

The Greek Animal Welfare Fund

📍 51 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1NB, United Kingdom

☎ +44 20 7357 8500

🌐 www.gawf.org.uk

📘 [GreekAnimalWelfareFund](#)

🐦 [GAWF_](#)

October 2017



Animal Action Hellas

📍 43 D. Falireos Str, Piraeus, 18547, Greece

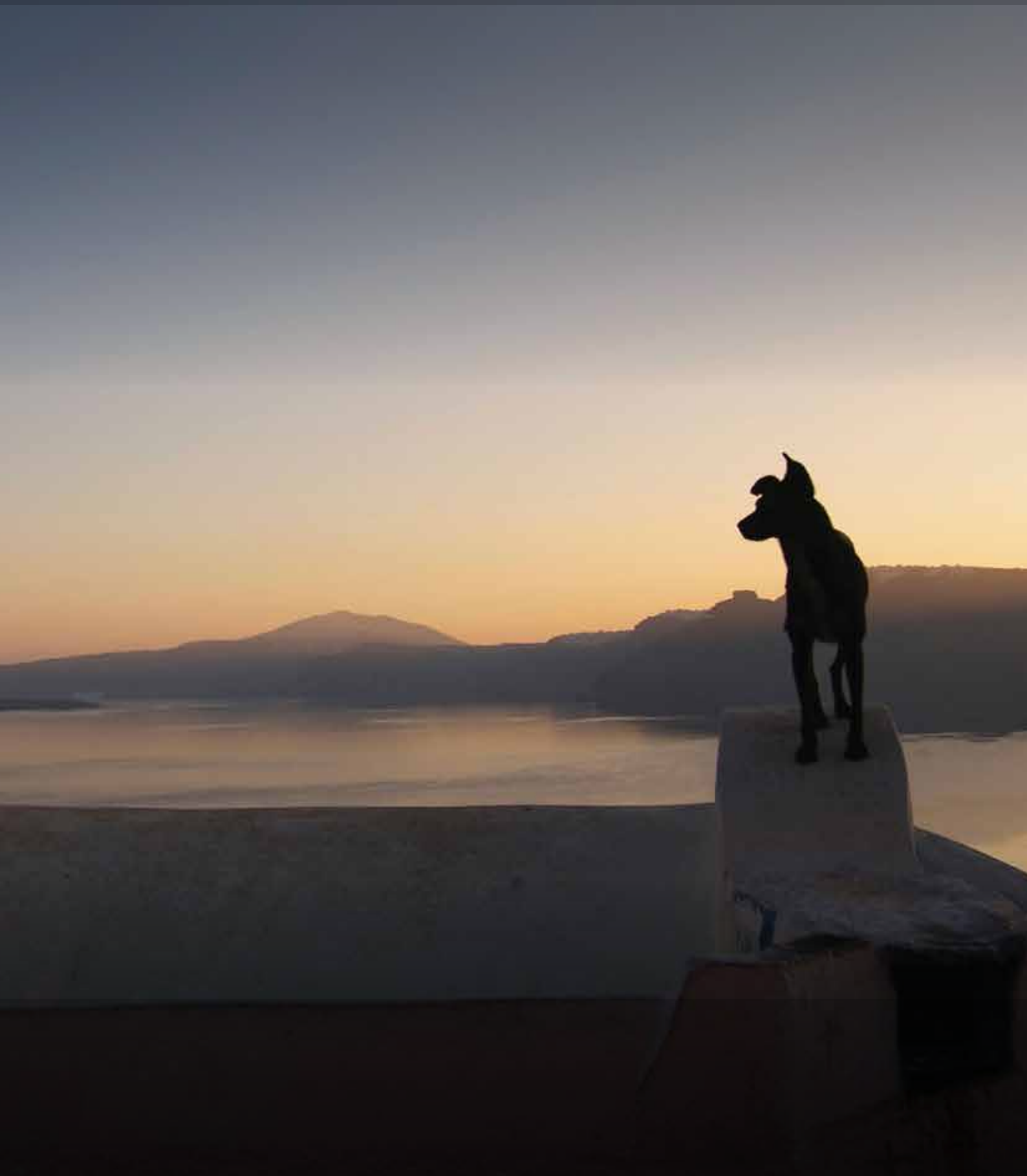
☎ +30 2103840010

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ΕΛΠΙΔΑ 41
ANNUAL REVIEW
2016



GREEK ANIMAL WELFARE FUND
Over 58 years of action for animals in Greece



AREAS OF ACTIVITY



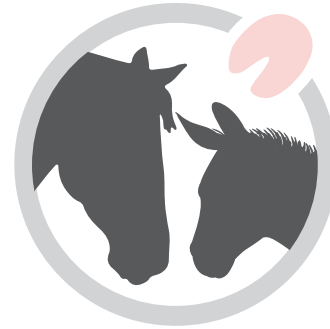
NEUTERING PROJECT
CATS & DOGS



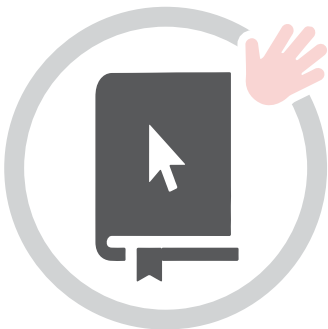
**SUPPORT TO
LOCAL WELFARE
GROUPS**



**EMERGENCY
FUNDING**



EQUINE CARE



**EDUCATION
& TRAINING**



**LOBBYING &
POLICY MAKING**
IN GREECE &
ACROSS THE EU



Welcome to our Review of 2016. Against a background of severe and continuing economic hardship in Greece, GAWF felt its work mattered more than ever. Some of the progress we made during the year is described in the pages that follow, and I hope you will enjoy their updated style.

Relieving suffering and giving animals the chance of a better life remained at the heart of everything we did, and we went about it in two main ways: the first was through our hands-on work for stray companion animals (cats and dogs) and the specialist care we provided to working horses, donkeys and mules. (There is a map showing where we worked on page 9). The second, was through the various approaches we used to changing attitudes at every level of Greek society – from the very young, whose views are still being formed, to the adult decision-makers who are responsible for writing laws and seeing that they are enforced. We want to be sure we are always using our resources in the best and most productive ways.

During the year, the Board put some new reporting procedures in place. To test their effectiveness and make sure we were doing everything correctly, we decided to call in professional auditors for the first time. We're proud to have passed their inspection of our accounts for 2016 with flying colours. A lot remains to be done and we hope that our supporters will continue to support us in the future.

During the year, our wonderful supporters enabled us to invest just over £275,000 in our activities, expanding our operations on the ground, training more people, and treating more than 2,700 animals in over 160 locations. At the same time, we worked to make the public more aware of us, promoting our welfare messages through online and print media.

We have plans! There are ambitious and innovative projects in preparation that will encourage people of all ages to think about how they interact with animals and provide their own, local solutions to local problems. Only when the Greeks themselves decide to extend their tradition of openhearted warmth to all living creatures, will the day come in which animals in their country are treated with the care and compassion they deserve.

We're working steadily towards that day, but we know we can't hope to see it dawn without the support of our dedicated staff, volunteers, Trustees and of course – most important – our generous donors, and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to bringing it closer.

Phyllis Dunipace
GAWF Chair

DAPHNE MAVROGIORGOS, CEO

During 2016, the Greek Animal Welfare Fund continued to work hard through our Greek operation, Animal Action Hellas, to prevent cruelty and relieve the suffering of animals in Greece. Through our Neutering Programmes and our Equine Project, **we changed the lives** of the animals we treated and provided important tools to local professionals and owners. Through our education and awareness raising operations **we changed the minds** of the people we reached, and through lobbying **we changed the legislative environment** surrounding and protecting animals.



The immensely challenging economic situation that was still being faced in Greece during the year made our work even more critical. The hardship confronting many Greek citizens in turn meant the population of stray cats and dogs saw its numbers swollen by **a reported increase in abandoned animals**. Financial difficulties meant both the national authorities and Greek local welfare groups were struggling to cope.

Against this backdrop, the work that we do becomes ever more important. In the following pages we aim to give a picture of what we achieved in 2016 through our nation-wide initiatives, both directly and by supporting local welfare groups.



We carried out our **stray population control** work in two distinct ways: through our **Neutering Outreach Programme**, and our **Friendship Programme**. We also treated and cared for animals through our **Emergencies and Appeals** reserve. Taken together, these three approaches achieved the neutering of more than 1,300 animals in 2016.

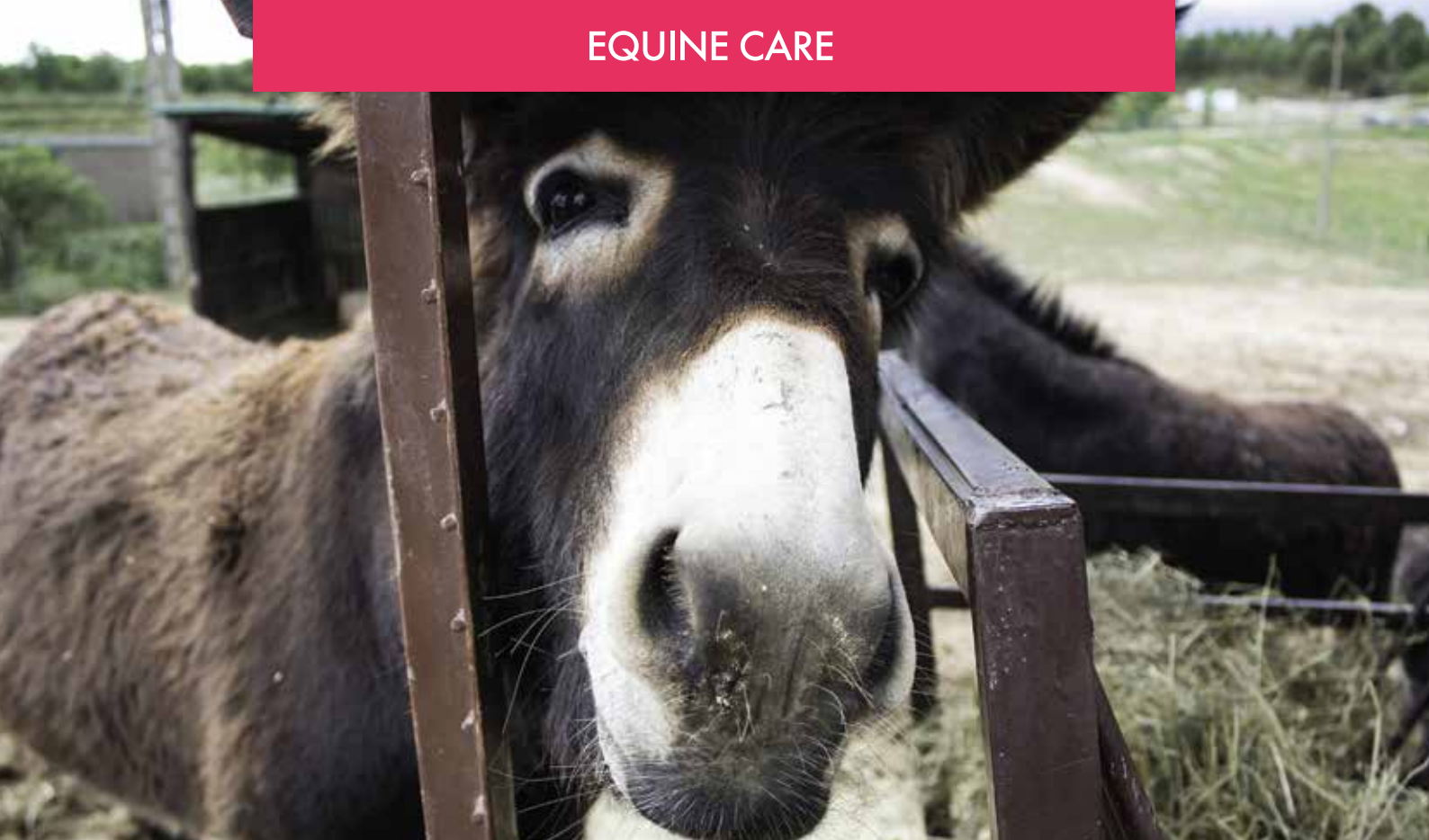
The Neutering Outreach Programme works in collaboration with local authorities and local welfare groups who do the ground work of collecting stray animals (both cats and dogs) and preparing them for the arrival of our vets. This makes **the best possible use of the professionals' time and expertise**. In 2016 our teams visited six sites across Greece as far apart as Monemvasia in the South, Astypalea Island in the East, and Kalabaka and Litochoro in the North.

The shelter in Kalabaka is run by a single person, looking after 110 dogs with almost no support from the local municipality. Over the past two years we have neutered almost all the animals, and will keep returning, aiming to **keep the population stable** as more dogs are brought in.

Animal Action's **Friendship Programme**, now in its fourth year, is intended to support animal lovers in the wider Athens area. It's a membership scheme, that enables individuals to **neuter stray cats at low cost** by bringing as many as they like to one of the veterinary clinics we have invited to join our scheme and negotiated an agreement with.

The Emergencies and Appeals reserve responds to crises. These may be a natural disaster or a situation that has got out of control in some way. In 2016 we acted together with wildlife rescue centre, ANIMA, to remove and subsequently release 30 birds being held illegally by an individual in the Athens area.





Uniquely in Greece, GAWF and Animal Action have a team of equine vets, dentists, and professional farriers, whose vital work continues to make a tremendous difference to the mules, donkeys and horses they treat, relieving suffering and improving health and wellbeing.

During 2016, our Equine Team treated over 1,350 horses, donkeys and mules (equids). Our professionals travelled to more than 150 towns and villages. Most of the animals they provided care to are used in the agricultural, forestry/logging and tourist industries. Every one of these visits is an opportunity not only to treat the animals but also to **pass on knowledge and skills** to the people that work with them in a friendly and informal setting. These skills remain and go on improving the welfare of the animals once the team has moved on.

An important part of our Equine Project is the more **structured and formal teaching** work it delivers. We ran a three-day seminar on basic farriery and equine dentistry in Trikala, central Greece, this year, which was attended by 54 delegates from all over the country. Each of them came away with **new insights and a better understanding** of how to care for equids correctly. In addition to educating people that use these animals in their working lives, we offered the next

generation of professional vets new **learning opportunities**.

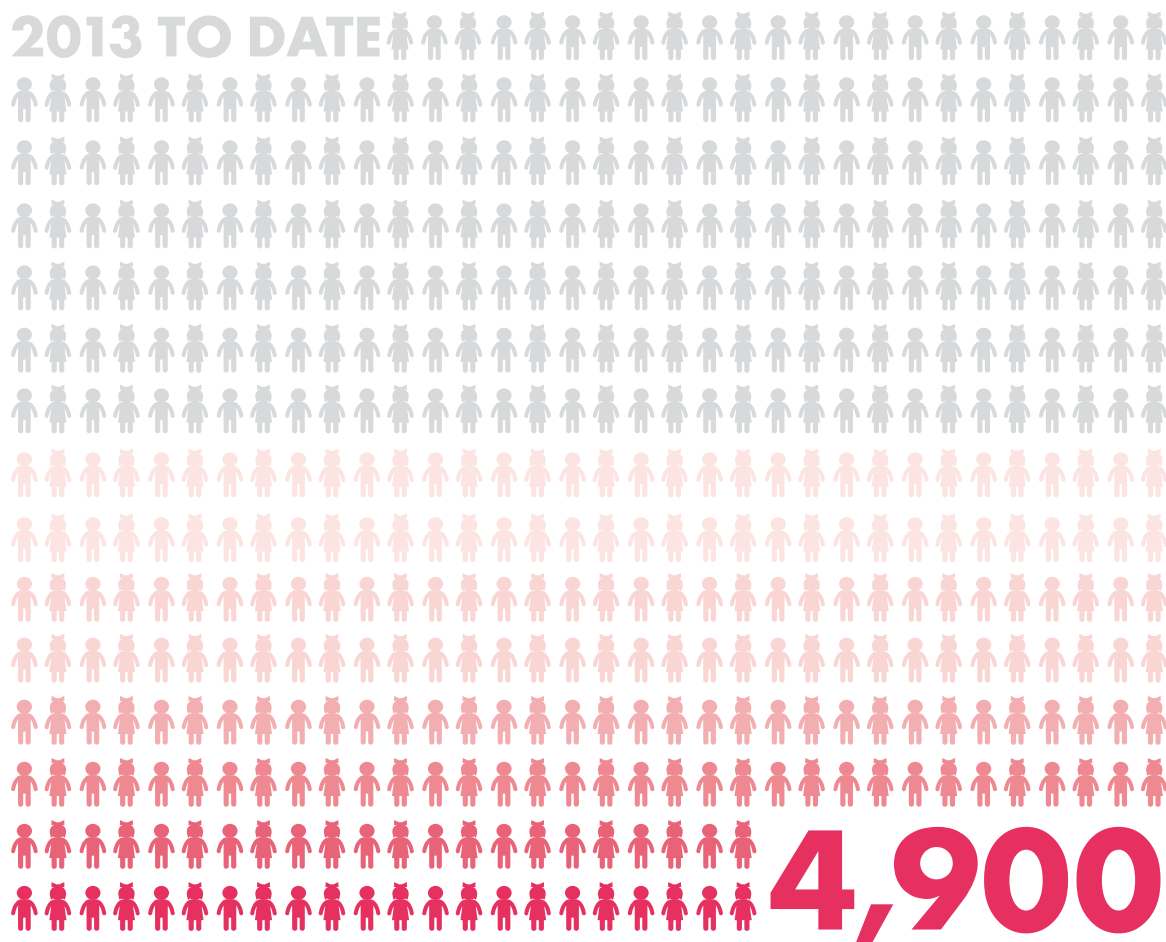
We are proud to have Kleopatra Triantafyllou, the most highly qualified equine vet in Greece, on our team. Kleo delivered two lectures to trainees studying for their qualifications at the leading veterinary university in Greece, the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki. As no Greek university currently offers specialised teaching in the field of equine veterinary medicine, this was a uniquely valuable learning opportunity for the young students.

Our team of equine experts engaged with the local authorities and the local welfare group in Hydra where motor vehicles are not allowed. The island's many working animals, which provide the main means of transport, put up with inadequate facilities for shelter and drinking water. We lobbied the local council officials, made practical suggestions and called for improvements.



Key to our long-term strategy is our commitment to education. **We aim to challenge traditional practices where they lead to suffering, and guide young Greeks towards developing a compassionate and informed attitude to animals.**

THE ANIMALS' LAWSUIT



Our interactive programme “The Animals’ Lawsuit” was launched in 2013 and continued to run throughout 2016 at the popular Hellenic Cosmos Cultural Centre in Athens, which welcomes school groups on day trips from the capital and beyond. To date, 4,700 children aged between 4 and 11 have enjoyed our workshop at the Centre. It involves the children in role-playing, games, storytelling, movement and sound, inviting them imaginatively to put themselves ‘in the animals’ shoes’, argue their case, and develop their own ethical positions.

Our ambition is to **get our educational messages and attitude-changing work into state schools throughout the whole of Greece** and we began the process of building a programme that will be government-approved and available to teachers at primary school level. It is still in development, so... watch this space!

MEDIA INCREASE

19,118



33



Facebook likes increased from 18,131 to 19,118.

There were **33 articles** and **mentions** in **newspapers** and **TV** (Kathimerini & SKAI among the most prominent ones).





Social media are a great awareness-raising tool, and in 2016 we were determined to increase our online reach into the hearts and minds of Greek society. This supports our aim of persuading Greeks that they should **take responsibility** for solving the many welfare problems the country faces themselves, rather than relying on outside agencies to do it for them. Improved storytelling and engagement with the public through our Greek language page on Facebook saw its followers rise to 19,118 meaning that **our messages went where they needed to be** – into the homes of ordinary people up and down the country.

National print and broadcast media were important too. There was coverage of our neutering activities in more than 30 features in newspapers and on TV. Journalists showed particular interest in our collaboration with the Municipality of Athens. This involved a programme of neutering strays in the historic centre of the city, focussing on areas close to schools and hospitals. The country's leading national daily, Kathimerini, covered it, as did SKAI – one of the top TV channels.

GAWF understands that getting the best possible legal, regulatory and enforcement environment in place is key to improving the welfare of animals. We lobbied the Greek Government to revise some of its outdated laws and also met with our colleagues in Europe as Animal Action Hellas is a member of the Brussels-based **Eurogroup for Animals**, a confederation that campaigns and presses for change Europe-wide but also offers advice and expertise to European institutions. These include the **European Commission**, the **Council of Ministers** and the **European Parliament**. **Eurogroup for Animals** has a number of Working Groups dealing with different issues. Animal Action is a member of four of them: WG Pets, WG Transport, WG Wildlife and WG Equines.



In 2016 we joined forces with the other members of **Eurogroup for Animals** to call on both the European Commission and its Member States to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">  End the illegal trade of pets through its #ProtectOurPets Campaign  End long distance livestock transport via the #StopTheTrucks campaign | <ul style="list-style-type: none">  End the illegal trade in wild animals  End trophy hunting  Create a specific regulatory framework for equids |
|---|---|

One notable success in 2016 was the adoption of a **new, Europe-wide Animal Health Law**, which is the first law to establish a link between animal well-being and public health. Among other things, it puts in place regulations that will help to combat the increasing problem of resistance to antibiotics and will serve as an important tool to change animal husbandry practices. If farmers are prevented from relying on routinely giving drugs, to avoid diseases they will have to **care for their animals better**, and the lives of millions of farm animals will improve.

WHERE WE WORKED IN 2016



● Neutering

● Equine Project

● Training & Education

● Shelter Support

In the 12 months to the end of December 2016, GAWF raised £91,571 from donations and fundraising and £221,696 from legacies.

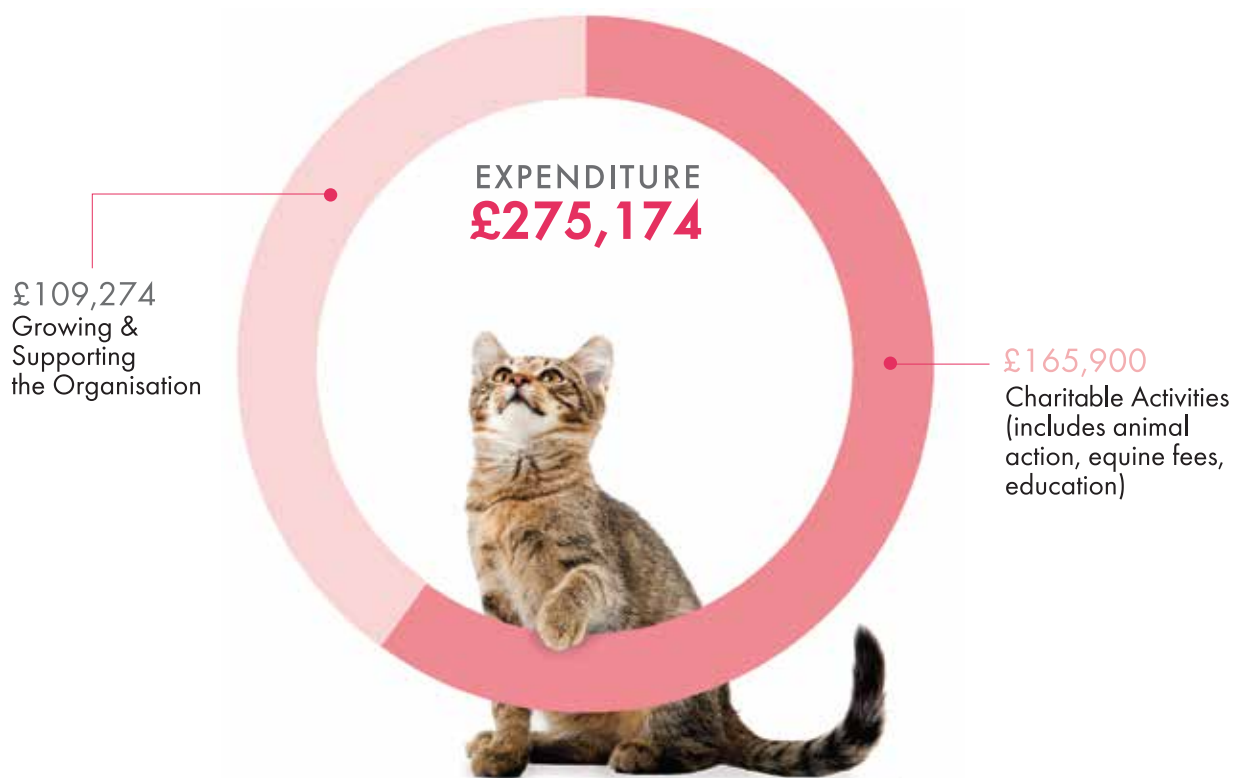
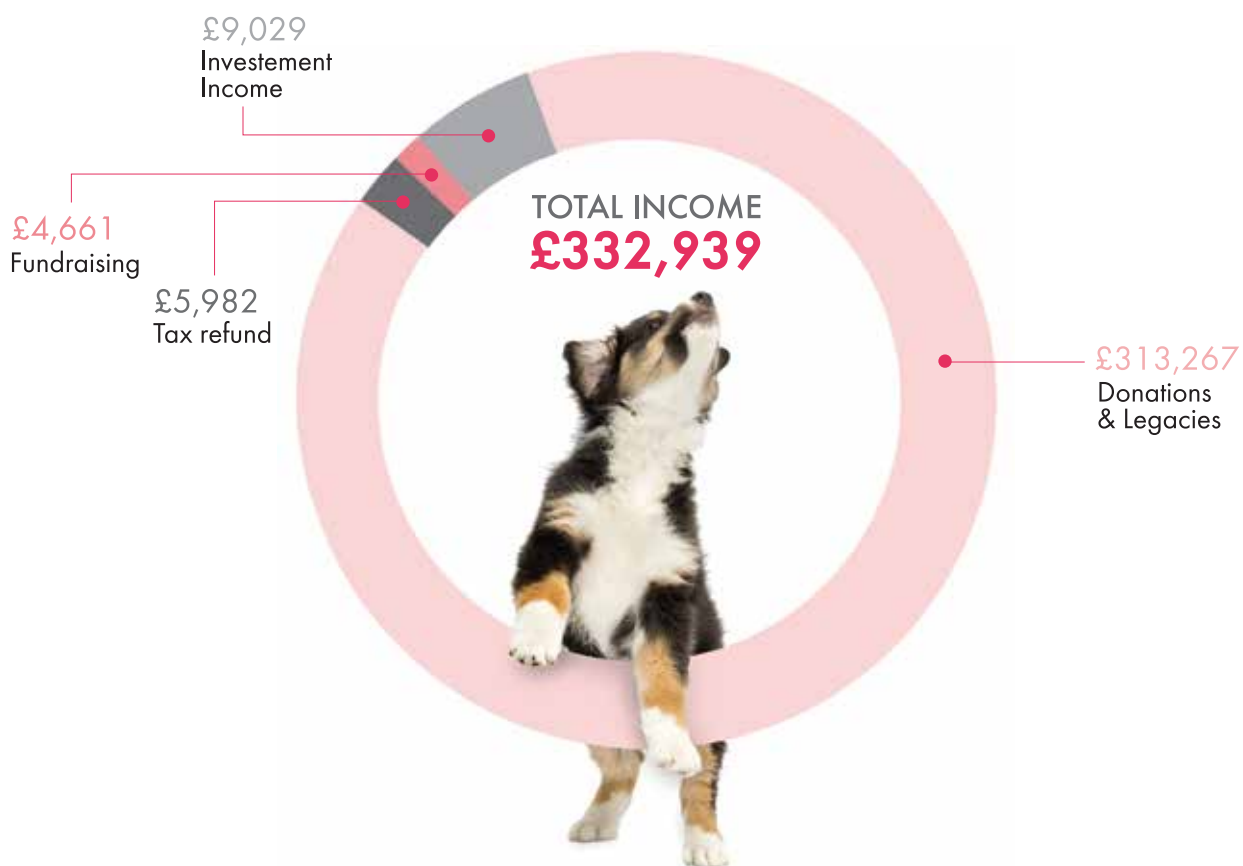
People remembering us in their Will again proved a crucial source of income for us and we are most grateful that our caring supporters continue to do this. Our total expenditure for the same period was £275,174 an increase of £77,794 on 2015 in the most part due to an increase in funds sent to Animal Action, rising costs related to the Equine Project, and on expenditure to improve our website. Another factor that had a negative impact on costs was

the exchange rate fluctuations caused by Brexit. Sterling fell against the Euro and more than half of our total expenditure is in Euros.

Historically, most of our income to fund our activities has come from unplanned, irregular donations and legacies, and is therefore extremely unpredictable. Because of this the trustees continue to consider it prudent to hold sufficient reserves in the form of an investment fund, to be able to carry out current levels of animal welfare expenditure for at least four years.



ACCOUNTS



We will send you a copy of our full accounts upon request, alternatively you can find them on the Charity Commission's website. Enter "Charity Commission Greek Animal Welfare Fund" in your internet browser then click on the "Documents" tab.



I would like to highlight the contribution of GAWF's Chair, Phyllis Dunipace and GAWF's Treasurer, Trustee Paul McGlone, who kept our finances and governance under constant supervision and found ways for us to improve how we account for the money we spend.

The staff and I are especially grateful to each of our dedicated Board Members for the time and commitment they generously devoted to GAWF throughout the year. In particular, we wish to thank this edition's Editorial Committee, Trustees Anna Stamatiou and Maria Marinos, whose creative contributions and encouragement supported our Head of UK Operations, Nestor Rousodimos, in putting together this 41st issue of Elpida.

No review of the year would be complete without a salute to the professionalism and perseverance of our field teams that went out to provide every animal they reached with the care it needed in what were often challenging conditions.

However, no matter how much effort we put in ourselves, we know that most of the work we did during the year would not have been possible without the generosity, kindness and compassion of the **individual people** who actively support us. Many of us care in a generalised way about the plight and suffering of animals in Greece; we are more grateful than we can say that in 2016 so many of you **cared enough to take action** –responding to our appeals with a donation, signing our petitions, reporting cases of cruelty or neglect, and engaging with us through social media.

There is so much that still needs to be done, and we look forward to working together with you and our many friends to build on our successes, extend our reach, and help more animals in Greece. We thank you warmly for your continued support.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Daphne Mavrogiorgos,
Chief Executive



WHO WE ARE



Phullis Dunipace

Chair



Paul McGlone

Treasurer



Anna Stamatiou

Trustee



David Salisbury Jones

Trustee



Maria Marinos

Trustee



Daphne Mavrogiorgos

CEO



Elisa-Geskou

Equine Project Team Leader



Vet Kleopatra Triandafyllou

Equine Project Team Leader



Nestor Rousodimos

Head of UK Operations



Sophia Kyriakopoulou

Operations Manager



Bunmi Shogade

Finance & Administration Officer



Serafina Avramidou

Neutering Project Officer

AKNOWLEDGMENTS

We're proud of what we achieved in 2016 and of the relationships we have built with funding bodies of all kinds, both in the business community and in the not-for-profit sector: The Hellenic Cosmos Cultural Centre continued to host our Education Programme. Our long-time supporters at The Donkey Sanctuary deserve a special mention for greatly increasing the reach of our Equine Project, while the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, and corporate donors, Animal Friends Insurance (in the UK) and WIND (telecommunications in Greece) made it possible for us to extend our neutering of companion animals, helping us to control the numbers of street cats and dogs and keep their populations healthier.

