



AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

From the Chair: Dr Angelique Smit, a regular contributor to this Newsletter, is now working at Stellenbosch University and has presented us with the following article which will be presented in two parts due to space:

“Say what?”

This is most people’s knee -jerk reflex when they hear about the use of animals in research. They feel uncomfortable, unsure and perhaps even say a clear “No No.”

Presented here is the other side of the debate.

THE USE OF ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH



25th April 2019 was World Day for Lab Animals. For the general public, this would have gone unnoticed, but for an article in News 24: “*Stop abusing animals for science research – NSPCA*” (<https://m.news24.com/Green/News/stop-abusing-animals-for-science-research-nspca-20190425>) which prompted more public awareness.

I also started to work at the Science Faculty of Stellenbosch University in their Small Animal Research Facility in February this year so let me see if I can possibly change some perceptions regarding the use of animals in research and perhaps also raise some questions.



Animal testing for medical advances (not new beauty products) is actually very good. It's a way to make sure that the prescription drugs we take or give to our pets are effective and safe. It is also a method of perfecting surgical procedures e.g. deep brain stimulation to epileptic patients so that the patient can have a more normal life.

Let's look at how Animal Research helps people?

The truth is that most of us would not be here were it not for research done in animals.

When you are ill or injured, virtually everything the doctor, nurse, paramedic or pharmacist can give you was made possible by animal research.

Examples of these medications, medical devices, surgical treatments and therapies include: anaesthesia, asthma inhalers, blood pressure medication, chemotherapy, cholesterol medication, heart transplants, heart valves, heart-lung machines, hip replacement surgery, insulin for diabetics, kidney dialysis and kidney transplants, migraine medication, pacemakers, penicillin, transplant rejection drugs and vaccines.

Animal Research also helps our pets:

Vaccines (especially important here is the rabies vaccine).

Drugs to treat kidney disease or heart disease. Chemotherapy for pets, pain medication and antibiotics.

Technologies like ultrasound, CT and MRI to enable us to diagnose disease. An accurate diagnosis means better treatment.

Teaching surgical procedures.

Nutritional products- think of all the specialised prescription diets now available (e.g.: Hills K/D for kidney disease) as well as the life stage diets, for example, to help puppies and kittens grow into healthy cats and dogs.

Think of all the disease that humans and their pets share (e.g.: diabetes & cancer)

What animals are used for research and teaching?

I have the statistics for the USA, but this is also very accurate for South Africa and the rest of the world.

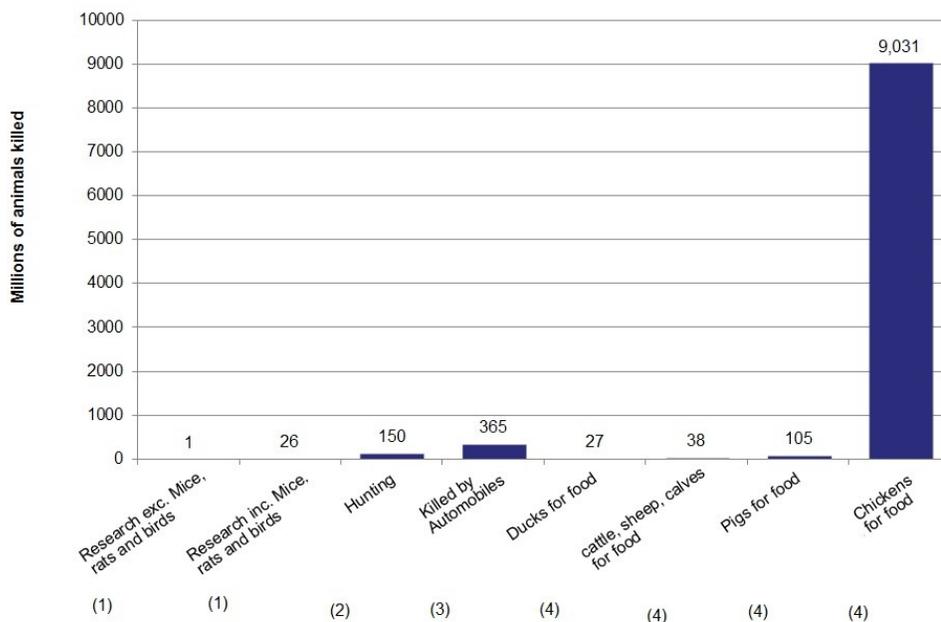
95% is rats, mice and other rodents.

4% is fruit flies, zebra fish and others.

1% is cats, **dogs** and monkeys. (I'm not aware of any research done in monkeys/ non- human primates in SA).

The number of animals used annually for research purposes is also significantly smaller than the number of production animals slaughtered annually for human consumption. The graph below clearly illustrates this point – the line for the number of animals used in research is almost not visible vs the last column (number of chickens slaughtered for human consumption).

Numbers in Perspective



Not all animals used for research are euthanized, but 100% of production animals (e.g. cattle in a feed lot) are slaughtered for consumption. We manipulate their breeding and their diets, and they are often not free to express normal species-specific behaviour.

Let's get back to the Lab Animals: The people in the laboratory all make physical, physiologic and behavioural needs of animals a top priority. Why?

Firstly, it is good science: well treated animals provide meaningful and reliable research results. More reliable research results could reduce the number of animals needed for research.

Secondly, treating the lab animals with the most dignity and compassion just comes naturally and finally, it is the LAW!

THE SECOND HALF OF THIS ARTICLE WILL BE IN THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER – LOOK OUT FOR IT!



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comments can be submitted to info@capebullmastiffclub.co.za

SAVANNAHS STORY

Submitted by Bev Thole



Bev with her two Bullmastiff youngsters on the beach in Richards Bay.

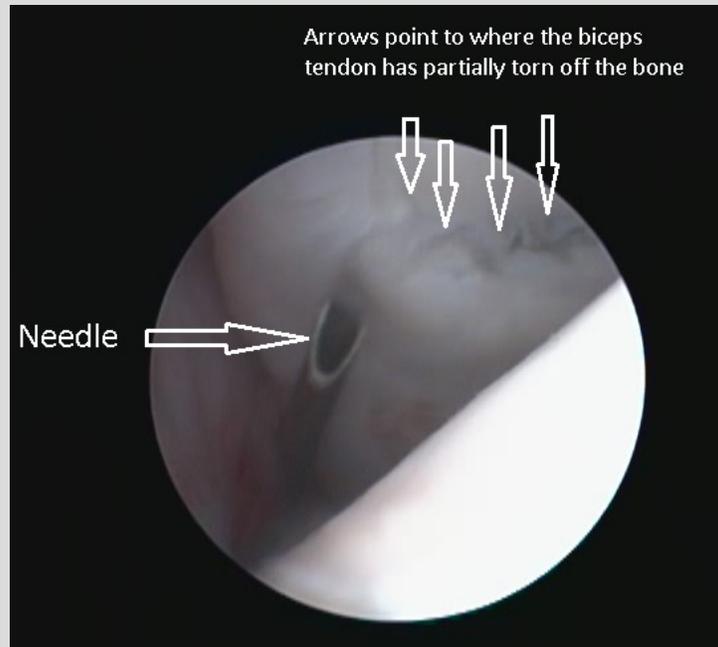
Savannah is the brindle and is recuperating from her operation and must be controlled while on her walk.

In November last year our two young Bullmastiffs decided to chase the Hahdedas on our lawn. What they did not take into consideration was the size of the door they had to get through to get outside! And poor Savannah, our young brindle, came off second best as she caught her left shoulder against the door jamb with a mighty bang in the rush to get outside.

The limping was immediate and on initial check- up with our local vet nothing could be found and surprisingly even the joints were not painful under manipulation. There was also no swelling. We were given anti-inflammatory medication (which only helped now and then) and told to keep her quiet which was difficult as she is a busy girl.

As the limp did not go away, we were referred to the specialist in Durban which is a long way from Richards Bay.! However, the trip and consultation were worth it as Dr Bruce Meyers from the St Helier Veterinary Hospital and Specialist Centre very quickly sorted out the problem which was a partial avulsion of the bicep's tendon.

Below is the picture taken during the arthroscopy and, to strengthen his diagnosis further x-rays and scans were performed.



His diagnosis meant that the best long- term solution, as she is still young, would be to cut the biceps tendon as it was quite badly damaged. The 'try and repair' scenario was an option but there was always going to be the situation of a re-tear which could be problematic. Cortisone injections were also discussed but the distance from home to surgery was a huge disadvantage along with the possibility they would only help temporarily and then it would be back to having surgery in any case.

What Dr Bruce Meyers also explained to us was that even after a tendon or muscle has been cut the body learns to adjust and the tendons and muscles in that area take over the job of the now dysfunctional or removed tendons and muscles. We were terribly worried whether we were making the right decision for our girl as surgery seemed so radical but we could also not see her taking anti-inflammatories or cortisone on and off for the rest of her life as she is far to active a girl to endure an ongoing painful limp and not being allowed to play normally for fear of further injury.

Savannah had her operation at the beginning of February, and we brought her home five days later with instructions to keep her quiet for the next six weeks. A virtually impossible task without crushing her bright, inquisitive and happy personality.

Thankfully the operation was a success and we were very relieved even though the recovery was filled with obstacles. There is no scar, she is once again charging around and playing freely with 'Duma' her best buddy.

Thank you to Dr Bruce Meyers for giving her back her freedom – an incredible surgeon.



Savannah & Duma

All's well that ends well 😊

A REMINDER ABOUT THE CHARACTER AND BREED ASSESSMENT TO BE HELD ON THE 29TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Awesome rosettes to be won by successful candidates



Sponsorship: Ultimate Canine Nutrition

Contact the Chair/ Secretary at info@capebullmastiffclub.co.za

FAMILY PHOTO'S





OVER THE RAINBOW

Two reported deaths of our beloved pooches: Sasha bitten by a violin spider & Zeus from renal failure. Our condolences to the owners.



Sasha – bitten by a violin spider – the owner requested to remain anonymous



Zeus – owned by Vishaen Bodasing from KZN

Both these family pets had top class veterinary care but to no avail.

THERE ARE STILL 5 OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS FOR THE WOB MANUAL. PLEASE FOLKS PAY INTO THE CBC BANK ACCOUNT ASAP.

ALERT: NEWS 24 HAS REPORTED DOGS BEING POISONED BY ALDICARB or 'TWO STEP' AS IT IS REFERED TO.

SHOW POINTS

Adults:



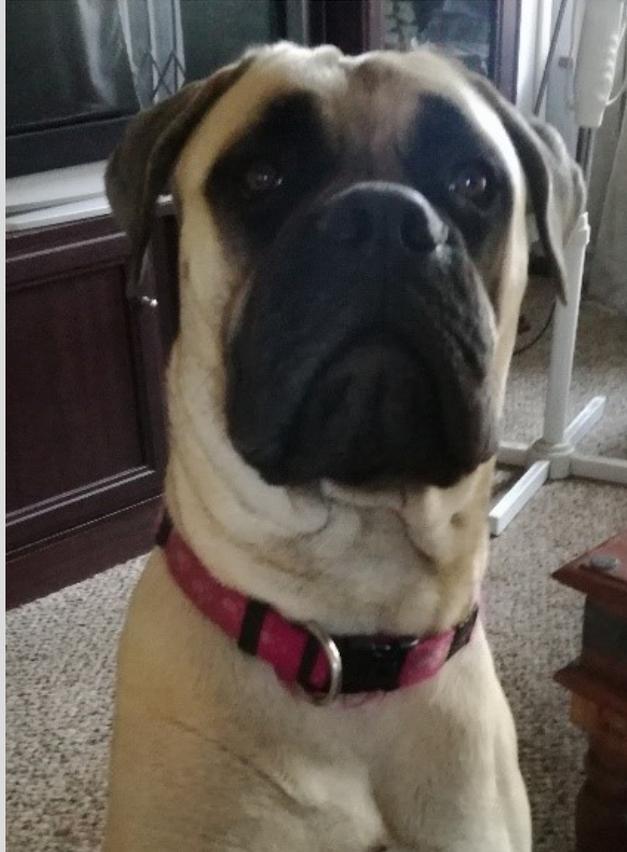
Ch Honey Dynasty Cosmo Maxwell of Ikgangwa (Imp Latvia) =214 Cordier

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Ikgangwa Benjamin Leo = 180 Brand

Puppy:



Eumali Laylah = 111 Hoffman

YOU SEE THINGS; AND YOU SAY, "WHY?".

BUT I DREAM OF THINGS THAT NEVER WERE; AND SAY, "WHY NOT?"

George Bernard Shaw

The information in this magazine is confined to its members. Statements or opinions may be expressed in this communication that are personal to the writers and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club.

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