



Reg. no. 002-963 N.P.O.

Animal Welfare Society Helderberg

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Standard Bank, Branch Code: 033012, Account No.: 072286547

Newsletter

December 2011



Our Mission and Values

We speak for, protect and care for animals and advocate the

5 Freedoms

1. Freedom from thirst and hunger
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour
5. Freedom from fear and distress



EDITOR'S LETTER - Edition 2 2011

Well here we are at the end of the year and heading into 2012! Looking back, it seems the time has flown by – so much has happened in the world, in our own country and in our own lives. It seems that each year brings more natural disasters and the issue of global warming is now on everyone's agenda in one form or another and other disasters (not so natural!) such as the global economic meltdown which is creating severe repercussions worldwide.

Corporations, small enterprises, and the man in the street – all are, or will be, affected by the economic downturn. Welfare organisations worldwide will be greatly stretched – and the animal welfare operations the most affected of all.

The AWS Helderberg is not escaping the adverse economic onslaught either and with the financial constraints we are facing right now we are looking at cutting costs wherever we can – hence the decision to have a much shorter newsletter this Christmas. In the new year we intend to actively seek businesses which would be prepared to "Sponsor-a-Page" in our newsletter and in return have their company name and logo appear on that particular page.

Hopefully, this will allow us to expand the newsletter again.

On a happier note: Greg and Sheney from Phoenix Digital have done a great job on the redesign of our website – check it out at www.awshelderberg.co.za. A big thank you to both of them for doing all the work free – we know that this was at no small cost and we are extremely grateful. The site is fresh and modern and easy to update so if people are interested in our electronic general news, fundraisers, animals, adoptions etc. they can keep up-to-date by logging on!



Greg and Sheney from Phoenix Digital

We have so many people to thank for all that they have done no matter how big or small to help the AWS Helderberg during 2011 – to all the special people

out there who have a passion to make a difference in the animal kingdom in one way or another – we value you more than you will ever know.

*To the world you are just one more rescue person
But to a rescued pet, you are the world.*

To all our readers, volunteers and AWSH staff – a Happy Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy Festive Season – take care and drive safely. We will be chatting again in the New Year.

We would like to hear about your comments, stories and requests – so please send them to jean.rowe@nashuaisp.co.za or nixrsa@gmail.com or send them to the AWSH office in Reitz Street or log on to the website.

Happy reading

The Editors 🐾





Julia and Suzy

Julia writes...

There are vets and there are vets. Know what I mean? But I begrudge not one who doesn't want to do welfare work, who isn't interested in cheaper rates. They're entitled to serve and assist whoever they wish. Yet the public still complain about their private rates... Do people not realise that these people too, have homes, families, bonds, staff, EXPENSES? They chose a profession and they do it well.

YET to those vets who are welfare orientated... I no longer envy your jobs – because as hard as it is for me to decide who lives and who dies, you're the ones who have to do the deed, regardless of the heartache and pain you feel. Every time I want to save a life that involves a complicated and expensive procedure, you're the ones who labour and sweat over that animal – at little to no profit. Every time I overstep my boundaries, you're the ones who pull me back with no recrimination. Every time my heart breaks, you're the ones who console me.

It should be me consoling you. Your welfare work is not enviable at all.

So thank you – a million times over. Thank you going the extra mile to save lives that would otherwise be lost, thank you for the discounts, thank you for the kindness.

Heck I've yet to meet the perfect vet – BUT you're as close to perfect as can be.



I'm always rubbing in the fact that I've been in the welfare trade for years... years and years (rub, rub). There were times in the beginning that I'd wished I'd had the brains and motivation to have been a vet. To do more, reach more, heal more. I felt that vets weren't doing enough, that I'd have been more compassionate, more caring... BETTER!

Looking back, looking around me now and looking forward, I no longer envy them their jobs. I no longer question their compassion. I no longer want to fill their shoes. I couldn't. It took me a long time to realise it. I realise it now.

RECENT RESCUES – Well done to our Intrepid Inspectors

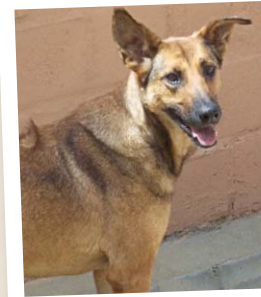
Pieter Prinsloo (inspector) recently rescued a crow and spent 5 hours in the attempt! He had the willing and most able of fire fighters and their vehicles from Somerset West AND Epping. The rescue required a very special ladder which the fire brigade were able to provide. Safely rescued,

the crow was taken to Spier Wine Estate and was healthy on its release.

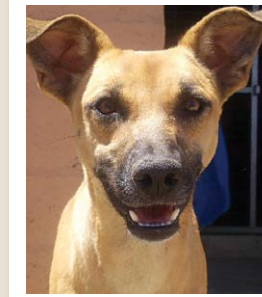
Rona Grobler (inspector) rescued 3 purebred dogs from a suspected syndicate in Nomzamo recently – a Rottweiler, a Staffordshire Bullterrier and a Boerboel. Dogs are being stolen,

sold over the border and / or used for fighting – everyone will by now have read in the newspapers recently about the horrific trade in puppies being smuggled out of South Africa into Angola and neighbouring territories.

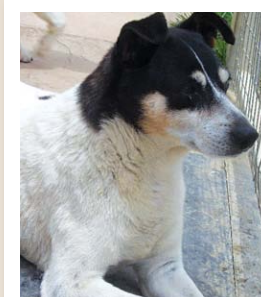
dogs & cats looking for their *FOREVER HOME*...



Ribbetjies was found outside Pick 'n Pay in Gordon's Bay in September. She's already sterilized. She is a gorgeous looking dog with a lovely ridge running down her backbone. She is very lively, affectionate and sociable with people and other dogs. She is starting to show signs of kennel stress and we would love her to be adopted to a kind family with a big garden before the end of the year.



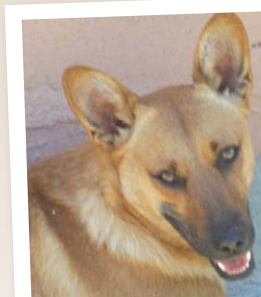
Nikki was found on the 15th June in Strand. She is a young dog with a very pretty face. She is good with other dogs and we know this special girl will make a wonderful family pet.



Foxy is probably the oldest dog we have at the kennels at the moment. He was found on the N2 near Sir Lowry's Village with bite wounds. We would love this gentle and quiet old man to find a comfortable home for his last few years of life.



Embray was confiscated from his owner in Grabouw and has been with us for over 6 months. He is a "brak" but a very good looking one and he is in great condition. He is a playful and intelligent dog and gets on well with all his friends.



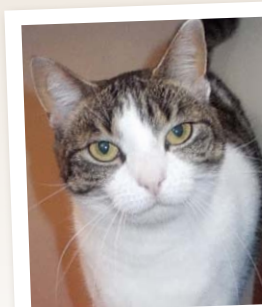
Dumpie was picked up from the dump in June. We have had him sterilized and he is a lovely dog who is just dying for his forever home. He's an energetic and playful young dog and would make a great pet for a young family.



Kitty was hit by a car and suffered a fractured pelvis. She has been confined for many months in order to let it heal and the vets say she will be OK but it may take another 6 months. We would like her to be adopted into a quiet and peaceful home – no children or dogs (a flat would suit her well) so that she can heal completely. She's very sweet and affectionate – a great lap-cat!



We have over 25 kittens looking for homes at the moment and more stream in every day...



Trixy is a gorgeous looking girl. She's a big cat with a loud purr! She was abandoned by her previous owner and we hope someone kind will adopt her soon and shower her with love.

EVENTS



DONATIONS



THANK YOU'S

Special thanks go to

- Allen from the Nameless Pub and Dierdre and friends – who raised around R18 000 at the live gig on Saturday 26th November with Jesse Jordan and The Rites. Fantastic prizes were won. And, to all of you who joined in the fun too.
- Hugo and Neil at Blaauwklippen Wine Estate for hosting our first AWS Helderberg Dog Walk! We have had so many positive comments that we will definitely do another one soon. It was heart-warming to see so many of you with your gorgeous dogs supporting our not so fortunate doggies at the kennels.

The AWSH is having another dog walk in the beautiful Blaauwklippen

vineyards on 15 January 2012. The Blaauwklippen family market will be held on the same day so bring the whole family for a morning of fun. Tickets are available from Moira 021 8522268 or at the market on the day. The walk starts at 9am and there is a 1km and a 4km route. Tickets: R30 per dog and person and R20 per person. One dog per person and must be on a lead. Remember your poo bag! Water points for the dogs will be available along the way and you can buy refreshments and yummy snacks at the market afterwards (including ostrich flavoured ice cream for your dog!) Our last walk was a huge success despite the drizzle so we can't wait for this one. If you would like to walk a kennel dog to give it some exposure please speak to Susan 021 852 5618.

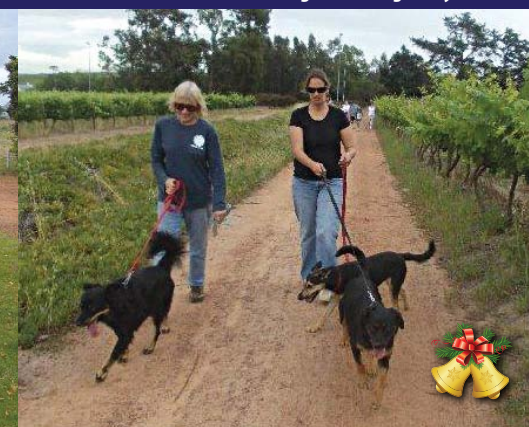
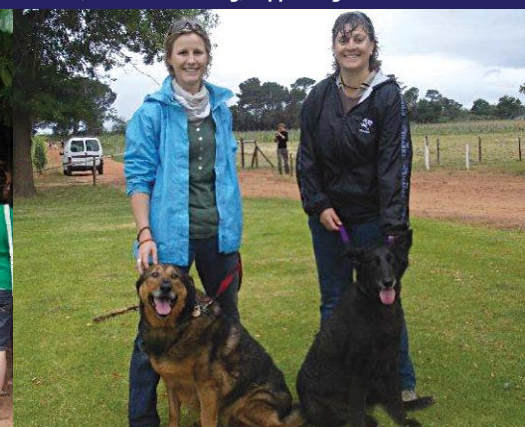
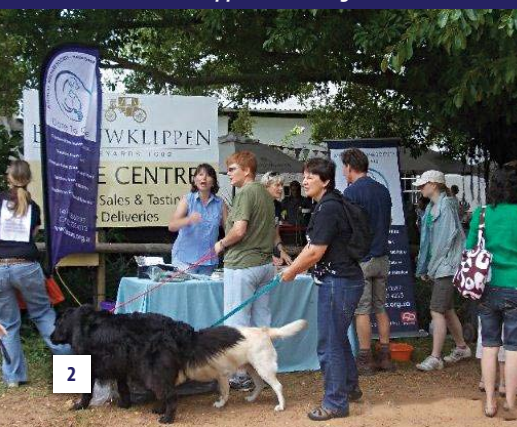
- African Tails for the cost of monthly sterilisations
- All the vets who give unstintingly
- The Eagles from Erinvale for their substantial donations
- Alan from Cape Garden Centre for trees donated for our new kennels
- The District Mail and Radio Helderberg for always being there for us.

And, to all the many, many wonderful people and companies that willingly give of their time, hearts and money in myriads of ways to our special cause for the animals. And **most importantly, to all our amazing volunteers** who are always there for us no matter what. We would not be here if not for you and we certainly cannot do it without you. **Thank you!** – Words can never truly express how grateful we are.

Blaauwklippen AWSH Dog Walk

Bonzo, an old kennel dog, supporting his old kennel friends

Volunteers Sue & Michelle walking kennel dogs Lady and Jock



A Few Fundamentals About Owning a Cat

Cats, now the most popular pet in Europe and North America were once described as anti-social animals, but this is no longer regarded as true. Although very different from dogs, cats need interaction and most importantly, your loving attention!

When you bring a new cat or kitten into your home you'll have to decide whether your pet will live strictly indoors or will be allowed outside. There are advantages and disadvantages in both cases. Free-roaming cats are prone to more illnesses and have a shorter life expectancy, as they can be hit by cars, attacked by

other animals and exposed to external parasites such as ticks, fleas, worms and earmites.

Conversely, if your cat never ventures outside you must provide him or her with physical and mental stimulation, including interaction with you, exercise, scratching posts and a clean toilet area. Whatever your decision may be following a few simple guidelines to direct your cat's behaviour can ensure that harmony reigns in your cat-loving household.



Happy Tails



going to my forever home...



Brady

Meet Brady. He has been at the Gordon's Bay kennels since he was a pup. A whole 13 MONTHS. He has only ever known the kennel environment yet he is such a well-adjusted and happy boy (he recently attended the Blaauwklippen dog walk and was an absolute star on a lead amongst all the strange people and dogs and he loved the car trip!)

The kennels have close to 200 dogs and the holidays have not even begun! We are running out of space and in order for us to help all the new comers the old dogs have to move out – and we definitely prefer a kennel to be empty due to an adoption rather than a euthanasia.

The good news is that we did find this angel of a dog a loving family for Christmas – what better Christmas present could there be for Brady!



Ginny

It has definitely been a life changing experience for me and my husband. For some reason you have this notion that all shelter dogs are troubled and broken. But here you have Ginny, the most beautiful, kindest, loyal soul I have ever met in my life. We can only learn from her and my hope is that more people take the time to get to know a dog like Ginny.

We originally adopted Ginny because we already had a lab puppy Zoá who loved any form of dog company and who was a little lonely during the day when we were at work. We did not even realise how needy Zoá really was until Ginny came along. Looking back I now see that Zoá was more like a baby and Ginny truly assisted in teaching Zoá much needed normal dog behaviour and also played a big role in building her independence. Zoá no longer requires 24/7 attention and we now sometimes ask her very nicely for some puppy love! Zoá has also made a best friend for life and this is the most rewarding of all.

Almost four months later and the two girls are inseparable; they eat, sleep, play and dig huge holes in the back yard together. They both love the beach and Ginny is quite the athlete. It might sound crazy but when she runs off the leash at full speed on the beach I sometimes feel the freedom in each leap she takes and I think back to the first day we met her at the kennels and how many dogs still await this feeling of freedom and how incredibly sad this is; as this should be a basic right for every dog. We have no regrets about the adoption and as much as we love Zoá we will never again buy a puppy – I think our eyes and our hearts have been opened by Ginny to so many possibilities when it comes to adopting from a shelter.

Wishing you a prosperous new year with plenty more successful adoptions.

Lots of love, Marius, Chirleen, Ginny & Zoá



A friend of ours had a party at her pub to celebrate 7 years of business. A big day was organised – NSRI, Animal Welfare and others were also there. That is where we spotted Zulu! Because we have three Husky / German Shepherds with blue eyes, Zulu immediately caught my attention. On the Monday the paperwork was completed and Zulu came home with us. A bit wary of how the other dogs were going to react did cross my mind, but I was surprised to see how well they got along. Because two of the Huskies are still young, they took off running and chasing one another. That broke the ice.

We renamed him to Ziggy. A lovely dog with a placid nature. He had his first experience at the beach, a bit nervous of the sea, but that did not stop him running around and enjoying the freedom. He really enjoyed the outing and was exhausted when we got home. We often take the dogs to the river where they love to swim, hoping Ziggy would join them in the river, but he is not too comfortable with that yet. But in time to come, the others will teach him to join.

He has only been with us about 3 months and has joined the dog family. He runs, plays and has fun and seems to be in his element as if he has always been here. We are so glad to have been able to give an unwanted dog a home and that many others that have the space and ability to do likewise, because it does bring joy.

Garth and Ingrid

Telly (alias Teddy)

Losing a friend isn't easy but when that friend is a running companion and close member of the family for 13 years, it just gets so much harder and nothing in the world seems worthy to take his place. Well that was our Alf Takka, a lovely Border Collie who left this planet on 21 June and who cannot ever be replaced, but whose absence has been filled by another, wonderful young lad called Tellyman.

My wife announced on my birthday that she wanted half an hour of my time, and so I found myself at 10:30 on the 23rd October strolling down the aisle between the kennels at the pound in Gordon's Bay, not too surprised but hopelessly unable to know what was going on or who was coming home with us.

We got to the last cage in which five or six young dogs were making as much of a racket as the rest of the entire community! Teddy stood firm on all fours, his head and eyes focused squarely on the action, his high-pitched bark reaching out and his spirit connecting with mine in ways I will never understand.

I asked Susan Bellis to tell us a bit about this little man and that was it – his character, charm and attentiveness, his ability to hold his own, his gentle manner with people. Well, he found us and was soon on his way to our home to meet the family.

So thanks to Susan and the workers and volunteers at AW that gave of their time and love to this little man. Know that he carries your selfless and enduring spirit within him and that he is settling in well and is a delight to all of us here at home in the Bay!

Alan Ralphs

FETE – Good news is that our fete on Saturday, 10 December, brought in ± R28 000. Well done everyone!

Volunteers:

Nicola 079 612 8914
Susan 021 852 5618

Cottage Vet:

021 856 2746

Strand Animal Hospital:

021 854 7037

Boarding Vierthof Kennels:

021 858 1305

Dog Training and Behaviour:

Susan 021 852 5618
Claire 021 856 5886

Puppy Classes:

Gill Painter 072 464 0404

