

# Community Engagement Newsletter



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

**Faculty of Veterinary Science**  
Winter: August 2016



## VETSCO VENTURING TO WORLD VET DAY

I-jin Maggie Lee (VetSCO - Media and communication)  
and Mayuri Hargovan (VetSCO secretary)



In celebration of World Veterinary Day in 2016, the veterinary professionals, businesses, welfare organisations, government employees and students involved in the sphere of animal health care pulled together at the community hall in Soshonguve's Block X to reach out to the people and animals.

We as the Veterinary Student Community Outreach (VetSCO) members, a club within the Faculty of Veterinary Science, went not only to lend a helping hand, but also to tell people who we are and what we do. In promoting VetSCO, we can collaborate with other organisations as we are a bunch of eager vet students with the will to make a greater impact on our neighbouring communities.

On the day, we set up an education station where we interacted with learners. Boldly printed pictures, which they could colour in, taught them the correct ways to take care of their animals by relating it to everyday situations. For example, they sleep in a bed and drink clean water, therefore their pets should too. Pets should have shelter and access to clean water.

As a reward, the learners could have their faces painted with a design of their choice and select a pair of second-hand shoes to take home.

We generously handed out Good Dog Food donated to us by Complete to those with pets. The community was very enthusiastic about the abundance of free novelties, such as beds, bowls, blankets and much-needed collars to spoil their furry friends with.

VetSCO students were afforded the opportunity to gain hands on experience with regard to the vaccinations, deworming and dipping of dogs, which was sponsored by Zoetis. This service drew crowds of community members along with their dogs, many of which were puppies, to the site. The aim was to promote better basic health care of dogs in rural areas. The community's positive response toward the treatment provided on the day was encouraging. We hope they continue to take on the responsibility to uplift the quality



*Vet students provided value services on World Veterinary Day this year.*



Many animals received primary care during the event.

of life of their pets. The SABC 3 news team interviewed state vets while they were doing a basic clinical examination. This exposure will show people our interaction with communities.

To end the day off on a high note, the SAPS police dogs put on a dashing show of discipline, speed and canine intelligence. With a school of learners as their audience, the dogs skillfully spelt out "World Vet Day" by picking up the letters in the correct order. There was a wave of excitement in the air as the learners cheered at the astonishing capability of the dogs.

There was a feeling of great accomplishment and pride, as we felt World Vet Day was able to create a difference in the lives of this small community. We hope to return next year and watch the event grow along with the positive changes we have implemented.

## MEETING

A Community Engagement Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10 August 2016 at 13h30.

# Rust De Winter: a veterinary student's perspectives

Graeme Piketh (BVSc V)

On 28 April, the fifth-year vet students from the University of Pretoria travelled to Rust de Winter, in the Limpopo province of South Africa to take part in a community engagement initiative. The initiative saw the Faculty of Veterinary Science partnering with the State Veterinary Services of the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Although the initiative pre-empted World Veterinary Day, which was celebrated on 30 April, it was a fitting manner in which to celebrate such an influential event in the veterinary community.

The day began before sunrise and on arrival at the operation's "command post" there was an undeniable sense of purpose circulating with the fresh morning air. The day held the promise of excitement and was undoubtedly



Some of the fifth-year vet students posing for a photo with a local farmer.

eventful for all involved, no matter their qualifications. From a passer-by's perspective, the gathered crowd presented a diverse array of individuals in many senses of the word. It was, however, the complete and utter display of camaraderie that was a simple reminder of why South Africa is affectionately known as the Rainbow Nation.

The goal for the day mainly centred on the vaccination of livestock and canines in the surrounding farmlands and the students were

divided up into functional groups to achieve this end. Each group was tasked with vaccinating the following animals:

- bovines in the area against lumpy skin disease, anthrax, blackquarter and botulism,
- small stock against pulpy kidney disease and
- canines against the dreaded rabies virus

The initiative also provided farmers with some "one-on-one" time to gain an insightful input from Faculty staff members, multiple State Veterinarians, as well as Animal Health Technicians present on many of the basic challenges they face farming in the area.

For the students, the day provided a number of opportunities to sharpen their veterinary skills, but also presented the chance to contribute some of their time and knowledge towards these rural communities and their pursuit of success in the agricultural sectors. The farmers were extremely welcoming and from the very first moment, each person was made to feel welcome on the farms they arrived on. In particular, the farmers made the Veterinary students feel like valued members of the team. This left the students exuding pride in terms not only of their contribution on the day, but in terms of their future profession as well. This, when coupled with the appreciation shown by the farming community, seemed a fitting tribute

to World Veterinary Day. Each contributor was able to leave with the knowledge that they had accomplished something beneficial that would continue to serve the community for many months by mitigating the risk of several diseases of importance to the veterinary community.

At the end of the day, there were more than a couple of tired figures among the participants, but all in all the day was a major success. Although there were a few minor injuries (always a risk when dealing with livestock) each person seemed to end the day much "richer" than when it began and the opportunity certainly served to culture a desire in each and every student, to continue to give back to their fellow countrymen.



The students had the opportunity to sharpen their veterinary 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  
 Sr Sarah Johnson      012 529 8387  
 Mr Eugene Machimana      012 529 8100

Chairperson: Community Engagement Committee  
 Small Animal Section Head & Referrals Co-ordinator  
 Community Engagement Coordinator

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 eugene.machimana@up.ac.za

## LITTLE ACTS OF KINDNESS

Fatima Moolla (BVSc V)

Although MAHC is limited in the drugs and procedures that it is able to provide, I found that the less you have, the more you must use your knowledge and instincts in order to give patients the best possible care. In my opinion, the patients at the MAHC are treated just as well as they would be at a private veterinary practice because Dr Jeanne Rudman, the veterinarian in charge, cares for each individual animal and treats them to the best of her ability and resources.

I found her to be an amazing clinician who has a great relationship with her clients.

I personally found the experience of working with the patients and owners in Mamelodi to be a very rewarding experience.

I also thoroughly enjoyed this clinic because we were allowed a lot of practical scope and the chance to develop both clinical skills and people skills.

Visiting the Amadea Children's Home, we have learned that as long as you are content with what you have, you will always be happy and giving our time to others is a great gift. We can share our love and make someone smile.

Our aim as the OPVSC is not to have once-off projects, but rather have sustainable projects. We have thus decided that the community engagement representative should create an outreach to the home each year so that we can spend some time with the beautiful children there.

**"Giving is not just about making a donation. It's about making a difference"** - Kathy Calvin.

If you would like to make a difference and find out more about the Amadea Children's Home, please visit the website: <http://www.amadeasafehouse.co.za/>



OPVSC students know the importance of helping others.



The OPVSC students made a difference by making these children feel special.

# Hope for Mamelodi's dogs

Lize-Mari Nel (BVSc IV)  
Photographs by Trishantha Govender (BVSc IV)

The Mamelodi Animal Health Clinic (MAHC) is situated on the University of Pretoria's Mamelodi Campus. The MAHC opens its doors to the Community on weekdays from 08h00 to 14h00. The MAHC offers affordable veterinary care to the community.



*The MAHC is the only hope for the beloved pets of Mamelodi.*



*Dr Rudman and the students are focused on education of the community.*

The MAHC is staffed by Dr Jeanne Rudman and she is assisted by final-year students from Onderstepoort Campus as part of their degree. The MAHC is the only hope for the beloved pets of Mamelodi and it is thus fairly busy. Due to the caseload of the MAHC, it is a valuable learning experience for the students. The MAHC only has the most basic diagnostic equipment, which teaches the veterinary students the art of a proper clinical exam.

I have seen a great variety of cases and assisted with a number of procedures at the clinic. I looked forward to every day, curious for what I will learn and see during the day!

Dr Rudman and the students are focused on education of the community. Every client is educated on animal behaviour, health and wellness with regard to their pets and their situation. A dip is freely available to the clients in order to help them manage the parasite load on their dogs.

# VETSCO TAKES STINKWATER BY THE HORNS

Ashlin Valan (BVSc V)  
Jacky Spiby (DVN II)

*"Rise and shine"*, the age-old saying for a conditioned Veterinary Student Community Outreach (VetSCO) member getting his boots stuck in the "mud" with the hot-blooded cattle of Stinkwater. It is tough, tiring work that is fueled with passion, satisfaction and a sense of achievement.

VetSCO was given the opportunity to work in partnership with the Themba Animal Clinic (Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) in Stinkwater. We arrived as the copper sun skimmed the horizon. We were all very excited; this was our first outreach for 2016. The BVSc II and DVN 1 students were eager to get their hands dirty with experience. We were going to be working with an estimated 2000 head of cattle and possible 200 small stock. We divided into five groups with committee members taking the leadership roles and an assigned Animal Health Technician. This would make the work easier for us and the farmers, as well as get more cattle treated over a wider area.

Each group was assigned a different farm where they would work. Once the groups were divided and the leaders appointed, the work began. It was time to leave an everlasting imprint.



*The VetSCO students gained a lot of hands-on experience during their outreach to Stinkwater.*

One of the groups was lucky enough to have Mr Wandile Mbethe, a final-year BVSc student and the former VetSCO chairperson, as their leader. All groups were greeted with open arms by the farmers which helped calm the nerves a bit. The first order of business at all the farms was for the Animal Health Technician to explain the plan of action and stress the safety precautions needed. These are not the friendly Onderstepoort cattle that the students are used to working with, so we emphasised that their safety is of utmost importance.

A good work flow is vital to the operation and after the first few cows all the groups got a good system going. Essentially, half the group were drawing up and preparing the injections and then the other half would be herding and administering. They would then rotate so everyone got a chance to do everything. The vaccinations administered were SupaVax (adult cattle), 3-in-1 (against clostridial diseases) and S19 (heifers). The S19 is a live vaccine that is used to control Brucella and if accidentally injected into a human would result in sterility. This meant extreme caution when handling it so it was decided that an experienced Animal Health Technician or VetSCO committee member would be the S19 handler for the duration of the morning.

The morning was rather eventful, with one of the crush poles falling apart, one of the cows collapsing in the crush, but she was successfully rescued, thanks to the strong guys and helpers who lifted her out, and huge Brahman bulls chasing the herders around instead of the other way round.

With minimal restraint, wooden crushes and escaping cows, we managed to vaccinate and deworm approximately 1 500 head of cattle and drench 130 small stock.

For a few members, it was their first time injecting a cow or dosing a goat so there were a lot of nerves, but with guidance, support and practice they handled themselves well. "Growth only takes place when you step out of your comfort zone" and this they did indeed. It was a great day spending time with new people, learning from others, meeting the community, seeing interesting cases and taking lots of photos with the farmers. Overall,



Some 1 500 head of cattle and 130 small stock were treated during the outreach.



Transport for this outreach was sponsored by CEVA Pharmaceuticals

everyone had a great time and even when it got stressful, we worked as a team and had an awesome experience. We drove off knowing we made a difference – an everlasting imprint.

One of our main objectives on outreaches is to educate the community about the importance of what we are doing. We think it is vital to our cause that the farmers understand why they need to vaccinate and deworm their animals. It is because of this that there is a need to make more effort to create information brochures and pamphlets that we can hand out and explain to the farmers.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Event	Venue	Date
Production Animal Outreach Clinic	Makapanstad & Ratjiespan 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 Newsletter (Spring 2016). The Community Engagement article should not be more than 1 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.