



AFRICAN TAILS

saving our street dogs

JUNE/JULY '08

PROLOGUE

Some people say that the year is half-over, but at African Tails, it has only just begun. From food drives to follow-up sterilization campaigns to a fantastic new calendar for 2009, we're showing no signs of slowing down any time soon! Here's what we've been up to this month...

CALENDAR UPDATE

The much-anticipated 2009 calendar is well on its way, after a very successful and star-studded photo shoot earlier this month. With appearances by Top Billing presenters Jeannie D and Janez, Survivor winner Vanessa Morawa, singer Farryl Purkiss and other celebs, it promises to be almost as fabulous as the charismatic canines it showcases so proudly!

Here's a sneak peek at one of the pics, featuring hunky hound Basco and his gorgeous date Rouxmia Bougas, who clearly has him eating out of her hand!



AFRICAN TALES, APRIL-MAY 2008

Meet some of our latest rescues, and the loving family homes they've found...

1. The dog with nine lives...

At just four months old, Beethoven here is so full of life that even a fatal case of parvovirus couldn't break his stride. After contracting the virus from a fatally ill puppy, he battled for his life for almost a week before finally pulling through thanks to the miracle work of Dr Reena Cotton and many sleepless nights of TLC from his adoring mom, Cathy Coetzee.



Beethoven and mom, Cathy



Who says cats and dogs don't get along?

2. Turning over a new leaf

Little Sheba was found tied to a tree, her "owner" too drunk to care for her. But take her home and put her on armchair and those adorable eyes and natural flair for the camera made sure that she was in our hands for less than 24 hours before she was joyfully snapped up by a loving new owner.



3. Don't punk with my heart...

Whatever breeds went into this little angel, ridgeback is definitely in there somewhere, judging by the impressive mohawk on her back! But even her bubbly personality and super-spunky "do" couldn't hide the hundreds of fleas she was carrying when we found her. Still, with a little TLC and a hefty dose of defleaing medication, she found a wonderful home and is now living the groovy life she deserves!



4. Now you see them...

These three little furballs were rescued on the same day as Sheba, and all found homes on the following day! The two brothers, now named Manni and Peppi, were adopted together and are living in style with their great new dad, while their sister found a wonderful new home with a loving family.



5. Bobby

There is no photograph of Bobby. Rescued from the freezing cold on an icy Friday evening in June, he was five weeks old and alone. Covered in fleas and barely moving, he was rushed to the SPCA's after-hours vet, where he was placed on a drip and kept warm and dry.

Unfortunately, it was too late to save him, and he had to be euthanased less than two days later. But far from living unknown and unrecognized, Bobby served as a powerful reminder of the thousands of puppies who die in the shadows, without ever being loved or touched or wrapped in a towel. Bobby is the reason sterilization is so important, as it's the only way to ensure that fewer puppies die without knowing what it's like to truly live.



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6. Lucky Luna

When this little boy was rescued in early June, he had mange, a raw patch on his forehead and a personality that eclipsed all his aches and pains. Gentle and playful, with an irrepressible sense of joy, he was a born charmer and a sure winner, so it was no surprise that he soon stole the heart of his wonderful new mom.



LUNA BEFORE



LUNA AFTER
(in designer slippers, noga!)

7. Remembering Lilo



Lilo was rescued in December last year, at about 12 weeks old. With her sunny, can't-get-me-down personality, she soon found a very special home with three big brother dogs to call her own. Unfortunately, this happy African Tale didn't end here, however, as little Lilo developed hip dysplasia in early 2008, and was no longer able to run and jump and enjoy a normal life with her family. Eventually, a difficult decision had to be made, and Lilo was euthanased in May this year. She will be sorely missed and lovingly remembered by her mothers Harriet and Anoushka, as well as her three big brothers.

8. Happy family

In our May newsletter, we were looking for homes for Bella and her ten puppies, and the good news is, all Bella's puppies have now been homed! Bella herself is learning to live out of the township in a loving rehabilitative foster home, but is urgently in need of a caring permanent home. She is about two years old but a real puppy at heart, and will require patient and understanding owners. We will keep you posted on her progress, and send you photos as the pups grow up!



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

1. **Sterilization** – African Tails funds sterilizations on a weekly basis through Animal Rescue Organisation (ARO). In 2008 we performed two mass sterilizations with ARO and have successfully sterilized over 200 dogs 2008.
2. **Feeding** – currently feed 150 starving dogs a day within Joe Slovo & Du Noon informal settlements
Food donation bins have been placed at the following locations:
 - Citi Vet – 146 Main Road, Sea Point
 - Tangles– Adelphi Centre, Sea Point
 - Green Point Vet – 86 High Level Road Green Point
3. **Rescue and re-homing** – successfully re-homed over 70 dogs and puppies since our inception. The process includes a site visit, official documentation and ensuring that the dog is sterilized, healthy and up-to-date with all vaccinations.
4. **Education** – presently focusing on educating the urban, economically mobile public about the situation in the townships. Planning to branch into educating the Du Noon/ Joe Slovo community about pet care and basic animal behaviour.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **Kennels (2nd hand or new)**: With the rainy winter months ahead it has become a priority as many of the dogs have no shelter.
- **Food**: We are always in need of dog food donations for the daily feeding of township dogs.
- **Fosters**: While we look for permanent loving homes for the puppies/dogs, fosters homes are essential.

- **Funds:** The more money we make, the more dogs we can save... our banking details are:
Nedbank Gardens
Account name: The Heart of Healing
Account number: 101 009 9817
Branch Code: 101 009
NB Reference: African Tails, Surname
- **Other:** If you can help us with anything else we mentioned in this newsletter – be it the calendar sponsorship or sales, medical equipment or services for the sterilizations, leashes/collars, blankets, cushions or even just spreading the word to a larger audience, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Please call any of the African members (all our numbers are at the end of the newsletter) if you can help with any of the above requirements!

Giving thanks...

We would like to say an enormous thank you to all our fantastic fosters and volunteers, especially Cathy Coetzee, Michelle Jansen van Vuuren, Vanya Keren, Kate Lawson & Dr Reena Cotton of CitiVet Sea Point

NEW RESCUES

1. Girl power!

These three little girls were rescued in the first week of June, and are looking for loving homes to call their own. They are all about 9 weeks old, very sweet and gentle, and have been vaccinated, deflead and dewormed.

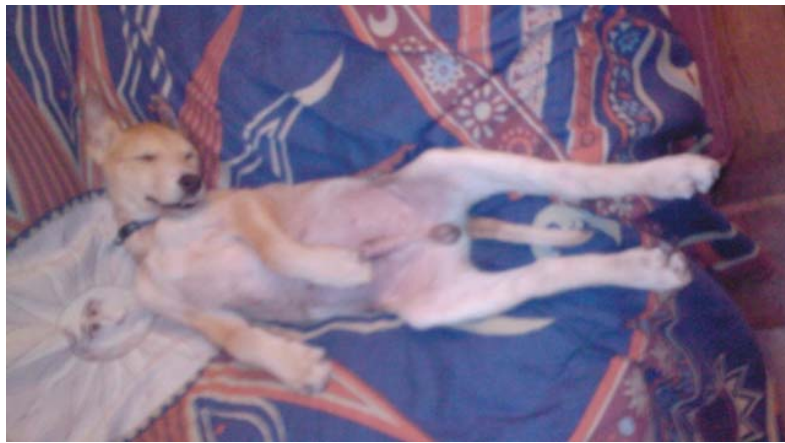


2. Gemma the all-rounder

When Gemma, a five-year-old female Belgian Shepherd (looks like a black border collie) was rescued two weeks ago in Woodstock, she was dirty, scruffy and severely neglected, with matted fur, worn-down nails and no shelter from the incessant rain. She was taken in by a kind-hearted foster, who nursed her back to health and now, she's looking for a loving home. She is friendly, sociable, potty-trained and loving, and gets on well with dogs, cats and kids. She's alert, loyal and walks well on a lead, and even lets the cats eat out of her bowl! In short, she's everything you could wish for. Photo to follow.

3. Jerry the gentleman

This special little boy is still looking for the perfect home. His one eye was damaged while he lived in the township, but he functions completely normally and is sweet and friendly and full of beans.



4. Abandoned

It has come to our attention that the owner of this border collie cross is leaving his home in Rugby on the 30 June, and is planning to leave the poor dog behind. He is 11 months old and very friendly and playful, and just needs a home with a caring family who will love him as unconditionally as he will love them.



5. Forthcoming attractions

These two new babies – a boy and a girl – are about 9 weeks old and still living in the township. We have moved them, however, to a sheltered but short-term place of safety, until we can find them proper fosters or permanent homes. They are very sweet and gentle, and just need a good bath and a healthy dose of TLC!



If you are interested in giving any of these puppies or dogs the happy ending they truly deserve, or if you know someone who might be interested, please don't hesitate to call us on any of the numbers below.