

SAVING GREEK ANIMALS

Caring for the Animals Trust

Reg. Charity No.1091152

Newsletter - Winter 2011

Dear Friends

I hope you will find the latest news from Greece encouraging. There have been disappointments and instances of unforgivable cruelty but I feel that despite the horrendous financial plight of the country, there is slow but steady progress towards a better life for the animals... thanks in no small measure to the work of the caring, dedicated people we able to help through your loyal and generous support. CARAT like all voluntary societies has been hit by the recession, but our small band of supporters is still strongly with us! Please do go on helping the needy animals in Greece.... and why not make it one of your New Year's resolutions to recruit a new supporter.

With warmest wishes for Christmas.... and good health and happiness in the coming year.

Gwen Ware

FUND RAISING

Margaret has again been busy with fund raising sales and sends us this report:

FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES 2011.

4 Boot Sales in Banstead brought in £125. I am not doing any more boot sales as the money brought in does not reflect the hours and work I put in. Regretfully, I am not accepting anything other than articles which can be sold for a few pounds rather than pence.

Sale Warlingham Rugby Club £78 (Jean, Val & Shirley)

Cheam was a good source of income this year as the Charter Fair fell on a Saturday £72 was raised. A small charity and I shared a site at the Cheam Village Fair as the cost of the site was high. Each of us made £100 which was very satisfying.

In July Quality Street delivered £90. Afterwards we attended a collection stall in Banstead and took £111. Epsom Dog Show £30.

The Environmental Fair in August raised £228 and in November at the Carshalton Rotary Club we made £75

The biggest success was Beddington Fayre in May with a total of £491.

Our friends at the Little Windsor Pub, Sutton donated £21.

Christmas without Cruelty is coming up on 4th December at Kensington Town Hall. I am hiring a car and would welcome help from anyone as it is a long, hard day but very enjoyable..., 10-4 pm

It's very easy to raise money in your local high street. All you do is ask your council for a permit. You need a table, chair, leaflets and a poster and perhaps 3 friends to share the load.

Grand total for the year to date, £1421

Thanks to all those who contributed in various ways: Ann Boyce, Val Ellis, Jean Fraser, Shirley Gibbs, Jill Henderson, Jean Mackenzie, Angela Ravenscroft, Shirley Stoten and Jill Felstead.

And adding to the above total, grateful thanks are due to Fiona Cantwell and Koula Green for raising since the beginning of the year from street collections, £1232 and £319 respectively,.

GRANTS

We are most grateful for the grants received since issuing our Summer Newsletter, from The Animal Defence Trust and Animals Worldwide.

Poli Papapostolou - Serres, northern Greece

Poli reports: "I am working flat out on neutering programmes – mostly with volunteer vets from "Germany ... one session in July resulted in 536 sterilisations. I have also organised street events and stalls displaying CARAT and other animal welfare literature to make the public more aware of animals' needs. A big event took place on October 2nd and this aroused considerable interest". Although presently working mostly on her own, Poli was at one time President of the local Animal Welfare Society, and is still an active volunteer. She reports this Society's singular success in a prosecution resulting in the closure of a horrendous local puppy farm. In her own words:

"On 2 November, the final Court hearing took place of the case brought by Zoi Kontou (the president) last summer. Volunteers of Animal Welfare in Serres were witnesses and with volunteer-power won the case, after a 4 hours trial.

The court decided 10 months prison and 3,000 euros. It is the first time the court is so "bad" (severe) with them! All 43 animals in a pitiable

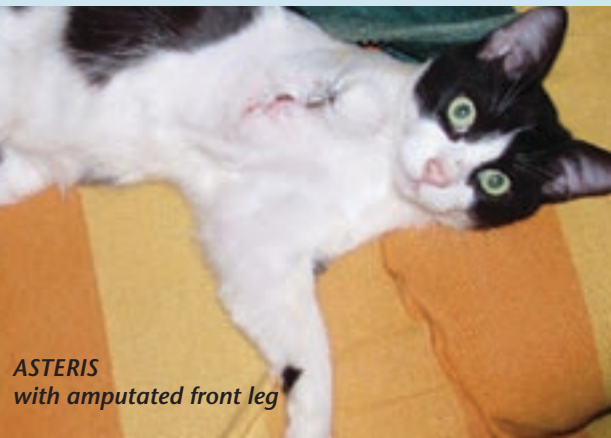
condition were released and were adopted. A UK animal welfare society helped to cover all veterinary expenses." This case is a landmark and the judgment a precedent for other puppy farm owners to note!



Two of the dogs at the puppy farm

"About a little story....

One day in August I was on my way to the super market when I saw in the middle of the road a "dead" kitten. This happens all the time here...dead animals in the streets. Later I passed the same point and again saw the "dead" kitten... but suddenly he moved his head a little. He was alive! I stopped my car and the other cars and picked him up. He was very frightened, with a broken leg, but alive! I took him to the vet who said that we must wait about one month to see if he will move his broken leg. I named him Asteris (star-male). After one and a half months his front leg was still paralyzed ...so the vet amputated it. He was given injections and sterilized. Now he needs a home,because his "mother" has a lot of animals and cant adopt him also. He is very sweet, loves his "mother" who plays with him".



ASTERIS
with amputated front leg

Karditsa Animal Welfare - Karditsa, Northern Greece

Since the rescue of TOLIS from a fast flowing river, reported in our last newsletter, there has been another difficult rescue for Evi and friends... saving a dog which had fallen down a deep disused well. Not near a frequently used path it was by chance that a passer-by heard the dog's cries and called Karditsa AW for help. Evi immediately collected friends, a ladder and a strong rope. After slowly descending into the well, they managed to tie a rope round the dog and he was gently hauled up, shaken and rather frightened and with a very badly injured hind leg.

Evi thinks that someone from the village who didn't like the owner deliberately left the dog some distance away in the hope that he would not be found. However, after recovering at the shelter from his ordeal and after treatment



Ready to be hauled up to safety



Rescued stray
- ears full of maggots

for his injury, the dog was returned to his grateful and relieved owner and now lives happily with him.

Evi and Katerina have rescued countless strays - at present they are caring for 20 cats and 120 dogs. You can see them on video, some in a very poor condition... click on to on <http://youtu.be/nfuf68nZnn>. With patience and veterinary care where needed, most are now in much better condition though re-homing will not be easy. CARAT helps Evi and Katerina - such totally dedicated people - with grants for food and vets fees but with so many animals to care for their expenses must be unbelievably high.

Halkidiki Animal Rescue (Julie Tsiakmakis) - Halkidiki, Northern Greece

It has been another non-stop six months for Julie ... never ending calls for help, looking after so many animals at the little shelter, rehoming, numerous rescues..... just a few are outlined below. Some members of the public seem to consider Julie a sort of free public service, available at all times. A few on the other hand do show concern for animals and so there are glimmers of hope that change, albeit slow, is coming about.

"In February I was told about a two months old puppy being involved in a road accident. The owner took her to a local vet who said that nothing was broken so he only prescribed antibiotics for the open wound. I ask the owner some weeks later if everything was OK and was told me the dog was fine. In October a neighbour reported that the dog's leg was swollen and infected. I immediately went and found JOJO in a terrible condition. She was unable to use the leg and had been dragging it behind her. Obviously she had nerve damage from her accident which the vet had not detected. Unfortunately the leg had to be amputated. Once again so grateful that Martin the vet from Northdale was in Halkidiki doing a sterilisation campaign.

"In August I received a few phone calls from various residents in the housing complex of Sani. All were saying that they had seen a dog looking very sick and distressed. Each time I asked if the dog was still in the garden but the reply was no. Until late one evening a person rang to say the dog was with him and could I help. I asked him to get a dog crate from Sani hotel (always have one there for emergency cases) so that he would not disappear again. When I knew he was secure I sent a friend to collect him. WILLOUGHBY arrived about 11.00pm and as you can see by the photo below he was in a terrible state. We spent 2 hours cleaning him up. Due to infection he was riddled with maggots. He was made



Willoughby...no caption needed!

comfortable for the night then first thing in the morning taken to the vets to make sure no more maggots were eating him alive and given a very strong dose of antibiotics. WILLOUGHBY is about 16 months old, very friendly, loves cuddles but not cats."

"In September for two days I was catching cats to be neutered. While out looking for cats in the village I heard a cry in the bushes, only to see a small kitten with a seriously infected eye. So frightened and wild I thought I wouldn't be able to catch him but after a little while I managed to corner him and his only way out was into a cat box. On



Poor little FELIX before surgery

examination I discovered that the eye was totally destroyed and needed to be removed. When FELIX came back from surgery it only took a few days and he realized that nobody was going to harm him and from the hissing, scratching kitten I met, he turned into the most affectionate purring kitty. We managed to neuter 30 cats in 2 days but most rewarding was saving FELIX."

And finally "Early September I received a call about 8 puppies found abandoned in a box in the mountains. Unfortunately I couldn't help due to lack of space at the shelter so told the people they would have to wait. A few days later these 8 puppies were found abandoned near a dried river bed in Fourka village. I provided food and water but no shelter...it was heartbreaking to leave them. Then all but one disappeared. Another one was found dead nearby and I feared the worst for the other 6. Two weeks later while driving home I witnessed a puppy being hit by a car. Then another puppy ran to sit by his side as he screamed in pain. I thought he would die in my arms; I rushed them home (no vets on Saturday) and gave him first aid. Miraculously he survived his ordeal and on Monday xrays revealed that he had a broken nose, hence the name COOPER (Henry)! Another 2 weeks passed and I received a call about 3 more puppies abandoned in another village. Yes, the same litter, and these were infected with gastro-enteritis. TRIxie the sibling who had sat by COOPER's side when he was injured sadly was too weak to recover. COOPER spent one week at the vets on the drip but showed everyone that he was a fighter and survived, and the others ARIEL, WINSTON, FENYA and TOBY (below) also survived. They all deserve medals in the shape of new loving homes."



The five "survivors"

Agia Marina - Mires, South Crete

Donkeys, at present numbering thirteen, have taken over the lives of Barbara Doulyeraki and her husband Fanis. All were either abandoned, no longer wanted as too old or unfit for work, or abused. We would like to rehome some in the UK but few are fit enough to undertake the long overland journey.

Newcomers are: JASON about 20 years and no longer wanted; TERI elderly about 30 years old, whose owner could no longer afford to feed him and demanded 100 Euros for him. Barbara, for obvious reasons, opposes buying unwanted animals, but when the owner said he would rather shoot him than give him away, there was no choice. VIOLETTA was living in a field in a nearby village, left out in the hot sun, in the rain, covered in flies, little feed or water and unwanted (see below getting a warm welcome!); PHAEDRA bad arthritis and since she was longer of use to him, this owner too wanted to shoot her! With therapy her condition is improving.

Dutch and UK equine teams have provided invaluable help ..with farriers and equine dentists. Owners at first suspicious of a "free" service, now fully appreciate its value.



VIOLETTA getting a warm welcome

Sadly we have to report that elderly HERMES died quite suddenly last August, the vet. has said from a heart attack. He seemed fit and was not in any pain



New stabling provided by CARAT

and thankfully passed away peacefully. And PELEGRINO – 43 years old - collapsed one day after not eating well for a few days. The vet was called but could do nothing for him and he was put to sleep on the 5th September. His former owner to his great credit had refused to sell him to the meat traders and instead handed him over to Agia Marina.

There are happy endings to many dog rescues, many re-homed in Belgium, Holland and some to the UK. To the Right is a pic. of the shepherd who rescued puppies from a rubbish dump, all with their ears cut with scissors. This seems to be a new trend ..at one time it was thought to make the dogs appear to be "thoroughbreds"!



Agia Marina is very grateful to Arche Noah whose vets last October neutered in just two days over 100 dogs and cats... mostly strays from surrounding villages but also dogs awaiting adoption.

Peter Cherrington - Kefalonia, Ionian Islands

"I am very pleased to report that we have managed to find homes for our 43 dogs, bar 3 the most recently rescued. The others have gone and are going to UK, Germany and Denmark. A rescued German Shepherd suffering from Leishmania has been adopted by a wealthy Greek lady from the UK who is looking after its welfare and medication. She reports he is making a remarkable recovery.

This year was quieter regarding abandoned dogs in Pylaros/Sami. In August/September 2 dogs were reported poisoned and one shot. However, I am very pleased that poisoning has diminished considerably in my area with sporadic poisoning of cats in the mountain areas and in Agia Efimia. I am hoping that this is due to the constant leafletting, posters and educational programmes that I have promoted for the last three and a half years with the help of CARAT.

My being seen talking to shepherds while out on daily walks with rescue dogs, has brought it home that neutering of cats and dogs is the humane answer to the stray problem and that poisoning will not be tolerated.

I introduced a neutering programme with the local municipality in the latter

half of 2010 which proved to be very successful. I borrowed cages etc and ferried the cats to the vets. This led to my offering a Pet Taxi Service for sick and injured animals to locals who do not have a car, as the buses do not accept animals.

I have teamed up with a local Greek woman, Rania, who is very pro animal welfare and whose help has been a Godsend to me when dealing with the locals, municipalities and government bodies.

During the holiday season we were called out on various animal welfare issues, one in particular was a call from a Greek friend at 11.30pm that a friend's dog had been hit by a car and was badly injured. We found that the dog's right hind leg was badly fractured. After cleaning the wound we put the leg in a body splint, gave the dog pain killers and got it safely settled for the night. The next morning the vet operated on the leg and we are pleased to say that the dog made a full recovery (albeit with a stiff leg) much to everyone's relief. In October I was called out by Rania to say that 3 newborn puppies had been found in a plastic bag at a rubbish skip. This practice is rife in

Greece and abhorrent. We took them in, fed them, made them comfortable and had them PTS the following morning.

CARAT, has provided a large amount of surgical equipment, cat traps, cages etc for the cat neutering programme which we hope to start in the beginning of December. The support here for the programme has been very good with a local hotel offering a studio flat for setting up the surgery and recovery area. Dogs will still continue to be taken to the vets in Argostoli where they have more sophisticated equipment. [Also dogs have been seen walking on leads this year which is very encouraging.

We hope that 2012 will be easier, animal welfare-wise, and wish all readers of the CARAT newsletter a Very Happy Xmas and prosperous New Year, and please do continue to support CARAT as their financial and other support to us and others is absolutely essential; without it we could not continue with our work. We have invested your money on food, vets' bills and transport costs on re-homing dogs to UK, Denmark, Germany and Norway."

Christiana Karathanasi - Salonica , Northern Greece

It is difficult to know where to begin...there is so much to report. Inevitably more and more pets are being abandoned with the worsening economic plight of the country.

Christiana reports:

"Briefly ...since the beginning of the year 526 stray cats (218 m and 308 f) and 55 stray dogs (13 m and 41 f) have been neutered by visiting volunteer vets. ... Helen Light and vet nurse Nicola Rose, Gill Simpson and Lucy Phillips with vet nurse Luisa Laycock. More than 250 stray cats have been neutered at no cost at the University Veterinary Clinic, CARAT providing the vet medicines needed. Many serious conditions are also treated...eye problems, broken legs, injured spines, broken tails, some involving amputation. Some have cats been adopted ...healthy again or with minor disabilities. Sadly, too often, cats even pedigrees - brought to the Clinic for treatment are left there as the owners refuse to pay the small fee. Since Christiana is responsible for bringing the cats to the Clinic and caring for them post op. it is a heavy work load for her as well as caring for 35 cats



DAIAN

in her own home, many disabled.

The stories of successes would fill this Newsletter so we have just selected a few. This first story was especially rewarding

"DAIAN (6 months old) was abandoned in the Clinic with a serious wound in her spinal column and paralysed below the waist. The Vets asked me to help as they didn't want to euthanase her so I took her home and tried to encourage her to take a few steps. She began to stand awkwardly on her hind legs and miraculously after one and half months she started, very slowly, to walk. She has now been adopted by a family who worship her and take great care of her...and she loves playing with the other cat in the family. (her photo is above)

"GINGERINO, SYLVESTER and MONIKA all about four months old were found seriously injured with head wounds. Gingerino was abandoned in the Clinic and no one could believe he would survive. However, after 8 days in coma he woke up even though he remained for a while blind, deaf and walking in circles. The other two kittens made progress in the same way and after a long hospitalization GINGERINO and SYLVESTER (right) have already been adopted while young MONICA still waits for the person that will open his heart for her.

"And finally young RAMOLI (blue tabby boy) (upper right). Only two and a half months old he was caught in the engine of the car where he had hidden. A lot of injuries to his little body and the veterinarians were pessimistic about his recovery. Two big hernias in his abdomen and his back leg



RAMOLI who survived terrible injuries

was almost completely damaged. However this cute kitten, despite his innumerable problems, in order to survive, became strong and fought bravely for his life. Today he is waiting for the last operation on his little body for the second hernia and after that he'll go to the family that has already adopted him in order to be company for GINGERINO.

"A really hard case was the one I was faced with a few months ago..a colony of 70 adult cats and over 30 kittens, most of which were infected with herpes virus. The adults were neutered and the babies were treated with antibiotics and eye drops..And some of them were given for adoption."



GINGERINO and SYLVESTER

Adespotologio (Vivi Katifori) - Athens

Vivi's reports:

"Things for us in the last period have been as hectic as usual, maybe even more so:

We have too many fostered cats and sadly have no plans for homes in Germany – everybody is full

"Too many people we help with problems with strays are unwilling or unable to contribute, and veterinary fees are high. But how can you turn down urgent pleas for help for a cat whose leg has been bitten off by a dog and is full of worms? Poor DALIA was brought to my vet after my request and is now doing very well. She has been neutered and had her leg amputated. From today she is with the rest of my fostered gang.

"One of the main issues we have is a very big cat colony on a protected field in the centre of Athens that the owner is thinking of turning into a parking lot. He asked us to relocate the cats. But where to relocate more than 60 cats that have no experience of living in the street? About 20-25 remain there, after rehoming and relocating the wild ones to 1-2 summer homes of kind people. I am fostering 8 at the moment. One is SPYROS abandoned there from a home as an adult. He is very beautiful and sweet. But my favourite is RAMON (below) the same, but funnier... knows how to open doors and when you pick him in your arms he licks your face like a dog!

"On the bright side:

"We had a neutering programme last week, with volunteer UK vets from GCWS. We also did one last month and the month before... 70 - 100 cats neutered each month, not counting those by outside vets; it's hard work but very very rewarding!! And we have now a very good team with the Halandri society As a result we have been able to finish with cat colonies that we had so long struggled with. My neighbourhood is now pretty much under control... with just a few exceptions.

"A shocking sight at the last programme: A male Persian cat was brought with a metal rod sticking out of the leg! Said to be a stray, he was in fact owned by a woman in her building with four other Persians. Her apartment was so smelly that she was reported and told to abandon the cats



DALIA after her amputation

in the street! The volunteer asked her to give the male for neutering to help improve conditions for the poor cats. I sent him to a Greek vet to remove the rod. The poor animal had had surgery for a broken leg and the owner did not have the money to take him back to have the rod removed. If the volunteer had not decided to bring him rightaway he would most probably have died from infection... I asked her to monitor closely the situation with these cats and if needed we will take them for adoption.

"We have decided in the New Year to organize a generalized poster campaign for animal issues, hopefully sponsored by a pet food company.

"And lastly, a personal small victory for me: I have been fostering in my home since May a very frail and unlucky young cat, TSIPIIS, totally blind, FIV positive and a serious problem with salivary glands. After a lot of work on him, he is now doing well. He is a strong guy in spirit and after a difficult summer I can NOW say that he is fit and very well integrated with the rest of my cats.

"We would like to thank you very, very much for your constant support. A lot of times when we use your equipment (traps and crush cages), I wonder how we would do it if it hadn't been for you..."



RAMON

And now brief details of some new contacts...

TIRNAVOS, LARISSA, North West Greece

This little shelter run by Anna and Stelios has given refuge to many animals...donkeys, ducks, cats, dogs...in fact is open to any animal needing help. We have helped with dog and cat food and are grateful to the Greek Cat Welfare society for providing UK volunteer vets to neuter the shelter dogs and cats. Christiana gave invaluable help with the programme and we are pleased to say that a number of stray dogs from the village were also neutered. The Mayor was very cooperative and the President of the Local Community generously paid the vets' hotel expenses and hosted a farewell party. Both fully appreciated the importance of neutering the strays. Traps, cages and carrying baskets were brought by Christiana.



BEETHOVEN in his new home in Germany

Although Stelios has a full time job, he manages to feed and clean out the animals before setting off in the morning and

then again on returning home. Anna with little or no other help has her hands full. A lot of work is needed on the animal quarters and we are looking at ways in which we can help bring about improvements at costs within our limited means.



UK Vet Jill and Nurse treating a shelter dog

ERMIONI, Argolida, South Peloponese

Elaine and Bohdan Karmaysn care for and neuter many rescued stray cats and their ambition is to build a shelter for them. Sadly Elaine's neighbours give her a hard time... they bully her, shouting at her for feeding the starving cats and smash the food bowls! As she is also concerned for the stray dogs we have provided a dog trap and other

equipment. Another dream is for a small sanctuary for abandoned donkeys but that is for the future!!

THE ISLAND OF LESVOS, in the North Aegean

Melinda Makrosti is doing her utmost to cope with the huge stray cat problem but local neutering costs are quite high. We will try to organise a visit by volunteer vets as soon as possible and in the meantime have made a contribution towards local neutering costs.

ZOOFILI DRASI, Iraklion, Crete

This small society has wide ranging concerns...for dogs, cats, wild birds even donkeys! The immediate need is help to provide some basic equipment for the excellent new shelter which the local govt has built but which so far has only running water and no power, has one desk and chair and some worn-out dog carrying cages!. The shelter can hold up to 80 dogs at any one time but as the clinic is not equipped, the dogs have to be ferried to and from the vet ...some distance away. We are replacing the broken carrying cages and sourcing a supplier for dog beds and other immediately needed equipment.



Rescued by DRASI and rehomed

DRASI's greatest ambition is to replace the metal barrels to which most farm dogs are tied the whole year round (cold in winter, very hot in summer) with proper kennels. This is a problem to be found all over Greece..the dogs are never walked, thrown the odd chicken carcass and lucky when they get water.

We learned that last October 17 strays had been poisoned at the University. Georgia, reports: "This is very sad news as the dogs were being fed by the students and even taken in when it rained! All had been sterilized by the Municipality of Iraklion". The person responsible for this senseless killing has not yet been traced.

DRASI has been busy with fourteen prosecutions for cruelty to animals ..one regarding a hunting dog shown above. He has already been adopted by a family who in Georgia's words "love him very much. This dog is a wonderful animal!"

VOCAL, Elounda, North East Crete

This small society - all volunteers - works for the benefit of all cats in the area of Elounda. Regular neutering and homing programmes are undertaken and volunteers care for sick or injured cats in their own homes.

We have provided urgently needed equipment - a hospitalisation cage and also a trap restrainer cage which Virginia found especially useful in finally catching MAMA, a wily 12 year old village cat with a severe respiratory condition. Very dehydrated she could not have lived more than a day or two. With anti biotics and fluid infusions and much TLC she recovered and even allowed Virginia "to clean all the horrible gunk from her eyes, nose and mouth and even rubbed up for more affection"

NEW RULES APPLICABLE TO PETS ENTERING THE UK FROM EU COUNTRIES

Reducing the quarantine period from 6 months to 21 days from rabies inoculation, as from 1st January 2012, has been warmly welcomed by animal welfare societies and private individuals wishing to bring rescued cats and dogs to the U K. Relevant part of the DEFRA press release dated 30.6.2011 is quoted below but for more detailed information please refer to DEFRA website under section "Travelling with Pets"

DEFRA press release 30/6/2011 re Pet dogs and cats from GREECE to the UK

What has to be done	Now	From 1st January 2012
Microchip	Yes	Yes
Rabies vaccination	Yes	Yes
Documentation (pet passport or third country certificate)	Yes	Yes
Blood test (dogs and cats)	Yes	No
Pre-entry waiting period	Yes	Yes
Length of waiting period before entry to the UK	6 months from date sample taken for blood test	21 days after vaccination against rabies
Tick treatment	Yes (24-48 hours before embarkation)	No
Tapeworm treatment	Yes (as for ticks)	*** Under consideration at European level

*** "It is important to continue to protect the public against the risk of serious exotic tapeworm infections and the government is pressing to retain our tapeworm controls for pets entering the UK. The wider public health risks from exotic tick-borne infections and the need for tick controls for pets entering the UK will be kept under review."