



Dr Thomas Hildebrandt MRCVS

Honorary Fellowship

Dr Thomas Hildebrandt is an amazingly productive scientist in the area of large zoological animal research, and has made an outstanding contribution to elephant and rhinoceros reproductive biology during his career.

After qualifying from the Free University, Berlin, in 1992, Thomas embarked on a PhD in Ovarian Transplantation in Laboratory and Domestic Animals. In 1993, he joined Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research, and, in 1997, became head of its Department of Reproduction Management – a role which he still holds today.

Using the very latest ultrasound equipment, Thomas has been able to develop trans-rectal ultrasound examinations followed by intra-uterine artificial insemination, and successfully apply this method, resulting in the generation of over 30 elephant births in zoos throughout the world – a truly outstanding and unique achievement. This includes the first elephants born in captivity in Australian zoos for over 100 years.

He and his excellent team of research students and collaborators have used ultrasonography to provide definitive answers to a number of questions concerning reproductive processes in the elephant that have puzzled biologists for many decades.

Thomas has pioneered the use of ultrasonography in a wide variety of mammals and his skills have led him to become the most successful person in the world in artificial insemination and pregnancy of elephants, for which he has gained international recognition.

More...

Thomas is now his applying his enthusiasm and unique skills to other large wild animals, including the giraffe and rhinoceros.

As well as practical skills, Thomas has published an impressive array of over 100 peer-reviewed research papers in international journals.

He is extremely knowledgeable about an unusually wide range of animals, and he is always much in demand, holding a number of positions at zoos and educational institutions across the world.