

## NEWSLETTER

March 2009

**Mission:** 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 5).

**Vision:** To expand by obtaining more vehicles, employing more fieldworkers and having our own clinic with a qualified veterinarian.

### 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 found this puppy that had been knocked over by a car, resulting in **two broken back legs**, lying in a dirt road in Mosawawa squatter camp. Fortunately, a kind lady took pity on her while she was still recovering at our vet and adopted her when she was released from the clinic.



On one of our visits to Malatje squattercamp close to the Lion Park, we came across this dog who was suffering from a combination of mange and ringworm. His almost bare skin was covered with sores. We immediately started intensive treatment and 6 weeks later, his skin has healed completely!



A dog suffering from ringworm and mange

Six weeks later, and look how he is admiring his new coat!

On a recent visit to Bapsfontein squatter camp, we came across this black **abandoned dog** (picture below). He was obviously in very bad shape and we took him to our vet. Our vet's findings were even **more shocking** than we expected. The dog was severely emaciated, riddled with worms, covered in ticks and fleas, suffering from biliary, had sores all over his body and maybe the worst – his head was very swollen, according to our vet typical from severe **BEATINGS!**

He was terrified of people and we were faced with a difficult decision. Should we put him down or should we treat and try to rehabilitate him? Something in his eyes, although very sad, told us that he wanted to **LIVE!** He is only approximately 8 months old! He is now slowly, **but surely**, recovering at our vet, dr Shelagh Hahn. Our sincere thanks to Melanie, dr Hahn's assistant, for taking such good care of him! We desperately need a very loving home for him!



This poor doggie was found in Video Centre squatter camp (picture below), with an elastic band tied so tightly around his testicles, that the blood supply was cut off completely. By the time we found him, his testicles were completely **ROTTEN**. When we arrived at our vet, she operated on him immediately and the rotten testicles were amputated. He has made a full recovery and we were fortunate to find a good, loving home for him.



### **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 trapped this feral kitten in one of the alleys in Hillbrow. His sibling and mother were possibly killed by people with **BOTTLES**, as they were found dead amongst empty bottles and pieces of bottles. He was very

wild, but we have managed to rehabilitate him and he is now looking for a loving home. He is approximately 12 weeks old, vaccinated and sterilized.



**UPDATE ON THE NEWLANDS CATS: (story in our December newsletter)**

We carried on our rescue attempts at the Newlands house until the end of December, when the house was sold and the new owner moved in with her two dogs. We rescued a total of 19 cats from the house. Nine adult cats are still in our care; unfortunately they are feral and not able to be rehabilitated. **We have built a shelter for them** (picture below), where they can safely spend the rest of their lives.

One of the tame cats is still looking for a home (picture below). She is extremely friendly and loving and deserves a very good home after living in “**the house of horrors**”! If anyone can offer this **lovely cat** a good home, please contact us.



**A very big thank you** to Kitty & Puppy Haven for donating the Wendy Houses for the shelter.

**A very kind person donated and delivered many bags of Whiskas cat food for the Newlands cats to our vet, but unfortunately the details of the person went missing and we were never able to thank this person! Please send us your details.**



This **beautiful cat** (picture above), was brought to our vet with a spinal problem that caused pressure on her spinal cord and therefore she was unable to feel when she needed to use the litter tray. After an operation, the problem was solved, but unfortunately her owners suddenly decided that they don't want her back!

She is a sweet, loving cat and she needs a home **desperately**. She is very unhappy sitting a cage! She is already 12 years old and need someone special to take care of her for the last few years of her life. If you are able to offer this cat a good home, please contact us.

**On a sad note:**

One of our monthly donors, Sheena Vollmer, sadly passed away after a long fight against cancer. Not only was she a passionate animal lover, but she also trapped and sterilised feral cats for many years in her spare time.

**Sheena, we will love and treasure you in our hearts forever!**

**A special thank you to our donors:** It has become impossible to list all the names of our donors. PLEASE, if you have not received a personal thank you from us, let us know.

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.

Thank you **Kitty & Puppy Haven, FORA and Wetnose** for your help in re-homing our homeless animals. Thank you **Marilyn from Bryanston Ext Kennels**, for fostering homeless dogs for us, free of charge.

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 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.