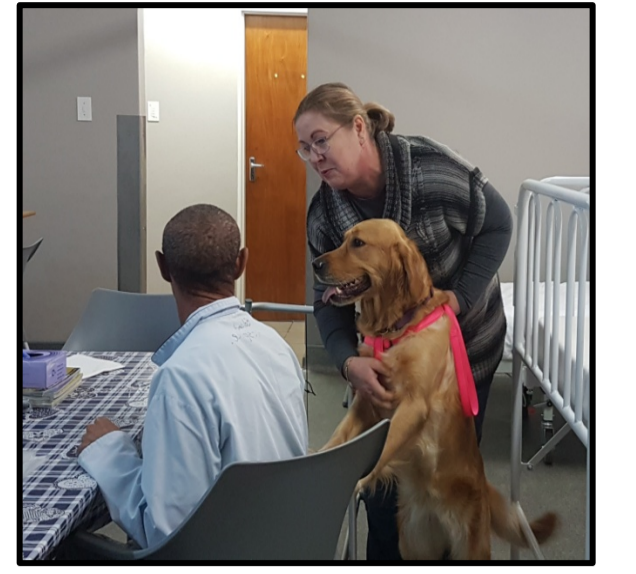




Humane Education and Inclusion: A South African Case Study



“Humane Education and Inclusion: A South African Case Study” is a collaboration with Louise van der Merwe (Humane Education Trust SA, Somerset West, South Africa) and Magdie van Heerden (Human-Animal Interaction Practitioner/Veterinary Social Worker, Cape Town, South Africa):

- works hand in hand with the project “The Five Freedoms for Animals”
(Freedom from hunger and thirst
Freedom from discomfort
Freedom from pain, injury and disease
Freedom to express normal behaviour
Freedom from fear and distress),

for which HET SA received a grant of US\$10 000.00 for research on the efficacy of humane education from the Latham Foundation (USA) (‘for academic research to be conducted on the efficacy of our programme in the Foundation Phase at a selection of schools in South Africa. The Project would be for a one-year period. It will be conducted by a researcher hired for purposes of this Project. The aim is to select schools and to choose a total of 20 classes’);

- and with workshops for ‘animal assisted therapy’ (Magdie van Heerden).

The purpose of this (largely empirical) research project is to apply humane and animal-centred pedagogy and instruction within inclusive educational settings. The understanding of inclusion that is at work here is a broad one that comprises

- enabling/empowering those with cognitive and physical disabilities, as well as
- enabling/empowering those who have been historically disenfranchised and, given the stark socio-political and economic context of present-day South Africa, have remained marginalised.

The discussion and practices of inclusion within humane and animal-centred education concerns, amongst other things, interspecies justice and environmental justice (i.e. justice within the social as well as the natural environments), and related concepts and virtues such as caring, empathy, environmental awareness, and the like.

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