

DOG TALES Page 2

When I first came to the SPCA, I was just a pup. I have a happy-go-lucky nature and everyone loves me because I am so cute. Still, no one has asked to adopt me and take me home!!! Now I am a teenager, and I still have a wonderful character. I look a bit like a German Shepherd x Labrador – I am totally unique! My ears are starting to stand up and I am gorgeous [even if I say so myself]! I love people as I have found only kindness and love at the SPCA and I adore other dogs. It is such fun to play in the exercise pens with all the other guys. I can't wait for exercise days. The kennel carers take me out for walks, but I love to play and spend time with all the volunteer dog walkers. I walk well on a lead. All I need now is a loving, forever home where I can finish growing up and share my joy.



WHY DO DOGS MESS WHEN DRINKING & CATS DO NOT?

A team led by researchers from MIT (yes, I'm referring to the esteemed Massachusetts Institute of Technology) – has delved

into the mysteries of dog drinking physiology.

The researchers learned that unlike a cat who uses a plunge-and-pull technique to get water from a bowl into its mouth, dogs use a less sophisticated punch-and-pull manoeuvre that results in, well, a biq sloppy mess.

Felines drink via a two-part process consisting of an elegant plunge and pull, in which a cat gently

places its tongue on the water's surface and then rapidly withdraws it, creating a

column of water underneath the cat's retracting tongue.

**Dogs** punch the water's surface with their tongues, which creates a lot of splashing. Then they pull their tongues back in a greatly accelerated motion – about five times that of gravity – which creates columns of water that travel upwards into their mouths. Since the tip of a dog's tongue functions like a gravy ladle or serving spoon, when it's full to the brim, he has

to open his mouth wider to pull in all the water. This also contributes to the splishy-

splashy-sloppy factor that causes the mess around their drinking bowls!





TO WATCH FASCINATING TIME-LAPSE VIDEOS OF A DOG & A CAT DRINKING – USE THESE LINKS:

DOG - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63Ch2pNkZwU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63Ch2pNkZwU</a> CAT - <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfSQF22H44M">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfSQF22H44M</a>

> 'I AM A BEAUTIFUL, CREAM GERMAN SHEPHERD'

'I LOVE THE SPCA, BUT I would rather have a permanent home!!! I spent some time at the Mossel Bay branch of the Garden Route SPCA, but my "forever owners" did not find me there. Now I am at the George Branch, and I hope that they find me here. I am young and have a soft, unusual, beautiful cream coat. I love people and other dogs. I would fit in almost any home with a suitable garden. I love to walk on a lead and also run about and play.

I am also well-behaved and super-friendly.

Please come and find me, forever owners - how can you resist my soulful eyes?'



YOUR SPCA MEMBERSHIP HAS **EXPIRED! PLEASE RENEW AT THE SPCA** OFFICES IN MOSSEL BAY AND GEORGE

### THE STORY OF THE LITTLE BLACK CAT written by Heather Church

## CATS, CATS, CATSI

In all the years I have worked with animals, I have never seen a birth. So when the animal carer at the SPCA called me out of a meeting telling me that a new stray cat was giving birth, I rushed there to see the miracle.

She is a small, thin black cat. At first I stayed back, in order not to intrude, but then I realized that she was meowing during a contraction, and wanted encouragement. Soon I had my head and shoulders in her kennel house, stroking her and talking to her. She purred and purred and stood up now and then to rub

noses with me. Eventually she had five kittens, and I was fascinated to see how she cleaned up each kitten, and the afterbirth, whilst the first kitten/s continued to suckle. How did she know what to do, and how did the first ones manage to avoid being squashed? How did the tiny rat-like creatures know how to find a teat? It was a wonderful experience, especially as the mommy cat let me help her deliver some of the kittens, and made it clear that she wanted me there. I felt so privileged.

Now the five kittens (above) have open eyes, and are all different colours. Our little black cat (right) is still slim and delicate, despite special food, but she is a wonderful mommy. However, whenever I go to visit her, she leaves the babies and comes to me for a cuddle and she purrs and purrs and purrs.

She may not be special in appearance, but her wonderful, gentle nature makes up for it ten-fold. She was never claimed, so when the kittens have been weaned, this dainty little lady will need a loving home - and she deserves it. She will give you her heart - most unusual for a CAT.

Come to the SPCA in George if you would like to meet her.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ANIMAL STORY FOR THE SUPPORTERS' SECTION—WITH PHOTOS IF POSSIBLE. You can e-mail me, Wendy Jones, at publicity@grspca.co.za



The beautiful Siamese breed appeared for the first time in the Western Hemisphere in London in 1871. They were known at the time as the Royal Cats of Siam (Thailand). "Siamese" in Thai means "moon diamond". They arrived on America's shores 8 years later as one was a gift to President Hayes. By the 20th century, the Siamese was one of the most popular breeds in Europe and North America.

Siamese cats are real characters, they are extremely intelligent and like to talk to their owners, often holding lengthy and vocal conversations with them. They make a loud, raspy, low-pitched sound which people either love or hate!

A common nickname for the breed is "Meezer." The Siamese is a natural breed, meaning his colouring is the result of a genetic mutation. He has

contributed to many other breeds, including the Balinese, the Oriental, the Himalayan, the Tonkinese, and the Havana Brown.



On a sunny afternoon, July 29, 1925. Harry Warnecke, a photographer for the New York News, got a tip that a cat trying to carry its kittens home was tying up traffic because a policeman had stopped the cars on a busy street to allow it to cross several times—once for each kitten!

ED-[It was recently discovered that this photo was staged after the event (they took 1 kitten back for the mother to fetch a 2nd time) as Harry got there too late. However, the story is true!!]

### SUCCESSFUL STERI-THON—WELL DONE MOSSEL BAY



Local Veterinarians and volunteers got together in a joint mission to sterilise as many dogs and cats as possible on Tuesday 24th February which was WORLD SPAY DAY.

The GR SPCA Education Unit's Lesley Welgemoed, Vanessa Lukas and Colleen Thysse joined the volunteers who helped the vets with post-operation care and monitoring.

The GR SPCA thanks these vets and their assistants who pitched in cheerfully to

help in the battle to keep the number of stray and unwanted animals to a

minimum: Dr Susie Kok (Left) Dr Leon Loots Dr Dempsey Dr Aneska Loots Veterinary Nurse Ilse Wyatt-Goodall (Right)

In total they sterilised 39 animals: 15 female dogs 13 male dogs 6 female cats & 5 male cats



PLEASE HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY **EASTER WEEK-**END.





# **ARE YOU QUACKERS???**

The Cricket World Cup has brought us some spectacular 'ducks'!!

According to research done at a London University, ducks have accents (quaccents?!) based on the particular region of England they live in - similar to peoples' regional accents. Those in London are more likely to have louder, more abrasive quacks that are thought to be comparable to the rough Cockney accent of East Londoners. In comparison, ducks in rural Cornwall have quieter, calmer tones to their quacks. The difference in duck accents is thought to be the result of environment, as city ducks

must be louder to be heard over traffic and street noises!



HOW CAN YOU KEEP HELPING ABUSED AND NEGLECTED ANIMALS AFTER YOU DIE?

#### A BEQUEST is a simple solution.

Please consider bequeathing a small portion of your estate to the Garden Route SPCA. It will mean your ongoing care for the many abused and neglected animals along the Garden Route.

Our late, National SPCA Patron, Nelson Mandela, was passionate about animals and his example and legacy will live on for a very long time,

encouraging all people to be compassionate towards our fellow beings - human and animal....

Please contact our special Garden Route SPCA Bequest Officer, Joey Sellner for more info on 082 464 8537 / 044 873 5606 / projectsg@grspca.co.za / admin@grspca.co.za and she will help you through this very easy process.

But how about this:

# **DON'T BE A DUMB BUNNY THIS EASTER!**



HOW SWEET!

THESE ARE RABBITS. A 9 -10 YEAR COMMITMENT!



- THEY ARE NOT TOYS
- THEY ARE NOT LOW-MAINTENANCE
- ABOUT 95% OF RABBITS GIVEN AS GIFTS DIE BEFORE THEIR 1ST BIRTHDAY DUE TO NEGLECT ...

Some people still think it is "cute" to give a rabbit as an Easter gift. IT's NOT-IT'S CRUEL.



**OFFICE HOURS:** Weekdays 9am-4pm Sat 9am-11am

**GEORGE:** 044 878 1990 A/H Emergencies: 082 378 7384

**MOSSEL BAY:** 044 693 0824 A/H Emergencies: 072 287 1761

**PLEASE REPORT** 



Our super-amazing publicity / marketing team is hoping someone just as amazing could join the

We need someone for the Mossel Bay area and another for George.

Presently all the members of the team have fulltime jobs but still manage to keep the wheels turning. With a bit more help we can make the GR SPCA even more successful than it already is.

We don't ask a lot—just a couple of Oool Oool hours a week is all it takes. I can Me! I'll do it! guarantee that the animals would Pick me! be just as grateful as the rest of us! Please contact Heather on 072 877 2911 if you can spare some time—you can even help from home...



Friday, 27th March WHERE?

TIME?



Delicious, homemade, Spaghetti Bolognaise will be for sale @ R20-00.

Entrance free...Bingo booklets R40-00 which includes three chances at 6 different games. Cash bar.

Enquiries: Heather 072 877 2911

## **\$URPRISE!!! ROY AND JUDITH WILL** BE THERE TO VISIT from England.

Many of you will remember this couple as our original bingo callers.

Di and Roy will share the calling for old time's sake.

So lets FILL THE HALL and make it a RECORD BINGO EVENING.

## APRIL'S REASON TO ADOPT A UNIQUE BREED DOG

Studies have found the average mixed breed dog is less prone to disease and has a longer lifespan than the average purebred dog. This is in part due to the theory of 'hybrid vigour', which theorises that as a group, dogs of varied ancestry will be healthier than their purebred counterparts.

UNIQUE BREEDS TEND TO BE HEALTHIER THAN PUREBREDS.

