- Where the nominator and seconder have indicated their permission, award categories of nominations could be changed by the Awards Committee.
- Members of the Awards Committee are permitted to propose or second candidates for awards, on condition that they recuse themselves when such nominations are discussed.

The onus is on members to submit appropriate nominations by the due date.

Failure to comply with the above will lead to disqualification of the nomination.

All nominations, in electronic format, marked for the attention of Prof G Bath, Chairperson, Awards Committee of the SAVA, must reach the SAVA Secretary Elize Nicholas elize@sava.co.za by 31st of March 2022.

Nomination forms may be obtained from Vethouse or the SAVA website or contact Elize Nicholas: elize@sava.co.za or Tel: 012-346 1150 / 072-274 5434

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, lonelinessand 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.

Ken Pettey	082 882 7356	ken.pettey@gmail.com
Tod Collins	083 350 1662	tcollins@isat.co.za
Aileen Pypers	072 599 8737	aileen.vet@gmail.com
Willem Schultheiss	082 323 7019	willem.schultheiss@ceva.com
Mike Lowry	084 581 2624	mikelowry@sai.co.za

24-Hour, Toll-Free Helpline (manned by psychologists, social and frontline healthcare workers):
0800 21 21 21

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For more information or orders contact
Sonja van Rooyen at SAVA
Tel: 012 346 1150
E-mail: assistant@sava.co.za

SAVA
South African Veterinary Association
Suid-Afrikaanse Veterinêre Vereniging

SAVA: Debit Orders

The debit order system that the association implemented in 2019, was and is still a huge success. We have therefore decided to offer our members the option to choose the debit order option again, should they wish. The debit order will be over a period of 10 months (February 2022 – November 2022) or divided over a shorter period in the event of members renewing or joining SAVA later during the year.

A new debit order mandate has to be completed by SAVA members each year. Members who made use of the debit orders in 2021, are therefore required to complete a new mandate and email back to: bookkeeper@sava.co.za.

The 2022 mandate is available on the SAVA Website. A link to the mandate will also be provided with the 2022 membership invoices that was emailed to our members in January 2022.



Having been kept abreast of the developments of SAVA-CVC, you are in no doubt aware that we have revitalised this critical organisation. The nature of charity organisations is that there is constant uncertainty about future cash flow – every donation from a particular individual or group might be the last donation.

Securing enough guaranteed cash flow to cover operating costs in SAVA-CVC is something that we have actively pursued over the last couple of years. We have reported on the significant activities that have been performed in communities using funds from the generous donors.

SAVA would like to provide an easy method for our members to contribute to this worthy cause with an option to add a contribution to SAVA-CVC of R40.00 per month on your debit order.

The South African Veterinary Foundation (SAVF) aims to promote and advance veterinary and other biological sciences. This includes supporting veterinary research at all levels, to fund bursaries for veterinary studies and to invest and administer various financial portfolios in order to promote the knowledge, image and status of the veterinary and para-veterinary professions and practice within Southern Africa, resulting in improved quality of life for animal and man. An example of an activity that the SAVF is involved in: The SAVF funds research projects that will benefit the health of animals and is not detrimental to animals. For this purpose, the SAVF will only consider funding a project that has been approved by a recognised institution's Ethics and Research Committee.

Furthermore, the trustees of the SAVF also evaluate each study based on relevance, scientific soundness and humane treatment. Once a study is completed, the results of the research project are published in the Journal of the South African Veterinary Association or an international peer-reviewed journal on the ISI list of journals, as well as presented at a South African Veterinary Association congress or other appropriate SA congress. Finding funds for research is often not part of an academic or aspiring academic's nature. The SAVF wants to increase its reach by having more funds available to invest in research.

SAVA would like to provide an easy method for our members to contribute to this worthy cause with an option to add a contribution to the SAVF of R40.00 per month on your debit order.

Those who will continue to pay their SAVA membership fees on an annual basis, are also encouraged to add a donation to either or both of the SAVA-CVC and SAVF to their annual payment.

Please communicate this donation through to bookkeeper@sava.co.za to enable SAVA to allocate your donation accordingly.

Meet the SAVA team

Annalie Mccullum – Veterinary Mentoring Manager



Ms Annalie Mccullum is the go-to person for our young Vets (but the older ones are very welcome). As the Mentoring manager, she distinguishes herself by recruiting and equipping mentors to assist mainly the CCS veterinarians in their first year of practice.

For the 2022 community service vets, 122 out of 159 newly qualified vets joined the programme and will be assisted by 70 to 80 valuable mentees.

Annalie cannot see herself without dogs as companions and stress relievers but adore dolphins above all. France has an extraordinary place in her heart, and I am sure a Camino may be on her bucket list.

Congratulations on your birthday on Friday the 18th of March.

We hope you make it a whole birthday weekend

Paul van der Merwe – President



Dr vd Merwe is the Captain of the SAVA ship.

He was elected as President-elect in 2019 for the 2020-2021 period. Staying in the heart of the Limpopo Lowveld, it is no wonder that he just loved the Kruger National Park and that his bucket list destination is the Serengeti.

Dr vd Merwe is one of the few people that can say he had very close encounters with rhino and elephant and live to tell.

Other people may have had some time to bake banana bread in the Covid time; he spent day and night baking up plans to strengthen the profession when the authorities overlooked the valuable work vets do.

Gert Steyn – Managing Director



Where Dr vd Merwe is the Captain, Gert is our Chief-mate.

He only handles the more challenging people and tasks that the very competent staff of SAVA cannot.

When not mastering one or the other culinary skill, Gert and his wife love diving. An encounter with a pod of whales in Mozambique a couple of years ago must have been a delightful experience.

Lockdown was more a challenge of convenience than a challenge of not being able to do the work that needed to be done. After all, a hot Woolies chicken is such a jummy treat.

Happy Birthday, Gert, for the 21st of March.

Have a happy Monday birthday.

Claudia Cloete



Claudia is super comfortable on the back of a horse and competes in eventing.

That is when she is not at SAVA negotiating member benefits and guiding veterinarians to run the Community Service Clinics as good businesses.

When you get a discount on products and services published in the Vetnews, you will, in many cases, have Claudia to thank.

Claudia loves cuddles from cats and dogs and even considers her horse a pet.

There is nothing like a long bushwalk to perk her up after a long workweek.

Happy birthday on the 20th of March.

We are sure you will spend that with the ones you love.

Elize Nicholas



Nobody in South Africa knows the veterinary community better than our own Tannie Elize.

If a veterinarian (member or not) ever has a problem, they often get referred to this competent secretary of SAVA.

Daily, she will handle queries from the public, veterinarians, Board and staff members.

She is the secretary for SAVA and the following committees within SAVA: Veterinary History Society, Ethics and Mediation and Awards Committees.

As if there were many more hours in her day, she also loved to sniff out old pieces of furniture and restore them to former beauty.

Elize loves all animals, big and small but is left in awe of a snow leopard.

We hope you have a wonderful birthday on the 6th of March.



24-Hour,

Toll-Free Helpline:

0800 21 21 21



In Memoriam

FLOP: GIVING FLOWERS IN TIME



A very special friend and colleague of mine, and of a great many fellow OP students of his time and colleagues near and far, will be saddened that the Great Umpire has raised His finger and said, "Flop, you're out.". As he walks slowly back to the pavilion, far too many of us, his fellow players and supporters, will regret that we didn't give louder applause when he - metaphorically speaking - masterfully pulled a short ball to the square-leg boundary or stepped back and drove that spinner over cover. Or when his fielding team had unfortunately just missed his hat-trick by one ball.

In the 1980s, the Natal Branch had a guest speaker to fill a significant portion of the annual congress proceedings. I, for one, drove to the Hilton Hotel excited to learn of a new approach to correcting, or maybe even preventing, left displaced abomasums. Or introducing a space-age gadget that would give X-ray type pictures they called ultrasound. Or perhaps a new antibiotic range called quinolones or injectable hormones that removed corpora luteii.

Again I, for one, was terribly disappointed when the speaker was introduced as a clinical psychologist! Limp-wristed stuff, not – as Flop and I would have preferred – a guy who was used to wrestling with bulls, tapping their semen and pretending to analyse it by sipping it, or dealing with unhandled stallion stuff! Mind you; the psychologist chap had the physique and presence of Paul O'Connell or Willy John McBride, the immense Irish locks who would have taken on those bulls and stallions single-handed!

For his entire presentation, he strode from one end of the stage to the other as though he was about to join a scrum on the opponents' try-line; and for those hours, you could have heard a pin drop on a pile of goose down.

I remember so clearly 40 years later; his subject was "Interpersonal Relationships." There were many take-into-life messages, most of which Flop seemed to have perfected during his life. But one, in particular, I took away. I have shortened this poem by Leigh M. Hodges and added another verse penned by an unheralded poet; I hope The Village Vet will approve.

Closed eyes can't see the white roses,

Cold hands can't hold them, you know;

Breath that is stilled cannot gather

The odours that sweet from them blow.

Death, with a peace beyond dreaming,

Its children of earth doth endow;

Life is the time we can help them,

So give them the flowers now!

Here are the struggles and striving,

Here are the cares and the tears;

Now is the time to be smoothing

The frowns and the furrows and fears.

What to closed eyes are kind sayings?

What to hushed heart is deep vow?

Naught can avail after parting,

So give them the flowers now!

Just a kind word or a greeting;

Just a warm grasp or a smile—

These are the flowers that will lighten

The burdens for many a mile.

After the journey is over

What is the use of them; how

Can they carry them who must be carried?

Oh, give them the flowers now!

*****A fist bump as you cross for a single,***

A high five when he catches real low;

A loud "Ooh" when he beats the bat's edge,

A "bad luck" when his slow balls too slow.

Put your arm over his shoulder

When he hits the winning run, make him bow;

Don't wait till he's caught the bus home

Give him the winners' flowers now.

I know that during the months while Philip was deteriorating, he was given haystack-sized piles of flowers by Nicky and Matt and Jess, their families and a chockful of kith and kin; some of whom – including a renegade called Peter Oberem who travelled through school in East London and Rhodes and Onderstepoort with Flop – made long trips to be with him. Shot, guys, and thank you.

There were requests last year for nominations for the various SAVA awards. In my mind, there was one fellow who stood head and shoulders above all of his/our counterparts for the Ricky Wilson Award. Philip. Flop.

Service to his farming community; service to our profession in so many ways, including chairing the KZN Rural Practitioners' Group and chairing the KZN branch of the South African Veterinary Association; promoting the vet profession by action, manners, humour, humility and writing; participation in vet discussions on the RuVASA site; authoring a book and writing a mind-blowingly regular column in The Witness newspaper for over fifteen years; taking the FMD fight head-on with aggression and passion that left him exhausted and sleepless for nights, weeks, on end; being my boss as chief livestock consultant for Afrivet … and so much more.

BUT !!!! I had drawn up this matchless motivation for the award and waited only for an email or SMS from an ex-partner to confirm some stats and dates before submitting it. The reply never came … I loitered … the deadline whooshed past as they are known to do, and sadly we didn't give him that deserved bouquet. Nevertheless, this extraordinary character, Flop, would probably have been embarrassed by such accolades. I hope and pray that in the mystery of our Creator's next mansion – or dimension – Philip does know how esteemed and loved he was. Still is. Always shall be.

Some of us were raised on Rudyard Kipling's poem, "IF". Though Philip met most, if not all those preconditions that Kipling required for a bloke to be called "a man", the one that Flop truly cracked the nod with was this, "If you can walk with Kings and keep your virtue or talk with crowds nor lose the common touch."

The latter was delightfully described in one of his stories when he ended up lying face down in a foot of mud and dung in an isibiya pen, having pulled a calf and laughing heartily with the kéhle and gogo who owned the cow.

Indeed, Philip, Flop Kretzmann was all things to all people; he was an exceptional kind of man.

We shall miss him.

Tod Collins



DON'T SIGN THAT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT … YET!

Dr Trudie Prinsloo: LEGALVET SERVICES

You have just been offered your first job as a veterinarian, and you are so excited! This is the start of a career you have dreamt about for many years. You like and trust the new boss. All you must do is sign the employment contract so you can get going. But wait! Have you read the contract? Do you understand all the conditions? And most importantly, are you prepared to accept them?

Let me tell you about a young graduate who started just like that. Over time she became increasingly unhappy with her employment. Finally, she mustered the courage to resign. Imagine the shock she got when she was told she must work a notice period of one year! And on top of that, she was not allowed to perform any veterinary work within a 30km radius of the practice for the next five years!

How can you protect yourself against such injustices? The first step is to realize that an employment contract is an agreement between two parties. As a potential employee, you have rights and must negotiate at the time you enter a contract. You have the most power to change a contract so that it suits you before you sign it. Once you sign it, you have lost that power.

Here are steps you must take to protect yourself:

- **Make sure you have a detailed written employment contract.**
- **Read the contract thoroughly and ask for written clarification if you do not understand the meaning of a particular clause.**
- **Get an attorney to assist you if anything makes you feel uncomfortable. The fee you will pay for this service will be well worth it if a dispute ever arises.**
- **Ask to amend clauses that you are not comfortable with.**
- **If the contract is silent on leave periods, after-hours payment, etc., ask that it be added and make sure it reflects the discussions you had with the employer.**
- **Always get a signed copy of the contract to keep. It is your legal right.**

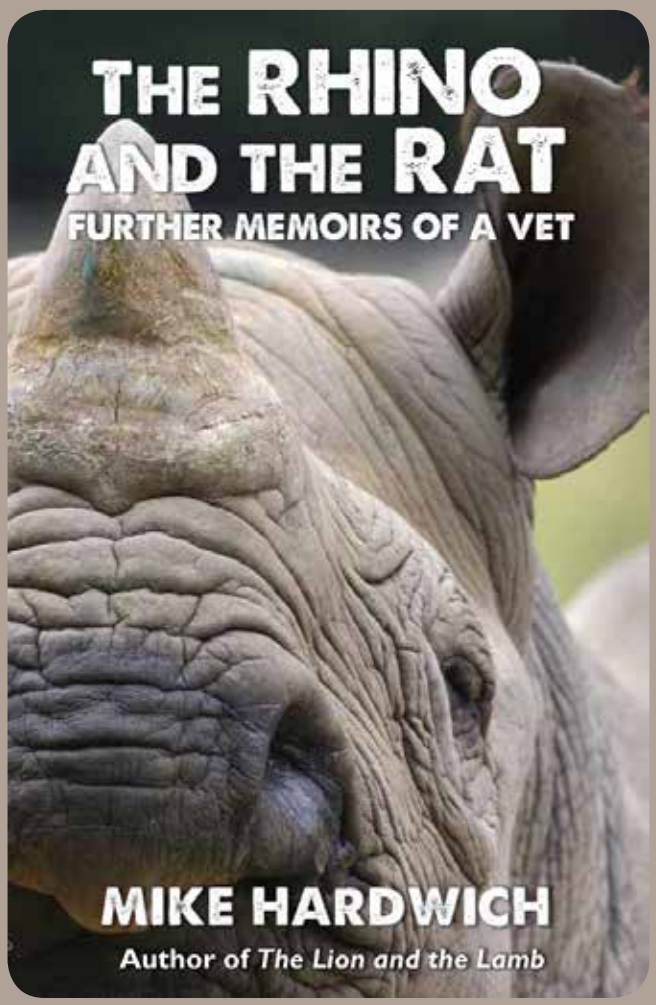
If you cannot reach an acceptable agreement, it is better to look for alternative employment than to start in a position bound to create problems over time. You are a contracting party with free will. By signing clauses that are detrimental to you, you place yourself in a very vulnerable position. A court may declare a clause unlawful or even the entire contract in some instances. However, that cannot be guaranteed, and it comes at substantial legal costs and lengthy litigation. If a contract is declared unlawful or void, it also means that you also lose the protection of clauses that favoured you. Do not underestimate the importance of an employment contract and never sign it if you are not prepared to accept all the terms and conditions.

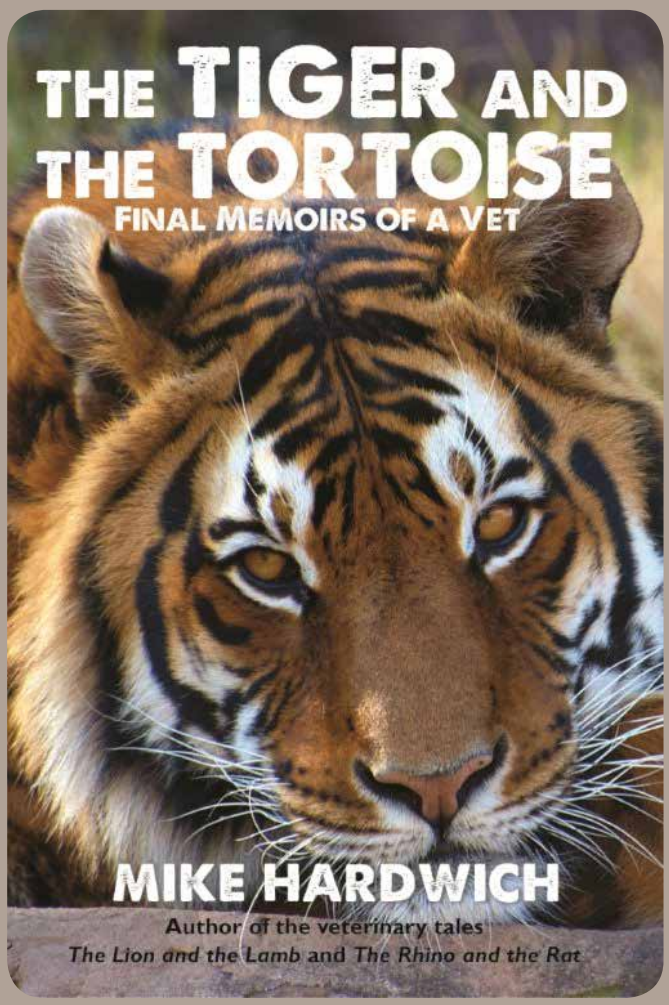
Competition:

For the person who can name the new column with legal recommendations, a brand new book from SAVA, "A Day in the life of a SA Vet" awaits.

Please submit your column name suggestions to: vetnews@sava.co.za



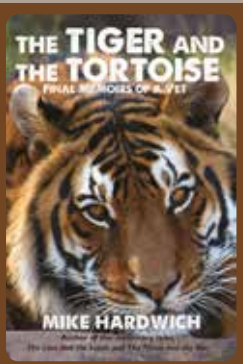




As a country vet whose territory covers the rich valleys and farmland of KwaZulu-Natal, his clients range from cattle farmers to owners of domestic pets, from game ranchers to circuses. The demands on a vet are constant and often arrive at very inconvenient times. Called upon day and night, Mike brings to each case his skills, ingenuity and years of experience, and although he never loses sight of his aim of preserving and improving the lives of the animals he is called upon to treat, sometimes he is sorely challenged by their owners.

Whether he is describing the difficult birth of a two-headed calf, discovering sheep scab on the Isle of Man, caring for Dorothy the elephant in her declining years, or helping Reggie the rat's grieving owner accept his impending demise, Mike's compassion and pragmatic humour never seem to flag.

These enjoyable tales of the trials, tribulations and triumphs of a veterinarian who always sleeps with one ear cocked, will leave you wanting more.....



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I hope this article finds you and your families well and safe!!! In last month's column, we spoke about prioritising your goals and objectives so that we can minimise or avoid exhaustion, tension, fear, anger and stagnation.

As great and easy as it sounds to write down a to-do list and follow it step by step, life will throw us curve balls and create obstacles. Sometimes it presents itself as loss, and yesterday I lost my beloved, loyal friend and beautiful Labrador "Angel".

It is crucial to take some time to be kind to ourselves, express our emotions, regroup our thoughts, and express gratitude for the little things. We have all experienced it in one form or another.



Last night I got home, and I didn't see my gorgeous "Angel" waiting for me. It is a habit that I will still be doing for a long time, and I will continue looking for her. Sometimes I wonder whether we see our family and loved ones around us.

Take time to really see them, engage with direct contact and acknowledge each other. "Angel" always acknowledged my presence and made sure that I felt noticed and loved. Do the same for your loved ones. Let them know how much you love them and how much you missed them!

Let's take it one step further and use one more of our senses. Let's go beyond sight. As we walk through the door, we should greet our loved ones, friends and colleagues depending on where we are. Our voice adds the element of sound to our interaction.

The following elements are part of our speech that contribute towards the message we convey to the people we speak to: tone of speech; rate of speech (talk fast or slow); volume (loudness); pitch; as well as the pauses.

I once spoke to a Buddhist, and he pointed out that the silences between the music notes are just as much a part of the music as the musical notes are in the music.

If we are going to have meaningful conversations with people beyond speaking, we should also take time to listen to them and really listen to what they are telling us. "Angel" could not talk to me, but various ways of vocalising her messages to me meant different things.

My daughter, Natalia, comes to show me a funny video because she loves the funny noises I make when I get surprised and enjoys the sound of my laughter with hers. When we combine what we see with what people are saying, we can put ourselves in a better position to have better relationships.

I remember growing up in Greece as a little boy. My parents worked extremely hard to provide for my older brother and me. One of my fondest memories was my dad's body odour when he would come home from work. I loved being in his arms, and at that time, I didn't know whether I was smelling his body or his work clothes, but whatever that combination was, it left a permanent mark on me. I understood that he worked hard for us. I

understood that it was most important for him to greet us as soon as he arrived home and hold us before he changed and cleaned up. He missed us, and we missed him every day. I remember appreciating that odour on my dad until his very last day on this earth, two years ago. I have the same connection with my loved ones and my pets.

My second daughter is a special needs child who requires sensory input to understand better and regulate her body; learning to look after my daughter has highlighted the importance of touch in our relationships with our loved ones. Natalia likes to sit on my lap when she shows me her funny videos.

Natalia adores squeezing and hugging. "Angel" loved to fall asleep with her body being in contact with mine in one way or the other. What do your loved ones feel when they touch you or when you hug them and hold them?

"Angel" was far more than a pet. She was a family member, a friend and a loving soul. I am glad I stayed connected with my dad until the very last day. It takes time to heal, but I remain grateful for all the little things they shared with me, as well as all the little things my loved ones continue to share with me every day.

I still listen for my dad and "Angel" every day and miss them, but I also talk about them and honour them daily for being constant, loyal and faithful with me and in me forever.

Next month, we will continue looking at positive ways to embrace 2022, healthy, safe, and reengaged, determined to make this year a success.



Register/more info
https://bit.ly/nvcg2022_surgery

NVCG SURGERY COURSE 2022

30 & 31 May, Johannesburg
01 & 02 June, Durban
03 & 04 June, Cape Town

Hill's Transforming Lives

MSD Animal Health



Dr. Sara Boyd

BVSc MMedVet (Surgery)

Dr. Sara Boyd graduated from Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty in 1997 and after a 2 year stint working overseas, she returned and completed her masters in Small Animal Surgery in 2004. She was a partner at Johannesburg Specialist Veterinary center for 18 years and then left to pursue a career in Specialist Surgery Consulting to approved veterinary practices. She is currently lives in Hilton and is based at Hilton Veterinary Hospital with Dr Martin De Scally. Sara is involved in presenting continuing professional development courses both in South Africa and abroad. Her special interests lie in the field of soft tissue, orthopaedics and neurosurgery. She is married to Mark Boyd and has 3 children.



Dr. Sarah Marvel

DVM, DACVS-SA, ACVS Fellow, Surgical Oncology

Dr. Marvel received her undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 2003 and then went on to obtain her DVM from the University of Wisconsin in 2009. She completed a rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery, and a residency in small animal surgery at Colorado State University. In 2014 she achieved board certification from the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (DACVS-SA). Following her surgical residency, she completed a fellowship in Surgical Oncology at the Flint Animal Cancer Center at Colorado State University. After fellowship, she spent a year in private practice focusing on surgical oncology. She returned as faculty within the General Surgery department at Colorado State University in 2016 where she then completed a fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery (Small Animal Soft Tissue). She is currently an Assistant Professor in General Surgery at Colorado State University.



Dental intervention in a Barbirusa

Prof. Gerhard Steenkamp

Suids are a fascinating family of animals. They range from the domestic pig in all its shapes and sizes, through wild boars, bush pigs, collared peccaries and ultimately to some of the weird-looking pigs like warthogs and the babirusa (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. A close-up photo of a boar babirusa shows the typical intraoral origin of the right mandibular canine tooth; however, the right maxillary canine tooth erupts dorsally through the nasal bone and the skin.

They all share the same dental formula: I3/3, C1/1 PM 4/4 M3/3 = 44 teeth. They have in common canine teeth that are usually situated outside of the oral cavity.

These canine teeth, which are continuously growing, are used for defence or as efficient digging tools to uproot underground food.

The most common calls I have had for pig dentition relates to disarming potbellied pigs or warthogs that have been hand raised.

I do not condone these procedures as I believe they are unethical (like disarming dogs that bite). I have had the privilege of working on some babirusa at a zoo and would like to share one with you.

Babirusas (*Babyrousa babyrussa*) occur in some Indonesian islands. They are often called deer-pigs due to the maxillary canines in boars that erupts directly dorsal from their origin.

It is a pretty unique arrangement where teeth erupt through the skin with no oral mucosa/gingiva surrounding it (Fig. 2A).

The caudally curved canine teeth are said to be a defence mechanism during fighting and do not play a role in feeding at all.

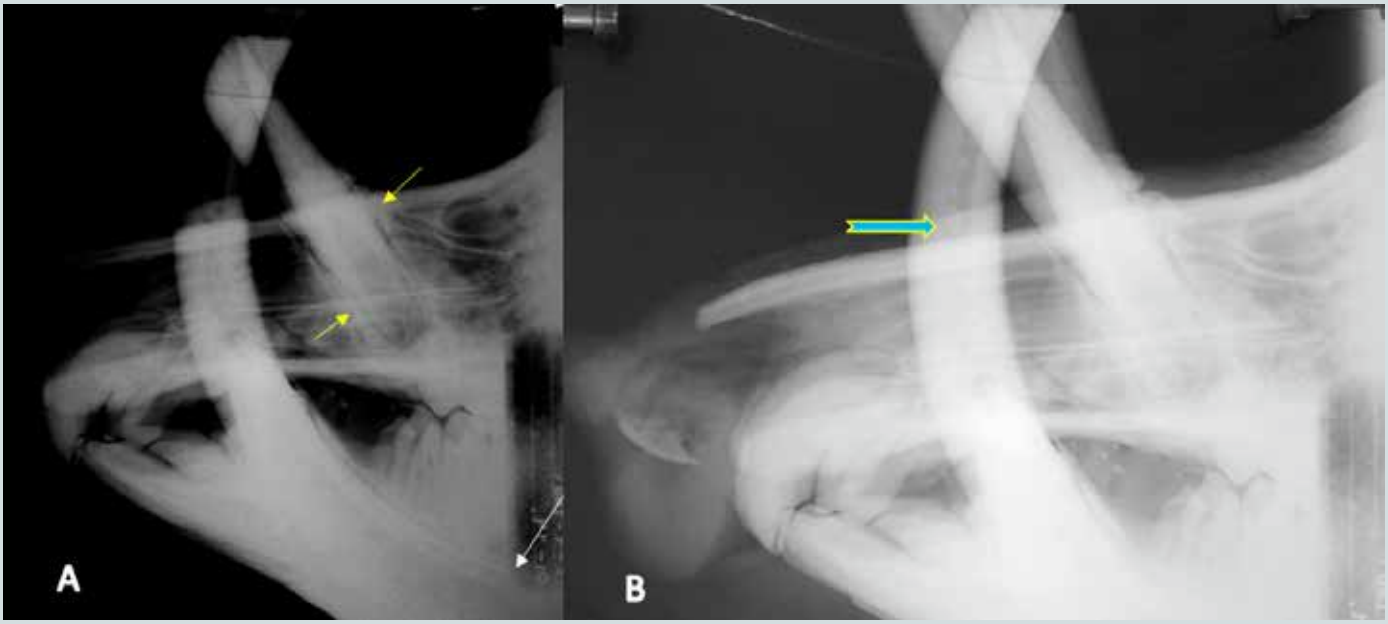


Figure 2. A – A left lateral radiograph of the boar babirusas head. In this view, the alveolus of the maxillary canine tooth is outlined by the yellow arrows. The apical area of the mandibular canine tooth (white arrow) is situated underneath the 3rd premolar tooth. B – A slightly underexposed Left lateral radiograph showing the tertiary dentin (dentinal pearls) in the pulp cavity of the mandibular canine tooth (blue and yellow arrow).

The right-sided mandibular and maxillary canine teeth broke and exposed the pulp during fighting. Since these are continually growing teeth, I decided to do a partial pulpectomy to remove the infected/contaminated pulpal tissue.

The removal was followed by placing a pulp dressing that stimulates new dentin formation and prevents further infection. Finally, a glass ionomer filling was used to seal the cavity.

During radiography of these teeth, it was interesting to note the tertiary dentin formation inside the pulp (Fig. 2 B). The deformation may be due to chronic pulp stimulation due to the fractures.

The boar recovered uneventful, and the teeth continued to grow.

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It is no secret that calf scours remain a serious problem globally.[2,3,4] It can be an intimidating problem to deal with: the impact on the welfare of the affected animal(s) can be significant. It can lead to the farmer experiencing stressful situations and possibly have profound economic implications.[2,3,6] Not to mention the potentially fatal physiological consequences of calf scours which include dehydration, electrolyte imbalance and acidosis.[1,6]

The inciting causes are multifactorial and can broadly be classified as either infectious or non-infectious but often combine them.[1,2,3,5] Taking a closer look at the infectious causes, multiple pathogens have been implicated, including different viruses, bacteria and protozoa.[1] While there is usually a primary agent responsible, multiple factors and pathogens are often involved leading to even more severe morbidities and higher mortalities.[1,2,3,6]

Some of the common pathogens that have been isolated in cases of neonatal calf diarrhoea have listed in the below table.[1,3,5]

Viruses	Bacteria	Protozoa
Bovine rotavirus	*Salmonella* spp.	Coccidiosis
Bovine coronavirus	*E.coli*	Cryptosporidiosis
Bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV)	*Clostridium perfringens*	Giardia

Often the pathogens most frequently implicated in calf scours are Bovine Rota- and Coronaviruses, *Escherichia coli* and *Cryptosporidium parvum* (obviously depending on the situation, farm, area, country etc.).[2,4,6]

Bovine Rotavirus and Bovine Coronavirus are relatively similar in their mechanisms and clinical presentation in calves.[4,6] Both viruses have short incubation periods of approximately 24 hours (Rotavirus) and 48 hours (Coronavirus). They also primarily affect calves up to 3 weeks of age, with a peak incidence around a week of age.[1,4,6] Bovine Rotavirus is relatively robust against a wide pH range and high temperatures.[1] Seven serogroups (A-G) of rotaviruses are known; however, group A is implicated in most infections of domestic animals.[1] Group A can be divided into subtypes P (27 types) or G (16 types), of which G6 and G10 are of the highest incidence in cattle.[1]

Looking at Cryptosporidiosis, most ruminant veterinarians will agree that this pathogen has wreaked havoc throughout our country in the past few years. *Cryptosporidium parvum* has been implicated as a major pathogen in calf scours.[5] It is thought that this is a primary pathogen, predisposing the animal to secondary infections such as *E.coli*.[1] The lifecycle of *Cryptosporidium* is very similar to that of Coccidia, albeit shorter, except that this pathogen can auto-infect with the help of thin-walled oocysts.[1,4,6] Another difference is that excreted thick-walled oocysts of *Cryptosporidium* are already sporulated and therefore immediately infective, in contrast to Coccidia oocysts that need to undergo a process of sporulation in the environment before they become infective.[1,4] Cryptosporidiosis seems to affect neonatal calves as early as 3 to 5 days of age and can last for a few days to weeks.[4,5] These protozoa can also affect humans; therefore, infections with *Cryptosporidium* can potentially lead to zoonosis.[1,4]

We can't mention Cryptosporidiosis without referring to *E.coli*. *E.coli* is divided into six groups, depending on their virulence, with some sources claiming enterotoxigenic *E.coli* to be the most common cause of neonatal diarrhoea.[1,4] This type of scours affects very young calves up to 4 days old. By day 5 of age, the pH of the calf's abomasum has dropped sufficiently low (from around 6 or 7 to less than 2) to kill ingested enterotoxigenic *E.coli*.[1,4] The pH of the intestinal fluid gradually increases caudally through the gastrointestinal tract, which favours K99 antigen attachment and colonisation of the *E.coli*.[1,4]

Predisposing factors

Some of the non-infectious factors in calf scours include nutrition, management, immunity, stress, and infection pressure.[1,2,4,5] Pregnant dams must be looked after well since their malnourishment could potentially affect their calf's growth, productivity and disease resistance.[1]

Calves that survive dystocia might suffer from a swollen head and tongue due to the difficult birthing process and hence fail to suckle colostrum during those first critical hours.[1] Most heifers are naturally more prone to dystocia and produce colostrum of poorer quality when compared to their multiparous herd mates. Hence, they should be managed with greater care.[1] Frankly speaking, colostrum management as a whole is of vital importance to the resistance of calves to scours.[1,4,5] Stress and immunity have an inverse relationship; animals should be kept stress-

free as possible. Any extreme weather conditions could potentiate calf scours by suppressing the immune system and indigestion.[1,3] Infection pressure – the higher the pathogen load in the environment, the greater the chances of that calf becoming infected.[1] Although infection pressure may be difficult to manage, implementing strategies that will limit co-mingling of different age groups, overcrowding, removing clinically affected animals to hospital pens and maintaining a clean and hygienic environment will go a long way.[1]

Treatment

It is crucial to prevent dehydration in calves as it can have rapidly fatal consequences. An electrolyte solution, such as Lectade® can aid in the treatment of scours in calves to prevent and reverse dehydration and counter the loss of electrolytes and energy. Appropriate antibiotic therapy, if so indicated, can assist with treating diarrhoea. Advocin® Injectable is indicated for enteric infections in calves caused by *E.coli* and *Salmonella* spp. Deccox®, containing decoquinate, is an anti-coccidial that can be used to help treat or prevent coccidiosis.

Diagnosis

Even though scours can progress very rapidly and treatment needs to be instituted as soon as possible, it is also essential to make a swift and accurate diagnosis to plan future interventions to protect unaffected animals or prevent further outbreaks.[1,2,6] Test kits, such as the Zoetis Witness Bovi-D5, provide veterinarians with a quick and reliable point-of-care solution to detect antigens such as Rota- and Coronavirus, *E.coli* K99, *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* in calf faeces.[6] These kits can be used as screening tests and only require approximately 10 minutes until result interpretation.[6] Although this test is very sensitive and specific for the different antigens; diagnostic results need to be interpreted carefully along with clinical signs, in-depth farm history and knowledge of the on-farm management and procedures, since the presence of a pathogen does not necessarily always dictate causality. Failure to isolate the pathogen does not necessarily absolve it from being responsible either.[1,2,6] If necessary, the results can be followed up and confirmed with further laboratory tests.

Prevention

Prevention of disease is always first prize, particularly to safeguard the welfare of the animals.[1] One way to assist in preventing the disease in calves is through genomic selection. Clarifide® Plus can predict the relative expected mortality/disease risk of a calf up to 50 days of age. Another important prevention method is vaccination of the dam a few weeks before parturition with vaccines that are safe for use in pregnant animals to improve colostrum quality.[1]

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6. Zoetis Technical Bulletin DIA-00101. WITNESS BoviD-5 Test Kit for detection of *Cryptosporidium* sp., Rotavirus, Coronavirus, E.*coli* K99, and *Giardia lamblia* antigen in calf faeces. June 2016.

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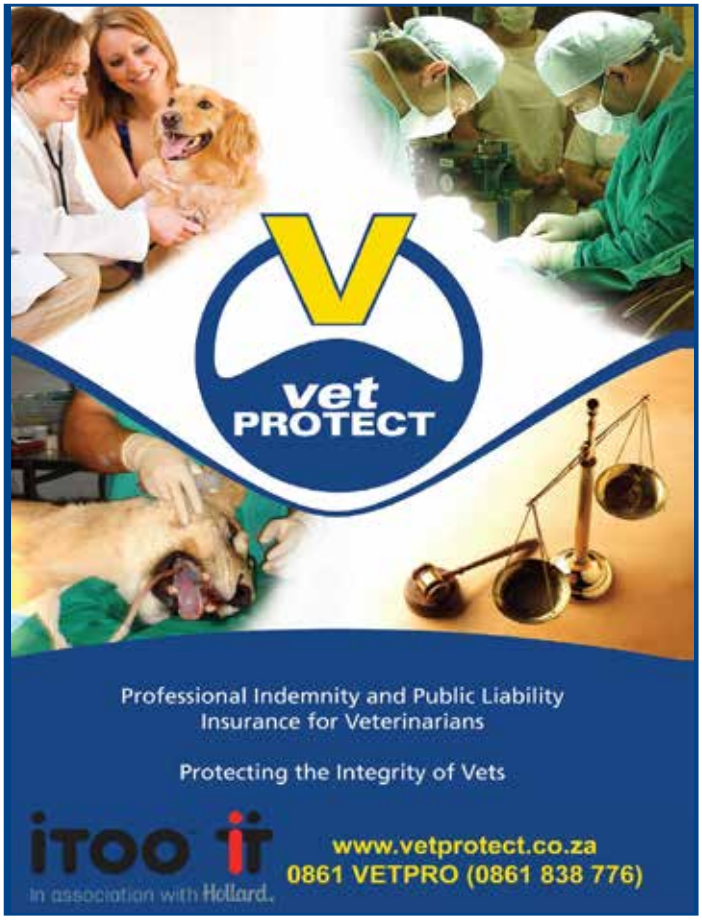
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Long established (50 years +) one to one and a half vet small animal practice for sale in Durban. Computerised (Avimark) with large client database, Catalyst, CR X-ray, Isoflurane anaesthetic machines, surgical instruments, etc. Large purpose-built premises. Seller willing to discuss any options eg lease/ rental/ business purchase. Price negotiable. Contact 0832648132 or yebojt@yahoo.com. Ref21NV07

DURBAN-NORTH

Practice & property 4 sale in Durban North. Well established, positioned in upmarket area. Fully equipped, x-ray, dental suite, shop. Scope to expand. 0828944002. Ref22FE10

EASTERN CAPE / OOS-KAAP
PORT ELIZABETH

FOR SALE!!
Well established (23 years) veterinary consulting room/practice and vet shop with a solid client base that generates strong year on year growth. Ideally located in a bustling farming community next to the local petrol station, with surrounding high-end neighborhoods,15 min outside PE. Option to expand into equine field and farm animals. Ideal opportunity to build and manage your own practice or expand with a satellite practice. Contact cobi@icon.co.za Ref22FE06

FOR SALE / TE KOOP

ANAESTHETIC MACHINE
A new veterinary anaesthetic machine with refurbished TEC4 vaporiser or with a new MSS3 forane vaporiser. We convert your Mk3 halothane vaporiser to forane. All servicing and calibrations are done by retired chief anaesthetic technician ex-Groote Schuur Hospital. Call Cassim 021 7052880 / 0826819742, email encass@telkomsa.net or visit www.cvanaesthetics.co.za Ref13JA01

ADVANCED ANAESTHETIC EQUIPMENT

A life-time investment. World-renowned cost-saving anaesthetic equipment– DESIGN AND ENGINEERING AWARDS reducing running costs/pollution by 80%. Dr Humphrey (international renowned anaesthetist) designed the simplest, "greenest" anaesthetic equipment for all situations. Result? The multi-purpose "Humphrey ADE-circle system® with "FREE-OX", "WALL-MOUNT", or new "PACK-FLAT MINI-PORTABLE" machines. Details www.aesmedical.co.za. sales@aesmedical.co.za. Ref21MY10

ADVANCED ANAESTHETIC START-UP/WILD-LIFE EQUIPMENT
2021 NEW LIGHTWEIGHT "PACK-FLAT" CONCEPT.

Designed as START-UP or HIGHLY PORTABLE cost-saving unit for all environments, this new model includes everything you need; frame, handle, the "Multipurpose Humphrey ADE-circle breathing system", vaporiser, drip stand. Free-standing/ wall mounted. Just 11.4 kg complete. Simple quick assembly. Details www.aesmedical.co.za. sales@aesmedical.co.za. Ref21MY11

ADVANCED ANAESTHETIC EQUIPMENT

– Is it really possible that new equipment designed by Dr Humphrey can reduce running costs and pollution by up to 80%? With DESIGN AND ENGINEERING AWARDS, credentials include independent verification in USA/ European/Australian journals, inclusion in "Handbook of Paediatric Anaesthesia" and "Notable Names in Anaesthesia". That's what's offered! Ref21MY12

BIRD SEXING EQUIPMENT

Bird sexing equipment incl anaesthetic machine
R15 000 excl vat.
Contact Retha 0828094338.
Ref22JA02

MASTATEST LAP BOX

For sale:
Brand new Mastatest lap box with collecting vials for sale at half price. Identification and antibiogram in 24 hours. Phone 021-5313501 / 0724255935. Ref22FE02

JOB SHADOW

Job Shadow is exactly what its name suggests, it is a **company which facilitates job shadowing** for high school students, in order for them as well as their parents to be more informed with regards to their **profession. It's a practical way of getting to know a job**, before committing to study for it.

We are now looking for companies and professionals to jump on board as Job Mentors.

We are offering many benefits such as claiming back from your SED Fund for CSI as well as money paid back! To elaborate further as to how you can get involved, please contact

Lorinda@jobshadow.co.za or call on 082 870 6220.

Life plus 23 without parole



Mike Lowry

Mike Lowry has been in veterinary practice for "life plus 23" years. In this column, he shares his experiences and opinions.

I am writing this with a certain degree of intrepidation. Is the veterinary profession another form of prostitution? Indeed not a question one likes to ask, but the following will reason my question.

When I qualified in the early 70s' the veterinary profession was looked up to by the entire population. I have previously mentioned Human Science Research, which did regular surveys of all the professions and the public's attitude to these services rendered. The veterinary profession regularly topped the list of the most trusted professions, but it and the teaching profession were also at the bottom of the list regarding income.

In years gone by, the SAVA put out a suggested fees list in October each year. This document listed the minimum and maximum fees for each procedure. In addition, guidance was given as to how and where fees could vary and the extent to which these differences could be accommodated. Included here were differences in the residential areas income and living standards.

These suggestions were adhered to and may well have been the reason for the vets being relatively poor income earners, but they were also the reason vets were not classified as "rip off artists" when it came to fees and were held in high esteem. It was unnecessary for clients to phone around to see where they could get the best deal; all vets would quote similar prices in any area.

This practice was outlawed by the Competitions Board some years ago, and vets were then allowed to determine their fees.

And then all the changes came. Excessive fees became more common, and discounted veterinary fees became readily available.

And all of a sudden, pet insurance became a requirement.

All good and well! But is it, in fact, good and well.

Who pays the veterinary bills when a pet is insured. Of course, the owner pays the monthly commitment, and then the insurance company carries the load. When the veterinary fees increase astronomically, do the monthly fees stay the same? Do the insurance company gratuitously pay the ever-growing amounts! Not likely, the fees will increase because insurance companies are businesses whose ultimate aim is profit. And one further concern is who carries the accounts from the time of the work being completed until the company pays out? In some instances, the owner pays the vet and waits for compensation. It is ideal because we, as vets, are not asked to carry the can. But then, as we had recently, the payout by the company was limited, and the owner could not afford the difference. And guess who carried the excess?

That the insurance companies will aid in advancing veterinary services and result in relatively unrestricted practice is not questioned. It hopefully will enhance the quality of pets' lives. But it comes at a cost, and that cost will land on the owner's shoulders. Will this limit the number of pets per household? Who knows, but with ever-increasing financial pressures, it may well do and then as far as veterinary income is concerned, it will be a juggling act as to where veterinary prices allow for pet keeping.

None of this is related to prostitution. But what is, in my opinion, the discounted veterinary services offered. Everyone enjoys a bargain, and there is no doubt that some of the suggested fees are the ultimate bargain for the owner. Dog spays from R850 to R1200 and castrations from R750 to R1100. Cat spays R850 and cat castrations R550. Five in one vaccinations for dogs R200.

Here one has to question the quality of the service offered. Can these vets do these procedures at these prices and still make a living wage that aligns with the five years of training and the cost involved in veterinary school fees, overheads, personnel, etc.? If so, they should be giving economic lessons to all their colleagues. But how does one make up surgical packs, use trusted anaesthetics and sterile procedures, and supply the necessary post-operative medications at that price after paying staff and housing costs?

If these procedures result in a low income and are considered a service to the public, it is either honourable or prostitution. Each of us can decide.

And on a sombre note, condolences to the family of Phillip Kretzman, who passed away after a short illness. What a colleague, what a vet and what a person.



Dagboek • Diary

SAVETCON: Webinars.
Info: Corné Engelbrecht, SAVETCON, 071 587 2950,
corne@savetcon.co.za / https://app.livestorm.co/svtsos

A Course in Human Ethics and Animal Rights.
Completion time: approximately 8 hours.
Website: http://animalvoiceacademy.org
Contact: admin@animalvoiceacademy.org

Ongoing and Online 2022

Acupuncture – Certified Mixed Species Course.
Info: Chi University:
https://chiu.edu/courses/cva#aboutsouthafrica@tcvm.com

Certification in Clinical Integrative Canine Rehabilitation (Through College of Integrative Veterinary Therapies).
Contact: enrolment@civtedu.org

Wildlife Group of the SAVA Congress.
10 - 12 March
Venue: Hybrid Event
Info: Vetlink, 012-346-1590, www.vetlink.co.za

March 2022

South African Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SAALAS) Congress.
15 - 18 March
Venue: North-West University, Potchefstroom
Info: Vetlink, 012-346-1590, www.vetlink.co.za

BSAVA Congress.
24 - 26 March
Venue: Manchester Central and VIRTUAL
Info: www.bsavaevents.com/bsavacongress2022

RuVASA Congress.
08 -11 May
Venue: The Boardwalk Hotel, Port Elizabeth
Info: Vetlink, 012-346-1590, www.vetlink.co.za

May 2022

Young Vets Congress.
14-15 May
Venue: 26 Degrees, Muldersdrift
Info: Corné Engelbrecht, SAVETCON, 071 587 2950,
https://www.savetcon-admin.co.za/Register/main.php

SAEVA Congress.
02 - 04 June
Venue: The Blades / Roodeplaat Premier Hotel
Info: Vetlink, 012-346-1590, www.vetlink.co.za

June 2022

Veterinary Nurses Weekend.
11 - 12 June
Venue: Houwhoek Hotel, Grabouw
Info: Corné Engelbrecht, SAVETCON, 071 587 2950,
corne@savetcon.co.za

Free State & Northern Cape Branch Congress.
13-14 August
Venue: to be confirmed
Info: www.savetcon.co.za

August 2022

SASVEPM Congress.
24-26 August
Venue: East London ICC
Info: Corné Engelbrecht, SAVETCON, 071 587 2950,
corne@savetcon.co.za

September 2022

4th International Conference on Parasites of Wildlife.
11-15 September
Venue: Skukuza, Kruger National Park
Info: http://savetcon.savetcon.co.za/icpow2022/



Vet·ED ONLINE

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR VETERINARIANS



As a registered veterinarian, you have a responsibility to improve your knowledge and skills on regular basis for the end benefit of your patients. This responsibility is the driving factor behind the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme implemented by the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC).

What to expect as a practising veterinarian regarding your CPD requirements as set out by the SAVC?

SAVA
South African Veterinary Association
Suid-Afrikaanse Veterinêre Vereniging

WHAT IS CPD?

CPD is a process of lifelong learning whereby a Veterinary or Para-Veterinary Professional systematically engages in activities that maintain abilities, skills and knowledge required for a professional practice.

HOW DOES CPD WORK?

According to the SAVC's guidelines, veterinarians who enter the CPD system during their Compulsive Community Service, must accumulate a minimum total of sixty (60) CPD points, of which twenty (20) points must be Structured CPD, within every three-year cycle from commencement of the CPD system.

Visit our VetEDonline Platform for a detailed breakdown of your Structured and Unstructured CPD requirements. As a practicing veterinarian, the SAVC advises that you continuously accumulate your CPD points as part of your professional development portfolio which starts during your community service year.

It remains the responsibility of veterinarians to keep record and documented proof the of their CPD activities. A summary of all activities is to be submitted on an annual basis to the council on a form that is obtainable from the registrar.

MANAGING YOUR CPD COMPLIANCE

We understand that managing your CPD requirements can be a time consuming and somewhat frustrating process, which is why we want to introduce you to VetEDonline.

VetEDonline is an online CPD Management and Education Platform endorsed by the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA), which provide veterinarians with state of the art CPD Compliance and Education Solutions that assist them on their journey to CPD compliance.

VETEDONLINE SUPPORTS PRACTICING VETERINARIANS WITH THEIR CPD COMPLIANCE BY PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING SOLUTIONS AND SERVICES:

ONLINE COURSES
Online Courses from leading providers

JOURNALS & ARTICLES
CPD accredited articles from SAVA

ONLINE LEARNING PORTFOLIO
To manage your CPD certificates and keep track of your CPD points

Contact us for more information and guidance on your CPD compliance
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