

PAWS PATTER e-newsletter January 2008

THE NEW YEAR - A TIME OF REFLECTION AND LOOKING FORWARD.

We've had a wonderful year thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and supporters. We depend on your continued support and generosity to help us meet our goals.

Included in this newsletter are:

- *Accomplishments in 2007
- *Arivaca Trapping Project
- *Cat Success Stories
- *Special Cats need homes
- *Dry cat food needed
- *Upcoming Events

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2007

We are proud of our accomplishments in the feral cat world since we began in April 2006. Our primary mission is to reduce feral cat overpopulation through Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR). From our inception through December 2007, we have trapped 377 cats and returned just one-third of them to the colonies—all sterilized, vaccinated and healthy. The rest have been adopted into loving homes.

These are just some of our accomplishments in 2007.

***OUR CAT STATISTICS**

Trapped - 242

Returned to their colonies - 100

Adopted - 113 cats

Adopted cats include:

7 - to the new Seniors and Pets Program

9 - to The Animal League of Green Valley (TALGV) who found great homes for them.

* EVENTS TO INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF PAWS PATROL-2 garage sales in Green Valley/Sahuarita and a rummage sale in Arivaca; held adoption fairs in Green Valley, Tucson and Rio Rico; participated in the Tubac Festival of the Arts, the White Elephant Country Fair and the Greater Green Valley Community Foundation's first Walk-A-Thon.

*MARKETING--Produced a series of new brochures describing the Paws Patrol

TNR program, the barn program for feral cats, and the Seniors and Pets Program.

*FOSTER HOMES--Increased to 15.

And we accomplished these things on a total income of just under \$50,000 including nearly \$10,000 received in grants.

LOOKING FORWARD IN 2008

We are eagerly anticipating that 2008 will see us continuing to move full speed ahead in Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) of feral cats as we look for additional revenue sources, ways to reduce veterinary and food expenses while continuing to concentrate on the quality of life for each cat we encounter, spaying and neutering each of 100+ feral cats in Arivaca, beginning work on another 100 or so feral cats in the Lakewood area of Amado, increasing participation in our Seniors and Pet Program, and hopefully, the purchase of a mobile adoption vehicle by this time next year to allow us to take our adoptable cats to other areas.

We also begin the new year with an expanded, active board to guide our activities, a revamped, improved website (which is currently not working), and a customized cat tracking software program to streamline our administrative functions. And we have many volunteers donating time, money, and love for our cats making the work we do possible. Thank you all!

ARIVACA TRAPPING PROJECT

Paws Patrol began working with one colony of cats in Arivaca early last year and successfully reduced the population from 30 to 5 by removing the young kittens and adoptable adult cats and eventually finding homes for them. The remaining cats were spayed/neutered and vaccinated and are happily enjoying their reduced colony size.

There are at least four other colonies in the area with 100+ cats which is our next project. There is an urgency to this undertaking since a genetic defect has been passed on through generations of cat inbreeding in the area affecting various internal organs and resulting in some kittens dying or having to be euthanized. Paws Patrol applied for and received a grant from the Arizona Companion Animal Spay and Neuter Committee for \$7,300 for TNR in the Arivaca area. Paws Patrol will incur additional expenses not covered by the grant, i.e., vaccinations and other medical care. We are confident that the residents of Arivaca will continue to work with us to ensure that the colonies have caregivers, as several people have been feeding the cats, some at their own expense. This is clearly a large project which would not have been possible without the grant money we recently received.

CAT SUCCESS STORIES

In May 2007, a litter of kittens was born to a feral mom in Sahuarita. In July, Paws Patrol trapped them, but even at that young age, the kittens had very dominant feral instincts. The four siblings were placed in foster homes to be socialized and hopefully adopted at a later date. Mom was spayed and confined for a few weeks for a medical condition before being returned to her caregiver. Eventually, the foster parent for two of the kittens decided they should be returned to their mother since their feral nature was quite instilled. (Mom became ill and we believe she died about one month later. As of the writing of this newsletter, one kitten disappeared over the holidays but the surviving one is doing fine.)

Although we can't save all the cats, the other two kittens from the litter are what success is all about-for us and for them. Sparky is a grey tabby who was very skittish. His favorite place was under the bed in his foster home. When he needed to be medicated or vaccinated, it took a great deal of planning to capture him without being attacked. Then blood tests indicated that Sparky probably had FIP, for which there is no cure, and he would need to be kept away from other cats.

Enter Big Max, a wonderful five year old tom cat who was trapped late in 2006, adopted, and through a strange set of coincidences turned in to TALGV later in 2007 by a family member of the person who adopted him and left town. Fortunately, Max had on his Paws ID tag, and a Paws volunteer was at TALGV that day. Max came back home with her but the only available place for him was in Sparky's room. And that day was the beginning of a miracle-Sparky needed Big Max to protect him, and Max needed a kitten to dote on. Both of these guys were adopted together to a great lady under our Seniors and Pets Program and the whole family is living happily ever after. Their new mom says that Sparky is now quite a lovable cat and she can't imagine what he would do without Big Max, or what she would do without her "mismatched" pair of cats. And, followup blood tests on Sparky indicate he is just fine.

The last kitten in the litter was Just Bob, a Siamese mix. He too was very skittish and although he liked to be petted and held, he had to be caught first. He was great with other cats but people really frightened him. After a long period of time, it looked like he too may need to be returned with his siblings, so he was switched to Sparky's former foster home for further evaluation.

Then something happened to Just Bob's eye and in order to medicate him multiple times a day, his foster mom confined him to a large wire crate in the living room. He couldn't get away, but he was in the center of all the activity, including the other cats and dogs, and yet he was completely safe. The eye took a long time to heal, but in the process, two wonderful things happened-he began to get used to being handled and held, and Paws Patrol found someone who would adopt him. And so in December, Just Bob got his Christmas wish-a permanent

family complete with many other felines but no dogs! And to hear his new mom tell the story, he is definitely not shy and bashful.

Those of us with Paws Patrol have hopefully learned some important lessons from this feral family-some cats and even kittens are not going to be adoptable and that is ok. For those, we will be sure they have a caregiver to watch over them and feed them, and keep them as safe and healthy as possible. And for all the rest of the felines who will cross our paths, there IS the perfect home waiting. It is up to us to understand what environment each cat needs and then be patient until we find it. And above all, we have to think "outside the (litter)box" because the perfect home and the perfect combination of cats may be totally different from what we expected.

SPECIAL CATS NEED HOMES

We currently have a few cats who really need to find special homes-and two are available at no cost to the right individual or family. If you know someone who might be interested in adopting them, please contact Patti Hogan at 520-207-4024.

Juliet is a beautiful one year old grey and white female who has been in a foster home since early 2007. She was originally part of a cat colony in Amado when we trapped her as a young kitten. She is definitely one of her foster mom's favorites and it is hard to understand why she has not been adopted. Juliet can be shy at first but will warm up to her special person quickly and become the love of their life, just like she did for Romeo. Juliet can be adopted for \$65 and she is spayed and up-to-date on her shots.

Bernie is the BEST male cat ever. He is jet black and probably 1-1/2 to 2 years old. During the day, he prefers being under the bed or in a quiet corner, but when the sun goes down, he wants his people and favorite cats to come out and play. Bernie came from a colony near Tubac and had an accident where his face was burned. He completely recovered but looks like he wears reverse sunglasses around his beautiful green eyes. He has been in a foster home since May and needs to find a home where he can get all the attention he wants. And, since he loves to sleep with his foster parents at night, he'd like to have a big bed in his new home, too! Bernie can be yours for \$65 and he is neutered and up-to-date on shots.

Mariah is just one year old and has very short black hair with a white undercoat. She raised a litter of 5 kittens and was a wonderful mom. Unfortunately, she tested positive for FIV and has some kidney problems, so she needs a home where she can be the only cat. She loves to be held and petted and purrs to show her affection. She also loves to play with her toys. Mariah is a great lap cat for a quiet family and particularly for a senior. PAWS PATROL WILL WAIVE THE ADOPTION FEE AND PAY ANY ONGOING VET BILLS TO PLACE MARIAH IN

THE PERFECT HOME.

Sissy is a beautiful one year old brown medium to long haired tabby girl with a sweet personality. She was rescued from the same feral colony as Juliet but has been in a different foster home. Sissy is shy around strangers, but once she gets to know and trust you, she is very loving and devoted. She needs someone very special who will have the patience needed to develop a bond of trust. No small children or dogs, and Sissy is most comfortable around women. (She is currently being kept in a large kennel and really needs a home.) PAWS PATROL WILL WAIVE THE ADOPTION FEE FOR THE RIGHT PERSON TO ADOPT SISSY.

REQUEST FOR DRY CAT FOOD

We need large quantities of dry cat food for approximately 150-200 cats in colonies in Arivaca and Amado. Any brand of cat food is fine. You may call Paws Patrol at 207-4024 for a location to drop off food or to arrange for a volunteer to pick up the food.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cat Adoption Fair, Rio Rico, Sat, Jan. 19 1-3pm

Tubac Festival of the Arts, Tubac, Feb. 6-10

Arizona Animal Fair, Reid Park, Tucson, Sat. Feb. 16 10am to 4pm

Cat Adoption Fair, Green Valley, Sun. Feb. 17, 1-4pm

PATTI HOGAN
President

PAWS PATROL
P.O. Box 1642
Green Valley, AZ 85622
520-207-4024
pawspatrol@cox.net

***Our email list is strictly used by PAWS PATROL to keep you informed - the list is not shared or sold. If you would like your email deleted from this list please send an email to tucwiz77@earthlink.net. Otherwise please direct all correspondence to pawspatrol@cox.net