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Welcome to our Spring Edition newsletter!

Looking back over the last 3 months

The last three months at JWVH have been unusually busy as we have been inundated with many different kinds of animals needing our support and treatment.

There have been a number of shocking and sad events. Some of these relate to the number of Pangolins that we have rescued and/or treated at the hospital; the 18 Servals that have come through our doors in just this short period; and the knowledge of the inhumane treatment of especially reptiles, among others.

Working in this environment can bring a sense of sadness and hopelessness and attimes it feels as if you cannot succeed at making a difference.

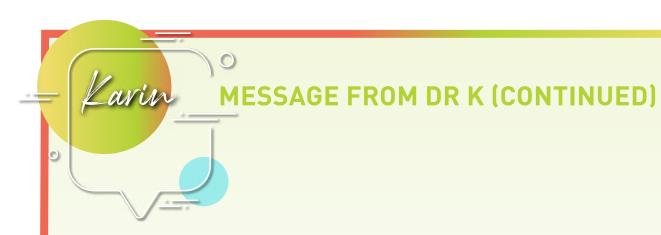
However, we are also reminded of the good and this gives us hope!

There have been a number of interventions and help from various people and institutions that continue to amaze us! It brings us joy in the knowledge that there is still so much passion in the world for saving animals. And so many of those people support JWVH!

FOR THIS NEWSLETTER, WE HAVE SELECTED SOME OF THE MANY TALES OVER THIS WINTER PERIOD, SOME SAD AND SOME WONDEROUS. WE HOPE YOU FIND THESE INFORMATIVE AND ENJOY READING THEM.



Mahatma Gandhi



Looking ahead...

For most, spring is associated with new beginnings, transformations, and rebirth. Spring brings with it excitement for the summer ahead. It is a symbol of starting over. In South Africa, it is also a time when people look forward to hot days, braais and December holidays.

And animals get spring fever too!

It is the time when, among other things, the growth of plants provides food and nesting material for many species, and this in turn results in the – literal – rebirthing process. This cycle of nature is unending but brings with it its own challenges...

For those of us at JWVH, it means that the influx of animals (especially baby birds and mammals), increases exponentially. As such, there is immense demand for the treatment and care of animals that live with and around us...This puts a great deal of strain on our capacity, resources, and financial ability to deal with everything involved in the treatment and care of these animals, but we love what we do, and we embrace these challenges as part of our continual advancement and growth.

Some food for thought

A new home a priority

There have been a few developments in our search for new premises. As mentioned in our Winter edition, we are looking in and around the area where we are currently situated, and we have identified a few properties that could fit our needs. Please refer to page 6 for information on how you can support this initiative.

In closing

Thank you to the staff and volunteers at JWVH. I have the utmost admiration and gratitude for your commitment, dedication, and respect for what you do, and the animals that we treat. Not even the smallest creatures are below your care and attention.

As always, thank you one and all, to our donors and their support without which we would not be able to do what we do.

Dr Karin Lourens





Dr K

Dr Karin Lourens is the co-founder and head veterinarian of the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital. She qualified in 2002 and started her veterinary career in small animal practice. She developed an interest in wildlife veterinary medicine in 2010, especially wildlife rehabilitation of small and medium South African species.

Dr K opened the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital in 2017 and combined it with a wildlife rehabilitation centre, the only one of its kind in South Africa. Dr K is passionate about conservation and has worked with more than 300 indigenous species of birds, mammals, and reptiles.

The goal of this facility is the treatment, rehabilitation, and release of wild animals back into the wild. One of the species the hospital specialises in is the Temminck's pangolin. Dr K has gained extensive experience in treating and rehabilitating this species and completed her master's degree in February 2020 (cum laude) on the normal reference intervals for clinical chemistry and haematology in the Temminck's pangolin - this work has since been published in Frontiers of Veterinary Science.

Dr K is co-author of several published pieces, and she is a member of the IUCN SSC Pangolin Specialist Group. She is the most experienced veterinarian, worldwide, treating this species of pangolin.

Dr K is working towards opening a teaching facility for veterinary students and nurses interested in treating and rehabilitating small and medium South African wildlife.



Wendy Willson

Wendy Willson has been working with domestic, wild, and livestock animals throughout her childhood and adult life.

After finishing University where she received a degree in Archaeology and Anthropology, Wendy embarked on a multifaceted career dedicated to animal welfare and law enforcement. Wendy's passion for fighting animal crime has seen her:

- in the ranks of the South African Police Service;
- in the field of conservation;
- as the founder and manager of the NSPCA Special Investigations Unit, focusing primarily on detection, interception, and prosecution of premeditated acts of animal cruelty and organised criminal activities such as dog fighting; and
- as the 2018 recipient of the Woman in Law Enforcement Award of Heroism for her dedication and acts of bravery in combating violent animal crime.

Wendy has been involved in animal conservation and crime prevention in different countries and has spoken on multiple national and international platforms on subjects such as prosecution of animal crime, the human/animal crime interface, violence against humans and animals, and animal welfare.

Wendy joined the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital in 2022 as Operations and Legal lead and became a director in 2023. In this capacity, she was part of JWVH's recent undertaking to pursue legal recourse for all the underrepresented wild animal species who had been victims of crime.

She has already achieved remarkable results in court to ensure that the risk of engaging in illegal activities and premeditated cruelty (with these species) outweighs the reward.

Elna Pretorius

Elna co-founded Columinate in 2008, being the first digital market research agency in South Africa. In 2018, the company was acquired by Human8 and at the time of sale, the company was one of the biggest market research companies in the country, employing over 50 people.

Elna is a research psychologist by training and is skilled in managing client relationships, sales, marketing, branding and people. She is also passionate about PR, people development and enjoys developing strategies for companies. Elna "retired" at age 34 with a list of accolades and awards to her name. Elna now lends her skills part-time to select NPOs.

She served on the Gauteng EXCO board for Reach for a Dream and delivered their 2023 strategy pro bono. Elna became a director of Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital in 2023 and she hopes to lend her business expertise to the hospital to facilitate growth and expansion for the ambitious team.

She also hopes she will one day be able to spell 'veterinary' without using her spell checker!





Small donations, the things you don't need, the things you don't want or greenery from your garden

Spring is here and this means that there will an even bigger influx of animals and birds (babies and adults) of all sizes that will need our care.

Our successes have made the increased workload worthwhile but have driven up our costs in day-to-day consumables, medical stock, and surgical bills among other things. We commit to providing the highest medical and recovery care possible for injured, displaced, and abused wildlife.

The consequences of this are monthly costs of approximately R300 000. Every R1 helps! If only 20 000 people donated R1 a month, we would be covering 7% of our monthly running costs! Please consider loading us as a beneficiary and joining our cause!

All other contributions are welcome! This could be blankets, vegetables, or any other items that are used in our hospital each day. Please refer to page 21 of this newsletter to see some of the things we need.

Please get in touch with Justine if you would like to support this fundraiser: 071 422 4502

"The key to success is collective responsibility."

A new home

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we are growing beyond the space that we are currently occupying and need a new location! This will allow us to continue doing what we do best – helping animals. The future of wildlife, for the benefit of our planet and for the joy and education of future generations, is in our hands...and in your hands.

And to keep growing, we need space.

Additionally, our medium-term goal is to offer a better opportunity to current and future vets, vet nurses, and active citizens who would like to learn about wildlife.

We identified a new premises that has two buildings and large grounds, and has the potential to be the perfect hospital. We are making a concerted effort to secure assistance with funding for this project.

Help us in maintaining a centre that empowers everyone to take steps in realising this goal.

<u>Click here</u> to have a part in the future of wildlife.

Shop till you drop

Visit our online store for the loveliest wildlife-inspired products! Included in our stock are:

- #PangoPeaks from Blewberry;
- two different custom-made Relate Bracelets;
- mini KREET pangolins;
- copper poppers and pendants from First Prize; and
- lovely *Collective Nouns for Africa* book in stock, buffs, shopping bags, BraveBooks children's pangolin reader, and more!

Please support us - this online store helps keep our doors open to urban wildlife in need.

<u>Click here</u> to shop.





SKY-HIGH SUPPORT

The Kilimanjaro Adventure

They arrived, they climbed, they conquered! The **Kusudi La Adventures** team is back from its Kilimanjaro adventure where it successfully summitted and raised much needed funds for us!

We are in AWE of the dedication and commitment it took to train for the adventure. We are eternally grateful for the funds raised throughout this undertaking! Thank you to every single one of you that climbed a mountain and brought us along for the climb!

For more information on the Kusudi La team, and if you are considering an adventure in the future, <u>click here</u>

The Rhino Peak Challenge

Special thanks to Angus for his incredible efforts at the Rhino Peak Challenge 2023. The Rhino Peak Challenge (RPC) is a conservation fundraiser that takes place in the Maloti Drakensberg World Heritage Site each year.

Angus represented the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the Johannesburg Wildlife Veterinary Hospital. He has shown exemplary commitment to conservation. We are so grateful for his participation and the funds he has raised, and continues to raise, for these crucial causes.

Click here

NOTE: ARTICLES HAVE BEEN SHORTENED AND SUMMARISED FOR EASE OF READING..

SATURDAY, 09 SEPTEMNER 2023



Bramley

Bramley was rescued when an Uber driver noticed a moving suitcase in the vehicle during a trip from Sandton to Pretoria. The driver strategically stopped at a police roadblock and three suspects were arrested.

Inside the suitcase was a Temminck's pangolin and Inspector Godfrey and the JWV team took custody of Bramley at the Bramley Police Station (after which she is named). Bramley was pregnant and had injured front claws and damaged scales. After a medical examination, she received special treatment and tube feeding with Virbac Nutribound.

Bramley was then walked daily for hours at a time as Temminck's pangolins do not eat in captivity.

A collective effort from the Uber driver (anonymous - we wish we knew his name!), Inspector Godfrey, and law enforcement agencies ensured this endangered animal was saved from a grim fate.

After her recovery, Bramley was flown to a new home thanks to the Zululand Conservation Trust and the Bateleurs, with pilot Francois du Plessis at the helm. We are grateful to everyone who played a part in Bramley's story and wish her well as she prepares to give birth in the wild.

Current status: Bramley was released into a private reserve, where she is expected to give birth in the wild.



Thank you to our dedicated pangolin walkers, and the various other teams on the ground. A massive thank you to Khamab Kalahari Reserve, working with Wildlife's pangolin release specialist Francois Meyer and Glen Thompson for your unrelenting dedication with one of our pangolins, Spyker. All pangolin patients are monitored 24/7 as their protection is of the utmost necessity if we are to save this species.

For the original post of these special creatures, <u>click here</u>

The number of Temminck's pangolins that have been rescued in sting operations and treated in our Investecsponsored location for treatment in the past 2 weeks:



On the evening of the 29th of May, we were called to collect a pangolin from Walkerville after a successful sting operation where 3 arrests were made.

(Thank you to the following units involved: Sedibeng VCIU, Midvaal Peace Officers, Green Scorpions, Vereeniging Stock Theft Unit, COMPOL).

Current status: Blossom has begun her slow-release journey into the wild on a private and safe reserve.



2 | TULIP

A young female Temminck's pangolin was safely retrieved after a vehicle was stopped. All suspects fled. We collected Tulip in Ventersdorp in May. After weeks within our care, Tulip was walked daily by our dedicated pangolin walkers.

Current status: Tulip has now begun her journey in a slow-release process on a private and safe reserve.

3 & 4 | OAK AND VIOLET

Hawks's Serious
Organised Crime
Investigation Unit
arrested four suspects
who were trying to sell two
pangolins in Mahikeng. One,
a young female pangolin, and
the other, a large male pangolin.
Oak and Violet were collected by our
team en-route to collecting Tulip. Oak
was euthanized due to his inability to
recover from his extreme emaciation
and the almost 4 week ordeal spent
with his poachers.

Current status: Violet has been sent to the same private reserve as Tulip for the beginning of her slow release process into the wild.

5 | CASSIUS

Cassius was rescued from a successful sting operation in Benoni. Weighing around 3kg, he was tiny and in a dire straits; the main claw on both front feet appeared to have been removed, exposing the bone. Initially he was non-responsive.

Unfortunately, two days after receiving intravenous fluids, dextrose and warmth, this tiny creature succumbed to his injuries. He had been on the trade and away from his mum for what we suspect was quite some time, given his poor condition.

6 | NALEDI

Naledi also came from Mahikeng, after a vehicle search revealed a large bag with a pangolin in it. She was rescued and four men were arrested. The men had been out on bail after being arrested previously for pangolin poaching earlier that week.

After what we suspect was a lengthy time in the trade, Naledi unfortunately succumbed to her severely compromised state and passed away. As a result, we lost both her and her unborn baby.

7 | SPYKER

Spyker is a pangolin from the North West province. He is a sub-adult male retrieved from a sting operation completed by Hawks's Directorate of Priority Crimes Investigation Unit (DPCI), North West Directorate of Biodiversity Management and the South African Police Force (SAPS). Three arrests were made.

Current status: Spyker was released and is doing well!



Petunia

A young female Cape porcupine (Hystrix africaeaustralis) was found within the Pretoria area with bilateral back leg injuries. We are not too sure what caused this injury. What was interesting is that it has impacted both back legs in the same way.

She was sedated and her injuries examined, cleaned, treated, and bandaged. Changing dressings on a wild and feisty porcupine is only possible under sedation. Dr K had to sedate her to change her dressings every third day. Thankfully, she healed quickly - we think mostly due to her enormous appetite.

The protected and beautifully rewilded natural space of Steyn City and the adjacent Porcupine Park was a perfect place for the soft release of Petunia. The Steyn City Management Association was delighted to welcome her. Porcupines are mini digging machines and are a key driver of biodiversity, creating texture and aiding in the dispersion of bulbs and seeds.

A big thank you to Pienaar Papenfus and the Steyn City Management Association who worked with us and went over and above to ensure the release of this feisty little porcupine was a success.

Current status: Successful release. Petunia is still a star on camera and with a new friend!

For the original post (and to read more about Petunia's release adventures!), <u>click here</u>



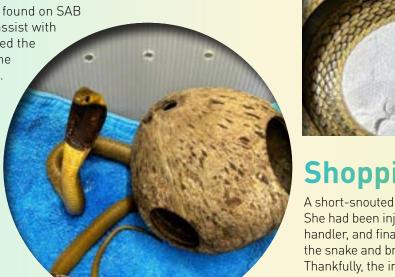


Tiny danger noodle

This Cape cobra (Naja nivea) was found on SAB premises and we were called to assist with the removal. Grant Fairley captured the tiny snake, and Dr K found that she only had a small puncture wound. Thankfully, she had a speedy recovery. This little lady needed some rehydration and for that we used Virbac Nutribound.

While staying with us, this cobra fell in love with her 'coconut house' crafted by a volunteer - spending much time in this unique abode!

Current status:Successfully released.





Shopping injury

A short-snouted grass snake (Psammophis brevirostris) was found in the parking lot of a mall. She had been injured when someone deliberately ran over her tail with a shopping trolley. Snake handler, and final year vet student, Carla Goede, along with Natasha Wright, managed to rescue the snake and bring her to our hospital. She had severe crushing injuries and deep lacerations. Thankfully, the injuries were all below the cloaca, and a tail amputation was possible.

Current status: Successfully released.

Raked

This beautiful Aurora house snake (Lamprophis aurora) was found in the Walkerville area after it was accidentally raked over. The snake was treated with anti-inflammatories and pain medication, as was tube fed EmerAidVet Carnivore until she began eating on her own.

Current status: Successfully released.





Next stop, freedom

Remember the serval kittens we introduced you to? Their stay with us involved much enrichment to keep their curious minds engaged!

They spent time in a slow-release enclosure on the reserve that would become their new home where they were fed daily by the reserve team. After becoming accustomed to their new surroundings, they began catching their own food and relying less on the reserve for their food offerings. They received their final rabies vaccination from Dr K and the gates of their slow-release cage were open and they were free to go!

We hope you love this short clip of them exploring some new foliage in their new enclosure as much as we do!

Watch

Current status: They are regularly spotted by the team on the ground and we are pleased to report that they are doing well!



Two serval siblings were found on a small holding when the owners of the property investigated why their dogs were barking. They monitored the kittens and unfortunately the mother never returned, possibly having been frightened off by the dogs.

The two were brought to our hospital dehydrated and emaciated, indicating that their mother had not been back for some time. They recovered and were eating incredibly

well. They continued on their journey and moved to an outside enclosure where they will grow and further develop.

Current status: Still in our care with their slow-release process being imminent.







Spotted trio

Another three serval kittens are in our care at the moment! Members of the public found these three little ones while cleaning out their shed. After this find, the space was left alone - however, after two days, the mother had still not come back, and these little lives were in peril. They were brought to us for immediate intervention and raising.

At around 10 days old, they are still incredibly young and require round-the-clock feeding and care.

Current status: These babies are still at the hospital and are now lapping at milk and beginning to sample solid food items.





Fledgling

A young Black-winged kite (Elanus caeruleus) was found grounded in June. This little fledgling would still have been under the care of its parents. In these situations, it is best to leave the bird unless it is injured or in danger. However, when in doubt, we are always here to examine or advise on wildlife you find.

Initially, this little one was dehydrated and would not eat on his own. He was tube fed EmerAidVet Carnivore when he first came in. Now, he is eating well and gaining weight and he will soon be old enough to be released back into the wild.

Current status: Successfully released.

Dog bite

A Hadeda ibis (Bostrychia hagedash) was found in a garden on Bellairs Drive and was brought to us. A medical examination suggests that this poor bird was bitten by a dog, resulting in multiple puncture wounds on his right thigh and most of his flight feathers missing on one wing.

The bird was anaesthetised, the wound was cleaned, and the injury partially sutured to enable it to drain (dog and cat bites often get badly infected and sometimes only days later pus starts to drain from the wound). So far, he is healing well. Initially, he was tube fed EmerAidVet Carnivore, but now he is predominantly eating on his own. We are optimistic of a full recovery, and he will go back to where he came from - this time in the neighbour's garden, with no dogs.

Current status: Successfully released.



Beautiful bird

A sub-adult black sparrowhawk (Accipiter melanoleucus) was found grounded on a small holding in the Kempton Park area. As it is unusual for a bird of prey like this to be lying on the ground, and easily approached, there was concern that the hawk was injured.

We suspected a mild concussion and possibly an impact with a branch. Thankfully with some pain meds and anti-inflammatories, she made a very quick recovery. After just two days in the hospital, this beauty was ready to go back to where she was found

Current status: Successfully released.



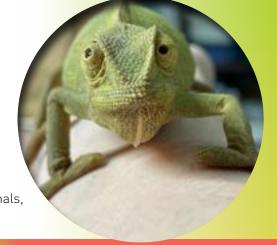


CHAMELEON CRUELTY

Chameleons reach our hospital suffering from conditions such as dehydration, starvation, injury, and disease from their extended traumatic ordeal with poachers.

South Africa is one of the few African countries that has multiple laws in place to protect these animals from exploitation and cruelty. However, a law is only as strong as its enforcement. Despite being incredibly important animals facing unprecedented threats to their population, this group of animals get little attention in mainstream conservation and protection efforts.

A vicious cycle is created - little to no risk of detection, prosecution or punishment for these crimes has resulted in rampant illegal behaviour and cruelty contraventions pertaining to our indigenous reptiles being rife. By continuing to ignore crimes against these animals, we reinforce a societal belief that these animals are either not in any danger or not worth protecting.



Landmark case in Krugersdorp Court

SUMMARY: Rapule Punna Elias Mokwena was found guilty on 13 counts of animal cruelty and illegal activities involving protected wild animals in the Krugersdorp Magistrate Court. Known for poaching reptiles and selling them in Tarlton, Johannesburg, Mokwena faced an 18-month-long legal battle led by Johannesburg Wildlife Vet (JWV) and Friends of Rescued Animals (FORA).

A guilty verdict of animal cruelty and illegal activities with protected wild animals was passed down by the Magisterial court of Krugersdorp to Mr Rapule Punna Elias Mokwena or "Doctor" as he is known to the Tarlton community.

The case culminated in a 45-month prison sentence (of which only a portion was suspended) and without option of a fine. This is the highest ever for such crimes and included a ban on Mokwena's future ownership of animals. Both organisations and the community rallied to bring this notorious poacher to justice.

Thank you to the FORA team who never once stopped responding to animals in crisis, and to prosecutor Kananani Muvhenzhe and our loyal supporters who without which we would not have been able to treat the rescued animals, open this docket nor bring this fight to court.



A WIN FOR SNAKES IN COURT

SUMMARY: Johan Dippenaar was fined R4 000 or a nine-month prison sentence for torturing indigenous South African snakes. The case was built by JWV and Virginia SPCA, with expert testimony on the sensitivity and habits of the snakes.

The magistrate court emphasised that animal cruelty is a serious crime that must be acted upon. Driven by common purpose, the legal teams and both animal welfare organisations ensured justice was served for these often-overlooked creatures.

Animal lovers from around the country hold little hope that justice would be secured for snakes or rats who are two of the most persecuted wild species in the world.

Our team joined forces with Virginia SPCA, Free State, South Africa to compile a comprehensive docket of expert evidence and charges were laid by Inspector Khakhau.

In his two-day testimony as a subject matter expert, our own Grant Fairley addressed the court on the habits and sensitivity of the snakes, the terror that they experience and the trauma that they suffer at the hands of an unskilled person.

Thank you to State Advocate Antoinette Ferreira, Virginia Inspector Khakhau, and Chairperson Mrs Thea Smit. Thank you to our own Wendy Willson and Grant Fairley for their dedication, long hours, and multiple court trips in the pursuit of justice for all these animals.





At the Johannesburg Wildlife Vet, we treat indigenous wildlife free of charge, relying solely on our generous community for donations and support. Our clinical staff have put together a list of items that would make our clinic even more effective!

FEEDBACK AND OUR THANKS FOR HELPING US MEET SOME OF OUR SMALLER GOALS

Thank you to everyone who contributed and "shared" and whose actions helped us obtain some of the items on our wish list!.

Cosmic pets carriers

We partnered with <u>Different.org</u> to purchase more of our most used and cherished pet carriers. <u>Cosmic Pets</u> offers a great discount to welfare organisations, and we are lucky to benefit from their generosity! Different.org generously allocated R5 for every "share" that happened via the Facebook and Twitter buttons on our campaign on their website.

We successfully raised R24 000 to buy our carriers! We are awaiting this payout and, in the meantime, we are selecting sizes of carriers to meet our needs. Thank you everyone for your support!

Inverter

We were nominated to win an inverter by Lins Rautenbach on the 702 show with John Pearlman! We were ecstatic when we won as it brings much relief to know that we can keep compromised patients warm or on oxygen and also keep phones charged, irrespective of load shedding!

Thank you to Lins Rautenbach, 702, FNB Business and Prime Media!

Small businesses and NPCs are living through challenging times with loadshedding, and this has made our lives a little easier.

Linen and household items

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated towels, blankets, and linen among other items!

WHAT WE STILL NEED



- Pet plastic carriers: Vari kennels (all sizes to transport animals)
- Transport boxes: wooden
- Plastic (light weight) dog igloos/kennels
- Specialised catch nets
- Aviary net



- Plastic pump bottles and spray bottles
- Duct tape
- Cable ties (all sizes)
- Two Wendy houses/wooden huts



- Tissues and toilet paper
- Repti-Glo- 5.0 UVB screw and bayonet globes
- Exo-Terra -40W Heat wave lamp (Ceramic heat emitters)
- Heating pads plastic heating pads used for reptiles sold as "Repto Zoo Heating Mat"
- Blankets (no grey dog blankets or knitted blankets)



- Kaytee parrot hand rearing formula phase 1 (sold in most exotic pet stores)
- Royal Canin Kitty milk
- Royal Canin Puppy milk
- Eggs
- Mealworms and crickets (www.silkwormshop.co.za)
- Floating duck pellets (available from Midfeeds/ Milmac)
- Wild bird seed
- Sorghum



- Automatic washing powder
- Scrubbing brushes
- Tea cloths
- F10 cleaning products (available from any large vet practice or pet store)



- Copy paper
- Whiteboard markers
- Laminating pouches
- Clipboards plastic only

DROP OFF AND COLLECTION DETAILS:

Please arrange a drop off at our clinic: 101 Macgillivray Road, Midrand, Johannesburg.

Alternatively, contact us to arrange collection: info@JWVH.org.za
https://www.johannesburgwildlifevet.com/our-wishlist.html

