University of Cape Town

Project Leader: Prof Leanne Scott

Academic Disciplines: Operations Research/ Statistical Sciences

Project Description

The UCT has for the past three years been developing a portfolio of community-based research projects with a focus on One Welfare / One Health, which are systemic concepts that require integrated approaches for sustained impact. These efforts aim to provide a context for students to develop their skills in the context of complex systems, where solution development requires an understanding of systems approaches to unpack complexity and develop solutions. The UCT in collaboration with community-based non-governmental organisation (The Emma Animal Rescue Society or TEARS) in the Ocean View / Masiphumelele community in Cape Town, will seek to describe the community perspectives on animal health and welfare, which forms part of the portfolio of projects described above.

Project Description Continued

The project will engage with the community and local animal welfare organisations to co-create solutions for pressing animal health and welfare concerns that also affect human health and welfare. This perspective is greatly strengthened by the proposed collaboration with both the operations manager of TEARS, as well as researchers from UCT's School of Public Health and Family Medicine. Through the community-based co-investigator, information points to a complex and systemic nature of animal health and welfare challenges in the community, as well as to the need for integrative approaches in addressing issues such as companion animal care, stray animals, and animal cruelty (e.g., through dog fighting). Human health and welfare are impacted through aspects such as zoonoses, dog bites, and stresses associated with the inability to care for companion animals.

Problem Statement

- Engagement of communities in the operationalisation of One Health/ One Welfare approaches in resource-poor communities is limited and fragmented, with limited impact.

Research question

- The following research question is appropriate to address in the evolution of the portfolio of One Welfare/ One Health projects undertaken to date:

    - *How can a systemic approach to One Welfare/ One Health be used to guide the development of a community-driven solution to key One Health/ One Welfare challenges?*

Impact statement

- **The work is expected to benefit the community through:**

a) Creating awareness of the health and welfare impacts of human-animal interactions

b) Co-creating a solution to at least one One-Welfare/One-Health concern in the community

c) Creating awareness as to how NGOs can enhance their services to have improved impact in the community; and

d) Creating temporary income opportunities and skills development for community members through administering surveys.

Impact statement continues

- Further, it intends to produce the following knowledge products, with a view on informing approaches to One Welfare/One Health in community contexts:

a) A framework specific to enhancing One Welfare/One Health in resource-constrained communities in South Africa, presented as an academic article;

b) The above framework, captured in a toolkit/ roadmap of approaches to guide the facilitation of One Welfare/One Health solutions, accessible to community practitioners; and

c) A Masters thesis developing a process impact model for the assessment of NGOs that focus on delivering One Welfare/One Health solutions in resource-constrained communities.

Project Team Roles and Responsibilities

Prof Landon Myer

Co-investigator

Dr Isabel Meyer

Co-investigator

Ms Mandy Store

Co-investigator (community based)