

Community outreach in the Chobe district

Matshwane Vet clinic has recently opened a small branch near Kasane, in the valley of Lesoma, in Chobe. In this jewel of wildlife and biodiversity, where wild animals walk amongst pedestrians and buildings, domestic animals are fast multiplying. Sadly, many of them are just left to stray, hardly ever fed or cared for, resulting in negative impacts on the environment. The first consequence is that, in this splendid touristic region of Botswana, visitors are scandalised by the sight of starved, neglected and run-over dogs and cats roaming the streets while they came to enjoy majestic wildlife sightings. Secondly, these domestic animals prey on the wild animals surrounding them (e.g. stray dogs killing little warthogs or stray cats killing guinea fowls chicks). Last but not least, they can transmit infectious diseases to wild animals (e.g. dogs transmitting distemper to lions or cats transmitting panleukopenia to wild felids), or be a reservoir for zoonoses such as rabies which can ultimately be transmitted to humans.



“Scruffy” a well-known street dog of Kasane, was badly mauled by a warthog on the street, illustrating the wildlife-domestic animal conflicts this region is experiencing.

MVC would like to help tackle this rather sad state of affairs by providing sterilisations and vaccinations of dogs and cats from low-income households at a very discounted rate. This will help to both slow down the multiplication of dogs and cats (NB : In its lifetime, a bitch and her offspring can produce 67 000 puppies, while a queen and her offspring 420 000 kittens !) and to limit the availability of hosts for infectious diseases (e.g. with more dogs vaccinated against distemper, fewer dogs can get infected and transmit the virus to wild carnivores). This is a project that deserves to be supported by the whole community of Botswana who care about domestic animals welfare as well as wildlife conservation.

If all animal and wildlife lovers in Botswana or abroad could sponsor an animal, we could well reach our target of 100 animals (or more ?) per year. If your company would like to provide a significant

sponsorship of 10 or 20 animals, please do get in touch so we can provide you with an invoice and marketing material as a token of appreciation (for example by using pictures and social media).



At the Lesoma MVC clinic : sterilization of “Bush” a much-loved tswana puppy whose owner can't afford vet fees and was very grateful to his sponsor since their previous dog was killed on the road looking for females to mate with.

MVC is a small business that can't tackle such a big project without financial support to at least meet our initiative halfway and cover the costs of consumables and logistics. By asking to sponsor P500 per animal's sterilisation and vaccination, MVC makes no profit whatsoever but can at least make it a sustainable project in the long run, which would be ideal. We would love to target at least 10-20 dogs and cats per trip to really make a dent in the current strays situation.



“Pretty” was kept chained because she was on heat and running away; now that she is sterilised, her puppies will no longer be roaming the streets of Lesoma and prey on wild animals, and she gets to live off her chain !

Contributions of P500 per animal can please be made to Matshwane Vet Clinic using the reference “Kasane outreach” and sending us an email to matshwanevetclinic@gmail.com

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