

PAWS PATTER e-newsletter July 2008

Just 2 years ago, a group of 7 dedicated individuals with varying animal experience backgrounds created Paws Patrol, a 501©3 organization, with the goal of making a difference for feral cats in our community. We look at what we are accomplishing and are amazed. So much is happening with Paws Patrol this summer that our volunteers are keeping quite busy. Some of our fosters are on vacation or gone for the summer so other fosters have taken on more feline guests. And although our available funds are depleted, we are still trapping the most urgent of ferals and strays, but finding holding places for them with triple digit temperatures is always challenging. We also have new activities going on-which you'll read about below-and we are really excited about these. And at the same time, we are beginning to plan our fundraising activities for 2009.

OUR STATS AFTER 2 SHORT YEARS

In our first two years, we have made amazing strides in our work with feral cats in Green Valley and surrounding areas. Using the principals of TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return), we have reached a milestone of humanely trapping 500 cats: 42% were tame cats who were adopted into good homes, 40% were truly feral and returned to their original colony, and 11% were relocated to stables and barns.

And perhaps one of our proudest success stories-in 2007, we were able to spay and neuter all the cats in an Arivaca colony and an Amado colony. The caretakers watching those colonies tell us that this spring, there were NO kittens born. TNR works best when all the cats can be sterilized at one time.

And as with any achievement, there will also be a disappointment. This past spring, we lost 7 litters of kittens in one colony-some were killed by raccoons, some mysteriously died, one litter was stolen by a non-lactating female cat and starved to death. All of these cases could have been prevented had we had the funds to spay the female cats before they became pregnant.

NEW WEBSITE

Paws Patrol has just developed a new website, www.greenvalleypawspatrol.org which was made public July 1. The new site has information on the various components of the group's work: For feral cats--TNR/feral cat colony management and the barn relocation program, and for tame cats--foster program and adoption program including a discounted plan for seniors and handicapped individuals. Be sure to add it to your favorites list and check it often for updates. (Our old address was www.pawspatrol.petfinder.org).

If you have adopted barn cats or tame cats from us, we would love to have a write up on your experience and how the cats are doing so they can be added to our Success page of the website.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE HUMANE SOCIETY

We were surprised and very pleased to recently have The Humane Society of the United States print the following letter in The Sahuarita Sun and The Green Valley News supporting our work with feral cats.

To The Editor:

I applaud the efforts of Paws Patrol to reduce the numbers of feral cats and improve their quality of life through a Trap-Neuter-Return program ("Spay/neuter and foster feral cats," June 28).

Because no one person or agency should be expected to combat pet overpopulation alone, I encourage more people in the community to offer their support Paws Patrol's life- and money-saving programs. Veterinarians are critical to the success of TNR and I urge them to provide more affordable services for community cats.

Additionally, pet cats should be spayed or neutered before they can reproduce, kept indoors or safely confined to their property and fitted with visible identification to prevent them from adding to the numbers of homeless cats.

Keep up the good work, Paws Patrol!

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UPCOMING ADOPTION FAIRS

Beginning in July, we will have 2 adoption fairs a month in the Green Valley area. On the 2nd Sunday of each month (July 13 this month), we will be at Green Valley Canine from 1pm to 4pm. (We are very grateful to Roger and Helaine for their continued support of our work and for letting us use their facility.) And on Saturday, July 19 from 9am to noon, we will have our first adoption fair at the

new Central Pet Resort in Amado. Watch our website for dates of future adoption fairs at this facility. We currently have 40 cats and kittens in foster homes waiting for their new families to find them.

Recently we also began having one or two cats up for adoption at The Dog House in Green Valley. We are very pleased with our adoption success from here. Stop by Deb's and see which cat is there-and pick up cat and dog food and supplies for your family pets.

SPECIAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR ZOE

We recently incurred an emergency vet bill for Zoe totaling \$834 which exceeded any available funds we had. Zoe is now fine, but we do need donations to help pay for this expense.

On Saturday afternoon, June 26, 8-week old Zoe, one of the kittens in our foster program, appeared to be in severe distress. (As with children, kittens excel at having major illnesses when vets are closed!) After several conversations with the vet by phone, we rushed Zoe to Valley Animal Hospital in Tucson. The staff was excellent and immediately placed her in an incubator, ran tests, took xrays and administered fluids. During the night, we spoke with them twice and she was responding well to treatment.

The next day, we picked up a very active little kitten who was quite ready to return home to her mom and siblings. Apparently, we believe she had climbed up the side of her kennel, fell down and landed on her head knocking herself out. Unconscious, she was unable to eat overnight and suffered from hypoglycemic shock. After she was stabilized and received nourishment, she was again healthy. So now, we have a very healthy kitten, who has used a couple of her nine lives and may not be a good climber but is ready for a permanent home. Check her out on our website if you would like to add this lucky kitten to your family.

2009 FERAL CAT CALENDAR

To help pay for veterinary expenses such as spay/neuter and vaccinations, Paws Patrol is proud to announce the production of a 2009 Feral Cat Calendar which will be on sale locally beginning in September. A limited number of ads are still available for local businesses. This is a tremendous undertaking for a relatively new all volunteer group and will capture the spirit of feral cats in our community. Some of our feral cat caretakers and families who have adopted tame cats from us will see their cats featured in the calendar. As soon as the calendars are ready for sale, we'll publish the locations on our website.

WISH LIST

Foster homes
Mobile adoption van
Bank of kennels to hold feral cats pre/post surgery or quarantine sick cats

Cat Supplies

Chicken Soup for the Soul Dry Cat or Kitten food for our fosters (The Dog House in Green Valley)
Royal Canin Baby Cat dry food for foster kittens (Petco or Petsmart)
Any dry and canned cat food for feral colonies
clumping cat litter
Swheat Scoop or World's Best litter (Petco and Petsmart)
KMR brand kitten milk replacement, liquid
Twin flat sheets for covering large feral cat kennels
Empty litter buckets with lids for mixing dry cat food for colonies
4'x4'x4' folding wire pens for the barn relocation program
8'x10' storage shed for supplies

Office Supplies

Computer/copy paper
post card stamps
Toner cartridges for HP Deskjet 722C
Copier machine
Fax machine
Video camera

We always need more volunteers and funds but I am very thankful for the hardworking volunteers we have and for our financial supporters who make our work possible. Thank you all!

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