

AUGUST 2011 NEWSLETTER

URGENT APPEAL!

We have unfortunately found ourselves in a VERY DESPERATE SITUATION!! Due to unforeseen circumstances, WE HAVE TO MOVE OUR SHELTER! We need new premises and funds to establish our new shelter. Please, help us by supporting our various fundraising initiatives (PLEASE SCROLL FURTHER DOWN FOR DETAILS), making a kind donation, or contact us if you know of any properties available or any other assistance will be GREATLY appreciated!

Mission: To improve the quality of life of underprivileged animals. We are concentrating on squatter camp animals and feral cats. Read more about both on our website www.4ourpaws.org.za

Vision: To expand by obtaining more vehicles, employing more fieldworkers and operating from our own clinic

SQUATTER CAMP PROJECTS:

The main problem in these poor areas is that people simply do not have the means, transport or finances to provide their animals with basic health care and veterinary treatment. As a result, many animals suffer unnecessarily, while others die a slow, painful death. Ignorance plays a big role in animal cruelty. Overpopulation results in numbers no community can sustain, and many animals die from starvation.

We provide primary health care services, veterinary treatments and sterilisations, free of charge. We also educate pet owners about proper pet care.

UPDATES ON SOME OF OUR RECENT RESCUES:

The poor Staffie we came across in Diepsloot squatter camp:



Fortunately this sweet, strong boy made it fine through the operation and he has made a full recovery! Unfortunately, we have still not been able to find a good home for him, as he is aggressive towards other dogs and he will therefore have to be an only pet. **Please contact us if you can offer him a home.**

We also shared with you the story of this **badly injured dog in Lion Park Township**. He had a large open wound on his back, most probably human inflicted. This also happened several days before we finally found him, fortunately the wound was not yet very infected, but if we had found him any later, the wound would have certainly become very septic!



Fortunately our vet, Dr Grant Craig, (Paulshof Animal Clinic), managed to stretch the skin and stitch up the wound, and he has made a full recovery! Contact us for info on dogs and cats needing homes please?

FERAL CAT PROJECTS: Feral cats are a direct result of humans, not sterilising their cats, starting many years ago. Cats and kittens ended up on the streets, multiplying even more. We trap, sterilise and release ferals and urge people to feed them. Ferals cannot be re-located due to their nature and adult ferals are almost impossible to tame.

We receive SEVERAL calls on a daily basis from people seeking assistance with ferals on their premises. The only humane way to deal with the feral problem is to trap, sterilise, release and feed them. Read more about ferals on our website.

UPDATE on TOOTSIE: A while back, we shared with you the story of one of the most extraordinary kittens we have ever come across. Dr Hahn operated successfully on the umbilical hernia where the intestines pushed through a hole in the muscle, but it was too difficult to operate on the hernia on the groin at the same time, so she will need yet another operation.



Fortunately she has found the most loving home with Tracy Fenton! Our sincere thanks to Tracy. **Please contact us as we have a number of other lovely cats looking for forever homes!**

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE (PUBLISHED IN THE CAXTON NEWSPAPERS)
WRITTEN BY OUR VET, DR SHELAGH HAHN:**

Please help prevent the kitten explosion

Almost every female cat over five months of age will be in the early stages of pregnancy right now and every female kitten will be falling pregnant by October. Cats should be sterilised between four and five months of age. Don't be caught out by that first litter. Kittens are not cute or something 'to have for the kids'. They are a tragedy.

Over the festive season in particular, animal welfare organisations have to destroy up to 10 kittens a day because so many are dumped. While it is preferable to sterilise females, pregnancies can be terminated and this is the lesser evil compared to the destruction of healthy living kittens.

Owners of males are equally guilty and must have their males neutered both for behavioural and fertility reasons.

Another problem are kittens born to homeless feral cats. Many people attempt to 'rescue' them by taking them to welfare organisations. Please do not do this. Even with the most skilled and dedicated hand-raising survival rates are less than 50 percent and you are condemning a welfare worker to two hourly day and night feeds.

You also cause the mother cat considerable distress, pain and even life-threatening mastitis (infection and inflammation of the teats).

The right thing to do is to leave the kittens, feed the mother regularly at the nest, get assistance with trapping and sterilising the mother, and only remove the babies, gradually, when they are weaned.

Then you have really done some good.

SOME THANK YOU'S FOLLOW BUT PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR OUR CURRENT FUNDRAISERS:

A very special thank you to ALL our donors: You give us strength, courage and make it possible for us to continue our work! PLEASE, IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A PERSONAL THANK YOU, NOTIFY US.

Many thanks to **Amy Groves** for doing our books free of charge, helping with our Facebook, raising funds for us (as one half of SAINTs), editing our newsletters and stories and being our personal advisor on many important issues.

Thank you to the ladies of **SAINTs** (especially Viv Elliott) for selling t-shirts and jackets, doing book and jumble sales, raffles and auctions and organizing events on a regular basis.

Thank you to **BWC** (Beauty without Cruelty), for sponsoring some of our sterilizations.

Thank you to **Ed Jackson** for auditing our books free of charge.

Thank you to **Helping Hands, PawsRus** and **Cloud9golf** for organizing fundraising events for us.

Thank you to **Tracy Fenton** for sending out new weekly emails featuring the animals we have up for adoption. Please email her on tracyfenton29@gmail.com to be included and forward and share and help us home! Thank you Tracy!

Thank you to our veterinarians, **Dr Shelagh Hahn (Blue Bush Animal Clinic)** and **Dr Grant Craig (Paulshof Veterinary Clinic)** for doing sterilisations and treatments at reduced costs. Thank you also for re-homing some of our homeless animals.

Wish list:

- FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- Dog- and cat food
- Cat litter
- Carpets to cut up for blankets
- Cat litter trays
- Medicines such as dip, de-worming, vaccines
- Sponsors for our dog kennels (plastic)
- Books for book sales
- Any item that can be used for raffles
- Jumble for jumble sales
- Another vehicle to transport animals

Please help us to help those who cannot speak for themselves by making a kind donation (if possible, remember you can donate goods as above too if you don't have cash) and sending this to all your friends and family. Please support our fundraising drives, so you get something back for your cash!

Banking details:

FOUR PAWS

Nedbank, Fourways

Branch code: 168405, Acc no: 1684110750

Many thanks to each and every supporter!

Kind regards

Merinda Brits

Founder and Chairperson