

NEWSLETTER

June 2007

Our aim is to improve the quality of life of underprivileged animals. We are concentrating on squatter camp dogs and cats, and feral cats.

SQUATTER CAMP PROJECTS:

We have mobile clinics where we dip, de-worm, vaccinate and treat sick dogs and cats. We do intensive sterilisation campaigns to prevent over population and litters of unwanted puppies and kittens. We do house-to-house visits to inspect, educate and encourage people to bring their animals to the clinic.

We found this dog on a very short chain in the middle of pieces of scrap metal, with no kennel or water.



We removed all the scrap metal and provided a kennel and a long running chain. We also educated the owner about pet care. The dog is now a happy dog and has fresh water every day! Unfortunately we cannot prevent people from keeping their dog on a chain. According to the law, a dog may be kept on a running chain.

Team work:

The principle of the nursery school in Bapsfontein squatter camp, Johanna, called us one day with some bad news. She told us there is a property next to the squatter camp, where people moved away and left their animals behind.

We went there immediately and found one dog, a chow, and a black cat. The animals have been left on their own for almost two weeks. Both were so bewildered and frightened that our first attempt to rescue them was unsuccessful.

We called in the help of Wet Nose, an animal rescue centre in Pretoria. In a team effort the next day, we managed to catch both the dog and the cat.

The chow's coat was in such a bad condition that all his hair had to be shaven off. Both are doing well in the care of Wet Nose.

If anyone can offer these two animals a good home, please contact us.

Abandoned for almost two weeks, now safe at Wet Nose looking for loving homes.....



We managed to locate the owners of these animals and opened a case of animal cruelty against them. We are waiting for the outcome.

FERAL PROJECTS:

Feral cats are a direct result of human's irresponsibility to have their cats sterilised, starting many years ago. This has resulted in a huge over population of cats living on the streets, multiplying even more.

The only proven and humane way to deal with the feral problem is to trap, sterilise, release and feed them. We have trapped and sterilised many feral colonies successfully, all over.

A wonderful success story:

We were approached by two concerned cat lovers, Denise Wait and Trish Murphy, to help with the feral cats on Emma Park Koppie in Linden. They formed a working group together with the Risidale and Montroux Residents' Association, after some of the residents threatened to poison the cats.

After we explained that getting rid of the ferals will just create a void and other ferals will soon move in, Trish and Denise gained strong support from the public. An appeal from them to sponsor a cat for sterilisation, resulted in a response beyond our expectations. Well done to Trish and Denise, and a very big thank you to all of you who opened your hearts and wallets to help us save the ferals on Emma Park koppie! We have trapped, sterilised and released **15** cats so far. There are approximately 30 cats in total. A very kind gentleman, Chris Labuschagne, is feeding the cats twice a day. Thank you Chris!

Some of the ferals already trapped and sterilised (pictures 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 animals are:**

- Malnutrition, insufficient shelter & a lack of food and water.
- Animals become sick and injured and there is no medical care available.
- Animals are hit by cars on the roads, because there are no fences.
- Dogs are put on chains due to a lack of education.
- 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 unwanted litters 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 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 tens of thousands 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.
- 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 and mice only, suffer from malnutrition and diseases.
- Ferals are being shot, poisoned and trapped & drowned all over by people.

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.

Founder's view:

Breeders, backyard breeders and pet shops are animal welfare's worst enemies. They are directly responsible for the huge over population of dogs and cats in this country and the reason why thousands of young and healthy animals are being put down every month. They do it for money and not for love. PLEASE don't breed or buy while the homeless die...

We urgently need your help to continue our necessary work! Please help us to help them. Forward to a friend.

Kind regards,
Merinda
FOUR PAWS

Banking details:

FOUR PAWS
Nedbank
Branch code: 168405 Acc nr: 1684110750

A special thank you to our donars:

Annatjie Prinsloo, Tersia Brits, Lourene Horn, Nicole Hattingh, Chris & Carol(Siliseal), Michael Rosenmann, Anine Louw, Laura Grove, Avril Plots, Glynnis Jackson, D Bredenhann, Jan Coetzee, Krysia Back, Andrea Decker, U-care, Marius vd Walt, Sheena Volmer, Marcelle Harris, Naomi du Toit

Wishlist:

- Financial support**
- Dog kennels**
- Dog and cat food**
- A vehicle to transport animals**
- Volunteer veterinarians to do sterilisations**
- Dog and cat carriers**
- Blankets**
- Wendyhouse for foster animals**
- Medicines such as dip, de-wormer, anti-septic aids, vaccines**