

Putting your money to excellent use

Our new anaesthetic machine is something to boast about, thanks to our generous donors

Animals Matter Langeberg (AML) is the proud owner of a state-of-the-art Canadian Dispomed Moduflex Access2 gas anaesthetic machine. Now, many will wonder why on earth would anyone get excited about an anaesthetic machine.

If you have ever been in an operating theatre and someone stopped breathing for whatever reason, and you see the magic a gas anaesthetic machine can do you will understand. Applying intravenous anaesthesia is a science and not for the faint-hearted. Dr Colin Skinner, AML's resident vet, explains that although we have coped quite well with the smaller tabletop model that we have used for many years we are growing.

Busy, busy, busy

"Circumstances have changed. We normally have two veterinarians operating side-by-side in the theatre, but only one of the patients can be under gaseous anaesthesia," he notes.

"Due to the increasing throughput of surgical patients and some issues with those on intravenous anaesthesia only, it had long been a desire for us to obtain a second gas anaesthetic machine for patients on the second table."

AML has been blessed with incredibly generous donations and sponsorship in recent times. "So, we thought we might transform our needs into practice and buy another machine," says Dr Colin. This is a great asset and money well spent in our endeavour to be of service to the local indigent population.

Peace of mind

"AML needs a mobile anaesthetic machine, with its own attached oxygen supply, that could be used in any of our three rooms for different procedures, but also in emergencies." Dr Colin explains that the machine can be used for all sizes and weights of patients from small cats to large dogs for all general anaesthesia without any modification.

Our older model requires adjustment for animals under 10kg.

The new machine has visual inspiration and expiration sensors, making monitoring of anaesthesia much easier and safer, and it has a built-in alarm that sounds when there is a failure in the patient's respiration, alerting the anaesthetist immediately. "Now all our patients needing anaesthetics will receive the safest anaesthetics available."

Top-end machine

It is a sophisticated piece of equipment connected to a cylinder of medical oxygen – so no fear when there is loadshedding. The operator regulates the pressure and volume which then forces the oxygen through a controlled vaporiser containing the isoflurane anaesthetic agent. This comes out at the rate and volume set by the anaesthetist and is connected to an endotracheal tube which has been inserted into the trachea of the patient.

The gas anaesthetises the patient. Upon expiration the patient blows out carbon dioxide together with the spent isoflurane. This passes through adsorbent soda lime which removes the

carbon dioxide, allowing the remaining isoflurane to re-enter the vaporiser and mix with new stock to repeat the cycle. Once the anaesthetic machine is switched off the connection to the endotracheal tube is disconnected allowing the patient to breathe normal fresh air again and gently recover from the procedure.

AML is able to treat many diseases, provide vaccinations, parasite control as well as performing surgery for injuries, fractures and other conditions. "Our work mainly encompasses the sterilisation of dogs and cats which markedly reduces the number of homeless pets struggling to survive on the streets of our towns. We want to believe that the absence of many stray animals in our town is due to the success of the AML campaigns," says Dr Colin.



The operator and the surgeon. Lesley Beviss-Challinor and Dr Colin Skinner with our new asset.

From our chair: "An exciting 2024"

AML is off to a really good start with some exciting things lined up for the year ahead. Our financial position for the year is sound and we want to thank all our generous sponsors and supporters for making this possible.

Our first event will be in April at Montagu Nature Garden and we hope to see all of you there. This will be followed by another movie and quiz night later in the year. So start filling up that general knowledge tank.

We have a new community service vet and it is full steam ahead with our sterilisation drive and our weekly steries at AML's clinic in Long Street. We remain committed to assist our communities in and around Montagu and Bonnievale.

We look forward to a new year full of opportunities and we trust that with your support we will continue to make a difference.

Hilton.



Behind the scenes support



1. How long have you been with AML?

I have been with them since inception in 2019.

2. How did you get involved with AML?

My sister-in-law, Louise, introduced me to the founding members, Lesley Beviss-Challinor and the AML vet at the time, Yvonne Robson. Together with Hilton Preston, our chair, we established AML. I am not as hands-on in the field and clinic, but assist with the marketing, fundraising and office-based work.

3. Where does your love for animals come from?

I grew up with dogs and then also became a cat mom. When we moved to Montagu we adopted our two dogs. My love for animals extends beyond domestic animals to wildlife and birds.

4. Tell us about your animals?

We have a Golden Retriever, Flinty. He belonged to friends and when they immigrated, we adopted him. We found Harley at the SPCA, but she went over the rainbow bridge in December. We have three cats: Ziggy, Prince and Sunny. They share our space with five chickens and a fish. The chickens go by a range of names including Rosie, Cupcake, Snowflake, but no one really knows. The fish, quite originally, is called Goldie.

5. What is the best part of being a pet owner?

Always having someone to talk to and cuddle!

6. Do you take your pets on holiday with you?

Harley was an escape artist hunter. We are now starting to take Flinty with us and he will have his first camping trip soon!

7. Why is AML important for Montagu?

There is an incredible need for awareness in the poorer communities about basic animal health care. Many illnesses and conditions are treatable if detected early and their spread can be contained. We need to increase the awareness of the need for sterilization. Unwanted animals are a massive problem. Owing a pet can be very empowering, but people need to know how to take proper care of their pets to ensure their health and well-being.

8. What does AML mean for you?

This gives me an opportunity to give back to the community of Montagu and to contribute to animal well-being.

9. Your message to Montagu pet owners?

Be responsible and regularly treat your animals for ticks and fleas, deworm them and provide shelter, food, and water. If you can afford a pet, adopt rather than purchase from breeders.

10. Do you have a favourite animal?

My favourite is the African Wild Dog. They are magnificent animals, unique in their markings, they are exceptional hunters, and critically endangered.

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Left: Vanessa with Flinty.

Below: Rebekah (who is making sure Flinty is not going anywhere), Olivia and Vanessa enjoying a lovely summer's day.



It is going to be a jam-packed 2024.



From fundraising events to involving the local community about animal care are priorities.

There are several fundraiser events on the horizon, and they all promise to offer loads of fun for the whole family. But we will be in remiss to start the year without thanking some of our loyal donors for their recent incredible generosity and support.

A special thank you goes to Climb4Hope who once again made us a beneficiary of their fundraiser towards the end of last year. AML received R34,000 of what was raised during the event.

We are quite overwhelmed by the donation from the estate of late Sheila Doubell. This donation is going to relieve a lot of pressure for our small organisation. It is a reminder to many of us to nominate the charity of our choice in our last will and testament. This is such a powerful way of giving back and making sure your footprint on this beautiful place we call earth leaves a memorable mark. And it makes a lot of tax sense!

More unselfish donations include R5,000 from “Animal Lover”, “Andreaville” (R5,000), Jenny Kennedy (R2,000) and a regular monthly contribution of R3,000 from Glen Serralha. You are all superheroes.

The 2024 line-up

Our event line-up for the year includes a charity music concert and art day at the Montagu Nature Garden, a movie night at the Odeon in the KWV building and our regular quiz evening. Ian Milln is organising the charity music concert and has confirmed 27 April as the date.

Ian himself, the Montagu Acapella Choir, and another artist (to be confirmed) will perform. The idea is to pack a picnic and enjoy the music and art in a beautiful space. The Montagu Art Association will “piggy-back” on the event with artwork on sale

again and the proceeds will go to non-profit organisations in our community. AML is one of the chosen charities that will benefit from the event. Tickets will be on sale and details will follow soon.

Our movie night and our quiz evening will take place after July, but we will alert you to the dates well in advance. Our important Annual General Meeting will again be towards the end of the year, and we truly hope you will come and support us.

Clinic challenges

It has been a bit of a stop-start to our weekly Thursday sterilisations at Mainee’s Clinic in Long Street.

We said goodbye to Dr Sadiyya Dhan who finished her community service year and said hello to Dr Coenie Bignaut who will be joining us for the year.

Our resident vet, Dr Colin Skinner and Dr Coenie had some exciting events that kept them away from the clinic.

Colin went on an exquisite cruise onboard the Queen Victoria, but was unfortunately one of the 140 people who were confined to their cabins for a few days after falling ill. He is slowly returning to his vivacious self again.

Our efforts to kick start the AML education drive in our schools in and around Montagu and Bonnievale has been quite disappointing. Lesley Beviss-Challinor, our secretary, has done a marvellous job last year in educating our young ones about the importance of caring for a pet.

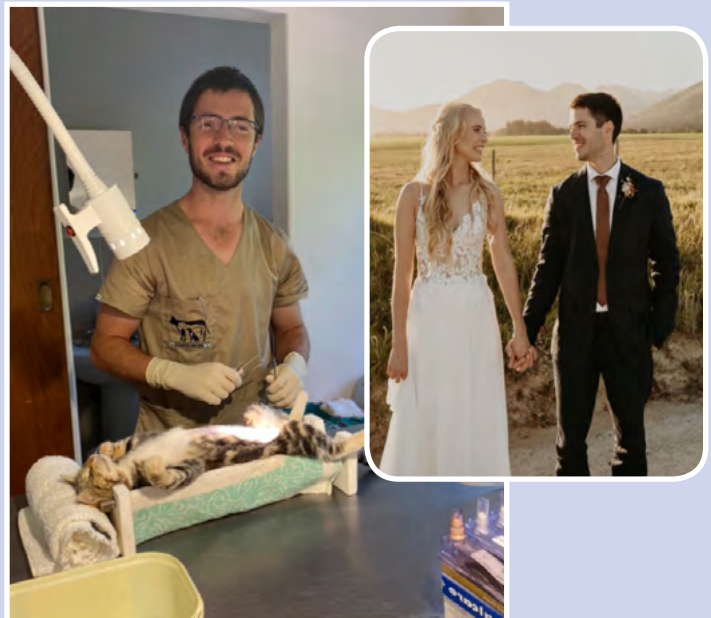
She has contacted five schools in Montagu and Bonnievale, but not one has responded. We are not giving up.

A reminder to many of us to nominate the charity of our choice in our last will and testament.



Top: Dr Colin Skinner and his partner Larry Ridler on board the luxury cruise liner.

Right: Dr Coenie Bignaut, all hands-on since the first day. Insert: getting married to the love of his life, Elna, who is also a veterinary surgeon.



How YOU can help us

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The Clinic during Steri-Day.



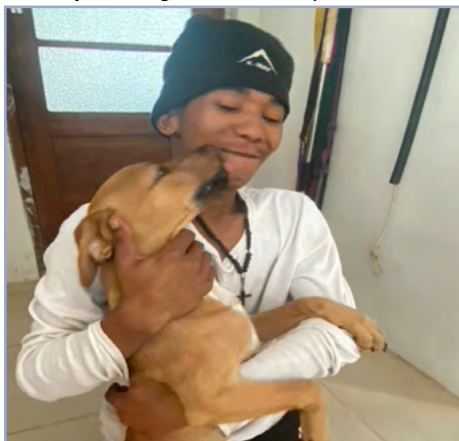
Clinic assistant Marlin Pieters is becoming quite resourceful during sterilisation days.



Keeping it hygienic.



Poor Jats. Lights out.



Marlin Pieters getting a kiss from Andy.



Around the table in the prep room. Drs Coenie Blignaut and Sadiyya Dhan on the hand-over day with Marlin Pieters watching Lesley Beviss-Challinor getting the patient ready.

Use our SnapScan, GivenGain or PayFast accounts. Contact us on 076 578-4234 or email animalsmatterlangeberg@gmail.com
ABSA - AML Current Account # 409 672 6161

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Would you like to get involved with AML, make a donation, or become a member?

Call us on 076 578 4234 or email us on animalsmatterlangeberg@gmail.com

"Dogs are better at being people than people are at being people."

– Ricky Gervais, Comedian

Do YOU have a story about an animal that changed your life?

Contact Amanda Visser at:
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