

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.” – Mahatma Gandhi

Welcome Wollies friends, family and volunteers to Volume 2 of our Wollies Newsletter. Wow, time flies when you having fun is what they say! We are already at the end of March 2018 and a third of this year has already passed. At the shelter things have been extremely busy, keeping us all on our toes for sure! This is what we at Wollies have been up to:-

Waenuiskrans Plaasmark held an “Open Dog Day” on the 17th February in aid of Wollies Animal Shelter. There were not as many people as we had hoped for or expected at the event, but we made many new friends and many people promised to come and pay us a visit at the Shelter to see what we all do there and to meet all our fur kids. Some of the highlights of the day included the dog walk for the early birds. We also micro chipped a few dogs. Local fresh produce was on sale with many “plaas stalletjies” to browse through. Both the young and the old were entertained by the various musicians and there was a children’s zone with many kiddie activities. A lovely day was had by all out in the open with friends, family and fur children.

On Sunday 18th February, one of our faithful volunteers, Let-Marie Allison, arranged with Sacramento Spur (Wonderpark Pretoria) to provide lunch to all the Wollies Volunteers and Kennel Staff. The staff and volunteers are the backbone of our organization and without them, we could not function like the well-oiled working machine that we are. Hamburgers, Chips and Coldrinks were supplied to all and it was a joyous occasion with lots of chit chat and laughs taking place. Lunch was enjoyed by all and we would like to thank Sacramento Spur Wonderpark, specifically Vivienne and Flippie for their generosity and for taking the time out to provide a well-deserved meal after a hard day’s work to all of us.

Our Valentine’s Gin & Tonic, originally scheduled for the 24th February, but postponed to the 10th March due to extreme weather conditions and rain was an overwhelming success and also the first official event at the Wollies premises for the year. Couples as well as singles arrived in their droves and our cats were indeed very happy. A welcoming Gin & Tonic drink as well as a beautiful cat lanyard was received upon entering the cattery. Soul soothing music was played in the background creating a romantic setting. Fairy-tale lights lit up the cattery transforming the cattery in to a mesmerising display of light and shadows. The moon shone brightly on our rose garden in the cattery and the mood was definitely set. Our humans as well as our feline friends were spoiled with tasty treats and decadent sweets. Our cats were over the moon as they were loved, rubbed and pampered for the entire evening. A truly spectacular evening under the stars with our feline companions. Definitely an event that we plan on keeping as a regular event and a yearly institution at the Wollies Cattery.

We have been visited by a number of kids from various schools and institutions in the last 3 months. Amongst them were the Menlo Park Voortrekkers, Boys High, The Spark Schools Group, Curro Academy Roodeplaat, Hoerskool Hercules, Varsity College, St Albans College

and Eldoraigine School. Boerwors Rolls, Chips and Coldrinks were enjoyed by all at lunch time. The kids walked through the shelter and spent time with our cats and dogs. Dogs were walked & bathed, cats were pampered & brushed, kennel runs were cleaned, cat boxes were cleaned and plenty of fun was had by all. Laughter and screams were heard throughout the shelter as both kids, fur kids, teachers and parents took part in getting down & dirty. Our adjoining grass veld at Wollies was crawling with kids, dogs, parents and teachers and it was as if the grass veld had come **“alive”** with excitement & entertainment. Everyone together having an awesome time with the dogs & cats. The kids all left with smiles on their faces, tired and weary bones and very dirty clothes, but each of them left with the satisfaction in their hearts that they had made a difference in a shelter animal’s life that day! We welcome schools and groups of people to come and visit us and spend some time with us getting to know our feline & canine animal friends at the shelter.

Ameli celebrated her 12th Birthday with us at Wollies on Saturday 3rd March 2018. Ameli did not want a party with friends, all she wanted to do was come and spend the day at Wollies Animal Shelter and work with all the animals. A bakkie filled to the brim as well as a trailer loaded to the max arrived at Wollies with all their wonderful donations. Ameli, together with friends, family and sponsors donated 1173kg dog food pellets, 63.8kg cat food pellets, soft food pouches for dogs & cats, boxes full of dog treats, tins of dog & cat food, and even dog shampoo. There was also over a R1000 collected in money and this was also used to buy goodies for the Shelter. Thank you so much to Ameli for visiting us and we are truly grateful for her love, care, compassion and support towards our animals. We are glad you had an awesome Birthday with us at Wollies Animal Shelter.

Winter is now fast approaching with our days getting shorter and our nights getting colder. If any of our loyal **“Suppawters”** can assist with blankies and bedding for our fur kids, we would be extremely grateful and you are welcome at any time to drop them off at the shelter. Wollies is also always in need of food supplies, especially during these winter months when our fur kids get colder and therefore eat more! We once again ask our loyal **“Suppawters”** to assist us by donating food for our precious animals.

Something to look forward to on the 26th May is the **PARTY of the Year!** The Biggest, Wildest & most Wonderful Wollies 5th Birthday Party Bash. We turn **FIVE** on the 27th May so we will be celebrating a day earlier with all our animal friends and fur kid **“Suppawters”**. We will be hosting a spectacular children’s **“5th birthday theme party”** & braai as well as a dog walk from 08h00 onwards. Come and get the blood flowing and the adrenalin pumping and take one of our dogs for a nice walk along our well marked 2.5km track surrounding Wollies. The dog walk will cost you R50.00 p/p and you can walk more than one dog included in this price. So if you are feeling energetic, why not challenge your friends to see who can walk the most dogs? After all there are over 700 dogs that need to be walked! There will be refreshments for both human and canine friends along the dog walking route. Plus a **SURPRISE** refreshment along the route for our human friends. At 11h00am our Birthday Party commences. Cost per child, age 2-10 will be R50.00 and this will include a “party pack” filled with sweets & treats for the kiddies. Loads of fun and entertainment is planned for the little ones on this day. At 15h00 our Braai will commence. Braai fires will be lit from around

14h00 and will be ready and waiting for you all to use. We will be selling Braai Packs (Chop, Wors & Chicken Piece) as well as Pap & Sous in aid of raising money for our Wollies Fur Kids. Coldrinks & Crinkle Cut Chips will also be on sale for the day. There will also be exhibitors selling pancakes, ice cream, candy floss, sweet treats, etc. Bring your picnic basket with cutlery & crockery, braai accessories and spices and come and have some early lunch / supper with us. Entertainment and exciting activities will be happening all day for kids & adults alike. We may even throw in a mini colour run to build up to our main colour run happening in November and perhaps even a slightly late Easter Egg Hunt for the kiddies on our veld. Bring the kids and family and join us for a day out at Wollies Animal Shelter. All for a good cause and a whole bunch of fun! Definitely not an event that you want to miss!

In June we have Youth Day planned for the 16th June. This day promises to be a very special and fun filled day, packed with loads of fun and surprises. Watch social media and check out our website at (www.wollies.org) for further details closer to the time. We do not want to disclose too much information right now, let it be a surprise!

Mark the date in your diaries people! Our much anticipated Wollies 4th Annual **Sleepathon** will be happening on the 1st & 2nd September 2018. Please get in touch with the ladies organizing the event (Charmaine, Nicole & Frieda) on our face book page as well as the Wollies website for further information & bookings. Book your spot **NOW** with your fur friend ASAP to avoid disappointment. Space is filling up very quickly, especially in our cattery, as this is our biggest event aside from the Colour Run planned for November this year. We hope to see you all there!

As always, we at Wollies continue to stand up and fight for our fur kids rights. We urge people to please Sterilize / Castrate their animals and by doing so avoid unwanted litters of animals going forward. Please do not shop, rather consider adopting from a shelter in your area or local SPCA in your area. We need to educate the people of SA, and slowly but surely, more and more people are realizing the effects of their deeds and are joining Wollies in the fight for peace and goodwill for all our animals and animal lovers.

Wollies wishes to advise the Public that we offer Microchipping through **Identipet** at our premises at a cost of R150.00 per microchip. This is a ten minute procedure that can be done at any time at the shelter. It is a wonderful thing to do for your fur kids if you love them because when your precious cargo goes missing, we can locate the owners based on the information stored on your pets Microchip.

Fun time for all our loyal "**Suppawters**" – Wollies Newsletter needs a name! We are welcoming the public to make name suggestions to us. Please send your name, contact number and email address together with your newsletter name suggestion to: toinette.link@gmail.com or wollies.cillat@gmail.com. All name suggestions will be noted and added to a box of suggestions. We will go through all the suggestions and chose the best name for the Newsletter. The third edition of the Wollies Newsletter will then be released at the end of June 2018 with its new name in place and the winning person will get a mention in our new and improved newsletter. There is no prize / money associated to this

“game”, just some good and honest fun to be had by all involved. Get those thinking caps on and get the creative juices flowing and let us know what your name suggestion is.

Wollies would like the public to know that we have a Venue Hire Facility at Wollies for private functions. We have a fully equipped Rondawel with kitchen, bathroom and braai facilities available to hire per day (10h00 – 22h00) at R2000.00. Why not host your next kiddie’s party here? Or tea party? Or just any excuse for a party! The venue has tables and chairs available, so no need to worry about carting your tables and chairs around. Best part is that while you are here, you can pay a visit to our adjoining animal shelter and take a look at all our beautiful dogs and cats currently available for adoption and who are just waiting for that special person to come along and give them their forever homes. We also have a swimming pool area that you can rent out for entertaining your friends and family. In the pool area we usually have some dogs in there for play time, so you will never be without a “fur” companion while in this area. Please contact Cilla on 083 339 1692 for pricing and to see how she can “tailor make” a package for you that suites your needs and your budget.

Some interesting statistics for all our Wollies **“Suppawters”**:-

- Animal Adoptions – 35
- Animals returned to Owners – 20
- Animals Found – 60
- Animals surrendered to Wollies and no longer wanted by Owners – 34

People this is actually shocking as these are the statistics for the month of March 2018 only. We are not even talking about the December overflow, January or February intake. It is just too many animals to keep track of. Please people, animals are a 10-15 year commitment. Please do not buy them as cute presents this year and abandon them next year as they grow older or become less cute. We really need to consider all options when considering a “live” animal as an addition to our human families. There are costs involved in having a pet, there are veterinary bills, and there is food to be bought, and love and care to be dished out unconditionally. If you cannot commit right now, rather buy a “stuffed fluffy toy” and leave the live animals to people that do care and love them or until you are ready for this 10-15 year commitment.

As we all know Pretoria received a lot of rain in the week of the 21st-24th March. Wollies was left a little bit wet & flooded and needless to say some of our fur babies had water in their kennels that did not filter away in the many trenches that we had dug around the kennels. But once again Wollies **“Suppawters”** and our loving public and amazing companies and volunteers rallied together as help was called upon. People once again washed and dried blankets, brought us new blankets and we even had some washing machines arrive that we could use and keep thereafter. Some of our older dogs were taken in to foster care at this time as they do not do well in the wet and cold conditions. Amazing to see how the community came together and assisted in making the dogs and cats feel safe, warm and happy in these trying times. We also received donations of poles and cement from our caring public & companies and with this, our aim is to raise all the dog kennels off the

ground and put cement under the kennels themselves. This should assist in keeping our fur balls warm going forward and for the next rainy season.

Should you not have access to our newsletter and should you wish to subscribe to our newsletter, please do so by going to www.wollies.org and click on “subscribe to newsletter”, follow the simple instructions and “voila”, your email address will be added to our mailing list and you will receive our newsletter going forward to read and enjoy.

Wollies staff, workers & volunteers wish all our **“Wollies Suppawters”** a Happy Easter. Please travel safely on the roads and please remember to always be kind to one another. Enjoy the long weekend and for those travelling and going on holiday, enjoy the holiday to the fullest. Please take a moment to make arrangements for your **“Fur Kids”** holiday also, so that they are safe and sound in your absence. After all we do not want your holiday to turn in to their nightmare!

To all our wonderful **“Suppawters”**, God bless you all, and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you do for the Wollies Animals. Issue 3 of our newsletter will go out at the end of June 2018, with its **NEW NAME** so something to look forward to and some interesting reading material. Please keep your comments and suggestions coming in as we appreciate all the awesome input we get from our **“Wollies Animal Suppawters”**.

“The potential of the average person is like a huge ocean unsailed, a new continent unexplored, a world of possibilities waiting to be released and channelled toward some great good – use this good to the benefit of all our animals at all times”

Paws love,

Cilla, “T” & the Wollies Team