

Extracts from the magazine archives of ANIMAL VOICE : **Summer 2004**, Front page & p3 & 4

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Animal Voice

Rekindling the Spirit of Care and Respect for Life

Summer 2004



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Humane Education Pack
for Foundation Phase

Caring Classrooms

Teachers call for humane education materials

Below: **Vivienne Rutgers**, Head of Department for Foundation Phase at Forest Heights Primary School, says: "I first found humane education at the City of Cape Town's Youth Environmental School (YES 2004) this year. The Humane Education Trust had books for free on their stand. I was thrilled to find them and since then, I have been helping Louise (Director of the Humane Education Trust) to align the various activities with the Revised National Curriculum. Through Humane Education, I myself have become more aware of the cruelty to animals all around me and how dehumanizing it is. For my learners, I find that Humane Education builds their self-confidence. They feel worthy. Kindness is an empowering thing."



Vivienne Rutgers with her granddaughter Janice

Right: **Jenny Copeland** teaches at Langa Education Assistance Programme (LEAP). She says one of her Grade 9 learners put humane education in a nutshell, with the following observation when seeing the suffering of chickens on a street corner: "God made our brain to have more control so that we could look after anything in less control – including chickens."



Charlotte Samuels

Charlotte Samuels, Acting Deputy Principal, Oranjekloof Moravian Primary School, Hout Bay, says: "One of our learners was involved in the stoning of a dog and that is how we came to hear about Humane Education. I feel it is absolutely vital for our learners. Humane Education is not about what you know but about who you are. I am determined that when our children leave this school, a sense of justice and respect for all life will go with them and remain with them for the rest of their lives."

"Humane Education is not about what you know but about who you are." – Deputy Principal



Jenny Copeland



Vuyisile Cenga

Vuyisile Michael Cenga, Principal of A.C.J. Phakade Primary School, Nomzamo, says all his teachers see the need for Humane Education. Recently, young learners from his school put five 4-week-old puppies in a bag and beat them to death. The Humane Education Trust was immensely pleased to receive Mr Cenga's phone call asking for our humane education materials.

Ubuntu Peace Messengers Go 'hands-on'

Many schools are expressing an interest in the Ubuntu Youth Club concept that is already well underway in schools in the Free State. The Ubuntu Youth Club programme is run by Beatrice Wiltshire. "Whereas in the past, clubs like the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Voortrekkers were exclusive, the Ubuntu Club is an inclusive, South African concept that clearly has great appeal to learners as an extra-mural activity," says Beatrice.

The Ubuntu Club's motto is "Working towards a Caring Society" and the *Ubuntu Peace Messengers* are very hands-on, says Beatrice. Schools wishing to establish an Ubuntu Club should contact Beatrice Wiltshire on Tel: (051) 451 1027 or Cell: 083 4000 262.

Creating a culture of Care and Respect

We need to capture the gentle nature of small children - *librarian*

"As a librarian I have often noticed that pre-school children, when sitting in small groups on the floor with picture books open in front of them, will stroke the picture of an animal, speak an endearing word, and even kiss the picture of the animal. It's made me wonder why, as they grow older, they will throw stones at animals, and be totally unconcerned about the well-being of animals. Grown men, when driving a car, won't slow down

for an animal on the road, and if they hit the animal, will leave it injured and dying ...

I am sure that with humane education, one could capture the gentle nature that does exist in young children, nurture it and help it to grow."

- Anne Nicolaides

Retired Uvongo Librarian who helped establish a library in Gamalakhe, KZN, that now serves 10 schools in the area.

Janet Sandell, co-founder of Animals for Fun, visits Pollsmoor Prison regularly to teach dog-handling to juvenile women prisoners. She stands here with 4-year-old champion Border Collie, Tag, and one of the prisoners who takes part in the programme. Says Janet: "The dog-handling programme has been so beneficial for the girls that the prison is hoping to extend it slowly next year, allowing the girls to get to know dogs that have been rescued and slowly enable them to build up a relationship with them."



Janet Sandell with Tag and inmate

Right front: *Azevedo Nhamumbo, a Curriculum Developer at the Ministry of Education in Mozambique, is in contact with the director of the Humane Education Trust (HET). "I would be happy If I could receive those materials which may be helpful to our researchers in the development of a new curriculum for secondary schools," he said in an email in August 2004. Mr Nhamumbo was one of the delegates who attended the All-Africa Humane Education Summit held in Cape Town in 2003, sponsored largely by Compassion in World Farming (UK).*



Stacy Mallach of Kulls River was stroking her cat, Louis, when she thought she felt a tick. On investigation, she found a pellet from a pellet gun embedded in Louis's shoulder.



This mange-ravaged, cruelly-emaciated dog was cornered by children in Hout Bay in August this year and stoned so brutally that in the end, she could not be saved. DARG (Domestic Animal Rescue Group) was alerted to her plight and immediately came to her rescue. DARG cut off the wire around her neck and gave her the only kindness she had probably ever been shown.

To Do!

Sponsor a school near you to receive our fabulous Humane Education Pack for Foundation Phase. See page five.