

SAVA Southern Cape Congress News

23-24 May 2015



Julie Pfeiffer of Kyron chats to Dr Elke Schwellnus from George.

On Saturday and Sunday 23/24 May the Southern Cape vets descended on the Hyatt Hotel, at Oubaai in Heroldsbay, for our annual congress.

A collection of excellent speakers enlightened and entertained us all. With well known names such as Izak Venter, Andy Leisewitz, Remo Lobetti, Joseph van Heerden, Rick Last and Robin Linde on the programme, an interesting congress was promised. True to form they enriched our veterinary knowledge. At times Andy Leisewitz reminded us how little we remember of biochemistry. Joseph van Heerden had to keep us awake after an excellent lunch. To achieve this he decided to use interesting anecdotes from his years of experiences to great effect. The neonate puppy wetlab demonstration by Rick Last was renamed as an “Instrument Demonstration”, to avoid that the hotel would discover him performing a post mortem in their conference hall! (Note – it was only one puppy and it was very small. No mess at all).

Robin Linde managed to get everybody to prick their ears. Especially the part on how to value a practice. On this subject everybody had an opinion. The older colleagues want to get as much for their practices as possible and the younger vets naturally want to pay as little as possible. What did become apparent is the lack of practice management training we have as vets. This is definitely a topic on which we hope to have a mini conference later in the year.

A record number of delegates attended. Some coming from the other side of the “Boerewors Gordyn” to enjoy some seaside relaxation. All in all, a good time was had by everybody. It was nice to see some colleagues that you only seem to run into at events such as these. At times it was difficult to decide if we were there for the fine food or the excellent lectures. We would like to thank the organisers, sponsors, speakers and all who attended for helping to make this congress such a success.