



Pets as Therapy, South Africa
Official Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting
6 June 2015

Pinelands North Primary School, Pinelands, Cape

1. Welcome and overview

The Master of Ceremonies, Charmaine French, welcomed everyone to the 13th Annual General Meeting, and extended a special welcome for the numerous PAT dogs that were in attendance.

2. Attendance & Apologies

Please see Attachment A for list of attendees and apologies.

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

No objections to the minutes of the AGM held on 7 June 2014, available on the PAT website, were raised. Marieanna le Roux proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Charmaine French and Magdie van Heerden.

4. Chair's Report

Marieanna le Roux welcomed all the volunteers and extended a special welcome to the guest speakers visiting the AGM. The year since the last AGM had been an eventful and positive year and could be measured by the increase in volunteers, new institutions and media coverage the charity has had. Marieanna gave a short summary of the year's events and achievements as follows:

- a) 6 new volunteers had signed up, been assessed and were now official PAT visitors;
- b) 6 new institutions were assessed and approved
- c) 3 new schools signed up to join the R.E.A.D project
- d) a new area coordinator Magdie van Heerden has accepted the Boland area
- e) our new patron is Jenny Morris
- f) PAT had been in the media on several occasions:
 - a. Television:
 - i. SABC 3 "Expresso" presentation with Heidi and Sherri.
 - b. Video:
 - i. The relationships between animals and people with special needs with Magdie van Heerden and Heidi Volmer: video by John Warner

- c. Academic articles
 - i. Child Youth Care Forum, December 2014
 - ii. Tydskrif vir Geesteswetenskappe, June 2015
- d. Talks/events
 - i. Cancer Relay, George
 - ii. Fun Walk, Polokwane
 - iii. Tea Party, Meadowridge
 - iv. Breakfast for Volunteers, Somerset-West
 - v. Library Activity Programme for Grade R's, Hermanus
 - vi. Magie van Heerden, Animal Behaviour Workshops, contact her for further information
- g) Good bye:
 - a. Dogs passing:
 - i. Birdie, devoted PAT visitor of Heidi
 - ii. Jo, devoted PAT visitor of Joana du Toit
 - iii. Betsie, devoted PAT visitor of Rina Nel
 - iv. Rusty, devoted PAT visitor of Bob Campbell
 - v. Chester, devoted PAT visitor of Willemien Powell
 - vi. Kalua, devoted PAT visitor of Carol Rawlins
 - vii. Jigger, devoted PAT visitor of Pat Paulus
 - viii. Flossy, devoted PAT visitor of Nadia Gallerini
 - ix. Baxter, devoted PAT visitor of Lynn McKenzie
- h) Research Projects:
 - a. Intervention at Huis Ebeneser, Cloetesville. Stellenbosch University project and results available by end 2015.
 - b. Qualitative interviews with volunteers (SU Honours student)
 - c. Ongoing intervention at Alta du Toit School, Kuilsrivier.



- d. Autistic School intervention to start with Jean Lewin and Jemma
- i) Other
 - a. Somerset Book Fair, at Somerset Mall 2014, raised just over R9000.
 - b. Cavendish Mall Book Fair raised just over R10 000.
 - c. Avril Cronje for sponsoring the dogfood for the included home
 - d. National Day for the Disabled at UWC attended by Marieanna le Roux, Nici Reed, Mariette du Toit and Avril Cronje to give information about PAT.
 - e. Stellenbosch Wine Race attendance raised R2000.
 - f. The Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club, Somerset-West donated to PAT and Lees-Ukufunda-Read an amount of R15000.
 - g. A blog will be started this year by Julie McFarlane.

5. Guest Speaker: Dr Aileen Pypers

Dr Aileen Pypers is a State Vet, Animal Behaviourist and Lecturer at Elsenburg Klapmuts College and shared insights on how to overcome anxiety and fear in your pet. She provided the attendees of the AGM with information on animal fear /anxiety causes, role that learning and socialisation plays as well as techniques to overcome fear and anxiety in your pet. Lastly, she explained when a professional need to be called and what products are available to pet owners of fearful or anxious pets.

6. PAT Financial Report

Margie Wood presented the unaudited Financial Statement for 2014/2015, attached as Attachment B.

Margie informed members that since Marieanna le Roux has taken up the role of Chair Person the finances has improved through the cooperation of all the volunteers and donations.

In 2014/2015 we made a lot more, and that was down to a lot of services being donated – for example, no charges for the website, for hosting services, donated services by the auditors, Marx Gore, insurance being sponsored by Mr Ivan Sammons at the value of almost R4000 p.a.

Other points raised were as follows:

- a) Income for the period 2014/2015 were R79 000 of which R41 000 were donations. More income is thus derived from donations than any other form of income such as selling t-shirts or membership fees.
- b) The membership fee was to remain at R150 per annum, which is only R12.50 per month. It is very important that members pay their annual fees and only R8500 were collected from members last year. The previous year R11000 were collected. These fees pay for the Public Liability Insurance and members are required to pay membership fees to be covered by this insurance when visiting.
- c) It remains that Friends would not be subject to an annual membership fee, but any donation would be welcomed.
- d) During the year 2014/2015 PAT:
 - a. New stock of branded golf shirts, sweatshirts and bandanas, were bought last year and these costs will now be recovered on sales;
 - b. Took on the services of a part time administrative assistant, at a cost of R5000, to assist the Chair and Vice Chair with various tasks, a student at Stellenbosch Khama Diergaardt;
 - c. Have surplus funds to the value of R31,000 which has enabled the charity to have sufficient funds to continue operating;
- e) Book sales income are now at Woodmill, Stellenbosch and all book donations will be appreciated. This is part of our primary income, please support them once a month.
- f) There is however R9000 outstanding in membership fees – Margie again reiterated the need for members to please pay these as soon as they are due.
- g) During the year 2014/2015 R.E.A.D:
 - a) Margie also mentioned that the READ funds were still kept independent from the main PAT funds, as money had been donated to PAT specifically for the READ project. There is still R7500 remaining in the account.
- h) Margie asked if there were any queries, and a question was raised by Jean Lewin on the outstanding funds. Margie explained that this were membership fees not invoiced, but not yet received. Margie then concluded her presentation as no other questions or queries were raised.



7. Guest Speaker: Johann Theron

Johann Theron, editor of Animaltalk magazine, shared his recent holiday in Botswana where he spent two days with wild dogs, with the PAT members. The talk was aimed at creating a better understanding and awareness about the plight of the ailing numbers of wild dogs. He gave reasons for these ailing numbers and explained that these dogs need vast variety of habitat to roam and hunt.

8. Guest Speaker: Abdul Kadir Palekar

Abdul Kadir Palekar, owner of Doggobone shared his product information with the members of PAT. He reiterated the importance of feeding you pet raw foods and explained how he developed his dog food product over almost five years.

9. PAT Executive Committee and Committee Elections

Charmaine French indicated that Marieanna le Roux, Nici Reed and Margie Wood would stand for re-election for the PAT Executive Committee in accordance with the constitution. The re-election were seconded and an additional EXCO member were nominated for the position of Vice-Chair. Lizelle Openshaw were elected and seconded in accordance with the constitution. Charmaine French thanked resigning member, Bronwyn Douglas for her support and contributions towards PAT and wished her well for the future.

The following appointees were confirmed as the newly elected committee for the period 2015/2016, with no vacancies.

PAT Executive Committee

Dr Marieanna le Roux	Chair
Lizelle Openshaw	Vice Chair
Margie Wood	Treasurer
Nici Reed	Secretary

Pat Non-executive Committee

Dr Karen Steenkamp
Dr Louise Botha
Willemien Pouwel
Dr Magdie van Heerden

The members present accepted the nominations unanimously.

10. Feedback from Research and other projects

- a) Marieanna le Roux shared results from a research project conducted by an Honours student last year. The title of the research project was "As hulle eers my hond sien en huil" The experiences of 10 PAT volunteers (a qualitative study) were noted and reported on. Four main themes were identified and included 1) their personal experiences, 2) actual touching of the dog, 3) their

perceptions of their role, and 4) factors that influence their visits.

Marieanna shared the results briefly and communicated that this research project is available on the PAT website. Marieanna cautioned members doing visits not to engage into any form of therapy as this is not what the intention is, we as PAT members are there for the dog to do its work.

- b) Sherri Ferinha (southern suburbs coordinator) was approached by Diane Shelton of Hills Pet food to participate in an insert for the Espresso Show on SABC 3. Sherri and Heidi participated in the filming which started at Heidi's home and proceeded to Avondrust, Claremont. Sherri provided the PAT members and guests with some interesting feedback from this experience.
- c) R.E.A.D programme feedback was provided by Ms Jo-Ann Phillips, Deputy Head of Oklahoma Street Primary School in Macassar. She extended a warm thank from the teachers, parents and learners for having the R.E.A.D programme in their school. Ms Phillips provided the PAT members with background information about their school and feeding area into the school and the needs that arise from their circumstances. The R.E.A.D. programme not only assist in the reading abilities of the children, but also assist in their self-esteem development. The children look forward to the visits of Juno and those not participating also wish to. Ms Phillips shared a letter written by one learner with the audience.
- d) It was asked that those present at the AGM please consider volunteering or consider people they know who may consider taking on the position.

11. Thank you

Marieanna le Roux thanked the following on behalf of PAT:

- Guest speakers: Lizelle Openshaw thanked Dr Aileen Pypers, Johann Theron, Abdul Kadir Palekar and Ms Jo-Anne Phillips
- The PAT EXCO
 - Nici Reed (secretary)
 - Margie Wood (treasurer)
- Our sponsors for the raffle today
- Mike Wood for the music
- Irvin Summons for paying the insurance on behalf of PAT
- Charmaine French for MC
- Area co-ordinators:
 - Willemien Luckhoff Pouwels (Northern Suburbs)

- Sherri Ferinha (Southern Suburbs)
- Magdie van Heerden (Boland)
- Mariette du Toit (Atlantic Sea Board)
- Lindy Croxford (Deep South)

- Assessors: Yolande Ginsberg, Aileen Pypers and Jorisna Bonthuys.

- Volunteers assisting in the research projects
 - Nici Reed
 - Avril Cronje
 - Rina Nel
 - Elaine Swanepoel
 - Gillian Lay
 - Jean Lewin
 - Barbara Krige
 - Skye Heitman
 - Sue Mees
 - Jude Scott
 - Amanda de Wet
 - Bretchen van Niekerk
 - Lizelle Openshaw
 - Hans Bluhm
 - Britta Morgenhof
 - Christina Eva
 - Aneen Loots

- Students
 - Megan and Anzel for admin and other help



- Raffle – for organising, Mariette du Toit
- Timekeeper – Lizelle Openshaw
- Refreshments – Nici Reed, Lizelle Openshaw, Margie Woods and Jenny Morris
- Pinelands North Primary School for the hall

12. Raffle Prize Draw

Marieanna conducted the raffle prize draw.

13. Adjournment

Charmaine French asked all attendees to please collect books for the book fairs before she brought the meeting to a close.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.30 pm, and all attendees retired for refreshments.

Minutes submitted by: Lizelle Openshaw

Minutes approved by: Marieanna le Roux