

Community Engagement Newsletter



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
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Faculty of Veterinary Science
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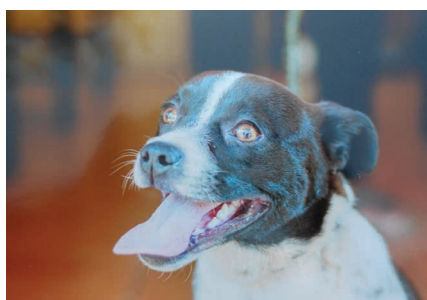
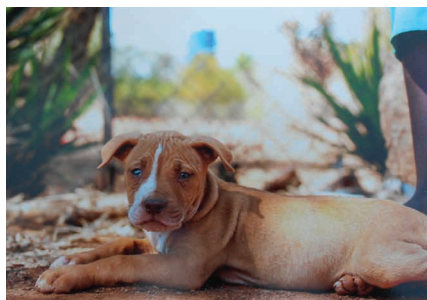
“IT TAKES NOTHING FROM A HUMAN TO BE KIND TO AN ANIMAL”

Dr Jeanne Rudman
(Veterinarian)

I decided not to bore you with clinical statistics, but rather to share a lesson that, hopefully, our new graduates can use when they venture into the world of Community Clinics.

Our attitude and judgement towards a client is probably the most important factor in improving the well-being of their pets. The welfare of a pet is not about giving it all the best things, but rather about ensuring that it copes well in the environment in which it finds itself.

We see many dogs that are not in the best condition and it is very interesting to see how the students manage these cases. I watch how students apprehensively take a case and how they reluctantly help or push the dog onto the scale. My favourite story is that of “Brown”, a one year old mixed breed that came to visit the Mamelodi Animal Health Clinic (MAHC). She was in bad condition, extremely thin, really smelly, covered in ticks with festering tick bite wounds and had a set of mammary glands that had been eagerly devoured by hungry pups. The student was clearly unimpressed and began asking “Why is she so thin? What do you feed her? Why has she not been vaccinated? Why is she not sterilised? You must bath her! Pap is not food for dogs!” The series of questions



made the owner feel uncomfortable and he moved away from his dog and stood in the corner of the consultation room. The atmosphere in the room became cold. I called the student aside and we discussed better ways to handle the scenario. We went back into the consultation room and asked the following question:

“We see Brown is really thin. What has happened? How many pups did she have? It’s really hard work to have puppies! We know she looks bad at the moment but you have come to the right place, we are here to help you. In two weeks’ time you will see how beautiful she looks again. She looks like a very clever dog!”

You could immediately see how the client began to relax and move closer to his dog's side. He then told us that she was his first dog and that he had found her in the grass lost and all alone while he was walking home from the taxi.

He had not researched what her puppies would need, what they eat, when they need vaccinations or the challenges of parvo, ticks and fleas. He had nothing

but a home to give her. He could see she was not well after the puppies and heard about MAHC from a friend. He did not want to lose her as she had become such a good friend and a security dog for him.

Brown is now one of our very best patients, visiting us for dipping every week. She has also been sterilised. We could have very easily lost that client because it is all too easy to take things at face value.

Clients remember very little of what we say, but a lot about our attitude. My advice to students is simple: enjoy your community year and make your attitude count.

Furthermore, if you only do one thing during the whole year, let that be to sterilise. Out of all the skills we learn as a veterinarian, I believe that the ability to sterilise animals is our most important one!

"I WANNA BE A VET" WEEKEND 2017

Thandekile Maseko (OPVSC Chairperson 2016/17)

Recently, during the weekend of the 31 March to 2 April 2017, the Onderstepoort Para-veterinary and Veterinary Student Committee (OPVSC) in collaboration with the Faculty of Veterinary Science and JuniorTukkie, hosted over 100 bright young school learners with a keen interest into studying veterinary science.

The "I Wanna Be A Vet"-initiative was started by the OPVSC in 2014 with the aim of affording previously disadvantaged, yet academically strong learners from across the country with the opportunity of coming to the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and being exposed to the veterinary field, thus allowing them to make an informed decision regarding their potential application to study veterinary science. This year, in collaboration with JuniorTukkie, Hills Pet Nutrition, the Faculty and OPVSC, the project was expanded to over 100 learners in Grade 11 and Grade 12. It was a glorious event!

The learners arrived on Friday afternoon, where they were welcomed by members of the OPVSC and began a highly informative and action-packed weekend. The afternoon kicked off with an information session regarding the application and admission process involved in selecting the next generation of veterinarians and veterinary nurses. This was followed by a guided tour of the campus, including the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital. This was a truly unique opportunity allowed the learners to hear first-hand from students who have walked this challenging, yet immensely fulfilling, road that the learners aspire to embark on in the near future. The learners were also shown the anatomy lab, the toxic plants garden, the residence (Huis Onderstepoort) and the skills lab, to name but a few of the iconic and unique features of Onderstepoort.

After a restful evening at Paradisos, the Saturday kicked off to an exciting start filled with practical interactions with the animals on campus. These interactive sessions ranged from hands-on practicals, usually taught in the second year of veterinary studies and part of the introductory Veterinary Ethology-module (VET 200) and presented by fourth-year veterinary science students. These sessions included cattle, sheep, pigs and horses and even a special pathology dissection presented by Prof Neil Duncan of the Department of Pathology.

Learners thoroughly enjoyed the rare opportunity to be veterinary students for the day, and the day was concluded with a wonderful braai, organised and kindly sponsored by Hills Pet Nutrition. The OPVSC received many positive reviews of the weekend, with a clear majority of the learners wishing the weekend could have been longer. All good things must come to an end, however. Nevertheless, we can rest assured that many learners were inspired, and no doubt encouraged to apply to study veterinary

science. We believe that the future of veterinary sciences is bright and filled with many committed, inspiring and intelligent young future veterinarians.

The OPVSC would like to thank their members, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the learners were well taken care of and looked after. We would also like to thank the Faculty of Veterinary Science, specifically Prof Dietmar Holm, the Deputy Dean and Director of Teaching and Learning, as well as Senior Student Advisor, Rirhandzu Golele, for their continued support of this initiative. Thanks also go to JuniorTukkie Project Manager, Petrus Lombard and JuniorTukkie partners ROARR Leadership Training for their support, and to Hills Pet Nutrition for their sponsorship and continued support of the veterinary profession, and for ensuring that the future veterinarians were well-fed and nourished, much like the many healthy and satisfied cats and dogs across the world.



Learners got to interact with the animals on campus.



OPVSC hopes to see many new veterinary science students next year.

MEETING

Community Engagement Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 August at 13H30.

OP STUDENTS HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF RABIES

Sarah-Olivia Nunn (BVSc III)

On Wednesday, 17 May 2017, a group of veterinary students made the trip to Mamelodi to teach the Grade 6 learners of N'wa-Vangani Primary School about Rabies and general animal care.

We were fortunate enough to have obtained some 60 valuable rabies information booklets, much to the excitement of the learners. After a visually engaging and interactive activity on how to prevent dog bites and rabies, as well as on the general care of animals, the booklets were handed out to the learners. The group gave a brief explanation of the book's contents and its value. The learners were extremely excited to obtain these booklets and immediately began to page through them and to work on the activities. The stickers were an instant hit too!

Group 11 for the VPL 300 would like to extend a massive thank you to the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) for these informative booklets. We realise the value of such booklets due to the wealth of knowledge they hold, together with the time and effort taken to put them together. We know the Grade 6 learners will benefit from them.



The learners were treated to a visually engaging and interactive activity and fantastic rabies information booklets.



N'wa-Vangani learners enjoying their rabies information booklets.

CEVA AND VetSCO CEMENTING RELATIONSHIP

Makhosonkhe L Dlamini (VETSCO Chairperson) and Mayuri Hargovan (VetSCO Secretary)

Thursday, 16 March 2017, marked a memorable day for the Veterinary Student Community Outreach (VetSCO) and the Faculty of Veterinary Science. On this day, CEVA confirmed their continued sponsorship and support of VetSCO, following a R10 000 sponsorship in 2016.



Celebrations for a successful 2016 and hope for a prosperous 2017.

CEVA replied to VetSCO's 2017 request for sponsorship and a meeting was arranged during which VetSCO received a cheque of R25 000, a branding banner, 15 caps and T-shirts for the committee, and livestock drugs including Mexicam, CEVAMEC and maxicare pour on dips.

During the appreciation speech, Makhosonkhe L. Dlamini (VetSCO Chairperson) said that "those who are trusted with little investments are later trusted with a huge investment. As we cement our relationship with CEVA we are glad that their loyal support has given birth to a new slogan: 'Together, beyond animal health, we build future leaders and touch communities'".

The generous sponsorship was gratefully received by the VetSCO committee members, special guests, and administrative and academic staff. Michael Faint, CEVA Managing Director, expressed his joy about the impact made by the outreaches that have occurred through the previous sponsorship. Michael complimented VetSCO for its efforts in education, the promotion of disease control and animal welfare, and for spreading awareness of veterinary services to poor communities. He went on to proclaim his admiration by saying that he is proud to sponsor VetSCO despite the disappointing economic climate.

Michael was impressed to learn that the relationship between CEVA and VetSCO has contributed substantially to teaching and learning at the Faculty of Veterinary



Both VetSCO and the Faculty express their gratitude to CEVA for the sponsorship.

Science. A poultry guest lecture was delivered by Dr Jonathan Wright to the fourth-year students in 2016, and guests had the opportunity to visit the CEVA facilities. Michael affirmed that VetSCO could approach CEVA for more learning opportunities to be shared between CEVA and the Faculty in the near future.

Prof Dietmar Holm, Deputy Dean of the Faculty, handed over a special gift on behalf of VetSCO and the Faculty as he commended the valuable learning experience offered to students by VetSCO. These contribute to teaching, learning and research activities.

Present on the day was Prof Dietmar Holm (Deputy Dean), Dr Rebone Moerane

(Head of Department: Production Animal Studies), Dr Nenene Qekwana (Senior Lecturer: Public Health and VetSCO Advisor), Dr Peter Smith (Senior Lecturer: Poultry Studies), Dr Eugene Machimana (Community Engagement Coordinator), Chris van Blerk (Head: Communications and Media), Siphesihle Nxumalo (OPVSC Transformation), Riaan Crafford (OPVSC-Community Engagement).

From CEVA, Michael Faint (Managing Director), Dr Jonathan Wright and Dr Ncobile Chantal Jaka attended.

Thank you to CEVA for joining hands with VetSCO. We hope to sustain this strong relationship.



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:

Sr Sarah Johnson 012 529 8387 Small Animal Section Head & Referrals Co-ordinator sarah.johnson@up.ac.za

Dr Eugene Machimana 012 529 8100 Community Engagement Chairperson eugene.machimana@up.ac.za

YOUTH MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR FUTURE

Dr Renee van Oudtshoorn (Veterinarian)



Community and Veterinary Services Southern Africa (CVSSA) is a non-profit organisation that works with the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

As private veterinarians involved in CVSSA, we are passionate not just about our work as clinicians, but also about improving the general welfare of animals in South Africa. I strongly believe that by improving human-animal relations, we will have a better society as a whole.

After many years in practice, one starts to realise that defects in our animal welfare is, as is probably also the case with

our human welfare, largely attributable to ignorance and social decay. As veterinarians, we can at least improve animal welfare by educating the humans attached to the animals in compassionate and responsible animal ownership. We believe in starting early in childhood – from age three onward, and sooner if possible. Empathy needs to be instilled through example and experiences with animals and animal-related topics.

With Veterinary Professional Life (VPL) 300 students collaborating with CVSSA to engage with school learners, a valuable platform has been built where we can actively engage learners' minds. Hopefully, as years go by, we will have responsible pet owners and humans showing more empathy and compassion towards our animals and our planet.

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 (Spring 2017). The Community Engagement article should not be more than 1 page long. Contact person Dr 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.