

Community Engagement Newsletter



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Veterinary Science
Winter: August 2015



Launch of the Gauteng IDC Nguni Cattle Development Trust

Sipho Mosegedi (Project Manager: Nguni cattle)



Nguni cattle on Melkhoutfontein 183 JR, the farm of Mr Ammone Piet Phahlane.

The day of 7 May 2015 was a totally different day for Mr Ammone Piet Phahlane and his other two team members. Their farm, Melkhoutfontein 183 JR, hosted farmers from around Gauteng and various stakeholders, including dignitaries from within and outside the borders of the province.

The MEC for the Gauteng Department of Economic Development and Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Lebogang Maile, together with the Gauteng IDC Nguni Cattle Development Trust (GINCDT) launched the Gauteng IDC Nguni Cattle Development Project on that day. GINCDT is a development-oriented partnership of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) and the University of Pretoria (UP). Prof Edward Webb and Dr Rebone Moerane represented the University as trustees, while Prof Esté van Marle-Köster and Prof Dietmar Holm represented UP on the Technical Committee.

Some of the roles played by these three stakeholders include the following:

- IDC: funding of the project
- GDARD: project funding, monitoring extension and advisory support
- UP: training of beneficiaries and marketing

Apart from popularising the project, the purpose of the launch was to showcase the contribution of agriculture towards the following:

- Building visionary alliances for re-industrialisation through agriculture
- Transformation of the agricultural sector for inclusive growth and redistribution of wealth

The project involves the loan of 30 registered pregnant Nguni heifers and one registered Nguni bull to qualifying farmers in Gauteng. Beneficiaries of this project should be able to return the offspring (same number, breed or rand equivalent of the loaned cattle) within five years.

When encouraging beneficiaries and other farmers who attended the event, MEC Maile stressed: "We want to see abattoirs with cattle reared on your farms. We also want to see your businesses grow so that when you pay back the loan, you will still run viable entities".

Apart from Mr Phahlane and his team members, the other two beneficiaries who also received gifts in the form of medical kits were Ms Rachael Swahledi and Ms Victoria Dzowa.



GAUTENG PROVINCE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEETING

A Community Engagement Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, 28 October 2015 at 13:30.

Hearts of hope in Hluvukani

Tarryn Ferguson, Carlien Muller (University of Pretoria – BVSc IV), Selma Schmidt and Rebecca Erdelen (Ludwig Maximilians University – Germany - BVSc V)

Faith, hope and love...
and the greatest of these
remains love.

On 27 June, we left for Hluvukani Rotation Clinic. We are a group of two Onderstepoort students and two German exchange students. Students have the opportunity to spend a two-week community clinical rotation at the Hluvukani Animal Health Clinic (HAHC).

Our time spent here and experiences have been amazing and definitely a time in our lives that we will always remember. We were involved with the daily early morning dip-tank visits for foot-and-mouth disease surveillance monitoring.



The Veterinary Science students from Onderstepoort and Germany.

At one of the dip tanks, Gottenberg, we gave a short talk to the farmers about the different diseases that different kinds of litter can cause. There have been a few of these talks at different dip tanks and an improvement in the amount of litter in the area is usually noticed.

We had the privilege of delivering a presentation to Grade 11 and Grade 12 learners at Mugena High School. We spoke about some of the different career opportunities that are available in veterinary science. We also delivered a presentation for Grade 1 and Grade 2 learners at Mphaku Primary School. Here, we focused on how to care for your animals using the "five freedoms" as a basic structure for our talk.

The medical students from the University of the Witwatersrand also spent a two-

week rotation in the area. We got to visit a human hospital and attend a One Health lecture. This lecture emphasised the importance of doctors, veterinarians, environmental specialists and many more professions working together towards an even better South Africa.

We were able to treat a number of sick animals, including cattle, goats, pigs and dogs. In the winter, nutrition is the main struggle for the animals living here. It was amazing to work with the environmental monitors and animal health technicians. They are all very helpful, friendly, knowledgeable and fantastic translators.

Over the course of these two weeks, we have seen the importance of having faith in each human being and the role they can play in all of our lives. We have been filled with hope for our country and we



Learners at Mphaku Primary School listen to a talk about animal care.

have hopefully added more hope to the lives of the people living in this community. In closing, if we love one another, our animals, environment and work unconditionally, there can be no stopping the infinite opportunities that await our future generations.

The 2015 Faculty Open Day

Lesego Teffu (Public Relations Officer)



Eager learners find out more about Veterinary Science.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Pretoria hosted its annual Open Day on Friday, 13 March 2015. More than 400 learners from all over the country visited the Faculty with great anticipation to learn more about this unique field of veterinary science.

The function was attended by various dignitaries, including Junior Tukkies' Project Manager, Mr Petrus Lombard; the Dean of the Faculty, Prof Darrell Abernethy; as well as the Director of Teaching and Learning, Prof Linda van Ryneveld.

The visitors were enlightened about the role of a veterinarian and the variety of possible career opportunities as a veterinarian across the continent. Different students from all the departments within the Faculty shared some enticing presentations on different qualifications and a wide range of specialities available in those departments. Mr Themba Mnisi from the BVSc V group had an interesting presentation with emphasis on the importance of a veterinarian in the production animal section, where some of the veterinarian's responsibilities will be to ensure that the food produced by the animals is healthy enough for human consumption.

The Faculty's objective for this day is to give an opportunity to primary and high school learners, especially from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, to be exposed to this special field. They are encouraged to make wiser subject choices and learn more about further requirements to enrol for courses at this Faculty. The Open Day aims to create awareness of the beauty of the veterinary science field at large.



A Veterinary Science student explains a procedure to a curious learner.

Visit to Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital

Prof George E Otiang'a-Owiti (BVM, MSc, PhD)

As a veterinary surgeon, my visit to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH) was definitely what I would call the 'icing on the cake' of my ten-day sojourn in South Africa. I had been invited to the country by Mr Rod Potter of the Wildlife Crime Working Group in KwaZulu-Natal and Dr Cindy Harper of the Veterinary Genetic Laboratory. My visit was supported by the WWF.

I have been to South Africa on several other occasions, but this was the first time I was able to visit the Faculty of Veterinary Science. What crossed my mind when I walked through the OVAH can be summarised in just one word: "Awesome"! The hospital compares favourably with some of the top medical facilities in my country, not veterinary facilities, but hospitals for people!

I was struck by the warmth of the reception I received from my guide, Mr Eugene Machimana, as well as the fact that all the staff members I interacted with were highly knowledgeable

and very friendly. As I walked around in this impeccably clean facility, which was well-furnished with cutting-edge medical equipment, my mind came to only one conclusion: This is a good veterinary school. I was most interested to learn that the pharmacist, Mr Craig Murdoch, had switched from human to veterinary pharmaceuticals. I also found the Radiology Clinic very impressive with its state-of-the-art scintigraphy machine and CT scanner. All I could think was: What a facility!

The OVAH has left me with a lasting impression and I look forward to visiting it again sometime in the future.

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
Mr Eugene Machimana 012 529 8100

Chairperson: Community Engagement Committee
Liaison and Communication
Community Engagement Coordinator

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

Community talks

Kobus Rabe, Rhynardt de Ridder, Ilse Jenkinson & Maike Ottermann (BVSc IV)

One of the highlights of our clinical rotation at Hluvukani was the educational talks that we presented. We started at Manyeleti Primary School, playing games with the learners and teaching them about pet care. We compared the basic needs of humans with the basic needs of their pets, showing the learners that, just like them, their pets also need food, water, shelter, a veterinarian if they are sick, and attention like playing.

We had the opportunity to give a talk at Mugena High School. We started by telling the learners that they are in a phase in their lives where they must decide what they want to become in life. We tried to emphasise the importance of having Science and



The passionate Veterinary Science students with the learners of Manyeleti Primary School.

Mathematics as subjects. We educated them on the different career opportunities that are available in the animal health industry. Veterinary science was one of the careers we focused on and we explained to them what it means to be a veterinarian.



Farmers listen to a talk about animal health at Ludlow dip tank.

During and after the talk, we tried to make science fun by showing them some science tricks (like a water-propelled rocket) and allowing them to look at a blood smear under the microscope and listen to the heart of a dog with a stethoscope.

There was also a question-and-answer session after the talk.

We ended the week with a farmers' talk at Ludlow dip tank. After the dipping and inspection of animals, we all gathered for

the talk about preparing for winter. The main points were the following:

- Buying supplementary feed like hay or licks for the thin and lactating animals
- Weaning the calves that are older than six months by using the nose spikes method
- Selling some cattle before winter rather than some dying due to starvation at the end of winter
- Deworming only the thin animals

The talk was very interactive with a discussion afterwards about how to get a strong healthy calf, as well as the importance of colostrum and a mother with a protected and healthy udder. We enjoyed interacting with the various groups of farmers at the different dip tanks. This rotation showed us a new dimension of being a veterinarian in a rural area and highlighted some of the obstacles one can expect to face, which included the language barrier.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Event	Venue	Date
Production Animal Outreach Clinic	Makapanstad and Ratjiepan Project	Wednesdays
Mamelodi Animal Health Care (MAHC)	Mamelodi Campus	Mondays to Fridays
Loate Community Veterinary Clinic	Winterveldt	Twice 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 Community Engagement Newsletter (Spring 2015). The article should not be more than one page long. 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.