

PAWS NEWSLETTER 2016



Amazingly 2015 was the **tenth** anniversary of Paxos Animal Welfare Society and WHAT changes have occurred during that time. To think that in the first year PAWS volunteer vets were only present on the island for 6 weeks and operations were carried out at roadside café's and under olive trees with very basic equipment. In 2015 PAWS vet teams were working on the island during 8 months of the year and the clinic at Magazia was once again very busy and successful. More information on our tenth year can be found below:

- Vet visits
- Clinic Maintenance
- Education
- Sponsorship, Fund-raising and Supporters
- Winter Feeding
- Rescues
- Plans for 2016

Paxos Animal Welfare Society – Registered Charity 1155941

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Vet Visits

Russell and Chris Lyon once again decided to spend 3 months on Paxos between April and June, working 2 days a week at the clinic and covering emergencies when off duty. Zoë Tomkinson and her partner James joined Russell for a full time spell in June. As before this arrangement proved very popular with the locals and PAWS is delighted that Russell has signed up for 4 months in 2016.

Nefeli Damigou paid a short visit in August but because it is the peak month for tourism and the weather was extremely hot, the clinic was very quiet.

However, in September Andrea Rhodes together with her daughter Harriet and Mia Ball (another vet student) were exceedingly busy and worked like trojans throughout their stay. They were followed by Mike Houlihan and Mandy Cooper who had to cope with a number of strays but still managed to perform several operations and carry out a lot of consultation work. In October, Rick Appleton, Rosemary Leslie and Sue Scott were once again extremely busy and did an excellent job. They were very ably assisted by Rosemary's son Stuart who came for a holiday but was thrown in at the deep end when vet nurse Sue Scott had to return to the UK to care for her mother. The autumn visits were completed with a return trip by Andrea Rhodes accompanied by vet nurses Julie Collins & Tash Pettit and vets Adam Urbanski & Agata Klimczyk. Once again Andrea and her team were exceptionally busy and worked very hard. Two successful trips were made to Anti Paxos by Russell and Andrea.

Nefeli Damigou (pictured below) who helped at the clinic last winter has agreed to co-operate with PAWS over the winter months of 2015/2016. She is working 2 days a week at the clinic as a volunteer vet during December, January & February and will cover emergencies.



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Russell & Zoë setting up in Anti Paxos



Russell at the clinic with an unusual client!

PAWS is delighted to report that in 2015 our vet teams neutered 334 cats and 25 dogs, carried out 54 other operations and attended to over 500 consultations. A BIG thank you goes to all of them.



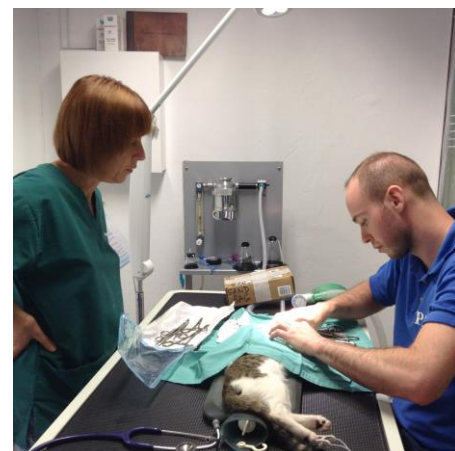
Andrea with her daughter Harriet



Mike and Mandy



Rick, Sue & Stuart at the clinic



Rick & Sue operating

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Agata and Tash treating a goat



Rosemary with Paxi

Clinic Maintenance:

In March, Rod Turner once again accompanied Lindsay to help with repair work at the clinic. With the help of scaffolding borrowed from Bill & Margaret Munroe, Rod scaled the heights in order to stabilise the outside walls with hypoxyl resin and steel rods. Meanwhile Lindsay got busy with decorating the clinic both inside and out and strimming the garden. At the same time 5 new feeding stations were assembled, painted and delivered to their new locations. Roof repairs are urgently needed at the clinic and PAWS is currently obtaining quotes for this work and trying to raise the necessary funds.



Lindsay painting the clinic



Rod repairing the outside wall

Education:

As part of a project called 'Let's do it Greece', a school trip to the clinic was arranged at the end of April for 30 eleven year old children. They were divided into 2 groups with Faye Lychnou acting as interpreter. One group was shown around the clinic whilst the others sat in the garden drawing pictures that reflected animal welfare. All who attended were very interested and particularly fascinated by the pulse oximeter. Most of the children had a pet at home and were very keen to support the work of PAWS. To this end it was decided that a feeding station would be set up at the school where a rota of school children would look after it. The trip was deemed a great success with many of the children thanking our head vet Russell Lyon and his wife Chris in English!

PAWS is hoping that more educational visits can be arranged in 2016 for both children and adults.



Russell demonstrating the pulse oximeter



Locating the new feeding station

Sponsorship, Fund- Raising and Supporters:

Despite continuing economic difficulties throughout Europe, PAWS is very grateful to all those who support our work. Substantial financial help came from:

Jean Sainsbury who donated £1000 towards feeding stations and supplies.

Marchig and WVS who covered the flight costs of Andrea Rhodes and her team in September as well as donating over £1000 worth of surgical supplies.

Paxos Municipality who donated 1000 Euros towards supplies.

Ionian Island Holidays who put PAWS envelopes in their client packs and collected over 1500 Euros throughout the season.

Simpson Villas who collected 600 Euros throughout the season.

PAWS would sincerely like to thanks all the tourists and locals who donated in 2015 and we hope that our work will continue to be appreciated.

Unfortunately we haven't raised as much money in 2015 as we had hoped so will be reviewing our fund raising efforts for 2016.

Thanks as always must go to the following supporters on Paxos: 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. We are also grateful to the many locals on Paxos who support our winter feeding programme and arrange fund raising events on Paxos throughout the year.

Faye Lychnou one of the PAWS trustees as always worked tirelessly supporting everything we do and helping each vet team.

Winter Feeding



Due to severe winter storms at the beginning of 2015 plus increased demand for feeding stations, Rod Turner was commissioned to build eight new ones. PAWS is extremely grateful to Rod for carrying out this work so quickly and efficiently.

Thanks also go to David Beardmore who kindly assembled 3 of the new feeding stations in September.

Many thanks go to all the people that are part of the winter feeding rota and in particular, Ray & Suzy in Loggos, Carol Keyse in Gaios. Faye Lychnou, Frances Lister, Kate Sams and new volunteer Andreas Kouroupis.

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

Once again PAWS had to deal with numerous problems regarding stray cats and abandoned dogs. Sadly there is no facility on Paxos for a re-homing centre and PAWS has now drawn up guide lines for vet teams emphasising that stray animals cannot be left at the clinic. We understand that this might cause distress to both locals and tourists, but we hope to reduce the number of unwanted animals by improving education on the importance of neutering.

In brief, a lively retriever cross called Nettles who was at the clinic for 6 weeks has now found a loving home in Cheshire with Debbie Gilbertson (one of our volunteer vet nurses). Paxi, a beautiful white Labrador cross that was involved in a road traffic accident has been rescued by an Italian couple Simone and Deborah. Jim and Maureen Lemin adopted Buddy a gentle black Labrador that was found abandoned in a pitiful condition during the summer. Homes were also found for 3 stray kittens that were left at the clinic. **Although we are obviously delighted by the happy ending for all these animals, PAWS does not have the resources for re-homing so please, please spread the word about responsible care of cats and dogs.**



Stuart, Rick & Sue with the strays



Tabby waiting for supper

If any tourist or visitor to Paxos wishes to adopt an animal, then please contact **Roy Churchill from Corfu Connections** (mobile telephone: 07979871955 and email: Roy@corfuconnections.com) who can arrange passports in Corfu and transport back to the UK, Italy or France.

Plans for 2016

Further to our trustee meeting in November 2015, PAWS has made the following plans for 2016:

Vet visits: As mentioned above, Nefeli Damigou will be part time at the clinic during January and February.

Russell Lyon and his wife Chris will be on Paxos for 4 months from March – July and will be joined by Zoë Tomkinson and her partner James for 2 weeks in June. Andrea Rhodes has agreed to return with a team to Paxos in September and/or October.

PAWS will apply to the Dogs Trust for financial help for roof repairs. Roy Churchill of Corfu Connections has kindly agreed to give us a free quote for this work. Grant applications will also be made to Jean Sainsbury, Marchig and WVS. We hope that fund raising events will continue to be organised on Paxos and the UK.

PAWS hopes that more educational visits to the clinic can be arranged for school children. We would also like to co-operate with the hunting society and discuss any veterinary issues or queries.

PAWS will continue to support winter feeding and is grateful to everyone on Paxos that helps with this project.

Lindsay as director of PAWS is truly grateful to everyone who volunteers and sincerely hopes that 2016 will be another successful year. We all look forward to giving veterinary care to the animals on Paxos.



The clinic April 2015



The prep room

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Post Script:



Lipstick in Gaios in 2013



Lipstick's grave at the PAWS clinic

It is with great sadness that PAWS has to report that Lipstick died peacefully at the clinic in November 2015. He was a dog that had world-wide fame, his own website and was much loved by locals and tourists alike. When PAWS was founded in 2005, Lipstick, who we think was then probably about 4 or 5 years old, was one of our first customers. He visited the PAWS team every year for a general health check and a grooming session. Lindsay remembers taking him for long walks on several occasions.

Unfortunately over the last 2 or 3 years he became very arthritic and his mobility was greatly reduced. PAWS arranged for him to be given pain relieving medication over the winter months but the storms of 2014/5 were a great trial for him. He was unable to make his usual winter progress to Ozias and remained in Gaios where he struggled to keep dry and warm. During the rest of 2015, his condition deteriorated and after much discussion it was decided it would be unkind to allow him to struggle through another winter. His spirit remained indomitable to the end and everyone who has worked for PAWS is proud to have known him. He is buried at the PAWS clinic and will be greatly missed.



Lindsay cuddling Lipstick in 2010



Lipstick on watch in Gaios

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