

February 2012

NEWSLETTER BY MERYL HARRISON AND THE VAWZ TEAM

Here at VAWZ we are very glad that the Christmas holiday period has been and gone. Our Inspectors were out daily, dealing with sick, abused, injured and lost animals. Once again we would like to thank the public for constantly taking the trouble to get in touch with VAWZ to let us know about animals that might need our intervention and their help assistance is invaluable. We would like to welcome Inspector Edmore Takaopwa to the VAWZ team, originally with Bulawayo SPCA, he has been an Inspector for 8 years.

CRUELTY CASES

An accused fined \$20 for beating a puppy because it was chasing his chickens. In his statement he admitted he "walloped it several times".

A local Chinese company based in Msasa paid a \$20 fine for one of their Chinese employees who admitted stamping on a puppy "because it was begging for food". It later had to be euthanased.

An accused in Greendale admitted cutting a puppy's tongue with a needle "to remove the worm" – fined \$20. Their neighbour heard the puppy screaming and reported the incident to VAWZ.

An accused in Meyrick Park fined \$20 for "obstruction" of a VAWZ Inspector.

An accused in Hatfield admitted giving a puppy a prolonged beating "because it took my shoe", spent 2 days in the cells and fined \$20. Eight cases are still pending including the City Councillor who starved his pigs. He is also facing a charge of theft for stealing a bag of pig food donated by VAWZ.

NEWS OF "BUFFY" the Chimp (from Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia)

Buffy



"Buffy a female chimp arrived here at Chimfunshi at the age of 14 years in September of 1999. She came from the Lion and Cheetah Park in Harare, Zimbabwe. She had lived alone for two years following the death of her mate who was killed during an escape.

Chief inspector Ms Meryl Harrison organized the relocation of Buffy and accompanied her to Zambia.

Being the oldest chimp of enclosure three Buffy has earned the respect of the rest of the group and is very protective over the younger chimps in her group.

The chimp handlers of all the Enclosures are very fond of Buffy. She has a special way of greeting them and asking for a sweet treat. To get a treat, she kneels down, patting her tummy with one hand whilst with the other she covers her mouth, acting like she is shy; or she points with the patting

hand to whatever it is she requires. Buffy is known as the "sweet old lady" of the group". - From Sylvia Jones of Chimfunshi.

FUNDRAISING.

We would like to give a very special mention of our Trustees in the UK who have now set up VAWZ (UK). They are Cindy Griffiths, Dr Mark Donaldson and Dr Rob Reynolds (both ex Zim vets.) In Cindy's latest e-mail she tells us that VAWZ (UK) is now confirmed as a Charitable Company Limited. The trustees are

now applying to Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs to qualify for Gift Aid. Cindy is really chuffed with their progress as she says they have "so many ideas for fundraising ! "

Our hard working Fundraising Committee have lots of ideas in mind which include a Charity golf day; a Dog Walk; stalls and many more. However, right now, they are busy organizing SCRUFFS DOG SHOW to be held at the Kennel Club on Sunday April 29th 2012.

Meryl started Scruffs Dog Shows many years ago in the early 90's to raise money for SPCA centres round the Country – now it is back again! There will be Celebrity judges, stalls, prizes, ring events such as Dog Jumping, Police Dog Display, bar and catering. Bring your pooches for a fun day out – dogs must be on a lead and no puppies under 5 months.

FARM PROBLEMS.

VAWZ continues to be involved with situations on farms owing to invasions. We have put up several posters in the Chegutu area offering a reward for the recovery of "Rex" a Jack Russell taken by settlers from Chigwell Extension Farm. The heart broken owner wrote to VAWZ saying "As we lost everything in an attack to get us off the farm, it would mean a great deal to get this much loved dog back".

We have also dealt with a situation on a farm in Bromley where the original settler who moved onto the farm is now being kicked off by a political heavyweight in the area. VAWZ obviously does not get involved in politics or land issues but in the middle of this mess are 34 pigs whose welfare is being severely compromised.

DONKEYS.

On two occasions VAWZ gave talks to crowds of villagers and to school children in the Beatrice area about animal welfare, being kind to animals and in particular the care of their donkeys. A return visit to Ringa Village a week later resulted in our treating 80+ donkeys, giving out educational pamphlets, removing yokes exchanging them with harnesses and applying reflective tape to scotch carts.

We were also asked to treat donkeys in the Goromonzi area – getting to know two of them very well "Mary" and "Power" who were very averse to having their wounds treated!

EDUCATION.

VAWZ was recently donated a large amount of excellent education material by Sheila Kensett who for many years on behalf of Harare SPCA headed the Education Programme with great success. Over the years Sheila and her team spoke to thousands of school children about being kind to animals. They will be very big shoes for VAWZ to fill! VAWZ Inspector Bernard Ndlovu commences his talks to Junior Schools at the beginning of March.

Ringa Village
VAWZ Education



DOGS.

The on-going battle with roadside puppy vendors continues. A number of puppies have been confiscated by VAWZ Inspectors – in one case 12 taken off a man along Sherwood Drive. Thanks to assistance from the Police at Mbare, two vendors were arrested along Simon Mazarodze and the three pups confiscated. With continued support from the public and the Police we can put a stop to this awful trade – Please SMS us(0774168218/ 0778431528) when you see one of these guys – it's helpful to know the colour of their clothing too! Even better would be to go to the nearest Police Station and ask for a plain clothes detail. Most stations are very willing to help.

On a farm in Arcturus 28 dogs, many of them being kept in small cages and pups were left out in the rain with no shelter. The owner has agreed to vaccinate them all and will be surrendering a number of them.

A serious case of a dog injured in a dog fight and not attended to for five days occurred in the Borrowdale area – the dog was taken to the Vet by VAWZ but after examination put to sleep as the infection was so bad. The owners are being prosecuted.

We have spent long hours (and lots of patience!) following and eventually catching – a lovely GSD cross bitch with her six pups from a sports club; a very thin GSD male (about two years old) from near Montagu Shops; another GSD found exhausted lying in a puddle on Bishop Gaul Avenue; a very emaciated young female crossbreed was found in Sentosa – sadly she was diagnosed with Distemper and put to sleep; a male crossbreed with a broken leg was uplifted from Avonlea Road.

VAWZ policy of routinely checking on security dogs uncovered two unsatisfactory situations – both of which have been corrected and the Companies charged. Guard Dogs at a Motor business in town have had their lives drastically improved after intervention by VAWZ – decent cages, kennels, blankets and a new diet have been provided.

CATTLE TRANSPORTATION.

Several cases have been attended to and an improvement noted in transportation – hopefully this trend will continue.

OTHER CASES.

A serious case of cruelty concerning 44 starving pigs in appalling condition (some of which subsequently died) has been opened against a Chitungwiza man. Despite assurances from the owner that the situation would be improved, it never did. VAWZ Inspectors made daily trips to carry feed and monitor the pigs.

When the pressure was really on, the pigs were uplifted by the owner at 3 a.m. and apparently sold. The Police are assisting us in locating his whereabouts.

A lorry loaded with live chickens in crates, some with no lids, loose chickens or others trapped between crates was examined at it's destination.

VAWZ attended another case at a Police road block where a lorry loaded with over 4000 live

chickens had been apprehended for several hours for minor reasons. These delays cause unnecessary stress. Our Inspector paid the necessary fine (we were fully reimbursed!) enabling the lorry to proceed. The poultry industry as a whole needs further investigation.

A communal nesting site for Egrets and Ibis came under threat when the home owner decided to have the trees cut down – inexplicably right in the middle of the breeding season. The operation was halted by VAWZ but not before some serious damage had been done – numerous chicks lost their lives or were injured and many more left homeless. Sincere thanks to those kind hearted members of the public and Sarah Carter at Bally Vaughan who stepped up and took over the rearing of these birds who are of enormous benefit to us because of their diet – they are also listed as specially protected birds in Zimbabwe. In the Wildlife arena, lions, elephants and crocodiles have been checked on by VAWZ and appropriate recommendations made.

Alarmingly, recent emails suggest a potential trade in tortoises (apparently for consumption) is happening, probably throughout Zimbabwe. Please report any vendors as soon as possible, again with a description of their clothing.

VAWZ continues to work with the timber industry with regards to finding a humane way of controlling baboons as they cause undoubted damage throughout the plantations.

Want to help animals, but can't figure out how? Then here is our "WISH" list:-

Hay; 2nd Hand Kennels; Diesel coupons; Cotton Wool; Exit; Rabbit Pellets; Plastic containers (all sizes); Dog bowls; Buddie Cards; 2nd Hand Head collars; Fly fringes; Printer Cartridge for Canon PG512 & CL 513. Items can be dropped off with any of the Vet Surgeries for attention VAWZ.

THANK YOU'S.

Roger Maitland (UK); Heather Rose; Teig Howson; Vicky Windsor(USA); Jenny Gardener; Celebration Centre; National Foods; RAM Petroleum; Signs of the Times; Nadia Marabini; Crystal Wynn; Jenny McFadyean (S.A.); "Owner of the lost Pug"; Carol Smith; Gael Vaughan; Louise Morrisby; Di Fynn; Sue Burr; Rosie Dorward; Gill Houghton; Clare Savage; Gwen Wawn; Angela & Mike Neighbour; Jo Ricardo; "Kathryn"(UK); April & Angus Thompson; Jan Prinsloo; Avondale, Chisipite and Kamfinsa Vets; Bev de Coudray; Harare SPCA; Gwendoline Ware (UK); Down to Earth Nursery; Cold Chain

***BY DONATING TO VAWZ , YOUR FUNDS AND SUPPORT ENSURE THAT
THE VOICELESS HAVE A VOICE.***

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.

Direct transfers may be made via www.standardbank.co.zw