

Community Engagement Newsletter

Faculty of Veterinary Science

Winter 2014



Putting our best paw forward

Kirsten Collins and David Chelopo (BVSc IV)

Lory Park Animal and Owl Sanctuary in Midrand was established because of one man's dream to build a bird park in South Africa that would match the standards of those overseas. Lory Park quickly grew into a fully established safe haven for endangered species and it received its zoo status in 2000.



Relying on the generosity of its sponsors, Lory Park provides a peaceful escape for the community; an educational environment for children and a breeding facility for endangered species.

The recent most pressing issue at the zoo was in Monster and Chaos's den, the zoo's exquisite lion pair. The lions were not using their ladder as a step-down from their two-metre high platform, and were instead making the leap and putting constant strain on their joints.

The solution was to construct an intermediate platform, which was made possible by Tiber Bonvec Construction, who sponsored the materials, and the added blood, sweat and tears from the six veterinary students. The new platform has been approved by the king and queen of the jungle and their joints are all the better for it, too.

The second leg of the project involved Phomolong Secondary School in Tembisa, a mere stone's throw away from Lory Park. The Grade 11 and 12 learners were treated with some time off from school to listen to a presentation



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about animal welfare and the realm of veterinary science. The vet students' pets were also present to highlight the ideal human-animal interaction that the learners should strive towards with their own pets. The learners were then challenged to compile a summary – a poem, story or picture – of what they had learned. Prizes were awarded to the three learners with the best artworks and the top 20 learners were invited to accompany the vet students to the zoo for a day.

The learners, many of whom had never been to a zoo, got the opportunity to see endangered animals, interact with lion cubs and make enrichment toys for the wild cats. The goal was not only to give them an unforgettable experience, but to instil the message of conserving our precious animals and giving back to those who put in the hard work to fulfil

that purpose. The students thanked the zoo by handing over sponsored items that were part of the zoo's wishlist. They were also encouraged to present their learning experience to their fellow pupils when they returned to school.

We hope that the exposure of these learners to a world otherwise imagined or never thought of, has created a sense of responsibility towards animals, whether it is those under the threat of extinction or towards the ones we keep as our companions. It goes without saying that the awareness raised for the cats and birds hanging on the brink of extinction is immeasurable. Young minds have been opened to the potential we possess to make a difference. Simply put, anyone has the potential to *"put their best paw forward"*.

Veterinary outreach sees great success in the mountain kingdom!

Dr Nicolle Gray (Park Veterinary Hospital, Boksburg Veterinary Portfolio Semonkong Hospital Project)

A group of veterinarians and Onderstepoort veterinary students made their way to the Maluti Mountains of Lesotho for the Semonkong Hospital Project's annual veterinary outreach.



After seven consecutive years of reaching out to the impoverished community of Semonkong, the locals welcomed the team with open arms and literally thousands of animals. The outreach focuses on primary healthcare, preventative medicine and education.

Three separate clinics were managed over a five-day period. The Equine Clinic was headed by Dr Hildegard Setzkorn and Dawn Mansfield.

Horses are an important mode of transport in Lesotho and their health and welfare is of the utmost importance. Hundreds of horses received tetanus and rabies vaccinations. Poorly fitted bridles, halters and saddles were fixed or replaced to reduce the large number of mouth and saddle sores. Approximately 600 horses and donkeys were treated. Over 5 000 cattle and sheep moved through the Production Animal Clinic.

Vet students assisted Dr Leonard de Freitas to vaccinate sheep against pulpy kidney, and to treat sheep and cattle for external and internal parasites. A massive rabies vaccination campaign was overseen by Dr Nicolle Gray. Dogs and cats were also dewormed and treated against external parasites and numerous dogs were sterilised. Over 300 dogs and cats were treated.

The outreach was a huge success with approximately 6 000 animals treated! The improvement in the condition of the animals is remarkable and bears testimony to the success of our campaign. This project would not have been possible without God's grace and some amazing sponsors. With special thanks to Park Veterinary Hospital, Merial, Zoetis, MSD, Ciplavet and Kyron. Please email us at nicollegray@gmail.com for more information or to make a donation. To view a video of the project, visit www.parkveterinaryhospital.co.za/outreach.

The Husky Rescue Centre Project

Sone Reyneke (BVSc IV)

The most important thing we took away from this project was that knowledge is power. We are in an extremely privileged position to have people and opportunities from which we can accumulate knowledge. Without it we are ignorant of so many things, we are unable to make informed decisions, we are unable to handle a multitude of situations and we cannot consider the consequences of our decisions and the effect they have on the greater community.

Our group did research on and created posters on the following topics: responsible breeding and buying, behaviour and learning, ten interesting facts about Siberian huskies, when to seek veterinary assistance, and animal shelters and isolation areas. Ms Joy Holme of Husky Rescue SA in Johannesburg approved of these ideas and thought it would be ideal for her purposes.

When we had finished our projects, we came together and made posters summarising our research. These posters are currently on display at the Husky Rescue Centre where Joy can incorporate them into her management and volunteer training programme, and use the research

on animal shelters as a reference in planning and building their own shelter.

We learned many new things about Siberian huskies and the cause people are fighting for to rescue and protect them. They are amazing animals, with many wonderful talents. We also learned that their beauty is one of the major factors contributing to their need to be rescued.

People, uneducated about all the aspects concerning this breed, see a beautiful puppy that reminds them of a wolf, and they conclude that they are buying or adopting a pretty puppy that will grow up to be a wonderful watchdog.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2014

DEPARTMENT	REPRESENTATIVE	SECUNDUS
Dean (ex officio)	Prof Gerry Swan	Prof Linda van Ryneveld
Director: Clinical Services (ex officio)	Dr Henry Annandale	***
Veterinary Tropical Diseases (outgoing Chairperson)	Mr Jacques Van Rooyen	Prof Darryn Knobel
Community Engagement Coordinator	Mr Eugene Machimana	***
Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology	Prof Roy Meintjes	Prof Herman Groenewald
Companion Animal Clinical Studies (CACS)	Dr Quixi Sonntag	Prof Brighton Dzikiti
Paraclinical Sciences	Dr Nenene Qekwana	***
Production Animal Studies (PAS)	Dr Adel de Haast	Dr Dawie Blignaut
Chair: Primary Animal Health Care (PAHC)	Dr Rebone Moerane	***
Veterinary Wildlife Studies	Dr Greg Simpson	***
Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH)	Sr Sarah Johnson	Sr Amanda Hamman
Nursing profession	Sr Leske Venter	Sr Ester Botha
Community Veterinary Clinics (CVC)	Sr Debbie Pleaner	Sr Daleen Grundlingh
Postgraduate student (PGSA)	Ms Abigail Ngoepe	***
Undergraduate student (OPVSC)	Ms Steph Car	Ms Carmen Player

*** No secundus

DONATIONS:

All donations received will be used for community engagement purposes, particularly in less resourced 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

sarah.johnson@up.ac.za

Mr Jacques van Rooyen 012 529 8339

jacques.vanrooyen@up.ac.za

Mr Eugene Machimana 012 529 8100

eugene.machimana@up.ac.za



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When it turns out that the puppy grows into a medium-sized dog not suited to guarding, consuming a great amount of food and often with a host of medical problems, the reality far outweighs the fantasy and the unfortunate animal is often abandoned, abused or neglected.

The people of the Husky Rescue Centre do an amazing job of catching, nurturing and caring for these animals. They are often the reprieve for people who cannot afford to take care of their pets anymore.

While doing this project we realised that the foundation of a place that takes in strays and mistreated or unwanted



animals is the people running the scheme. To be able to run a successful rescue centre, it is important to build on this foundation with proper facilities to care for the animals, have proper methods in place for

MEETING

Community Engagement Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 5 June 2014 @ 13:30.

handling the animals, and educating the public about the breed and the responsibilities of adopting and owning a pet.

The greatest challenge we faced was realising that people can be the cruellest beings on earth, especially towards defenceless animals, and that this cruelty often sprouts from ignorance. It was very difficult to come to terms with this issue and the anger it generated in us.

We realised that we cannot change the world and its ways, but we have the power to educate people and raise awareness about this issue everywhere we go.

As a group, we overcame communication barriers by using various methods of communication, from emailing and phoning to personal contact.

When we presented our posters to Joy, we each had a section to explain to her and her associates. We learned a lot and enjoyed working as a group. We also enjoyed interacting with the people of the Husky Rescue Centre, despite the gaps in communication, and hope that following years' students will continue the collaboration.

We feel we contributed to our community by enabling other people to use the knowledge we amassed doing research and going to class at the University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort Campus.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Event	Venue	Date
Production Animal Outreach Clinic	Makapanstad and Ratjjejan Project	Wednesdays
Mamelodi Animal Health Care (MAHC)	Mamelodi Campus	Mondays to Fridays
Loate Community Veterinary Clinic	Winterveldt	Once a month on Wednesdays



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 2014). The community engagement article should not be more than one page in length. Contact person: 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.