

## In Memoriam

### Johan Krige: 1 September 1937 – 21 April 2021



Johan Krige was born in Pretoria and was a very proud pupil of Afrikaans Hoër in Pretoria where he rubbed shoulders with later veterinary colleagues such as Colin Cameron, Louis Coetzee and others. He was an excellent rugby player, athlete and swimmer at school. He obtained his BVSc at Onderstepoort in December 1962.

After a short try at private veterinary practice, he joined the government service as a state veterinarian – first in Potgietersrus and then in Lydenburg where he also met the love of his life, Tessa

Buy. They got married in 1966 and was blessed with 4 children and 4 grandchildren. He once again joined a private veterinary practice in Senekal but then finally realised that he was more happy and at ease in state veterinary service. He worked as state veterinarian thereafter in Standerton, Louis Trichardt, Greytown to finally end up again as state veterinarian in Lydenburg.

In Lydenburg, Johan established himself as one of the most capable, experienced and knowledgeable state veterinarians on foot and mouth disease control in the South African veterinary services. He was responsible for the management, control and containment of several outbreaks of the disease in the Lowveld area where he worked closely with surrounding state and private veterinarians – including the state veterinary service in the Kruger National Park. During this period, he hosted several expert missions from foreign countries to demonstrate to them the very successful approach to foot and mouth disease control in South Africa applied at that time. Many young veterinarians – both in government service and in private practice – and stock inspectors and animal health technicians, remember with affection Johan as an excellent mentor and tutor, guiding them through the pitfalls of animal disease control.

In 1981, Johan was transferred to the headquarters of veterinary services in Pretoria. He was made responsible for national control of the Bovine Brucellosis Eradication Scheme and to update existing legislation on disease control – especially bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and foot and mouth disease. Soon after being transferred to Pretoria, he was promoted to Deputy

Director in the veterinary services and made responsible for overall national animal disease control and animal health legislation.

During this period he was offered the chance to write a new Act on Animal Disease Control for South Africa to reflect the needs of animal disease control within the new democratic Constitutional environment of the country. Johan accepted this challenge with pride and committed himself to make the very best of this very difficult task. For almost three years he dedicated himself to this, resulting in the eventual signing of the Animal Health Act (Act 7 of 2002) by the then President, Mr Thabo Mbeki. Although the Act was assented to and signed by the President, it was for some political reason, never proclaimed for publication in the Government Gazette. However, recent indications are that the Act will now, almost 22 years after written by Johan Krige, be officially proclaimed and at last implemented once the Regulations to the Act have been finalised.

Johan had a passion and love for the Lowveld and especially the Kruger National Park. He was also a very keen and enthusiastic gardener.

Johan loved and enjoyed his profession and will be remembered by his colleagues – both veterinary and para-veterinary personnel - as an endless source of knowledge and advice on animal disease control. At the time of his death, the late Dr Rudolph Bigalke remarked that, the veterinary profession has lost one of its sharpest brains. He was also a active member of the Veterinary History Society. Johan will especially be remembered for his sharp wit and dry humour which on many occasions, helped to diffuse difficult situations.

Johan above all, had an intense love and affection for his family and enjoyed being at home after his retirement to spend more time with them and make up for the many hours and days that he had to be away from home on his many animal disease control campaigns. We thank Tessa and the family for the honour and pleasure to share the life and memories of Johan Krige with her and the family.

*Gideon Brückner*