

Extracts from the magazine archives of ANIMAL VOICE : **April 2007**, Front page & p2

[https://d91fe348-4a25-4dc0-a30d-](https://d91fe348-4a25-4dc0-a30d-96976402b0e1.filesusr.com/ugd/186d0e_de0d0d767e844dca82ea1c6a9103bc8b.pdf)

[96976402b0e1.filesusr.com/ugd/186d0e\\_de0d0d767e844dca82ea1c6a9103bc8b.pdf](https://d91fe348-4a25-4dc0-a30d-96976402b0e1.filesusr.com/ugd/186d0e_de0d0d767e844dca82ea1c6a9103bc8b.pdf)

# Animal Voice

Official Mouthpiece of The Humane Education Trust

April 2007

## Teaching a Culture of Non-Violence



*"In time, we must bestow on South Africa the greatest gift – a more humane society."*  
— Nelson Mandela

Teacher Pumla Ngcukana with her Grade 3 class of caring kids, at A C J Pakade Primary School near Cape Town.

## Praise from DG for Education

*"It is indeed heartening to note the wonderful work that your organization is doing in recognition of the sentience of our animal friends. I believe that the protection of animals and their welfare is a key*

*component of the sanctity of human life and the defense of human dignity."*

— **Duncan Hindle**, Director General, National Department of Education, in a letter to the Humane Education Trust, dated 6 November 2006.

## Previously Disadvantaged School may become a Role-Model for Humane Education

**Does Humane Education promote better behaviour among learners? Does it create a foundation for moral integrity and community upliftment?**

School Principal, **Mr Wilfred Scholtz** (right) is putting Humane Education to the test in his school, in a two-year-long pilot project in partnership with the Humane Education Trust.



Already underway, it involves 1300 learners at **Forest Heights Primary School** near Cape Town, 1000 parents, 35 teachers, 10 Bambanani (community policing officers) and four members of the South African Police, in whose precinct the school falls.

The specific aim of the project is to test humane education as a tool in the resolution of conflict – in the classroom, on the playground, and in the homes and broader community of the learners involved.

### National Department of Education

The go-ahead for this project received the stamp of approval from **Granville Whittle**, the National Department of Education's Chief Education Specialist for Race and Values in Education.

The project will be assessed by the DoE's own psychologists and sociologists.

Said Mr Scholtz: "The Humane Education pilot project that is currently underway at my school, takes the whole concept of the role of humane education onto a new dimension. It has everything to do with the development of character.

"Children relate easily to animals so animals present a natural beginning to the inculcation of morals and values in our learners."

### WITS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

**Dr Kai Horsthemke**, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of the Witwatersrand School of Education, believes the project may well break new ground. A specialist in animal ethics, Dr Horsthemke commented: "Without denying the importance of care, compassion and kindness to animals, the pilot project's primary focus is on the moral integrity of the learners themselves.

"In this sense, the project may well break new ground."



Community policing officers like those in the photo above, do their best to keep school grounds crime-free. Testimony before the South African Human Rights Commission in September last year, described some schools as 'urban war zones'. Now, an intervention as basic as Humane Education, may begin to put the brakes on the decline of morals, values and escalating conflict.

**Vivienne Rutgers** (right), a teacher at Forest Heights Primary School, has specialised in Humane Education.



In September last year, she was invited to address the United Nation's Forum on Sustainable Development, in New York.