



P O BOX 1809 Fourways 2055
Fax: 086 669 6264

e-mail: merinda@4ourpaws.org.za
Cell: 083-377-3219
052-145-NPO
web page: www.4ourpaws.org.za

NEWSLETTER

December 2009

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.

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. 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.

This mommy dog and her twelve puppies, were left behind when their owner moved away, next to Riversands school, close to Diepsloot squatter camp. They survived by eating scraps from the rubbish dumps. Unfortunately, one puppy was very sick when we found them and died before we could get him to the vet.



The twelve puppies left behind together with their mommy **The mommy dog**

Unfortunately, many dogs and cats living in squatter camps (and residential areas), are abandoned when their owners move away. We also discovered this **abandoned mommy cat with her 3 four-week-old kittens**, in Video Centre Squatter camp.



This poor stray dog in the picture below, was luckily spotted by a kind lady, Robyn, who started feeding her on the premises of the Linksfield Medical Centre, for over a month. She contacted us for our assistance in catching the bewildered dog. She was so frightened; we could not even get close to her. Fortunately, we were able to trap her with our dog trap. This story had a happy ending when Robyn finally managed to locate the owner, after many fruitless attempts, and the little dog and her grateful owner were re-united!



We recently sent out the story of this **Jack Russell cross we found in Bapsfontein, barely alive**. Our first impression was that she is dead, as she was lying lifeless with her eyes closed.

Next to her were 4 three-week old very hungry puppies, as their mommy's milk had dried up. We rushed them to our vet, but the prognosis was not good. Fortunately we found a foster mommy, for the puppies, who started bottle feeding them immediately. Our thanks to Carrie for taking such good care of them!

To our surprise, her condition started to improve and got better every day. Three weeks later, she had made a full recovery!

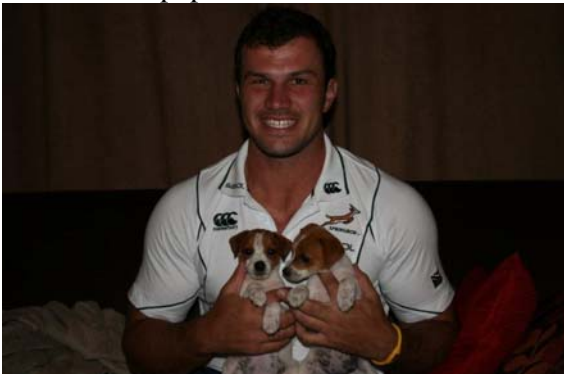


The puppies at 5 weeks old



The mommy dog recovering at our vet

Fortunately both mommy and all her puppies found wonderful homes. Two of the puppies found a home with a friend of **Bismarck du Plessis, the Springbok rugby player**. Bismarck was only too willing to pose for us with the two pups!



UPDATE ON COSMO CITY DOG (Story in our September newsletter): We found this dog more than a week after she had been hit by a car on her left leg. The wounds were completely rotten and her leg had to be amputated. Unfortunately her new home did not work out as she started chasing the cats and also played too roughly with the smaller dog. **She is now again in desperate need of a loving home!** If you can offer this dog a good home, please contact us.



WE ARE VERY EXCITED ABOUT OUR LATEST PROJECT! So many of the dogs in squatter camps have very little or NO shelter. We contacted a plastic manufacturing company, CHM Plastics, who offered to make a kennel mould, with our own design, at a reduced cost. We are currently purchasing 10 kennels every month and distributing them to dogs in the squatter camps, free of charge.

If you wish, you can kindly sponsor a kennel for R400 or make any donation towards a kennel. Please use the word “kennel” as reference. Our thanks to Nico from CHM Plastics for making this possible!



Our own “custom made” kennels, supplied by CHM Plastics



This doggie was very excited about her new kennel

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 MANY calls daily 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”.



Four very frightened feral kittens trying to hide in a flower pot at an office park in Midrand

We often find feral kittens who have been either abandoned by their mothers, or whose mothers have been killed. Unfortunately, many ferals are killed on the roads, but also often by people. Ferals are shot, poisoned and caught in snares. **The kittens in the picture below, were only about 5 weeks old** when we found them and we had to supplement their diet with kitten milk.



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, as a way of 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 **Maryllyn from Bryanston Ext Kennels**, for fostering homeless dogs for us, free of charge.

Thank you to **AT-Fundraisers** (Adele and Tinus) for organizing a Barnyard event to raise funds for us.

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.

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.