

NEWSLETTER

November/December 2007

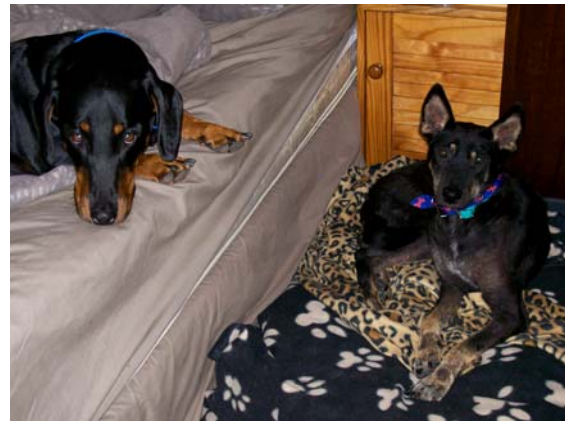
Our aim is to improve the quality of life of underprivileged animals. We are concentrating on squatter camp animals and feral cats. Read more about both in our column "WHAT FOUR PAWS IS ABOUT"(page 4).

SQUATTER CAMP PROJECTS:

We are very pleased to announce that the dog we found lying on the side of the highway (story in our September newsletter), found a very good home with Tessa & Micheal Papadopoulos. His family loves and adores him, including their other 3 dogs, especially Stoogy. His leg that was so badly broken from being knocked over by a car, has recovered and he is running all over the place!



Shortly after his big operation



Numpty(right) at his new home with his best friend Stoogy

A concerned resident of the Diepsloot squatter camp contacted us, after he found two very tiny kittens on a rubbish dump. People sometimes get so **desperate** when their female pet has one litter after the other, that dumping the litters somewhere, seems like the only solution. We come accross many unwanted litters of puppies and kittens, some in a very poor condition. We nurture them back to good health and look for good homes for them. We found this litter of puppies (picture below), on the verge of death from worms and malnutrition.

Our little volunteer, Annabelle, with the two kittens

The litter of puppies after proper treatment



AT FOUR PAWS, WE STERILISE AS MANY ANIMALS AS POSSIBLE, IN ANY AREA WHERE WE WORK.

Russell Ball donates waterproof Igloo kennels to us on a monthly basis. **Accelerate Design** is supplying the kennels at reduced costs. What a wonderful gift to these underprivileged dogs, who mostly have very little or even no shelter!

Sharon Roe donated a number of waterbowls to us. These are no ordinary bowls, each comes with two hooks where two 2litre cold drink bottles fit on and gradually release water in the bowl as the water level goes down. This ensures that the waterbowl keeps being full and the dog has fresh water all day long!



Only a few pieces of plank for a “kennel” (left).
On the right is this dog’s waterproof Igloo kennel



The everfull waterbowl.

FERAL CAT PROJECTS:

We were contacted by Wiida from Roodepoort, who told us she saw a feral cat at the Westways shopping centre, with something around its body. We went there immediately and saw the cat, but one after the other attempt to trap the cat, were unsuccessful. Finally, after trying for **a week**, we finally managed to trap it and took it to the vet.

The cat had in fact been caught in a snare and managed to get away, but unfortunately with the snare still tightly around his body. He deperately tried to get rid of the snare and in the process only pulled it tighter and inflicted deep teeth wounds to his abdomen.

The damage was severe. He had a cut all around his body and his bite wounds were infected. We had a choice between euthanasing the cat or treating the wounds and hope he survives. After all the pain and suffering this poor cat had to endure, we decided to give him a chance. His wounds were disinfected and stitched up and two days later he was released from the clinic into our care on a course of anti-biotics. As ferals cannot be touched or handled by humans, taking care of him was NOT an easy task, but fortunately he was eating well and got his medication in with his food.

A week later, he was put under aneasethetics at the clinic again and his wounds inspected. The cat made a recovery beyond our expectations!

A visible line over the cat’s back where the snare is stuck **After making a full recovery**



There are approximately 20 feral cats living at this shopping centre. We have since trapped and sterilised 9 of the cats and took in one litter of kittens. A lady who owns a restaurant at the centre, is feeding the cats every

day.

This time of the year is considered “kitty season”, as so many unsterilised female feral cats have litters at this time of the year. We take in as many feral kittens as we can, tame and re-home them, instead of letting them grow up on the streets. It is, however very difficult to find homes for them, as most people go on holiday in the festive season.

Kitty & Puppy Haven donated three Wendy houses to us, which we are using to foster and tame feral kittens.



Some of the feral kittens in our care



This white kitten has one green and one blue eye!

We are desperately looking for homes for these kittens. If you can offer a kitten a good home, please contact us!!

A special thank you to our sponsors:

Annatjie Prinsloo, Tersia Brits, Lourene Horn, Nicole Hattingh, Chris & Carol(Siliseal), Michael Rosenmann, Anine Louw, Laura Grove, Marlene Ming, Glynnis Jackson, Kryisia Back, Andrea Decker, Marius v d Walt, Sheena Volmer, 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 Moskovitz, Colin Levin, Linda Bouwer, Rose Tanziani, Lesley Soskin, JN Rothberg, Shirley Nathan, Angie Carter, Steve Clare, Sochana Emanuel, Phillip & Susan Kleijnhans, Gillian Bourne, Kitty & Puppy Haven (dog-& catfood and re-homing most of our puppies and kittens), Siobhan (catfood), Animal Lover Group, Debbie Tiley, Alec Gullan, Michelle Combrinck(Zinto Marketing), Annie(red2green Marketing), Sarah Karas, Sharon Roe, Darlene Hamer, Giles & Mariette Chippendall, Willemien Stephenson, Simon Reif, Surei de Wet, Darlene Hamer, Lynda Denny, Ronald William Thompson, Carol Cooper

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.

A very big thank you to the staff of Cargill in Fourways for their donation of R10 000 worth of medicines, dogfood and kennels.

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.

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, etc**
- Collars & bowls**
- Volunteers to trap ferals**
- Volunteer vets to do sterilisations**
- Cat- & dog carriers**

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
- 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.