

Roo, the 2x2 rover spinning work dog

I knew Roo's family before he became famous. He has a wonderful story of how he was rescued. Nobody gave him a second look. He was born with a deformity and only had his two hind legs to lift him up. The Kotze family saw Roo as a lost boy with a heart that pumped more love than his tiny body could contain. The 'boygie' now earns his keep with work that nobody ever expected he could do and he has an outfit to match.



Roo's fans are posting him bowties from all over South Africa. It became part of his personality, which he only leaves in the drawer on his days off. Those are getting fewer these days, but experts say that you never perform a day's work when you do what you love. New Beginnings shelter gave him a new life, and his purpose is to extend that lifetime to other rescue animals as well as humans. Where people see a broken dog; one with a disability, Roo proves that what seems like a weakness, is actually his superpower.

This is also exactly what Nataly Kotze teaches children with their school visits. While children are educated about animal welfare and basic pet care, children also learn that everyone is unique. After collecting and handing donations over to New Beginnings, Roo leaves behind children that embrace their differences instead of bullying. Roo's attitude is a product of New Beginnings and



stands upright with pride as their mascot.

When you walk into the shelter you realise that it is not a place that harbour sadness. This place saved many animals as well as human lives. As a sports journalist, I came upon a fundraising event that friends of mine organised in a sports setting, but I was taken on a journey into a hidden world that nobody wants to mention. It is a world of poverty and where hunger is a daily struggle. Ultimately, the struggle tends to overpower most humans mentally and this results in them discarding their most valuable psychological medicine, their pets.

Read next month's article about how Roo's work brings hope to children. Also, how New Beginnings became a pillar in the community by not only caring for abandoned pets but also turning the tables on a bad situation. Every one of us can learn so much from our furry friends because it was people who abandoned and neglected them once but they don't

hold a grudge. Yes, some need a little more therapy, but now they are one of the most effective medicines for inmates, victims of rape and people suffering with depression. Roo is the spark for a whole lot of hope, and we're excited to tell you more.

