

Prof Gerry Swan (Dean: Veterinary Sciences)

Prof Gerry Swan qualified as a veterinarian in 1973 at the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Onderstepoort, was awarded a MMedVet specialist degree in Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Pretoria in 1988 and his PhD (Pharmacology) at the Potchefstroom University, now the North-West University in South Africa in 1997.

He spent short periods in private practice and state veterinary practices and then served for 10 years in the veterinary pharmaceutical industry - mainly as Manager of an International Animal Science Research Laboratory responsible for the development of veterinary medicines. In 1985 he joined the Faculty of Veterinary Science and progressed through the ranks starting as Senior Lecturer through Professor and Head of Department. In October 2005 he was appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, the position he still holds.

He has served on several national and international professional and expert bodies, including President of the South African Veterinary Association, Member of the Medicines Control Council (MCC) of South Africa, expert consultant to the WHO and OIE and as Fellow of the American Pharmacology Society. He was the longest serving member of the MCC from 1987 through 2009 (22 years) when he decided to step down. He is a standing member of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee of Food Additives (JECFA) dealing with risk assessment of veterinary product residues in food and has recently been nominated as a member of the SA Academy of Science. More recently he has been appointed to the SANParks Board.

He has published extensively with 74 scientific papers to his credit in ISI accredited scientific journals. His research is currently focused on wildlife and has recently contributed in the containment of vulture mortalities due to the Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAIDs) diclofenac, in Asia. He is a rated scientist with the NRF and has been the recipient of several professional and research awards. In 2005 he received the Sasol Vulture Conservationist award for his research on NSAIDs in vultures.