

## GROWTH IN THE EQUINE HEALTH FUND TEAM

Before we update you on the situation following the AHS related death in Paarl, we thought we should introduce you to our expanded team, who are all mentioned in the update.



The EHF is delighted to welcome Dr John Grewar to the team in the W Cape. We also welcome Esthea Russouw back from maternity leave, and Dr Phillippa Burger who has now taken up a full time position having worked part time for the past year.

**Dr John Grewar** joined the Equine Health Fund team on the 1 April 2016 as a senior researcher. John's responsibility is the development and implementation of surveillance systems and movement control systems for trade sensitive equine diseases focussing on the facilitation of trade.

John completed his Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) degree at the end of 2006 at the University of Pretoria and immediately enrolled for an MSc (Veterinary Science) under the supervision of Prof. Alan Guthrie of the Equine Research Centre. Three years later he was awarded his Master's degree for his dissertation titled the "Use of temperature sensitive microchip transponders to monitor body temperature and pyrexia in Thoroughbred foals".

John started working as an epidemiologist in the State department of Agriculture, Veterinary Services in the Western Cape in October 2009 until he moved across to the Equine Health Fund on the 1 April 2016. Since 2009 he has been the primary author in 3 peer reviewed journal publications with research themes of outbreak investigations in equines of Annual Rye Grass toxicity, Equine Encephalosis and African horse sickness respectively. He has also co-authored a further 7 publications involving general themes of social network analysis, avian influenza, landscape ecology and PCR testing of African horse sickness. Along with the mentioned research topics he has an interest in the management of data and the attempt to streamline data flow within organisational structures within the veterinary epidemiologic environment. He was president of the Southern African Society of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive medicine from 2011 through 2013 and received several awards including the South African Veterinary Association Young Veterinarian of the Year Award in 2011 and the Southern African Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine Willie Ungerer Memorial Epidemiology Prize in 2014.



We congratulate **Dr Phillipa Burger** (left) who recently achieved her Masters cum laude. Phillipa is a valuable addition to the EHF team, and assists Dr Camilla Weyer on surveillance and outbreak management in the Western Cape.