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## NEWSLETTER

June 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 operating from our own clinic.

### 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.**

**Update on the abused and abandoned Bapsfontein dog:** In our March newsletter, we told the story of this poor doggie (pictures below); we found in Bapsfontein squatter camp, barely alive. He was severely emaciated, covered in ticks and fleas, suffering from billary. His body was full of sores and his head was very swollen. When we found him, he was so weak, he could not stand up. He was also very traumatised and we were not sure whether he was going to survive. To our delight, he made a full recovery AND we found a wonderful home for him! Our sincere thanks to Vicky and Robert for all their loving care and patience with this special dog! (The white patch on his chest is just about the only way to recognize him!)



Before



After

**Our main function in squatter camps remains the sterilisation of dogs and cats.** Unfortunately, we still come across many litters of unwanted puppies and kittens.



This is truly sad, as so many of these puppies and kittens die from worms, diseases or malnutrition. People are struggling more and more to feed themselves, let alone their animals! Unfortunately, there will never be enough good homes for all these homeless animals! If you are in a position to give a homeless animal a good home, please contact us.

**We received a huge donation of dog blankets and Pedigree dog- and cat food.** A very big thank you to **Alan and Melissa** from **Blanketdrive** for this wonderful blanket donation and for all their continuing support, as well as to **Pedigree** for all their food donations! Our sincere thanks to **Sam** from **Kitty and Puppy Haven** for making these food donations possible!



**This dog was smacking his lips**



**This one grabbed the bag before we could even open it**

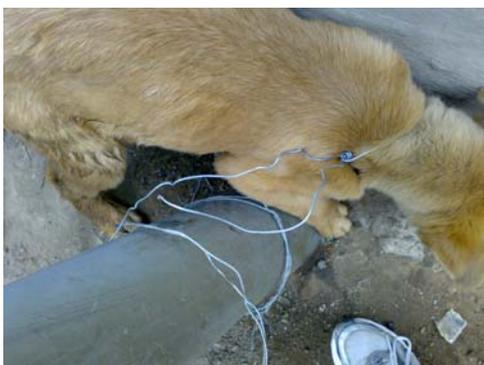


**Even the cat came to inspect the new blanket**



**Cosy and warm in her kennel with her new blanket**

We came across a dog (picture below), that was tied to a pole with wire and could hardly move. The dog, however, was in a good condition. Ignorance plays a huge role in the treatment of animals in Townships. We believe in educating the owners before just removing an animal, as the chances are very good that the owners will just get another dog and treat it the same. In this case, the owner explained that he is worried his dog will disappear while he is at work. After we explained that it is cruel and against the law to keep a dog on a short chain, he replaced it with a long chain. He also assured us that he takes his dog off the chain when he arrives home. **Regular visits are paid to these houses to ensure that the animals are treated properly.** If an owner persists in his old ways, the animal is removed.



**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.

At so many places where we trap ferals, we come across tame cats that obviously belonged to people once, but were somehow abandoned or even dumped.

We received a call from a lady, Shauneen, who had been feeding this beautiful cat (picture below), **for several months** in her garden, but she could never get close to him. We managed to trap him and as soon as he was inside the trap, we realised that he is a domesticated cat and not a feral. He was fortunate enough to find a very good home. Our thanks to Esna for giving him a loving home and to Marilyn for all her assistance in finding him a good home.



**The beautiful Birman, who use to live like a feral on the streets**

**Many feral** cats get knocked over by cars and tragically, many of them sustain serious injuries and die a slow, painful death. This cat (picture below) was one of the lucky ones. She lives on business premises in Midrand and David, who has been feeding and looking after her, contacted us when he realised she had been injured. We have trapped and sterilised her about 1 year ago (notice the clip on the left ear, done by the vets as proof of sterilisation). She had hip surgery and made a full recovery.



**Recovering at our vet, dr Hahn. She became semi-tame after her long stay at the Animal Clinic and Melanie, dr Hahn's assistant, was able to lightly touch her after a while.**

**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 and Gwen 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

PLEASE ALSO READ THE PAGE "WHAT FOUR PAWS IS ABOUT" BELOW.

**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.