

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2012

NEWSLETTER BY MEL HOOD AND THE VAWZ TEAM

RESCUES - Story on "MJ" and Bingo

"MJ" was rescued from a plot in Gweru, the owner having 16 other dogs in reasonable condition, except for this poor little mite. The "before" photo of "MJ" is horrendous and may shock you BUT look at the "after". She has found a loving home with Crystal Wynn and the bond is strengthening daily with trust. A lovely rescue story.



Bingo was rescued from a mine near Guruve, the road had been hacked out of the bush and it took 40 minutes to travel 4 kilometres! We found him chained to a stump- the chain wrapped around so tightly he couldn't move – there was no water for him either despite the high temperatures. He had an unhealed wound on his back caused from hot water being thrown over him when he killed a chicken. After spending several weeks at FAF – where he wouldn't even come out of kennel, he was so terrified, he has found a loving home where he now sleeps on the bed with his new owner, plays with his tennis ball and enjoys the company of the other dogs.



Three horses were uplifted from a farm on the outskirts of Harare – they had not been handled for 3 years, were left in a paddock with no supplementary feeding, dipping, or de-worming. They are presently under supervised care and will be re-homed in January. Thank you to every one for the tremendous response to our appeal for a home.

WORLD ANIMAL WEEK.

Thank you to all the vets who participated – 21 dogs were spayed free of charge (all dogs were from disadvantaged situations)

Blessing Service – small turn out but a lovely service given by Rob Fynn and Janet Kaschula

RECENT CASES.

Dogs: VAWZ Inspectors continue to deal with a number of cases involving illegal breeding, confined/chained dogs, unwanted dogs and puppies, abandoned dogs, too many on a property, dogs being beaten and malnourished animals. The number of unvaccinated dogs, particularly for Rabies, is of concern as the occurrence of rabid dogs within Harare is increasing. Remember there is no cure for Rabies and we strongly recommend you have your animals vaccinated annually. There is also a marked increase in the number of Distemper cases – please have your dogs vaccinated!

Puppies for sale – adverts on notice boards in shops are removed and a follow-up carried out on the sellers. It is illegal, in terms of the Harare City By-laws to breed dogs without a breeder's license. Puppy vendors are a continuing problem – please report them as soon as possible and don't buy the

pups, you're only encouraging this cruel trade. Recently VAWZ apprehended a vendor along Glen Eagles Rd., the man was extremely violent and inflicted injuries on both VAWZ members – he was taken to court where he received a 5 month sentence which was suspended for five years – we need better support from the legal system if we are to win this war!

A calf with a broken leg in Christon Bank was attended to with the assistance of Dr. Hanyire from the Wildlife Veterinary Unit – the leg has since healed and the cast has been removed.

Trips to Marondera, Bromley, Goromonzi, Melfort and Ruwa enabled us to ensure the relocation of security dog kennels to a more suitable site, two pig farms were inspected and changes enforced, a pet shop was inspected, kittens at a post office checked on, suspected dog/cat eating investigated and a confined dog uplifted. A stray goat was also dealt with as were two cattle trucks. A dog with severe TVT (Transmissible Venereal Tumour) was uplifted from Lion's Den and brought to Harare where she was put to sleep as the growth was incurable.

The closure (for hygiene reasons) of a goat and sheep abattoir outside Harare has seen an increase in the number of vehicles carrying goats moving through Harare. The goats are often jammed in, with between 45 – 50 goats in a two tonne vehicle. This is unacceptable and two drivers have been stopped and fined – our thanks to ZRP for their assistance. We have had a number of calls concerning goats kept on properties within Harare – this is against the City By-laws, the property has to be over ten hectares if goats, sheep, pigs, and cattle are to be kept there.

The chicken industry continues to be a worry with both transport and live bird sales presenting problems. The habit of carrying birds by their wings or upside down by their legs needs to be addressed and meetings have been held with some of our producers. The number of feral cats and kittens presents another problem – we have trapped, neutered/spayed, vaccinated and returned animals. This is standard procedure as to remove them leaves the territory open for other unsterilised animals to move in.

VAWZ attended the ZRP Canine display – it was an entertaining morning and good to see the dogs and their handlers in action, and the obvious bond between them. Congratulations to Inspector Ngarakana and his team for a well run event.

Recent prosecutions include: a man was fined for failing to keep his dog on his property (the dog was hit and killed by a car); two owners of goats were fined for cruelty when they crammed their goats into small trucks; a man was fined for beating his boss's dog; three puppy vendors were fined and one given a five month suspended sentence. There are still outstanding cases concerning bestiality, a steer tied up in the back of an open bakkie, dogs in cages, poisoning of dogs and goats tied up.

Thank you to the following: Cold Chain, Ram Petroleum, Jenny Gardener, Vicky Windsor (USA), Sign of the Times, Liz von Seidel, Gael Vaughan, Nadia Marabini, Crystal Wynn, Jacqui Williams, Rose Stead, Heather Rose, Lyn Houghton, Kerry Pozzo, Annette Eastwood, Joyce McLoughlin, Lindsay Davies, Joyce MacDonald, Di Fynn, Sue Burr, Lin McCleod, Cynthia Smith, Gill Houghton, Marianne Jacobs, Janice, Charmaine and all at Avondale Club, Ant Mellon, Tribac, Dylan at Wild Geese Lodge, St. Johns Junior School, Michelle, Charlene Blignaut, Paula Wheeler, Angie Campbell and Tryson, Robyn McLeod, Pippa Corey and all the Veterinary Practices who so kindly offer their services.

VAWZ Banking details:-

Local: CABS Platinum The Veterinarians of Animal Welfare Trust"
a/c No 9015153557.

External: Standard Bank Graaf-reinet "Veterinarians for Animal Welfare in Zimbabwe"
a/c No 186623062; Swift No:SBZA.ZA.JJ; IBAN No: 051001.

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