



the society for
animals in distress®



Annual Report

2022 / 2023

animalsindistress.org.za

“—
| No act of kindness, no matter
how small, *is ever wasted.*”



Thank you.

We're approaching the kinder world we
aspire to, thanks to **your** support.

OUR LEADERSHIP



Meg Harvey
Chief Executive Officer



Douglas Wolhuter
Operations Manager



Sandra Hwadaya
Principal Veterinarian



Keshvi Nair
Fundraising Coordinator



Sally-Jayne Tagg
Administration Manager



Obert Mahlangu
Equine Supervisor



Etshumael Ncube
Maintenance Supervisor

**DREAM
TEAM**



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**“I am deeply moved by the enduring
commitment and compassion that defines
our community.”**



Dear Esteemed Members,

As we celebrate the 65th year of The Society for Animals in Distress, I am deeply moved by the enduring commitment and compassion that defines our community. In a year marked by economic and social challenges, your steadfast support has been a shining light, guiding us through adversity and towards a hopeful future.

This year has been one of significant milestones. Our world-class animal hospital has continued to be a sanctuary of healing for countless animals. The successful launch of the Barn Shop has not only showcased our community's generosity but also significantly bolstered our mission. Further, our dedicated efforts in equine care have expanded our reach, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to all creatures.

Despite financial hurdles, the extraordinary success of our annual Golf Day, coupled with the generous support of our benefactors, has reinforced our financial stability. This, alongside prudent management, ensures that we continue to move forward on a sustainable path.

The heart of our organization lies in the dedication of our staff and volunteers. Your tireless work, passion, and commitment are the driving force behind our achievements. The introduction of new team members has brought fresh energy and expertise, strengthening our foundation for future successes.

As we prepare for another year of meaningful animal welfare work, I extend my deepest gratitude to each of you. Your commitment is the cornerstone of our success. Together, we continue to make a substantial difference in the lives of animals.

Thank you for being a part of this remarkable journey. Here's to advancing our mission and making even greater strides in the years to come.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse Doorasamy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jesse Doorasamy
Chairman

WHAT YOU'VE HELPED ACHIEVE

**Advanced animal
welfare education**

**Prevented disease
spread through
treatment.**

**Improved coal-yard
equine welfare.**

**Expanded veterinary
care access**

**Enhanced farm animal
welfare particularly in
indigent communities.**

**Increased
training of
veterinary and
para-veterinary
professionals**

**Improved stray
animal
overpopulation
through
sterilization
programmes.**





"Our intention is to change the trajectory of our beautiful nation by changing the way our animals and people are treated."

At first glance, the Society for Animals in Distress tells a story of thousands of animals that have been impacted positively by our tenacious and dedicated organisation - but if you take a deeper look, you will find that many more people have been positively impacted by our work. At SAID, we are not only dedicated to the preservation, protection, and upliftment of animals - we are also committed to the people.

2023 has been an exceptional year and despite the many challenges that our organisation faced, we have made significant progress in our mission to help owners and animals in need. Our dedicated staff, board, volunteers and supporters have been central to our success, going above and beyond to provide exceptional care and support to impoverished communities and other Animal Welfare Organisations.

In centuries gone by, animals have been instrumental in the lives of humans - cave paintings illustrate the relationship between animal and man, not to mention the intrinsic role that animals play in our eco system, it is becoming more and more vital for society to protect the creatures that give us life. More than the primary needs that so many creatures provide for us, there is now scientific data that proves that companion animals have a significant positive impact on our mental health - so much so, that fostering a relationship with a companion animal has proven to enhance longevity and quality of life.

Therefore, our focus is so much more than providing subsidised veterinary services to those that cannot afford private veterinary care, but additionally we place time and effort into transforming the animals' environments, educating their owners on sustainable solutions, and enhancing the bond between owner and pet which ultimately enriches the animals' and their owners' lives.

Looking into 2024, an intensive focus will be on education, particularly targeting foundation phase children in high-violence areas, who are at the critical age where empathy is learnt. By engendering empathy into these young minds, we aim to prevent the cycle of violence and create a more compassionate society.

The Society for Animals in Distress recognizes the link between violence towards animals and violence towards humans. To address this, we will be implementing empathy education programs in schools and high-risk communities, and we will be developing and introducing restorative justice practices for children that have already engaged in or have been exposed to violent activities towards animals and/or people.

Our intention is to change the trajectory of our beautiful nation by changing the way our animals and people are treated. We are grateful for your continued support, which has been crucial in enabling us to make a positive impact. Together, we can build a brighter future for both animals and our communities.

Meg Harvey

Meg Harvey
Chief Executive Officer



OUR VISION

Our vision is to educate communities on basic animal welfare. By doing so, we aim to foster better cooperation from the communities in which we work to reduce the overpopulation of unwanted animals.

OUR VALUES



**Professional
Excellence**



**Transparent
Governance**



**Accountable
Service Provision**



**Respect For the
Dignity of Others.**

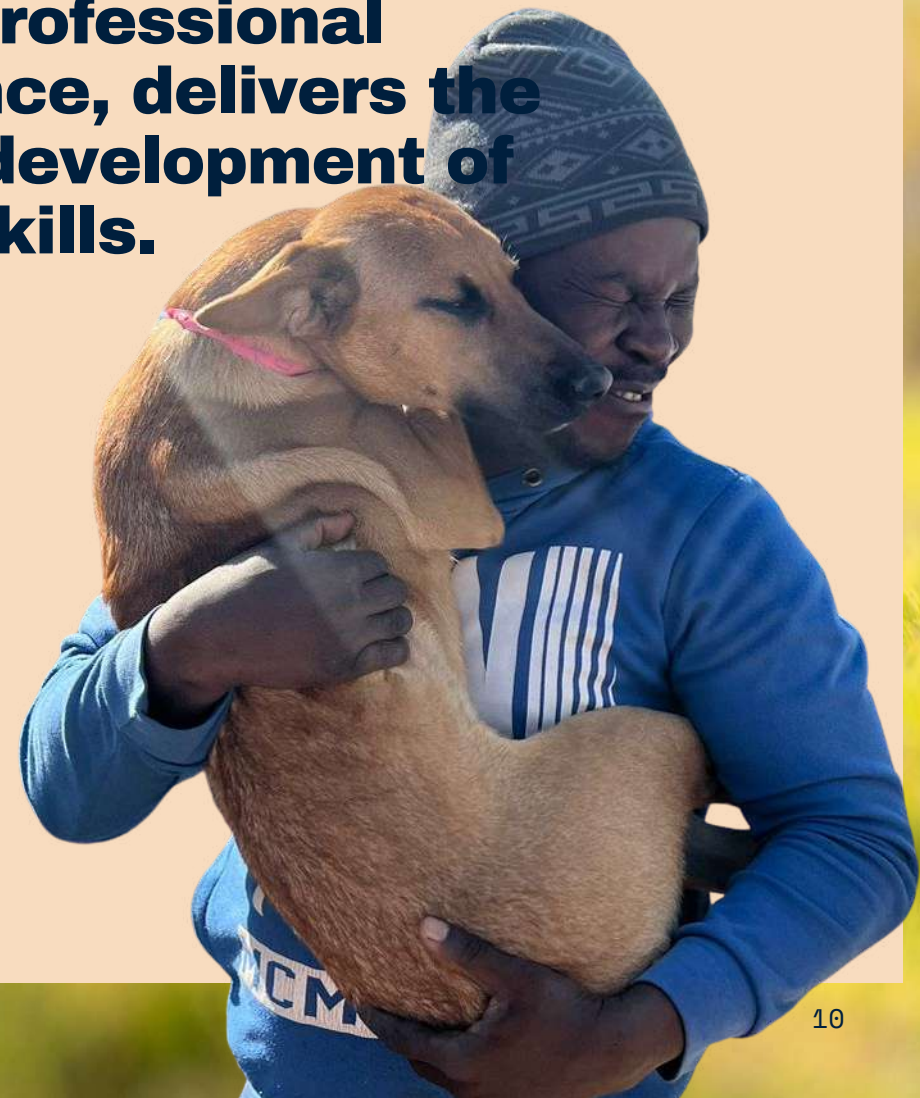
**We work towards a future
where empathy is extended to
all creatures.**

OUR APPROACH

It is our experience that working with owners through monitoring, professional services and a regular presence, delivers the most effective results in the development of knowledge and animal care skills.

Education is the cornerstone of the Society's approach.

Poverty significantly affects the communities we are engaged with, and it is by imparting knowledge about animal welfare and complementing education with veterinary services that we can create a substantial and enduring positive impact on the well-being of animals and people in the communities we reach.



Our Board.

The Society for Animals in Distress is a charity registered with the Department of Social Development as a non-profit organization. Each of our board members offers valuable skills across Human Resource Management, finance, animal welfare, research, advocacy, and cooperative governance.



Jesse Doorasamy

BOARD CHAIRMAN

Jesse Doorasamy has served as SAID Chairman since mid-2017. With a background in Human Resources, he enhances the Society through robust corporate governance, strategic oversight, and HR support. Jesse's passion for animal welfare aligns with The Society's commitment to improving the lives of both disadvantaged people and animals.



Andrew Fairlie

BOARD DIRECTOR

Andrew, appointed as Treasurer, is an accomplished Professional Accountant (SA) and Associate Member of CIMA. With a robust background in corporate finance management, his expertise enhances strategy development, financial management, and internal control oversight for accurate and transparent financial reporting.



Dr. Chantelle Murray

BOARD DIRECTOR

Chantelle Murray, a seasoned HR and Organisational Development professional with 26 years of experience, leads the HR Development Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand. As the Founder/Director of PAWS R US (SA), a dog shelter, she holds a PhD focused on non-profit sector governance. With a PhD and a Master's in Leadership, Performance, and Change, she combines expertise with a passion for animal welfare and is dedicated to uplifting the NPO sector in South Africa.



Dr. Isabel Meyer

BOARD DIRECTOR

Isabel, a systems researcher and veterinarian, is dedicated to optimizing development initiatives for lasting impact. Her work spans community development projects and sustainable welfare strategies for animals in industrial settings. Collaborating with universities, she fosters student research on animal health and welfare systems. Isabel prioritizes access to veterinary services and is committed to advancing the Society's vision of animal care in resource-constrained environments.



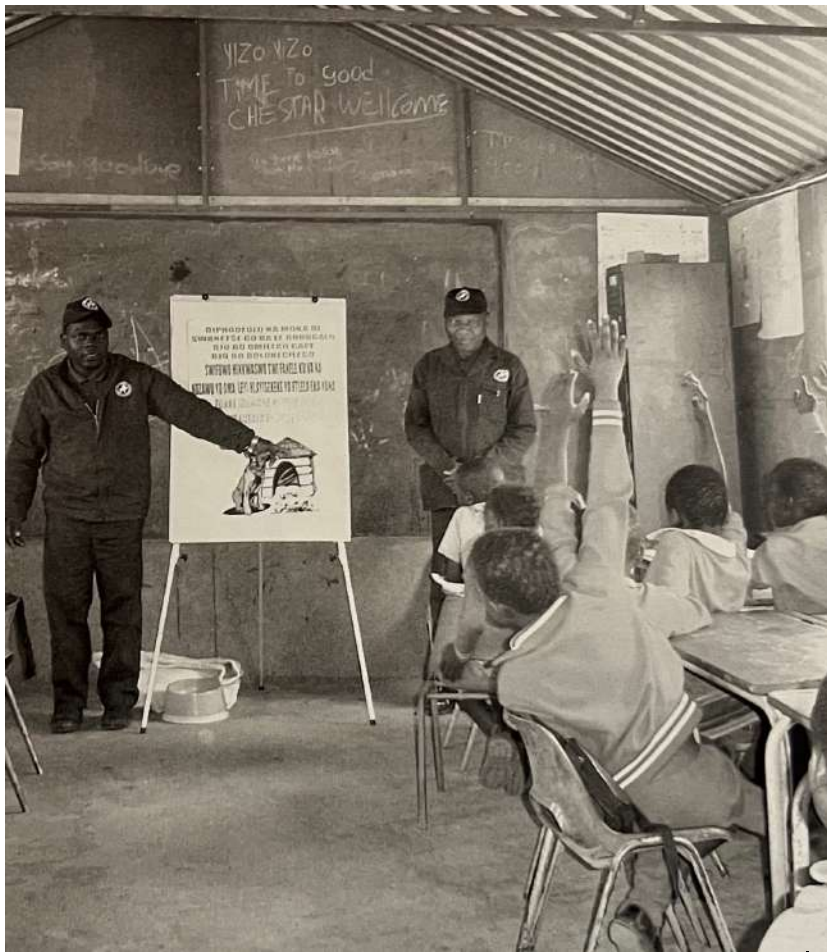
Meg Harvey

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Meg, with over a decade in animal welfare, passionately dedicates her adult life to serving and protecting animals. She began at NSPCA, qualified as an inspector, managed a local SPCA, and is deeply interested in the connection between crimes against animals and humans. With a family that shares her love for animals, she summited Mt. Kilimanjaro in 2017 to raise funds for South African animal welfare. Meg believes fostering compassion for animals in youth is crucial for positive societal change and is privileged to be part of the Society for Animals in Distress, committed to the change our country needs.

Celebrating 65 years of lifesaving work for animals







In the face of enduring political and economic challenges, SAID stands tall as a beacon of hope, embodying the spirit of ubuntu—the understanding that helping others is what matters most.



In the rich tapestry of time, 65 years serve as a testament to an unwavering commitment to compassion, justice, and transformative change. The journey that birthed The Society for Animals in Distress (SAID) traces back to the humble origins of the Bantu Animal Welfare Society (BAWS) in October 1958, a visionary endeavour initiated by the late Didi Rutherford.

In those early days, fuelled by an unyielding passion for animal welfare, Didi faced the stark realities of impoverished communities. Armed with nothing more than a borrowed butchery van and an indomitable determination to alleviate suffering, Didi and her team ventured into the heart of despair. Animals, languishing without proper care, bore witness to the conditions that ignited a spark of hope in Didi's heart—a **spark that would not be extinguished.**

From those modest beginnings, where a shoebox served as a filing system, SAID has grown into a beacon of hope, annually providing professional veterinary care to thousands of animals in a state-of-the-art hospital. Expanding beyond the hospital, SAID boasts an equine clinic, a barn shop, and an administration block, all situated on a 4.7-hectare plot in Midrand.



Today, a fleet of bakkies navigates impoverished communities daily, addressing the stark dichotomy in living conditions within mere miles of each other. On one side, opulence and abundance; on the other, poverty, starvation, and lack of shelter. SAID bridges this heartbreaking gap, offering not just veterinary care but also education and sustainable development for responsible animal ownership.

In the face of enduring political and economic challenges, SAID stands tall as a beacon of hope, embodying the spirit of ubuntu—the understanding that helping others is what matters most.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we acknowledge that compiling a comprehensive history of SAID and recognizing every contributor is an impossible task.

To all Committee Members who have gone above and beyond, volunteers consistently giving their time, transient and returning staff, veterinarians, celebrities, and countless others – we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

We express our thanks to the veterinary practices that stand by us. The Society for Animals in Distress honours each person who has generously given their last shilling, cent, or rand. Our appreciation extends to those who regularly scour their closets, bookshelves, and homes for anything they can spare for the welfare of animals.

A special thank you goes out to the numerous corporate donors, trusts, and foundations whose crucial funding and support sustain us. We salute the thousands of children across hundreds of schools who have exhibited entrepreneurial spirit, selling, collecting, and innovatively raising funds for animals. You are a credit to your schools, parents, and country, but above all, to yourselves. You are the key to a world where animals are always treated with kindness.

Every single contributor holds a special place at SAID; your commitment will be forever remembered and deeply cherished.

Thank you! Baie Dankie! Ngiyabonga Kakhulu! Enkosi! Kea leboha! Ndo livhuwa! Ndza khensa!

Didi Rutherford, wherever you may be, this is for you. Countless animals – and people – owe their lives to you because you stood by your dream which has grown into a reality that SAVES lives.

To the SAID team, take this beacon of light, the only hope thousands of compromised animals have, and let it burn bright for many, many more years.

Here's to 65 years of making a difference, one animal at a time.



CELEBRATING

65 years

OF

LIFE SAVING WORK

1958 - 2023

AND COUNTING





Driving access to veterinary care.

As South Africa's pre-eminent animal welfare veterinary clinic, The Society for Animals in Distress (SAID) has proudly established itself as a beacon of hope and healing in the veterinary community. In 2023, a year marked by considerable challenges and transformative changes, SAID has continued to demonstrate unwavering commitment to animal welfare, treating over 500,000 animals in its 65 years of existence.

Welfare Veterinary Clinic

SAID operates a cutting-edge veterinary clinic offering a range of services at significantly subsidized welfare rates. Equipped with advanced radiographic and diagnostic tools, our clinic has become an epicenter for diverse treatments including surgery and consultations. On an average day, we care for 30-40 hospital patients, addressing a wide array of conditions from severe injuries and diseases to performing standard procedures such as sterilization or dentistry.

Spay & Neuter Initiatives

Understanding the critical role of sterilization in reducing animal suffering and homelessness, SAID has dedicated efforts towards providing subsidized sterilizations for pets in underprivileged communities across Midrand and surrounding areas. In this fiscal year, we have successfully sterilized **3 416** cats and dogs, contributing to our cumulative milestone of around **188 357** animals sterilized to date.

Mobile Clinic & Ambulance Services

Our Mobile Clinic, a cornerstone of our outreach, extends primary healthcare directly to animals in the underserved communities of Tembisa, Ivory Park, Winnie Mandela and Olievenhoutbosch. This initiative includes the rescue of injured and sick animals, provision of primary healthcare, and transportation of those in need to SAID's hospital for specialized treatment.

Parasite Control Program

Recognizing the detrimental effects of parasites on pet health, our comprehensive parasite control program is vital in improving the well-being of pets and their human families. SAID ensures all hospital patients receive parasite treatment, and extends these services through our mobile clinics in the communities we support, focusing on controlling ticks, fleas, worms, and mange.

Vaccination Campaigns

Vaccinations are integral to SAID's strategy to prevent the spread of infectious and fatal diseases in pets as well as zoonotic diseases which could be fatal to humans. Our vaccination program targets diseases such as parvovirus, distemper, parainfluenza, adenovirus, and rabies in dogs, as well as calicivirus, panleukopaenia, chlamydia, rhinotracheitis, feline herpesvirus (FHV), and rabies in cats.

Meet Our New Principal Veterinarian: Dr. Sandra Hwadaya

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Sandra Hwadaya as our new Principal Veterinarian. Dr. Hwadaya, a highly accomplished and experienced professional, brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to SAID. As a former state veterinarian, her skill set spans a wide range of veterinary practices, from handling farm animals to providing care for domestic pets. Her remarkable ability to manage complex medical cases with proficiency and compassion has already made a significant impact. Dr. Hwadaya's appointment signals a new chapter of excellence and innovation in veterinary care at SAID, and extends our services to include various species, not just dogs and cats.





WORKING TOGETHER FOR ANIMALS:

By collaborating with other like-minded animal welfare organizations, we extend our impact beyond our operational boundaries.

SAID is committed to facilitating the well-being of animals beyond our immediate reach by offering sterilization procedures at the lowest rates to fellow animal welfare non-profit organizations and other veterinary interventions. This initiative underscores our dedication to the overarching goal of mitigating unwanted animal populations, addressing pet homelessness, and combating animal abuse.

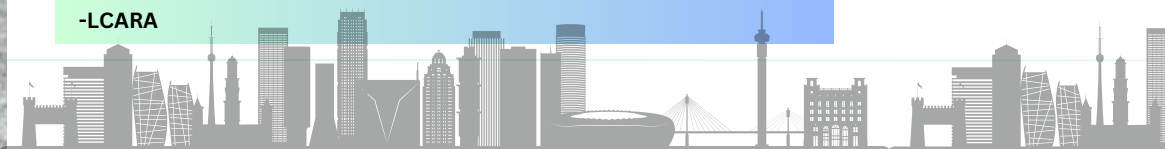
In recognizing the financial constraints faced by many non-profit organizations, we take pride in providing a cost-effective solution.

At SAID, we derive immense satisfaction from being a collaborative force, working hand in hand towards creating a better world for all animals. Together, we are making strides in promoting animal welfare and alleviating the challenges faced by our animal counterparts.

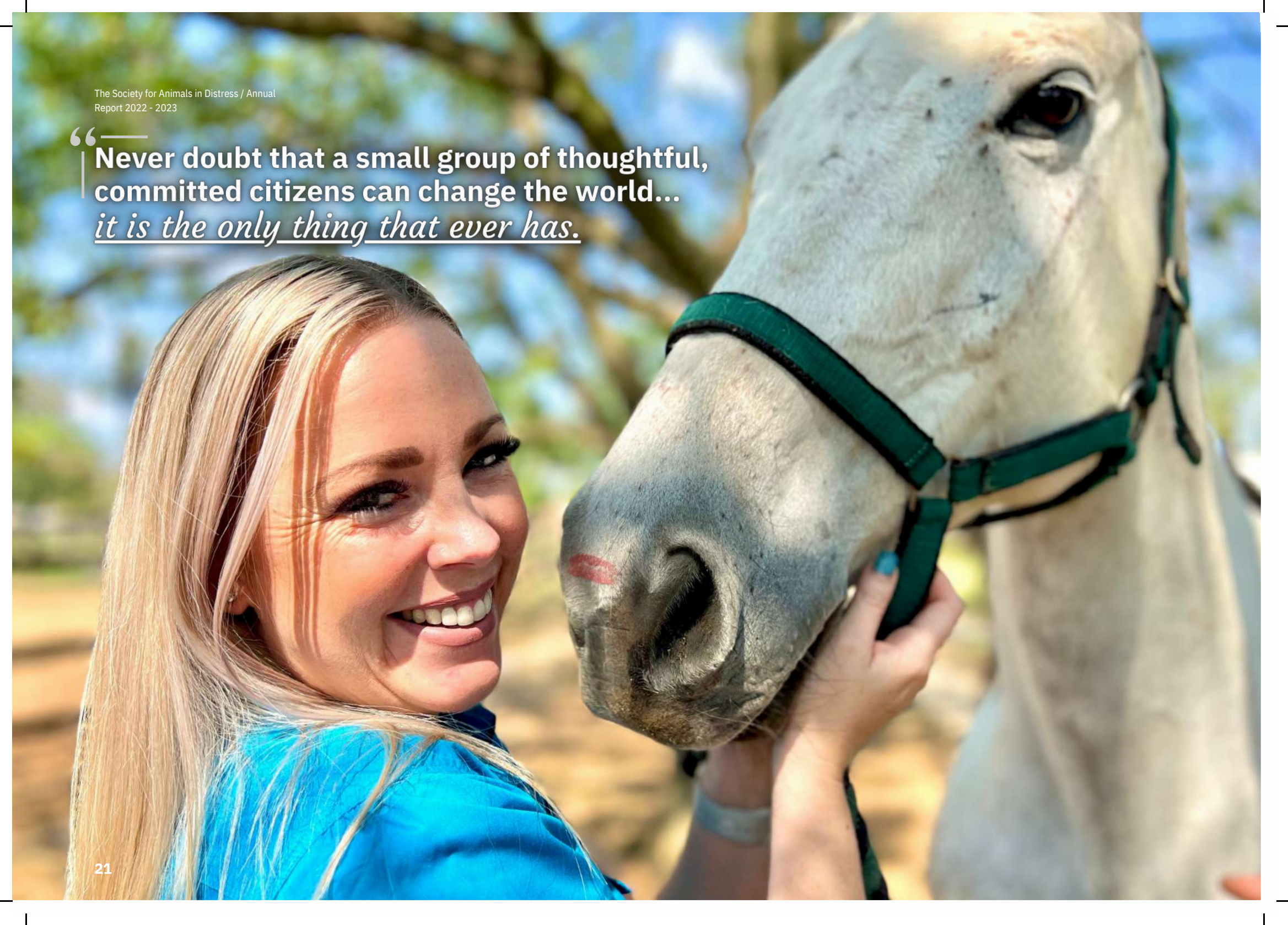
NPOs Regularly Assisted by SAID:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Africans Assistance Network | - Midrand SPCA |
| - Alkra Rescue | - Paws & Purrs |
| - All In One Animal Rescue | - Paws R Us |
| - Alps | - Place A Pup |
| - BSH Animal Rescue | - Ridgeback Rehabilitation |
| - Border Collie Rescue | - Sky City Animal Welfare |
| - Brakpan SPCA | - Sova |
| - Greyhound Welfare SA | - Springs SPCA |
| - Happy Yappers | - Supa |
| - Husky Heaven | - The Sushi And Panda Foundation |
| - Kat-titude | - Vaalpets |
| - Kitty And Puppy Heaven | - Wings Of Inspiration |
| - Kitty Kazz | - Woodrock Animal Rescue |
| - Labrador Rescue | |
| - LCARA | |

Collaboration is key.



“**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world...**
it is the only thing that ever has.



A Milestone in Veterinary Care at SAID

In the spirit of our unwavering commitment to the welfare of all creatures great and small, we are thrilled to announce a pivotal chapter in the illustrious history of the Society for Animals in Distress.

The inauguration of our Equine and Large Animal Division at the SAID Animal Hospital stands as a testament to our dedication to comprehensive veterinary care under the esteemed leadership of co-principal veterinarian, Dr. Ross Hendry.

SAID is now proudly registered as a mixed-animal facility, marking a significant stride forward in our mission to provide compassionate care to a broader spectrum of animals. This strategic move enables us to extend our services beyond small domestic animals, encompassing equine, large animals, and even facilitating our involvement in certain critical wildlife cases.

Under the astute guidance of Dr. Ross, our Equine Division is poised to become a cornerstone in the realm of equine healthcare. This development is not merely an expansion of our facilities; it is a demonstration of our adaptability to the evolving needs of the community we serve. Dr. Ross, renowned for his expertise and dedication to animal welfare, brings a wealth of experience to our organization, ensuring that the equine community receives the highest standard of veterinary care.



A Milestone in Veterinary Care at SAID

As we embark on this new venture, we are excited to unveil our ambitious plans for the year 2024. SAID is gearing up to cater to the equestrian market, delivering specialized veterinary care tailored to the unique needs of horses and their owners. This initiative is not only a boon for equine enthusiasts but also aligns with our broader objective of uplifting the welfare of animals in various sectors.

SAID remains committed to extending its reach to the coal yards and indigent communities around Midrand. Our Equine Division will actively engage in providing vital veterinary support to equines used for work and farm animals integral to community sustainability. By addressing the specific needs of these animals, SAID seeks to contribute to the enhancement of their overall well-being and quality of life.



A Year of Achievements

In the realm of non-profit organizations, the crucial interplay between Public Relations, Fundraising, and Communications assumes a pivotal role. For SAID, the challenge lies in navigating these essential components without a lavish budget. Despite this, the past year has been a testament to the unwavering support and resilience that underpin our cause.

Celebrating 65 Years: A Golf Day Extravaganza

A standout event in our calendar was the SAID Annual Golf Day, held on September 14, 2023, at the prestigious Dainfern Golf Estate. The occasion marked not only our 65th anniversary but also an incredible display of generosity and solidarity. Over 128 avid golfers participated in the 4-ball alliance, turning the event into a resounding success.

Thanks to the support of incredible sponsors, the day unfolded with thrilling competitions and fantastic prizes. The event, coupled with an auction featuring exotic getaways, luxury experiences, and unique items, raised an impressive R800k. A subsequent ambitious goal of R1 million was set, eventually leading to a total sum of R2 million, thanks to the generosity of a matching donor.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Sharry and Martin Banner, as well as Elizabeth van Straaten, whose invaluable contributions were integral to the success of the golf day and fundraising efforts. Their dedication exemplifies the spirit of SAID.





The Barn Shop Revamped

In addition to the golf day triumph, SAID also witnessed the transformation of its tiny charity shop into a spacious Barn Shop on the property. The revamped space opened its doors to a flood of support, generating R30k on its inaugural day. This expansion not only provides more room for pre-loved goods but also promises sustained income for the years ahead.



Building a Sustainable Future

As we usher in 2024, SAID is committed to elevating its brand visibility across the nation. Plans include exploring sustainable revenue streams, such as a potential coffee shop, a car wash, and even an Air BnB on the property. These ventures aim to reduce dependence on donations, providing donors with breathing space while ensuring SAID's ability to continue its vital mission.

A highlight on our horizon is the upcoming 2024 raffle draw, made possible through the generous contributions of MSC Cruises and XL Travel. The coveted prize—a 7-night Mediterranean cruise for two in a luxury cabin, complete with flights—holds the potential to unlock future sustainable incomes and job creation for SAID.

Fundraising and PR stand as the bedrock of SAID. Without these pillars, the very essence of our organization would be at stake. As we reflect on the achievements of 2023, we remain resolute in our commitment to the welfare of compromised animals, grateful for the support that propels us forward into a future filled with promise and purpose. Together, we will continue making a difference.





WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF A VOLUNTEER BEATS
THE EXTRAORDINARY RHYTHM OF
SELFLESSNESS. ”



In the intricate framework of the Society for Animals in Distress (SAID), our dedicated volunteers stand as indispensable architects, crafting the foundation of compassion, commitment, and unwavering support. We extend our sincere appreciation to each volunteer who generously invests time and skills in championing the cause of animals in need.

LIFE-CHANGING BEQUESTS:

Legacies for a kinder future.

We express profound gratitude to our generous supporters whose thoughtful bequest gifts we have received.

In their honour, we are committed to persisting in our efforts toward creating a more compassionate world for *everyone*.

A final act of kindness, a lasting legacy of change.

When you remember animals in your Will and leave a gift to the Society for Animals in Distress, you're leaving behind a legacy of kindness. Your contribution helps create the better world that we all desire.

Bequests allow us to plan for the future with confidence and enable us to continue our vital work for compromised animals in impoverished communities.

Contact animals@animalsindistress.org.za for more information.

With our deepest gratitude to our donors who left a bequest gift. Their legacy will live on through our work:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ■ Bettye Heraleen Lewis | ■ Eileen Victoria Kruger |
| ■ SP Kelly | ■ Bernstein |
| ■ Pamela Cynthia Roeske | ■ Esprey |
| ■ Elizabeth Patterson | ■ Alistair Winchester Gould |
| ■ Gail Heather Theron | ■ Gerke |
| ■ Narsai | ■ Ghita Ray Broude |
| ■ Elise Kuhner | ■ Cohen |
| ■ K Parkinson | ■ Wright |
| ■ Helen Cominos | ■ H Jacquire |
| ■ Florence Sive | ■ FA Roberts |
| ■ GM Reoch | |



“Compassion is a verb. It is a ‘doing’ word. It’s seeing the suffering of another, and doing whatever you can to stop that suffering.”

Banking Details:

Account Name: The Society for Animals in Distress

Bank: First National Bank

Branch code: 252105

Bank account number: 5147 0054 747

Bank SWIFT Code: FIRNZAJJXXX

animals@animalsindistress.org.za



the society for
animals in distress®



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Vorna Valley, Midrand, South Africa.

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