



**Pets as Therapy, South Africa**  
**Official Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**1 June 2013**  
*Khanyisa School, Victoria Road, Plumstead*

**1. Welcome and overview**

Marieanna le Roux welcomed everyone to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. Tielman de Waal, who had agreed to be both the MC for the AGM and the Chair for 2013/2014 had unfortunately passed away the week before and Marieanna was therefore stepping forward to take over, both as MC for the AGM and as Chair of PAT.

She confirmed that in early January 2013 the PAT Executive Committee had resigned and the organisations' operations were temporarily suspended. Tielman de Waal, together with other members, had organized an acting committee of members to arrange the current AGM.

Marieanna also mentioned that Carien Hugo had recently passed away and a minute's silence was held for her and Tielman.

**2. Attendance & Apologies**

Please see Attachment A for list of attendees and apologies.

**3. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

No AGM was held in 2012. No objections to the minutes of the AGM held on 3 December 2011, distributed before this AGM and available on the PAT website, were raised. Marieanna le Roux proposed acceptance, seconded by Avril Cronje.

**4. Guest Speaker: Louise Botha**

Dr Louise Botha gave a very informative talk on preparing puppies for a future as a PAT dog.

**5. Regional Activity Reports**

a) *George*

Elaine Swanepoel is the area co-ordinator for George and is doing a wonderful job, running PAT in the area. She has organised a staff wellness day at the Department of Health and a Special Project for Mandela Day 2012.

They currently have 8 facilities that they are visiting and 7 active members.

b) *Hermanus*

Louise Botha, the area coordinator for Hermanus, updated the AGM on PAT's work in Hermanus.

They currently have 4 volunteers, and are visiting 4 facilities. There are many more people who would like to join but they currently do not have dogs. Louise is trying to link the 'dogless' people with people with dogs who are unable to visit facilities themselves.

Louise organised two talks about PAT to mobilise more volunteers. She also organised the first ever Whale of a Waggle Walkathon in 2012, raising R1200 for PAT.

Louise reiterated that PAT is entirely reliant on donations to keep going, and challenged other area coordinators to organise events to raise money. There are, as always with organising events, a lot of rules and regulations regarding the organisation of such events, and Louise is happy to be contacted as a resource regarding these rules.

c) *Polokwane*

Dr Karen Steenkamp continues to be our presence in Polokwane. Currently it is only her and Shakira visiting, but she hopes to start recruiting more volunteers soon, now that PAT is back on a firm footing.

d) *Port Elizabeth*

Glenda and Henry Walters continue with their sterling work in Port Elizabeth.

They are currently visiting 4 facilities and have 3 Labradors that are therapy dogs. Their visits to SOS Children's' Villages are of immense benefit.

They too hope to start on a recruitment drive.

e) *Stellenbosch/Helderberg*

Marieanna Le Roux reported that in the last year they had 6 new volunteers. They currently have 15 volunteers in the area and are visiting 20 facilities.

In their last year there have been numerous publications (Die Burger, Die Volksblad, Die Beeld), and radio presentation (Radio Pretoria) that highlighting the READ programme. Marieanna has also completed her PhD and is now Dr Le Roux.

The Somerset West Charity Book Fair raised R8281.00.

f) *Cape Town*

Charmaine French gave the report on the greater Cape Town area. She opened by stating that Marieanna is far too modest and congratulated her on achieving her PhD, which involved a mind boggling amount of studying.

Charmaine reported that Cape Town recruited 15 new members in 2012, although 6 did not complete their mentorship and we had no further contact with them – calls/mails were unanswered.

9 were placed

- Bronwynn Douglas and Rosie
- Sue Joyce and Molly Jo
- Dominique Roussouw and Dukey
- Shannon and Daniel Neill – Illuq, Misha and Miki (x2)
- Beryl Levy and Ruthie
- Sherri Farinha and Chiquita
- Andie Chandler, Rumba and Sebastian
- Manuela Wallis Schroeder and Akima

#### EVENTS

Cavendish Book Sale was held in August 2012, and we raised R9,260. Figures were down on last year, but every Rand we made was a bonus.

#### DANCING WITH DOGS TEAM

We wish to thank Genine Shuttleworth and her team for organising many a wonderfully entertaining morning for some of our facilities. They are growing in popularity, and we need more dancing dogs to join in the fun!

#### MEDIA

3 x print media features on PAT:

1. Sunday Rapport
2. Volksblad (Helderberg region)
3. Die Beeld (Helderberg region)

SABC - 3 HECTIC 9 programme for young adults. PAT ably represented by Carol Henshillwood and Genine Shuttleworth accompanied by Boo and Gorgeous Gordon.

Live interview on HECTIC 9 with Kim Cooper at Peter Pan Downs Syndrome School on their established association with PAT and the enormous benefits of having the PAT team, Keith Jones and his Retriever Tammy, regularly visiting their facility.

## GENERAL

- Enormous thanks to Marieanna, Margie, Bronwynn, Sue, Maureen, Magdie and Willemien for stepping in and keeping PAT flag flying.
- Irvin Sammons from Gauteng – a huge and heartfelt thank you to one of our most loyal supporters for ensuring the continuation of PAT visits by arranging sponsorship to pay for our public liability insurance – in the region of R5,500.
- Thank you to the numerous facilities who believed in us, and supported us to such an extent that they were prepared to sign petitions for PAT to continue.
- Heartiest congratulations to Dr Marieanna le Roux on the award of her PHD at Stellenbosch University. The theme of her thesis: The effect of an animal-assisted reading program on the reading skills of gr. 3 learners in a Western Cape primary school (in Afrikaans!)
- Continuing official affiliation with the “READ’ programme, (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) Intermountain Therapy Animals, USA. There are now 10 x international countries with registered affiliations! (Canada, Spain, Finland, UK, SA, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Italy, Slovenia).

Charmaine passed on her many happy wishes to the new beginnings of PAT, and her blessings to Professor Hartley for agreeing to stay on as Patron of the Charity.

## 6. Guest Speaker: Marieanna le Roux

Marieanna gave an update on the READ programme and a very interesting presentation on her doctoral dissertation with the title “*The effect of an animal-assisted reading programme on the reading skills of grade 3 learners from a Western Cape primary school*”.

The presentation showed how the programme had been run, with three experimental groups and one control group, and the results amongst those control groups. The word recognition and reading comprehension of the children in the “dog group” were significantly better after a 10 week reading programme.

There is no doubt that the *Lees – Ukufunda - READ* programme of *Pets as Therapy* is having a significant impact on increasing literacy levels with the areas that is has been implemented. It would be wonderful if the programme could be rolled out into more areas and Marieanna would like to be spending her time doing just that.

## 7. Members' Feedback

Three members were invited to give the AGM an overview of their experiences of being PAT members.

### a) Lindy Croxford – Deep South

“Gustao and I have been volunteering for PAT since 2009. Gustao my student was very nervous of interacting with people but loved the dogs, PAT therefore provided the perfect 'bridge'. By taking Shenzi initially and later on Gamble, Danny and Honey to visit at the Silvermine Healthcare he gained confidence in chatting with people who were not well known to him. This was a tremendous initial step for him and now he is so much more confident with social interactions. The folk at Silvermine Healthcare look forward to our weekly visits and although over the years many have passed on both Gustao and I always remember the pleasure they got from having the dogs visit and cuddle up in bed. The staff there are extremely welcoming and love to see the interactions between the dogs and the residents. Visiting with the dogs, we both feel has enriched our lives enormously.”

### b) Skye Heitman – Helderberg

Skye has been visiting Esperanza with Princess since 2012. Her mother is a resident at Huis Esperanza in Somerset West and has had a stroke, leaving her unable to talk. Skye initially joined PAT so that she could take Princess, who had been her mother's dog, to visit her. Skye shared with us that it was a bit of a nightmare when she started her visits, and she found it difficult, but that taking Princess to visit has started to bridge the gap. She was initially reluctant to do visits with other residents, but said that when she put Princess on her mother's lap, when she was sitting in a wheelchair, it was as though they turned magnetic. Other residents were drawn to them. Because of the appeal of Princess, it has given Skye the courage to try more, and to even go into the Alzheimer's Ward.

Skye finished a very interesting talk by saying that she thinks that “maybe she is getting more out of the visits than she is giving.”

### c) Maureen Rawlins – Deep South

Maureen has been a member since 2006 and currently visits Nerina Gardens and Princess Christian Home. She started out with Stan Hobs visiting Red Cross, and has found being a member a huge learning experience, different from everything she had experienced before. She learnt the protocol of visiting from Stan, who was an enormous influence on her membership of PAT.

Each facility offers different opportunities for learning. At Ocean View School where each child took it in turns to walk with and brush the dogs, Taryn Blyth taught learners how to look after dogs, and especially, what they should be doing for their own dogs at home. Emily, Taryn's Rottweiler cross, taught us not to have preconceptions about dogs and their suitability. Not only did she walk happily with children much smaller than her, but she walked perfectly alongside a small boy in a wheelchair who was completely paralysed. Not once did she pull or get in the way.

Widget, Maureen's small Maltese cross dog who loved playing on the beds with the children demonstrated how sensitive dogs can be when the mother of a small patient attached by numerous tubes to a machine, asked Maureen to put Widget on the bed where her daughter could touch him. Widget lay absolutely still with his head resting on the child's arm and never moved until Maureen picked him up again.

PAT volunteers and their pets enjoy visiting and find it to be a hugely rewarding experience. We should also be aware of the wonderful learning opportunities we are offered.

## **8. PAT Financial Report**

Margie Wood presented the unaudited Financial Statement for 2012/2013, attached as Attachment B.

- a) It was agreed that, as PAT was struggling for finances and had not increased its fees for a number of years, the Members' Fees would increase from R120 per annum to R150 per annum. Special reductions could be arranged for those unable to afford the full amount.
- b) Friends would not be subject to an annual membership fee, but a donation of up to R150 per year would be welcomed.
- c) The method of collecting fees would also change and all fees would be due once yearly on the same date, probably 1 July every year. Members who joined after the due date would be charged a pro-rata amount.
- d) Margie confirmed that invoices will be sent to all members, for their records.
- e) It was confirmed that Public Liability insurance is currently in place, and that it allows for up to 100 members. If the membership increases, we will amend the policy.
- f) Questions/Comments

There was a query from a member, Ellen Merensky, who asked why we need donations, and wanted to know for what the money was required. Margie

explained that even a charitable organisation has running costs, eg website hosting, insurance, postage, printing costs, t-shirts, bandannas, registration fees for the book sales, which raise important and necessary funds etc.

Charmaine French also pointed out that the costs of administration were often underestimated.

Avril Cronje told the AGM that Faircare Health have offered to donate on a monthly basis to PAT, and she will be investigating this generous offer fully.

Louise Botha has approached Royal Canin regarding sponsorship but was waiting for the election of the new Executive Committee before taking that any further.

Margie Wood also mentioned that Charmaine Treherne, a professional fundraiser, is prepared to help and raise funds for PAT. Margie Wood finished the Financial Presentation by saying that any suggestions as to how we can increase donations and raise more funds would be welcomed.

## 9. Report by PAT Chair

Mariemanna le Roux stated that the full Chair's Report would be available post the AGM. It is attached as Attachment C. She gave an overview, as follows:

- a) The Somerset West Charity book sale is due to be held on 4 – 7 July 2013. Aletta Van Helsdingen will be co-ordinating the event.
- b) The Cavendish Square book sale will be on 26 – 29 September and Sue Joyce will be the main co-ordinator for that event.
- c) In 2012, 11 dogs and members retired and stopped visiting.
- d) 7 dogs passed away, 3 first time visitors in Stellenbsoch, Hermanus and Polokwane area, which was very sad.
- e) Thank you :
  - To Khanyisa School for allowing us to use their school hall
  - To Irvin Sammons for organising the insurance, and for very generously absorbing the cost of the insurance.
  - To Bruce McKee, the previous chairman, for instigating the new website, emailing programme, and improving communication methods.
  - Mark Douglas, of Smartedge, for the new website.



- Bronwynn Douglas for donating the cost of hosting the new website for an indefinite period.

f) The way forward for PAT

- Marieanna said that she had sat for many hours with Tielman de Waal, and others, coming up with a new structure for PAT. The part that would remain the same would be the Executive Committee, and the Advisory Panel, but the new level, about which they were very excited, was the middle level. This middle level is imperative to prevent too much work being shouldered by too few members. This middle level will comprise of area co-ordinators who will have contact with the members and institutions in their areas. They will then feed back relevant information to the Executive committee.
- This new structure will be implemented almost immediately and new area co-ordinators have already been identified or have volunteered for a number of the areas.

## 10. Website, Facebook and Mailings

- a) Bronwynn gave a brief overview of the website and Facebook, and gave thanks to Glenis du Toit for all the work she has done on the Facebook site.
- b) The PAT website currently has pride of place at the top of Google, when searched for specifically, and within the top four results when searched for with different but relevant search terms.
- c) She explained that PAT was now using Graphic Mail, a mailing programme, for sending of emails to their members, as it was easier, cheaper and avoided any issues regarding mass mailings being seen as spam and blocked.
- d) In terms of statistics, the webpage has had nearly 4000 unique visitors in 2013, and traffic to the site has increased month on month since January, with a peak in May. A huge amount of statistical information is available for anyone who would like to know specifics – please email Bronwynn for further information.
- e) Any comments, suggestions, criticisms of the website are welcome. Please email Bronwynn , whose details are on the website.

## 11. PAT Executive Committee and Committee Elections

Charmaine French announced the nominated candidates and the following new appointees were confirmed as the newly elected committee for the period 2013/2014.

*PAT Executive Committee*

Dr Marieanna le Roux	Chair
Bronwynn Douglas	Vice Chair
Sue Joyce	Secretary

*Pat Non-executive Committee*

Margie Wood	Treasurer
Dr Karin Steenkamp	
Dr Louise Botha	
Willemien Pouwel	
Dr Magdie van Heerden	

The members presented accepted the nominations unanimously.

It was also confirmed that Professor Patricia Hartley would remain as Patron of PAT, and that Taryn Blyth and Yolande Ginsberg would remain on the Advisory Panel.

## **12. Change of registered address**

It was confirmed that the registered address would be changed as follows:

*Physical Address*

9 Cecil Road  
Claremont  
7708

*Postal Address*

Suite 127  
Private Bag x26  
Tokai  
7966

## **13. Adjournment**

Marieanna le Roux brought the meeting to closed, stating that PAT had many challenges ahead, but that the organisation was going places. She thanked everyone for coming out in such terrible weather. And she reiterated that if anyone had any questions, they must not hesitate to contact the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.05 pm, and all attendees retired for refreshments.

Minutes submitted by: Bronwynn Douglas/Sue Joyce

Minutes approved by: Marieanna le Roux





## Attachment A

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### Attendance

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Blackshaw, Jessie | 15. Le Roux, Marieanna  |
| 2. Botha, Louise     | 16. Masson, Lynne       |
| 3. Burgess, Gwen     | 17. McInnes, Margot     |
| 4. Cronje, Avril     | 18. Merensky, Ellen     |
| 5. Croxford, Lindy   | 19. Modlin, Irene       |
| 6. Douglas, Bronwynn | 20. Pouwels, Willemien  |
| 7. Flegar, Srnka     | 21. Rawlins, Carole     |
| 8. French, Charmaine | 22. Rawlins, Maureen    |
| 9. Hartley, Paddy    | 23. Schmid, Sabine      |
| 10. Heitman, Skye    | 24. Scott, Jude         |
| 11. Joyce, Sue       | 25. Terrill, Jane       |
| 12. Keogh, Eileen    | 26. Treherne, Charmaine |
| 13. Kotze, Marike    | 27. Wood, Margie        |
| 14. Lay, Gillian     | 28. Adams Farm (6)      |

### Apologies

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Blyth, Taryn           | 11. Parker, Marieta         |
| 2. Bolus, Pat             | 12. Reed, Nici              |
| 3. Boulleurs, Trish       | 13. Schoeman, Silke         |
| 4. Davidson, Tony         | 14. Shuttleworth, Genine    |
| 5. Du Toit, Joana         | 15. Sinclair-smith, Rosalie |
| 6. Hardres-Williams, Jill | 16. Thorpe, Jenny           |
| 7. Hugo, Carien           | 17. Vollmer, Heidi          |
| 8. Jones, Keith           | 18. Walters , Glenda        |
| 9. Krige, Valda           | 19. Walters , Henry         |
| 10. Levy, Beryl           | 20. Williams, Farida        |

# Attachment B



**Pets as Therapy  
Comparative Profit and Loss Statement  
as at 28th February, 2013**

<b>Unaudited</b>	<b>Actual 2013</b>	<b>Actual 2012</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Sales - Sweatshirts	0.00	1 950.00
Sales - T-Shirts	2 530.00	3 855.00
Sales - Calendars	0.00	70.00
Sales - Cards	140.00	770.00
Sales - Dogsense	0.00	16 692.05
Sales - Books	18 997.00	24 228.00
Donations	9 988.76	1 525.00
Operating Revenue from Fund Raising	0.00	0.00
Sales - Sponsorship	0.00	12 390.00
Membership Fees	2 725.00	12 120.00
<b>Net Sales</b>	<b>34 380.76</b>	<b>73 600.05</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>		
Miscellaneous Revenue	1 253.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>1 253.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>35 633.76</b>	<b>73 600.05</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>		
COS - T-Shirts	2 967.40	3 173.15
COS - Bandana's	0.00	2 154.60
COS - DogSense	0.00	14 905.37
COS - PAT Calendar	0.00	0.00
Book Sale Expenses	770.00	3 251.92
Purchase Discounts	-0.43	0.00
Freight Expense	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b>3 736.97</b>	<b>23 485.04</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Accounting	0.00	3 800.00
Advertising & Promotions	0.00	5 153.90
Bank Charges	1 763.63	1 648.59
Badges	1 083.00	955.20
Courier & Postage	1 301.99	848.01
Donations	1 066.30	0.00
Functions	0.00	9 651.40
Insurance	4 882.50	4 881.15
Motor Vehicle - Fuel	4 431.54	0.00
Printing & Stationery	1 891.19	4 796.97
Refreshments & Snacks	0.00	0.00
Telephone & Fax	159.00	917.15
Travel & Entertainment	5 839.00	9 712.00
Venue Hire	0.00	200.00
Web Hosting & Computer Exp	4 172.70	7 451.73
Workshops & Lectures	1 208.76	0.00
<b>Total General &amp; Admin. Expenses</b>	<b>27 799.61</b>	<b>50 016.10</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>31 536.58</b>	<b>73 501.14</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>4 097.18</b>	<b>98.91</b>



### 2012 – 1 JUNE 2013 AGM ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

#### VITAL STATISTICS

- PAT Eastern Cape (Port Elizabeth) in full swing! 4 members, 4 facilities!
- PAT Limpopo (Polokwane); has 1 active volunteer and 1 dog, 1 facility
- PAT Stellenbosch up to 25 members and 20 facilities!
- PAT Hermanus: newspaper article raises awareness: 4 visitor, 4 dogs, and 4 facilities!
- PAT Cape Town: has 34 active members and 42 facilities!
- PAT Stellenbosch successfully launches our first R.E.A.D project!
- PAT Hermanus has started a weekly activity programme for grade R's in the public library
- PAT Southern Cape (George area); has 6 volunteers, 8 dogs

#### FUNDRAISING

- 2012 Cavendish Square book sale raised R9961.00
- 2012 Somerset West book sale raised R8281.00

#### 2012/2013 PAT FAST FACTS AND FIGURES

- 165 Registered members and PAT friends in SA!
- 60 Registered PAT visiting pets nationally!
- 72 Registered PAT facilities around the country!

#### MEDIA

- Feature on PAT in the Sunday Rapport, Die Burger, Die Beeld & Die Volksblad newspapers
- SABC 3 HECTIC 9 programme for young adults. PAT ably represented by Carol Henshillwood and Genine Shuttleworth accompanied by Boo and Gorgeous Gordon.
- Live interview on HECTIC 9 with Kim Cooper from Peter Pan Downs Syndrome School on their association with PAT and the enormous benefits of having the PAT team of Keith Jones and Tammy visiting their facility regularly
- Presentation to Radio Pretoria and RSG
- Presentations made in Hermanus, Port Elizabeth, George,

## **CHEERIO AND THANKS A MILLION!**

- Joana du Toit and Joe
- Bill & Judy Clifford and Jude & Lucy
- Elmi Lotze and Visu
- Mariana van Wyk and Sebastian
- Tinka Pretorius and Karah
- Sabine Schmid and Nikki
- Kathy Hindon - Jinja, Jethro and Jake
- Daphne Kew and Meg
- Hazel Hill and Taffy

## **TRANSITIONS**

- Pietie, first PAT visitor in Stellenbosch (Marieanna le Roux)
- Eros, devoted PAT visitor from Hermanus (Louise Botha)
- Abigail, devoted PAT and READ visitor from Hermanus (Louise Botha)
- Xena, first PAT visitor in Polokwane (Karin Steenkamp)
- Tara devoted PAT visitor of Ann Saunders and Jenny Ayling
- Ruthie devoted PAT visitor of Beryl Levy
- Tommy devoted PAT visitor of Sabine Schmid
- Sophie devoted PAT visitor of Tony Davidson

## **VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

- Willemien Powell for the use of her guesthouse for our meetings
- Irvan Sammons, from Gauteng, for the donation of R5500 to pay our liability insurance fees for 2013
- Storm Carstens, for unwavering book sale and general assistance!
- SPCA Cape of Good Hope, for taking care of Bobby's leg injury and following up his recovery!
- We are most grateful to the SPCA Cape of Good Hope for their care and treatment of Bobby and Blackie of Includid when they both had to undergo cruciate ligament operations.
- All the PAT volunteers and friends who worked at Somerset West and Cavendish Square book sales
- Bruce McKee, under his guidance the website were changed, the newsletter and electronic mailing systems were developed.
- Bronwynn Douglas and her brother Mark who developed the new website.
- Genine Shuttleworth and her team Dancing with Dogs team for organising many a wonderfully entertaining morning for some of our facilities. They are growing in popularity, and we need more dancing dogs to join in the fun!
- Special thanks to Tielman de Waal, Marieanna, Margie, Bronwynn, Sue, Wilhelmiën, Maureen, Magdie and Louise for stepping in and keeping PAT flag flying.
- Louise Botha for the Whale of Waggle Walk to coincide with the Whale Festival in Hermanus and raise R1,103.00 for PAT.

### **PAT EXCO: 2012**

- Bruce McKee, chair
- Charmaine French
- Avril Cronje
- Margie Wood (treasurer)
- Marieanna le Roux
- Elmi Lotze
- Karen Steenkamp (non-executive)
- Juan August (non-executive)
- Magdie van Heerden (non-executive)

### **PAT EXCO: 2013/2014**

- Marieanna le Roux, chair
- Bronwynn Douglas, Vice-chair
- Sue Joyce, secretary
- Margie Wood, treasurer
- Karen Steenkamp (non-executive)
- Louise Botha (non-executive)
- Magdie van Heerden (non-executive)
- Willemien Powell (non-executive)

### **INTERIM PAT COMMITTEE**

Marieanna le Roux, Willemien Powells, Tielman de Waal, Louise Botha, Maureen Rawlins, Hans Bluhm, Magdie van Heerden, Sue Joyce, Bronwynn Douglas, Margie Wood

### **PAT PATRON**

- Professor Patricia Hartley, MB ChB, FCPaed (SA). (Semi-retired!) Department of Paediatric Surgery, School of Child and Adolescent Health, Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, Cape Town

### **NEW PAT ADVISORY PANEL**

- Taryn Blyth (accredited animal behaviourist and trainer)
- Yolande Ginsberg (accredited animal behaviourist)

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

- Each and every PAT member, their remarkable canine and feline companions, and the dedication shown to making a difference in other people's lives!
- Thank you to the numerous facilities who believed in us, and supported us to such an extent that they were prepared to sign petitions for PAT to continue.



- Heartiest congratulations to Dr Marieanna le Roux on the award of her PhD at Stellenbosch University. The theme of her dissertation: “The effect of an animal-assisted reading program on the reading skills of gr. 3 learners in a Western Cape primary school”.
- **Continuing official affiliation with the “READ’ programme, (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) Intermountain Therapy Animals, USA. There are now 10 x international countries with registered affiliations! (Canada, Spain, Finland, UK, SA, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Italy, Slovenia).**