

## Veterinary and Para-veterinary “Wall of Fame” nominations 2018

Nominee	Nominator	Motivation
<p>1. <b>Dr Hilldidge Beer</b></p>	<p>Toni Younghusband</p>	<p>Dr Hilldidge Beer, BVSc, has been the founder/owner of 4 veterinary clinics and 7 Vetshops over the course of her 26 years in practices. However, her greatest passion lies with Community Veterinary Care and in 2008 she launched EberVet CVC to provide sterilisation to pets from impoverished homes across the Helderberg, Overberg and the Karoo. <i>“I felt I needed to return to the reasons I became a veterinarian in the first place; welfare work has been the most enjoyable part of my career. The CVC concept was something that appealed to me straight away. The need in South Africa for such services is huge and I have the skills (I love surgery) and temperament to be able to respond to these needs”.</i></p> <p><b>EBERVET CVC</b></p> <p>Since 2008 Dr Beer has sterilised more than 7000 pets in towns and villages where veterinary services are either non-existent or severely limited, at times travelling more than 600km in a single day to reach her patients. Clinic conditions in these rural areas are usually rudimentary; school or community halls with severely limited basic services. A single clinic day will typically last up to 9 hours, with Dr Beer spraying up to 30 pets per day, assisted by her veterinary nurse and a handful of community volunteers. Dr Beer carries all of her equipment with her. In addition to sterilisation, she and her nurse offer primary health care services (vaccinations, wound dressings, parasite removal and protection, and disease control) during their outreach clinics, also encouraging children and pet owners to watch and learn. <i>“It’s important to have direct contact with pet owners, and with children. To educate is essential if we are to have an impact on the health and welfare of animals. I believe that basic ignorance of an animal’s needs is the root cause of animal neglect and abuse”.</i> Under the auspices of her CVC, Dr Beer also pilots a feeding scheme in the Karoo town of Prince Albert where donated pet food is sold in smaller, more affordable packages to impoverished pet owners. A local widow handles sales and distribution and earns a small income from these sales. The balance of the funds is ploughed back into CVC sterilisation programmes.</p> <p><b>TRAINING ACADEMY</b></p> <p>In 2017, Dr Beer instituted a Training Academy to help empower animal welfare assistants in those communities where veterinary care is unavailable or unaffordable. The Academy’s training programme equips animal welfare organisations with basic health care knowledge. <i>“We have found that sterilisation and primary health works best with the limited resources we have. Where small animal welfare organisations are present and regular sterilisation projects happen, there is a marked difference in the condition of pets and a definite decrease in neglect.”</i> It is these small organisations who work tirelessly with communities to build trust, and their partnership with veterinarians like us, that are making a world of difference to the pets and their owners in impoverished regions.</p> <p><b>FOUNDATION</b></p> <p>In order to continue with EberVet CVC’s work after her death, Dr Beer has established a self-funding Foundation, headed by likeminded animal welfare guardians.</p> <p><i>“For busy veterinarians, it is always easy to find the time to devote to welfare work but the rewards are huge and we encourage all of our colleagues to do this”.</i></p>

2.	<b>Mr Piet Botha</b>	Ramokgopa M.D.	<p>He was the Animal Health Technician in charge of the area of Prince Albert in the Klein Karoo.</p> <p>He had no official transport to perform his duties but never hesitate to perform his duties on foot although his area of jurisdiction was mountainous he crosses over the Swartberg mountain footing for two to three days in all weather conditions to reach Gemkoskloof Valley in order to dip small stock against Sheep scab, a controlled disease of small stock.</p> <p>The distance was so strenuous that he referred it as " the road to hell". He is one the legendary Animal Health Technician sacrificed for success of this profession. He laid down the foundation of perseverance towards attainment of the professional objective of Animal disease control.</p>
3.	<b>Dr Annelie Cloete</b>	Dr Aileen Pypers	<p>Dr Annelie Cloete is a state veterinarian and has worked in state veterinary services for over 20 years. In the Western Cape, her job title is State Veterinarian: State Herds and Training and a few years ago she took on the additional role of serving on the Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG) of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).</p> <p>The mandate of this committee included the preparation and implementation of the Performing Animals Protection Amendment (PAPA) Act and in doing this, Annelie has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty.</p> <p>She has selflessly given of her time to contribute to the work of the group both on a National and Provincial level. Her dedication and diligence in drafting regulations and a veterinary procedural notice that will truly advance the welfare of working animals has been an inspiration to witness and invaluable to the animal welfare sector.</p> <p>In the Western Cape she has been the champion for the changes accompanying the amended Act and has organised training for state veterinarians, meetings with the various industry stakeholders, executed vital liaison in an attempt to clarify and resolve emerging issues and worked many long hours to ensure that the transition to the licencing of PAPA facilities by State Veterinarians in the Western Cape was as smooth as possible. All this has been in addition to her normal work load while simultaneously completing a Masters in Veterinary Science.</p> <p>There are many other aspects of Annelie’s professional career that could be singled out as examples of her commitment and work ethic and I believe that she is a true asset to State Veterinary Services. I am proud to be her colleague and to have had the privilege of her wisdom, experience and mentorship for the past 7 years. I would therefore like to nominate her for the Veterinary Wall of Fame.</p>
4.	<b>Dr Albertus Coetzee</b>	Dr. Miriam Lodewyks	<p>I nominate Dr Albertus Coetzee of West Acres Vets in Nelspruit for his pioneering work in helping Petronel Niewoudt of Care for Wild to save so many victims of the rhino poaching crisis. Over the past 8 years these two people have worked together to improve the survival outcomes of orphaned young rhinos, through trial and error, and they have sweated blood and tears on many, many occasions.</p> <p>Of course, they are surrounded by a team of other professionals and volunteers, but Albertus will drop whatever other work he may be doing at his busy veterinary clinic to rush to Care For Wild’s aid. He is a genuinely caring man and a very hard worker.</p>

5.	<b>Dr Todd Collins</b>	Luke Arnot	<p>I would like to nominate Dr Todd Collins from Underberg, KZN. He has been a well-recognised rural vet practitioner in the Underberg area of KZN for over 40 years. He has published numerous books on his veterinary experiences and is an active member of the veterinary depression and emotional crisis group.</p> <p>He is a huge role model for many of the younger vets out there.</p>
6.	<b>Dr Eddie Lee</b>	Sr Rodney Makombe	<p>I hereby nominate Dr Eddie Lee to be inducted on the <i>"Wall of Fame"</i> 2018, I have known him for 5 years working under him as a Vet Nurse since the year 2013.</p> <p>He has since gone into retirement after practising for 42 years as a small animal Vet. All these years he showed dedication and commitment and despite being the Principal Vet he was always the first doctor to arrive and check hospitalised patients. Myself and a lot of other people learnt a lot from him because of his dedication and willingness to share and pass on important knowledge. In his practice he welcomed all students from all levels to watch practice.</p> <p>In terms of staff he was patient with everybody till you get the job done right at your own ability whether one was new or not.</p> <p>Am also happy to mention that even though Dr Lee qualified long back he also never got tired of learning and accept new changes in the Veterinary field, he did all these through attending conferences as well as allowing and providing funds for his staff to attend various different conferences too.</p> <p>He was also keen to move with time and would buy any new machines on the market whenever it was possible, all this was to make our hospital to be able to provide the best care and treatment to our patients as well as provide a high standard service to our valued clients.</p> <p>He also had time to work with the SAVC doing Foreign nationals exams as well as being Facilities Inspector through his commitment to serve the Veterinary field.</p> <p>I conclude by saying the above are my motivations based on the 5-year period I was with him and am sure I missed lots more motivations that surely would have been of more value from the years back before I knew him. Thank you.</p>
7.	<b>Kevin Le Roux</b>	Quintin Doidge	<p>He has been instrumental in bringing Rabies into the spotlight globally, and specifically Nationally and even more so in KwaZulu-Natal.</p> <p>He has also made a museum of Veterinary History at Allerton which is an asset to our Profession.</p>

8.	Dr. Ivan Lwanga-Iga	Dr Lubabalo Mrwebi	<p><b>Profession</b>  Veterinarian, Public Administrator, Trainer and Academic  (30 years as a Veterinarian &amp; Civil Servant in the South African Public Service Departments of Agriculture, now Rural Development and Agrarian Reform: Veterinary Services) Just retired in July 2017.</p> <p><b>Career highlights</b></p> <p>Initiation of In-service training programmes for both technical and professional officers in the Transkei in Veterinary Services. Founding manager, of the very successful Training and Extension Unit in Veterinary Services (<b>Vetrex</b>) in the Transkei area. <b>Founding Manager of the Animal Diseases Surveillance Unit, ADSU, a dedicated team tasked to combat disease outbreaks in the Eastern Cape.</b> Co-architect and driver of a dedicated information database management on Veterinary Public Health, which source informs strategic decisions in Animal Diseases management and Control in the Province. <b>Founding manager of the Centre of Veterinary Excellence (COVE) in Dohne. This centre houses the Animal Diseases Crisis Management Centre of the province. We are the only province with a set-up of this nature and this is being emulated by other provinces.</b></p> <p>Past Manager and co-ordinator of logistics and information dissemination during three key diseases outbreak control exercises in the Eastern Cape: Foot and mouth disease in cattle and pigs in 2000; Avian influenza in ostriches in 2004; and classical swine fever in pigs 2006. <b>He was responsible for International Relations coordination in the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform in the Eastern Cape Province as well for over 20 years. Founding and leading officer in the Development of an Early Warning and Disaster Risk Management Directorate in the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform in Eastern Cape Province.</b></p> <p><b>He was the team leader of two consecutive award-winning presentations about Veterinary Services in the Eastern Cape, for the Premiers Awards for Service Delivery in the Province on behalf of the Department of Agriculture.</b></p> <p><b>One of the leading Task Team members</b> of a Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) group, mandated to introduce Primary Animal Health Care (PAHC) as well as Compulsory Community Service (CCS) for Veterinarians in South Africa. <b>He spearheaded the designing (internal &amp; external) of the current Mobile Clinics used by DAFF in the whole country.</b></p> <p><b>Founding member and past head of the Early Warning Centre in the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa</b></p> <p>He has 20 publications to his credit as author, co-author or conference presenter.</p> <p><b>Registered with the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) in South Africa.</b></p>
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9.	<b>Dr Helen McClean</b>	Del Jones	<p>I have actively worked in animal welfare for over 30 years - from National Council of SPCA, to smaller societies and other welfare organisations. I have been involved in National culling operations; have run and coordinated national outreach projects; been involved in response to disaster situations such as floods, fires etc where animals have been at risk and have lectured at OP and Unisa Conferences.</p> <p>I've worked in most provinces with many vets and para vets and worked hand in hand with ARC and DAFF, researching and evaluating evidence for wild and livestock industries, including discussions with SAVC, LWCC and similar organisations.</p> <p>In my very colourful career throughout South Africa, I have worked with people who go through the motions, the right things, but who are only out to see what the industry can do for them, instead of how they can change the welfare of animals. Fortunately, there are MANY committed and passionate people who WANT to make a difference and not just go through the motions.</p> <p>True animal welfare is the only industry that attempts to work itself out of business, where it is not about egos, or what I can get out of it. One such veterinarian that I have been fortunate to work with, is Dr Helen McClean of Cornerstone Veterinary Practice in Robertson.</p> <p>She initially came to Robertson to work at RVC veterinary clinic. There her caring, compassion and passion for animals and their wellbeing came into its own and she organised a few sterilisation days for the animals in the indigent communities in the area.</p> <p>She accompanied her vet husband in setting up a new private practice. Since then she has also registered and runs a non-profit community veterinary clinic, the John Moore Animal Welfare. It currently runs one clinic day per month in Nkqubela and the bo-dorp of Robertson, when animals are vaccinated, dewormed, dipped and given primary animal health care.</p> <p>Her outreach programs include days when animals of indigent owners in the Robertson and McGregor areas are sterilised and treated for any health conditions they might have, thus assisting the Winelands SPCA and Friends of CARE in their animal welfare work.</p> <p>Not only does she run a successful private practice, have her own CVC and assist other organisations with their animal welfare work, but she is also a wife, mother to a 3-year old son and is planning to further her qualifications by studying for her master's degree.</p> <p>Despite all her achievements, she remains humble and quietly does whatever each day brings her way. Truly one of animal welfare's unsung heroes!</p>
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10.	Mr Johann Muller	Francois Dreyer	<p>Johann Muller has been serving the veterinary technology profession with utmost dedication for most of his professional career. After obtaining his National Diploma in Veterinary Technology, Johann continued his studies part time and completed his National Higher Diploma in Veterinary Technology in 1989 with Veterinary Microbiology and Biochemistry as main subjects.</p> <p>At this time, Johann started Golden Vetlab which, at the time, was one of the first private veterinary laboratories in the country and also the first to be owned by a veterinary technologist. In the early years Johann spent many long and late hours at the bench to perform tests himself while growing the personnel component. Johann acted as General Manager and owner of Golden Vetlab for the next 17 years, growing and expanding the laboratory.</p> <p>Based on the success of the laboratory, IDEXX Laboratories International acquired Golden Vetlab as part of its international expansion and in order to establish a presence within South Africa. Johan served as Regional Manager and Director of IDEXX for the next 7 years after which he moved to PathCare Laboratories where he has been serving as the Veterinary Business Development Manager for the past 4 years.</p> <p>Johann's commitment to the Veterinary Technology profession is demonstrated by his 33-year involvement in the management structure of the SA Association of Veterinary Technologist of which he has been the representative to the Veterinary Council for close to 20 years. The trust of the members of the profession in his ability to effectively and accurately represent the profession at this level under trying and many times unappreciative circumstances are demonstrated in the fact that he has been re-elected to this office by his peers on numerous occasions.</p> <p>Johann's broad and in-depth knowledge of the veterinary technology profession and of laboratory diagnostic testing not only served him well in his own professional career at the laboratory bench but made him a valuable contributor to various committees and expert meetings that he served on. He made a huge contribution to the setting of the initial competency specific registration examinations in a number of subjects and to improving the veterinary technology course curriculum by being active in meetings where TUT engaged with industry.</p> <p>Johann leads by example at the laboratory bench, in business and in the way he interacts with people. He is an outstanding example to both seasoned and young technologists in what can be achieved within the profession if you endure.</p> <p>With all of his professional commitments Johann remains a dedicated family man spending many hours next to the pools, tracks and arenas in the country supporting his children in their sport activities. He has instilled a strong work ethic in his children and taught them the value of time management from a young age.</p> <p>Many technologists, still active in the profession and those retired, consider him an example, a mentor and many also count him as a trusted friend.</p> <p>I cannot think of a Veterinary Technologist more-worthy to be nominated for the "<i>Wall of Fame</i>".</p>
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11.	<b>Sbonelo Nkosi</b>	Lerato Hleko	<p>I would like to Nominate Sbonelo Nkosi for “<i>Wall of Fame</i>” - he is a veterinary technologist at ARC-OVI Agricultural Research Council Institution, Onderstepoort, working at the Rabies department and the Pathology department.</p> <p>I nominate Sbonelo because he is a hard worker, working in two departments and still manage to do both jobs without complaining and his passion for it runs deep.</p>
12.	<b>Prof Gerhard Steenkamp</b> (See also 2017 list of nominees below*)	Dr Keri-Lee Shannon Dobbie and Dr Jose Carlos Almansa Ruiz	<p>We think it would be fitting if Prof Gerhard Steenkamp could be honored on the “<i>Wall of Fame</i>” in 2018 as it is in this same year that he has been recognised as a veterinary specialist in Dentistry and Maxillofacial Surgery. Further, at the end of last year, he was awarded his PhD, promoted to Associate Professor in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria and was awarded the American Veterinary Dental College Zoo and Wildlife Dentistry Certificate.</p> <p>Gerhard graduated as a veterinarian from Onderstepoort in 1994. He then pursued his special interest in dentistry and maxillofacial surgery in the UK, where he attended the inaugural course in Veterinary Dentistry at the European School for Advanced Veterinary Studies. On his return to South Africa in 1998, Gerhard joined the Veterinary Faculty at Onderstepoort and also consulted and treated referral cases from the Johannesburg Animal Eye Hospital and Cape Animal Medical Centre. His clinical practice has grown and he currently consults referrals from all over South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.</p> <p>He has lectured and practically trained undergraduate veterinary students and veterinary nursing students in dentistry and maxillofacial surgery for 20 years. He has graduated 4 post-graduate students and is currently supervising 8 post-graduate students. Gerhard is an active researcher and his areas of interest relates to dentistry and especially pathology of the maxillofacial complex of wildlife, but also small animals. He has authored and co-authored 28 peer reviewed publications and has presented papers on his areas of interest at more than 30 international conferences. He is a past president of SAVA and is known for his contributions to the SAVA congresses as well as regional meetings. He is currently the HOD of the Department of Companion Animal Clinical Studies at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria. He is an incredible mentor and colleague.</p> <p>Prof Gerhard Steenkamp is certainly worthy of the honour of appearing on the “<i>Wall of Fame</i>” for his remarkable contribution to the veterinary profession in South Africa.</p>
13.	<b>Prof Malie Smuts</b>	Dr Gin Watson	<p>Prof Smuts is a giant in Veterinary Science not only in South Africa but also worldwide.</p> <p>She deserves a place on the “<i>Wall of Fame</i>” for her inaugural speech as Professor of Anatomy at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort (University of Pretoria) alone. It was titled “<i>A Horse! A Horse! My kingdom for a Horse!</i>” and was intellect, poetry, music and excellence all in one. However, she is so much more. She is a superb human being, embracing and practicing all the best qualities, as well as standing proud for and with woman vets in the days when they were both scarce and curious.</p> <p>Academically she is magnificent and breathed life and meaning into her subject to students, professionals and the public at large. Her definitive work on the anatomy of the camel bears witness to her adventurous and meticulous spirit. <i>Prof Smuts, we salute you!</i></p>

14.	<b>Dr. Asheena Surajpal</b>	Dr Tina Engel	<p>In her capacity as chief veterinarian at the Johannesburg SPCA, Dr Asheena Surajpal has faced many challenges that she overcomes daily with integrity, intelligence, grace and passion.</p> <p>Her workload is substantial with 20 surgical operations and 15 consults per day as the only permanent veterinarian at the hospital. Despite the pressure of functioning in both managerial and clinical roles, she always shows compassion to both the pets in her care as well as her colleagues.</p> <p>She maintains a high standard of veterinary practice with limited financial resources as her focus is always the best quality of care for the pet and the owner. I hereby nominate Dr Surajpal for the Veterinary and Para-veterinary Professionals <i>“Wall of Fame”</i> 2018 as she is a most worthy recipient.</p>
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[\\*2017 list of nominees](#)