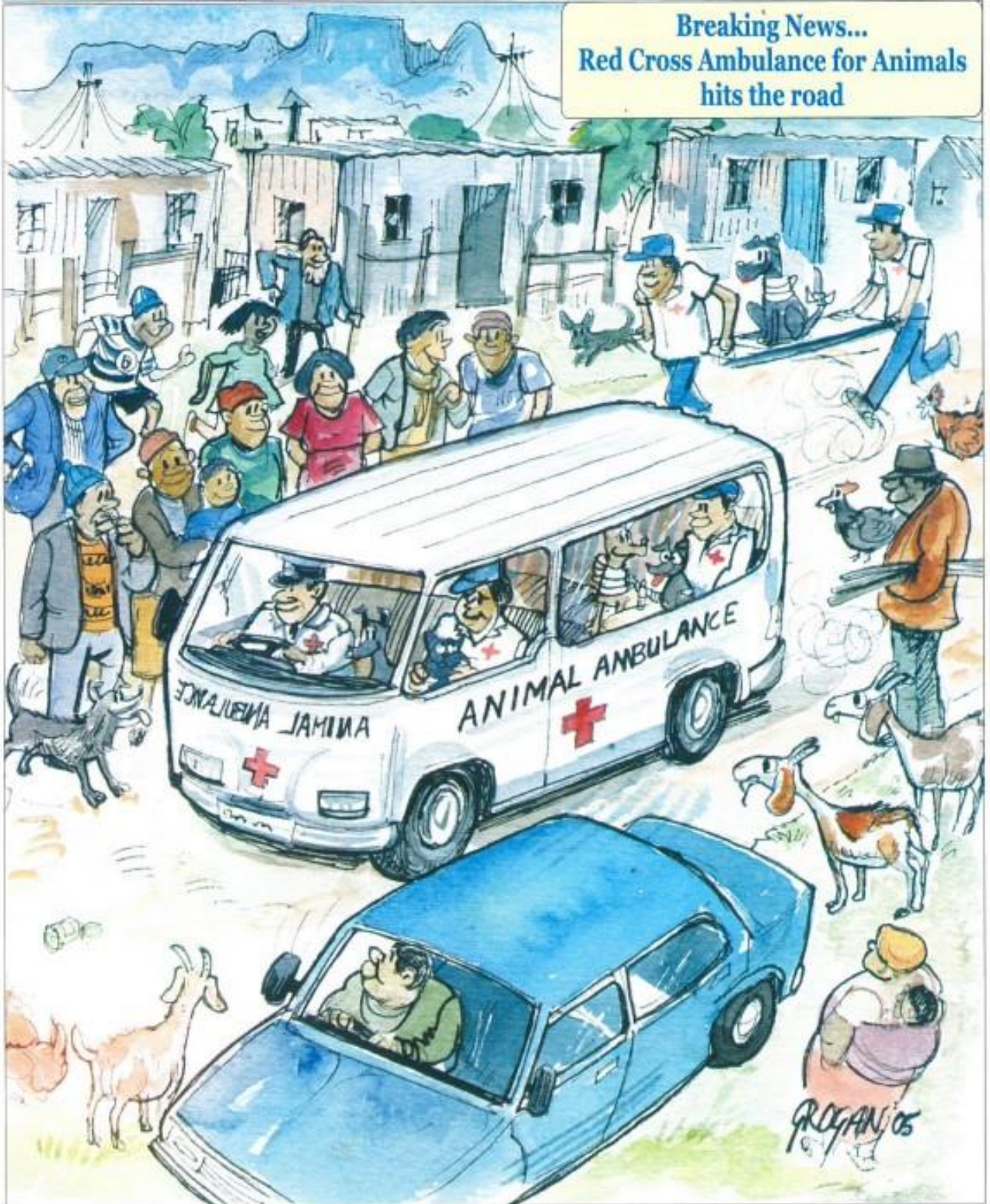


# Animal Voice

Rekindling the Spirit of Care and Respect for Life

Autumn 2005

Breaking News...  
Red Cross Ambulance for Animals  
hits the road



# Red Cross Launches first Ambulance for Animals in Africa

The South African Red Cross Society is set to launch the first animal ambulance in Africa as part of a crime-busting joint venture with Strandfontein Police Officer **Chris Alexander**.

Head of Social Crime Prevention at Strandfontein in the Western Cape, **Chris Alexander** has long dreamt of a project that would take the youth off the streets and away from

crime, drugs and dog-fighting.

To this end and with the full backing of the Department of Community Safety, Chris has launched the YLAC Project in Strandfontein. YLAC stands for Youth Leaders Against Crime. One of the crucial legs of this multi-pronged project is the joint venture with the SA Red Cross.

**Ezra Petersen**, who serves on the Executive Committee of the SA Red Cross, explained: "Chris asked me to come on board with the YLAC Project. Together we have decided

that the contribution of the Red Cross will be to launch the first-ever animal ambulance in Africa to enable our youth to take a leadership role in this vitally-needed service and become proficient in First-Aid skills for animals."

**In the first year, 100 school leavers will learn First-Aid skills for animals. Thereafter, it is envisaged that 50 school leavers will join the project annually.**

Ezra said the idea for an animal ambulance had been around for a long time. "But the emphasis on human rights in South Africa was

so strong that we didn't think it would get off the ground. Now, people are realizing that animals and even plants are part of our daily lives. In fact only now can they actually begin to see the terrible plight of animals in society. Everywhere you look, there are animals in need of care."

Apart from rescuing animals in distress, the Red Cross Animal Ambulance will also assist poor communities in taking their animals to the nearest veterinary hospital. In the first year of operation, 100 young people will be offered the chance to be part of the service and will be taught First-Aid skills that they can apply to their own animals as well as their neighbour's animals.

"Currently, because of unemployment, animals are seen as a nuisance, something else that wants to be fed," said Ezra. "We have to turn this whole mindset around to one where caring for animals in distress will give these young people self-respect as well as the respect of the community and this will have a ripple effect for the better, throughout our society."

see next page..

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to world-renowned cartoonist Tony  
Grogan for his magnificent artwork.

**Animal Voice is proud to  
be a partner of this  
ground-breaking project.**

## Cape Town Cop, SA Red Cross are set to rescue animals in distress



Inspector **Chris Alexander** (above) is head of Social Crime Prevention at Strandfontein. He is the mastermind of the Youth Leaders Against Crime project (YLAC) which aims to give young adults good reason to be Proudly Human. As part of YLAC, 100 school leavers will become part of the Animal Ambulance Service this year and be taught first aid skills for animals.

Defence Force Officer **Ezra Petersen** (right) is in charge of Maritime Emergency-Care Training in Simon's Town. However, for the last 30 years he has devoted his free time to the Red Cross Society and serves on the Provincial



Council and Executive Committee of the society. Ezra explains: "My interest in the medical field started in Grade 6 when the Red Cross came to present a course in first-aid at my school, Parkwood Primary in Southfield. I have worked on a voluntary basis for the society ever since." Ezra says the Red Cross has a holistic view of society. "We care about humans, animals and plant-life too," he says. Fifteen years ago, the Red Cross began the initiative to provide poor people with seeds to enable them to plant their own food gardens.



***Back in 2005, this wonderful initiative didn't manage to get off the ground!  
But now... let's make it happen!***

