

PAWS NEWSLETTER 2021

I believe 2020 is a year no-one who has lived through it will ever forget. How could we ever have imagined a global pandemic with such debilitating consequences.

The PAWS team had great hopes for 2020 and had 3 enthusiastic UK vet teams willing to go and work as volunteers at the PAWS clinic on Paxos.

However, Covid struck in earnest and our plans had to be re-assessed. The first team was due on Paxos at the end of March and after much deliberation and difficulty with flights, the trip was cancelled.

Despite the problems of the virus, we decided to go ahead with introducing a PAWS Dog Neutering Voucher scheme. This entitles owners to an 80 euro voucher from PAWS plus a further 20 euro discount from the private vets to have their dogs neutered at either of the private clinics on Paxos. We hoped that this would help alleviate the problem of abandoned dogs and puppies.

We decided to wait and see how the summer progressed before deciding on whether the other vet team visits we had planned for September and October could go ahead.

Our Greek municipal vet Nefeli Damigou who lives on Paxos and has her own clinic said that she would try and work at the PAWS clinic 2 or 3 days per month. She would neuter as many stray cats and dogs as possible, help with the stray dog and abandoned puppy problem as well as participating in the PAWS Dog Neutering Scheme.

As the situation became more unpredictable, we decided for the safety of the UK teams that we would cancel all the trips for 2020 and re-schedule their visits for 2021.

The PAWS team and the volunteers on Paxos have done a great job looking after the strays and have neutered 184 cats and 12 stray dogs as well as 17 privately owned dogs on the PAWS Dog Neutering Scheme. Several abandoned puppies have been fostered and re-homed in both Greece and the UK. The team have also dealt with numerous emergency health incidents involving cats, dogs, seagulls and even tortoises.



Grants:

PAWS was extremely grateful to receive the following UK grants in 2020. £3600 in January from France Hayhurst to purchase a new autoclave for the PAWS clinic (see picture below). Greek Cat Welfare Society donated £2000 towards neutering cats and Greek Animal Rescue donated £3000 towards dog neutering. WVS very kindly donated £500 worth of surgical supplies. In December, Jean Sainsbury as an appreciation of our continued good work donated £3000. Paxos Municipality very kindly donated 7800 euros to animal welfare on Paxos.

PAWS is extremely grateful for this continued support from our sponsors during such a difficult economic time.

We would also like to thank all our supporters and visitors to Paxos that donated in 2020. In particular we were incredibly grateful that our appeal to help fund the hip dysplasia surgery for 'Cooper' raised £1610.54

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!



We have many success stories this year involving both cat and dog rescue but there is one in particular that we would like to share. It is about a beautiful spaniel called Faith that was found in the Paxos cement pit at the end of August.

PAWS trustee Faye Lychnou was called at 7.45am on August 29th and told about a dog being spotted in the cement pit. With the help of 2 volunteers, Andreas & Odysseus, the team went to the site with a JCB digger. Andreas was lowered into the pit via the bucket of the digger and carefully pulled the dog to safety. She was washed immediately before being taken to the PAWS clinic for further treatment. Here she was shaved to remove the rest of the dry cement and christened Faith. Her eyes were very inflamed, so they were cleaned regularly, and eye drops instilled twice daily. She was also put on stomach medication to help the effects of the cement she must have swallowed.

After several weeks of love and care both at the PAWS clinic and with Di & Ian Mitchell, she gradually recovered her health and confidence and began to enjoy her walks with other dogs. She was then neutered at the PAWS clinic.

Six weeks after her rescue, we were delighted to report that she had been given a loving home with a vicar and her husband in the UK. The new owners sent a lovely picture of her in her new bed with the following comment:

“Faith seems to have found some peace at the new vicarage and the vicars have finally found Faith”



Plans for 2021

We hope that at least 3 UK teams will be able to visit Paxos and we plan to restart our education programme. We will continue the Dog Neutering Voucher Scheme and hope to introduce a similar scheme for cats.

Faye Lychnou is planning to create PAWS Greece which will work in conjunction with Lindsay @ PAWS UK for as long as needed. PAWS will continue to support winter feeding of the cats and a big thank you to all the volunteers that help with this activity.

PAWS is incredibly grateful to numerous people on Paxos that help our organisation, but special thanks have to go to our Greek vet Nefeli, trustees Faye & Di who live on Paxos and Di's husband Ian. The charity could not function without their continued love and dedication to animal welfare.

We are delighted that so many people appreciate our work and will continue to do our best for animal welfare on Paxos in 2021 and beyond.

If you would like to continue supporting PAWS on Paxos, or contribute to **Cooper's new hips**, then please visit the 'Contact us' page on the website where you will find different ways of donating.

www.pawspaxos.com

Wishing you all good health and happier times for the coming year.



*Paxos Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) – registered charity UK 1155941
(Director – Lindsay Geddes)*