

# TAWI NEWSLETTER

June 2012

Promise we have not fallen off the planet, just off the grid as we have no conveniences yet in our new spot, hence the lack of communication. . . **But** we are still very much bouncing with the hounds as well as *the bureaucrats and naysayers* . . . so please forgive the lack of feedback, especially to those who fork out of their petrol emptying pockets to keep our heads above the waves. **THANK YOU GUYS & GIRLS!**

Although there is little of consequence to report back on as yet. . there is much in the pipeline. It is however becoming increasingly apparent from our little neck of the rural woods, that we are initiating innovative ideas down here . . .

## MOTHER OF INVENTION.

It appears as if we are the only ones looking at the impact domestic Dogs have on spreading disease to humans (Roundworm & Hookworm) especially to children in rural areas like here. This came about through research to find a way to get rural families to 'buy in' to improving and maintaining the health of their Dogs. **World Health Organisation research estimates as much as 23% of rural people could be infected by Helminthic Zoonoses,** . It has helped us achieve some amazing results in the 10 areas we work in as most of the families already take better care of their Dog's health to prevent their children getting sick. It also will, hopefully, give us a lever to start lobbying the local Municipality, Health & Vet Dept to become more proactive in Companion Animal Health. So even though bureaucracies are extremely time consuming their role is all important. All this ,in turn, could eventually lead to greatly alleviate a large proportion of 1000's of suffering Dogs we witness in this forgotten, poverty stricken, corner of S.A. we call the Wildcoast.

However, even though we are still in the initial 'survival stage', our vision, mission, motivation and fortitude is clear and strong and while we are only able to make a difference to a tiny % of the Dogs in need (+- 350pm), all bodes well for the future , and, Animals in general . . so we trust in the universe to keep sending us those extraordinary 'philanthropic souls' out of the blue, who seem to be keeping 'Our little Boat Afloat' so we are able to keep '**fighting the good fight**' . . . **on all fronts!**

## WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING WITH YOUR BUCKS!

With one Vet for every half a million people, every sterilisation we are able to get done is a miracle. So when we can hijack the only vet who will give up his Saturday to drive 250km into the hills (at minimum cost), we are able to use some of the fantastic +-**R20, 000** donated by **Santa Paws** to do a few dogs per village. So far we have managed to sterilise 32 over 3 months. Our Outreach programme is proving **most beneficial** as we are able to improve the lives of 100's of dogs (and kids) each month just by educating

and providing the basic meds like de-worm tabs, dip etc. This we are able to do due to the continued support of **6 regular monthly donors** who contribute +-R1750pm and once off's that amazingly come our way every now and again, keeping us with an average of +- R4500 per month. Lately these have included **R3500 from Mthatha Round Table**, **R2500 from Paul Martin** and **R3000 from Teresa Guzman** towards SAVC certification for an Animal Welfare Assistant.



Figure 1 Boys out 'Hunting'.



Figure 2 We De-worm +- 300 Dogs pm.

### PERSONAL SOUL FOOD!

Although we take the stance of rather putting our few resources and energy all into '**empowering each family**' to take responsibility for the Dogs in their care instead of trying to '**Save every one we see**' (which would be a futile and expensive response especially here) We take in 1 or 2 that we rehab, sterilise and re-home and check each month. These at least make me feel a tad better about all those we have to leave, as there are 1000's of pups that do not make it past a week (mortality rate of +-80%) but that's Nature's way of keeping things in balance.



Figure 3 This month's 'Soul Food'.



Figure 4 One family & their surviving Pups.

*Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind. - Dr. Seuss*

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