

NEWSLETTER

August 2007

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

SQUATTER CAMP PROJECTS:

We were contacted by Montagu Property Group, the developers of a Golf Estate in Randburg. They expressed their concern about abandoned dogs after some squatters on the property were evicted. The squatters were given notice of the development some time ago, but failed to vacate the area. In July 2007, a court order was issued for the eviction of the squatters. Unfortunately, like with most evictions, the animals were left behind. The owners usually do not have transport for their animals or they cannot keep the animals where they are moving to. We were given a generous donation by Montagu Property Group for the removal of the dogs.

At first we found eight puppies, but they were hiding in a container out of our reach. The next day we found them outside and this made our attempt easier and successful.

The following day, we went back for the adult dogs. There were 9 dogs in total. This was not an easy task either. The dogs were frightened and ran away from us, but eventually we managed to catch four dogs.

Eight beautiful puppies!

We had to muzzle one dog, because she wanted to bite us out of fear.



The mother of the puppies was nowhere to be found. Fortunately, the remaining four dogs were collected by their owner. The dogs we removed, are currently in foster care. They have become quite sociable in the meantime and are now normal loving pets.

We are urgently looking for loving homes for these dogs. If anyone can offer any of these dogs a good home, please contact us!!

Kennel project:

Little or no shelter is very common in these poor areas where we work, and therefore a very big problem to us. Fortunately, we were contacted by Russell Ball, who offered to sponsor an amount of kennels every month. We decided that plastic kennels will be the best, because it is waterproof and will last a very long time. We

approached Accelerate Design, the suppliers of Igloo Kennels, and they agreed to supply their kennels at a reduced cost. Russell sponsored 10 kennels this month!

The first two dogs who received their brand new kennels! The brown dog couldn't wait to try it out!



Thank you Russell and Accelerate Design for giving our underprivileged dogs a cosy, warm shelter for life! Viv Spooner re-carpeted her house and donated all her old carpets to us. We are cutting the carpets into squares that fit into the kennels for dog blankets. Thank you Viv!

Update on animal cruelty case:

In our June newsletter we told the story about the dog, a chow, and the black cat that were left behind on a property close to Bapsfontein squatter camp, when their owners moved away. The chow's coat was in a shocking condition and all his hair had to be shaven off.

We opened a criminal case against the owners for neglect and abandonment. After many phone calls to the police station, we finally managed to get in touch with the investigating inspector. We met him at the premises where the animals were left behind in order for him to question the neighbours, but they were not home.

The inspector assured us that he would go back later for further investigation. Again we have made numerous phone calls to the police station to find out if the inspector kept his word, but so far all our efforts were in vain.

To our shock and horror, we discovered another chow, on the same property, in an even worse condition than the chow we removed. It seemed to us that this chow is suffering from a very serious condition called pro-lapse. This is normally caused by a hormonal disfunction. The vagina becomes very red and swollen and if not treated, the animal suffers a slow and painful death.

The gate was locked, so we left a letter to inform the owners that criminal charges will be brought against them for withholding veterinary treatment from their dog, if they do not have their dog treated immediately. Two days later, nothing had changed and we left another letter saying that we will now take legal action against them. Only after this letter did the owner contact us and told us that he took his dog to a veterinarian but it was too late and the dog had to be put down.

To open a criminal case against the owner for taking his dog to the vet too late, would bring us nowhere. Just to get the police to investigate our case against the owners of the previous chow and cat, has been nothing but a huge battle. But then, a man recently cut off his dog's head with a chainsaw and he walked away with a slap on the wrist!

There is no justice for animals in our legal system!

FERAL PROJECTS:

Feral cats are a direct result of human's irresponsibility not to have their cats sterilised. Over the years, cats ended up on the streets, multiplying even more. The only humane way to deal with feral cats is to trap,

sterilise and release them. We encourage people in the area to feed them.

We have been very busy with feral projects all over in areas such as Highlands North, Robin Hills, Northcliff, Blackheath, Strijdom Park, Kyalami, Kempton Park and many more.

We are still committed to the Emma Park Koppie feral project in Linden (re: the story in our June newsletter). It has been a very difficult task; the cats are hiding away, mainly because of our exceptionally cold winter, and also because of some homeless people who moved onto the Koppie.

We always try and trap the feral kittens, tame and re-home them, instead of letting them grow up on the streets. Both feral kittens we trapped on Emma Koppie, have been tamed and re-homed to good homes.

One of the kittens called Crystal, with her two proud owners, Andrea and Malaika.



We trapped this beautiful feral cat (picture below), in Kyalami and took her in, because she was not safe where she lived. People all over threaten the lives of these cats because they are seen as “pests”. Feral cats keep the rat population under control and therefore they are taking care of the REAL pests!

We are now in the process of taming her. Adult feral cats are much more difficult to tame than feral kittens, and therefore we do not normally take adult ferals in. It is also difficult to find homes for adult cats.



As soon as we have managed to tame her, we will be looking for a good home for her.

Founders view:

There are still so many places that receive no animal welfare. In each of these places animals are suffering unnecessarily. We are aiming towards having our own veterinary clinic with a qualified veterinarian. We also want to employ more trained staff to do field work and more vehicles to reach more places. We urgently need your help to enable us to reach our dream! Please help us to help them. Forward to a friend.

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 mainly 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 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 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.

Kind regards,
Merinda
FOUR PAWS

Banking details:

FOUR PAWS
Nedbank
Branch code: 168405 Acc nr: 1684110750

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A number of donor's names do not reflect on our statements and we do not have e-mail addresses for others. Please be so kind to send us your details so we can also thank you in person.

Wish list:

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| -Financial support | -Dog and cat carriers |
| -Dog kennels | -Anything that could be used for raffles |
| -Dog and cat food | -Wendy house for foster animals |
| -A vehicle to transport animals | -Medicines such as dip, de-wormer, anti-septic aids, vaccines |
| -Carpets to cut up for dog blankets | -Volunteer veterinarians to do sterilisations |