



COMMUNITY LED ANIMAL WELFARE

CLAW is an internationally known and well-respected animal welfare organisation, renowned as the pioneer of community based primary animal healthcare in South Africa. IFAW is proud to support CLAW as a flagship project of its Community Led Animal Welfare programme. It is the only provider of animal healthcare in most of the areas in which it works. CLAW is entirely community based and its full-time staff all hail from the areas it serves, supplemented by a loyal band of volunteers.

ABOUT

In impoverished communities where traditional veterinary services are often unavailable, starving dogs and cats give birth to litters of offspring that cannot be fed. Illnesses go untreated. And the pain of these pets adds to the suffering of their owners.

IFAW's Community Led Animal Welfare (CLAW) program brings new hope. CLAW provides desperately needed veterinary services to dogs and cats, as well as vital animal care education to pet owners in some of the world's poorest communities. Since its start in 1999, CLAW's team of veterinarians and local volunteers have treated, vaccinated, and provided spay and neuter services to sterilize thousands of pets.

Pets are always there for us when we need them. Loyal and steadfast, they are an endless source of unconditional love. And for many in the world's most disadvantaged communities, a pet is all a person has.

But pets suffer from poverty the same way their owners do. Without the means to provide proper care, pets can be vulnerable to disease, malnutrition and abandonment. Dogs and cats in developing countries are particularly likely to suffer from neglect and poor health.

Imagine having to stand by helpless to provide for the companion animal you love. Yet that is exactly what many in the poorest communities must face everyday.

A New Hope for Pets and Owners

Community Led Animal Welfare (CLAW) began ten years ago with Cora Bailey's one-woman crusade to personally provide basic veterinary services to one South African township. Now CLAW works to bring free and low-cost spay/neuter services, veterinary treatment, and animal education to the poorest communities in the world.

Since its inception in 1999, CLAW's mobile teams of veterinarians and community volunteers have treated, vaccinated, and sterilized thousands of pets. CLAW also provides other mobile services such as flea dipping, de-worming, emergency care, adoption services, humane euthanasia, pet education, and community awareness events.

The welfare of these animals is intimately linked to the welfare of the communities in which they live. CLAW programs are culturally sensitive and network with other community-based organisations to help provide an improved quality of life for the people and communities in which they work.

Many human-aid charity groups have recognised CLAW's holistic non-exclusive approach, and CLAW's extended network is improving the lives of thousands. CLAW distributes food parcels, facilitates a home-based care programme to teach people how to care for the sick and dying, runs food gardens, supports child-headed households and helps communities access health and hospice care.

PROJECTS

CLAW PROJECTS: [Saturday Fun Day](#) | [Outreach Clinics](#) | [Abuse/Neglect](#) | [Gardening](#) | [Community Aid](#) | [Schools Education](#) | [Xmas Parties](#)

Outreach Clinics



CLAW provides primary health care to cats and dogs in 33 areas. Dogs and cats are vaccinated, dewormed and treated for external parasites with dips or sprays. Certain sicknesses can also be treated in the field like bilary and mange. If animals are seriously ill though and need further veterinary attention or specialized treatment, they are brought to the clinic. Also, animals that need to be sterilized come back with the vehicles in the afternoons.

CLAW staff also attend to emergency calls daily. These range from sick animals to neglect cases. In the event of severe cruelty cases (such as dog fighting), CLAW has the cooperation of the Metro police, the SAPS, and the SPSCA,

Wishlist for outclinics

Veterinary drugs like dewormer, anti-biotics and vaccinations.
Veterinary supplies like dog dip.

Abuse/Neglect



CLAW is able to reach far into communities with our outreach clinics and house to house visits. Often, there are cases of neglect and abuse that we are able to assist with. Education is the most important tool to ensure animals are being kept in a responsible way. Often animals are chained or tied with wire and we are able to help with installation of running wires. People who can't afford fencing and gates, and who have dogs will often tie the dog to prevent it from running around. The reasons aren't malicious, but practical for the owners. A running wire allows dogs to move more freely in the property and have access to their kennels or shade as well as protecting the entrance.

Sometimes animals are poisoned in the informal settlements. Again, this is not usually due to malicious individuals. The rat problem in townships is huge and unfortunately, the cheapest method to control rats is a substance called Aldicarb. This can be purchased from most street vendors at about R5.00. Unfortunately, the Aldicarb is a controlled pesticide used in agriculture against cut worms. It is lethal and often an underfed dog will scavenge on a rubbish site and ingest a poisoned rat or the poison itself. It only takes one or two little black granules to seriously affect dogs. CLAW is involved in a forum that is looking for different alternatives to the Aldicarb problem in Soweto.

Because of extreme poverty, we often come across animals that are severely emaciated. We will always attempt to educate about feeding before confiscating but unfortunately sometimes cases are so severe that we are forced to ask the SPCA to assist in the confiscation of animals.

Over the festive season, fire crackers are a problem. We often see animals that have been traumatized by the noise, either directly burnt by crackers or injured due to trying to flee. Again, education is the most important approach when dealing with owners of pets that have been hurt due to crackers.

Community Aid



CLAW provides a service to communities in the form of food and clothing distribution. We are also often able to assist families who need transport to hospitals and hospices. AIDS and HIV are a reality of our daily work and we believe that if individuals have no food or clothing, then they are unlikely to be able to look after their pets properly as well.

Various individuals and organizations have committed to delivering monthly basic food parcels to us which we are able to distribute to the most needy families and individuals. These individuals are often brought to our attention when their animals are in need of care.

Sizani Projects makes up food parcels which consist of staple foods, such as beans, soya, maize meal, milk powder, oil, and peanut butter. Many of these parcels are delivered to orphans and the sick, especially those with TB and those on ARVs. Honeydew Merlin Rotary provides us with a monthly donation of Sejo, a nutritional supplement which provides extra nutrition for the malnourished.

CLAW is regularly called upon to help animals during forced removals of communities. We provide temporary housing to animals until owners are resettled elsewhere.

Schools Education



CLAW's Education Officer, Mpendulo Mkhonza, visits schools and crèches to do humane animal care education. The children are taught the basic skills needed to feed and care for their pets. They are also shown informational videos and take part in fun activities related to animal care.

Our education outreach programme needs the following:

Workbooks

Stationery like pens, pencils, crayons, koki-pens, erasers, rulers, scissors etc.

Children's story books about animals.

Posters

CLAW believes that children hold the key to future animal welfare and if they are made aware at a young age, they are more able to make informed decisions about their pets in the future.

Gardening Projects



CLAW has been involved with the planning, training and creation of community gardens and tyre gardens in Soweto for 4 years. We have two qualified permaculturists at CLAW – David Khoza and Danile Sifaya. They are responsible for liaising with various community leaders, school heads and individuals who seek to start gardening projects. After site visits and planning, they are able to combine with communities to lay out gardens. Our gardening projects play a huge role in the creation of work as well as providing essential foods for HIV/AIDS sufferers and poor communities.

We have the following operational and profitable gardening projects in Soweto:

Cheese Factory (Community garden)
Slovoville (Gardening group)
Matholiesville (Community garden)
BraamFischerville (Community garden)
Meadowlands (School garden)
Kliptown (Community garden)
Lawley (School garden)

CLAW has received donations of seeds, compost and gardening tools in the past but these are all currently in need of replacing.

Below is a wishlist for our gardening projects:

Seeds

Watering cans, Wheel barrows, Spades, Forks, Rakes, Hand forks, Large water tanks

Saturday Fun Day



In early 2007, Nazira Cachalia introduced us to Khulisa, an organization that offers a diversion program for young offenders. It was suggested that the children spend one or two days of their program at CLAW. We saw this as a wonderful opportunity to introduce animals into their lives. On completion of the program, many of the children continue to come to us on Saturdays. With the dedicated help of volunteers Gayle Ramsey, Corris Steed, Sue White, Dennis Farrel, Barbara Hammerschlag and her dog Rupert, Saturdays became "the Saturday Fun Day".

In June 2007, we were alerted to another group of youngsters who were found to be kicking a dog to death in Emndeni, Soweto. The dog had strayed into a yard and the kids were 'getting rid' of it as an elder told them. We decided to include them in the fun day and brought them to the clinic to introduce them to our activities. They learned basic dog training, T-Touch (a form of massage), first aid and even cooking!

We saw a marked change in their behaviour towards animals from the first session. The dog that they had attacked was healing and we brought him in and did a circle workshop with the kids. The training was focused on why humans and animals are similar. At the end of the circle, they each apologized to the dog and made a promise never to behave that way towards any living animal or person ever again. The dog was rehomed and is now living a life of luxury.

This year, we have decided to continue with the fun days but every second Saturday. We will continue the fun activities, pet care education and other workshops.

Last Year's Activities Included:

Themba Radebe from Associated Press talked to the kids about press photography

A team of hair and makeup artists demonstrated their skills

Roodepoort Fire Department provided a first aid course

Rand Merchant bank sponsored 30 tickets to see Lion King at Monte Casino

Barbara Hammerschlag and her dog Rupert visited regularly

The TTtouch practitioners did workshops with the kids and the dogs

A country estate provided a day out for the kids with horse and tractor rides, swimming and lunch

The Botanical gardens took them on a guided walk through a nearby nature reserve.

CEEP (Community Environmental Education Programme) and the JGI's Roots and Shoots Program provided further environmental education

Kids painted and created their own tyre gardens

Various craft making days were presented. The kids made Christmas cards and Christmas tree decorations as well as bead jewellery

Wishlist for fun day

Craft day – crafts needed like: candles, beads, paint, coloured card, glitter, glue as well as volunteers to teach crafting skills

Lunches, drinks and snacks for 30 kids each Saturday

Supervised outings to places of interest. This includes museums, swimming pools, theatres, nature reserves and obviously bus fare

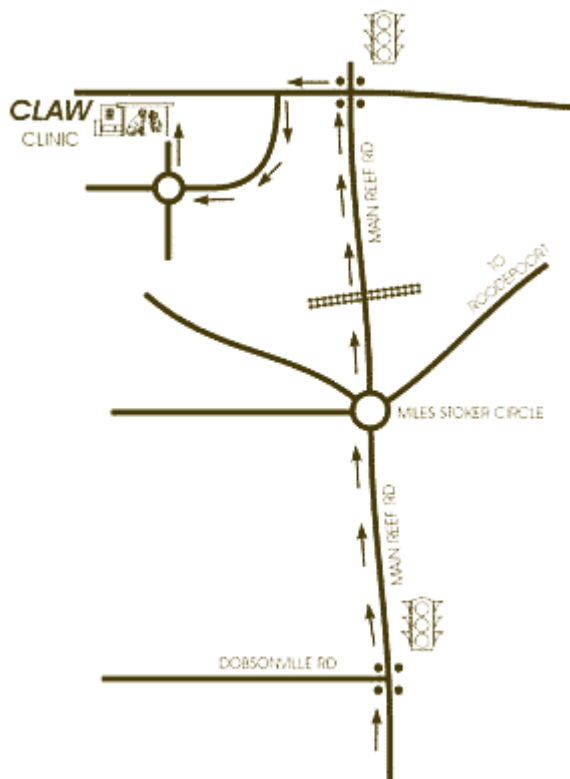
Volunteers with specialized skills that can be taught to the kids

T-shirts/caps for the kids with a Fun Day/CLAW kids logo

Get Involved

This initiative is for companies or businesses to become personally involved with the upliftment of our youth. Your company team can plan various fun activities and talks for the kids and provide lunch, cold drinks and snacks for the day. The day will go from about 9am to 2pm. This will allow the kids to be exposed to different forms of education from different fields, and provide the opportunity for team building exercises within your company.

CONTACT



Business Hours

8:00AM - 4:30PM

[Download Directions & Map](#)

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The SAPC has adopted CLAW as its charity. If you would like to, please deposit money for CLAW in the SAPC account and the money will be deposited into the CLAW bank account every six months, as a donation from the Pagan community.