

Community Engagement Newsletter



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Veterinary Science

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VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL LIFE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT: MOGALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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A huge thank you to the Global Alliance for Rabies Control that supplied us with great rabies booklets

On 18 to 20 July 2016, our group implemented its Community Engagement (CEn) Project under the Veterinary Professional Life (VPL) 300 module, which is centred on animal care and rabies, at Mogale Primary School in Mamelodi. We presented this topic to three Grade 6 classes, each class consisting of about 50 pupils.

We designed a skit incorporating the information we wanted the pupils to gain. Two of our group members were dressed as superheroes from the "superhero headquarters", which was our community partner – the Mamelodi Animal Health Clinic (MAHC). The remaining three members were narrators who interacted with the pupils and superheroes. Quantitative questionnaires were given to the pupils before and after our presentation, to assess their learning and understanding of our skit. We also gave them maps to show them how to get to the MAHC from their school to get their pets vaccinated or treated for illnesses.

Furthermore, we gave Mr Dan Makgopela, Head of the Department of Natural Sciences at the school, two handmade posters on rabies and dog language, which were taken out of the rabies booklets that we received, to display around the school. Finally, we handed out the rabies booklets that Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) was so kind to provide to us, free of charge. The pupils were very excited to have their own books and immediately started to page through them. They seemed thrilled

to have received a certificate for rabies education at the back of their books, which qualified them to be superheroes too!

This project was very uplifting, as the pupils were intrigued by our skit and they were very interactive with us. It was clear that they wanted to gain knowledge and that they had learned something



Some kids at Mogale Primary School were the proud recipients of educational rabies booklets.



Educating communities is important in the prevention of rabies.

new. It was apparent that most pupils had a good idea of basic animal care, but they did not know about rabies, what to do if they were bitten by a dog with rabies or even what a vaccination was. At the end of the class, the pupils felt they had better knowledge on this subject and we knew that the rabies booklets we left them with would help them retain the most vital information on rabies.

We believe that these pupils will teach other children in the school and community about rabies, animal

welfare and the basics of taking care of pets. By talking to previous groups who implemented projects at the same school, we realised that these pupils have indeed taken what they had learned from previous years to heart and they have clearly shared their knowledge with their fellow pupils.

We noticed how their opinions had positively changed from the previous year. This gives us hope that we too will have influenced these pupils' lives and that we provided them with valuable knowledge that they will share with their communities.

MEETING

A Community Engagement Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, 30 November 2016 at 13H30.

RUST DE WINTER WORLD VETERINARY DAY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Sarah-Joy Taylor (BVSc V)

Around a 120 fifth-year veterinary science students were up at 4:15 am to take part in a mass vaccination programme in Rust de Winter, Limpopo. There was an air of sleepy anticipation and a little trepidation as we waited for the buses to arrive at Onderstepoort and meet the Veterinarians (Vet), Animal Health Technicians and farmers who participated in the day.

We divided into predetermined student groups at the central meeting point with a veterinarian and two Animal Health Technicians allocated to each group. The groups were then assigned farms and followed the farmers to their various farms after a quick breakfast sandwich.

On the farms, we vaccinated hundreds of cattle against lumpy skin disease. We also administered SuperVax (anthrax, botulism and blackleg) and a few goats and sheep were vaccinated against pulpy kidney. Faecal samples were also collected to assess the herds' worm burdens.

It was a very successful day for all. The animals received some basic health care from the teams and the veterinary science students learned a great deal from all the other role players. We learnt how to efficiently mix and draw vaccines, how to easily and quickly administer subcutaneous injections, and how to avoid being injured in various types of crushes. We also gained much more practical exposure and experience than we have had before in the curriculum. This helped us to learn and remember important tips and tricks, like turning a goat's tail to help it to move forward.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in this year's World Vet Day, a sentiment shared with many fellow veterinary science students. Many of my peers expressed regret that this was the first time they had participated in such a day. They had gained confidence in handling the animals and they had an enjoyable day overall.

Finally, a huge thanks to Dr Nenene Qekwana, who put in much time and effort to organise the day with all the role players and encourage our class to enjoy and share in the day.



Students learnt useful practical skills throughout the day.



It was a very successful day for all. The veterinary science students learned a great deal from all the other role players.



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

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

Khutso Chiloane (VetSCO - Education) and Maheso Hendrick Maheso (VetSCO - Media and Education)

Being part of the World Vet Day initiative that was held on 29 April 2016 at Hammanskraal was a life-changing experience. It gave a sense of care and goodwill. The learners, together with their parents, were willing to learn from us and participated in all the activities, such as colouring, face painting and reading, that were prepared for them.

Shoes, dog neck collars, sleeping bags and dog food from various organisations were handed out to the needy. Sweets were available to the learners who showed the most enthusiasm and those who were willing to possibly pursue a career in veterinary science.

The colouring pages helped the learners realise that they are privileged with basic needs and thus learned that they should provide the same basic needs for their pets. As veterinary science students, we also learnt about the main challenges communities face in terms of veterinary care for their pets.

One can say that the main goal (raising awareness about the veterinary science profession) was achieved judging from the feedback both the parents and learners gave when asked the most important, but basic concepts of care-giving for their animals' well-being.

The atmosphere was positive and everybody was compassionate and full of enthusiasm. It brings nothing but joy and togetherness to the community. The initiative that was taken by Veterinary Student Community Outreach (VetSCO) as part of World Vet Day was an eye opener and inspired us as a team to venture to more communities and leave a veterinary footprint.



Veterinary science students teach learners about the profession.



The colouring station was a big hit throughout the day.

PRIMARY ANIMAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER IN MAMELODI

Siobhan Barrett (BVSC IV)

Mamelodi Animal Health Clinic (MAHC) is a primary health care provider to small companion animals in the Mamelodi area. MAHC is located on the Mamelodi Campus of University of Pretoria. As a veterinary science student, the first thing that you notice upon arrival is how warm and welcoming the staff

are. Dr Jeanne Rudman takes pride in her work and goes the extra mile to ensure that patients receive optimal treatment with the limited resources available. The doctor gives students opportunities to learn new skills and interact with the clients and patients.

Mamelodi is a wonderful experience for a veterinary student. Personally, it opened my eyes to what a well-run community clinic should look like. It shows how one can make a significant impact on a community simply by providing primary health care. MAHC has by far been my favourite rotation. Having rotated through the MAHC, I am excited for my compulsory community service year next year. I want to make a difference like Dr Rudman has in Mamelodi. It has also shown me that I may want to pursue a career in animal welfare and primary community veterinary care.



A community member brings a patient to the MAHC



The MAHC is well equipped

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT: THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF HUMANE EDUCATION

Michaela Simon, Adriaan Brits, Garrick Cathrall & Pieter Botes (BVSc III)

AN EDUCATION INITIATIVE CARRIED OUT BY VPL 300 GROUP 15

Our education initiative was carried out at Onderstepoort Primary School on the 28 July 2016. This small primary school is situated approximately 1.8 kms away from the Faculty of Veterinary Science campus. Our initiative was aimed at educating about 50 Grade 5 and 6 learners around topics such as basic animal health care and animal handling.

We were able to achieve our goals by using the booklets so kindly provided to use by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC). This booklet allowed us to structure our lesson plan in a fun and interactive manner as it gave us a fantastic guide line from which to work off. We were able to use the booklet and act out different scenarios for the learners as well letting them demonstrate to us how for instance they would treat a sleeping dog. By asking the learners to come up and demonstrate for us how they

interacted with animals gave our group a unique insight to how they perceive animals. This was greatly beneficial to us as it allowed us to see the love that these learners have for their pets. In addition, it also helped us to access how the community is taking care of their animals as it is usually the children in these communities that are responsible for the animals.

At the end of the day each learner was given a booklet with their names written at the back as a certificate for learning and participating in the day's activities which they were all highly excited about. We also gave Gladys, the teacher, posters from the book for the classroom, so that future classes could look at them. We thoroughly enjoyed our time at Onderstepoort Primary School and hope that we were able to teach the learners things that they could keep throughout their lives.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Event	Venue	Date
Production Animal Outreach Clinic	Makapanstad & Ratjiepan Project	Wednesdays
Mamelodi Animal Health Care (MAHC)	Mamelodi Campus	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 (Summer 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.