

CONCLUSION

The *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association* came into the world much like any newborn, rather helpless and uncertain of itself, serving a youthful profession consisting mainly of civil servants and numbering little more than a mere handful of people. It stands to reason that the journal had to be nurtured and coddled in behind-the-scenes activities akin to parental guidance to ensure its survival. The early editors and the editorial committee were the proud sires and dams.

These activities, which inevitably pass unnoticed by the unenlightened, did not cease as time progressed. Only their emphasis changed. The initial teething

problems were replaced by the growing pains of adolescence, increasing enforced independence and the struggle to survive financially being ever-present challenges. The relevant editors bore the brunt of these stresses and strains.

A more recent challenge was to take steps to improve the journal's international scientific standing by the introduction of peer reviewing, which has become the accepted norm for quality periodicals. Again the editors concerned fearlessly applied the correct medicine. Instead of attracting fewer articles for publication on account of stricter vetting, the opposite has occurred. Indeed, the journal currently ranks among the top South African scientific periodicals, based on the

customary citation index ratings.

Clearly then the 14 editors of the journal have been successful both before and behind the scenes.

SOURCES

1. *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association/Journal of the South African Veterinary Association*, Volumes 1–70
2. Posthumus P J Past veterinarians in South Africa. Undated and unpublished collection of summarised *curricula vitae* of deceased veterinarians. Archives of the Onderstepoort Veterinary History Museum
3. Obituaries of some deceased veterinarians published in the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association/Journal of the South African Veterinary Association*, *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research* and *VetNews*

Book review — Boekresensie

The mineral nutrition of livestock (3rd edition)

E J Underwood and N F Suttle

1999. CABI Publishing, CAB International, Wallingford, 614 pp., hard cover. E75 (US\$140). ISBN 0 85199 128 9.

In this 3rd revised edition of *The mineral nutrition of livestock* N F Suttle has updated and improved on the classic work of the late E J Underwood. Phosphorus is now dealt with in a chapter on its own, reflecting the importance of this mineral, not only in conjunction with calcium, but also independent of calcium. Potassium is also discussed in a chapter on its own, as is sulphur. A final chapter on the design of supplementation trials aimed at assessment of mineral deficiencies is a welcome addition.

The book begins with an introductory chapter, followed by a chapter on the natural sources of minerals and a chapter describing the detection and correction of mineral imbalances. The following chapters describe the macro- and trace elements of importance. A chapter on 'occasionally beneficial elements' discusses boron, chromium, lithium, molybdenum, nickel, silicon, tin and vanadium. The toxic elements, aluminium, arsenic, cadmium, fluorine, lead and mercury are then treated in the next chapter, and the final chapter deals with the design of trials to assist in the evaluation of the impact of mineral deficiencies on livestock production.

A brief table of contents allows the reader to

quickly locate a major subject and an unabbreviated index assists the reader to locate a topic easily. An adequate number of tables and figures, dispersed throughout the text add to the value of the contents. Chapters are well-divided into sub-topics, which are highlighted by contrasting fonts. Although it would seem that the author attempted to maintain consistent sub-topics throughout the different chapters, he was not able to do so completely because of the variety of minerals discussed.

Material presented in the book is well referenced throughout, and the comprehensive list of references at the end of each chapter makes it appealing to the researcher or lecturer on the subject. Complete discussions of the minerals under a number of sub-topics make the book of value to veterinarians and animal scientists alike. Basic information related to the minerals' source, metabolism, functions and requirements make the book attractive to students of animal nutrition at university level.

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