



Wakkerstroom Animal Group

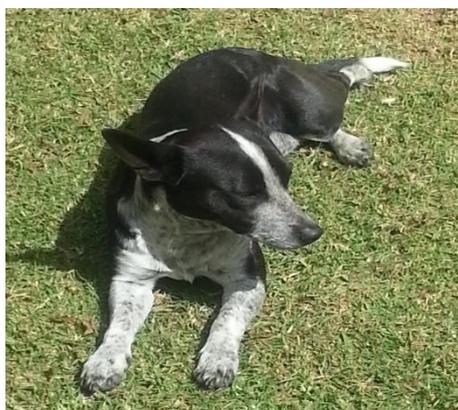
Newsletter 6

12 April 2014

Dear Friends of WAG

It has been some time since our last Newsletter. Despite our lack of communication, we have been very busy with our usual work in and around Wakkerstroom and Esizameleni.

TRANSFORMATIONS



I AM SAM.....

One day, about a year ago, I (Janet) went to check on a litter of pups. They were about 5 weeks old and we had been checking on them, and the mom, regularly. We arrived to find one little one guy lying well out of the (donated) kennel, ice cold and in serious distress. I picked it up and held it in the palm of my hand - he was that tiny! Bongani explained to the owner that we really did not think this little thing would live. I debated with myself whether to just put it back in the kennel and leave nature to run its course, or to try and save this little mite. Eventually I came away with this little pup cupped in my hand. I took it home, force fed it some food with a small syringe, gave it a tiny dose of medicine. I was not optimistic at all. About 30 minutes later I again syringed a little more liquid down its throat, made it a hot water bottle and left it in a basket on my desk! I was sure that when I returned it would have died. WELL - I walked into my office about an hour later and this tiny little scrap, climbed out the basket, wagged its tail and proceeded to walk all over my desk!!



THAT WAS IT!! It just made my entire year!! He stayed of course; I could never let him go! (Number 6 in my rather varied brood) Sam, more affectionately known as "Puppy", is the most self-assured, independent, darling little man you could imagine!

Do you remember me?

In November last year we appealed for a home for this funny looking little guy. We had been keeping an eye on him for some time. He just never seemed to thrive. We were about to take him off to the vet for a once over, when the owner suddenly said that he no longer wanted him and could we take him and have him put down!! (We don't usually remove dogs when owners no longer want them, as we teach owners to be responsible pet owners and that if they have taken on a pet they now must show their commitment to this animal. We also would only ever have very sick dogs put down on behalf of their owner). Anyway, we took him into the kennels and sent out an e mail asking for a home for him. Oom Chris Smit arrived only a few hours later, looked at him and took the doggie home with him. Just look at him now!!

Isn't it just amazing what a bit of proper food and lots of TLC can do. Bobby is so very happy in his new home



How do you do it?



This question is so often asked! This "job" is not for the faint hearted. And for us it is a love and a passion, certainly NOT a "job". We spoke above of transformation, and slowly but surely that is what we are seeing with the pet owners on our rounds - there is such a difference in the way the animals

are being treated. Our rounds go so much quicker these days. Our education process is working. People now wave us down and ask for our help - their dog is sick, or can we supply a kennel. Most importantly, owners are now starting to ask for us to please sterilise their dog.

It is just too wonderful - the dogs have got to know our cars, and come running when we stop (this has nothing to do with the free food we dish out!). The dogs which have been in the kennels, for whatever reason, happily run blocks to come and greet us. It is a real pooch party at times!!

Our days are not without heartache, and plenty of tears. But luckily our success stories outnumber the horror stories, and this gives us the courage to go on looking after all our wonderful four legged friends!



SPECIAL APPEAL FOR KENNELS

Winter is on its way, and we are once again desperately short of KENNELS. Many of our doggies have absolutely no shelter whatsoever! Others sleep in make shift shelters, or half drums. Owners are constantly requesting kennels and we quite simply do not have any. When we leave a kennel for a dog, it is on the understanding that the kennel belongs to WAG and that should the dog/owner not need it at any point in the future, we will allocate it to another dog. We particularly need kennels for medium to big dogs.

Should you be able to assist us by donating a kennel please phone and we will try and collect the kennel from you. We are also happy to refurbish old kennels! If you would like to sponsor a kennel, please get in touch with us. We are currently purchasing durable hard plastic kennels from R300-R650 (small to medium size)

FUNDING AND DONATIONS - OUR SINCERE THANKS

We once again wish to thank all of you for your loyal support.

Cash donations, specifically, are used for our Sterilisation Programme, or to take sick animals to the Vet and to cover the costs of treatment and medicines.

So many people just anonymously do things for us without expecting any recognition or anything in return.

We truly appreciate the donations of food, blankets, collars etc. It is so heart-warming that people regularly just stop by and drop off bags of dog food, money for dog food, or blankets, and all sorts of other things to help us in our endeavours.

A local caring resident recently donated 5 kennels. WOW!!

The same supporter also always helps with keeping our garden around the kennel neat and tidy, with the able assistance of another local who is helping us to beautify the area.

We held a very successful raffle at the Christmas Market when we raffled a cake made, and beautifully decorated, by Heather. Thank you! We raised R2 500!! We plan to hold another raffle at the Easter Market where we will also have a White Elephant stall.

Our collection tins around town also yield a small but regular amount of cash, and second hand book sales by a group of our locals boost our coffers regularly!

Without asking, people spontaneously do things for WAG. We appreciate it so much!

All monies received are used ONLY for the animals. We cover all of our personal expenses, such as fuel, phone calls, printing and stationery etc. from our own pockets.

We are so very grateful for the support we get from so many locals. We could not do it without you.

So from the bottom of our hearts.....

Thank you and please don't stop giving!

A special thanks to our eyes and ears out there in the community. Those of you who alert us to problems. Sometimes we find no issues at all, but many times we are able to assist the dogs by educating their owners. These situations would go unattended to if you did not let us know. Thank You

We are always in need of:

- Dog food and Cat food
- Puppy chunks
- Dog bowls
- Ice cream containers 2 lt and 5 lt
- Collars
- Kennels
- Medicines
- Tick and Flea Treatment
- ... and ofcourse CASH

For Donations the banking details are:

Postbank

Mzansi (Savings)Account Number: 0009 7533 797

Branch Code : 460005

Contact Bronwen 084 299 5382 or Janet 083 462 2729.

Thanking you on behalf of the Wagging Tails in Esizameleni and Wakkerstroom,

WAG