



NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2022

www.friendsofcare.org



Friends of Care is an animal welfare organisation that cares for injured, neglected and needy animals in McGregor and its surrounding areas.



As you can imagine, the last couple of years have been quite a challenge. Fortunately, our Animal Welfare Officer, Del, was classified as a Key Worker during lockdown. This meant we were able to carry on with 24hr coverage for animals in need. During lockdown we were able to:

- ✓ **Distribute food for cats and dogs** to owners that were struggling financially.
- ✓ **Respond to emergency calls** throughout the village and take the necessary action.
- ✓ **Prepare educational workbooks aimed at two different age groups:** 1) the younger children learning through colouring and 2) the older children learning by using it as a reference book. Both books will be used going forward in school groups, farm visits and general educational workshops.





OUR SERVICES TO THE MCGREGOR COMMUNITY

All our services are offered at no or little cost to the owners. Therefore, the services are limited to those who qualify for the welfare support.

- ☺ Fortnightly clinics at Kantoor street. We treat sick animals, vaccinate, give help and advice, and sell subsidised pet food.
- ☺ Respond to emergency calls 24/7.
- ☺ Carry out sterilisation days every 4–6 weeks – collect and deliver, to and from the local community.
- ☺ Sell subsidised dog and cat food to the community. We also meter out sponsored food to certain dog owners that have a sponsor from the community.
- ☺ Carry out annual educational, responsible pet ownership and sometimes inspectorate work in the local areas and on surrounding farms.
- ☺ Offer humane slaughter and meat safety advice to small livestock ownership.



SOME HIGHLIGHTS 📣

Courtesy of Cape Winelands Rotary:

- ✓ Our trusted and valued volunteer, Ilana Van der Colff, was sent on a wildlife first responder's course.
- ✓ We bought surgical equipment, a microscope and a small solar system for our steri unit.

A huge thank you to Keith Poole and Cape Winelands Rotary! We can't do it without such kindness.

Thanks to Lotto funding we purchased a new custom-made trailer. The trailer is used to transport animals to and from sterilisation days (14-25 animals at a time) and as a multi caged vessel for recovery animals.



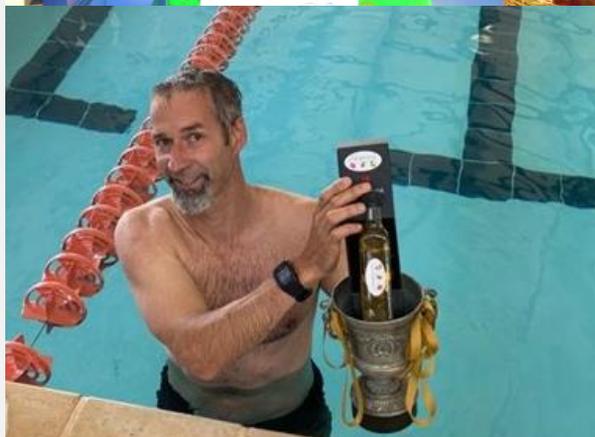
FUN FUNDRAISERS

A few smaller fundraisers were held during the year. These included stalls at the McGregor Christmas Market and Red Earth Farm Car Boot Sale, where we sold yummy things for young and old alike. We also hosted a bingo evening where our host, Del, made sure everyone was having a ball!

Our leading fundraiser for the year was the Sempurna Swimathon Fitness Challenge, where we raised R28 650 in sponsorships for the swimmers 😊

26 swimmers took part and jointly swam 46km – 1838 laps of a 25-meter pool!

Thank you to all the swimmers, sponsors and volunteers, and to our hosts, June and Paul Savage. Here's looking to a successful 2022 Swimathon!



A SUCCESS STORY

Four young barn owls were rescued, cared for and released back into the wild.

As with any wild animal, it's important to give care that ensures the successful release back into the animal's natural habitat.

We are grateful for all the support and donations that helped care for the owlets.



OUR MISSION

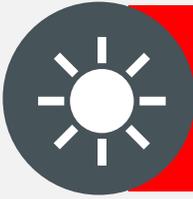
We at Friends of Care are guided by our constitution and believe all animals are important and require care or assistance. These include wild, domestic and farm animals, and reptiles such as snakes and frogs. Even environmental issues come into our mandate.

We thank all our loyal supporters who continue to allow us to help the animals in our community and further afield when needed. Without you it would not be possible!

Should you wish to help, there are many ways to do so. Volunteering time, assisting with fundraisers, helping financially or with refreshments. Contact us if you are willing and able. We appreciate any means of support 😊

LIFE SAVING TIPS

Valuable tips to share with your friends, and print and put on your fridge ☺



During drought or really hot conditions, leave shallow bowls of water around for tortoises and wild birds to drink. Bees will also make use of these shallow water points.



Place a baton in reservoirs full of water or some sort of cross bar on the top to prevent birds or other animals from drowning. They can get on to the branch/trunk and escape!



Empty reservoirs are a death trap to mammals. If mice, dogs, cats, young birds or young children fall in they are unable to get out and die a long painful death. It is very easy to prevent this with a sturdy old tree trunk, a long baton or a wooden ladder wired to the top and left in place at the bottom of the reservoir.



Poisons placed to control your vermin population are also placing birds of prey (owls, eagles etc.), cats, dogs and other wild hungry predators at risk of death - killing off the very animals that can keep the balance of nature in check.



In terms of the law, when walking dogs off lead and your dog is run over it is not the fault of the driver. The blame solely lies on the owner or the person responsible for the dog at the time. Morally a different story. The same applies to dogs that end up in a fight. The owner who has their dog on a lead is in the right. If both dogs are off lead and fight, each owner is equally to blame.



Dogs that are bitten by a snake - the time span differs dependent on the type of snake. In the case of a cobra, IMMEDIATE veterinary treatment is required to receive anti venom! There is a golden hour to save your dog. Milk or other concoctions are not going to help or waiting to see if it is a dry bite...get to the vet!

Should you have any questions, comments or ideas, please get hold of us:

Del 072 693 4646 or Anne 082 362 1444 / Email: info@friendsofcare.org

To support our work, please use the following bank details:

Friends of Care / Nedbank, Robertson branch

Branch code 198765 / Account no: 2011281334 (savings)

Leave a legacy, so that our work can continue, by including Friends of Care in your will.