

Community Engagement Newsletter

Faculty of Veterinary Science

Summer 2012



Winter Pets' Picnic in the Park 2012

Lauren Dommert (DVN II Class Representative)

On 5 August 2012 the Onderstepoort veterinary nursing students hosted their second Pets' Picnic in the Park at Rietondale Park in Pretoria. It took the form of a charity event where family and friends could spend a fun-filled day with their pets.

The purpose of the event was to raise money for rabies vaccinations and increase awareness of rabies, while still allowing pets to spend a day out with their families. The day began with performances from the Canine Freestyle Dancers (dancing dogs) and a dog trick show from the Wag Team. This was followed by three competitions: A talent show, a lookalike competition and a kids' T-shirt painting competition.

There were also educational opportunities. These included an agility demonstration by Alexandra King, a touch demonstration by Helena Prinsloo, a puppy and training demonstration by the House of Brigadoon and question-and-answer sessions by a behavioural teacher (Lynda McConnell), a veterinary student (Leonard De Freitas) and a groomer (Was 'n Woef).

The main donations were collected from a boerewors roll and cooldrink stand sponsored by Penwarn Trout and Equine Estate, which was run by the veterinary nurses on the day, and from a raffle competition. The winner won a weekend away at the Penwarn Trout and Equine Estate in Underberg, KwaZulu-Natal worth R5 000.



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Donations were collected in the form of cash, as well as old or new pet-related products (blankets, food, collars and leads). Products to the value of R3 000 were donated to the Joey Gracie McConnell Animal Foundation, which were distributed to the Husky Rescue and Animal Rights Foundation (ARF). The veterinary nurses raised enough money to **vaccinate over 1 500 dogs against rabies**. The vaccinations were donated to the Onderstepoort outreach clinics and the Richtersveld (CVC).

The veterinary nurses are very grateful to Penwam Trout and Equine Estate, Was 'n Woef, BKJ Hosting, Canine

Connection, eNews, *Rekord* newspaper, Mog-n-Mutt pet food shop, Husky Rescue, Bayer, Royal Canin, Hills, the Veterinary Nurses Association of South Africa, Potatoe-Patatoe, Coffee on Wheels and many others for their support and sponsorship.

The event was such a great success that it was broadcast on the 19:00 Sunday prime time news on eTV (134), KykNet (111) and the eNews channel (403). An article was also published in the *Rekord* newspaper. With help from the Joey Gracie McConnell Animal Foundation, the veterinary nursing students hope to make the charity event an annual event for many years to come, so that they can help change the world one paw at a time.

ID PARADE

Clive Kinghorn (Friends of Rescued Animals: Manager)

Friends of Rescued Animals (FORA) is a haven for dogs and cats and was officially registered as a non-profit organisation (NPO 029775) in August 2003.



FORA's mission is to rescue as many unwanted, homeless and ill treated dogs and cats, to care for them at the shelter, and then to relocate every animal in its care to loving homes. For the less fortunate, it wishes to ensure that they have a home for life at FORA.

When the new management team took over in April 2012, they found that none of the animals at the shelter had been placed on file. They therefore had to make the assumption that they were all in need of vaccinations and deworming. During the weekend of 12 and 13 May they embarked on an ID parade. Each dog was weighed, photographed and fitted with a collar and tag containing a unique ID number. They were then vaccinated and dewormed, and received ticks and flea treatments. The dogs were placed on file, detailing information like breed, age, sex, description, sterilisation status and ID number.

Thanks to the amazing help of staff, volunteers and students from the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science, they were able to complete the process with 407 dogs in the two days. The following students provided assistance by manning the stations where the dogs were being treated:

Ashleigh Lord
 Kaylee Ferreira
 Lizahn Henning
 Maricke Ueckermann
 Remona Horn
 Stefanie Paul

They assisted with tasks such as weighing, deworming, ticks and flea control, and admin. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and professionalism. They were extremely punctual and did not hesitate to get involved with every task.

FORA's goal is to ensure that every animal receives the best care. Every effort goes into ensuring they experience the best quality of life possible. We are very grateful for the assistance we received. Although our dogs cannot speak, I am sure that, if they could, they would say "thank you" too.



DONATIONS

Please contact one of the following people if you would like to donate money, dog food, collars, leashes, blankets or your time:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sr Sarah Johnson | 012 529 8387 / 079 183 1878 | sarah.johnson@up.ac.za |
| Mr Jacques van Rooyen | 012 529 8339 / 083 289 1312 | jacques.vanrooyen@up.ac.za |
| Mr Eugene Machimana | 012 529 8100 / 083 687 0181 | eugene.machimana@up.ac.za |

The Hammanskraal Junior COP mini-league launch

Elizabeth Debeila (General Secretary)

On 9 June 2012, the Community Outreach Project (COP) mini-league head coordinators, Hendrick Meselane and Elizabeth Debeila, set out to launch a junior soccer mini-league for the youths of Hammanskraal, aged 13 to 21 years. The launch took place at Hammanskraal Selemela Sports, situated in Ward 76. The league is sponsored by the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science and the COP senior league.

Prior to the launch, the head coordinators were invited to Moretele Community Radio (MCR), also known as Moretele FM (106.6Hz), to broadcast live on radio to the entire Hammanskraal community on what this league is all about, how it works and what it holds in store for the youths of Hammanskraal. This was also a platform for the COP coordinators to officially invite the parents and the Hammanskraal community to join in on the launch of this initiative that will bring a positive competitive adventure to their youths. The league is set to run for three months, during which time 14 teams will compete for first, second and third position.



The launch was very successful and would not have been possible if it had not been for the support and sponsorship of the following people:

Dr Paul van Dam (Faculty of Veterinary Science), Isla Mackellar, Tahiyya Shaik and Terrence Thovhakale (OP House Committee), Jonathan Baloyi (Ward 76 Councillor), Vulani Chabalala and DK (Moretele FM 106.6), Chauke, Thulani Mokoena (career path motivational speaker: TUT), Rufus Mokoti (Swallows ex-professional PSL player), Raymond Seopa (Bafana-Bafana ex-professional PSL player), George Dolo, Thomas Motloutsi and Betty Ledwaba (COP assistant coordinators), all team managers and the community of Hammanskraal from Ward 76 and the surrounding areas.

The COP Steering Committee would like to express their deepest gratitude to the abovementioned institutions and individuals for their valuable contributions.

They would also like to make use of this opportunity to announce that the project was well received in the



community. The mini-league registered 14 teams. Together, all these teams constituted 230 youths who registered with the COP Junior mini -league 2012 on the day of the launch. The youths really enjoyed themselves and the presence of former professional players made it tangible for the youths to aspire to be soccer professionals.

The team managers and the youths hold their affiliation to the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science at

Onderstepoort very near to their hearts and are very grateful for having been provided with this opportunity. The league games that are played every Saturday are announced every Friday on Moretele FM on the 18:00 show. The results are also announced every Saturday afternoon on same 18:00 show.

The 14 teams registered for the league are as follows:

| Team Name | Team Manager | Team Name | Team Manager |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| SA Acardemy FC | I Mabele | Temba Sporting FC | S Motaung |
| Master Diamonds FC | PD Motaung | Sekampaneng FC | Mohumotsi |
| Young Tigers FC | G Moagi | Kings FC | C Kubayi |
| Mathabe United FC | A Mathabe | Power Shooters | Matjila |
| Tregena FC | J Molekoa | 5 United FC | T Baloyi |
| GTR Shooters FC | G Bengu | Movers FC | Ferdinand |
| Early Birds FC | Chabalala | Leeds United FC | Thapelo |

FREE ME

primate enclosure enrichment project

Estelle Oosthuysen, Melandie Taljaardt, Rob Fouche, Sandra Labuscagne and Tiaan Cilliers (BVSc I)



Free Me is a rehabilitation centre for indigenous wildlife in the north of Johannesburg and was founded in 1997 by a group of trained rehabilitators who realised that there was not enough organised care for suburban indigenous wildlife.

Free Me Wild Rehabilitation Centre is a self-funded registered non-profit organisation, relying solely on the generosity of the public through donations, bequests, membership, sponsorship and voluntary assistance in all aspects.

Our group chose to work with the Free Me organisation because of its exceptional dedication to and passion for

the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife. It was important to our group to choose an organisation that is based on sound values.

Our goal with the community engagement project was to implement change in the primate enclosure and ensure that all the projects that were implemented were sustainable, met the needs of Free Me and improved the lives of the rescued primates.

The implementation of the project followed a two-phased approach. First, we needed to focus on the areas already within the cage that we could improve on. Secondly, we had to try and provide some enrichment areas for the animals.

It was important for the entire group to visit the location, firstly to brainstorm and then to get an idea of the problem areas, as well as the possible enrichment areas. Once the areas of improvement had been identified and a plan had been developed, the implementation could begin. We started with the items that we could build or assemble at home before taking them to the cages. In that way we would spend less time putting things together once we were at the rehabilitation centre, and more time building and fixing the larger structures.

Most of the interaction we had regarding our project was with the people working at the rehabilitation centre. It was refreshing to see the passion that these volunteers have for the animals and their welfare. The impact we had on the organisation was to improve their existing enclosures and, in so doing, enrich the lives of the primates that will be rescued and rehabilitated at Free Me. We hope that our community engagement project will also reignite the passion of the volunteers and encourage them to continue with the wonderful work they are doing for the indigenous wildlife of South Africa.

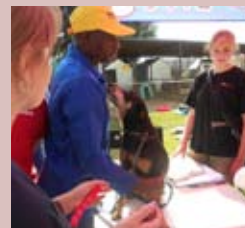
We know that our community engagement project was just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what organisations like Free Me need, but we hope that the passion that we showed for Free Me and the work they are doing will show the volunteers and the staff that the community is aware of what they are accomplishing and that this will motivate them even more to carry on with the wonderful work they are doing to help save South African wildlife.

Thank you Free Me wildlife rehabilitation centre for allowing us to do our community engagement project with you. You have truly enriched our lives.



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 | Bimonthly 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. The community engagement article should not be longer than one page. Contact person: Mr Eugene Machimana, Tel: 012 529 8100 (w) Cell: 083 687 0181 **Email: eugene.machimana@up.ac.za**

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