



The Society for Animals in Distress

CASE STUDY





Breaking barriers for animals in Diepsloot Extensions!

the society for
animals in distress®

Programme Outcome Evaluation



The Society is a welfare veterinary care provider;

We drive access to veterinary care for animals in low to no income targeted communities.

We operate with courtesy, inclusion and professionalism when dealing with communities and their animals.

A programme outcome evaluation was completed in August 2020 to determine if animal health is stabilised in Diepsloot and the long-term effectiveness of domestic animal health services delivered by SAID AHT (Animal Health Technician) mobile units.

And, to inform decisions about whether to continue or replicate or scale up programmes.



Our Journey

A brief history of how we came to serve animals in Diepsloot

◆ The Early Days

The Society has been serving the population of Diepsloot for 17 years.

◆ Expansion and Growth

Still today, a densely populated township in Gauteng, South Africa with a conservatively estimated population of between 350,000 and 400,000 people, living in a district divided into “12 extensions”

◆ Diepsloot Situation

It is made up of brick houses built by landowners, a mix of public housing blocks, and shacks made of corrugated iron and plastic lining.

Residents reliant on outbuildings for sanitation.

45.5% of residents rent their property from a landowner who has subdivided their land.

While the main road is paved, the side streets are gravel, ditches, and stagnant waste. The informal streets are a maze.

The township is surrounded by open fields and farms, while the closest neighbourhoods are wealthy gated communities.



A brief history of the animals



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◆ Shifts in Direction for animals

The problem in Diepsloot was the critical need for veterinary care. Veterinary need's assessments were conducted by SAID veterinary professionals, collaborators, and community actors to evaluate approaches.

Maintaining dog population size and demography in balance with human ideals with aims including reducing the number of unwanted dogs, keeping wanted dogs in a good state of health and welfare, and minimising risks presented by dogs to public health and other animals. An example of a problem targeted by dog population management is reducing the high birth and mortality rates. (Euthenasia)

Findings exposed thin, hungry dogs and cats with untreated injuries, uncontrolled breeding, unsafe environments, infectious diseases, most not immunised by vaccination. High numbers of free-roaming dogs a concern.

According to the World Animal Health Association (OIE), achieving 70% vaccination coverage (Conan A, 2015), where dog population turnover is high, is feasible but challenging.

Sterilization of at least 70% to 83% (Widyastuti MD, 2015;) of females is often mentioned as a target to achieve for population reduction.

The condition of the animals were the result of several issues including, no access to affordable veterinary services in the community, lack of knowledge on how to better care of their animals.

The Goals

improve domestic animal environments.

improve care provided to animals.

reduce dog and cat population density.

stabilise population turnover.

reduce risks to public health.

improve public perception.

reduce intake and increase annual live release rates to improve animal shelter and animal rehoming performance.

reduce negative impact of dogs on livestock (cows and chickens).

reduce rates of roaming animals in traffic accidents.



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2020

Programme Outcomes

sterilised most of the animals to stabilise the populations.

improved animal health in the community.

identified and administered veterinary treatments, zoonoses, other disease vaccinations, and deworming.

provided environment safety inspections, kennels, yard leashes, blankets, and some dog food.

educated adults and children in the community about dog and cat health and appropriate care.

monitored, evaluated, and protected community animal health and environment consistently.



Where we stand today



Key Findings

- ✓ 40% of dwellings own 5 animals, per household.
60% of dwellings own 2-3 animals, per household.
70% AHT (Animal Health Technicians) success rate engaging households for pet sterilisations, on the 1st visit.
- ✓ 70% dogs and cats sterilized.
70% vaccination rate.
2% animal owners are dog breeders.
10% new owners represent the fluctuation of residents.
18% do not own animals.
- ✓ 20% of animal clinical cases were exposed while servicing the area.
Property landowners remain static while 30% of their tenants keep animals.
40% of the time, constituents' flag down the SAID mobile unit and rely on their consistent presence in the area.

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Geographical Reach



Comparatively, Diepsloot Extension's 4, 9 & 10 statistics match Extension 2's statistics.

- ✓ Diepsloot Extension 5 houses mainly dog breeders.
Barriers to veterinary service delivery their rejection to sterilisation

Extensions 7, 12 and 13 are temporary dwellings (informal camps) with 70% - 80% animals sterilised

- ✓ 90% sterilisation secured around the Diepsloot Northern Farm Nature Reserve

AHT mobile units, target areas all the way to Greater Tembisa, Gauteng.

- ✓ Comparatively, Tembisa communities know and use our Emergency number, 083 640 8825.

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Conclusion

Domestic animal health services delivered by SAID AHT mobile units in Diepsloot helped strengthen South African Veterinary Services to deliver effective control, governance, animal health and veterinary public safety for people in the district.



2020



Sector

Significantly Improved collaboration between The Society's veterinary services and local animal welfare organisations.





Best Practice

The programme is part of a continuing process at promoting best practices, transparency, and capacity of Veterinary Services to address animal welfare.



2020



Animals

The important role that domestic animals play in almost all human communities, whether as working animals or companions, cannot be denied.





Funding

The Society for Animals in Distress programmes have demonstrated that strategically targeted animal health, social interventions and partner funding can make a big impact.



Sustainability

Animals present risks to human communities and suffer welfare problems themselves, and so efforts to manage their populations to reduce risks and maintain good welfare will always be needed.

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Impact Indicators



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✓ Responsibility donations

Donations by animal owners for veterinary treatments indicate improved attitudes of ownership and animal value.

✓ Education

A notable indicator of people being more receptive to animal welfare education

✓ Value Perceptions

Significantly improved perceptions of the value of veterinary interventions in relation to the list of charges suggested by The Society for Animals in Distress and South African Veterinary Council

✓ Collaboration

Collaboration has increased improved ownership and involvement.

✓ Veterinary care

Increase in the number of dogs voluntarily brought to The Society's hospital

✓ Concern for pets

'Responsibility'
A significant change in attitude of dog and cat owners as they proactively seek vaccinations.



"In their own words"

The programme's legacy of change

◆ Bonga Mhlongacala, Diepsloot constituent

"Wonderful service, professional and excellent care for animals; my Puppy Minnie is was in good hands...stayed weeks with them and came home healthy, happy, and naughty just how I love my dogs! Thank you!"

◆ Tamsin - Irwin Animal Rescue NPO owner and collaborator

'The team is professional, organised, with a sterile hospital set up... I believe what sets it apart is that the field teams collect and deliver animals where generally the pet owners are responsible for bringing their animals in. The field teams also do an incredible job of educating the community of the post-care requirements and regarding pet care in general'. 'If SAID has the means and the capacity to extend their services, it would be a shame not to!'

Steynsrus Outreach

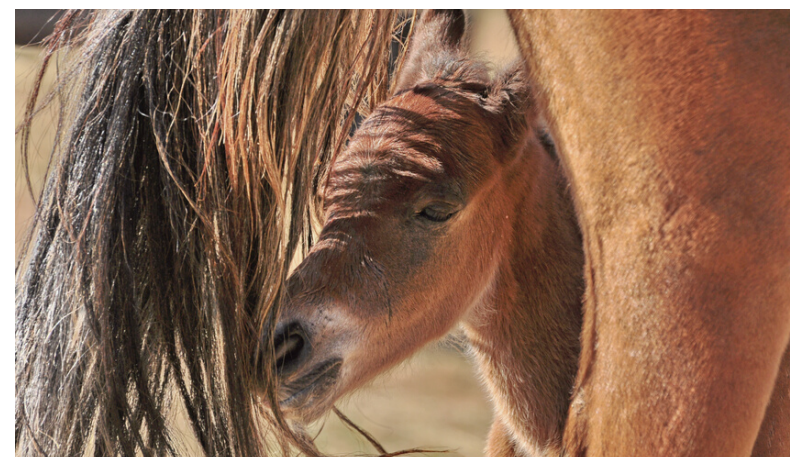
◆ Ruth, Diepsloot Ext. 2 constituent

"These people that are here for the dogs, they are so good, so caring.

You know, I love them because if we have got a problem, we can call them, they come, they assist us. I know the numbers (Emergency and Hospital number), we just call them they assist us. We've got 3 dogs and all of them are sterilised."



Steynsrus Outreach



"The number of people sent by SAID to work enabled them to do the job properly and efficiently. Proper equipment was sent. There were enough proper supplies and experienced personnel. There were properly trained people to educate as well as just do the work. There was transport available to fetch and return dogs.

There was an extremely high level of professionalism, training, knowledge, and co-operation among the SAID people and this made it easier for those of us who are untrained volunteers to be useful and do proper jobs as well. There was a great unity and spirit of caring and co-operation between the SAID staff. The vet Chris was very caring about everyone – leading from the front and checking at night that everyone ate, had what they needed, felt safe, secure and able to sleep.

The SAID people were very good with all the locals, from the town and from the township, and there was a very positive and motivated feeling all the time"

Ceri Von Ludwig of Ceri Von Ludwig Attorney
Community organiser and volunteer

@SaidFundraiser



@tsfaid



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Questions? Email fundraiser@animalsindistress.org.za