



SOUTH AFRICAN ALPACA BREEDERS' SOCIETY

## ALPACA HEALTH CONFERENCE

17-18 June 2015

Drakenstein Veterinary Clinic

Wemmershoek, near Paarl, Western Cape



### INTRODUCTION

The alpaca is here to stay! Products made from the alpaca's exquisite fibre are already impacting the South African fashion industry and herds are popping up in many provinces around the country. The arrival of the South American alpaca into South Africa in 2001 brought with it little health or veterinary knowledge but heralded the start of a new and exciting agri-industry. Alpaca owners have gleaned their knowledge from reference books, from documented scientific research and international alpaca magazines as well as from their own practical experience. And through their existing knowledge of horses, cattle and sheep large animal veterinarians have assisted ably with many different and sometimes perplexing cases.

Following requests from alpaca owners and in consultation with senior veterinarians the South African Alpaca Breeders' Society has been encouraged to structure this two-day conference. With presentations from professional camelid veterinarians and alpaca specialists, the programme aims to disseminate up to date veterinary technology, diagnostic procedures and treatments as well as offer advice on general herd management, routine vaccinations and basic husbandry.

### CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In the interests of encouraging veterinarians, veterinary technologists and students to attend this event SAABS will apply to the South African Veterinary Council for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) accreditation for the technical content of this programme.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Alpaca breeders, veterinarians, para-veterinarians who work with alpacas, animal health technicians, veterinary students, nutritionists, and the alpaca owner who wants to learn more.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

- Dr Chris Cebra, DVM MS DACVIM-LA has been working with camelids for over twenty years, starting as an intern on the East Coast of the United States and working his way steadily westward. In the process, he spent four years at Colorado State University working with such camelid experts as LaRue Johnson and Frank Garry, getting involved with the major camelid conferences of the day, and launching clinical research projects, chiefly concerning digestive disorders. After completing his training as a veterinary internist, he joined the faculty at Oregon State University, which at the time included Brad Smith, Karen Timm, Bob van Saun, Susan Tornquist and others with strong camelid interests. He has continued his work on digestive disorders, is currently involved with projects on coronavirus and *Eimeria macusaniensis*, and has been involved with major initiatives to study energy metabolism and *Mycoplasma haemolama* (Eperythrozoonosis) in camelids.

He has written or co-authored over 70 scientific articles concerning camelids, over 50 of which are listed on PubMed, and been involved with over 40 camelid research projects funded by such agencies as the Morris Animal Foundation, Alpaca Research Foundation, and Willamette Valley

Llama Foundation. He attends and presents at conferences worldwide, nine countries on four continents at the last count, as well as hosting the International Camelid Health Conference at Oregon State in odd-numbered years. He recently became the United States' first endowed professor of camelid medicine and is the senior editor and a main contributor to Llama and Alpaca Care, a leading textbook on the subject. He is currently Chair of the Department of Clinical Sciences at the Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

- Dr Montague Saulez (BVS MS DACVIM-LA DECEIM PhD) has spent almost 15 years in higher education culminating in an Associate Professorship in Equine Internal Medicine at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa. Montague is a board-certified specialist in Equine Internal Medicine as recognised by the SAVC, RCVS and ECEIM. He has written or co-authored over 30 scientific articles and abstracts, and presented at national and international conferences. Montague established Winelands Equine Vet, a specialist equine mobile practice, in the Winelands region (Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschoek) of the Western Cape. In addition to equine medicine, Montague developed a keen interest in camelids during his large animal internal medicine residency at Oregon State University (under the supervision of Dr. Cebra) with his primary focus on diseases affecting the gastrointestinal and respiratory system.

## **DAY ONE**

Conference Chairman – Peter-John Garbutt, KZN alpaca breeder and past president of South African Alpaca Breeders' Society 2010-2014

08.30            **REGISTRATION AND COFFEE**

09.15            **SAABS PRESIDENT'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**  
Alison Notley, President SAABS

09.20            **NEONATAL HEALTH CARE**

Paper 1        Dr Chris Cebra

- Birthing
- Care of the dam after birthing
- Caesarian section on alpacas
- Cria management
- Using milk replacers
- Early support in the event of orphaned cria
- Plasma

09.55            *QUESTIONS ON NEONATAL HEALTH CARE*

10.05           **ROUTINE HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS**

Paper 2        Dr Chris Cebra

- Blue Tongue Virus
- Rift Valley Fever
- Parasitic problems, their symptoms and effect on alpacas
- Tapeworm
- Roundworm
- Barbers pole worm
- Clostridia
- Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)

10.40           *QUESTIONS ON ROUTINE HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS*

10.50 **T E A / C O F F E E**

11.15 **CASE STUDIES**

Paper 3 Dr Montague Saulez

- Eimeria macusaniensis (Big Mac)
- Salmonellosis
- Other coccidia

11.50 *QUESTIONS ON CASE STUDIES*

12.00 **PRACTICAL I: ULTRASOUND AS A DIAGNOSTIC TOOL**

Dr Chris Cebra

- Ultrasound, what is it?
- Its value to diagnostic imaging
- Scanning internal organs
- When to use ultrasound
- Scanning for pregnancy

12.45 **L U N C H**

14.00 **BIOSECURITY – THE SENSIBLE APPROACH**

Paper 4 Dr Chris Cebra

- What is biosecurity?
- Why it should be a top priority
- Simple measures to protect your herd
- Minimising the spread of disease within your herd

14.35 *QUESTIONS ON BIOSECURITY*

14.55 **G.I. DISORDERS AND THE DIGESTIVE TRACT OF RUMINANTS**

Paper 5 Dr Chris Cebra

- Understanding the digestive tract
- The work of the three chambers
- Absorption of nutrients and vitamins

15.30 *QUESTIONS ON G.I. DISORDERS AND THE DIGESTIVE TRACT*

15.40 **T E A / C O F F E E**

16.05 **ALPACA NUTRITION – GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT**

Paper 6 Dr Chris Cebra

- What do alpacas need for nutrients?
- What do alpacas get from pastures and hay?
- What are the essential supplements?

16.40 *QUESTIONS ON ALPACA NUTRITION*

16.50 **CHAIRMAN’S SUMMARY AND**  
17.00 **END OF DAY ONE PROCEEDINGS**

- DAY TWO** Conference Chairman – Peter-John Garbutt
- 08.15 **TEA / COFFEE**
- 08.45 **RESUMÉ OF DAY ONE AND INTRODUCTION TO DAY TWO**  
Conference Chairman – Peter-John Garbutt
- 08.50 **INTERPRETATION OF BLOODWORK**  
Paper 1  
Dr Chris Cebra
- Reference ranges
  - Diagnosis, e.g. rickets, anaemia, inflammation
- 09.25 *QUESTIONS ON BLOODWORK*
- 09.35 **RICKETS, VITAMIN D, AND PHOSPHORUS**  
Paper 2  
Dr Chris Cebra
- Recognising the symptoms
  - Vitamin D or phosphorus deficiency – why?
  - Minerals required for bone development
  - Are darker animals more susceptible?
- 10.10 *QUESTIONS ON RICKETS*
- 10.20 **TEA / COFFEE**
- 10.45 **LIVER DISEASES IN CAMELIDS, WITH EMPHASIS ON CHILEAN ALPACAS**  
Paper 3  
Dr Chris Cebra
- Visual abnormalities
  - Portal vein issues
  - Repair to and regeneration of the liver
- 11.20 *QUESTIONS ON LIVER DISEASES*
- 11.30 **SKIN DISORDERS**  
Paper 4  
Dr Chris Cebra
- Chorioptic, sarcoptic and psoroptic mange: lesions associated with
  - Skin mites and hair loss
  - Change of diet and/or climate and associated dermatological changes
- 12.05 *QUESTIONS ON SKIN DISORDERS*
- 12.15 **PRACTICAL II: VACCINATIONS AND DRAWING BLOOD, GENERAL ALPACA MAINTENANCE**  
Dr Chris Cebra
- Where to vaccinate - Subcutaneous / intramuscular
  - How to give subcutaneous and intramuscular injections
  - How to draw blood
  - Inserting microchips
  - Ear tagging
  - Teeth and toenails – routine maintenance
- 12.50 **LUNCH**



THE SOUTH AFRICAN ALPACA BREEDERS' SOCIETY  
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS  
FOR THEIR GENEROSITY IN SUPPORTING THIS  
ALPACA HEALTH CONFERENCE



For information on how to become a sponsor to this key event  
please contact SAABS President Alison Notley at [alpacas@helderstroom.co.za](mailto:alpacas@helderstroom.co.za)