



OVER THE EDGE

Uniondale, our tight-knit community, is facing a troubling issue that threatens the safety and peace of our streets: vicious dogs.

On April 27, 2024, I experienced this firsthand when a large Boerboel attacked me and my Jack Russell while we were out for a walk. Just yesterday, another incident occurred when a dog resembling a pitbull lunged at my leashed Jack Russell, leaving her with a tooth puncture. My wife's quick thinking and commanding voice defused the situation, but the fear and frustration lingers. Our final loss on the first occasion amounted to almost R10k in vet's fees and medical costs. These are not isolated events—they point to a broader problem in Uniondale that demands attention.

A Personal and Community Issue

Walking through Uniondale and our sister settlement, Lionville, it's impossible to ignore the presence of stray and aggressive dogs. On a recent drive through Lionville, I counted five stray dogs, three of which appeared emaciated, highlighting not only a safety issue but also a concern for animal welfare. Many of these dogs, often terrier-type breeds or larger "power breeds" like Boerboels and pitbulls, roam untethered, especially in busy areas. Young men, in particular, seem to parade these dogs without leashes, perhaps hoping their untrained puppies will obey commands. Older dogs, some visibly aggressive, add to the unease felt by residents like me who no longer feel safe in our own community.

George Municipality Bylaws and Enforcement Gaps

Uniondale falls under the George Municipality, which has bylaws in place to regulate animal control, including the Keeping/Controlling of Animals By-law, 2024. These bylaws prohibit allowing animals to stray onto public roads or become a public nuisance. If a dog is deemed a nuisance or danger, the municipality can issue a written notice requiring the owner to address the issue or face penalties, including fines or impoundment of the animal. Fines as high as R1,000 have been rumored, but I, like many residents, question whether these are enforced or paid. Law enforcement in Uniondale appears minimal, with little visible action taken against owners of aggressive or stray dogs. This lack of enforcement leaves residents vulnerable and frustrated, as dangerous dogs continue to roam unchecked.

Legal Implications of Dog Bites

The legal consequences of dog bites in South Africa are significant, governed by the principle of *actio de pauperie*, a Roman law concept that holds dog owners strictly liable for harm caused by their animals, regardless of negligence. If a dog attacks someone who is lawfully present (e.g., on a public street) and the victim did not provoke the attack, the owner is responsible for damages. These can include medical costs, loss of earnings, and compensation for pain and suffering. For example, in a 2020 case, *Cloete v Van Meyer*, a man attacked by three pitbull-type dogs received R2.34 million in damages. Yet, pursuing such claims requires evidence like medical records, witness statements, and police reports, which can be daunting for victims. Despite these legal protections, the reality in

Uniondale is that many incidents go unreported or unresolved due to lax enforcement. Victims, including children who are disproportionately affected by dog bites, face physical and emotional trauma without recourse. The Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town reported treating 2,021 dog-bite injuries in children over a 13.5-year period, underscoring the scale of this issue in South Africa.

BY TEWED RETSROV, UNIONDALE RESIDENT

IF YOU'VE BEEN AFFECTED BY A DOG ATTACK OR HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT STRAY OR VICIOUS DOGS, CONTACT THE GEORGE MUNICIPALITY OR YOUR LOCAL SPCA. LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE UNIONDALE SAFE FOR ALL.

www.grspca.org

FOR LEGAL ADVICE ON DOG BITE CLAIMS, CONSULT A PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON GEORGE MUNICIPALITY BYLAWS, VISIT THEIR OFFICIAL WEBSITE.

www.george.gov.za



Thank you Davkor, the NSRI & Uniondale Pharmacy for your support!

THE PLANT REPORT

South Africa's Succulent Smuggling Crisis: The Threat to the Karoo's Unique Biodiversity PART 5

A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR COMBATING THE ILLEGAL SUCCULENT TRADE

Efforts to address the illegal trade of succulents require a multifaceted approach that includes strengthened surveillance, international cooperation, consumer awareness, and public-private partnerships. By combining these key areas, the goal is to protect vulnerable regions like the Karoo, disrupt transnational smuggling networks, and reduce demand for illegally sourced plants.

INCREASED SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Monitoring high-risk areas is crucial to intercept poachers before succulents are removed from their natural habitats. This can be accomplished through several initiatives:

Enhanced patrols: Increasing the presence of rangers and enforcement officers, while involving local communities to boost detection rates and provide critical on-the-ground knowledge.

Advanced surveillance technology: Introducing drones, motion-sensor cameras, and satellite imagery to monitor large and remote areas. These technologies offer real-time data, facilitating both prevention and successful prosecutions.

Capacity building: Equipping law enforcement and conservation personnel with the skills to identify threatened species, understand illegal trade networks, and enforce wildlife protection laws more effectively.

Stronger legal action: Instituting harsher penalties for poaching and trafficking to deter offenders and safeguard succulents from illegal removal.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The illegal succulent trade crosses borders, making international collaboration essential to curb its spread. Key initiatives include:

Law enforcement collaboration: Sharing intelligence and resources with global agencies like Interpol to identify and dismantle international smuggling rings.

Strengthening CITES enforcement: Improving the implementation of CITES to ensure that vulnerable succulent species are listed and protected under its appendices, making trade in these plants more tightly regulated.

Extradition and legal agreements: Establishing treaties that facilitate the extradition and prosecution of foreign nationals involved in poaching and smuggling activities.

Global awareness campaigns: Partnering with other nations to raise awareness about the environmental impact of the illegal trade and target both the supply and demand sides of the market.

RAISING CONSUMER AWARENESS

Educating consumers is crucial in curbing demand for illegally sourced succulents. Strategies for raising awareness include:

Public education campaigns: Informing the public about the ethical and environmental consequences of purchasing illegally sourced plants through social media, educational programmes, and influencer partnerships.

Promoting ethical sourcing: Encouraging consumers to buy from reputable suppliers offering legally and sustainably sourced plants, with certification schemes or labelling systems to help identify legitimate products.

Engagement with the plant community: Collaborating with botanical gardens, nurseries, and plant enthusiast groups to spread awareness and promote responsible practices.

Highlighting consequences: Sharing case studies of the ecological impacts of poaching and the legal penalties faced by those involved, reinforcing the importance of legal compliance.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Effective conservation requires cooperation between government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and the private sector. A notable initiative in this regard is the National Response Strategy and Action Plan, launched in February 2022 by a coalition of public and private stakeholders, including the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, SANBI, and WWF. The plan focuses on:

Policy and legislation: Updating laws to provide stronger protection for succulent species, with stricter penalties for poaching and trafficking.

Research and monitoring: Investing in studies to understand succulent populations, their ecological roles, and the effects of illegal harvesting.

Community development: Working with local communities to create sustainable economic opportunities, such as ecotourism and sustainable harvesting programmes, reducing reliance on poaching.

Education and outreach: Raising awareness in poaching hotspots about the importance of succulents and the consequences of illegal removal.

Resource mobilisation: Securing funding from public and private sectors to support conservation, enforcement, and community initiatives.

Stakeholder collaboration: Facilitating cooperation between government bodies, conservation organisations, academic institutions, and private businesses to ensure a coordinated and effective response to the illegal succulent trade.

By adopting and expanding upon these strategies, there is a concerted effort to not only halt the illegal trade but also to promote the recovery and sustainable management of succulent species. The success of these initiatives depends on continued collaboration, adequate funding, and the commitment of all parties involved to preserve South Africa's unique botanical heritage.

The illegal trafficking of succulents from South Africa's Karoo is escalating into a serious environmental and economic crisis, threatening one of the country's most fragile ecosystems. High global demand, limited enforcement capacity, and the organised nature of the trade make it difficult to tackle. Yet, through increased public awareness, stronger enforcement measures, and the promotion of sustainable cultivation practices, there is hope to protect these unique plants. Without urgent action, these rare succulents risk being lost forever, leaving both the Karoo's landscape and its local communities impoverished.

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Uniondale Family Market Day

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A TALENTED ONE MAN BAND TO SING US A FEW TUNES?

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**WHATSAPP LU ON
062 800 9988**

The Uniondale Family Market has moved to new premises! Find them on the corner of Voortrekker and Queen street right next to Aitsa. Lots of parking space and beautifully shaded display areas under the glorious pepper trees. Keep an eye on the local Whatsapp groups for market days and vendor info. Or contact the paper for any other information.
theuniondalepost@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

On the 8th June Frances Bouwer tragically lost her life in Uniondale.

This beautiful and kind hearted to a fault lady, was always generous and helpful to whomever needed it.

Outgoing and friendly, the whole town knew her as Koekie. Always full of love and hugs and smiles, she will be deeply and eternally missed. Her singing and dancing, zest for life and genuine love for people set her apart and her absence will long be felt amongst the community.

A friend whose impact will never be forgotten, forever remembered for her kindness, humour and the most amazing calves!

Survived by a son, daughter, grandchildren, brother, sister and stepbrother. Not forgetting her dear pet dog - Vlooi.

**“UNABLE ARE THE LOVED TO
DIE, FOR LOVE IS
IMMORTALITY..” – EMILY
DICKINSON**



“GIF OF GOED” (3)



Cotyledon orbiculata, in die volksmond bekend as plakkie, varkoor of kouterie kom wydverspreid regdeur Suid-Afrika voor en 5 varieteite kom in die Klein-Karoo veral in meer rotsagtige dele voor. Die genus naam *Cotyledon* kom van die Griekse woord *kotyledon* wat koppie vormige holte beteken wat na die blare verwys, en die spesie naam *orbiculata* kom van die Latynse woord vir rond of sirkel.

Hul midsomer blomme is kleurryk en klokkevormig en wissel van rooi tot oranje en selfs geel. Die helderleurige blomme is baie aantreklik vir bye wat op die plant se nektar voed. Die grys-groen tot silwerkleurige blare het 'n poeieragtige wit bedekking, wat sonlig weerkaats en help om waterverlies te beperk en gevolglik die plant grootliks droogtebestand maak. Die feit dat plakkies kan blom en selfs voortplant in die ergste droogtes het dan ook sekere nadelige gevolge.

Die nadeligste effek is dat wanneer kos in die veld vir diere beperk is tydens droogtes word meer van die plakkies se plantmateriaal (blare, blomme en blomstiele) ingeneem as gewoonlik. Al die plantdele bevat 'n gif genaamd *cotyledontoksien* wat veral tydens die blomstadium van die plant baie toksies is.

Byna een derde van alle jaarlikse veevrektes in die Klein Karoo word direk aan die plant toegeskryf. Dit is toksies vir beeste, skape, bokke, pluimvee en veral honde is baie vatbaar vir die toksien. Mense is ook vatbaar daarvoor en simptome is van keel wat toeswel, sukkel om te sluk, naarheid, braking en diaree. Velkontak kan ook irritasie en 'n uitslag tot gevolg het. Veral kinders kan erge simptome toon veral as dele van die blare ingeneem word. By kleinvee word die inname van plakkies en die simptome “krimpsiekte” genoem agv die diere se ineengekrimpde houding. Die toksien is ook 'n kardiaal glikosied en tas gevolglik die hart van geaffekteerde diere aan – dit is duidelik as krimpsiekte agv plantvergiftiging vermoed word, en die diere word oor 'n kort afstand aangejaag dat die geaffekteerde diere sal uitsak en selfs gaan le. Geaffekteerde diere toon ook simptome soos koliek, opblaas, agterlyf verlamming, moeilike asemhaling en in erge gevalle skielike dood agv hart skade. Mortaliteit by skape en bokke is omtrent 90%. Let we: die vleis en melk van geaffekteerde diere bly giftig selfs na blootstelling aan hitte tydens gaarmaakprosesse – dit hou verhoogde risiko in vir menslike gebruik asook veral honde.

Al is die plant hoogs toksies word dit al vir eeue gebruik as tradisionele medikasie in Suid-Afrika.

Gebruike sluit in:

Vratjies en pitswere: Die sap van die vlesige deel van die blare word direk op die aangetaste dele gesmeer.

Ant-wurmmiddel: Die kou van 'n deel van die blaas kan intestinale wurms dood.

Oor- en tandpyn: Warm blaas sap word gebruik as druppels om die toestande te verlig.

Inflammasie: Warm, verpulpte blare word op aangetaste dele aangewend.

Epilepsie: Die blaarsap is tradisioneel gebruik om epilepsie te behandel.

Beskermmiddel: in sekere kulture is gedroogte blare gebruik as beskermmiddels teen bose geeste by kinders en veral weeskinders.

Let wel: Die gebruik van enige tradisionele medisyne soos aangedui in die artikels word op eie risiko gedoen en die redaksie beveel aan dat jy die gebruik slegs in oorleg met jou geneesheer sal oorweeg.

ANTON SMIT

Uniondale Aptek

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WINTER
BAADJIE AAN



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AGONY AUNT

Dear Susie,

I have a neighbour that gets drunk, any time of the night and day and then gets into her car and drives around. Of course I've tried to stop her but she doesn't care and just gets belligerent and does what she wants. How do I handle this? I've called the police but her husband works in the security industry so that's a dead end. I know it's going to end badly and she will end up killing herself or someone else. Please help?

Dear Writer,

The next time you see her trying to go anywhere while she's drunk, grab her keys out of her hand and throw them in the veld.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR DILEMMAS TO SUSIE AT theuniondalepost@gmail.com



THE KAROO ROCKS!



The Karoo Rocks! project has taken off, with our rocks being taken and transported from Brazil to Betty's Bay. Currently available at Karoo Serenity, The Happy Hookers, The Hungry Ghost and The Aloe Cafe. Please contact us should you want rocks at your business. Or if you would like to get involved in painting them. Making the world a smaller place, one rock at a time.



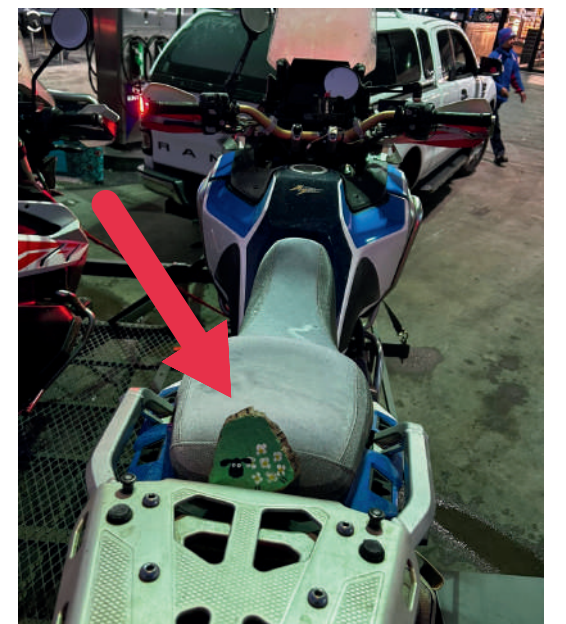
THE APOLLO THEATRE, VICTORIA WEST.



THE LORD MILNER HOTEL, MATJIESFONTEIN.



LOXTON



BETHLEHEM

REVIVE WILLOWMORE



Revive Willowmore is a non-profit organization committed to restoring hope and dignity to our neighbouring town - Willowmore. They take a holistic approach to community development, addressing both social and environmental challenges while fostering socioeconomic growth. Their latest project brought to life by artist Fourie Ackermann, is a magnificent kudu and Karoo landscape mural. It seems the revival is well underway.
www.revivewillowmore.co.za

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- Training: **July - September 2025**

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Friday, 11 July 14:00 – 16:00 | Saturday, 12 July 10:00 – 13:00 | Sunday, 13 July 10:00 – 13:00

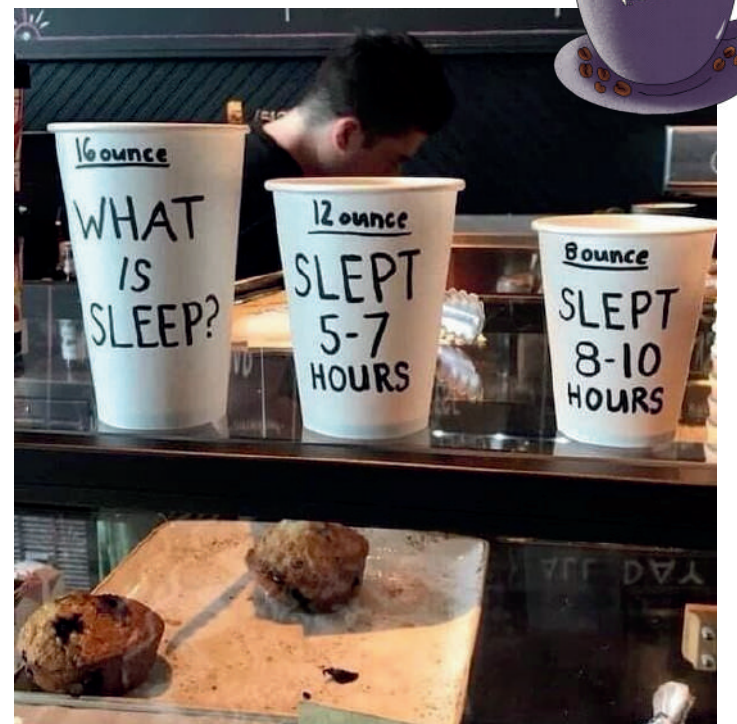
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PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES, ADVERTS OR PHOTOGRAPHS FOR
INCLUSION IN OUR NEXT EDITION TO

theuniondalepost@gmail.com

Whatsapp Lorna 0741912114 or Kiewiet 0835608294 (the Afrikaans connection)