

# PAWS NEWSLETTER 2015



After the excitement of opening the new clinic in September 2013, it was thought that 2014 might have been an anti-climax. However we are pleased to report that the new clinic in Magazia has been an outstanding success and the years events are covered as below.

- Vet visits
- Volunteers and Supporters on Paxos
- Sponsorship and Fund-raising
- Winter Feeding
- Rescue Operations and Education
- Plans for 2015

## Vet Visits

PAWS was delighted when Russell Lyon decided to spend 3 months on Paxos with his wife Chris between April and June. During his stay he worked 2 days a week at the clinic and very diligently covered emergencies. Throughout his stay, Chris helped with veterinary duties and became a very capable and caring vet nurse. When Zoë Tomkinson arrived with her partner James on Paxos in June, she worked full time with Russell at the new clinic for two weeks. It was the first time Zoë had seen the clinic completed and she was suitably impressed with the facilities.

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Russell & team outside the clinic



Zoë hard at work

Having this sort of veterinary cover on Paxos at the beginning of the year was a great asset not only for PAWS but for the residents and their animals.

Mike Houlihan and Mandy Cooper, new volunteers to PAWS, took over from Russell at the end of June. They were assisted by David Beardmore (Mandy's partner) and Harold and Anne Murphy. The weather was very hot so the cats were reluctant to be trapped for neutering. However the team were kept very busy with consultations and clinical work. They very much enjoyed their first visit and will be returning in September this year.

Returning vet Jonathan Yeatts arrived with a veterinary colleague friend Andrea Rhodes and her daughter Harriet for a 2 week spell at the clinic in September. Andrea and Harriet immediately fell in love with Paxos and the team were exceptionally busy throughout their stay. They also had to look after 2 dogs that had been left at the clinic, but were undaunted. Both dogs were sterilised and when fully recovered were re-homed. Andrea and Harriet will volunteer for PAWS again this year.

James Forbes, Rick Appleton and Sue Scott were the last vet team on Paxos for 2014 and they too had a very busy and successful 2 weeks at the clinic in the beginning of October. James has volunteered for PAWS since 2007, but Rick and Sue were new volunteers and were extremely hard working, caring and popular with the clients.

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Mike & Mandy in July



Jonathan, Andrea & Harriet in September



Rick & Sue in October



James working at the new clinic

**PAWS is delighted to report that in 2014 our vet teams neutered 295 cats and 15 dogs, carried out 57 other operations and attended to 280 consultations. A BIG thank you goes to all of them.**

More detailed reports can be found on our website [www.pawspaxos.com](http://www.pawspaxos.com)

Over the winter months it is hoped that Stathis Konstantopoulos from Corfu will work at the clinic. A new volunteer vet from Cyprus called Nefeli Damigou had a successful first visit at the end of December.

### **Volunteers and Supporters on Paxos**

PAWS work would be impossible without the help and support of the many volunteers that live on Paxos. Faye Lychnou is the key to a great deal of our success and we are delighted she is now one of our trustees. She works tirelessly throughout the season helping all the visiting vet teams and her linguistic skills are second to none. Her hard work and indomitable spirit also resulted in the clinic becoming licensed with the Greek authorities – **the 2<sup>nd</sup> only in the whole of Greece** – well done Faye!

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Thanks as always must go to the following: Katerina and Giorgis Kondaris who offer PAWS discounted accommodation and are always very welcoming and helpful. Pano from Planos Holidays who gives excellent car hire service. Carol from Paxos Magic who is first rate in dealing with all our ferry transfers.

Ray and Suzy remain extremely adept at trapping and consistently help all our vet teams throughout the year.

Many other residents help with fund raising and winter feeding and our thanks goes out to everyone for their support.

### Sponsorship and Fund Raising

PAWS would sincerely like to thank all the tourists and locals who donated so generously in 2014 and we are grateful that our work is so much appreciated.

Substantial financial help also came from:

**The Brigitte Bardot Foundation** who funded the Animal Action visit in March.

**Marchig and WVS** who covered the flight costs of the September vet team and also donated various surgical supplies for the clinic.

**Ionian Island Holidays** who put PAWS envelopes in their client packs and collected over 1600 Euros throughout the season.

**Virbac UK** who donated a microchip reader – see photo on page 7.

**Stanley House Vets** in Colne who donated money raised in September for nail clipping services at their practice to PAWS.

### Winter Feeding

Two new feeding stations built by Rod Turner were painted and erected in Gaios and Magazia in March 2014. Severe storms on Paxos in December 2014 resulted in all the Loggos feeding stations being lost, but PAWS is happy to report that amazingly all the cats in that area survived. Rod Turner has kindly offered to make replacements which will be installed in Loggos in March this year.

PAWS would like to thank all the people that are part of the winter feeding rota and in particular, Ray & Suzy in Loggos, Mike & Ann in Lakka and Carol in Gaios. Faye Lychnou and Frances Lister also do sterling work in looking after various groups of feral cats around the island.

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

## Rescue Operations and Education

Sadly PAWS still has to deal with too many unwanted kittens and puppies. In particular, the problem with dogs seems to be increasing. There is no facility or infrastructure on Paxos to support a rescue centre and we implore owners to have their animals neutered so as to avoid these continuing tragedies.

However, PAWS would like to thank John & Sue Sutcliffe for adopting Molly and Grahame & Jan Chambers for adopting Rea, just two of several dogs that were abandoned throughout the year.

PAWS intend to arrange more educational talks on animal welfare in 2015 which will include the importance of neutering of both cats and dogs. James Forbes, Russell Lyon and Stathis Konstantopoulos have all kindly agreed to help with this project.

## Plans for 2015

Once again PAWS hopes to have the clinic open as much as possible and we are very grateful that Russell and Chris have decided to repeat their 3 month visit to Paxos from April to July. They will be joined by Zoë and her partner James in June for a 2 week full time spell. Other returning vets will be Andrea Rhodes and her daughter Harriet, Mike Houlihan and Mandy Cooper and Rick Appleton. PAWS is also hoping that Nefeli Damigou and Stathis Konstantopoulos will become regular visitors.

PAWS has applied to the **Dogs Trust** for an educational grant so we can arrange more talks on veterinary care to both children and adults. We also intend to improve information on Leishmaniasis which will include providing snap tests and vaccines where necessary. Another grant application has been submitted to the **Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust** which if accepted will help with running costs and new equipment.

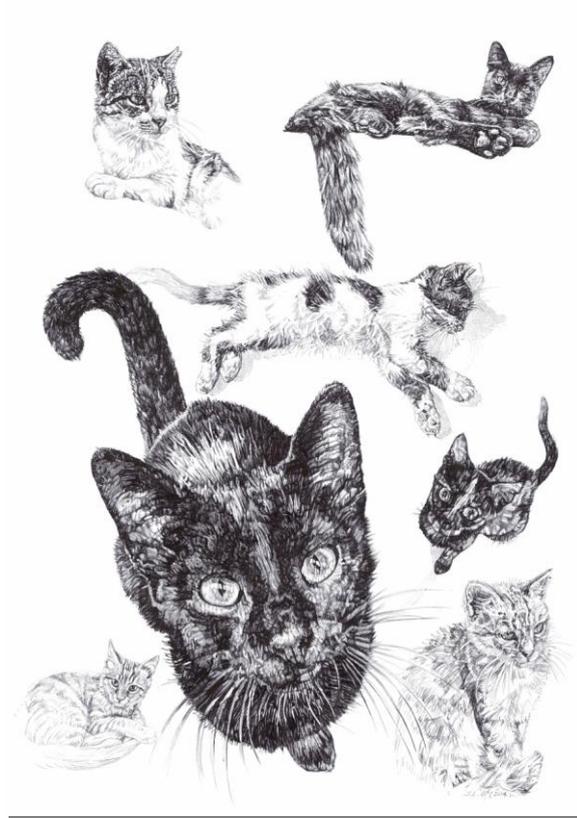
PAWS will continue maintenance work on the clinic with the help of Rod Turner. In March, we intend to stabilise the outside walls and decorate inside and out. We also hope to work with the municipality to carry out roof repairs. As mentioned previously, new feeding stations will be put up in Loggos.

PAWS held its first trustee meeting (kindly hosted by Russell and Chris) in January where all of the above plans were discussed in greater detail. Zoë and James were in attendance and Faye joined us from Paxos via Skype!

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Jane Lee McCracken, a Scottish artist and illustrator who was holidaying in Paxos in 2013 has generously donated a Biro artwork specifically created for PAWS. She has used photos of cats that she took whilst on Paxos as well as pictures of cats that PAWS has rescued. The resulting original collage (see below) will be displayed in Paxos from April to October in the museum and art gallery in Gaios. Silent bids will be taken throughout the season and it is hoped that her work will create a great deal of interest. Prints will also be available. More details about Jane can be found on her website [www.janeleemccracken.co.uk](http://www.janeleemccracken.co.uk)



**Lindsay as director of PAWS is truly grateful to everyone who volunteers and sincerely hopes that 2015 will be another successful year. We all look forward to being back on Paxos.**

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Molly and her brother abandoned at the surgery – now rehomed



Microchip reader in action

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