

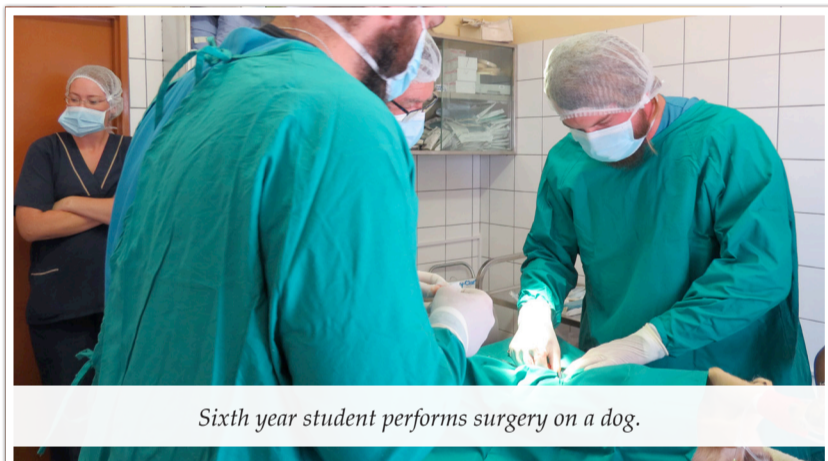
Beagle pups to be police trained as sniffer-dogs

Adam, Angel and Amy are three Beagle puppies destined to be Namibia's finest police sniffer dogs. The three pups form part of the School of Veterinary Medicine's lofty attempt to start a Beagle breeding programme, and involve the dogs in education as well as various community projects. Police related work is one of many such future projects. The three pups were donated to UNAM by the University of Pretoria and arrived at the NEUDAMM Campus aged just over two months old.

Beagles are a small compact dog breed with a fairly balanced temperament. They are friendly and approachable. Since they fall under the dog family of Hounds, they have a remarkable sense of smell, living most of their lives by following scents in the air and on the ground. Their physiology is such that they have many scent receptors compared to other dog breeds, third only to the Bassett Hound and Blood Hound, which rank second and first in the sniffing business.



Students and lecturer posing with Adam, Angel and Amy.



Sixth year student performs surgery on a dog.

The Beagle pups' names all start with A, to mark that they are the parents, their pups will all have names starting with B's and the B's pups will have names starting with C's. This is to help the breeders manage them better.

The pups join the School at a time when the first Veterinary Doctors are

completing their final year consisting of mainly surgical and anesthetic rotations at various theatres. They perform surgeries and administer pain medicine to animals. These students are expected to graduate in 2020. Dr Anna Marais, the Associate Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine remarked how glad she is about the puppies' arrival. "Many students

come to the School, afraid of animals, but these small cute puppies make it easier for them to get used to working with animals of all sizes".

The UNAM Vet programme was established in 2014 and is earmarked for a final accreditation visit later this year.

Alternatives to unemployment- Namibia Business School's Entrepreneurship Initiative

During the second City of Windhoek Start-up Festival last year, Namibia Business School held a symposium for entrepreneurs and discovered local entrepreneurs' Achilles heel. It was a lack of funding, lack of training, coaching and mentorship and a lack of infrastructural support.

It is common knowledge, that for the past decade, Namibia has grappled with youth unemployment where the rate of unemployment fluctuated between 35-46%. Unfortunately, a part of this unemployed youth consists of university graduates. This demonstrates that it is critical to cultivate an entrepreneurial atmosphere among the youth in order to combat the challenge of unemployment.

The NBS consequently launched a new Entrepreneurship Initiative

that targets unemployed youth. It takes the form of an entrepreneurial incubation programme, through which entrepreneurs are assisted to overcome hurdles. By developing an entrepreneurship programme and incubation hub, NBS hopes to assist young graduate entrepreneurs take their business ideas from the start-up stage to the market.

"The aim of this project is to create entrepreneurial businesses in Namibia that will be innovative, scaled, create wealth and employment" says Project Coordinator, Tresia Auala. The focus of the project will be to provide entrepreneurs with the necessary theory and practicum needed to start and run a successful business. In addition to imparting learning skills, emphasis will be given to providing needed support such as coaching, mentoring, prototype development and related business



Ms Tresia Auala

growth support, she added. This will be done by putting these entrepreneurs through a rigorous training programme, which will consist of a structured practice-based curriculum and providing them with an incubation hub where they will be able to grow their businesses with the necessary support.

"Snakebites most fatal for children" - says UNAM academic

Barely a few weeks after a young boy reportedly died from a snakebite, a UNAM lecturer and Associate Professor, Dr Christian Hunter, along with a few colleagues from the University have published an article in the Lancet, a renowned British journal that takes a closer look at snake envenoming. The article published modelled data that supports the assertion that snake envenoming is a major health risk in remote and rural tropical regions.

Snake bites in Africa are said to be generally under-reported, in part due to a large percentage of people residing in remote areas. Hunter's research makes the same observations about Namibia. Hunter's study looked at the number of snake-bites in the major referral hospitals in Namibia over a period of one year. The study shows that snake-bites are most common in

the summer between October and January. This may be due to temperature increases and rainfall.

The study also found that young adults are more at risk of snakebites than teenagers and children. However, children younger than six are reportedly more severely affected as this group was observed to have the highest mortality rate. "Namibia is home to about 85 different species of snakes but only about 11 are fatal", writes Hunter. He concludes by writing that further research is needed to fully understand the burden of snake bite injury in Namibia.

Members of the public that are interested in this topic are welcome to Join Professor Hunter's public lecture at the Onandjokwe Central Hospital's Amphitheatre today, 08 February, at 14:00.