

NEWSLETTER

February 2008

Our aim is to improve the quality of life of underprivileged animals. We are concentrating on squatter camp animals and feral cats. Read more about both in our column "WHAT FOUR PAWS IS ABOUT"(page 4).

SQUATTER CAMP PROJECTS:

Our main and most important function is sterilisation, as our biggest problem is the overpopulation of dogs and cats. In the areas where we work, the results of overpopulation include starvation, malnutrition, spreading of diseases, etc.

We also provide basic health care such as dipping, de-worming, vaccination, veterinary treatment, etc free of charge. People living in townships and informal settlements, cannot afford these services for their animals. As a result, many animals suffer unnecessarily. We take all unwanted litters of puppies and kittens in, and re-home them to good homes.

Four dogs from Mosawawa squatter camp, on their way to be sterilised



We are fighting a never-ending battle against dogs on short chains with no shelter. Dogs are mainly put on chains due to ignorance, neighbours complaining and also because people have no fences. We educate people, provide shelter (waterproof igloo kennels) and extend short chains.



A dog on a short chain, without shelter



We extend the chains and provide shelter

We come across many sick and injured animals. Injuries vary from fighting, car accidents, wire - and glass cuts, to the occasional human inflicted injuries. We provide veterinary treatment for these animals, also free of charge.

Two dogs that were seriously injured, after proper treatment



The dog in the picture on the **left** was bitten by another dog and the puppy in the picture on the **right**, according to our vet, had been beaten. He was obviously not safe where he stayed, so we placed him in foster care. **If anyone can offer him a good home, please contact us.**

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.

These cats and their behaviour are completely misunderstood by people. Many people see them as pests that should be eliminated. Due to human's destructive nature, rats' biggest natural enemy namely owls, are now mostly only found in nature reserves.

At every shopping centre, restaurant, cafeteria, etc., food is thrown away. This attracts rats and they multiply uncontrollably. Fortunately, feral cats are also attracted to the same areas, due to some availability of food. Therefore, these cats keep the rat population under control.

The "problems" people have with feral cats include spraying, fighting, screaming, multiplying and going into buildings and houses. This is all typical behaviour of **unsterilised, hungry** feral cats. Once they are sterilised and fed, these problems disappear.

We often trap ferals with typical fighting wounds, like the feral in the picture below (on his nose and back). We treat them and keep them in our care until they are well enough to be released.



Sterilising male feral cats, stops them from fighting over females and ensures fewer injuries in feral cats.

Feeding ferals away from a building, will keep them away from the building. Ferals do not like humans; they have no desire to be with us. The only reason why they go into buildings and houses, is because they are looking for food. Well-fed ferals are also healthy cats and this minimizes the spreading of diseases. Rats and leftover food is **not a balanced diet for cats.**

We have trapped, sterilised and released many feral colonies all over and urged people to feed them. At all of these places, humans and cats are living in perfect harmony and both benefit each other. It has been proven over and over that where ferals are removed, other ferals just move in. The **ONLY** proven way to deal with feral cats is to trap, sterilise, release and feed them!

We trap pregnant ferals on a regular basis and most of them need special care after sterilisation. We keep them in our care until they are fit enough to be released.

Two ferals that were pregnant, after sterilisation, recovering in our care



FOUNDERS NOTE:

We were all shocked and horrified with the news of the recent trade in puppies and kittens, in very poor condition, being sold at robots. **Please remember that if you buy one of these puppies or kittens, you are supporting the trade and therefore just as guilty as the people selling them!** Rather notify the authorities and wait until they arrive. The same applies to the pet **shop trade**, which is also one of the **most cruel** industries in the world. **DO NOT SUPPORT THEM!** Adopt a homeless animal from your local Animal Welfare Organisation and save a life!!

A special thank you to our donors:

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Thank you **Kitty & Puppy Haven** and **FOR A** for your help in re-homing our homeless animals.

Banking details

FOUR PAWS
Nedbank, Fourways
Branch code: 168405
Acc nr: 1684110750

Wish list:

- Financial support
- Dog- & cat food, collars, bowls
- Dog kennels
- Another vehicle to transport animals
- Medicines such as dip, de-wormer, vaccines, etc

WHAT FOUR PAWS IS ABOUT:

Our aim is to improve the quality of life of underprivileged animals. In our urban surroundings there are two main categories: squatter camp animals and feral cats.

Squatter camp projects:

The problems with our underprivileged animals are:

- Malnutrition, insufficient shelter & a lack of food and water.
- Animals become sick and injured and there is no medical care available.
- Animals are knocked over by cars on the roads, because there are no fences.
- Dogs are put on chains mainly due to a lack of education and also because there are no fences.
- Animals are multiplying uncontrollably because there are no sterilisation programmes.
- Communicable diseases like distemper, parvo, snuffles, etc. are spreading, because animals are not vaccinated.
- Unwanted animals, especially litters of puppies and kittens, due to overpopulation.

What we do:

- Dipping and de-worming to prevent internal and external parasites.
- Intensive sterilisation campaigns to prevent overpopulation and straying of animals over the roads in mating seasons.
- Removal of unwanted animals and re-homing to suitable homes.
- Vaccination to prevent deadly diseases.
- Veterinary treatment for injuries and diseases.
- Education about proper pet care.
- Humane euthanasia of terminally ill animals.
- Instilling awareness and respect for animals and the environment.
- Confiscation of animals where intentional cruelty occurs.

Feral Projects :

Feral cats are a direct result of humans' irresponsibility not to have their cats sterilised, starting many years ago. This has resulted in a huge overpopulation of cats and kittens living on the streets, multiplying even more.

The facts and problems with our underprivileged cats are:

- People want to "get rid" of ferals, when in fact it is impossible to get rid of them. There are thousands of ferals living all over in our surroundings.
- Where ferals are removed, a void is created and ferals from other areas soon fill that void.
- Unsterilised feral male cats attract female cats from other areas and vice versa. Once they are sterilised, they have no need to attract other cats and become very territorial.
- A sterilised feral colony will not allow other ferals to move in
- Ferals keep the rat population under control, as rats are attracted to the same areas as ferals, normally where food is thrown away.
- Feeding ferals will ensure good health and minimize the spreading of diseases.
- Feeding ferals will not stop them from hunting rats, as hunting is a basic instinct.
- Ferals who are forced to live on rats and mice only, suffer from malnutrition and diseases.
- Ferals are being shot, poisoned and trapped & drowned all over by people.
- Ferals pose NO threat to humans
- Ferals cannot be re-located due to their nature, removing ferals therefore means killing them.

What we do:

- Trap, sterilise and release ferals.
- Educate people about ferals.
- Encourage people to take responsibility for ferals in their area and feed them.
- Trap as many feral kittens as we can, tame and re-home them, instead of letting them grow up on the streets. It is however, a very difficult and time-consuming process to tame feral cats.

**Kind regards,
Merinda**