

In the Dog Box

Dog problems on the estate are starting to sound like a refrain. Every dog caregiver has a responsibility to ensure that his canine companion is safe and secure on his property and leashed when being walked.

The problem has actually become severe, because dogs have been chasing the Springbok lambs on the golf course fairways, causing one death and a little one losing its eye. Antelope are highly susceptible to stress and often simply drop dead from fright. Please keep your

dogs leashed when walking on the estate. Security is conducting special policing duties in the mornings and afternoons. Warnings will be issued to first-time offenders and spot fines for repeating transgressors.

Cats are also in the dog box. Many francolin and moorhen chicks are gracing the estate now that spring has sprung at last. So, please collect cat bells at the estate office to give these little residents a fair chance in life. Never



mind lions and leopards, domestic cats are officially the most effective hunters on earth.

Angulate tortoises occur in healthy numbers virtually throughout the West Coast region, but

are classified as Protected Wild Animals by the Nature Conservation Ordinance and may not be collected, transported, possessed, imported into or exported from the Western Cape without special permission.

Mind our slow coaches

of up to 300 mm, but they can't always be sexed accurately.

The outstanding characteristic of angulate tortoise shells is the single gular or chinshield below the head. All other

Characteristically, each marginal shield on the side has a black triangle. Because the shell underside may be yellow, orange or red, common names for these reptiles are 'rooipensskilpad' or 'geelpensskilpad'.



Males grow larger than females in this medium-sized *Chersina angulata* species - about 270 mm in carapace length, 110 mm in shell height and a mass of just over 2 kg. Adult females may reach 215 mm in carapace length, a shell height of under 100 mm and could weigh up to 1.8 kg. There are large angulate tortoises

species have a pair of widened gularshields that don't protrude further than the head. Colour patterns vary, but the normal pattern is light-brown and black. Vertebral scutes on the carapace usually have a dark centre surrounded by a light-brown border. The rest of the shield is dark-brown to black.

It's a generalist species active throughout the year except in winter when their activity normally is lower. Courtship and breeding usually take place in spring when males court females and defend their territories against other males. Males will engage in combat with one another, using the gular shield to try turning one another over. Females lay one or two eggs per occasion and those laid in spring normally hatch after the first winter rains.

Their natural diet is varied and representative of the region in which they occur. Threats are habitat destruction through indiscriminate agricultural and urban development, illegal pet trade collection, bush fires and killing for food. Every year thousands of hatchlings fall prey to the ever-increasing Pied Crow population on the West Coast. Domestic dogs and motorists who deliberately run over tortoises may be added to this list. Many tortoises die on the West Coast road. So, please mind our slow coaches on the estate and along the R27.

An approachable man

Approachable is the word Atlantic Beach's new estate manager Markus Savage uses to describe his management style. "I have an open-door policy. Residents are welcome to phone, or preferably write to me with any issues to be resolved. We'll definitely try to help. Sadly, I don't have a couch, so therapy would have to be referred to the professionals."

Having said that, Savage was emphatic about clamping down on enforcing estate rules. "To ensure harmonious living on our corner of paradise, residents need to abide by the rules and regulations which they all accepted. Lawlessness won't be tolerated."

He explained that fostering good relationships with residents was at the core of his role as estate manager. Residents also should feel the benefit



from living on such a beautiful estate. "At the ABHOA office we're going all out to guarantee excellent service delivery."

With a passion for overcoming barriers, Savage reiterated that he was here to do everything within his power to assist all. Residents wishing to write to him may mail him at admin@abhoa.co.za.

Moving on to other estate matters, he thanked those who participated in the survey on speed humps. "We're assessing the situation with the help of experts. Finally, phase 1 of the road repair is underway to lift subsided paving, replace broken pavers and put in stormwater catchment pits."

Savage has been working on the estate since 2006 as review architect and building inspector. When not occupied with estate matters, he does mountain-biking and martial arts, spends quality time with his family and pets, reads and hikes.



Position: Maintenance manager
Date of birth: 12 September 1943
Career: Officer in the military, training officer in the liquor trade, long distance truck driver
Education: Matric & Damelin Business Management course
Professional best achievement: Obtaining KWW's advanced wine certificate
Personal best achievement: Training officer at Solly Kramers
Most liked about the estate: Working environment
Aspirations for the estate: Bringing about an understanding of the necessity for quality workmanship
Person with biggest influence on your life: Alex Hurter (ex-MD of Game)

Spotlight on Henry Skinner

Person you would most like to meet:

Eckhardt Tolle, author of *The power of now*

Biggest ever opportunity: Stock exchange investments

Biggest ever disappointment: Friend committed suicide

Two favourite actors: Steven Seagal & Nicholas Cage

Philosophy of life: Whatever you do, do it well

Hope for the future: The future is now

Favourite reading: Spiritual and supernatural

Favourite colour: Blue

Best TV programme:

Any nature programmes

Favourite food/drink: Umushu (samp, beans & veg) & Coke

Best time of day: Any

Favourite music: Boeremusiek

Favourite holiday:

Coastal/mountains

Favourite sport (self):

Nil (check birth date)

Favourite sport (spectator):

Rugby & cricket

Biggest extravagance:

My wife



Car: Toyota Tazz

Pets: Miniature Doberman Skollie & an African Grey, Dirty Gerty

Miscellaneous dislikes: Double standards/No values

Married: Elaine for 40 years

Children: René (38), Henry (36), Lizelle (34)

Hobbies: Handyman work

Dim those lights!



"Sorry George, if you'd turned your lights off, we wouldn't have been blinded!"

FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR HEALTH AND THAT OF OTHERS, LEARN TO CURB YOUR URGE TO 'BE IN CONTROL' AT ALL TIMES.

To be controlling means you're preoccupied with the actions of others and how those actions affect you. Such unhealthy attempts to manipulate the behaviour of others, controlling your environment and insisting on having things done in a certain way to feel secure, can immobilise you. Or it can make you defensive and anxious when people don't behave to your specifications.

Being controlling is highly stressful – to both the controller and those being controlled. For a more peaceful life, it's essential to curb this trait. A controlling person carries a great deal of stress, because not only does he or she have to be concerned with his/her own choices and behaviour, but also with the behaviour of others.

In business, a meeting of minds is often necessary. However, you need to sell yourself and your ideas to those working with you. In certain instances, you have to exert your opinions, influence or power to get something done. Or you have to

use creative tactics to change the opinion of others. That's simply part of business and shouldn't be confused with controlling behaviour.

Emotions hurt the controlling person. The key element is a lack of willingness to allow other people to be themselves and to respect the fact that people think differently. Deep down, a controlling person wants other people to be the image of who he wants them to be. Within the need to control, there's an inherent lack of respect for the opinions and ways of others.

The only way to become less controlling is to see the advantages of doing so. To start with, stop depending on other people being, thinking or behaving in a certain way. Make allowances for the fact that other people see life differently. As you become less controlling, people will find it easier to be around you. People don't like to be controlled. It creates resentment and adversarial relationships. When people feel accepted for who they are, their respect for you will increase greatly.

Become less controlling



Maintain it

Warmer weather and sunny skies mean one thing: out with the working gloves and start maintaining your valuable property.

Property maintenance not only involves the day-to-day cleaning, which can become quite intricate, but also maintaining the air conditioning, plumbing, electrical wiring and refurbishment of your home. All this helps to safeguard your investment. If not attended to promptly, property maintenance often can be expensive.

After the heavy rain, there may be increased risks of failure and damage. Structures at risk include awnings, balconies, retaining walls, sewer lines and trees. It's imperative to ensure that awnings, balconies, fences and retaining walls are structurally sound and well maintained. If in doubt, consult a



structural engineer. When anchor points fail, awnings and balconies are at risk of collapse. Blocked gutters can cause water to accumulate, adding weight to

the structure and causing fatigue, rust and failure. The causes of failure may not be visible from a ground level inspection. Similarly, private retaining walls and fences

may become unstable and collapse onto public property such as footpaths. The integrity of these structures also should be checked regularly.

Window glazing should be inspected regularly - especially in multi-level buildings that are built close to their boundaries. Owners should make sure that the silicone base and surrounds haven't deteriorated. Weakening of the silicone may lead to the window pane becoming detached and falling.

Trees are an important part of a pleasant estate environment. However, diseased and damaged trees can be dangerous and should be lopped or removed.

Finally, when additions are done, the ABHOA now requires that existing metal roofs be repainted to match the new roof sheeting as part of the plan approval process. Estate manager Markus Savage requested residents to ensure that estate paint guidelines were followed. The guidelines are available from Subashni at the ABHOA office.

Food for thought

The estate worms need food donations! Residents should please bring left-overs to these hard-working vermicomposters at the nursery. All food barring animal products welcome, including tea bags (a hot favourite).



Squashed

Sand mining on Erf 1117 Blaauwbergstrand by Brickbrush (Pty) Ltd is officially no more. Following the opposition by residents from a number of estates, the company concerned has withdrawn the application.



Parking offences

Not only is speeding still a problem on the estate, illegal parking is posing much aggravation and has caused accidents. The road traffic ordinance applies to the estate and illegally parked vehicles risk a fine. Said security manager Jerome Davids, "Residents are reminded that no vehicles may be parked on open erven. Vehicles also may not be left overnight in the road or on road verges."

In memoriam

Sincerest condolences to the families of two estate residents: Mrs Ruby Stock who passed away after an illness; and Storm Rosseau (18), who died tragically on 24 October in a motor vehicle accident on the R27. Our thoughts are with you.

On the calendar

Kids should gear up for Halloween on 31 October to win prizes for innovative costumes and walk the estate to selected homes for treats. To ensure that all children have a fair chance, we'll group them into age groups of 0-3 yrs meeting in Colebrook Park, 4-6 yrs Norfolk Village Park and 7-12 yrs Park 1. We'll meet in the parks at 17h30. Don't be late and remember to dress to the nines.



On 16 November your best friends will have their day at the Canine Carnival. Fun competitions include best owner/dog look-alike, best dog costume and top dog in tricks. Photos of all estate dogs will be taken and a vet will ID-chip dogs at a reduced fee of R100 each. This will help in returning roaming dogs to their homes.

For a more leisurely outing, diarise Sunday 30 November for the Jazz Picnic in Colebrook Park.



Colourful greetings

Bursts of bright and beautiful gazanias are greeting estate visitors and residents at the entrance gates. And landscaping manager Ellmer Hartnick is on a mission to transform the inside of the estate into a rainbow paradise as well. After the heavy winter rain, the landscaping teams are still draining the water from the pans and upgrading the sprinkler systems. Thereafter, the dead plants will be replaced with fresh new plant life.