

"It's not my Fault" - I write this out of sheer frustration and despair. Today, the 15th October, Witbank SPCA staff have collected the following animals - 14 cats, 19 cats and a further 14 cats from just 3 calls. This is over and above the 8 surrendered this morning. That is 55 in one day !! The so-called "owners" just say, "It's not my fault", yet it is your fault! Your 2 unsterilized cats breed, and the number becomes 5 then 10, then 20. You have allowed this to happen. We had nothing to do with it, yet it becomes our problem to deal with. You could make the educated decision to take your animals to the vet and have them euthanized yourselves if you no longer want them, but that costs money, so you make it someone else's problem. You give them away for free on Facebook never knowing whether the next owners will bother to sterilize, vaccinate or even feed the cats but that's okay because it's no longer your problem. Euthanasia then becomes our decision to make. We only have 9 cattery kennels. We simply can't house 55 cats on top of the others we already have in our care. Do we cut the time short of those animals already in our care, jeopardizing their chance at a loving home to make way for your now unwanted animals? Is that fair to them? We as the SPCA cannot turn anyone away, we have to assist - so please don't make us out to be the heartless killers. We can only do as much as we can with what we have. Contrary to belief, we receive no government funding and the municipal pound fees, which are due to us, are not forthcoming. The vet fees and cost of euthanasia is also not free. This month alone our vet costs are R14500.00. Where does the money come from to pay the vet bills and pay our staff their salaries each month? It comes from

the kind and caring public who donate and support us for the sake of the animals –

“you” should be thanking them for making it possible for us to feed and house all your animals. We know who those loyal patrons are and we are very grateful.

To those who do care,

In the past few months the requests for assistance with sterilizations as well as assistance for veterinary care has increased tremendously, hence the launch of the St. Francis Animal Ambulance fund. You may have seen some collection boxes at the vet practices. We would like to use those funds to help those who need emergency vet care for a pet, if they are unable to do so. I am sure you may think there is thousands of rand's in that fund, however, the support has not been what we thought it would be. We might if we lucky have R1500.00 in that fund. That would probably assist one family who needs it. Please understand that we can't take responsibility for your vet accounts but we can try and assist with initial emergency treatment and pain relief. Please consider making a donation towards the St Francis fund. SPCA WITBANK , NEDBANK 1585524743, BRANCH 198765.

In closing, we at SPCA wish to thank each and everyone who donates time, money or food items. It is your loyal support that keeps our doors open. But please spare a thought for the staff and committee members dealing with the immense sadness and stress that comes with working at SPCA. They have feelings and emotions too. Treat them with respect and kindness. That's the least you can do when you dump your pet in their care.

Thank you, Charlene Barnes