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## DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

**We wish all our supporters a very blessed Christmas and a prosperous 2012! Thank you very much for all your kind support and donations, we certainly could not continue our work without wonderful people like you!**

**WE ARE STILL IN DESPERATE NEED OF NEW PREMISES!! Please contact us if you can assist in this regard.**

**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** at the end of this newsletter.

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

### **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.**

We recently came across this mommy dog and her 8 puppies at an abandoned shack in Mosawawa squatter camp. According to the neighbours, the owners moved away a long time ago and left the mommy dog with her new born puppies behind. Fortunately the mommy managed to survive on leftover food from the rubbish dumps nearby, but the puppies already started eating solid food and probably would not have survived much longer. They were taken to our shelter and are now **looking for good homes!**



**UPDATE ON "RESCUED PUPPY":** In October we shared with you the story of this poor puppy from Diepsloot that was hit by a car **several days** before we found him. His right front leg was too badly injured to try and save and our vet, Dr Shelagh Hahn decided to amputate. Our sincere thanks to Desre and her family for giving this special boy a wonderful home!



**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 at the bottom in **WHAT FOUR PAWS IS ABOUT**).

**UPDATE ON BLIND CAT:** We recently shared with you the story about the blind kitty that we rescued from a dairy farm in Benoni. The management do not want the feral cat colony on their premises, and as a result the cats are not being fed and have to fend for themselves.

She was severely emaciated and her coat was dirty and matted. She would not have survived much longer, as our vet confirmed that she is **blind in both eyes** and therefore could not hunt for herself.



Our sincere thanks to Tracey Ferguson for giving this special kitty such a wonderful home!

**PLEASE HELP US BY GIVING US GOOD HOMES!** Below are just some of the many homeless animals in our care. Please contact us if you can offer a dog or cat a good home.





**A very special thank you to ALL 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.

Thank you to the ladies of **SAINTs** (Vivienne Elliott and Amy Groves) for doing book- and jumble sales, sales of many other items, raffles and auctions and organizing events on a regular basis, for fundraising.

Thank you to **Woolworths** and **Royal Canin** for all your dog- and cat food donations.

Thank you to **Clawds Helping Hands, Paws R Us, Paws and Claws and Santa Paws** for all your fundraising events for us.

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 to our veterinarians, **Dr Shelagh Hahn (Blue Bush Animal Clinic), Dr Grant Craig (Paulshof Veterinary Clinic) and Dr A S Leonard (Northriding Animal Clinic)** for doing sterilisations and treatments at reduced costs. Thank you also for re-homing some of our homeless animals.

#### **Wish list:**

- FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- Dog- and cat food
- Cat litter
- Medicines such as dip, de-worming, vaccines
- Sponsors for kennels
- Books for book sales
- Any item that can be used for raffles
- Jumble for jumble sales
- Another vehicle to transport animals

**Please help us to help those who cannot speak for themselves by supporting our fundraising efforts (see below for some lovely Christmas ideas) or making a kind donation and also by sending this to all your friends and family.**

#### **Banking details:**

FOUR PAWS  
Nedbank, Fourways  
Branch code: 168405, Acc no: 1684110750

**Many thanks to each and every supporter!  
Kind regards**

**Merinda Brits  
Founder and Chairperson**

**Christmas Promotions**

All funds raised continue ensuring a safe environment for all the animals in our care. Your support is very much appreciated.

Please consider making some of our lovely goodies part of your Christmas shopping.

To request an order form and banking details, please email

[vivsaints@live.com](mailto:vivsaints@live.com)

Your order can be posted for an additional R35-00 (1-4 shirts) anywhere in SA.

The T shirts are a good quality, printed shirt, we will print in batches so please place your orders asap. There are lots of lovely colours to choose from, and these awesome shirts will make excellent Christmas gifts all for a GRRREAT cause.

**Don't shop...Adopt:**

Adult Crew R110, Adult V neck, Vest and ladies lower neck crew R115, kiddies R95 (only Doggie shirts available)



**It's a dog's life:**

Adult crew neck R90 and kiddies R85 – a lovely range of colours



The gorgeous new Ginja Kitty range...plus the Grey Kitty design:  
Adult R90 and kiddies R85

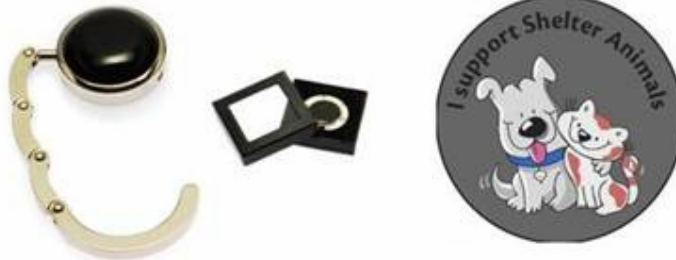


Doggy Love shirts (end of range):  
However...if we get enough requests we will do another print run, gladly.  
Adult R90, Kiddies R85



Handbag Hangers, in a gift box - a wonderful gift for all the ladies R60, includes the domed "I support shelter animals" decal, it is a delightful gift (add R30 postage for 1-4 hangers)

Gorgeous & handy gifts in aid of  
Shelter Animals :)



...And last but not least the lovely 2012  
 A lovely page a month wall calendar featuring 6 very brave  
 Shelter managers and their volunteers! Spot Merinda...  
 R120 only and R110 goes directly to 4Paws  
 Add R30 for postage 1-3 calendars

**The most adorable Calendar is now available....**

**6 very brave Shelters managers and volunteers took it off for  
 the rescue Animals in their care.**



**If you would like to show some love, please mail [vivsaints@live.com](mailto:vivsaints@live.com) to  
 order, each Calendar costs R120 and the Shelter gets R110 of that!  
 They can be posted anywhere in SA (1-3 calendars) for R30, or collect  
 them from our Sales points, thanks for the support.**

**Please email [vivsaints@live](mailto:vivsaints@live) with any questions - thanks**

#### **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.