



A celebration of 50 years' dedication to animals



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*“Protecting animals, healing their sickness,
fighting ignorance & empowering others to do the same.”*



For Didi.



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*A steadfast commitment from
dedicated individuals who share
a passion for animals*

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A Special Tribute

It is impossible to compile a history of The Society for Animals in Distress (SAID) and list every person who has devoted time and effort to an organisation that relies on thousands of people every year. In this publication we have paid tribute to as many people as possible who have contributed a significant part of their lives to SAID. The author and The Society's management have made every effort to ensure that where people have been included in records dating back to inception, they have been mentioned in this publication. The omission of any person is not intentional.

To all Committee Members who have provided more than just time, volunteers who consistently do what they can, staff who have been and gone and come again, veterinarians, celebrities and many more - thank you.

To all the veterinary practices around Johannesburg who continue to perform sterilization procedures at no cost to The Society, we thank the following clinics and animal hospitals : Birnam, Boskruin, Bryanston, Chartwell, Corlett City, Fourways, Lonehill, Lyndhurst, Oaklands, Olivedale, Orange Grove, Radiokop, Randburg, Randparkridge, Sandringham.

Our gratitude goes to Dr Aitken, Dr Basson, Dr Carter, Dr Dreyer, Dr Du Plessis, Dr Forsyth, Dr Guiney, Dr Higgerty, Dr Israelite, Dr Liebmann, Dr Mc Reynolds, Dr Macgregor, Dr Montgomery, Dr Moore, Dr Macwilliam, Dr Mundy-Castle, Dr Meyer, Dr Ortlepp, Dr Pienaar, Dr Reid, Dr Russell, Dr Romberg, Dr Schutte, Dr Selmer, Dr Strydom, Dr Van Gils, Dr Visser, Dr Wessels.

The Society for Animals in Distress pays tribute to every single individual who has parted with their last shilling, cent or rand. Also to those who have regularly ransacked their clothing cupboards, book shelves and homes for anything they could spare for the benefit of animals.

To the many corporate donors, trusts and foundations that provide crucial funding and support - thank you.

To the thousands of children at hundreds of schools, who have displayed entrepreneurial skills by selling, collecting and doing the most innovative things to raise funds for animals, you are a credit to your schools, your parents and your country but, most importantly to yourselves.

And to our Furry Fundraisers, all the splendid dogs that have stood faithfully next to their owners, we give you a '21-Paw Salute'.

Each and every person who has given so much has a special place at SAID; your commitment will always be remembered and so greatly appreciated.



Helping more animals in more places more often





A Fairy Tale - The Musicians of Bremen

Once upon a time an old donkey was ill-treated by his master. Tired of such unkindness, he decided to run away, and when he heard that the town of Bremen was looking for singers for the town band, he decided that someone with his fine braying voice might be accepted.

As he went along the road, the donkey met a skinny dog, covered with sores. "Come with me. If you have a good bark, you'll find a job with the band, too. Just wait and see!"

A little later, a stray cat, no longer able to catch mice, joined them and the trio trotted hopefully on towards the town. As they passed a farmyard they stopped to admire an elderly cockerel who, with outstretched wings, was crowing toward the skies. "You sing well," they told him. "What are you so happy about?"

"Happy?" muttered the cockerel with tears in his eyes. "They want to put me in the pot and make broth of me. I'm singing as hard as I can today. For tomorrow I'll be gone." But the donkey told him, "Run away with us. With a voice like yours, you'll be famous in Bremen!"

Now there were four of them. The way was long, night fell, and very frightened, the four creatures found themselves in a thick forest.

They scarcely knew whether to press on or to hide in some caves and rest. Suddenly, in the distance, they saw a light amongst the trees. It came from a little cottage

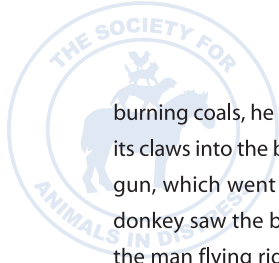
and they crept up to the window. The donkey placed his hooves on the window ledge. Anxious to see, the dog jumped on the donkey's back, the cat climbed onto the dog and the cockerel flew on top of the cat to watch what was going on inside.

Now, the cottage was the hideaway of a gang of bandits who were busily celebrating their latest robbery. The hungry donkey and his friends were excited when they saw the food on the table. Upset by the jittery crew on his back, the donkey stuck his head through the window and toppled his three companions on to the lamp. The light went out and the room rang with the sound of the braying of the donkey who had cut his nose on the glass, the barking of the dog and the snarling of the cat. The cockerel screeched along with the others.

Taken completely by surprise, the terrified bandits fled screaming: "The Devil! The Devil!" And their abandoned meal ended up in the four friends' stomachs.

Later, however, just as the donkey and his companions were dropping to sleep, one of the bandits crept back to the now quiet house and went to find out what had taken place. He opened the door, and with his pistol in his hand, he stepped trembling towards the fire. However, mistaking the glow of the cat's eyes for





burning coals, he thrust a candle between them and instantly the furious cat sank its claws into the bandit's face. The man fell backwards onto the dog, dropping his gun, which went off, and the animal's sharp teeth sank into his leg. When the donkey saw the bandit's figure at the door, he gave a tremendous kick, sending the man flying right through the doorway. The cockerel greeted this feat with a grim crowing sound. "Run!" screamed the bandit. "Run! A horrible witch in there scratched my face, a demon bit me on the leg and a monster beat me with a stick! But the other bandits were no longer listening, for they had taken to their heels and fled.

And so the donkey, the dog, the cat and the cockerel took over the house without any trouble and, with the booty left behind by the bandits, always had food on the table, and lived happy and contented for many years.

The Society for Animals in Distress adopted a logo that was inspired by this fairy tale. The pyramid of animals all suffering from the hands of man, represents the pillars of strength adopted by all at SAID in their dogged determination to *"Protect Animals; Heal their Sickness; Fight Ignorance and Empower Others to do the Same."*

This fairy tale, in which animals overcame adversity to occupy a home and live happily ever after, together, is symbolic of SAID.

The pyramid of animals reflected in SAID's logo represents unity of animals, protected by caring people who overcome the "villains" in society manifested in poverty and ignorance, and who strive for an environment in which animals can live 'happily ever after'.







The Society for Animals in Distress - Introduction

*Animals, especially those with their hopes placed in human trust, should never suffer.
This is truer for animals used for work, companionship or research.*

Today, the focus is on human action or inaction, which leads to the discomfort, trauma or abuse of animals. Animal rights advocates address the issues of the treatment of animals as creatures of earth, just as man has human rights. Animal care organisations have long been seen as the sole rescuers of animals suffering from neglect, abuse, maltreatment and trauma arising from any number of incidences. The concern for the well-being of animals probably first arose from the religious belief that humans returned, after death, to animal form and so had to be treated with respect.

The recognition of the first human to understand the need to take care of animals, it could be said, dates back to 1822 when Richard Martin, a British MP, pushed a bill through Parliament in Great Britain promulgating the protection of horses, sheep and cattle from cruelty.

This approach had human morals and humane behaviour towards animals as its core focus. Richard Martin was one of the founders of The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in 1824 and in 1840 Queen Victoria offered her support and it became the RSPCA. Similar societies emerged throughout Europe

finding their way to North America. Soon animals across the globe were receiving the attention of caregivers. A number of societies sprang up throughout the world and, of course, at the southern tip of Africa, where a unique person with a single passion for the wellbeing of animals, Didi Rutherford, re-established the Bantu Animal Welfare Society in October 1958.

This organisation would evolve to become The Society for Animals in Distress (SAID), attracting people driven by a common concern and passion for animals.

The principles of animal care have received steadfast commitment from dedicated individuals, each subscribing to the belief that animals are intrinsically free, and while in the trust of humans, have the right to be free from thirst, hunger, malnutrition, discomfort, pain, injury, fear and distress.

It is on these principles that The Society for Animals in Distress lives by passionately. SAID's attention remains on delivering professional veterinary care to small and large animals in nine individual communities, with its key focus being on education and the sustainable development of responsible animal ownership.



Sacrificing time to help those who cannot speak is a commitment that goes beyond a love for animals; it is a lifelong purpose to significantly improve their quality of life. It is the people of The Society for Animals in Distress who are the true heroes.



The Passion and Power of People - A Tribute to the People of SAID...

50 years of dedication and love for animals ...

Great people are not only those held in high esteem by society, leaders of business and countries, celebrities and icons; they are everyday people, unnoticed as one, but collectively a power that can change the world. This is the power that shifts paradigms and ultimately the result is the improvement in the lives of the animals they serve. Such are the people at SAID, committed to changing the face of animal welfare one animal at a time, one day at a time, and with a steely determination to alter a nation's attitude to its animals.

Volunteers, permanent staff, people overflowing with talent, all added their own personality to an organisation that touched the very hearts of the animals they loved.

From the beginning Didi knew there were more than just a few people willing to sacrifice comfort for the sake of animals. With a resolute determination not to allow one single animal to suffer, she approached veterinarians for medical care, companies for funding, consumers for donations, and even Onderstepoort to perform horse gelding. The response; one of the biggest displays of people power in the interests of animals this country has ever seen and continues to see.

The foundation had been laid and through generations more volunteers and staff arrived at SAID – a shared commitment and common philosophy of a group of dedicated and determined people would have a profound and lasting effect on township animals and their owners.





Animals, especially those with their hopes placed in human trust, should never suffer.







Didi Rutherford - Thousands of Animals Owe Their Lives to You!



“Her unconditional love for all animals, and her uncompromised work ethic, served as an inspiration to those working with her and after her ...”

Didi Rutherford ... thousands of animals owe their lives to you!

Fifty years of dedication to animals is a fraction in time for the uncountable animals that have suffered at the hands of man for centuries. But in a lifetime a minority transcends the pinnacle, overcoming immense obstacles; heroes accepting mammoth challenges, and through unreserved determination, taking on gargantuan tasks to renew the humane spirit in all of us.

One such hero, Didi Rutherford, founder of The Society for Animals in Distress, her commitment to her passion, animals, rose above all adversity, growing resistance and a country in turmoil to resurrect the floundering Bantu Animal Welfare Society. Those who have had the privilege to meet her or work with her know that they have met someone who will forever have an impact on their lives. Her new career would span an incredible 30 years; her single-minded, dogged perseverance brought hope to thousands of sick and suffering animals in local communities. Her unconditional love for all animals, and her uncompromised work ethic, served as an inspiration to those working with her and after her in what was to become the single largest provider of welfare veterinary care in South Africa.





In these early days, Didi was unaware that her actions would lead so many people to be instrumental in the creation of one of South Africa's most respected animal welfare organisations. She and husband, Ken, assigned to be the organisation's Treasurer and following Didi wherever she went, were acutely aware of the need for someone to accept the responsibility for taking care of animals living in frequently hostile conditions. They understood the immense impact this would have on their lives. Such a commitment meant that most of their resources would be used to improve the lives of animals in local townships.

The new BAWs began small with a handful of enthusiastic volunteers. Didi knew she had to do something about BAWs, which was forced to cease operations due to a lack of support. Didi appealed to Isla Amar and Gisla von Pelzer to help take on the challenge of getting to suffering animals. Isla and Gisla were already active in the rural areas, succeeding in getting bucket loads of food to hungry animals with minimal resources, and also instituting a simple dipping programme to combat the dreadful scourge of mange. Didi admired the work they were doing and was extremely grateful when they agreed to join BAWs.

Didi's lifetime, devoted to animals, has seen her colossal efforts embraced by many, all rising to the challenge, driven by a need greater than their own, taking on extraordinary tasks and unrelenting difficulties. Scraping together funds to administer basic care to township animals and to rescue them from often horrifying situations, Didi's resolve was tested. Ken's support was unconditional, his love for Didi, uncompromising, and he was always on hand; unquestioningly providing

the support she anxiously needed in tough beginnings. Didi recalls when a single light-delivery vehicle, on loan from a local butcher, tirelessly obeyed the driving instructions of a determined woman intent on reaching animals in need.

The beginning was humble and for many years, so humble in fact, that the filing system for The Society's records was a shoe box. Didi and her team spent entire weekends, mainly in Alexandra Township, and later in Soweto and anywhere where the call of animals in distress reached her ears. At the time Didi had no way of knowing that one vehicle would eventually grow to nine, and that the organisation would become a leading force, positively affecting the lives of countless animals in need.

Sacrificing time to help those who cannot speak is a commitment that goes beyond a love for animals; it is a lifelong purpose to significantly improve their quality of life. It is the people of The Society for Animals in Distress who are the true heroes.

The Bantu Animal Welfare Society would evolve to become The Society for Animals in Distress (SAID) in 1978. Many people rallied around Didi, following the ethic of an exceptional leader to do what they could to protect and heal thousands of sick and suffering animals.

So much can be said about an organisation, its successes and achievements, but it is the people who make the difference.



*“We regard our fieldworkers as heroes.”
Douglas Evans 1972.*



The Early Years - The Late 50s

The inimitable Didi is modest about her role. From the beginning, she understood the atrocious conditions in which many animals were suffering. She surrounded herself with not only keen volunteers, but people passionate about the wellbeing of animals, all ready for anything, everything, everyday; simply extraordinary people.

Didi's dear friend, Gladys Evans, worked tirelessly, and noted with particular concern horses painfully straining to pull carts wearing makeshift and ill-fitting harnesses, with badly- or un-shod hooves plodding on uneven and slippery surfaces, driven by merciless owners desperate to get their goods to the market. From coal and firewood to watermelons and vegetables and many times, before the introduction of our infamous mini-bus taxis, people. Even "engineless" cars were pulled.

These horses were treated as machines, accepting that a hard day's labour meant food for survival and sometimes a little rest, pulling overloaded carts; their owners simply providing barely enough water and food for a day's toil. Such was the desperation of the disenfranchised people of South Africa, having little choice but to push their horses to extreme limits.

Gladys, who founded the Guide Dog Movement for the Blind in South Africa (The SA Guide-Dogs Association for the Blind), demonstrated an incredible resolve in her commitment way beyond the call of any citizen. Her actions, day after day, and like so many who followed, displayed the passion and unwavering love for animals everyone has at SAID - people who go beyond the boundaries of human capabilities

to protect the unprotected. Gladys' husband, Douglas Evans, a special friend to Didi, became The Society's first Chairman. Didi remained Vice Chairman until her retirement in 1989. Douglas added impetus to the dedicated work of Didi and he was soon in the middle of matters, managing, arranging and organising various activities. And so, SAID in its formative years, was well on its way to becoming Didi's vision.

SAID has been fortunate in being able to rely on some of the best in business to lead it through good and tough times.

Douglas remained Chairman until 1973, dedicating 15 years' loyal service to Didi's cause. Douglas painted a clear picture in his Chairman's Report of 1972. He highlighted the vast and heartbreaking gap in living conditions of two very different societies, mere miles apart. In one area there was vast richness, paved roads, an elaborate shopping mall, lavish homes, modern amenities and thousands of blessings including light, warmth and an abundance of food. In the other community, just along the road, there was poverty, starvation, lack of shelter and basic living conditions and little money for the community to feed themselves, let alone their pets.









The harsh reality was that BAWS simply had to get to the animals to make meaningful difference in their lives. Douglas had a deep sense of humanity and hatred of cruelty. With this came a sense of restlessness to challenge the status quo and a refusal to ignore the atrocities affecting animals caused by the unstable political environment. Already at this early stage, the people of BAWS were beginning to shape the organisation into what it is today; a dynamic animal welfare organisation, with its core focus being the care of township animals and the ongoing education of their owners. Few welfare organisations can boast the successes that SAID has achieved in its short 50 years.

Didi and Gladys battled tough and hard to get to distressed animals; climbing gates and fences, burrowing under cars and in shacks, wading through dirty water, waste and rubble, they demonstrated the tenacity needed in their quest.

A timely meeting with Bernhard Gale at a wedding that Didi attended resulted in Bernhard being an original Committee Member on the board of BAWS. His experience provided significant assistance to Didi and her growing team.

Help was always around the corner just when Didi was sure none was near. She was aware of the need to spread the message to the general public of the plight of animals suffering in dreadful conditions. It was Hugh Carruthers who offered assistance. Hugh's successful and popular daily column in *The Star* newspaper regularly featured the enthusiastic effort of BAWS, and did much to create awareness for the organisation and its work.

The media would, through the decades, and still today, offer enormous assistance, providing much needed exposure.

Without the support of print, radio and television, many of the excellent efforts of Didi and her team would go unnoticed and along with it opportunities to raise



funds needed to sustain BAWS. It was also in the early beginnings that Gladys Lurie noted the endless obstacles facing BAWS. She recognised the need to rely on outside funding as the main source of income for the organisation and, with husband, Ginger, conjured up innovative ways of bringing in money. Gladys and Ginger adopted an approach that would raise the public profile of BAWS. Their efforts would lead them to homes, businesses, shopping centres and anywhere where people would be sympathetic to their calling and donate their small change.

The success of this caring couple served to drive other fundraisers, and many modelled their efforts on Gladys and Ginger. Not dejected by a lack of transport, Didi approached a friend, Di Gillibrand, whose father owned the Rosebank Bottle Store. Appreciating the efforts of BAWS, he offered the use of his business delivery vehicle over the weekends to get into the townships. Now able to get to sick animals, nothing could stop Didi. 'Didi on wheels' was on a determined mission and soon challenged truckers everywhere as she clocked up the miles, with little rest; it was just an awesome sight. With a new "mobile clinic" now reaching well into the





townships, awareness of Didi's commitment to treat animals in these regions began to grow among the community. Now, using such a branded vehicle certainly had a positive spin-off. Didi was able to reach more animals in more places, and the Rosebank Bottle Store received a record number of calls from the townships and beyond!

Soon the van was working overtime getting to the animals. But, sadly, too much strain on an already old engine soon had the car stuttering to a halt. But to BAWS this was just another challenge. Eighteen months after Didi commenced operations, and following a massive publicity campaign, she was able to purchase the organisation's very first vehicle.

“I cannot express enough gratitude to those who gave their lives to help so many animals.” Didi Rutherford 2007

But South Africa became locked in internal conflict, and getting into the townships during the height of political tension was a nerve-wracking experience for the Security Forces. How then could anyone possibly know what was going through the minds of a few women intent on getting care to animals, and particularly the horses and donkeys used for carting coal - a vital source of heat fuel for households in the townships? Their dogged determination would eventually lead to the development of SAID's Coal Yard Project nearly 45 years later, one of the Society's enormous successes.

One of the first veterinarians at BAWS was Dr Volkania. Hungarian by birth, Dr Volkania found his way to South Africa in the mid-50s. He was very involved with the SPCA before being lured to BAWS where he immediately got to work on veterinary cases referred to the organisation.





“I do it all for the animals.” Toni Smolders



BAWS Takes Shape - The 60s

Didi always placed her trust in people and had an uncanny ability to identify the best to take on the battle against ignorance and neglect.

When Didi placed an advert in the local newspaper for a secretary, fortune favoured BAWS. Roz Turner accepted the position and became one of the most respected individuals at the organisation for many years. Didi and Roz shared the same philosophy, and working out of rented premises in Admirals Court in Rosebank, were determined to change the world. Getting stuck into fundraising, Didi and Roz managed to purchase another vehicle to get to the animals.



It was the joy of seeing dogs wagging their tails, horses and donkeys with new shoes, cats purring and healthy livestock that drove everyone to exceed all expectations. The Society outgrew its home in Rosebank and moved into better, bigger premises in Illovo and later, further growth forced relocation to premises in Kew, much closer to where the animals

needed urgent help in Alexandra Township. Already in the early days, volunteers began arriving at BAWS as if it were a magnet. The arrival of Lucia Harrison, the “Jumble Queen”, in 1964, brought enthusiasm and someone to share an ever-increasing load.

A qualified Nursing Sister, Lucia set about giving all staff their annual inoculations. There was always a hive of activity when she arrived, eager to do her thing.

Lucia to this day remains a phone call away, providing any help that is needed. She can still be found in SAID’s sweltering hot container preparing donated books for their ever-popular book sales. Known for her no-nonsense attitude and heart of gold, Lucia has dedicated more than 40 years to The Society as a volunteer, from Committee level to book sales.

Challenges seemed to always appear, but so, too, did help. Toni Smolders, one of The Society’s most dedicated and enthusiastic fieldworkers became a well-known face as she went door-to-door collecting newspapers, bottles, jumble and books. Toni leaped into the middle of the organisation, literally feet and all, and had a profound influence on the people of BAWS. Even then Toni said that she would work well into her 80s to save as many animals as she could. And she did!



“Little did we realise then what a wonderful blessing we had received as Roz became dedicated to our cause and poured all her energy into it. It was the beginning of a long association and a very special bond between Roz and me.” Didi Rutherford 2007



With a passion for horses, Stan Cronje allowed no obstacle to get in his way in his attempts to reach working animals. As far back as 1965, he single-handedly found ways into Soweto and did not rest until he emerged leading horses, often more than one person could reasonably handle. His caring attitude and love of horses resulted in many being nursed back to full health.

Steadily, activities grew. More animals reached the loving hands of Didi and her band of caring helpers. More growth meant more work, more needs, more people, more transport.

Fifty years on some things do not change; office space is a luxury for staff and still no complaints! Each day employees squeeze into offices, grab a space in a corner and remain keener than the day before to get down to work, knowing that every bit they do helps another animal. Illovo was a perfect spot, complete with a storeroom in which to stash any and everything they could lay their hands on to raise funds.

Goods came pouring into the storeroom and were just as swiftly packed, catalogued and priced, ready to convert into cash for the benefit of animals in need. Nothing has changed, people crammed into a room sifting through items of clothing,

books, gifts and a whole lot more, only noticeable when their heads pop out of heaps of “stuff”, to let everyone know they are still there. As it is today, so it was back then. As money came in, it was used for the animals, and then the rush was on again and new challenges would arise to get more books, more goods and more clothes, more of everything, more of anything, to get money – FOR THE ANIMALS!

“I think sometimes that God leads me to them (horses).” Stan Cronje 1978

In 1964, BAWs’ first black employee, Elias Tshabalala, stood tall after being spotted by Chairman, Douglas Evans. Elias or “Shakes” had a special fondness for animals and enthusiastically joined the struggle to defeat animal neglect.

Elias courageously entered the townships on a bicycle, rounding up as many dogs as he could transport to BAWs for sterilisation. Soweto was never the same without Elias pedalling hard through the streets, a dog or two straddling the handle bars and one tucked safely under his arm. His bicycle remained his only transport until BAWs moved to new premises in Illovo and then Kew.

Elias never kept a record of how many punctures he had during his time at The Society for Animals in Distress, but some say the local bicycle shop had a special stock of repair kits just for him. After 34 years’ hard work, Elias retired from field work and together with Isabel Middlemiss (who joined in 1976) took over the stock control of drugs and food. Their teamwork raised the standard within the organisation. But for Elias, retirement was not an option. And so, utterly committed to his career with animals, Elias continued to identify and arrange for township animals to be collected for sterilization until his death in 2006.



“We are extremely grateful to the many people who have made all this possible, advised and supported us along the way, from being a one-horse show to the flourishing and progressive society into which we have grown.” Roz Turner



Growth and a Name Change - The 70s

All at SAID will tell you that one of the most basic needs for the delivery of much-needed veterinary care to animals in distress is a reliable car.



Well, a near-reliable car. Didi fondly remembers a famous yellow Mazda *bakkie*, a product of growth in 1971, and an answer to the need for additional transport facilities. If there is one unique positive in the townships, it is the recognition of help. And in this case wherever the *bakkie* went, people knew help came with it. The *bakkie* still, today, finds its way around the roads of South Africa; we feel its strength is its reward for a car's life of good work during its days at BAW'S.

Bernhard Gwebu, whose ambition it was to become the first black veterinary surgeon in South Africa, and Nelson Gwe Gwe, heard of the good work done by BAW'S and were soon entrenched in the townships getting vital help to animals. Often with their lives in danger, this courageous duo would stop at nothing to get animals to safety and much-needed veterinary care.

Nineteen seventy one proved to be the year that one of BAW'S and later SAID'S stalwarts, Clement Sema, joined the team. Again it was Didi who recognised Clement's compassion and a natural talent for treating animals. He earns respect from anyone who meets him, and with his remarkable people skills, Clement became the support structure for fieldworkers for more than 30 years.





His ability to interact with the communities, into which he was so often called to assist animals, made Clement the authority on animal care in many townships.

Just as Clement showed the ropes to so many fieldworkers so, too, was Elias instrumental in passing on his knowledge to Clement. Thanks to Elias, Clement became an expert in the field as an Animal Welfare Assistant (AWA). Clement later introduced Sam Mathaba, who had an incredible compassion for animals, to BAWS. Sam's understanding of the community aided him in reaching animals in need of his special brand of care.

Didi discovered early on that it was essential to maintain excellent relationships with members of the communities.

One way to cement relationships was organising regular dog shows in the townships. Here, proud owners could eagerly show off their dogs, and Didi was pleased to note that year after year, the health of the dogs was improving significantly.

She attributes this to the many caring people at SAID who instinctively knew the importance of community relationships. Communities soon realised that BAWS was providing vital assistance, and would do whatever they could to get help to animals suffering in backyards. They would somehow get messages through to BAWS by putting notes on announcement boards, which fieldworkers always kept their eye open for. This provided a unique and anonymous means of reporting cases to fieldworkers.

Mrs Pocock (Honourary Life Member) was also always on hand to help wherever she could. Hundreds of her photographs have captured the history of BAWS. To this day, they capture the hearts of those who look at them. Many of her photographs, reproduced in this publication, tell the story of the organisation in pictures.

Roz Turner convinced Sheila Taylor to join BAWS in 1972. Sheila's introduction to the plight of the animals was through Clement who took her into townships to see the harsh conditions in which many animals lived.

Sheila was initially a volunteer, but when operations moved to Kew, she accepted a place on the permanent staff. Sheila was dedicated, efficient and conscientious in the Administration Division. She was instrumental in creating funding appeals and acknowledging all donations received.

This involved piles of incoming and outgoing correspondence, which she managed professionally and meticulously. Sheila also handled the static collection tins, memberships and donations. Sheila left SAID in 1999, but she instilled a drive and enthusiasm in everyone, something that is still part of the make-up of each person's character at SAID. Sheila continues to donate to and promote SAID to this day.

“It's like a bowl of peanuts; once you eat the first few, you simply cannot stop.” Sheila Taylor, 2007

Alec Gorshel took on the role of Chairman in 1973 at a time when SAID was desperate to have a spokesperson and a reliable, authoritative voice. Alec served on the Committee for 30 years and was elected Honorary Life President. All at SAID lost a friend in 2000; Alec gave so much of himself in his dedication to see animals safe and disease-free.

It was in the 70s that BAWS became inundated with animal cases, and with the overload of field work and fundraising, everyone found themselves working under immense pressure. Les Fothergill took control of day-to-day operations by developing systems and procedures, introducing management principles and leadership functions that would serve as the basis of daily operations for BAWS.



*The Society for Animals in Distress is established
- dedicated individuals doing extraordinary
deeds for the benefit of animals!*



Les gave far more than was expected of him right up to his last day in the early 90s when Carl Turner would carry the torch for a short period. By now BAW'S was running up an in-basket of accounting that would frighten hardened auditors. Perhaps it was time to tackle that shoe box of records, but one thing is certain, without Mike McCullough, those records might still be in the box. He dived into the in-basket of receipts, expenses and till slips to get the financial accounts in shape.

Mike devoted many years, seeking no compensation, and was presented with Honorary Life Membership and the Freedom of The Paddocks in 2005, having audited SAID's accounts from 1970 until his retirement in 2006. It was in the late 60s, and before he was elected chairman, that Alec Gorshel's personal firm of attorneys, Bowen Cessel and Goudvis (later Webber Wentzel Bowen), where his daughter, Peta, worked as a clerk, volunteered their services to assist with all BAW'S' legal requirements. In 1967, Neville Matterson, Alec's attorney, handed over the BAW'S *pro bono* legal account to a young Mike Pinnock who continues to be SAID's legal advisor to this day. Mike has been awarded Honorary Life Membership for his dedicated and invaluable role. One area of business taken for granted is the

need for a means of delivery and collection. Didi approached Ramson Raseona, who worked at a local petrol station in Witkoppen, to become BAW'S dedicated driver. But driving soon took second place as Ramson refused to stand back and watch animals crying out for help; he was an able body and lent as much help as he could, whenever, wherever he was needed.

Didi knew he had a special bond with animals and he was soon incorporated into a training programme from which he graduated as a fieldworker. Ramson was resolute in his goal to educate people on animal care and also to get to suffering animals, especially horses, so much the only means to a source of income for many people suffering in their own right to put food on their tables. Ramson retired from his position as Head Equine Animal Welfare Assistant in 2008.

Dorothy Blake joined BAW'S in 1975, and her ability to find starving dogs in township backyards was unparalleled. It was Dorothy who would be first over any locked gate or fence, with no fear for her personal safety. With the advent of television still a year away, there were no hand-held or cellular cameras to capture the sight of Dorothy breaking high-jump records over fences and gates. To this day the urban legend remains that many high jumpers perfected their techniques according to Dorothy's jumping style. Following in the footsteps of fellow fieldworker, Toni Smolders, Dorothy gave her life to helping animals. She worked well into her 90s and with a lifetime of service, was instrumental in changing the face of animal welfare. It was with great sadness that SAID lost Dorothy in 2000.

Her dedication to animals laid the foundation for others to follow, and her drive and passion for the work she loved still inspires. It was soon after Sheila Taylor's arrival that BAW'S welcomed Isabel Middlemiss in 1976. With the growth of the organisation, the introduction of stricter legislative control, as well as through prudent business practice within BAW'S, Isabel was soon running a tight ship that





efficiently steered the entry and exit of all drugs and consumables. Isabel has a special connection with animals, and her passion for field work got her out of bed each morning, even when she was forced to use crutches due to a knee injury.

She lived for her work, and could not wait to get going each day. She worked tirelessly between 1976 and 2007, first as an employee and later as a retired volunteer fieldworker. And Isabel can still be found slogging away at book sales to this day. Although a gentle soul, a fiery temper was known to emerge when she encountered blatant cruelty or neglect. Isabel was able to rise above the “bad stuff” and do whatever was needed to alleviate the suffering she encountered over the decades. Issie adopted countless dogs and in 2001, she hand-reared a three-week old puppy who her late husband, Aubrey, named Grant. Today Grant is Issie’s only remaining pet and is spoilt beyond all reasonable limits.

Isabel left SAID in 2007, sharing an emotional farewell with Clement Sema. She remains in contact with her dear friends and “family” who fought bravely side by side and won, little battle by little battle, and who have entrenched a sincere feeling that SAID is winning the war against the suffering of animals.

Didi suffered a great loss when her husband, Ken, died in 1979. He was Honorary Treasurer at the time of his sudden passing.

Didi knew when she first saw Clement Sema in 1971 that she would be able to draw strength from this incredible individual who was one of the pallbearers at Ken’s funeral. It was at this time when she needed that extra strength that Clement offered tremendous support. He instinctively took up all challenges in his path and assiduously added an exceptional force that formed a special bond between him and Didi. Didi remembers when BAWs changed its name in 1978. It is no surprise that it was Roz Turner who, when Didi initiated a competition to conceptualise a

new name, said the first thing that came to mind; The Society for Animals in Distress (SAID) – a name that has become synonymous with integrity, innovation and the highest possible standards of ‘welfare’ veterinary care in South Africa.

With the arrival of Betty MacDonald in 1979 there was a sudden increase in the bank balance of SAID. Betty had a special knack for raising funds from jumble and book sales. She could always be found sorting clothes, books and a number of items to sell with an enthusiastic group of volunteers. Together with her Northern Suburbs Group, supported by Mrs Roibes, Dorothy Blake, Mrs Froome, Lucia Harrison, Toni Smolders, Isabel Middlemiss, Mrs Parry, Mrs Mason, Mrs Belloni, Mrs Vietti, Val Warrenner, Nina Culpan, Margie Gordon, Mrs Payne, Mrs Dickson, Mrs Vaughn, Mrs Randall, Mrs Parry, Mrs Wolozinsky, and many others, Betty often led the team to generate enormous income well into the 90s.















Betty retired in 1999 to spend some deserved quality time with her husband Angus. It was Margaret Gourlay who organised the Southern Suburbs Ladies and the Southern Sympathisers, supported by Norma Fordred, Mrs Boswell, Sheila Jackson and many others. Doreen Mclvor also did incredible work with her North-West Group.

Countless hours were spent “mending” books, clothes and whatever could be mended to render a financial return. Gladys Lurie had a special place in her heart for the North-West Group and with enormous support from Mrs Wolf, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Holloway, Mrs Axcell, Mrs Kelly and Mrs O’Malley, was simply awe-inspiring in her efforts.

As far as Bathurst in the Cape, volunteers refused to look the other way and allow animals to suffer when they could help. Still actively raising funds for SAID in 2008, Elysabeth Cockcroft and her helpers just kept the money rolling in, as did Muriel Noakes. Another regular supporter, Victoria Harper became a constant source of comfort for The Society as she regularly arrived laden with gifts in both arms and cash safely tucked away in her bag or pockets.

SAID lost a dedicated person in Jean Duckham when she decided to leave for England in the 70s. With an increased caseload, and in need of more space, SAID found an ideal spot in 1978 in Vorna Valley, Midrand.

Aptly named The Paddocks, this property became a special place for Roz Turner, who took up residence there with her husband, Joe, to be close to her animals day and night. The Paddocks is a safe haven for recuperating animals, who receive in abundance love, care and, of course, plenty of food and water. While working horses were under the whip in the townships, many of them found extra special care in the hands of Les Stillman who retired in 1975.

A horse lover and the township horses’ guardian angel, Les and others like him were an inspiration to many from the 60s through to the 90s and later, including William Soane – who joined SAID with extensive experience after many years at a veterinary practice – Walter Kellerman, Norman Barker, Mrs Stolt, Delyth Jones, Malcolm Holman, John Clarke, Willem White, Sheila Jackson, Peter Lamao, Elias Nokoane, Samuel Mphela, Seth Phiri, Nathalie Covarr, Petros Sibiya, Petrus Lubisi, Simon Mohlala, Klaas Tladi, Calby Sekonyele, Klass Phiri, John Sema, Johannes Mnisi, Moses Masikwaneng, Samuel Mathobela, Elias Nokoane, and Lazarus Machaba.







A Country in Turmoil does not Quell the Passion for Animals - The 80s

Dr Rose Peters recognised the need to educate pet owners on animal care and her prize Labrador Retriever, Bo, became quite famous.

Bo was the first dog to be used at SAID as a live training 'device' to show fieldworkers how to apply bandages and splints. He was often seen playfully showing off his 'wounds' to groups of people, always refusing to be taken away from the spotlight. What a proud and hardworking dog; even he knew how important his job was to help his own kind. Perhaps he just loved stealing the spotlight, as rolling over with a bandaged paw in the air seemed to bring sympathy from all around him, and he just smiled and waved, enjoying the attention and gentle strokes.

Rick Pryce was thrown into the world of animal care at SAID as far back as 1967, and more so when he graduated as a veterinarian from Onderstepoort in 1970. Rick helped to arrange the acquisition of horse boxes in 1975, and with some of the most severe cases of abuse to horses, he established a programme to educate community horse owners on the advantages of correct harnessing. In 1983, Rick was elected Chairman and being Chairman of the South African Veterinary Council as well, SAID was now afforded an ideal opportunity to be heard far and wide. Rick was elected Honourary Vice President in 1999.

“The proudest moments of my life were all during my stay with The Society for Animals in Distress. To overcome the hardships that these people do, every day, is testament to their absolute dedication to the animal.” Rick Pryce 2007





“Seeing the hayshed become a fully-operational hospital is a proud achievement, one which will always fill me with happiness as more and more animals walk out with a clean bill of health.” Dr Sheelagh Higgerty



South Africa was in the middle of unprecedented conflict - heightened during the 70s and 80s - that would shake the world. Its effect, sadly, reached the animals suffering in the many townships of the country. It was during these tumultuous times that the resolve of the fieldworkers was tested as they entered townships with much-needed military back-up.

In 1982, fieldworker, Moses Masikwaneng, joined SAID. He recalls visiting a dog-owner's home and stepping on a moving rug. On closer inspection, he realised that the 'rug' was actually the most unkempt dog he'd ever seen. Moses soon had "Rug Dog" back at headquarters and after a good bath, a little veterinary care and lots of grooming, Rug Dog emerged as a handsome little Maltese Poodle.

It was Dr Peters who mentioned SAID to Nathalie Pope in 1984. Without the slightest knowledge of animal care, Nathalie took it upon herself to learn, and was soon in the middle of things until 1994. After a 10-year absence from The Society, Nathalie rejoined in 2004 and continues to work tirelessly to ensure the health and well-being of more than 300 coal-yard horses and donkeys in the greater Tembisa area.

A fiery Mauritian, Natz's energy and enthusiasm are inspirational. She would think nothing of leaving her warm bed in the middle of an icy winter night to help an ailing animal. Nathalie has a huge heart and an equally big house filled to capacity with dogs, cats, birds and even donkeys; we know who rules the roost there.

Ongoing training is critical to ensure that fieldworkers are equipped to deal with vaccinations, de-worming and minor injuries on-site. Dr Sheelagh Higgerty joined SAID in 1983 after qualifying as a veterinarian in 1980. She ran training courses for the fieldworkers, providing them with the skills necessary to handle animals in distress and to safely transport them to SAID. It was Dr Higgerty who identified The Society's need for its own fully-functional hospital. She also recognised the

need to maintain strict control and set about helping to establish the hospital in which veterinarians performed countless life-saving procedures. This would take two years to complete.

Dr Higgerty realised that with some training, fieldworkers would be able to identify diseases and provide some comfort to the animals during transportation to SAID's hospital. She developed a Fieldworker's Manual that provides fieldworkers with reference material covering diseases, treatment, care and animal-handling instructions. This manual remains a crucial source of reference at SAID. Drs Michelle Adams and John Harvey extended the manual to include further up-to-date precedents.

Sheila Taylor's networking skills and, of course, her keenness to spread the word about the efforts of SAID, helped to enlist the help of Colleen Hill in 1985. Colleen eagerly took on the role of Administration Manager and PRO, and continued in this capacity until 2004.

Meticulous to a fault, Colleen performed her duties to the letter, but behind her tidy books and records were hidden talents that emerged on special occasions. Colleen is an expert on all matters pertaining to the Titanic, minutiae that few people are aware of. The money she received for the many talks she delivered at schools and other venues around Johannesburg was either donated to The Sea Rescue Institute or The Society for Animals in Distress.

Colleen was also an aspirant cabaret artiste, and at parties would don her costume and entertain audiences with her well-timed dancing to Frank Sinatra's *New York, New York*. It was the ever-present, obliging Clement Sema who took Colleen into Soweto where she came face-to-face with the country's turmoil during the struggle period.





“It was a tough lesson, but the only way to teach new fieldworkers was to take them right into the townships and let them witness, first-hand, the appalling conditions that the animals endured.”
Clement Sema

Colleen’s husband, Ross, became a loyal coin counter along with the other dedicated and invaluable counters spanning 50 years; Arthur Sleigh, John Folliot, Gordon Howe, Keith Malcolm and Anne Jenkinson.

The value of SAID’s volunteers is immeasurable and ‘volunteering’ often became a family affair, with husbands and wives ‘enlisting’ for duty. Through the years, a single family member’s dedication to animals could well receive the uncompromising support of the entire family.

One individual who consistently seemed to always be there was Ursula Wolf. Ursula was a volunteer for The Society from 1986 until her retirement in 2005. She diligently catalogued and priced thousands of donated books every week. And anyone who has ever catalogued books will tell you it’s not easy. Ursula worked, untiringly, in cramped and stifling conditions, never complaining. Her invaluable efforts will never be forgotten. Taking over this arduous task is Juliet Harrison, who continues with this important role with the same dedication as Ursula. Yet another stalwart and dedicated book seller is Sandy Goodall who also served as a Committee Member for two terms.

During the 80s, the struggle for democracy intensified. It was a sad time in the history of SAID as numerous attempts to reach animals had to be halted; it was simply too risky driving into the townships and the Security Forces would only accompany fieldworkers up to a point and no further.

South Africa’s political unrest had a profound effect on SAID. Les Stillman and Nelson Gwe Gwe had their vehicle stoned in Moroka Township, while Toni Smolders and Bennett Gwebu had their vehicle lifted and bounced in Tembisa. And yet, despite this, their spirit could not be curtailed; the next day they were back, searching for animals that needed their help!

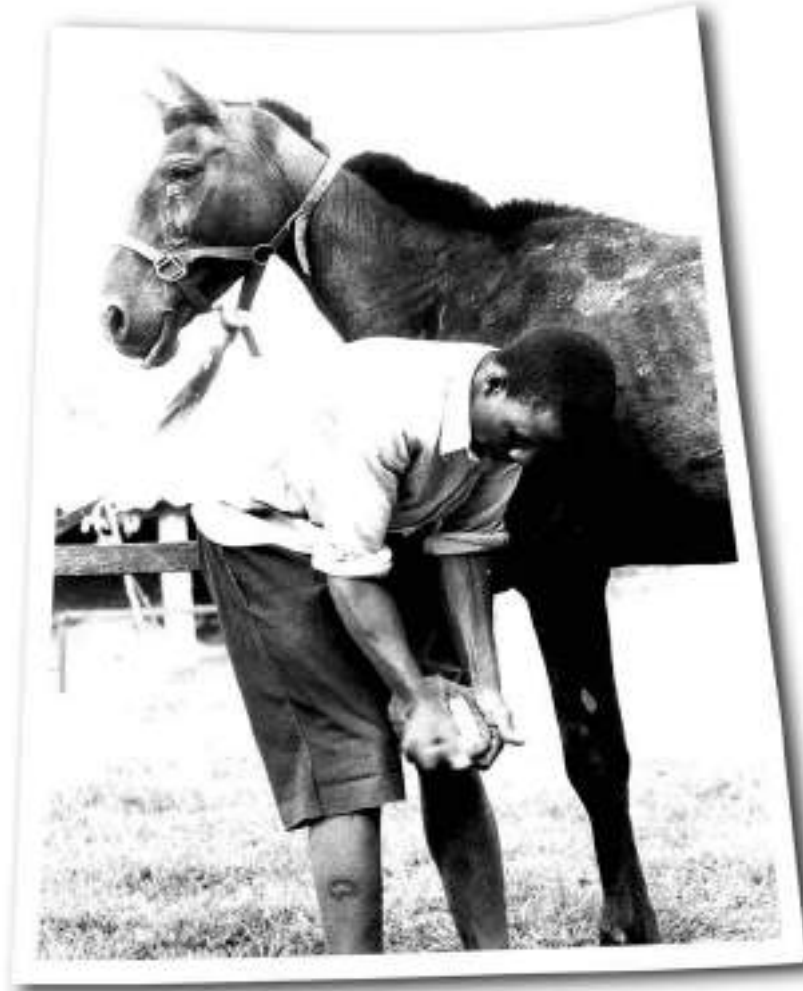
It was a brave effort by June Moore, who on more than one occasion used the might of the Security Forces to provide some measure of safety during her efforts to reach the animals. As recently as 2004, a serviceman who accompanied June into the townships, was excited to learn of SAID’s continued existence and has become a keen donor.

It was inevitable that crime would affect SAID. Vehicles were hijacked and drivers often faced life-threatening situations, and John Moshi was just one victim of the increasing hijacking proliferation. In the field, he was treating a sickly puppy when









“In one yard we might find 10 dogs, but there are also five families living there. The people sometimes have no food for their children, never mind their dogs.” John Moshi



he felt cold steel touch the back of his head. Forced to surrender the keys to his vehicle, his only means to get the poor puppy to hospital, John could do nothing but watch as the thugs sped off with The Society's vehicle after they had ransacked the house that John was visiting. But not even being held up at gunpoint could stop the staff of SAID.

A steely resolve, backed by an uncompromised commitment, soon saw tails wagging again as fieldworkers found their way through danger spots to reach the animals.

“These people cannot even afford to feed themselves properly, let alone their animals.” Val Warrener 1989

Sheila Osborne joined The Society in the mid-80s and was determined to successfully manage the Western Coloured Township Animal Clinic. Dorothy Blake was always on hand to offer any support and to ensure Sheila knew that behind her stood a team of dedicated people, equally passionate about animals, and ever-ready to assist. Within three months of establishing this satellite clinic, more than 900 dogs and 50 cats were treated. Many horses, cows and goats were also brought to the clinic for attention. Sheila also launched ambitious programmes to vaccinate and sterilise dogs in the area. Sue Lambrecht arrived at SAID in the 80s, roping in husband, Henning, to assist. Sue offered her administration skills in many areas, and during the latter part of her tenure in 1998, Sue assumed the secretarial position on the SAID Committee. Today Sue and Henning live in Cape Town, near their children.

“The challenges we faced each day tested us, but with the tremendous support of Didi and Roz we were able to face any obstacle, for the sake of the animals.” Sue Lambrecht, 2007

More challenges meant more fieldworkers were needed to tackle the unrelenting work. Nathalie Pope and Daniella Benevelli, along with Eddie Makete, alleviated the suffering of hundreds of animals, day-after-day venturing into the townships in search of animals crying out for help - true heroes.

As street collections evolved into more sophisticated and structured events, planning collecting activities became increasingly complex, and in 1987 Val Warrener took on the crucial role of Street Collection Convener. In addition she was never afraid to go to any lengths to rescue animals, allowing no obstacle to get in her way and getting dirty was no deterrent either. It was not unusual to see her desperately scratching among rubble or under scrap motor vehicles and in backyards to retrieve suffering animals.







A New Millennium Approaches - The 90s

The beginning of the 90s saw South Africa thrown into violent political turmoil.

In the turbulent wake of the volatile 70s and 80s, it was the South African Defense Force that provided much-needed support amid the growing upheaval in many townships.

A team of our soldiers would often accompany fieldworkers into dangerous areas. Three of these brave men, Colonel Holland Muter, Commandant J Viljoen and Lieutenant D van Vuuren, were captured in a photograph included in one of the Society's newsletters in 1990.

It was a sad day for Didi when Roz passed away after a lengthy struggle with cancer in February 1992, a special and dear friend. Didi is unable to hide the sadness and pays tribute to a unique person. Clement Sema adopted the position of Fieldworker Supervisor while continuing to fulfill The Society's mandate of providing care to animals in the townships.

The Society's Honorary Secretary, Roz Turner, is fondly remembered by all her old friends; her ashes scattered over The Paddocks by husband, Joe, after a special funeral service. It is fitting that she is laid to rest at the place where she was so intricately involved in helping hundreds of animals.

The Rotary Club of Rosebank presented its Vocational Service Award to Roz Turner for "Service Above Self" in her daily life. Soon after SAID's hospital was established at The Paddocks, the kennel ward was dedicated to the memory of Roz Turner. A

prominently-displayed plaque serves as a reminder of the extreme commitment of a special individual whose efforts and actions saved countless animals from a life of severe trauma and distress.

General Manager from September 1996 to September 1998, John Waddelow, provided impetus to SAID's marketing and operations, introducing a Public Relations and Communications Programme and providing a new approach to fundraising. Under John's guidance, The Society re-organised its management structure, improved operations, restructured its Basic Conditions of Employment and introduced electronic banking.

Peter Lake took over the role of General Manager from John Waddelow from September 1998 until 2004 and assumed the responsibility of relocating the entire administrative division of SAID from Kew to The Paddocks. This move resulted in a more cohesive relationship between the hospital, fieldworkers and the administrative staff.

Through the years SAID has been extremely fortunate to be able to draw on the skilled expertise of many talented individuals, all highly regarded in their field of expertise. Running a business needs the dedication and meticulous accuracy of bookkeepers, administrators and treasurers, and the commitment of many who each bring their own special talents; John Collett, Jane Pryce, Brendan McElligott (Honourary Treasurer), Mike Haldane, Idah Boshomane, Ernest Khumalo, John Kinvig,

the society for
**animals in
distress** NEWSLETTER — MARCH 1990

Registered Charity Incorporated in U.K. 2835307
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(above) Emaciated and street-battered dogs in this condition are a common sight in Alexandria - victims of the appalling conditions that abound. The rate of human destruction is, sadly, very high.



(above) Indian Khilafatists with members of the Defence Force who have given A.I.D. safe access into areas. We cannot adequately express our gratitude to these wonderful guys, with special thanks to Colonel Richard Miller, Commandant of M.I. (Gen) and C. D. van Houten for their magnificent co-operation, over the past few years.

THE AGONY OF ALEXANDRA

ONE OPEN A TIME... Alexandra Township was a small black township north of Johannesburg, consisting of some, mainly back brick houses with flat or low ceilings, or flat corrugated iron roofs and vegetable gardens. Dogs roved with their great grey pelted grazing in a handful of open grass and brown wooded areas.

THURSDAY is a morning, resembling hundreds of days, of quiet trade which seem usually every inch of open ground in the township, providing make-shift "benches" for most animals who arrive in an evening, some from early morning. Leading off the main roads narrow paths wind silently in and around the blocks, making the area more sparsely settled. Myriads of children make their way through these pathways in a pedestrian journey... and every few meters or so, the inevitable scuffed cat feet come in the way.

This is the holiday for the employees of ANIMALS IN DISTRESS, who are busy, busy, with the monumental task of saving life and raising some of the thousands of puppies that end every day in the streets or dumped in the back yards. The ones which are fit, tagged with numbers of grey and a low down cover, bring for help in the month of June.

A.I.D. has been fortunate, so far, in the assistance help provided by the ARMY, who have given us sufficient dog pens the back of Africa, where we have to look out the sick, the suffering and the unwanted - digging out from under scrap metal, over three hours of prep work, before without a scrap of food or their own food, or providing water and food to about 100 dogs who spend their days without shelter from heat or cold, maintaining well over 100 for their regular or off-duty and veterinary treatment. Disease is still in their unfortunate creatures who exist in the most appalling conditions imaginable.

ANIMALS IN DISTRESS and its team are doing all they possibly can to combat this situation, doing a job which has got to be the most unpleasant job of work in the world, but at the end of a long tiring week, they are going to dig out the weekend.

The "blackheads" - our volunteers, dedicated and compassionate "guys" want to be proud for carrying out what can only be classified as "MISSIONS OF MERCY".

A.I.D.'s BUSY YEAR

The work of the Society for Animals in Distress has again increased in tempo and scope in the alleviation of suffering of unwanted animals.

Last year, its fieldworkers regularly visited OVER 40 townships, from Tzaneen and Bulwer Ridge (a new colonial township near Odiangorana) and Alexandra in the North, to KwaMashu and adjoining urban areas, halfway to Vanderbijlpark in the South... and including all their regular work areas of Soweto, Brixton Park and other coloured areas.

9 MOBILE CLINICS, manned by skilled and compassionate workers, set out each day to seek out sick, injured or abused animals, whose numbers seem to increase daily, in line with the ever-increasing township dwellers.

Distances travelled were over 300,000 kilometers, involving a total of 31,000 treatments and welfare visits. SPAYS done at our Spaying Clinic and by local hospital vets, amounted to 1,836. 1542 small animals and 25 horses, cats & donkeys were humanely destroyed. Fuel and transport costs rose dramatically to R100,000 and medicines, Veterinary Expenses and food distributed in the townships cost the Society well in excess of R100,000.

We know we will have to face further cut backs during the coming year, but A.I.D. maintains a positive outlook on the future, encouraged mainly by the co-operation of so many animal owners who seem eager to have the help of the Society.

A.I.D.'s success provides a classic example of how well people of different racial groups can co-operate for good communal purpose.



(above) A.I.D. fieldworkers come across a bitch in milk, dead on the side of a road. Miss Val Warren, look in hand, straddles amongst the rubble under a car to retrieve the puppies, will lovingly allow.



Mrs Kinvig, Kirsten Heinrich, John Heinrich, Joyce Alldis, Samantha Cohen, Bernard Neuhaus (Honorary Treasurer), and Laura Schmidt.

In November 1998, the role of Chairman passed on to John Gibbs, husband of Dr Sheelagh Higgerty. At the top of every welfare organisation's list, month after month, you will no doubt see that funding remains the number one priority. On top of this, the painstaking decisions of spending funds on matters that do not directly add value to the lives of the animals remain continuous dilemmas for Chairpersons.

“May the work of the Society continue forever.” John Gibbs 2000

John ensured that SAID's funding continued to find its way to the animals. John had been involved in the “dog world” for many years as a handler, breeder and judge. His preference was for Border Collies, with Carriage Driving being one of his keen hobbies.

Many South Africans have been affected directly or indirectly by the scourge of crime that besets our country. But it is heartbreaking when an organisation dedicated to the wellbeing of animals is affected, resulting in a loss of crucial funds intended for suffering animals. Godfrey Maganyane, who joined SAID in 1994, escaped with his life after being attacked and robbed of SAID's vital funds, as well as his own money and mobile phone in 2001. Sustaining severe head wounds, we can be thankful that he survived to continue his excellent work at The Society.

Humour is a special thread that weaves its way through the lives of all at SAID. It is an essential element that maintains the balance required for healthy relationships in a pressurised environment, and Godfrey's consistent good humour and infectious smile keep the office buoyant. Godfrey was named “Golden” by his late friend,

Nosipho Sema, an obvious choice considering his golden smile never leaves his face. Godfrey is a consummate gentleman and family man, who never, ever complains about anything.







A New Millennium - 2000

In 2001, the entire SAID operation moved from Kew to The Paddocks – an essential move that would bring hospital, office staff, fieldworkers and, of course, animals together.

The resident horses and donkeys, as well as those admitted as patients at The Paddocks live a special life with abundant grazing, love and care. Cats roam freely in the offices, getting all the attention they demand, while dogs laze around with their food buffet well stocked throughout the day. And don't be surprised to find a goat or two wandering around the kitchen.

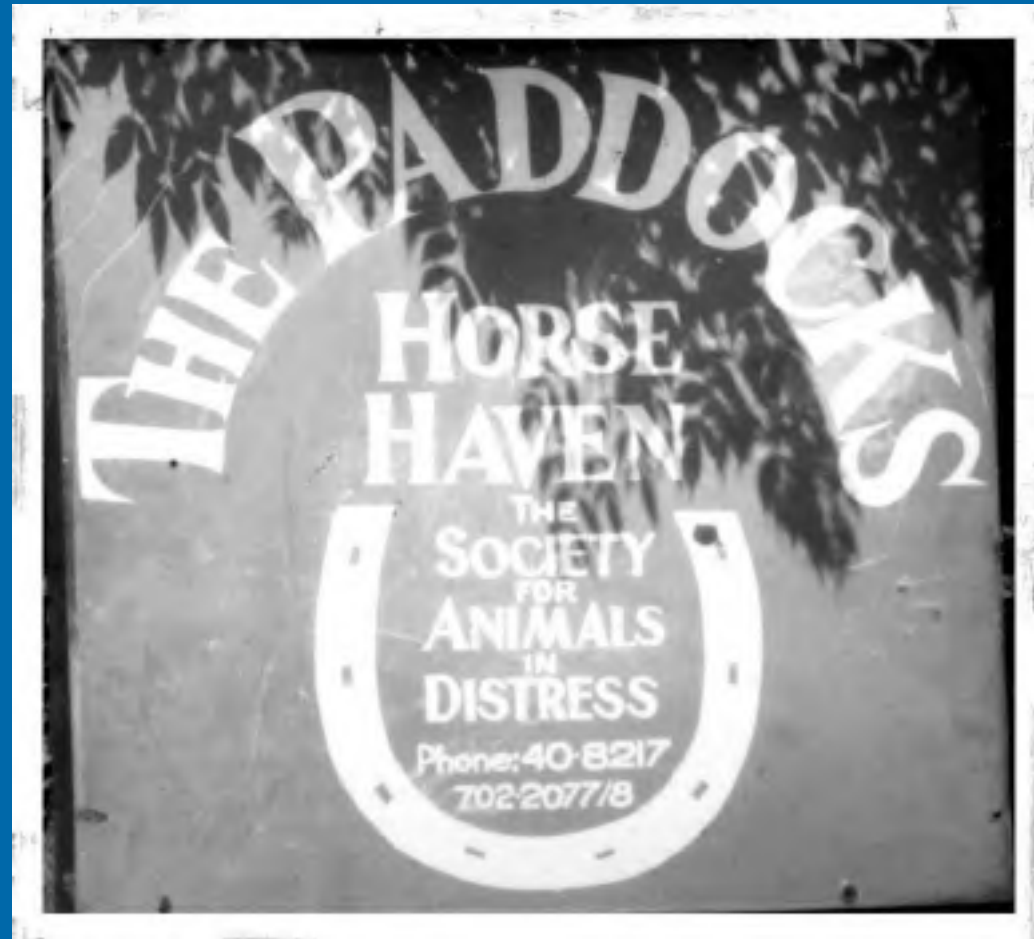
Darren Margo registered as a Member of The Society in 2002, and offering free legal counsel has proven to be extremely valuable. Darren's love of animals runs deep, and he dotes on his beloved cat, Athena. Always just a phone call away, Darren will often spend his precious weekends making sure that SAID is legally protected. He was also instrumental in assisting Chairman, Geoff Norris, with the necessary restructuring of SAID's Constitution.

Ongoing training is critical to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the requirements of a demanding job. Animal Welfare Assistants (AWAs) are required to carry out primary veterinary care, which cannot be achieved without the necessary training, the standards of which have substantially been raised over the years. Dr Sheelagh Higgerty recognised the importance of rewarding those who excelled

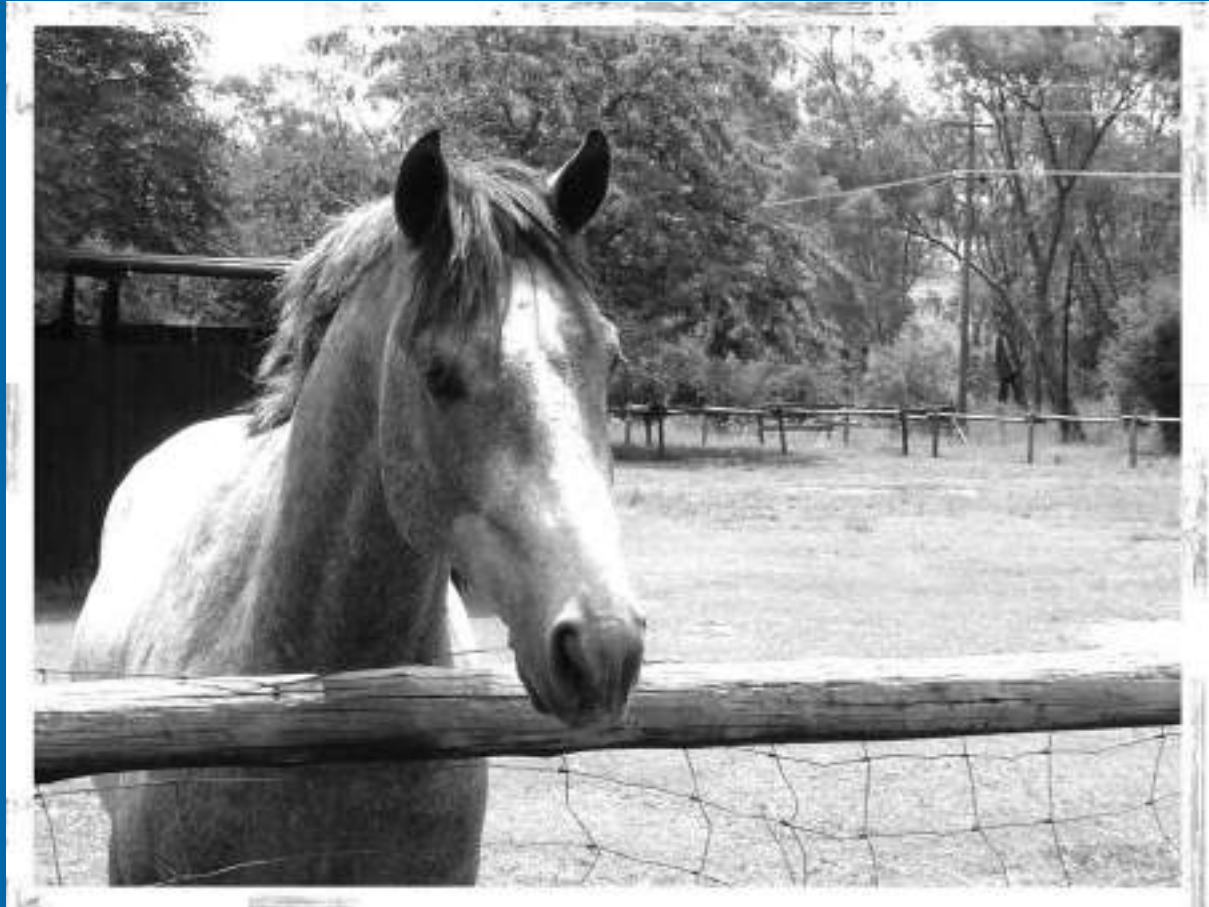
in their work, and one such employee was David Hiine. David was raised to have respect for animals, and his culture dictates that children should assume responsibility for their welfare. David attended Pretoria Technikon and completed a three-year course in Animal Production. After graduating and working at the Department of Veterinary Health, University of the North and the SPCA, David joined SAID. He was the first recipient of the Higgerty/Gibbs AWA Award for Excellence in 2005. At the time of publication, David was embarking on a Project Management Course to enhance his already considerable knowledge.

Special friends of The Society since 2002, Carol & Joe Field, are probably the organisation's most regular donors. Almost every Monday, the proceeds from their puppy training at "Sunday School" are generously deposited into SAID's bank account. Each December, Carol & Joe host the very popular Sunday School Show, and all proceeds from this fun event are added to an ever-growing cumulative total of 'Field Funding'.

"Joe and I have been showing dogs for 20 years; the least we can do is give something back." Carol Field 2005









Long-time volunteer and Committee Member, Jill Wileman, was motivated by the prospect of teaching children to understand and respect animals. Jill researched effective educational initiatives and plunged right into the launch of SAID's Education Programme in 2003, determined that the end result would be the informed care of animals. Jill's main objective was to change the thinking patterns of the youth by teaching them the value of properly caring for animals. Jill's own menagerie seldom consists of less than 10 dogs, husband, John, dozens of chickens and a horse or three.

Once the programme had been approved by The Gauteng Education Department, teaching began in earnest headed by Jill and full-time Education Officer, Victor Netshilonwe. The beginnings were humble in just three schools, but the response was astonishing, eventually leading to the acquisition of 52 schools in 2007. Petronella Belebesi joined the formal Programme as Victor's assistant and volunteer dog-handlers, Margie Lambie and Karen and Tracey Bullivant, with their four-legged, furry educators, liven up the Third Module with their trained-dog displays. Equine Manager, Nathalie Pope, and Fundraiser, Sandy Elliott, can also be seen in the 'showring' with their own dogs added to the mix.

To say that Sandy Elliot was overwhelmed when she joined the Fundraising Team is an understatement. Initially, somewhat lacking in confidence, she was dropped into the deep-end, and the saying, "to swim, just jump into the water" perfectly describes Sandy's introduction to SAID. Lots of splashing and spluttering, but now she is one of the best swimmers. Sandy arranges shopping-centre collections and, with her dedicated team of volunteers and their "Furry Fundraisers", they raise much-needed income. And that's not all; Sandy organises shows and promotions on weekends too. Sandy's growth in The Society has been remarkable. Her creativity emerges around all corners with ideas popping out of her head all the time to boost The Society's coffers. Sandy is a veritable magnet for stray animals whose

antennae seem to lead them to her front door, car and even her office from time to time. Everyone marvels at Sandy who always seems to have crazy dogs, entertaining cats, injured goats and stunned birds under her wing. Supported by consistently good-natured, hardworking and loyal driver, Foni Moyo (who can occasionally be seen driving around Johannesburg when he's not buried under piles of jumble), and Thabile Monyake, Sandy and her team are a force to be reckoned with.

Sometimes good people have to move on and so it was with Tanya Inkin. Tanya's idea of organising a Golf Day to raise funds was well received. Today, The Society for Animals in Distress Golf Day is a popular annual event for many corporate golfers. Sadly for SAID, Tanya and her husband have now settled Hong Kong.

There are so many families who have rallied together to come to the assistance of SAID. One such family is the Banners. Mom, Sharon, is actively involved on the Executive Committee, in all manner of fundraising, and she regularly visits and walks SAID's hospital patients. Dogs flock to Sharon's famous liver cake, smelling their favourite delicacy a mile away. All can sense the arrival of Sharon as the dogs on the premises race to the gates, jostling for position to be first in line to get their ration. Daughter Sami, is an avid animal lover, and husband, Martin is now a well-known MC at SAID's annual charity Golf Days that Sharon puts enormous effort and time into.

Pat Barr-Sanders, Editor and Fundraiser, joined in 2001 and has injected a way of life into The Society that is both infectious and inspiring. Along with a selfless attitude and a steadfast, dedicated approach, Pat has been responsible for the vibrant, positive content and layout of SAID's informative quarterly newsletter that reaches the hearts and minds of every donor who readily and generously responds to her unique signature of 'Paws Truly'.





A contemporary world demands a modern approach and it is Pat who delivers on all counts. Rolling in horse manure wearing evening dress, crown and fluffy slippers to raise funds, Pat knows no challenge too big or absurd when it comes to getting her animals heard. You can be assured that when something meaningful or outrageous needs to be done for the benefit of the animals, it will be Pat you find in the front of the queue. Whether writing, singing or recording animal CDs, or “painting” computerised pet pictures, Pat has found her home and lifelong ambition filled to the brim serving the animals she adores. Pat’s innate ability to remember each person who donates time, money or anything for the benefit of her animals is a remarkable characteristic. She not only develops exceptionally positive relationships with donors and staff, she builds friendships. Pat has in her time at SAID established The Society as a place where everyone feels at home. While adopting a spiritual approach to all challenges, Pat has maintained a traditional work ethic, balancing ultra-accurate record-keeping with new ideas and trends to maintain and attract diverse and growing donor attention.

“Obstacles do not exist for us; only challenges.” Pat Barr-Sanders 2008

Along with a team of avant-garde thinkers, Pat adds a dimension that is critical to the balance required when raising ever-growing veterinary care funding necessary for the continuation of The Society’s work.

Geoff Norris took the wheel as Chairman in 2003 and accepted the challenges presented by the new millennium. Globally the world is changing and technology has become crucial to all successful organisations. Geoff was instrumental in planning and executing the acquisition of an updated and streamlined computer system that would see the administration of SAID turn yet another important corner. Geoff’s ability to institute protocol and policies, while simultaneously lending enormous support to management, made him not only a truly honourable Chairman, but also



a special friend. Geoff took on the task of re-working The Society’s Constitution while remaining true to its mandate, which dictates the execution of sustainable and accountable animal care. Geoff retired in 2007 but remains involved in an advisory capacity during the negotiations to acquire SAID’s new premises. Jacey de Gidts accepted Geoff’s seat in the chair for a short but “power-packed” period in 2007. Jacey’s major contribution was the facilitated acquisition of a large generator, which has proven invaluable for SAID’s bustling hospital during untimely and notorious power cuts, which have become SA’s new national pastime - load shedding!

With the retirement of Colleen Hill, yet another animal lover joined SAID. Heather Müller who joined The Society in 2004 as Administration Manager, and shortly afterwards settled into a very hot seat as General Manager. The administration post was temporarily filled by Jenny Van Der Watt who ensured and supported Heather’s smooth transition into what was to become the most exciting journey of her life. Jenny handed over the administration role to the ever-capable Linky Marobe, who today, with excellence, quietly slogs away with day-to-day mountains of paperwork. Linky, who is a natural peacemaker, complements Heather’s discerning management style perfectly.



“We strive to keep to our promise to reach more animals, in more places, more often.” Heather Muller 2007



Heather's eternal optimism and knack of whipping up ideas and initiatives that have an uncanny ability to simply blossom, have seen SAID reinvent itself, adapting to ever-changing market forces and new demands placed on resources. Heather consistently ensures that the credibility of The Society is not only noticed, but calls to action the ability of business and consumer to pull together for the benefit of the animals.

SAID's Committee Members count their blessings daily for such an uncompromising and gifted individual with a talent that has a single focus; the total management of an organisation with its key role being for the benefit of the animals it serves. Heather is the driving passion behind the daily operational activities and has been instrumental in the success of the Society's Coal Yard Project. Her determination is unmatched as she strives to deliver nothing less than service excellence to all working animals in the coal yards.

It is an ambitious, ongoing initiative that provides crucial assistance to working animals in coal yards in Tembisa, Winnie Mandela and Ivory Parks. Heather is ever-conscious of the need to ensure that coal-yard horses and donkeys are properly fed, shod, regularly vaccinated and de-wormed.

This ongoing equine initiative continues to look after the needs of more than 300 working animals that are now in exemplary condition. A critical success factor of SAID is the stringent management of its daily operations, and it is here that Heather's good governance has proved to be consummate. She fiercely protects The Society and all it stands for. Heather sees the value in people and supports her staff in their endeavours, while constantly challenging them to achieve their maximum potential. Lyn Wells joined SAID in 2001 and had a brief period away from The Society from 2004 to 2007. When you needed to find her, Lyn was always entrenched in paperwork and organising events for The Society. A stickler for detail and perfection,

Lyn's professional approach impresses everyone she comes into contact with. Although she will be sadly missed, Lyn decided to move in a different direction in 2008.

"It is well known that we thrive on challenges, which are in large supply in our daily work of caring for needy animals." Lyn Wells 2007

It seems that Clement Sema makes a big impression on his colleagues, the community and also his family. It was his niece Nosipho Sema who, for many years, was the golden voice that you first heard when calling in, or the first face that greeted you when visiting The Paddocks. Nosipho spent much of her working life at SAID and it was a tragedy for The Society to lose such a young and vibrant friend to the ravages of a brain tumour in 2004.

With the retirement of Clement, The Society faced a void that it thought would remain for a long time. But in Solly Mathebula, SAID found someone who shared the same philosophy as Clement; The Animal Comes First. Clement took him under his wing and soon "Jolly Solly" was up and running as SAID's new Operations Manager. Solly's dry but hilarious sense of humour frequently has the staff in stitches. Clement officially retired from SAID in 2005, but found it hard to leave the animals and continued until 2007 as a regular standby volunteer at The Paddocks.

He has to guide SAID into the future and ensure that the momentum gained over the last 50 years continues for the next 50.

John Newbury's role as Chairman in 2008 is no small challenge. John is a caring person and a well-respected businessman whose animals and family mean the world to him. In 1994, John was recognised by the Institute of Marketing Management as Marketer of the Year.





SAID's Veterinary Nurses



Forever in support of The Society's veterinarians are the veterinary nurses.

And SAID has been fortunate to have some of the best nurses in the business: Theresa Malan, Ingrid Haacke, Thully Mtshali, Vivienne Roux, Bernadette Booyse, Jean Janta, Michelle Lutz, and Christel Janse van Rensburg and also, hospital assistants Gladys Mabuka, Martin Motoa, Ronnie Shiburi, George Menemudivhadi, Olben Masemola, Portia Moramudi and Lerato Sebogodi. Their loving touches and compassion soon have animals once again trusting their human counterparts.

"It is simply unbelievable that so many people could dedicate so much time, without any financial gain, just to see the joy of freedom in a rescued animal." Didi Rutherford 2008











And so a Legend Leaves ...

Didi was heartbroken to leave SAID, but looks back with fondness on a life of dedication to her beloved animals. Her son, Gray, provided all the support she needed to retire to the Eastern Cape. Looking back over 50 years, Didi had no way of knowing that helping that very first animal at BAWS would lead her to taking on an enormous challenge that would inspire so many to offer their time for the benefit of animals.

*“I have a special place in my heart for those wonderful people who not only stood by me, but who dedicated their lives to save animals.”
Didi Rutherford 2008*

Didi looks back proudly at 50 years of dedication that has changed a nation’s attitude to its animals.

Didi left SAID in 1989, moving to the majestic coastline of Knysna, deservedly enjoying some relaxation after a lifetime’s dedication to every animal she touched with her love. Her collection of paintings, which were reproduced to create beautiful cards and calendars to raise funds for SAID, now hang in her living room where she enjoys the company of her family and cats.

To this day, Didi still goes out of her way to help animals, and finds time to support the Knysna Animal Welfare Society, doing what she loves; caring for animals. A passion lives on, and where there are animals, Didi is never far away. The support of each and every person since that very first day in 1958, up until her last day in 1989, is something Didi remembers with fondness, and her love for the

people dear to her will remain with her forever. Through the countless memories and the brave efforts of every person that Didi had the privilege to know and work with, she will treasure each moment.

It is hard to miss the tears escaping Didi’s eyes in the fading light of Knysna; tears of joy ... and sadness as she fondly looks back on the wonderful and sad times at SAID. The sadness of not getting to all the animals that needed her, losing her beloved husband, dear friends and colleagues, and leaving behind her passion. But joy and happiness creep through abundant in her eyes as she realises the profound achievements of a group of dedicated animal lovers, she herself, being the country’s leading animal care-giver.

Didi, so many animals owe their lives to you, and so many people thank you for offering them the opportunity to live their passion.

“It was a wrench to leave The Society for Animals in Distress, which was such a big part of my life, but I am so grateful that the ideals we believed in all those years ago are still being upheld.” Didi Rutherford 2008





The Challenge of Fundraising

Didi remembers one of their very first public promotions in October 1979.

By being visible, SAID was able to draw on the unbelievable support from the general public who began to see for themselves how the monumental efforts of a small organisation was able to make a meaningful difference.

The success achieved during the first fundraising projects set the standard for the future. Didi's team understood the urgent need to raise funds but, equally, they understood the consumer who faced growing financial difficulties. Throughout the years, places that offered increased visibility, coupled with thousands of passing feet, were shopping centres, which became good "hunting grounds" for fundraisers.

Early on Didi applied for a license to do street collections, and with the help of close friends, was able to develop a routine that enhanced these fundraising efforts. She got this down to a fine art in the early years and fundraisers later used her methodologies to adapt and improve their own initiatives.

Collections were largely done passively standing at shopping-centre entrances, drawing sympathetic people to that daunting money box. Some fundraisers had their dogs accompany them; others preferred to 'go it alone'. Either way, it was tough to stand in the blistering heat for hours at a time, no rest. But no matter how the money was collected, every cent was graciously accepted and diligently allocated to the animals.

Standing for hours collecting small change is physically draining. But, time and again, it took much convincing to talk volunteers into giving up their position or to take a break. The desire to fill the collection tins motivated fundraisers to stand their ground until the last cent was forced inside.







Like clockwork, collection tins found their way back to headquarters, proudly lined up as if waiting to see which one was the heaviest. Anticipation filled the room as volunteers began counting thousands of coins, yes, some even from neighbouring countries and continents. Each counter smiled in delight as they reached mini milestones; R10, R50, R100 ... R1,000! Excitement built as piles of coins grew to new heights and finding notes was a real highlight.

Jumble sales were used to great effect. Carloads of clothing, with driver barely visible, were delivered, in attempts to get as much stock to flea markets, stalls, street corners, shopping centres, everywhere. Every item of clothing sold meant less suffering for an animal.

In today's modern, fast-paced world, time is money and few people can afford to volunteer their time. Many who have been in a position to do so have shown immense resolve, unconditional commitment and absolute determination to provide even the slightest relief to an animal facing a time of distress. They often fade into the background, but deserve recognition for their bravery and unselfish commitment. Those who report cases and follow up, those who donate time to raise funds, those who give money, those who offer clothes and books; it is these people who through the years have come to the rescue of thousands of animals.

Supporters who have followed the successes of SAID over the years sometimes nominate The Society as a beneficiary in their Wills. Didi recalls a substantial bequest left to the animals by Mrs Goldstone, which included a house and a large sum of money. It is gestures such as this that fill the hearts of all at SAID as they realise that there are so many people who love animals unconditionally.

David and Helen Gaynor of Dullstroom had been quietly following SAID's progress for many years. On every visit to Johannesburg, the Gaynors would pay a visit to

the staff at The Paddocks to catch up on latest developments and to donate unwanted goods for them to sell. Following one such visit, the Gaynors had an in-depth discussion among themselves about funding, which led to a most extraordinary donation in 'lieu' of a bequest later on.



“Having followed the work of The Society for years, and seeing the success achieved by the emphasis placed on the education of animal owners and the youth, we concluded that SAID is truly making a difference in the present lives of many domestic and working animals. We therefore decided to donate funds earmarked for The Society in our Wills now, rather than later, to assist them with their impending move to new premises.” David and Helen Gaynor 2007



It is this type of extreme generosity that will ensure the sustainability of The Society's good work for a further 50 years and beyond.



The Upliftment of Animals in the Townships

The inception of SAID (BAWS at the time) changed the face of animal welfare. Initially, with one borrowed vehicle, Didi was able to at least begin the implausible work, synonymous with SAID today.

Responding to one call at a time, there was no way to predict that SAID's work would ultimately grow, at the time of writing, to a staggering 370 treatments a day, both at The Society's Hospital, and using seven Mobile Clinics, while educating in 52 schools in nine townships and informal settlements.

In addition to Alexandra, Soweto, Ennerdale and Eldorado Park in which SAID previously had significant influence, Diepsloot, Winnie Mandela & Ivory Parks, Olievenhoutbosch, Mooiplaas, Tembisa, Ebony Park, Zevenfontein and Cosmo City now constitute The Society's nine enormous areas of activity.

“The animal comes first!” Clement Sema

SAID is one of the largest welfare suppliers of professional veterinary services in the country. It is governed by the standards of the South African Veterinary Council, and proudly offers its services to disadvantaged community members, ever-grateful for the much-needed veterinary care provided daily for their animals.

At The Paddocks, horses receive extra special attention from Obert Ramoroalo, Obed Mahlangu and Oswel Mololeki, while SAID-trained farrier, Mxolisi Zulu, is always on hand to assist whenever needed.











Animal Care Education

Identifying a critical need to educate communities at grass roots level, in 2003 SAID approached schools in a number of communities. Excitement built as approvals from headmasters and teachers, eager to expose their learners to the benefits of looking after their animals, began to roll in.

SAID's Education initiative had begun in earnest in just three schools. Education of learners in their own language, started to grow, and class by class, day by day, SAID's message was conveyed to Grade IIs who in turn relayed their newfound knowledge to their parents. The spin-off was astonishing.

A combination of fear, a lack of basic education and available veterinary care contributed to the disintegration of human/animal bonding, and it is in this crucial area that SAID places emphasis on reconstruction. Respect for the animal is vital, and to understand why, knowledge of the animal is of the utmost importance. A carefully-constructed formal Education Programme, integrated into a school curriculum, not only provides the ideal forum to convey this information; it provides opportunities for learners to gain knowledge from experts and to ask questions that will be answered using practical experience gained in the field.

Entry into this territory was uncharted but the response was overwhelming. From humble beginnings in Winnie Mandela Park, SAID has expanded its Education Programme to every school within its areas of activity. The popularity and efficacy

of the initiative, and the resultant improvement in animal health, has ensured that the project has been accepted by the Gauteng Education Department. SAID's dedicated Education Officer, Victor Netshilonwe, uses a variety of visual aids for the absorption of knowledge, which is imparted by the children to their parents and care-givers. An unprecedented increase in owner-requested pet sterilizations is a direct result of this newfound knowledge, as is early detection of illness in domestic animals by their owners.

The Third Module of the curriculum includes trained-dog displays that provide an educational as well as recreational reprieve for the children.





“There are few greater truths than when a Grade II Pupil announces to his parents “My Teacher said so!” Heather Muller 2008



The Coal Yard Project

Since its inception, this ongoing initiative has significantly improved the wellbeing of countless horses and donkeys working in the coal yards that exist in the greater Tembisa area.

A significant milestone in the history of The Society for Animals in Distress, and probably its greatest success, the Coal-Yard Project was established in 2004 in Tembisa. Identifying the community's critical need to maintain one of its most reliable sources of income - its horses, The Society rose to the challenge. From decades of getting to where their help is needed most, the fieldworkers had the necessary experience in getting to these horses. Soon the coal-yard owners realised that SAID's services ensured the consistently good health of their animals, which led to greater productivity.

*“Promoting responsible ownership is crucial if this project is to succeed. Hand-outs are disempowering to any community.”
Heather Muller 2004*

The Society's Equine Team takes care of more than 300 working horses and donkeys and the ongoing well-being and health of these animals are testament to the enormous commitment that SAID places on the project. It was with a focus on helping the suffering horses, and a significant understanding of the role these animals play in the lives of man, that SAID was able to focus its attention on filling the gap between the needs of both the horses and the community. While many animal rights advocates find the idea of horse-drawn carts repugnant, SAID understood the need of the community to use horses as a means to much-needed income. Few people are aware of the many township residents who still adopt archaic practices of coal usage as a household's sole means of warmth and daily

basic needs. Fewer still are aware of the existence of coal yards and the vital role horses and donkeys play in drawing carts, loaded with coal, through informal settlements delivering this crucial heat-providing mineral to residents.

SAID's Coal-Yard Project is based on empathy, understanding and mutual respect between horse owner and its own trained fieldworkers. Tended to by equine-proficient veterinarians and support staff, the condition of these animals is testimony to the hard work and dedication that has gone into the project. Each working animal has its own "ID book" enabling SAID staff to catalogue gender, markings, vaccinations, de-worming treatments and farriery records. Horses that fall victim to injury or illness are transported to SAID's headquarters for professional diagnosis, treatment and surgery, if needed.

Principles of 'rescue and home' offer no long-term solution. On the contrary, these horse-owners need help, not hostility, and resentment towards confiscation would be counter-productive in the execution of The Society's mission statement; *Protecting Animals; Healing their Sickness; Fighting Cruelty; Empowering Others to do the Same.*

Skills' Development has seen the graduation of two coal-yard residents now self-employed in the disciplines of farriery and harness-making. Training in hoof-care, grooming, paddock-maintenance and early detection of illness has seen a decline in lameness, injury and colic-induced equine death or euthanasia. The deplorable practice of selling unsound equine to unsuspecting and unknowledgeable coal-





yard owners has been significantly reduced due to The Society's intervention. SAID strives to create a safe and healthy environment for all animals within educated and prosperous communities. To maintain sound and consistent herds, business opportunities, besides the sale and transportation of coal, are necessary to prevent the sale and relocation of horses and donkeys to compensate for lack of earning potential during the summer months. This practice defeated The Society's objectives, as enormous financial and human resources have been invested in the Coal Yard Project, and the introduction of unknown animals in winter means duplicated expenditure. Concurrently, Society-nurtured horses were neglected by new owners residing outside SAID's areas of concern. Thankfully, this practice has all but ceased.

A standard lightweight but robust cart needs to be designed and constructed to provide optimum comfort for horse and driver, while simultaneously providing safe load-capacity.



During the warmer months, coal-yard owners would be skills-empowered to replicate the prototype cart themselves, enabling them to take advantage of refuse removal, goods' delivery, tourism and taxi services.

Receiving no governmental assistance, The Society's fundraising activities are innovative and exhaustive. No opportunity to raise money or create awareness is disregarded to ensure the sustainability of its proactive efforts. Besides ensuring adequate cash flow, fundraising encompasses the acquisition of external skills such as engineering, services and donations of the equipment necessary to maintain the highest possible standards in its large- and small-animal hospitals.



unprecedented rising costs of absolutely everything, which affects absolutely everybody, our donors have never needed your donations

workshops in the townships to educate the necessity of taking care of their pets. Up until recently, resulted in an unwillingness to assist us with the costs

Although their contributions are very small, that is not the point. The fact we have created responsible animal owners within enlightened communities.

The outrageous Cost of Living having a direct effect on poorer communities, we are going to see a reduction in the amount of donations in a position to contribute towards the welfare of their animals.

Thank you, as promised, our Statistics for the financial year 2007/2008 to reinforce the importance and extensive costs of veterinary care.

We will not compromise our high standards in veterinary care, and will continue and expand on our fundraising efforts in order to meet these financially-trying times. The Cost of Living must always be met, despite the increased Cost of Living.



SMALL-ANIMAL HOSPITAL 2007/2008

TREATMENTS	- 31,053 (110.43 PER DAY)
STERILISATIONS	- 1,343 (12.91 PER SURGERY DAY)
OTHER OPS	- 129 (1.24 PER SURGERY DAY)
EUTHANASIA	- 111 (.42 PER DAY)
DEATHS	- 57 (.22 PER DAY)
ISOLATION CASES	- 744 (DISTEMPER, PARVO ETC)

LARGE-ANIMAL HOSPITAL

TREATMENTS	- 19,547 (75.18 PER DAY)
EUTHANASIA	- 24 (0.09 PER DAY)
DEATHS	- 0

MOBILE CLINICS

(CALL-OUTS, TREATMENTS & FOLLOW-UPS)

TOTAL 50,554	(194.44 PER DAY/32.41 PER VEHICLE)
EUTHANASIA 341	(1.31 PER DAY/.22 PER VEHICLE)

TOTAL TREATMENTS	98,242
KILOMETERS TRAVELLED	280,352
PETROL COSTS	- R275,616

TOTAL FUNDS SPENT ON OUR BELOVED ANIMALS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR

(PROFESSIONAL VETERINARY CARE, VETERINARY EQUIPMENT, MEDICATION, PATHOLOGY, FARRIERY, FEED, BEDDING, HYGIENE)

R998,192-95







*"Protecting animals, healing their sickness,
fighting ignorance & empowering others to do the same."*