



ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

NOVEMBER 2022/OCTOBER 2023

ANIMAL RELIEF FOR RURAL
COMMUNITIES

NPC 2021/948917/08



How we started

Animal Relief for Rural Communities was founded in November 2021 when a group of friends saw the need for veterinary care in the rural communities of South Africa.

There are a few reasons why we chose to start in the community of Selwane. Firstly the closest town is 35km away and there is NO veterinary support available close by. Secondly the donkeys are essential to the everyday life of the community, and are worked tirelessly. Thirdly the dog population is very large, full of unwanted litters and with a myriad of health issues. Lastly, the community borders a nature reserve and thus vaccinations are very important to minimise cross contamination with wildlife.

Early on we also became involved in the children's project. Aiming to educate some of the next generation on wildlife conservation and animal welfare.

We have been welcomed with open arms and we really enjoy the time we spend in the community. The work is never ending but one we strive to do our best to support the community everyday.

TEAM ARRC

MISSION STATEMENT

Our vision is to improve the lives of animals and humans in local communities and the surrounding nature reserves. We want to strengthen the human animal bond through education, community outreach and essential medical care.



ARRC provides a safe and trusted environment, without judgement, for animals in need and a place for owners to learn and take ownership of their animals welfare.





THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- 1324 dogs health checked and vaccinated
- 186 donkeys health checked and treated for external parasites
- 45 donkey harnesses and bridles made and fitted to donkeys
- 5720 children received a nutritious meal and education about wildlife, conservation and animal welfare.
- Sent 3 groups of children to Koru Camp
- We became the first ever Rabies Centre for Excellence in the world!

PROJECT OVERVIEWS

Donkey project

We treat the donkeys for any injuries that they present with. Once a week we fit donkeys that present with new harnesses and bridles.

Dog project

The dog project has a few aspects. The monthly community outreaches, the weekly emergency treatments, the weekly home checks and dog taken in for treatment at the veterinary project.

Mohlanatsi project

This is an after-school program for under-privileged or orphaned children. We offer a nutritious meal and short classes about animal welfare, wildlife conservation

Emergency Vet Clinic

At the Mohlanatsi project we hold a weekly emergency clinic for any animals that may be sick. One of our veterinarians is present and will check, treat and taking the animals back to the clinic if required.

DONKEY PROJECT

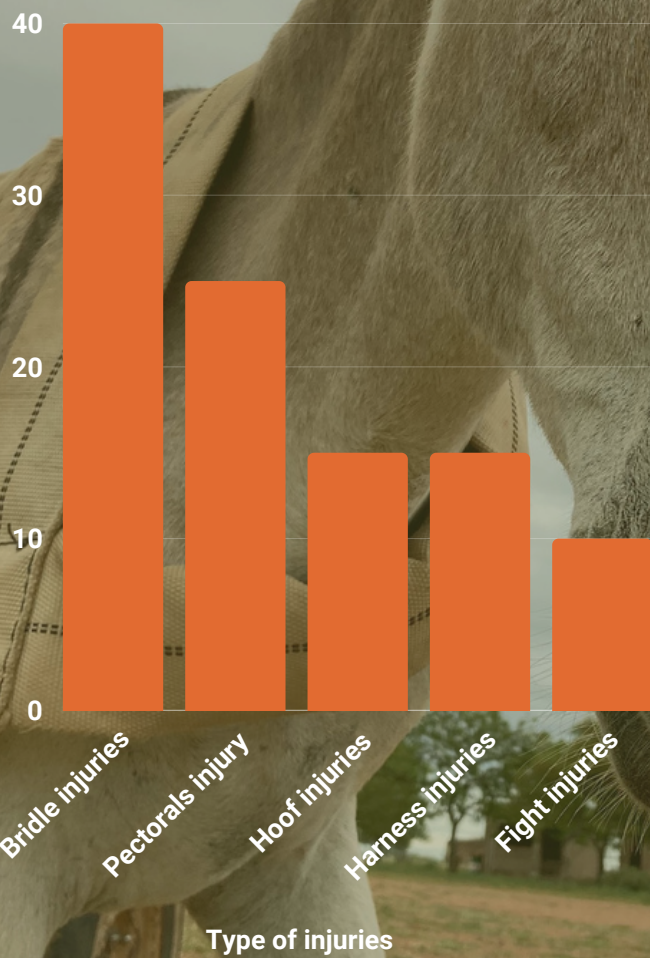
The donkeys in Selwane are used for carting water from the only two bore holes, collecting firewood, vegetables and for transport. Commonly their harnesses, bridles and carts are made from recycled, poorly fitting materials leaving the donkeys with wounds and abrasions over their body and mouth. We recognised that this was a big problem which is why we decided to start this project.

Once a week we travel into the community to treat the donkeys and fit them with harnesses and bridles. We have empowered the owners under our guidance to make their own harnesses.





% Donkey population treated at outreach/Donkey workshop



Donkey population treated in Selwane

This data shows the population of donkeys treated in Selwane during November 2022 to October 2023.

DOG PROJECT

As mentioned before, the dog project consists of a few aspects.

Monthly Community outreach involves vaccination, deworming and treating for ticks and fleas. Each month we see, on average, on 100 dogs and dogs. On these outreach days we also treat any clinical cases that are presented.

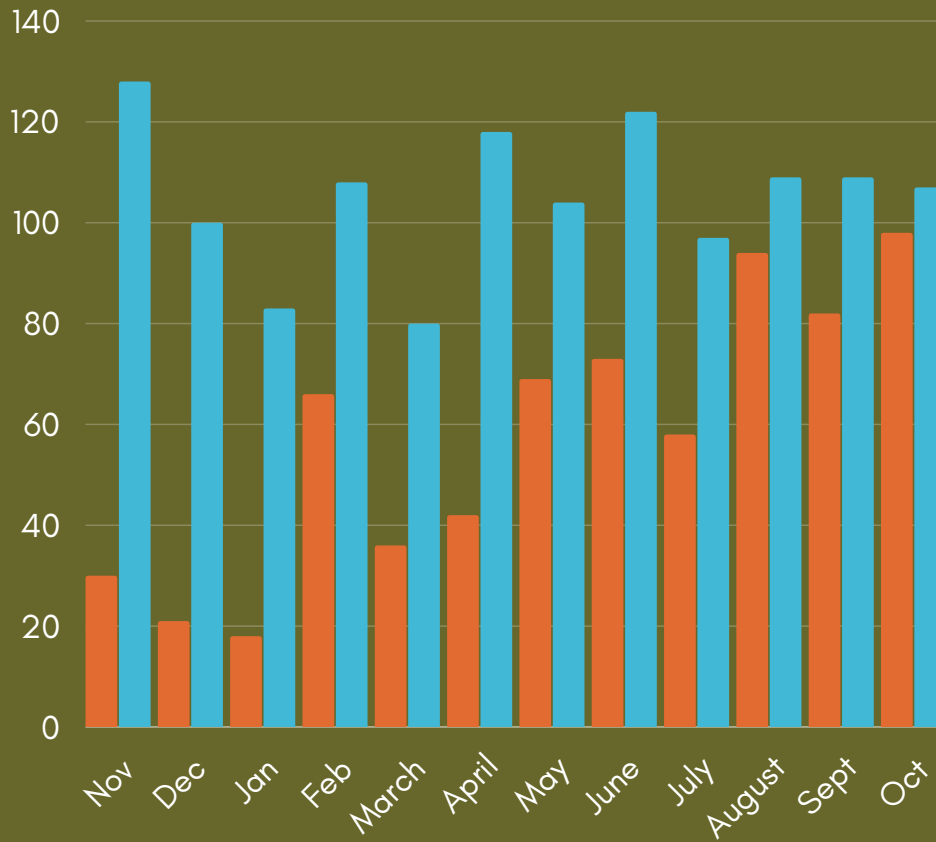
The weekly emergency clinic is held at the children's project and people are advised to bring any emergency clinical cases to the project, where one of our veterinarians will assess, treat and take to the clinic in town if needed.

We conduct weekly home checks where we do follow ups on patients seen either at the monthly outreach or at the previous week's emergency clinic.

Animals are taken into the veterinary clinic if they cannot receive adequate treatment in the community. Commonly we take dogs with Transmissible Venereal Tumours (TVT). This is discussed in more detail below.

DOG PROJECT

Monthly Outreach 2022 & 2023



Graph depicting the number of dogs seen at each outreach. All dogs are health checks, vaccinated, treated for worms, ticks and fleas. Orange shows 2021/2022 and blue shows the numbers for 2022/2023



DOG PROJECT

Transmissible venereal Tumours

This is a type of contagious venereal cancer that is rampant in the community. Thankfully there is a 98% resolution rate after treatment with weekly chemotherapy injections.

This year, we treated NINETEEN dogs successfully for TVT. On average, each dog was treated for 10 weeks and sterilised at the conclusion of treatment.

We currently have 158 dogs on the waiting list.

THE DOG PROJECT

Sterilisations

- 41 sterilisation were completed in 2023
- Currently there are 53 on the waiting list.
- In 2022, our aim was to double our number of sterilisations. We are happy to say that in 2022 we sterilised 13 and have more than doubled it this year!

DOG PROJECT

Emergency Veterinary Clinics

At the emergency clinics this year we were presented with

- 2 motor vehicle accidents
- 4 dogs with tick bite fever
- 2 dogs fight, one ending in an enucleation
- 1 donkey with a broken leg
- 1 donkey with a cut, torn ear and secondary infection.
- 3 goats with dog bite wounds.
- 1 dog with distemper
- 8 parvovirus puppies

First Rabies Centre of Excellence!

In 2023, we began learning about rabies and rabies control with Global Alliance For Rabies Control. Through many online courses and information centres, we received the title as the first Rabies Centre of Excellence in the world! We could not be more proud.

Along with WHO, WOAHA, FAO and GARC we will work together to aim to have 'Zero by 30', zero rabies cases by 2030. Essentially through the rabies vaccination of dogs, we can help to reduce and hopefully eliminate rabies in human populations.

It is an endemic virus in South Africa and with an underfunded and over exhausted human health care system, the only way to get to zero by 30 is through dog vaccinations.

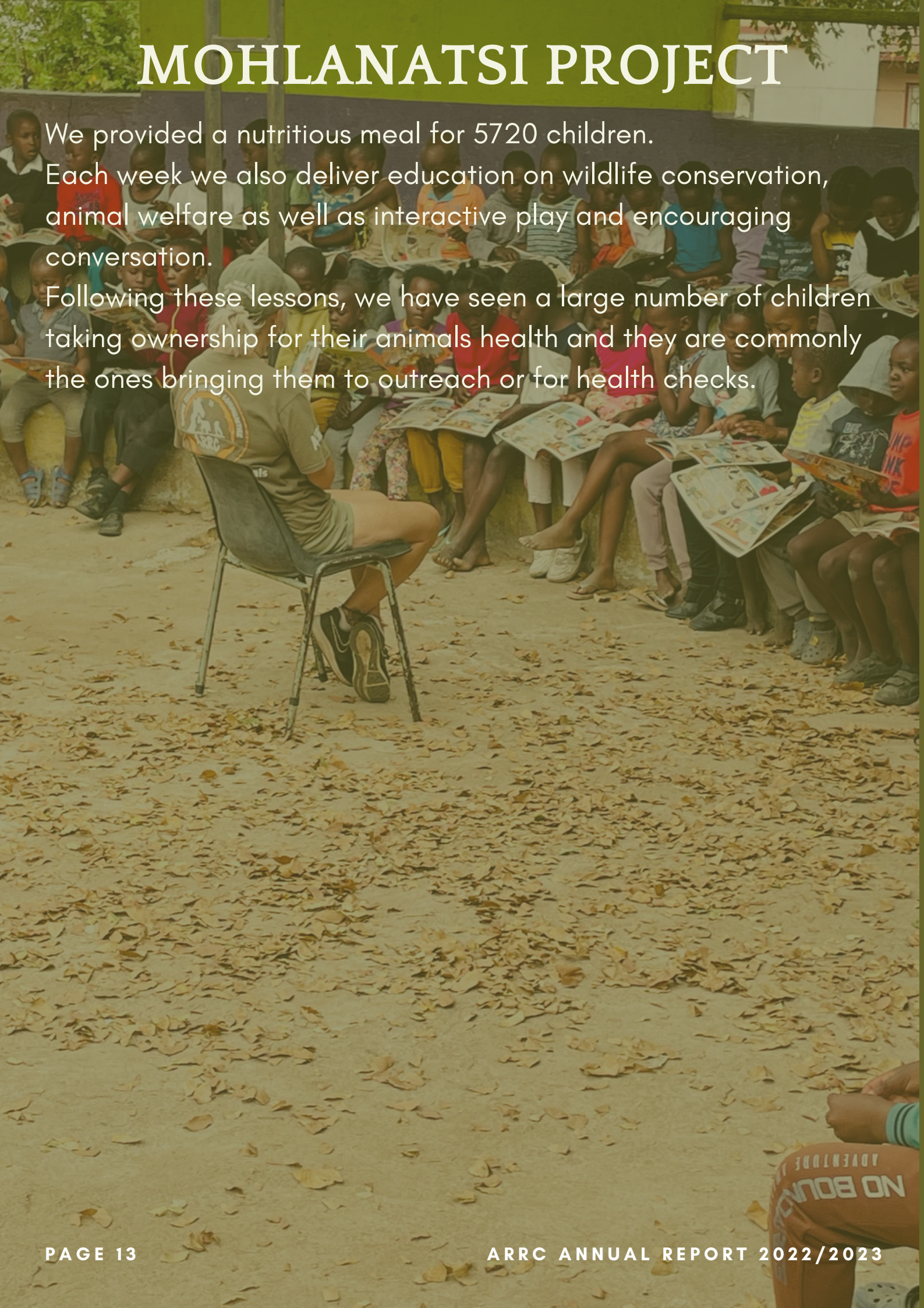


MOHLANATSI PROJECT

We provided a nutritious meal for 5720 children.

Each week we also deliver education on wildlife conservation, animal welfare as well as interactive play and encouraging conversation.

Following these lessons, we have seen a large number of children taking ownership for their animals health and they are commonly the ones bringing them to outreach or for health checks.



KORU CAMP

Koru camp is another non profit that is nestles in Greater Kruger. They offer an immersive experience in nature for people from disadvantaged communities.

We have taken three groups of children on 3 days trip to Koru camp, where they learn about nature, conservation and sustainability.

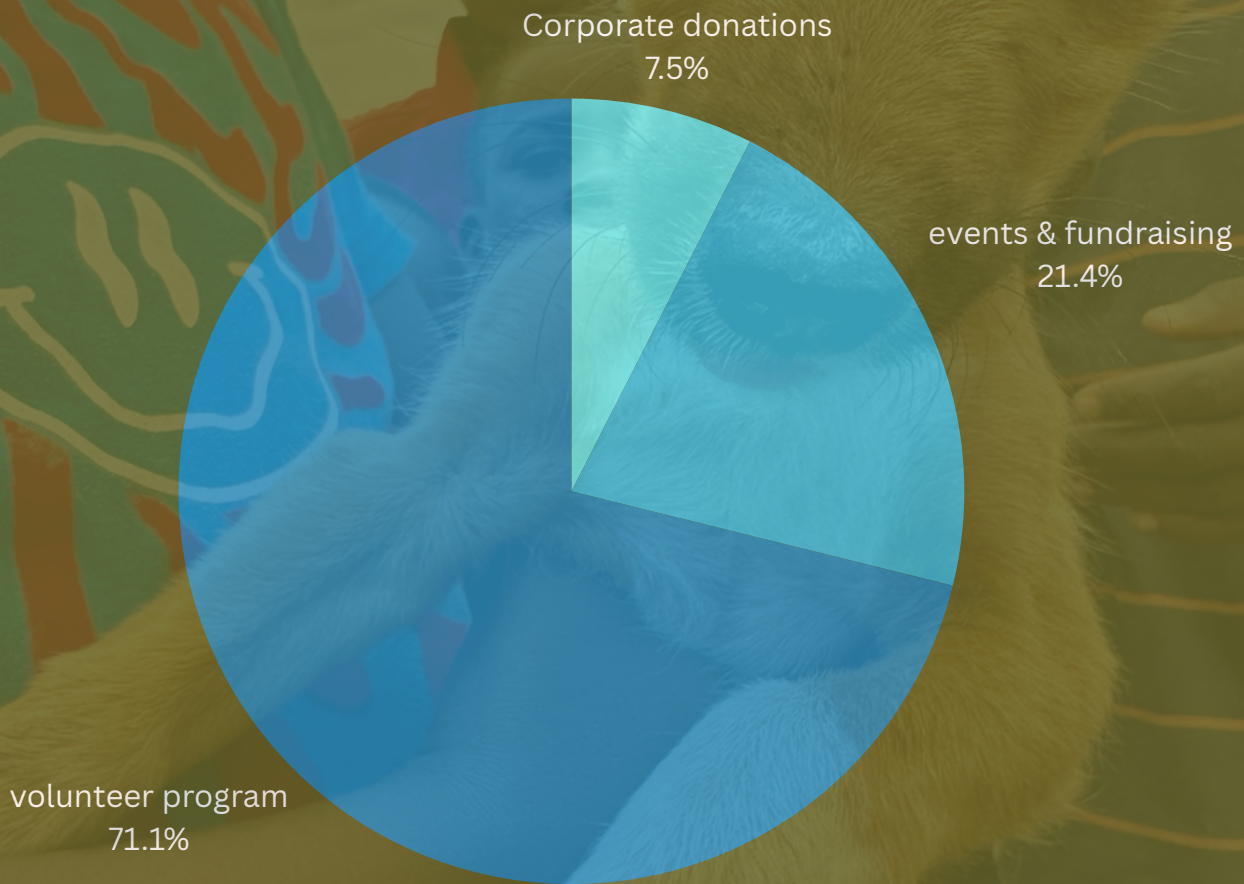
Throughout this experience we have found the children have become more engaged in lessons, taken an avid interest in nature and conservation and have started seeing nature from a different viewpoint.

We hope by taking these children to camps such as this, is that we can inspire the next generation to have a positive impact on the environment around them.



FINANCES

Donation income total Nov 2022-OCT 2023 R213,146.00



Graph shows income source

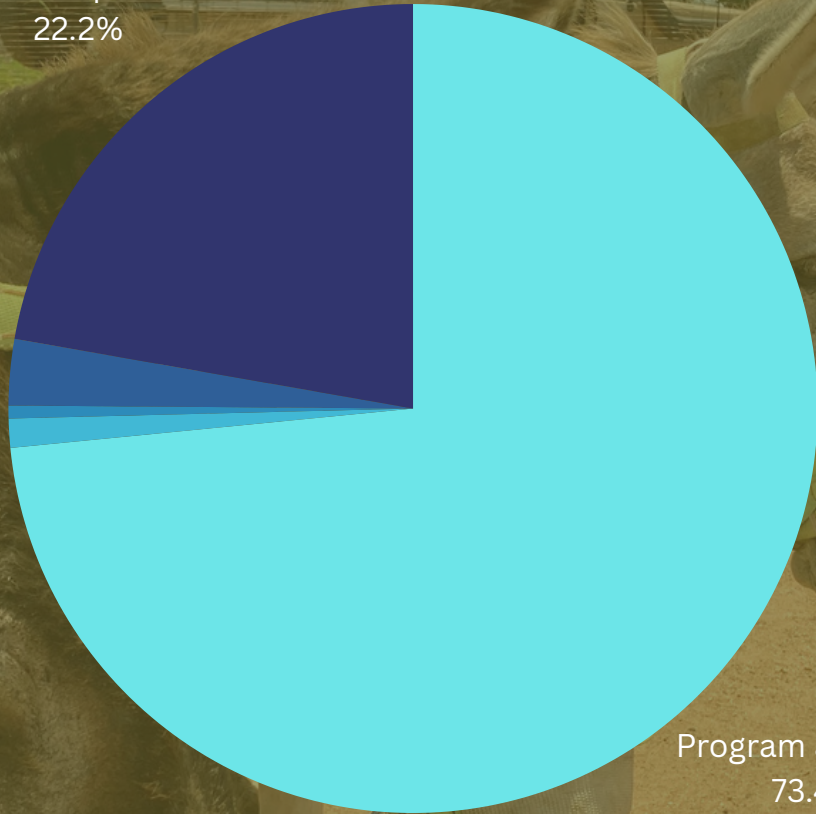
FINANCES

Running costs: 162 375

motor expenses
22.2%

administration supplies
2.6%

Program activities
73.4%



MEET THE TEAM



Dr Fernando Prados is originally from Madrid Spain. He graduated as a veterinarian from Alonso X El Sabio in 2013. Since then he has lived and worked all over the world, including in South America working with indigenous wildlife. Fernando continues to work with wildlife, but also in the communities. He has been living in South Africa now for 5 years and thoroughly enjoys it. He takes every chance he can to go into the African bush or explore new places.



Joanne Marden is originally from England. Jo trained as a zookeeper specialising in primates from 2004 and since then has worked on domestic animals and wildlife. Her first visit to South Africa was in 2003 and she has spent over a decade volunteering her time and experience to domestic and wild animals. Her passion is advocacy for animal welfare and husbandry.

MEET THE TEAM



Dr Lani Anagnostou hails from Queensland Australia. She graduated from The University of Queensland Australia in 2012. Since then she has lived in different areas around the world working as a veterinarian with various animals. Lani has been in South Africa for 5 years now and shares her life with 2 dogs, 2 cats and her husband, Fernando.



Originally from UK, Tracey is a single mum of 2 boys and commanded a successful career in business management and property development. Her love for Africa start in 2004 and from there her passion for the wildlife and culture grew. This led her completing her field guide qualification before taking the ultimate committment of stepping down from the corporate ladder to realise her life long dream. Now Tracey is now embracing every part of the African Experience

FUTURE PLANS

DONKEY PROJECT

Our aims are:

- To have every donkey with a proper fitting harness and bridle made out of appropriate materials
- Start to build shelters for the donkey when they are not working to ensure proper protection from the weather and access to water at all time.
- Keep an open line of communication with owners encouraging them to come for us for any help they need.

FUTURE PLANS

DOG PROJECT

- We want to sterilise all of the animals that are on the waiting list. Ideally reducing the number of unwanted litters drastically.
- There are currently 158 dogs on the waiting list and we would like to treat these as soon as possible. As can be imagined TVT spreads very quickly. We have applied for funding and we hope to treat these as quickly as possible.
- Our monthly outreach continues to grow every month as we aim to vaccinate at least 80% of dogs in the community
- We would like to build a small community clinic where we can administer treatments such as chemotherapy and perform small procedures.

FUTURE PLANS

CHILDREN'S PROJECT

- We aim to take the children on field trips outside of the community to expose them to the wildlife and conservation activities that surround them.
- Continue to support the underfunded children's project. Ideally we would like to increase our support by providing more food to subsidise their current government grant which is hugely under funded.
- Offer opportunities for the children to explore career paths, they ever knew about or thought possible.

Get in contact or follow us!

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Animal Relief for Rural Communities



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