

ANIMAL VOICE

S o u t h A f r i c a

Increasing our Compassionate Footprint



In April this year regenerative agriculturist Farmer Angus McIntosh sold 85% of his thriving outdoor egg business to his staff making it the first black-owned commercial egg business in South Africa. Here his fellow shareholders and directors pose for a photo to celebrate another 'first' – their Egg Mobile in Checkers supermarket where customers can select their own eggs laid by hens who lead lives worth living. See here: https://youtu.be/Zw8DUxu_gFQ Read more inside about Farmer Angus' bid to Build Back Better inside.

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Tipping the Scales: The Animal Law Revolution



It was only in my final year of law school that I first considered nonhuman animals in the context of our legal system, when my then-Professor, David Bilchitz, raised it in a lecture on Jurisprudence. Fast forward ten years and there are now hundreds of law schools around the world offering dedicated courses in “Animal Law” – including Harvard and Yale – and we are currently working on getting the first course approved for South African universities. In some universities, you can participate in a specialized “Animal Law Clinic” or obtain an advanced degree (LLM or PHD). Academia is however, only one component in the field of animal law that has exploded, and with it, increased protections for animals.

While the law can be a catalyst for change, in my view, it is society that is driving the demand for legal change for animals. Laws are anthropocentric, with animals legally regarded as property. However, both nature and animals are receiving legal and political representation they desperately need and deserve. Scientific research, access to information and prevailing realities, have brought increasing recognition that animals are sentient, have their own worth and that our use and exploitation of animals not only has major ethical (and other) implications, but is fundamentally linked with our own human interests.

Legal progressions ranging from the recognition of animals (individually) as victims of crime; to the banning of specific practices (e.g. wild animals in circuses, cetaceans in captivity and cosmetic testing); to the explicit granting of rights for animals and nature, are happening globally at a rapid pace. In South Africa, the Constitution is the supreme law of the land, and while animals are not directly included as the recipients of rights, the Constitutional Court has confirmed that animals have intrinsic value as individuals and that the human right to environment includes animal welfare.

Because human rights and animals rights are fundamentally and inextricably linked, I believe our Constitution offers us major opportunities to advance both human and nonhuman animal protection in our country. The right to environment will prove critical, but various other rights are impacted. While this requires some creative lawyering – combined with education, consistent pressure and collaboration – I am hopeful that we can achieve the necessary changes in the future. Animal law is a revolution I look forward to being a part of.

Kind regards,
Amy P. Wilson

A trustee of The Humane Education Trust, Amy P. Wilson is an attorney and the first South African to receive an LLM degree in Animal Law from the prestigious Lewis & Clark Law School in Oregon, USA. She is currently a Fellow at the law school’s Aquatic Animal Law Initiative and assists with the Animal Law Clinic. She is a director of the South African based NGOs Animal Law Reform South Africa and Coalition of African Animal Welfare Organisations.



Notes from the Editor



According to National Geographic, a pig's sense of smell is so keen (considerably more so than the amazing sense of smell of dogs) that they can sense odours up to 11 kilometres away and 762 cm below ground. Wow!

Animal Voice editor Louise van der Merwe, pictured right, 30 years ago, was a lone voice campaigning outside Pick n Pay for the abolition of battery cages for laying hens. Today, hundreds of food corporations worldwide are switching to exclusively cage-free eggs with City Lodge Hotel Group becoming the first African hotel chain to announce its commitment to a cage-free policy. "We've still got a long way to go," says Louise, "but it is very heartening that Checkers



has erected its first Egg-Mobile (see front page) offering ordinary South Africans the opportunity to eat the best egg possible! These hens enjoy life!"



Kind regards,
Louise van der Merwe
Editor

EDITORIAL

My attention in this short piece is on education, and I thought I would begin by quoting the first three lines of the song 'The Greatest Love Of All' by George Benson, later made popular by Whitney Houston:

"I believe the children are our future
Teach them well and let them lead the way
Show them all the beauty they possess inside"
Lovely words.

Indeed, it is through education that we change the world. But this is old news. Rather, our improved understanding tells us that it is by changing the education system that we can change the world for the better. But this too is not new news. World renowned educator, Ken Robinson expressed similar thoughts in 2006 when he said, "We have to go from what is essentially an industrial model of education, a manufacturing model, which is based on linearity and conformity and batching people. We have to move to a model that is based more on principles of agriculture. We have to recognize that human flourishing is not a mechanical process—it's an organic process. And you cannot predict the outcome of human development. All you can do, like a farmer, is create the conditions under which they will begin to flourish."
This is a profound statement because it shakes the very bedrock upon which our economic model is built.

The Humane Education Trust has been shaking the foundation of conventional education for decades through its hard work at developing a model that includes a spirit of care and respect for life and getting several departments in the education sector to include our resources and educational content in their offerings. For example, in 2011, the Departments of Education in Gauteng, Western Cape, Northern Cape, North-West Province and Free State officially approved and included our readers and documentaries in their catalogues of resources for schools. In 2016, all 28 resources (readers and documentaries) developed by The Humane Education Trust were put onto the Gauteng Department of Education's recommended list for libraries.

Sadly, however, this is not enough to spread the education that respect for life is essential in preventing the continued destruction of the world in which we live. We have found that teachers, in many instances, do not know how to teach humane education and, in response, we also developed teachers guides

to support their teaching methodologies in the classroom.

Still, possibly, the key barrier to finding humane education in the classroom is that it is not prescribed, it is only found on the recommended list for libraries and in the catalogue of optional resources for schools. In effect, we are left out of the classroom. Spending extra money on resources which are perceived as non-essential to the young learner is not going to happen for many schools.

Our challenge continues — to have humane education included in the curriculum as a fundamental learning requirement for all young learners, along with numeracy and literacy.

This year, we undertook to re-examine our strategy on how best to get our material into schools. The pandemic hit and a national lockdown forced people to stay at home. We saw the situation as an opportunity to distribute our curriculum-aligned lesson plans, online, for free to teachers.

This proved to be an absolute success and we are pleased to state that 3000 lesson plans have been downloaded for grades R, 1, 2 and 3 over the course of 7 months since lockdown began. We have had thousands of visitors to our website since the start of lockdown at www.caringclassrooms.co.za, and we continue to see these numbers grow at an encouraging rate. Our commitment to the distribution of these lesson plans is steadfast, and we are busy with the intermediate phase for grades 4 to 7. We want the success of these lesson plans to last, but we are interrogating our capacity to continue to offer them for free.

This is where we need your support. We are making an impact. We are heading in the right direction. We need funding to reach further, to aim higher and to offer an alternative to the model which has us wearing masks when we should be smiling openly and breathing in the fresh air.



Kind regards,
Aleks Tasic
Director of Education

Contact me at:
info@caringclassrooms.co.za

Giving Animals a Voice

The long distance trade in animals to slaughter is a man-made HELL on earth

A year ago, Yvette Huysamer set about bringing together as many animal welfare organisations as possible, to fight the global trade in animals destined for slaughter in foreign countries. Today, in co-operation with like-minded local as well as international organisations including UK, Brazil and Australia, Yvette's Coalition to Stop Live Animal Export is in the media spotlight. Animal Voice asked Yvette to tell us more...

6000 cows and 42 crew members drowned when a livestock carrier capsized in the sea off Japan this year. Only one crew member survived.



Billboard on Johannesburg highway. Photo courtesy Tony Gerrans



Yvette Huysamer: "I believe only a global effort will ban this trade and with this in mind, I took advantage of my social media skills to network people and organisations, first locally and then worldwide. The idea is to link together to form one massive forum and take on the enormity of this maritime trade.

"When you are dealing with tens of thousands of animals, these animals suffer injuries and are severely man-handled during

We know how to kill; now we need to learn how to care – Yvette Huysamer

loading and off-loading. They're packed like sardines in tiers on the livestock carrier; many cannot reach food and water throughout the entire journey. Because they are stacked in tiers, the urine and faeces from the animals stationed above, falls onto the animals below and can cause burns which become infected. Their quarters cannot be cleaned out so they stand in their own urine and faeces for the entire journey, often 3 weeks and more, at a time.

“Those that die during the journey are thrown overboard.

“We truly do not fully comprehend the scale and enormity of live export. It involves jobs. It involves billions of dollars. Yet, we cannot be overwhelmed by it all. Our strategy is to create enormous public awareness through social media platforms, the media, billboards, radio, blogs, you name it, to support a legal fight against a



Yvette Huysamer

cruelty beyond our comprehension.”

Yvette adds that the abolition of the trade in animals will never be achieved “until the very core of compassion in man is addressed”. “I believe wholeheartedly that education is key and it has to start with the youth. South Africa is a cauldron of violence and murder. Gender based violence, femicide, violence against children, the elderly, spousal abuse, animal abuse – the list is endless. We know how to kill... Now we need political will to support an education that teaches us how to care.”

Anyone wishing to assist the drive to ban live export of animals to slaughter, should contact Yvette on cawf@cawf.co.za or on support@rrsa.org.za

For information on progress of the NSPCA’s court battle against live export, see: www.nspca.co.za/animal-cruelty/campaign-against-live-export-animals

Compassion in World Farming (South Africa) submitted the following questions to Parliament:

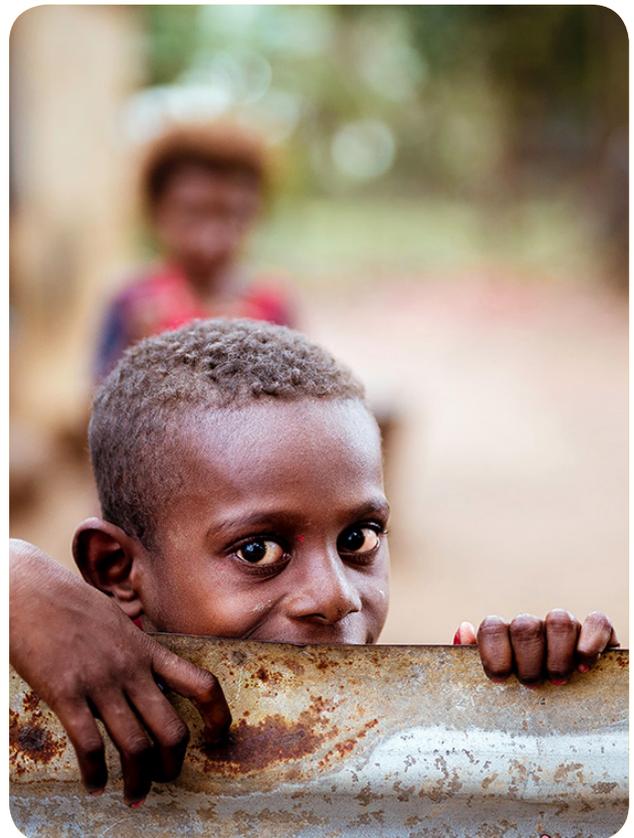
The Eastern Cape is South Africa’s poorest province and children in Peddie are eating wild plants to survive. Yet the food pellets to sustain the sheep on board ship include high amounts of grain that could otherwise be used to feed hungry children.

How does the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) justify feeding grain to shipments of sheep and cattle to the Middle East while our own people go hungry, and even a basic commodity like grain is directed elsewhere?
<https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/east-ern-cape/covid-19-lockdown-children-eat-wild-plants-to-survive-as-hunger-explodes-51120562>

Further Question 2:

The consignments of sheep would not arrive alive in Kuwait if antibiotics were not included in their food as a prophylactic against disease. Yet the SA Ministry of Health has deemed anti-microbial resistance, brought on by the excessive use of antibiotics, to be a serious threat to human health...
https://www.fidssa.co.za/Content/Documents/AMR_Background_document_FINAL_March15.pdf

How does DALRRD justify a long-distance trade that is dependent on the prophylactic use of antibiotics?



Giving Animals a Voice

Philip Lymbery, CEO of Compassion in World Farming reflects on the role of one of the major drivers of wildlife declines worldwide - factory farming



“How many people imagine, when they eat factory farmed meat, that their chicken nuggets and pork chops reached their plates via the felling of rainforest trees in Brazil and the loss of an iconic species?” – Philip Lymbery

Says Philip: “For too long we have treated animals with little compassion and respect. Confined them in cages, bent their will, and in many instances broken their spirit.

The abject cruelty to animals confined on factory farms is matched only by the destruction of wildlands and the wild creatures that live in them.

I witnessed the devastating consequences of habitat loss first-hand on Brazil’s most iconic of big cats: the jaguar. Home to half of the world’s remaining jaguar population of 15,000, Brazil holds the fate of this

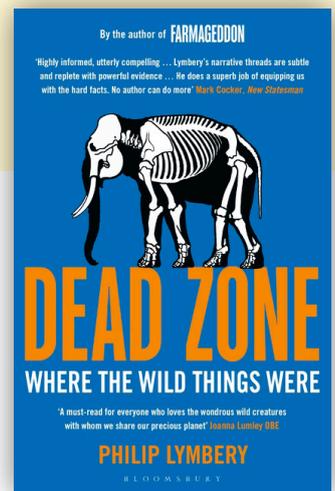
beautiful big cat in the palm of its hand.

When people think of habitat loss through deforestation they tend to associate it with logging to make way for housing and crops for human consumption.

In fact, a real major driver is the farming of soya and corn on a huge industrial scale, much of it destined for factory farmed animals around the world. Vast areas of the rainforest and savannah are turned over to these industries and Brazil is now second only to the USA in soya production and is the world’s leader in soya exports.

The beautiful and graceful jaguars, once worshipped by the ancient Maya and other civilisations, are now considered vermin by farmers and are often shot on sight.

Yet, it’s not soya per se that’s the problem, but the way it’s produced and what it’s used for. If those crops were produced without pesticides, without monocultures, with mixed rotational farming, on existing farmland rather than deforestation, then



Combine harvesters crop soybeans in Campo Novo do Parecis - a former rainforest in Mato Grosso Brazil | Credit: Yasuyoshi Chiba

things would be better. If the land was producing food directly for people, it would be better still. Soya is a wonder-crop, a complete source of protein for humans, yet, the vast majority of soya goes for animal feed, 35 million tonnes of it a



year to Europe, largely to feed factory farmed animals.

How many people imagine, when they eat factory-farmed meat, that their chicken nuggets and pork chops reach their plates

via the felling of rainforest trees and the loss of iconic species?



How many people know that in the last 50 years, since the widespread adoption of factory farming, the total number of wild mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish worldwide has more than halved?

It's a tragic situation, and a sad and sobering thought.

But it's not too late.

Let's come together and take a stand for animals, both farmed and wild; for our planet, and for the future of our families. As Covid-19 has so cogently demonstrated, the health of animals and people are so closely intertwined. Only by protecting animals and the environment can we properly protect people. And that means ending factory farming.

Compassion in World Farming is calling on the world's most influential organisations, including The World Bank, the United Nations and the World Health Organisation, to replace factory farming with a food system that respects animals, nurtures our planet, and reduces the risk of pandemics. Please use this link to sign CIWF's petition and join the call for a future without factory farming (www.ciwf.org.uk/pandemic)."
<https://philiplymbery.com/humanity-habitats-and-hope/>

Farming is not for the lazy nor those who depend on cages and crates to control their animals.

Farming requires dedication and proficiency

In 2012 South African farmer CP Kriek and his wife Gerda swapped their careers in industrial engineering for the commercial farming of pigs. Today, not one of their pigs is confined to a metal sow stall. They all spend the entire 16 weeks of their pregnancies in group housing with enrichment. It's paid off. Not only has the European market opened up for their business but some local supermarkets too, are asking for stress-free pork.

Read the full article here:

<https://www.farmersweekly.co.za/animals/pigs/technology-and-animal-welfare-improve-piggery-profits/>

Watch out for McDonalds new offering to be launched in 2021 ... **The McPlant**

Giving Animals a Voice

... through the eyes of a fellow sentient being, Cape Town resident **Erika Majiet**



Erika Majiet

#BRINGKATAZABACK♥

SEE UPDATE ON NEXT PAGE

"Urban baboons are criminalized every day for being baboons.

We are so quick to chop down and build for ourselves as we please, with little or no regard as to how this affects the habitat and resources of the beautiful creatures around us. We don't consider that it is we who are raiding their backyards, not the other way around.

We should be finding a way to coexist. Instead we shoot them with paintballs

most of the day (anyone who has ever been shot with paintballs on the bare skin knows it is extremely painful), threaten to relocate them, and discuss euthanasia. For what? For a baboon acting like a baboon? We, as a species, do the same things as they do. We raid, steal, and trespass on their land.

Kataza is our latest victim. The Human and Wildlife Solutions Team applied to the city for him to be euthanized in July this year. He was reprieved but on Wednesday, August 26th, Kataza was found guilty in our arbitrary court of human ignorance and entitlement, on numerous charges including raiding, inter-breeding and leading splinter groups. His rap sheet is apparently quite long and, as a result, despite empirical evidence that forced integration with another troop does not work, he was relocated from the Slangkop troop in Kommetjie to the Zwaanswyk-Tokai troop in Tokai.

Imagine being hounded, repeatedly stung with paint balls, and then darted only to regain consciousness... alone in unfamiliar surroundings, with a horrific collar around one's neck and ear tags.

As I write, it is day 53 and Kataza is still alone, still trying to fend for himself. He's been attacked by the Alpha males of the Tokai troop and finds himself safer lying on the side of a busy road dodging cars, than crossing over into a troop that clearly doesn't want him.

At night, alone, confused, dislocated and forcibly removed from the support of



family and troop members, he seems to bed down in Pollsmoor Prison which is ironically fitting seeing as he is convicted of the crime of being a baboon.

I am grateful that the horrific collar and ear tags have been removed so he can move more freely and comfortably. My girls and I are so grateful for people like Jenni Trethowan of Baboon Matters and all the others who are constantly keeping an eye on Kataza's safety.

Kataza's well-being matters to thousands of Cape Town residents. The Slangkop troop's behaviour of foraging for food possibilities has not changed since his forced removal. Clearly he is not the bad influence that he was made out to be. The treatment that he has been receiving these last 7 weeks has been totally appalling, unjust and unacceptable. We pray that Kataza will be kept safe and that somehow he might know that we are all fighting for his safe return to his troop and that he may live in peace as God intended for him." -

UPDATED NEWS on KATAZA

On November 7 this year, the City of Cape Town capitulated and agreed in an out of court settlement for Kataza to be returned to his home range on Slangkop, Kommetjie. Animal Voice is in awe of Kataza's courage and resilience in the face of horrific adversity imposed on him, and we applaud the valiant people who watched over him during his ordeal and fought for justice on his behalf. We trust he will find acceptance back in his troop which had to adjust to the sudden and inexplicable void caused by his 'relocation'.

See:

<https://bit.ly/3n7xIYJ>

Be part of building a better world

Our Caring Classrooms platform records, to date, more than 3000 downloads of our curriculum-aligned free lesson plans for Grades R – 3 in just 7 months.

All donations go towards putting up more lesson plans, this time for Grades 4 – 7.

Donors receive a Section 18A Tax Receipt in order to claim back some of their donation from SARS

See our lesson plans for yourself www.caringclassrooms.co.za and then click the donate button here:

<https://www.payfast.co.za/donate/go/thehumaneeducationtrust>

ADVERTISEMENT

AWARDWINNING SANCTUARIES

The South African Animal Sanctuary Alliance (SAA-SA) has 3 wildlife sanctuaries in Plettenberg Bay, The Garden Route and a new primate sanctuary in the Ballito region of KwaZulu Natal. The SAASA sanctuaries practice responsible wildlife tourism, and a visit to any of the 4 sanctuaries is a unforgettable experience.



Monkeyland
Plettenberg Bay



Birds of Eden
Plettenberg Bay



Jukani
Plettenberg Bay



Monkeyland KZN • Dolphin Coast

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Giving SENTIENCE the voice of Care, Respect, Justice

... irrespective of shape or form

Jenni Trethowan, founder of Baboon Matters gives background to the trauma imposed on Kataza

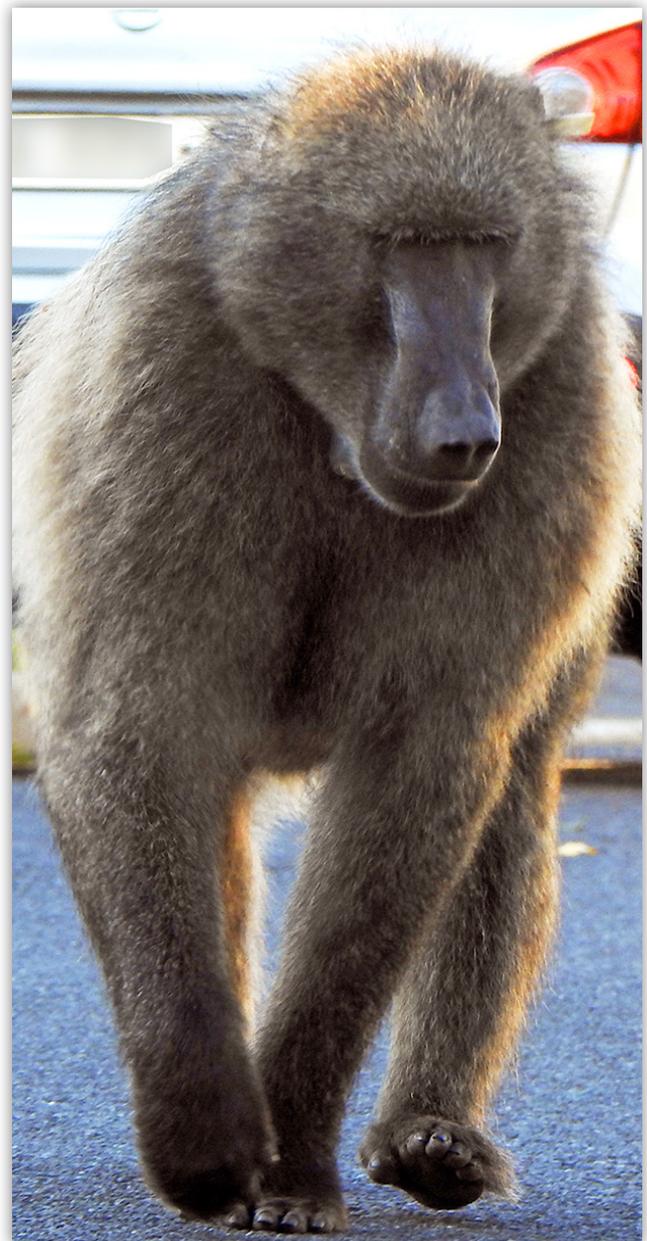
In recent years accepted baboon management has included killing so called problem baboons. In 2019 two adult males of the Slangkop troop were killed in quick succession, causing a chaotic upheaval and two young adult males, George and Kataza, were effectively thrust into leadership positions.

To add to the trauma, the entire troop was then pushed to Slangkop mountains above Kommetjie, where they arrived at one of the hottest, driest times of the year with no provision for water. In search of water, the troop eventually found their way to Kommetjie where they quickly adapted to the easy food rewards of the village.

Kataza was always seen in the company of a very old female baboon, Castro and showed himself to be an attentive and loving father of his first born infant, a little boy baboon. Between them, Kataza's females gave birth to 4 infants and in June and July this year, this family unit was always seen in close proximity to him. It seemed that the troop was finally settling down in the Slangkop area.

Then, suddenly, without any warning, Kataza was missing.

When I was finally told that Kataza had been dropped off in Tokai, 22 kms away, I went looking for him and eventually found him exhausted, nervous and anxious. Coming from fynbos, he had no appreciation for the forest of Tokai but he did find dustbins full of high reward foods.



Kataza spent lonely nights sleeping on top of restaurants or Pollsmoor Prison, continually looking for his way back to Kommetjie. On numerous occasions he ventured up Ou Kaapseweg and on two occasions made it as far as the waterfall – only to be chased back by Table Mountain National Parks vehicles.

Over the days and weeks that have followed, Kataza has lost some of his anxiety. He has discovered the Tokai troop and has slowly begun the process of settling down in an area that is completely foreign to him. But the emotion he elicits from the human residents all around him is one of great sadness.

At all times we have a team of volunteers on duty, a group of women who have promised to keep him safe by flagging down the traffic and making sure he is not run over; the team is affectionately referred to as Kataza’s Angels and there is no doubt in my mind that the absolute love and determination they have given this lost baboon has kept him alive and kept him going.

If defies logic that Kataza was moved and there is no understanding of the defiant refusal of management authorities to return Kataza to his troop on Slangkop; it seems that the decision makers had thought the public would “grow bored” of the story and forget Kataza, that the volunteers would become tired and stop watching over him. This has not happened; 55 days later we are all still supporting the call for Kataza to be returned home, the angels still arrive for their shifts to watch over him and legal action has begun.

Kataza does now follow the Tokai troop but for the vast majority of each day he is on his own, often

The Gazette
PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING JOURNALISM, EST. 1872
Troublesome South African baboon evicted for raiding homes
By GERALD IMRAY Associated Press Sep 24, 2020



Activist Jenni Trethowan, left, founder of Baboon Matters, protects Kataza from traffic as he roams through in Tokai, Cape Town, South Africa, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020. Kataza was relocated from Kommetjie, on the edge of Cape Town, to a nearby area late



sitting well apart from the troop and looking into the distance.

Kataza has shone the light on the urgent need for a review of management protocols. We are determined his suffering will not have been in vain.

#Kataza Is Every Baboon.

Info@baboonmatters.org.za

<https://www.facebook.com/baboonmatterstrust/>

Giving Animals a Voice



Tozie Zokufa is one of Africa's leading lights in working towards a world that acknowledges One Health, One Welfare

Back in 2012, Tozie worked with Animal Voice as representative in South Africa for Compassion in World Farming. In this position, he won a break-through in which Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu became the first world leader to speak out for farmed animals and the urgent need for a new era of humane and environmentally-responsible farming methods.

Today, Tozie is Director and Regional Coordinator for the Coalition of African Animal Welfare Organisations (CAAWO). Here he gives Animal Voice a catch-up interview.

Animal Voice:

Tozie, you and I were triumphant back in 2012 when 'the Arch' became the first world leader to sign CIWF's Vision for Fair Food and Farming. At the time of signing, Archbishop Tutu said: "I hope we will learn that we are related to the animals and to nature and if we destroy the balance, we are ultimately going to suffer and pay the price." As we look back on the years between 2012 and 2020, do you think there has been progress for animals?

Tozie Zokufa:

Yes, there is significant progress in respect of a burgeoning human awareness that is putting animals on the agenda worldwide and especially on

the African continent. Back in 2012 we were hard pressed to find prominent individuals in Africa who would sign CIWF's 'Vision'. But today there are a number of young up and coming individuals/organisations that are aware of the ill treatment of animals. However, it is sad to say that generally, the world still sees animals as 'less than'.

Animal Voice:

Archbishop Tutu pointed out that we would pay a price for our destruction of nature.

Tozie Zokufa:

Yes, he did. Covid-19 has taught us one of the aspects of our destruction of nature – the risk of

zoonotic disease transmission as we enter domains that were once exclusively wild. But there's another aspect. In an article in the September 10 – 16 2020 issue of the Financial Mail, David Gorin writes about "A World without Wildlife" and the emotions this evokes in him – shame, helplessness, fury and sadness.'

I feel these emotions too. I don't think our Ancestors are resting peacefully. I, for one, am an Ndlovu which is the clan name for our totem, the Elephant. We revere these majestic giants. I have friends, colleagues, church members and other associates whose totems include Snake (Jola), Baboon (Mfene), Cow (Nkomo) and Hawk (Khetshe).

The magic of Africa's wildlife heritage is being shattered even further by the proposed reclassification of so many wild animals under the Meat Safety Act. More than 30 wild species are to be listed as farmed animals (!). I dread to consider what awaits them. Even more shameful is that this new Act is for the benefit of a few connected and privileged individuals, including hunters and those who can afford to buy 'game' meat at R200/kg

Animal Voice:

How can we stop this 'colonialization', so to speak, of Africa's wildlife?

Tozie Zokufa:

We face a tough road ahead. We need a spiritual awakening. We need a new understanding that the animals, the environment and ourselves constitute One Health, One Welfare. We cannot allow Africa to pay the price, yet again, of the plundering of our continent.

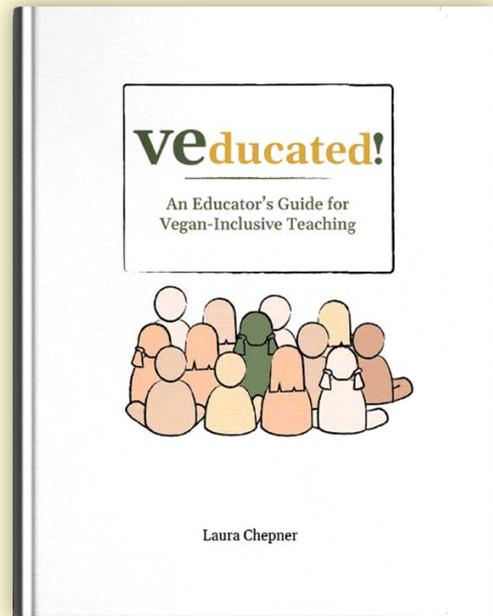
Animal Voice:

Are you sometimes accused of caring for animals while there is so much human suffering?

Tozie Zokufa:

Yes, sometimes. There are issues that need urgent attention like poverty alleviation, provision of sanitation, addressing inequality and so on. But when you advocate for one, it doesn't mean you neglect the other. I guess welfare advocacy on the African continent needs to be holistic.

To contact Tozie Zokufa, email: tozie@caawo.org

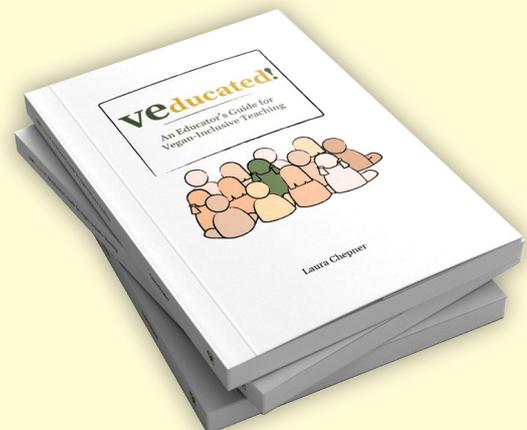


About the book

Vedicated is a guidebook for education professionals who wish to learn more about veganism, how to engage with children and parents who are vegan, and how to incorporate lessons and policies that promote inclusivity. The book is authored by Laura Chepner, a UK based teacher, environmentalist, and vegan-inclusion educational consultant.

Available on Amazon at:

<https://amzn.to/36hKZlj>



Giving Animals a Voice

... by farming with nature, rather than fighting against her

The African Union gives the nod to Ecological Organic Agriculture across the continent

At the invitation of the African Union, South African organic farmer and world acknowledged expert on soil science and sustainability, Professor Raymond Auerbach is playing a pivotal role in mainstreaming ecological organic agriculture across the continent. Already, 47 countries have been assessed, and by the end of the year all 55 African countries will feature in an upcoming book on Health and Food Security in Africa.

While the benefits of organic farming fell on deaf ears for decades, climate change, says Auerbach, as well as human diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer and obesity have changed this, not to mention Covid-19 which has made many rethink their relationship to Mother Earth. "The weight of scientific evidence is irrefutable that healthy, fresh, organic food, uncontaminated by chemical pesticides, is a major part of the solution to climate change, non-communicable disease pandemics and rural economic development. And it starts with the soil.

"Building soil with compost and groundcovers, developing crop rotations, caring for animals by allowing them to perform their natural behaviours, such as rooting, scratching and grazing, these are all part of farming with nature, rather than fighting against her."

People are waking up, he says. "Consumers are demanding to know how food is produced, whether farm workers are paid well, whether the animals are treated well, what chemicals are used and how the environment is affected. Politicians are beginning to recognise the negative impact of industrial agriculture."

However, in Africa, there is a need to catch up. "When you look at the situation in Africa," says Auerbach, "you see that those with products to sell have lobbied aggressively for agrochemicals, synthetic fertilisers and genetic engineering as the



Professor Raymond Auerbach with his wife Christina and their companion collie

only scientific way to go, while spreading disinformation about organic farming systems.

"The alternative approach, also based on scientific evidence, establishes food sovereignty, supports local communities and ensures that farmers are not dependent on external input supplies. Ecological Organic Agriculture cares for the environment, looks after biodiversity respectfully and generally promotes robust good health."

Already fifteen countries have more than 10% of their land certified organic. "The world market is worth over 80 billion euros to date, mostly in the US and Europe; but markets in China and India are growing rapidly, with states in India and South Korea going completely organic."

To read about Professor Auerbach's research, see the link: Organic Food Systems: Meeting the needs of Southern Africa at:

<http://www.cabi.org/bookshop/book/9781786399601>

Giving Animals a Voice ... through Adaptive Leadership

'Impoverished African communities living side by side with wildlife must be afforded the ability to become part of the solution to biodiversity loss.'

In a top level green leadership webinar held on 13 October, Josphat Ngonyo, Executive Director of Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) based in Kenya, said the solution to the destruction of wildlife in Africa did not lie in handouts. "Communities don't want hand-outs. They want to be part and parcel of conservation initiatives," he said.

"We are losing species at an alarming rate," said Ngonyo. "The answer lies in the inclusivity, integration and empowerment of the communities that live alongside wildlife. Their livelihoods are at the centre of the solution."

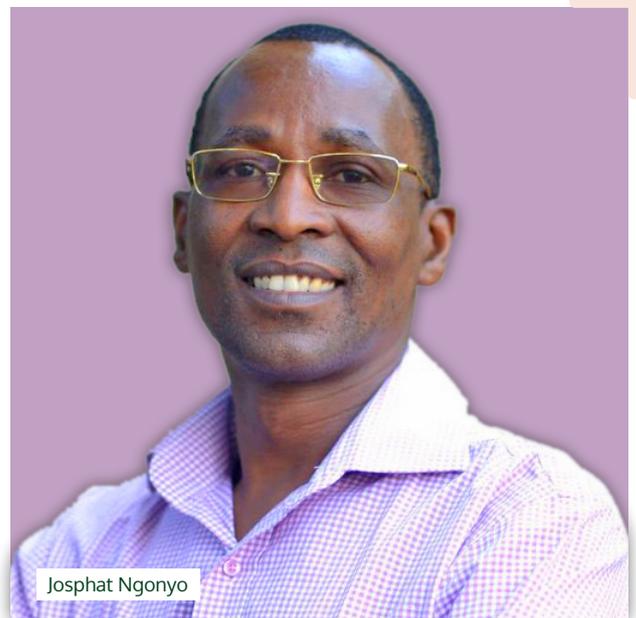
Hosted by the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG), the webinar was held to discuss the way forward in a Build Back Better era to turn the tide on poverty and biodiversity loss in Africa through integration. "We're talking about One Health – land, livestock, people, wildlife," said Evelyn Namvua, communications and engagement specialist at ABCG.

Link to webinar <https://youtu.be/aaVmS0t5Sr4>

Other speakers included:



Alice Ruhweza,
Africa Region
Director, WWF
International:
"We must seize
the moment. The
moment is now."



Josphat Ngonyo



Lisa Parrott, Regional
Program and Quality
Director, Save the
Children: "Investment
in education will
bear the fruit we are
looking for."



Lucy Waruingi,
Executive Director,
African Conservation
Centre: "inclusivity
is not about sharing
benefits but being part
of the solution."

Invited to attend the webinar, Animal Voice editor Louise van der Merwe hopes to work with the webinar speakers to make our freely downloadable Caring Classrooms lesson plans available to young learners across the continent of Africa.

Giving Animals a Voice

... speaking out for SA's 95 captive elephants

As Director of the EMS Foundation, Michele Pickover speaks on behalf of elephants that spend their lives supposedly for the purpose of educating and entertaining people in South Africa. Yet, she says, captivity is the very antithesis of who Elephants are. Here she tells us more...

"Most of the elephants in captivity in South Africa were either victims of 'culling' – where their families were violently killed in front of them for the South African and Zimbabwe ivory trade – or they were deliberately kidnapped from their families for use in the captive elephant industry. Most of them were only babies or youngsters when this dreadful trauma happened to them.

"For an elephant to be an elephant they need SPACE, MOVEMENT and to SOCIALIZE in very complex ways with their group, their families, their clans and elephant society more broadly. Captivity is the very antithesis of who elephants are."



Animal Voice: Yet, to a large extent thanks to EMS, there is progress...

"Yes, there are a number of reasons this industry is untenable:

1. Our national elephant norms and standards recognized elephants as sentient beings and do not allow elephants to be taken from the wild and into captivity anymore. We fought long and hard for this.
2. As the elephants in the industry get older they get less 'compliant'. They become 'refuseniks' which is why many of the elephant businesses no longer offer elephant riding. This is a dangerous industry for humans. A number of tourists and handlers have been killed and injured.
3. Globally there is a massive shift to ethical tourism. Tourists want to experience authenticity when they travel and not constructed nature and animal slavery.
4. Zoos are remnants of our awful colonial past – one which put both conquered wild animals as well as humans on display."



Animal Voice: Please tell us about the tool to assist tourists make ethical choices



“Yes indeed, SA Tourism CEO **Sisa Ntshona** has denounced tourism that depends on the exploitation of wild animals. In fact SA Tourism funded a research project by South African Tourism Services Association (SATSA) and one of the outcomes was the development of a tool to help tourists make good choices.”

See: https://www.satsa.com/wp-content/uploads/SATSA_HumanAnimalInteractions_Tool6.pdf

Animal Voice: The animals are our kith and kin, if only we knew it



“Yes. Nature’s decline is driven by the current economic model of ‘resource use’ which is based on over consumption, extraction, intensive breeding and farming. Yet our Constitutional Court says otherwise. Let us urgently follow its guide: In a judgment handed

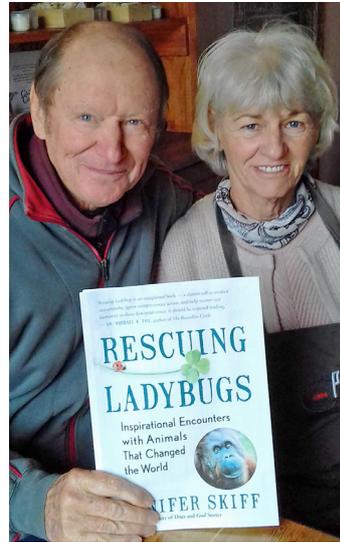
down in December 2016, Constitutional Court Judge Khampepe said: “From the ancient Khoisan reverence of the eland to the contemporary conception of the dog as man’s best friend, humans and animals have a storied relationship, one that is a part of the fabric of our society, homes and lives. Animals have shifted from being mere brutes or beasts to fellow beasts, fellow mortals or fellow creatures and finally to companions, friends and brothers”.

To contact Michele, got to:

Email: michele@emsfoundation.org.za

www.emsfoundation.org.za

Giving Animals a Voice ... condemning the bullets aimed at Africa’s Wildlife Heritage



Chris Mercer was running a wildlife rescue centre in the Kalahari when the Cook Report came out and blew the lid off the cruel, ugly industry of canned lion hunting. That was back in 1997. He started the Campaign against Canned Hunting (CACH) and has campaigned vigorously for a ban on lion farming and canned hunting ever

since. Says Chris: “When we started twenty years ago we were derided as the lunatic fringe but now our arguments against trophy hunting have become mainstream. It is only a matter of time before public pressure prevails and this outrageous industry is banned.”

Here Chris Mercer is pictured with his partner Lesley promoting Jennifer Skiff’s book ‘Rescuing Ladybugs’, a collection of short stories about animal rescues. Says Chris: “The book is an inspiration because it shows how much ordinary people can achieve through commitment.”

THE bullet slammed into the lioness and she spun into the air, falling against the electric fence behind which she was confined. Standing on the other side of the fence were her three young cubs – she had been separated from them an hour earlier. Another shot was fired by the overseas hunter. She slumped to the ground in a crumpled heap. Both times, the hunter shot from a vehicle. He then posed with the dead lioness and pulled at her mouth to show her teeth. Later, in the skinning shed, as the lioness’s coat was removed from her body to become a ‘trophy’ for the hunter, milk from her teats mingled with her blood on the ground. – Wildlife champion Gareth Patterson, speaking to the Mail and Guardian about the then soon-to-be-aired Cook Report in 1997.

Giving Animals a Voice

... through a Global Animal Law Friendly Index on animal welfare



Dr Antoine F. Goetschel

The establishment of a Global Animal Law Friendly Index (GALFI) is to be launched by the Swiss-based Global Animal Law -GAL- Association and will rate each country in terms of 'animal friendliness' based on its laws for animal protection.

Explained GAL Founder and President Dr Antoine F. Goetschel: "The global index aims to record, analyse and compare the animal-friendliness of 193 countries in terms of legislation, enforcement and education. On the basis of sound data, GAL will be in a position to customize and propose real improvements on a global scale."

He added: "Animal friendliness is related to animal dignity. Indeed, the mistreatment of animals is contrary to the principle of dignity. To have the dignity of animals acknowledged by national

legislators and given due regard by the UN will be a big step forward in law."

GAL Co-founder Dr Sabine Brels said: "The GALFI project is an important pillar of the UN Convention on Animal Health and Protection (UNCAHP) - on the one hand it motivates nations to progress and on the other hand, less active nations are encouraged to follow suit."



Dr Sabine Brels

For more information about the Global Animal Law Friendly Index (GALFI) and UNCAHP, go to

www.globalanimallaw.org

<https://youtu.be/XceGrhIwZ2o>

Grade 11 Life Orientation learners will study how South Africa scores on issues of animal welfare, the environment and human health

International education publisher Pearson is to include the One Health concept of the interconnectedness of animal, environmental and human health in a new text book for Grade 11 Life Orientation learners. Animal Voice became aware of this when Pearson Education requested permission to use our content relating to the welfare of farmed animals in South Africa.



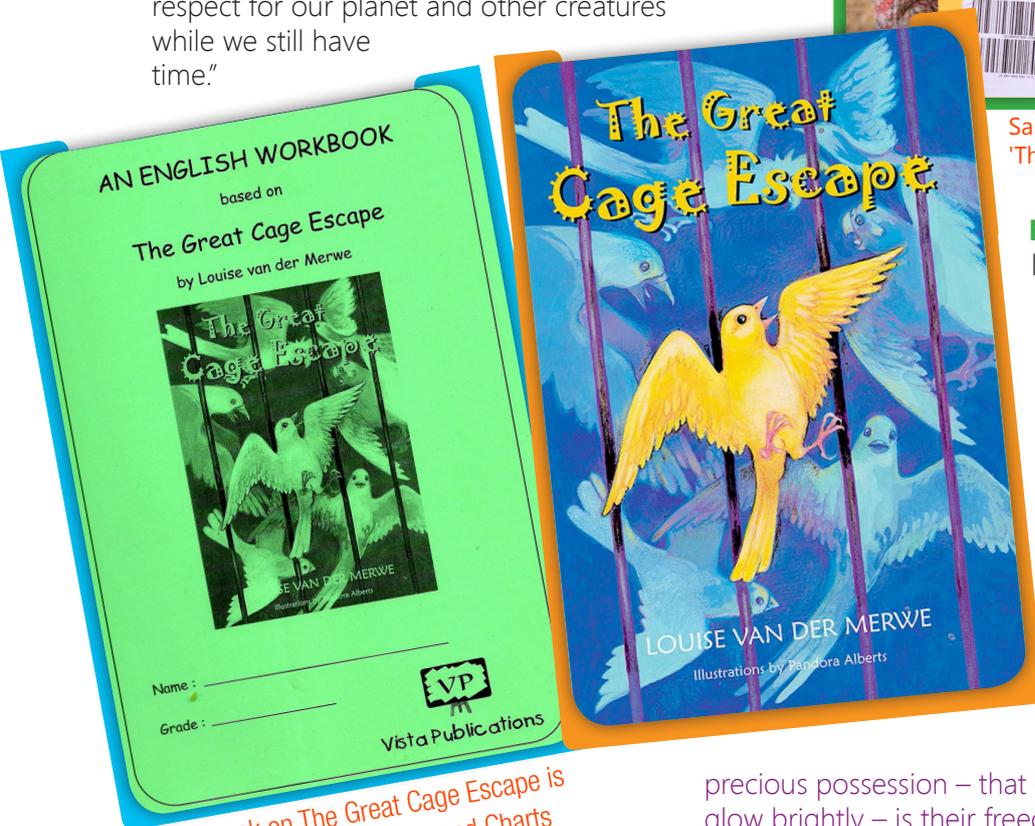
FREE online Lesson Plans for SA learners receive a boost from The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals, UK

FREE lesson plans for Grades R – 3 are now up and ready to use by educators across South Africa (and beyond), with support from the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA) in the UK. In addition ASWA's honorary secretary Samantha Chandler ordered another 20 copies of our Grade 4 reader *The Great Cage Escape*.

Says Samantha: "The Great Cage Escape is a little gem. A wonderful story to introduce children to the concept of animals having a right to freedom and the life that God intended for them. Here at ASWA where we believe that every living creature is loved and valued by the Creator God, we are pleased to be able to include this book in our 'on-line' shop and hope that it continues to reach new generations of young readers with this important message. Our treatment of other species is fortunately a hot topic at the moment, partly due to the Climate emergency and the pandemic of 2020. May we all learn a new respect for our planet and other creatures while we still have time."



Samantha receives a box of the reader 'The Great Cage Escape'



A workbook on *The Great Cage Escape* is available from Sherin Books and Charts
Email: julia.knowler@absamail.co.za
and at www.caringclassrooms.co.za/shop

Note from Ed: On behalf of all the learners on their way to becoming Good Earth-Keepers through the FREE lesson plans available at caringclassrooms.co.za, we say **Thank you Sam and the Anglican Society for Animal Welfare for your support!**

"Science is now revealing what we should have known all along – that animals have rich inner lives, emotions and passions, wants and needs, fears and desires... Their most precious possession – that which allows 'the spark of life' to glow brightly – is their freedom." – Jonathan Balcombe, world acclaimed animal behaviourist and author, in his foreword to *The Great Cage Escape*.

See Jonathan Balcombe talk at:
<https://youtu.be/XEs532C8NFw>

WINNER!

Giving Animals a Voice ... through education

Nirav Gajee, a Grade 4 learner at Newcastle Senior Primary School in KZN was selected as the winner of our Caring Classrooms Art Competition to revamp the Five Freedoms for Animals poster. Nirav used lockdown to hone his computer design skills and received First Prize – a brand new computer – on World Animal Day 2020. Pictured here with Nirav is school principal Andre Spies. In handing Nirav his prize on our behalf, he said: “Congratulations Nirav. We are proud of you and your commitment to caring for animals.”



Well done Nirav!

Awareness of the **Five Freedoms for Animals** is gaining traction in South African schools. As the foundation on which all the Caring Classrooms lesson plans are built, learners across the country are becoming aware of these basic principles in animal care which are endorsed by the UN.



Says Aleks Tasic, Director of the [CaringClassrooms.co.za](http://www.caringclassrooms.co.za) online platform which hosts the lesson plans: “The Five Freedoms for Animals is the closest the world has come so far to giving basic rights to all animals

in our care and in the absence of anything better, this is our focus in our curriculum-aligned programme. So far lesson plans in the Foundation Phase (Grades R – 3) are up and ready to use for free and the Intermediate Phase will be going up next.”

Educators have downloaded our free lesson plans 2978 times in just seven months. To download, visit www.caringclassrooms.co.za

"This post-graduate course has provided us with the tools to interrogate the relationship between society and animals and how this relationship is not only exploitative, but also self-destructive and unsustainable. It highlights how vital it is that we shift to a paradigm that views animals through a lens that isn't consumptive and hierarchical." – Student **Reabetswe Kabelo**

Giving Animals a Voice ... through Tertiary Education

The University of the Western Cape will cap its first-ever graduates in Human Animal Studies (HAS) and the Class of 2020 is jubilant. Says graduate Lynné Vigeland: "I would like to see this course included at undergraduate level too"; and graduate Cecil Bullet suggests the course be made available at institutions of higher learning "across South Africa, and be adapted for every level of education, starting at pre-school."



She added: "UWC is a melting pot of inequalities such as class, race and gender. It is only too obvious that the inequality and victimisation experienced by other species must be addressed too."

Dr Leigh Tucker, as a member of UWC's Department of Psychology, moderated and presented the course. She said: "It has been a privilege to be involved in this programme, which represents an important shift in curriculum development for higher education - both in terms of the interdisciplinary subject matter, and the opportunity to provide graduates with 'real world' exposure to professionals working the field. I feel energised by the prospect of engaging young people as critical thinkers and thought leaders in this area."

Presented by the Department of Sociology and titled *Animals, Society and the Environment*, the inter-disciplinary post-graduate course is one of the first of its kind internationally. Course Co-ordinator Dr Sharyn Spicer explains: "The ethos at UWC made it the perfect seat of learning for this course to be tried and tested. Growing political debates over humanity's troubled relationship with animals makes non-human animals a matter of pressing environmental, social and global concern. Concern for our disconnection with other animals (and nature as a whole) is increasing on the public agenda. It is absolutely timely for academic institutions to contribute more directly to the development of an 'animal politics' and to be a source of support for policy change at the highest levels of government."



Ken Shapiro, President of Animals and Society Institute, (USA) is pictured here with Sharyn Spicer (UWC Sociology), (centre) and Leigh Adams Tucker (UWC Psychology) at the launch last year of UWC's

inter-disciplinary, post-graduate course *Animals, Society and the Environment*. A grant from the institute enabled interested students to receive bursaries. To qualify students had to be studying a thesis topic that included animals.

To enroll for 2021, contact Dr Spicer at sspicer@uwc.ac.za

The Humane Education Trust was proudly a contributor to UWC's course *Animals, Society and the Environment*. Click here to view: <https://bit.ly/3eMvLIM>

Giving ONE HEALTH a Voice ... through education

GARC's lesson plans support a world without RABIES

Dr Terence Scott, a technical lead for rabies at the **Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC)** explains the importance of reaching into classrooms internationally.



Dr Terence Scott

Animal Voice:

You gave Caring Classrooms a trial pack of your lesson plans for young learners and they proved so successful as part of our *Five Freedoms for Animals* programme that now we've put a link to your site on our platform. Please explain why we need learners to know about rabies?

Dr Scott:

Rabies is an entirely preventable disease. There is absolutely no reason whatsoever why people should be dying from dog-mediated rabies. Furthermore, there is no reason why so many animals should be suffering and dying from this disease either.

We have good vaccines and the tools required to eliminate rabies, so now we need commitment and action from governments to drive national rabies elimination strategies. By educating people about the dangers of rabies, how to prevent it, responsible dog ownership, and primary animal healthcare, we can all play a role in eliminating this 100% preventable disease.

Animal Voice:

Which parts of South Africa – and indeed Africa as a whole – are worst affected by rabies? What do the statistics show?

Dr Scott:

Rabies is endemic across the whole of Africa. Studies have estimated that about 21,500 people die every year due to rabies in Africa, of which nearly 9,000 are children under the age of 15 years. GARC and its partners are working with national



Responsible pet ownership is a crucial component of putting an end to rabies and other zoonotic diseases. See the lesson plans at caringclassrooms.co.za/shop

governments to develop clear strategies and improve rabies surveillance in every rabies-endemic country globally.

South Africa has seen a lot of progress in efforts to reach dog rabies elimination. However, the country remains endemic for dog rabies and continues to have human deaths from this entirely preventable disease. It is only with the regular vaccination

of sufficient at-risk dogs that we can eliminate the disease. Therefore, every owner should be responsible and vaccinate their animals in order to protect their companion animal, themselves, their families, and others living in their community from rabies.

Animal Voice:

Many communities are fearful of dogs but you suggest that bringing this fear into open classroom discussion, is an important element in the fight against this awful disease?

Dr Scott:

Certainly. Rabies is a disease that causes fear, particularly because of the terrible symptoms and the guaranteed painful death of its victims once symptoms show. Unfortunately though, this fear is generally misplaced: not on the virus or the disease itself, but rather on another victim – the dog. Because dogs are responsible for 99% of human deaths from rabies globally, they are often blamed and persecuted, resulting in a fear of the dog itself. This fear drives communities to kill dogs, often

Giving Animals a Voice ...through the lens of Theology

Theologian calls for faith-based practitioners to speak up and provide an alternative voice and vision for the future

"In an increasingly unstable world, a faith-based view that includes teachings from sacred texts, is vitally important to the present debate on sustainable living." – Dr Christina Nellist



Dr Christina Nellist

As co-founder and editor of the charity **Pan Orthodox Concern for Animals**, theologian and author Dr Christina Nellist points out that the earliest period of the Christian Church included a reverence for animals and a sensitivity to their suffering. However, over the centuries "the tradition failed in its duty of care for God's non-human animal beings."

Now, in her new book

Climate Crisis and Creation Care: Eco-Economic Sustainability, Environmental Integrity and Justice

(Cambridge Scholars Publishing)

which is set for publication in mid-2021, Dr Nellist invites more than 30 specialists with expertise from different disciplines and cultures, to explore their individual disciplines on aspects of creation care and sustainable living "in an era where climate change is acknowledged as the greatest threat to life on this planet."

She says: "Some are lawyers, scientists and some are secular. Each comes from a different world view and it demonstrates that inter/multi-discipline and interfaith/secular projects can work because our goal is the same."

The book also includes perspectives by each member group of the Animal Interfaith Alliance namely Anglican, Buddhist, Catholic, Eastern

Orthodox, Islamic, Jain, Jewish, Hindu, Quaker and Sikh.

"They write in the hope that we - either as individuals or as decision-makers in government and civil society - will be guided to respond far more quickly than is currently the case." Today, she says, despite the promises of industries, governments and UN commitments, "these same institutions refuse to implement the necessary strategies to effect real change."

"It is equally important for us as individuals to realise that in order to achieve change, we must individually and collectively play our part by changing our desires and demands. Cheap meat, cheap clothes or cheap flights are not cheap if the full social, environmental and economic cost of production, transportation and GHG emissions are taken into account.

"We must be constantly aware that all misuse is a sin. This includes the sin of indifference to the suffering of others and to be clear here, 'others' refers to all forms of life on this planet."

"Cheap is a delusion fed to us by those with other agendas; the real costs - unstable weather patterns, habitat loss, species extinctions, ocean acidification and rising sea-levels, are now only too apparent."

Dr Nellist is also author of 'Creation Care: Christian Responsibility Course' following a request by the Archbishops of Zimbabwe and Angola at the Halki Summit 111. Her charity is currently part of a research project in the UK on Christian Ethics and Farmed Animal Welfare.

See website: panorthodoxconcernforanimals.org

Dr Nellist's email is: panorthodoxconcernforanimals@gmail.com

Giving Animals a Voice

... through informed and vigilant shopping

A leading South African milk producer Fair Cape Dairies was instructed to withdraw the words/phrases '#happycows' and 'humane' from all its advertising in terms of a ruling on 30 April 2020 by the Advertising Appeals Committee of the Advertising Regulatory Board (ARB). The Appeals Committee stated: **The concept of humane "means more than freedom from violence, pain and disease."**

This follows a series of complaints by concerned consumers led by Jo Fairbrother (jo@sentience.co.za) stating "there is no such thing as a happy cow in the dairy industry". The complainants submitted: "The truth is dairy cows lead horrible lives, filled with grief, pain and suffering". They specifically noted that cows were being forcefully impregnated repeatedly and were robbed of their calves soon after birth. Therefore, they submitted, Fair Cape's advertising was false and breached the Code of Advertising Practice which prohibits advertising that is likely to mislead the consumer.

When the complainants first approached the ARB in 2019, their complaints were dismissed by the Directorate on the grounds, inter alia, that within the context of the dairy industry, the cows are humanely treated, and therefore as "happy" as possible. It said that a reasonable consumer could not expect cow's milk could be sold without some compromise and it was naïve of any consumer to believe otherwise. At that stage, the ARB ruled that Fair Cape's advertising was not misleading and that the ARB could not "cater to the ignorant consumer, the uneducated consumer, or the willfully naïve consumer."

However, Jo Fairbrother and her fellow complainants, did not accept this dismissal



and set about requesting an appeal, with the help of Amy P. Wilson, director of Animal Law Reform South Africa and trustee of The Humane Education Trust. Now, their appeal has been upheld by the ARB Advertising Appeals Committee.

On 30 April 2020, the Advertising Appeals Committee ruled that the use of the terms “#happycows” and “humane” were indeed a breach of clause 4.1 and 4.2.1 of the Code of Advertising Practice. The Advertising Appeals Committee stated that, in its view, the Directorate (of the ARB) had erred in holding that Fair Cape’s advertising must be viewed through the lens of the practices that are generally accepted in the commercial dairy industry. It continued that while Fair Cape Dairies contended that “in the context of dairy farming” the cows were “humanely” treated, it was nonetheless the view of the Advertising Appeals Committee that while this meant that no malicious or gratuitous violence was perpetrated against the cows, and as far as possible they were kept free of physical pain, injury and disease, it did not mean that the cows experienced no physical and emotional trauma. It stated:

• *“... in our view, it cannot be said that the reasonable consumer who purchases milk expects the cow to have been raped, or her babies to have been taken from her at birth so as to maximize the milk available for sale. Nor does the reasonable consumer think of the fate of the cow’s babies, or the fate of the cow herself. None of this is uppermost in the mind of the reasonable consumer when purchasing a bottle of milk.”*

• *“In our view, humane treatment means more than freedom from violence, pain and disease; it means treatment characterised by tenderness, compassion, and sympathy. It does not include many of the practices complained of, such as the forced impregnation of cows, the forced separation of calves from their mothers immediately after birth, and the slaughter of male calves thereafter. It follows then, in our view, that the cows cannot be described as happy, or as humanely treated.”*

Commented Jo Fairbrother: “Fair Cape Dairies do not only directly misinform consumers, but they actively conceal many of their practices while creating an illusion of transparency. This cruelty is not an anomaly, but is standard practice inherent in the industry. To be informed, is to be empowered. When we are informed we can make consumer choices that are authentic and genuinely in line with our values.”

To see video footage exposing the suffering of boy calves discarded by the dairy industry see Animal Voice's footage here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MpmJTxBP9g>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iqwoc1N_k0

NOT FOR SENSITIVE VIEWERS. ■



Jo Fairbrother



Amy P. Wilson

Compassion in World Farming invites international bankers to discuss Post-Covid Economic Recovery — and the need to move away from industrial livestock production

South Africa's NEDBANK was one of the banks that expressed interest and asked for more information



Peter Stevenson, Chief Policy Adviser at CIWF says: “As the world seeks to ‘build back better’ after COVID-19, we urge financial institutions not to fund or invest in industrial livestock production because of the significant risks inherent in it.”

To read Stevenson's full report, see link: <https://bit.ly/32ABDJC>



Angus McIntosh, also known as Farmer Angus, applies biodynamic and regenerative farming principles and practices in the rearing of all the animals on his 126-hectare farm in Stellenbosch in the Western Cape. He believes regenerative organic agriculture is the only system that can produce nutrient dense food and reverse the damage caused by conventional agriculture.

For a synopsis, together with comment from one of South Africa's leading regenerative farmers, read on:

The case against Industrial livestock production:

PS: It risks further pandemics: The crowded, stressful conditions of industrial livestock production contributes to the emergence of disease-causing pathogens, some of which are zoonotic. In turn, the expansion of farmland into forests and other wildlife habitats can lead to pathogen spill-over with viruses being transmitted from wild animals to people.

Farmer Angus: I totally agree and sadly, this is a global phenomenon.

PS: It contributes to antibiotic resistance: Industrial production depends on the routine use of antibiotics

to prevent the diseases that are inevitable when animals are kept in poor conditions. Globally, around 70% of antibiotics are used for farmed animals. This leads to antibiotic resistance, undermining the efficacy of antibiotics in human medicine.

Farmer Angus: Yes, absolutely, and in South Africa the figure is closer to 90%. This is one of the reasons why the Indigo Global Wellness Index ranks South Africa 191/191 (<http://global-perspectives.org.uk/volume-three/infographics/>)

PS: It undermines food security: 40% of the world's grain is used to feed farm animals. If instead the grain was used directly for human consumption an extra four billion people could be fed.

Farmer Angus: Furthermore, let us also be aware that:

- herbivores don't naturally eat or need grain. They are grazers and browsers
- grains violate their digestive systems and produce too much Omega 6 which equals: inflammation
- Omega 6 dense meat is eaten by humans. Little wonder that inflammation is at the root of all modern human diseases

PS: It contributes to climate change: Industrial livestock production has fuelled a huge increase in meat consumption in much of the world. Studies stress that without a big decrease in meat and dairy consumption it will be very difficult to meet the Paris targets to mitigate climate change.

Farmer Angus: Yes **conventional** caged animal production does contribute to climate change but regenerative agriculture actually depends on animals to reverse this damage to the environment by revitalising the soil with grazing and the manure that comes with it.

PS: It fuels biodiversity loss: The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification states that livestock production is "perhaps the single largest driver of biodiversity loss".

Farmer Angus: Yes, and in South Africa, there are millions of hectares of marginal land which are suited to raising livestock – giving them natural outdoor lives and the freedom to be who they are.

PS: It links to environmental degradation: Industrial livestock's huge demand for grain has fuelled the intensification of crop production. Large amounts of nitrogen fertilisers are used to grow these crops. A 2019 World Bank report states: "Frequently more than half of nitrogen fertilizer leaches into water or the air." This has led to soil degradation, biodiversity loss, air and water pollution.

Farmer Angus: Yes indeed and we must bear in mind too that in the vegan nirvana you can only grow crops by using these fertilisers instead of the natural fertilising potential of manure – because all the animals will no longer be there. Cornell University did a study recently where they showed that the US fertiliser industry releases 3 times more methane than all other US industries combined.

PS: It links to deforestation: Industrial livestock's huge demand for soy plus a growth in cattle ranching has led to the expansion of farmland

into forests. This results in massive loss of wildlife habitats and the release of huge amounts of stored carbon into the atmosphere.

Farmer Angus: In fact South Africa is complicit in the burning of the Amazon rain forest because we import the soya to feed all the millions of animals in our factory farms.

PS: It links to health problems: The high levels of consumption of red and processed meat that have been made possible by industrial livestock production contribute to heart disease, obesity, diabetes and certain cancers.

Farmer Angus: Again, look to the inflammation brought on by the imbalance of Omega 6 in animal protein resulting from the forced feeding of grain. In addition, the soil is now so degraded that the quality of all foods has degenerated, as has human health. Not only animal protein but fruit and vegetables and grains have all become full of pesticides and their nutrient quantity has decreased.

See below to hear Angus McIntosh's TED TALK on The case for regenerative agriculture (<https://youtu.be/b1tZnOQrTi4>)

Ramaphosa heeds the call

Addressing the UN Summit on Biodiversity on 30 September, and as chair of the African Union, President Cyril Ramaphosa called for climate-friendly agriculture and sustainable food production.

He said: "We need to adopt sustainable land management practices, restore degraded lands, implement sustainable food production models and develop more climate-friendly agriculture."

He added: "As we emerge from the corona virus pandemic, not only must we raise the ambition of our biodiversity targets, we must also ensure that the recovery effort fosters greater and not less harmony with nature."

Now is the time for ACTION



Giving Animals a Voice ... through the law and job creation

Singaporean legal professional submits a White Paper proposing a simple change in human perception to revolutionize our relationship with animals

Instead of perceiving animals as economic units of production to exploit, we should view them as vital contributors to the vast fabric of human welfare. Says Low Wei Ling: "Their welfare is our welfare and they deserve the highest protection from the law in order to be able to deliver their contribution." Animal Voice asked Wei Ling to tell us more.

Animal Voice:

Up until now, animal welfare has been viewed as a subject on its own but you point out this is not so?

Wei Ling:

Exactly. Animal welfare is inextricably linked to our own welfare. Animals generate benefits for us and as such our relationship and care of them should qualify for tax deductions.

Animal Voice:

Help us understand this better.

Wei Ling:

For example, businesses with working animals such as therapy dogs, dogs that sniff out viruses, guard dogs, cat cafés, should be encouraged to adopt animals precisely to utilize their natural capabilities. Instead of a mechanical alarm, we employ the natural capabilities of a guard dog; instead of a psycho-therapist, we employ cats in a café to sooth and promote well-being, togetherness and conversation. Thus, their economic value is integrated into a business and the cost of optimal care of the animal becomes a deductible expense.

Animal Voice:

You say that many animals should be viewed as an integral part of a country's health care system?

Wei Ling:

Yes, this is a no-brainer! Pets are scientifically proven to have a positive impact on the health, for example, of elderly people. They can help reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and increase social interaction and physical activity. They have an astounding effect on symptoms of depression and loneliness. Pairing



elderly people with a pet companion should be a business in itself to help relieve immensely over-burdened health-care systems.

Animal Voice:

And fostering animals is another business opportunity?

Wei Ling:

Yes. People should be encouraged to volunteer for fostering animals so as to reduce overburdened animal shelters and reduce massively expensive euthanize rates. Volunteers would have to show that their expenses are necessary to perform this service.

Fostering animals also keep stray animals off the streets, and prevents an unmanaged community of stray animals that are viewed and treated as pests.

Animal Voice:

And then there are the Pet Shops!

Wei Ling:

Increased taxation on store-bought pets would discourage pet shops from sourcing animals from irresponsible breeders and instead, pet shops could become part of pet adoption schemes.

Animal Voice:

And Farmed animals?

Wei Ling:

Sadly, current technology is inadequate to eliminate the exploitation of farmed and lab animals. But we can make their living conditions 'worth living' by offering tax benefits for the keeping of animals humanely. Farmers who contribute to the elimination of practices that exacerbate climate change and habitat loss could receive tax benefits.

Animal Voice:

Your White Paper has the potential to create a whole new genre of jobs. In a country like South Africa entrepreneurship is key to reducing unemployment. Please comment...

Wei Ling:

The pet industry alone is worth billions of dollars and there are many ways to tap into this industry ethically and sustainably for the benefit of animals as well as humans. Key to this is the enforcement of animal welfare to ensure that no exploitation, cruelty or neglect will occur. If government policy and political will can get this right, the job creation potential is enormous.

Read *Animal Welfare and its Economics* by Wei Ling <https://amzn.to/3d9KxZz>

NOTE: Wei Ling founded Keep C.A.T.S. (Keep Caring for Animals in the Society)
www.keepcats.wixsite.com/keepcats

Please support further research. Coffee money in Keep Cats paypal account would be much appreciated:
keepcats@hotmail.com

Read the latest **Latham Letter** which features **Service Animals** and their immense **contribution to society.**



See https://www.latham.org/wp-content/uploads/wpt/2020/10/LL_20_FA.pdf

Coming Soon!

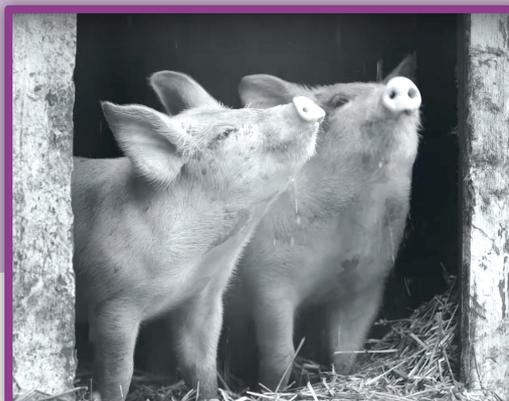
Absolutely magical, absolutely thrilling!

Watch out for GUNDA, a soul-searching meditation on the mystery of animal consciousness from visionary director Victor Kossakovsky and executive producer Joaquin Phoenix.

See piglets experience raindrops of their faces and be enchanted!

Here's a link to the trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByyDV5EI0lw>



Giving animals a voice, through consciously living without cruelty with every purchase we make

Says Toni Brockhoven, chairperson of Beauty Without Cruelty, "there is no end to the differences



we can all make on a daily basis, right here and now, simply by exercising our ability to choose."

"As of now", says Toni, "there are over 120 brands of grooming and household products on the BWC accredited

list found at humaneguide.co.za, and the Bill to ban cosmetic testing on animals has just been gazetted. BWC spent years getting it to this important point, and its immense value is that it underpins a tenet of animal protection and care, as part of South African law and culture."

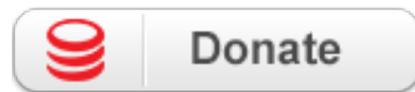
Toni adds: "We have yet to uncover the impressively positive effects on South Africa's mental health issues, when a society which promotes care and protection of animals gets the political will that it needs to drive it into the mainstream. It can be done. It took only a very few days for the entire world to wear masks. That's political will at play."

To learn more about the choices that make a difference to the lives of animals, which ultimately benefits humans too, and live without cruelty, go to:

www.bwcsa.co.za

www.humaneguide.co.za

Please support our education initiatives by making a donation towards the development of lesson plans for grades 4 to 7.



or go to:

<https://www.payfast.co.za/donate/go/thehumaneeducationtrust>

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Giving Animals a Voice

... in a world that wants to Build Back Better

Tony Gerrans is one such voice and a leading figure in a recent Zoom consultation with Minister of the Environment Barbara Creecy's high level advisory panel



With an Animal Law LLM degree from the prestigious Lewis & Clark Law School, and a decade of working with animal organizations including The Humane Education Trust, Tony Gerrans was appointed as **Executive Director of Humane Society International – Africa Operations** in 2018. As such, Tony leads a team of 10 specialist animal protection staff in South Africa and Liberia. His own interests lie in legal and regulatory reform, and in pressing corporations to consider eliminating animal cruelty in their supply chains as part of good governance and corporate social responsibility.

Here Tony talks to Animal Voice about challenges in the rocky road ahead...

Animal Voice:

You have engaged with Minister of the Environment Barbara Creecy about concerns regarding the risk to public health of South Africa's ever-increasing exploitation of wild animals.

Tony Gerrans:

Yes, Covid-19 has taught us just how deadly a zoonotic disease can be and that the way we relate to wildlife is a major risk factor for the emergence of further zoonotic diseases. We should be seeing policy changes to reduce these risks, but in South Africa we see exactly the opposite, such as amendments to the Animals Improvement Act and proposed changes to the Meat Safety Act to include wild animals.

Animal Voice:

Did you feel that Minister Creecy was sympathetic towards your concern?

Tony Gerrans:

Unfortunately, the Minister and staff in the Department of Environment, Forestry, Fisheries remain set in their view that the only way to achieve social and economic development is to exploit the environment and especially wild animals, still further. However, during September and October 2020, a wide range of conservation and animal welfare organisations submitted compelling, science-based presentations to her. We remain hopeful that the Minister will engage meaningfully with this body of

work, and we will see recognition of these issues in policy changes going forward.

Animal Voice:

If President Ramaphosa were to invite you to list the five most important criteria for Building Back Better, what would you put on this list?

Tony Gerrans:

The Constitutional Court has been explicit that the way individual animals are treated should reflect our constitutional values of dignity, freedom from violence and an ecologically sustainable environment. To achieve this, I would like to see:

- (i) reform of our food system towards small scale regenerative plant-based agriculture;
- (ii) an immediate end to all long-distance transport in live animals of all species;
- (iii) transition of our 'wildlife economy' away from practices such as trophy hunting, captive lion breeding, and the international trade in wild animals and their body parts, towards truly sustainable ecotourism alternatives;
- (iv) revised animal protection legislation, with an express recognition of non-human animal sentience, and the removal of institutional impediments to enforcement; and
- (v) a nationwide commitment to humane education at all levels of the schooling system.

Tony Gerrans' contact email: tgerrans@hsi.org

Giving Animals a Voice ... by owning up!



In an article published in The New York Times recently, University of Cape Town Professor David Benatar gives a sobering reminder that Covid-19 is a tragedy of our own making. It's emergence was not some random chance of nature but was entirely predictable.

"Simply put", he says, "the coronavirus pandemic is a result of our gross maltreatment of animals". Like pandemics before it, the virus emerged in conditions where horrific harms are inflicted on animals, facilitating the transmission of new zoonotic diseases. And, he says, we should fully expect our continued maltreatment of animals to manifest in further havoc on our own species.

Benatar points out that we humans *respond* to pandemics rather than act to prevent them. Vaccines are developed in response to viruses that have already emerged. "Real prevention," he points out, "requires taking steps to minimise the chances of the virus or other infectious agents emerging in the first place" and an intelligent, compassionate appraisal of our treatment of nonhumans animals — and concomitant action

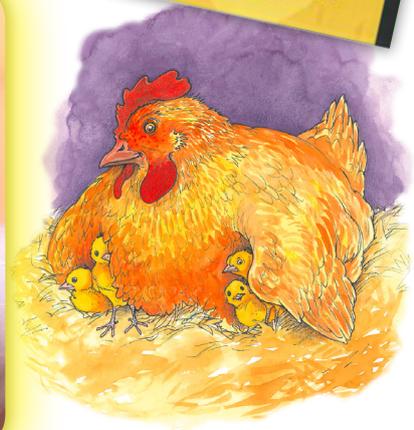
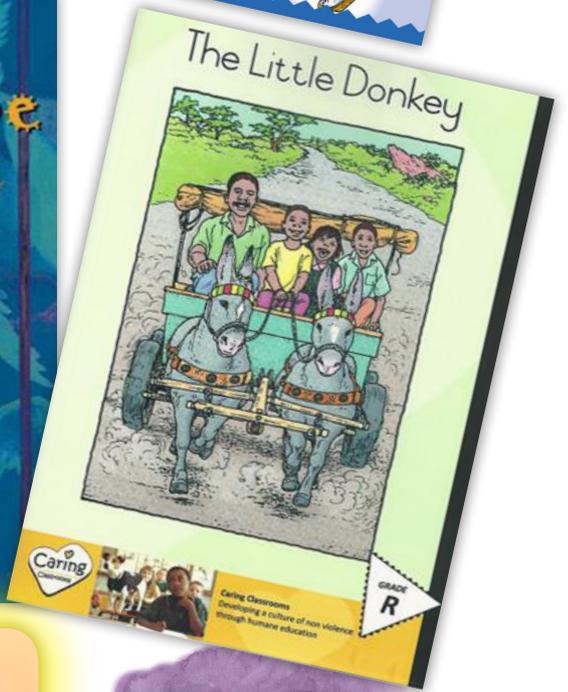
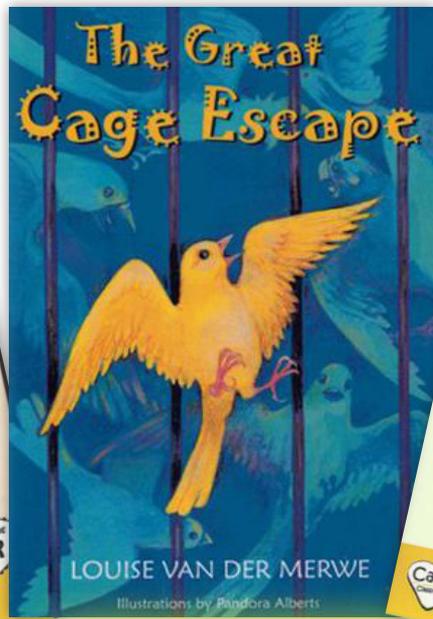
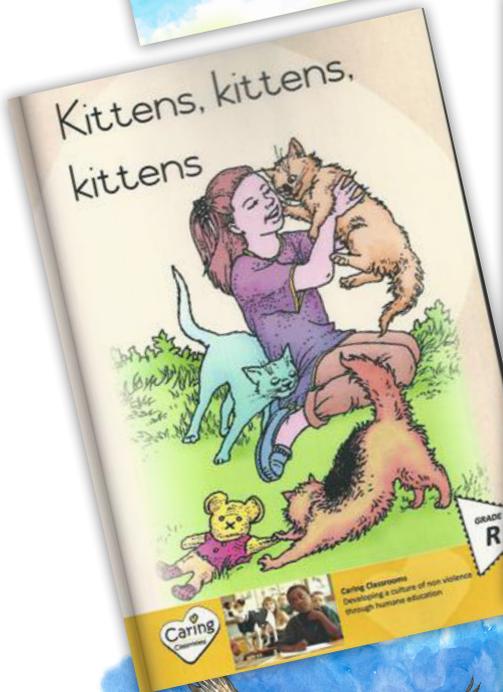
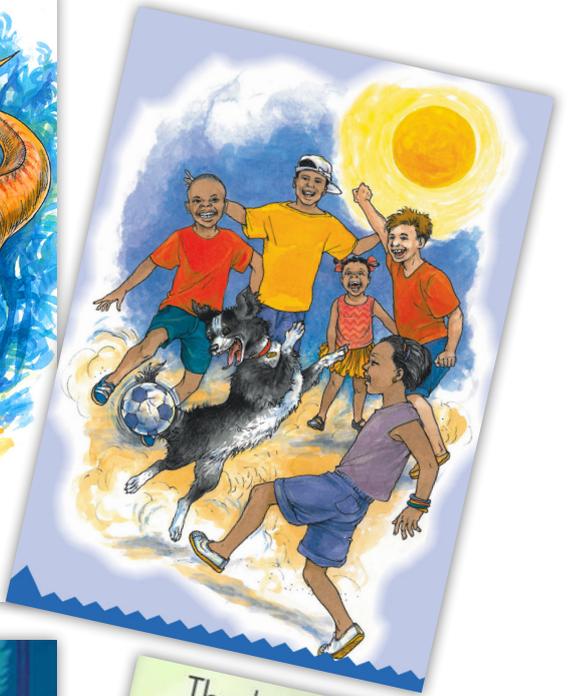
— should be a crucial starting point.

"Some might say that it is insensitive to highlight human responsibility for the current pandemic while we are in the midst of it.

Isn't it unseemly to rub our collective nose in this mess of our own making?" However," he points out, "given the importance of what lies in the balance, it is better to risk a little purported insensitivity than to pass up an opportunity to encourage some positive change. Millions of lives and the avoidance of much suffering are at stake."

David Benatar is a professor of philosophy and the director of the Bioethics Centre at the University of Cape Town. His most recent book is "The Human Predicament: A Candid Guide to Life's Biggest Questions."

Read the full article here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/13/opinion/animal-cruelty-coronavirus.html>



Animal Voice pays special tribute to Pandora Alberts who, over 25 years, has illustrated so magnificently, the many resources of The Humane Education Trust, opening the hearts of countless learners to animal welfare issues.