

TUFCAT
The UWC Feral Cat Project
(062-306-NPO)
University of the Western Cape, P.O. Box X17, Bellville, 7535
sspicer@petfriendly.co.za
www.tufcat.co.za



'The Smart Solution'

Newsletter – August 2010

Hi everyone,

Unlike previous winters, conditions for the campus cats improved immensely following the success of our shelter building day held in April. The food stayed dry and the cats stayed dry (mostly) so a BIG THANK YOU once again to everyone who helped with that . . . not a wet pellet in sight!



On the other hand, as traumatic as it is, it is a fact that each year we find a few dead cats on campus. This year however, during the World Cup 'extended' June/July holidays, we found a staggering 16 dead cats while doing our regular feeding rounds! This is unprecedented and strangely enough, most of them had been hit by cars, even though there weren't even a tenth of the usual car numbers around and campus was relatively quiet. A few cats (from one colony in particular) were ripped apart by dogs, specifically 2 small terriers, belonging to a warden living nearby. Apparently (and there have been witnesses) the dogs are let out to run around freely, late afternoon and on weekends, and they chase and attack the cats living at the colony closest to them (literally across the road). They also get into the boxes where the cats eat and demolish all the food. We are still trying to remedy this unacceptable situation.

TUFCAT helps animals off campus wherever possible and in the past few weeks we have been able to assist two elderly cats who would otherwise have been dumped on campus because their owner couldn't keep them anymore. We also still provide cat food for the cats living at the Shell Ultra City on the N2 near Macassar. Thank you to P.E.T.S for sterilising the female cat. Thanks also to June Bradbury of the Cat Trapping & Sterilisation Network, for enabling us to neuter the stray cat in Gordon's Bay, which secured him a home.

.....

TUFCAT bakkie broken....

TUFCAT's bakkie is broken, which is seriously hampering our trapping and transporting of animals. We are also struggling to collect food and other donations. The repairs cost almost R10 000.00!!! So, we are going all out to bring in the funds needed to put us on the road again.

.....

TUFCAT Fundraiser: Saturday 21st August, 2010

**JOIN US FOR THE MARVELOUS MAGIC OF LARRY SOFFER AND A DELICIOUS
VEGETARIAN MEAL**

Join us on **Saturday 21st August, 2010** for a very special evening of extraordinary entertainment and fabulous veggie burgers!

World-famous South African born Magician Larry Soffer takes Magic into people's lives and teaches them to unlock their own potential for constructive change, thus portraying the uniqueness of fellow humans in all walks of life. He aims to reach the masses all over the world and to "make a shift in their consciousness and beliefs".

The 21st August promises to be a Magical Evening of fun and new perspectives. With thanks to Larry Soffer and Morris of Mirrors Restaurant and Bar, all proceeds go to TUFCAT, an animal welfare charity caring for Feral Cats at the University of the Western Cape.

Venue: Mirrors Restaurant & Bar, Shop 3, The Equinox Bldg,
154 Main Rd, Sea Point
Tel: 021 439 6776.
Time: Show starts at 8pm. Please be seated by 7:30pm.
Tickets: R150 per person. Email Sharyn at info@petfriendly.co.za.

Limited seating – reserve your seat now

Meal included in Ticket price. Cash bar available.

Purchase your ticket now and stand a chance to win exciting prizes in the Lucky Draw.

For more about *The Magic of Larry Soffer*, visit www.larrysoffer.com

Sponsors

Mirrors Restaurant & Bar

The Magic of Larry Soffer

vöndi's

Holistic Pet Nutrition

"The Healthy Natural Alternative"



URGENT! URGENT! URGENT! Book & Magazine Appeal

Now that the students are all back on campus, our weekly booksales are well supported and book lovers wait patiently for our arrival every week. But, to keep going we urgently need more stock. ***Please, please, please consider donating your unwanted books and magazines to us – they are our lifblood.*** We can also sell used CDs and DVDs.

If you live in the southern suburbs, they can be dropped off at Southfield Vet in De Waal Road, Southfield (021 705 3475) or you can bring them to UWC.

We also have a drop-off point in Thornton (Lorraine: 082 858 8870) or we can arrange for a student to collect from you. Please email info@petfriendly.co.za

Cat Food Appeal!

TUFCAT can buy *Catmor* below cost @ R24.00 a bag. Please even if you can afford one bag, deposit the cash in our account with a refs – *Catmor* and your name (so we can thank you), we would be most grateful. We use 40-50 bags a week.

.....

TUFCAT BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

The UWC Feral Cat Project
NEDBANK
Savings Account
Account No: 2011093155
Branch Code: 101109
Branch Name: Constantia (Cape Town)

.....

Looking for a UWC staff member to help us store catfood

Looking after the TUFCAT cats takes up an inordinate amount of time and a full feed alone requires a minimum of 4 hours. Fortunately we are helped by a cleaner on campus who, in his spare time and during lunch, helps by cleaning the shelters and the areas around them, and also cleans and refills their water bowls. He is truly the most helpful and reliable person, and the bonus is, he's always there. The logical next step would be to engage his help with the feeding as well and to just pay him more. This would give us more time to focus on trapping and sterilizations, as well as sourcing food donations and funding for the TUFCAT Sanctuary cats.

In order to do this, we would need a lockable storage space where we can leave food, e.g. a lockable cupboard at someone's office where he can collect the food (sealed bags) we would drop off once a week. If you are on campus every day and don't mind him coming to fetch food from you and have a small safe space to keep the bags, please contact Sharyn on sspicer@uwc.ac.za or info@petfriendly.co.za .

.....

UPDATES

White Wolf Dog

The white wolf dog was given a shelter after our shelter building day and things have improved dramatically for her. Although we still can't get near her, she is looking much better thanks to the kindness of someone else who passes through campus twice a day. Seeing the dog one day, she started bringing dog food to campus and feeding on her way through. The dog however, cannot live like this forever and some kind of plan needs to be made. The AAFL have said that they will help with darting her to enable us to catch her, but what then? A few months ago, she was looking really bad and putting her to sleep seemed like the only option, but her level of care has doubled and we are not so sure anymore.

Any ideas on what can be done with a feral dog once caught??? Please email me on info@petfriendly.co.za .

.....

Cameron

Unfortunately Cameron, the beautiful big dog found on campus and mentioned in our last newsletter, did not make it. TEARS did their best for him, as they do for all animals, but sadly, he was too far gone. *R.I.P. Cameron.*

Thank you to Marilyn. www.tears.org.za

.....

Fluffy Ginger Cat

The beautiful fluffy ginger female cat found wandering around campus on the shelter building day found a home soon thereafter. Thanks to all at Southfield Vet.

.....

Adopt a cat or kitten from TUF CAT

We often have tame cats needing homes and at the moment there are two females awaiting adoption at a cattery in the southern suburbs. One is a tabby called *Abby* and the other, from UWC, is a dark (brindle) tortoiseshell we call *Magenta*. *Abby* was brought to the vet with all her kittens who subsequently found homes, but she didn't. *Magenta* comes from the station at UWC and deserves a chance at living in a home. Both have been spayed, vaccinated and dewormed.



TUF CAT asks for a R300 donation to cover these veterinary costs. If you are interested in offering one of these gorgeous, clever cats a loving and forever home, please email Sharyn on info@petfriendly.co.za or call Carol at Southfield Vet on 021 705 3475.

.....

Misty

This is a sad story. A year ago Misty's owner went through a bad patch and had to move into shared accommodation. The people she moved in with had a staffie who kept trying to kill the cat. In desperation, Misty's owner spoke to neighbours down the road and arranged with them for Misty to live in their garden, while she brought food for the cat every night. But then the neighbours started having marital problems and the cat was no longer welcome. The owner was given an ultimatum to take Misty away for good by that Sunday. She didn't know what to do and because she works on campus, in desperation, she contacted TUF CAT to find out if it would be possible for Misty to live on campus with one of the feral colonies. We immediately explained to her that a tame cat CANNOT live as a feral does and that it would not only be cruel, it would actually constitute abandonment which is against the law. She begged for help. We gave her a cat travel box to use and the next Monday, she brought the cat to campus and delivered her to TUF CAT. Misty is a really big girl -

white with tabby patches. Misty is very traumatised and disillusioned and needs to learn to trust again. She is both angry and loving at the same time. She likes people but is far less keen on cats, despite her being one! Misty needs a SPECIAL HOME. She is definitely not a young cat and she is not an easy cat. She may also have a problem with her mouth as she only wants to eat soft food. All said though, Misty is a very LOVING cat and she is looking for someone who is patient, gentle, soft, kind – a true cat lover that will offer her a retirement home that is safe, secure and PERMANENT. For an appointment to meet Misty, email Sharyn on info@petfriendly.co.za



Thank You...

TUFCAT *Roll of Honour* (regular donors)

Dr Lesley I'Ons
Mandy Zeeman
Ian Boccock (UWC)
Madge Gibson
Lemay Quesada (UWC)
Graham Goddard (UWC)
Holly Filday & Lorraine Bester (Sunshine Colours)
Wendy Woodward (UWC)
Zannie Bock & Herman Wittenberg (UWC)
Tricia Davis
Alexia Daniels
Debra Schein

... for cash donations

Elizabeth Sole (Rustenburg Girl's High School)
Prof van Reenen (UWC)
Barking Mad! (www.barkingmad.co.za)
Glenda Kaplan on behalf of Clubclaims Trust (thank you to the following individuals – Theresa Ralph, Claude Harel, Anthony McLoughlin, Ephraim Israel & Gerrit Kellerman).

If anyone still needs a receipt for tax purposes from us, please email me info@petfriendly.co.za

For catfood

RPWC – thank you Dale & Brigitte!!!

Lianie Els (Hill's)

Hill's Pet Nutrition (Michelle & Marcy)

Barbara McLuckie (*Whiskas* food and treats for *Simone* the tortie cat)

Heike Becker (UWC)



Feeding time

For book & magazine donations

Melanie Daly and her work colleagues at HSM (for a huge donation of new books, which we sold out in one day and brought in much needed funds)

Wendy Woodward

Hazel King

Barbara McLuckie (books)

Rae Gouws (magazines)

Natacha da Costa (magazines)

Ed Katz (UWC)

Joachim Fassman (BAT)

Obs Books (thanks to US exchange students Amy & Liz for collecting)

For all sorts of other things

UWC – a special thank you to Mr Quinn and Mr Fillis for all you do for us. A special thank you to Mr Fillis and the guys who collected catfood for us in Table View because our bakkie is broken. Thank you also to Thembani, Frankie and Lusa for help with feeding and booksales and for always being so dependable.

Southfield Vet – Dr Lesley I'Ons, Carol and Angela – thanks for all you do and for always being available. Thanks also for homing so many cats for us!

Exclusive Cat Care - Thanks to Carol & Margaret for being so kind and boarding strays until homes are found for them! Tel: 084 286 5011 (Carol).

Jaen-Pierre of My Guru – for donating the TUF CAT website (www.tufcat.co.za) to us – this is an incredibly kind gesture and we (and the cats!) really appreciate it! www.myguru.co.za

Esta – Sort It Admin Services, Gordon’s Bay. Thank you for all you do for us – your kindness and helpfulness is greatly appreciated!

June Bradbury of The Cat Trapping & Sterilisation Network – thank you for all your help finding homes for cats and kittens and for assisting with unplanned sterilizations. A BIG THANK YOU also for selling books for us at your stall in the Somerset Mall. This came at a time when we were unable to have our usual campus sales and we are eternally grateful to you!

Maurice of Mirrors Restaurant for donating the space for our event, **Larry Soffer & Gabriella** for your time, **Vondi’s, Sunshine Colours** and **Petfriendly** for sponsoring prizes. Debra for making it all happen!

Anonymous - thank you to all of you who dropped off books and catfood at the Sociology department anonymously, and to those of you who donated anonymously into our vet’s account. Thanks also to those who periodically drop off their old books and magazines at our weekly sales, and to the students who offer encouragement and support our work. And to everyone who forwards our newsletter to others... **thank you and keep sending it out!!!**

.....

Wish List

- **Catfood** is always needed and any type or amount is greatly appreciated.
 - **Books** and **Magazines** as well as any unwanted **CDs** and **DVDs** to sell at our weekly booksales held on campus.
 - A **digital camera**
 - **Dishes** - plastic, glass or ceramic dishes or any other medium-large **containers** that could be used for catfood and/or water. It doesn’t matter if they are cracked or chipped, we can still use them. We also need 2-litre ice-cream containers.
 - **Sponsors, donations** and **debit orders** to fund our operation
-

Veterinary Expenses

Thankfully UWC pays (a much reduced rate) for the sterilisations and euthanasia. The university has been covering these costs for many years and as an institution, really needs to be commended for the humane stance it has adopted from the outset.

Unfortunately these are not the only veterinary expenses TUF CAT incurs. We have found many injured and ill cats and kittens over the years, some feral and some tame, usually dumped or strayed onto campus. Wherever possible tame cats and kittens, if healthy, are homed. Others are treated until well and then rehomed if possible or, if not possible, are moved to the TUF CAT Sanctuary where treatment continues wherever possible. TUF CAT is charged very reduced rates but nevertheless, we have quite a large amount still outstanding. We would be grateful

for any assistance with paying this account – see vet’s banking details below. For verification and details of amounts owed, you can contact Carol at Southfield Vet on 021 705 3475.

PLEASE HELP US PAY OUR VET!

Southfield Veterinary Clinic
NEDBANK
Cheque Account
Account No: 1043053832
Branch Code: 104309
Branch Name: Tokai (Blue Route)
Reference: TUFCAT

Please also include **your name** so we can thank you personally. Proof of payment can also be faxed directly to the vet on 021 705 0332.

.....

Other Ways to Help

We urgently need people to volunteer their time and skills so that we can move forward and realise some of our longer term goals, instead of simply coping with the all consuming day to day things. We also need people to help us collect donations (usually books) in their area and bring them to campus.

We need:

- Help with website and internet-related stuff like setting up a *facebook* group.
- Help with designing, compiling and distributing our newsletter.
- People to distribute collection tins to their local shop/s (even if you can take charge of one tin at your local shop, this would help).
- Help sourcing AND collecting donated books & magazines in your area and beyond
- Someone to help fundraise and organise events (we have ideas and contacts and could even pay commission to the right person.
- Help selling raffle tickets and/or obtaining prizes.
- Feeders, trappers & people to transport cats to the vet.

.....

Sponsor a Cat

Not everyone is able to adopt a cat and sponsoring one of our residents is a great way to help. Without the few sponsorships we regularly receive from kind, generous animal lovers, TUFCAT would not be able to continue caring for these animals. It costs R50.00 to sponsor a cat for a month. For some bizarre reason people never seem to adopt tortoiseshell cats from us and only one kind person has ever offered to sponsor a tortie (thanks Barbara!). They are such unique and quirky characters that this really saddens us.

.....

Tortoiseshell Cats



Tortoiseshell describes a coat colouring predominantly found in female cats. A tortoiseshell is a cat whose colouring is a flecked mixture of either black and red (sometimes with bits of white), or blue and cream (diluted black and red). The difference between a tortie and a calico is the pattern; torties have small flecks of colors mixed together, while calicos have large blocks and usually a large amount of white. Tortoiseshells and calicos are not specific breeds of cat and the tortoiseshell markings appear in many different breeds as well as in non-purebred domestic cats.

They are sometimes called *torties* for short. Some people know them as the "naughty torties" for obvious reasons...

Torties have made their mark in history and folklore and in the USA, they are sometimes referred to as *money cats* and the Japanese *Maneki Neko* figurine is almost always a calico cat. The Celts believed that a tortoiseshell cat was good luck in a home. The English believed that torties could remove warts if you rubbed their tail on the wart during the month of May. And in Scotland and Ireland, a stray tortoiseshell cat settling in one's home is a good omen.

Did you know? Edgar Allen Poe was devoted to his tortoiseshell Catarina. She inspired his story "The Black Cat". She sat with his wife during her illness and frequently sat on his shoulder when he wrote.



.....

Cats and Computers

Cats and computers are not a good mix, yet felines find them irresistible. Apart from the obvious problems like hair accumulation in the mechanisms, feline footprints, and the typing of strange text into your documents, the biggest worry of all is that your beloved tomcat (even if neutered) could decide to spray on your computer, your documents or both. Having experienced this personally with a brand new laptop (that now only works with an external keyboard), I know what a hazard this can be. Interestingly, during the Schabir Shaik trial, the infamous incriminating fax that was presented in court was covered in cat urine, very nearly rendering it inadmissible as evidence!

Despite this, you don't have to ban them from your workspace, especially if this is in your home. Bear in mind that your cats want to be with you and not your computer. Invest in some plastic covers to protect your equipment from dust and fur when not in use and create a comfortable space for your cat that is nearby. An elevated shelf is ideal and will keep your cat off your computer, fax machine and books.

.....
Did you know? Cat mascots are widely used for sports teams because they symbolise prowess, cunning, speed, strength and agility. Felines are also the subject of more athletic logos than any other species of animal and teams often have cat names like, The Panthers, Tigers, Lions, Pumas, Wildcats, Cheetahs or simply just The Cats!
.....

Resident Restaurant (& Theatre) Cats

Many restaurants all over the world have resident felines, who often have their own fan club who visit them regularly. There are several places in South Africa with real cats living on the premises or with cat influenced décor. Some of these include:

Readers (Tulbagh)

This well known restaurant in Church Street, Tulbagh, is owned by cat lover, Carol Collins who is known for taking in feral cats and street strays. Her customers responded by giving her ornamental cats, which can be seen there. *Readers* can be found at 12 Church Street, Tulbagh. Tel: 023 230 0087.

Kontreispens Coffee Shop (Malmesbury)

This is a Country style Coffee Shop and Restaurant with unique cat decor (including a large cat mug collection). Quiet, well-behaved dogs are allowed to accompany their owners in the upstairs (smoking) section, which is quiet. Just be sure to give the owner D'Anveau du Plooy a call to let him know you will be coming with a canine. Tel: 022 487 2090.

Evita se Peron - Theatre & Restaurant (Darling)

The Perron garden is full of local plants, shrubs and bird life. The only real animals that can be seen are the six Perron cats. They are a major feature with the public and the Peronistas. As all true theatres need a resident moggie, within days of relaunching the new additions to the old station, the first four furrries arrived:

Marilyn, Moggie, Windgat and Die Koei. Ginger Rogers waddled in from nowhere and he turned out to be a bit of a 'kittophile' and has brought two small kittens into the Perron. Boesman and Two-Kay joined the cabaret. The most recent addition, Elsie, appeared out of the dirt-bin aged 6 weeks. She confronted a passing train some years back and lost her front leg, but is now obviously chasing visiting dogs on three legs as if it were the new fashion. Apparently, after visiting the Perron cats, some visitors have been so smitten that, on their way home, they have adopted desperate pets waiting at the local SPCA. For more info, visit www.evita.co.za.
Swartland & West Coast SPCA: 022 492 2781



Did you know? The valuable exhibits of the **State Hermitage Museum** in St Petersburg, Russia are protected not only with modern security systems but also by an army of cats. They have kept the museum free of rodents for generations and the tradition of the *guard-cats* has its roots in the early 18th century. The first cat was brought to the Hermitage from Holland by Peter the Great. Some years later, his daughter Empress Elizabeth ordered a whole carriage of cats with developed

hunting skills to be delivered. Since then, St Petersburg's main museum has been inhabited by cats. They rule the underground floors, in the so-called *Cat's Cellar*, where every door has a special cat-flap. The feline custodians prevent all rodents from entering the ceremonial halls above. *"Cats are nice, gentle, soft and, most importantly, they never have a negative word - it's as if they are psychologists,"* said one of Hermitage staff. One of cats, *Vasya*, proved to be something of a mascot for the museum. Life in the cellars wasn't to his liking, and he would find routes only known to him to reach the upper floors. *"Vasya preferred to hang out in the Throne Room and in the 1812 Gallery. He would stand up on the benches and study the pictures",* one of the museum attendants once said.

(Text and photo courtesy of the St Petersburg Times)

Useful Websites

TUFCAT was delighted to receive a R500 donation from www.barkingmad.co.za PLEASE just click on the link and then click on TUFCAT daily, so that we can keep benefiting from this wonderful initiative.



Find your FurKidz, dont buy them!

TUFCAT is also being assisted by FurKidz.co.za, a non-profit cyber-shelter, founded to assist Pet Rescue Organizations and Shelters across Southern Africa in re-homing their animals. Their mission is to show South Africans how many wonderful shelter animals are out there and just how many different and unique characters are looking for forever homes.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. - Margaret Mead

PLEASE FORWARD THIS NEWSLETTER TO ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED - Thanks!

Sharyn and the TUFCAT team

[UNSUBSCRIBE – We apologise if you have erroneously received this newsletter. If you want to be removed from our mailing list,, please send an email to info@petfriendly.co.za with **unsubscribe** as the subject heading].
