

# Community Engagement Newsletter



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Veterinary Science  
Spring: November 2016



## World Rabies Day 2016: Onderstepoort gets involved **ONE STICKER. ONE VACCINATION. SAVING COUNTLESS LIVES.**

Megan Gibbs (IVSA – Local Veterinary Public Health Officer)

World Rabies Day is a global campaign to help prevent the world's most fatal disease. World Rabies Day is facilitated by the international non-profit organisation, Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC). This year's theme was Rabies: Educate. Vaccinate. Eliminate.

The International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA South Africa) contributed to the momentum by launching a campaign, sponsored by Royal Canin, to raise money to vaccinate dogs in rural areas. The project involved selling World Rabies Day stickers for R10, the value of sponsoring a vaccination. The money raised will allow the veterinary students to vaccinate dogs that do not usually have access to veterinary services during community engagement activities planned for January next year. The sticker also gave its owner license to wear "funky socks" to school or work on World Rabies Day (28 September 2016). This served as a symbol of them taking the step to help end rabies-related human deaths by 2030. Much awareness was created through the Facebook page, and stickers were sold at both the Onderstepoort and Prinshof campuses, as well as Kolonnade Retail Park during September. Stickers were also sold to first-year Veterinary Science students on the Hatfield Campus and at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital.

On Wednesday, 28 September 2016, the campaign organisers attended the World Rabies Day event at Orange Farms in Johannesburg, organised by the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Veterinary Services.



*Community members brought their pets to the World Rabies Day event to get them vaccinated by Veterinary Science students*



*University of Pretoria Veterinary Science students participate in educational activities to inform community members about rabies*

Along with the Veterinary Student Community Outreach group (VETSCO) and the Onderstepoort Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Committee (OPVSC), we presented rabies education for the community members who brought their dogs and cats to be vaccinated, we sold more stickers and we represented the university by handing out faculty brochures and offering career guidance.

The event was highly successful. During the event, 708 dogs and 27 cats were

vaccinated against rabies and many animals were treated for clinical conditions. Additionally, seven dogs and two cats were sterilised. In the two days leading up to the event, 18 dogs were sterilised and vaccinations were given to 30 dogs and one cat. Mr Terence Scott and Mr Andre Coetzer of the GARC visited us at Onderstepoort and gave a short lunch-time talk on the amazing work they do to combat rabies globally.

We are very excited to continue this project next year for World Rabies Day 2017 and

we would like to thank everyone who supported us during this month of hard work. We could vaccinate 200 dogs because of your support and we are confident that this number will grow!

Rabies is a global problem that can be defeated. By vaccinating dogs to stop the disease at its source, we are not only helping South African communities, but communities throughout the world. We would like to extend a special word of thanks to Royal Canin for making this campaign possible.

## WHO CARES ABOUT THE DOGTOWN SA DOGS?

Louise Allen (DVN I)

This year, the first-year Veterinary Nursing students decided to support Dogtown SA for our class community engagement project. Dogtown SA is a non-profit, pro-life animal rehabilitation centre specialising in “misunderstood dogs” – dogs with behavioural or medical problems. The qualified trainers dedicate their time to assess each dog thoroughly, whereafter they go through an intensive training programme which can be adjusted to suit the individual needs of the animal. Dogtown SA also offer a retirement village for older dogs that have less chance of finding a loving home.



*Students in the bath team pampering a pooch*

Currently, Dogtown SA has 157 dogs in their care, but because of the specific treatment and programme that they follow, not just anyone can work with the animals. When they heard a group of veterinary nurses in training were coming to offer their services for a day they were thrilled. On the morning of our visit, twenty first-year Veterinary Nursing students loaded up the vans with donated dog food and old towels that we gathered amongst ourselves, and then twenty of us headed to the branch in Midrand. Once we arrived, we strategically split up into three groups; the kennel cleaners, the bathers and the walkers. The kennel cleaners got dusty and very dirty while scrubbing water bowls and kennels, dusting bedding and cleaning floors. The kennels were sparkling clean and ready for the clean pooches arriving back from their post-bath walk. The bathers gently soothed and encouraged the dogs during their pamper time, being bathed, dipped and towel-dried after their bath. The walkers got to air dry the dogs in the sun whilst exploring the premises around the centre. Let's not forget the puppy cuddling in between our duties. It was an incredibly successful day with the class working together so efficiently, despite the dry, dusty heat. The experience we gained was invaluable to us. Working with dogs that had had a difficult and confusing past taught us patience and perseverance. Dogtown SA was so grateful for the efficient chain of work we had going on and felt that we helped them a great deal that day.

The organisation needs all the help they can get with the increasingly large number of dogs in their care. We left feeling



*Twenty Veterinary Nursing students were ready to give their time and energy to help the Dogtown SA staff members*

grubby, yet so satisfied that we could not only lighten the load for Dogtown SA staff members, but also provide love and care for the precious dogs who live there. With the 20 new people who visited Dogtown that day, we hope that, by word of mouth and social media, Dogtown SA can gain more recognition and support for the incredible work they are doing.

## MEETING

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

# Sowing seeds for a better future

Anne-Marie Hüster (BVSc IV)

In an effort to engage with our communities as third-year Veterinary Science students, our Veterinary Professional Life (VPL 300) group paid a visit to the library of the Onverwacht Primary School in Cullinan on 22 July 2016. Mandela Day was held on this day, which meant many fun activities for the children.

The purpose of our project was to teach the children about the right pet care and how to ensure animal welfare. Our group tried to make it fun and interesting by using role-playing, puppets and posters.

Our community partner in this adventure was the Community Veterinary Clinic (CVC) Optima in Cullinan, where our contact person was Dr Van Oudtshoorn, to whom we wish to express our appreciation for this opportunity. We went in with many expectations, and came back with a sense of accomplishment. It was an incredibly satisfying feeling when we handed over the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) rabies booklets to the library, as well as the props that we used in the presentation, so that they could make use of them as we had. The library will be handing the booklets out to the higher grades as the Grade Rs cannot read yet. The booklets will also be used by the CVC Optima for projects in other communities as they were very impressed by them.

The audience we presented to comprised Grade Rs and Grade 1s. The challenge was

to get them excited and to get them to interact with us. As we went along, they started to love the puppets and became quite responsive. Starting to show children what appropriate pet care and handling looks like at such a young age will have a much greater impact on the community than if we had started with the education at a much later stage.

Animals in the community are already being treated well and receive consistent veterinary care as a result of the longstanding work that CVC Optima has been doing. The children that are taught about correct pet care are the ones that benefit the most in terms of future handling of animals and rabies prevention.

Rabies prevention is especially important as many children do not know how to handle a dog in a safe way and thereby increase the risk of being bitten. In having done this, we realised how important consistent and early humane education is. We are glad that we got this opportunity and hope to be more involved in our communities in the future.



*The student's audience became very excited by their interactive way of teaching*



*Veterinary Science students helped the children to understand good pet care*



**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

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# LEAVING AN EVERLASTING HOOV PRINT IN WINTERVELD

Makhosonkhe L. Dlamini (VETSCO Chairperson) and Khutso Chiloane (VETSCO – Education)



It was a warm, sunny autumn day on 28 May 2016 when a group of future veterinarians from Onderstepoort embarked on a bovine outreach in Winterveldt. The event was organised by the Veterinary Student Community Outreach (VETSCO), in collaboration with the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Veterinary Services.

Present on the day were Onderstepoort veterinarians, Dr Rebone Moerane, Dr Takula Chuma and Prof Dayo Fasina, Compulsory Community Service (CCS) Gauteng veterinarians, Dr Christo Labuschagne and Dr Hendrick Labuschagne, as well as Gauteng Chief Animal Health Technicians, Mr William Kutu, Mr Joseph Manamela and Ms Tsholofelo Mojanage. They all embraced the day and assisted students, as well as the farm, in various vital veterinary procedures.

We were a group of 50 students, who were divided in order to venture into different areas in Winterveldt to reach a wider spectrum of the emerging farmers – about 48 farmers working on a total of approximately 950 cattle and 400 small stocks.

Students had an opportunity to do vaccinations, which included Supravax,



*Wandile Mbethe VI BVSc Student leading vaccination*

which contains botulism, blackquarter and anthrax, and Lumpivax for lumpy skin disease. Fourth-year students had the privilege of carrying out their VRP 400 (Veterinary Reproduction) assignment by performing rectal examinations for pregnancy diagnosis and breeding soundness examinations. Some students had to do blood sample collections on goats, not forgetting general herding principles and clinical examinations.

The main aim of the day was to equip the students with primary handling and clinical skills at an early stage in the veterinary career, while making a significant difference in the lives of emerging farmers in Winterveldt in terms of their livestock's health. This entails transferring knowledge and providing a deeper awareness on the veterinary service support initiatives, not only in a practical sense, but also from a holistic point of view.

One could never forget the generosity of some of the Winterveldt farmers, who provided refreshments, coffee and oranges as treats in appreciation of our efforts to reach out to them.

We would like to thank Cornavin-Eaux Vives-Annemasse (CEVA) for sponsoring our transport, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the exposure to such an extensive experiential learning opportunity and the Winterveldt community for trusting us with their animals.



*Makhosonkhe L. Dlamini bleeding goats*



Together, beyond animal health



# TAKING A STEP OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE

Nompumelelo Themba BVSc V

What a day! We woke up at 03:00 and prepared ourselves for the full day ahead. It was a lovely surprise meeting with last years' Veterinary Science graduates that are now doing their year of Community Service Learning, as it made us look forward to what's in store for the future.

As a team lead by a well experienced Animal Health Technician, we had to vaccinate a total of 300 cattle and 60 sheep. This formed part of the effort to raise awareness on World Vet Day. There are many economically important diseases that affect farmers' livestock and we were there to help.

The vaccines used were Supravax, which contains anthrax, botulism and clostridium chauvoei, and Lumpyvax which is used to vaccinate against lumpy skin disease.

The main highlight was meeting a communal farmer who has 50 cattle on his farm. We were very surprised to hear that he works alone and does not need any help herding his cattle in the crush. From previous experience, we were quite sure that this was not possible and offered our help.

Our mouths dropped! We were highly impressed by his herding skills. Unlike most farmers, he did not have to use any force or have to hit his cattle to get them to follow his lead into the crush. He said that he loved his cattle and by handling them with love, he never struggled to herd them alone because they do not have any negative association with being herded by him. He learned this from his father.



*Some 360 animals had to be vaccinated by the students*



*The students worked as a team to vaccinate the cattle*

All the farms we worked in had no head clamps, and most cattle had long sharp horns and were untamed. This meant we had to come up with innovative strategies to vaccinate and collect faecal samples without the ideal restraint setup we know from Onderstepoort. While doing this, we had to ensure our own safety and the safety of our colleagues. We were each other's eyes, and at the end of the day we were a stronger team.

## 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.