

UPFRONT

RELAUNCH OF EDUCATION AND MOBILE CLINICS AT THE MDZANANDA ANIMAL CLINIC

WRITTEN BY MARCELLE DU PLESSIS, FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER MDZANANDA ANIMAL CLINIC, AND DR BLESSING CHIRISERI



Just over a year ago I finished vet school and moved to Cape Town to become part of the great Mdzananda Animal Clinic team. Shortly after arrival I found myself overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of roaming pets in the township. My initial reaction was probably what most people would have – that no one really cares for these poor animals.

One year on, my perspective has taken a complete 360° turn. Twelve months and thousands of animals later have helped me understand how much dedication there is from the Mdzananda team. Yet the greatest depiction of care and love has been the countless numbers of people, both young and old, pushing their pets in shopping carts from far and wide in search of help. I have completely immersed myself in this beautiful interaction.

A few months ago we took time to take a closer look at the outreach programme that was meant to serve the communities that were further away from the established Mdzananda structures. This step back afforded us the opportunity to assess the impact we had had over the years and a lot seemed outdated and inadequate. Shifts in lifestyle and the economics of the communities meant that a lot needed to be tailored to better suit the different areas and particular household structures, and especially the times when people are at home and available to bring their pets to mobiles.

The major aspect that required – and still requires – immediate and meticulous attention was education. The interaction with clients has revealed how little animal health care information these owners are equipped with. However, the community seems very keen to learn (a priceless tool).



Our new mobile outreach programme is therefore a combination of specific days solely set aside for educating the communities and then satellite clinic days. Our satellite clinics are simply an extension of our consultation rooms, meaning we are now able to properly treat some animals at these sites and to identify and admit patients needing hospital care back at Mdzananda HQ. The methods we are going to use are entirely tailored to each area we will be visiting. The socio-economic situation of each household visited will be appraised and then given the utmost consideration. It is always important to realise that the quality of life of the animal will only be determined by that of its owner.

“These are particularly exciting times for me and Mdzananda. We can only imagine the impact an outreach programme like this is going to have on the pet population in this part of the continent. In conclusion, I must say that the first day of our relaunch was a great success. The team really showed a different but positive kind of enthusiasm and we intend to keep it that way for decades to come. We are striving to make education Mdzananda’s long-lasting legacy,” says Dr Blessing Chiriseri, Mdzananda’s veterinarian.

You can assist our mobile clinics by sponsoring a pet per month. Each pet receives a vaccination and dewormer at the cost of R70 to us. Each unsterilised pet is also sterilised at the cost of R200 to us. If you are able to sponsor one pet a month for either of these treatments, we will be extremely grateful. Please contact marcelle@mdzananda.co.za to become a monthly donor.



PRETORIA PIT BULL WALK



On 25 April 2015, the Pit Bull Federation of South Africa and Soldiers Against Dog Fighting hosted the Pretoria Pit Bull Awareness walk. This was an initiative by both organisations to raise public awareness for this awesome breed and it served as an opportunity to educate the public about the American Pit Bull Terrier and what is involved in owning this wonderful yet highly misunderstood breed of dog.

Both PBFSA and SAD felt that the time was right to collaborate and see how the Pit Bull-owning public would respond to an event that not only showcased responsible ownership of the breed, but also gave owners a chance to represent their breed in a positive light to the public. The walk was a massive success. More 50 much-loved and well-behaved dogs took part in the event. Some of the dogs participating were show dogs, some were rescues and some were

not even Pit Bulls. A few Jack Russells, a Siberian Husky, a Dalmatian and even a little Chihuahua cross joined in the fun. It was decided that Underdogs SA would be the event's beneficiary, and the public very kindly opened their hearts to the ten Underdogs SA rescue dogs that joined the walk. Money was donated as well as toys and food.

It has been decided to make the walk a regular event, and the PBFSA representative in Johannesburg would like to host a Johannesburg walk, but instead of only Pit Bulls and their owners taking part, the plan is to invite all of the Bully breeds to join in so that their rescue initiatives and non-profit organisations can also benefit from the walk.

For more information on upcoming walks and events, please feel free to contact the PBFSA at info@pbfsa.co.za or president@pbfsa.co.za



PET WELLNESS WORX

Pet Wellness Worx specialises in rehabilitation, recovery, exercise, hydrotherapy, pain management and weight management for our four-legged friends.

Owner Lorren Barham trained and studied in

the UK through Greyfriars Vet and Rehab Hydrotherapy Centre as an animal hydro therapist, and Pet Wellness Worx has an aqua hydro therapy underwater treadmill available for their patients along with other state-of-the-art equipment, including a Photizo Light Therapy machine and PT2010 Vet Tens for electro-stimulation.

They have a team of associated specialists practising from Pet Wellness Worx, including Dr May Maritz doing Acupuncture; Andi Romahn, a qualified human physiotherapist who has attended the Canine Certified Rehabilitation Practitioner course through the University of Tennessee; and a Tellington TTouch practitioner and a Body Stress Practitioner for dogs.

Cape Animal Physiotherapy and Pet Wellness Worx are affiliated/associated and Christelle van Wyk and her team of therapists operate from our facility for our canine and equine animals. Let's look at the benefits of visiting Pet Wellness Worx –



- **Hydrotherapy:** exercise without weight-bearing through the resistance of the water, thereby building muscle bulk to support affected areas with the comfort and stability of the water.
- **Physiotherapy:** we are able to assess and treat neuromuscular-skeletal disease much the same as human physios, employing physical therapy techniques to increase function and mobility of joints and muscles. (Massage, ultrasound/light therapy/TENS, passive range of motion, balance and strengthening exercises.)
- **Acupuncture and Tuina massage:** pain modulation by encouraging natural healing and improving functioning, usually in conjunction with hydrotherapy. Improves posture by decreasing pain and muscle spasms.
- **Tellington TTouch:** a system of gentle bodywork and movement exercises which positively influence behaviour and well-being in dogs, including body wraps, groundwork and Labyrinths. TTouch is based on co-operation and understanding and will deepen the relationship between dogs and their people.
- **Body Stress Release (BSR):** a gentle and effective way to help your pet's body to release stored tension from the muscles' pain modulation by encouraging natural healing and improve functioning, usually in conjunction with hydrotherapy. Improves posture by decreasing pain and muscle spasms.

Contact Pet Wellness Worx on 021 558 5092 or email info@petwellnessworx.co.za. You can also visit their website on www.petwellnessworx.co.za