

Issue 83

Greek Animal Rescue



Helping the *Homeless, Neglected and Abused* Animals of Greece

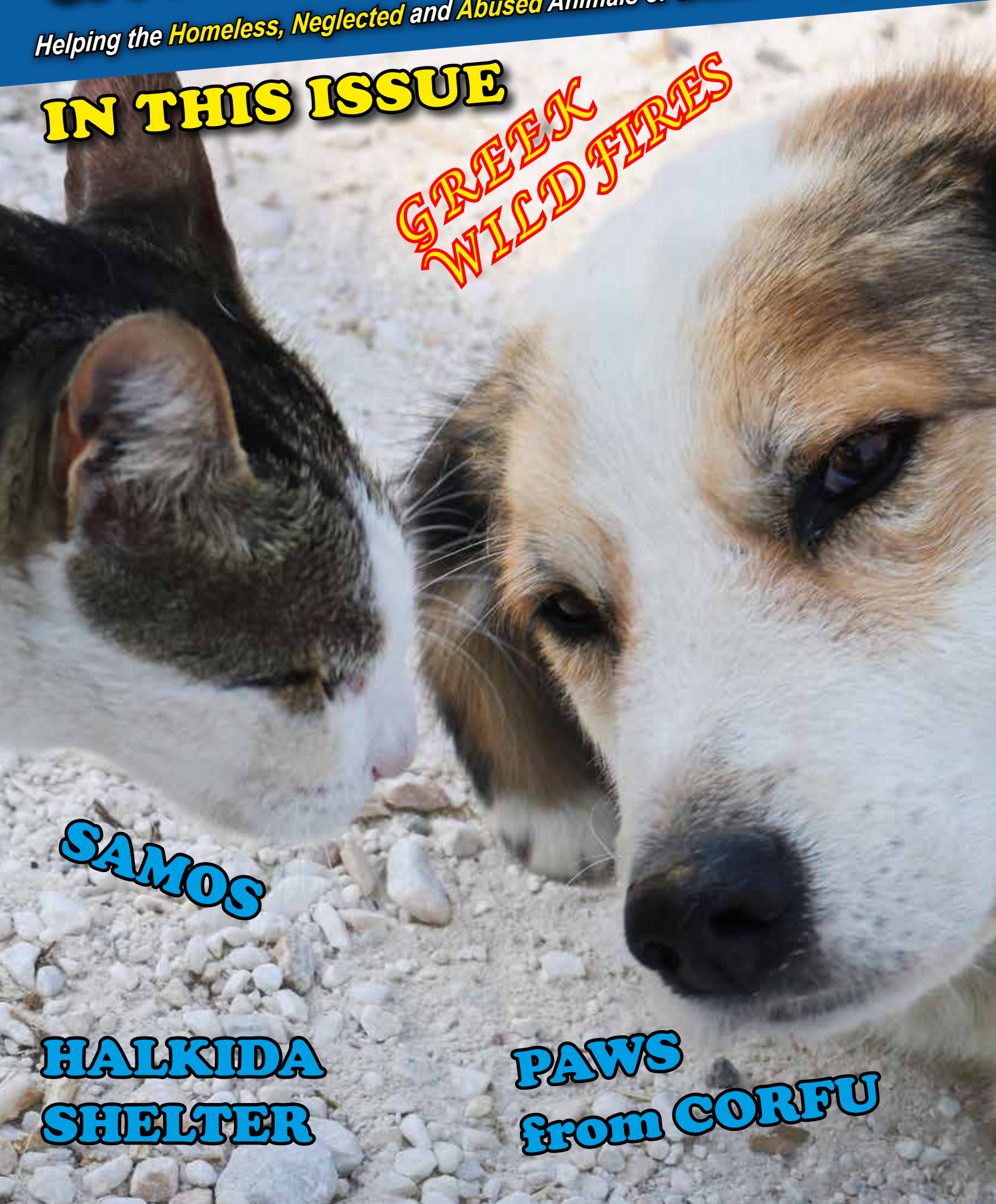
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WILD FIRES**

SAMOS

**HALKIDA
SHELTER**

**PAWS
from CORFU**



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Registered in the UK Charity number 802243



Find Us on:



Donate on:



We are a small UK registered charity which is run entirely by unpaid volunteers who are dedicated to helping the homeless, neglected and abused animals of Greece.

Greek Animal Rescue relies entirely on voluntary contributions to pay for our work. We have no office rental and no paid staff so for Greek animals **Every Donation Makes A Difference.**

Our primary focus is to promote, co-ordinate and provide funding for sterilising campaigns.

Greek Animal Rescue also provide financial and practical assistance to local organisations and individuals involved in animal welfare within their community.

We lobby the Greek government for better, properly implemented animal welfare legislation.

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Dates for your Diary EVENTS

Saturday 13 November

GAR & DG Christmas Fayre

12-3, Clayton Church Hall, Underhill Lane West Sussex, BN6 9PJ

Saturday 27 November

Essex Vegan Festival

10:30-4:30, Charter Hall, Leisure World, Cowdray Ave, Colchester, CO1 1YH

Sunday 5 December

Live a Better Life Christmas Fair

11am-6pm, Mountford Hall, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, L35TR

Sunday 19 December

Norwich Vegan Festival

10am-4pm, St Andrews Hall, Norwich, NR3 1AU

I was inspired by the horrifying image of the native Greek tortoise trapped in the flames. (see page 17) These special animals can reach ages upwards of 125 years and possibly 200 years old.

I think they deserve to be the symbol of awareness for not just the domesticated but all the native species that tragically lost their lives in the wildfires of Greece this summer. It is my hope to raise funds with this artwork to care for all those animals that need help and shelter.

On behalf of the animals of the world please donate to GAR even if you don't buy any artwork.

With love and gratitude.

Rachel Ashby

<https://lemurianark.com/>



Letter from the Editor

In the UK people seem to hold themselves up as a nation of animal lovers – more so than some other countries. Lucy's Law in April 2020 made unlicensed puppy farms in the UK illegal in order to improve the lives of pups and breeding mothers. We have the RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Cats Protection League to name just three multi-million pound organisations set up to protect animals.

We also have Marshall BioResources (MBR) who breed Beagle pups in sterile sheds in the heart of Cambridgeshire just to be poisoned to death at 16 weeks old in toxicology testing! Fortunately, there are some people who really do care about this and are trying to stop it. If you care that this is happening in your country, look them up.

To counter that, we have Pen Farthing who is an absolute hero who fights the system in order to save animals. Pen raised funds to fly his veterinary team and animals out of Afghanistan only to be refused access to land his chartered plane, which also had space for people escaping the new regime. He fought and finally won, achieving his mission. His animals are out of quarantine and being rehomed right now.

Just remember though, there are also heroes in Greece. Look what happened when wildfires swept the country. Local people pulled together to help each other and animals. Vets offered their services for free. Animal welfare volunteers worked tirelessly to try to help and protect all animals from the fires. These are the people that Greek Animal Rescue work with and fund with your continued support. These are the heroes, read about them in this issue. Ordinary people doing extraordinary things for animals. Rachel, John, Vasia, Caterina, Michele, Suzanne, Marketa, Orsalia, The Ghosts team, Spyros, Linda, Nancy and all our Fantastic Fundraisers.

So, if anyone asks you "Whatever happened to all the heroes" now you know!

Ed

WINTER FOOD APPEAL

You can see in this newsletter the amazing people GAR support. Please help them keep the street animals alive and safe. Please continue to help through:

PayPal info@greekanimalrescue.com

NOCHEX on greekanimalrescue.com

Bank Transfer 30-99-86, 07466897 or

Cheque to our Woodbridge address.

Every donation makes a difference!



We instigated the rescue of Ivan and we would have visited Ivan last year, but due to the pandemic it was cancelled. However we very much hope to see Ivan and all who care for him, later this year when allowed. Meanwhile I have regular communication with the stables who now care for him. Ivan has company in his paddock, which must help to improve his mental state.

Since arriving at Kardamena riding stables, he has seen the farrier who has trimmed his hoofs and he has also been treated with antibiotics for an infection, caused through neglect before he was rehomed.

He was terribly dehydrated and very un-

dernourished. His teeth and mouth are now all correctly addressed with the relevant treatments. Ivan is definitely looking a lot healthier and happier.

I have received short videos of his activities and he runs around the paddock making contented noises. All very reassuring. He is filling out with the right diet. Both Susie, Paul and myself continue to support his care financially.

Deborah Doherty

Greek Animal Rescue are committed to providing Ivan's care for the rest of his life. This costs over €200 per month.

If you can contribute to these ongoing costs, please mark your donation "Ivan"



Hello, my name is John Lazarides and I would like to tell you about Zesti Agkalia (which means Warm Hug) and the work we do helping stray dogs in the Thessaloniki region of Greece.

For those not familiar with the area, Thessaloniki is the second largest city in Greece, located on the beautiful Thermaic Gulf of the Aegean Sea, and it is a major economic, commercial and cultural city.



I am a 42 year old local resident, working in military personnel in the military hospital. A keen dog-lover, about five years ago I decided to rent a field for my own four dogs so that I could let them off the leash to run around more, and not always be restricted to lead walks. It worked like a dream with energetic runs in the field, followed by going home nicely exhausted, just as I had hoped.

One day, on our way to the field, I saw an injured dog by the side of the road and of course stopped to help it. I realised that no one else would stop, not even to assist me, and thus began our adventure!

I took photos, I called different charities but no one could (or



would) help. In the end I had to call the police to come and help me catch the dog, and eventually he was safely transferred to the vet. His treatment came to €300 and it took two months for him to fully recover. That really was the beginning of our team effort and all we could see around us were more helpless stray street dogs in dire need of care.

We became an official charity this year and I currently have 88 dogs in the two shelters I have established. Of those 88, four are blind and disabled dogs, seven have Leishmaniasis and nine have Dirofilaria (a parasitic roundworm). We manage approximately 200+ neuterings per year, through local municipality programmes and donations.



We have had about 100 dogs adopted through the charity, after suitably strict checks of the adopters and thorough health examinations and vaccinations for the dogs. Most of these adoptions are within Greece but some are abroad, when stringent checks can be carried out locally.



Our main aim is to create a centre for dog rehabilitation for injured dogs, where people from all over Greece can contact us for help and advice.

All expenses incurred are covered by me and my partner's income, supplemented by our wonderful friends who follow and support us, and we are proud to say we have 16,000 followers on Facebook.

We have dedicated our lives to helping dogs in need and our ultimate dream is for the specialist centre to be up and running so we can proactively help more. Our love for dogs is unconditional and this remains our driving force.

GAR has generously helped us by funding the neutering of more than 50 dogs which we appreciate enormously. Thank you, each and every one of you, for reading this and supporting GAR and in turn, the warm hug of Zesti Agkalia.

John Lazarides



If you would like to donate to John's charity please mark your donations for "A Warm Hug" and we will ensure he gets them



Hello, our names are Vasia and Caterina, and we are both 20 year old students at the Panteion University in Athens.

A year ago we met at an animal-related event on campus - we immediately clicked and thus began our journey together to improve the welfare of the cats in our area.



To date we take care of three colonies of cats, with about 20 cats in each. We feed them, take care of their medical needs including anti-parasite treatment and neutering. In winter we build them makeshift houses from cardboard boxes and plastic bags. When needs be, we foster them and try our best to find their forev-

er homes through our Facebook page called [@animalrescuefoit](#). Some very lucky cats have been adopted by lovely families and our constant hope is to find more kind people who will love them as much as we do.

Over the last year, we have also personally funded the neutering of at least 15 cats, which may not sound like a vast amount but for us, it is a huge achievement.

As well as our full-time studies, we both have part-time jobs in order to cover the above-mentioned costs for the cats.



Sometimes however, as we are sure you can imagine, our income simply does not go far enough for the never-ending needs of our strays. So we have come up with a few fund-raising ideas to supplement our income, including creating an instagram account called "@thrft_tails" where we sell second-hand clothes and we are hoping to further boost our listings with handmade candles and soft toys.

To keep expanding our options and efforts, Caterina is planning on taking sewing classes so she can create her own cat toys and blankets to sell at local fairs and on the internet. And Vasia has already enrolled in a private course to become a veterinary assistant, to further and fully understand the physiology and medical needs of the strays.



Who knows how successful we will be in all these endeavours but we know for sure that we have to try as hard as possible to raise more money to maintain and expand our care programme.

We are well aware that Greece has its rightful reputation as a wonderful holiday destination with magical scenery, sunny days and great hospitality. But, for the stray animals who live there all year round, their reality is a completely different experience, and they are one of most significant problems across the country. According to studies, this is due to a lack of social care from the government, meaning a lack of shelters, feeding, medical care, neutering and adoption services. And it is at this point that volunteers like us who step in as they can no longer bear to watch the endless struggle endured by these poor animals; they take matters into their own hands and in doing so, create a job for life for themselves in helping these strays meet their most basic needs.

We are so incredibly grateful to GAR and appreciative of their generous donation which will enable us to neuter at least 40 more females, and of course this money is ultimately only possible because of kind people like you, the GAR supporters!



We are the animals' best advocates and voices here on the ground and our continuous efforts and sacrifices will probably never end!

Vasia and Caterina





Hello from me, Halkida Shelter and Desperate Greekies. The Halkida Shelter is not far from the road bridge that connects Evia Island to mainland Greece, about 30 miles north of Athens. The island was in the international news this year as it was badly hit by the wildfires that raged across Greece

Desperate Greekies have constantly strived to turn the shelter around since late 2008, it was a truly appalling situation there. We continue our much needed work, but shelter life is a tough life! We fully support all arrivals as best we can including vet care and sterilising.



I was so glad to be able to start visiting the shelter again and my recent visit in September proved to be a daily 12 hour whirlwind for two weeks.



Seeing the long stayers again and assessing the newcomers, they were all so pleased for some company with hope in their eyes.

Checking the dogs over, many visits to the vets, dog haircuts, cutting long nails, treating wounds, giving treats, cuddles, hosepipe showers, walking, cleaning, feeding, checking all dogs have kennels with winter coming, even cleaning out the drains, cutting bushes and organising the

cutting down of two huge, dangerous, dead pine trees before they fall down and kill the dogs below, were on the list.

Three hunting puppies were very lucky when I took them from a pet shop window display case. They now have a bright future and, a tiny three kilo dog chained for all 14 years of its life, is now very happy and sleeping on my bed.

Ritso, a very sweet two year old



male dog, was dumped at the shelter one morning. He was found badly injured on a motorway a month before and he had undergone an unsuccessful surgery at a vets, I took one look at his surgery wound and rushed him to the vet I use who on examination needed to do further surgery immediately and deal with the huge infection she found.

One of the most important aspects of our work is sterilising as it is the key to preventing so much suffering. Imagine the extreme heat or the biting cold, wind and rain, then add the tragic heartbreaking sights of sick, dying and abandoned puppies literally dumped in the middle of nowhere, on the side of roads, in garbage bins or mothers with no food or shelter battling to protect their babies from the elements and dangers in a very cruel world with no chance of help. Can you also imagine the fights and injuries that happen between the males competing over the females in season, running on the roads, following the overwhelming scent they must follow no matter what the consequences?



Then try to visualise the females being constantly harassed, bullied and jumped on by many males sustaining injuries, including internal injuries

that take place to both male and females as a frenzy often occurs when males are all trying to mate with the same female.



There are many females who encounter difficulties while giving birth. It's heartbreaking knowing they suffer in silence alone and, with no help around they die slowly and painfully, along with the puppies.



Desperate Greekies endeavour to sterilise as many dogs as possible on a programme we have set up for strays at the vet clinic we use. We do get a discounted price but, as the number of sterilisations increase, unfortunately so do the costs.

One of the most amazing sights to see is a stray with a vol unteer arriving at the clinic. Dogs that are sterilised tend to fare better on the streets than unsterilised and are less likely to be injured by other dogs, especially knowing they are unable to produce any more unwanted puppies, which is a huge relief.

This is where Greek Animal Rescue came to my rescue by helping with a sterilising grant annually which helps to keep my stray programme running. I am truly grateful for their vital help.

Michele Walker



We are extremely grateful to The Athenian for their donation of £1,247, split between stray neutering and our Wildfires Appeal.

During August, September and October, 50p from every order of Athenian Tomato Croquettes delivered by Deliveroo was donated to GAR to fund stray neutering, and Athenian founder, Tim Vasilakis, kindly doubled their August donation after seeing the devastation caused by the wildfires across Greece, so they could also help the animals affected.

The Athenian is available via Deliveroo in Bristol, Shoreditch, Victoria, White City, Balham, Brighton, Kentish Town, Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, Wandsworth and Wood Green.





It goes without saying that this year has been a very strange and difficult one.



We decided that as one of us fell into the 'high risk' category, it was safer not to accept volunteers or visitors.

This has meant the two of us have had to do all the work and we have lost a lot of visitor donations leaving the charity with very little money. The equines also missed visitors as it adds interest to their day to be the 'meet and greet' teams. I have raised money by making masks, bags and other goodies but not enough to keep us going during the winter months.

Life goes on however, and we have to do the best we can. This year we said good-



bye to a couple of our oldest donkey residents, Isabella and Andreas. They had lived together like an old married couple in the 'tottery' field. Both were ancient and had enjoyed a wonderful retirement here at the sanctuary for many years before moving on to greener heavenly pastures.



Ully, who we rescued from near death at age 8 weeks, will be 10 years old this year. It's scary how fast time passes. We love this boy so much.

Then there are two of our happy and healthy horses Echo and George. Echo, a mare, was rescued 9 years ago from starvation.

It is not often that we can picture the sanctuary horses together but here they are hanging out together peacefully. Petaloutha's at the front.

Thanks to GAR once again for their donation of £3,000 towards our food costs.

Suzanne Barbour



Last year was very difficult for all of us. The COVID situation made things much more complicated than before. Many people lost their jobs, many people suffered. Unfortunately animals suffered as well.

My name is Marketa Mavropoulou and I am founder of association Tlapky z Korfu z.s (Paws from Corfu).

We are helping the stray animals in Corfu. Our main aim is to educate people about how to treat the animals and make a better life here for them. We also try to have as many stray animals



Greek Animal Rescue. They have helped us for the last two years. With their financial support we managed to sterilise 118 female dogs, 35 male dogs, 129 female cats and 22 male cats last year. Thanks to their help, we can concentrate on other important things such as veterinary check-ups, blood tests etc.



Every animal in our care has a different story, every animal in our care has suffered different pain and experience. Some of them were chained with no food and water, they were just left on a chain to die. Every single story of a dog or a cat touches my heart. One is a story of Lucas.

Lucas was found in a horrific state in a village called Kavades in North Corfu. I received a call about a dog that was lying by the side of the road and hardly moving. I went and picked him up and he was immediately taken to a vet. He was only 7kg, small, fluffy, filthy and full of ticks and fleas. He couldn't even stand up to do his needs outside, so, for two or three weeks I had to carry



him outside. Lucas was positively tested for Leishmania. We immediately started treatment and we saw him improve day by day as he became stronger, happier and also much prettier. Lucas's fur grew and he was taken to a groomer, and he became a beautiful and smart boy. After four months in our care he was neutered and, thanks to GAR, we found him a fantastic family. He is now happily living in the Czech Republic and enjoying every single day. He is loved and cared for which is what really matters.

Our association has space to foster up to 15 dogs and 10 cats. But we are always over our limit. We currently look after about 30 dogs and 18 cats. We provide all animals with food, water, a soft bed, love and the best care we can but also medical and veterinary care.



Last year we found ourselves at the end of our resources and found it almost impossible to feed and help so many animals. Again GAR came just in right time to help us with the food support. Thanks to their donations, were able to buy dry and wet food for at least one month for our cats and dogs. Their help always comes at the right time.

Because we want to offer the best care for our strays, we arrange for every single animal over six months old to have blood tests. Many animals here suffer from Mediterranean diseases so we need to keep them on medication. It is important that every animal has to be protected against internal and external parasites. We use deworming pills and spot-ons, however these are very expensive. I asked GAR if they could help us with this and help came immediately. We are so grateful for it.

I have a big wish for the future, but I know that is not possible. I wish the world I live in could be without stray animals. I wish every animal could have a loving home and never suffer or be abused. Until my dream comes true, I want to say a big thank you to my family, my friends, my team and especially GAR for helping the animals. Everyone helps in their own way and every way is so needed and so appreciated.

Marketa Mavropoulou

You can donate to PAWS through GAR, mark your donation "PAWS Corfu" and we will ensure it gets there



Bottle feeding little kitten Spiros, found in a rubbish bin at just 10 days old

Here are just some of the cats we have rescued this year



Bibi, the cat was found with a huge allergy on her neck. She is now fine and happily living around my house, sterilised with a GAR grant



My daughter Sofia with kittens found in rubbish - Leo and Spiros



Kitten found in a rubbish bin, adopted and now living in Germany



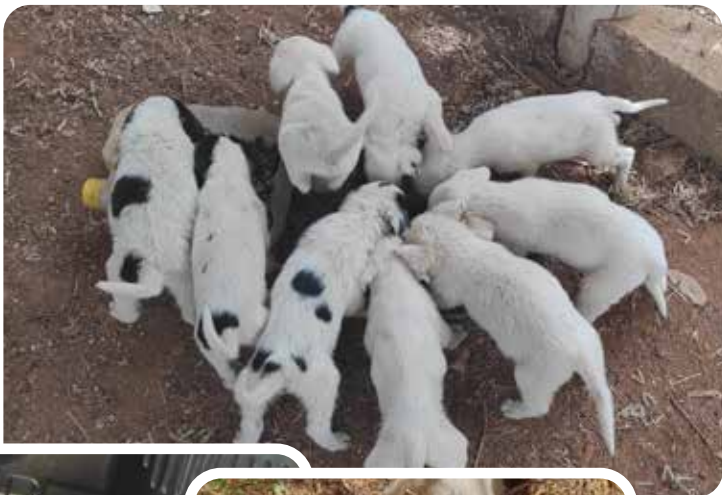
Bella, a cat found with cancer in her ears which had been cut, she is still in our care, has recovered well and sterilised by a GAR programme



My name is Orsalia Xatzi, I live in Filiatra which is part of the municipality of Trifylia, situated in the region of Messinia, , and sadly one of the worst places in Greece regarding animal abuse, exploitation, abandonment, poisoning and indifference.

While coping with the suffering of other living beings every day, it gives me such pain and makes me annoyed knowing there are so many people who harm animals or ignore their suffering.

There are at least 100 stray dogs living in Filiatra and many more living in the surrounding villages and rural farms. The reason there are so many is not only the constant abandonment of puppies but also adult dogs - often from other areas. The puppies are mainly cross-breeds, Shepherd or hound dogs. The majority of owners don't neuter their dogs, and many kill the puppies when they are new-born or dump them when they are one month old.



The white puppies in the pictures were given birth by a stray bitch and the brown ones were found thrown in a trash bin.

I've always been committed to saving as many dogs as possible and have dedicated my whole life to rescuing, caring for, spaying, neutering and finding them forever loving homes.

I have a shelter which I built gradually over time with my own money so I can save as many souls as I possibly can. I currently look after 60 dogs along with many puppies. All are well protected in my place. I also take care of the stray dogs that I have sterilised by feeding them and helping them with medical aid when they need it. In addition to caring for all these animals I am the only person in my town to spay, neuter and cherish every dog in need of help. Unfortunately, no matter how hard I try there are still a lot of emergencies due to the fact that there are a lot of humans with no conscience.

The most important thing for me is sterilisation and preventing the birth of future unfortunate puppies. No neutering programme has been carried out by the municipality of Trifylia since 2019 apart from the 30 sterilisations carried out this year. I was not offered any of them.

I am therefore truly grateful to Greek Animal Rescue and their wonderful supporters who have made it possible for me to sterilise 33 female dogs, and it is with great relief that you have also agreed to fund another 40 female dogs to be spayed, preventing the birth of more puppies whose future would be certain death from diseases, accidents, abuse or poisoning. By spaying we are not only curbing the stray animal population faced with uncertain futures but also giving them a healthier and better quality of life.

I truly appreciate your thoughtful contributions, generosity and support; with the help of caring and compassionate people like you I am able to make a difference to the lives of many vulnerable and innocent creatures.

Orsalia Xatzi

GHOST DOGS OF ASPROPYRGOS

A suburb west of Athens, Aspropyrgos is an industrialised and polluted area with many parts sparsely populated by people. Unfortunately this area has always been a dumping ground for unwanted animals.

With an estimated 3,000 abandoned dogs living there, most are unneutered, so hundreds of puppies are born every year adding to the growing population of starving, neglected, diseased, injured and desperate dogs trying to survive in nightmare conditions.



In 2012 a group of local animal activists got together to form a group called the "Ghost Dogs of Aspropyrgos". From the very beginning they have fought to feed, water and help these desperate animals. Our group has seven stable and active volunteers who meet up when necessary during the week, and always on a Saturday, to feed the street dogs who gather in packs at regular "spots" waiting to be fed.

The suffering we see on a regular basis is distressing; here are just a couple of examples of what we deal with.

GANDALF – we were shocked to find this poor ghost of a dog lying on the ground with no strength in his legs. Dehydrated and malnourished his body was full of ticks and he had no fur due



to mange. We rushed him to the Vets, and samples of his blood showed Erlichiosis & Leishmaniasis. He weighed just 26kg instead of the 40kg he should have been. Luckily we managed to find him a foster home with an experienced volunteer who gave him good quality food, vitamins and medication. He has now gained weight, is much stronger and grown a new coat - it turns out he is a Golden Retriever! We are hoping to find him a good forever home soon.



KEVIN was found in the centre of Aspropyrgos weak, malnourished, full of wounds and barely able to walk, we didn't think he would survive. Thankfully, after living in a caring foster home and receiving treatment for leishmaniasis he is now healthy. Even better, we found a forever home for him and he is now a very happy, playful boy.



These types of cases are not unusual but our resources are limited so we have to prioritise which animals we can help and that's heartbreaking. Covid and lockdown have made it particularly difficult to raise funds, but we continue to do our best for the animals. Despite the extra difficulties faced in 2020 we still managed to carry out 110 neuterings, 60 feeding runs, provide healthcare to 50+ animals and find forever homes for 40+ dogs and cats.

We would not be able to continue all the work we do without donations and we are extremely grateful to GAR and their supporters who paid for 50 neuterings and pallets of food, which has made a real difference to the lives of many animals.

Thank you so much for all your support.

Julia Rebel

PROTECTION OF STRAY ANIMALS OF SAMOS

The problem of stray animals on the Greek island of Samos is certainly not a new one.

The island's vast size, large forested areas and steep mountain ranges create a unique set of problems, both for the stray animals of Samos and for the hardworking volunteers. They strive to provide them every possible chance of survival, and for all the creatures they are able to assist, be they great or small.



As a result of the island's geography there are a number of animal shelters in various locations and, over the past years, they have received a variety of assistance from Greek Animal Rescue.

The Protection of Stray Animals of Samos is a shelter founded by the dedicated volunteer Spyros Koymoylas. The shelter is located on the west side of the island near Karlovasi, with Spyros, his wife and a few dedicated help ers who look after the shelter animals and the large stray animal population across that part of the island. Although it goes

without saying that if there is a call for help from other areas on the island, there are no boundaries in these situations and help is always given whenever it is possible.



Over the past year, like many other places, the shelter has been hit hard with the lack of tourists to the island due to Covid. This resulted in a drop in donations and support for the shelter. The feeding and medical care of the animals is always taken extremely seriously, however, it is also quite tenuous as it is totally dependant on what

funds are available at any exact time. It only takes something to go wrong or a few large urgent veterinary bills to change everything that has been planned, and it quickly throws the shelter into a critical situation.

As if a global pandemic was not enough to contend with, just as the bitterness of winter was approaching, there was a massive earthquake on Samos, causing loss of life and a great deal of destruction to buildings. Many people had to flee their homes for safety leaving their pets and other strays that they may have been occasionally feeding behind. Some remote villages were totally abandoned. As well as the earthquake there was also a tsunami with floods causing further damage and evacuation of homes. This again resulted in animals running away in fear or being abandoned. Then, just as things had started to calm down, the forest fires of the summer months happened.



Throughout these very difficult times Greek Animal Rescue was kindly able to help keep the shelter animals, as well as the strays Spyros feeds alive. This has only been possible because of the funds that you have either donated to GAR or helped them raise with your continued support through their other fundraising. The large food donation that was received very soon after the earthquake was literally a life saver, it enabled Spyro and his helpers to continue to help the shelter animals and local strays they regularly feed, as well as to travel to some of the remote villages that had been abandoned due to the earthquake damage resulting in many dogs and cats left to fend for themselves. Food stations were set up and the strays slowly overcame their fear and came out of the darkness to eat, some even came over for a cuddle.



As everyone involved in animal rescue knows, the best solution to the stray population is sterilisation and, once again, Greek Animal Rescue came through to help the strays of Samos with a very kind sterilisation grant that enabled 40 dogs and 30 cats to be sterilised. This makes a huge and incredible difference to Spyro and the other shelter volunteers as it shows that they are not fighting this battle alone and forgotten. It means so much to them that people from the UK recognise the huge problem they face every day with the stray animal population that exists in Greece, and that other people also want to help them change things for the better.



Every penny you have donated to GAR that has reached The Protection of Stray Animals of Samos has made a big difference, I know this from personal experience as my own lovely dog Meli, now living with us in the UK, was a stray found dumped in the mountains of Samos. She was starving and covered with ticks when she was rescued by Spyro, looked after by him and his wife at their home - just as many of the strays he rescues



with special needs are. Having supported this shelter for some years we instantly fell in love with Meli and travelled to Samos adopting and bringing her home to the UK. Every day Meli's lovely happy face reminds me that there are so many more strays just like her in Samos and all across Greece waiting to be rescued, waiting to be fed, waiting to be sterilised and hopefully find a loving home.



Thank you from Samos to all of those who have donated to GAR or helped fundraise in any way, and thank you to everyone at GAR for your wonderful help, let's all keep going and together we can hopefully achieve a better life for the animals of Greece.

Gail Ramsey
The Protection of Stray Animals of Samos



THANK YOU ALL

Thanks to **Victoria Brewer** for your fundraising stall at Ludgershall



RKM Electrical Richard Martin - thanks for your support

Thanks to **Gracie** (rescued from Aspropyrgos) our star fundraiser and ambassador



Thanks to **Sutton Pet Supplies** for allowing **Wendy Holmes** to have her fundraising stall there



for the Greekies

Thank you **Tymian Bishop, Julie Linley** and **Sharon Hopkins** for all your great help with this newsletter.

Margaret Payne, Wendy Holmes, Jessica Jackson and **Victoria Brewer** - you are our top fundraisers! Thank you for all your efforts this year!

G Beddow Pet Supplies Wombourne thanks for your collection box

We would like to acknowledge **Anne Rawlings, Peter Field, Lilian Berryman**, and **Joan Hawkins**. They all left a legacy to GAR this year which has allowed us to fund more vital neutering. Please do not forget GAR in your will! As with all charities it's the legacies that make such an incredible difference.

We post many animals in need and updates on where funds have been sent to help, but today we want to honour and thank one of our rescue heroes who never gets a mention.

Carol Alner has been fundraising for GAR for years, selling items on Facebook Marketplace and at car boot sales, and this year alone she has raised over £6,000 for the charity. Carol's hard work and dedication has saved the life of hundreds of animals in Greece over the years, and has made a huge impact on many others, helping us to fund neutering, medical treatments and flea and tick treatments for so many animals.

Thank you, Carol, for all you have done and continue to do on behalf of the volunteers and animals your hard work supports, you are amazing!





My name is Linda and I am based on the north coast of East Crete

I have been caring for the street cats in the village where I live and surrounding areas for about 10 years and recently received a welcome donation from GAR to help sterilise cats.

How did it all begin? I do wonder how I ever start some days when things go wrong. I worked in Greece during the summer and one season I became ill and was unable to fly back to the UK, so I stayed that winter and have been here ever since! If I do return to the UK, it is a logistical nightmare trying to find people to do the feeding rounds. I have 12 feeding stations and, especially in the winter months, in total I could feed around 80-



100 cats each day. The location of these stations are on rocks, in fields; disused buildings, in hotels, at approved cat cafes and in bushes.

In the summer months when the tavernas and hotels are open, the numbers at feeding stations drop, but I still go each day to make sure there are no injuries, or more importantly, no dumped kittens.

Street cats and dogs in Greece are the responsibility of the local councils and they should provide food, vaccinations, healthcare and should sterilise the animals. This mainly doesn't happen but this winter, due to Covid-19, every Council in Greece was given money to help feed the strays. Thankfully my council awarded people who feed strays which helped a lot. Every year they are awarded funds from Central Government but we never receive any. However, as it was made public this year, the Councils had to fulfil their obligations.

Even when we had the lockdown in Greece, animal feeders were required to have an authorised paper signed by their local council to say that we were given permission to feed 'their' strays on 'their' behalf in case we were stopped by the police. My council has also started a pro-

gramme to sterilise cats but, after so many requests from people and from the vet they appointed, I do not think they realise the huge problem there is in not neutering 'their' street animals.

In order to start a TNR programme two people organised coffee mornings and, with the first 100 euros



raised, we paid for a home-made trap and transfer cage to be made. To date, I still use both but have increased the transfer cages to four now. After looking through my log book of cats I have caught to be sterilised it is quite frightening that I have done so many - around 1,000 but this year especially, I have found that there are nursing mums with kittens around 2-3 months old, and when I collect the cat from the vet after its been sterilised, I am told that she's pregnant again. It is like a never-ending factory line for them, and young females at five months old can become pregnant. Without organisations like GAR, volunteers in Greece would be unable to accomplish what we have achieved.



Two special cats that I nursed back to health are Peggy (now known as Princess Peggy)

who had to have a leg amputated due to a bite which had infected the leg, and little Kathy, found on rocks at the beach, with one eye very enlarged and which had to be removed. Both cats are now living on the Isle of Wight with two separate families.

Over the years, the attitude of people has changed towards what I do. I am now finding that Greek people are asking for my help to get cats sterilised. Unfortunately, there are still people who hate cats and would rather 'throw them to the mountains' as my neighbour recently told me, and would report me to the Council because of the cats that come to my house to feed. I do feel sad at times like this



because of their attitudes. On my feeding rounds, I leave my house around 06.30am to arrive before anyone see me, as I know they do not like me feeding close to their hotels and other holiday outlets. I feel in these circumstances it is better to respect what they say and just go ahead when most people are still sleeping. There is one hotel in my village that actually fed four to five cats that were in their hotel during the winter. After I had them sterilised and put them back before the season started they asked me, and also asked people who know me, to remove the cats! I told them I would not do this. I fed them all winter, and made feeding stations outside of the hotel. Now the hotelier and his family ignore me!

The people who are more than happy with me feeding the cats are our local supermarkets, particularly with the amount of money I spend every day on cat food etc. During the summer, if I am lucky, tourists give me small donations but, as with most animal welfare volunteers, food, medicine, travel documents etc. come from our own pocket. This is why we volunteers are so grateful to GAR for supporting us with funds to get cats sterilised. You, as an organisation have achieved a great deal over the years, like the volunteers in the field. **Linda Jones**

Fundraising Ideas

Every Donation Makes a Difference!



Wendy Holmes is fundraising through **ebay For charities**

If you have anything that could be sold on ebay for **GAR** please Contact Wendy on:

greekanimals@aol.co.uk

Wendy is based in Lincolnshire. She can manage eBay auctions for you if you can then post the item to the purchaser.



If you shop at www.amazon.co.uk

1. Go to smile.amazon.co.uk It's the same shopping experience
2. Under "Supporting" select **Greek Animal Rescue (UK)**
3. Place your order

Amazon donates to us!



If you shop online

1. Go to giveasyoulive.com
2. Sign up and choose **Greek Animal Rescue UK** as your charity
3. Create your account
4. Select your favorite stores
5. Add a retailer to your favorites **before you shop** (even fuel/utilities)
6. Go to one of your favourite retailers from the Give as you Live website and shop

Give as you Live donate to us!



If you shop online

1. Go to easyfundraising.co.uk
2. Choose **Greek Animal Rescue UK** as your cause to support
3. Create your account
4. Add a Donation Reminder
5. Shop at your favourite retailers and a donation flag appears. Accept and

Easy Fundraising donate to us!



Auction or scrap your car for charity

1. Go to giveacar.co.uk
2. Fill in the on line form selecting **Greek Animal Rescue** as your charity
3. OR call Give a Car on 020 7736 4242

Give a Car will collect your car and sell it giving the proceeds to us!

BROKEN OR UNWANTED GOLD OR SILVER JEWELLERY

Please consider passing on any old or broken items you no longer wear. Please send jewellery to:

GAR Jewellery appeal
Scott's Jewellers
Arfon House
Upper Smithfield Street
Dolgellau LL40 1ET

GAR is grateful to **Malcolm** and **Linda** who sell at the best possible price. All profits go to **GAR**!

HANDMADE CRAFT ITEMS

Handmade craft items get the best prices at Craft Fairs or eBay, which you could list yourself

Please contact us at info@greekanimalrescue.com we can advise where to send them.

Please don't send them to our Woodbridge address. It costs us more to post them to right place.

SMALL ITEMS THAT YOU NO LONGER WANT, EITHER USED OR UNWANTED GIFTS

These are best sold at table top or car boot sales. We have a few supporters who run these in aid of **Greek Animal Rescue**

Please contact us at info@greekanimalrescue.com we can advise where to send them.

Please don't send them to our Woodbridge address. It costs us more to post them to right place.

GREEK WILD FIRES APPEAL



In August we launched our most successful online fundraiser the Wildfires Appeal following the shocking fires that raged across Greece during its hottest summer in 30 years. An incredible £22,000 has been raised to date and the support, messages, shares and donations has been amazing.

We heard terrible accounts of thousands of casualties and animals left behind to perish on chains, but we have been most inspired by how so many people came together, were well organised and managed to evacuate and transfer many animals to safety.

We also worked together with our colleagues at other UK Greek rescue charities, CARAT and Strays of Greece, to determine the best use of all the funds we received.



The Greek vets have been amazing in treating animals for free in temporary field clinics which were quickly set up to provide first aid, and the pharmaceutical companies were great in donating medicines to treat burns and IV fluids etc. Animal transporters also gave their time for free and many horses were transferred to the safety of the Olympic equestrian facilities at Markopoulo, where again there were vets to offer free treatment.



HOW HAVE THE FUNDS BEEN USED?

We sent £5,000 to Anima, a volunteer group helping wildlife, as there were not only domestic and equine animal victims. The scale of the fires was so huge that so much wildlife was affected too and suffered heavy losses. Many wounded owls, storks, deer, foxes, turtles and birds have all been successfully treated and cared for by Anima.

Many of you will have seen on UK news the apocalyptic scenes on the island of Evia. We sent £5,000 to an animal welfare group, Alma Libre, who provided immediate and ongoing support.

We have also sent £5,000 to Ranch Eros Rancheros Animal Welfare Association to help with their urgent needs as featured on page 19.

Although the publicity has faded, the needs are still there so most importantly we want to help in this aftermath and to be there for the animals that need more extensive or longer term care. We also want to help the volunteers to rebuild and re-equip their destroyed shelters and replace ruined food and medical supplies to enable them to continue their vital work to help the animals of Greece.

A massive thank you once again for your support. Please mark any donation 'Wildfires.'



This is Duchess who was our first victim of the wildfires around Megara. She's around four-years old and was found suffering from severe malnutrition as well as burns. She was probably a stray in the area for some time and weighed just 11kg.

We agreed to fund her treatment, get her transferred to our vet in Athens and then to our foster carers.

When she was given some food, she vomited up stones, leaves and dirt. The suffering she has endured is heartbreaking. It's cruelly ironic, getting caught up in the wildfires was what probably saved her.

Look at her now and see what a Duchess she truly is. She just wants to be cuddled and lay on the sofa and likes to play with the other dogs too. She has some fear issues around men but otherwise she walks well on the lead, loves to hunt like crazy and her recall is improving.

Good news - she now has the opportunity to be homed in Holland, which we are currently exploring.

Among the victims who suffered terribly in the recent Greek Wildfires are the tortoises. These gentle animals can't outrun the flames, and those who survive the inferno can suffer horrific injuries from inhaling hot smoke and fumes. We are very grateful to have received this generous offer from artist, Rachel Ashby, who's created an artwork Hope After The Flames dedicated to the tortoise victims, which is available to buy

in a number of amazing formats on her online shop, and she is donating 100% of the profits to our Wildfires Appeal. To purchase from Rachel's fantastic range, please see her shop at: <https://www.redbubble.com/shop/ap/85364469>



We would like to say a massive thank you to "Goons of Bala-troon", a team of Canadian-based crypto and NFT fanatics, for their incredible £5,000 donation towards the Wildfires Appeal, which they raised through an online auction of digital arts. Being creators of animal-based digital characters in cartoon, comic and NFT formats, they wanted to help animals in desperate need in the real world.

Their amazing support has made a huge difference and we are extremely grateful to them. To learn more about their work, please see www.getagoon.com.



An incredible total of £2,592 was raised for a joint fundraiser for GAR and Thai Animals
<http://www.thaianimalsanctuary.com>

An afternoon of great jazz at Pizza Express Live Soho. The £1,296 amount for GAR was allocated to the *WILD FIRES APPEAL*

A massive thank you to everyone who came along and supported this event, and to the wonderful musicians who played their socks off for the cause!

Special thank yous go out to: Jo Harrop and Arek Bow for their dedication to organising the event and making it go smoothly, plus all Arek's handmade products to sell at the concert! Gemma Ashford Photography House of Catford, Pizza Express Live and the team for hosting these events, Nik on the sound desk and the Thai Animal Sanctuary team for all your wonderful efforts!



Thank you everyone who donated raffle prizes too! Looking forward to this event next year.



ROCKY'S RESCUE



In early 2020, my husband and I realised that the void in our lives needed to be filled as we had lost two much-loved dogs, Alfie and Cherry, in 2018 which took some getting over.

Our daughter had spotted little Rocky on the Diasozo Facebook page, where he was recovering from horrific injuries after being rescued by Gianna and Ermioni in Karditsa, and she thought how he would be ideal for our lifestyle.

It's a great leap of faith to commit to taking on a pet you have never actually met and so Ermioni very kindly put together some photos and videos for us which helped considerably. It was heart-warming to see him trying to cope with a new lead and harness but seeing him wriggling in Ermioni's arms was the sight that really melted our hearts and sealed the deal!

Unfortunately and frustratingly, 2020 brought massive challenges for adoptions, with the usual home checks unable to go ahead, so a virtual tour of our house and garden helped the GAR volunteers carry out their crucial checks.

We were extremely concerned about the stress and distress a flight from Greece to the UK could cause Rocky and so we were delighted to receive reassurance from GAR that he would travel overland by van, and not just any old van but a customised climate-controlled van, where the dogs are treated like pets and not cargo (thank you Thompson Pet Transport!).

As we should know by now, things don't always go according to plan, especially where animals are involved, and a pandemic certainly doesn't help much either! But, after a considerable amount of paperwork by DEFRA and a 48-hour stay for Rocky at special kennels in Surrey, we finally met him, with a GAR representative present to oversee things and take some precious photos.



It really was love at first sight and armed with some chicken treats, he leapt happily into our car and home we drove.

Whilst we loved his name, which was chosen by a kind Diasozo patron, Graham Benton, we felt we wanted a fresh start for him in his new life and so Rocky became Indie.

Indie was fairly quiet for the first 24 hours, no doubt exhausted after his long journey and new experiences, but lead walks around the garden soon showed his love of digging and running, making us all laugh so much!

Indie soon met his big sisters, our daughters Ellie and Jenny, who he immediately bonded with. Soon after, he met Jenny's four dogs, Narla, Luna, Penny and Amber, and once his initial wariness subsided, he was haring around with the younger two. It was particularly useful to see how well he reacted with other dogs in a safe environment, and this gave us the confidence to let him approach other dogs out on walks, including our neighbour's dog who we then discovered was also a Greekie!



Indie was fully housetrained when he arrived which was a blessing, so we have just been working on his recall, which I am sure most Greekie-owners can relate to! His lack of dominant traits has allowed us to give him plenty of freedom around the house and his enthusiasm for his breakfast each morning melts our hearts all over again.



The last six months with Indie have been particularly amazing as we are out on walks every single day, and we now speak to our neighbours much more as they are keen to hear his story, including why part of his ear is missing.



We cannot imagine our lives without him and hope to adopt a brother or sister for him from Diasozo which we are sure he will love.



On his 6 month gotcha anniversary, we reached a real milestone with an entire off-lead walk and friendly encounters with many dogs. We are so proud of him and the incredible progress he has made. **Joanne Jones**

RANCHEROS BURNAS



Rancheros is an animal welfare association founded in 2015, by Nancy Kourellou a horse trainer, who volunteered in therapeutic horse riding clubs in Athens

When Nancy first came across the St. Anna horses in North Evia, in 2000, there were 16 horses. Gradually the owner began to neglect them, give them poor quality food and negligible health care. She tried lawful ways to take them away from him but Greek law is poor regarding horses.



In 2012 the owner and the horses were evicted for not paying rent to the owners of the land for more than eight years. At the time, six horses were alive. All were malnourished, with skin problems and problematic behaviour.

Nancy formed a group of people who helped these horses find temporary shelter in Athens. After months of medical care, change of food, incalculable costs



and equally immeasurable personal effort, all the horses are healthy. However, a way to cover their costs had to be found, since Greece was facing a huge economical crisis at the time.

Nancy found a forest area of 14 acres in St. Anna, a small fishing village in North Evioia, with 100 people permanent residents in the winter, but a tourist area during the summer months.

Four of the eight horses can work, taking tourists on horse-riding walks, mainly children. For most of the time, they can run freely on the 8km beach, live happily in a semi-free state, not in boxes or stalls.

Nancy lives with them in the woods, in a caravan without electricity but fortunately, after many efforts, with drinkable water. The horses, now 18 in total, are a battered race horse and a filly that would have been slaughtered, were added to the herd.

This summer, 5th August 2021, Rancheros burnt to the ground from Evia Fires, the largest environmental catastrophe in Greece. Selflessly Nancy, her sister Deppie and two friends saved all horses, donkeys, dogs, cats and chickens from the farm.

Unfortunately the farm was no longer viable. The scorched ground smouldered, the caravan Nancy lived in was burnt and there was no water. Nancy and the horses and donkeys moved to Marathon in Attica as guests of a riding club. However, they will soon have to move again as the farm in Evioia is still unable to host them.



They are currently looking for a new place in Attica as they are afraid of the floods and the cold weather Agia Anna will face while Deppie is restoring the farm.

Dear friends of Greek Animal Rescue, thank you so much for your support and trust. Your donation moves us deeply in profound ways.

You give us strength and courage to go on, you give us feathers to fly again. We



must find new words to express "thank you".

While we still cannot sleep at night, living in great stress and sorrow, gestures like yours make us believe again.

Nancy Kourellou

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS AND STOCKING FILLERS

BAGS OF FUN!



Folding Cat/Dog Shopping Bag
Approx 35 x 35cm



Long Handled Tote Bags
38cm x 42 cm

PAWS bag available in Green or Blue print

MAKE A NOTE OF THIS!

NOTEBOOKS

50 Pages
A5 Large
A6 Small



BALLPEN
with Eco Bamboo Barrel
Black Ink with Red, Blue or Green tips

TEA TOWEL



SEND CHRISTMAS CARDS
SPREAD THE LOVE
SPREAD THE WORD!

CHRISTMAS CARDS
A6, 5 pack with envelopes
GAR details on the back



PLUS A
BARGAIN PACK OF 12
ASSORTED CARDS
WITH ENVELOPES

Car Sticker



Microfibre Lens Cleaning Cloths
For Glasses, Cameras, Phones, Tablets 15x15 cm

I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW!



SANTA'S LITTLE DISCOUNT!



Greek Animal Rescue - Merchandise Order Form

Christmas Cards Pack of 5	Price	Qty	Total	Microfibre Cloths	Price	Qty	Total	T-Shirts: Men XL,L,M,S & Ladies L,M,S	Price	Qty	Total
1 - All Is Calm	£4.00			GAR Collage	£1.75			Black Rescues Rock M/L Size	£5		
2 - Foxes and Deer	£4.00			Home is where Paws	£1.75			White Adopt/Logo M/L Size	£5		
3 - Cat, Dog, Robin	£4.00			Crazy about Cats	£1.75			30th A5 Notebook	£4.50		
4 - Under the Mistletoe	£4.00			Crazy about Dogs	£1.75			30th A6 Notebook	£4.00		
5 - Baubles	£4.00			Car Sticker	£2.50			Ballpen with Eco Bamboo Barrel	£3.00		
6 - Mithrim	£4.00			30th Tea Towel	£6.50			Crazy Cat Lady Tote Bag	£4.50		
Pack of 12 Assorted	£7.00			POSTAGE INCLUDED on Everything				Crazy Dog Lady Tote Bag	£4.50		
2022 Calendar	£13							PAWS Tote Bag Blue Grn	£4.50		
								Folding Bag Dog Cat	£3.50		
Subtotal 1				Subtotal 2				Subtotal 3			

Have a look at our **Online Shop** for even more ideas and **Card Payments**
www.greekanimalrescue.com/shop

YOUR DETAILS

Name			
Address 1			
Address 2			
Town/City		Postcode	
County		Telephone	
E Mail			
Payment Method	Cheque	Paypal: info@greekanimalrescue.com	

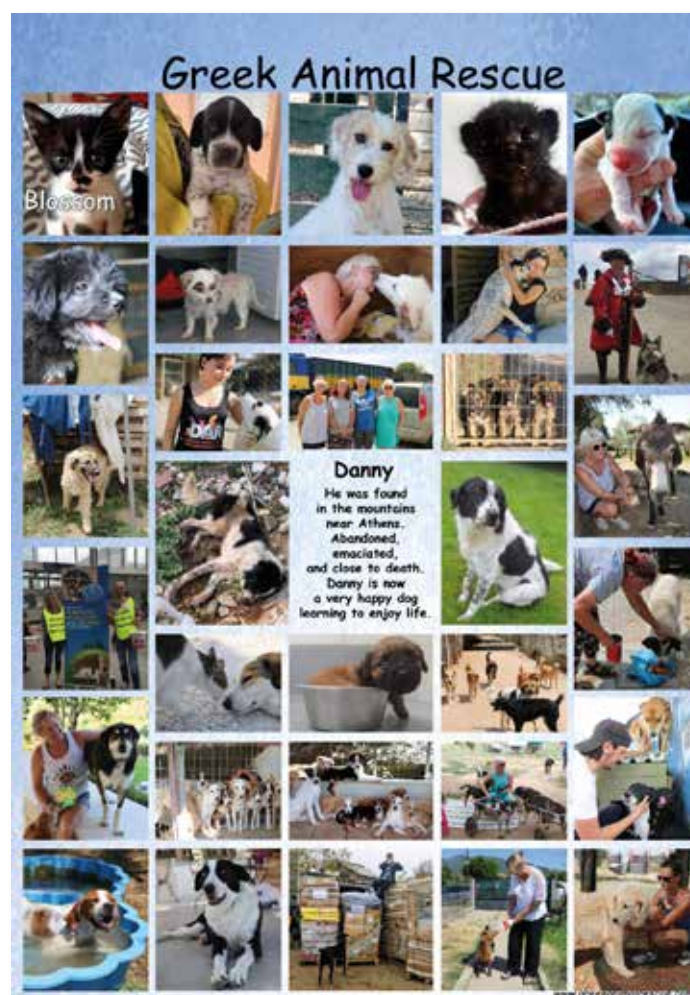
ORDER SUMMARY

Total of 1, 2 and 3 above	
Donation to GAR	
Total payment to GAR	




Please send order and payment to: GAR, PO Box 336, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 0WR

Greek Animal Rescue 2022 CALENDAR



Greek Animal Rescue - Subscription or Donation

I would like to Subscribe / Donate <i>(delete as appropriate)</i> to Greek Animal Rescue				Subscription: £17 Concessions: £10 Non UK: \$35 Or €30		£
PLEASE TELL US HOW YOU PAY	I enclose a cheque payable to GAR		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Please advise us by email: info@greekanimalrescue.com	
	I have paid through PayPal					
I have set up an eBanking payment						
YOUR DETAILS	Title (Mr, Mrs etc.)			Name		
	Address 1					
	Address 2					
	Town/City		Postcode			
	County		Telephone			
	E Mail					
GDPR Communication Option	We will occasionally send you news of our work but will not share your details with any third party. To comply with the Government's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), you can choose not to receive any communication from us including newsletters.			To opt out of communication, please cross this box	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
RECEIPT	To save administrative costs, GAR does not normally issue receipts. Please cross this box if you require a receipt for your donation			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

giftaid it

Bankers Standing Order and Gift Aid Declaration

Please send completed forms to:

Greek Animal Rescue, PO Box 336, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 0WR

Bankers Standing Order Mandate										
Your Bank Name										
Address 1										
Address 2										
City				Postcode						
Sorting Code				-				-		
Account Number										
Account Name										
Reference (Your Name)										
Please pay to the account of		Greek Animal Rescue								
Sorting Code		30 - 99 - 86								
Account Number		07466897								
The sum of		£								
On this day (DD/MM/YY)				/				/		
And continue to pay the same amount each month / year <i>(delete as appropriate)</i> until further notice										
Your Name										
Date				Signature						
OR	Use eBanking to set up a regular payment									
	Sorting Code		30-99-86							
	Greek Animal Rescue		07466897							
	Reference		Please enter YOUR name							

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Gift Aid declaration

For past, present and future donations

Using Gift Aid means that for every £1 you give, **Greek Animal Rescue** gets an extra 25p from HM Revenue & Customs, helping your donation go further. For example, a gift of £10 can be turned into £12.50 and it won't cost you another penny. Simply complete and return this form and we'll do the rest.

☒ I am a UK taxpayer and I would like **Greek Animal Rescue** to treat this donation and any donations I make in the future and have made in the past 4 years as Gift Aid donations, until I notify you otherwise.

Please notify us if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

Please send this declaration to us with your name and address overleaf to enable us to claim Giftaid

HAPPY ENDINGS - PARIS AND GEORGIE

Georgie and Paris and their brothers and sisters were taken from their mother very early, only a couple of weeks' old to be stuffed into a bag and thrown away like rubbish.

Myra, our animal welfare contact on the island of Salamina, rescued these puppies. The barbaric conditions for animals on the island of Salamina had been reported to Myra and Greek Animal Rescue many years ago. Since then she has been dedicated to relieving the pain of some of the thousands of strays there, roaming around the fields and beaches, many of them ill and injured.



The island is only 15 minutes away from the mainland, making it an easy dumping ground for unwanted dogs. Myra sterilises many dogs there with funding help from GAR and she manages to send a few abroad for adoptions.

Myra made an urgent appeal to find a volunteer to help her take the puppies – she would have done this herself but she already had nine tiny two week old puppies to deal with.



Maria offered to help and took them over, she bottle fed them night and day...bottle feeding is hard and not many puppies survive but Georgie and Paris did. A month later the pups had turned into what Myra describes as 'beautiful little muffins'!

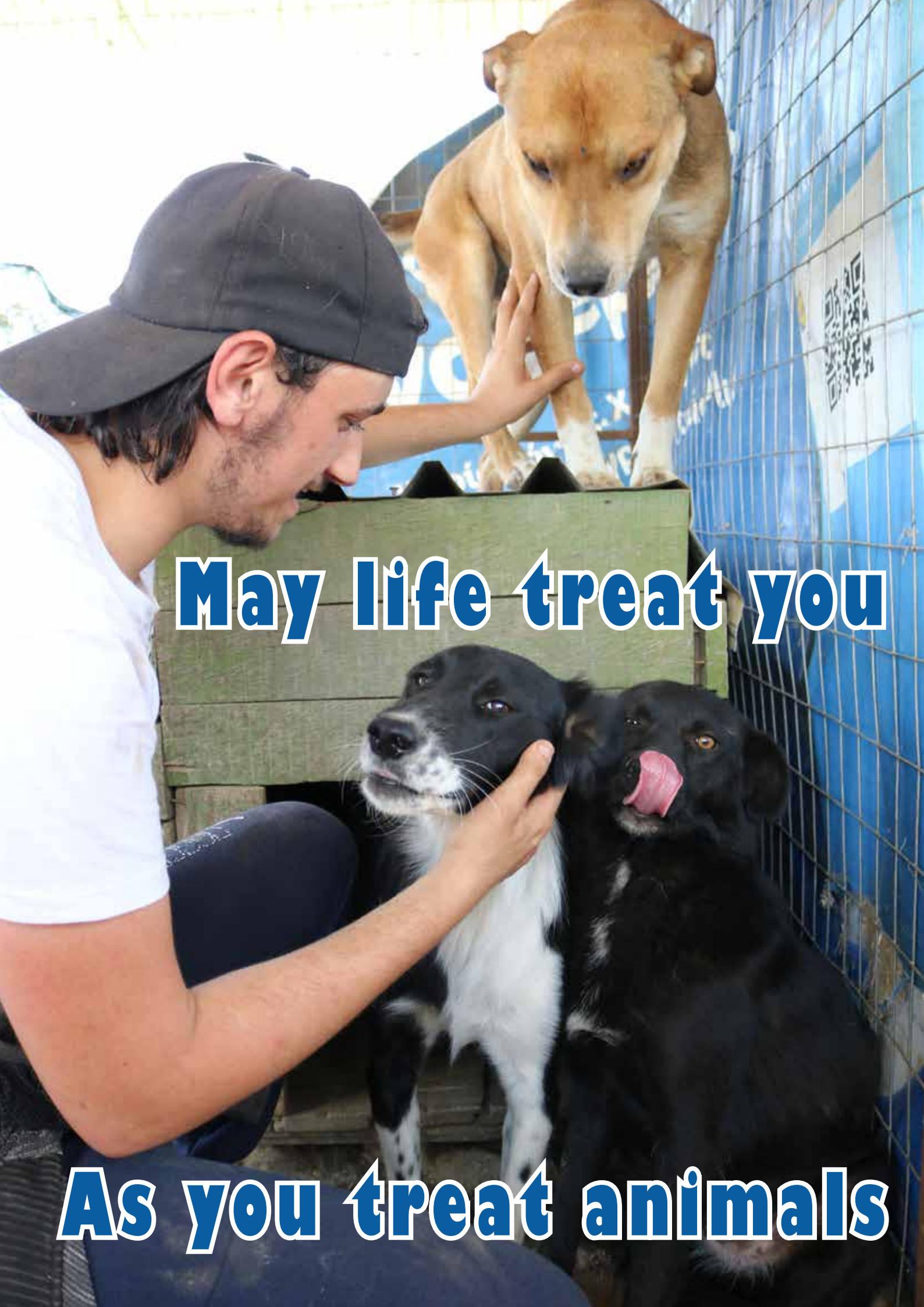
Once the pups were old enough GAR offered to take them on for rehoming and they came to our holding kennels in Athens where we are able to prepare dogs suitable for homing in the UK. Paris (now called Deacon) came to the UK last year and went



to a home in Borden in Kent. Georgie also came over and went to a home in Worthing in West Sussex. Both pups were a bit of a handful but much loved and have grown to be great dogs! The two owners swapped contacts and even met up so that brothers were once again reunited! Thanks to Elaine for giving Deacon a great home and Terry for bringing Georgie into his life!

Gillian Samarasekera





May life treat you

As you treat animals