

Community Engagement Newsletter



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Veterinary Science
Spring: September 2018



RABIES AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY OF GLEN AUSTIN

Laurie Morris, Claudia Bakker, Wilna Burke,
Prashanthi Singh & Jan Fouche (BVSc III)

The purpose of this project was to educate the community on the viral disease called rabies. Our group collaborated with Lory Park Zoo and Nokuphila Primary School in a community engagement project. We taught 23 Grade 6 learners about rabies prevention.

While the aim was to teach these learners about rabies, our group included the basic job of a veterinarian and basic animal handling, and therefore combined these three topics into an interactive lesson. Using visual aids and examples of dewormers and tick and flea acaricides, proper leashes and collars as well as appropriate shelter for their pets to protect them from the elements. This afforded the vet students the opportunity to put their knowledge into practice.

Basic ideas, such as an essential body language of a person in the presence of an aggressive or fearful animal, were put into practice. Moreover, we address the issue of how not to react to certain animal behaviour and essential love and care that every animal needs and deserves. The animal needs include shelter, food,



The learners were very enthusiastic about the opportunity to learn more about proper animal treatment and they were extremely proud of their certificates.



The community engagement project also benefited the students because it afforded them the opportunity to put their knowledge into practice.

water and basic veterinary care, including vaccinating against rabies. While these concepts may be rather simple, the impact on these learners was vast and enabled them to now deal with a situation involving an animal that they may have not been able to deal with in the past.

The straightforward concept of remaining still, like a rock or a tree, when approached by an aggressive animal was relayed in the classroom. We demonstrated the condition of remaining still rather than running away or kicking the animal in an act of defense.

At the end of the lesson, we asked the learners to please write down what they

had learnt and what they will put into practice in the future with regard to what they were taught. The abovementioned concept was written down by nearly all the learners that were in the classroom. They spoke about looking after their animals with more compassion and love in the future and to look after the basic needs of their pets with regard to veterinary care and overall animal health and wellbeing.

The overall experience of the community engagement was positive with respect to the response of the learners and what they learnt and took out of the lesson. They were positive and spoke about how they will treat their animals with

compassion in the future as well as their new-found knowledge on the concept of rabies. They also spoke about what to do if they suspect a case of rabies, how to stay safe in the presence of an aggressive animal as well as their wanted attempt to teach their family and friends about everything they had learnt during our time spent together. We believe that the learners experienced a comprehensive understanding of the topic and we confidently achieved our objectives. We would like to thank the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) for the donation of 50 Rabies booklets that we used during the presentation



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 and Referrals Co-ordinator sarah.johnson@up.ac.za

I WANT TO BE A VET 2018

Over the weekend of 13 to 15 April 2018, the Onderstepoort Veterinary and Para-veterinary Student Committee (OPVSC) hosted more than 100 high school learners from across the country for our annual “I Want to be a Vet” weekend.

As prepared as we thought we were, we were not ready for all the “eager beavers” ready to get their hands on any animal – well, mostly, except for the horses. We spent most of Friday collecting our learners, as they were dropped off on campus, as well as from Pretoria bus station.

Saturday, 14 April 2018 saw all high school learners, geared in greens and gumboots, ready to take on the tasks ahead. We rotated the learners in smaller groups between a cattle station, the skills lab, the dissection hall, sheep, pathology, and an ethics station. At the cattle and sheep stations, learners were taught about general body language and basic methods of restraint of the different animals. In pathology, Prof Neil Duncan greeted the learners with a warm smile (while sharpening some knives). In the dissection hall and skills lab, we showed the learners around, giving them an idea of what they will have to do one day, should they make that life-altering decision to study veterinary science. At the ethics station, learners were divided into groups for discussion, where they were given cases challenging their concepts of ethics and professionalism.

After a long afternoon of practicals, we broke for a quick shower break, after which we treated the learners to a braai. After a long eventful day, learners were taken back to their accommodation off campus for a good night's rest.

Many of us entered the Faculty of Veterinary Science not ever knowing about the “I Want to be a Vet Weekend”. We did not expect many students to be willing to help out over the weekend. However, the amazing support that came through from the team of volunteers and Veterinary Student Community Outreach (VetSCO) members was overwhelming. Although the weekend did not go exactly according to plan, the volunteers were always available and enthusiastic. To all who lent a helping hand, this weekend would not have gone through the way it did without you! You left a lasting impression on us, as well as our future junior colleagues. Thank you for rolling with the punches with us. We hope the weekend was just as worth it for you as it was for us!

It is these learners that we need to work with, the minds that will still be on their way to the Faculty that we need to target in order to shape the future of Onderstepoort. I would highly encourage everyone to volunteer in the years to come. To reach even one mind, one learner, motivating just one individual to make a change and adopt an improved mindset is doing more than your bit! Although the academic sphere is our priority as students, life stretches so much further than the walls of our classrooms. Make a difference where it counts!

We would also like to thank the Hill's team for their generous contribution towards the initiative. Thank you for being part of the change!



Learners had a chance to see what they will be doing as veterinarians should they decide to embark on this exciting journey.



Getting to grips with the practical side of handling animals was an important lesson for the learners.

“We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own” Cesar Chavez.

WORLD EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (WERA)

2018 WERA World Congress: Cape Town, 3 to 5 August 2018, The Westin Grand, Cape Town, South Africa.

THEME: Reimagining Worldwide Education Research

Dr Eugene Machimana presented two papers which were co-authored with Dr Maximus Monaheng Sefotho and Prof Liesel Ebersöhn. The papers were titled:

- (a) Mobilisation of higher education's resources for social development
- (b) Global citizenship and cognitive justice have a strong presence in the higher education agenda: South African perspective

Dr Machimana is grateful for the opportunity granted to chair two symposium sessions entitled:

- (i) Complexities of curriculum in the Worldwide Education Research
- (ii) Canadian, Lesotho and South African perspective on higher education for cognitive justice



From left: Prof Liesel Ebersöhn, Dr Eugene Machimana and Dr Maximus Monaheng Sefotho



Dr Eugene Machimana

MEETING

Community Engagement Committee meeting will be held on Monday, 22 October 2018 at 13H30.

A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE BEATS NO KNOWLEDGE AT ALL

Tlou Hlaka, Simone Jacobs and Lucinda Helberg (BVSc III)
Photographs: Liam Harrison, Michael Lalamani

Who knew that going back to the communities to share a little of the information we have could have such fulfilling rewards and a major change on one's perspective.



Another successful community engagement project saw learners change their perspective on animal welfare.

On 17 July 2018, we went to implement a community engagement project in collaboration with the Bajabulile Primary School in Mamelodi. We had an amazing group of 278 Grade 6 and 7 learners which were divided into three classes each.

Standing in front of the learners and talking of the same thing six times in that day was not as tedious as we expected it to be, in fact we wished the day would not end. The best part was getting to see the differences in the learners' opinions regarding Rabies and animal welfare.

Moreover, it was interesting to observe how the learners were so eager to engage with us. The resources we got from Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), posters and booklets (n = 100) made everything easy for us. The presentation that the GARC team did in our Veterinary Professional Life (VPL) 300 class at the start of the year equipped us with the knowledge we needed to implement the project. Furthermore, we are grateful for that and the support that came from the VPL 300 lecturers, namely Dr Quixi Sonntag, Prof Henriëtte van Heerden and Dr Eugene Machimana. In addition, we included a section on careers in veterinary science to expose the learners to the profession and give them information they can use in future should one decide to take that path. The whole experience made us realise that it is our job as part of the communities to go back there and lend a hand. However, we can and the little we did by imparting information could make a change to the community itself, even if to just a few members it's still change and that means there is hope.



The resources received from the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) was a tremendous help.

THE ART OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - RUST DE WINTER

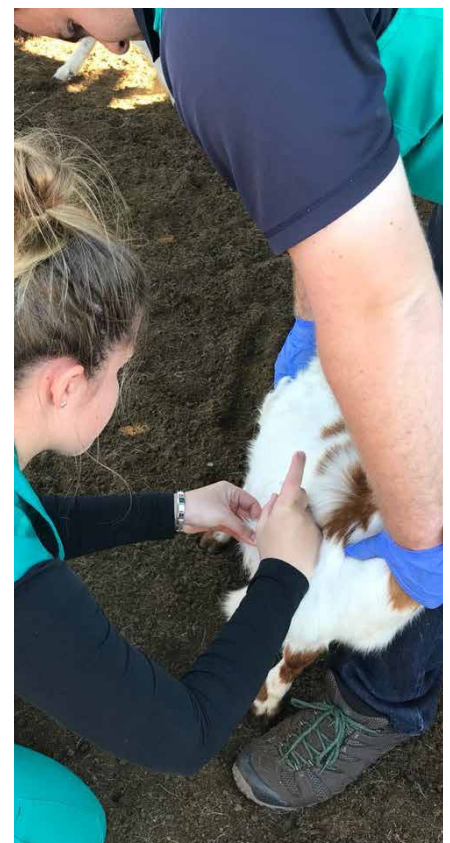
Tshebetso Kutumela (BVSc III)

It was on a chilly Thursday, 30 May 2018, when the Veterinary Student Community Outreach (VetSCO) ventured to Rust de Winter accompanied by Dr Munetsi Tagwireyi, a clinician at the Production Animals Clinic and 60 students across the spectrum, from second- to final-year, including nursing students of the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Veterinary Sciences.

The excursion was for a community engagement outreach (vaccination campaign) organised by the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD), Rural Development and Land Reform (RDLR) in association with the University of Pretoria. The aim of the campaign was to educate and help farmers vaccinate their livestock against diseases such as black quarter, botulism and anthrax while enhancing the students' practical experience in terms of handling, doing clinical examinations and subcutaneous injection technique.

The 60-seater bus left Onderstepoort campus at exactly 05h50. Upon our arrival at Rust de Winter, the farmers, students, Animal Health Technicians and Compulsory Community Service (CCS)

Veterinarians present were briefed by Mr Ali Makgatho, Animal Health Technician, and Dr Faculty Baloyi, State Veterinarian. Following the briefing, students were separated into 17 small groups that included students from different classes and each group assigned a specific group leader and respective animal health technician or veterinarian. Before the students and farmers dispersed to their respective farms, each group was given lunch packages. The small groups divided themselves into a pharmacy station (a station where they drew all the vaccines, while maintaining the vaccines cold chain) and vaccinating station (vaccinating at the cattle crushes). The vaccines that were used on the day were supavax (a 3 in 1 vaccine for botulism, anthrax and blackquarter) of which 2 ml were given to



The students quickly gained confidence in vaccinating the animals.

every cow subcutaneously and lumpyvax w (for lumpy skin disease) which we also gave 2 ml per goat or sheep. The students got the opportunity to collect fecal samples from sheep and goats in a variety of farms for a postgraduate student. The samples had to be collected and labeled accordingly as instructed during the briefing.

Farmers were cooperative and by the time we got to their farms, their cattle were already in crushes just waiting for their vaccines. We also had a severe case of mastitis in one cow, the farmer and the veterinarian agreed that the cow would be brought to a nearby veterinary clinic (Themba Veterinary Clinic) for treatment. We also had other major clinical cases of lameness and abscesses.

This outreach project was very well organised and provided a significant learning curve for the students. The number of cattle we had to work with was far larger than what we would usually work with in VetSCO outreaches. This also allowed many students to get a more hands on experience as many students were confused and scared especially when they had to vaccinate their first animal. The animal health technicians we worked with were very helpful and patient with the students, they assisted and advised the students showing us the right way of injecting and avoiding unnecessary injuries. By the time we moved to our second farm, the students were confident enough to properly vaccinate the cattle on their own, but under supervision. After all the different groups were done vaccinating the farms they were allocated, we then gathered together for closing remarks by Mr Ali Makgatho. Upon our departure back to



The aim of the campaign was to educate and help farmers vaccinate their livestock against diseases such as black quarter, botulism and anthrax.

Onderstepoort, the students gave a lot of positive feedback about the facilities at Rust de Winter in comparison to Onderstepoort facilities and the differences in term of the animals temperament and how they contrast with the work on the field. Above all, the excursion was a great success and VetSCO would like to thank all the stakeholders that were involved in organising the outreach (the farmers, veterinarians, GDARD, RDLR, herdsman, students, nurses, postgraduate students and animal health technicians).

VetSCO is looking forward to getting involved in projects of this magnitude in the future. We sincerely acknowledge Mr Makgato, Dr Baloyi and Dr Tagwireyi

for insuring that the day happened and ensuring that it was the great success that it was. Finally, VetSCO would like to thank GDARD and RDLR providing lunch packs and breakfast packs.



rural development & land reform

Department:
Rural Development and Land Reform
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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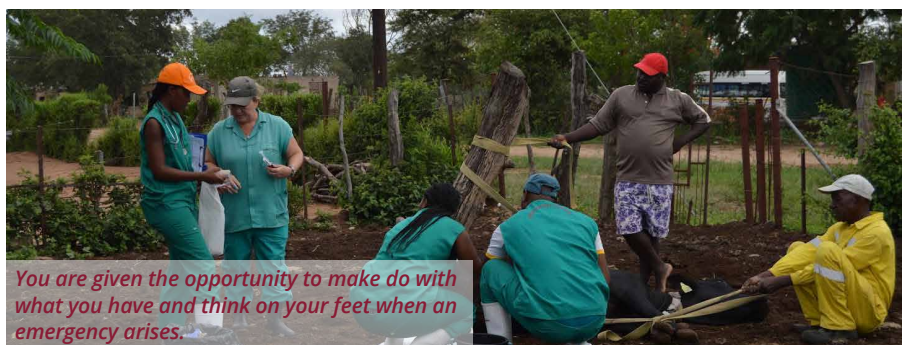
A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY

Uldri van der Merwe BVSc VI

Hluvukani is a very special place where you do not only serve the community, the community serves you.

The Hluvukani Animal Health Clinic (HAHC) is situated in the heart of Hluvukani village bordering the Kruger National Park where you are not only seen as a veterinarian, but a contributing member of the community. Out here, the sole purpose is not only to save an animal, it is to save someone's livelihood.

Veterinarians are so much more than we sell ourselves to be sometimes and in this sphere of work, you can be so much more



You are given the opportunity to make do with what you have and think on your feet when an emergency arises.

than just a doctor for sick animals. Out here, you give advice to the farmer who has lost half his goats to heartwater, or the concerned owner with a dying puppy that you manage to save. You are also a shoulder for the owner whose animal you could not save and yet you try just as hard for the next animal that walks through your door. Out here, you are given the opportunity to make do with what you have and think on your feet when an emergency arises.

As students, we often forget how privileged we are to work in a place like this. We often like to focus on the limited resources, scorching Lowveld heat and the early hours that this clinic demands of you, but we very easily forget to see the learning opportunity that it offers. Learning about common cattle diseases, for example, while practically treating a patient with that particular disease is far more conducive to permanent knowledge than merely reading it from a book or hearing about it in a classroom.

The Tsonga community that we served were willing to learn and participate in the project. Some owners would ask more of us than just treating this one animal, because they have seen that they can prevent the disease in the rest of his herd. You are often asked about vaccinations and herd health concepts like getting a below-average herd through winter or how to prevent so many lamenesses in a flock. There is always an overwhelming presence of children while patients are being treated and they look on as we restrain an animal properly



At Hluvukani, the sole purpose is not only to save an animal, it is to save someone's livelihood.

without harm or change that bandage or vaccinate that goat. We need to realise that these children are the future of our nation and they need to experience these things in order to manifest change in their community. It instils in them a desire to own animals, to care for them and encourages subsistence farming in this community.

When you take a step back after your two weeks here, you realise that you

were truly meaningful and you made a difference. Whether the difference was in vaccinating a litter of puppies or saving a dying goat, you meant something to another human being and nothing else in life can be more rewarding. Thus, I thank the HAHC and its people for having us and teaching us and ensuring that we too will be contributing members of our society one day rather than merely a veterinarian.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Event	Venue	Date
Production Animal Outreach Clinic	Makapanstad and Ratjiepan Project	Tuesdays and 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 (Summer 2018). The community engagement article should not be more than one page long.

Contact person Dr Eugene Machimana, Senior Education Consultant: Curricular Community Engagement, Department of Education Innovation, Email: eugene.machimana@up.ac.za or Tel: (012) 420 5199 (w)

Visit the UP Community Engagement Management System (CEMS) for updates about community project opportunities.