

NOMINEE	NOMINATOR	MOTIVATION
Dr Henry Annandale	Prof Ken Pettey	A young veterinarian who has done a lot to elevate the image of the profession mainly via innovative pedagogy despite many challenges at home and the faculty.... and he is very humble
Dr Katherine Barker of Sandstone Hill Veterinary Clinic	Mr Jan Sander	She's also our Cluny Animal Trust Vet and a truly compassionate vet that goes above and beyond her duty to help animals in need.
Prof Gareth Bath	Prof Ken Pettey	A senior veterinarian who has done a lot for the profession internationally - especially with regards production animals - despite being physically handicapped.... and he too is very humble
Dr Peter Buss, Senior Veterinarian for Kruger National Park (SANParks)	Prof Michelle Miller	Dr Buss has been actively involved with rescuing orphan rhinos, assessing and treating injured rhinos and translocation of animals for SANParks.
Prof Ann Carstens	Dr Ingrid Cilliers	Prof Ann Carstens stands out as one of the most enthusiastic lecturers that I have had the privilege to work with. She is dedicated in sharing her knowledge with others and enjoys watching other grow in their knowledge. She undoubtedly has gone the extra mile in not only becoming a specialist equine surgeon but has enhanced her knowledge by becoming an expert in diagnostic imaging too. She openly and without any hesitance gives her support. Ann is an inspiration to us all.
Dr Terry Casey of Fourways Equine Clinic	Dr Manfred Rohwer	
Dr Thireszni Chetty	Dr Aileen Pypers	I would like to nominate Dr Thireszni Chetty for Veterinarian of the year. In her time at the ARC, she did amazing work on the training of AHTs in Primary Animal Health Care. She also found time to be chairperson of the Black Veterinary Forum, sit on many, many committees and be involved in the education of veterinary students. Her passion for the profession and her dedication to the ideals of academic excellence and practical competency are inspiring.
	Dr Shantelle Naidoo	For her achievement being a woman of colour in equine medicine.
Dr Dave Cooper KZN Wildlife	Mr Moritz Huber	Dr Cooper has been at the forefront of conservation in KZN for a number of years. He has worked with wildlife and for wildlife conservation all over the world and his expertise is greatly sought after. He is revered amongst wildlife veterinarians and is considered one of the best in the industry. His compassion towards his patients is remarkable. Currently the greatest battle being fought is that against rhino poaching. A battle which he is very much a part of. On a personal note, as a student working with Dr Cooper, his patience and willingness to pass on years of wisdom and knowledge was truly refreshing and inspiring. I spent many weeks working with him and it was an honour to have spent this time working with him. All the students and young veterinarians that have had the pleasure of working with him will attest to this fact. He is a fantastic mentor, which was apparent by the way D. Rowan Leeming, the CCS veterinarian under his supervision, grew and developed in the time that they worked together. He is an asset to conservation and the veterinary profession and I believe his never-ending contribution should be recognised.
Dr Morne de la Rey, Embryo Plus	Dr Stuart McKernan	International collaboration in understanding rhinoceros' reproductive physiology and to develop artificial reproductive techniques in rhinoceros, specifically the critically endangered northern white rhinoceros. Development of in vitro fertilisation in African buffalo, with successful birth of healthy calf from surrogate dam.
	Dr Vanessa Walter	
Dr Dorianne Elliot	Dr Omar Mehtar	She currently owns and run the Bird and Exotic animal clinic at OP. I think it's still the only exotics only clinic in the country. She is always happy to help any vet that phones/messages/Facebooks her with all sorts of questions and advice. She just exudes passion for her profession and always strives to be the best at what she does, but is humble enough to always ask for help when needed. She also started a Facebook group: Vets Supporting Vets, in response to the alarmingly high rate of suicides and depression in our profession. The group had humble beginnings, but is over 750 members at the moment. We help each other out and we strive to cast aside the negative stigma of depression and getting help. She also one of the strongest woman professionals I know.
	Dr Perushan Yenketsamy	1) She is by far the most experienced and knowledgeable avian and exotics vet in the country; 2) She started the 'Vets supporting vets' page on Facebook for vets dealing with every day ups and downs, depression, guilt, who need support from fellow colleagues. This after her good friend Dr Venter committed suicide; 3) She also started the Exotics interest group on Facebook for veterinarians around the country who are in remote areas or simply need advice with regards to avian and exotic species; 4) She has had the opportunity to leave OP and put herself in a better financial position but she cannot leave her clients in the lurch as she says. 5) She is an amazing person, an excellent vet and a mentor to So many students and colleagues
Professor Kennedy Erlwanger of Wits University	Ms Lorraine Matjila	Prof Kennedy has been our mentor throughout the 13 years that I have worked at the Central Animal Service(CAS). We at our department provide technical and surgical assistance to all departments at medical school. Prof Erlwanger is our consultant Vet. His willingness and all the time availability even makes researchers think that he is one of our(CAS) full time staff. He has always been there to assist us and the researchers using our departments. He has strong mentorship skills and has been acknowledged by many users of our department. He is a person who always goes the extra mile in helping people. He is patient and he is very informative and has knowledge in a lot of things. I studied an international Laboratory Animal Science course and throughout my studying time, he has always been very helpful. I even managed to pass my course with distinctions through his guidance. His patience and extensive knowledge makes most people succeed in their studies and research. He is always professional and also strict about everything being followed according to rules. Most professors or supervisors are always busy for their students but he is one individual that always makes time for everyone to an extent that he would even schedule after hours' meetings just to make sure that whoever is asking for his assistance is satisfied. It is very rare that he would turn anyone away unless he is really caught up with something. The manner in which he presents his training makes people become experts in what they do. He is currently a chairman of our ethics committee and he always adheres to the rules and ensuring that animals are well cared for and procedures that are done on these animals are humane. Hoping that my motivation can grant him the title of being "The Best World Veterinary Surgeon". I feel that he really deserves it.

Ms Kershnee Thambu		<p>Prof Kennedy has been my mentor, and works in the department of Physiology and has for the last 8 years been a consultant vet to our unit (the Central Animal Service); Our department is a service provider to all departments in the medical school, we are responsible for providing surgical, technical and animals to our user departments;</p> <p>Prof Kennedy has over the years been the most amazing mentor to many of us at the unit.; He is patient, kind and above all exceptionally professional in his approach to staff, students and his colleagues. He is very approachable when we have concerns or queries regarding ethics protocols, or veterinary procedures. He even goes the extra mile with the students that he supervisors, he will make time to come to the unit with them to ensure they are following the proper procedures and he will also not hesitate to assist in the most menial of tasks.; In addition to his various duties at the university he is also the chairman of our ethics committee where is ensures that all the animals used for research are done so in a moral and ethical manner; I feel that he is most deserving of this accolade.</p>
Dr William Fowlds	Dr Danielle Jackson	<p>I would like to nominate my boss Dr William Fowlds for Vet of the Year. He has recently taken his one-man wildlife practice from just himself up to 5 full time wildlife vets. On top of training the 4 of us, a huge commitment as two of us are recent graduates from the UK he works tirelessly himself, particularly in the field of rhino conservation. He has an incredible vision for the practice to be involved in community projects, research, striving for clinical excellence and inspiring others to pursue conservation. He encourages all of us to have our own individual projects within the practice, for example one of us runs the community projects, one is in charge of research, one facilitates the students, I run an equine based rhino anti-poaching project, etc. - time is given out of practice profits in order to enable us to develop these projects.</p> <p>He is then also in the process of setting up a rhino high protection zone with an associated community centred rhino hub. The branches of this are education, demand reduction, anti-poaching, community and unity of reserves across the Eastern Cape. On top of this he runs his Vets Go Wild Courses which inspire and educate international students from across the globe. I could go on!</p>
Dr Louis Gouws from Ballito Veterinary Hospital, KZN	Sr Nadia van der Merwe	<p>During the course of my studies at Equine-Librium College, I have had the privilege of doing my practical and clinical Block with Dr Gouws and Dr Stevens during the time of my studies. It is a veterinary hospital where everyone works together as a team and everyone is part of a family. I have always felt welcome there and I was able to engage in private consultations as well as watch surgical procedures. I would say that I have always had a heart-warming experience with every visit I have been. They are extremely knowledgeable Veterinarians and always keen on new ideas and always on top of latest research. They also help and dedicate a lot of there time " spay days" and sponsorships have always been welcomed and given. . The cases I have seen and the feedback from owners have been phenomenal. . I trust them with any my animals</p>
Dr Bennie Grobler from the State Vet office in Beaufort West.	Mr Carel Lotz	
Dr Mziwamadoda John Guma at TARDI	Ms Nashley Titi	<p>He is a leader, mentor and inspiration too. He is a great man, he works hard every day making sure that other people's dreams happen.</p>
	Ms Nokhanyo Gogo	<p>He is an honorable, strong, gratuitous, loving and respectful person no matter what age is someone. He is a friend, father and lecture when one is in need of. He put the student's needs first and love his job that much because he sacrifices his time on it, even if a case of dystocia or injury happen at night and need attention he wakes up with energy not complaining. He has goals for TARDI and its student and always want those goals achieved.</p>
Dr Nadia Jordaan	Dr Thapelo Makae	<p>Working for GDARD at Temba Animal Clinic in Hammanskraal. Even though she is a CCS Veterinarian, she has shown qualities of a hard worker, a team worker and leader. She has organized several farmers' days and she has also been able to identified several women in agriculture and been able to educate them and lead them to grow in agriculture.</p>
Dr Kenneth Joubert	Dr Samantha Garner	<p>He is truly passionate about his profession and educating vets in order to improve their knowledge and performance in order to benefit their patients. He is also always willing to give advice over the phone, and to part with his very extensive knowledge!</p>
	Dr Jothie Govindasamy	
Prof R Kirberger	Dr Izak Venter	
Dr Kathryn Knipe	Sr Linda Venter	<p>She is a true inspiration and a wonderful person to work with. Under her leadership as principle vet at the Animal Anti-Cruelty League the team spirit amongst the hospital staff improved tremendously. She also worked extremely hard to improve the level of service provided to the community. Not only does the hospital provide an excellent standard of veterinary service, but it is also done with a huge amount of tender love and care for the patients as well as empathy towards the owners. She will go far above and beyond to ensure that each patient gets the best she can possibly offer. I have never worked with a more dedicated veterinarian in the 30 years that I have been a qualified veterinary nurse. She is very patient with her staff, never sees herself as more important than anyone else. She helps wherever she can to get the work done. She made the effort to learn Sepedi to enable her to communicate with the staff in their own language</p> <p>She was diagnosed with breast cancer towards the end of 2015. She had a mastectomy and was back at work as soon as the wound healed enough. When she started with Chemo therapy, she still continued to work every day until she was too sick to continue and went on sick leave from February 2016. After her Chemotherapy, she was back at work by May 2016 when she was strong enough to work. Even though she was still very nauseous; her dedication towards her patients was beyond inspiring. I have learnt a great deal from Dr Knipe, not only in veterinary medicine, but also as a human being. I am extremely proud to be a part of her team.</p>
Dr Katja Koeppel, the Wildlife Veterinarian at Onderstepoort Veterinary Animal Hospital	Sr Vanessa Anderson	<p>I had the privilege of working with Dr Koeppel for 4 years at the Johannesburg Zoo, and she is the most knowledgeable, patient and amazing teacher. Her dedication to her patients is unquestionable.</p>
Dr Johan Kotze	Ms Mhlaba	
Dr Susarah Kotze	Ms Mmutsi Mokhobo	
DR JJ Kroon of Standerton	Ms Annanda Nolte	<p>I would like to nominate DR JJ Kroon of Standerton:</p> <p>Plays an enormous role in farming and upcoming farmers by inform them of all the diseases and educate them with a newsletter every month.</p> <p>For more than 30 years his living his veterinary dream in Standerton; Best vet ive ever met!!</p>
Dr Pietie Le Roux,	Mr Werner Gouws	<p>Dr Le Roux, recently retired private veterinarian of Villiersdorp, is one of the most selfless people I have ever met with so much care for his community and the less fortunate.</p>

		He served the veterinary profession and his community for many years. In the couple of years I have known him he was always available with advice and guidance. He is a practical person with practical solutions to complex situations and diseases. I admire his knowledge and his willingness to share his wealth of knowledge. I have learnt a lot from him and believe he is a very deserving candidate for such an award.
Dr Armand Leonard from North Riding Vet	Mr Craig Rudman	
Dr Remo Lobetti	Dr Lesley Lunn	Dr Remo Lobetti – he is a brilliant clinician; an excellent speaker and a sympathetic and understanding person.
Dr Laura Lopez from the ARC	Ms Tiny Hlokwé	Onderstepoort Veterinary Research
Dr Anton Lubbe	Dr Llewellyn Evans	Back in the 1980s and 1990s he was on the staff of the surgery department of OP and taught thousands of students the art and science of surgery. He was an excellent teacher, an excellent surgeon and mentor of both undergrad and post grad students. He also was known for fighting tirelessly to raise and maintain the standards of the surgery department at that time. He was a strict but demanding teacher and laid the foundation for many a future surgeon.
Dr Makwavarara TTM, state of BA-Phalaborwa municipality in Limpopo.	Ms Bremley Nkwini	The best, loving, passionate, hard worker, ever wanna see a job well done
Dr Faffa Malan	Dr Francois van Niekerk	<p>Even a cursory examination of the CV of Dr FA Malan will reveal the outstanding contribution which he has made in past decades and continues to make to veterinary science and to livestock farming in Southern Africa.; He is an outstanding role model for all veterinarians whatever their field of work and truly deserving of the award of Veterinarian of the Year [for whatever year!];</p> <p>Faffa Malan is the Manager of RuVASA.; He is paid for 4 days but spends about 14 days per month doing the following:; Disease reporting; Compiling the disease report (www.ruvasa.co.za); During 2016 received reports from 160 practices and labs. (Started with 38 reports 4 years ago); Reports on RuVASA website, sent to all Agricultural media, producers organisations (RPO, NWGA, MPO, Onderstepoort Faculty). ; Represent RuVASA and SAVA on the National Animal Health Forum and Livestock Welfare coordinating committee; Responsible together with Pieter Vervoort for setting up the NAHF website (www.nahf.co.za); Responsible with the above people to set up provincial animal health forums in each province.; Organized CPD events in Limpopo and Mpumalanga for Vets (Brucellosis,B. mellitensis, antibiotic resistance, Asiatic red water, will organize in all provinces, provincial directors also gave presentations); Brucellosis steering committee (Organized talks on RSG, Radio Today, Grootplaas (TV), media, press) See www.nahf.co.za) Information centre.; Compiling report on the availability of OBP vaccines for the SAVC to be given to the Agricultural portfolio committee.; Invitation to attend and talk at RPO management meetings.; In April 2017 Uruguay Vets coming to visit me on FAMACHA after training them previously in Uruguay. ; Handle Vra vir Faffa on www.landbou.com, click on Indeks van antwoorde; Organized with Landbouweekblad, Farmer's Weekly and Veeplaas articles on veterinarians for World Veterinary Day 2016.; Monthly article on Vets in Veeplaas. ; Regular Radio talks on veterinary subjects (Namibia, Radio Oranje (OFM) etc.); ; Spends week at NAMPO with LBW giving Vets a high profile); Member of FINCO and MEDCO of SAVA; Attend OP students' braai and active at RuVASA congress with OP students.; Give FAMACHA courses at Onderstepoort.; Lecture to students at OP – MSD feedlot school. Promote RuVASA.; Attend TUKS LANDBOU functions at Proefplaas.; Regular Farmers days; 9 Training occasions for Co-op personnel at Malalane, Western Cape, Easter Cape and Namibia. Promote Veterinary profession (Over the years trained over 3 000 co-op personnel)</p>
	Dr Sewellyn Davey	<p>I would like to nominate Faffa Malan as Veterinarian of the year for his tireless work in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promoting the profession, especially the rural practitioners; - broadening the knowledge of veterinarians through constant surveillance of articles and posting links onto ruralvet - broadening the knowledge of farmers and agriculturists through all the articles he publishes, and gets people to write for his "vra vir Faffa" website - Collecting disease data from rural practitioners throughout the country which aids in preventative herd health programmes, and also forms a reporting system so state vet services has an idea of disease distribution in the country. <p>He is a tireless motivator of both veterinarians and farmers alike.I deem him a very worthy candidate for Veterinarian of the year.</p>
	Dr Trudie Prinsloo	I would like to nominate Dr Faffa Malan as Veterinarian of the Year. He does an incredible amount of work for the profession without ever expecting anything in return. He shares his knowledge freely and is such a great example to the profession. I think if there is anyone worthy of this title, Dr Faffa Malan is the person.
Dr TW Malatse (Limpopo Province, Polokwane Municipality).	Ms Makgosa Octavia Nephawe (AHT)	
Dr Johan Marais	Dr Shantelle Naidoo	For his work with rhinos.
	Dr Ina Visser	Their work with the rhinos are unbelievable and I think they are the true ambassadors for our profession as well as the rhinos of our land.
	Dr Zoe Glyphis	<p>Dr H J Marais qualified from Onderstepoort with his BVSc in 1991. He went on to complete his Honours and obtained an MSc focused on Equine Surgery. In 2012 Dr Marais founded Saving the Survivors - a non-profit company that treats injured endangered wildlife with an emphasis on Rhino. He has taken what he learnt from many years in Equine practice and he is now applying it to wildlife. He has performed vasectomies and colic operations on Elephant, and he has done arthroscopies on Rhino. Truly ground-breaking surgeries!</p> <p>Dr Marais is also studying the anatomy of the head of the White Rhino to better understand these complex animals in order to improve success rates when treating victims of poaching where the face has been severely damaged. He has traveled the world to create awareness on Rhino poaching. He is a role-model to many students and veterinarians alike, and he is always available to assist when and where needed.</p> <p>On top of all of this veterinary work he has also published two books on Elephants and he is currently the President of SAVA.</p>
Dr Dave Miller	Dr Jono Savadier	For his enthusiasm and constant help to practitioners

	Dr Le-Anne Kleynhans	Again, as a specialist he has always been incredibly accommodating and will always take a phone call or assist myself or one of the vets who work for me, or fit us into his lunch break etc. he goes out of his way to help and accommodate us with challenging cases. - I feel these are two exceptional people (with Dr A Zambelli) who do not get enough recognition for what they do and the valuable contributions they make to the vet community as a whole, they both support and assist many GP vets in their respective areas and both bring a significant amount of respect, ethics and international quality to the face of veterinary science in South Africa! Please consider them both for nomination as vet of the year!
Mr Kenneth Moloiwane Control Animal Health Technician	Ms Rebecca Mabula	He is recognised for his outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in addressing and raising awareness about issues of animal health (animal disease prevention) in the Bela-Bela community and local farms. It is people like him that makes the animal health profession valued and respected in the country.
Professor Mulunda Mwanza	Ms Keitiretse Molefe	I nominate Professor Mulunda Mwanza as a veterinarian of the year because of his hard work, dedication and being a good mentor. To mention few things about him, he is a veterinarian, lecturer, researcher and a supervisor also currently hold a HOD position in the animal health department in the North- West University Mafikeng campus. Generally, his leadership skills and support towards his colleagues are some of his great qualities. He is always looking to remind people to focus on contributing positively to improve the society. He motivates students and workers to strive toward their goals through his persistent encouragement. He is a very good example to all who know him; his achievements are tremendously inspiring especially to the people who look up to him.
Prof Vinny Naidoo	Dr Shantelle Naidoo	
Dr Toyota Nandipha Ndudane from TARDI (Tsolo Agriculture and Rural Development Institute)	Ms Pretty Morrison	
Dr Alex Niven	Dr Lesley Lunn	Dr Alex Niven—one of the few veterinarians who is knowledgeable about small animals, large animals, equines and wildlife. He is always approachable and willing to help. Apart from his enormous professional ability he is a man of deep compassion and wisdom; a truly Godly human being.
Dr Peter Rodgers, Hoedspruit	Anonymous	He is an excellent vet, very popular and always willing to assist and share his knowledge. He has contributed to the profession, especially with regards to wildlife work and publications.
Veterinary Technologist: Lesego Seboloa	Ms Mmutsi Mokhobo	
The late Dr Peter Sehlodimela	Dr Alison Lubisi	<p>Dr. Peter Sehlodimela graduated as a veterinarian from MEDUNSA in the year 1991. He worked as State Veterinarian for the then Lebowa Government, stationed at Seshego, and later joined the Gauteng Provincial Government as State Veterinarian: Community Services, then Animal Health. He was later appointed as Chief State Veterinarian: Export Facilitation based in Germiston. Dr Sehlodimela was instrumental in starting the Directorate of Community Services in Gauteng, the objective of which was to extend services to the previously disadvantaged communities of the province, and to raise awareness about veterinary services to the Gauteng communities. He executed this by organising vaccination campaigns, community radio talks, distribution of pamphlets at taxi ranks, having talk shows on radio 702, and running an industrial theatre. The directorate was started with a number of Veterinary advisors (who were former meat examiners who got retrenched when the meat inspection services were privatized in the early nineties). Most of these officials did not have matric/grade 12 and were encouraged by Dr Sehlodimela to upgrade their qualifications. A considerable number of them obtained their matric, studied further for National Diplomas in Animal Health and pursued BTech degrees. Examples of those are Mr Jack Motshogoa who is now an assistant Director, Mr Mdakane, and the late Mr Legodi, who became a senior official in one of the provinces</p> <p>Dr. Sehlodimela was also a clinician and owned private practices in White City, Jabavu, in Soweto, Spruitview, Bonaero Park, Kempton Park and Northmead, Benoni. He mentored quite a number of graduates locally, and others from other African countries with foreign qualifications, and offered his afterhour practices for purposes of providing them with clinical exposure in preparation for the South African Veterinary Council exams. All the graduates he mentored passed the exams.</p> <p>He was instrumental in the formation of the State Veterinary Association and was also a champion for specific occupation dispensation (OSD). He sponsored some students to further their studies at various institutions of higher learning. He and his wife, Mrs. Patricia Sehlodimela, ran a soup Kitchen for the destitute community and families in Thembisa. Dr. Sehlodimela positively and selflessly influenced many lives, and as a token of appreciation and preserving what the man stood for, the people of Spruitview named a street after him.</p>
Dr Tembile Songabe, posthumously	Dr Lubabalo Mrwebi	<p>He was responsible for the introduction of the Compulsory Community Service programme by newly qualified veterinarians..</p> <p>He was central to the AGOA negotiations</p> <p>He contributed immensely in the concept of Independent Meat Inspection</p>
Dr Gerhard Steenkamp	Dr Ina Visser	Their work with the rhinos are unbelievable and I think they are the true ambassadors for our profession as well as the rhinos of our land.
Dr Kevin Stevens from Ballito Veterinary Hospital, KZN	Sr Nadia van der Merwe	During the course of my studies at Equine-Librium College, I have had the privilege of doing my practical and clinical Block with Dr Gouws and Dr Stevens during the time of my studies. It is a veterinary hospital where everyone works together as a team and everyone is part of a family. I have always felt welcome there and I was able to engage in private consultations as well as watch surgical procedures. I would say that I have always had a heart-warming experience with every visit I have been. They are extremely knowledgeable Veterinarians and always keen on new ideas and always on top of latest research. They also help and dedicate a lot of there time " spay days" and sponsorships have always been welcomed and given. . The cases I have seen and the feedback from owners have been phenomenal. . I trust them with any my animals
Prof Sybrand van den Berg	Dr Joubert Viljoen	<p>I cannot think of any vet in this country more worthy in terms of the criteria of an example of a leader and/or a teacher and/or an inspiration and/or a mentor.</p> <p>Prof van den Berg is considered by many veterinarians in this country as a mentor and inspiration - almost a father. The reason for this is because of his humbleness and his considerate ear and his deep dedication over a career of more than 40 years. I know of many vets who have phoned prof Van den Berg on many occasions for not only veterinary professional advice, but also for advice in their personal lives. His wisdom and sympathetic nature have inspired many vets over the years to not only be better vets, but also better human beings.</p> <p>Prof Van den Berg is an exceptional leader having served as Head of the Department of Surgery at the Veterinary Faculty at Onderstepoort and inspiring many vets to practice excellence. Beyond this Prof Van den Berg served the veterinary profession for many years as Councilor on the South African Veterinary Council and as Chairman of Council.</p>

		<p>Prof Van den Berg has been a pivotal pioneer in the establishment of the new discipline of veterinary physiotherapy and as Principal of the College for veterinary physiotherapists at Equilibrium in Plettenberg Bay. Prof Van den Berg used his specialist skills as both Veterinary Radiologist and Specialist Surgeon to guide the establishment of this new discipline and ensuring that the high standards set in the veterinary profession have been carried over into the establishment of this para-veterinary profession. Prof Van den Berg is a true teacher at heart and there is nothing that gives him greater joy than to guide a young enthusiastic student to a point where they have the confidence to treat animals with the dignity and respect they deserve. Ask any student that have passed through the hands of Prof Van den Berg how they view him and they are likely to tell you that no other mentor or teacher has had a more profound effect on their profession life than this man</p> <p>Prof Van den Berg is near retirement and I cannot think of a more apt way to recognise this giant of a man of the veterinary profession for the deep and lasting footprints and legacy he has left for the veterinary profession in South Africa. There is no vet in South Africa that deserves this award more than Prof Van den Berg and it is a great honour and gives me immense pleasure to nominate him for Veterinarian of the Year.</p>
Dr Joseph van Heerden	Dr June Williams	<p>Joseph has all of his life done the equivalent work of many more than a single human being – he is larger than life and like a father to many – his clients, the animals he treats, his colleagues, and his family. He has not only been extremely active in veterinary practice for many years, but has also for many years served on the SAVC, as well as been a key member of the SAVA and was the instigator of the SAVA Wildlife group. He taught at both Onderstepoort and Medunsa veterinary faculties, was appointed as Professor and Head of Companion Animal Medicine and surgery at Medunsa, and he achieved post graduate degrees in both wildlife and Medicine, and has been a key wise and moderating figure in the veterinary profession as a whole.</p> <p>For several years, many years ago, he was also Editor of the JSAVA.</p> <p>Despite major heart problems discovered at the beginning of 2016, after which he had major (incorrect!) surgery (and will still need the correct surgery at some stage), and currently being on medications which affect his functioning, he is still serving the SAVC tirelessly, he has once again taken on Editorship of the JSAVA after the unfortunate passing of Dr Cameron, he moderated the Faculty of Veterinary Science's final year exams under the new examination format, and still keeps a finger in veterinary practice despite having sold his Kimberley practice on to the partners. He also runs his own farm, is a father of 3, grandfather of several, and is married to Doriette. His morality, vision and wisdom in addressing thorny and controversial issues and his enthusiasm, passion for life, sense of humour, genuine humility, honesty, courage in facing and addressing problems, and loving rapport with all people has always made his presence in a room, or on a committee making very important decisions, comforting and enriching. It is an honour and privilege to know him and to have worked with him – in my view he is one of the few truly "GREAT" people that I know or know of in the world.</p>
Dr Roelf van Rooyen	Dr Rozanne Buitendach	<p>He is a veterinarian in Polokwane at the Pietersburg Animal Clinic. He inspired me to become a veterinarian. The first time that I visited a veterinary clinic was when I was in Primary School (Grade 1). My dog had to go for a follow-up appointment at the clinic after having received surgery. As a small child that loves her pet very much everything seems scary and intimidating and I was scared that my pet was going to get hurt, but Dr Roelf encouraged me to have a look at the stitches that he was removing from the incision site. He patiently told me that my pet was going to be alright and can go home. It was then that I knew that I also wanted to become a vet when I grow up. Dr Roelf van Rooyen is a fantastic veterinarian, teacher and mentor. He has always been patient in teaching me veterinary techniques and answering any questions that I had with regards to Veterinary Science. Even when I did not get accepted into vet school when I first applied he encouraged me to never give up on my dream. I have learned a lot from him over the years, and now that I have also qualified as a veterinarian myself in 2016, I am very thankful to have such a wonderful mentor, teacher, colleague and friend in my life.</p> <p>He has inspired me to be the best veterinarian that I can be and to believe in myself. He has great people skills and his care for animals is extraordinary. He keeps up to date with the latest developments in veterinary science and always works according to what is correct and ethical. I can only hope to be as great a veterinarian as he is.</p>
Dr Malan van Zyl, of Cape Animal Medical Centre	Dr Anna Mouton	<p>I was in the unusual position of being a veterinarian myself and having to take my dog, Hobbes, to a veterinarian. So I was able to experience Malan both as a pet owner and as a colleague. He is a truly exceptional veterinarian. The care he provided saved my dog's life and restored him to full health. Subsequently, I have discovered all sorts of people who know Malan and everyone shares my respect and admiration. Michelle Lawrance, a fellow veterinarian, told me about how generous Malan is with his time and knowledge. My pharmacist, it turns out, travelled to Cape Town from another province, where she lived at the time, to bring her Dachshund to Malan. She was very enthusiastic in her praise for his expertise and compassion. These are just two examples. I think Malan exemplifies the qualities of the ideal companion animal veterinarian.</p>
Dr Anthony Zambelli	Dr Le-Anne Kleynhans	<p>He is a specialist vet but on multiple occasions has gone above and beyond to assist, advise and accommodate GP vets. He is very active in terms of giving advice and invaluable support to vets on the South African Veterinary Facebook support groups and shares much valuable information with many of us that help us be better vets and often get through a tough day. -</p> <p>I feel these are two exceptional people (with Dr D Miller) who do not get enough recognition for what they do and the valuable contributions they make to the vet community as a whole, they both support and assist many GP vets in their respective areas and both bring a significant amount of respect, ethics and international quality to the face of veterinary science in South Africa! Please consider them both for nomination as vet of the year!</p>