



Sakhile and Ethel Msebe, and Zeus

Q. Briefly share how you and your partner found your forever friend.
A. The story of how we got Zeus was when my partner's family dog (Mufasa) mated with the dog next door to where his family lives. A lot of puppies came out from that relationship and one that caught our attention was our little Zeus. It was really love at first sight.

Q. What's one special moment with your pet which you'll cherish forever?
A. We were at one of our friend's parties and he had a pool. In my head, an idea popped in. I wanted to teach Zeus how to swim so I jumped in the pool with him. Long story short, he can swim but that day he wasn't impressed with me at all.

Q. In one word, describe how it feels to be pet parents.
A. That's a hard one, beautiful.

An owl to look over incredible garden

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In efforts to create and maintain an urban ecosystem, EcoSolutions joined volunteers at the Parkhurst Community Garden to install an owl box. The owl box and an educational sign board were installed on June 10.

Ecologist at EcoSolutions Sara Orchardson said someone had donated an owl box to the community group of volunteers called Incredible Edible Community Garden. She said they were there to install the owl box which would be serviced once a year.

Volunteer at Incredible Edible, Tracey Cooper said Incredible Edible is an international urban food growing movement and they started to try and do something similar in this part of the Parkhurst Recreation Centre's unused public space. So they started a community food-growing garden in 2007 and since then it's grown into a much bigger space.

She said the reason they installed the owl box is because their community food garden is very popular and over the years they have started to build compost heaps and make their own 100% organic compost. "We, however, noticed that it's a nice place for rodents to live in winter because it's nice and warm. So the next step in terms of the evolution of the garden was to use natural rodent control which is by introducing owls," she explained.

She said after the owl box was donated, they raised money to get EcoSolutions to come and do a professional installation. EcoSolutions spoke to residents about using natural methods of rodent control instead of poison. This is because it was dangerous to animals, pets and children.

Coordinator and project manager of Grow Parkhurst, Pauline Barton, said she had been driving past the Incredible Edible Community Garden for a couple of years. Last year in December, she went in and chatted to Cooper who told her she could volunteer and that is where Barton started. She said they decided that this year they will gradually change the name of the garden from Incredible Edible to Grow Parkhurst because that represents a therapeutic space where personal growth can happen as well as a space for learning how to grow your own food. "EcoSolutions comes in because when you think about

an urban ecosystem you want to invite as much biodiversity into the garden as possible and also have natural ways of controlling pests and that's where the owl box comes from.

"So we will be installing an owl house and the next step would be for us to name this box and integrate it into the garden and learn more about the owls while watching and observing them," said Barton.

Parkhurst Sport and Recreation officer Alessandro Petrus said he mainly looks after the facility and since Parkhurst Incredible Edible tends to the garden, he makes sure all things are running accordingly.



EcoSolutions installer Steven Ncube and volunteer at Incredible Edible Community Garden Tracey Cooper hold the educational sign board under the tree where the owl box is installed.



Enjoy walking your dog but be mindful of the by-laws

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Dog walking is just one of those activities that has formed part of the Rosebank community.

On any given day, you can find residents or dog-walkers leading their pack down the street or at a pet-friendly park.

While this is a fun exercise activity for your four-legged friend, it is important to be aware of the by-laws around dogs in

public spaces.

Because public spaces, especially parks, are used and enjoyed by everyone in the community, these by-laws make sure that dog lovers and their pets take other members of the public into account.

According to the City of Johannesburg's Dogs and Cats By-law of 2006 Section 6, no person may be allowed to bring a dog into any public space if:

- The dog is wild, dangerous or

ferocious

- The dog is in a habit of charging at or chasing people or vehicle
 - The dog is an unsterilised female dog which is on heat
- Section 16 (1) of the Council's Public Open Spaces By-laws, published under Notice 831 in Provincial Gazette Extraordinary No. 179 dated 21 May 2004, also states that all dogs in a public space must be on a leash and under control of a person.

Owners must also, by law, pick

up and properly dispose of their dog's excrement.

With these by-laws in mind, there are a number of dog-friendly parks in the Sandton and surrounding area that is open to all members of the public.

- Lonehill Park, Lonehill
- Riverside Park, Bryanston
- Field and Study Park, Parkmore
- Delta Park, Randburg
- Innesfree Park, Sandton
- James and Ethel Gray Park, Melrose

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