

Sir Arnold Theiler Memorial Lecture 2004

CURRICULUM VITAE



Doctor Richard Kock

Richard Kock was born in Bulawayo in 1956. He qualified from the Cambridge University within the Medical Sciences Tripos (BA) in 1977 and from the CU School of Veterinary Medicine (VET MB) (MA Cantab) in 1980, when he was registered as a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Soon after qualifying he entered the world of the wildlife veterinarian in which he has been immersed for 22 years. He is accredited to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in the UK, as a specialist in zoo and wildlife medicine and is currently registered with CU for their new VetMedDr. He has spent 22 years of his career affiliated to the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). Initially he worked as a veterinary officer and curator for ZSL's zoological parks and subsequently on conservation and animal health programmes around the world mainly in Africa, where he was born and has been resident for most of his life.

In 1991 he was seconded from ZSL to the Kenya Wildlife Service (a parastatal institution mandated to manage and conserve all wildlife in Kenya) to head a new Veterinary Unit (5 Vets, 2 Technicians, 30 officers and field staff) for a period of 7 years. The programme was successful with a now functional and sustained Unit at KWS with an excellent track record of wildlife disease diagnosis and support to the veterinary authorities and wildlife management in the country.

From November 1998-2004, he was seconded to a regional body, the African Union/Inter African Bureau African Resources (AU-IBAR Pan African Rinderpest Campaign and Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootic Diseases). For the last 4 years, he has been a member of the Epidemiology Unit at PACE-IBAR headed by Dr Gavin Thomson recently of OVI. His work has focused on; the organisation and implementation of extensive sero-surveillance and disease investigation in susceptible wildlife species at the livestock interface throughout Eastern Africa and also in certain countries in Central and Western Africa; working mainly on rinderpest and PPR, as well as on training veterinary colleagues from these countries and establishing a surveillance network for wildlife disease.

He is well travelled having undertaken consultancy missions for ZSL, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the World Wide Fund for Nature, The World Bank and The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (GREP). He also contributes on a voluntary basis to the IUCN network as co-chair of the IUCN, Veterinary Specialist Group, and as Treasurer of the newly formed Wildlife Disease Association (Africa and Middle East section). He promotes wildlife veterinary matters through extensive publications in books and refereed journals (>65), and at professional meetings.