

NEWSLETTER

June 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:

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. We provide primary health care services, veterinary treatments and sterilisations free of charge.

We hope to expand our organisation by employing more fieldworkers and obtaining more vehicles to enable us to help more animals in need. However, disaster struck when our vehicle used for fieldwork, broke down. We do not have enough funds to have it repaired at the moment. Can anyone come to our rescue to enable us to do our rescuing?

We found this **Daschund-cross** running around in Mosawawa squatter camp. According to the residents, he didn't belong to anybody and had been there for some time. He was probably lost or even possibly dumped. Unfortunately, some people were quite hostile towards him and chased him away. He was eating from the rubbish dumps in order to survive. At the Animal Clinic, he was diagnosed with a neurological condition, because of his constant shaking. After being in our care for just a few days, all the shaking had stopped and he is now a very happy healthy dog! He was obviously just severely traumatised by his difficult, previous life.

The day we found a terrified "Brutus"

A very grateful Brutus



One day, while working in the Diepsloot area, we discovered several puppies inside a deep hole. The puppies were only a few days old and while we were trying to establish how many puppies were inside the hole, the mommy dog suddenly appeared. Although we were very relieved, she was very scared of us and we could not catch her. All we could do was to leave food and water for her and try again later. Fortunately our second attempt was successful and mommy and **11 puppies** were taken into our care. Unfortunately one puppy died a day later, but mommy and the 10 remaining puppies are doing very well.



If anyone can offer any of these puppies or mommy dog a good home, please contact us.

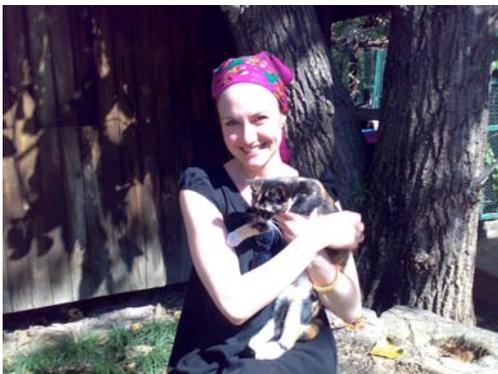
On another occasion, we found a little puppy in Video Centre squatter camp, whose **front legs were so underdeveloped and bent as a result of severe malnutrition**, that she found it difficult to walk. She is now recovering at the Animal Clinic.



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 take as many feral kittens into our care as possible, tame and re-home them to good homes.

We were delighted by a visit from the well-known South African actress Ronalda Marais (“Stefanie” from Binnelanders on M-Net). She accompanied her friend, Annette, who adopted a feral kitten from us.



Ronalda – a big animal lover



With her friend, Annette, and two of our rescue animals



The feral kitten Annette adopted

We received a phone call from Julian, who runs a business from Riversands in Fourways. He spotted a cat in the river on the property, caught in a handmade trap. On arrival we found the cat, soaking wet and barely alive, and rushed him to the vet. The cat swallowed a lot of water, was nearly drowned and freezing cold. According to our vet, he must have been in that ice cold water for hours, in the middle of winter during the night! Despite his bad condition, he made a miraculous recovery and was released from the clinic the next day.



The feral cat after recovering from his horrific ordeal



The place in the river where he was caught in this handmade trap (stick with string)

What a lucky cat!

A special thank you to our donors:

Annatjie Prinsloo, Tersia Brits, Lourene Horn, Annamarie Fockema, Marlene Ming, Nicole Hattingh, Michael Rosenmann, Anine Louw, Laura Grove, Glynnis Jackson, Krysia Back, Andrea Decker, Marius v d Walt, Sheena Volmer, Naomi du Toit, Jenny Blight, Mrs R F Blight, Jolene Rich, Sanet van Mazijk, Denise Wait, Lynda Denny, Lu Dowell, Jacqui Moskovitz, Colin Levin, Rose Tanziani, Steve Clare & Angie Carter, Debbie Tiley, Alec Gullan, Michelle Combrinck, Simon Reif, Beverley Thole, Natalie Bell, Catherine Russell, Avril Plots, Pam Duffield, Charlene Douglas, Kim Freeman, Sarah Karas, Inus Prinsloo, Mr/Mrs v d Westhuizen, Bev Parker, FP Benade, Jeanette Esterhuizen, Giles Chippendall, Gill Bourne, Tessa (Vet to Pet), Lesley Soskin, Lisa Huet, Willemien Stephenson, Petro (Animal Lover Group-Meyersdal), S J Wadlow, Wiida Malan, Pat Devine, David (Kyronlabs), Shoshana Emanuel, Noeline v d Berg, Cheryl v d Merwe, Tracey Murphy, M Walker, CA Friend, Delacovias, Renee Harrison, Margie Steyn, Jenny Selby, Ernestine Strini, Robyn de Robillard, Allyson Douglas

A big thank you to **Cargill** (Fourways) for their donation of R10 000 towards medicines, kennels and food.

Thank you to **Alicia van Loggerenberg** for running our web site free of charge and to **Amy Groves**, our bookkeeper, also rendering her services free of charge.

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

Thank you to our two veterinarians, **dr Shelagh Hahn** and **dr A S Leonard**, for doing sterilisations and treatments at reduced costs.

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
- Any new item that can be used for raffles

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.
- Where ferals are removed, a void is created and ferals from other areas soon fill that void.
- 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.