

# PAWS NEWSLETTER 2018

2017 was a very productive and exciting year for PAWS on Paxos – see below for more details:

- **Vet visits**
- **Sponsorship, Fund-raising and Supporters**
- **Winter Feeding**
- **Rescues**
- **Plans for 2018**

## Vet Visits

Sadly, Russell Lyon retired from PAWS work in 2017 after his 2 months stay on the island in May and June. His support and dedication to animal welfare on Paxos will be greatly missed. We wish both him and his wife Chris many more happy holidays on the island without the worries of the PAWS clinic.

PAWS created an agreement with ‘mobile vet’ Nefeli Damigou to work at the PAWS clinic every month according to the needs of the island. Nefeli is extremely caring, professional and loved by everyone. PAWS is delighted that Nefeli is now the registered vet with the Paxos municipality and a trustee of the charity.

Nefeli has been assisted this year at the clinic by Anna Hadjianastasiou who is extremely proficient and helpful. However, PAWS also arranged for vet nurses Kim Pearce to volunteer at the clinic in April & July and Sue Scott in August who both did an excellent job. Vet student Emily Hughes also volunteered in July and was a great asset to the team.

At the end of September, Andrea Rhodes volunteered for the 5<sup>th</sup> time at the PAWS clinic together with fellow vet Heidi Hargreaves and vet nurse Julie Collins. They were a brilliant team and neutered over 100 feral cats as well as dealing with numerous consultations. Nefeli worked with them on several days and went with Heidi to Antipaxos for a PAWS mobile day. Nefeli returned to Antipaxos with Anna in November – see photos below:

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**The figures for the year at the PAWS clinic are:  
211 Cat Speys, 71 Cat castrates, 21 Dogs neutered, 14 Other Operations & 654  
Consultations which is amazing.  
**So well done to everyone!****

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*A tornado struck Paxos in November 2017, uprooting trees, telegraph poles and even gravestones leaving the island without electricity for over 24 hours. Although the PAWS clinic remained intact, the power surges damaged the circuit board on the autoclave. However, with first rate service from Burtons UK via Skype and voluntary help from technician Themis Boikos on Paxos, the problem was diagnosed. New parts were sent direct from the UK to the clinic and a further Skype call resulted in Themis carrying out the necessary repair work so that the autoclave is once again 'up and running'. PAWS is very grateful to both Burtons UK and Themis for their excellent assistance.*

### **Sponsorship, Fund Raising and Supporters**

As always, none of this veterinary care on Paxos could be provided without the continued and dedicated support of our sponsors in the UK and tourists and locals on Paxos.

This year PAWS received financial help from WVS & Marchig, and Jean Sainsbury. Paxos Municipality donated 1500 euros towards supplies and have agreed to donate a further 2000 euros in 2018. Ionian Villa holidays on Paxos once again collected over 900 euros from client envelopes. Also, numerous shops and travel agents on the island collected money for PAWS and we are very grateful to everyone who donates.

Fund raising events included a charity walk in the UK by vet Andrea Rhodes and Lindsay (Director of PAWS), a Boxing Day swim and Table Top sale on Paxos.

PAWS is very grateful to Frances Lister who together with Suzy Russell collected all the money from our collection boxes. Fund raising certificates were printed and laminated in the UK and distributed in October.

Giorgis & Katerina Kondaris continue to accommodate our vet teams at favourable prices. Pano from Planos Holidays offers a great service with car hire. Carol from Paxos Magic is wonderful at dealing with all our ferry requirements. Faye Lychnou liaises between PAWS and the municipality and does an excellent job sorting out any difficulties.

PAWS is grateful to you all.

## Winter Feeding

PAWS would like to thank all the volunteers that help with winter feeding at our 9 feeding stations. After discussions with the mayor it was agreed that the feeding of cats would be slightly reduced, particularly in the summer so that the cats would continue to hunt both mice and rats.

A big thank you also goes to all the tourists who donate cat food to PAWS throughout the season as this helps considerably towards feeding costs.

## Rescues

Sadly, PAWS has to report that puppies continue to be abandoned or dumped during the year. This is not only very upsetting for our vet teams but also extremely distressing for tourists who often discover these puppies. It is impossible for the PAWS teams to run a rescue service as well as a veterinary clinic, so we implore dog owners to have their dogs neutered. Nefeli would be happy to give any advice or reassurance that is needed.

**Paxos Municipality has now promised to act against irresponsible dog ownership and will prosecute and issue fines if necessary.**

PAWS would like to thank all the visitors to Paxos this year that adopted abandoned or stray animals and various photos of these adoptions can be found on our website.

## Plans for 2018

Nefeli Damigou will work at the PAWS clinic every month and her dates will be posted at the PAWS clinic and on the website.

PAWS will arrange for several vets and nurses from the UK to visit Paxos during the year to help Nefeli and keep the cat population under control.

It is hoped that a representative from the Dogs Trust can assist with continuing education on animal welfare for both school children and adults.

**Finally, Lindsay was delighted that PAWS was designated a Gold Affiliated Charity by WVS in recognition of our work in championing animal welfare. The certificate is now proudly displayed in the clinic reception. Her sincere thanks go to everyone who supports and volunteers for PAWS and in so doing has contributed to this award.**



*If you would like to donate to PAWS charity, then please go to the 'Contact us' page on the website where there are bank details and a PayPal button.*

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