

In Memoriam

Dr Gilbert Paul Victor de Cort

Gilbert Paul Victor was born on 19 October 1949 in Anvers/Antwerp -Belgium. In 1953 his parents emigrated to Kolwezi, a mining town in the south of the Congo. Gilbert went to boarding school for most of his primary school career in Belgium but completed high school in Kolwezi. Schooling was done in French. In 1969, his parents decided to emigrate to South Africa.

Gilbert's dream was always to become a veterinarian. Due to the limited annual intake of students at Onderstepoort, Gilbert was advised to obtain a Bachelor's degree first, thereby increasing his chances of being accepted. He enrolled at the University of Cape Town for a BSc in zoology in 1970. Even though Gilbert struggled with the language initially, not being able to speak English at the time, his final year thesis on marine sponges was very well received and published in the zoology department's journals. However, he had failed second-year maths, which he needed to obtain his degree. Gilbert completed the course at the University of Pretoria in Afrikaans.

Once qualified, Gilbert applied and was accepted at the Veterinary faculty of Onderstepoort. In his final year, Gilbert was a member of the Onderstepoort Housing Committee. Gilbert qualified as a veterinarian in 1980. Anglo American then offered him a job in their Artificial Insemination Centre and dairy farms in Ogies. In 1983 Gilbert opened in own practice initially in Ogies, then moved the practice to Kriel. Initially, he specialised in large animals, moving slowly into small animals until his death on 4 May 2022. Gilbert was also an avid soccer player from a very young age and was the captain of the soccer team at Onderstepoort. He loved music and played the piano, guitar and drums.

He leaves behind a wife, Helena De Cort, aka Tokkie.

