



PAAZAB NEWS

Winter Edition

### FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMITTEES

PAAZAB Veterinary Committee

The PAAZAB Veterinary Committee (VC) was formally established in November 2009. Since then we have made some progress in addressing various goals and objectives that were initially identified. This year's highlights include the successful hosting of the 2nd Symposium on Zoological Medicine at the National Zoo in September and the veterinary expedition to Giza Zoo in November 2010.

The VC has not changed during 2010 and still consists of the following members

- Dr Adrian Tordiffe – National Zoological Gardens of South Africa (Chairman)
- Dr Katja Koeppel - Johannesburg Zoo
- Dr Gerhard Steenkamp – Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital
- Dr Glen Carlisle – Private veterinarian associated with Cango Wildlife Ranch

### 2nd African Symposium on Zoological Medicine

More than 70 veterinarians, veterinary nurses and students attended the 2nd African Symposium on Zoological Medicine hosted at the National Zoological Gardens of South Africa (NZG). Although the number of delegates attending was much lower this year, the symposium was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On 16 September Dr Mark Stetter, Director of Veterinary Services at Disney's Animal Kingdom presented a four-hour workshop on the use of endoscopy in zoo and exotic animals. Delegates were given the opportunity to handle the endoscopic equipment provided for the event by Karl Storz Endoscopy (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd. Several birds were scoped for gender determination and Dr Stetter also demonstrated the ease with which the internal organs of a tortoise can be examined and sampled using endoscopy.

The main symposium got underway on 17 September. Dr Mark Stetter started the proceedings with his keynote address on the role of veterinarians in conservation. This was followed by presentations on a wide range of species, ranging from mega-herbivores through to primates and reptiles. Several of the presenters dealt with ethical issues such as Dr Gerhard Steenkamp who presented on the cage trapping of leopards while others, like Dr Martine van Zijl Langhout shared their practical experiences in the field of zoo and wildlife medicine. On day two Prof Heribert Hofer, Director of the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, presented his keynote address entitled "From pathogens to asymmetric reproductive aging: wildlife, research, veterinarians and conservation projects". In his usual thought-provoking manner, Prof Hofer highlighted the differences in approach of veterinarians on the one hand and conservation biologists on the other, toward disease outbreaks in the Serengeti ecosystem. The symposium was judged to be a great success and provided a rare platform for veterinarians involved in conservation, wildlife health and zoo medicine to share their experiences and knowledge.

### Veterinary expedition to Giza Zoo

In November 2010, Dr Gerhard Steenkamp, Sr Jeanne Marie Pittman and I travelled to Giza Zoo as planned to provide much needed training to their veterinary staff and to carry out several veterinary procedures. A major obstacle was the need to transport the majority of the veterinary equipment, consumables and drugs to Egypt as these were not readily available on that side. The larger equipment items were detained by customs officials in Cairo and were therefore not available to us for most of our visit. Nevertheless we were able to immobilize and treat a number of animals and provide practical training. The visit also gave us an opportunity to evaluate the progress that the Zoo has made since our last visit in March 2010.

Dr. Adrian Tordiffe  
National Zoological gardens, Po box 754, Pretoria  
[Adrian@zoo.ac.za](mailto:Adrian@zoo.ac.za)

