

Animals Matter Langeberg

Newsletter | January 2026



"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Mahatma Gandhi



A message from our President

Hilton Preston



Another eventful year has passed, and the small but dynamic team of volunteers at Animals Matter Langeberg (AML) continues to achieve remarkable accomplishments. At the heart of our organisation are our three field workers, carrying out the difficult work that few are willing to take on. Their challenges are immense - both in how they are treated within the community and in the distressing conditions they often witness.

You may wonder what keeps them motivated. It is the simple knowledge that their efforts make a profound difference. Seeing animals' health improve is reward enough. These unsung heroes have achieved something truly exceptional: during 2025, they treated roughly 800 animals, handling everything from vaccinations and de-worming to distemper, tick and flea treatments, and any other care required at the time. This number does not even include the 381 animals sterilised this year - an impressive achievement, though sadly still not enough to keep pace with the ongoing rise in

unwanted litters. The constant influx of puppies remains heart-breaking, and while education is always central to our work, our message is not always heard.

None of this would be possible without the community's financial support and donations of items such as blankets and food.

Soon, we will be saying goodbye to our dedicated resident veterinarian, Dr Colin Skinner. We have been blessed with many years of his expertise, commitment, and generosity, and we are deeply grateful for his service to animals in need. We wish him well. We also warmly welcome Dr Keri Beviss-Challinor as our incoming principal veterinarian.

The clinic we currently operate from will soon no longer be available to us. Until that day arrives, we remain extremely grateful to Peter Sinovich for the use of his rooms at the Montagu Nursery. After many challenges, we believe we have finally found a new base of operations and will keep our supporters updated as plans progress.

The AML team approaches 2026 with great enthusiasm, determined to continue improving the quality of life for animals in our region. Thank you to all our supporters who make our work possible. We look forward to engaging with you this year.

Thousands of sterilisations done, thousands still to go!

Lesley Beviss-Challinor



In 2025 our hard-working voluntary field workers have continued to make a huge impact in our areas.

We are continually grateful to our supervising vet Dr. Colin Skinner, who despite health issues, has soldiered on and continued to provide an invaluable service for the less fortunate pets in our community. Not only has he done many sterilisations, nearly every Thursday morning, but he has also gone over and above our intended mission. He has attended to dog bite wounds, stab wounds, abscesses, fractures, tumours and haematomas to mention but a few. He is truly a wonderful surgeon with a big heart.



To date, AML has completed 2 735 pet sterilisations. However, we feel it is just the tip of an iceberg. If the municipality continues to ignore their own bylaws, welfare societies will simply never be able to keep up. The best we can do is to educate the public and improve the lives of the animals that we do manage to reach and treat.

The Passion

A huge thanks go to Toni, Mie and Ronell for their consistent and passionate interest for pets throughout Montagu. They visit the township of Ashbury every week, giving out advice, pet food, treatments when necessary, and generally educating pet owners on how to improve their animals' living conditions.



The main mission, of course, is to sterilise as many animals in the community as possible. This means collecting and returning the pets for sterilisation and then aftercare checkups. Hats off to you three!

A special Mandela day vaccination programme was also carried out in Mountain View, Ashbury, recently, which brought many owners and dogs to our table. Many were signed up for sterilisation, and this gave the team extra work, but it has been done! You guys are stars!

Unfortunately, we have recently lost the assistance of Ronell, who decided to step down as the work and constant phone calls just became too much. She is having a well-deserved rest.

Our clinic

We are still hugely grateful to Peter and Renate Sinovich, who let us use three rooms of their nursery house for our clinic. Mainee's Clinic is named after Peter's very dear mother Charmain.

We have been in their home for three years, but Peter has informed us that his plans are changing which means we will have to find new premises. Easier said than done. We have been exploring all possibilities for a year now, and still have not been able to move. Thank you for your ongoing patience, Peter and Renate.

AML has recently initiated a new strategy to continue our mission of pet sterilisations. We have held several big spayathons during the year. Many thanks to all the vets that offer their services on these days and especially to Dr. Keri Beviss-Challinor, who has done most of the work for us. Dr. Keri is also prepared to take over the supervision of the AML clinic and the Animal Welfare Assistants (myself and Toni) when Dr. Colin feels the need to step down.



Education

Education is another main aim of AML. This is on-going on our visits to the community, where we advise owners about pet primary health care. It sometimes seems unbelievable that many pet owners cannot apply the necessary health care routine their pets need - the correct food and enough of it, deworming, parasite control, inoculations and treatment for injuries. However, after advice from our team, many do try to do the right thing for their pets.

Unfortunately, not many schools were visited this year, partly due to work pressure on our side and lack of volunteers, but mainly due to the schools simply not responding to our requests to visit. I think the teachers are just too busy trying to keep up with the curriculum to fit us in. It is high time that animal welfare became a permanent part of school education.



Our friends

We are also grateful for continued support and assistance from our sister welfare organisations, namely Friends of Care from McGregor, and John Moore Animal Welfare from Robertson.

We have been capturing many of our highlights over the years. A voluminous photo album reflects the work that goes into the spayathons and the many pets we have treated and sterilised. It also features many unnamed volunteers who have worked with us over the years - quietly and steadily in the background.

Many thanks must go to SAVA (South African Veterinary Association) who, if we do our homework this side, helps find sponsors for most of our sterilisation patients. Also huge thanks to all our other donors and supporters. When we put out appeals for help, whether it be monetary, for pet food, for blankets, sandwiches for spayathons, accommodation for vets and nurses, help with cleaning our cries are always heard and answered. For this we are extremely grateful.



Thank you all for your continued support!

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