

NEWSLETTER

Dear all,

We regularly sent out newsletters and articles to our clients, where we discuss diseases, game- and veld management practices, jobs we have done etc. By doing so we hope to educate and to empower game farmers in our country a bit more. We thought you might be interested in this as well, hence we sent you this special newsletter. In this edition we have gathered some articles from our previous newsletters. You can read more about our ultrasound machine, hoof care and rabies; a fatal viral disease which especially hits our kudu and eland populations hard. Furthermore, you can read more about our team and our services. If you do not wish to receive these newsletters, please sent a message to mariska@wildlifevetsnamibia.com. We hope you enjoy reading this special newsletter! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us!

Kind regards, Ulf

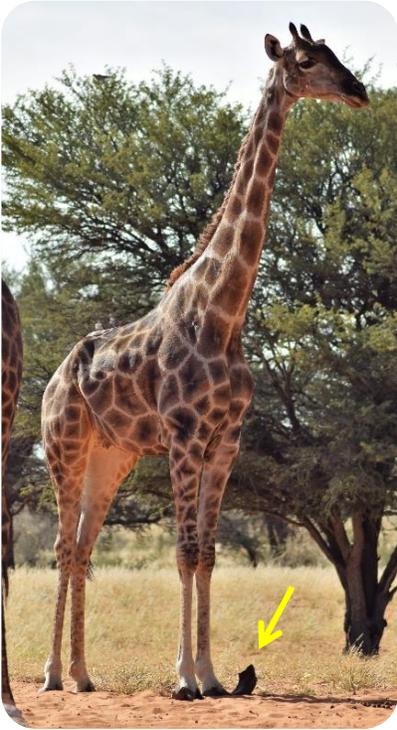
ULTRASOUND MACHINE

An ultrasound machine sends ultrasound pulses into the animal's tissue via a probe. Ultrasound are high frequency waves of sound, that humans cannot hear. The ultrasound travels through soft tissue and fluids, and echoes (bounces) off denser tissues. Different tissues reflect different degrees of sound. These echoes are recorded by the machine and are displayed as an image. This imagine is also known as a sonogram. An ultrasound machine does not make use of radiation and is therefore safe to use in pregnant animals.

We have our own high quality, portable ultrasound machine that we can bring along on request. With this machine we can not only examine animals for early pregnancy, we are also able to estimate how far the pregnancy is. We can supply a signed certificate to attest the animals' pregnancy status on request. We also use the ultrasound machine in case of a sick or injured animal. We can examine various organ systems, tendons and muscles.



The kudu was indeed pregnant, here you clearly can see the foetus!



HOOF TRIMMING

When you observe your animals in the field, it is obviously important to check their condition. But you also might want to look further down and check their hooves. Especially in smaller camps with sandy soils, hooves can become too long, and grow in a wrong way. Long hooves are prone to break, which will cause severe pain for the animal. This will negatively impact on foraging- and mating behaviour and normal locomotion.

To prevent long hooves, a farmer can place stones around waterholes and feeding places. The rougher surface can help to maintain the normal wear and tear on the hooves.

In our car we always have a grinder with a special hoof cutting disk as well as a hoof cutter, to grind and cut the hooves back into shape. In some extreme cases and valuable animals, it may require multiple trimmings over weeks or months to gradually trim the hooves back to a normal functional shape.



Grinding the hooves of a roan



RABIES

There are currently widespread outbreaks of rabies occurring in Namibia. Several farmers informed us of kudu's dying on their farm and/or surroundings. We thus strongly advice to closely monitor your kudu and eland populations and to consider vaccinating them.

We have an article about rabies on our website. On the next page you can read some sections out of it. however, the online article will provide far more information on the disease and its transmission, symptoms, and what you can do to minimize rabies on your farm. Feel free to download the entire article [here](#).



We will be in the north of Namibia (Tsumeb/Grooffontein/Outjo area) around the last week of August to vaccinate against rabies. If you want to join in, feel free to contact us! If you are outside of this area and want your kudus and eland vaccinated, we will of course gladly assist you as well 😊 Ask around whether farms in the neighbourhood are interested to join! The more farmers we get together, the cheaper the ferry/transport costs will be for all.



RABIES IN KUDU AND ELAND: IMPLICATIONS TO THE GAME INDUSTRY

In spite of rabies being a well-known and much researched disease, many uncertainties exist around the peculiar, seemingly Namibia specific, manifestation of rabies which decimates our Kudu and Eland populations country-wide. Amongst wild herbivores, Kudus appear to be most susceptible to rabies, likely followed by Eland.

From a trophy hunting perspective, the Kudu bull is both one of the most wanted and slowest maturing (i.e. reaching trophy standards only after 8+ years) antelope. The decimation of the Kudu population due to rabies, especially on game fenced farms, poses a severe and long-term threat to the farmer's income.

The quickest and most efficient way to vaccinate is to dart the animals from a helicopter. Over the past few years we have done this repeatedly on a number of game farms both during and following an

outbreak. In all cases the farmers reported the outbreak stopped within 10-14 days of vaccination. Those farms where we prophylactically vaccinate annually or biannually now support a thriving Kudu population.

Ideally one strives towards obtaining the highest possible percentage vaccine cover in the said Kudu population. Depending on the size of a farm, the Kudu and Eland population density, bush density (season) and the % vaccination cover aimed for, such a vaccination campaign could be executed within a few hours at a cost equivalent to the trophy fee obtained for say 4-6 Kudu bulls shot. Spending this amount of money to protect and ensure a sustained healthy Kudu population on a given farm is definitely an economically feasible exercise.

Contact us for vaccination strategies on your farm!

Click [here](#) to download the entire article. On YouTube we have uploaded a video about rabies darting, watch it [here](#).



WHO ARE WE?

We hope you got an idea about what our newsletters entail. But... who are we? Wildlife Vets Namibia consist of a team of two; Dr Ulf Tubbesing and Mariska Bijsterbosch. As we work in a team, we are able to do any job fast and efficient. Time to introduce ourselves!



Dr Ulf Tubbesing - Wildlife veterinarian

I am a born and bred Namibian who studied veterinary science and graduated from Onderstepoort, Veterinary Faculty University of Pretoria in 1983. Following my graduation I worked in a 24-Hour Emergency and Referral Clinic in Johannesburg then specialised and lectured at Onderstepoort. In 1994 I returned to Namibia, where I eventually purchased Rhino Park Veterinary Clinic. By 2009 my wildlife workload had grown to a near

full time level resulting in me selling the clinic to concentrate on wildlife veterinary work which by then increased to a near full time job. My years of involvement with wildlife veterinary work has enabled me to gain a lot of experience in the various fields of wildlife veterinary medicine involving most of the southern African game species. Besides the veterinary work I frequently lecture at farmers days and veterinary conferences on a broad variety of wildlife related topics. In addition I am also working as an adjunct lecturer at UNAM's new Veterinary Faculty.



Mariska Bijsterbosch - Wildlife para-professional

I am from the Netherlands, where I studied to become a veterinary nurse. My first job was as a zookeeper at the African department in Ouwehands Zoo. While working there, I did a BSc in Wildlife Management, and got the opportunity to do my internship at the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia. This is where I fell in love with the country. Following my study, I worked as a research assistant for a PhD project about farmer-predator conflict, in Namibia. I returned to the Netherlands to do a MSc in Forest and Nature Conservation at the Wageningen University. During my final internship on a game farm in Namibia I met and briefly worked with Ulf. He made me a job offer which resulted in me attending a wildlife immobilization course and qualifying for registration as a Wildlife para-professional with the Veterinary Council of Namibia. In February 2017 I became a fully-fledged member of Wildlife Vets Namibia.





OUR SERVICES

Wildlife Vets Namibia can offer a wide variety of wildlife-related services. We work with all game species, throughout Namibia and abroad. If you have any questions, feel free to ask us anytime!

Veterinary work

Our main service area is the chemical immobilization of wildlife. Selected animals are dated with an immobilising drug, in order to e.g. handle, treat and transport them. We are equipped to do minor to fairly major surgical procedures. In addition, we have comprehensive field laboratory equipment which enables us to perform diagnostic blood, faecal and tissue examinations on the farm, often helping us to make a rapid, yet accurate field diagnosis. Our high-quality ultrasound equipment further enhances our diagnostic capabilities. If the need arises, we will take additional samples for advanced laboratory analyses. We always carry a grinder with special hoof cutting disk to treat long hooves. In the case of animal mortality being reported, we will perform a thorough post-mortem examination.



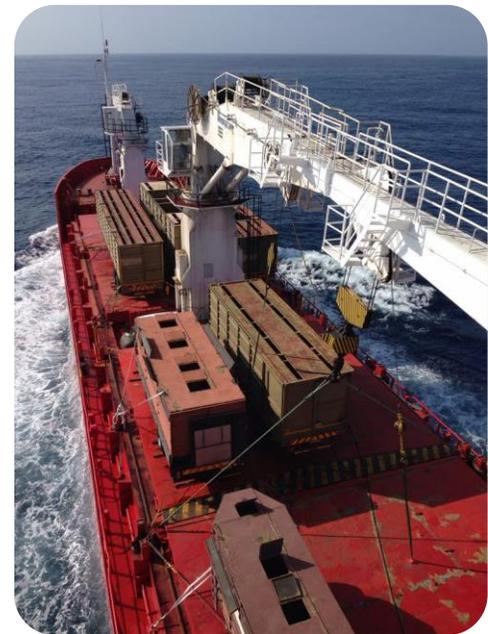
Consultation on all Game Ranching and Animal Health Issues

We can assist you in any question you might have regarding wildlife and game farming: 'What is the optimal size of camps?', 'which species and how many?', 'what feed to give?', 'how to build a boma?', 'what permits to get?', 'what to look out for when buying at an auction?'. We are willing to do farm visits (ideally in combination with other work done on the farm). Give us a call and we will do our best to provide you with good advice. To further empower game farms and people involved in wildlife work, we are planning courses throughout the country. If you have any specific topic that you suggest we provide a course on, we would be more than happy to hear from you!



🐾 Translocation

Since April 2018 Wildlife Vets Namibia has been given the status 'Unlimited Game Dealers' by MET. This means we can translocate all species, from antelopes to rhinos and elephants. We have four specialized wildlife trucks, five wildlife trailers (including a giraffe/rhino recovery trailer) and nine specialized wildlife containers. Our focus is mostly on import and export. We have years of experience with importing and exporting game from and to South-Africa and Angola. In 2017 we successfully started to export animals into the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Our aim for this project is to restock reserves depleted of wildlife in the DRC. Before exporting any animals, we conduct a comprehensive assessment of habitat, food availability, diseases, fences, species suitability and possible problems to ensure the animals will thrive in their new habitat. We can assist in arranging all the necessary permits for you.



Exporting game per ship to the DRC. Read more about our adventure in the [DRC newsletter](#), and watch the [video](#) we made!



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