AWA’S

HOW, WHEN, WHERE TO?
HISTORY

• NO OR LIMITED VETERINARY SERVICES IN POOR AND DISADVANTAGED AREAS
• AWO’s PROVIDED VET SERVICES, OFTEN LIMITED VETS/NURSES AND LARE DEMAND
• INHOUSE TRAINING BY VETS FOR AWO STAFF WHO HAD A PASSION FOR ANIMALS, BUT NOT ALLOWED ACCESS TO VETERINARY TRAINING DUE TO APARTHEID POLICIES NOR REQUIRED SCHOOLING/FUNDS (NO INSTITUTION OFFERING VET/ NURSING FOR NON-WHITES)
• TRAINING INVOLVED BASIC ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY AND RECOGNITION OF SYMPTOMS OF THE MOST COMMON DISEASES, CONDITIONS AND INJURIES
• VACCINATION, DEWORMING AND DIPPING/EXTERNAL PARASITE CONTROL
• ALSO ASSIST IN THEATRE AND AT TIMES IN SURGERY
• MONITOR ANAESTHETIZED PATIENTS, SET UP I/V LINES, BANDAGING, WOUND MANAGEMENT, FRACTURE REDUCTION
• EUTHANASIA
• MOBILES
• GUIDE AND ASSIST VETS AND VET STUDENTS
AUTHORISATION

- Late 1990’s vets in welfare and SAVC realised need for a system to authorise/recognize the work these people do, but more importantly, to have control (legally and ethically) of who renders a veterinary service.
- Good intention but never intended to be a long term or permanent process.
- Shortcomings:
  - Subjective, not uniform levels of training, supervision, drug control.
  - Renewal, levels of authorisation.
  - Limited scope and does not empower the AWA.
  - Only a temporary solution.

- Positives:
  - Uniform assessment form.
  - Database of AWA’s.
  - Instilling a sense of accountability and belonging.
AWA COURSE

- 2003 MOTIVATION FOR A FORMAL AWA COURSE WAS PRESENTED TO SAVC
- WARMLY RECEIVED BUT NEEDED TO BE DEVELOPED BY A TERTIARY INSTITUTION AND DRIVEN BY THE PROFESSION
- UNISA CAME ONBOARD WITH DR HIGGGO, WHO SUPERVISING THE AT COURSE AT THE TIME 2004/5
- STAKEHOLDERS MEETING
- THEN WENT FLAT DUE TO VARIOUS FACTORS
- 2010 DR DONNA LE ROUX MADE CONTACT AND TOOK OVER THE REIGNS
- DID THE BULK OF THE GROUNDWORK AND LIAISING WITH NECESSARY INDIVIDUALS AND STAKEHOLDERS
- PRIMARILY DRS DONNA LE ROUX, ALAN EMERTON AND I, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM DR EVA FILLIS, SR THERESA LOTTER AND OTHERS
- UNISA CAME ON BOARD AGAIN, CRUCIALLY!
- MODULES AND AUTHORS SELECTED
- FINALLY READY TO BE ROLLED OUT
- LONG ROAD, BUT COMMITTED PEOPLE DRIVING THIS COURSE
INTENTIONS/GOALS

• Empower those sincere individuals who have the passion for animals but due to past injustices could never study in the veterinary field, who will now have a formal recognized certificate in higher education.

• Provide a formal platform for the current and future training of AWAS/VWAS, ease of employment.

• Registration with SAVC as a para veterinary profession.

• Stepping stone for further education.

• Provide professional vet services to those impoverished communities, adding value to lives of animals, communities and the profession.

• Regulation on who provides vet services to those communities.

• Educating those communities who have had little or no access/exposure to vet services (never underestimate impact of proper education).

• Ultimately working towards our ideal of providing needs driven veterinary services to all sectors of SA society.

• Heartfelt thank you to all who have participated to getting us to the stage of where we are today.