



World Cat Congress

promoting harmony in the cat fancy

2011 WCC SEMINAR & OPEN MEETING

Hosted by
SOUTHERN AFRICA CAT COUNCIL
SOUTHERN SUN GRAYSTON HOTEL,
SANDTON
8 July 2011 – 08h30 to 17h00

Sponsored by



PROGRAMME

08H30 – 08H40	Welcome	Mr Jan van Rooyen
08h40 – 09h30	Introduction of WCC Delegates.	WCC Delegates
09h30 – 11h00	Updates on Genetic Testing & New Breeds vs Defects.	Dr Leslie Lyons
011h00 – 11h15	Tea/Coffee	
11h15 – 12h15	Advances in the Management of Feline Reproduction.	Dr Daniela Steckler
12h15 – 13h00	Breeding Programs for African Wildlife.	De Wildt Animal Sanctuary
13h00 – 14h00	Lunch	
14h00 – 15h00	The use of Megavoltage Radiation in feline cancer patients.	Dr Georgina Crewe
15h00 – 15h15	Tea/Coffee	
15h15 – 16h15	Nutrition for reproduction and growth in cats.	Dr Victoria Geddes
16h15 – 16h55	Open Discussion: Q&A to WCC Delegates	WCC Delegates
16h55 – 17h00	Closing	Mr Jan van Rooyen

More about our speakers:

Dr Leslie Lyons

Dr Lyons is an associate professor at the University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. In 2002 Dr. Lyons made international headlines by analysing the DNA of the world's first cloned cat, a kitten named Cc: and confirming that it was indeed a true clone, a genetic copy of its mother. Dr. Lyons has helped develop DNA tests for polycystic kidney disease (PKD), an inherited condition that shortens the life of cats by causing them to suffer kidney cysts. Previous tests for this condition involved ultrasound and were not very accurate, unlike the DNA test devised by Dr. Lyons. Approximately one third of all Persian cats carried the PKD gene at one time, but because of ultrasound testing and the newer, more accurate DNA tests, these PKD-carrier cats are gradually being identified and removed from the feline gene pool by spaying and neutering. A DNA test for feline coat colour carriers and feline parentage has also been developed by Dr. Lyons, and is being offered to cat breeders, like the PKD test, so that they can determine whether cats they have bred have correct pedigrees, and whether these cats carry colourpoints, Burmese Colour Restriction, long hair, colour dilution or rare coat colours, such as chocolate and cinnamon. One of Dr. Lyons' current projects is identification of the genes that cause head defects, a lethal deformity in American Burmese cats. She is also working on identifying genes that cause Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA), which causes affected kittens to become blind at the age of approximately two months. Although much of Dr. Lyons' research has dealt with cats, she also works on resources for gene mapping of other companion animals, such as dogs and horses. She has a partial appointment with the California National Primate Research Centre and is developing new genetic research for the rhesus macaque.

Dr Daniela Steckler

Dr Steckler was born in Germany and study Veterinary Science at the Freie Universität of Berlin, Germany. She also passed the South Africa Veterinary Board exam and achieved her Master of Veterinary at the University of Pretoria. She is a Diplomat of the American College of Theriogenology,

specialising in animal reproduction. She is also a part time lecturer at the University of Pretoria in a bovine reproduction course. Dr Steckler has been involved in numerous research initiatives, including *Seroprevalence of canine herpesvirus in breeding kennels in the Gauteng Province of South Africa* and *Parentage Verification of the domestic dog (Canis familiaris) in a multisire insemination trial using an international microsatellite test panel*.

Dr Georgina Crewe

After graduating with a BVSc degree (University of Pretoria, 1964), Dr Crewe worked as a state veterinarian for two years, concentrating on milk production and cattle breeding. She then set up a small animal practice, working part time for the following institutes: Occupational Health, National Health, Technikon RSA and the University of the Witwatersrand. Whilst working at the University of the Witwatersrand, Dr Crewe had access to a Cobalt radiation machine. She realised that radiation could cure, or at least have a palliative effect on cats and dogs suffering from solar induced squamous cell carcinomas and other painful radiosensitive cancers. For her research on “The Effect of Cobalt60 Radiation on Squamous Cell Carcinomas of the Nasal Planum of the Domestic Cat” she was awarded an MSc in 2009.

Dr Victoria Geddes

Dr Geddes graduated with a BVSc degree from the University of Pretoria in 2006. From January 2007 to June 2010 she worked as a small animal veterinarian both in South Africa and England. During this time period she also did 8 months of Equine practice. Dr Geddes joined Royal Canin in July 2010 as the Technical Manager for Gauteng, the Free State and the Eastern Cape, concentrating on nutrition in dogs and cats.

