



**Pets as Therapy
Annual General Meeting Minutes**

07 November 2020

10:00 – 11:30

Online Format – Google Meet (meet.google.com/vkm-pjxr-rtx)

1	Opening, Welcome & Apologies	Leigh Tucker
	<p>Welcome Message</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video slideshow was played to welcome AGM attendees, showing images from PAT visits, as received by PAT area coordinators • A warm welcome to our first online AGM from the EXCO of PAT. • AGM order of proceedings shared for the attendees. <p>Apologies Magdie van Heerden, Avril Cronje, Karen van Wyk, Jackie James, Dick Crane, Bronwynn Douglas, and Eileen Keogh.</p> <p>Request for a moment of silence and reflection In respect of the challenges and loss we have faced this year due to COVID-19.</p> <p>In Attendance (alphabetical)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Louise Botha 2. Judith Dodds 3. Hettie Geldenhuys 4. Lou May Immelman 5. Sigrid Jeffries 6. Marieanna le Roux 7. Willemien Pouwel 8. Nici Reed 9. Chrisna Richard 10. Karen Steenkamp 11. Roenel Swart 12. Leigh Tucker 13. Margie Wood 	
2	Review of 2019 AGM Minutes	Leigh Tucker
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PDF of the 2019 AGM minutes was shown via the Shared Screen to the AGM attendees and each item was reviewed in brief. • The previous minutes were proposed by Margie Wood and seconded by Hettie Geldenhuys, Nici Reed and Sigrid Jeffries, as per the online chat function. • The minutes of the previous AGM were distributed to conference attendees, and area coordinators, via email. 	
3	Chair's Report	Chrisna Richard
	<p>In March 2020 a national state of emergency was declared and the country went into a hard lockdown. PAT visits was suspended until 2021.</p>	

RESIGNATIONS

- Chrisna Richard – Chairperson (EXCO)
- Karen van Wyk – Membership Secretary (EXCO) and Northern Suburbs Area Coordinator

AREA COORDINATORS: Current Vacancies

- There are vacancies for coordinators in
- Deep South (Charmaine French is still helping)
- Helderberg (Magdie van Heerden is still helping)
- Northern Suburbs
- Boland/Worcester
- West Coast

NEW VOLUNTEERS

- 14 New volunteers since the last AGM in 2019.
- Total number of volunteers countrywide: 104 (not all active)
- Total number of friends countrywide: 98
- Total number of institutions countrywide: 82
- Number of institutions waiting for a volunteer: 59

NEW INSTITUTIONS

- 5 new institutions.
- SA Children's Home (Atlantic Seaboard)
- Panorama Palms (Northern Suburbs)
- Uitsig Old Age Home (Northern Suburbs)
- Stikland Hospital (Northern Suburbs)
- Paarl School (Northern Suburbs)

EVENTS/NEWS (2019/2020)

- Assessments of new dogs/volunteers were done by Magdie van Heerden at Huis Horison. 14 dogs were assessed from June 2019 to February 2020.
- Nici Reed (Freya), Marieanna le Roux (Anna) visited Huis Franci van Zyl on the Medical campus of the US.
- Karen van Wyk, Hettie Geldenhuys (Snippie) and Tene Verwey (Abi) attended the UWC Mental Health Day in October 2019.
- Student visits continued at Den Bosch on the Stellenbosch campus
- Our website is under reconstruction, but our Facebook and Twitter accounts are active. We hope to see the website up and running soon.
- This year's AGM is an online event, a first for many.
- The DSD report was submitted
- A new association with Lucy Breytenbach, an animal behaviourist, was formed and she will be assisting PAT with assessment of potential therapy dogs.
- PAT made a donation towards the training of a medical alert dog (Honey's Garden Medical Alert Dogs) and are also sponsoring Lucy, towards her work in this area.
- Megan Durant and Ace represented PAT at the Cape Dog Handlers Event.
- Leigh Tucker attended the Annual Animal Rescuer Conference on 30-31 August 2019.
- Leigh Tucker attended the Cape Town Animal Conference on 14-15 September 2019, and presented a paper on ethical considerations related to the involvement of emotional support animals and therapy animals.

DOGS PASSING

- Shade, devoted dog of Elaine
- Mojo, devoted dog of Sandra
- Callie, devoted dog of Celine
- Gus, devoted dog of Roxy
- Sasha, devoted dog of Pam

	<p>FUNDRAISING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>October 2019</u>: PAT Volunteers and Friends of PAT (Marieanna le Roux, Joana du Toit, and Nici Reed) assisted the Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club with moving vehicles from Lourensford to Hermanus as part of the Wine 2 Whales cycle event. The team raised R6900 for PAT for their efforts. • <u>October 2019</u>: Marieanna le Roux (Anna) and Dick Crane (Trixie) visit Bridge House School's Wellness day and received a donation of R800 for PAT <p>PERSONAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leigh had a baby boy, Heath. • Marieanna le Roux had an operation and is recovering well. • Nici Reed relocated to Knysna • One of our dogs, Moyo (Gwen Burgess), had to retire due to poor health <p>FINAL NOTE</p> <p><i>I would like to thank every one of our volunteers and our therapy dogs for their time and effort they put into PAT. Most of our volunteers have full time jobs but still manage to visit and bring joy into people's life's. We must never underestimate the therapeutic value of interacting with animals on people's life's.</i></p> <p><i>These past two years were like a roller-coaster for me on a personal level, therefor my resignation as chair. I strongly believe in Animal assisted therapy and will keep on supporting PAT in what they do. Thank you for the EXCO for supporting me and picking up where I was falling through the cracks, especially Leigh and Karen. Everything of the best for the new EXCO.</i></p>
4	<p>EXCO and Committee Elections Judith Dodds</p>
	<p><u>EXCO</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson: Leigh Adams Tucker • Vice Chairperson: Willemien Pouwels • Membership: Hettie Geldenhuys • Treasurer/Finance: Margie Wood • All nominees voted in unopposed. <p><u>Non-EXCO</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The same Non-Executive members are standing for re-nomination. • New nominees include Marieanna le Roux, Nici Reed and Chrisna Richards. • All nominees voted in unopposed.
5	<p>Financial Report Margie Wood</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audited Financials (PDF document) were shared on-screen during the presentation. • The last financial year was audited (2019/20) and the reports are available on Dropbox. • Last year we brought in R36 611. • Interest earned on investment is R8637. Surplus of R29 000 for the year. • Biggest expense for 2019/20 was the annual insurance. Insurance could not be put on hold despite COVID-19. • Donation of R20 000 towards Honey's Garden, which included R10 000 donation towards the training of one dog and R10 000 towards the development of the training centre. • Expenses included payment for various people to attend seminars, minimal expenses. • Minimal expenses in 2020, to date. For this year, we have theoretically brought in R16 620. <p>Impact of COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to COVID-19 and lockdown, many members have not been visiting. Can they still be expected to pay their membership fees? Debtors outstanding is currently R8500.

- Members of the EXCO have to pay their membership fees.
- Many PAT members say they were happy to donate their membership fees for this year.
- PAT to make a final decision in February 2021 regarding the recoup of finances.

Opportunities were provided to ask questions.

- Willemien Pouwels: My membership has expired. Email pwillemien@gmail.com. Please email details, then I can EFT.
- Lou-May Immelman: I'm reluctant to write off "debt"; but understand the need to be kind and understanding... one more attempt to collect?
- Leigh Tucker: Many thanks to Margie for her years of selfless service to PAT.

6	Taking PAT forward into 2021 and beyond...	Leigh Tucker
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Vote of Thanks

- Chrisna Richard – thank you for your gentle way in guiding PAT, and appreciating the contributions of everyone to ensure the running of the organisation.
- Karen van Wyk – many thanks for all the hard work as Membership Secretary and area coordinator.

Updates

- Suspension of PAT operations until January 2021, as per previous communication to members
- Volunteers are not pressured by PAT to resume visits.
- Communication will be issued by PAT as to the way forward in January 2021, as per the guidelines issued by our National Government.
- Institutions to issue written requests for PAT members to resume visits.
- Volunteers and area coordinators are to inform about these resumed visits

New Volunteer Assessments

- Still receiving requests for new assessments
- Provisional Date: December 2020 in Stellenbosch with Magdie van Heerden (Date and Venue TBC)

Reminder of Area Coordinator Vacancies (as discussed previously)

Website

- The PAT website is transitioning to a new platform.
- Open to suggestions for design and content.

Revising PAT Documentation

- Revising language of key documents, i.e. pet/owners vs animal companions
- Drawing up job descriptions for the various roles at PAT.

Volunteer Name Tags and Renewal of Registration

- Continue to produce volunteer name tags
- Looking at ways to integrate technology, i.e. QR codes to streamline volunteer records

New Merchandise

- Hettie is currently sourcing new suppliers and quotes
- Requests for volunteers to clarify missing orders
- Reminder about the availability of branded PAT face masks
- New offerings, such as a PAT-branded saddle-bag/waist band to hold dog treats/poop bags.

	<p>Psychoeducation Resources and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop training for volunteers (either in person or online) • Hosted by guest speakers on a range of topics • Examples: what to consider when visiting a dementia or frail care unit; or looking out for stress in our animal companions. <p>Bursary to study animal behaviourism or related field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New idea that we are thinking of, to offer a bursary for a young applicant who wishes to study animal behaviourism • Successful candidate to assist with behavioural assessments (practicum). • PAT would require feedback and guidance regarding logistics. 	
7	Volunteer Feedback	General
	<p>Vote of Thanks To Leigh from Margie Wood and Chrisna Richard</p> <p>Louise Botha (Hermanus Area Coordinator): Currently expanding the region to include the greater Overberg area, to provide greater mobilisation for PAT.</p> <p>Karen Steenkamp (Polokwane Area Coordinator): Region expanding well, but had to delay the progress due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Comments generated from the Chat Transcript</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hettie Geldenhuys: Excellent idea to do regular training and brain storming for PAT members. • Willemien Pouwels: Yes, agree, training and sharing experience and tips would be wonderful • Karen Steenkamp: Workshop/ training for volunteers supported • Lou-May Immelman: Would like to find out how much time area volunteering requires; might put my hand up for Deep South; would also like a mask; and contribute to discussion for bursary. 	
8	Close and Vote of Thanks	Leigh Tucker
	<p>Vote of Thanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A special thanks for everyone to joining in this digital space. • Thanks so Judith Dodds for officiating the Elections • Welcome to Hettie and Williemien to the EXCO for 2021. • A special thanks to the volunteers and the working dogs, the EXCO, the area coordinators, and the assessors. 	