

QUAGGA PROJECT ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED UNDER SECTION 21)

Co-coordinator's Report **February 2013**

ASSETS UPDATE & SECT 21 Co

- 83 animals in 11 locations
- Cash in bank as per treasurers report

DATA BASE UPDATE

- Katja has had the video and audio tapes digitised and Bernard has scanned the old minutes and financial reports and saved them onto the hard drive.

TOTAL HERD UPDATE

- See attached current herd update as at January 2013

FOAL BIRTHS 2012

- See attached current foal birth during 2012
- Henry is the proud father of probably the best quagga to date (this foal is even better than his dad!)
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DEATHS

- There has been a quagga foal death since the last meeting at Pampoenvlei.
- The animal was taken through to HOW Animal Rescue in Langebaan by Ewald of Pampoenvlei on Bernards advise,
- They where unable to save the animal due to respiratory failure, (see report below).
- The quagga project covered the vet costs for this operation - R2076.00.

Dear Bernard,

Herewith follows the report of the zebra brought to me on the 1st of September 2012:

On arrival, she was transported to Dr. Dave Longland who assessed her immediate condition and administered Prednisolone, Depomycin, as well as Finadyne. He also prescribed Lectade as she had not been on a drip and was willing to drink from a bottle.

She was monitored throughout the night with fluids every hour, managing only 200ml at a time from which she seemed to improve marginally. It appeared that she had difficulty breathing and was lifted into a standing position which alleviated the symptoms. She was then x-rayed the next morning and a full clinical assessment was done by Dr. Derette Kotze and Dr. Longland who both agreed that there was no spinal injuries or damage to the nuchal/supraspinous ligaments. We then decided to continue with the course of treatment with Duplocillin and Mobic with continued use of Lectade, until her condition improved.

Upon her arrival from the vets, she was fed hourly on 500ml of Lectade, lying down as she could not lift her head to drink. Once she completed her fluids, she was lifted to a standing position and was free to move around which she did. This continued until 24:00 at which time she was only drinking a minimal amount of fluid and appeared to be lethargic which was put down to her tedious and continuous treatment. At this time, I decided to let her sleep. At 04:00, I woke her up on got her into a standing position as her breathing had deteriorated. Suckled on the bottle but did not take any fluids in which was concerning. At 4:30, I lay her back down and 15 minutes later she passed away.

Post Mortem Results:

Her gastrointestinal tract appeared completely normal with no concerns.

There was a decrease in negative pressure of the diaphragm.

Post mortal hypostasis of the right lung due to her position.

Cranioventral lobes of both lungs were normal.

The fields of both lungs and accessory lobe showed morphology of hepatisation.

External surface of the lungs showed bilateral atelectasis, worse ventrally than dorsally.

Cut surfaces of the lungs confirmed lack of aeration with mild serous fluid collection.

Impression smears of cut ling surface confirmed serous fluid and complete collapse of alveoli.

Numerous neutrophils and no bacteria in the blood smears.

Thoracic cavity showed signs of diffused emphysema in the plural lining of the thorax, worse on dorsal side than ventral.

Intramuscular emphysema noted during post mortem.

1 x 2cm hole in the ventral trachea between first annular cartilage ring and cricoid cartilage.

Cause of death

Loss of negative pressure in thorax leading to respiratory collapse.

Yours in conservation,



Tanya Heald
CEO & Founder

HOW WILDLIFE RESCUE

P.O. Box 562, Langebaan, 7357 | heald@wo.co.za | 083 700 6377

www.wildliferescue.org.za |

085-275-NPO | 930 036 603 PBO

ANIMAL MOVEMENTS

- Since the last meeting 4 zebras have been sold to Karoo Game of Beaufort West, 3 mares and 1 stallion and 1 stallion to Johannes Uys of Bredasdorp. Income R13 000.00
- 1 Quagga was captured and moved internally and 2 quaggas were miss darted and woken up again with Karoo Game. Cost R10 260.00 The miss darting was due to the animals being very similar in appearance and it being difficult to tell them apart from the chopper. Darting and helicopter time costs were shared with the game capture operator for these two animals.

GENERAL

There has been numerous email correspondence from interested parties to the project, from offers to assist to academic and other correspondence. A protocol needs to be established as how to deal with these queries and interest forums and whether they are or are not of benefit to the APA.

- Phkamisa Mohaila has emailed asking if we offer/need any volunteer services He wishes to and know if he can offer some time towards nature support (e.g collection of scientific data, counting/spotting quaggas in their habitat, etc)? He am currently employed at a firm of Architects in Cape Town and wishes to assist where time permits (most weekends and holidays etc) He is a frequent hiker and someone who enjoys being in nature. He has been hiking on and around table mountain for many years
- Carol Lipton from New York altered us to a book entitled "Here is the Veld" by Attilio Gatti. In it, was the story of the last of the quaggas. The book differed from what she had seen in Wikipedia, in that it maintains that the last of the quaggas did not die in approximately 1883, but rather in 1936. Gatti wrote that there was one remaining quagga, the offspring of the last quagga couple, and the poor creature died without ever having the opportunity to mate.

Carol was amazed to read about The Quagga Project, and think it is admirable that scientists wish to use actual DNA specimens to try and bring this species back to life. She asked if we could let her know if her recollection from this book is correct

Prof Harley came back to me having read most of Attilio Gatti's book, Here is the Veld (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1948), which suggests that one Quagga stallion survived until at least 1936. However, although the book is well illustrated with photographs, none show this quagga, so the story, written in an 'adventurous' style and with no apparent confirmation from other sources, must remain anecdotal – perhaps true, but the lively account of the resourceful and brave lone quagga reads more like a stirring but fictional tale.

Prof Harley suggests putting something to this effect on the web site, i.e. that "...although the last authenticated quagga died in there is an anecdotal account of a lone quagga surviving into the 1930s, related in Attilio Gatti's lively account of in Africa entitled "Here is the Veld". However, the tale is unsupported by photographs or other confirmatory evidence or sightings and therefore must remain to some degree speculative."

- Gareth van Nelson, a Photographer from Highbury Safika Media (Pty) do a magazine called Cape Etc and would like to possibly feature an Image of the Quagga's in the Rhodes memorial and Devils Peak area or the cover of the magazine. He wanted to know if there are any permits or anybody specific he should contact for help in taking these photographs.

I replied by saying that Rhodes Mem' site is controlled by SanParks, and in fact does not have quality quaggas on it at present, but our plan is to introduce a selected few there soon. I suggested you contact Bernard Wooding 083 3836288, and discuss with him the best options to photograph for your cover page. I noted that all photographs must please be copied to Bernard for our stud book records and credit to the Quagga Project must be given in your magazine, and that we also welcome donations.

- A frequent question, and similar images, as if this zebra could be related with quagga project? This picture was taken in Etosha. Prof Harley has confirmed negative to the question.



- Randy Morrison is the author of a novel for children (9-14) which he plans to publish early in 2013, and which features a quagga revived from extinction as one of the new stars of a circus. The quagga element of the story was inspired by Dr Rau and the quagga project. The book is entitled Seven Moon Circus, The Adventures of a Wild Boy in a Space Traveling Circus. It will be classed as sci-fi - fantasy, and promoted to teachers as a way to keep boys interested in reading. The story takes place in the far future in a new human world system consisting of an earth like home planet with seven inhabited moons. Far fetched, yes indeed, but the main idea is fun reading for kids, especially action-adventure oriented boys. My editor is Deborah Halverson (deareditor.com, deborahhalverson.com); she was a children's book editor at Harcourt for over ten years, and fully endorses this project. The illustrator is SC Watson (oreganoproductions.com), the book designer is Greg Smith (gsmithdesign.com).

Randal Morrison / Ringleader books, PO Box 531518, San Diego CA 92153-1518 USA

(I informed him that our photographs are available from Ark Images

All information taken from our website and photo library must please be credited to The Quagga Project in your novels/ teaching guides

I also informed him we do welcome donations towards our work as we are a *pro bona* organization)

- Daniel Foidl has interest into recently extinct animals, and has been following initiatives to restore some of them, such as TaurOs Project and the Quagga Project. He had a look at the current breeding results of the Quagga Project and was impressed by the similarities that have been achieved, such as stripeless legs, a white tail and a higher degree of brownish colours as well as the amount of striping reduction.

When looking at stuffed specimen of the Quagga, he realized that the stripes actually do not disappear towards the posterior part of the trunk, but they seem to get less well pronounced and amalgamate with the space between them, creating the brown colour. There apparently also was a lot of variation within the Quagga's coat pattern.

He's really interesting to see the amount of brown hair in the coat of some „usual“ steppe zebras, such as these individuals that I found on flickR:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/simonjoscha/7173344308/in/photostream/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/simonjoscha/7173353110/in/photostream/>

He comments that recently, DNA has been extracted from a stuffed specimen of the Thylacine. He asks if it will happen in the future that one can gain enough DNA to clone single Quaggas from preserved specimen? He thinks it would be a huge benefit for the project if cloned Quaggas could be incorporated into the project, to increase the amount of quagga-likeness as much as possible.

He attached an artwork he did some time ago that he would like to share with us. It shows a little Quagga herd displaying the different coat patterns that he was able to detect in stuffed specimen and contemporaneous drawings.



- Bruce Meikle & Denis Stupan are currently establishing a volunteer program on biodiversity, geared towards collaborating with wildlife and conservation reserves and organizations in the Western Cape.

Their international volunteers will be spending up to four weeks at a time in the greater Cape Town area experiencing a fully tutored, wildlife and conservation program offering practical and theoretical based learning.

Currently, they are looking for partner destinations to work with and envisage a shared beneficial opportunity with selected estates and game farms. Combined, we have vast knowledge and experience in the conservation and eco tourism industry, and are keen on using this know-how to capture a niche market abroad.

They would like to present the program to us and discuss the advantages for both sides.

See attached document on the “Cape Sustainable proposal”

- Eric Scott is a vertebrate paleontologist working in the Division of Geological Sciences, San Bernardino County Museum, Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, California where he studies late Pleistocene horses (among other animals). He has been requested to provide a presentation about quaggas for the science and education staff of the George C. Page Museum in Los Angeles – the museum at the famous Rancho La Brea “tar pits”. Several renderings of the large horse from Rancho La Brea have depicted the animal as having a quagga-like coloration, and so he’s been asked to discuss quaggas and their relationship (if any) to late Pleistocene horses from North America.

As part of his presentation, he wishes to mention our Quagga Project, to briefly touch on what we are accomplishing and how it fits into the broader scheme of quaggas, their extirpation, and their hoped-for “rebirth”. In this context, he asked us to provide some large, high resolution photos that he could use. He has given us full credit for any photos used.

- Jeanette Smith works in Southern California at a private breeding and training facility for all three species of Zebra (Grant's, Grevy's and Hartmann's Mountain) and is interested in learning more about our Quagga Project. I. They’ve been training and breeding zebras for over 45 years.

They collect semen from their stallions and use AI or ET for their selective breeding. They’ve been working on teaching their stallions to be hand collected using an AV on the ground, or using a phantom for some of our more aggressive stallions. A few of their mares have been trained for AI and ET. They also have a "wild" herd of Grant's that they let breed naturally.

She is interested if we would look at similar practices and thanks us for our continued effort to bring awareness to zebra species, and working to bring back a beautiful sub-species that could be lost. She hopes one day we'll be able to bring enough of the populations back to remove each of the three species from the endangered species list.