

NEWSLETTER

September 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:

Not all animals in squatter camps are neglected, abused or starving. The main problem in these poor areas is that people simply do not have the means, transport or money to take their pets to a vet when they are sick and injured, or to have them sterilised. Ignorance, rather than cruelty, plays a very big roll. Therefore, many animals suffer unnecessarily. A dog on a short chain, with little or no shelter, is a common picture.

We provide basic health care like dipping, de-worming, vaccination and sterilisation, free of charge. We treat sick and injured animals and educate people about proper pet care. When we come across intentional cruelty, we always try to convince the owners to change the situation. If they ignore us or refuse our help in doing so, we confiscate the animals. It is, however, very easy for people to find another dog and treat it exactly the same. **Education and assistance are much more effective!**

We found this dog on a chain, inside a cage with no water (picture below). It seemed to us that this dog is purely being used as an "alarm" to keep intruders out. We left a note stating that it is against the law to keep a dog on a short chain or in a cage. We also stated that their dog would be taken away if they do not change the situation. Two days later, the dog was off the chain and out of the cage! Regular check-ups will be done.



We provide kennels where there is little or no shelter. We replace heavy chains with light chains.



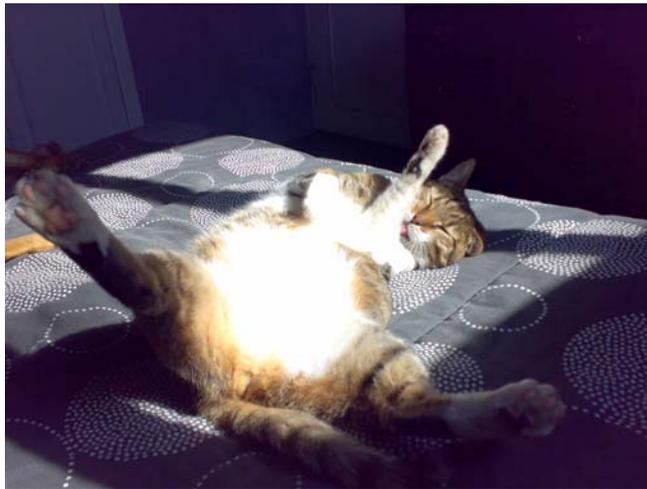
We extend short chains to make long chains(behind this dog is the “kennel” he use to have –1st picture)



Unfortunately we cannot prevent people from keeping their dog on a chain. If a dog tends to bite people, especially children, or kill someone’s chickens, the owner could get into big trouble and the dog possibly killed. We can only do our best to improve the lives of these underprivileged animals.

Felix was an abandoned cat in Diepsloot squatter camp for over three months, before a concerned resident notified us. The owner moved away when she was offered a live-in position. She left catfood with the neighbours, but they failed to look after the cat. Felix was bewildered and thin when we found her, and took her in. She is now a very happy, fat cat!

Felix’s favourite position while cleaning herself!



At Four Paws we care about all animals...

We rescued a baby goat and a chicken, running over busy roads, on two separate occasions. Both were obviously lost, as we couldn’t find any of their own species around. They are now in good hands where they will not end up on the dinner table!



We rescued this poor dog that had been knocked over by a car and left for dead on the highway.



He had to undergo major surgery on his back leg and is now recovering in our care. We are still looking for a good home for him. If anyone can help, please contact us.

FERAL PROJECTS:

Surei de Wet, who works in Kya Sands, approached us for help with the feral cats on their premises. They are feeding the cats and quite happy to have them around, but were worried about them multiplying. Surei asked us to trap and sterilise them. Two of the cats had cancer on their ears.

We had a choice between euthanasing them or have their ears amputated. Needless to say, we decided on the latter, since the cats are well cared for and can still live normal lives.

They may not be so pretty anymore, but fortunately they do not have mirrors!



On a sad note:

At two of the places where we trapped, sterilised and released ferals, the managements decided that the cats are not welcome anymore. This means that all our hard work, expenses, time, etc were all in vain, **but even worse** is the fact that these healthy, innocent cats are now facing death, for there is nowhere else for them to go.

Feral cats are very misunderstood by most people. **Please** also read more about ferals in our column "What Four Paws is about" and help us to save feral cats by educating people about them!

A special thank you to our donors:

Annatjie Prinsloo, Tersia Brits, Lourene Horn, Nicole Hattingsh, Chris & Carol(Siliseal), Michael Rosenmann, Anine Louw, Laura Grove, Marlene Ming, Glynnis Jackson, Kryisia Back, Andrea Decker, Sheena Volmer, Marcelle Harris, Naomi du Toit, Jenny Blight, Jolene Rich, Sanet van Mazijk, Wilna Fourie, Amy Groves, Denise Wait, Lu Dowell, Alicia van Loggerenberg, Sylvia Burnard, Stanley Bennet, Mrs RF Blight, Debbie Dreyer, Linda Baigel, Jacqui & Clevin Moskovitz, Linda Boucher, Rose Tanziani, Lesley Soskin, JN Rothberg, Shirley Nathan, Angie Carter & Steve Clare, Sochana Emanuel, Phillip & Susan Kleijnhans, Durbach, Kitty & Puppy Haven (dog- and catfood), Siobhan (catfood), Animal Lover Group

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.

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 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 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.
- Unsterilised feral male cats attract female cats from other areas and vice versa. Once they are sterilised, they have no need to attract other cats and become very territorial.
- 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 and mice only, suffer from malnutrition and diseases.
- Ferals are being shot, poisoned and trapped & drowned all over by people.
- Ferals pose NO threat to humans

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 , Fourways
Branch code: 168405
Acc nr: 1684110750

Wish list:

- Financial support**
- Dog- & catfood**
- Dog kennels**
- Another vehicle to transport animals**
- Medicines such as dip, de-wormer, vaccines**
- Collars & bowls**
- Volunteers to trap ferals**