

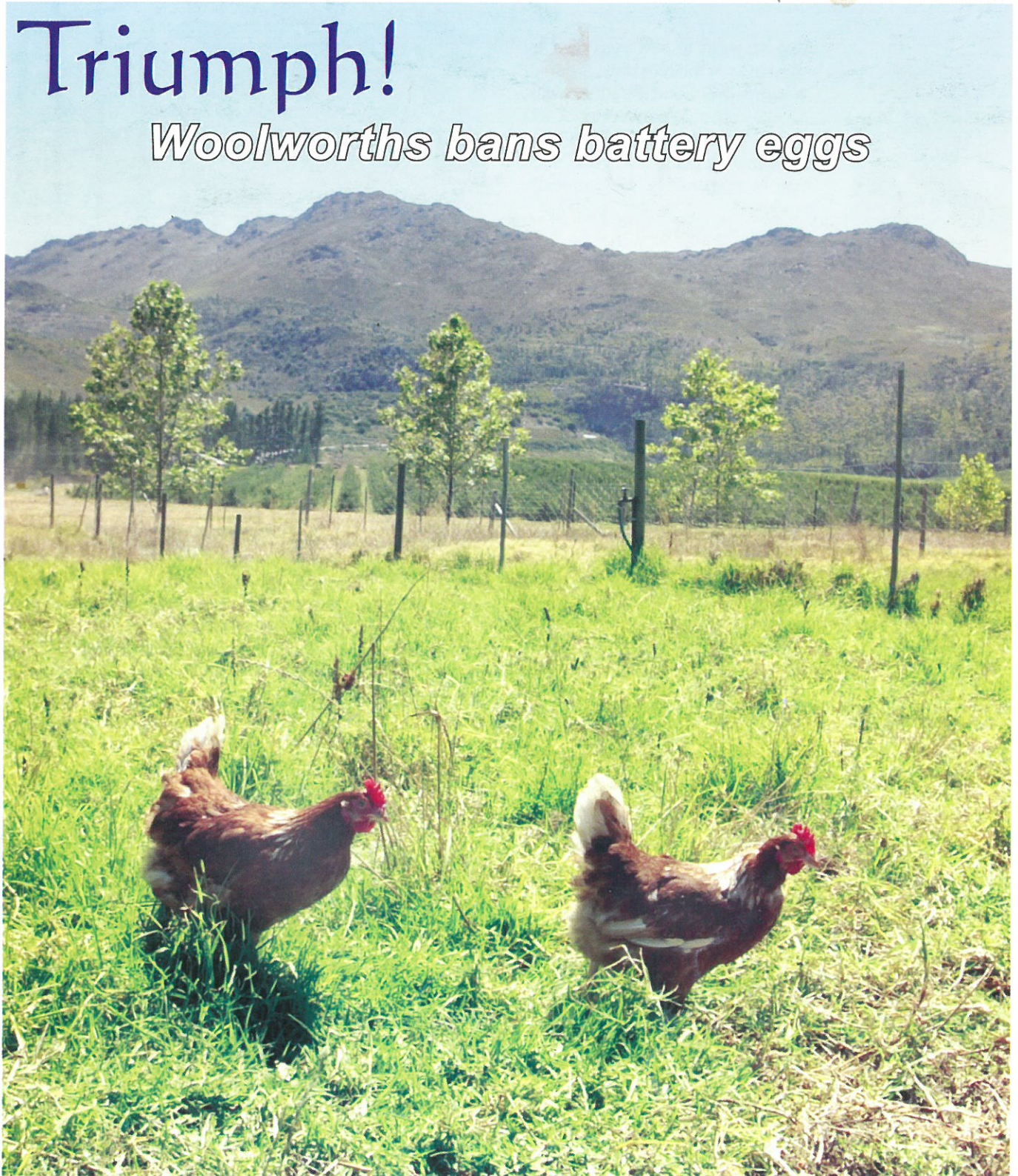
Animal Voice

REKINDLING THE SPIRIT OF CARE AND RESPECT FOR LIFE

AUTUMN 2004

Triumph!

Woolworths bans battery eggs



Woolworths Un-caged!

Woolworths takes a giant step for laying hens in South Africa.

In one of the most significant advances in animal welfare in modern history, South African supermarket giant **Woolworths** has banned battery eggs from all its stores nationwide. This landmark initiative came into effect in mid-March 2004.



Woolworths CEO
Simon Susman

The decision to sell eggs laid by non-battery chickens only, is part of Woolworths' Good Food Journey, which, says **Woolworths CEO Simon Susman**, is aimed to meet consumer demand for good food that is responsibly and ethically produced.

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

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that none of Woolworths' laying hens are debeaked. Only the hook at the very tip of the beak is removed, leaving the beak fully functional.

Moreover, Woolworths' free range eggs are only 5% more expensive than the cost of its former battery eggs if bought in small packs. If bought in larger packs, the cost is the same.



But

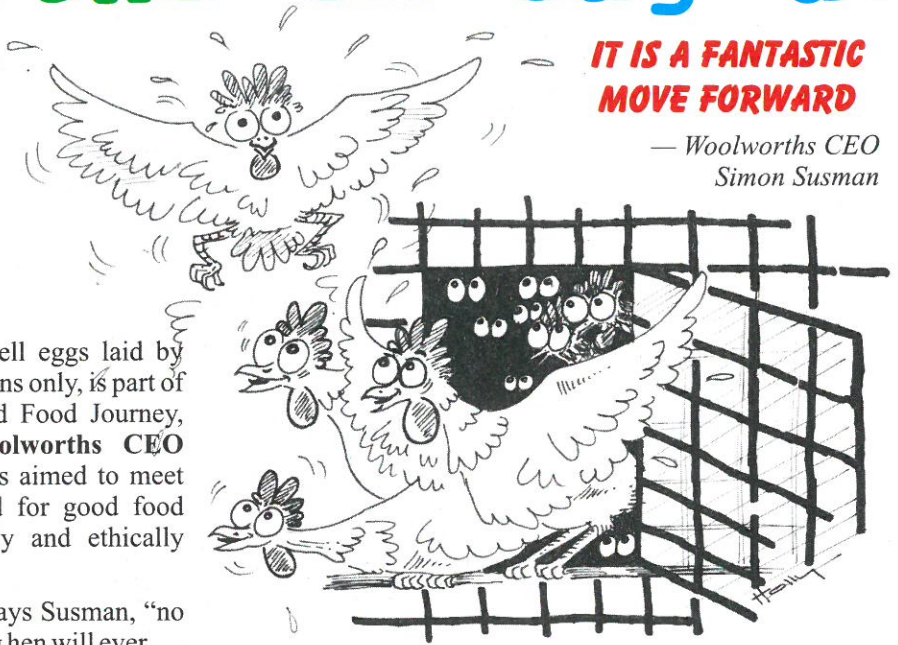
In South Africa some 16 million laying hens remain locked in wire cages with five hens per cage confined for life, in a space measuring 50cm by 50cm by 50cm. All of them are debeaked. Debeaking has been proved to lead to life-long pain similar to that experienced by human amputees. The operation to cut and cauterize the beaks of chicks is carried out when they are 10 days old.

The operation is necessary, says the egg industry, because of outbreaks of cannibalism in the confines of the battery cages. Born to forage and peck for food for the greater part of their day, hens confined in a battery cage have only the wire bars of their cages and each other to peck at.

READERS: please find the postcard inside which asks Pick 'n Pay, Shoprite/Checkers and SPAR to follow Woolworths' example.

IT IS A FANTASTIC MOVE FORWARD

— Woolworths CEO
Simon Susman



Louise van der Merwe was invited to speak at the launch of *Woolworths Un-caged!* at Eikendal farm in Elgin, Western Cape.

This is what she said:

"I would like to thank Woolworths for taking this giant step forward. You may query my use of the term 'giant step'. Is it really that big? Isn't the term 'giant step' saved for occasions like landing on the moon and advances in science? Well, to my mind, landing on the moon and advances in science don't come even close to what Woolworths is doing today. You see, when all is said and done, we, as humans, have to be comfortable with who we are. Even proud of who we are.

No scientific breakthroughs on earth can make us comfortable with ourselves if we continue to rashly violate our own innate sense of decency and justice. If, during our lifetimes, we have been part of something that is inherently indecent, immoral, blatantly cruel and inhumane, and we have not at least tried to put it right, then... well... what dreadful shame on us.

Animal Voice started off as Humanity for Hens way back in 1989. At that stage there were NO free-range eggs to be had in any supermarket anywhere in South Africa. Humanity for Hens strongly lobbied for the introduction of free range eggs and early in 1991 Woolworths was the first supermarket to bring out the 'new line' of free-range eggs. Today, once again, Woolworths is the first supermarket to give an unequivocal 'thumbs down' to the battery system in which some 16 million laying hens are trapped in South Africa.

So I would like to say a resounding 'THANK YOU' to Woolworths for helping the world to see that our sense of morality and justice cannot begin and end with humans only. We cannot be half-way moral and half-way just. Justice and morality are concepts that have no beginning and no end but are part of a mind-set that is all-encompassing. THANK YOU WOOLIES for helping to make this world a better place for laying hens and, indeed, for ourselves as well. Because, above all else, let us strive to be Proudly Human."

Ethics Institute
applauds Woolworths



Animal Voice asked Professor Willem Landman (above), CEO of the Ethics Institute of South Africa in Pretoria, to comment on Woolworths' ban on battery eggs. Professor Landman said Woolworths was to be congratulated. "The practice of producing eggs in chicken batteries is cruel and inhumane," he said.

"Chickens are sentient or feeling creatures capable of suffering pain or distress. Causing gratuitous suffering, of humans or non-humans, is intrinsically wrong. Saying 'no' to battery-produced eggs is saying 'no' to gratuitous suffering."

Moral Progress

Professor Landman added that moral progress starts with intentionally creating 'islands of integrity' against slavery, against corruption in the public and private sectors, against violence, against animal suffering, against apathy.

"Some may say that we cannot afford the luxury of addressing animal suffering while there is so much human suffering. However, the one does not exclude the other. Suffering is indivisible. Suffering demands of us that we address it wherever it occurs or whomsoever suffers."

Professor Landman added: "Locally and internationally, companies have triple-bottom-line reporting obligations. They do not only have financial responsibilities to investors and clients, but, as corporate citizens using society's resources, they have social and environmental responsibilities. Animals figure prominently in discharging those responsibilities, and, in terms of sheer numbers, chickens suffer the most."

Eat less meat — it's Costing the Earth!

Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) head office in the UK has launched a new video showing how excessive meat consumption is a direct threat in the long term, to the sustainability of humankind.

Entitled 'Eat less meat, it's Costing the Earth', leading environmentalist Jonathon Porritt, chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission, says: "I would put excessive meat consumption right up there as one of the gravest threats to the long term sustainability of humankind."

Also a participant in the video is Mr Stranger Kgamphe, Secretary General of The South African National Commission for UNESCO, based in Pretoria.

To receive a free copy of this video, please contact ANIMAL VOICE.



Mr Stranger Kgamphe

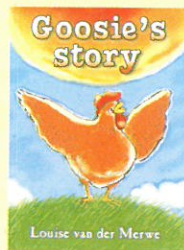
Teach our children well...

Special Offer

... for all Language and Life Orientation Teachers

Goosie's Story is a 40-page class novel about a battery hen who finds freedom. This true story is now a popular Grade 4 reader in South African schools. Through the eyes of Goosie, so-named because she loved to dust-bath beneath the gooseberry bush, children develop a sense of environmental justice and responsibility.

To celebrate Woolworths' ban on battery eggs, **Goosie's Story**, which includes full-colour illustrations, is being offered at the special price of **R22**. **Goosie's Story** is accompanied by a 28-page Workbook (costing R13) which incorporates all four



components of English, i.e. reading, writing, speaking and listening. It can therefore form the major part of a term's English programme.

Goosie's Story is available from Animal Voice / The Humane Education Trust -

Tel/fax (021) 852 8160 or e-mail avoice@yebo.co.za.

The Workbook is available from Vista Publications

Tel/fax (031) 289072.

JAFFAE GIRLS FOR ANIMAL VOICE



Young women at the Johannesburg Academy for Finishing and Etiquette (JAFFAE) are determined to give animals a voice. Carrien Baumgardt, Principal of the Academy says **Animal Voice** has the full support of everyone. "Best of luck with all your efforts. Please keep us posted regarding your progress," she said.

There's a new breed of Teacher... to help sort out those Canine Quirks



If your dog is giving you a headache, then call in an ethologist – or animal behaviourist, if you prefer – and you'll probably find out that it's **your behaviour that needs attention!** Better still, consult an ethologist before you get the headache!



Julia Evans, Yalda (Goggi) Krause and Gill Painter are just three of the 200-odd graduates of a correspondence course in **Ethology** offered by **Professor Johannes Odendaal**, a leading figure worldwide in the study of Animal Behaviour. All have taken the basic course as well as the advanced course, each course taking a year to complete. "Ethology", says Professor Odendaal, who is based in Pretoria, "is another way of looking at animal welfare because it teaches us how to meet our animals' basic and natural needs."

Life-changing event

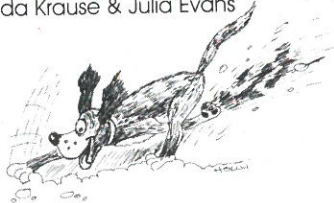
Julia Evans says that taking the course was a life-changing event for her. "I see the need for some sort of understanding of how dogs think, all around me every day," says Julia who manages the Animal Welfare Society in Stellenbosch. "When I started doing animal welfare work, I realized, by simple observation, that there was behaviour among the animals that I did not understand."

Human Behaviour

"Interestingly, though, in 90% of the cases of problem behaviour in dogs, it is the human behaviour that is the problem. Very often, owners have to learn how to adjust their own behaviour. In fact, becoming an ethologist has enabled me to understand people a lot better. It's even helped me to understand myself better. All round, I am better for it."



Yalda Krause & Julia Evans



Yalda Krause, a high school language teacher, says that she includes aspects of animal behaviour in her classes every day and the children want more. "The kids can't get enough of what I tell them about animal behaviour," says Yalda. "People think that because the animal can't talk, it's a stupid thing. How wrong this perception is. Animals are extremely intelligent. We just don't understand them."

"So often you see a person yank angrily at the chain of a dog who, for instance, wants to stop and smell another dog's faeces. What that owner does not realise is that the information the dog is able to pick up from his wonderful scent abilities, is vital to his well-being. Sniffing and smelling is like reading a newspaper for a dog."

Gill Painter runs regular classes for puppies and for "teenage dogs" too. Things like choker chains are out, she says. "I use only positive reinforcement and keep things quiet and gentle."



"One of the things I enjoy tremendously, is teaching the dogs hand signals. They are so used to reading our body language that they accept hand signals naturally."

naturally."

Gill says many people become alienated from their dogs as they begin to grow up. "We train owners in how to play with their dogs in a mutually enjoyable way — like tracking, retrieving, seeking and finding", she says.

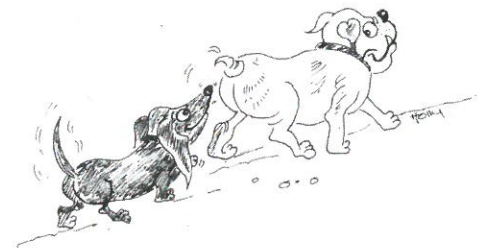
The next enrolment for a correspondence course in Basic Ethology is in January 2005.

To sign up for the course, please visit www.ethology.co.za.

To find an ethologist in your area, please call **Hanna at 012 565 6090**.

READERS OF ANIMAL VOICE ARE
ELIGIBLE FOR A
10% DISCOUNT ON A
CORRESPONDENCE COURSE IN
BASIC ETHOLOGY.

(Normal price R3 500,00 + VAT)
When you make your booking, mention
that you are a reader of Animal Voice.



Wat Elke Hond-eienaar
Moet Weet
KEN JOU HOND SE BEHOEFTES



Johannes Odendaal

For your **FREE COPY** of **What Every Dog-Owner Should Know** by Professor Johannes Odendaal, please contact Animal Voice.

This book, available in Afrikaans and English, is also particularly suitable for High School Life Orientation classes and fits well into the category dealing with Personal Development.



STOP PRESS!

Animal Rights to take centre-stage in national inter-schools debating tournament

The **Debating Society** of the **University of Stellenbosch** is to host a three-day National Inter-Schools Debating Tournament in which topics on animal rights will feature strongly.

The **International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)** and **Animal Voice** are to co-sponsor the three-day event at the University of Stellenbosch (US) and will present a trophy to the winning team.

The invitation-only 12-team tournament will be judged by 18 adjudicators and will take place from 24 - 26 September 2004.



*Pieter Koornhof (left)
& Pieter-Schalk Bothma*

Pieter-Schalk Bothma, chair of the US Debating Society, and vice-chair, **Pieter Koornhof**, will be making arrangements for the tournament. Said Mr Bothma: "This is going to be a high-level debate with the 12 best debating schools in South Africa vying for the trophy. It will also be a lot of fun because the teams will be hosted by the university for the three days. A good time should be had by all.

(Read more about it in the local press as well as in the next issue of Animal Voice)

FREE STATE SCHOOL is the FIRST to receive HUMANE EDUCATION ACCREDITATION!

Bainsvlei Combined School in Bloemfontein is the first school in South Africa to receive humane education accreditation. Humane Education is taught at the school's Ubuntu Club. Headmaster, **Mr Julius Mokoma**, said everyone should



become aware that violence towards women and children and violence towards animals were inextricably linked. "These forms of cruelty are inseparable," he said.

The Ubuntu Club, he said, helped to inculcate values and responsibility in the youth and resulted in learners having higher self-esteem.

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.
— Mahatma Gandhi

Wikus Gresse, Acting Head: Corrections at Pollsmoor Prison and founder of the now famous prisoner rehabilitation programme known as the Bird Project, says: "Humane Education – learning to care – as part of the curriculum in schools, is of the utmost importance. If our prisoners had been exposed to it at school, some of them would most probably not be here today."

Bainsvlei Headboy, **Itumeleng Melesi** (Itumeleng means Peacemaker) said that Humane Education had not only changed the attitudes of learners but also of their parents. "Before the Ubuntu Club came to Bainsvlei, rabbits in the school grounds were killed by the learners, but

Ubuntu changed their lives, because now the number of rabbits increases every day," he said.

Pictured in the photo above, 4 of the 39 members of Bainsvlei Combined School's Ubuntu Club give the 'Ubuntu Club greeting' which consists of the 'peace' sign, while saying the word Ubuntu. At left is **Beatrice Wiltshire**, Co-ordinator of the Ubuntu Clubs, **Ms Irene Malebese-Thole**, teacher of the Ubuntu Club at Bainsvlei, **Mr Julius Mokoma**, Headmaster, and **Mr Giel de Villiers**, Director of Curriculum Development, Free State Province Department of Education. Any school in South Africa wishing to establish an Ubuntu Club and to take part in humane education for accreditation, should make contact with Beatrice Wiltshire on **(051) 451 1027 or 083 4000 262.**

GLOBAL

50 countries meet in Dallas, USA, to find solutions to the

Veterinary surgeons and animal welfare workers from 50 countries met in Dallas, USA, in March 2004 in a global effort to find solutions to the explosion of homeless animals around the world.

Co-hosted by **The Humane Society International (HSI)** and the **International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)**, delegates to the **Animal Care Expo 2004** made it clear that euthanasia programmes were not the answer. Below are views expressed by some of the delegates:



Dr Andrew Rowan, (at left), Vice President of the Humane Society International, based in the USA, said he wanted to find solutions that would effectively **'vaccinate the world against violence'**. "Animal Protection is now an accepted activity around the world. We need it to become an

essential part of society and it needs to be treated as an essential part of education, including at university level. We need to teach morality and in so doing, we will vaccinate the world against violence," he said.

Note: Of interest, Dr Rowan is a former South African. Born in Zimbabwe, he was educated at Hout Bay Primary and Bishops in Cape Town and is a BSc graduate of the University of Cape Town. He has a Masters and DPhil degree in Bio-Chemistry from Oxford University and has worked extensively towards ending medical experimentation on animals. He is the grandson of South Africa's famous entomologist, Dr SH Skaife.



Karen Santos, Manager of IFAW's Companion Animals Programme worldwide, says the aim is to create a more compassionate world by embracing the spirit of fellowship between people and animals.



Dr Berna Nakanwagi, a veterinary surgeon working for the SPCA in Uganda, told the conference: "The problem is people do not take responsibility for their animals mostly due to ignorance and because they do not value the animal enough to care." She said she did not think the root cause of this was

poverty. "I have seen people who are rich and can afford to take care of their animals, but don't. I've seen poor people who care enough to try and take care of their animals. I grew up with animals and my parents cared for their animals, thank God for them." She added: "If you can neglect an animal that you look at every day, then you are capable of considerable neglect in other areas too."



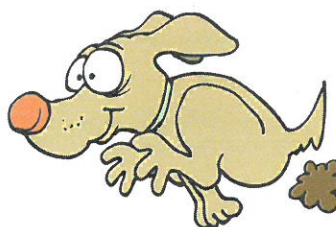
Veterinary Surgeon, **Dr Joaquin Bobadilla** represented the **Veterinary School at Mexico City's National Autonomous University**. He said there were 2.9 million dogs in Mexico City, increasing in number by 128 000 annually. "70% of these dogs," he said, "are either stray or

community-owned (where no single person takes responsibility for the dog).

"One of the problems is that an estimated 696 tons of dog faeces is discarded in Mexico City each day," said Dr Bobadilla. "We have a spay/neuter campaign but afterwards, we release the dogs back into the urban jungle where their welfare problems remain. They have difficulty in finding food and this often leads to a delay in post-operative healing.

"Moreover, they all need to be recaptured annually for their rabies vaccination. People need to become conscious of the public health problems of overpopulation of dogs. Unfortunately, there is a macho mentality in Mexico that discourages the neutering of male dogs because such an operation would affect the honour of the family." Dr Bobadilla said that in 2002, 63 261 dogs were euthanased in Mexico City alone. "But despite all the euthanasia, we do not see an alleviation of the problem," he said.

Note: A delegate from Turkey responded from the audience that euthanasia was not a solution to the overpopulation of dogs. "The more you euthanase, the more food becomes available on the rubbish heaps and more puppies are born. After a mass euthanasia campaign, it seems that the litters suddenly become bigger too. A spay/neuter and release programme seems to reduce the problem," she said.



An estimated 696 tons of dog faeces is deposited each day in the streets of Mexico City. This figure is based on an average of 500 grams of excrement per dog. There are some 2.9 million dogs in the city.

"My parents cared for their animals, thank God for them."

— Dr Berna Nakanwagi, veterinary surgeon, Uganda.

CONCERN

explosion of **starving street dogs** around the world



Merle Voigts Project Co-ordinator for the Gauteng-based organisation, **Community Led Animal Welfare (CLAW)** attended the Expo under the sponsorship of **IFAW**. She said: "We work in areas where there is massive unemployment and a huge AIDS problem. I work in communities where there are lots of orphans. In some cases the oldest person in the house is 14, but even so, we find that animals are important members of the households. Our approach is holistic. We try to help the people with food parcels and so on and in doing so, they become very conscious of animal welfare."

If you want to control a dog population, you have to remove the rubbish collection points

—Veterinary surgeon



Veterinary surgeon, **Dr Jack Reece** established an ABC (Animal Birth Control) Programme in the city of Jaipur, India, a decade ago. "Before the programme began, you could not walk in the street without stepping over dead and dying puppies and dogs and there used to be at least 10 cases of human rabies a year," he told the Expo. Today, he said, 10 years on, there were no cases of rabies in Jaipur, a city of 2 million people, although some 30 000 people still died of the disease annually in India as a whole.

Dr Reece continued: "Mass euthanasia campaigns do not seem to affect the stray population in the long run because more food becomes available to those not euthanased. The ABC Programme spays / neuters and releases the dogs back on the streets. Killing dogs is not the answer. If you want to control a dog population, you have to remove the rubbish. The street dog population in Jaipur live on rubbish."



Tova Salabye is a native American and mother of two small daughters, Savannah and Autumn. As a small-scale farmer on the Navajo Reserve, Arizona, she is regularly plagued by packs of marauding dogs that kill her sheep and chickens.

"I used to shoot the dogs," said Tova. "But gradually I developed a sense that they are victims, discarded by our society, and that they are simply trying to survive."

Today, as Community Outreach Co-ordinator for the Pegasus Foundation, Tova teaches humane education in schools and takes part in a spay/neuter and adoption campaign.

Says Tova: "Dogs today are caught between two worlds — the traditional and the urban cultures. The Navajo people believe that dogs are there to protect us. Now, we are having to protect them."

Animal Voice wishes to thank IFAW for sponsoring Louise van der Merwe's attendance at the Animal Care Expo 2004, in Dallas, USA.

In South Africa it is estimated that some 500 000 dogs and cats are euthanased nationally every year, costing animal welfare organisations and municipalities an estimated R37,5 million annually.

'POOR' DOES NOT MEAN 'CALLOUS'

This man in Seychelles, is poor and physically handicapped, yet he arrived at the Seychelles SPCA with a wheelbarrow lined with a sack in order to transport his dog back home as comfortably as possible after she had been spayed. Frank Collie, chairman of the Seychelles SPCA, is standing with the man.

Photo: Courtesy Anne Rose-Innes, Seychelles SPCA.



To poison or not to poison ...and most other

To urban dwellers, far removed from farming life, the very question of whether black-backed jackals, caracals and stray dogs should or should not be poisoned, seems utterly bizarre. Yet, what people generally don't know is that some 15 poisons including carbofuran, aldicarb and strychnine - are liberally used in

bait every day on farms around South Africa to kill so-called 'problem animals'. 'Problem animals' are wild animals that are in conflict with farming such as the black-backed jackal and caracal, both of whom eat sheep and lambs. The use of poisons against wildlife is illegal in SA, yet, they are readily available to farmers from co-ops and other outlets.



CAPE WOOLS has already invested R400 000 in developing the poison 1080. It says the field trials to test the poison on 'problem animals' like the black-backed jackal and caracal, should go ahead as soon as possible.

Now, three organisations are proposing that a new deadly imported poison, namely 1080, should be legalised so that the poisoning of the black-backed jackal can be controlled and the rampant uncontrolled use of all the other poisons can then fall away.

Four and a half kilograms of the lethal poison 1080 have been imported by the **Endangered Wildlife Trust** into SA from the USA — enough to kill up to two million animals. There is no antidote. It causes agonising spasms and convulsions for up to 36 hours before death from respiratory or cardiac failure.

PROPOSERS OF THE USE OF 1080

Those *for* the legalisation of 1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate) are: The Endangered Wildlife Trust, The National Woolgrowers Association and Cape Wools (which has already invested R400 000 into researching poison bait.) Now field trials to test the efficacy of 1080 are due to start.

OPPOSERS OF THE USE OF 1080

Those *against* the use of poison in any shape or form include: Beauty Without Cruelty, the Kalahari Raptor Centre, Xwe, FreeMe, the NSPCA, CARE, Animal Voice and most top problem animal specialists including Thys de Wet, former head of Problem Animal Control for NW Province Nature Conservation.

As a result of an outcry about the proposed use of 1080, instigated on the internet by Mr Chris Mercer of the Kalahari Raptor Centre and the website www.jackal.co.za, the Endangered Wildlife Trust invited all interested parties to a meeting held at the War Museum in Johannesburg on 16 April 2004. What follows gives readers an idea of what ensued:

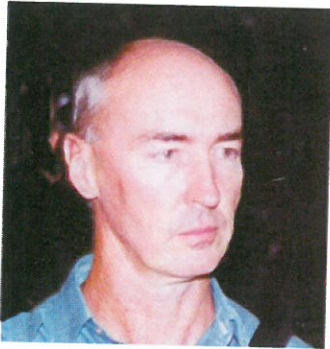
Mr Arno Moore, General Manager of the National Wool Growers Association (NWGA) said that the industry earned more than R1 billion annually from wool. At least "R200 million" was lost each year due to sheep and lambs being killed by 'problem animals'.

He added that 7% of sheep/lambs were killed by predators annually.

Mr Briers Bekker of Cape Wools SA suggested that the trials on the efficacy of 1080, be completed. "The farmer is not a cruel and savage person who wants to kill everything. But the sheep farmer loves his sheep and wants to protect them against predators," he said. He added that Cape Wools had already invested R400 000 on the development of 1080 and, in view of this investment, the field studies to test 1080 on the jackals, should go ahead.

Mr Bill Howells of KZN Wildlife said most people were oblivious to the loss of biodiversity that was taking place all around. Certain species of birds were heading for extinction within a decade or two. Indiscriminate poisoning by farmers was having a huge impact on the environment. "That is why we support legalising 1080 if it meets environmental requirements (such as being biodegradable etc) because it will be a first step in providing a control in the use of poisons," he said.

the Black-Backed Jackal wildlife too...



Rob Harrison-White



A Caracal — Photo: Courtesy of the Kalahari Raptor Centre

Professor Gerhard Verdoorn of the **Poison Working Group** of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, said: “We cannot say we will ban all chemicals (poisons) against carnivores. It won't work. If we phase something in that makes farmers more responsible, then perhaps in 20 years time, we can live in harmony (with nature).”

An NSPCA spokesperson said: “What about the interests of the animal? How can we deliberately set out to make animals suffer for 36 hours of unadulterated pain?”

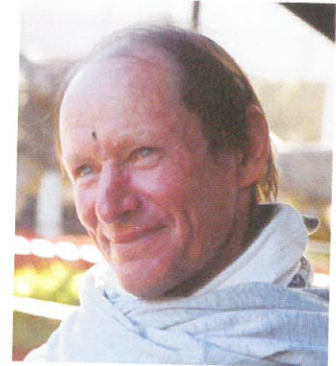
A Cape Fox (right) takes bait intended for the Black-Backed Jackal. Photo courtesy of Rob Harrison-White

Mr Chris Mercer added: “We know what field trials mean. We have just seen video footage of a jackal thrashing around in its agony on the screen. I beg you to abandon 1080. It will poison the Endangered Wildlife Trust and everyone else who touches it. We need to find humane and non-lethal methods to reduce and prevent conflict between farmers and wildlife.

The debate continues - see next page for what you can do to help.



Mr Rob Harrison-White said he researches jackal and caracal behaviour on farms and in game parks in association with the NW Parks Board. He said there had to be a better way to control so-called problem animals. It took a piece of meat baited with only 10 milligrams of 1080 to kill a jackal. The jackal took up to 36 hours of agony to die. This amount of 1080, he said, would be enough to kill most scavenging animals and birds living on farmland including eagles. He said he believed it was unethical to poison animals and moreover, that poison did not work in the long run. “We've spent probably more than a century poisoning the Black-Backed Jackal and this has devastated the other wildlife on farms but not the jackal and caracal. Their numbers have actually increased. They've started breeding at a year old.” Mr Harrison-White showed a video in which the proposed application method of bait dangling from a pole, intended for the black-backed jackal, was taken instead by mongooses, bat-eared foxes and other small mammals. Jackals sniffed at it warily but refused to take the bait. Their fear of poison bait had somehow become genetically part of their make-up.



Chris Mercer (above) of the **Kalahari Raptor Centre** said he had farmed successfully for more than 12 years without using guns, gin traps or any other lethal method of problem animal control. He said there was no such thing as problem animals, only problem farmers who were too lazy to look after their sheep properly and were “the first to squeal for poison”.



Beryl Scott (above) of **Beauty Without Cruelty** said: “I am against using any poisons. One poison is much like any other. The mandate should be to educate farmers away from using poisons, not teaching them to use a new poison.”



Rita Miljo (above) of the **Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education** said: This has made me lose my faith in scientists. You want to give farmers a legal poison? I think that is despicable.

Continued... to poison or not to poison the Black-Backed Jackal

Have your say....

Readers, if you feel that you would rather boycott mutton, lamb and woollen products than be party to the agonizing deaths of wildlife by means of poison and gin traps, please fill in the postcard enclosed and send it off as soon as possible to Dr Nick King, CEO of the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

To join an internet campaign against the 1080 poison, visit www.raptor.co.za and click on the button at the bottom of the home page which says 'Urgent Campaign Alert'.

To become better informed on the issue, visit www.jackal.co.za

ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES

The Animal Welfare Community calls for public scrutiny of proposed potentially painful experiments on animals

A draft of the new document concerning **The Welfare and Use of Animals in Laboratories** in South Africa has been compiled by Standards South Africa (STANSA), a division of SABS.

The Animal Welfare Community is gravely concerned about this document. Below is an open letter to STANSA from **Animal Voice**:

"It is with grave concern that we study the draft of this document which prepares the way for the infliction of severe pain and suffering.

Paragraph 4.5.2 for example, states that 'studies shall be designed to avoid pain or distress to animals. If this is not possible, pain or distress shall be minimised.' This paves the way for gross and painful experimentation.

Paragraph 6.3.2.6 for example, states that 'Investigators shall not allow the scientific activities to proceed to the painful or distressful or lingering death of animals unless no other experimental end-point is feasible and the goals of the study are the prevention, alleviation, treatment or care of a life threatening disease or situation in human beings or animals.'

We recoil at the possibilities made possible by this paragraph.

It is our belief that the experimentation fraternity cannot monitor itself by means of Ethics Committees. Members of ethics committees more often than not, know and work with the people conducting the experiments.

There is 'office politics' at play and a desire to 'keep in' with people. Not even spot investigations by animal welfare representatives are permitted by this

SA Lawyer says animal protection laws must be reformed to keep pace with new SA mindset

Lawyer Helen Dagut believes the prevailing animal protection laws in South Africa are not consistent with the nation's new value system. "There has been a tremendous shift at government level towards a more compassionate, caring society and this needs to be reflected in our laws pertaining to animal welfare," she says.

Helen is the Campaigns Manager for the South African office of the **International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)**. Based in Cape Town, she is currently completing her LLM in Environmental Law with her thesis focusing on animal welfare law in South Africa. "I am reviewing existing legislation pertaining to animals and will suggest models for reform," says Helen.

For example, she says, the existing laws do not adequately protect wildlife. "The Animals Protection Act, promulgated in 1962, is grossly inadequate for wildlife. There is much more awareness of environmental issues these days, and our need to

document. In the circumstances, it is our belief that the document is fatally flawed. By putting the word 'child' into this document instead of the word 'animal', the full horror of this document becomes apparent.

One ray of light is that animals have now been included as 'sentient beings' in the document.



*Helen Dagut:
Searching for a kinder world
for daughter Carys*

protect our national heritage and all the animals in it. "I would like to see laws for animals that are drafted according to the principles of our Constitution, which values our national heritage from a compassionate, caring mindset.

"We need animals to be recognized for their intrinsic value," says Helen. "A starting point for legislative reform would be to recognize them as sentient beings and I would like that reflected in our Constitution."

Doctors are calling for a moratorium on animal experiments until their contribution to health is properly evaluated. Professor Ian Roberts, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and other members of the "Reviewing Animal Trials Systematically Group" say there is "little evidence" that the research has contributed to treating human disease, adding that justification rests on "anecdotal evidence or unsupported claims". Their call for the moratorium was made in the British Medical Journal of 28 February, 2004.

ISLAMIC WORLD HOLDS FIRST-EVER WORLD CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

South African Veterinary Surgeon is one of the delegates

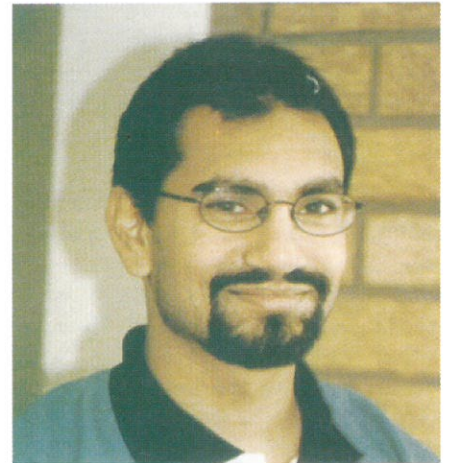
Cape Town veterinary surgeon, **Dr Ayoub Banderker** (right) says the Islamic world needs to re-look at the Koran for guidance regarding the treatment of animals. A devout Muslim, Dr Banderker recently returned from what is believed to be the first-ever world conference on animal welfare in an Islamic context. Dr Banderker's attendance at the **Conference on Welfare and Development of Animal Resources in Islamic Culture and Contemporary Systems** was sponsored by **Animal Voice and Compassion in World Farming**. The conference was held at **Al-Azhar University** in Cairo in February and March this year.

Dr Banderker said he believed the conference was a starting point from which Islam could re-examine its relationship with animals. "I was absolutely shocked to see the immense suffering of both humans and animals in Egypt," he said.

"It was an eye-opening experience, Egypt is a country that is 70% Muslim and it saddened me immensely that we have strayed away from the word of the Prophet Mohammed to such an extent. The Prophet Mohammed taught compassion for animals and lived by it. I would like to see the Muslim world going back to the teachings of the Koran and the Prophet Mohammed and indeed, I will do what I can, in a South African context, to help achieve this."

The following recommendations were made at the conclusion of the conference as points from which to go forward:

- The need to spread awareness about animal welfare via the media as well as in the mosques.
- The need to support the role of NGO's in the protection, welfare and medical care of animals.
- The development of laws regarding animal welfare from an Islamic point of view.
- The need to include the teaching of animal welfare in the curriculum for Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture.
- The preparation of a document by Al-Azhar University that would become a Declaration on Animal Rights from an Islamic perspective.



LONG-DISTANCE TRANSPORT TO SLAUGHTER MAY BE AN AFFRONT TO ISLAM

Cape Town veterinary surgeon, **Dr Ayoub Banderker**, believes the trade in animals across the high seas for slaughter in the Middle East and other countries, could be contrary to the tenets of Islam. "This trade needs to be discussed with the religious hierarchy in South Africa," said Dr Banderker. He added he intended holding meetings with religious leaders on the matter as a priority.

See story overleaf

Grand Imam Dr. Prof. Mohamed Tantawy, of the University of Al-Azhar, told the conference that Islamic Law dictated that justice needed to be applied to animals as well. He added that justice brought order into the world and justice was needed to sort out the prevailing chaos.

Amina Abaza (right) is President of SPARE, a leading animal protection organisation in Egypt. Amina attended The All-Africa Humane Education Summit held in Cape Town last September and returned to Egypt determined to put together a similar 'summit' there. She was a leading light in organising the Cairo conference.



Hundreds of thousands of animals are transported across the high seas annually, for Halaal slaughter.

Yet, is this trade in suffering in accordance with Islamic principles?



Australian sheep on arrival in Kuwait, to be slaughtered after a nightmare journey.

— Photo: courtesy Animals Australia

SA Meat Industry says "No" to Aussies "dumping their old sheep" here

Mr Manie Booysen, CEO of SAMIC (South African Meat Industry Company) based in Pretoria, said his organisation was totally opposed to the export of live animals to slaughter. He added that SAMIC would even like to see an end to the trade in cattle carried out between South Africa and Mauritius. "Apart from the few cattle going to Mauritius, South Africa is not involved in the long distance to slaughter trade and will not get involved either.

"We are completely against all commercial exports of live animals for slaughter. If we were to allow it, there would be nothing to stop the Aussies from dumping their old stock here as well, and that would be a disaster for the local industry," he said. Mr Booysen added: "The transport of live animals to slaughter is an absolutely cruel trade. We know the history of all the disasters that have taken place in this trade and all the rest of the horror as well."

Every year hundreds of thousands of animals are transported across the high seas for slaughter in the Middle East and other countries. Australia is by far the largest exporter of sheep. However, other countries, including South America, also participate. Now, Senior Inspector Roland Fivas of the Kloof SPCA in Kwa-Zulu Natal, has made an impassioned plea for the trade to stop.

In January, a vessel carrying 125 000 sheep from Uruguay for slaughter in Jeddah, docked at Durban to load cargo. Senior Inspector Fivas boarded the vessel and found 162 sheep that were unable to stand. "On our instruction, just under 800 sheep were moved to the sick pens," said Fivas. "We had to humanely destroy 11 sheep. All of these sheep were too weak to stand. One had been trampled by other sheep. Her lamb of about 2 or 4 days old was beside her. We also had to destroy 3 lambs. They had been born on board. In one instance, the umbilical cord had not totally dried yet. That's how pitiful it was."

Mr Fivaz added that some 376 dead sheep had been thrown overboard

Meanwhile, an investigating team from **Compassion in World Farming (CIWF)** in the UK and one of Australia's largest animal protection organizations, **Animals Australia**, followed the fate of more than 100 000 sheep exported from Australia to Kuwait, in December 2003. "Tragically," reported team member and former police officer, Lyn White, "in the three hours spent at the port, I witnessed more than 30 sheep so affected (by eye infections) that they appeared to be totally blind. They were struggling terribly during the unloading process." Later she witnessed the sheep "being killed in the most horrendous way imaginable." "This was not Halaal slaughter," she reported. "There was nothing religious about it."

Compassion in World Farming agreed. "The animals were slaughtered with complete disregard for Halaal requirements," said campaigns co-ordinator Barbara Dias Pais.

This is despite the fact that the need for Halaal slaughter and lack of refrigeration are the reasons given for the live transport to slaughter trade to the Middle East.

However, Dr Nigel Brown, an Australian vet working in Bahrain for Meat and Livestock Australia, says protests against the livestock export trade are seen as an attack on Islamic religious beliefs which require a specific type of slaughter.

A CD or video showing the sheep being slaughtered in Kuwait is available on request from Animal Voice.

Find the postcard petition inside addressed to the Australian High Commission and voice your protest against this trade.

"We had to humanely destroy 11 sheep. All of these sheep were too weak to stand. One had been trampled by other sheep. Her lamb of about 2 or 4 days old was beside her. We also had to destroy 3 lambs. They had been born on board. In one instance, the umbilical cord had not totally dried yet. That's how pitiful it was." SPCA Inspector Roland Fivaz.

SUPERMARKETS HOLD THE KEY TO REFORM IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

The link between good food and good animal welfare is the key to a revolution in the food industry, says animal welfare expert Paul Whittington

Speaking to delegates from 50 countries at the Animal Care Expo of the Humane Society International, in Dallas, in March, Mr Whittington said: "How farm animals live and die is something I passionately believe needs more focus but it is an area people choose to avoid. Yet, when we farm animals we have a 'duty to care' at all stages of the process."

Mr Whittington is a Research Fellow at the Department of Clinical Veterinary

Science, University of Bristol, in the UK. As one of the guest speakers, he told the conference: "In the livestock business, money is the end game. "Fortunately, however, there is a link

between improved animal welfare and a quality product so we don't have to depend entirely on moral and ethical arguments to persuade

producers to achieve higher welfare standards for farm animals. If the food industry asks 'Can good animal

welfare improve my business?', the answer is always 'YES'."

Mr Whittington said the world market was increasingly receptive to improving the welfare of farm animals because of the power of the retailer who was linked directly to the customers. "And the expectations of



Paul Whittington

customers regarding animal welfare, are extremely high," he said. "Retailers' Codes of Practice are powerful and are one of the main driving forces for improvements in farm animal welfare."

Mr Whittington added that a major retailer in the UK had stated that 'to trade ethically, to the satisfaction of customers' expectations, retailers must

be able to prove that they are beyond reproach. In fact, the key to the food industry's success lies in it being beyond reproach.' Said Mr Whittington, 'The downgrading of meat because of poor welfare and inhumane stunning, slaughter or killing methods



Professor Louw Hoffman

represents a moral and financial failure within the food industry."

Mr Whittington will be in South Africa in May 2004 to join **Professor Louw Hoffman**, a meat scientist with the Department of Animal Sciences at Stellenbosch University, and the Abattoir Association, in an intensive training course for abattoir personnel throughout South Africa. Says Professor Hoffman: "It is of paramount importance that the slaughter process is humane, not only from a humane point of view, but also from a commercial perspective because it affects meat quality. The Department of Animal Science at Stellenbosch has now built the concept of humane treatment of animals into the whole curriculum. If an animal is maltreated, it does not grow as well, it does not produce as much milk, fewer offspring are produced. In fact, the whole A-Z of animal production falls flat. It is just sound economic sense to treat animals humanely. The bottom line is that a stressed animal costs the farmer money."

Inhumane treatment during transport and/or slaughter represents a moral and financial failure within the food industry

If you shop for meat, learn to recognise the evidence of stress prior to death (see page 15)

Educational Resources

towards humane and sustainable farming are available from ANIMAL VOICE. Suitable for high school students and agricultural colleges.

**Can good animal welfare improve my business? The answer is always "YES" —
Animal Welfare Expert**

SA's Supermarkets rally to save dairy calves



Veterinary Surgeon, Dr Greg Simpson carries 4-hour-old Baby Ubuntu out of the market to safety.

THANK YOU to all readers who took part in our petition to stop the cruel practice among dairy farmers of dumping their newborn bull calves at auction sales and markets. Many of these little calves are a mere four hours out of the womb. Our video 'Saving Baby Ubuntu' showed them trembly, wobbly and terrified. They usually die

painful, lingering deaths of starvation because the disadvantaged people who buy them for between R5 and R30, do not know that their stomachs are unable to digest watery mielie meal porridge. Thus, the system is a rip-off of the poor too, as they buy these calves in good faith.

Thank you WOOLWORTHS

Woolworths was the first to stop this cruel practice. Within days of receiving our video 'Saving Baby Ubuntu', Woolworths arranged for Louise van der Merwe (Editor of Animal Voice and SA Representative for Compassion in World Farming) to address their Ayreshire dairy farmers at Woolworths' head office in Cape Town. Mr Chris Botha explained to the large gathering of Ayreshire farmers that the kind treatment of calves was a 'non-negotiable' and would become part of the code of practice for all Woolworths Ayreshire dairy farmers.

THANK YOU Mr Brian Weyers, Marketing Director of **SHOPRITE CHECKERS**, who wrote to Animal Voice in support of our endeavours for the calves. In his letter Mr Weyers said, inter alia: "We too are truly saddened and deeply touched by the cruelty with which these newborn animals are being treated. The video material and photos in your magazine do the job very effectively of highlighting the plight of male calves in the milk producing industry. Herewith then, our full support to do everything in our power to try to stop, or at least minimize, this ill treatment of these animals."

Mr Weyers gave Animal Voice details of the lengths Shoprite/Checkers had gone to ensure its suppliers did not take part in any cruel treatment of calves.

"Lastly," said Mr Weyers, to all the readers of your magazine, we would like to thank you for the interest that you show in caring for our planet and all its inhabitants, and also the time and effort that you took to fill in the petition postcards. Feedback such as this is essential for us as we become ever closer to being a world-class retail group."

STOP PRESS!

The Link between Animal Cruelty and Human Violence is to become part of mainstream consciousness...

MEET MARIÉ TOTH

Marié Toth has been appointed by Animal Voice to spearhead the groundbreaking pilot initiative whereby the link between animal cruelty and human violence is to be rolled out to communities in the Western Cape. The pilot project, which aims to raise awareness and collect data that can add to the growing world consciousness about 'the link' has received the blessing of the office of the **Provincial Commissioner of Police** as well as that of the **Moral Regeneration Movement** (office of the South African Presidency). The **International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)** and **Animal Voice/Humane Education Trust** will be sponsoring the project.



Marié graduated from the University of Pretoria majoring in Psychology, Northern Sotho and Sociology. She has run her own entrepreneurial business known as Ithemba (meaning 'hope') for several years. The aim of her business is to help people get their businesses off the ground by teaching them entrepreneurial skills and marketing.

"You get a lot of women who are abused but can't get out of the relationship because they are financially dependent on their husbands. We try and help them become independent enough to be able to provide for themselves and their children," she says.

Marié says she sees 'the link' as a natural progression of her existing work. "Not only will the lives of animals be changed by 'the link initiative' but the lives of women and children will be changed as well. For one thing, women will become aware of the warning signals regarding potential violent behaviour in their spouses. If he cannot treat the family pet properly – well, she and her children are at risk too. Violence in all its forms has to become socially unacceptable."

Marié added that the fact that the SAPS had welcomed the programme "speaks of the growing consciousness in our society of our own humanity and our need to care. We are immensely grateful to the police for their supportive approach. The impact of 'the link' on society is going to be enormous."

THANK YOU PICK 'N PAY.

Suzanne Ackerman-Berman, Pick 'n Pay's General Manager for Social and Corporate Affairs, said the story of Baby Ubuntu was very moving. "I have forwarded the video to our dairy food technologists in order to offer you help in getting through to suppliers. Once again we salute and support your organisation's attempts to improve the welfare of farm animals, and stress that we do not support the sale and trade of newborn calves."

If you shop for meat, learn to recognize the evidence of stress prior to death

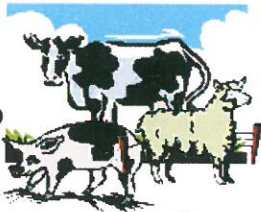


→ Normal pH level in living muscle is 7.4



→ Normal pH level of meat is 5.5

UN-STRESSED

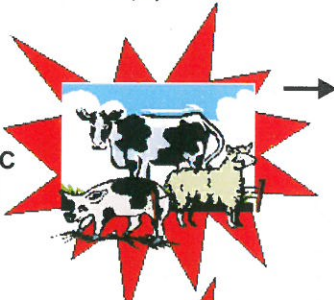


Well-treated and humanely slaughtered, there is a normal build-up of lactic acid in the muscle



pH 5.5 over a period of 24hrs

CHRONIC STRESS

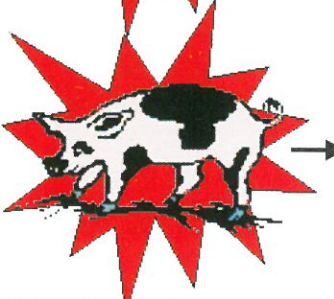


Chronic stress results in a depletion of sugar in the muscle and therefore there is less lactic acid in muscle after death. The meat colour and texture is different. The colour is darker and the texture is grainy. This meat is called DFD — dark, firm and dry, and is prone to spoilage. Temperature extremes that cause the animal to shiver over several hours can also result in DFD.



pH 6.2 This meat is DFD — dark, firm and dry

ACUTE STRESS



If pigs are subjected to acute stress just prior to slaughter there is a huge build-up of lactic acid. The meat becomes pale, soft and exudative (PSE) and water is lost from the muscle.



pH 6.0 or less within 45 minutes

Basic Understanding

The animal takes in food for energy.

Food is converted to sugar and is used by the muscles.

The normal pH of living muscle is 7.4.

Once the animal is dead, the by-product of energy production, lactic acid, cannot be removed through normal bodily processes and it builds up in the muscle, making it more acidic. The acidification of muscle characterizes the conversion of muscle into 'meat'.

The normal pH of meat is about 5.5 (more acidic than living tissue).

KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR...

POOR WELFARE (INHUMANE TREATMENT) SHOWS UP IN THE MEAT WE BUY

Meat from cattle, pigs and sheep that have been subjected to long-term, chronic stress before slaughter: A well-rested, unstressed animal will usually have lots of sugar reserves in its body, therefore after slaughter, the build up of lactic acid in its muscle will cause the meat to have a 'normal' appearance.

However, chronic (long-term) exhaustion and stress in an animal (through inhumane handling), leads to the depletion of sugar in the muscle prior to death. This leads to the build-up of less lactic acid (the by-product of sugar metabolism when the animal is dead) because there is less sugar in the muscles to start with. Therefore the pH falls much less leaving the meat with a higher pH of about 6.2 and the appearance of the meat is different. In pork, the meat appears as DFD - dark, firm and dry. In beef and in extreme cases, lamb, the meat is also darker and is known as 'dark cutting'. Consumers are reluctant to buy DFD and dark cutting meat because they perceive it to be old. Moreover, bacteria that digest protein rather than sugars, can survive better in meat with a high pH and the meat is prone to spoilage.

Meat from a pig that has been subjected to acute stress immediately before slaughter:

An animal that is subjected to poor welfare (cruel handling) just prior to stunning, slaughter or killing, will go into fight/flight mode. This physiological response has evolved to enable animals to escape and survive. If an animal is slaughtered at that point, the heightened physical and biochemical activity metabolizes the muscle sugars at an accelerated rate, leading to a huge build-up of lactic acid over a short period of time after death. The rapid drop in pH causes the meat to become pale, soft and exudative (PSE) and pork that becomes PSE has a muscle pH below 6.0 within 45 minutes. Water should remain bio-chemically bound up in the muscle but in cases of acute stress, the water (known as 'drip') is lost from the muscle due to structural changes of the muscle tissue. A blotting sheet is usually placed under the pork meat in the retail tray to absorb the water (drip). A company could lose financially since meat is sold by weight and drip increases as the cut surfaces increase. Consumers lose financially since they are buying a proportion of water in the retail pack which is lost during preparation and cooking.

Here's to Celebrating...

the next decade of democracy — in 2014 —
with animal well-being well established as an
integral part of our social conscience

Last Word...

Dear Readers,

As you will see from this issue of *Animal Voice* South Africans are taking major steps forward for our animals. A profound 'Thank You' to all those readers who filled in petitions, sent off postcards and are doing what they can to make a difference. Be in no doubt that without you and your support, things wouldn't be changing for the animals.

South Africans have just celebrated 10 years of democracy. Let us set our minds to ensuring that when we celebrate the next decade of democracy, the rights of animals to live free of human-induced torment and cruelty, are part of those celebrations.

We have a lot to do but it is beginning to 'happen' for the animals and if we all join that momentum and propel it forward with all our energy and commitment, we will have something to show the world next time we celebrate democracy.

It is within our power to ensure that next time, we will not only be **Proudly South African** but more fundamentally, **Proudly Human**, too. And Proudly Human is something we can never be for as long as we continue our violent approach towards non-human life.

At a family gathering recently, a relative said to me that I should give up fighting for a better dispensation for animals because, he said, "you're not

going to win it. You've got to remember this is Africa and Africans haven't got time to worry about animals."

How wrong I believe he is. Traditional African people have always cared about animal life, the different clans adopting different species of animal as their totems. They respected animal life. Read the wonderfully entertaining new best-seller *No 1 Ladies Detective Agency* to get a feel for the powerful earthiness of the African spirit. Africa could do so much to show the West that we don't share the bully-boy attitude of callous disregard for animal suffering. We would all be prouder for it and, once again, the world would sit back and marvel at how we've done it!

As things stand, and although we are making progress, we need to face the fact that the misery and suffering of our animals is beyond our comprehension. *It doesn't have to be; least of all in the market place where consumer demand could change the living conditions of farm animals virtually overnight.*

Please fill in the postcard petitions enclosed and join us (again) in our wholehearted endeavours to bring about some justice for other living beings on our beautiful earth.

With appreciation and best wishes,

Louise van der Merwe

Editor: *Animal Voice*

Director: The Humane Education Trust
SA Representative: Compassion in
World Farming

*If you would like to receive the next issue of Animal Voice,
please fill in and send off the relevant postcard enclosed.*

For our Humane
Education Resource
List, please contact us.

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