

## A PITT STOP!

The **AWSOME** growth spurt over the last three months caught us with our pants around our ankles both from those that support us and those we assist. We 'wished' for a washing machine and could not believe we got it . . . So we had to quickly build a place with water and a drain so we could use it. So we took this opportunity and used the last 6 weeks of winter respite to upgrade our small Clinic site and add a toilet, pit, fencing, hot water and small lock up room so . . have been knee deep in cement and . . . nails . . **but** are now far better organised for the *onslaught of the coming summer disease madness . . both operationally and administratively*. You cannot know how good it is to have a well stocked medicine cabinet, machine, hot water and R1280 in the bank . . at the beginning of the month!!! WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE YOU SUPPORTING US! THANKS GIRLS & GUYS for making TAWI able to "just do what's needed".



Thoughts of the month.

### The emotive Band Aid trap & other Dilemmas.

Since TAWI are still very new on the block, stirring the pot the wrong way may not be a good formula to follow. . BUT there seems to be a lot of unwise thinking and a lot of wasted resources out there in Animal Welfare circles where 'our passionate compassion' gets misguided and becomes wasteful at the expense of the , oh , so many of the unfortunate unseen and forgotten dogs in our country. The little pie there is, comes mostly from a small pool of philanthropists (like yourself) trying to make a difference for the many. Here in the Transkei we unfortunately 'see' a lot of those who don't get to know about no pie . . yet there are shelters with +- 1000 dogs which have no option but to keep the animals in cages for, sometimes, 23 hrs in a day???? Can you imagine what this costs, in Rands, human resources. . and in 'dog stress'! . . BUT as, animal lovers, we want to 'save' them all and often fall into the **band aid trap**. . . which takes our focus away from the bigger picture . . one lady 'saved' a Transkei dog last year and was very proud of the R20,000 or so she spent on treatment and toys. . . **Eish!**

One day when I am brave enough I would like to 'challenge' all AWO's to take their total monthly budget and divide it by the number of dogs they treat/see and publish the figures of the average cost per dog/animal. . . Yes it's a minefield, but we need to all become more realistic so we can find ways in which the pie can be spread a bit more evenly to reach where it is necessary.

A wise veteran AWA said to me 'sterilisations are a luxury for the few and is not a realistic solution'.

There is a new coalition of AWO's which is being mooted. . it is what is needed . . The big boy of AWO's have yet to take their head out of . . the sand! I will add my tinny voice for more 'common sense' to prevail. . I want SHOUT OUT .. 'WE LIVE IN AFRICA!'

Or am I naïve and shooting TAWI in the foot . . . Is 'blind emotion' what keeps the AWO running? Someone remarked "you must add some gruesome photos to your stuff". . Is this is what drives most people to donate to a cause? What do you think? Should we put in gruesome pics of what we deal with and the 50 dead dogs I see while driving in the Transkei each month? Am I barking up the wrong tree? Help steer us in the right direction and send your response.

### A FEW OF OUR LUCKY 'SHELTER DOGS' ON THEIR DAILY WALK



An unusual "Muti" adoption.

Last week Dr Vukani , a traditional healer, adopted two of our kennel dogs. How awesome!! Are you thinking what I think you may be? Before you throw your toys, drop in for a visit with the Doc first . . no appointment necessary. . . you could learn a thing or two about the Herbs he collects from the forest. . . like how he gets 'pure virgin olive oil' from a certain root. . . He assured me he does not use animal parts.



Pavement Rave.

Six months ago this dog was picked up lying in the roadside gutter. Today she was brought in by her Adopted Minder and was spayed. . . Spider is such a cheerful happy girl . . a proud success story.



Bum in the butter.

After being abandoned and wondering the beach holiday houses for a year, stealing the hearts of many visitors, Ace (Eish) finally adopted Ursula & Tony . . he learnt who butters his bread with love and takes him to the Vet when he needs it.



#### THANK YOUS & FINANCES

N.B. Michele : (I am asking Sharon to check it then forward to you for inclusion. )

Wish List.

Not wishing for too much this time as we might get it!

Second hand Shade cloth

Second hand dogs Beds

#### OTHER NEWS

The Eastern Cape Department of Veterinary Services has changed tack once again.

If you have a copy of our DVD 'Dogs of the Transkei', please share it with others. Tks

Please remember, anyone who may wish to visit the Wildcoast, TAWI would love to host you.

(Sharon please add in your fundraiser)