Conservation of Exotics, Zoo- and Wildlife @UGhent and partners

13-15 December 2017

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The most dangerous worldviews are the worldviews of those who have never viewed the world.

*Alexander von Humboldt*

(1769-1859)

(Dare to think-UGhent)
Dear attendee,

We are warmly welcoming you on this event highlighting the conservation of exotics, zoo- and wildlife@UGhent and partners.

This event aims to give an overview on potential career opportunities by showing past, current and future projects in the light of wildlife conservation research or clinical efforts at our faculty, in Belgium and abroad.

We also want to honour all our partners and hope to establish new partnerships as a result of this event, because we believe that strong partnerships make great successes!

Experienced (inter)national speakers will give you an insight sneak-preview in their daily work including the concurrent pitfalls.

For those of you who wish to be actively involved in wildlife conservation, now or in the future, we aim to increase your chances on success by offering opportunities to talk to experts in different conservation-related fields. Therefore, don’t miss out on the panel discussions and networking drinks!

We hope each one of you will enjoy the talks and will feel motivated to get involved in future related events.

Special thanks to each one of you enlightening us with the many scheduled talks.

Yours sincerely,

The organizing committee
Cyriel, Jella & VSDW
(Prof. dr. Ann Van Soom (DI08) – Prof. dr. Lynn Vanhaecke (DI06))

Don’t miss

- Your symposium-bag!
- Our dinner-breaks@17h in the faculty restaurant:
  - Sandwich on Wednesday
  - Soup on Thursday
  - Pasta on Friday
- Our network-drinks@20h(30):
  - In Ghent on Wednesday
  - MOAT on Thursday
  - Delirium on Friday
- Our tombola to support the WWF charity: buy a tombola ticket starting from 2 euro (we kindly encourage you to donate more to increase our raised budget for conservation charity)

In case of any remarks/questions during or after the event please contact the organizing committee:

Cyriel Ververs (DI08) – Cyrillus.Ververs@ugent.be
Jella Wauters (DI06) – Jella.Wauters@ugent.be
Wednesday 13 December – Conservation@UGhent (I)

13h00-13h30: Registration

13h30-14h00: Opening session

14h00-15h00: Short sessions
- Lola Tielemans and Jasper Van Immerseel
  ➢ Metabolomics in the brown bear and giant panda
- Sam Boulanger
  ➢ Dentistry in zoo animals and wildlife
- Niels Groesser
  ➢ Reproductive monitoring of the red panda
- Anne König
  ➢ Reproduction of the pangolin
- Celine Lemmens
  ➢ Chemical castration in the male rhesus monkey
- Romy van Noije
  ➢ Analysis of Vit D3 in primates

15h00-15h30: Coffee break @ (outside) Kliniek B

15h30-17h00: Research and clinical efforts @ Faculty of Veterinary Medicine:
- Prof. dr. Ann Van Soom, dipl. ECAR (Ghent University, Belgium)
  ➢ Breeding, assisted reproduction or genome banking: a critical approach using the horse as a model
- Drs. Cyriel Ververs, dipl. ECAR (Ghent University, Belgium)
  ➢ Breeding on the brink of extinction: what can we learn from the world’s biggest rhino farm
- Dr. Tom Hellebuyck, dipl. ECZM (Herpetology) (Ghent University, Belgium)
  ➢ Assisted reproduction in reptiles
- Drs. Arturo Muñoz Saravia (Ghent University, Belgium)
  ➢ Amphibian conservation in times of extinction, an example of a critically endangered frog
- Prof. dr. Bruno Levecke (Ghent University, Belgium)
  ➢ The importance of gastro-intestinal protozoa in captive non-human primates in Belgian and Dutch zoological gardens

Wednesday 13 December – Conservation@UGhent (II)

17h00-18h00: Poster session + sandwich-dinner @ the new faculty restaurant

18h00-18h50: Alumni session
- Wouter Pieters, zoological director/veterinarian (Parc Animalier d’Auvergne, France)
  ➢ Zoo veterinarian, a long road from dream to fact
- Melissa Nollet, Zoo veterinarian (Bellewaerde park, Belgium)
  ➢ The long way around
- Janine Meuffels (MRCVS, SA Veterinarian, Germany)
  ➢ South African Veterinary Board Exam
- Drs. Suzanne Smit, PhDs (Ghent University, ITM and IRSS, Belgium)
  ➢ “Other” career opportunities for veterinary graduates: I chose a different path
- Dr. Sarah Depauw, lector (Odisee College University, Belgium)
  ➢ A walk through a career as researcher in zoo animal nutrition

18h50-19h00: Conservation charity introduction
- Pepijn ‘t Hooft (International Programs, WWF-Belgium)
  ➢ Conservation project introductions by WWF: what about vets?

19h00-20h00: Panel discussion: career opportunities and expectations

20h00-21h00: Networking with drinks @ Ghent city café ‘De Omgekeerde Wereld/The Upside-down World’ (Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 116, Gent)
  ➢ Enjoy a free drink and a cozy night
Thursday 14 December - Conservation in the field

13h30-14h00: Registration (new attendees only)
14h00-15h30: Trade-off between wildlife conservation and human well-being @ home and abroad
  - Prof. dr. Sarah Gabriël (Ghent University, Belgium)
    ➢ Wildlife conservation, the other side of the coin?
  - Dr. Stefan Roels, vice-president of Belgian Wildlife Disease Society (Coda-Cerva; Belgium)
    ➢ The Belgian Wildlife Disease Society
  - Prof. dr. Pierre Dorny, Coordinator Master of Science in Tropical Animal Health (Tropisch Instituut Antwerpen and Ghent University, Belgium)
    ➢ Master of Science in Tropical Animal Health (MSTAH), a combined web-based and face-to-face master course organized jointly by the Institute of Tropical Medicine (Antwerp) and the University of Pretoria (South Africa)
  - Willem Schaftenaar (Vietnam Elephant Initiative, the Netherlands)
    ➢ Before it’s too late: a last attempt of Elephant Conservation in Vietnam
15h30-16h00: Coffee break @ (outside) Kliniek B
16h00-17h00: International plenary talk - Conservation of the giants
  - Dr. Jacques Henry O’Dell (University of Pretoria, South Africa)
    ➢ Saving Africa’s Giants
17h00-17h45: Soup dinner @ the new faculty restaurant
17h45-19h30: Wildlife conservation stories: research and clinical efforts
  - Nele Sabbe (Artemis Veterinary Services, South Africa)
    ➢ From a UGhent Student to a Wildlife Vet in South Africa
  - Dr. Imke Lüders (GEOlifes-Animal Fertility and Reproductive Research Hamburg, Germany)
    ➢ Reproductive management and ART in large mammal species
  - Drs. Anja Reckendorf, ECZM Resident in Wildlife Population Health, University of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover, Germany
    ➢ Applied Marine Mammal Research
  - Drs. Friederike Pohlin (University of Pretoria, South Africa)
    ➢ Translocation stress in wildlife
19h30-20h30: Panel discussion: career opportunities and expectations
20h30-21h30: Networking and drinks @ the new faculty restaurant
  ➢ Discover a West-Flemish Belgian beer: MOAT

Friday 15 December - Conservation@the zoo

13h30-14h00: Registration (new attendees only)
14h00-15h30: Research and clinical efforts @ Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
  - Prof. dr. Geert Janssens (Ghent University, Belgium)
    ➢ Iron overload disease and other man-made diseases in zoos: can we fix it with nutrition?
  - Prof. dr. Andreas Zedrosser (University College of Southeast Norway)
    ➢ Sexually selected infanticide in brown bears
  - Dr. Jella Wauters (Ghent University, Belgium)
    ➢ Food safety and Giant Pandas: where’s the match?
  - Drs. Andrea Brenes Soto (Ghent University, Belgium)
    ➢ Nutrition as a key for conservation efforts
  - Drs. Tim Bouts, dipl. ECZM (Zoo Health Management), zoological director (Pairi Daiza and Ghent University, Belgium)
    ➢ EEHV, the biggest killer of Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus) calves
15h30-16h00: Coffee break @ (outside) Kliniek B
16h00-17h00: International plenary talk – Giant Panda conservation
  - Dr. Iain Valentine, Director of Giant Panda Programme and Senior Policy Advisor (RZSS-Edinburgh Zoo, Scotland, UK)
    ➢ Beyond the Giant Panda: zoo based research – it’s not all black and white
17h00-17h40: Pasta dinner @ the new faculty restaurant
17h40-19h00: Conservation efforts @ zoo and related institutes
  - Dr. Francis Vercammen (Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp, Antwerp Zoo, Belgium)
    ➢ Overview of combining clinical work and research opportunities in the Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp
  - Drs. Tim Bouts, dipl. ECZM (Zoo Health Management) (Pairi Daiza, Belgium)
    ➢ Saving the rarest parrot in the world, the story of the Spix’ macax (Cyanopsitta spixii)
  - Dr. Martin Dehnhard (Leibniz Institute for Zoo & Wildlife Research (IZW), Germany)
    ➢ The diagnostic potential of volatiles, steroids and polyamines in the Giant Panda (Ailuropoda melanoleuca)
  - Prof. dr. Monique Paris, Associate professor (IBREAM UK/AUS based charity, the Netherlands)
    ➢ The role of reproductive physiology for the conservation of endangered species
19h00-20h00: Panel discussion: career opportunities and expectations
20h00-20h15: closing session
20h15-21h15: Networking with drinks @ the new faculty restaurant
  ➢ Let pink elephants bring you to Delirium (explore our local beer!}

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Speakers’ information
Session:

Short sessions (3rd Master Students)
13 Dec 14h00-15h00

Titles:

Metabolomics in the brown bear and the giant panda.
Lola Tielemans
Lola.Tielemans@ugent.be

Reproductive monitoring of the red panda.
Niels Groesser
Niels.Groesser@ugent.be

Chemical castration of the male rhesus monkey.
Celine Lemmens
Celine.Lemmens@ugent.be

Analysis of Vit D3 in primates.
Romy van Noije
Romy.Vannoije@ugent.be

Dentistry in zoo animals and wildlife.
Sam Boulanger
Sam.Boulanger@ugent.be

Reproduction of the pangolin.
Anne König
Anne.König@ugent.be

Check out the poster made by Anne @ the poster session.
Session:
Research and clinical efforts @ Faculty of Veterinary Medicine 13 Dec 15h30-17h00

Title:
Breeding, assisted reproduction or genome banking: a critical approach using the horse as a model.

Prof. dr. Ann Van Soom, DVM, Dipl. ECAR
Ann.VanSoom@ugent.be

Affiliations:
1. Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Salisburylaan 133, 9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

Professional career:
Prof. dr. Ann Van Soom graduated in 1988 as DVM at the faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Belgium, and obtained a PhD on the development of bovine embryos in 1996. She has been employed at Ghent University since 1990. At present, she holds a position as full professor at the department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, and is also Head of Department. She has been teaching assisted reproduction in domestic species, small animal reproduction and obstetrics to the veterinary students for almost 20 years. She is a diplomat of the European College of Animal Reproduction (ECAR) since 1999, and has been a member of the EVSSAR and the IETS for many years. She has been elected as a governor for IETS in 2007 and in 2013. She was member and Chair of the HASAC (Health and Safety Advisory Committee) Research subcommittee of IETS for about ten years. She was chair of the COST Action Epicontcept FA1201 from 2012-2016, and is a member of the EU-ITN network RepBiotech. She is a member of CANDES, a committee focusing on comparative reproductive physiologies and the application of reproductive biotechnologies in companion animals (including horses, cats, dogs, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fishes and invertebrates), non-domestic species (including farmed animals, such as buffalo, cervids, cameldids, and ratites, rare livestock breeds, and zoo animals), and their endangered species counterparts (http://www.iets.org/comm_candes.asp).

Additional Information:
Prof. Dr. Van Soom has a broad interest in all mammals, hence is also welcoming PhD students who want to work on preservation of rare domestic breeds and wild endangered species. To date, she has supervised four students on the topic of semen or oocyte cryopreservation or wild animal reproduction. However, it is difficult to get funding on animal conservation using assisted reproductive technology, so future students must be very motivated and flexible, and ready to deal with disappointment to even get a chance to get a position in this research line.

Check out the poster provided by Prof. dr. Ann Van Soom @ the poster session.
Session:

Research and clinical efforts @ Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
13 Dec 15h30-17h00

Title:
Breeding on the brink of extinction: what can we learn from the world’s biggest rhino farm?

Drs. Cyriel Ververs, DVM,
Dipl. ECAR
Cyrillus.ververs@ugent.be

Affiliations:
1. Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Salisburylaan 133, 9820 Merelbeke, Belgium

Professional career:

Cyriel Ververs graduated in 2009 and works as a veterinary clinical assistant for 8 years at the Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health from the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Ghent, Belgium. He started to work in the ambulatory cattle clinic and changed after 4 years to the equine reproduction clinic. Cyriel passed the board exam for the European college of Animal Reproduction (ECAR) in 2016. He always combined his work with the ongoing passion for wildlife with his main focus on reproduction and assisted reproductive techniques. Being involved in some African projects, some European zoo work and currently finishing his PhD in white rhino reproduction.

Cyriel supervised several master theses the past years in wildlife topics like Giraffe hand rearing, deer semen collection, lion sperm morphology, zebra semen collection, pigeon semen preservation, alpaca placenta morphology, rhino artificial reproductive techniques, red panda reproduction, primate anticonception etc.

Abstract:

The population of free-roaming white rhinoceroses (Ceratotherium simum) is under serious threat. Captive breeding of this species is therefore becoming more important, but this is challenging and often not successful. Obtaining reproductive reference values is a crucial aspect of improving these breeding results. In this study performed between 2008 and 2016, reproductive performance was analysed in 1,354 animals kept in a 8000 hectares game-ranched environment. Descriptive statistics of this captive population showed an average annual herd growth (%) of 7.0±0.1 (min -9 – max 15). Average calving rates were calculated as an annual calving rate of 20% and biennial calving rate of 37% adult females calving per year. Furthermore, translocations of animals did not interfere with reproductive success in terms of inter-calving periods or age at first calving. Multivariate models showed a clear seasonal calving pattern with a significant increase of the number of calvings during December – April when compared to April – December. Our results did not show any significant skewed progeny sex ratios. Weather observations showed no significant influence of rain or season on sex ratios of the calves. The farm studied is the world’s largest rhino farm that aims to breed white rhinoceros to prevent extinction. As part of management procedures all the rhinos are being dehorned at a regular controlled rate.

Additional Information and links:

Symco wildlife symposium:
http://symco.co.za/wp/
Rhino resource center:
http://www.rhinoresourcecenter.com/
Profetura; alliance for wildlife conservation breeding
www.profetura.com
The zoo Scientist:
https://www.thezooscientist.com/

Check out Cyriel’s poster(s) @ the postersession.
Session:
Research and clinical efforts @
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
13 Dec 15h30-17h00

Title:
Assisted reproduction in reptiles

Dr. Tom Hellebuyck, DVM,
Dipl. ECZM (Herpetology)
Tom.Hellebuyck@UGent.be

Affiliations:
1. Department of Pathology, Bacteriology and Avian Diseases, Division of Poultry, Exotic Companion Animals, Wildlife and Experimental Animals, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Belgium

Professional career:
Tom Hellebuyck is head of clinic of the Division of Poultry, Exotic Companion Animals, Wildlife and Laboratory Animals (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, UGent) and a member without commercial profits of a number of organizations concerned with veterinary medicine and herpetological societies (European College of Zoological Medicine, Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians, European Snake Society) and acts as an advisor to CITES Belgium. Besides his clinical work as a specialist in zoological medicine, his main research topics focus on infectious and neoplastic diseases in reptiles and birds including several emerging infectious diseases that also affect free-ranging reptile populations. Recently he described an outbreak of *Devriesia agamarum* in a population of Lesser Antillean iguanas posing a threat to this endangered squamate species. Although preliminary, the first steps are taken to explore the use of artificial insemination as a conservation tool in several reptile species. He is supervising two ongoing master theses that focus on the reproduction cycle, sperm collection and the development of insemination protocols in squamate reptiles.

Abstract:
The current global sixth extinction wave also affects reptiles, with an estimated 19 % of all reptiles considered threatened. Well known drivers are mostly linked to human activities and include habitat fragmentation, alteration and destruction, over exploitation and the introduction of invasive alien species. Although a wide variety of reptile species are successfully maintained and bred in captivity, the establishment of successful captive breeding programs remains highly challenging due to complications in inducing copulation or conception in various reptile species. In addition to the lack of knowledge about the reproductive cycle and the provision of optimal environmental parameters, other factors that promote adequate sexual stimulation are often difficult or impossible to achieve under captive conditions. Assisted reproduction in reptiles remains largely unexplored but should be considered as a valuable tool towards the conservation and preservation of threatened reptiles species and the establishment of sustainable populations with great genetic diversity. In this session, the current knowledge on assisted breeding in reptiles will be discussed and the results of preliminary work and future research goals will be presented.

Additional Information and links:
www.ugent.be/di/di05/nl/dienstverlening

Check out the poster(s) illustrated by Dr. Hellebuyck @ the postersession.
Session:
Research and clinical efforts @ Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
13 Dec 15h30-17h00

Title:
Amphibian conservation in times of extinction, an example of a critically endangered frog.

Drs. Arturo Muñoz Saravia
Arturo.MunozSaravia@UGent.be

Abstract:
Arturo Muñoz Saravia1,2, Gabriel Callapa2 Geert Janssens1
Bolivia is a megadiverse country holding a high number of species, at the moment more than 270 species of amphibians are present in the country, from all of them more than 60 are endemic to Bolivia and more than 40 species are threatened. One of these is the Titicaca water frog (Telmatobius culeus) a critically endangered amphibian, endemic to Titicaca lake, where its populations have been declining drastically last years. We present an update and provide more details about the situation of this species in the Bolivian side of the lake with information about densities and natural history. For the first time, data about foraging strategies, thermoregulatory strategies, body conditions, and advertisement call of this fully aquatic species is described. In other hand after the massive die offs reported in 2015, we also present the results of more than one year of monitoring research, providing the explanation of the possible causes and also the scale of this events with some data about the situation of the species in all the lake that will help to understand the real situation of the species and will help to work for the conservation of this unique species.

Affiliations:
1. Department Nutrition, Genetics and Ethology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Ghent University, Belgium
2. Natural History Museum Alcide d’Orbigny, Cochabamba, Bolivia

Professional career:
Drs. Arturo Muñoz Saravia graduated in 2002 as a biologist at the Universidad Mayor de San Simon, Cochabamba, Bolivia. Since 2005, he is head of the Research Department at the Museo de Historia Natural Alcide d’orbigny, Cochabamba, Bolivia, where he has been coordinator of the Herpetology section until 2015. At the same institute, he has been the Bolivian coordinator and researcher in the herpetology area of a Darwin Initiative Scheme-project entitled ‘Bolivian Key Biodiversity Sites Project’ from 2003 until 2006. He has also been coordinating a mutual project ‘con otros ojos’ with the Natural History Museum of Gothenburg, Sweden between 2010 and 2012. Since 2007, he is also Founding coordinator of the Bolivian Amphibian Initiative Project. In 2013 he started his PhD at Ghent University with emphasis of amphibian conservation. He is also active member of several organisations e.g. the Captive Breeding Working Group of the Amphibian Specialist Group, the Amphibian Specialist Group ASG-IUCN (regional co-chair, Bolivia), Asociación Boliviana de Herpetología (ABH) (founding member).

Additional Information and links:
Department Nutrition, Genetics and Ethology, Ghent University:
- Master thesis opportunities with amphibians, and reptiles, ecology, nutrition, and insectivores
- PhD opportunities with amphibians, and reptiles, ecology, nutrition

Museo de Historia Natural Alcide d’Orbigny, Bolivia:
- Volunteer opportunities in amphibian research in wild and captive populations in Bolivia
- Internship opportunities in amphibian research in wild and captive populations in Bolivia
  - Work in monitoring wild populations
  - Studies of amphibian diseases in wild populations
  - Studies about foraging strategies and nutrition in amphibians
  - Work and studies in captive populations of endangered amphibian

Websites:
https://www.ugent.be/di/di07/nl/onderzoek/voeding
https://www.facebook.com/LabAnimalNutrition/
http://bolivianamphibianinitiative.org/
https://www.facebook.com/Bolivian-Amphibian-Initiative-119214331487496/
Session:

Research and clinical efforts @ Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
13 Dec 15h30-17h00

Title:
The importance of gastrointestinal protozoa in captive non-human primates in Belgian and Dutch zoological gardens.

Prof. dr. Bruno Levecke, DVM
Bruno.Levecke@ugent.be

Affiliations:
1. Department of Virology, Parasitology and Immunology, Laboratory of Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University

Abstract:

Infections with gastrointestinal parasites are widespread among non-human primates (NHP). However, as a consequence of regular deworming and hygienic measures helminth infections are uncommon in captive NHP. In contrast, protozoa such as *E. nuttalli*, *Giardia* spp., *Cryptosporidium* spp. and *Balantidium coli* are frequently found in captive NHP, and are considered as important causes of gastroenteritis. Infection by these gastrointestinal parasites may cause watery diarrhoea, hemorrhagic dysentery, extra-intestinal pathologies such as liver abscesses and even death. *E. nuttalli*, the causative organism of invasive intestinal and extra-intestinal amoebiasis, is of major concern. Clinical outbreaks and deaths caused by this parasite have frequently been reported. *Giardiasis* and cryptosporidiosis are of less clinical importance, but are considered as a cause of diarrhoea or failure to thrive in young animals. *B. coli* is probably harmless in most of the NHP species, but care should be taken when great apes are involved. Because of the importance of *Entamoeba*, *Giardia* spp. and *Cryptosporidium* spp. in humans, the role of NHP as potential reservoirs for zoonotic transmission should not be underestimated. Transmission between animals and humans in association with clinical outbreaks in animal caretakers has been described in various studies. Despite the clinical importance of protozoa for both NHP and animal caretakers, studies to quantify the prevalence and importance of these parasites in zoological gardens are scarce. Most studies describe clinical outbreaks and were based on a limited number of animal and parasite species. Moreover, the strategies used to collect faecal samples may thwart the prevalence results, consequently impeding a trustworthy risk factor analysis. Finally, inappropriate diagnostic tools were often applied, and hence it remains unclear to which extent NHP form a zoonotic reservoir. We report a series of studies that provided insights on (i) the epidemiology and (ii) the clinical importance of gastrointestinal parasites in captive NHP, and (iii) the role of captive NHP as a zoonotic reservoir. The studies were conducted in nine zoological gardens and one sanctuary for exotic animals in 61 NHP species representing *Lemuridae*, *Indridae*, *Loridae*, *Cebidae*, *Nyctipithecidae*, *Pitheciidae*, *Atelidae*, *Cercopithecidae*, *Hylobatidae* and *Hominidae*.
Session:

UGhent Alumni
13 Dec 18h00-18h50

Title:
Zoo veterinarian, a long road from dream to fact.

Wouter Pieters, DVM
Pieterswouter@hotmail.com

Affiliations:
1. director/veterinarian, Parc Animalier d’Auvergne, zoological

Professional career:

After graduating in 2009, Wouter Pieters worked several years with large and small domestic animals to gain essential veterinary experience. In that period, he did zoological medicine externships in various institutions. With this knowledge and experience he started focussing on a more wildlife oriented career. He started out in Asia where he worked in a wildlife rescue centre in Cambodia. His work there was focused on veterinary assistance in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, conservation breeding of selected local species and community outreach/education. He also volunteered and offered his services to several other centres in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

He eventually moved on to work in Al Wabra Wildlife Breeding Center in Qatar where he was involved in the efforts to save the Spix’s macaw followed by a position in Oasis Park Fuerteventura.

He currently works in Parc Animalier d’Auvergne, an EAZA zoo in France with a strong focus on in- and ex-situ conservation.

Additional information and links:

EAZA: http://www.eaza.net/
EAZWV: http://www.eazwv.org/
AFVPZ: http://www.afvpz.com/
BIAZA: https://biaza.org.uk/
AFdPZ: http://www.afdpz.org
VdZ: http://www.zoodirektoren.de/
WDA: http://www.wildlifedisease.org/wda/
ECZM: https://www.eczm.eu/
ACZM: http://www.aczm.org/
MSc Conservation Medicine: https://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/studying/postgraduate/taught-programmes/conservation-medicine
MSc WAH: https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/wild-animal-health

PARC ANIMALIER D’AUVERGNE
Route d’Anzat Le Luguet
63420 Ardes sur Couze – France
wouter@parcanimalierdauvergne.fr
www.parcanimalierdauvergne.fr
Session:

UGhent Alumni
13 Dec 18h00-18h50

Title:
The long way around.

Melissa Nollet, DVM, MSc
Melissa.Nollet@Bellewaerde.be

Affiliations:
1. Animal care manager and zoo veterinarian, Bellewaerde zoo, Ieper, Belgium

Professional career:

Graduated in 2004 Melissa Nollet moved to the UK to work in mixed practice. In 2009, she completed the MSc in Wild Animal Health at the RVCS after which she volunteered in a multitude of locations working with wildlife and zoo animals. This led to a second line exotics position in Horsham, UK. A few years later she found her way back home to Belgium as the on-site vet for Bellewaerde, where she works to date.

Abstract:

Real time update on current career

Additional information and links:

BVZS: https://www.bvzs.org/
BIAZA: https://biaza.org.uk/
Eaza: http://www.eaza.net/
EAZWV: http://www.eazwv.org/
AAZV: http://www.aazv.org/
Stichting de harpij: http://www.deharpij.com/
AVMA: https://www.avma.org/Pages/home.aspx

Check out the poster presented by Melissa Nollet @ the poster session.
Session:

U Ghent Alumni
13 Dec 18h00-18h50

South African Veterinary board exam.

Janine Meuffels, DVM
Meuffels.janine@gmail.com

Affiliations:
1. Small animal clinic, Germany

Professional career:

After graduating as a veterinarian from Ghent University in 2014, Janine Meuffels has worked in a Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in the US, a mixed practice in the UK and as a farm manager in the UK and in a small animal practice in Germany. Additionally, she participated in different conservation related projects and courses in Southern Africa, including the “Malilangwe Course of Physical and Chemical Restraint of African Wildlife” in Zimbabwe; the “500 elephants” project in Malawi, “Catching giants” and the WWF Black Rhino expansion project in South Africa, castrated dogs for Maun Animal Welfare Society in Botswana and accompanied Dave Cooper and Rowan Leeming in KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. This year she successfully wrote the South African Veterinary board exam to register with the SAVC.

Additional Information and links:

Information about a new project “African Wildlife Vets” in uMkhuze, KZN, South Africa which focuses on essential veterinary support (de-snaring, translocation, etc).

http://africanwildlifevets.org/
Title:
“Other” career opportunities for veterinary graduates: I chose a different path.

Drs. Suzanne Smit, DVM, MSc
Gsa.Smit@gmail.com

Affiliations:
1. Department of Virology, Parasitology and Immunology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Merelbeke, Belgium
2. Department of Biomedical Sciences, Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Antwerp, Belgium
3. Institute of Health and Society (IRSS), Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium

Professional career:
After graduation in veterinary medicine in 2009, Suzanne did an Equine internship at Veterinary Centre Someren, The Netherlands and an internship at Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF), Brussels, Belgium.
In 2013, she successfully finished a MSc Nutrition and Rural Development, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, University of Ghent, Belgium and wrote her thesis about Brucellosis in Bangladesh.
In 2013, she joined the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium to support running projects in among others Vietnam, South Africa, Congo and Burkina Faso concerning laboratory work, epidemiology, data analysis, other research activities, and strengthening educational and research capacities.
In 2014, she started her PhD entitled “The public health impact of congenital toxoplasmosis and cytomegalovirus infection” which is a joint project between institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerpen and Dept. of Virology, Parasitology and Immunology of the University of Ghent and Université catholique de Louvain, Institute of Health and Society (IRSS), Belgium. Furthermore she still assists with projects in Vietnam (Sero-epidemiological status and risk factors of toxoplasmosis in pregnant women in Northern Vietnam) and Zambia (CYSTISTOP - Taenia solium elimination versus control: what is the best way forward for Sub-Saharan Africa?).

Abstract:
Veterinary medicine is a craft. Working “outside the box” seemed not so straightforward. Despite this, after graduating as equine vet and working as a trainee at an equine veterinary clinic, I seized the opportunity to focus on my other field of interest, Tropical (Veterinary) Medicine. My international interests started early and were amplified through serving on the International Veterinary Students’ Association (IVSA), my second MSc “Nutrition and Rural Development”, working for the NGO Vétérinaires Sans Frontières and the Institute of Tropical Medicine (Antwerp), travelling extensively and meeting many people from all over the world.
A veterinary background provides a solid basis for dealing with population disease dynamics, zoonotic and foodborne infectious diseases. To complement this I followed a second MSc, “Nutrition and Rural Development”, which amplified my interest in epidemiology, veterinary and public health. Currently I am conducting a PhD in which we investigate what the public health impact is of congenital toxoplasmosis and cytomegalovirus infection. Next to the European focus, part of this thesis consists of a project in collaboration with NIMPE, Hanoi Vietnam, in which we investigate the sero-epidemiological status and risk factors of toxoplasmosis in pregnant women in Northern Vietnam. In addition, I support in the research activities of the CYSTISTOP project, which investigates Taenia solium elimination versus control: “what is the best way forward for Sub-Saharan Africa?”.
The combination of the PhD and the different projects I am involved in, enables me to work in a dynamic environment, in multidisciplinary teams, and to bridge research and practical application.

My conclusion: There are dozens of things you can do as a veterinarian, this was just one example.
Session:
Alumni session
13 Dec 18h00-19h00

Title:
A walk through a career as researcher in zoo animal nutrition.

Dr. Sarah Depauw, DVM, lector agro- and biotechnology and researcher in zoo animal nutrition
sarah.depauw@odisee.be

Professional career:
In 2004, Dr. Sarah Depauw lived her first experience with wildlife (first year of Master in Veterinary Science) when she volunteered in South-Africa. She was involved in hand rearing cheetah cubs for DeWildt (the Ann Dyk Cheetah Centre http://dewildt.co.za/ ) and Cheetah Outreach http://www.cheetah.co.za/.

Two years later, she had her second wildlife experience in the last year of Master in Veterinary Science while she performed research on nutrition in captive cheetahs as part of her Master thesis.

As a logic consequence, she started a PhD on nutritional modulation of gastrointestinal function and disease in captive cheetahs at the faculty of Veterinary Medicine, department of Animal Nutrition.

Soon after obtaining her PhD, she became Lecturer in Animal Nutrition and Pathologies while she is also performing research on zoo animal nutrition at Odisee College University.

Additional Information and links:
Examples of current projects:
Optimisation natural feeding program for the European brown bear with BearsinMind: http://www.bearsinmind.org/Berenbos/?gclid=Cj0KCQiArYDQBRDoARIsAMR8s_T86dmLSDKRWYe1C909d8L1agwGhmCNbuDHcys2thucMi2hbVUYwt8aAuLDEALw_wcB

Development and evaluation of therapeutic kidney diets for cheetahs in captivity with Adrian Tordiffe and Africat http://www.africat.org/

Providing winterfeed for browsers in captivity: making browse silage

Check out the posters Dr. Sarah Depauw is introducing at the poster session.
Session: Conservation charity introduction 13 Dec 18h50-19h00

Title: Conservation project introductions by WWF: what about vets?

Pepijn 'T Hooft, WWF Pepijn.T'Hooft@wwf.be

Affiliations:
1. International Programs, WWF Belgium, Brussels

Professional career:
Pepijn T'Hooft works for the International Programs department of WWF Belgium. He is responsible for the South Suriname Conservation Corridor program and also works on new nature conservation programs in Belgium. He had his education at the University of Ghent and became a bioengineer, specialized in Forest and Nature management. He has experience in research on small, medium & large carnivorous mammals in Belgium & Belarus.

Abstract:
Pepijn T'Hooft will introduce the WWF Mai-Ndombe project for the protection of Bonobos in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This project highlights how the protection of a species can be matched with the needs of the local population, or in other words, it is anticipating on the conflicts arising between wildlife and local population. In this particular case several families of bonobos, other monkey species, elephants and buffalos are threatened by habitat destruction and fragmentation through wood exploitation and agriculture. In this project, alternative revenues are offered to local people, by including them in the conservation program, at the same time increasing their awareness of local wildlife conservation. Currently, conservation projects are mainly managed by conservation biologists, but Pepijn will also highlight how veterinarians are involved in their projects.

Additional Information and links:
https://www.worldwildlife.org
https://wwf.be
Session:

Trade-off between wildlife conservation and human well-being @ Home and abroad
14 Dec 14h00-15h30

Title:
Wildlife conservation, the other side of the coin?

Prof. dr. Sarah Gabriël, DVM
Sarah.Gabriel@UGent.be

Affiliations:
1. Dept of Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety, Laboratory of Foodborne Parasitic Zoonoses, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University

Professional career:

Prof. dr. Sarah Gabriël is the head of the Laboratory of Foodborne Parasitic Zoonoses at the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety, Ghent University, Belgium. She graduated as a veterinarian from Ghent University, after which she lived and worked for eight years in sub-Saharan Africa. She conducted research on helminth infections in South-Africa and Zambia, and worked for three years on a 100 000 ha cattle Ranch in Gabon, where besides cattle and wildlife management, she was responsible for the human resource, administrative, financial, education and medical departments. From 2008-2016 she conducted research on helmint zoonoses at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium. Since October 2016 she is appointed at Ghent University, where she is involved in education in veterinary public health and food safety, and conducts research on foodborne parasitic zoonoses.

Additional Information and links:

MSc thesis: every year subjects will be presented for students to participate in ongoing projects of the lab (summaries will be given in Dutch below).
This year:
- Cystistop: eliminatie versus controle van Taenia solium in Zambia: Dit onderwerp omvat een buitenlandse onderzoeksstage. De varkenslintworm is verantwoordelijk voor meer dan de helft van de gevallen van verworven epilepsie bij mensen in endemische gebieden in het oosten van Zambia. In het kader van het SOLID onderzoeksproject, wordt een sneltest voor de detectie van humane cysticercose en taeniose geëvalueerd. De student neemt deel aan de onderzoeksactiviteiten van het project. Dit omvat terrein werk, labo analyses en data verwerking.

PhD opportunities: possible, but need for funding

Interesting links:
www.cystinet.org
http://soliumdx.ugent.be

bestudeert de literatuur betreft controle opties voor T. solium, neemt vervolgens deel aan een opvolging van de studie op het terrein, en neemt een deel van de analyses (labo en data) op zich.

- Boviene cysticercose in Ethiopië: Dit onderwerp omvat een buitenlandse onderzoeksstage. Taenia saginata heeft een hoge prevalentie in Ethiopië. In dit project worden studies uitgevoerd naar het overleven van parasieten in de omgeving, naar de Taenia spp die infecties in runderen veroorzaken, alsook naar de economische impact. De student neemt deel aan de onderzoeksactiviteiten in het project.

- Diagnostische test voor T. solium cysticercose en taeniose in Zambia: Dit onderwerp omvat een buitenlandse onderzoeksstage. De varkenslintworm is verantwoordelijk voor meer dan de helft van de gevallen van verworven epilepsie bij mensen in endemische gebieden in het oosten van Zambia. In het kader van het SOLID onderzoeksproject, wordt een sneltest voor de detectie van humane cysticercose en taeniose geëvalueerd. De student neemt deel aan de onderzoeksactiviteiten van het project. Dit omvat terrein werk, labo analyses en data verwerking.
The Belgian Wildlife Disease Society:

The creation of the Belgian Wildlife Disease Society (BWDS) originated on the one hand from the perception of a lack of collaboration between workers in the field of wildlife diseases and on the other hand from a demand of the OIE for information concerning the follow up of wildlife diseases in Belgium. At the beginning of 2004 some informal talks between Paul Tavernier (Ghent University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine), Paul Heyman (Reference Centre for Hantaviruses and Research Laboratory for Vector-Borne Diseases, Queen Astrid Military Hospital, Belgian Army) and Stefan Roels (Operational Direction). Interactions and Surveillance, CODA/CERVA/VAR) resulted in creation of a working group for the study and monitoring of wildlife diseases in Belgium. Very soon the enthusiasm of this team was reinforced by others from the CODA/CERVA, the Belgian Armed Forces, the University of Liege, the Institute of Tropical Medicine, the Research Institute for Nature and Forest and the Nature Department of the Flemish Community.

The BWDS board is composed of five people who communicate intensively with each other, in order to deal with all aspects of the functioning of the BWDS. The current board members are Paul Heyman (president), Stefan Roels and Paul Tavernier (vice-presidents), Leen Claes (secretary), Kristof Baert (website). Membership of the BWDS is granted automatically for two years for those having participated to the most recent BWDS Symposium.

As well at the national as at the international level the BWDS is interwoven in a vast network of institutions and organisations active in wildlife disease related matters, and with which regular interactions are maintained. Most of the Belgian institutions and organisations with an interest in wildlife diseases have one or more representatives in the BWDS general assembly.

Since 2003 the BWDS organizes two -open to all interested parties- study days on various wildlife related topics. The BWDS organises these days in collaboration with a designated partner, in the partner’s headquarters. These bi-annual study days are accredited by the Belgian Veterinary Order and consist of three or four presentations followed by a lunch break offered by BWDS. The afternoon session is devoted to a visit of the host’s installations and in-depth discussions with specialists on site. Reports concerning the past study days can be found further on the website. Every two years a BWDS Symposium on a specific topic is organized. BWDS invites a number of foreign specialists to open the topic to an -at least- European level. Moreover, posters covering topics related to wildlife health can be presented. More information about the symposia can be found further on the website.

Anyway, everybody is invited to become a member (by registration for the symposium) and joining the board (if interested).

Additional information and links:

www.bwds.be
Session:

Trade-off between wildlife conservation and human well-being @ Home and abroad
14 Dec 14h00-15h30

Title:
Master of Science in Tropical Animal Health (MSTAH), a combined web-based and face-to-face master course organised jointly by the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp and the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Prof. dr. Pierre Dorny, DVM, Dipl. EVPC
Pierre.Dorny@ugent.be

Affiliations:
1. Department of Biomedical sciences, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium
2. Department of Virology, Parasitology and Immunology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Belgium

Professional career:

Prof. dr. Pierre Dorny holds a Degree in Veterinary Medicine (1980) and a PhD (1990) from Ghent University (UGhent), Belgium, and a postgraduate diploma (1981) on tropical animal health and production at the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Antwerp. He became a diplomate of the European Veterinary Parasitology College (EVPC) in 2003.

After working one year in private practice he worked as a research assistant in the laboratory of Parasitology at the faculty of Veterinary Medicine, UGhent from 1983-1990 under the supervision of Prof Jozef Vercruysse. His PhD research was on the diagnosis and control of gastrointestinal nematodes on dairy cattle farms in Belgium.

In 1990, he moved to Asia where he worked in a university collaboration research project in Malaysia on the control of nematodes in small ruminants and in a USAID project on sheep production in Sumatra, Indonesia.

He returned to Belgium at the end of 1994 where he continued research on animal and zoonotic parasites at the ITM and UGhent. In 2000, he was appointed as a lecturer in veterinary helminthology at the ITM and as a guest professor (20%) of tropical veterinary medicine at UGhent. He was the chairman of the Department of Animal Health, ITM from 2003-2011. He was appointed full professor at ITM in 2008.

Besides his teaching assignments in veterinary helminthology and tropical veterinary medicine and zoonotic diseases at ITM and UGhent, he is the head of a laboratory that conducts research on helminth zoonoses and helminth control in which several post-doc and PhD students work. His laboratory is the National Reference Centre for diagnosis of trichinellosis and other parasite zoonoses. He has obtained several research grants from National and International Funding Agencies for collaborative studies on parasitic zoonoses in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Currently he is the (co-) author of 277 research papers in international journals. Twenty-three of his PhD students successfully defended their thesis and 9 PhD students are currently doing research under his supervision.

Abstract:

Introduction: The MSTAH is offered as a 2-year blended programme (combined web-based and face-to-face) in collaboration with the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases of the University of Pretoria, South-Africa (UP).
The programme is designed to allow participants to combine work and study.

Content: Following an integrated One Health approach, the programme focuses on the relationships between infectious and parasitic diseases of animals and humans (zoonoses), diseases and ecosystem health in order to improve disease control strategies, ecosystem sustainability, food security and rural development. It supports the building of capacity to meet the challenges to the health of people, livestock and wildlife at such interfaces and at the same time building capacity that can influence the policy process to increase recognition and realization of the One Health concept when dealing with livestock, human and wildlife diseases in the tropics. The course study load is equivalent to 60 ECTS.

Audience: the MSTAH primarily aims to address an international audience:
- Involved in tropical livestock and wildlife health, management and production in support of rural development.
- Wishing to integrate the impact of the diseases and control activities on the local ecosystems in order to increase knowledge and effectiveness of control strategies.

Additional Information and links:

Programme director: Pierre Dorny
Coordinator: Mieke Stevens
Secretary: Nadia Ehlinger
MSTAH@itg.be
Tel: +32 (0)3 247 63 52
Information on https://edu.itg.be/Course/Detail/14?typeId=1

Please consult the poster by Prof. dr. Dorny at the poster session.
Session:

Trade-off between wildlife conservation and human well-being @ Home and abroad
14 Dec 14h00-15h30

Title:
Before it’s too late: a last attempt to Elephant Conservation in Vietnam.

Dr. Willem Schaftenaar, DVM, MSc
w.schaftenaar@rotterdamzoo.nl
Schaftenaar.Heij@gmail.com

Afiliations:
1. Vietnam Elephant Initiative

Professional career:

Dr. Willem Schaftenaar graduated in 1978 from the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. He has 39 years of experience as a general veterinary clinician, including 29 years zoological medicine. He acted 20 years as veterinary advisor to the European Elephant Taxon Advisory Group and Komodo dragons. Furthermore he (Co)authored 31 peer-reviewed scientific papers and 40 conference proceedings. He also (Co)authored the TB-guideline for captive elephants in Europe, Reproduction guideline for elephants, EEEHV-monitoring guideline for elephants and reproduction monitoring guideline for Komodo dragons.

Willem presentet at over 40 international conferences in Europe, the U.S. and Asia and organized and hosted 4 International conferences and numerous national veterinary conferences. Willem functioned 26 years as the head of the veterinary department of the Rotterdam Zoo in the Netherlands. Nowadays Willem is still active as a consulting vet and back-up veterinarian at Rotterdam zoo. He is also very active within a small group of 4 volunteer elephant specialists, being a member of the “Vietnam Elephant Initiative”, that has been created for coaching an elephant conservation program in Vietnam.

Abstract:

The number of wild elephants in Vietnam has dropped to below 100. Exact figures are unknown, because the Vietnamese wildlife organizations are not equipped for a reliable monitoring program. The majority of elephants are present in Dak Lak province, where the ethnic minority has a long history of capturing and taming of wild elephants. During the past 35 years, no breeding has taken place in the captive elephants that nowadays are used for intensive tourist rides. In the absence of reproduction, the cultural element of keeping elephants as part of the family will end within the next 20 years. The Vietnamese government has founded the Dak Lak Elephant Conservation Centre (DECC) with the aim to support the mahouts by providing veterinary care for their elephants, to discourage tourist elephant rides and to protect the remaining wild elephant population. Since 2015 the “Vietnam Elephant Initiative” (VEI) is providing professional support to the DECC to care for 2 orphan elephants and to set up a veterinary care program for the privately-owned elephants. By a progesterone-monitoring program the mahouts are advised for the best timing for breeding their elephants. At the same time the VEI is negotiating with the local stakeholders (including DECC, mahouts, WWF-Vietnam) to establish 2 elephant breeding centres for the 8 remaining potential breeders in order to save the genetic pool. The final aim is to form small family-based herds that can be released into the Yok Don National park on the long term (>25 years from now).

Additional Information and links:

Several websites:
www.eehvinfo.org
www.EAZWV.org
https://www.vietnamelephantinitiative.org/
Session:

International plenary talk – Conservation of the giants 14 Dec 16h00-17h00

Title:
Saving Africa’s giants – a veterinarian’s role.

Dr. Jacques Henry O’Dell, DVM, MMedVet
jacques.odell@up.ac.za

Affiliations:
1. Department of Production Animal Studies, Wildlife Section, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort, South Africa.

Professional career:

Dr. Jacques Henry O’Dell obtained his BSc in 2005 and qualified as veterinarian with BVSc in 2009. He spent one year in the South African National Defence Force as a wildlife veterinary officer at the Military Veterinary Institute. He spent two years in mixed rural practice, Potchefstroom. He started as a wildlife clinical assistant at the University of Pretoria in 2013 working under wildlife veterinarian and conservationist, Dr. Michael Kock. He obtained MMedVet (wildlife diseases) degree, cum laude, in 2016. Currently Jacques is employed as a specialist wildlife veterinarian and lecturer at the University of Pretoria, Department of Production Animal Studies where main responsibilities include rendering a specialist referral wildlife service and training undergraduate students in wildlife capture, diseases and conservation. His areas of interest include wildlife diseases and conservation. Current research areas and conservation projects include:

- Brucella melitensis in sable antelope
- Rhino dehorning as a poaching risk reduction strategy
- Elephant translocation projects

Abstract:

Africa is home to a plethora of wildlife including megaherbivores (elephant, rhinoceros and hippopotamus). Megaherbivore numbers across the continent are decreasing at an alarming rate due to habitat loss, poaching, human conflict and diseases. The growing human population in Africa, many of which suffer from extreme poverty, is a direct threat to the megaherbivores. The wildlife veterinarian may play an integral role in conserving the megaherbivores for future generations, but in order to do so, must adopt a holistic (one-health) approach. The veterinarian must remember that human health and wellbeing affects the megaherbivores (and vice versa). Megaherbivores in turn have a huge impact on the environment, positive or negative, and this in turn will again affect human livelihoods. The livelihoods of communities living in proximity to the megaherbivores needs to be addressed and these communities need to benefit from wildlife if we are to ensure the long-term survival of the megaherbivores. Apart from the human aspect of megaherbivore conservation, wildlife veterinarians have a direct role to play in saving Africa’s giants. The Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, is actively involved in several
field programs and research areas involving the conservation of megaherbivores; treatment of clinical cases such as snare wounds and facial injuries in poaching survivors, fitment of radio/satellite collars for ecology studies, assisted reproductive technologies and contraception programs, studies on immobilization drugs, capture complication and translocation stress, and looking at risk reduction strategies like rhino dehorning etc. This research is vital in order for wildlife veterinarians to make better decisions relating to the health and welfare of the megaherbivores in order to ensure their long-term survival.

Additional Information and Links:
The Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, has a strong focus on wildlife training and research. The Faculty recently launched its new “wildlife strategy” which further strengthens the focus on wildlife training and research. With the increase in habitat loss and poaching, there is an ever-increasing need for safe and effective methods to immobilize and translocate megaherbivores. Rhinoceros, elephant and hippo all have their unique challenges when immobilized, transported, and released in a new environment. Onderstepoort is involved in some of the leading fieldwork and research on megaherbivores. Several opportunities exist for international students to get involved with megaherbivores and wildlife in general including undergraduate training, post graduate training and research, capture courses etc.

Undergraduate training (exchange program)
Students are able to enrol for practical training at the Onderstepoort where wildlife and one-health training takes place. The option also exists for students to enrol for 2 weeks of wildlife lectures during August each year.

Postgraduate training and research
1) Course based Master degrees include MMedVet (wildlife diseases) or MSc Wildlife Health, Ecology and Management
2) Several leading researchers are involved with wildlife and megaherbivore research including (but not limited to):
   - Elephant contraception program (Veterinary Population Management Laboratory)
   - Behavioural endocrinology (Endocrine Research Laboratory)
   - Elephant translocation studies
   - Rhino immobilization and capture complications studies
   - Orphan rhino rehabilitation studies

Rhino dehorning program (Wildlife diseases, pathology and forensics)

Capture courses
The Advanced Capture course hosted by Ondersteoport and SANParks is an excellent opportunity for those who already have some wildlife capture experience to expand their knowledge.

For more information on wildlife opportunities please visit: http://www.up.ac.za/en/veterinary-wildlife

Additionally, have a look on the posters
Dr. Jacques O’dell has been preparing for the poster session.
Session:

Wildlife conservation stories: research and clinical efforts  
14 Dec 17h45-19h30

Title:  
From a UGhent Student to a Wildlife Vet in South Africa.

Nele Sabbe, DVM  
vet.nele@gmail.com

Affiliations:  
1. Artemis Veterinary Services, South Africa.

Professional career:

Nele Sabbe graduated in 2011 as a DVM from Ghent University, Belgium. In her final year she already took a short course in wildlife management presented by Ecolife Expeditions and hosted by the University of Pretoria. Straight after her graduation she succeeded and registered as a South African (SA) veterinarian with the SAVC after passing the boards exam. The first 6 months of her stay in SA she volunteered with several places, like Thaba Manzi Veterinary Services, Bela Bela (wildlife), Brits Dierenkliniek, Brits (mixed practice) and the National Zoological Gardens of South Africa. From 2012-2014 she worked as a wildlife veterinarian for Thaba Manzi Veterinary Services, Bela Bela (wildlife) and since July 2014 she is the proud owner of Artemis Veterinary Services (wildlife).

Being a wildlife veterinarian her main focus and interests are: (i) treatment of sick/wounded animals, (ii) management support at farms: advice, disease prevention/control, (iii) assistance with breeding programs, (iv) Game capture and translocation, (v) Export: capture of selected animals, testing of the animals and providing the required treatments, health certificates, quarantine facilities, export (translocation) of the animals, (vi) Rhino conservation

Additional Information and links:

Nele selects once a year a student to do an internship, candidates can contact her. Because of the circumstances (no fixed hours, no guarantee on working hours per day and week, the fact that there is no public transport and almost no possibilities to go somewhere by themselves,...), she is very selective about the student. As she’s spending almost 24/7 together with the student, she must be sure the student is 100% motivated and flexible for the total different situations compared to Belgium. She strongly prefers to take only one student at the time as two students together lose focus on the job. Accommodation and food is provided at a fixed rate per day.

Interesting links:

- Ecolife Expeditions: http://www.ecolife.co.za/index.html
- My practice fb-page: https://www.facebook.com/ArtemisVeterinaryServices/

Please consult the potential poster by Nele Sabbe at our poster session.
Session:

Wildlife conservation stories: research and clinical efforts
14 Dec 17h45-19h30

Title:
Reproductive management and ART in large mammal species.

Dr. Imke Lüders, DVM, Dipl. ECZM (ZHM)
imke.lueders@geolifes.com

Professional career:

Dr. Imke Lüders graduated from the Veterinary Faculty of the Free University of Berlin (Germany) in 2005. In 2006, she started working at the Leibniz Institute of Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) in Berlin in the department of Reproduction Management. Here she carried out her doctoral thesis entitled “Ultrasonographic and endocrine characterization of the ovarian activity during the pregnancy and the oestrous cycle in elephants” under supervision of Dr. Thomas Hildebrandt. During her employment at the IZW until 2010, Imke gained advanced experience in the field of wild animal reproduction, emphasizing on endocrinology and ultrasonography. Besides the regular work together with Dr. Hildebrandt, extended stays in Canada, Japan, Thailand and South Africa gave her the opportunity to work with wild animal and endocrine specialists around the world, performing ultrasound diagnostics, semen collections, artificial inseminations and endocrine analysis in various species.

In 2010 Imke deputized temporarily the zoo veterinarian position at the Wuppertal Zoological Gardens in Germany. Seeing the need of more expert services around animal breeding and assisted reproduction technologies as well as in the support of conservation projects for endangered wildlife, in 2011 Imke started her freelance and founded GEOlifes. She is also co-founder of Pro Fetura, the alliance for wildlife conservation breeding. Imke passed the German special qualification exam on zoo- and wildlife medicine in April 2014. In 2017, she became a diplomate of the European College of Zoo Health Medicine. Furthermore, Imke is related to the University of Hannover, Germany as a research associate and to Onderstepoort veterinary university, Pretoria, South Africa as a postdoctoral researcher.

Affiliations:
1. GEOlifes-Animal Fertility and Reproductive Research, Hamburg, Germany

Additional information and links:

www.geolifes.com
www.profetura.com

Pay attention to the posters demonstrated by Dr. Imke Lüders @ the poster session.
Session:

Wildlife conservation stories: research and clinical efforts
14 Dec 17h45-19h30

Title:
Applied Marine Mammal Research.

Drs. Anja Reckendorf, DVM
anja.reckendorf@tiho-hannover.de

Affiliations:
1. Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research (ITAW)
   University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation

Professional career:

Drs. Anja Reckendorf Studied veterinary medicine and graduated in 2014 from the Free University of Berlin, Germany. In 2013, she did an externship with the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW), Department of Reproduction Management, Berlin. After working as a small animal veterinarian for several months in 2015 she started in 2015 as a veterinarian and research assistant at the ITAW in Büsum. Since September 2016, Anja is now also a PhD Candidate at the HGNI Graduate School of the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Foundation, and Eczm Resident in Wildlife Population Health at the Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research (ITAW) in Büsum.

Anja gained broad practical experience during her studies and afterwards in places all over the world. She took internships and externships at places like

- Whale and Dolphin Conservation - North America, Plymouth, MA – USA
- The Cape Wildlife Centre, Barnstable, MA – USA
- The sea turtle station “Estación Las Tortugas”, Costa Rica
- The Marine Mammal Center, Sausalito, CA – USA
- The New England Aquarium’s Veterinary Externship, Boston, MA – USA
- The New England Wildlife Center, Weymouth, MA – USA
- The National Marine Life Center, Buzzards Bay, MA – USA
- The turtle rehabilitation center at the New England Aquarium, Boston, MA – USA,
- The EcoWildVet - EcoSystemHealth Summer School, Sokoine University for Agriculture, Tanzania

Her current research interests and focus are on investigations of causes of pheasant and partridge population decline in Schleswig-Holstein, investigations of infectious diseases and zoonoses of predators in Schleswig-Holstein, post mortem monitoring of stranded marine mammals, wild population health monitoring of marine mammals and wildlife Parasitology.

Abstract:

Marine mammals are amongst some of the most loved creatures on Earth. As top predators in the World’s Oceans, marine mammals often maintain a balanced ecosystem which allows them to function as indicators of ecosystem health or status. Marine mammal research aims at understanding human impact on the ecosystem and populations, as well as individuals. Furthermore, it tries to generate awareness of the impact of litter and noise pollution and the effect they have on the marine environment. Huge
numbers of marine life die from entanglement in or ingesting litter, noise pollution can alter communication, navigation and foraging behaviours and even lead to fatal injuries.

Alongside the growing challenges of human impact on marine mammals, there has been an increase in technological and scientific development to aid in research. This presentation will give an overview of the most relevant threats to marine mammals and some of the most up-to-date research methods available, using examples of applied marine mammal research in Germany and worldwide.

**Additional information and links:**

*Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research (ITAW)*


The Institute offers unique educational opportunities in the field of wildlife research for PhD programs and doctoral, master and bachelor theses in the specialties of veterinary medicine, biology, landscape conservation and forestry. Lectures and internships in marine mammal research and medicine to vet students as well as in wildlife biology to students matriculated in biology programs.

It is the ITAW’s particular research areas that makes it unique in the field of marine mammal studies in Germany and in certain areas throughout Europe and the world.

The ITAW is the first facility in Germany accredited by the European College of Zoological Medicine to offer a Residency in wildlife population health (2 Resident positions, currently both taken).

Freiwilliges Jahr in der Wissenschaft – for German speaking students to get insight into research, usually from High school/pre-continuous education (under 27 years) 1 year paid position, 400 € per month

https://www mh-hannover.de/26263.html

A poster by Drs. Anja Reckendorf will be available at the poster session.
Session:

Wildlife conservation stories: research and clinical efforts
14 Dec 17h45-19h30

Title: Translocation stress in wildlife.

Drs. Friederike Pohlin, DVM
friederike.pohlin@gmail.com

Affiliations:
1. Department of Paraclinical Sciences, Pharmacology, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Professional career:
Drs. Friederike Pohlin (Fidu) holds a veterinary degree from the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, and a master's degree in Wildlife Ecology and Wildlife Management from BOKU Wien. While joining the MSc programme, she gained veterinary experience by completing a wildlife veterinary internship in Belize, and working in equine- and small animal practice. In 2017, she enrolled in the PhD programme at the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Her interests include anaesthesiology and the causes and consequences of stress in wildlife. In her research project, she investigates pathophysiological changes and the pharmacological management of stress in transported rhinos.

Additional information and links:
Together with a group of students, Fidu started a Southern Africa Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter, creating a platform in which to engage, inspire and educate students interested in African wildlife. Please follow the link for more information and on how to join: https://wdaamesc.wixsite.com/southafricaup.
Session:
Research and clinical efforts @ Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
15 Dec 14h00-15h30

Title:
Iron overload disease and other man-made diseases in zoos: can we fix it with nutrition?

Prof. dr. Geert Janssens
Geert.Janssens@UGent.be

Affiliations:
1. Department of Nutrition, Genetics and Ethology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University

Professional career:
Prof. dr. Geert Janssens is professor in animal nutrition at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Ghent University. Through studies in comparative nutritional physiology, he tries to unravel general laws in nutrition across the animal kingdom. These insights are then used to solve metabolic problems in zoo species and in the wild. Examples are the implication of animal fibre in gastrointestinal disease in cheetahs and other carnivores, macronutrient disbalances in parrots, micromineral status in ornamental fish and basic nutrition of amphibians.

Additional Information and links:

Potential opportunities:
Every year, several students do their thesis on zoo- or wildlife-related topics in nutrition. For instance, this year, people are working on vitamin D in primates, mercury pollution in amphibians, digestion in vultures, fibre evaluation in carnivorous diets, ... Motivated students are free to ask for available topics, or are welcome to talk about PhD options in the field of comparative and wildlife/zoo-related nutrition.

Interesting links:

- European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA):
  www.eaza.net (the Nutrition pages are currently being updated)
- European Society of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition: www.esvcn.eu
- Comparative Nutrition Society (www.cnsweb.org)

Several posters can be consulted, made available by the group of Prof. dr. Janssens, at the poster session.
Session:

Research and clinical efforts @ Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
15 Dec 14h00-15h30

Title:
Sexually selected infanticide in brown bears.

Prof. Dr. Andreas Zedrosser
andreas.zedrosser@usn.no

Affiliations:
1. Department of Natural Sciences and Environmental Health, University College of Southeast Norway, Norway
2. Institute for Wildlife Biology and Game Management, University for Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna

Professional career:

Prof. dr. Andreas Zedrosser graduated in 2000 at the University of Vienna (MSc Wildlife biology and wildlife management) and started his PhD at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Department of Ecology and Natural Resource Management in 2003, while also still affiliated with the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Institute of Wildlife Biology and Game management (the latter until present). During this period, he carried out research and developed funding proposals in cooperation with the Scandinavian Brown Bear Research Project. From 2003 until 2006 he continued his PhD research on the life history of the Scandinavian brown bears. From 2006 until 2010, he started his postdoc career at both mentioned institutes and from 2012 until present he joined Telemark University College (meanwhile merged into the University College of Southeast Norway) as Associate professor at the faculty of Arts and Science.

His research is mainly focused on conservation biology in several species such as the brown bear and the Eurasian beaver.

Additional Information and links:

www.usn.no/lebe/lebe-article187067-29155.html
www.bearproject.info
Session:
Research and clinical efforts @ Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
15 Dec 14h00-15h30

Title:
Food safety and Giant Pandas: where’s the match.

Dr. Jella Wauters, DVM
Jella.Wauters@ugent.be

Affiliations:
1. Department of Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety, Ghent University, Merelbeke, Belgium
2. Pairi Daiza Foundation, Pairi Daiza, Brugelette, Belgium

Professional career:
Dr. Jella Wauters graduated in 2007 at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University as a veterinarian with focus on horses. Immediately after graduation, she joined the Department of Pharmacology, Toxocology and Biochemistry (Prof. Dr. Evelyne Meyer) and pursued the identification of diagnostic biomarkers for infectious arthritis in horses, a PhD research performed in close collaboration with the Department of Surgery and Anaesthesiology of Domestic Animals (Prof. Dr. Ann Martens, Prof. Dr. Frederik Pille and Prof. Dr. Frank Gasthuys).

After obtaining her PhD (June 2012), she changed her research focus to Veterinary Public Health and started her postdoctoral career at the research group of Prof. Dr. Lynn Vanhaecke (Department of Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety, Laboratory of Chemical Analysis) (early 2013). Initially her research focus was related to hormone residue monitoring (thyreostats in cattle) and boar taint (in intact male pigs), but she turned out to be a versatile researcher for many other projects related to food safety. In 2014, she got involved in the endocrine reproductive monitoring of Hao Hao, Pairi Daiza's female Giant Panda, after a meeting with Tim Bouts, visiting the Department of Obstetrics, Reproduction and Herd Health. Since then Giant Panda reproductive monitoring and related research has been a true passion for her leading to great journeys all over the world.

Since two years, Dr. Jella Wauters is combining her research focusing on Veterinary Public Health aspects (Food Safety and Quality) with an educational assignment (coordinator of practical sessions). In parallel, she has been dedicated in optimizing the conventional reproductive monitoring in Giant Pandas as well as establishing an International collaboration on Giant Panda conservation research, leading to a research project outline, financially supported by Pairi Daiza Foundation.

Abstract:
While performing the endocrine reproductive monitoring of Hao Hao, and shortly after also of Huan Huan (Female Giant Panda of Zooparc de Beauval, France), and by being closely involved in the interpretation of data of Tian Tian (Female Giant Panda of RZSS-Edinburgh Zoo), it became obvious, from the early start, that the Giant Panda’s reproductive cycle is not only very peculiar, but also, that so many related features still need to be unravelled. Even after 40 years of research and efforts, captive breeding in the Giant
Panda remains challenging. Giant Pandas have a very narrow window of fertility which isn’t always easy to identify accurately. Confirmation of conception is additionally compromised by the lack of highly specific and sensitive biomarkers. Diagnosis of true pregnancy (with implantation of the embryo) is furthermore complicated by embryonal diapause with delayed implantation and the occurrence of pseudopregnancy. Additionally, foetal loss is suspected, but cannot be identified, in a substantial fraction of bred, but non-birth females.

In our laboratory, our core business is ‘metabolomics’. This technique, generally based on ultra-high performance liquid chromatography (UHPLC) - high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS), can map all metabolites available in a sample, therefore able to profile a sample’s (or animal’s) condition (e.g. reproductive status, health status, nutritional status,…). The technique is - amongst others - widely explored for diagnostic purposes as well as for follow up of treatment, in many diseases. In our laboratory, metabolomics is being applied for unravelling pathophysiological conditions, diseases and related pathways such as colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, diabetes and allergies.

It was an obvious choice to merge our available analytical techniques and expertise in metabolomics with Giant Panda (and other Wildlife) conservation research, e.g. for the unravelling of the reproductive biology. Therefore, we are currently exploring the metabolic urinary and faecal profiles in non-bred, successfully bred and non-successfully bred Giant Pandas.

This research will be performed in an international context including 5 main partners (China Conservation and Research Centre for the Giant Panda (CCRCGP), Pairi Daiza Foundation-Pairi Daiza, RZSS-Edinburgh Zoo, Edinburgh University and Ghent University) and is financially supported by Pairi Daiza Foundation.

**Additional information and links:**

Student are welcome to apply for a master thesis (or PhD) subject related to wildlife metabolomics.

Jella is member of the International Society of Wildlife Endocrinology (ISWE; [www.iswe-endo.org](http://www.iswe-endo.org)). This Society is supported by one of the major sponsors of this symposium (Arbor Assays) and together they facilitate and promote stronger collaborations among wildlife endocrinologists. They help advance the use of non-invasive and minimally invasive sampling technologies and assist in standardizing endocrine methods for national and international wildlife studies. ISWE also acts as a forum for information exchange among wildlife and zoo researchers, and provides advice to associations and organisations interested in the monitoring and optimizing animal welfare, health and reproductive function. Frequently, vacancies, for related clinical and research studies (e.g. PhDs in wildlife endocrinology) are advertised through their website and network.

Check out the related posters introduced by Dr. Wauters during the poster sessions. Additionally, discover the poster of Giulia Ciminelli, who performed research on Huan Huan at Zooparc de Beauval. Zooparc de Beauval is offering internships and training for veterinary students/graduates. However, applicants should speak fluently French to apply for the internship and preferentially as well for any trainings. Their training program is very popular and is fully booked until 2020. However, students with an extreme interest and a convincing motivation can send an email to Baptiste Mulot ([baptiste.mulot@zoobeauval.com](mailto:baptiste.mulot@zoobeauval.com)), who is the head veterinarian at ZoorParc de Beauval ([www.zoobeauval.com](http://www.zoobeauval.com)).
Session:

Research and clinical efforts @ Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
15 Dec 14h00-15h30

Title:
Nutrition as a key for conservation efforts.

Drs. Andrea Brenes Soto
Andrea.Brenessoto@ugent.be

Affiliations:
1. Department Nutrition, Genetics and Ethology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Ghent University, Belgium

Professional career:

Drs. Andrea Brenes Soto graduated in 1998 at the University of Costa Rica as an agronomic engineer with emphasis on Animal Science. Immediately after, she started a career as animal nutritionist and coordinator at Simón Bolívar Zoo’s Farm, San José, Costa Rica. During 2008-2015 she was lecturer and researcher at the University of Costa Rica and head of the department of Pet, Wild and Zoo Animal Nutrition and Management. In 2011, she finished a postgraduate program at the same University with focus on Animal Nutrition, specialization captive wild animals. She was also advisor in animal nutrition for the Simón Bolívar Zoo and Santa Ana Conservation Centre during her career at the University of Costa Rica. She is also member of several organizations including the Nutrition Advisory Group of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (NAG AZA), the Mesoamerican and Caribbean Association of Zoos and Aquarium (AMACZOOA), and the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) – International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)- Mesoamerican Region.

Her research has been focusing on several species such as rabbits, pacas, green and scarlet macaws, white tailed deers, frogs and arthropods and she has been participating in many international conferences with her research summarized in several publications.

Additional information and links:

Please consult the posters introducing some of Drs. Andrea Brenes Soto’s research projects.
Session I:

Research and clinical efforts
@Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
15 Dec 14h00-15h30

Title:
EEHV, the biggest killer of Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) calves.

Drs. Tim Bouts, DVM, Dipl. ECZM
(Zoo Health Management)
Tim.Bouts@pairidaiza.eu

Affiliations:
1. Zoological director and chief veterinarian, Pairi Daiza, Brugelette, Belgium
2. Academic consultant, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Belgium

Session II:

Conservation efforts @zoo and related Institutes
15 Dec 17h40-19h00

Title:
Saving the rarest parrot in the world, the story of the Spix’s macax (*Cyanopsitta spixii*).

Professional career:

Drs. Tim Bouts graduated from Ghent University, Belgium in 2000 and started working at the Faculty at the department of Surgery and Anaesthesiology of large animals. Afterwards he completed an MSc in Wild Animal Health at the Royal Veterinary College in London and ZSL London Zoo in 2002. He returned back to Ghent to work as an assistant in anaesthesia of large animals and he developed a new anaesthetic table for Koi carps. He moved to South-West England to work at a referral centre for exotic pets in Newquay. He was the attending veterinarian for Newquay Zoo, The Cornish Bird of Prey Centre and Blue Reef Aquarium. Afterwards he moved to the United Arab Emirates to become the Head of the Veterinary Department of the animal collection of the president (Management of Nature Conservation). He was also the chief vet of Al Bustan zoo. Next, he moved to ZSL Whipsnade Zoo as the sole clinician where he perfected his anaesthesia skills in large herbivores and performed research in elephant medicine including elephant endothenitropic herpes virus (EEHV). Afterwards he worked as the Director and chief veterinarian of Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation in Qatar and was actively involved spix’s macaw conservation. Currently he is the zoological director and chief veterinarian of Pairi Daiza, the biggest zoo in Belgium. His research priorities are EEHV in elephants, as Tim is the EEHV advisor to the elephant TAG, and anaesthesia and standing sedation of mega herbivores.

Additional information and links:

http://pairidaiza.eu/en
http://www.pairidaiza-foundation.org/nl
Session:

International plenary talk – Giant Panda conservation
15 Dec 16h00-17h00

Title:
Beyond the Giant Panda: zoo based research – it’s not all black and white.

Dr. Iain Valentine, Director of Giant Panda Programme and Senior Policy Advisor ivalentine@rzss.org.uk

Affiliations:
1. Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Edinburgh Zoo, Scotland, UK

Professional career:

Dr. Iain Valentine is Director of the Giant Panda Programme and Senior Policy Advisor for the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, based at Edinburgh Zoo. Before taking on this role Iain was responsible for the animal collections, animal welfare, management, enrichment & presentation activities, at both Edinburgh Zoo and Highland Wildlife Park, all of the educational and ex situ and in situ research & conservation projects work and staff within RZSS.

Iain’s understanding of the zoo world and conservation world and his interest in developing the capacity-building potential of zoos has been built up over a thirty-year period where he has always held senior management and director roles in various organisations since graduating from University where he did a degree in Biological Sciences. He also lived and worked in South America for a time where he helped run and develop an Ecuadorian ecotourism company.

Iain initiated the Giant Panda project at RZSS in 2006 and has given numerous talks and interviews about Pandas/China and his experiences. The Giant Panda Programme is a key programme of RZSS and involves numerous researchers and projects based both here in the UK and abroad.

He is a Chartered Biologist, Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology and a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London.

Additional Information and links:

Updates on past, recent and future conservation projects, in situ and ex situ, can be followed on the website of RZSS: http://www.rzss.org.uk/conservation/

On the page-bottom more information can be found on potential conservation inspired careers at RZSS (research, education, veterinary medicine, …) (http://www.rzss.org.uk/working-with-us/). More information on related specific topics can additionally be consulted:

- Veterinary education and training:
  http://www.rzss.org.uk/rzss-education/veterinary-training-education/
- Conservation and research medicine:
  http://www.rzss.org.uk/conservation/research/conservation-and-research-medicine/
- RZSS veterinary services:
  http://www.rzss.org.uk/our-collections/rzss-veterinary-services/
- Zoo animal nutrition:
  http://www.rzss.org.uk/conservation/research/nutrition/
Session:

Conservation efforts @ Zoo and related Institutes
15 Dec 17h40-19h00

Title:
Overview on combining clinical work and research opportunities in the Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp.

Dr. Francis Vercammen, DVM, Dipl. ECZM
Francis.Vercammen@kmda.org

Affiliations:
1. Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp

Professional career:

Francis Vercammen graduated at Ghent University in 1986 as doctor in veterinary medicine (DVM). From 1987 till 2001 he worked in a private veterinary practice for companion animals in Antwerp city and at the Veterinary Department in the Institute of Tropical Medicine of Antwerp (clinical and research work in import pathology, infectious diseases, laboratory and exotic animals). From 1998 till 2001 he was also part-time veterinarian in the Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp, where he became the head of the Veterinary Department in 2001.
Session:
Conservation efforts @zoo and related Institutes
15 Dec 17h40-19h00

Title:
The diagnostic potential of volatiles, steroids and polyamines in the Giant Panda (Ailuropoda melanoleuca).

Dr. Martin Dehnhard
DEHNHARD@izw-berlin.de

Professional career:
In 1981 Dr. Martin Dehnhard graduated as a biologist at the University of Hannover, Germany. Soon after, he started his PhD as scientific assistant at the Max-Planck-Institute for Experimental Endocrinology. During his postdoc career, he firstly joined the University of Hohenheim (Stuttgart) at the Institute for Animal Husbandry and Animal Breeding, Department of Animal Husbandry and Regulation Physiology where his main focus was directed towards pheromones. He also succeeded in the development of several analytical methods for pheromone analysis.
In 1997, he finally joined the Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) and became head of the endocrine lab. From this point, his main research topic concerned the development of non-invasive techniques for the monitoring of reproductive and adrenocortical activities in zoo and wildlife animals, with a special focus on carnivores (felids, ursids). He is also involved in teaching activities and travels around the world to share his knowledge and expertise.

Affiliations:
1. Leibniz Institute for Zoo & Wildlife Research (IZW), Germany

Additional Information and links:
IZW Berlin covers a wide spectrum of research consisting of five departments and a Junior Research Group:
Dept. of Evolutionary Ecology
Dept. of Evolutionary Genetics
Dept. of Wildlife Diseases
Dept. of Reproduction Biology
Dept. of Reproduction Management
Junior Research Group: Biodiversity and Biogeography of Southeast Asia
IZW frequently offer jobs/trainings on their website:
http://www.izw-berlin.de/jobs-training.html
Session:

Conservation efforts @zoo and related Institutes
15 Dec 17h40-19h00

Title:
The role of reproductive physiology for the conservation of endangered species.

Prof. Dr. Monique Paris
m.paris@ibream.org

Professional career:

Prof. Dr. Monique Paris is the co-founder and Director of the Institute for Breeding Rare and Endangered African Mammals (IBREAM). IBREAM’s mission and passion is to protect endangered African mammals from extinction. They share their commitment with other conservation groups who do excellent and essential work in conserving the habitats of these precious species. By aiming to save their target species, they assist in preserving the global biodiversity, and this is crucial for the long-term existence of the planet and its people. They represent a group of wildlife fanatics with a unique blend of expertise in conservation and reproductive biology, supported by an advisory board of internationally renowned scientists and conservationists. Their goal is to use their knowledge to first fully understand the reproductive biology of each endangered African mammalian species. They can then develop tools that enable them to control and assist the reproduction of these endangered species ensuring that their gene pools can be replenished and maintained until populations can support themselves naturally. Through their activities, they also set up local African educational programs and assist in capacity building, enriching the African people. More information can be found at: www.ibream.org. Their current work focus on the pygmy hippopotamus, the African wild dog, the African Rhinoceros species and the Ethiopian wolf.

Additional Information and links:

The organisation can often accommodate new Masters or PhD students in collaboration with our partner universities (currently including Wageningen University, the Netherlands and James Cook University, Australia).

Check out the posters brought by Prof. Dr. Monique Paris during our poster session and breaks.
Additional students’ info

Internationalisation Department Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Dear student,

The University of Ghent and so the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine stimulates and supports students to gain experience abroad during their studies. Several programmes have been established throughout the years, from ready-to-use options to individual organized exchanges. There are several options for funding these international experiences.

For more details check the website:

https://www.ugent.be/di/nl/voor-studenten/internationalisering

Or contact our International relations officer directly on:

Pieter Pauwels
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Ghent University
Salisburylaan 133
9820 Merelbeke, B-9000 Ghent, Belgium
+32 9 264 77 72
internatvetmed@ugent.be

IVSA international

The International Veterinary Students’ Association (IVSA) is a not-for-profit organization run by volunteer veterinary students that was founded in 1953.

The mission of IVSA is “To benefit the animals and people of the world by harnessing the potential and dedication of veterinary students to promote the international application of veterinary skills, education and knowledge.” IVSA helps to expand the worldwide collaboration of over thirty thousand students, enriching their student experience and improving their skills as future veterinarians. The way in which this is achieved is by arranging annual meetings (congresses and symposia), facilitating exchanges between their members and many projects and educational opportunities focusing on animal welfare, one health, education, soft skills and wellness.

More info about IVSA International and the different projects they support or the events they are organizing, check their website at:

http://www.ivsa.org/

The Ghent chapter of IVSA can be contacted through the IVSA exchange officer in Ghent: Stefanie De Mey: ivsaggent.vdk@ugent.be

Or check their Facebook page IVSA Ghent Belgium:

https://www.facebook.com/IVSA-Ghent-Belgium-376790832450793/
Additional students’ info

Veterinary Student association for Development and Wildlife

Veterinary
Student association for
Development and
Wildlife

Waar focussen wij ons op?
- Diergeneeskunde in derde wereld landen
- Diergeneeskunde met oog op wildlife
- Lezingen en praktijk ervaring
- Naar buitenland tijdens het semester?!

Informatie platform
- Extern/internships/Masterproef in Africa
- Stages en ontwikkelingswerk
- Breed internationaal netwerk met informatie
- Centraal aanspreekpunt

VRAGEN? www.vsdw.be of vsdw@ugent.be
Additional students’ info

The European Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter

The European Wildlife Disease Association (EWDA) is one of six sections of the Wildlife Disease Association, which is a scientific society of wildlife veterinarians, epidemiologists, biologists, ecologists, zoologists, and students.

It was first established in 1951 with the goal of acquiring and communicating knowledge about the health and diseases of wildlife in relation to their biology, conservation and the important interaction between humans and domesticated animals. Over the past 60 years, the WDA has been publishing research on One Health in its internationally recognized peer-reviewed journal: Journal of Wildlife Diseases.

The goal of the **EWDA Student Chapter** is to promote shared knowledge between established researchers and veterinary, biology, zoology and ecology students alike. The objective of the Student Chapter is four-fold:

- **Educate** wildlife disease students about the profession and career opportunities, job qualifications and education, externships, volunteer, and research opportunities.
- **Enhance the skills** of wildlife disease students through workshops, conferences and field trips.
- **Connect** wildlife disease students to mentors in WDA through the faculty advisor, guest lecturers, student-mentor mixers and the AAZV/WDA mentoring programme.
- **Develop** international relationships between wildlife disease students across Europe and beyond.

In Belgium, the EWDA Student Chapter is represented by Marianthi Ioannidis (Liège) and Anna Baauw (Ghent) and we mostly work via the local wildlife student group. Besides, we organize collaborative activities, such as the Wildlife Conservation symposium in November. Our aim is to bring students in contact with wildlife opportunities as much as we can. For more information, you can go to [https://ewdastudent.wordpress.com](https://ewdastudent.wordpress.com), send an email to [wdabelgium@gmail.com](mailto:wdabelgium@gmail.com) or find Anna or Marianthi on Facebook.

Have a lovely symposium in Ghent!
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Welkom in Bellewaerde!

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Meenseweg 497
Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
https://www.bellewaerde.be/nl

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www.rouaen.toyotanet.be

TOYOTA

www.wwf.be

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www.standaardboekhandel.be
(Merelbeke)

And not to forget!!!

A huge thank you to all friends, family and colleagues for their help, gifts and support!

Groep AVEVE
www.aveve.be (Merelbeke)

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The most important environmental issue is one that is rarely mentioned, and that is the lack of a conservation ethic in our culture.

Gaylord Nelson
(1916-2005)

(Dare to think-U Ghent)
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and many others