

# Community Engagement Newsletter



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

## Faculty of Veterinary Science Summer: February 2017



## MYTHBUSTERS IN MAKAPANSTAD

Caitlin Williams, Callan Barratt-Gibson, Chesney Pillai,  
Zenobia Rassool and Leané van der Merwe (BVSc IV)

Busting one rabies myth at a time, a group of third-year veterinary students ventured into Makapanstad on 21 July 2016 for their Veterinary Professional Life (VPL) 300 community engagement project.

We set out to educate the Grade six learners of Kosea Moeka Primary School on rabies and general animal welfare. We were greeted by the principle, Mr Bob Maswanganye, who then took us to the school's assembly hall, where the learners sang many beautiful songs to us. After assembly, the Grade six learners all shuffled into the hall and we began our presentation.

The learners got involved with our interactive session where they showed their knowledge of animal welfare and had some fun. They then received a rabies booklet, which they seemed rather excited about. A rabies talk followed to allow for a better understanding of the disease.

We are thankful to the Global Alliance for donating 150 booklets, so that we could give every learner their own booklet. The extra booklets were given to the Grade six teachers, and some were sent to the school's library.

The experience of going out into a community was both exhilarating, and rewarding. Talking to teachers and interacting with the learners gave us a better understanding of the community and its needs. Before having implemented this, the project merely seemed like an unwanted task, but it turned



*Veterinary Science students getting to know the Grade six learners of Kosea Moeka Primary School*

into a delightful experience; one that we would enthusiastically participate in again.

We believe that the learners benefited from this project, as they had very little to no understanding of rabies. We hope that they will take this knowledge and share it with their friends, family and other members of the community. Rabies does not have to destroy so many lives, and initiatives like this are a first step towards a lasting change.

Our hope is for a working relationship to develop with Kosea Moeka Primary School to further improve not only the school, but also educate the community and their children on animals and preventable disease.



*Kosea Moeka Primary School learners learn about rabies*

## SEPTEMBER IN SEMONKONG!

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

The 2016 Lesotho Outreach marked the 10th year of veterinary outreaches to Semonkong. From Monday, 5 September 2016, to Thursday, 8 September 2016, our team consisted of two veterinarians and 11 final-year Veterinary Science students.

Dr Hildegard Setzkorn once again oversaw the Equine clinic. Approximately 1 500 horses were dewormed with various oral dewormers. Saddle sores were managed and treated on a case-by-case basis with care taken to educating owners on the management and prevention of saddle sores. A total of 45 stallions were castrated.

Dr Gabriella Bazzo ran both the small animal clinic and the production animal clinic. Approximately 405 dogs and 9 cats were vaccinated against rabies. Vaccination cards were given to all owners. Tick and flea control was applied and deworming was given. Thirteen animals were sterilised. Thousands of production animals moved through our crushes.

Approximately 1 750 cattle were dewormed and treated for external parasites. Approximately 3 870 sheep and goats were vaccinated against pulpy kidney disease, and were dewormed.



*This year, the Semonkong team did an exceptional job. Horses were dewormed and saddle sores were managed and treated. The team also dewormed cattle and treated external parasites.*



The Semonkong Veterinary Outreach was once again a huge success with over 7 000 animals moving through the clinics. Thank you to Dr Bazzo and Dr Setzkorn for giving of their time and expertise to serve the community of Semonkong. Also thanks to Chris and his team of Onderstepoort students, who were an instrumental part of the outreach. Finally, a huge thank you to all our sponsors, without whom our outreach would not be possible.

*Small animals were vaccinated; sheep and goats against pulpy kidney disease, and dogs and cats against rabies. For these animals, deworming also took place and tick and flea control was applied. More than 7 000 animals moved through the clinics in this project.*

## MEETING

A Community Engagement Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, 22 February 2017 at 13H30.

# CEVA SUPPORTS VETSCO

Makhosonkhe L. Dlamini (Vetsco Chairperson)

The 2016 marks a memorable phase in VetSCO's journey. This year, VetSCO received a cheque worth R10 000 from Cornavin-Eaux Vives-Annemasse (CEVA). Mr Micheal Faint, CEVA Managing Director, commented that he could not wait to personally hand the cheque over and meet with the enthusiastic VetSCO team.



*Mr Michael Faint hands over the cheque to VetSCO on behalf of CEVA*

"The slogan that defines VetSCO – building future leaders and touching communities – motivated the sponsorship" said Mr Michael Faint. He further mentioned that we are suitable future employees because the qualities that VetSCO upholds – education, leadership, entrepreneurship and the spirit of reaching out to communities – are qualities that CEVA looks for in their employees.



*CEVA receives a token of appreciation from VetSCO from the Dean, Prof Darrell Abernethy*

Mr Faint had also ensured that CEVA will continue sponsoring VetSCO. This comment definitely brought many smiles to the room, and VetSCO would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to CEVA for this generous donation.

Makhosonkhe Dlamini, VetSCO chairperson, confirmed that the funds will be put towards facilitating all transport costs, which has been the major barrier to VetSCO's work. Dr Jonathan Wright and

Dr Nqobile Xacimba, both Onderstepoort graduates and CEVA employees, were facilitators of the donation and it would not have been possible without them.

VetSCO handed over a token of appreciation to CEVA. The gift was

handed over by the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Prof Darrell Abernethy. VetSCO hopes to continue striving towards bettering communities through the advancement of animal health and building strong, future veterinarians and leaders.



**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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# REACHING OUT TO RUST DE WINTER

Shuichi Tabei (BVSc V)

In 2016 we set off from the Faculty of Veterinary Science in Onderstepoort to participate in a memorable community engagement project, which formed part of our Veterinary Public Health module. As prospective veterinarians, the enthusiasm was tangible in the early hours of the morning as we made our way to Rust de Winter.

The outreach project to the rural farmers of the region was an outstanding initiative, which benefitted all who were involved. The students gained invaluable practical experience as groups of 7-8 were placed alongside a qualified veterinarian and veterinary technician. The knowledge imparted amongst the colleagues was priceless.

The farmers received free Lumpy Skin and Supravax vaccinations for their animals, with the team also treating any other issues evident to them upon closer inspection of the animals. It was incredible to see the selflessness and fellowship between the farmers as they all assisted one another in the proceedings of the day; all working together towards one common goal.



*Veterinary Science students, along with community members*



*The animals received Lumpy Skin and Supravax vaccinations*

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Event	Venue	Date
Production Animal Outreach Clinic	Makapanstad & Ratjiepan Project	Wednesdays
Mamelodi Animal Health Care (MAHC)	Mamelodi Campus	Mondays to Fridays
Mnisi Community Project	Hluvukani	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 (Autumn 2017). 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](mailto:eugene.machimana@up.ac.za)

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