

THE UWC FERAL CAT PROJECT (TUF CAT)



The Smart Solution

062-306-NPO

www.tufcat.co.za

TUF CAT WINTER UPDATE – JUNE / JULY 2013

Dear All,

We at TUF CAT have made significant progress with getting our existing **shelters** upgraded as well as acquiring new ones (for cats to sleep in). This is not an easy task considering there are 24 colonies and feeding stations, accommodating close to 200 cats in total!

We have been very lucky thus far and had kennels donated to us by **DARG** in Hout Bay and have also been assisted by Alison and Phil who not only collected them but patched them up before delivering them to campus. We are also grateful to Charmaine French (and Alex for collecting it all the way out in Fish Hoek) for the big kennel for the old cats near the squash courts and Assets Management. *Chong and Co* are delighted and it is already well used. Having proper shelter drastically improves the quality of life for the resident ferals. Madge Gibson, a long-time TUF CAT has kindly offered to donate more kennels to the project – we are very, very grateful for this!

But, our task of providing shelter for the cats is ongoing, so we are always on the lookout for kennels and other potential shelters for the ferals. We also need nails, wood off-cuts and varnish etc. Please email: sspicer@uwc.ac.za if you can assist.

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HELP NEEDED: Collection of Kitty Bank from Rustenburg Girl's High School in Rondebosch

RGHS have supported TUF CAT for many years and they have filled a 'Kitty-Bank' with coins. We need this collected and brought to UWC. If you live in the area and can help, please email sspicer@uwc.ac.za

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URGENT! Cat Food Appeal!

Although we have been lucky enough to receive cat food donations (Friskies sachets kindly donated to us by Tim at PURINA), we have completely run out of dry food. Not only do the cats eat more

during winter, we are unable to have booksales (weather and university vacation), which means we do not always have funds to buy catfood during these periods. While we really do appreciate donations of tinned food (especially for the oldies and 'special' cases, we mostly need dry pellets. Pick n Pay are currently having a special on Catmor (R29.99 per 1.7kg bag). Prices are valid until 7 July 2013 and you earn Smart Shopper points. So, please consider adding a bag or two to your shopping trolley. We would be most grateful – it all adds up! Thank You!

If you have food to donate, you can email sspicer@uwc.ac.za for collection or drop the food off at the Department of Anthropology & Sociology or at Southfield Veterinary Clinic. THANK YOU!

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TUFCAT BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Nedbank

Savings Account

Account Number: 2011093155

Branch Code: 101109

Branch: Constantia

Refs: Your Name

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Feral Cat Spay Days

TUFCAT is trying to organise a mass sterilisation day for cats in the **Helderberg / Grabouw** area and another in **Mitchell's Plain** in July 2013. We will be making use of the services of a highly experienced vet who has considerable knowledge about handling ferals etc. To make this viable, we need to find 30 cats that can be done on each day. The cost is R180 per cat. If you look after ferals, are a welfare operating in these areas, or need to have cats spayed, please email: sspicer@uwc.ac.za

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N2 DOG RESCUE UPDATE

While driving home from UWC to Gordon's Bay a few weeks ago we saw a smallish but emaciated and injured dog stuck in the bushes in the middle of the N2 close to the Baden-Powell on-ramp (before the Engen One Stop). This pitiful sight upset us terribly and we tried (in rush hour against our better judgement) to approach the dog but she limped off at quite a speed. As it was dark by then, we had no choice but to continue home without her. Haunted by this, we called the SPCA in desperation and they already knew about her – somebody else cared enough to make the call. Every day thereafter when driving past we desperately searched but no sign of the dog, so we wishfully assumed someone had been sent to collect her. No such luck. Almost a week later we saw her again. Once again we stopped and left food. She ran off and hid in the bushes. This poor animal has been living in the middle of the N2 in the freezing cold and pouring rain for god knows how long. She is painfully thin and injured to boot. We called TEARS and Marilyn came with a trap to help us. Sadly, we did not see her that day. So, I put an appeal on facebook and the response has been incredible.

Turns out many other people have seen the dog and have been upset by her plight. HHAWS (based in Gordon's Bay) have been trying to catch the dog as well and they have gone all out to assist. But, this is quite a long stretch of road and the bush is dense, so thus far no one has managed to catch the poor dog and no one has seen her for more than a week. Please post on our facebook page if you have any information.

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ADOPT A UWC CAT

TUFCAT has been faced with an unprecedented number of dumped cats and dogs over the past few months and we have worked tirelessly to try and make a plan for each and every one of them. We have been very successful and have managed to find wonderful homes for ALL the dogs and a few cats too.

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ADOPTIONS UPDATE

April

A few weeks ago, Zandile, a UWC student found an injured and heavily pregnant dog (that she named April) near her residence, so she asked us to help. Carmelita, a staff member took the dog to AACL and they stitched her wound and spayed her. Sandra, a TUFCAT supporter has paid for this. Carmelita collected April from hospital and fostered her for the weekend as she needed to recover from surgery. But since Carmelita lives in a flat, she could only foster April for a short while. Fortunately April is smallish (very short legs) and has a calm, friendly nature, is very well behaved and completely house-trained. This has enabled Carmelita to bring her to work with her at UWC. *However this is not always easy for her and TUFCAT is appealing to any campus based dog lovers to make themselves available from time to time to walk April while Carmelita attends meetings etc. If you are on campus and can assist with April, email Carmelita – cbenjamin@uwc.ac.za*



April the dog who was found at UWC



April a few weeks later...

Hi Sharyn

We had one a very busy weekend. The first official outing. Walking and visiting and eating out. April isn't totally ok with little dogs. She wants to chill and they want to hop around like wound up 'jack in the boxes'. Yet she

deals with kids in a very patient manner. Maybe as time goes on she will be a bit more tolerating of these small dogs.

Her wounds are healing well. the stitches of the spaying has 'dissolved' and the stitches on the side will be removed this coming friday and her next vaccination is in June. The mastitis is gone and her boobies are not swollen anymore, so that is a relief.

She has latched onto her pink elephant toy (called 'baby') . Baby has been checked and rechecked for fleas, licked into a soppy mess, and played with. When it is time to go she would not carry it, but ensures I bring it along! Clever little dog, conditioning me already.

I need to thank Zandi for her help. Taking April on afternoon walks during the week and running away from her books on Sunday just to come say 'hi' and spend some time with us while we were on the field.

And Sandra: no words can express how thankful I am for all the support she has given me in this new venture. A life changing one. And a good one. It would not have been possible. And even though I will probably still get some negativity from uninformed and ignorant people, I can stand strong because I know she's got my back. There are many times when I look at April and get all teary. She has been through so much yet she still gives so much. I can see how she is transforming (physically and emotionally) and I would not have been able to if it wasn't for Sandra. Yes! I'm a happy foster failure. Thank you Sandra!

I am adding some pics of April. I've dated the pics to see how she has transformed into a beautiful dog. Hope you like it.

*Love and light
C.*

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Mister Magnum

Mister Magnum is a fluffy white and grey cat who was dumped at the Transport Department. He kept trying to go into the offices and hang around humans so we were asked to remove him. He is by far the cuddliest cat I have come across and he loves to be held. Fortunately he was adopted by Marion, an ex-UWC staffer and long-time TUFCA supporter, and her mother, Sheila, who both dote on him and spoil him rotten. He looks a lot like Smudge so we suspect they were dumped by the same person/people. All that matters now is that he loves his new life in Muizenberg!

Cutie-boy (the container puppy)

After being informed by Zandile about a GSD type puppy hanging around the container shop near Dos Santos residence, Sandra went to investigate and ended up taking lucky little 'Cutie-boy' home, where he now lives with her pack. He was in bad shape but very friendly. The shop owner had also been feeding him. There really are lots of caring people on our campus.

Bruno (R.I.P.)

Soon after finding the puppy at the container, Carmelita found a puppy wandering around near the School of Government. This handsome little Africanis pup sadly had parvo (had been suffering from the deadly disease for a long time) and was sadly put to sleep. Thank you Carmelita, for helping him.

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Station puppy

Yet another GSD type puppy was found on the UWC side of Unibell Station. This lucky little girl, since adopted and named *Nipper*, is in fair condition (although she was covered in ticks and was thought to have biliary), but was very scared and nervous. She has since calmed completely and is happy in her new home with her best friend, Kati.



Nipper the Station Puppy

Lily aka Sani, the 'feral' dog on campus

We have had some major dog dramas lately and thankfully a UWC student, Zandile has been helping us by feeding them. The German Shepherd-type dog that has been on campus since November last year was one of them. Initially she stayed far away from the main campus but then started hanging around the Herb Garden and nearby lawned area. We soon found out that this 'feral' dog had befriended one of the UWC lecturers, who was able to touch her! Sani, as she has since been renamed, has been adopted by Shirley and is living it up in Durbanville (see below).

Dear friends

A pic attached showing me and Sani (formerly Lily) in her new home. More pics soon. She also now has a bed, collar and harness. The back verandah is her favourite place.

Unfortunately it was also the favourite place of the cats, who are disturbed by the new addition to the family! We are trying to train Sani not to bark at them ...

Cheers,
Shirley



Shirley and Sani

After *Sani* was adopted by Shirley, we found out that Natasha, a UWC student had also been caring for her (see letter)

Dear Dr Spicer,

I would just like to extend my thanks to you for finding Lily a home.

I was sad when I saw she's no longer is here and hoped that you placed her in a good home. Then I hear my lecturer, Prof Brooks, adopted her I was overly glad. Once again thank you kindly for putting so much effort into finding her a home.

Regards,

Natasha

And Shirley's response and update...

Dear Sharyn and Natasha

I've put together a couple of pics of Lily (now Sani) in her new home. About the name: Sani Pass is a beautiful mountain pass between KZN and Lesotho. (Our cats are Maluthi, Kalahari, and Acacia - note the geographical theme!). Sani is learning her new name. It is short and works well.

Natasha, I was so amazed to hear how much you did for her while she was on campus!! Her nutritional status is good and she has obviously received love and attention. I was totally unaware of your involvement with her - isn't it funny that we've seen each other in class all this time and been unaware of our link to this dog! When exams are over, you must come up to Durbanville and visit with your old friend.

She did need to be treated for a tick-born parasitic infection (she was actually suffering from biliary fever), and this can be really serious. They gave her an injection last Monday to kill the parasites, and she seems to be fine now - will take her back to the vet for a check-up soon.

We haven't been doing much exercise because of the biliary, but she loves going for walks in her smart new harness. (I need some pics of that).

In the meantime, here are some pics of her around the house and garden. She lives on the verandah and has the back lawn to play on. She spent this afternoon dismantling a tennis ball. Her favourite place to sleep is one of our verandah chairs! (I snapped a pic through the glass sliding doors).

When it gets colder we may have to rethink the sleeping arrangements. The problem is that Sani still has to learn not to bark at and go for the three cats - at the moment I can't take the risk of them coming into contact. She does seem to be a dog with a high "prey drive" as described in the articles I've googled.

She's also tending to whine and cry when I'm away from her and she's on her own on the verandah. I've googled that too!

One step at a time I guess. But she is a lovely dog, I'm lucky to have her and thank you for all your care for her Natasha.

Sharyn, do you have Zandi's e-mail address as I'd like to send her the pics too?

All the best,
Shirley



Sani on her favourite chair

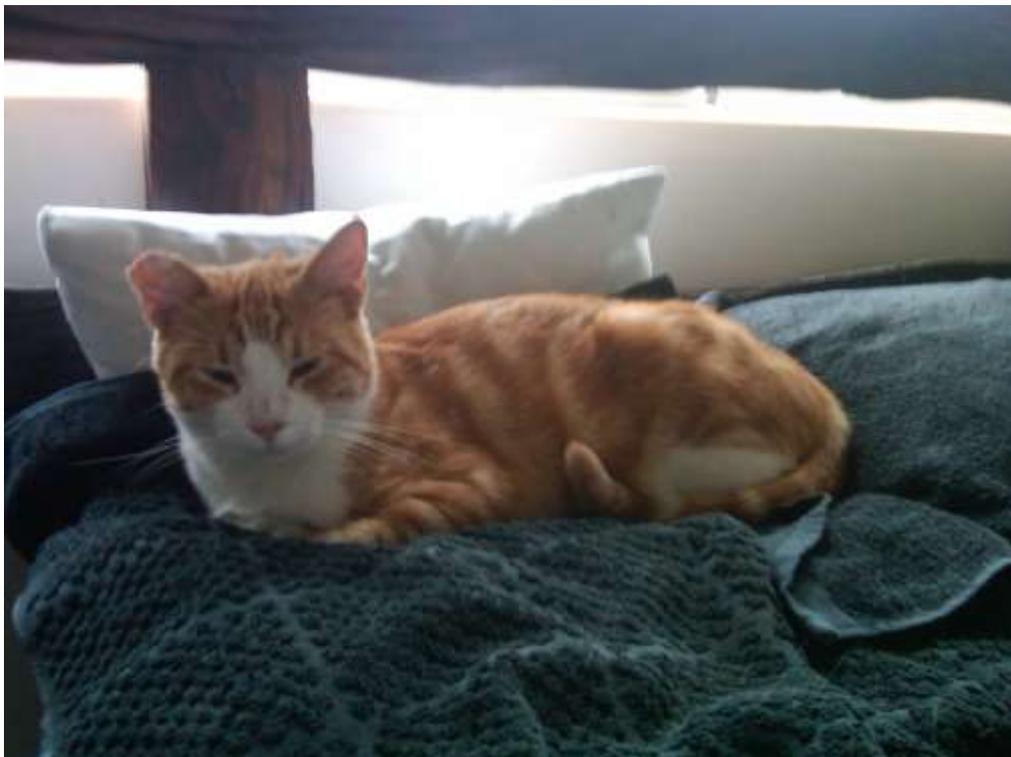
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Zorro

Another UWC cat, *Zorro*, has been adopted. Carla (Psychology Honours student) has taken the ginger boy that has been living near the Law Department home with her. By all accounts he is thriving on the attention (see below)...

Hi Sharyn,

Just reporting that Zorro is doing very well in his new home with me and mom. He was out for a little while during the night but came straight back this morning :) The other cats seem to be taking his arrival quite well too. I cannot express how much I love him already and I hope that when you get some time that you will come and visit him to see how happy he is. Enjoy the vac and keep well.
Carla



Zorro in his new home

Mpumalanga cats need help

This really is a desperate situation - a small group of cats (2-3) urgently need to be relocated. They currently live at a power station and an employee got them all (there were many more) sterilised and fed them, only to have them killed off one by one (see letters below).

29/05/2013

Hi Sharyn, Hope things are going well with you. Here things are not so good. Two of the cats I fed here are gone, I believe they are dead, I know that one of them was kicked preciously and had broken his front legs

twice and he had a hip fracture. But, I think the last time it might have been just too much for the small body and he died. One of the others that are still here are losing one eye, the eyes colour has change and I can see that it does not respond to light, only one eye good for catching mice. Maybe you can just mention it in your newsletter, I do not want to keep quiet about the abuse of animals anymore.

03/06/2013

Hi Sharyn, I have no problem with you spreading the word, fortunately I decided to take the one with the eye problem home with me , and also the other one, there aren't so many cats left on site, the killing of the cats happened so slowly by surely. I have one more that I do feed at my office, maybe if he can get a good home it will be nice. There are others also, not much. I know of one who's foot got caught in a device and only 2 or three toes are left. If you really can find a safe place for them it will mean a lot to me. Thanks for your response.

Can anyone help her and take these cats in? Does anyone know of a sanctuary anywhere – there are only 2-3 left and their lives are in danger. If we can find a place (anywhere in the country) to take them to, we will appeal for help transporting them. Email: info@tufcat.co.za with any ideas, advice etc.

Booksales

Aside from keeping all the cats fed, we also have considerable vet bills to pay off *and* we also need to purchase some essential equipment and more shelters. We also need to build up a bit of a stash to tide us through the vacs when there are no booksales. So, during term time, we have WEEKLY BOOKSALES on Wednesdays outside the Student Centre from 11h30-15h00. But, to keep going we need a constant supply of books, so please keep donating your books and magazines to TUF CAT.

Many of us have books piling up in corners, lining up along the floor, stacked in piles on desks, overflowing from our bookshelves. Help get your old or gently used books in the hands of people who need them by donating your used books to TUF CAT. Donating your used books is free, and can help a young student cultivate one of the greatest gifts of all: a love of reading and learning. Donating used books helps give the less fortunate access to a larger world through the wonders of reading. From the cats who are kept fed by the funds raised to the staff and students who buy the books at bargain prices -- everyone benefits when you donate used books to charity.

Most used book donations are gladly accepted. Donate used baby books and children's books. Donate used textbooks, like law, politics, anthropology, sociology, psychology, history philosophy or medical books, so that students in a tight financial situation can keep up with their studies. Donate romance, mystery and crime novels. Donate classical English literature. Donate autobiographies. Donate dictionaries. Donate science books. Donate cookery books and magazines. We have drop-off points for donated goods at UWC and also in Thornton, Southfield and Main Road, Wynberg. Or simply bring them to the sale. Alternatively they can be dropped off at the Department of Anthropology and Sociology or they can be collected from your home or office. To donate books, please email: sspicer@uwc.ac.za

Academic Conferences

Since we are based on a university campus, we at TUFCA are delighted that there are TWO conferences focussing on animal issues scheduled to take place at UWC and UCT respectively later this year.

1. Call for papers: Figuring the Animal II

The third Animal Studies Round Table in Africa Colloquium will take place at UWC – on 3 and 4 September 2013, followed by a Handspring Puppet Workshop facilitated by Basil Jones on 5 and 6 September. Again, the Colloquium will focus on the representations of nonhuman animals in Africa with the intention of opening up debates across the disciplines. Are we really transforming our home disciplines in our research on the nonhuman? Or are we merely adding another element to a humanist agenda in the Arts? What does the “Animal Turn” in the Humanities signify? What research has this inspired?

Papers are invited on the following topics:

- Animal Studies in African Universities
- Iconic Animals
- Companion animals in an African context
- Hybridities
- Animal beauty

Abstracts (250-300 words) due: 31 July. Acceptance: early August. Please send abstracts to: shirley.brooks2@gmail.com or wendywoodward97@gmail.com

2. Earth Animal Communities: Exploring Collective Liberation

A two day conference hosted by ICAS Africa to be held at the University of Cape Town from 31 August to 1 September 2013.

Critical Animal Studies is rapidly becoming a recognised field of investigation worldwide. Broadly, it is a theoretical and practical engagement with the myriad ways in which humans dominate and oppress non-human animals, the complex intersections between human and non-human lives and the exploration of alternative ways of relating across the species divide. The strong parallels with various forms of hierarchy and domination within human society means that work in critical animal studies is at core interdisciplinary, overlapping with areas such as linguistics, feminism, environmental studies, anthropology, film and media studies, fine art, philosophy, psychology, religious studies, law, queer studies, politics and sociology.

If you would like to receive information about either of these conferences, please email sspicer@uwc.ac.za and I will forward it to you.

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Do attitudes to feral cats reflect our core values?

Adrian Franklin,¹ has written extensively on 'animal issues' and he recently commented on that country's radical attitude towards feral cats. According to him, *"Australia's fear of the rogue animal reflects our migrant paranoia"* (National Times, January 8, 2013). He argues that *"intolerance of outsiders is entrenched as a common value in Australia."*

The intolerance shown towards migrants and asylum seekers extends to non-human animals too, particularly the feral cat. Feral cats are despised and considered to be *'un-Australian.'* Franklin questions why they (Australians) are so against the feral cat when other countries are not? He attributes to their apparent fear of outsider humans. Although the reason given by scientists is that the feral cat endangers native animals, Franklin contests this assumption.

He compares attitudes to those in the UK, which has a far denser population of feral cats than Australia, and where people are just as concerned about native animals. Yet, in Britain, the feral cat is a cause for concern prompting people to care about their welfare! It is as protected as domestic cats, and is more or less naturalised. Franklin ponders why feral cats so loathed and feared if there is no conclusive scientific evidence to prove that they pose a danger to Australian wildlife. For him, the answer relates to *"the differences between Australia and Britain as nations and how the feral cat has come to embody very different core values in each place"* (Franklin, 2013).

In Britain (a long-established nation), feral cats trigger a sense of pity and charity - they embody the figure of the destitute and deserving poor, someone who must be looked after. By comparison, in Australia (a new country), *"the feral cat has become a useful natural anomaly for those who want to uphold a state of anxiety about belonging and not belonging."* He continues: *"the feral cat looks perilously like a metaphor for the universal unwanted asylum seeker and migrant - they are creatures that cross boundaries of their own volition; independent, outsider figures accused of threatening a properly Australian 'natural' order. They threaten to fragment that fragile and threatened reality: "Australia". This is a social fear being played out in a powerful way, through a discredited ecological myth. That the scientific evidence has exonerated feral cats is not the point. It is not about what they do but what they have come to represent that matters here. Hating the cat and performing acts of control and eradication maintains the idea of an Australia threatened from outside and creates a form of solidarity among insiders and on-siders who must remain vigilant."*

Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/hatred-of-feral-cats-hides-a-sinister-truth-20130107-2ccqu.html#ixzz2HsALaPor>

¹ Adrian Franklin is a professor of sociology at the University of Tasmania.

TUFCAT is very grateful to the following people and organisations for their support of the Project and the upkeep of the cats:

TUFCAT ANGELS

Sandra van Reenen, Carmelita Benjamin, Zandile Mabai, Holly Filday, Maureen Lavies (PUPP), Madge Gibson, Dr Santie Meintjes, Debra Schein, Mandy Zeeman, C. Landon, Ruth Howard, Jeanne Louw, Fiona Wade, Petra Snijman, Alex Daniels, Tricia Davis, Prof. Wendy Woodward, Drs Zannie Bock & Herman Wittenberg, Prof Heike Becker, Fiona Wade, Elizabeth Sole, Steve Anderson, Ian Bocock, Steve Martin (UK), Charmaine Huckle, Prof Duncan Brown and Angela Rackstraw for cash donations. Your collective efforts and ongoing support over the years has kept us going

- **UWC staff - Sandra van Reenen and Carmelita Benjamin** for all your help with the Law cats and the cats in the Herb Garden, and now all the cats AND dogs, everywhere. Thank you so much for everything you do to help us; to help the campus cats and any stray dog and cat that wanders across your paths. Sandra your generosity and support has left us speechless and without you we would never have made it through the past few weeks. Carmelita you are a real find and we thank the cat fairies daily for sending you and Sandra our way;
- **RGHS** – especially Marilyn Peters, Elizabeth Sole, Lynne Young and all the learners who put coins into the TUFCAT kitty bank,

For books and other goodies: Allison Fullard, B du Plessis, Bradley Knight, Kamini Naidoo (thanks also to June for collecting) Graham Bawden, Debbie Howes, Steve Anderson, Charmaine Huckle, Trish (Public Health, UWC), S. Naidoo, Hazel King, Melanie Daly, Karen and Beth (Paarden Eiland), for books. Charmaine French, Sabine, Debbie Lamson and the Golden Key students at UWC. Thank you to Mrs Starke for the books left at the UWC library. And a huge thank you to whoever dropped books off at the sale and in the Anthropology & Sociology Department – much appreciated!

EXCLUSIVE BOOKS

- A special thank you to  (especially Colleen) for the totally awesome donation of new books we collected from your Tyger Valley store – thank you so much!!!
- Melanie Daly for the CDs and DVDs and various other goodies left at Southfield Vet for TUFCAT.
- Hazel King for the cellphone.
- **CUM books** (Estie) for the donation of daily inspirational ‘Promise Cards’ – they have proved to be very popular with students and staff alike.



- **For catfood:** Isaac (Purina One)
- Tim (for Friskies sachets and pellets)
- Prof Heike Becker, Sandra van Reenen, Charmaine French and Lianie Els (Hill's) for food.
-  **Hill's Pet Nutrition** for the absolutely awesome donations of top notch cat food we receive from time to time – the ferals are in absolute heaven on Hill's days! Thank you to Rina, Michelle, Marcy, Lianie and Adrienne for your ongoing support.
- **Zandile** for helping all the dogs (and cats) on campus while still keeping up with your law studies.... you are a true animal angel.
- **Carla** for adopting **Zorro** and always being willing to help
- **Shirley** for adopting **Sani** (formerly Lily)
- **Kelly & Stuart** our soon to be trainee cat-trappers!
- **Security staff, especially Mr C Mostert, working at Hector Peterson Residence** for taking care of Charlotte the cat after she was dumped over Easter.
- June Bradbury from **Cat Trapping** for all your help and for all the cat goodies you send our way. Thanks also for arranging the kennels from DARG, for lending us your trap and for organising Mister Magnum's sterilisation and vaccinations.
- Dr Lesley I'Ons, Carol and Angela from **Southfield Vet** for sterilising the UWC ferals and for helping us find homes for the dumped, tame ones.

VET BILLS

As always vet bills constitute a large share of the funds we spend. If you prefer to contribute in this way, email sspicer@uwc.ac.za and I will email you the vet's bank details, so you can deposit directly in their account. Thank You!

We also need to pay our accountant, who has been very patient. But every time we get some money in our account, we need to buy catfood, which is always prioritised. This cannot continue and we urgently need to settle this outstanding bill of R1700.00. If you would like to help with this, please email sspicer@uwc.ac.za for her banking details. Thank You!

TUFCAT BANK ACCOUNT

The UWC Feral Cat Project

NEDBANK

Savings Account

Account No: 2011093155

Branch Code: 101109 (Please add two zeros (00) at the end of your bank requires an eight (8) digit code)

Branch: Constantia, Cape Town



TUFCAT Wish List

- **Cat food** (any kind of pellets)
- **Kennels for shelter**
- **Cash donations** (even the smallest once off donation or monthly debit order helps)
- **Books and magazines**
- **CDs and DVDs**
- **Bowls for food and water**
- **Sheets, duvet covers** for covering cat traps
- A **bicycle** for our feeding assistant
- A **cellphone charger (old Nokia has been donated)** for our feeding assistant
- A **banner** to display at booksales and other events (need a sponsor whose logo will be included)
- **Dog Collars**
- **Volunteers** to help us run the project and co-ordinate fundraising activities.
- **Colony monitors** – UWC based animal lovers are needed to keep an eye on and give treats (which can be provided by TUFCAT) to a cat colony resident near their office or residence.



Join our group and **Like** us on Facebook. Post pictures of your cats, especially if you have adopted them from us! Here is the link: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/TUFCAT/185864518133590>

Please forward this email to any animal lovers and other interested people.

Thank You!!!!

If you have received this newsletter by mistake, we do apologise. Please send an email to sspicer@uwc.ac.za with UNSUBSCRIBE as the subject heading and we will remove you from our mailing list.