

# Community Engagement Newsletter



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

## Faculty of Veterinary Science

Summer: December 2015



## Education all round

Nadia Saunderson (Outreach Project Manager)

The Highveld Horse Care Unit (HHCU) has been working to improve the welfare of working equines in Orange Farm, for a number of years now. Over the years, our project has been refined to include education of owners and drivers.

The aim of our project is to offer sustainable improvement to working equine welfare in township areas. This is to be achieved by encouraging the owners to address equine-related issues using a community-led approach to encourage a reduced reliance on free services provided by organisations such as the HHCU. Owners in the target areas need to be educated in treating their equines in a welfare-friendly manner that demonstrates good knowledge of husbandry, first aid, health and foot care and making use of good quality service providers when required.



*Veterinary students enjoyed interacting with the equines of Orange Farm.*

It was our privilege to assist three groups of third year veterinary students in their community engagement projects. The various groups chose three different modules of our training programme to educate the owners. The theme around the training programme was sustainability, therefore all the presentations had to be designed in an easy-to-understand and visual manner where owners could use local materials to improve welfare issues in the community.

A total of 16 owners from one coal yard were trained by the students. Their presentations were well thought out and



*Students also had the opportunity to interact with farmers and community members about equine care.*

very relative to equine welfare problems. The presentations were well received by the owners and drivers, who appreciated the input of young, upcoming vets.

Not only did the horse owners and drivers benefit, but we believe that the students now better understand the poverty related issues and problems faced by the various equine owners in rural areas and urban townships.

We believe that a community-based approach is an integral part of the students' curriculum and admire their dedication towards this project.

# A day at CLAW

Sr Jennifer Gerner (CLAW Veterinary Nurse)

On Friday, 14 August 2015, CLAW had the pleasure of hosting five veterinary students from Onderstepoort Campus for the day. Shira Amar, Casper Bester, Suzaan Steyn, Motlotleng Tselapedi and Gertruida Mentz joined us for a mobile clinic in an informal settlement close to the CLAW hospital, called Soul City.



*Veterinary students spent the day with CLAW in Soul City, offering their services to the well-loved pets in the community.*

The students started the morning at the CLAW Hospital in Krugersdorp, where they observed morning treatments of the 30 patients we currently have admitted to the hospital. They assisted with physical examinations, placing IV drip lines, and administering medication. They also had time to observe a few spay and neuter surgeries with Dr Saskia Karius.

In the afternoon, we packed up the CLAW *bakkies* and headed out to Soul City, one of 30 communities serviced by CLAW.

We found a shady spot under a tree and called the local community over for vaccines and deworming. The response from this community is always welcoming. As soon as our *bakkies* pull in, the word goes out and people start arriving with their dogs and cats. CLAW has a regular presence in Soul City and a good portion of the animals are already sterilized and vaccinated.

It was wonderful to see the future veterinarians of this country interacting

with the local community, giving advice on pet food, shelter and of course medical opinions for these well-loved pets. The students vaccinated over 50 dogs and cats, applied flea and tick treatment, and dewormed over 60 animals! The students also had a donation of blankets, collars and leads which they distributed among the needy dogs and cats. We thoroughly enjoyed having the students participate, and believe community engagement is such an important part of veterinary welfare medicine in South Africa.



**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

rebone.moerane@up.ac.za  
 sarah.johnson@up.ac.za  
 eugene.machimana@up.ac.za

# Veterinary science students making a difference!

There is no gift greater than the gift of knowledge

Elmien Durieux (Fundraiser SAVA CVC)

An incredible 106 dogs, together with their owners, participated in an interactive programme of education and training during this year's Student Community Engagement Project on 22 July 2015. The day was organised by a group of students from the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Science, namely Amy Bezuidenhout, Emca du Plessis, Jamiela Cornelius, Jan-Daniel Du Preez and Simoné Carrington in partnership with the Loate Community Veterinary Clinic (CVC).

The day started with the dogs and cats receiving basic veterinary healthcare, which included vaccinations (5-in-1 and rabies), deworming, and tick and flea treatments. Seven dogs were also collected for sterilisation by the Hatfield Bird and Animal Hospital. The students set up various stations for primary healthcare, pet behavioural training, the handing out of pet food donations and even a puppet show for the children.

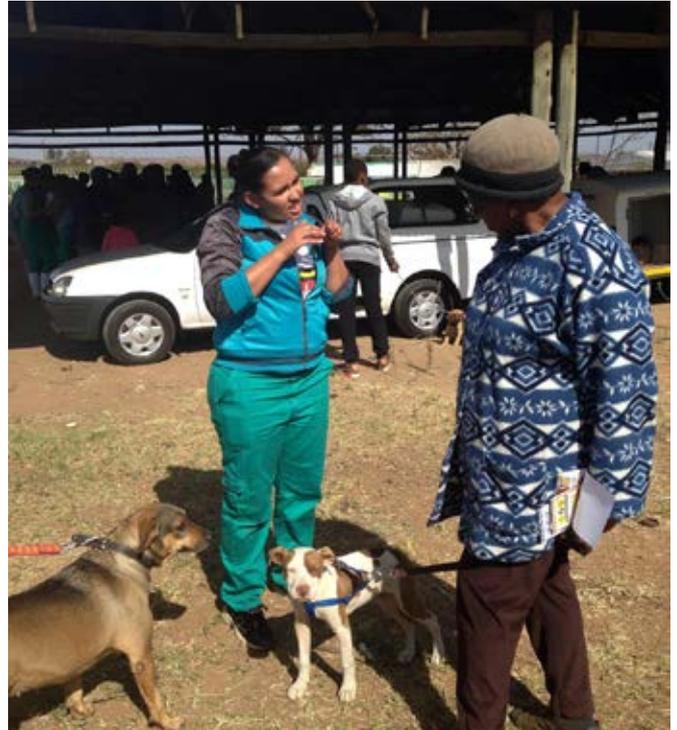
The students gained valuable hands-on practical experience by providing primary healthcare under the guidance of CVC private veterinarians. Dr Dave Kenyon, Loate CVC's Principal Veterinarian, commented that part of Loate CVC's mandate is to provide education to the

local community. Therefore, the community engagement project of the University of Pretoria is a great help as the students assist with providing education.

The students provided information covering various aspects of pet care, including the benefits of vaccination and deworming, training, good nutrition (and what foods to avoid feeding) and behavioural issues. The students were divided into working groups and assisted pet owners to learn some basic training techniques with their pets. Techniques such as teaching them to sit, come on command and to walk calmly on a leash were taught.

Underdogs SA Rehabilitation Centre volunteers were all on hand throughout the morning providing information regarding responsible pit bull ownership. They also handed out dog collars, leashes, dog food and beds. The day closed with an educational puppet show for the children from the community. A big "thank you" to all who contributed towards making this day a successful event. We would like to thank the following sponsors:

- Janet Mendes – Rogz
- Bronwen Jacobs – Montego
- Dale Parrish – V-Tech Laboratories
- Kobus Myburgh – Puppet show
- Sr. Rentia du Plessis – Kyron Laboratories
- Estelle Smith and volunteers – Underdogs
- Ali Makgato – Mobile clinic
- Themba Sithole, Nico Doughts, Shirley Mtsenga and Philisiwe Nkosi – UNISA student volunteers



*A veterinary student advises a community member on caring for her pets.*



*Students hard at work in the Loate Community Veterinary Clinic.*

# Reconnecting with our roots: future Vets and Vet Nurses visit Hluvukani Clinic

Nyeleti Manganyi (BVSc IV)



*Nyeleti Manganyi presenting to learners.*

About 50 Grade 6 learners from Manyeleti Primary School, accompanied by their Life Orientation (LO) teacher, Mrs S. V. Mokoni visited Hluvukani Animal Health Clinic (HAHC). They were eager to know about animals and veterinary science. It was the first time in 2015 (if not ever) that a school visited the HAHC.

In the past, vet students would visit schools to present their talks there. We went to visit the school and invited the school to the HAHC. A talk on how to take care of pets was presented on 5 August, at the school. Animals were likened to people to ensure that learners understood that animals also have needs and can feel pain like us. The school was given a chart and

booklets on five freedoms of animals. Exactly a week later, at midday, learners entered the HAHC with great enthusiasm to learn more. The day at HAHC was spent as follows:

**Session 1:** Revision from last week's presentation included topics such as: veterinary science and the role of a veterinarian in the community, types of cruelty seen in the communities,

types of animal welfare organisations, subjects (more especially pure Mathematics and Physical Science) to take in high school, higher institutions to go to and the duration of studying vet nursing and vet science, were covered. Questions were also raised and answered to the best of our ability.

**Session 2:** Learners were divided into three groups and taken for a clinic tour. They were taken through the consulting room, laboratory where they were showed a blood smear under the microscope, the kennel room, theatre, radiology room, the pharmacy where they were showed different types of medication including a demonstration emphasising that dogs also take tablets and many more. Clinic biosecurity measures and protective clothing were also discussed. More questions, which were all answered, were raised during the tour.

**Session 3:** "Lady" the HAHC pet enjoyed playing with her new friends. After working so hard, we finished our day by taking a group photo and enjoying refreshments. Learners were also given some treats to enjoy on their way home.



*Vet students with Manyeleti Primary School teacher and learners.*

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

– Mahatma Gandhi

# You snooze, you lose... It's called passion

Khulekani Lukhele (BVSc IV)

It's 5 o'clock in the morning, beep-beep goes the alarm and I jump out of bed with excitement, yet unsure what the day has in store for me. All I know is that I have a day full of adventure in the Hluvukani area, Bushbuckridge Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. A beautiful area outside the Orpen gate of the Kruger National Park (KNP) is where I get to call home for the next two weeks of my clinics rotation.

Next up, all the necessary preparation takes place (showering, breakfast and checking if everything is in the bags) and then at 05:40 am we leave the Hans Hoheisen Wildlife Research Station (HHWRS) and make our way to the outer perimeter of the KNP. Along the way we marvel at the impalas, zebras and other wild animals that dwell in the park as we also get to travel among all the different animals the Creator made.

Upon arrival at the Hluvukani Animal Health Clinic (HAHC), we pack all the medication into our cooler boxes with ice packs at hand, and the day begins. Vroom goes the ambulance as we head to the dip-tank (systematically, the HAHC covers about 18 diptanks with a single diptank visited daily) with Dr Loise Biggs as our driver. As all the cattle were already dipped by the Mpumalanga Government (under the supervision of the Environmental Monitors (EMs) and Animal Health Technicians (AHTs)) we attended to those that require veterinary attention. Tick-tock the seconds went by. Upon completion of that specific task, it was on to the appointments the ambulance had for that day.

One by one, all scheduled appointments and follow-up cases were dealt with accordingly. At 10 o'clock, one of us (the students) was dropped off at the HAHC to deal with any walk-in clients. Anything ranging from small animals, goat kids and clients buying milk replacer, as well as winter licks for their cattle were handled in the 10:00am – 2:00pm time window allocated for clinic work.

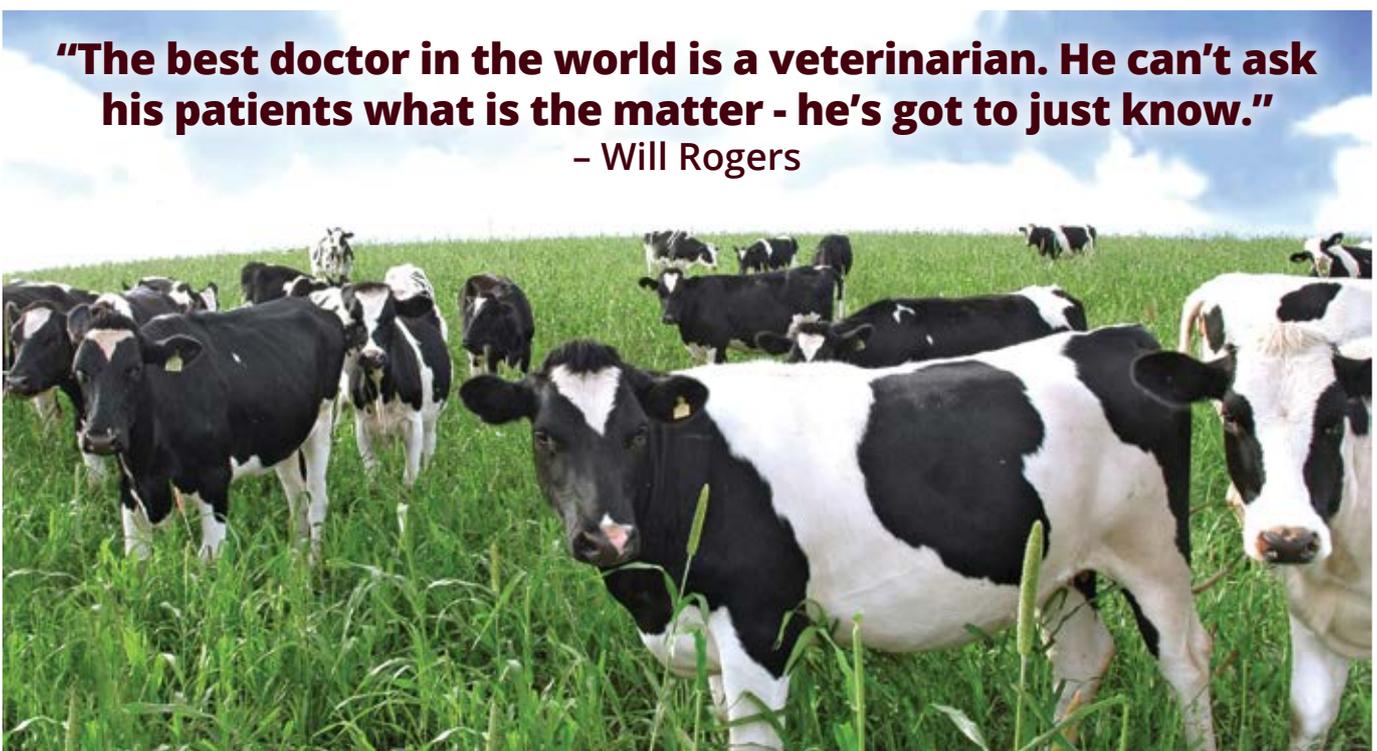


*Khulekani Lukhele doing a clinical exam at one of the callouts.*

After the scheduled cases had been tended to, the rest of the team returned to the HAHC for the remainder of the day, stocking and preparing the ambulance for the next day. On two of the days, we were joined by a group of third-year vet students who were doing their community project. They gave an informative talk on carcass grading and ageing.

**“The best doctor in the world is a veterinarian. He can't ask his patients what is the matter - he's got to just know.”**

**– Will Rogers**



# A rush to save as many as possible!

Sabelo Magagula (BVSc IV)

In recent months, the area of Mnisi in Mpumalanga has been hit hard by high temperatures and an unforgiving drought. The Faculty of Veterinary Science recognised that farmers in the area needed advice on how to best care for their animals during this time. Senior students delivered an informative talk that focused mainly on nutrition.

The general livestock condition was extremely poor. Both cows and pigs presented with body condition scores that rated as low as 0.5. It was, however, encouraging to see that farmers truly tried to provide for their livestock. They would often allow them to walk long distances to reach better grazing, or even move them to other camps to gain access to feed.

The presentation was given to aid farmers in saving the few animals that remained. The following topics were covered and explained in detail to an attentive audience:

- **Cows:** Protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM) and possible solutions:
  - Protein/winter lick
  - Hay bales
  - Minerals and vitamin supplements
- Calves/lambs/kids
- Milk replacer
  - Pellets



*Sabelo Magagula addressing the farmers.*

Farmers were furthermore encouraged to promote environmental hygiene through a number of useful suggestions. Dip tanks, specific grazing areas and secure homesteads were mentioned in an effort to highlight the animals' need for protection from the elements and other unforeseen circumstances.

Gratitude is extended to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH) Community Clinic rotation, Dr Louise Biggs, Mr Godfrey Tsela, all the Environmental Monitors, Animal Health Technicians and farmers. Without you, this project would not be possible and this rotation would not have been a success.

## 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 (Autumn 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.