

NEWSLETTER

July 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.

The situation in Video Centre squatter camp, close to the Lion Park, was very desperate when we started working there. There was a huge overpopulation of dogs and puppies. We have removed **14 unwanted/homeless adult dogs** and over **60 puppies** so far!

Some of the many unwanted puppies we have removed



We placed most of these puppies in the care of Samantha from Kitty & Puppy Haven, as we are not a "shelter", but a "rescue organisation". If anyone can offer any of these puppies a good home, please contact Sam on 083 534 5107. Most of the adult dogs are at FORA; Breggie can be contacted on 082 336 5568.

We are going to "Video Centre" on a weekly basis and dip, de-worm, vaccinate, sterilise and treat dogs and cats. We have sterilised 24 female dogs and 6 cats so far. We found a number of dogs on chains without shelter, and by educating the owners and supplying proper kennels, we are gradually changing a bad situation into a good one! Donations of dog food to us, is distributed to the owners. There are still about 7 homeless dogs scavenging from the rubbish dumps that we have been unable to catch. We will keep trying!

We came across this poor puppy (picture below) that had been knocked over by a car **at least a week prior** and took her to our vet. Both her back legs were badly broken and the wound on her one foot was severely infected with bones sticking out. Together with our vet, dr Shelagh Hahn, we decided to give her a chance by amputating her one leg and fixing up the other one. The remaining leg was however so badly broken that it needed pins, especially since it would be her only back leg.

During the first operation her one leg was amputated, and a week later, the puppy underwent her second big operation. She made it fine through both operations, and is recovering at the Blue Bush Animal Clinic.



The puppy with 2 broken legs and serious wound on her one leg



Shortly after the amputation



After her second operation

Only a few days later, she started walking on her back leg and is making good progress every day! **We are delighted** to announce that Willem and Corne Engelbrecht paid her a visit at the clinic and will be taking her home with them as soon as she has made a full recovery.

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 have come across something **really extraordinary**. We received a call from Allyson, saying that she saw some kittens at the Olivedale Clinic and asked if we could possibly take the kittens in. We agreed, but on arrival we were quite amazed by what we found. We saw at least 6 **Siamese and Siamese-cross feral cats!**

We have trapped and sterilised 5 of them so far. A staff member at the Clinic found 3 two-week-old kittens on the premises and a foster “mommy” was found via our vet, to bottle-feed them. We trapped a fourth (black) kitten, about 6 weeks old and she is still in our care.



We also trapped and sterilised 2 black cats and 1 black-and-white cat at Olivedale Clinic.

Normally cats have their offspring in spring and summer, but this year we have come across almost as many feral kittens as we usually do in summer!



Two of the many feral kittens we took into our care

FOUNDER'S NOTE:

Many thousands of young and healthy animals are put down country wide EACH MONTH! Overpopulation of animals is still the biggest problem and the reason for the suffering of many animals. PLEASE do not contribute to this tragic situation – STERILISE your pets!! Remember, unsterilised male animals are making babies somewhere else, especially male cats who can roam freely! **Don't breed or buy while the homeless die . . .**

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, Kryisia 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, Pam Duffield, Charlene Douglas, Kim Freeman, Sarah Karas, Bev Parker, FP Benade, Giles Chippendall, Gill Bourne, Tessa (Vet to Pet - Paulshof), Karen (Vet to Pet - Lonehill), Lesley Soskin, Lisa Huet, Willemien Stephenson, Petro (Animal Lover Group-Meyersdal), S J Wadlow, Wiida Malan, Pat Devine, Shoshana Emanuel, Noeline v d Berg, Cheryl v d Merwe, M Walker, CA Friend, Delacovias, Renee Harrison, Margie Steyn, Jenny Selby, Ernestine Strini, Robyn de Robillard, Allyson Douglas, Debbie Dreyer, Sandy Parker, Jacquie Dixon, Chris Herbst, Rebekah Edmonds, SA Nathan, U-care, R C Rooks, Cecile Leck, Allyson Douglas, Stewarts & Lloyds, Kathy Perreira & daughter, Ivan v Niekerk, Sacha Fraser, Nikki Raubenheimer, Linda Brink, Joan Dawson, A M Kenney, Lynn Grace, Susan & Philip Kleijnhans, Mark & Millie, Anita Mocke, Fenya Popof, Liz Hillman, Yolanda Oosthuizen, Sharon Roe, Derrick & Donne v Eeden, Jeanette Esterhuizen, Joan Conway, U G Nunes, M Santos, A Grohovaz, Ian Smallie, Sash & Star, Sue Wells, Candida Smith, Anso Goncalves, K L Parry, Belinda Denzler, E Jonson, Vanessa Dickinson, June Packer, M & RM Riback-Blanketdrive, Annette Werth, GWIS Irrigation, Verwey Golf Range

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 **FORA** for your help in re-homing our homeless animals.

Thank you to our two veterinarians, **dr Shelagh Hahn (Blue Bush Animal Clinic)** and **dr A S Leonard (Northriding Animal Clinic)**, 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

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.