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Animals Matter Langeberg has been working with the Montagu Crisis Management Team (MCMT) in collecting and distributing food to those in need in Ashbury for their beloved pets. We have had tremendous support from Montagu Residents and further afield for financial donations and donations of pet food and even blankets. Donations were collected, repacked into 1.2kg packs of dog food and 800g packs of cat food and distributed according to a carefully managed list of beneficiaries.

What worked well for the AML team was having dedicated central people in Ashbury to serve as drop off points and they did the distribution on our behalf. They knew exactly which animals needed food and were also able to communicate with us if any animals needed further help or were being neglected in anyway. A further benefit to this was having the “eyes” on the ground to help us identify animals that had health problems, mange (brandsiekte) or were infested with other parasites. We were able to give the advice needed as well as primary vet care.



Thanks to those who have donated to AML’s Ditch the Itch - Fight the Mite campaign we have been



able to treat the animals with mange. We have kept a close eye on puppies and mommy dogs in the area and signed many females up for future sterilisations. We were also able to vaccinate and deworm a number of puppies before they left their moms. Unfortunately, we see many very young pups, that have been removed (stolen or sold) at about 4/5 weeks. If the mother has worms, the pups will definitely be infected as worms are transferred before birth and through the milk and of course with any close contact with the mother. Pups can be dewormed from the age of 2 weeks and it is important to deworm mum at the same time. If the mother has had inoculations (which is very rare in the community) then the pups can be vaccinated at about 8 weeks of age with another two vaccinations at 4 weeks interval.

We only hope that the new owners are aware of how important future vaccinations and deworming is. We do educate and talk to puppy owners whenever we are in Ashbury but the constant factor for non-vaccinated puppies is the lack of income as well as information.

Through the Montagu Crisis Management Team and the generous donations we gave out the following food in April and May specifically to aid those who had lost income due to lockdown:

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| 8 April | 114 dog packs and 32 cat packs |
| 10 April | 110 dog packs and 12 cat packs |
| 14 April | 78 dog packs |
| 16 April | 80 dog packs and 29 cat packs |
| 20 April | 108 dog packs and 42 cat packs |
| 24 April | 28 dog packs and 6 cat packs |
| 25 April | 120 dog packs and 16 cat packs |
| 28 April | 110 dog packs and 15 cat packs |
| 5 May | 90 dog packs and 10 cat packs |
| 9 May | 118 dog packs |
| 11 May | 50 dog packs and 5 cat packs |
| 13 May | 88 dog packs and 12 cat packs |
| 19 May | 172 dog packs and 31 cat packs |
| 20 May | 80 dog packs and 8 cat packs |
| 25 May | 120 dog packs and 16 cat packs |

This adds up to a total of 1466 dog packs which is 1760kg of dog food. The total for the cats is 234 packs which is 190kg. This has continued in June and we will update you on the figures next month.

The support has not only been in Montagu. Some volunteers have been keeping a weekly vigil in Plakkerskamp in Bonnievale to assist with food distribution and helped support most of the families which amount to almost 60. We have also assisted with several "accidents" no doubt due to the frustrations of being locked up. There were two stab / bite wounds that were stitched and treated, a toe that was amputated and quite a few mange and parasite problems that needed attention.

During the time of lockdown we have been continuing with sterilisations in our clinic in Ashton and have done over 100 sterilisations.

In addition to the food, there are a number of dogs who would love a kennel and some foam or carpet to lie on – if you have anything to donate or some great ideas or thoughts please let us know.

We want to thank Montagu Residents for their ongoing support!

