

NEWSLETTER

April 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:

It is common for animals in squatter camps to die before they are one year old. With our health care and sterilisation programmes, the animals generally survive until an old age.

Mange is a very common skin disease in informal settlements and unfortunately highly contagious. There is also no quick fix for it, but requires weekly treatments for 4 to 8 weeks, depending on the severity.

Before



After 5 weeks of treatment



We recently started working in a squatter camp close to Lion Park (called Video Centre!), where no animal welfare work has ever been done. As a result, there is a huge overpopulation of dogs, many of them fending for themselves and eating from the rubbish dumps. **If anyone can offer a home to a homeless dog, please contact us.**

Three, of the many, homeless dogs



A heavily pregnant, homeless dog



We found this **Maltese cross**, with a coat so knotted and matted, that he could not see through his eyes. We sent him to the parlour where he was shaved, and today he looks like a different dog!



We take all the unwanted puppies and kittens from the places where we work, and look for good homes for them. **The beautiful puppy on the right** had TWO broken back legs, when we found him and his siblings. Fortunately, because of his age, after kennel rest for 8 weeks and regular X-rays and check-ups at the clinic, both legs have healed. **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. We trap, sterilise and release ferals and urge people to feed them.

Feral cats have very hard lives. There are many things threatening their lives like people, dogs, cars and weather conditions. Many feral kittens drown in rainstorms.

Melanie from **Krugersdorp-West**, contacted us about a neighbouring house, where several cats have been abandoned, when their owners moved away. The cats have become “feral” from being left on their own and having to fend for themselves. On our first visit, we trapped 2 kittens. The second time, we trapped another kitten, the third time we trapped two “teenagers”, the fourth time we trapped an adult cat and the fifth time another adult cat.

Two kittens



Two “teenagers”

An adult cat



A third kitten



Another adult cat



We have been unable to establish how many cats are still left at the house, but we will keep on going back until we are satisfied that we have removed all the cats. All of these cats were in a very poor condition. We managed to tame them, and found homes for some of them.

Thousands of feral kittens are born on the streets each year. We take in as many feral kittens as possible, tame and re-home them rather than letting them grow up on the streets. It is, however, a very difficult and time-consuming process to tame feral cats.

We have feral kittens on an ongoing basis in our care. We tame and re-home them to good homes.



Two of our volunteers, Annabelle and Tove, with a litter of 3 kittens. If anyone can offer a homeless kitten a good home, please contact us.

A special thank you to our donors:

Annatjie Prinsloo, Tersia Brits, Lourene Horn, Nicole Hattingh, Chris & Carol(Siliseal), Michael Rosenmann, Anine Louw, Laura Grove, Marlene Ming, Glynnis Jackson, Krysia Back, Andrea Decker, Marius v d Walt, Sheena Volmer, Naomi du Toit, Jenny Blight, Jolene Rich, Sanet van Mazijk, Denise Wait, Lynda Denny, Lu Dowell, Mrs RF Blight, Jacqui Moskovitz, Colin Levin, Rose Tanziani, Angie Carter, Steve Clare, Debbie Tiley, Alec Gullan, Michelle Combrinck, Simon Reif, Surei de Wet, Beverley Thole, Natalie Bell, Tracy Murphy, Elme Smith, Trish Murphy, Miranda Murray, Ian Smart, Catherine Russell, Avril Plots, Pam Duffield, Charlene Douglas, Kim Freeman, Sarah Karas, Adeline Chomse, Inus Prinsloo, Mr/Mrs v d Westhuizen, Cristina Botef, Bev Parker, FP Benade, Jeanette Esterhuizen, Giles Chippendall, Gill Bourne, Alicia van Loggerenberg, Tessa(Vet to Pet)

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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 dogs and cats 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 many thousands of ferals living all over in our surroundings. Feral cats keep the rat population under control.
- 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, mice and left over food 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**