



COLORS

Project Collar's

Street Dog Project



2011 AIM: ~ To teach the families in the disadvantaged area of Silvertown Thembaletu, how to care for and nurture their dogs plus teach children to be kind to animals ~

In addition to our COLORS children programming, we are also educating local people living in informal settlements on the importance of feeding and nurturing their dogs. We have started planting the idea spaying and neutering, a culturally sensitive idea and with your help we hope to expand this project to other community sites in Klein Krants and Hornless Knysna.

Community members who chose to participate in the program, get a chance to rehab their dogs back to better health with the support of our COLORS Project Collars team. We stress the importance of providing clean water and food for the dogs, getting them treatment for Mange and other parasite ailments with a Veterinary wash plus we get the dogs their initial shots. Nutritional information is provided and advice on how to train the dogs and keep their tails wagging! The people are truly amazed to see their dogs after just 7-10 days of rehabbing, as they come home full of life and full of fur! After our rehabbing program family's have started naming there dogs and respecting them more ten ever before.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are running this project off personal donations sent to us by dog lovers like you. STOP SUFFERING!



(“BEFOR”)

- ❖ 300Rand (\$30) a month will treat the village dogs and puppies against Fleas / Ticks and Mange to prevent them getting life threatening billary and infections. We also provide the village leaders and dog owners with anti-flea and tick grass pellets so the families don't get the bugs in their homes and beds! We then supply a generous amount of dog food to two project sites for distribution to dogs and families involved in this project.
- ❖ We want to get these dogs fixed! No more puppies staving and being abused..you can help stop the cycle! (R250 EACH DOG)
- ❖ We find homes for dogs that have no home...please help us make them look and feel their best so people will adopt them.
- ❖ Please donate what you can, drop off dog food or offer to rehab a dog at your home!



(“AFTER”)

To be apart of this project please contact: sunyatachoyce@gmail.com, www.projectcolors.com

Sylvie's Projects Collars---why it's all worth it
By Sylvie Furlong

Seeing results after all of our hard work definitely makes having my flip flops chewed up, garden dug up and nights disturbed by woofing, all worth it!



The Street Dog programme has proved to be a great success, with four dogs rehabbed so far and one re-homed , we are about to take on another two dogs . The two I had for 10 days 'Nieke' and 'Zulu' have transformed into unrecognisable dogs, both Sunyata and I were gobsmacked when they came running up to us this week in Thembaletu, they both now have a full glossy coat and no more red open sores, they have filled out nicely and are mange free.

This is such a difference from when we first picked them up, they were both very nervous whimpering in the back of the car and only had small tufts of fur and blood previously on their bodies. Zulu's skin was extremely red and she was covered in cuts and sores and Nieke's face was very scarred from where she had scratched at the Mange. However despite their slightly strange looks, we became very attached to them as they began to settle down and enjoy their long walks on the beach, chasing seagulls and barking at every approaching wave. Within the ten days I was shocked how much their skin improved with the redness disappearing and being replaced with soft fur. After just two days of receiving treatment for Mange (an injection and being bathed in the Veterinary wash) their constant scratching stopped. But the biggest surprise was when we revisited the dogs two weeks after returning them to their owners. I was delighted to see that the locals had been continuing with the dog rehabilitation program by feeding them daily with the dog food we provided and bathing them weekly in the Mange wash. Nica a friend from Holland...as well as family in the UK have given us money to help as much as we can... The community have also begun to treat many of the other mange suffering dogs and even building them dog houses to sleep in. There is also a constant water supply provided for the dogs now, and the way the locals handle the dogs has improved no end with them understanding that they must be gentle and patient with the dogs.



After visiting Alice's Crèche recently I was really disturbed by the state of six four week old puppies all whom were infested with fleas. Both Sunyata and I had never seen anything like it and the puppies were screeching as the fleas ate away at their skin. The puppies were yelping with pain from the lice covering their whole bodies....Sunyata and Alice quickly bathed all of the puppies in a Veterinary wash designed to kill the fleas, but we knew that this was only a temporary prevention as soon as the puppies went back outside the fleas would return. This however was a wake up call, and has lead us to start a new program, one which Alice has happily taken on. We have given Alice pellets to be distributed around the local area, they treat the ground and kill both fleas and ticks stopping both the people and dogs from being bitten. We have also provided Alice with Flea powder to apply to all of the dogs in the community.

Our latest rehabilitated dog, Puffin did not have an owner in the community so after treating her for Mange and socializing her with other dogs and people she found herself a new home at Jacko and Meisse's from Europe's new house in Wilderness. We are extremely pleased that she has found a new loving home and am sure she will be very happy. She went from having no fur...a bone raw tail, dried blood shriveled ears, terrified of humans... to now living in luxury, cooked rice and chicken dinners plus a plush pillow for sleeping in her new kind and wonderful new owners room.



If only everything could end this way....

NOVA'S STORY- Love thy dog

By Ali Barnim

Our first day volunteering at Alice's crèche in Thembaletu involved a very long walk to an ocean viewpoint with all 15 toddlers. On our way back, we were so exhausted and dehydrated that we stopped at a little farmhouse that gave us water. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw movement and at first I thought it was a mouse. But when I turned my head to get a better look, I noticed the "mouse" was actually a small puppy, struggling to move through the tall grass. He had no hair and his frail bones were popping out of his scabby skin and my heart sank. Alice told me that puppy was sick and would probably die within days.



I couldn't get the image of the puppy out of my head. I really wanted to help him. I told Sunyata about the puppy and that's when Project COLLARS came back to life again. We decided to save the puppy. I would commit to rehabbing it daily, so we sprang into action. We drove back to the farmhouse and with Alice translating, we asked the owner of the puppy, a skinny old man of 80 with few teeth, if we could take the puppy for 3 weeks to rehabilitate him. He agreed reluctantly (not really quite sure if he trusted us). We wrapped him in a blanket and took him back to Sunyata's home. The poor thing could hardly move, but was shaking uncontrollably. With further inspection, we noticed he had Mange, a deadly skin disease, no hair, about 50 ticks in him and was covered in fleas!

Immediately, we pulled all the ticks out, gave him a bath and fed him. I've never seen a puppy eat so fast! It was like he hadn't eaten since mother's milk. I named him "Nova" for Nova Scotia and was instantly in love with him. The next day, we travelled to George where there is a free clinic, and we got his Mange shots. Typically in South Africa, since the townships are overrun with stray dogs and cats, they are put down right away. No one seems to care about the lives of these animals. They give up on them. But we fought for Nova!

His condition improved significantly! By the second week, his hair was starting to grow back, he began barking (which wasn't always a good thing!), and started playing more. Nova was becoming a happy healthy puppy. I even taught him how to fetch. He still continued to receive his mange shots on a weekly basis. By week three, we were feeling confident that he would survive and finally the day came where we had to take him back. I was sad to let him go but happy he would have a big farm to run around on and owners that cared about him.

We took him back to the farm and Nova's owner was thrilled to see him! He told Alice he didn't believe we would come back. He was forever grateful and held Nova very close to him. We gave him a bag of dog food, explained to him how to properly care for the dog and left.

A few weeks later as we were on our way to Cape Town to catch our plane back to Canada, we stopped at the farm to check on Nova and to say our final goodbyes. It was like seeing a new dog! Nova was much larger now, with a body full of shiny hair, and full of energy! He was even reunited with his mother and we caught them running around the farm together. I breathed a sigh of relief and couldn't believe this was the same puppy just 5 weeks earlier was so close to death.

This is the wonderful thing about Project COLARS and COLORS. They see a need to help, and they waste no time in making it happen. There is no time for red tape and discussions. Unfortunately, it's difficult to get funding for this project as animals are often viewed as insignificant.

There are many dogs and cats in South Africa who are abused, neglected, starving and sick. I thank Sunyata and Project COLLARS for doing the best they can to make the lives of animals better.

Since leaving South Africa, I read that Project COLLARS has found homes for a whole litter of puppies, taken in missing dogs and found their owners and nursed a mommy dog "ZULU" with 10 puppies back to health while bottle feeding each puppy to keep them alive. There are so many other puppies out there like Nova that just need the extra love and care to see them through.

If you love animals, this is a great project to support☺

PHOTO: (Rescued from an abusive home 'Trixy' now lives with Sunny & Andrew... Little Nova Looking up to her)

