We, the Members of the Veterinary Nurses Association of South Africa resolve at all times:

To honour our Profession and abide by the prescribed Code of Ethics;

To endeavour to nurse our patients with skill and compassion, and promote their ongoing health and well-being;

To promote the image and interests of the Veterinary Nurse both within and without the veterinary field;

To promote our Association whenever possible, and encourage communication and fellowship amongst its members.

CREDO

Ons, die Lede van die Veterinêre Verpleegsters Vereniging van Suid-Afrika onderneem om ten alle tye:

Ons Professie in ere te hou en sy Etiese Kode nougeset na te kom;

Ons pasiënte na die beste van ons vermoë met vaardigheid en sorgsaamheid te verpleeg, en hul gesondheid en welsyn voortdurend te bevorder;

Die status en belange van die Veterinêre Verpleegster op veeartsenykundige en ander gebiede te bevorder;

Ons Vereniging waar moontlik te bevorder en kommunikasie en eensgesindheid tussen sy lede aan te moedig.

Veterinêre Verpleegsters Vereniging van S.A.

Veterinary Nurses Association of S.A.

komiteelede council members 1994/1995

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June / Junie 1994

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Redaksioneel / Editorial

Hi,

As a first time Editor, I found it quite a daunting thought - having to compile a magazine! I didn't have a clue where to start. Luckily Linda calmed my panic and steered me in the right direction. Thanks Linda for all your help and guidance.

We have a whole new structure to our council, as you will have noticed. Hopefully this will make our task more manageable. I look forward to working with the other council members, who are all dedicated as well as being great people.

I am also looking forward to hearing from all the other nurses, getting articles, letters or just to say "Hi". You will be hearing plenty from me in the form of regular issues of the "Itching Post". The job offers have been coming in thick and fast.

Herewith a short C.V.

'Till next time!

Sue

C.V. of Sr. Sue Marsden (nee Burton)

I matriculated in 1984 from Knysna High School. I left my home, a farm between Knysna and Plettenberg Bay on the beautiful Garden Route, to join the Onderstepoort gang.

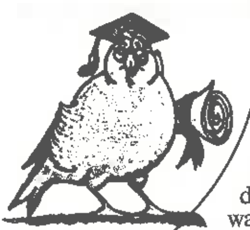
I qualified as a Veterinary Nurse in 1986. I spent some time at home with my parents, after which I moved to Johannesburg and started working in February 1987.

My first job was with the Johannesburg SPCA. I worked for the Hospital Department of the SPCA for just over three years.

I then moved to my present position in a successful private practice in Edenvale. I have been with them for four years now.

I have been elected onto the 1994/95 council of the VNASA as Editor. I hope to serve the Veterinary Nurses and our profession well.

Presidentsverslag / President's report



Dit voel half vreemd om vanonder hierdie opskrif met julle te gesels, ek sukkel nog om by my nuwe portefulje aan te pas. Alhoewel ek nie die pas afgelope simposium bygewoon het nie, (dankie tog ek het nie - my seuntjie is op die Saterdag gebore!) verstaan ek dat alles suksesvol afgeloop het en ek bedank graag vir Colleen, Roenel en Cornelia daarvoor. Dis eers wanneer mens self by die reelings betrokke was, dat jy waardeer hoeveel beplanning en harde werk daarmee gepaard gaan.

Roenel was die afgelope paar maande beide sekretaresse en tesourier en ek weet dit het soms baie dol gegaan. Sy moes onlangs haar ouma aan die dood afstaan terwyl haar pa met ernstige hoofbeserings in die hospitaal was. Sterkte vorentoe, Roenel, geniet jou ruskans - ons span jou weer oor 'n paar jaar in.

Ons het reeds twee komiteevergaderings after die rug en ek kan almal verseker dat hierdie komitee berge kan versit met hul entoesiasme! A warm welcome to Linda, Sue and Susan - I trust you will enjoy your time on council.

I would like to thank Colleen for having done such a great job as acting-president and for the support she has given me so far. She also initiated some very constructive changes to the constitution which were accepted at the recent AGM and which she discusses elsewhere in this issue. Please take note of them.

As always, this year promises to be an exciting and busy one regarding Veterinary Nursing. Already, a few important issues required attention:

1. Epaulettes: This has become a very thorny issue. The SAVC has recently decided to hand over the administration of Vet. Nursing epaulettes to the VNASA. This decision caused quite a few problems for us, the most important being rectifying the situation which arose when the nurses that qualified in 1993 were issued with incomplete sets of epaulettes. I am still in discussion with the SAVC, but the matter should soon be resolved. The administration of epaulettes will in future be done by the VNASA and all inquiries must go to the treasurer, please.
2. Curriculum of Vet. Nurses: The comprehensive investigation by the SAVC of the curriculum has reached the stage where a document setting the minimum standards has been drafted and circulated to the relevant bodies. We have studies this intently and are currently drafting our recommendations. More about this at a later stage.
3. Examination for registration as a Vet. Nurse: The SAVC formed an Ad hoc committee to review standards pertaining to examinations written by persons qualified in countries other than South Africa which will entitle them to register as Veterinary Nurses in this country. We regard this as a very positive step to maintain the very high standard of our profession and are busy studying the document in order to comment on it, as requested by the SAVC.

Bogenoemde is enkele sake wat reeds aandag moes geniet.

Alhoewel Troeteldierweek hierdie jaar nie dieselfde nasionale omvang as vantevore sal hê nie, gaan ons tog so betrokke as moontlik by die baie balangrike saak wees. Die bevordering van ons professie sal hierdie jaar hoog op die prioriteitslys wees. Ons beoog "bad en dip" sessies op Onderstepoort asook besoeke aan skole waarby veral die studenteverpleegsters betrek gaan word.

Cornelia is besig om vir ons 'n skyfiereeks te organiseer asook 'n aantal plakate wat aspekte van ons professie mooi uitbeeld. As daar enige van julle is wat graag by van hierdie aksies betrokke wil raak, kontak vir Cornelia asb.

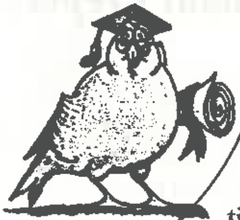
Versterking van ons internasionale bande is 'n saak wat voortdurende aandag geniet. Soos julle weet, het Colleen ons verlede jaar verteenwoordig toe die International Veterinary Nurses and Technicians Association verlede jaar in Birmingham, Engeland gestig is. Sederdien word ons gereeld op hoogte gehou van die vereniging se werksaamhede en is ons genooi om die tweede vergadering in Oktober vanjaar by te woon. Ek is van voorneme om op gereelde basis met al veertien die stigterslande kontak te hou en wil graag die moontlikheid van uitruilstudente ondersoek.

I would like to end my report by urging all veterinary nurses to give the VNASA their full support. We in turn pledge to act in your best interests in every which way possible.

Best wishes until next time

Linda

Senior Fisie-Presidentsverslag / Senior Vice President's Report



Hi All

Well, after being council for the last four years and standing in as Acting President for approximately seven months, I have decided that I need a break, and some time to be able to help my husband in our newly acquired practice.

Linda accepted the position of President for the next year, and I wish her all the very best. I know she will fill the position well. According to the changes made in our constitution I will be taking the post of Senior Vice President for the remainder of the year. See my report later in the newsletter for the constitutional changes that have been made.

To all the new council members good luck, and thank you for all the time and effort you will be putting into the association in the next few years.

To all the members and non-members, once again please support us, we are actually doing this for your benefit.

Regards

Colleen

Fisie-Presidentsverslag / Vice-President's Report

Hallo Almal

Ek het sowaar nie verwag om as Fisie-President van die Verpleegsters Vereniging verkies te word toe ek die Simposium hierdie jaar bygewoon het nie. Dit was 'n groot skok maar ek dank julle vir julle vertroue in my en ek hoop ek sal julle nie terleur stel nie.

Hier volg net 'n kort CV van my lewe tot dusver:

Ek is op Lydenburg in die Oos-Transvaal gebore en het daar in sowel die Laerskool as Hoërskool gegaan. Ek het in 1988 gematrikuleer en het my baie lekker skooldae vaarwel geroep.

In 1989 het ek as bang eerstejaartjie by Huis Onderstepoort opgedaag. Dit was my tuiste vir die volgende twee jaar terwyl ek my Veterinêre Verpleging kursus voltooi het. Desember 1990 het ek my Dip Vet Verpl. diploma verwerf.

February 1991 het ek na Engeland vertrek om 'n Fisioterapie Kursus vir Diere by Sherry Scott te gaan doen. Ek het op verskeie perde plase gewerk en ook gou deur Europa getoer.

Ek was baie gelukkig om 'n pos as Veterinêre Verpleegster by die Perdekliniek te Onderstepoort in Oktober 1991 te kry. Ek het vir twee jaar onder die bekwame leiding van Sr. Janet Smit in die Perdekliniek gewerk en was baie hartseer toe ek in Oktober 1993 besluit het om Onderstepoort te verlaat en Privaat Praktyk aan te durf.

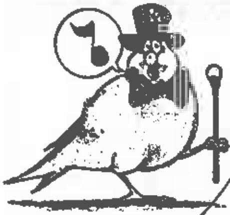
Ek werk tans by Sherwood Gardens Dierekliniek in Brakpan-Noord en geniet kleindier werk net so baie as wat ek Grootdiere geniet het. Dr's Tolken en Van Niekerk het gelukkig baie geduld gebruik om my Kleindier kennis weer 'n bietjie op te knap.

Ek hoop dit is genoeg en dat julle nou 'n bietjie meer van my af weet.
Ek hoop die jaar wat voorlê is sommer baie voorspoedig vir julle almal en veral vir ons beroep as Veterinêre Verpleegsters. As ons saamwerk kan ons baie bereik en sodoende trots op ons beroep bly.

Groete

Linda Wilson

Skakelwerk / Public Relations



PRO Verslag

1994 het seker vir die meeste van ons met 'n groot vraagteken begin! Wat gaan van ons word in die Nuwe Suid Afrika? Ek hoop regtig dat almal die historiese gebeurtenisse oorleef het en dat die jaar propvol positiewe gebeure vir die VVSA sal wees.

Vandat ek by Plum oorgeneem het, was daar al heelwat korrespondensie van ooral oor die land en selfs van die buiteland. Dit laat 'n mens se hart warm voel as daar so baie navrae en belangstelling aangaande ons beroep is.

"Petcare Week" is hierdie jaar van 6 tot 11 Junie - daar word 'n dringende beroep op elkeen van julle gedoen om by te dra om die week landwyd 'n groot sukses te maak. Lê so 'n bietjie inisiatief aan die dag en laat weet ons wat julle beplan!! Meer inligting kan bekom word van Eileen Thomas, haar telefoon nommer is: 031-962602.

Goeie nuus vir die van julle wat in 1993 gekwalifiseer het; die epaulette-krisis is byna opgelos, ons sal julle laat weet sodra ons dit gereed het vir julle.

Die VVSA is uitgenooi om die tweede Internasionale Veterinêre Verpleegsters-vereeniging se AJV en kongres by te woon. Om dit moontlik te maak word daar baie hard gesoek na die nodige fondse. Ek wil dit egter onder julle aandag bring dat daar nie van die vereeniging se geld gebruik sal word vir die doel nie.

'n Baie groot dankie aan Roenel Kenyon (ons vorige sekretaresse) vir haar harde en toegewyde werk in die jaar wat sy op die raad gedien het, en veral vir die reëlings van die simposium. Voorspoed en sterkte word jou toegebied vir die toekoms.

Moenie dat die winter julle onderkry nie - as ons ons oë uitvee is dit weer lente.

Soos die Engelse sal sê: "GOD BLESS" tot julle weer van my hoor.

Cornelia

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

On behalf of the VNASA council, I would like to thank Plum for all her hard work as our last public relations officer.

She did a lot to further our association and we would like to wish her well wherever she is. She is currently overseas, though we don't know where.

We would also like to thank Cornelia for taking over at such short notice, thereby keeping things running smoothly, especially with the symposium that was so near.

Thank you to both of you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Geldsake / Money matters

Hi

As from April 1994, I have taken over the responsibility of Treasurer. All address changes, membership fees etc. should be sent to me.

It is important to keep us up to date with your current address. In this way we are able to let you know of vacancies, the goings on of the Association etc.

We urge everyone to make sure that their membership fees are up to date. If not send the R50,00's as soon as possible. Total paid up members to date: 87.

C.V.:

I grew up in the district around Newcastle in Northern Natal. Matriculated in 1989 from Newcastle High School. Enrolled for a secretarial course, while working part-time at our local vet. This is where I found out about the Veterinary Nursing Course. In 1991 I started at the infamous Onderstepoort and qualified in 1992.

I worked at private practice for 6 months. However, felt that I wasn't getting enough practical experience. Accepted an offer by the Animal Anti-Cruelty League and am currently in their employ.

Any queries about fees, epaulettes etc. please feel free to contact me.

Regards

Sue Kelly

PLEASE NOTE NEW DETAILS FOR THE VETERINARY COUNCIL:

Registrar	:	Mrs H. Kruger
Assistant	:	Mrs Lynette Havinga
Office Address	:	Permanent Building Paul Kruger Street Rooms 314 & 315
Postal Address	:	P.O. Box 873 Pretoria 0001
Telephone number	:	(012) 324-2392 08H30 to 17H00
Fax number	:	(012) 324-2394
Office Hours	:	Public and general enquiries at offices 08H30 to 13H00

1994 FEES:

Registration	:	Veterinarians	R250,80
		Para-veterinarians	R125,40
Maintenance	:	Veterinarians	R188,10 per annum
		Para-veterinarians	R 94,05 per annum
Re-registration	:	Veterinarians	R627,00
		Para-veterinarians	R376,20

FEES WERE DUE ON 1 APRIL 1994

For those of you who still have not paid their VNASA membership fees - please do so as soon as possible.

You can send your R50-00 to Sr Sue Kelly
9 Fouche St
Parkrand
Boksburg
1460

NAME : ____________________

ADDRESS : ____________________

____

____

____

Constitutional Changes

The following constitutional changes were accepted by the members at the symposium. The changes will be submitted to a lawyer to be rewritten with the correct legal wording.

Associate Membership

— Any person who is not qualified as a Veterinary Nurse, but who has a similar qualification, and who has an interest in becoming a member of the association.
— The associate member shall pay 50% of the full membership fee as set for that year.
— The associate member shall not hold voting rights.
— The council shall reserve the right to approve any proposed associate member.

AGM Minutes/Council Members/Other changes

— All AGM minutes are to be completed, ready for printing not later than three months after the AGM.
— Any member resigning from council shall be required to attend the next council meeting after the date of their resignation.
— There shall no longer be any restrictions on the length of time any one person can stand on council. (previously a council member was only allowed to stand for two consecutive terms).
— The constitution shall include a description of each council members position and responsibilities, to avoid any future confusion.
— A paragraph shall be included in the associations objectives that states that the VNASA is committed to opening the profession to both sexes and all races, colours and creeds.

New Council Structure

— Treasurer, Editor and PRO are to remain the same.
— Vice-President - a Vice-President shall be elected by the members at the AGM, and will stand for one year. They will automatically take over the position of President for the second year. The Vice-President will take over the responsibilities of the Secretary.
— President - the President shall serve for one year and shall then automatically become Senior Vice-President.
— Senior Vice-President - the Senior Vice-President shall serve for one year as an advisor to the President.

Simposium Verslag

Op 25 en 26 Maart 1994 het die Veterinêre Verpleegsters Vereeniging van Suid-Afrika hul jaarlikse simposium en algemene jaarvergadering by die Kemptonpark Konferensie sentrum gehad.

Dit is bygewoon deur gekwalifiseerde sowel as leerling verpleegsters. Verteenwoordigers van die borge was ook teenwoordig.

Baie leersame onderwerpe is bespreek soos byvoorbeeld hantering van probleem pasiënte (Pam Whyte), respiratoriese en kardiovaskulêre noodgevalle (Dr Remo Lobetti), hantering en versorging van voëls (Dr Chris Kingsley), tandversorging (Sr Colleen Christie) en nog meer.

Tydens die algemene jaarvergadering is besluite geneem wat 'n groot rol en invloed in elke Veterinêre Verpleegster se lewe kan hê. Die nuwe VVSA raad is ook verkies. Sr Linda Muller volg Sr Colleen Christie op as president van die vereeniging. Die ander lede is Srs Linda Wilson (visie-president/sekretaresse), Colleen Christie (senior visie-president), Sue Marsden (redakteur), Susan Kelly (Finansies), Cornelia Erasmus (skakelbeampte).

As VVSA wil ons die borge wat hierdie geleentheid vir ons moontlik gemaak het van harte bedank:

Solvay Animal Health	Kyron	Rhône Poulenic
Scientific Vet Diets	Phenix	Janssen Pharmaceuticals

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

The outgoing and the incoming VNASA council enjoying the 1994 annual symposium in Kempton Park.

Unfortunately, Linda Muller could not attend the symposium due to the arrival of her baby boy. Congratulations to both Linda and her husband.

From left to right:
Colleen Christie, Cornelia Erasmus, Sue Marsden, Roenel Kenyon, Sue Kelly and Linda Wilson.

Changing The Face of Veterinary Practice

Extracts from a BSAVA News magazine article.

The role of the Veterinary Nurse as "pet health counsellors" was discussed at a course given at Grantham, England for British Veterinary Nurses.

The nurses role as pet health counsellors would be to improve the services their practice offered to clients and to release the veterinary surgeon's time by performing those jobs for which they were trained as veterinary nurses. They would be able to help break down the barriers between clients and those in practice, to make the practice a less intimidating place - it will be somewhere clients can pop in for advice as well as treatment. "A friendly practice will be recommended to others."

They went on to discuss communication skills. The veterinary nurse must try to see a situation through the client's eyes. She should learn to use everyday words with which the clients were familiar. Simple words that the clients could relate to might include "bleeding" instead of "haemorrhage" and instead of "enzyme" they could try to explain it as a "chemical scissor".

Conflicting opinions raised in the discussion showed the importance of developing a practice policy on issues such as when to spay and when to allow puppies to socialise with other dogs. Such policies would ensure that clients did not receive contradictory messages from within the practice.

Handling people is never more important than when euthanasia is involved. Some practical advice was given by Laura Lee, co-writer of the book "Absent Friend". Clients should be told what to expect during euthanasia. If they are unprepared for the involuntary movements sometimes associated with the procedure, they may construe these as pain and will consequently be much more distressed. It is also best to keep the time they have to wait with other clients to a minimum. In some cases, a cup of tea and plenty of sympathy following euthanasia, will go a long way to reducing grief.

Often the most distressing aspect is having to pay the bill afterwards. Clients may appreciate paying beforehand or having the opportunity to pay later by post.

Behaviour problems in dogs are much easier to prevent than to cure. They quoted 33% of owners that wanted their dogs rehomed, cited their reason as being a behavioural problem with their dog or dogs. These problems were mainly put down to inadequate socialisation of puppies at an early age. The puppies were said to be most receptive to new experiences at six to sixteen weeks of age. The veterinary nurse should be able to advise the client on how best to go about socialising their new pet without endangering its health when the puppy has not yet developed a strong immune system.

At this course, the nurses were told how to initiate what is known as a "Puppy Party". This has to be carried out under strict supervision of the veterinarian. He would give each puppy a clean bill of health and make sure it has had the vaccinations necessary for its age. Small groups would be held at a time, and this opportunity could be used for the nurses to demonstrate dog grooming, simple health checks to be done at home by the owner, and basic dental care. The importance of regular check-ups, vaccination programs, when to spay or neuter, etc. could also be discussed during this meeting. Obviously the suitability of "Puppy Parties" must be weighed up by the veterinarian for his practice.

The course also discussed the possibilities of "Obesity clinics" to advise on and measure the efficacy of weight loss programs for the over-weight pet, and "Geriatric clinics" to counsel the owner on special care for the older pet.

These clinics are not always practical to have, depending on the type and situation of your practice. It is none the less a fact that the veterinary nurse plays a large role in the education of, and general communication with the pet owner.

'n Hand Vol Vere

Uittrelsel van 'n artikel "'n Hand Vol Vere" in De Kat - April, ingestuur deur Sr. Joalien Slabber, 'n vriendin van Emsie Mohr. As jy advies oor voëltjies wil hê, skakel vir Emsie Tel: (012) 86-2539.

In verskeie spesiaal ingerigte vertrekke in Philip en Emsie Mohr se huis is daar geveerdes op pad na die een of ander vorm van hersel. En hulle is nie troeteldiere nie. Die algemeenste mossie tot die skaarste valksoorte kry ewe veel aandag van Emsie.

Ons loop agter haar aan na die "hospitaalkamer", want soos in enige intensiewe sorgeenheid, verg die voëlpasiëntjies deurentyd aandag en behandeling.

"Ek moet net gou die klein bergkanaries voer," sê Emsie. Die hoephoep moet ook aandag kry - "hy moet kortkort vloeistowwe inkry. En dan sal die janfiskaal wat ek vrygelaat het, ook nog netnou kom skree vir sy kos."

Die getal wissel soms van dag tot dag, maar op daardie stadium het Emsie 'n hele 70 voëls in haar sorg! Sonder haar man, Philip, en haar "regterhand", Anna Makwela, sou haar taak waarskynlik onbegonne gewees het.

Aan die hospitaaldeel van die huis is 'n ruim hok waarin nog voëls rondfladder en sy verduidelik dat dit die vrylatingshok is: 'n tussenstadium vir dié wat herstel het, maar geleidelik weer aan vryheid gewoond gemaak word. "Voordat 'n voël vrygelaat kan word, moet alles reg wees: hy moet byvoorbeeld gesonde vere hê." Emsie se mikpunt is nooit om die voëls mak te maak of by haar te hou nie. Perdfris terug na die natuur is die hoofdoel.

Talle voëls wat in haar sorg onverwags nie die paal haal nie (of uitgesit

móét word), kry 'n post mortem...want só leer sy al hoe meer hoe om die wesentjies te help. Alles word neergeskryf, en uit elke nadoodse verslag iets geleer.

Emsie kry professionele hulp en raad by kundiges, en iemand wat eenkeer 'n voël gebring het, leen haar 'n mikroskoop. Sy kan nou in beperkte mate inwendige parasiete en sekere bakteriese infeksies identifiseer.

Een van die wonderlike belonings wat Emsie vir haar liefdestaak kry, is dat van die gesonde, vrygelate voëls haar dikwels weer kom opsoek. Sy wag eintlik altyd in spanning daarvoor - want dan is dit gewoonlik 'n teken dat hulle weer hul voete gevind het. Hulle kom sit op haar skouer, of eet uit haar hand...of kom sommer dagsê.

In haar tuin is daar hope natuurlike voëlkos: eugenias, feijoas, kei-appels, waterbessies, druiwe. En geen gif word ooit gebruik nie. Boonop is skuiling volop in die bos-tuin, waarin onder meer dertig geelhoutbome staan.

'n Baba glasogie wat in die "waakeenheid" is, moet nou kos kry. Avokadopeer en meelwurms - wat sy met 'n vurk fynmaak. Sy wys die bak krioelende meelwurms wat sy self vir die voëls teel.

Gedagtes wat Emsie al neergepen het, geïnspireer deur haar "voëldoenery", saam met unieke foto's wat sy so deur die jare van die voëltjies geneem het, sal hopelik binnekort in boekvorm verskyn. Sy noem dit eenvoudig:

HAND VOL VERE
Dagboek uit 'n voëlhospitaal

"ja, mevrou, hulle kry ook wurms
en lewerkanker
en nierprobleme
hulle kry ook verkoue
en lank voor Dawid al het hulle geweet van stres
dis soos dit nog maar altyd was:
ons leef so ver van hulle
en hulle leef so skrikwekkend na aan ons"

Emsie Mohr

DIS NIE SÓ MOELIK OM 'N WILDE VOËL TE HELP NIE ...'N PAAR WENKE:

- Vir 'n voel wat stres het - byvoorbeeld wanneer hy raakgery is - is vloeistowwe belangrik: gee heuningwater, indien moontlik. Een teelepel heuning in 'n halwe koppie water. Nooit yskoud nie, kamertemperatuur of lou.
- As 'n voël weens stres sukkel om kos of vloeistof in te neem, kan dit op die bek gedrup word met heen-en-weer bewegings teen die snawel wat hom sal laat besef hy moet sy bek oopmaak.
- As 'n mens nie dadelik 'n voël kan uitken nie, is rou eiergeel (verkieslik verdun met 'n druppel heuningwater) altyd veilig. Of roereier (goed gaar en sonder sout). Daarby kan daagliks 'n druppel vitaminestroop (sommer dié wat geskik is vir kinders) gegee word, maar nie langer as drie dae ná mekaar nie.
- Vrugte-eters sal geesdriftig wees oor suiwer vrugtesap sonder suiker, of selfs babakos-in-'n-botteltjie. Onthou, vrugte-eters het ook proteïne nodig, en inseketers het ook vitamine C nodig.

- Varsheid en higiëne is belangrik, veral as maalvleis gevoer word.
- MOENIE melk, brood of gekoude kos aan babavoëltjies gee nie.
- MOENIE watte in die slaapplek gebruik nie - dit kom in die longe. Gebruik eerder 'n papierhanddoek of sagte materiaal. Maar sit vir babavoëls growwe materiaal in vir vastrapplek.
- Hitte is belangrik, maar toets eers of die voël hitte nodig het deur dit op jou hand te hou. Jy sal voel as hy koud is. As 'n leeslamp van bo, of 'n warmwatersak of hittekussing onder die kartondoos (met ventilasiegaatjies) gesit word, moet daar darem ruimte wees vir die voël om daarvan weg te beweeg. Oppas vir te warm.
- Wilde voëls kan seerkry in 'n voëlhokkie - gebruik eerder 'n kartondoos met 'n oondrak of so iets bo-op, na gelang van die voël se grootte.
- 'n Telefoonoproep na die veearts of 'n kundige kan baie help! As 'n voël enigsins siek lyk, is onmiddellike aandag en behandeling noodsaaklik. (En terloops: bring 'n mens 'n voël na die veearts, onthou gerus dat hy beter daaraan toe is in 'n skoendoos met ventilasiegaatjies en 'n deksel wat stewig sit, as in 'n kou.)
- Weldoeners moet in gedagte hou dat, streng gesproke, 'n permit van Natuurbewaring nodig is vir die aanhou van voëls, sou hulle nie onmiddellik vrygelaat kon word nie.

Cancer In Geriatric Dogs

Cancer can occur in dogs of any age but is more common in older animals. Vaccination against infectious diseases, antibiotic therapy and safer anaesthetic methods have ensured longer lives for dogs, and, consequently, made it more likely that they will develop cancer.

By identifying patients at risk for cancer, teaching your clients to recognize the early warning signs, and making cancer evaluation a regular part of consultations of older dogs, the risk of cancer can be reduced or the chances for successful therapy be improved.

The frequency of tumors in dogs
In a California survey of more than 30 000 animals with spontaneous neoplasms, the skin and subcutaneous connective tissue were identified as the most common sites of neoplasia in dogs. When only female dogs were considered, the number of mammary tumors exceeded the number of skin and connective tissue. If epidermoid and basal cell carcinomas caused by wind exposure in people are excluded, dogs develop cancer more often than people do.

The effects of age
The incidence of neoplasia increases as dogs age. The cells of older dogs have undergone more cell cycles and have been exposed to carcinogens for a longer time than have the cells of younger dogs. As in women, most mammary tumors in female dogs occur in the older group, although some also occur in the middle-aged group. Among the most common tumors of young dogs are histiocytomas and skin papillomas, which are seldom seen in older animals. Lymphoma and osteosarcoma are frequent in elderly dogs, but also occur in young dogs. Interstitial cell tumors of the testicle are frequently found during postmortem examination of old dogs.

The effects of breed, genetics and sex
Longevity is related to breed. Giant breeds such as Great Danes and Irish Wolfhounds are considered old at seven to eight years of age, whereas the longer-living, smaller breeds would only be considered middle-aged at that age.

Boxers are at increased risk for many tumors such as sarcomas, lymphomas, mastocytomas, chemodectomas, glial tumors, testicular tumors, thyroid tumors, and hepatoid tumors of the anus (perianal adenomas). The giant breeds, including the Saint Bernard, Great Dane, Irish Wolfhound, Great Pyranees, and Rottweiler, have a high incidence of osteosarcomas, a condition very rare in the toy breeds. Intermediate-sized breeds, such as the Labrador Retriever and Springer Spaniel, have a higher incidence of bone tumors than the toy breeds but a lower incidence than the giant breeds.

Dachshunds and Cocker Spaniels appear to be at increased risk for mammary tumors, while Chihuahuas are at considerably reduced risk for this type of cancer. Beagles, which have been the subjects of many toxicologic studies of hormones used in human oral contraceptives, have a risk for mammary tumors only slightly higher than the mean risk for all dog breeds.

Boxers, Basset Hounds, Saint Bernards, Airedales, and Bulldogs are at high risk for lymphoma. At high risk for testicular neoplasms are Boxers (all tumor types), Weimaraners and Shetland Sheepdogs (Sertoli cell tumors), and German Shepherds (seminomas).

The risk of thyroid tumors rises in dogs over six years of age. Boxers, Beagles, and retrievers appear to be at increased risk for this type of tumor.

Genetic influences appear to be important in the development of bone tumors in Saint Bernards and Rottweilers. Certain families within these breeds develop more bone tumors than do other families.

The most dramatic example of how genes can influence cancer development is found in the Bull Mastiffs of Great Britain, where it has been estimated that at least 25% of the population has developed or will develop lymphosarcoma.

Hepatoid tumors of the anus (perianal adenomas) are seen five to 10 times more often in aging male dogs than in aging female dogs, probably as an effect of androgens in the male dogs. Lipomas are found more frequently in aging female dogs than in aging male dogs. It is not known if ovariectomy decreases this incidence.

The risk of developing oral neoplasms, particularly fibrosarcoma, is reported to be significantly greater in male dogs than in female dogs. The high-risk breeds include Cocker Spaniels, Boxers, Golden Retrievers, Weimaraners, and German Short-haired Pointers. The Risk for developing oropharyngeal cancer increases with age, particularly in the case of melanomas in dogs more than 10 years old.

Adapted from an article "Identifying & treating cancer in geriatric dogs" Veterinary Medicine: January 1991.

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Next time: Managing cancer patients and some interesting facts on the treatment.

Briewe / Letters

P.O. Box 16427
PRETORIA-NORTH
0116

2 April 1994

Dear Sr Christie

VNASA 1994 AGM AND LUNCH

I wish to thank the VNASA Committee and all the VNASA members most sincerely for the **beautiful** clock you presented me with at your recent AGM! I shall always cherish this gift as something very special. Thank you!

At first I thought the clock was made from Red **Mahogany** (Khaya nyassica), which is indigenous to countries north of South Africa, like Malawi. When I got home, however, I saw that is was made from Red **Ivory** (also called Pink Ivory) (Berchemia zeyheri). This is a special wood, as this tree grows here in our area, around the Pienaar's River Dam and Hartesbeespoort Dam. We even have a young tree that we raised from seed, growing in our garden! Possibly you and your members would be interested to know a little more about this bushveld tree. The following piece comes from "Trees of Southern Africa" (3 volumes) by Eve Palmer and N. Pitman:

Red Ivory timber is famous for quality and colour. It has a particularly fine texture and curly grain, polishes well and is extremely hard, strong, durable and resistant to insect attack and to decay.

In parts of Zululand this is considered a royal tree, chiefs alone carrying knobkieries made of it. The wood is much sought after for carving.

The leaves have an unusual use: when carrying buckets of water, Zulus sometimes place the leaves on the surface of the water to keep it from spilling.

The surplus fruits are stored in baskets where they form a solid brown sugary mass. They are a great delicacy and a concentrated ration on a long journey. Fruits are also dried in the sun for stamping and mixing with porridge. They make a good jam.

Many animals (monkeys, bushbabies and goats) and birds (toppies, barbets, starlings, loeries, doves and Green Pigeons) eat the fruits (that was the reason we planted this tree!). Impalas and nyala eat fruits and leaves and porcupines eat the bark.

The VNASA AGM was conducted in an efficient and friendly manner, which will surely be an incentive for many more qualified Vet. Nurses to attend the symposium and AGM next year! May I wish the new committee everything of the best for the coming year!

Once again, my heartfelt thanks for the beautiful and practical farewell gift!

Yours sincerely

Dr I Wolleschak

Gebeurlikhede.../Coming up...

South African Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SAALAS)

Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Proefdierwetenskap (SAVP)

THE 1994 SAALAS CONGRESS

DIE 1994 SAVP KONGRES

Dates of Congress:
Wednesday 5 - Friday 7 October 1994

Venue:
The Transnet Conference Centre,
Esselen Park.

Contact Person:
Miss M.M. de Villiers,
National Institute for Virology
Tel: (011) 882-9910
Fax: (011) 882-0596

Programme:
Scientific Sessions - regarding
animal science and technology.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE OF "PAWS FOR THOUGHT"

A personal interview with Dr. I. Wolleschak.
An insight into her life, and what her inspiration was!

Werksgeleenthede / Job Opportunities

Glen's Veterinary Hospital

(Southern Johannesburg)

Nurse required for general nursing with some reception.

Contact: Dr Clark (011) 432-3702

Kyron Laboratories

Veterinary Nurse required for an office position.
She must be able to answer queries, handle prescriptions and supervise drug and instrument orders.

Hours: 08h00 to 16h30 - no weekends
Salary: R2200-00 negotiable
Excellent staff relations!

Contact: Sonja (011) 618-1544 (W) / (011) 907-5155 (H)

Fourways Veterinary Hospital

is still looking for a full time Veterinary Nurse to start A.S.A.P. It is a fully computerized, progressive small animal practice with a pleasant working environment.

Please contact Dr. Carter or Dr. Van Niekerk at:
(011) 705-3411

People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA)

Applications are invited from two newly qualified Veterinary nurses to work at the Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals Hospital in Cape Town.

Please contact the Superintendent, Mr A.E. Blassoples with details of C.V. at the following number:
(021) 6379870 or fax no (021) 6384096.

Job needed urgently in East Rand Area.
Linda Venter
All hours 815-5410

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF PARTICULARS

Please return to: **Sue Kelly**
9 Fouche St
Parkrand
Boksburg
1460

SURNAME: ______________________________

NAMES: ______________________________

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

PREVIOUS POSTAL
ADDRESS: ______________________________

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NEW POSTAL
ADDRESS: ______________________________

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TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

HOME: Code: ____________ Number: ______________________

WORK: Code: ____________ Number: ______________________

CHANGE OF ADDRESS AS FROM: ____/____/____

CHANGE OF SURNAME:

MAIDEN NAME: ______________________________

MARRIED NAME: ______________________________

CONTRIBUTIONS

Constitutional Changes
Sr. Colleen Christie

Simposium Verslag
Sr. Cornelia Erasmus

Changing the Face of Veterinary Practice
Sr. Sue Marsden

'n Hand Vol Vere
Sr. Joalien Slabber

Cancer in Geriatric Dogs
Sr. Linda Muller

Animals I Have Shot .....
Sr. Linda Muller

We, the Members of the Veterinary Nurses Association of South Africa resolve at all times:

To honour our Profession and abide by the prescribed Code of Ethics;

To endeavour to nurse our patients with skill and compassion, and promote their ongoing health and well-being;

To promote the image and interests of the Veterinary Nurse both within and without the veterinary field;

To promote our Association whenever possible, and encourage communication and fellowship amongst its members.

CREDO

Ons, die Lede van die Veterinêre Verpleegsters Vereniging van Suid-Afrika onderneem om ten alle tye:

Ons Professie in ere te hou en sy Etiese Kode nougeset na te kom;

Ons pasiënte na die beste van ons vermoë met vaardigheid en sorgsaamheid te verpleeg, en hul gesondheid en welsyn voortdurend te bevorder;

Die status en belange van die Veterinêre Verpleegster op veeartsenykundige en ander gebiede te bevorder;

Ons Vereniging waar moontlik te bevorder en kommunikasie en eensgesindheid tussen sy lede aan te moedig.