



WHO (WHAT) IS 4CLAWS?

Community Led Animal Welfare (CLAW), a non profit registered organisation, was established in BFN in 2000.

It was part of CLAW, Gauteng. In 2007 we registered the name 4CLAWS at the Department of Social Development and received a non profit number upon acceptance of its Constitution (059-865 NPO). 4CLAWS consists of volunteers who are animal lovers.

FINANCIAL INCOME

Our income is funded through donations from the public. Donations from the public are tax deductible. Funds are mainly used for high veterinary bills and the purchasing of medication. A receipt is written out for every donation and an auditor overseas our bank account and receipt books. The yearly Financial Statement is drawn up and is sent to the Department of Social Development.

WHAT DOES 4CLAWS DO?

The main objective is to provide basic health care to pets in squatter camps and poverty-stricken areas in BFN. We also educate the residents to care for their pets in a proper way. These residents do not have the financial means to cope on their own. They don't even have transport to take a sick pet to the local SPCA.

There are about 1.6 million pets in these areas, yet in the past not enough outreach has been done by the Government appointed institutions in the Free State to deal with the situation.

4CLAWS has gone through a process of trial and error to be able to operate in the best possible manner, namely by doing outreach. This is done by 4CLAWS volunteers. These people (who are not professionally trained vets), have gained precious experience through the years. There is some support from local veterinarians who offer their services at a reduced rate.

4CLAWS volunteers do weekly home-to-home visits. A few residents from the squatter camps have received training. They are in direct contact with the locals and deal with requests and problems.

Requests include sterilisations, providing shelter, setting up runners, dipping and de-worming, treating illnesses and administering vaccines. These local volunteers will also report cases of neglect and abuse. They also educate

people on how to care for a pet. EDUCATION IS A CRUCIAL COMPONENT OF ANIMAL WELFARE!

Pet food (tins, cubes) are also handed out on a regular basis.

Sterilisations

Sterilisation is one of 4CLAWS main focuses. The uncontrolled breeding of animals leads to puppies and kittens being handed out to anybody, even if they can't take care of them.

The pets that need to be sterilised are transported to the vet and back to the owner. The pets sleep the night before, and the night after the sterilisation at the veterinary clinic.

Shelter and Runners

As most dogs are tied up (often in an in-humane manner), lack of shelter is a big concern. 4CLAWS tries as far as possible to provide shelter for each dog to protect it from the harsh elements.

Also, for a dog to be tied up in the proper way, we set up runners (consisting of wire and steel pens). It allows the dog some movement. A chain, a decent collar and a swivel (for a dog not to tie himself up) are also provided.

Dipping and Deworming

Dipping for ticks and fleas and de-worming tablets are handed out on a regular basis and on request of pet owners.

Treatment of illnesses

In most cases oral antibiotics and injections are administered. Illnesses include Biliary (because of ticks), Parvo, Distemper, Mange, injuries and abscesses. The treatment of Mange, for instance, extends over 4 to 6 weeks with weekly injections done by a residential volunteer. In severe cases, the pet is taken to a veterinarian for treatment or euthanized to end its suffering. Vaccines are also administered in order to prevent some of these severe illnesses.

Handing out Food

4CLAWS doesn't feed any pet permanently, but we hand out food on a regular basis. It is important that they don't get dependant on us for food.

Neglect and Abuse

When a case of neglect or abuse is reported, we see that the necessary steps are taken against that person.

Education

Education on how to treat an animal is the basis of animal welfare. Sometimes cruelty and negligence happens due to the lack of knowledge. Though sometimes people are just plain cruel!

Pet owners are taught to attend to the basic needs of pets; this includes providing food at least once a day, constant supply of clean water, and shelter.

Owners must also realise to respect any living creature, and to show affection towards their animals.

4CLAWS achieves this by door to door visits and through the influence of residential volunteers.

There are a lot of myths concerning pets. For example, one myth causes people to cut out “the worm” under a dog’s tongue – it causes great pain and sometimes death. Another myth being that cats are evil. They are often killed by having stones thrown at them. Cats are also eaten by certain people. There is also a belief that female pets are not supposed to be sterilised. Litters of puppies have been found alongside the road. Often pets are just abandoned due to their owners not being able to take care of them anymore.

4CLAWS has participated in projects at schools and universities. Education on pet-care at this level is crucial.

PROBLEMS 4CLAWS ENCOUNTERS

Urban areas

On a daily basis stray animals are found wondering the streets of BFN. If pet owners would just put on tags with their information, it would be so much easier to find the pet’s rightful owner. Pet owners must also teach their family members and employees to be careful not to leave gates and doors open. Proper fencing is a necessity.

More and more people are abandoning their once beloved pets. It is alarming to see how many of these pets are handed over to people who are not even able to take care of themselves. Even people who can afford to have their pets sterilised, don’t do it. Thousands of puppies and kittens are born daily. Many end up in rescue centres, and eventually have to be euthanized because they can not find good homes. Even worse, puppies and kittens are handed out to people who can’t provide for them.

High veterinary costs often contribute to problems as far as animal welfare is concerned.

4CLAWS urges people to change their attitude of indifference. To open their eyes and become aware of the suffering of creatures that can not fend for themselves.

Squattercamps and Poverty-stricken Areas

Living conditions and Shelter

- Dirty unhygienic living areas
- No protection from harsh weather elements
- An example being sometimes dogs are put into small chicken cages

Chains

- Chains can cut into the neck of dog's
- In some cases a strip of tin is used as a collar causing great harm to the dog
- Sometimes the chain is so tight that the dog can hardly breath
- A lack of movement can influence the muscles and joints, if no runner is set up

Food and Water

- Sometimes bowls for water and food are non-existent or insufficient, an example being the use of a small margarine container and the belief it is sufficient
- Water is supposed to be available 24/7
- Most pets get only leftover porridge, mostly just thrown on the ground
- This situation is even worse when a dog is tied up

Overpopulation of pets

Look at these frightening statistics:

During the first year one female dog produces 4 puppies, 2 of them females.	4
In the second year, production of first & second generation females is 12 pups, 6 females.	12
In the third year, production of three generations of females is 36 pups, 18 females.	36
In the fourth year, production of four generations of females is 108 pups, 54 females.	108
In the fifth year, production of five generations is 324 pups, 162 females.	324
In the sixth year, production of six generations is 972 pups, 486 females.	972
In the seventh year, production is 2,916 pups, 1,458 females.	<u>2,916</u>
Total offspring of a single female in seven years:	<u>4,372</u>

The scenario with cats are even worse.

WHAT WE NEED

- Shelter for animals in the location
- Food (tins and cubes)
- Dipping
- De-worming
- Vaccines
- Containers for food and water
- Collars
- Wire, swivels, chains
- Steel pens
- Funds

- Future: boarding kennels, vehicle and mobile clinic

CONCLUSION

4CLAWS desperately needs your help to end the suffering of dogs and cats. Many pets are walking skeletons, riddled with worms, losing their coats completely from the horror of Sarcoptic Mange. Animals are covered in ticks and fleas, sucking the life out of them. In the end the dog will die of Biliary.

Pets suffer everyday from starvation and dehydration. They are usually tied up on a short chain, with no shelter. Many drag their legs from auto-injuries. Others are in the agony and dying due to diarrhoea and vomiting from the highly infectious Parvo virus. Others die slowly of Distemper, when the virus eventually goes to the brain.

Yes,our volunteers have seen these animals. They stand with their heads lowered, their ribs poking through their sides, no spirit left in their souls, no hope in their eyes. Just the hope that death will come soon.

Our volunteers have been working tirelessly to make a difference. Maybe you can also help to save defenceless pets from gruesome deaths. You can make a difference to a precious life, whether it is rescuing a kitten that was punished with scalding oil, bandaging a dog that was beaten with a steel bar, feeding a starving dog, giving an abused puppy a loving home, sterilising a pet, or providing a dog a shelter for the first time in it's life. This suffering must end. It is suffering based on a lack of veterinary care and a lack of education. On behalf of the animals ... Thank you for caring. LIFE IS PRECIOUS!