

# Community Engagement Newsletter



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

## Faculty of Veterinary Science

Autumn: May 2017



## A DAY IN THE SHOES OF A COMMUNITY VET

Marianca Barnard (BVSc III)

On Saturday 21 January 2017, a sterilisation and vaccination campaign was held at Refilwe. It was led by Dr Renee van Oudtshoorn of the Community Veterinary Services, Southern Africa (CVSSA). A total of 26 animals were sterilised and 114 dogs and cats were vaccinated. Students from the Faculty of Veterinary Science, together with international students from Eco-Life and other volunteers had the privilege of experiencing what the role of a community vet entails.

Dr Van Oudtshoorn pre-arranged the campaign with the Chief of the community who offered the use of his garden. Different stations were created and students rotated in order to gain experience from each.

One group was sent out on foot to do vaccinations, and inform people that we had arrived. Another group provided education about the humane treatment of animals. The activities for the day included playing random games, colouring, singing and making rock pets. One of the groups created a song about rabies, which included what to do to prevent the disease and what to do if a person is bitten by a dog. The rest of the students helped at various stations.

When the animals arrived, the procedures and risks were explained, information was recorded and consent forms were signed. Afterwards, the patients moved to pre-op where the animals were pre-medicated, shaved and received an intravenous-line. They were then transferred to theatres where they were



*The students gained experience at each of the treatment stations*

sterilised. After the theatre, they were moved to post-op where they were monitored and received their vaccinations.

All the stations were situated either under trees or gazebos, making it a totally new experience for students who, until then, were only used to private practice.

CVSSA is a registered non-profit company that is entirely dependent on funds and volunteers. Local and foreign veterinary and pre-veterinary students are encouraged to get involved with their projects.



*Animals were sterilised in a makeshift theatre*

## IN SEARCH OF THE SUNRISE

Fatima Moolla (BVSc VI)

The home of the marula tree, sun-kissed skies and the big five was the destination that awaited three excited final-year veterinary students as part of their Veterinary Core Practice organised by the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria. The Kruger National Park welcomed us on the 29 of January 2017, with the Hans Hoheisen Wildlife Research Station destined to be our home away from home for the following two weeks.

Dawn marked the start of each day. Every morning, we all went through a mental debate: why couldn't the late bird catch the fattest worm? Despite our morning mutterings, we ate our breakfast and prepared to literally take the bull by the horns.

The Hluvukani Animal Health Clinic (HAHC), which is situated approximately 25 km from the Orpen Kruger gate, was our work place. The HAHC is run by a brilliant veterinarian, Dr Louise Biggs. Upon arrival, we were quickly told on how the clinic runs and off we went to the dip-tanks before attending to other call-outs. The diptanks are run by the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF - Veterinary Services). This is a control point where livestock are vaccinated against infectious diseases and dipped to control ticks.

One of the most important diseases, foot and mouth disease (FMD) is controlled at the dip-tanks. FMD is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle and other cloven - hoofed animals. The Kruger National Park is considered to be endemic for FMD because the African Buffalo in the park are permanent carriers. FMD is a controlled disease and strict measures are in place to prevent its spread. In the areas surrounding the Kruger Park, FMD is controlled by limiting the movement of animals out of the surveillance zone, doing weekly inspections to look for signs of the disease and by vaccinating cattle in the area as per DAFF regulations.

The dip tanks also provide the farmers with the opportunity to present any sick animals to the veterinarian. At the dip-tanks, we were presented with many infected wounds that required treatment, emphasising the role and value of primary animal health care. We saw that farmers benefit tremendously by being taught what to look for in a sick animal and how to provide basic care such as treating open wounds to prevent maggot infestation.

Field work conditions are not ideal, but you learn to make the best of the situation and provide your patients with the best

possible care. Thinking on your feet is a skill that must be mastered because a patient's life is in your hands. It was heart warming to note that the owners care very much for their pets and livestock and looked to us as the animal doctors to provide professional and compassionate care and treatment.

My advice to students heading there is to enter the experience with an open mind and be prepared to see veterinary science outside your comfort zone.

Most importantly, HAVE FUN!



*Students thinking on their feet as they treat patients*

# MEETING

A Community Engagement Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, 24 May 2017 at 13H30.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2017

NO.	DEPARTMENT	REPRESENTATIVE	SECUNDUS
1	Dean (ex officio)	Prof Darrell Abernethy	Prof Dietmar Holm
2	Acting Director: Clinical Services (ex officio)	Prof Marthinus Hartman	**
3	<i>Outgoing Community Engagement Chairperson</i>	<i>Dr Rebone Moerane</i>	**
4	Community Engagement Coordinator	Dr Eugene Machimana	**
5	Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology	Prof Roy Meintjes	**
6	Companion Animal Clinical Studies (CACS)	Dr Quixi Sonntag	Prof Brighton Dzikiti
7	Paraclinical Sciences	Dr Nenene Qekwana	**
8	Production Animal Studies (PAS)	*	**
9	Veterinary Tropical Diseases	Dr Jacques Van Rooyen	Dr Hein Stoltz
10	Veterinary Wildlife Studies	Dr Louise Biggs	**
11	Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH)	Sr Sarah Johnson	Sr Amanda Hamman
12	Nursing profession	Sr Carla van der Merwe	Sr Ester Botha
13	Community Veterinary Clinics (CVC)	Dr Hermien Viljoen	**
14	Postgraduate student (PGSA)	Ms Angy Shabangu	**
15	Undergraduate student (OPVSC)	Mr Riaan Crafford	Ms Thandi Maseko

\* No Departmental Representative or \*\* Secundus



**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  
Dr Eugene Machimana 012 529 8100

Chairperson: Community Engagement Committee  
Small Animal Section Head & Referrals Co-ordinator  
Community Engagement Coordinator

rebone.moerane@up.ac.za  
sarah.johnson@up.ac.za  
eugene.machimana@up.ac.za

# EXPERIENCE AT HLUVUKANI ANIMAL HEALTH CLINIC

Isabell Henss (BVSc III Ludwig-Maximilians-University, in Munich)

I am a third - year student from Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Germany. I spent four weeks at the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria as part of a short internship.

I had heard so many great things about Hluvukani Animal Health Clinic (HAHC) that I was very excited when I got the chance to go there for two weeks with four other students.

On arrival, Dr Louise Biggs showed us around the HAHC, introduced us to the clinic dogs and gave us duties that we were expected to perform during our stay. Our first case was a calf with septic arthritis. After treating it, we left to see our call-outs. During the two - week period, we treated mostly cattle and goats, but towards the end of our stay some puppies were brought to the clinic for treatment. Dr Biggs taught us a lot about tick-borne diseases such as heartwater, sweating sickness disease and babesia.

We learned that basic treatment often works very well. We found one little goat lying on his side shivering and having cramps which are signs of seizures. We treated it and after the first day it was already able to stand again and it was soon drinking and eating. Its owner was very happy when we sent it home. Because I have only just started my clinical education in Germany, I had to rely on Dr Biggs and the other students to assist me with my cases. Fortunately, they were always willing to help and we quickly learnt how to function as a team.

All in all I can say that I had a wonderful, educational time at Hluvukani, which I will never forget. Those two weeks showed me how to treat animals effectively with very little money. The HAHC can definitely be proud of the way it serves the community.



*Isabell treats a patient with her fellow students*



*Isabell learnt how to treat animals effectively with little money*

## 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 (Winter 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.