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Cat Haven rescues dozens after social media campaign

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WELFARE: The Cat Haven rescued dozens of abandoned cats, including this one pictured, in Joondalup after a successful social media campaign. Picture: Supplied

Source: Supplied

THE Cat Haven turned to social media in a desperate bid to gain access to government land to rescue dozens of abandoned cats.

The cats and kittens were abandoned on land owned by the Public Transport Authority in Joondalup, but over the past several weeks, the Cat Haven was flatly refused access to the land to rescue them, according to the animal welfare agency.

The Cat Haven fielded numerous calls from concerned Joondalup residents, who had often contacted the council first but were referred on to the Cat Haven.

The frustrated agency then took to social networking sites Facebook and Twitter and urged its followers to contact the PTA and the City of Joondalup via phone and email on Friday evening.

Cat Haven spokesman David Settelmaier said within two hours they had won the support of the PTA and were allowed to inspect the site.

“After weeks of begging for someone to open the gate for us, we finally had enough and turned to the public for help,” Mr Settelmaier said.

A rescue team including Cat Haven’s General Manager Roz Robinson and President Nicole Bishop began to trap cats at the site on Lawley Court, which is owned and managed by the PTA on Saturday night.

Mr Settelmaier, who was also part of the rescue team, said the area, located near a busy shopping precinct, was swarming with cats and kittens.

“I’ve never seen anything like it,” Mr Settelmaier said.

“As soon as it got dark, more than 30 cats and kittens appeared out of nowhere and began to look for food.”

He said the rescue operation in Joondalup would likely take several days and Cat Haven would conduct health assessments of all rescued animals.

“Cats that are found to be FIV-positive or extremely aggressive will likely be put to sleep on humane grounds,” Mr Settelmaier said.

“Yet we will still do our utmost to rehome any cat or kitten that is found to be healthy and not aggressive,” he added.

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