

Sir Arnold Theiler Memorial Lecture 2005

CURRICULUM VITAE



PROFESSOR S S VAN DEN BERG

Sybrand Smit van den Berg was born in Lichtenburg in 1944. He matriculated from Lichtenburg High School in 1962. He received honorary colours in academics, rugby, and athletics and was head prefect. He was selected for two consecutive years on the Western Transvaal Schools rugby team and represented the Western Transvaal Athletics Team at the South African Championships in 1962.

After qualifying as a veterinarian in 1969, he practised as a private practitioner for 8 years. He then joined the Department of Surgery in the Veterinary Faculty Science at Onderstepoort in 1976 and was privileged to further his veterinary career as an academic. He obtained a BVSc (Hon) in 1981, MMed Vet (Surg) in 1983, MMed Vet (Rad) in 1985 and DVSc in 1996. The Brahman Cattle Breeders Society accepted his research into the aetiology of Lamina Interna eversion and prolapse in the Brahman bull and this research reached further acclaim by being requested by the American and Australian Breeders Societies. During his veterinary career, he received the following awards: From The South African Veterinary Association he received The Clinical award (1983), The President's award (1996) and Honorary Life President's award (2000). The Equine Practitioners Group Merit award (1998) and South African Farrier's Merit award (1999) followed after many years of service to the respective associations.

Sybrand was the first incumbent of the Abe Baily Professorship in Equine Surgery in 1986. He became Head of Department of Surgery in 1986 and retired at the end of 1999. During his academic career he was privileged to be part of teams that were responsible for building a new Veterinary Academic Hospital and the restructuring of the veterinary curriculum into a species approach. He is the author and co-author of 10 publications and presented 7 papers at international congresses. Respected as a specialist in large animal surgery and radiology he acts as consultant to practitioners, farriers, breeders and associations. Professor van den Berg is currently the President of the South African Veterinary Council. He has been an elected member of The South African Veterinary Council since 1992 and amongst others acted as Chairperson of the Investigation Committee for 12 years, and chaired the Code of Conduct committee. He currently serves on the hospital sub committee and has revised the rules for veterinary facilities where he acts as an inspector.

He is currently serving a second three-year appointment as a locum in the Equine Section of the Department of Companion Animal Clinical Studies at the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort.