A month of RESCUES! Meet two new life-savers!

On 9 October, Mr Jacques Koker, (left), was searching for bottles to recycle when he heard a cry. He found a plastic crate with a heavy plank and large rocks on top. Three skinny, dirty and very scared young Collies were crammed inside! Mr Koker carried them all the way to the Mossel Bay SPCA - saving them from a horrible death. Cleaned, well fed and vaccinated, the lucky pups are awaiting adoption to loving homes.

Lodewyk Bouwer, (right), ran out of fuel where the bridge is being widened over the N2 at the York Road off-ramp. He was walking home under the bridge when he saw a sack move! On opening it, a petrified cat leapt out, leaving 7 kittens behind! He called the SPCA and Inspector Salome Bruyns arrived in minutes. While searching for the missing mommy cat an eighth kitten was found, screaming for help.

These babies were fortunate—but unfortunately many such abandonments are not found in time! How can people be so cruel?

If you know of people who cannot afford to sterilize their cats or dogs, please have them contact us... WE CAN HELP!

If you can afford to contribute a monthly sum (of any amount) to help pay for these sterilizations, please contact Yvette (044) 8781990 or admin@grspca.co.za and ask about the SPCA ADOPT-A-SPAY programme.

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Amazing AARDWOLF Rescue!

When the Mossel Bay SPCA emergency phone rang at 8pm on the 20th September, Trainee Inspector Mariska Jacobs, was on standby duty. She was expecting to have to rescue yet another dog hit by a car—or a stray on the freeway… but nothing prepared her for the night ahead!

It was the Shift Manager, Mr Lee-Roy Pick, of Pinnacle Point. He explained they had a Rooikat stuck in the electric fence and it was too aggressive for them to free it.

Mariska immediately phoned Cape Nature and a local vet to ask their advice and it was decided that veterinarian, Dr Anel de Beer would go out on the call with Mariska.

When they arrived at the scene there was no Rooikat - but an Aardwolf! As Aardwolves survive almost exclusively on termites, (eating some 250 000 per night!), they are only found in dry, grassy scrubland and are therefore not native to this area.

Dr de Beer had brought a sedating drug specifically for cat species… and now they were faced with a member of the hyena family—basically a dog!

Luckily Dr de Beer had a light general sedative in her bag. The stressed animal was covered with blankets and given the injection. After about 15 minutes the animal had calmed down. While Dr de Beer held it down, Lee-Roy Pick cut the wire of the electric fence that had trapped the animal’s leg. But the blood flow to its foot had been obstructed for an uncertain period of time and it was icy cold. Mariska began rubbing the paw and leg with her hands to stimulate blood flow. Fortunately circulation was restored and the foot warmed up and regained a normal colour.

Without warning, the Aardwolf suddenly leaped up and disappeared into the night. Although everyone got a big fright (after all it is a wild animal in hugely threatening situation and it could have attacked), Mariska, Dr de Beer and all the Pinnacle Point staff broke into big smiles, relieved that they were able to help such a rare animal.

The Garden Route SPCA thanks everyone for their efforts.

Dr Low de Vries of the University of Pretoria’s Mammal Research Institute, studied this smallest member of the Hyaenidae family for six years. ‘In theory, aardwolves are too large an animal to be able to sustain themselves on termites alone...’ he said. ‘Few other mammals are as highly specialised and selective in their diet as the aardwolf.’ De Vries is the first researcher to show that aardwolves do nibble on the odd scorpion at times. He also confirmed that these shy animals will try out a large type of spider called a solifugid or camel spider. However, he found that aardwolves still rely almost completely on termites for sustenance. They do not readily switch to other prey, even in times when termite numbers are low. ‘Aardwolves are only found in areas where termites also occur’…(so where did this one come from???)

PETS FEAR FIREWORKS! KEEP YOURS SAFE!
Dose scared pets with a natural calming remedy well before fireworks might be heard and keep them inside.
Be cheerful (not fearful) around them.

A BIG ‘THANK-YOU’ TO THE LITTLE ART SHOP!

When the Strydom Gallery closed their doors after 45 years in George, they kindly donated artists works and art materials to the SPCA. The Little Art Shop (corner of Market and Hope Streets), took on the selling of the brushes and art materials at half price—taking no commission! They have sold R5 000 worth of materials so far and there are still some left... so artists, see Cathy at The Little Art Shop and support the SPCA!

The Little Art Shop is also busy expanding their fine art section.
LeSley Welgemoed, head of the Garden Route’s Education Unit and passionate horse lover, takes over the story:

“We named the foal Braveheart in acknowledgement of the horror he had survived. When Salome got back, I quickly called vets with expertise in raising orphaned foals. Making up the required recipe of eggs, glucose and cows milk, we started feeding Braveheart 500ml every 2 hours. But we also needed to get hold of the proper milk for foals... which arrived by Friday evening.

Rushing home, I grabbed a tent, a picnic basket and a couple of willing teenagers, (my 3 children are all well schooled in animal care!) and back at the SPCA we set ourselves up for a very long night. It was a wonderful time under the stars, lying on our backs in the straw, just catching up as a family and bonding with a very stressed little foal.

My kids faded at about 11, so I was left to try and comfort Braveheart. He had not stopped pacing and crying out for his mom. But at 3am my eyes wouldn’t stay open anymore and I fell asleep. At 4.15 am I woke up with a start. There was a baby foal lying on my duvet, spooning with me! But was he alive or dead? With my heart beating fit to burst I reached out, but one of my girls mumbled under her breath…”please mom just let him sleep, he is also exhausted.”

I got up to make him a bottle and when I went back he was lying with my children - all fast asleep in a row. What a lovely sight.

We fed him his breakfast and then decided to let him go for a run as it was still very early and there was more than enough space for him to run.

Christin ran in front and he ran behind her, keeping pace. Amazing! Needless to say that I had exhausted but totally fulfilled children...and a brave Braveheart.

For the rest of the weekend, we worked out shifts. Everybody jumped in to assist. Yvette (SPCA admin) slept with him next night but on Sunday night he had to brave it alone apart from our visits at feeding times.

That same weekend, Henrico, (the Inspector on duty), felt that he needed to keep us ‘mother hens’ occupied and brought us a week old piglet and a 3 day old kitten to nurture! I got the pig, and soon she was happily going for walks in a harness and lead. A wonderful weekend for us all!

In summary: this is what we, the staff at the SPCA, signed up for!”

Braveheart will be up for adoption in a few weeks. If you would like to help contribute towards all our rescued animals’ upkeep, please make a donation. We totally rely on public support to provide much needed animal services in disadvantaged areas.

Our banking details are: Standard Bank, George branch 050214
Account name: Garden Route SPCA, Acc No.: 302 781 439
(Donations are tax deductible: contact Yvette on 044 878 1990 or admin@grspca.co.za for details)
Realnet, Danabay, ‘womanned’ a table at Langeberg Mall, taking R2 451.85 in ribbons and donations. Colleen Putter and Yvonne van der Linde doing their shift with a smile. Brandon Marques and Taryn Phillips of York High took 100 ribbons! Many companies showed their suppawt: like the staff at Paint Centre George, 84 Hope Street and the George Golf Club.

FURRY FRIDAY BINGO (3 Oct) set a record by being suppawted by over 60 players who polished off the freshly made soup and bread!

BARK in the PARK (4 Oct)
Another record event was the annual mass doggie walk and fun dog show at the Botanical Gardens.

The winner of the UNIQUE BREED category was Rod Brown and Heidi. When Marge Wilmore of the Barnyard Donkey Sanctuary went to Willowmore with a group of volunteers to help sterilise dogs, they returned with a very thin, stray. Marge bumped into Rod who was looking for a companion and ,after the little dog had spent the mandatory 7 days at the SPCA, Rod adopted her. They have been firm friends ever since. His “unique breed” name for her is a ‘Wag-tail Corgilab’.

11 October

The fabulous Wild Oats Farmers’ Market near Sedgefield hosted South Africa’s first “UNIQUE BREEDS ONLY” fun dog show. The 200 strong audience cheered the proud owners of 26 merry mongrels as Wild Oats co-founder, Susan Garner, announced the participants ‘unique breed’ names. There was a JACKIE-RASCAL, a SHAGGY-EARED POMMIE-UAUA,, a MOERSE BOEREWORSE (the body of a Boerboel with the legs of a worsie!), a TOP-DECK COLLIE, a SPAN-TRIEVER and more wonderful one-of-a-kind, unique breeds!

Over R1 200 was raised for the Garden Route SPCA and KAWS.