

Community Engagement Newsletter



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Veterinary Science
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REACHING OUT TO ITIRELENG: MAVERIC 2018

Nabeelah Rajah (BVSc III)

On Saturday 10 March 2018, the Medical and Veterinary Rural Integration and Collaboration (MAVERIC) team gathered in the Itireleng community (Laudium), situated in Pretoria West, for our first outreach of the year.

With grey skies and not that many people around, we were afraid our outreach would not be the success we expected it to be. However, the skies soon cleared up and Itireleng was alive with the pitter-patter of feet and paws.

MAVERIC is a project that was conceived by the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA). Students try to work with a particular community over a relatively long period of time in order to understand the dynamics of the community in terms of inter-personal and animal-human interactions. With this understanding, we try to uplift the animals and people in the community. The MAVERIC initiative also applies the One Health concept of multi-disciplinary upliftment. Students of the University of Pretoria from both the Faculty of Veterinary Science and the Faculty of Health Sciences collaborate to make this initiative a success. This often proves



Students from all over the Faculty of Veterinary Science and the Faculty of Health Sciences participated in the MAVERIC initiative.

to be somewhat complicated, since Onderstepoort Campus has a number of student clubs and societies who are each trying to make their mark, both on and off campus. The MAVERIC initiative therefore also aims to bring student clubs and societies from the two faculties together in order to achieve a common goal. The Onderstepoort Para-veterinary and Veterinary Student Committee (OPVSC), IVSA, The African Fellows, Vet Books for Africa, Onderstepoort Riding Club, Onderstepoort Cat Interest Group and Veterinary Student Community Outreach (VetSCO), all from Onderstepoort Campus, collaborated on this initiative.

A total of 37 pets from the community were treated, including some rabbits! The medical students also saw their fair share of patients ranged from curious kids to the elderly. Clients entered our working station where they were first asked if their pets have received any medical treatments, and whether they have any vaccination cards. Thereafter, they moved to our administration desk, where vaccination cards were issued. Next, patients went through a clinical check-up, and were vaccinated and de-wormed as necessary. Additional care and treatment was given to animals that may have been sick or had wounds that needed tending to. The veterinarians on duty also saw a dog who had a bone stuck in its throat and performed fluid therapy for a puppy who was dehydrated.

The outreach provided much-needed integration between medical and veterinary students. Being isolated from both the University's main campus and from each other, working in an intense academic programme, and adhering to commitments made to extra-curricular activities makes it difficult to find time to socialise with each other. It was interesting to visit each other's working stations when



The multi-disciplinary upliftment project in Itireleng was a great success.

there was some free time in order to note how things are done in the different disciplines. Students played with the kids of the community and kept them busy at our education station. Here, we tried to drive home important messages relating to primary animal healthcare.

Thank you so much to everyone who volunteered and to those who contributed to organising this outreach. A special mention to VetSCO for all administrative help, Onderstepoort Cat Interest Group, The African Fellows, Onderstepoort Riding Club, Vet Books For Africa, Pulse, Dr Hermien Viljoen, Dr Gideon Stemmet, Dr Farhanaaz Abdool-Kader, Dr Jandre Pretorius and Dr Bernedine Malan from

Hammanskraal, Dr Renee van Oudtshoorn from Community Veterinary Services South Africa (CVSSA), and everyone else who gave their time and energy to a valuable cause.

Look out for when we advertise our next outreach. Planning is already underway and we are hoping to give a new group of volunteers the chance to experience the feeling of giving back.

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own" Cesar Chavez.



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 Eugene Machimana 012 529 8100
Sr Sarah Johnson 012 529 8387

Senior Lecturer: Community Engagement Chairperson eugene.machimana@up.ac.za
Small Animal Section Head and Referrals Co-ordinator sarah.johnson@up.ac.za

GA-MOTLE BOVINE OUTREACH: IT TAKES EACH OF US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR EVERYONE

Khutso Chiloane (VetSCO Chairperson) and
Erin Sinclair (VetSCO Secretary)

Ga-Motle is a small village on the outskirts of North West near Ratjiespan.

Veterinary Student Community Outreach (VetSCO) once again saw the opportunity to help out a community in need, and decided to visit the Ga-Motle area for a Bovine outreach. The main purpose of this outreach was to educate farmers on four key diseases (Botulism, Blackquarter, Anthrax and Brucellosis) and to vaccinate their animals against these.

Just as the chilly winter morning was setting in on Saturday 12 May 2018, VetSCO departed from Onderstepoort Campus to Ga-Motle village at 06:00. Upon our arrival at 07:00, we were warmly welcomed by the farmers' leader, Mr Veni Solomon Masemola, 29 of his farming colleagues and 45 herdsmen. The day's work started with the most important component of the outreach, which is educating the farmers about the importance of vaccinating their cattle with the Superax 3 in 1 vaccine (Botulism, Anthrax and Blackquarter).

The education programme aimed to raise awareness about what clinical signs farmers should look out for in order to identify the above-mentioned diseases, which ones of these are zoonotic, how to control the diseases, and how to prevent future outbreaks. The training was done using laminated A3 posters, which we left behind with Mr Masemola for future reference.

After the extensive education programme, it was time for us to practice what we were preaching by vaccinating cattle from the late morning until midday. We were assisted by qualified veterinarians, Dr Fatima Moolla, Dr Cher Qekwana and Dr Jayde Berman. They also worked alongside Mrs Onnica Rakgokgo, a Private Animal Health Technician, who has done extensive work in the area. VetSCO wishes to thank these professionals for sacrificing their time to assist on the day.

VetSCO would also like to thank the Community Engagement Committee for sponsoring transportation, and the Department of Production Animals for sponsoring vaccine and consumables. Finally, we would like to thank all 60 students, as well as the farmers and their herdsmen for participating in this project. We hope and believe that everything the farmers learned on the day will instil in them a rejuvenated sense of responsibility and help them to improve the lives of the cattle herds in the area of Ga-Motle.



The Ga-Motle farmers and their herdsmen learned about the diseases that can affect their cattle.



The veterinary science students vaccinated the cattle of the Ga-Motle farmers after the education programme.

MEETING

Community Engagement Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14 August 2018 at 13H30.

HLUVUKANI... MY LIFE CHANGING CLINICAL ROTATION

Juanita Krassnitzer (BVSc VI)
Photographs by: Dr Luke Arnot (Veterinarian)

My Hluvukani experience started with pure excitement, unknown expectations and a little bit of apprehension. However, it ended with a passion I never knew existed, a sense of complete self-fulfilment, and a realisation of what I was born to do.

Firstly, I was really excited because I knew I would be on the doorstep of the Kruger National Park, which is basically my home away from home. Secondly, I was apprehensive because I knew I would be the only South African veterinary student on the clinical rotation with two other foreign students, and I had no idea what to expect or what would be expected of me. The thought of working with production animals that were not confined to a crush scared me slightly.

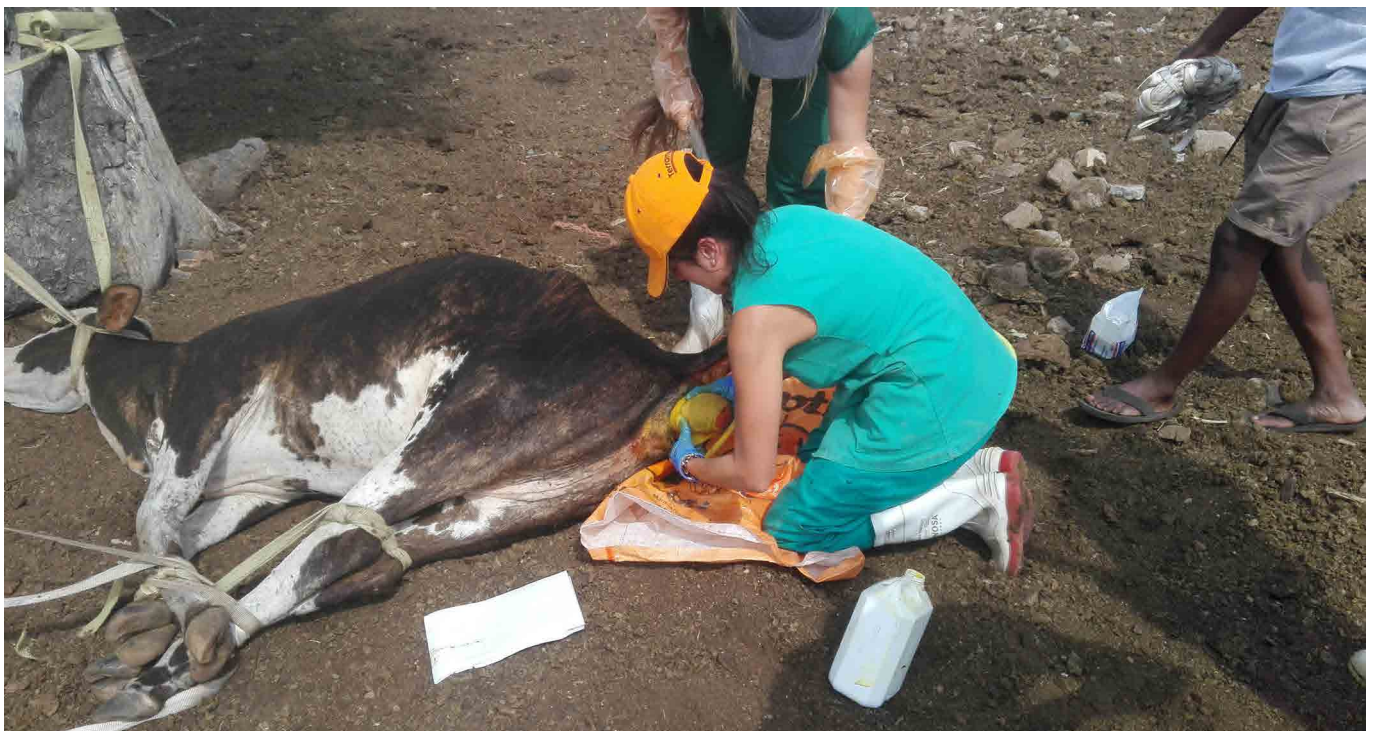
All of my doubts ended after day one! I loved every single second of every day on my Hluvukani rotation. All my fears were pushed aside and I learnt so many valuable lessons that will forever stay with me throughout my veterinary career. The most important being that I want to work with production animals, as well as wildlife if the opportunity arises.

I have so many incredible memories from my rotation at Hluvukani that a paragraph would never be enough to express my experiences there. Two of my fondest memories were rectifying my first ever vaginal prolapse in conditions that were definitely not for the feint-hearted, and experiencing a dystocia where the new born calf was saved and is still alive. I think any person who saw me on those days could see the happiness beaming from my face.

The early mornings at the dip tanks with the herds of cattle, dogs running loyally behind their stockmen, community farmers requiring veterinary assistance from us, and travelling from farmer to farmer to attend to all kinds of cases are also some of the memories that are unforgettable. This rotation was the first time that I ever felt like I was actually making a difference to the lives of animals and people, and I truly realised where my passion lies. If I could, I would have stayed at Hluvukani for my entire year of clinics. It was an experience of a lifetime and I am so blessed that I had the privilege of experiencing it the way I did!



"I loved every single second of every day on my Hluvukani rotation."



"Two of my fondest memories were rectifying my first ever vaginal prolapse in conditions that were definitely not for the feint-hearted, and experiencing a dystocia where the new born calf was saved and is still alive."

EMBRACING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH BROAD SMILES

Cara Noble, Narissa Naicker & Tienike Tereblanch (BVSc III)
 Photographs by: Narissa Naicker & Fiona Pillay (BVSc III)

Veterinary Professional Life (VPL) 300 is a module presented to all third-year veterinary science students.

This year, it was held during the block in February, after which we embarked on the journey of implementing the rabies prevention Community Engagement (CE) project at Nwa-vangani Primary School in Mamelodi.

The knowledge gained during lectures and presentations by ambassadors of the Global Alliance of Rabies Control (GARC), as well as the "Want a friend? Be a friend!" rabies booklets (provided by GARC) and the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science brochures, were all used as resources for the topic of rabies prevention. When we arrived at the school on 11 April 2018, we were met by the friendliest headmaster and well-behaved, eager Grade 6 learners. Our group of five veterinary science students informed the learners about the threat of rabies in South Africa and what can be done to prevent it. We also provided them with general



guidelines of pet care and welfare using the teaching aids sourced from the GARC website (<https://rabiesalliance.org/>).

For many veterinary science students, the year of compulsory community service (CCS) causes apprehension due to the lack of exposure to community services. During this period, students will be required to work as employees of the State Veterinary Services, and thus be required to work in close association with the communities they serve. The VPL 300 CE project has alleviated many of these concerns of a majority of the third-year veterinary science students who have implemented their projects throughout the year.

The lectures presented during the VPL 300 block provided students with the confidence, enthusiasm and ability to

plan and implement their anti-rabies presentations at local schools. This allows BVSc III students to embrace the responsibilities encountered during the CCS year and their future careers.

Overall, our VPL 300 CE project with Nwa-vangani Primary school was a success. We hope to have instilled vital information for the prevention of rabies in our country. We are grateful to have been granted the opportunity to work with the school and the community.



Nwa-vangani learners explore their rabies booklets.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Event	Venue	Date
Production Animal Outreach Clinic	Makapanstad and Ratjjean Project	Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Mamelodi Animal Health Care (MAHC)	Mamelodi Campus	Mondays to Fridays
Mnisi Community Project	Hluvukani	Mondays to Fridays



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 2018). The community engagement article should not be more than one page long.

Contact person: Dr Eugene Machimana
Tel: (012) 529 8100 (w) | **Email:** eugene.machimana@up.ac.za

Visit the UP Community Engagement Management System (CEMS) for updates about community project opportunities.