

# Community Engagement Newsletter



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

## Faculty of Veterinary Science

Autumn: March 2016



## VPL 300 students experience mass sterilisation project in Khayelitsha

Sr Daggie Atkinson (Founder and Manager of Vetsol)

The following students contacted me to do the Veterinary Professional Life (VPL) 300 community project with Vetsol in 2015: Danny Fernandes, Ansulize Pepler, Sue Marie Bezuidenhout, Carla vd Merwe, Elizabeth Howard and Lara vd Merwe. This is the second year Vetsol has been involved in the Veterinary Professional Life (VPL 300) module.

Vetsol stands for Veterinary Solutions and has been solving the problem of overpopulation, abuse, starvation and neglect that goes with unwanted dogs and cats. Vetsol was founded when

Sr Daggie Atkinson realised that 80% of the South African pet population never see a veterinarian. They either can't afford it or do not have access to it. Since 2005, Vetsol has been sterilising pets in rural and township areas. About 300 animals are sterilised per month on average and since 2011, the number of sterilisations have grown steadily.

Vetsol is hoping to make veterinary students aware of, the real situation 80% of their patients are facing. Hundreds of unwanted animals get put to sleep every day by welfare organisations all over South Africa. By sustainable, ongoing sterilisation campaigns, primary health care and education this can be avoided.

Every animal deserves a loving home and a healthy life. July 2015 was a trying month for us as the South African Mass Sterilisations (SAMast) was building a new Hospital in Khayelitsha which was not ready for us to carry on with sterilisations. Our own vets were on holiday and the students just missed our Loeriesfontein outreach right in the beginning of July.



*Dipping even in the cold.*

A Sterilisation Day in Touwsrivier was then cancelled last minute due to bitter cold weather conditions.

At last we managed to see four vet students in Khayelitsha in our half-finished facilities. These third-year vet students

impressed with the questionnaire they had ready for the pet owners of Khayelitsha and their informative leaflets on pet care that went out with the 37 patients that were sterilised.

Dr Ayoub Banderker was very patient and demonstrated the not-so-mundane task of sterilising. He pointed out that even a boring operation like a dog sterilisation has its challenges and that no two spays are ever the same.

Under Sr Daggie Atkinson's guidance the students vaccinated, weighed and got some hand on experience. Lots of fun was had by all on this cold Western Cape day.



*The students with Sr Daggie Atkinson and a patient ready to be prepped for an operation.*

## MEETING

A Community Engagement Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 5 May 2016 @ 13h30.

# Welfare of equines our passion

Wilma Mare (DVN I)

On 6 October 2015, a group of first-year veterinary nursing students set off to the Highveld Horse Care Unit (HHCU) near Meyerton to engage in a community project. The main goal of the project was to aid this non-profit organisation with basic medical care and necessary supplies.

The HHCU, by taking care of, re-homing and helping horses and donkeys in need, strives to improve the welfare of equines across South Africa. The organisation aims to educate owners regarding basic animal health and management as this is the first step to improving the welfare of these animals. As they rely on the support, help and donations of the community, we thought it well to spend a day at the facility.

We were given the opportunity to apply our practical nursing skills by changing bandages, administering medication,



*Veterinary nursing students spent a day at the Highveld Horse Care Unit.*

taking care of wounds and assisting a farrier with the trimming of some of the donkeys' hooves. The first-year veterinary nursing students raised funds for the HHCU and they used this opportunity to donate medical supplies.

It was a privilege to handle some of the abused and neglected horses and donkeys at the HHCU. Most of the animals are rescued from rural areas and these animals are rehabilitated and treated for disease.

We thoroughly enjoyed the day and we are thankful for the opportunity to broaden our knowledge in this specific field. We also thank the HHCU for the hospitable way in which they accommodated us.



*Veterinary nursing students collect a blood sample from a sick horse.*

# Diptank sunrises and painted hides

Fae C. Adams (BVSc IV)

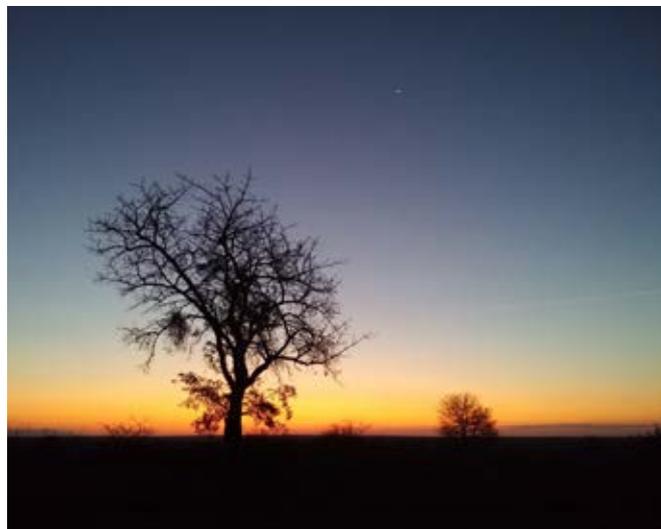
When we first arrived at Hluvukani, my expectation was as follows: many hours of hard work in the sun, dealing with people that don't understand me and getting covered in ticks while chasing cows around non-existent facilities.

I am pleased to say that I have experienced quite the contrary in these couple days. Not only has this programme taught me more about production animals than what I learnt during my two weeks in production animal medicine at Onderstepoort (OP), it has also taught me how to be patient with people, and how best to approach a scenario in which you wish to overcome negative behaviour learnt over generations, by gaining people's trust. The secret to this is consistent compassion and willingness to understand any situation.

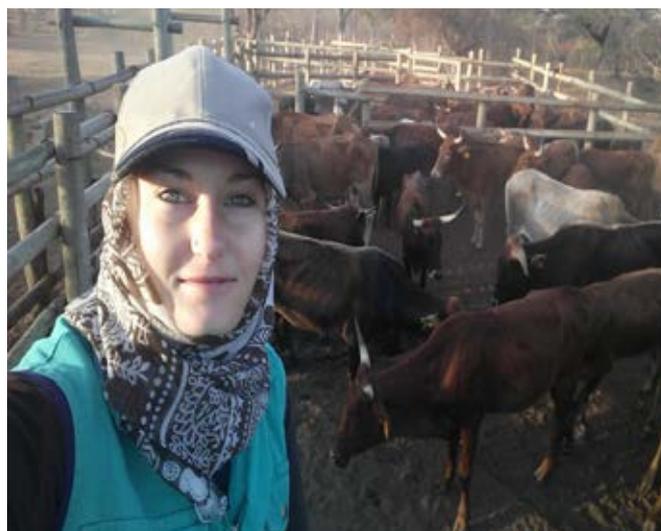
Hluvukani has given me a glimpse into what life is like for the people who live in these villages and how little one actually needs in order to be happy, after walking in the dusty streets and handling cattle with little more than ropes, I am humbled. I learnt how to speak the local language and thoroughly enjoyed the responses and how much respect one receives in return for making an effort to connect with people.

Dr Louise Biggs has an extremely practical approach to her small and large animal cases. She has passed on invaluable information through her clinical teaching and advice with regard to life in general. My dislike for production animals was replaced by respect for the hardiness and survivability of the Nguni cow.

I am far more interested in production animals now than I have ever been in my career at OP. This has been an amazing two weeks. I've loved hearing the cow bells ring while watching the sun rise each morning at the dip tanks, my only wish is that we had chilli chips and the muffin lady back home and of course that this clinic rotation was a little longer.



*An absolutely magnificent sunrise marks the start of a busy day at Hluvukani.*



*Veterinary Science student, Fae Adams, enjoyed a successful clinic rotation at Hluvukani and she learnt valuable skills.*



**DONATIONS:** All donations received will be used for community engagement purposes, specifically in less-fortunate communities. Please contact one of the following people if you would like to donate money, dog food, collars, leashes, blankets or your time:

Dr Rebone Moerane	012 529 8464	Chairperson: Community Engagement Committee	rebone.moerane@up.ac.za
Sr Sarah Johnson	012 529 8387	Small Animal Section Head & Referrals Co-ordinator	sarah.johnson@up.ac.za
Mr Eugene Machimana	012 529 8100	Community Engagement Coordinator	eugene.machimana@up.ac.za

# Community Engagement Committee Members 2016

No.	Department	Representative	Secundus
1	Dean (ex officio)	Prof Darrell Abernethy	***
2	Director: Clinical Services (ex officio)	Dr Henry Annandale	***
3	Community Engagement Chairperson	Dr Rebone Moerane	***
4	Community Engagement Coordinator	Mr Eugene Machimana	***
5	Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology	Prof Roy Meintjes	***
6	Companion Animal Clinical Studies (CACS)	Dr Quixi Sonntag	Prof Brighton Dzikiti
7	Paraclinical Sciences	Dr Nenene Qekwana	***
8	Production Animal Studies (PAS)	Dr Adel de Haast	***
9	Veterinary Tropical Diseases	Mr Jacques Van Rooyen	Dr Hein Stoltz
10	Veterinary Wildlife Studies	Dr Louise Biggs	***
11	Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH)	Sr Sarah Johnson	Sr Amanda Hamman
12	Nursing profession	Sr Larochele de Klerk	Sr Ester Botha
13	Community Veterinary Clinics (CVC)	Ms Elsa Daniels	Ms Elmien Delpont
14	Postgraduate student (PGSA)	Ms Betty Ledwaba	***
15	Undergraduate student (OPVSC)	Ms Fatima Moola	Ms Gaositswe Makgale

\*\*\*No secundus

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Event	Venue	Date
Production Animal Outreach Clinic	Makapanstad and Ratjiepan Project	Wednesdays
Mamelodi Animal Health Care (MAHC)	Mamelodi Campus	Mondays to Fridays
Loate Community Veterinary Clinic	Winterveldt	Twice a month on Wednesdays



### DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO PUBLISH?

The Community Engagement Committee invites you to submit short articles to be published in the next Community Engagement Newsletter (Winter 2016). The article should not be more than one page long. Contact person:

Eugene Machimana  
 Tel: 012 529 8100 (w)  
 Email: eugene.machimana@up.ac.za

Visit the UP Community Engagement website regularly for updates about projects and funding opportunities.