



**Eukanuba**



## **BUZZ OFF TO THE BIRDS!**

### **KING SHAKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S NEW BIRD CONTROL DOG**

*START*

**KWAZULU-NATAL, Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> March** – While aircraft collisions with birds occur very rarely, they can have serious consequences and pose a great hazard. It is estimated that bird strikes with aircraft cost the international aviation industry in excess of US\$1.5 billion per annum through damage to aircraft components, indirect costs such as flight delays and passenger reimbursements.

According to Claire Patterson-Abrolat, Manager of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT's) Airport Wildlife Programme, "Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) and the EWT have been collaborating to address this issue since 1999 and have managed to improve the awareness of the potential hazards that can arise when wildlife interacts with aviation and reduce the risks posed by birds through variety of innovative measures at ACSA airports."

The ACSA airports take bird and wildlife protection and control very seriously and that is the reason that they invested in the Border Collie program. This was to ensure that the wildlife and aircraft could co-exist.

Colin Naidoo, Communications and Brand Manager at King Shaka International Airport (KSIA) said, "We believe that our investment with the Border Collie program goes a long way to assist us to control bird and wildlife and contributes towards the avoidance of aircraft incidents at our airports. The relationship between ACSA and EWT strives to reduce bird strikes at ACSA managed airports by implementing integrated environmental management techniques through their environmentally responsible Bird and Wildlife Control Programme. As part of their commitment, ACSA KSIA, initially Durban International Airport, was the first airport to establish a dedicated unit at the airport. The program at KSIA that is used to control bird and wildlife hazards in accordance with the Wildlife Management Plan refers to a variety of techniques such as the swallow detection radar, use of pyrotechnics, lasers and bird control dogs."

Marius van Rooyen, Senior Bird and Wildlife Controller at KSIA mentioned, "The environmentally-responsible Bird and Wildlife Control Programme utilises a number of ethical and environmentally friendly techniques to minimise the presence and abundance of birds and wildlife on the airfield.

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The Endangered Wildlife Trust is a non-profit, public benefit organisation dedicated to conserving species and ecosystems in southern Africa to the benefit of all people.

**NPO Number:** 015-502, **PBO number:** 930 001 777, **Member of IUCN** - The International Union for Conservation of Nature  
The Endangered Wildlife Trust is US 501(c)(3) compliant under **US IRS Registration number:** EMP98-0586801.



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One of the most effective techniques for controlling bird numbers is the use of bird control dogs such as Border Collies. The birds perceive the dogs as predators and move off to safer grounds beyond the perimeter of the airfield.”

Border Collies are hard workers. They are also very intelligent animals and can be trained to strict levels of obedience, which is a prerequisite for an error free airfield environment. Buzz, 20-months, is the newest member of the Bird Control Dog team at KSIA. He has been in training on a game farm near Alldays in the Limpopo where he has learnt to chase a variety of birds whilst at all times keeping an ear out for commands from his trainer Rox Brummer. His handler, Indhrasen “Dudes” Govender, has visited him several times and the two have bonded well and are set to excel as a team on the airfield. Mac and Tweeny, the original two dogs in the programme, will soon be retired, leaving 6-year old Don and Buzz to do the work on the airfield

“Buzz is fed exclusively on Eukanuba’s Working & Endurance diet to ensure peak performance and optimal body health in all conditions. He will be joining the three Border collies at KSIA, namely Mac, Tweeny and Don,” commented Wendy Fisher from Eukanuba.

The EWT-ACSA partnership has, over the years, has contributed towards assisting South African aviation with its avoidance program and will continue to work across the country to manage the hazardous impacts that human beings and technology can have on each other and co-exist with wildlife.

*End*

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