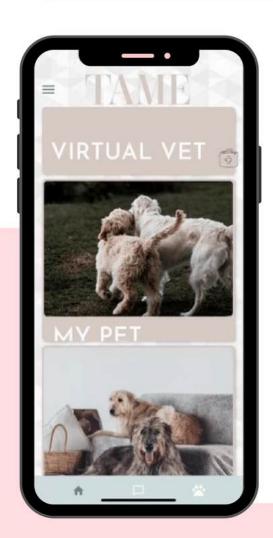


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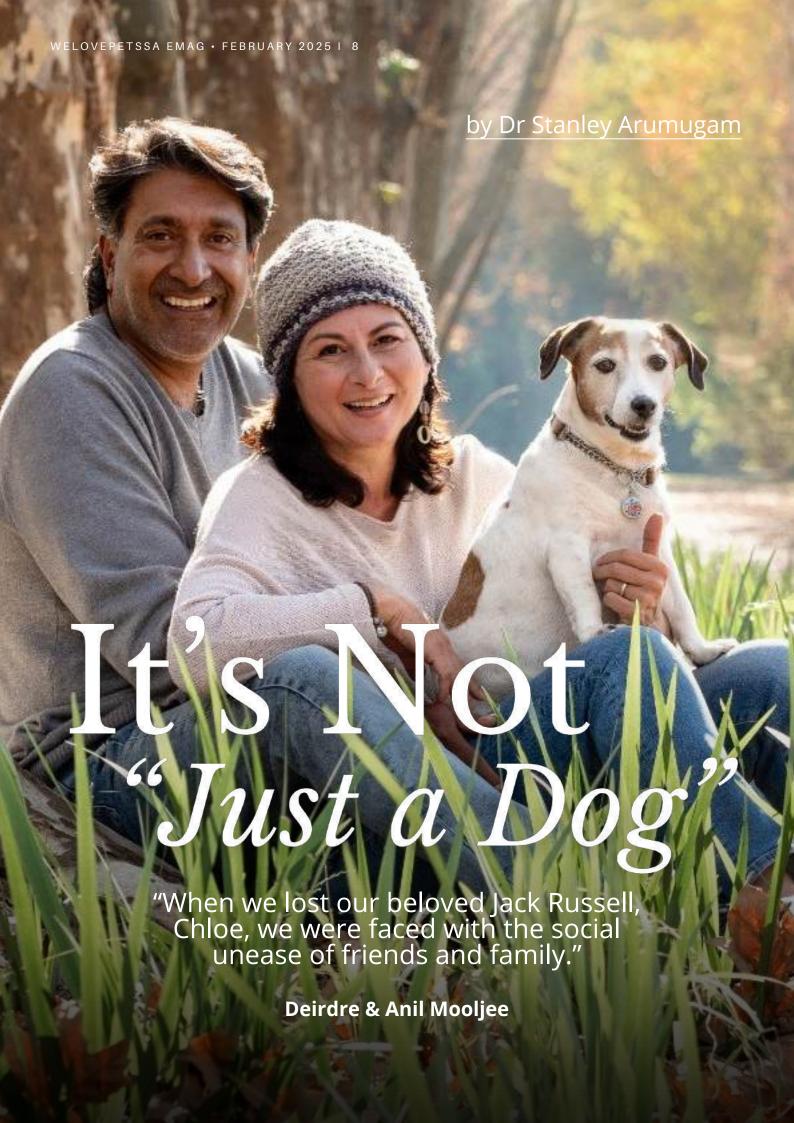
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Many well-meaning friends offered grief support in their own sincere ways. Others came across as dismissive in their awkwardness saying 'it was just a dog' as if that made our pain any less! Others avoided talking about Chloe as if she did not exist.

Our western society struggles with language and emotions related to grief in general and more especially in relation to animals, who are our pets and more than that, part of our families. Even if we don't have the right words, compassionate presence is a healing balm. Here are some suggestions in expressing support to grieving friends and families based on our personal experience:

A Simple Act of Kindness

A simple hug can make a world of difference. On the morning of Chloe's euthanasia, I rushed to the garage shop across from our townhouse, still in my most embarrassing pajamas. As fate would have it, my neighbour, whom I hadn't seen in a few days, was on her way to work. She must have seen my anguish as she greeted me, and I tearfully told her about our appointment later that day. Without hesitation, she got out of her car and let me cry on her shoulder while she whispered a gentle prayer for peace and courage in my ear. That hug meant everything to me in that moment.



Be Mindful That You Might Not Know the Full Story

We are a childless couple, and many who don't know us assume it's by choice. That couldn't be further from the truth. Chloe was the loving companion who helped me navigate the grief of the child or children I never had. Anil, carries the weight of losing two sons. Chloe had an intuitive ability to understand our emotions in ways that others often miss. The heartbreaking truth is that we are mourning the absence of the very being who made our individual losses feel more bearable.

Remind Them to be Gentle with Themselves

There are many layers of guilt surrounding the decision to euthanise an adored animal. One source of guilt is the inability to explain to them what's happening. How could we make Chloe understand that we made the decision because we loved her? Did she know what was happening during that final day—or in those last precious hours we spent together as a family? My brother sent a note that evening, reflecting on the beautiful farewell we gave Chloe and recognising the immense courage it takes to make such a heart-wrenching decision. He reminds us to be gentle with ourselves and that we are loving and caring pet parents.



There's no One Best Thing to Say, but There is One Thing to Avoid Saying

Acknowledging the loss with a simple "I'm sorry for your loss" is enough. We are appalled when people ask us when we are planning on getting a new dog. Animals are individuals like humans. Each animal has its own personality, quirks, and unique ways of connecting. We are not grieving the loss of a dog or any dog. We are grieving loving Chloe and being loved by Chloe.

It's Okay if you Don't Know What to Say, but Don't let That Stop You. Say it Your Way!

One friend didn't say a single word. He simply gave us each a hug and a jar of home-made choc chip cookies. Anil receives a charcoal sketch by an aspiring artist friend of Chloe lying on his shoulder. Someone else sends me a lovely orchid on Mother's Day. An old neighbour invites me to a play date with her dog.

Don't Try to Wipe Away Their Tears

18 months later there are still times when I speak of Chloe with tears. I am lucky to have friends who are kind enough not to try and wipe away my tears. They know that tears are a natural expression of love and loss. Just allowing someone to feel the emotions they are feeling is a gift.

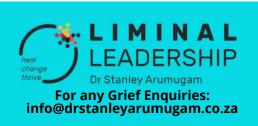
Reminiscing Together

Sharing memories is a powerful way to show you care. I truly appreciate those in my life who mention Chloe's name and share their own memories of her. Feel good factor boost!

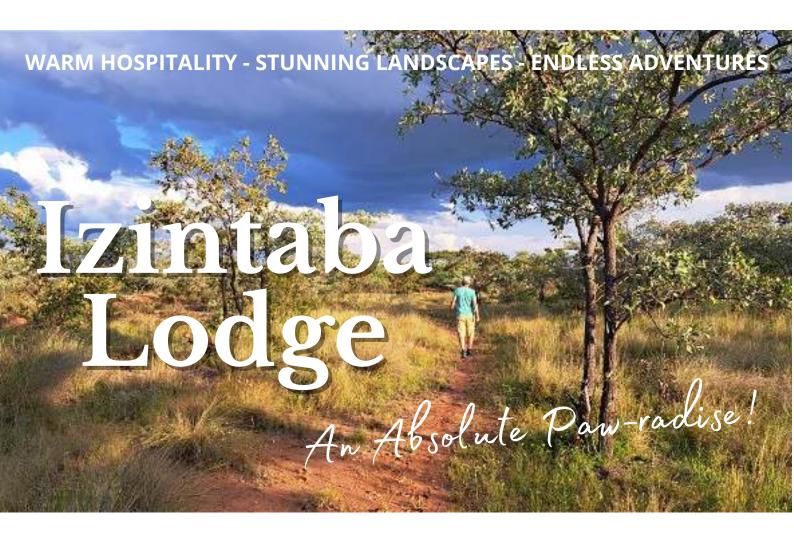
Offer to Connect Them to People Going Through Something Similar, if You do Know of Anyone.

Offer to connect them with members of the Dead Pet Society. No, this horrible society doesn't technically exist, but it somehow sort of does. We always feel a connection to other people who've lost their beloved animals.

Your empathy, understanding, and willingness to be present are incredibly valuable to someone who is grieving. Just knowing that someone cares and is there for them can provide comfort during a difficult time.







Nestled in the heart of the breathtaking Waterberg region, this gem offers everything a nature lover and their furry friend could dream of. From luxurious, fully equipped self-catering cottages to endless opportunities for adventure. This is the ultimate getaway for families, couples, and, of course, pets!

The hiking trails were a hit—not just for us, but for our four-legged companions who couldn't stop wagging their tails at the sights and smells of the bushveld.

Izintaba's cottages are spacious, cozy, and complete with private patios and braai areas. The occasional sound of wildlife and a sky full of stars made for the perfect backdrop. We stayed at Guinea Fowl Cottage.



This pet-friendly unit is a hidden gem for anyone seeking privacy, comfort, and a touch of luxury! Perfectly designed for two, it offers an airy 145m² of solar-powered bliss, where every detail has been thoughtfully crafted for relaxation and convenience. The extra-length king-sized bed ... Absolute heaven—spacious, cozy, and perfect for stretching out after a day of exploring! The full bathroom, complete with a bath and shower, feels like your very own spa. The open-plan lounge, dining area, and kitchen with sleek granite countertops make it a breeze to cook, relax, and unwind in style. But the real magic happens outside.

The large covered stoep with a built-in braai is the ultimate spot for dining, sundowners, or simply soaking up the tranquility. The fenced garden is a paradise for pets, offering plenty of space for them to play safely while you kick back and enjoy the privacy of this serene retreat.

With shaded parking, reliable Wi-Fi, and total peace, this unit strikes the perfect balance between modern convenience and bushveld charm. Whether you're planning a romantic escape or just need a break from the hustle, this spot is a total win tails included!

We'll be back - Tails Wagging!







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by Vicki Fox K9-Adventures

Beach DAIS

Visiting Bloubergstrand's gorgeous twin sister, Melkbosstrand!

WELOVEPETSSA EMAG • FEBRUARY 2025 | 15

Bloubergstrand is quite well known thanks to Laurika Raunch's song about this beautiful place?

"Goeie môre my sonskyn, Goeie môre my kind Kom ons draf langs die strand Kom ons ry op die wind Die sand sal ons skroei En die strale sal brand Maar dis vroeg in die dag Op Blouberg se strand"

But not much is known about Bloubergstrand's gorgeous twin sister Melkbosstrand.

With the rush of Christmas and New Year behind us, we decided to take a drive to the other side of "Tafelberg" and explore the Melkbosstrand area. We've heard rumours of the beautiful parkrun which is right on the beach, but the drive from Strand took around an hour so we decided to rather miss out on the parkrun and leave home a bit later. On arriving in Melkbosstrand we looked for a place to grab a coffee and something light to snack on before going for our planned long beach walk with the dogs.

We came across "I Love Melkies" in Beach Road and ran into a couple of friends who mentioned they were regulars at the establishment. We all ordered something to drink while deciding what to order for breakfast. The "Carrot, Banana & Walnut Muffins" came out of the oven, as that aroma filled the restaurant, we immediately called the waiter closer to place our order. Just in time as we got the last 4. The vibe in the restaurant was amazing, with our dogs getting water before we even had a chance to order coffee, and further attention from various waiters and restaurant guests, makes this a truly dog friendly spot. It came to our attention that Cobalt is getting very used to restaurants. Every time a waiter walked past with a tray he would sit up, cock his head and look all innocent expecting it to come to him.





The muffins and coffee were great, giving us the energy and drive to take on our planned beach walk. After taking a last glance at the menu as a post-walk lunch option we set off down to the beach only a few meters away from where we ate. Despite having just had a muffin we each grabbed an ice cream cone and with a dog lead in one hand and a cone in the other we started our walk to the off-lead section that our waiter spoke about. Boy did they love it, running up and down the beautiful beach with the majestic Table Mountain as a backdrop, a picture perfect for a typical postcard or the opening scene from an episode of Bay Watch.

We were enjoying the walk so much time just flew by and when we looked again, we were a few kilometers from where we had started. It was getting closer to lunchtime, so we decided to turn around and head back. The walk back was just as beautiful, now facing Table Mountain. The dogs energy however never seemed to subside as they continued to search every corner of the beach. It is not often that you get a wind-free day in Melkbosstrand. We were very spoilt. Finally, we made it back. After a quick visit to the car to swop shoes and give the dogs some water, we walked down to "I Love Melkies". As we were about to enter, the restaurant the next door's specials board grabbed my attention, and we

Once again, our dogs got water and attention from all sides while we looked at the menu. When visiting a beautiful coastal town like Melkbosstrand it is difficult not to order fish and chips. Michael struggled as everything looked divine, but after seeing a burger going past to another table his mind was made up, and wow it did not disappoint. The food was amazing not to mention the service. We told the waiter that we had breakfast next door. We were not surprised when he told us both establishments had the same owner. He had two winning recipes right next to each other.

It did not take the dogs long to fall asleep under the table, the excitement of the day was just too much. We got lots of compliments from other guests about how well-behaved they were (if only they knew how tired they were).



As we left "The Hart" we met the cutest JRT called "Lente" sitting with her people at "I Love Melkies". "Lente's" mom recently moved from JHB. They live in Bloubergstrand and are busy exploring Cape Town. She mentioned that she is always on the lookout for places to visit with "Lente, her best friend.

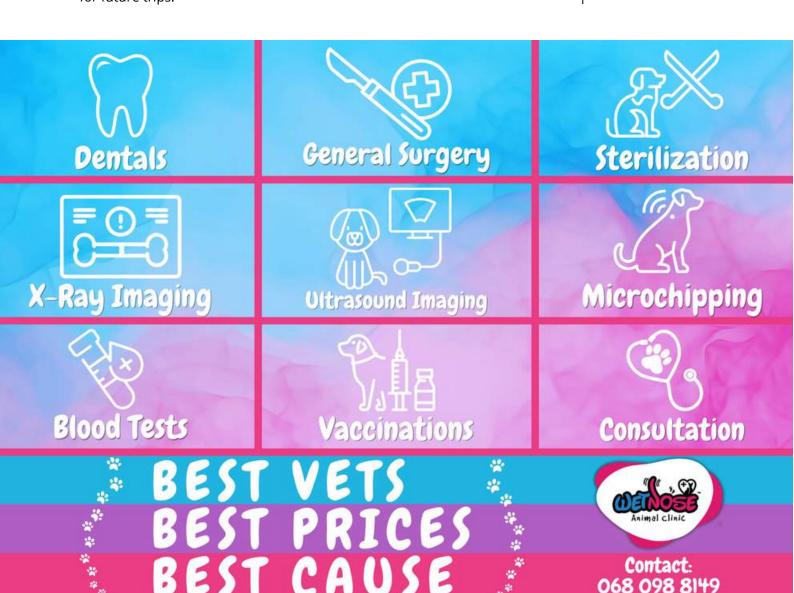
We cannot tell you which of the 2 restaurants we preferred as they were both great with their own unique menu. We will definitely be back to try the Pizzas at "I Love Melkies" and the waffles at "The Hart". If you are visiting either one on a Saturday after a Park Run I would strongly suggest making a booking as these are very popular spots.

Melkbosstrand was full of surprises and most definitely worth a few more trips even though we were not looking forward to the drive back. I was not sure if it was the drive back that was upsetting or the fact that we had to leave behind what seemed to be one of the best new finds for future trips.



The Hart Shop 1 Mira Mar Center Beach Road bookings@thehart.co.za 069 332 7323

"I Love Melkies" Shop 9 Mira Mar Center Beach Road info@ilovemelkies.co.za 064 077 5518







Multiple cat households can be harmonious and there are many practical steps you can take to keep all members of the household happy and reduce the likelihood of tension among the cats. Having the right set-up can stop potential issues developing or reduce stress in an already strained environment.

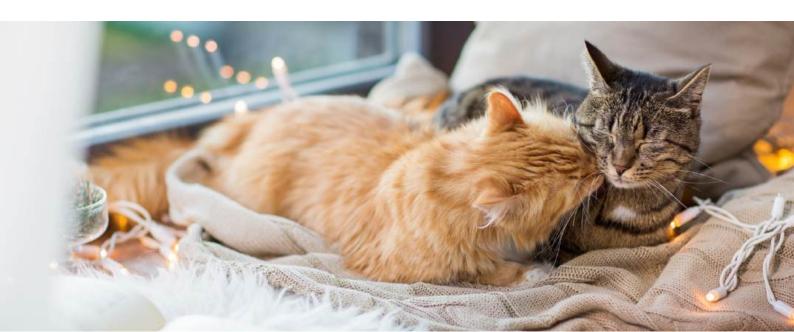
TERRITORIES

Cats are territorial both inside and outside the home. Scratching and rubbing are all ways to place their scent on an object. Cats make the objects smell familiar and part of their territory. Identify each cat's territory. Are there certain areas they choose to reside in? Are there objects they rub their scent on? Identifying the core area for each cat can aid in where resources are placed and highlight where you may see tension arise if one cat is close to or in, another cat's territory.

BONDED CATS

In a house with multiple cats, you may recognise some cats have a bond, whilst others don't. Bonded cats will often share spaces and be comfortable with their housemates being nearby.

Try and identify those bonded pairs and create spaces for those to exist together. Each social group should have its territory and you should encourage the cats to eat, drink, play and sleep in their territory. If you identify cats that are tense around each other, ensure that their safe spaces are a good distance away from each other.



RESOURCES

Key resources must be accessible to the cats and available at any time. If there is an underlying tension in a multi-cat household, you can often see one cat sitting in front of the cat flap, food bowl, etc, blocking access to another cat. Whilst this is not overtly aggressive behaviour, for the cat prevented from gaining access to resources, it can be extremely stressful. This stress can lead to fights or in some cases stress-induced medical problems.

Resources include:

- · Food and water bowls
- · Litter trays
- · Scratching posts
- · Toys
- · Perches or vertical spaces
- Hiding places
 Access to the outside

Each cat territory should have their own resources. Each bonded cat group or individual must be able to access their resources. If another cat is in that space, they have other places to access a resource.

Removing the need to compete over resources can reduce stress between the cats. All cats can feel comfortable and secure that they can go and obtain resources or areas without the threat to their safety.

TIME SPENT WITH OWNER

Most cats enjoy time spent with the humans in the household. If one cat is always on the lap of their person, this may prevent other cats from getting the same attention and they are not able to maintain that bond with the human. Try and get into a routine so they can predict when it is their turn to be next to the human.

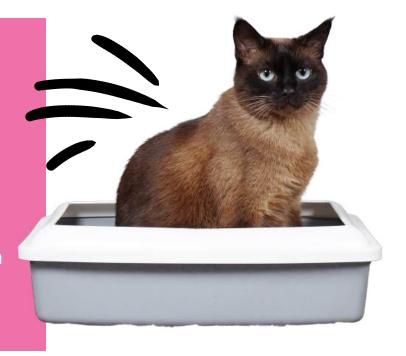
LITTER TRAYS

The rule of thumb is, the number of cats you have plus I equals the number of litter trays you should have in your home. An insecure cat will not be comfortable urinating or defecating in the litter tray. Often this leads to inappropriate elimination in places like the owner's bed where they do feel safe.

TIP Set the litter trays around the house away from doors, windows and busy areas.

FOOD AND DRINK

Cats prefer their food and water stations to be separate from each other. Have water bowls in a different space than food bowls and each cat has their own food bowl, away from one another.



HIDING PLACES

Cats like to hide, especially when needing to retreat from a potential threat. Each territory should have a place to hide. These spaces should ideally be higher so the cat has a vantage point to be able to monitor an approaching threat.

These don't have to be permanent structures. Your cat will enjoy an empty cardboard box on top of a cupboard just as much as a storebought container.

If possible try to ensure the high-up resting places have more than one entry/exit. If a cat is on top of a wardrobe, we want them to be able to make a quick exit if another cat comes into their area. Rather than have to confront them in order to escape, they can dash away quickly using another route.

SCRATCHING POSTS

There should be scratching posts in each territory. These posts are most used when they are close to windows or doors. Scratching posts are used to spread scent, so having them close to doors and windows is the edge of their territory and they are more likely to use them in these places.

PHEROMONES

Synthetic pheromones can help to create a calm environment. Natural pheromones are used as a communication tool with cats. Synthetic pheromones use cat-appeasing pheromones, produced by a female cat with kittens to help her kittens feel safe and secure. The synthetic pheromone spray, plug-in diffuser or collar may create that safe and secure feeling throughout the home, especially in the shared places where the cats may feel more vulnerable.

SOLO PLAYTIME

Cats are solo predators. When they hunt they do so alone. Playtime with cats should try and replicate how they stalk and catch prey. Games with teasers and cat wands can successfully fulfill this desire. However, ensure you have playtime with each cat on their own. We want them to enjoy the game and succeed in catching the prey, rather than being concerned about another cat's action.

Creating harmony in a multi-cat household means understanding each cat's needs and providing an environment where they feel safe, secure, and stressfree. By managing territories, resources, and interactions, you can have a peaceful household.





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NUWE JAAR NUWE DINGE!

Hondeopleiding kom deesdae in baie verskillende kleure en geure en verskil van mekaar soos 'n Pug van 'n Great Dane. Jy mag dalk self daaroor dink om by 'n klas aan te sluit, maar soms mag dit oorweldigend wees en mens weet nie noodwendig watter kant toe nie.



Klasse vir jong hondjies

"Puppy classes" is heel waarskynlik die heel belangrikste klas / klasse wat jou hondjie ooit sal bywoon, mits dit vroeg genoeg is (tussen 8 en 12 weke).

'n Goed georganiseerde klas sal goud werd wees, aangesien dit maklik is om teruggetrokke hondjies te oorweldig en emosionele skade op die langtermyn te veroorsaak. As rof speel aanhoudend onbeheersd uitwoed kan daar fisiese probleme en later emosionele probleme ontstaan. Iets eenvoudig soos om jong hondjies aan verskillende oppervlak teksture bloot te stel, sal hulle in staat stel om donderweer en harde klanke as volwasse honde beter te hanteer, en 'n hondeskool wat op standaard is – sal hierdie tipe aktiwiteite in die kurrikulum insluit.

Omdat die brein soos 'n spons is tot en met die ouderdom van 12 weke wil mens hierdie typerk optimaal benut en die hond voorberei vir opleiding later.

Fondasie Kursus (Obedience)

Hierdie tipe kursus is gewoonlik vir honde van ses maande en ouer, mits die hond emosioneel bekwaam is om in 'n groep te kan funksioneer. Dit sluit in basiese opdragte soos sit, lê, leibandloop, en luister wanneer daar geroep word, om 'n paar te noem. Die klasse kan ook tot 'n meer gevorderde vlak gaan waar daar byvoorbeeld aan "bly" vir langer tye en loop langs die eienaar sonder 'n leiband gewerk word.

Daar is ook verskeie vlakke en formele kompetisies wat aangebied word in hierdie dissiplines. KUSA se 'Canine Good Citizen' kwalifikasies sal in die katergorie wees waar daar byvoorbeeld 'n brons, silwer en goue vlak van prestasie behaal kan word.



Reukwerk

Hierdie tipe klasse is goed vir enige ouderdom hond en veral vir diegene wat aan die ouer kant is, hiperaktief is, of ook selfs mobilieitsprobleme het (want al wat hul nodig het is hul neus).

Daar is ook verskeie vlakke binne die kategorie en mens kan kreatief wees en allerande veilige reuke in so 'n kursus inkorporeer. Let wel, dat die reuk verkieslik nie oorweldigend vir die hond moet wees nie aangesien honde se neuse 10 – 100 000 keer meer sensitief as mense sin is. 'n Paar gewilde opsies sluit sipres, naeltjie, anys en vetivergras olie in. Die honde word opgelei om elke reuk apart te kan identifiseer en hulle soek dan die olies in verskillende houers en op verskeie wegsteekplekke.





Dit is basies die moderne, veiliger weergawe van agility en dus meer geskik vir honde van verskillende posture en groottes. Die grootste verskil met hierdie weergawe van die sport, is dat die honde nie oor paaltjies spring nie, en sodoende meeste van die impak en risiko tot beserings uit die sport haal.

"Agility"

Hierdie is 'n gunsteling vir baie eienaars met Border Collies, miniatuur Schnauzers en klein tot medium-grootte honde lig op hul voete wat spoed en hoogtes kan navigeer deur 'n hindernisbaan.

Die baan sluit gewoonlik tonnels, spring paaltjies en slalompale in – hierdie honde kan afhanklik van hul eienaars werk en fokus op lyftaal gebare sowel as verbale bevele.

Hierdie aktiwiteit is uiteraard goed vir fisieke oefening en fiksheid, maar dit kan ook stram op gewrigte wees weens die hoë spoed en gereelde impak wanneer die honde land na 'n sprong.

WAT IS 'N MOOI AFRIKAANSE WOORD VIR "AGILITY"

STUUR JOU ANTWOORD NA woofs@welovepetssa.co.za

Mensspoorvolging

Hierdie is een van my persoonlike gunstelinge want dit aktifeer die hond se "SOEK" sisteem. Dit is die sisteem wat in sosiale spesies se breine geprogrammeer is om belonings in die alledaagse lewe te verwag en daarna uit te sien.

Dit kan bes beskryf word as die glinster in jou hond se oë as jy aan die koekieblik vat, want hulle weet iets lekker is oppad, of die gevoel wat jy het net voor jy 'n present in 'n pragtige pakkie oopmaak.

In die dissipline leer die hond dat daar belonings volg sodoende hy die persoon vind. Die hond word geleer om die persoon se reuk in die lug en op die grond te volg van 'n persoonlike item af (of selfs waar hulle in aanraking was met iets soos 'n kar sitplek of ander persoon). Die sport kan opgedeel word in 'n kategorie vir pret en plesier en ook dan vir meer ernstige gebruik soos in die polisie wanneer daar na verdagtes of vermiste persone gesoek word.

Die vlakke van maklik na moeilik word ook aangepas soos die hond vorder om byvoorbeeld langer soektogte, of water en skemertoestande in te sluit.

Hondejoga (K9 Yoga)

Fokus, kalmte, strek, sterk spiere en algehele mobilitiet is die grondslag waarop hierdie klasse geskoei is.

Die hond leer op 'n veilige manier hoe om meer bewus te wees van waar hul liggaamsdele (soos agterbene) is. Honde is baie minder bewus van hul agterbene as wat ons besef en swak liggaamsorientasie kan lei tot beserings in die alledaagse lewe.

Hierdie klasse fokus ook om die hond se kern te versterk sodat daar potensiaal minder beserings plaasvind met rof speel of aktiwiteite soos 'agility' byvoorbeeld.

Toertjies

Toertjies is fantasties om die band tussen jou en jou hond te versterk, dit bou die hond se selfvertroue en kan in die gemak van jou eie huis geofen word.

KUSA het 'n aanlyn "Trick Dog" platform waar mens videos neem en instuur hoe jy en jou hond 'n paar toertjies doen van 'n spesifike kieslys af. Daar is ook verskeie vlakke van maklik na moeilik om mens aan die gang te kry.

Beskermingswerk

Beskermingswerk is 'n hondesport waar honde opgelei word om selfvertroue, gehoorsaamheid en beheer toe te pas terwyl hulle 'n verdagte "aanval" en vashou op bevel.

Dit sluit spesifieke oefeninge soos soekwerk, waghou en bytbeheer in. Die sport vereis 'n sterk band tussen hond en handteerder, met 'n groot fokus op dissipline en beheer.

Hierdie kan gevaarlike terrein word as die instansie fokus om die hond se beweging te beperk en die hond uit vrees byt in plaas van selfvertroue.

Doen jou huiswerk voor jy 'n besluit maak, dinge kan skeef loop met die verkeerde instansie of as jy 'n angstige hond het wat reeds aggresiewe gedrag toon.

Dit is in 'n neutedop 'n goeie oorsig oor meeste van die bekende hondesportaktiwiteite deesdae beskikbaar. Hou in gedagte dat nie alle honde in 'n groepklas kan, (of wil) funksioneer nie en daardie honde sal eerder baat by privaatklasse.

Elke hond is 'n individu en daardie hond se behoeftes sal bepaal wat die beste pad vorentoe sal insluit. Klasse vir jong hondjies en 'n fondasie kursus is baie keer nodig vir die hond om later iets soos beskermingswerk te doen omdat die hond 'n fondasie en begrip van sekere aksies benodig.

Vliegbal "Flyball"

Flyball is 'n opwindende spanhondsport waar vier honde om die beurt oor vier hindernisse spring, 'n bal uit 'n springkas haal en terughardloop. Die span met die vinnigste, foutlose tyd wen.

Hindernishoogtes word bepaal deur die kleinste hond in die span.



FREE DELIVERY FOR ALL ORDERS OVER R500





Pawberry Daiquiri

INGREDIENTS

100g Strawberries 80ml Watermelon Juice 20ml Bone Broth Filtered Water

METHOD

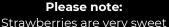
- Wash and remove tops from strawberries.
- Blitz the strawberries but save one for garnishing.
- Mix approximately equal amounts of strawberry and water.
- Pour this mix into silicon molds and freeze for a few hours.
- Peel & de-pip the watermelon and cut into pieces.
- Blitz and strain the watermelon through a cloth.
- Pour watermelon juice and bone broth into a glass.
- Add the ice cube and strawberry garnish and serve.

Jock the Mixologist

Sip, Slurp, Wag - from Jock's Bar to Your Bowl -Doggy Cocktails for Every Occasion.

Jock the Ridgeback, our dapper doggy Mixologist, is shaking things up behind the bar - er, water bowlwith two tail-wagging "Cocktails" just for Pooches!. Whether you're looking to impress your Valentine with a *Pawberry Daiquiri* (because love is best served with a side of treats) or get your green on for St. Patrick's Day with an *Irish Dog Pedro*. Jock's got the perfect sip for every occasion.

So fluff up your ears, grab a slobberproof napkin, and let's get mixing because every good dog deserves a little extra flair!



so limit the amount used in the recipe.

Irish Dog Pedro

INGREDIENTS

100ml Greek Yogurt One Cucumber

METHOD

- Wash the cucumber cut one slice and keep aside for garnish.
- Blitz and strain the cucumber through a cloth, either with skin on or off. Please see the note below.
- Pour some of the liquid into a silicon mold and freeze for a few hours.
- Mix a small amount of the liquid with the yogurt.
 The quantity is up to you depending on how green you want it to be!
- Pour the yogurt cucumber mix into a glass.
- Add the ice cube and cucumber garnish and serve.

Cucumber skin is full of vitamins and fiber. This recipe can be used with skin on or off depending on how green you want it to be. A peeled cucumber is lighter in colour than one that isn't. Please also be aware that the skin can be tough for some dogs to digest, especially ones with sensitive tummies. You could add a little raw spinach as an alternative to the cucumber skin before blitzing for a darker green.



AFRICAN PET HEALTH SUMMIT



GAUTENG - 29 & 30 March 2025

WESTERN CAPE - 5 APRIL 2025



Dr. Conor Brady

Dr. Conor Brady is an internationally renowned dog nutritionist and author specialising in canine nutrition and behaviour.

Meet Our Expert Speakers



Dr. Nick Thompson

Dr. Nick Thompson is a holistic veterinarian with over 20 year's of experience in integrating conventional veterinary medicine with complementary therapies.

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Defusing the Scare with Facts

Recently, alarming articles and studies have targeted the raw feeding community, causing confusion for new and potential raw feeders. It is crucial to separate fact from fiction and understand the real reasons behind the anti-raw sentiment.

written by Retha van der Walt

MYTH 1 - "A Raw Diet is Unbalanced"

Not all raw diets are balanced, and an unbalanced diet can pose health risks. However, this applies to any diet, not just raw feeding. Feeding raw requires careful planning to achieve the right balance of organ meat, fat, muscle meat, and bonewhat is often referred to as the "Franken-prey model diet."

Proper raw feeding focuses on high-quality, antibiotic-free meat from pasture-fed animals. Balanced levels of phosphorus, calcium, Omega-3, and Omega-6 fatty acids, as well as essential amino acids, are critical. Feeding cheap offal or low-quality meat is not the goal; instead, sourcing quality protein from reputable suppliers ensures optimal nutrition. If you opt for pre-made raw meals, verify the ingredient sources and manufacturing standards.

Balance and Variety, Especially in Protein Sources, are key to Success.

MYTH 2 - "Raw Feeding Causes Bacterial Infections"

Concerns about bacterial infections in raw feeding have spread widely, with claims linking raw food to harmful bacteria such as Salmonella, E. coli, Listeria, and Campylobacter. However, it is important to note that these bacteria are not unique to raw diets; they can also be present in cooked meats, fruits, vegetables, and even contaminated water.

A healthy dog's stomach has a highly acidic environment (pH below 2) that effectively neutralises harmful bacteria before they can multiply. Dogs and cats have evolved digestive systems designed to handle bacteria commonly found in their food. In fact, many pets naturally harbour bacteria such as Salmonella and E. coli without experiencing adverse effects.

Understanding the Risk of Bacteria in Raw Diets

While bacteria are a natural part of the environment, responsible raw feeding and proper food handling practices can greatly reduce any potential risks.

How Pets Handle Bacteria

Stomach Acidity:

Dogs' and cats' stomachs are highly acidic (pH 1-2), making it difficult for bacteria to survive.

Digestive Transit Time:

Food passes through their system quickly, leaving little time for bacteria to establish.

Healthy Gut Flora:

A balanced raw diet supports a robust microbiome, preventing harmful bacteria from thriving.

EMAIL: orders@pawsomeraw.com

For more information on top grade, premium quality nutrition for pets, contact **Pawsome Raw**.

We have Petfood nutritionists that will assist you with advice on dealing with your pets' allergies.



YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT —



FOOD SAFETY TIPS FOR HUMANS

- Practise good hygiene when handling raw pet food.
- Keep food preparation areas and utensils clean.
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling raw food.

At Pawsome Raw, we prioritise food safety with strict cold chain protocols and regular quality testing to minimise contamination risks.

Our goal is to provide safe, nutritious meals for pets.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

A properly balanced raw diet offers numerous benefits, such as stronger immunity, cleaner teeth, and better overall health. Responsible pet owners should research and choose reputable raw food providers to ensure their pets receive optimal nutrition.

Dogs are facultative carnivores, meaning they thrive on a meat-based diet but can adapt to other foods in survival situations. Considering their evolutionary diet helps guide informed feeding decisions.

By staying informed and focusing on quality and balance, pet owners can confidently embrace raw feeding without fear, ensuring their pets enjoy the many benefits of a natural diet.



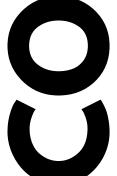


WRITTEN BY Ioane' van Oudtshoorn & Bianca Duthie





IT'S TRULY REMARKABLE TO OBSERVE CANINE ATHLETES AND WORKING DOGS EXCEL WHILE **ENJOYING THEIR ACTIVITIES. WHETHER** NAVIGATING AN AGILITY COURSE FILLED WITH JUMPS AND TUNNELS, HERDING LIVESTOCK ON A FARM, OR JOINING US ON A TRAIL RUN, THESE DOGS EXEMPLIFY ATHLETICISM.



& INJURY PREVENTION IN CANINE ATHLETES

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These incredible animals undergo rigorous training and demanding work conditions that challenge both their physical and mental capabilities. For certain working dogs, such as police canines, maintaining peak physical condition is vital, as it can significantly affect life-or-death situations. By ensuring our canine athletes remain in excellent shape, we can reduce the risk of injuries, recognize weaknesses early, and ultimately enhance their longevity and quality of life.

Injury prevention and conditioning are broad topics worthy of extensive discussion. However, even basic knowledge can greatly help us prevent injuries or enable early detection before they escalate. Familiarizing ourselves with common canine injuries and their causes can also inform our training methods.

CONDITIONING

CONDITIONING PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN **PERFORMANCE AND RECOVERY** FOR COMPETITIVE ANIMALS.

A well-structured conditioning program can improve coordination, strength, speed, stamina, and flexibility. It's essential for these programs to be designed by professionals who can track progress and tailor the training to meet individual needs.

The key components of effective conditioning include:

- Diet: Providing a balanced, speciesappropriate diet to ensure all necessary nutrients are available and maintain an ideal body condition.
- Exercise: Ensuring adequate safe exercise to promote muscle health and strength, and a strong cardiorespiratory system.
- Rest: Allowing time for safe and stress-free recovery is vital for healing.

Appropriate conditioning varies between pupples and adult dogs. For pupples, it's crucial to establish a solid foundation for their future while respecting their physical limitations, given that growth plates remain vulnerable until they close.

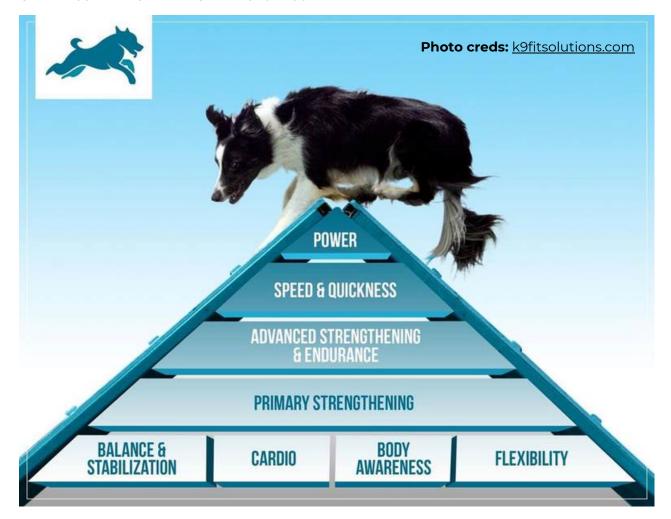
The best way to prevent injury to our companion animals is to ensure they are well-conditioned to prevent orthopaedic injury or dysfunction but also reduce the risk of some systemic conditions. This applies to all pets, as well as competitive- or working animals.

COMMON SPORTING INJURIES & THEIR CAUSES

Injuries in canine
athletes can stem from
accidents, physical
impacts, or trauma, often
exacerbated by poor
technique, inadequate
strength, or lack of
coordination. Other factors
include obesity, past
injuries, conformation
related weakness,
overtraining, and
insufficient recovery.

The most prevalent injuries in canine athletes are soft tissue-related, particularly impacting the front limbs, with the shoulder joint being a primary area of concern due to its high mobility and reliance on muscular stabilization. In the hind limbs, common injuries include cranial cruciate ligament injury, such as strains, tears, or ruptures, as well as overstretching or straining of the iliopsoas muscle in the groin area.





COMMON INJURIES INCLUDE:

- Fore limbs (Biceps brachii tendinopathy; Supraspinatus tendinopathy; Medial shoulder instability; Teres minor strain).
- Hind limbs (Achilles tendon injury; Gracilis strain).
- Stress injuries to carpus (wrist) or tarsus (ankle).
- Tendon injuries (deep- or superficial digital flexor tendons).
- Lumbosacral disease (spondylosis, nerve root entrapment or intervertebral disc compression).
- Foot pad and digit injuries.

INJURY PREVENTION

DEVELOPING A **KEEN EYE FOR SUBTLE SIGNS OF WEAKNESS OR PAIN** CAN ALLOW FOR EARLY INTERVENTION.

Recognizing changes in behaviour, posture, movement patterns, or overall demeanour is crucial, because some subtle signs won't be as noticeable as limping or head bobbing.

The pillars of injury prevention:

- Strength & Stability: Targeted exercises enhance soft tissue strength and bone density, helping stabilize joints and reduce injury risk.
- Body Awareness: Conditioning fosters better body awareness, minimizing risks of tripping or falling.
- Coordination: Improves balance and motor control to mitigate injury risks.



KEY PREVENTION PRACTICES INCLUDED

- Adequate warm-up and cooldown routines.
- Avoiding repetitive exercises and overtraining.
- Implementing a balanced fitness regimen encompassing cardio, strength training, and flexibility.
- Maintaining an ideal body condition score.
- Regular veterinary checkups and possibly a therapy program from a veterinary physiotherapist.
- Considering supplements for long-term joint health.
- Appropriate diet to maintain a lean body condition.

While every owner hopes for a happy, injury-free canine companion, challenges may arise. Thankfully, the expertise of veterinary professionals, trainers, and other specialists can rally together to optimize the health and performance of canine athletes. To help your pet achieve their full potential and reduce the injury risk, consider consulting a qualified veterinary physiotherapist to design an appropriate conditioning program—there's no better time to start!



Pets as Therapy











- Visit our website: www.pat.org.za
 - 🌺 Email: info@pat.org.za











Cystinuria in canines



Our canine companions share more similarities with us than we realise-even when it comes to health challenges. It is crucial for pet owners to look out for signs and symptoms that may indicate deterioration of their pet's health-particularly regarding their kidneys.

Just like in humans, a dog's kidneys play a vital role in maintaining overall well-being by regulating electrolytes and filtering toxins from the bloodstream. Kidney problems can result in a myriad of other health issues - but by recognising warning signs early, we can take proactive steps to prevent serious illness from occurring in our furry friends.

One such disorder is cystinuria—an autosomal recessive metabolic disorder in which cysteine, an amino acid, does not get reabsorbed well enough into the kidneys. This results in the accumulation of crystals made up of cysteine being present in the urine, which leads to urinary tract obstructions that can cause significant discomfort.

WHAT IS CYSTINURIA?

Cystinuria will affect a pup's ability to filter cystine out from their urine. The tubules situated in the kidney usually reabsorb cystine, which then gets filtered out in urine. With dogs that have Cystinuria, the tubules fail to reabsorb the amino acid, leading to its accumulation in urine. Cystine, which is not easily dissolved in the acidic conditions of canine urine, crystallises and forms stones (also known as calculi).

This disorder has been observed in breeds such as the Newfoundland, Landseer, Labrador Retriever, Mastiff, Bullmastiff, French Bulldog, and Bulldog. Among these breeds, Newfoundlands exhibit a more severe type of the disorder. The disease is late mid- to late-onset, meaning that it usually only presents when a dog is between 4 to 5 years old. The exception to this is the Newfoundlands, which can present with symptoms earlier on from about 6 months to a year.

In some breeds, Cystinuria is caused by a mutation (c.586C>T) in the SLC3A1 gene. As it is a recessive disorder, the pup must inherit two copies of the causative gene to develop the disorder. Carriers, with a single copy of the mutation, do not exhibit symptoms but can genetically pass the mutation on to their offspring. If two carriers are bred, there is a 25% chance for each puppy to have Cystinuria.





Dogs with Cystinuria may be asymptomatic, even if they carry the mutation, until caliculi form. These stones will cause an obstruction and cause blockage in their urethra. Due to anatomical differences, males are more commonly affected than females, who may show fewer or no symptoms.

A few common symptoms to look out for include straining while urinating; frequently urinating in small amounts; urine containing blood; stomach pains and vomiting; as well as lethargy. Without medical intervention, a blockage in the urinary tract can be life-threatening.

www.zooomics.co.za

WHAT ARE THE TREATMENT OPTIONS?

If your dog is showing symptoms that indicate they might have Cystinuria, it would be best to consult your veterinarian, who will be able to advise you on the best therapeutic course to use to treat your pup. A urinalysis, which checks the pH level of urine, in conjunction with imaging techniques such as ultrasounds or x-rays can be done to confirm the diagnosis.

The right treatment can potentially minimise cystine levels in the urine through dietary and lifestyle changes. Changing your dog's diet to include smaller amounts of protein or sodium, as well as adding more water to your pup's meals helps raise the pH levels and dilutes the urine, may reduce the likelihood of stone formation.

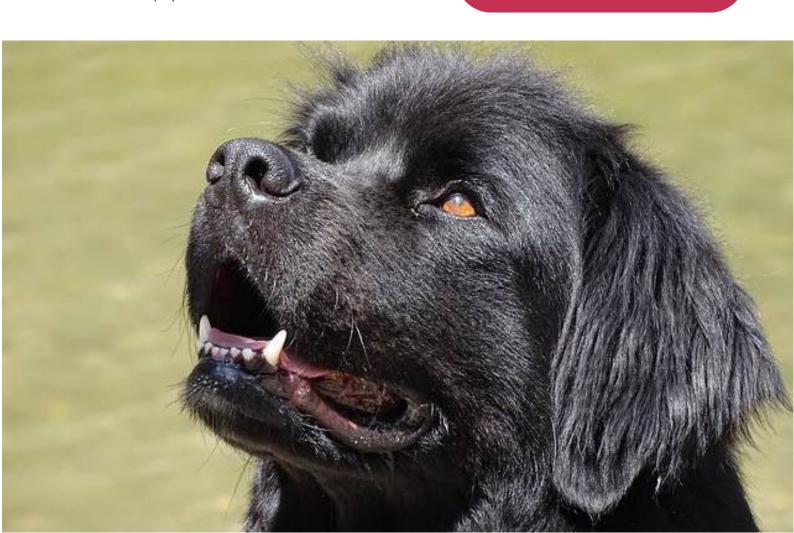
In cases where stones have already formed, surgery will be the most effective removal method. Neutering can also be effective in preventing stone recurrence in males.

Early genetic testing can help identify carriers or affected dogs, enabling preventative measures to be taken before symptoms arise.

Where can I get genetic health tests done?

At ZooOmics we provide both health and colour testing as well as DNA profiles for both canine and feline. We utilise innovative technology for our mutation testing and provide you with certificates for all testing done, which can be submitted to registrars and breed societies.

Contact us at info@ZooOmics.co.za for any enquiries on sample collection, shipping of samples, sample processing and services offered. Alternatively visit our website at www.zooomics.co.za to download our sample submission form.







Feline Genetic Testing

ZooOmics offers a wide range of Feline genetic services.

Including DNA profiles, Health and Colour testing

DNA sequencing, Fragment analysis, Mass Spectrophotometry, qPCR.

ZooOmics™ is the animal genetics division of inqaba biotec™ (est. 2002) and has been dedicated to providing accurate genetic tests and exceptional client service for over a decade to sub-Saharan Africa.



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Zoomark 2025 Expands: a 10th Hall Added - and It's Already Sold Out!

More Exhibition Space to Welcome All Exhibitors

Zoomark, the international trade show for pet products and accessories, has once again proven to be an **unmissable event** for the entire industry.

The 2025 edition, taking place at **BolognaFiere** from 5th to 7th May, has already reached full capacity, prompting organisers to expand the exhibition layout.

With the addition of extra space, the event is set to break new records, accommodating a growing number of exhibitors, estimated at 1,500, and visitors.

Luisa Bersanetti, Exhibition Manager of Zoomark states:



An Expansion Reflecting the Growth of the Pet Industry

With the addition of a 10th hall, the exhibition space now covers an impressive 90,000 square metres, responding to the increasing demand from leading international players and emerging pet brands.

The event will feature industry leaders, innovative start-ups, and rising brands, all showcasing cutting-edge solutions for pet care and well-being.

The **global pet market** continues to show strong growth. In 2024, global sales increased by 7.2%, reflecting rising consumer spending on pet welfare. This positive trend makes Zoomark the ideal platform for companies looking to seize **new business opportunities** and strengthen their position in international markets.

Premium Business Matching

Zoomark 2025 is further enhancing its global reach through the International Buyers **Programme**, an exclusive initiative dedicated to connecting exhibitors with top-tier buyers.

The event is expected to attract **30,000 attendees**, including buyers from over 120 countries, with significant delegations from Europe, the United States, Asia, and the Middle East.

Already, 200 top buyers from more than 30 **countries** have joined the International Buyers Program, designed to facilitate targeted business meetings. This initiative, developed in

BolognaFiere Cosmoprof S.p.A.



collaboration with **ICE Agency**, focuses on key pet industry markets and will involve **distributors**, **specialist retailers**, **chain stores**, **and e-commerce professionals**, ensuring a highly qualified and relevant audience for exhibitors.

Thanks to the **B2Match matchmaking platform**, buyers and companies can **plan their meetings in advance**, optimising their trade show experience.

Thematic Paths and Special Areas

Bigger, yes – but also more structured and efficient. The new Zoomark 2025 layout has been redesigned to enhance exhibitor-visitor interactions, featuring intuitive pathways that create a dynamic, seamless experience for professionals attending in Bologna.

Visitors will be able to follow three **thematic routes:**

- Italian Style- showcasing companies that manufacture in Italy or feature Italian design.
- **GreenMark** dedicated to sustainabilityfocused companies.
- **Tech for Future** highlighting exhibitors at the forefront of pet industry innovation.

These three routes will act as a **guiding thread** for professionals, helping them **navigate** the show more effectively and focus on the most **relevant industry trends**.

In addition, **five special areas** will showcase **emerging trends and innovations**, fostering business opportunities and industry advancements:

- Next 5.0 a dedicated pet-tech space, featuring start-ups and established companies presenting advanced technology solutions for pet health and safety.
- Pet Vision a spotlight on recently launched products and market trends, accompanied by an innovation award for the most groundbreaking solutions.
- Aqua Project focused on the aquarium and terrarium industry, featuring dedicated training sessions for specialised retailers.
- Factory (NEW) an area entirely dedicated to the pet supply chain, from raw materials to production processes.
- Atelier (NEW) a showcase of craftsmanship and excellence in pet well- being and comfort.



SAVE THE DATE **5-7 May 2025**

Online Ticket
Sales OPEN
in the Second
week of
February!
www.zoomark.it



<u>Sign up for Zoomark's Newsletter</u> and stay updated on the latest news and announcements.

Don't miss the **pet industry's most anticipated event of the year!**

Zoomark is the premier B2B trade show for pet food and pet care, taking place at **BolognaFiere from 5 to 7 May 2025**. Now in its 21st edition, it remains the ultimate international meeting point for industry professionals, providing a unique platform for networking, learning, and business development.









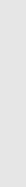
21st international trade show for pet food and pet care

ZOOMARK

BolognaFiere, Italy

5-7 May 2025











FROM OUR readers

Animal Kinesiology is a gentle, holistic practice that uncovers physical and emotional imbalances. Through this approach you not only gain insight into your pet's well-being but also find ways to restore balance and improve their quality of life. Imtithaal Dawood tells of their experience with Animal Kinesiologist, Annalize Carelse.



I first heard about an animal kinesiologist when our raw pet food provider advertised that they'll have one in-store to do consultations. Up until then, I didn't know what it was about, besides someone being able to communicate as a medium with your dog. It seemed very much like hocus pocus. I knew it was a long shot but I had to convince my husband that we should give it a try.

> The ad said it could help with allergies and food sensitivities. And we were both at our wits end with our dog, Selena, who was a very reluctant eater. She's a dessert before dinner-type of gal, not unlike her mom. But mealtimes were a prolonged, painful process, which involved hand-feeding (tantamount to force feeding) so she could at least eat, all while our ever-hungry rottie, Kygo watched us in awe because he could make food disappear in seconds if given half the chance.

We met Annalize at the Pawsome Raw store in Somerset West. We had completed a form beforehand with our concerns and elaborated a bit on specific examples. Annalize explained what she was going to do and that she needed a medium. Waleed was the chosen one and had to have one hand on Selena with Annalize touching his wrist to complete the connection. She sounded like she was whispering something and when I enquired about it, she said she was asking Selena questions. It was definitely an experience outside of our comfort zone. But it was revelatory.

I think most of us see our dogs as physical beings that we share an emotional connection with. But we don't often contemplate how

deeply they feel and recognise that they are emotional beings too.

Annalize was able to contextualise Selena's anxiety for us. But she also gave us practical tips on how to deal with her. One of the things I now do, is tell her how long I will be away so that she doesn't need to wonder and it reduces her level of anxiety. She is really smart and understands when we speak to her. It has made such a huge difference.

The session opened my eyes to her emotional needs and how she was feeling. Her love language is words of affirmation and touch. We started understanding some of her quirks. She would often jump in front of Kygo when another dog approached him on walks, by way of protecting him. She does this with me and Waleed as well. Annelize told us that she is resource-guarding us.

There was also an incident at the daycare where she is a regular. There was a two-month-old puppy who was new to the daycare and was intimidated by the other dogs. Selena laid in front of the puppy creating a barrier with her body so that the other dogs couldn't get to the pup. She is extremely brave and is able to understand other dogs and humans' emotional needs.

The biggest impact the session had was on her eating habits. We always knew she had allergies and figured out most of it by trial and error. We knew that she was allergic to chicken, gluten and most preservatives. Annalize gave us a further list to avoid. She was on an elimination diet with me cooking 10kgs of hake for meal prep at a time.

follow Kygo & Selena

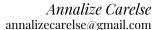
But she also got a list of supplements that were a game changer. There is a supplement we give her an hour before meals and then we add digestive enzymes to her food. We discovered that she could only eat rabbit, duck and beef. And since we've made these changes, mealtimes are a breeze. Most days she'll eat by herself but is still finickity, demanding to have her dinner served on a porcelain plate.

Annalize was also able to identify a potential issue with Selena's lower back and rear legs. We had noticed that she sometimes was light on one leg and had a physiotherapist and veterinarian check her out. They said her muscles were well developed and proportionate and couldn't detect any issues. But in winter, she was reluctant to hike in the cold and rain. Most mornings I let her sleep in. Annalize confirmed that she gets cold easily, so her clothes aren't just decorative in the colder months, they serve a purpose. She's also been going for laser therapy and acupuncture for her lower back and legs.

We had a remote follow-up session with Annalize a few months later since she's based in Jo'burg. This one was a bit strange because we supplied a pic of Selena and she used her husband as the medium. She then emailed us a report with things that we needed to adapt. She is also communicative with you on WhatsApp if there are any issues.

I have found the consults with Annalize very beneficial in helping me understand Selena a bit better and the recommendations have definitely made a world of a difference for us.





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AFRICAN PET HEALTH SUMMIT



GAUTENG - 29 & 30 March 2025

WESTERN CAPE - 5 APRIL 2025



Dr. Brendan Clarke

Dr. Brendan Clarke is a veterinary surgeon with extensive experience in both clinical practice and academia. He is highly regarded for his expertise in veterinary nutrition and preventive health care.

Meet Our Expert Speakers



Dr. Anna Hielm-Björkman

Dr. Anna Hielm-Björkman is a distinguished researcher and professor specializing in veterinary pain management and rehabilitation. She leads groundbreaking studies on the impact of diet on chronic diseases in pets.

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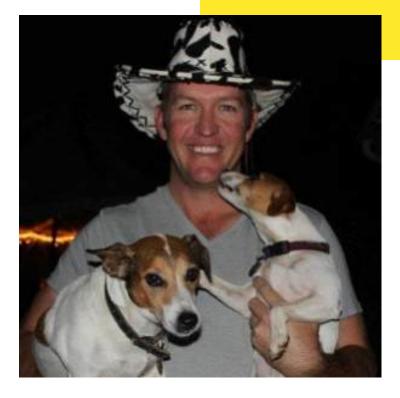
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NPO no: 000-234NPO





John Moon Manimal Welfare



John Moore Animal Welfare, a registered Community Veterinary Clinic and non-profit organization, was established in October 2017 by Dr. Helen McLean with the dream of making a positive difference in the lives of the animals in the surrounding, less fortunate communities.

After discussions with many members within these communities, it was established that the most pressing needs include reduction of the stray cat and dog population and affordable veterinary services for the owned and much-loved pets. John Moore Animal Welfare's mission is to uplift animal welfare in poor, under resourced and marginalized areas of Robertson and the surrounding community.

The welfare is aptly named after Dr. Helen's late brother-in-law, John Moore. John was tragically killed by a Wildebeest, along with his father, Mike whilst hiking with their family near their home farmlands. These two men died protecting John's Mom and sister who were present during the attack. They lived and died as heroes. John was an animal lover and generous to the core. We wish to honour him every day through this foundation.

What JMAW Offers

Primary Veterinary health care clinic weekly in one of the low-income areas of Robertson, offering affordable vaccinations, internal and external parasite control, and treatment of sick animals.

Subsidized or sponsored Sterilisations. Any resident living in these communities requesting sterilisation for their pets will be helped through John Moore Animal Welfare. Pets are brought to Cornerstone Veterinary Practice in Robertson, where they are sterilised.

All animals handed over for sterilisation are vaccinated, given preventative tick and flea treatment, and dewormed as we are dedicated to population control, believing strongly that this is the first step in disease prevention and community upliftment. Our goal through means of sterilization is aimed at greatly reducing the number of unwanted and uncared for dogs and cats. To keep the population of these animals in check, we need to maintain a consistent and continuous presence within our community.



Making a **Difference**

In addition to our weekly clinic, we hold regular mass sterilization days. Many healthy pets face euthanasia each month because there are not enough homes. Did you know that an unsterilized female dog, her mate, and their unsterilized offspring can produce 67 000 dogs altogether in 6 years?

"Sterilisation is the only way we can prevent unwanted litters from being born."

Since starting our clinics in October of 2017, we have treated over one hundred and fifty animals with severe disease. Ninety percent of these cases were diseases preventable through routine vaccination and parasite control, Parvovirus and Tick Bite Fever making up eighty percent of the total. Research has shown that there are simply not enough resources or loving homes to cater for a growing population of strays. Out of the estimated 14.9 million dogs and cats in South Africa, 4.1 million are considered strays. Stray animals usually aren't vaccinated, leading to the transmission of rabies and other life-threatening diseases to other animal populations. This highlights the need for preventative medicine and primary health care.

Education Programme

We understand the significance of education. To quote the late Nelson Mandela "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

Visiting schools and holding educational talks allow us to share our knowledge and passion with the children in order to ensure that they understand the importance of the five freedoms for animals. Our vet, Dr. Marianne Van der Mescht, is usually accompanied by her Doberman, Gibbs, to demonstrate how to safely approach and handle their pets and also to show the kids what healthy and happy dogs look like.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As a registered Non-profit, we are able to issue a section 18 tax receipt for any donations made. We rely solely on the generosity and support of our community.

BANK DETAILS

John Moore Animal Welfare Trust Standard Bank Robertson Branch Code: 051001 Account number: 10160176172

Contact Michelle at johnmooreanimalwelfare1@gmail.com to LEARN MORE

JOHN MOORE ANIMAL WELFARE

uplifting animal welfare in underprivileged areas of Robertson and surrounding communities.

- Registered Community Veterinary Clinic and NPO NPO 000-234
- Primary health veterinary care with focus on prevention of illness and disease.
- Sterilization campaigns
- Educational programmes





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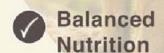
Confused by the Myths Surrounding

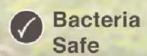
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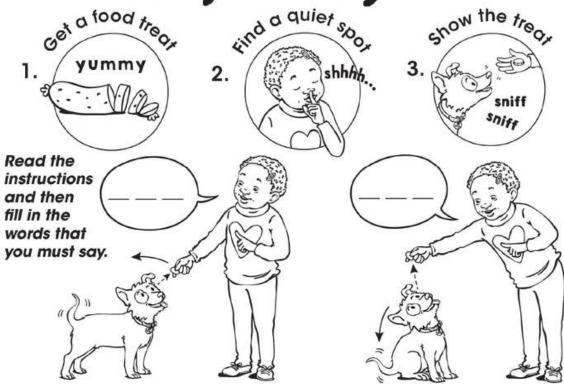
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Every Pet Deserves The Best

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for the kids 130

Teach your dog to SIT



- 4. Move your hand with the treat slowly above the dog's head so that it will start to tilt backwards. Keep your hand quite close to the head. Say the word "SIT" as you move your hand so your dog learns the word.
- As your dog watches your hand, its bottom will move down towards the ground. When you see its bottom touch the ground, say: "YES"

TIP

Some dogs may jump up to get the treat. If this happens, we often move our hand higher and the dog jumps more. After showing the dog the treat, close it in your hand and keep your hand low over the dog's head so that it does not need to jump.



Be patient. If it is not working, take a break and try again later. We all learn at different paces and leaning takes time.



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Thank-you to The Underdog Project their input and ideas.

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