

Vet Science gives Maximus a second life

The Faculty of Veterinary Science recently gave Maximus, the stray dog, a new lease on life with reconstructive surgery. Maximus, a German shepherd breed, and his brother Titus were taken to the SPCA by Mr Werner Appel on 23 April this year. Maximus had lost his snout and upper jaw, and a scan done by Dr Gerhard Steenkamp of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital (OVAH) indicated that it happened in a violent way.

Apart from the fact that Maximus's face was disfigured, surgery had to be performed to protect him from contracting serious diseases like cancer. Dr Steenkamp performed an operation of four hours on the dog, during which time his snout was rebuilt with three titanium plates donated by Roth Medical. One of the plates was bent into an arch and the other two stabilised it. This structure would give Maximus the necessary protection. A bonus was that no skin or tissue had to be removed during the operation.

Within 24 hours of the procedure, Maximus was up and about and had a healthy appetite. He was returned to Wetnose in Bronkhorstspuit where he recuperated very well, and he received a thumbs-up from Dr Steenkamp on 23 June 2011.

Maximus has since been adopted. He is reported to be a friendly dog, trusting of humans and extends his paw in greeting even after what he has been through – what an awesome dog!



Dr Gerhard Steenkamp with Maximus.

Photo: Nelius Rademan of Beeld

