

Community Engagement Newsletter



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Veterinary Science

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SO, WHAT IF I WANT TO BE A VET?

Gaositwe Makgale (OPVSC - Community Engagement Representative)
Photographs by Susan Hoogenboezem



"I want to be a vet" weekend in a nutshell

The aim of the weekend is to raise awareness about the daily life of a vet student and the different career opportunities that comes with it.

"I want to be a vet" learners 2016

The reality of the situation is that not everyone knows what a veterinarian is, what they do and how they do it. The Onderstepoort Veterinary & Para Veterinary Student Committee (OPVSC) started the "I want to be a vet" weekend initiative a couple of years ago. The aim was to raise awareness about the daily life of a vet student and the different career opportunities that comes with it.

Learners engaging at a dog practical

We hosted 46 learners from various schools all over the country on the 4th of March 2016. The aim was to give them an experience of a lifetime by exposing them to some dynamics of veterinary sciences. The learners engaged in various activities, which mainly focused on the basic handling of cattle, dogs, horses, pigs and sheep. They gave positive feedback, which was very encouraging. Most of them made a special mention of the food, which was absolutely delicious. The sheep practical was everyone's favourite. Who would have thought catching a sheep would be that fun?



Participants spent time with the Faculty's beagles.



Most of the learners made a special mention of the food, which was absolutely delicious.

Veterinary student tutors for the weekend

After weeks and months of planning, Ms Fatima Molla and I can say that the purpose was indeed fulfilled. Some learners developed an interest in the career, while others felt very proud and certain that they had indeed made an excellent choice of applying for a degree that touches the heart.

The "I want to be a vet" weekend was huge success. Everyone had something new to learn. The OPVSC learnt the importance of good teamwork and cohesiveness.

"The bigger the dream, the more important the team" Robin Sharma.

MEETING

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

SEMONKONG OUTREACH GROWS FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH!

Dr Nicolle Gray (Semonkong Hospital Trust - Executive Committee Veterinary Portfolio)

September 2015 saw yet another successful outreach to the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho. Onderstepoort students accompanied three veterinarians to the impoverished area of Semonkong with the aim of providing a high standard of veterinary services to the thousands of animals in the community.

Dr Catriona Lyle and Dr Hildegard Setzkorn added much-needed expertise to the equine clinic. Approximately 2 000 horses and donkeys were attended to. About 800 horses received a vaccination against tetanus. All the horses were dewormed and dosed with Vitamin B solution. Many horses were treated for saddle sores. Saddle sores are a major problem in Semonkong this time of year. This is primarily the result of poor body condition following poor winter grazing. Horse owners were also educated on how to look after and reduce the incidents of saddle sores. Numerous horses were also castrated. Dawn Mansfield once again tackled the

problem of poor fitting tack. Broken tack was fixed, and poorly fitted tack was exchanged. We were delighted to see tack that was fixed on previous outreaches is still being used!

The remaining clinics were overseen by Dr Nicolle Gray. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of Onderstepoort students, we were able to purchase a second mobile crush, which allowed us to treat more animals in a shorter amount of time! Approximately 4 200 sheep were dosed with Nasalcur. About 2 000 sheep were vaccinated against pulpy kidney. Approximately 1 800 cattle were injected with ivermectin. It is wonderful to see

how the condition of the production animals has improved over the years.

Approximately 200 dogs were vaccinated against rabies. The 400 dogs that were seen were all dewormed and treated for external parasites. Numerous dogs were sterilised. Over 9 000 animals were reached during the outreach! This would not have been possible without God's grace and our amazing sponsors, veterinarians and students!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our project! Should you wish to get involved in an outreach please contact us at nicollegray@gmail.com.



During the outreach, approximately 200 dogs were vaccinated against rabies.



Over 9 000 animals were reached, which points to a huge success.



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

LESS IS MORE

At the Mamelodi Animal Health Clinic (MAHC)

Maryke van Zyl (BVSc IV)

The MAHC is situated on the grounds of the Mamelodi campus of the University of Pretoria. This community clinic offers primary health care to the animals (mainly dogs) of the surrounding community at minimal cost.



Students get an opportunity to practice their clinical and people skills during this clinical rotation.

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



Veterinary students perform a procedure on a patient at the MAHC. This clinic is a true testimony to the passion veterinarians have for their career.

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.

"... the less you have the more you must use your knowledge and instincts in order to give patients the best possible care."

Real world experience

Sujatha Harrylal (BVSc IV)

“Spoiler alert, it is epic”. This was the word on the street when it came to Hluvukani. And I can say with certainty that the experience here has indeed been nothing short of epic. It has been such a privilege to get some real life experience in the real world...it really does not get any more real than this!

Driving through Hluvukani on the first day I thought we really had our work cut out for us, with the suicidal chickens and the “I don’t care” pigs, even playing “dodge that dog”. However, upon arriving at the Hluvukani Animal Health Clinic (HAHC) I was pleasantly surprised to find that in the hustle and bustle, the HAHC had maintained its composure. The HAHC was very user friendly and it made it so much easier to adjust to the new working environment. The people we have worked with over the past two weeks have been extremely patient and welcoming. It would not have been the same without them. They have invaluable experience working with animals and I have learnt that a rope can go a long way! They always had helpful hints on how to do a procedure more practically and I have learnt so much from them.



Dr Louise Biggs has introduced me to a level of work ethic which is unparalleled! Her dedication to helping the community in the area is amazing. I have gained so much experience with carrying out procedures, which we do not get the chance to do at Onderstepoort campus. The work being done here does more than just treat animals, it uplifts the community. It has been an eye-

Practical experiences in communities is the best way to learn the ropes of being a vet.

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opening experience into what it really means to be a vet in a rural area and has definitely motivated me for the year for community service ahead.

This experience as a whole has truly been inspiring and educational, and such fun! I am thankful to everyone who has made it unforgettable.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Event	Venue	Date
Production Animal Outreach Clinic	Makapanstad & 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 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.