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## NEWSLETTER

September 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. Overpopulation results in numbers no community can sustain, and many animals die from starvation. We provide primary health care services, veterinary treatments and sterilisations, free of charge.**

On one of our house-to-house visits in Waterworks squatter camp, we came across these three **emaciated dogs on short chains, with no food or water**. The owner was not at home and the gate was locked. We asked all the neighbours, but no one could tell us where to find the owner.

We returned the next day and fortunately found a young boy at the house who told us where his father works. We arrived at his work place and after explaining to him that it is a criminal offence to keep dogs on short chains and without food or water, he surrendered all three dogs to us. We also informed him that we will do regular check-ups at his house, to ensure that he does not keep dogs under these circumstances, in future.



The dogs are now recovering at FORA Animal Shelter in Roodepoort. If anyone can offer any of these dogs a good home, please contact us.

**UPDATE ON THE DASCHUND AND HER PUPPY:** At the end of July we sent out the story of a Daschund that was dumped by her owners on their domestic worker. We sent them a letter explaining that they had placed their dog in a situation where the new owner could not afford to feed her proper dog food, de-worm her, de-flea her, supply a proper kennel or have her sterilised.

We informed them that we found the emaciated Daschund, covered in fleas, with one puppy. She only had a piece of corrugated iron for shelter. We were told by Anna (the domestic worker), that the other puppy had died. The remaining puppy showed signs of malnutrition and severe worms. The response from the father of the previous owners was: *“It is unfortunate that my kids gave their dog to the maid. They were obviously fed lies by Anna who told them the dog sleeps with her son, bath together go to school with him etc. They also regularly gave her food for the dog etc.”*

Both mommy and puppy found wonderful homes! Thank you San-Marie, for all your help in finding them good homes. Thank you Dawn, for your concern about these dogs and for contacting us.



In our July 2008 newsletter, we told the story of the **“puppy with two broken legs”**. Our vet was able to save the left back leg, but the right back leg had to be amputated. Our sincere thanks to Corne and Willem Engelbrecht for giving this dog such a loving home! **Isn't she gorgeous?!**



**Before**



**One year later**

The owner of this **beautiful male Staffie** (picture below), from Mosawawa squatter camp, contacted us and told us that he cannot afford to keep his dog any longer. The dog is only about one year old and is now **desperately looking for a home!** Please contact us if you can offer him a home. **He is adorable!**



In August we sent out the story of this poor little lost Foxie (pictures below), who got hit by a taxi while she was crossing one of the busiest roads in Fourways. She was admitted to Fourways Veterinary Hospital, **in a coma and with severe swelling on the brain**. Nobody thought she would survive, but to our surprise she made a miraculous recovery, without any permanent damage. Unfortunately, she had no name tag or microchip and nobody has claimed her.

She is very friendly with all people, including children, and shows no interest in cats. Unfortunately, she is very aggressive towards ALL dogs.



**Recovering at Fourways Animal Hospital      A recent picture of her**

**She is still looking for a home**, where she will be the only dog. If you can offer this very sweet girl a good home, please contact us. Our sincere thanks to **Marylyn** and **Gwen** from Bryanston Ext Kennels, for taking such good care of her!

**UPDATE ON JOEY, THE COSMO CITY DOG:** We found this dog, **more than a week after** she got hit by a car on her left back leg. Her leg was severely injured and the open wounds were completely rotten. Our vet, dr Shelagh Hahn, had to amputate the leg.

Fortunately, she made a full recovery and she is running around like any normal dog. She also found the ideal home, with another three-legged dog as a companion! Our thanks to Mr and Mrs Blight for giving this special dog a wonderful home.



**Shortly after the amputation**

**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.

The cat and kittens in the pictures below, were yet **more victims of people dumping their animals on their domestic workers!** A concerned lady, Lisa, contacted us after discovering that the cat, together with her 5 four-day-old kittens, were sent to Mathole squatter camp in Roodepoort. When we spoke to the new owner, **she told us that she did not even want the cats!**

On arrival, we found the five tiny kittens in a box, but the mommy cat was so bewildered, that she became “feral” and we could not catch her. Finally we managed to trap her with our cat trap. They are now safe at Kitty Shelter.



**Mommy cat caught in our cat trap**



**The 5 four-day-old kittens**

**A special thank you to our donors:** Without the wonderful people like you, we would not be able to continue our work! PLEASE, IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A PERSONAL THANK YOU FROM US, NOTIFY US.

Many thanks to **Amy Groves** for doing our books free of charge, managing our Facebook, raising funds for us (also one of the founders of SAINT’s) and being our personal advisor on many important issues.

Thank you to **SAINTs** for doing book sales for us on a regular basis, as a way of fundraising.

Thank you to **BWC** (Beauty without Cruelty), for sponsoring some of our sterilizations.

Thank you to **Alicia van Loggerenberg** for running our web site free of charge.

Thank you to **Ed Jackson** for auditing our books free of charge.

Thank you **Kitty & Puppy Haven, Co-Sanc and FORA** for your help in re-homing our homeless animals.

Thank you **Marylyn and Gwen from Bryanston Ext Kennels**, for fostering homeless dogs for us, free of charge.

Thank you to our veterinarians, **dr Shelagh Hahn (Blue Bush Animal Clinic)**, **dr Grant Craig (Paulshof Veterinary 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.