

## NEWSLETTER

September 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.**

On one of our visits to Mosawawa squatter camp, we found a **mommy dog and her 4 puppies**, about 3 months old, abandoned when their owner moved away and left them behind. She had to fend for herself and her puppies for such a long time, that she was very frightened and bewildered. **We managed to catch all the scared puppies, but the mommy ran away.** After not seeing her for a couple of months, we were surprised to find her at her abandoned shack, **with another litter of five-week-old puppies.** Fortunately we were able to catch her this time and mommy and her four puppies were taken into our care.



We placed the dog and her puppies in the care of **Samantha from Kitty & Puppy Haven**, where she is undergoing serious rehabilitation. **If anyone can offer this very special dog or any of her puppies a loving home, please contact Sam on 083 534 5107.**

We often come across dogs who had been hit by cars or taxis. Sometimes the wounds are too severe and we have to put the dog down; other times we are able to save them. **The dog in the pictures below, is one of the lucky ones.** The wound on her foot was very serious, but after treatment the dog is recovering very well.



**Some feedback:** In our July newsletter we mentioned that there were 7 dogs scavenging from the rubbish dumps in Video Centre squatter camp, which we have been unable to catch. **Due to the endless efforts of our dedicated staff, Doctor and Geoffrey, 6 out of the 7 dogs were caught,** with the help of our own handmade dog trap. **Three of the dogs were suffering from biliary, and another dog from a hernia.**



**Doctor and Geoffrey with our dog trap**

The dogs are now in the care of FORA shelter and Canine Edu' Centre.



**One of the dogs caught in the trap**

We were delighted when **Koven Moodley**, who works for **Nedbank Group Technology, Project and Programme Management**, introduced us to **Rodney** from **Shawson Plastics**, who now supplies us with plastic kennels at cost price! We distribute the kennels free of charge to dogs in the squatter camps.



### **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 received a call from Betsy, who works for Absa Technology Finance Solutions in Bryanston. She is feeding a small colony of ferals on their premises and noticed something around the body of one of the cats. We managed to trap the cat and took her to our vet. **An empty ring of tape was stuck around her abdomen,** impossible for her to get rid of. The tape did not cause any injuries, yet the cat was in season and it was only a matter of time before she would have been pregnant, and the tape would have caused **serious damage to her and her unborn babies.** The cat and the rest of the colony are now sterilised.



We also received a call from Rene, who is feeding ferals in Hillbrow, about a domestic cat in the area, in a very poor condition, fending for himself. He was very dirty and we took, what we thought was a grey cat, to our vet for sterilisation. When we collected him from our vet, we realized that this is in fact a ginger cat, after he got rid of some of the dirt on his coat! He found a very good home with Nikki and Ben Said.



Traces of the grey dirt on his legs and in his face that covered his whole body



At his new home, after a good bath!

### **A special thank you to our donors:**

**Annatjie Prinsloo, Tersia Brits, Lourene Horn, Annamarie Fockema, Nicole Hattingh, Michael Rosenmann, Anine Louw, Laura Grove, Glynnis Jackson, 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, Sarah Karas, FP Benade, Giles Chippendall, Gillian Bourne, Tessa (Vet to Pet - Paulshof), Karen (Vet to Pet - Lonehill), Lesley Soskin, Lisa Huet, Petro (Animal Lover Group - Meyersdal), Wiida Malan, Noeline v d Berg, Renee Harrison, Jenny Selby, Ernestine Strini, Allyson Douglas, Debbie Dreyer, Sandy Parker, Jacquie Dixon, Chris Herbst, U-care, Cecile Leck, Kathy Perreira & daughter, Ivan v Niekerk, Sacha Fraser, Nikki Raubenheimer, Linda Brink, Lynn Grace, Susan & Philip Kleijnhans, Mark & Millie, Fenya Popof, Liz Hillman, Yolanda Oosthuizen, Sharon Roe, Derrick & Donne v Eeden, Jeanette Esterhuizen, Anthony Grohovaz, Sash & Star, Sue Wells, Anso Goncalves, Belinda Denzler, Vanessa Dickinson, June Packer, M & RM Riback-Blanketdrive, Annette Werth, GWIS Irrigation, Jodi White, Bridget Kelly, Proworx Technologies, Andre vd Westhuizen, Mrs A E Rand, Multid Formiway Finance, Cristina Botef, Angelique de Bruyn, Tessa Papadopoulos, Wendy Flint, L Till, Natalie Botha, Willem Engelbrecht, Caryn Vos, Marlisa Plint, Taryn Schoeman, Jodi White, Bridget Kelly, Surei de Wet, Amy Groves, Glenrandmib, Jay Mothobi,**

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 **Ed Jackson** for auditing our books free of charge.

A **VERY BIG** thank you to the **Social Responsibility Committee of Cargill** (Fourways) for their donation of **R50 000**, towards medicines, vet bills, kennels, food, etc!! Thank you Nikki for initiating this donation!

Thank you **Kitty & Puppy Haven, FORA and Canine Edu' Centre** 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.

Thank you to the staff of **Nedbank Group Technology, Project & Programme Management**, for their continuing support by means of financial support, food, medicines, etc.

### **Banking details**

FOUR PAWS

Nedbank, Fourways

Branch code: 168405, Acc no: 1684110750

### **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.