

### ECHCU SEPTEMBER 2015

We started off with a happy reunion between owner and donkey that was very heartwarming for us. The donkey had been admitted in August with suspected laminitis but was found instead to have bruised soles, suitably sorted by Stanley. It was lovely to see the recognition by the donkey of her long lost human. So happy that we were of use to both donkey and owner - paid in full!

A heart stopping moment was when one of our adopted out horses showed signs of the dreaded African Horse Sickness. A Vet Tech from the Department of Agriculture collected a blood sample for testing that, horrifically, came back positive. Over a few days of supportive therapy (special treats and TLC) she recovered. We were all exceedingly happy for our ALL TALK. While the mandatory yearly vaccinations are not 100% foolproof, in this case, the vaccines worked! Question: Does the Sickness get worse later in the year?

Our Maple and Syrup, abandoned/dumped at the Unit some months ago, having grown 'good' and ensnared Rene's heart, were delivered to their new home, where they have settled down with two ponies.

A phonecall about a lame donkey in Addo led to Carla and I taking the horsebox and collecting

the boykie. It did not take a rocket scientist to identify a dropped hip and broken leg, probably by a taxi judging by the height of the break. Uplifted and euthanased. Complainant in tears.

A potbellied pig with ripped ears Complaint referred to Animal Anti Cruelty League's Bev as well as a goat Complaint .

Available for adoption – BLACKMALKIN, LINE OF FIRE and GANICUS. Going very well in the lunge ring and open area – no problem!

The beautiful STRIKE TWICE was adopted out to a young lady who is besotted with him. Happy for him as he was taken to Traditional Racing in the Transkei, but when his career there was over, his owner asked us to bring him back to the Unit because he could not stand the thought of selling him to anybody else there because he loved him so much. After a few months, the right person snapped him up. SO happy for him! And thank you, Mahlubi!

And then Sequin and Cupcake were collected for their new home up country. They have waited for ages for the 'right' people to come along. Their original township owner had surrendered them to us before he died 'because, madam, she does not want to live in a township'. Bless you, William. They have clearly settled in well 'cos we received some photographs of humans and equines communing with each other.

Walmer Cartie Patrick found himself the subject of a traffic accident. Being hit from the side damaged his cart quite a lot, but the donkeys were OK. We were inundated with phonecalls asking for help for the donks and that had us tearing down the road with the horsebox, both Carla and I in tears and terror as to what we were going to be faced with. The merits and demerits can be decided by the Judge.

The Humansdorp pony, savaged by a Pitbull that left her shoulder without a sizable portion of skin, having virtually healed completely, was returned to her owner. She was a difficult customer and we were not surprised when we were told that her name was Nagmerrie (nightmare) on her return home.

Our Model Man, the unclaimed, ownerless Motherwell donkey with a large expanse of skin and some muscle missing from his hip area went back to work, this time on a Springbok farm where he will hopefully take his job of predator control on new born bokkies. Thank you, Graham!

Another of our Walmer Carties, Moses, phoned in a panic early one morning to say we must come quick because he had found a sick donkey, not his own, that needed our help. In due course the donkey was collected presented with an enlarged head and tongue. Guttural pouch infection was discounted and nothing else was apparent so he was admitted for Observation to the ICU pen. Assistance with drinking and liquid food (Alfred's speciality) over a period of a few days and spoilings of shandy chaff got him on his feet again. Doing well in the Big Boys Camp.

A Complaint, one of two in rapid succession, of a donkey 'tied' to a fence near the airport with 'no water or food' was received. It was explained to both Complainants that the owner is known to us, is being responsible by keeping his donks tethered away from the road traffic, and that he could not leave a bucket of water there as the bucket would be stolen! And grass there was aplenty. Water would arrive later in the day.

We took our Work Rider to Races on a Friday so that she could see why some of the horses donated to us for rehoming by responsible racehorse owners behave the way they do when she starts exercising them. Racehorses generally fed high energy food much the same as a human athlete, sometime are a bit 'bouncy'! A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon enjoyed by the three of us.

One of our sad duties is to assist with euthanasing of sick animal that are past redemption by any means. There have been two this month, both strangely enough with serious Heart Murmurs. Farewell!

The second AHS blanket vaccination in Humansdorp led to the previous 36 Crossbreeds getting the needle! Again! All sorted and organised by Shaun and William. Thank You!

The Kwanobuhle donkey with a serious slash to her off hind leg, having been stitched by Dr

Lara, healed beautifully in 14 days, stitches removed and taken home to her owner.

Lady from Lusaka was surrendered to the Unit and relatively quickly adopted out as a companion animal to young Matthew. Quite a difference from her township home!

...and then, Lulu decided to finally foal down early one evening. One of our adopted out donkeys and who knows exactly who the sire was!! A beautiful, long legged, strong, black foal delivered safely. Feeling privileged!

Thankfully Stanley was on a Transkei Mission when we got the phonecall about a horse with a bad wound on the hind next to the tail. Due to the fact that Vets are not two a penny in the 'Kei, Stanley only got to see it the next day whereupon he found that a non-veterinarian had stitched the wound. He removed two stitches to allow for drainage and gave it a shot of Penicillin and suggested the Epsom Salts water treatment. Hopefully he will remove the stitches soon and all will be well. At the same time, a man from Matatiele with a sarcoid problem, was handled by Stanley.

William, one of our Humansdorp horse owners messaged about a donkey he had found that he was most concerned about as it did not appear to have an owner and was in bad shape and the local children were harassing and taunting it on an ongoing basis. . Carla and I collected the donkey that was covered with mange, a stab wound to the neck and a burn on the butt. SAPS notified and donkey humanely euthanased. Well done, William!

A stray pony found by Kelly and husband was brought in with a fair amount of difficulty – he was NOT going to get onto the horsebox. Surrendered by the owner, gelded and soon to be taught manners and schooled and will be available for Adoption soon, I hope.

Another stray, well handled by Madeleine, shepherded into a safe camp and off the road in the hope that the owner would find and claim it. Problem was I only saw the fb page notification at 8.50pm! Well done Madeleine and all the 'sharers' and carers!

A Service Delivery protest in the nearby township did not, this time, cause too much 'time wasting', thanks to the SAPS, but it did not stop Carla and I from collecting a stabbed donkey from Kwanobuhle. However, on presentation at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Vet Clinic, the lucky fellow had most of the practice Vets out to assess him. Unfortunately he presented with a major heart murmur and although treated and admitted for treatment and observation to the Unit ICU, he succumbed overnight. Clearly his heart gave up.

We are very lucky to have Dr Pieter available to us in Humansdorp, so on the Public Holiday, early in the morning, we had to ask him to attend to one of Shaun's new born foals that had been kicked while in the birth process and it's leg broken. A check was made by the good doctor to see if it could conceivably be repaired, but alas, it was not to be and the foal was euthanased. Thank you, Dr Pieter!

On her weekend on duty, Carla spied a Caracul kitten on the side of the road on the way to work. It just did not look right, so she did the right thing and called Arnold from Wildline who assisted with assessing the situation. Well done, Carla and Thank You, Arnold!

We finished off the month with a Confiscation so anybody who wishes to is welcome to donate a bale or two of lucerne or grassmix as the equines will be with us until the Court has decided their fate.

We would also be happy to receive any 2m fence poles for our Horse Country Arena where Celine and Carla exercise our horses and give them some lessons and groundwork so that when somebody comes to adopt them, they are well rounded.

DONATIONS FOR WHICH WE THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY:

Nicky – donated a bakkie load of horseblankets

SamS – donated bales of grassmix and donated 2 halters

## **ECHCU September 2015**

Written by Megan Hope  
Wednesday, 30 September 2015 00:00 -

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Nola– donated lucerne leavings

Deborah donated a horseblanket and some lemons

Abbott – donated a bunch of fresh pulled carrots

Leandre – donated 5 bags of ready mix ( ready mix = leavings of teff, oathay, lucerne and grassmix)

Jill – donated two bags of tack.

Robyn and Rae – 1 rake donated – they said they broke the old one helping Alfred scoop da poop!!

Eleanor – donated a bag of tack.

Claire - donated a horseblanket.

Shavings donation via AWS.

**VOLUNTEERS** – Gerda and Celine, Megan and Shasne – groomed and bread

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Written by Megan Hope  
Wednesday, 30 September 2015 00:00 -

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Well, that's it folks for September 2015. Same time, same place, next month!

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Banking Details: Bank: Standard Bank Universal Branch Code: 051001  
Account: Eastern Cape Horse Care Unit (all donated monies are used by us in the Metro and beyond!) Account Number: 080733875 Landline: 041 366 1594 Cellph: 072 357 2505  
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