

The Great African Vet Adventure

39th World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress

Pre-Congress Day
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[Home](#) [Programme](#) [Speakers](#) [Registration](#)



Dr Gerhard Steenkamp

After qualifying as a veterinarian at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria (1994), Gerhard Steenkamp pursued his special interest in dentistry and maxillofacial surgery in the UK. 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 Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort and also consulted and treated referral cases from the Johannesburg Animal Eye Hospital and the Cape Animal Medical Centre. His clinical practice has grown and he currently consults referrals from all over South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe. Gerhard is an active researcher and his areas of interest relate to dentistry, especially pathology of the maxillofacial complex of wildlife, but also of small animals. His passion for wildlife and zoology has resulted in his national and international involvement in various conservational programmes relating to rhino and cheetah. In 2008 Gerhard completed his MSc cum laude on the clinically relevant morphometrics in African elephants. He has authored and co-authored more than 20 peer-reviewed publications and, over the past 15 years, has presented papers on his areas of interest at more than 30 International conferences. He is currently undertaking a PhD study on the skeletal development of cheetahs and is also supervising several post-graduate research projects. Gerhard's current research efforts also include dealing with prognostication and treatment of rhinos surviving a poaching event. Gerhard is a past president of the South African Veterinary Association. He is married to Sonja, an oral pathologist; they have 2 children.