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EDITION 06
March 2019



MESSAGE FROM

Karin

AS WE START ANOTHER YEAR, I AM IN AWE OF WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED. WE STARTED THIS FACILITY FROM SCRATCH WITH A DREAM IN OUR HEARTS. WE HAD A VISION AND WE MADE IT HAPPEN. WE HAD SETBACKS, BUT NOTHING WORTHWHILE IS ACHIEVED WITHOUT HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE. I HAVE A FANTASTIC TEAM AND WITHOUT THEM NONE OF THIS IS POSSIBLE.

My vision for 2019 is to grow our hospital and to appoint more permanent staff. My wildest dream is a multi-vet hospital with veterinary nurses on staff. At the moment we cannot afford more staff, but this will change if we grow our support base.

Over and above the species we treat, **Pangolins are our focus and their conservation remains our priority.** This year I would like to extend our reach and educate the global community about the plight of these animals. We are working towards becoming an internationally recognised pangolin facility and 2019 will bring us closer to that goal.

Thank you to all our supporters. You have made our dreams come true. We love and need your continued assistance.

Watch this space...
Dr Karin Lourens



AFRICAN

Bullfrog

CAN'T WAIT TO JUMP AGAIN



THE AFRICAN BULLFROG (*PYXICEPHALUS ADSPERSUS*) IS OFTEN CALLED THE PIXIE FROG DUE TO ITS SCIENTIFIC NAME. IT IS THE LARGEST FROG IN THE WORLD, CAN WEIGH 3 - 4 KG AND HAS A MYSTERIOUS BIOLOGY. THEY ARE CONSIDERED UNDER THREAT AND ARE ON THE CITES INTERNATIONAL RED DATA LIST. FOUND IN PREDOMINANTLY URBANISED AREAS, THEY TEND TO ONLY COME OUT AFTER EXCESSIVE RAINS.



Our year kicked off on 1 January when a member of the public brought in a badly injured female bullfrog. She was hit by a car while crossing the road. X-rays revealed a fractured pelvis, tibia and lower jaw. We called on the expertise of exotic specialist vet Dr Dorianne Elliott from the Bird and Exotic Animal Hospital at Onderstepoort. She was delighted to assist with the frog's fracture repair, who in the meantime was affectionately named Fiona by Dr Elliott's vet nurse, Sr Soné. Fiona recovered well and healed beautifully. Her pins were removed, and she was released onto a safe bullfrog breeding property.

Please drive carefully in and around wildlife areas, especially during rainy periods. You may not know what is around you on the roads and could accidentally hurt or kill some of our precious wildlife.



OUR HOT SOUTH AFRICAN SUMMERS OFTEN LEAD TO LONG PERIODS OF DROUGHT WHICH COULD HAVE A DEVASTATING KNOCK-ON EFFECT ON WILDLIFE.

These conditions result in less food, water and shelter. Less food slows down the reproduction rate of adult animals and causes lactating females to produce less milk for their young. Wildlife become more susceptible to diseases and parasites due to their lowered immunity. The diminished water and food supply means birds and animals could enter the winter months with less fat reserves and potentially face starvation.

Wildlife seek shelter and protection from predators in long grass. Drought conditions mean less grass, leaving waterfowl, young antelope, scrub hares and other species vulnerable to predators, thus forcing them into unnatural habitats. Often this leads to contact with humans as they enter urban and farm areas.

Here's how you can help:

- » Does your garden provide water for urban wildlife? Water features, ponds and bird baths are attractive and life-saving additions to your garden. Remember to clean and replenish regularly. Offer bees somewhere to quench their thirst by putting out shallow dishes of water filled with pebbles.
- » Johannesburg summers are often paired with heavy rains. This results in flash floods leaving urban wildlife homeless. Some species even lose their young, impacting population growth. Monitor and report stranded wildlife to the relevant organisations rather than intervene.
- » Snakes in particular will move further afield to find prey and shelter. They may well find themselves in urban areas - sometimes in our homes or gardens. Find a professional wildlife removal company to assist you. Make sure the company has experience in dealing with venomous snakes. Whatever you do, don't try to move the snake yourself. Most snake bites result from human interference. Ensure you know at all times where the snake is while you wait for help to arrive. If you're not sure if it's venomous, err on the side of caution and just assume it is. Familiarise yourself. [Snakes of South Africa](#) can help with identifying the snake.

OUR

Wild Dream

WISHLIST

OVER AND ABOVE OUR DAY-TO-DAY NEEDS AT THE HOSPITAL WE ALSO NEED:

We are happy to collect



A waterproof tarpaulin



Towels



80% shade cloth roll (there is a supplier in Midrand named [Alnet](#) and a roll is approximately R3 000)



Linen cupboards x 2



Succulents, indigenous plants and mulberry branches to feed our hungry tortoises

1. A waterproof tarpaulin
2. 80% shade cloth roll (there is a supplier in Midrand called [Alnet](#) and a roll is approximately R3000)
3. Towels
4. Succulents, indigenous plants and mulberry branches to feed our hungry tortoises
5. Two linen cupboards

Sponsor

A SPECIES

YOU CAN GET CLOSER TO OUR WONDERFUL CREATURES BY SPONSORING THEM IN THEIR TEMPORARY HOSPITAL HABITAT! WE HAVE TO SIMULATE THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AS BEST WE CAN. FROM THE FAMILIAR GARDEN BIRDS WE ALL ENJOY TO SHY OTTERS AND THE ENIGMATIC PANGOLIN - ALL OUR INDIGENOUS SPECIES HAVE SPECIFIC NEEDS. YOUR SPONSORSHIP WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE CARE, ENRICHMENT AND CAGE "FURNITURE AND DÉCOR" FOR A SPECIES, WHICH WILL ASSIST THE ANIMALS' JOURNEY TO FULL RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION.



Small holding cages

Selection of insects

Garden birds

The Garden birds we receive are thrushes, sparrows, robins, flycatchers, shrikes, cuckoos and many more. They could be orphaned nestlings, fledglings or injured adults. We need to understand each bird species' unique behaviour to provide the most effective care. In addition, each species has unique dietary and habitat requirements, from fruit or insects for garden birds to hornbills and kingfishers needing a cavity (box or log) to hide in. Others might need a sand bath or, like the Burchell's coucal, thick foliage to hide behind.

Sponsorship of R100/month will help provide:

- » Selection of fruit and insects, i.e. mealworms and crickets (visit [Jozibugs](#))
- » Simulated natural habitat – small holding cages with specific habitat requirements

Water birds

Some water birds and larger birds we often rehabilitate are Egyptian geese, herons, storks, coots, yellow-billed ducks, moorhens, hadedas and lapwings. They have specific environmental needs which could include deep water baths, soft substrate to protect webbed feet and earthworm-filled soil to provide enrichment.

Sponsorship of R200/month will help provide:

- » Specialised diet – insects and species-specific diets
- » Labour-intensive care and specialised husbandry
- » Simulated natural habitat – water, soft substrate, rich soil

Small raptors

Small raptors like owls, kestrels and accipiters (goshawks and sparrow hawks) are often treated at the JWVH. Understanding what they naturally prey on and how they hunt helps us provide the correct food and husbandry. For them to recover sooner, they need to feel at ease and experience minimal stress. They are often with us for longer periods of time than other animals which impacts the cost to rehabilitate them effectively.

Sponsorship of R300/month will help provide:

- » Specialised diet – chicks, quails, small rodents, insects
- » Labour-intensive care and specialised husbandry
- » Simulated natural habitat – variety of nesting spaces



Soft substrate



Large raptors

Large raptors such as eagles, kites, buzzards and hawks each require careful handling and specialised rehabilitation expertise. These birds need large flight aviaries built from shade-cloth and timber to allow them to exercise wings and protect their feathers. We need to provide custom-specific designed perching to prevent foot ailments such as bumble foot. It is critical for large raptors to feed on natural prey to provide stimulation and balance their nutritional requirements. Some raptors can devour 8 day old chicks per day!

Sponsorship of R400/month will help provide:

- » Specialised diet – day-old chicks, quails, small rodents, insects
- » Labour-intensive care and specialised husbandry
- » Simulated natural habitat – large outdoor flight aviary structure (shade-net, poles, perches)



Small herbivores

Examples of small herbivores that we treat are porcupines, scrub hares, rock hyrax (dassies) and a variety of antelope species ranging from steenbok to blesbok at the JWVH. Herbivore young require a different milk formula to other wildlife and each species has its own food requirements once weaned e.g. indigenous browsers, grass variety to graze, roots and tubers. Specially designed housing is required once these species are weaned as they need to be able to graze/browse.

Sponsorship of R250/month will help provide:

- » Specialised diet – milk formula, natural, indigenous grazers, roots, tubers
- » Labour-intensive neonatal care, feeding
- » Simulated natural habitat – specific to each species' needs

Small carnivorous mammals

Small mammals such as bats, hedgehogs, meerkats, squirrels, bush babies and genets are all considered small carnivorous or insectivorous mammals and have diverse behaviours and vastly different habitats. Neonate mammals need to be milk-fed and eventually weaned. Once weaned or healthy, they are moved to carefully simulated "mini habitats" to encourage natural behaviours and ensure comfort. Genets, bush babies and tree squirrels need climbing structures and hollow tree trunks as safe sleeping spots. Suricats (meerkats) need deep sand to dig tunnels to hide in, and are carefully introduced into social groups. Hedgehogs need plenty of insects scattered and hidden amongst leaf litter to provide natural enrichment. We raise approximately 100 bats of various species, every year. Once weaned, they are placed in long bat flight tunnels to exercise and get fit.

Sponsorship of R250/month will help provide:

- » Specialised diet – milk, insects, fruit, prey items
- » Labour-intensive neonatal care, feeding, cleaning and habitat enrichment
- » Simulated natural habitat – specific to each species' needs





Large carnivores

Examples of large carnivores that we treat are serval, caracal, otters and honey badgers. Our large carnivore enclosures need to be sturdy to ensure animal and human safety. If orphaned, species like otters and honey badgers require a long, slow rehabilitation process of stimulation and enrichment, i.e. deep pools and burrowing opportunities. Serval and caracal need secure enclosures with logs and tree trunks to encourage climbing. Soft releases take a long time, so our specialised knowledge is critical.

Sponsorship of R1 000/month will help provide:

- » Specialised prey – fish, crabs, insects, rodents, chicks, game birds
- » Labour-intensive maintenance and improvement of enclosures
- » Simulated natural habitat – large, sturdy enclosures

Pangolin

Pangolin are the most illegally trafficked mammal on earth. We treat all ground pangolin confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade in South Africa. They are usually compromised – they have often not had food or water for up to 2 weeks, been kept confined and subjected to high levels of fear and stress. This protected and endangered species has very specific husbandry requirements which are hands-on and involve time. The medical cost to treat these animals is high.

Sponsorship of R2 000/month will help provide:

- » Specialised medical attention – routine sonar scans, radiographs and blood tests
- » Daily medical treatment – antibiotics, drips, pain relief, sedatives
- » Labour-intensive – walked daily 4-8 hours
- » Our most expensive patient and our most precious
- » Simulated natural habitat – ground and soil conditions ideal for burrowing



OUR *Heroes* OF THE MONTH

We work closely with SPCA branches and the NSPCA Wildlife Protection Unit. Their tireless dedication and quick response to wildlife in distress is exemplary and they seldom receive the recognition they deserve. Their inspectors regularly bring rescued animals and birds to our facility. This could happen at any time, day or night, and from as far afield as Musina or Bloemfontein.

The NSPCA Wildlife Protection Unit recently confiscated indigenous wildlife from a "rehabber" who held the animals illegally and in terrible conditions. The rescue operation was challenging and it took 9 hours (from 11h00 until 22h00) to confiscate all the animals. The inspectors brought the 21 rescued animals to our hospital and with the NSPCA's assistance, we worked until the early hours of the following morning. Despite their challenging day, they were in high spirits and without complaint.

We salute and appreciate their hard work!

National Council
of SPCAs



www.nspca.co.za



WILD ABOUT *Training*

LOOKING AT BECOMING A SKILLED WILDLIFE REHABILITATION VOLUNTEER? JOIN OUR SPECIALIST, NICCI WRIGHT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL – AFRICA FOR A COMPREHENSIVE INTRODUCTION TO THE FIELD. NICCI HAS 20 YEARS' EXPERIENCE AND HAS DEALT WITH OVER 360 INDIGENOUS WILDLIFE SPECIES.

The two-day course will equip you with an insight into wildlife rehabilitation and a basic understanding of how to provide care to wildlife patients.

DAY 1 INCLUDES AN INTRODUCTION TO:

- » wildlife rehabilitation;
- » handling and transport techniques;
- » safety;
- » wildlife and stress;
- » physical examination and emergency treatments;
- » fluid therapy;

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

If you love wildlife, if you are considering pursuing wildlife rehabilitation as a profession or just want to have a better understanding of hands-on rehabilitation techniques, then we urge you to do this course. We offer advanced courses post-completion of the introductory course. Please contact nicci.wright50@gmail.com for more information.

- » dealing with shock, head and spinal trauma;
- » basic nutrition and gavage; and
- » outline of release processes and euthanasia.

DAY 2 IS A HALF-DAY PRACTICAL SESSION, ALLOWING YOU TO PRACTICE:

- » physical examinations;
- » gavage technique; and
- » limb immobilisation.