ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to **Prof. Dr. K-H. Zessin** for his kind supervision, reading of the manuscript and valuable follow up.

Special thanks are extended to **Dr. P.-H. Clausen** and **Dr. S. Steuber** for their supervision of this work, valuable guidance, continuous encouragement and help in preparation and writing-up of this thesis. I have drawn greatly from their knowledge and experience.

My sincere thanks go to **Prof. Dr. E. Schein** for allowing me to do this work in his Institute. My heartfelt gratitude also go to **all the staff members** of the Institute of Parasitology and International Animal Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Free University of Berlin.

I am deeply grateful to **Mrs. A. Wiemann**, for her help during the training sessions and valuable practical advice.

I wish to thank **Dr. A. Abdulmawjood** for his scientific advice, efforts and useful help given to me during my work and **Dr. S. Karanja** for reading the manuscript.

I would like to extend my profound gratitude to veterinarians in different Zoological Gardens of Germany, **Dr. Bernhard; Dr. Ochs** and **PD. Dr. Fröhlich**, for allowing us to sample blood from different animal species that were required for this work.

Great thanks go to the Egyptian Government, Ministry of Higher Education, and Scholarship for the financial support offered to me to undertake this study in Germany.