



Dr Rhoda Leask

BScAgric, BVSc, MMedVet (CaprOv), Dip. ECSRHM

Senior lecturer: Production Animal Studies

Orchid ID

Summary CV

- I joined the University of Pretoria in 2005 as a Lecturer in the Department of Production Animal Studies having first completed six months as a clinical assistant in small stock (sheep and goats).
- I have taught in production animal medical and surgical nursing (DVN II); production animal behaviour, handling and farm procedures (BVSc II); small stock health (BVSc V); and the practical/clinical training of the BVSc VI students in small ruminants (sheep and goats).
- I have supervised MMedVet students, MSc students and coursework MSc students who have elected to do post graduate studies in small ruminants.
- My current collaboration is with Murdoch University (Australia).
- I currently have 11 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Clinical Expertise/Interest

I am a diplomate of the European College of Small Ruminant Health Management (ECSRHM) and am a registered specialist in small ruminant health in both Europe and South Africa. Small ruminant health encompasses a herd/flock health approach to prevention and treatment of diseases, management, animal welfare, selection and culling practices to ensure sustainable and profitable farming.

I am the University of Pretoria's representative on the Livestock Welfare Coordinating Committee and I believe strongly that welfare and profitability go hand in hand.

Research Expertise/Interest

My research expertise has included several clinical cases as well as research into sustainable management of internal parasites of sheep and goats. I am also interested in genetic abnormalities and culling and selecting stock in order to prevent these.

Teaching is a passion of mine, therefore I am completing my PhD in veterinary education as I feel it is extremely important to be able to teach the next generation of veterinarians to the best of our abilities. I also believe that it is important for researchers to be able to perform both qualitative and quantitative research.

The key link in my research interests is to be able to educate students and farmers in farming practices that are sustainable both environmentally and economically.

Postgraduate Students

- MSc
 - Ms J Botha is currently working on a qualitative research project involving guard animals for small ruminants. The aim of the project is to determine how effective guard animals are in preventing predation (a major problem in small ruminant farming in South Africa which causes substantial economic losses).
 - Mrs Olufunke Nwosu is a coursework MSc student that I am providing a module in small ruminants to. This involves the presentation of several seminars on a wide variety of aspects including parasites, diseases, nutrition, culling and selection.