

The Rufford Small Grants Foundation

Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details

Your name	Paul David van Helden
Project title	Namaqua National Park: Anatolian dogs for Wildlife Conservation
RSG reference	8831-1
Reporting period	September 2010 to September 2011
Amount of grant	£6000
Your email address	pvh@sun.ac.za
Date of this report	26 September 2011

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Breed 20-30 puppies per year			28 puppies born	Seven mortalities, net puppies 21
Place dogs with farmers around the park		21 puppies available for placement during the time period		Some puppies are still too young for placement. Currently 30 dogs have been placed with farmers in the area.
Establish itself as the premier herd dog supplier for the Northern Cape		Not aware of any other competitor in the region		Current breeding stock: 3 males, 4 females. Still too early to claim this "title". Demand for pups is very high and the project cannot keep up. This would indicate that the dogs are successful, since word-of-mouth drives the demand.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate future and potential owners that dogs should be paid for to ensure pride of ownership, realisation of value and ensure some degree of self sustainability for the project 		X		<p>A dedicated website was created for the breeding project (www.anatoliandogs.co.za)</p> <p>Four large pull-out banners for shows were designed and produced.</p> <p>200 promotional DVD's were created.</p> <p>800 brochures were created.</p> <p>Various shorts appeared in the media regarding the dogs and park in general, including 'Captured Experiences'; Pasella; magazines etc.</p> <p>Elanza attended various shows where the dogs were promoted.</p> <p>Visitors are taken on guided tours to the dog breeding project. It is proving immensely popular.</p> <p>The project is used as an educational tool for school groups.</p> <p>NGOs are taken to the breeding project. These include Conservation SA, Cape Nature and other groups. A Knowledge Exchange project with Yemen</p>

				will spent at least a day visiting the various working dogs and breeding project.
Create awareness amongst the farmers of the benefits of the dogs, not only for themselves but also the environmental benefits		X		It would be perhaps overstating the case to say that we fully achieved this aim. I think that the fact that demand cannot match supply shows that the awareness is high.
• ensure that dogs placed are well cared for and perform as desired		X		Training of dog owners remains a challenge- they expect immediate results whereas the dogs only really start working properly after a year.
secure further funding				We raised R15000 or about 1400 pounds sterling in addition to the Rufford funds for dog food.
• Identify marketing methods to create awareness amongst the proposed target market and raise such awareness.				At this stage, word of mouth has created so much awareness that demand for the dogs exceeds supply. We do not think that more awareness would help at this stage and thus this aim is perhaps somewhat redundant.
• Develop funding for a research person to monitor success both in terms of livestock protection as well as wildlife preservation	X			It was not possible to raise funds for a post in the current economic climate.
Reduce the number of animals caught in traps and increase the numbers on surrounding farms		Yes. Not yet enough dogs placed and no quantitative monitoring in place.		Feedback is positive. Farmers report considerable reduction in losses. It is difficult to estimate the exact effect on wildlife without a control area and extensive research, but it would seem that far fewer traps are set (verbal communication with farmers). The fact that the dogs are performing as expected would have this effect. Traps are expensive and labour intensive,

				and farmers would not use these unless they lose stock animals to predators.
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2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

We prefer to use the word “challenges”, since most difficulties were not entirely unexpected. Snakes and scorpions have led to injuries (and in one case the death of one young dog) at the pens. Training of dog owners remain a challenge - they expect immediate results whereas the dogs only really start working properly after a year.

Long distances to farms and shortage of manpower puts a strain on resources. This is particularly relevant, since SANParks has had a drastic budget cut from the SA government. This has meant that travelling distances for park vehicles have been drastically curtailed which is a major problem in this huge area.

Breeding success/ impregnation was relatively low- although pups born were within the 20-30 expected per annum.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

- The project stabilised during this period.
- Many dogs were placed.
- Demand exceeds supply.
- Fewer traps for wildlife have been set.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

The person responsible for the project (Elanza van Lente) attended various shows where the dogs were promoted. Visitors are taken on guided tours to the dog breeding project. It is proving immensely popular. The project is used as a regular educational tool for school groups from the area.

NGOs are taken to the breeding project. These include Conservation SA, Cape Nature and other groups. A Knowledge Exchange project with Yemen will spent at least a day visiting the various working dogs and breeding project.

Local communities’ benefit, since they lose less stock to predators.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Yes. We are nowhere near market saturation. In addition, dogs have a limited lifespan and will need replacement over time.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

- As we have done in the past: A dedicated website was created for the breeding project (www.anatoliandogs.co.za)
- Four large pull-out banners for shows were designed and produced.
- 200 promotional DVD's were created.
- 800 brochures were created.
- Various shorts appeared in the media regarding the dogs and park in general, including 'Captured Experiences'; Pasella; magazines etc.
- Elanza attended various shows where the dogs were promoted.

7. Timescale: Over what period was the RSG used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The RSG was used over a year, as we had planned.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Dog Food	5221	4968 approx	253	Managed to get a discount on dog food and switched to cheaper variety as well later during project
Vet expenses	779	856 approx	77	Very difficult to predict what needs will be.
exchange	0	24	24	Not known at time of budget
remainder at time of submission	N/A	152.28	152.28	Will probably be used for vet bills shortly
Total				

The exchange rate at the time the grant was received was 10.7889, giving an amount of ZAR 64,733.40. Our bank commission was R 258.93 (0.4%). I shall use this exchange rate figure for the sterling equivalents.

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

To sustain the project and keep the project running. To try to find funds for a research position to monitor outcomes and impact.

10. Did you use the RSGF logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes. Namakwa Park used the logo to make a small plaque that was placed in the park at the dog pens, visible to all visitors.