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NEWSLETTER

2010

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 6).

Vision: To expand by obtaining more vehicles, employing more fieldworkers and operating from our own clinic.

We do not have our own kennels yet; we simply cannot afford it. We send homeless, abused and abandoned animals to foster homes, pro-life shelters and boarding kennels. IT IS OUR DREAM TO HAVE OUR OWN PREMISES WITH OUR OWN KENNELS, A FERAL SANCTUARY AND A CAT SHELTER.

Please find it in your heart to donate only R50 and ask your friends and family to do the same, to help us achieve our goal. There are so many more animals who desperately need our help and we can only do what our funds allow us to do!

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, while others die a slow, painful death. Ignorance plays a big role in animal cruelty. 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. We also educate pet owners about proper pet care.

In our April newsletter, we told the story of the abandoned shack, with no less than 8 dogs (including 2 puppies) living there. **The owners left in December, never to return again!** The dogs were left to fend for themselves and as a result they have become a pack of "wild" dogs that are terrorising the neighbourhood, because they kill any animal they come across such as cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens, peacocks and even goats.

We started a feeding programme where we take dog food on a daily basis for them and we also fill up water bowls for them. We managed to trap one adult dog and one puppy with our dog trap, but the rest of the dogs refused to go into our trap.

Fortunately, **Jan Coetzee**, also one of our regular donors and supporters, did some research and came across a "injection stick", which he purchased for us from Onderstepoort. It can expand up to 4 metres, with a syringe and needle at the end, filled with a tranquiliser.

Jan also offered to assist us in injecting the dogs, and on Tuesday morning, 20 April, paid a visit to the abandoned shack with our new equipment. Within ten minutes Jan was able to inject the first dog and another 10 minutes later, we were able to drag it out from under the car wreck standing at the shack.



Jan busy injecting the first dog



A very drowsy doggie safely in our bakkie



Unfortunately the rest of the dogs got a fright and ran away, so we decided to take this one to the vet and go back to Diepsloot another day.

We are still a small organisation; yet we are currently working in 16 Townships! In every new Township, we find more or less the same picture: mommy dogs with puppies everywhere, sick dogs, injured dogs, dogs on chains, dogs with no shelter, dogs with mange, homeless dogs eating from the rubbish dumps, etc. We start off with an intensive sterilisation programme, take unwanted puppies away, treat and vaccinate dogs & cats, and educate the owners. We see a huge difference, within a few weeks' time.



A very common picture in every Township

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.

We receive SEVERAL calls on a daily basis from people seeking assistance with ferals on their premises. The only humane way to deal with the feral problem is to trap, sterilise, release and feed them. (Read more about ferals on page 6 under "WHAT FOUR PAWS IS ABOUT".

We have joined forces with People for the Liberation of Animals, to trap and sterilise the approximately 70 – 100 feral cats at the **Kensington Rehabilitation Clinic**, after we received desperate pleas from several cat lovers. Two of the staff members are feeding the cats, but they are struggling to feed the ever increasing numbers due to the vast multiplying.

We have trapped and sterilised 42 cats so far and we will continue this project until all the cats have been sterilised.



Some of the feral cats at Kensington clinic

So many ferals are knocked over by cars and some are still alive, with serious injuries. We have picked up ferals with injuries such as a broken pelvis or back, broken legs and serious wounds. Most of these cats die a slow painful death. Some are luckier, like the feral in the picture below.

The staff of Inanda club in Sandton contacted us when they realised that one of the ferals living on their premises, is injured. We trapped the cat and took her to our vet. She was diagnosed with a broken leg and torn joints. She had to be kept confined for two weeks to recover.

PLEASE contact us if you can give a homeless kitten a good home.

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Did you know...

There are 45 cats and dogs for every person born

Only 1 out of 10 dogs born ever get a home

Only 1 out of 12 cats born ever find a home

There are simply not enough homes for all of them!

The bottom line????

Please help us to educate people to SPAY and NEUTER their pets!!!!

A very special thank you to our donors: You give us strength, courage and make it possible for us 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 and organizing events on a regular basis, for 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 from Bryanston Ext Kennels**, for fostering homeless dogs for us, free of charge.

Thank you to Tracy from **Barkingmad** for all your support and assistance.

Thank you to **U-Care** for monthly donations.

Thank you to our veterinarians, **dr Shelagh Hahn (Blue Bush Animal Clinic)**, **dr Grant Craig (Paulshof Veterinary Clinic)** for doing sterilisations and treatments at reduced costs.

Wish list:

-FINANCIAL SUPPORT

-Dog- and cat food (especially soft food for trapping ferals and de-worming dogs)

-Cat litter

-Newspapers

-Cat litter trays

-Cleaning materials such as mops and brooms

-Medicines such as dip, de-worming, vaccines

-Kennels (plastic)

-Books for book sales

-Any item that can be used for raffles

Banking details:

FOUR PAWS

Nedbank, Fourways

Branch code: 168405, Acc no: 1684110750

PLEASE ALSO READ PAGE 6 "WHAT FOUR PAWS IS ABOUT".

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.