

## Factory Farming has Failed the Poor - new UN-sponsored report

**A**midst soaring food prices and growing environmental problems world-wide, a UN-sponsored report released on 15th April 2008, has called for a radical change in world farming methods. The 2500-page report entitled International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development, suggests that greater emphasis should be placed on small-scale, ecologically-sound farming.

Apart from the impact of industrial agriculture on water resources, land degradation and climate change, there were additional health concerns, the report said, in the presence of "pesticide residues, heavy metals, hormones, antibiotics and various additives in the food system as well as those related to large-scale livestock farming". It suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on "the importance of dietary quality... and not merely on quantity or price".

Robert Watson, director of the report and chief scientist at the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, commented: "Business as usual will hurt the poor. It will not work... Continuing with current trends would mean the earth's haves and have-nots splitting further apart. It would leave us facing a world nobody would want to inhabit. We have to make food more affordable and nutritious without degrading the land."

Compassion in World Farming's Chief Executive, Philip Lymbery said, "For the sake of animals, people and the planet, it is absolutely vital that the world moves away from industrialised farming."

**Report Summary:** [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/15\\_04\\_08\\_sr\\_exec\\_sum\\_130408\\_final.pdf](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/15_04_08_sr_exec_sum_130408_final.pdf)

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A street vendor in Khayelitsha uses a twig to fight the flies that plague her wares as they defrost in the hot sun. Huge volumes of frozen tripe, lung and liver are off-loaded by the bakkie-load in townships. Even the price of offal is on the up and up. Hygiene requirements are non-existent. See story inside: "Is Dump Food the new Junk Food?"

**COMPASSION**  
in world farming





Dear Readers –

This issue of *Animal Voice* is very much a **Consumer Power** issue. In putting it together, I became acutely aware that although there are eight



Consumer Rights in the UN Guidelines on Consumer Protection, there should be nine. The eight Consumer Rights are: Safety, Information, Choice, Representation, Redress, Consumer Education, Satisfaction of Basic Needs and A Healthy Environment. To this list should be added a ninth Consumer Right – namely: *Freedom of Conscience and the right to assume and take for granted that what we buy has been produced humanely and ethically.*

We are told we have a choice between kind and cruel food and that the market is driven by our choices. How on earth can we make educated choices when we are not allowed onto the farms to see production methods for ourselves? Why is it that we cannot take it for granted that supermarkets will present us with ethical options only?

I think it is very convenient to keep consumers in the dark. After all, factory farming is Big Business. There is a natural tendency among us all to believe that what goes on, on the factory farm can't be *that* bad. The truth is that it is worse than we allow ourselves to imagine. Kept away from public scrutiny, industrialised farming is a constant reminder to me of its parallel with apartheid. I am constantly reminded of what Brian Bunting said in his 1964 book *The Rise of the South African Reich* on the suffering of victims of Apartheid.

He said: **"Appalling crimes are committed ... and are tolerated because, after all, 'they are not the same as us'."**

In the same book, Bunting noted: **"The herrenvolk (master race) attitude lends itself to cruelty and sadism because the victims are regarded as being different, inferior."**

Bunting could just as well have been talking about the victims of factory farming. And, just as it was convenient during the dark days of Apartheid to keep people in child-like positions of docile acceptance of the status quo, so too is it convenient for Big Business to keep consumers in child-like positions of docile acceptance of the status quo.

Please let us all adopt a mindset

## Farm Animals - Fight for their Right to Lives Worth Living says Vet

Dr Roy Aronson has fought many a battle to save the life of an animal. "It's always uplifting to fight a battle that you believe you can win and when it comes to the lives of farm animals, this is a battle we can win!" he says.

Speaking from his veterinary practice in Tamboerskloof, Cape Town, Dr Aronson told *Animal Voice* he did not believe that turning the world vegetarian was a battle that could currently be won. "I'm not talking about whether our teeth are

designed to eat meat or not. The fact is: we eat meat.

"Let's start right there. And on that premise, let us state categorically that if animals are eaten for food then they must be handled humanely from start to finish, with no suffering at all in any phase of their existence.

"This is a battle, we can win!"

Dr Aronson said the industrial revolution had brought its own set of 'casualties' to the world and loss of compassion seemed to be one of them.

"I am not sure that we will ever go back to paying homage to our food like the Bushmen do, for example, when they pray for the soul of the animal. But we can go forward. That

is the realm of the possible. Can we force people to go vegetarian? No.

"Can we make them more conscious of the role they must play in ensuring that farm animals lead lives worth living? Yes. We can!"

Dr Aronson said he believed that government subsidies should be directed towards making 'kind' food the norm, and not the exception.

"We need to start with slaughter. Long distance transport to abattoirs should be replaced with slaughtering at the

farm itself. "Much more economical. Much kinder," he said.



Read Dr Aronson's new book **Tales of an African Vet**

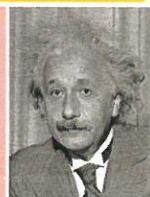
Available at Exclusive Books  
Price: R184.00

or

help vets reach into informal settlements by buying the book from [cvc@sava.co.za](mailto:cvc@sava.co.za) at R180 plus postage. For every book bought in this way, R90 will go towards the Community Veterinary Clinics initiative.

### Notable quote:

"The most important human endeavour is the striving for morality in our actions. Our inner balance and even our very existence depend on it. Only morality in our actions can give beauty and dignity to life." – **Albert Einstein**



that it is our right to assume that the food we eat has been produced with the utmost care and respect. To start with, we need labels that give clear and complete details of production methods.

Please find enclosed a postcard to National Consumer Forum chairman, Thami Bolani, in which we request him to help us achieve our right to **Freedom of Conscience** when it comes to the food we put on our plates. Cruel food should not be part of a choice we are asked to make.



More than any legislation or government decree, we, the consuming public, can ring in the changes for farm animals right now, by our pro-active determination to demand Kind Food.

A big Thank You to all of you whose ongoing support has made this issue of *Animal Voice* possible.

**Please find the postcard petition inside addressed to the National Consumer Forum Chairman, Mr Thami Bolani and send it off ASAP.**

Sincerely, Louise van der Merwe



# Yes! Healthy, Humane Food should not be the Privilege of the Middle-Classes only! - Dept of Agriculture

A new initiative to alert poor people to their Consumer Rights is taking off in South Africa's informal settlements.

This follows a decade of lobbying by *Compassion in World Farming (SA)* and its supporters for the humane treatment of animals sold live to poor people in informal settlements.

"When it comes to Consumer Rights, we tend to have double standards, one for the so-called first economy citizens and one for the second economy citizens", explained a spokesperson for the Department of Agriculture (Veterinary Services).

"Humanely produced, healthy and hygienic meat is being reserved for those who can afford it, while sick and ill-treated animals are often deemed good enough for the less privileged members of our communities. However, they have rights just like everyone else," he said.

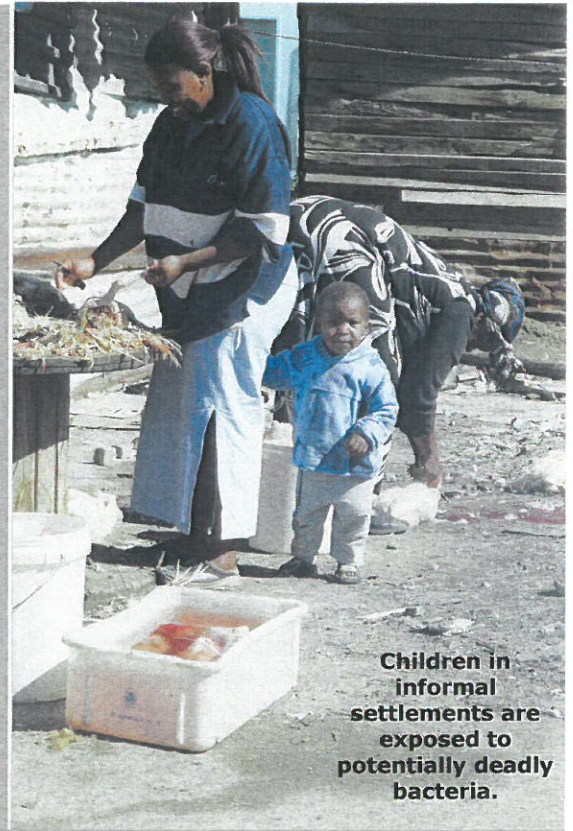
The launch of the meat safety awareness programme by the Department of Agriculture is aimed at curbing informal slaughtering and inhumane handling of livestock and at educating people about hygienic practices when handling meat and meat products. "We want traceability from farm to fork," the spokesperson added. "Many farmers think that they can dump diseased animals that could be rejected by abattoirs, at informal settlements. These informal settlements, in turn, do not have slaughter facilities.

"Changing mindsets is what the programme is all about. We intend informing and showing people that being poor does not deprive them of their right to demand humanely-treated, healthy animals."

## Consumers at risk!

Broiler chickens and end-of-lay hens sold live to poor consumers in informal settlements are often infested with dangerous bacteria that can cause disease in humans.

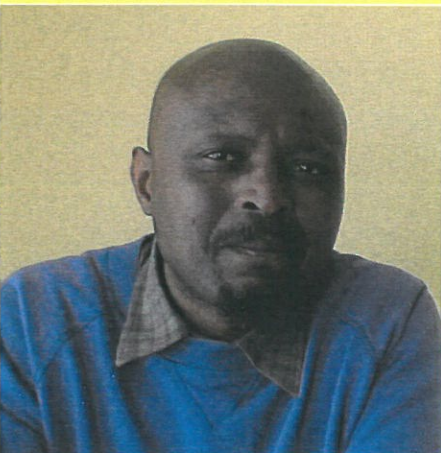
*Compassion in World Farming (South Africa)* took some of these chickens, freshly slaughtered, to the Department of Food Microbiology at the University of the Western Cape. According to the subsequent UWC report, several strains of bacteria were found on all the chickens – namely, salmonella, and Enterobacteriaceae. Of concern was the fact that both strains of bacteria displayed 100% resistance to the antibiotics Oxacillin, Vancomycin and Methicillin. Because antibiotics are used in animal feed – including chicken feed, the bacteria have built up a resistance to antibiotics. Thus, potentially life-saving antibiotics are in danger of losing their effectiveness for humans.



Children in informal settlements are exposed to potentially deadly bacteria.

Antibiotics	Salmonella resistance	Enterobacteriaceae resistance
Tetracycline	95.40%	56.90%
Streptomycin	90.40%	36.10%
Oxacillin	100%	100%
Vancomycin	100%	100%
Methicillin	100%	100%

## Is Dump Food the new Junk Food?



**Mr Thabani Mangcu** (left), *Compassion in World Farming(SA)*'s Khayelitsha representative has applauded the initiative taken by the Department of Agriculture to alert poor consumers to their Consumer Rights (see story above left).

"We believe poor communities are being ripped off by being dumping grounds for used and sick animals. This is the new 'junk food' and that is why people are becoming ill," Mr Mangcu said. "Even poor people want good healthy food from strong animals that have had good lives."

Mr Mangcu added that large packets of frozen pork livers and frozen tripe were sold to the poor. "We don't know where it all comes from. It is frozen in bulk. It is tasteless. If it is not good enough for some people, why would it be good enough for anyone? Once again, the poor are a convenient dumping ground," he said.

Mr Mangcu said he would like to see a return to the days when meat inspectors had to put their stamp of approval on meat products. "As things stand today we have meat at every street corner, bringing flies and disease to our people."



Animal Voice Assistant Editor **Toni Brockhoven** talks to two high-profile South African personalities on why their relationship with food has changed and how it has affected their lives...



Toni Brockhoven

**Patricia Glyn** is a media personality, author and roving ambassador for a new approach to living.

**Toni:** In a nutshell, tell me about your latest presentation, **Footing with Sir Richards' Ghost**.

**Patricia:** The presentation looks at the impact which the early guns had on the wildlife of Southern Africa, and the devastating impact which cattle farming is having on the land today. It's a tale about personal development and has a strong conservation message. It's about the wonder and simple delights of camping in the great African outdoors, meeting challenges, facing fear and being rewarded with great insights and even greater peace.

**Toni:** How did Woolworths receive your presentation?

**Patricia:** The company was very brave to use the presentation because it was for their suppliers. A difficult audience when you are faced with many animal farmers. They see some of the presentation as a direct attack on them, which it is, I suppose.

**Toni:** How does the public get to see your presentation?

**Patricia:** They either get a group of 100 or more, or they can e-mail me

and I will let them know when I am in the area.

**Toni:** As a consumer, what are important issues for you and what expectations do you have from suppliers and retailers?

**Patricia:** We need organic standardising, more accurate labeling regarding content in understandable language and this must include the carbon rating. It doesn't help buying organic greens that have been flown in from Kenya, for example. The impact on the planet is tremendous!



**Toni:** If you could change one thing with regard to animal farming practices in SA what would it be and why?

**Patricia:** Pig farms - The manner in which the pigs are treated during their lives is truly appalling. These are highly intelligent, sensitive beings who have more cognitive skills than the average 3 year old human and they are badly abused during their lives and suffer terrible, horrifying deaths.

**Toni:** Why do you think all the conservation documentaries ignore the real and massive impact the meat industry has on global warming?

**Patricia:** Simple - big business. You take them on at your peril! Look at the fight Oprah had with the meat industry. Also, people don't want to be inconvenienced - they love their food and suggesting any change is too threatening for most people, however well intentioned they may be.

**Toni:** What changes, if any, have you noticed since your change to vegetarianism and ultimate vegan lifestyle?

**Patricia:** I lost 7kgs in 4 months. I have certainly become more compassionate toward all. I also tend to have become more thin-skinned regarding things like animal abuse. I have no patience for people who attack my chosen eating habits when I invariably don't even raise the issue at the dinner table. I obviously make them uncomfortable so they tend to try and kill the messenger.

Patricia can be contacted at [patriciaglyn@wol.co.za](mailto:patriciaglyn@wol.co.za)

Multi-award-winning Restaurateur and Master Chef, **Ralph von Pletzen** has owned some of the Western Cape's most prestigious restaurants. Now he's about to start something new!

**Toni:** Tell us a little about your new venture.

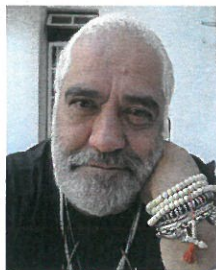
**Ralph:** I want to cook and work in **conscience and love**, and to this end I am opening the first restaurant of its kind in South Africa, situated in an art gallery, at Orange in Paarl. I will be doing the cooking, assisted by a small group of personally chosen staff. The food will be macrobiotic in nature and be almost entirely organic and free range. The concept is small, intimate and very personal and I will also have a table in the kitchen for those who want to enjoy the action behind the scenes.

**Toni:** You have spoken out publicly against **foie gras**. What made you do that?

**Ralph:** The whole concept is shocking. Would you eat a liver that is filled with Cirrhosis? The idea of force-feeding is totally and utterly unacceptable. To eat an overpriced plate of disease is utterly absurd! That's why I spoke out.

**Toni:** What about factory farmed broiler chickens. I believe you have strong views on that too.

**Ralph:** We don't question how much we pay for cigarettes or booze, but we want to fill our bodies with the cheapest (and often unhealthiest) option around. It doesn't make sense. Of course the fact that the factory farmed birds live in hell is also a very important aspect.



**Toni:** What about eating meat in general?

**Ralph:** South Africans eat far too much meat. 100 grams of perfect quality meat once a week is enough. The difference is one of quality. With factory farmed meat, you are eating adrenalin from the animal's stress and terror, and antibiotics. What is that doing to your state of mind, let alone your body? We have more fear and violence in the world today than ever, and we are eating more meat now, per person, than ever before. We are killing ourselves in more ways than one.

**Toni:** Who or what helped you to become more conscientised to the concept of ethical eating?

**Ralph:** A pig. A friend raised a pig and her litter. Free range, I suppose you'd call it. They were fed the daily restaurant left-overs and when the time came, he slaughtered the mother for the table. Her litter was to be fed on her bones. They sniffed the bones, ran to the back of their pen and huddled together. They refused to eat. They knew. It was a most profound moment. Pigs are intelligent, far more than we realise or give them credit for. All animals are intelligent, emotional beings, we just call them dumb because they don't talk like humans.

Read more at [www.masterchef-ralph.co.za](http://www.masterchef-ralph.co.za)



# Consumer Rights Day

'Why should cruel food be good enough for the poor if it isn't good enough for those who can afford better?'

Compassion in World Farming's representative in South Africa, Louise van der Merwe (editor of Animal Voice), was invited by the **National Consumer Forum** to speak at its Consumer Rights Day conference on 14 March 2008, sponsored by Absa Bank.

Asked to present a paper on '**Consumer Rights in the Fight Against Poverty**', Louise addressed some 300-odd delegates at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg. This is an excerpt from her presentation:

"I have campaigned for nearly 20 years against the abominations involved in factory farming. Many people are indignant that one should care about animals when there is rampant poverty everywhere. Factory farming is a 'necessary evil', they say, in order to feed the poor cheaply.

"However, I believe it is every consumer's right – rich or poor – to take for granted that the food they are sold comes from animals that have led lives worth living. Why would cruel food be good enough for the poor, if it isn't good enough for those who can afford better?

"Why should farmers and retailers take advantage of their poverty and ignorance and feed them food that other people object to? It is, of course, convenient if the poor remain docile in their acceptance

of this cruel food.

"Let's get an idea of what the poor are expected to eat. Take chicken feet for example. Traditionally, chicken feet have been a delicacy in Africa. Now they are contaminated by factory farming. Often deformed, scorched by ammonia-drenched litter and infected, they are sold to the poor at about 50 cents a foot. Rainbow Chicken produces 4 million chickens per week.

You work it out... at 50 cents a foot... that's an awful lot of money the poor are paying for chicken feet.

"And the white chickens from whom these feet come have been selectively bred to be giant. Without man, these chickens could not survive. They are simply too heavy for their own skeletons.

Is factory farming a necessary evil?

"... mass cruelty courses through our veins"



"I think this is un-African. I think factory farming is un-African.

"I urge delegates here today to join forces with *Compassion in World Farming* to ensure that free range is not something that only the middle classes can afford.

"Finally, what we put down our throats every day is the most intimate connection we have with the

Environment – with the Life Force, so to speak. There is a saying that goes: You are what you eat.

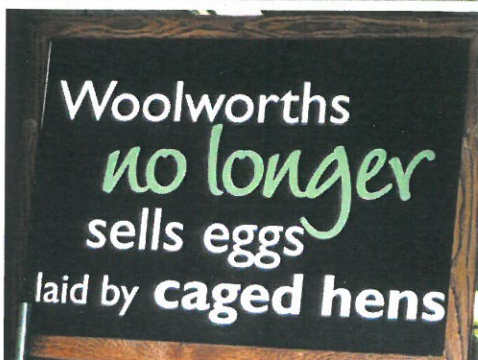
"If you accept this, then mass cruelty courses through our

veins whether we are able to detect it scientifically, or not. Only when we treat beings who are at our mercy with care and respect can we claim our constitutional right to Dignity."

## First to go cage-free!

In March 2004, **Woolworths** banned battery eggs from all its stores nationwide.

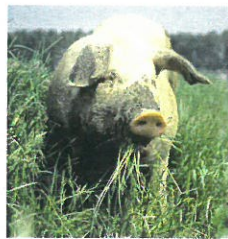
"From now on," said CEO Simon Susman, "no Woolworths laying hen will ever have lived, or spent any of her life in a cage. We have stopped this. It is a fantastic move forward. Animal welfare is high on the agenda of contemporary consumers."



## First to set pigs free!

**Pick 'n Pay** has become the first supermarket to launch free range pork in selected stores in Gauteng and will soon extend it to stores in the Western and Eastern Cape.

Said the retailer's General Manager for Sustainable Development, **Tessa Chamberlain**: "We do believe that there is little question that the treatment of animals is a critical issue which requires all parties to move towards an industry that is more humane."



2.1 million pigs are still confined in metal cages



## First to express concern for end-of-lay hens

**Shoprite Checkers** is the first and only supermarket to express concern for the plight of end-of-lay hens that are sold live in informal settlements. Following a postcard petition by *Animal Voice* supporters, marketing director **Brian Weyers** said: "We have taken your request to heart. We are currently awaiting confirmation from our egg suppliers as to the existence of these so-called 'cull depots', and also information about under whose authority they resort. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention." (See progress on page 3)

This child is forced to grow up amidst animal misery





## The true cost of food

To see the true cost of our consumption choices, visit <http://www.truecostoffood.org/truecostoffood/movie.asp>

## 57% of UK consumers want ethical food

Nearly six out of 10 consumers (57%) see animal welfare as an important ethical issue to consider when buying a product, according to an Ipsos Mori poll for the RSPCA. The poll results were unveiled by the RSPCA at the launch of its 2008 *Good Business Awards*, which recognise ethical business approaches to animal welfare.

<http://www.talkingretail.com/news/9285/Animal-welfare-moves-up-the-re.ehtml>

## Consumers Rule!

Consumers had become the most powerful force for change on earth, said **Prof Mervyn King**, world-renowned corporate governance expert, speaking on the Redi Direko show on Radio 702 on 9 April 2008.

Consumers had become greater instruments for change than governments and were the "transient caretakers of the Earth," he said.

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[www.humane-education.org.za](http://www.humane-education.org.za)

## Changing our Diet – to conserve WATER

While South Africans grapple with fuel price hikes, food price hikes, the impact of electricity black-outs during business hours and toll gates, another shock is waiting in the wings...

**.... in order to conserve our dwindling water resources, we need to eat less meat too!**

The media debate about the safety of South Africa's drinking water continues with the Official Opposition referring to a 'looming water crisis' similar to the current electricity crisis, and Minister of Water Affairs, Lindiwe Hendricks doing her best to reassure the nation. Yet she too appealed for an awareness that water needs to be conserved.

Speaking in Gauteng during **World Water Week**, Minister Hendricks said South Africa had limited water resources "yet often people behave as if this resource is infinite." The Agricultural sector, she said, was the single greatest user of water in South Africa.

Mind-boggling statistics show just how great a burden Agriculture's Livestock sector places on water resources (see table on page 7) yet no political figure has suggested so far that eating less meat should be part of the solution in conserving water.

On the contrary, the Department of Agriculture announced in March that it would increase livestock production by 15 percent over the next five years in order to bring down the price of animal products.

**Compassion in World Farming** is among the lobby that believes that eating less meat is critical to a sustainable future and suggests a target of a 15% reduction in meat consumption by 2020.

"Lack of water," says CEO **Philip Lymbery**, "is set to be the biggest threat to global stability in coming decades."

"Producing meat uses up vast amounts of water. Minimising the amount of water taken to produce food must now become a priority of global food policy."

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) has called for a massive 75% reduction in the consumption

of meat in order to save water, protect the environment from further degradation and help to alleviate poverty. SEPA suggests a reduction from 145g per person per day to just 35 g per person per day.



Philip Lymbery,  
CEO of Compassion  
in World Farming

## Just one chicken ....



Turning one chicken into meat at the abattoir takes an estimated 14 litres of water.



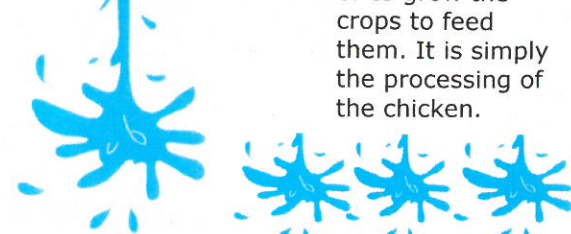
Multiply this figure by the number of chickens slaughtered annually in South Africa (761 million).



And the lake of bloody water that drains away from chicken abattoirs is an unholy 10.6 billion litres Annually - or 29 million daily.



This figure does not include the water required to rear the chickens or to grow the crops to feed them. It is simply the processing of the chicken.





**If we are to continue our tenancy of Planet Earth, the following pointers from the Food Ethics Council should be considered:**



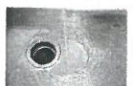
'The world uses 200,000,000 litres of water a second to grow its food — like gulping down the Amazon River day in, day out. By 2025 an estimated 1.8 billion people will be living without enough water to survive.'



'Water scarcity will be one of the most pressing environmental, social and economic challenges of coming decades.'



'Industrialised societies, of which (factory) farming systems are a key part, are unsustainable. This way of living is promoted across the world as what it means to be developed, successful, progressed. Yet this way of living and the values, ethics and worldview that go with it, simply cannot be sustained into the future without ecological collapse.'



'World farming needs to involve fewer animals leading a higher quality of life. This apparently goes against consumer demand. We are told that consumers want more, cheaper meat. But we also know that this is not compatible with a sustainable future in any sense of that phrase. ... Farming is compelled by business imperatives but in addition it can and should demonstrate leadership here — ethical and sustainable leadership. It should promote agricultural systems based on respect for other forms of life because that is the right ethic, and also because we need to think like that to continue our tenancy on the planet.' — Dr Kate Rawles, an Environmental Philosopher and member of the **Food Ethics Council**.

For further information on the role of water in meat production, visit:

[www.foodethicscouncil.org](http://www.foodethicscouncil.org)

[www.ciwf.org.uk](http://www.ciwf.org.uk) - The Global Benefits of Eating Less Meat

[www.waterfootprint.org](http://www.waterfootprint.org)

<http://www.botany.uwc.ac.za/Envfacts/facts;desertification.htm>

[http://www.virtualcentre.org/en/library/key\\_pub/longshad/A070E00.pdf](http://www.virtualcentre.org/en/library/key_pub/longshad/A070E00.pdf)



## Load-shedding the Meat from our Plates

Current annual slaughter figures and the amount of water required to convert these 'food animals' into carcasses, are shown in the table below.

The water figures do not include the water used to grow the crops to feed these animals, nor the water required by them to grow to slaughter weight.

Animal	Number p.a.	Water for slaughter per animal	Total water (litres)
Chickens	761 million	14 litres	10.6 billion
Pigs	2.1 million	3000 litres*	6.3 billion
Cattle	2.2 million	9000 litres	19.8 billion
Sheep	5.5 million	2500 litres*	13.7 billion
<b>Totals</b>	<b>770 million</b>		<b>50 billion</b>

**Figures supplied by SA Poultry Association, SA Pork Producer's Organisation, Red Meat Levy Association. \* Our estimates.**



Annually, an estimated 50 billion litres of bloody water goes down the drain in order to sustain current levels of meat consumption in SA. This is double the yearly amount of drinking water for the total SA population.

Government policy is to supply poor households with 6 000 litres of free water per month. If we were to save just 15% of total water used to convert animals into meat at the abattoir, then 104 000 households could be provided with *all* their water needs for one year.

## How **you** can support Compassion in World Farming's campaign to Eat Less Meat

- Consider having at least one meatless day every week
- One person's 50 per cent reduction in meat consumption can help 'subsidise' 3 people who haven't yet reduced their meat consumption at all.



**... Better for the animals,  
better for us,  
better for the Earth**





# Philippi couple's search for beaked chickens results in a Zero!

**W**hen Ebrahim and Shanaaz (surname withheld on request) decided to start a small business on their Philippi small-holding producing free range eggs, they had no idea that sourcing chickens with beaks would be an impossibility.

The couple decided to start a free range chicken business as part of their children's education. "Have you noticed how many children these days are happy to eat something bought from the supermarket but are afraid that home-grown produce is somehow dirty and unfit to eat?!" asks Shanaaz.

"Our kids have strong entrepreneurship skills which they get from school. Now they are going to learn how to manage a small-scale farm – just 350 chickens – where animals are treated with respect and produce a product of value.

"Free range has become an exclusive product. It shouldn't be. Rich or poor, people should expect nothing less."

With this in mind, Ebrahim set to, building a barn and nest boxes. The

Shanaaz with her brood, little Nuhaa, Ra'ees and Aslam.



was for its own good and was like me having my umbilical cord cut at birth."

Eventually Shanaaz started to believe they would have to settle for de-beaked chickens. But Ebrahim put his foot down. They both believe it is un-Islamic to maim animals.

"What we eat has become commercialised as though it is not part of the Earth and is no longer sacred.

"We need to return to an understanding that our food is sacred and we need to be grateful for it," says Shanaaz.

Finally, a solution was found when Vredebest Poultry Farm near Paarl agreed to supply still-beaked day-old chicks and it would be up to the couple to rear them to point-of-lay maturity at 18 weeks of age.

"We can't imagine a chick having its beak burned off," says Shanaaz. "It's like cutting off its lips and its hands.

"Part of what we want for our children is that 'quality time' is not a walk around the shops at Canal Walk. We want them to be part of a family business. We want them to know animals. You cannot respect what you don't know."

compost pits were dug and prepared in readiness for some serious scratching by the lucky hens-to-come, and the chicken runs, including spare runs so as to allow used ones to lie fallow, were made ready. Only the hens were still to arrive. And that's when they hit a glitch!

Not a single supplier of point-of-lay hens could offer a chicken with a beak.

"One farmer seemed absolutely unable to understand why I would want a beaked chicken," says Shanaaz. "I felt disgusted when he said to me that debeaking a chicken

**Current SA Poultry Association figures show that there are 22.8 million laying hens in SA, 97% of which are still confined in battery cages.**

## Cruel food is as unethical as pornography or slavery - UK Campaigner

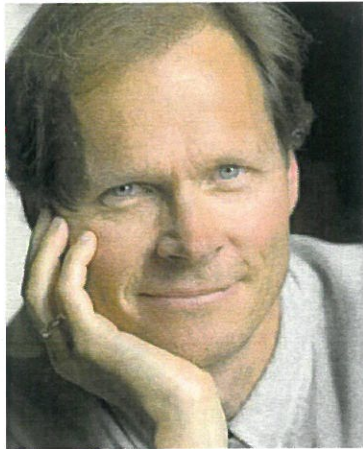
Clare Druce (right), one of the founders of the farm animal movement in the UK believes that supermarkets should not pass the buck when it comes to consumer choice.

"The notion that supermarkets only provide what the shopper wants is nonsense. They tell us that what we want is choice. But I'm sorry, we're not offered choice when it comes to pornography or slavery because they are morally wrong, and keeping hens in overcrowded cages is in the same category. When it comes to eating well, people should not be feeding on sick animals," she said. *Yorkshire Post*, 21 January, 2008  
Clare Druce runs the Farm Animal Welfare Network- [www.fawn.me.uk](http://www.fawn.me.uk)

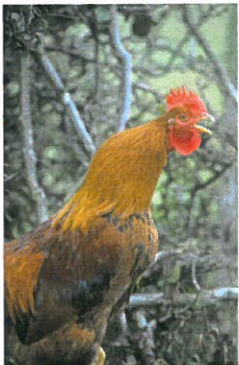




# From Lemurs to Laughter - Research Scientist gives awesome glimpses into Animal Sentience



Dr Jonathan Balcombe



Spell-binding glimpses into the uncharted world of animal pleasure intrigued a capacity audience at the Centre for the Book in Cape Town on April 29 this year.

Speaking at the lecture and book-signing event to promote his ground-breaking new book **Pleasurable Kingdom: Animals and the Nature of Feeling Good**, leading animal behaviourist Dr Jonathan Balcombe said his research helps debunk the popular perception that life for most animals was a grim struggle for survival.

"Animal pain and stress, once controversial, are now acknowledged by legislation in many countries, but there is no formal recognition of animals' ability to feel pleasure," explained Dr Balcombe who is Senior Research Scientist for the Washington

DC based *Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine*. The evidence, he said, proved beyond doubt that animals enjoyed a robust ability for pleasure.

In all his research into the pursuit of pleasure in the animal kingdom, the lemurs in Madagascar were among the most fascinating. "Lemurs rub millipedes against their mouths and faces, causing the millipedes to release potent toxins which send them into a euphoric stupor," he said.

Tame rats, for their part, learned to love being tickled, making high-pitched chirps and titters, beyond the range of human hearing, linked to the origins of human laughter.

Asked to comment specifically on the lives of farm animals, Dr Balcombe said: "South Africa has the most charismatic wild fauna on Earth. But we need to remember that the humble cow, pig or sheep is equally sentient. All animals cherish life and all are equally deserving of our respect and protection."

Animals shared the primary emotions of fear, anger, lust, sadness and joy. More complex emotions such as jealousy, elation, surprise, embarrassment, disgust, depression, exhilaration, satisfaction and a sense of humour should be added. It was even likely that animals possessed some emotions which were beyond the realm of human experience," Dr Balcombe said.

"... important ethical ramifications for both science and society."

Dr Balcombe's research has important ethical ramifications for both science and society. If animals experience good things, they had quality of life and a life worth living. As such, he explained, humans should not deprive them of their ability to enjoy their lives on Earth.

"I think the scientific establishment is beginning to awaken from a prolonged period of agnosticism regarding animal feelings.....

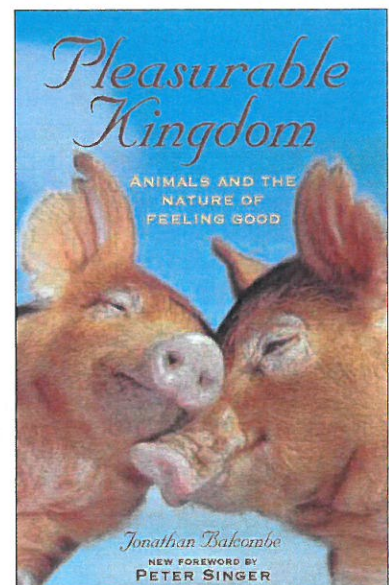
"When we acknowledge animals as feeling individuals, we realise that while we may have no moral obligation to provide pleasure to others, depriving them of opportunities to seek their own pleasures – as we do

when we cage, confine and kill – is a serious moral issue.

"Like us, animals are not just pain-avoiders, but pleasure-seekers, and the world is richer for it."

**Dr Balcombe's presentation at the Centre for The Book was hosted by Compassion in World Farming (South Africa).**

Highly recommended!



Pleasurable Kingdom is available from most book stores.  
Retail price R179.00



## Some milestones in *Compassion in World Farming (SA)*'s efforts for farm animals

# COMPASSION in world farming

**1991** – Free range eggs introduced onto the shelves of Pick 'n Pay and Woolworths



**1997** – Amidst lawyers letters and legal threats as a result of our publishing of this photo, live-plucking of ostriches before slaughter is finally banned by the industry.



**2001** – We take Humane Education into 11 schools in the Western Cape Education Department's Safe Schools programme. Caring Classrooms, our ensuing video on the impact of Humane Education on learner behaviour is launched in Brussels and receives international acclaim.

**2003** – At the invitation of the Dept of Education, we officially participate in the process of integrating Humane Education in the SA Curriculum.

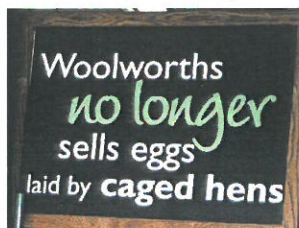
**2003** – Compassion in World Farming hosts the All-Africa Humane Education Summit in Cape Town. Educators from 18 African countries attend. Mr Ronald Swartz, head of Education in the Western Cape, is our keynote speaker.



**2003** – Compassion in World Farming's SA representative and editor of Animal Voice, Louise van der Merwe, receives the **Campaigner of the Year** award by IFAW/Animal Talk magazine.



**2004** – Woolworths bans battery eggs from all its stores nationwide. CEO Simon Susman gives credit for this to *Compassion in World Farming (SA)*.



**2004** – Free range broiler (meat) chickens become available in most supermarkets.

**2005** – We expose calf cruelty and Woolworths instructs its dairy suppliers to raise male calves to maturity.

**2005** – The Dairy News, mouthpiece of the Milk Producers Organisation alerts farmers to the need to treat calves humanely.



However the treatment of calves is not yet resolved and remains an ongoing issue.

**2006** – We publish South Africa's first Kind Food Guide.

**2006** – Parliament opens debate on whether animals should be acknowledged as sentient beings in the SA Constitution.

**2006** – Teacher Vivienne Rutgers who has worked closely with us for four years to become a Humane Education Specialist, is invited to speak on Humane Education at the

United Nations Forum on Sustainable Development, New York.

**2007** – Parliamentary Leader of the Opposition, Sandra Botha signs Animals Matter Petition to the UN.



**2007** – *Compassion in World Farming (SA)* and Humane Education supporters collect more than 100 000 signatures for Animals Matter petition and hand them to Deputy Director for Animal Health, Dr Siegfried Meyer.

**2007** – Dr Meyer subsequently visits *Compassion in World Farming (SA)* Representative in Khayelitsha, Mr Thabani Mangcu, to hear local views on the plight of animals in informal settlements.

**2007** – Our Humane Education readers are selected by the Western Cape Education Department for its 100 Books in Every Grade project for 2008.

**2007** – Pick n Pay launches free range pork



**2008** – Acknowledged as a role player in consumer affairs, *Compassion in World Farming (SA)* is invited to address the ABSA Bank-sponsored Consumer Day celebrations held in Johannesburg by the National Consumer Forum.

**2008** – Dept of Agriculture launches training and awareness programme in Khayelitsha, including humane slaughter methods.

For more information, please visit [www.animal-voice.org](http://www.animal-voice.org) and [www.het.org.za](http://www.het.org.za) or [www.humane-education.org.za](http://www.humane-education.org.za)

If you do not already support our work, please consider doing so. See relevant postcard inside. Please notify us of your address details so that we can send you the next Animal Voice. Our bank details are:

ABSA Bank,  
Account name: The Humane Education Trust  
Account no. 9094070046  
Branch no. 632 005  
SWIFT CODE: ABSAZAJCCT

Public Benefit Organisation  
Registration No: 18/11/13/4237  
Charitable Trust Registration No: IT 450/2001  
Non-Profit Organisation no: 039-611-NPO



# Schools special!

## Make a 3-minute Movie on Consumer Rights



Intermediate and Senior Phase learners are invited to make a three-minute Consumer Rights movie for presentation to the National Consumer Forum.

Sponsored by *Compassion in World Farming (South Africa)* in collaboration with *Cameo Video Productions*, interested learners – one team per school – will compile a DVD based on any of the consumer issues raised in *Animal Voice*. Interested teams in the Cape Town vicinity need to arrange their own travel to the Cameo studio in Somerset West for two consecutive days. Learners in other provinces will be provided with our archive footage, but will have to make their own sound and video editing arrangements.

Entrants must shoot their own footage and assistance will be given with:

- Compiling a working script of their choice
- Access to archive footage
- The guided use of a sound studio for voice-overs and video editing equipment

Please enter without delay. *Compassion in World Farming (SA)* will choose the best entries for submission to the National Consumer Forum. Submission of proposals to participate in this opportunity close on 30 June 2008.

## What a star!

Eleven-year-old **Aviwe Tshoma** from Khayelitsha, Cape Town, recorded the 'child's voice' in a Xhosa translation of the documentary "Let's Ask the Animals". Aviwe, who attends *Nomsa Mapongwana Primary School*, showed herself to be confident and competent in reading and speaking adult-level Xhosa as well as reading and speaking adult-level English!

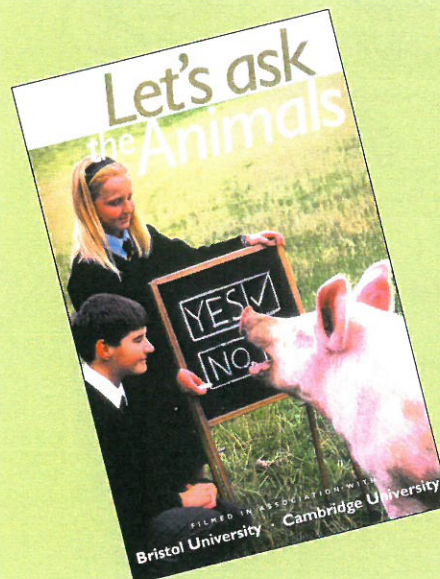


**Let's Ask the Animals** is a unique documentary compiled by the *Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour* in the UK together with Bristol and Cambridge Universities. Assisted by veterinary scientists, farm animals surprise learners by revealing their needs and choices through their actions and responses to life situations.

Suitable for learners in the Intermediate and Senior Phases, *Let's Ask the Animals* gives insight into animal sentience and how our consumer choices can ensure that farm animals lead lives of contentment, free of frustration and fear.

Available in English and Xhosa, this 22-minute DVD is available from *Compassion in World Farming (SA)* for R50.00.

Tel/fax: 021 852 8160 or  
Email: [avoice@yebo.co.za](mailto:avoice@yebo.co.za)



## Submission details

Please provide the following details to enter for this opportunity.

1. Name of school
2. Address of school
3. Telephone no. of school
4. Name of teacher
5. Names and grades of learners
6. Two days (dates) during the July holidays when learners will be able to work on the project at the studio.

Please email entries to:  
[avoice@yebo.co.za](mailto:avoice@yebo.co.za)

## Calling All South African Schools



### Costa Rican learners celebrate for animals

Photo: Courtesy The World Society for the Protection of Animals

Please join the international movement to have animal welfare placed on the agendas of all member governments of the United Nations, by signing the **Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW)** online at [www.animalsmatter.org](http://www.animalsmatter.org)

South African learners will be adding their voices to the largest animal welfare petition the world has ever seen. Please notify *Animal Voice* and we will arrange an interview with your school.

In the photo above, Costa Rican schoolchildren help celebrate the signing of UDAW by their country's president, Oscar Arias Sanchez on March 5 this year. President Sanchez recently became UDAW's one-millionth signatory.

**South Africans have already contributed more than 100 000 signatures to this petition.**



# Examining consumer issues ...



Life Orientation:  
LO1 Health Promotion  
Grade 4  
AS 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3  
Grade 5  
AS 5.1.1, 5.1.2  
Grade 6:  
AS 6.1.2

Economic & Management  
Sciences  
LO 1 – Economic Cycle  
Grade 4  
AS 4.1.2  
Grade 6  
AS 6.1.2



# Examining consumer issues ...



Life Orientation  
LO1 – Health Promotion  
Grade 4  
AS 4.1.2, 4.1.3  
Grade 5  
AS 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3  
Grade 6  
AS 6.1.2

Economic & Management Sciences  
LO 1 The Economic Cycle  
Grade 4:  
AS 4.1.2, 4.1.3

EMS  
LO 2 Sustainable Growth and Development  
AS 4.2.1  
Grade 5  
AS 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.2.3  
Grade 6  
AS 6.2.1



# Special Offer: Life Orientation and Home Language

"I believe that the protection of animals and their welfare is a key component of the sanctity of human life and the defense of human dignity." - *Duncan Hindle, Director General, National Department of Education.*

"How we treat animals and how we treat each other are two stems that grow from the same root. If there are thorns of neglect, contempt or cruelty on one, we can be sure to find them on the other." - *Ronald Swartz, Superintendent-General, Western Cape Education Department.*

"The humane treatment of animals recognises the oneness of nature and the importance of this synergy for the well-being of humans and nature. Therefore, teaching children to respect and care for animals and the wider environment is an important step in sustainable development and the respect for human rights." - *Ben Boys, United Nations Project Officer for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy.*

"The abuse of animals is often the first step on the slippery slope of desensitization, the first step down that slope of a lack of empathy... and violence." - *Phil Arkow, international expert on the link between animal abuse and family violence, Latham Foundation, USA.*

"We have a social contract with farm animals. We contract them to work and to die for us. We owe them lives worth living. This is only fair." - *Professor John Webster, University of Bristol.*

"Those who want to exploit animals often say, 'well, animals are different from us. There are two kinds of suffering: human suffering which is very important, and then there is animal suffering which really isn't anything to worry about.' I suggest that there is something very dreadful, very satanic even, in harming those who cannot defend themselves." - *Reverend Professor Andrew Linzey, Faculty of Theology, University of Oxford.*

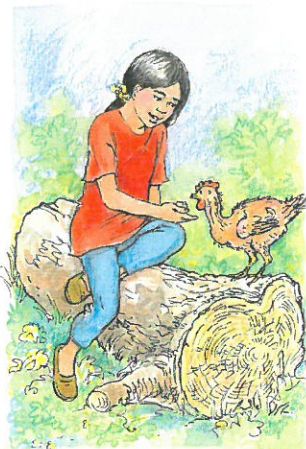
Goosie's Story and its Afrikaans counterpart, Appelliefie se Storie, were chosen for the WCED's 100 Books in every Grade project for 2008.

Dear Teacher,

How do we learn to stand up for Consumer Rights for ALL - rich and poor alike - and for healthy, humane lives for farm animals?

With knowledge!

By 2012, battery cages for laying hens will be banned throughout Europe. Yet, in South Africa, 22 million laying hens will remain trapped in a space allowance of less than an A4 sheet of paper – for life! The old excuse of factory farming being a 'necessary evil' in order to feed the poor cheaply has fallen away. Research at the University of the Western Cape shows that laying hens sold to informal settlements are often infested with antibiotic-resistant bacteria, causing disease in these communities. In addition, these chickens reach the poor at higher prices than those paid by other consumers in supermarkets. A leading veterinary surgeon has now called upon government to subsidise food production to ensure that healthy, humane food becomes the norm for everyone - not the exception only for those who can afford it.



We invite you to take advantage of our Special Offer for **Goosie's Story** – the true and inspiring story of a battery chicken who found her freedom. Aimed at Grade 4 learners, Goosie's Story will empower learners to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of 22 million laying hens.

An English-language workbook, based on Goosie's Story, by Vista Publications, aligned with the learning outcomes of the curriculum, is also available.

Goosie's Story is a 40 page novel, including colour illustrations.

A FREE PowerPoint CD showing the inside of a factory farm for laying hens will be included with all orders. A play based on this book may be downloaded for FREE from [www.het.org.za](http://www.het.org.za)

**Special price on this promotion (valid until 30 June 2008):**

R39.95 per single book  
R25.00 each for 10 or more  
R20.00 each per workbook

## Tipping the scales

Research shows that when 15% of laying hens are moved to free range as result of consumer demand, it becomes possible to persuade authorities to ban battery cages. In South Africa only 3% of laying hens are currently on free range. Please help tip the scales.

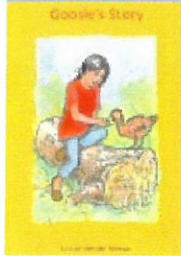


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Visit [www.het.org.za](http://www.het.org.za) for more information and resources



# Values Education Resources

All books published by Humane Education Publishers will be on display at the Cape Town Book Fair - 14 to 17 June at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. Come meet us there!



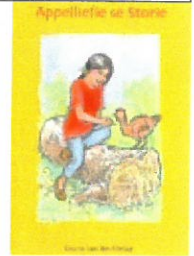
## **Goosie's Story** - ISBN 9780620379090

Children's fiction ages 10 to 12 years

This novel with colour illustrations, is about a battery hen who is rescued, and finds care, respect and the ability to be what she is – a chicken. It creates awareness in learners of the sentience of even the most humble of creatures and empowers them to make a difference for laying hens in the world today.

Size A5, 40 pages

Normal price: R60 each,  
R42 for 10 or more copies.  
**See special offer on page 14**



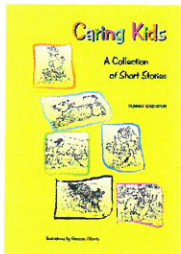
**Appelliefie se Storie** - ISBN 9780620379106  
Afrikaanse weergawe van Goosie's Story

## **Goosie's Story - The Play**

A short play based on the novel, Goosie's Story. Available only as an online 'e-book' (downloadable for free at [www.het.org.za](http://www.het.org.za)). For description, see Goosie's Story above.

Suitable to be performed by Primary School learners.

The play was first performed at the Baxter Theatre in Cape Town in 1998. Size A4, 12 pages



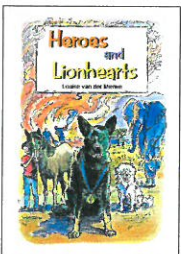
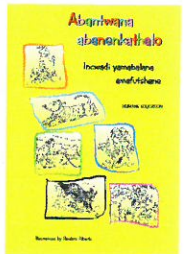
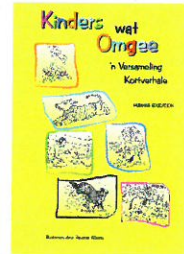
## **Caring Kids** - Short fictional stories by Pandora Alberts and Peta Jones - ISBN 9780981407227. Suitable for ages 9 to 12

Available in the three Languages, English, Afrikaans and Xhosa, this is a compilation of short stories with messages that build a sense of self-worth in learners by empowering them to care for their companion animals through a better understanding of their needs. Each story is accompanied by delightful illustrations. The stories relate to our interaction with dogs, cats, goats, pigs and donkeys. Suitable as a reader for Grade 3 or 4, or older children if used as a Second Language reader. It can also be read to

younger children. Size A5, 108 pages.

Price: R60 each,  
R42 for 10 or more copies

**Kinders wat Omgee** ISBN 9780981407234 Afrikaanse weergawe van Caring Kids.  
**Abantwana Abanenkathalo - Incwadi yamabalana amafutshane**  
ISBN 9780981407241 isiXhosa translation of Caring Kids



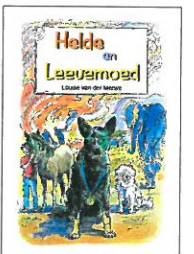
## **Heroes and Lionhearts** - ISBN 9780981407203

Short stories, non-fiction, suitable for ages 10 to 14

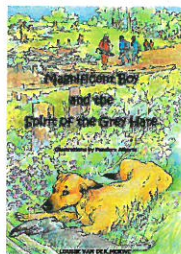
This inspiring book comprises 12 true stories based on the NSPCA's Awards for Bravery – humans who have saved animals and animals who have saved humans.

Heroes and Lionhearts is a multiple award-winning book and was included in the international White Ravens selection of noteworthy books. Full colour illustrations. (Worksheets available for free download at [www.het.org.za](http://www.het.org.za)). Size A5, 76 pages

Price: R65 each,  
R47 for 10 or more copies



**Helde en Leeuemoed** - ISBN 9780981407210  
Afrikaanse weergawe van Heroes and Lionhearts

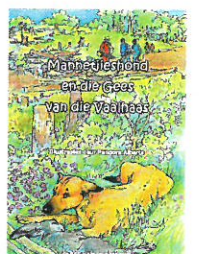


## **Magnificent Boy and the Spirit of the Grey Hare** - ISBN 9780620386852

Short novel, suitable for ages 10 to 14

Inspired by actual events, this novel traces the friendship, courage and amazing adventures shared between two disadvantaged beings - a boy and a dog - on the farmlands of the Cape winelands, during the 1990's, and their triumph against all odds. Includes delightful illustrations by Pandora Alberts. A Teacher's Guide that accompanies Magnificent Boy and the Spirit of Grey Hare can be downloaded for free at [www.het.org.za](http://www.het.org.za). Size A5, 132 pages

Price: R70 each,  
R49 for 10 or more copies



**Mannetjieshond en die Gees van die Vaalhaar** - ISBN 9780981407258  
Afrikaanse weergawe van Magnificent Boy and the Spirit of the Grey Hare

**DVDs/Videos:**  
**Intermediate and senior phases**  
**Demonstrating animal sentience**

- Farm Animals and Us - A Southern African perspective - 16 minutes (English, Afrikaans and Xhosa)
- Let's Ask the Animals - 22 minutes (English and Xhosa)



# HUMANE EDUCATION PUBLISHERS



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*"In time, we must bestow on South Africa  
the greatest gift — a more humane society."*

*— Nelson Mandela*