

# Elpida 36

August/September 2014



Striving to improve the welfare of animals in Greece

## A stitch not in time. The story of Sifis

If this cat could write to you, this is what he might say...

*All my life I have been no one. I've lived on the street on the island of Serifos for a few years and I imagined I would end my days there. I had my routines... "doing the bins", scrounging scraps, dodging cars and avoiding unfriendly humans. Even though I'm not very old, in April I knew the end was near. I felt terribly weak and could barely keep my eyes open. When you're a street cat it's not clever to draw attention to yourself, especially when you've got very little fight left in you, so I just closed my eyes and sat in a corner, shivering. Most of the humans never gave me a glance but one of them noticed me and stopped. A few days later more came, and they caught me and put me in a cage. I might be ill but I've got my pride. I fought to get out and escaped, but the humans were sneaky and determined, and they caught me again. Then I made a sea voyage to a big city and a lady in a white coat that smells of disinfectant. She gave me medicine and treated my ear mites and dermatitis. For a while I felt better. But I've got something bad wrong with me that can't be cured and it's called lymphoma. The thing is, I'm not alone any more. People are caring for me now. I'll never be out on the street again, and, at last, I'm no longer no one. I have a name. I'm Sifis.*

We know we can't cure Sifis. We tried but we didn't reach him in time. All we can do for him now is make him feel loved and comfortable, and this we will do, but his story is nearly at an end. We don't want to find many more cats in Sifis' condition. Next time we want our stitch to be **in** time. Here's how...

Our neutering programme means that there will be far fewer sad endings like Sifis'. Where we neuter there are fewer street animals competing for food and living space. Fewer pregnancies and litters mean better health for the females, while castrated males do not fight and inflict wounds on each other. As the health of a colony improves, so does the acceptance of its presence among the human population. **Healthy animals are far less likely to be mistreated or poisoned.** That's the virtuous circle our action creates. Please help us to go on delivering it. In time.

On behalf of the street cats of Greece, a warm "thank you".

Brian

Brian Cowie  
GAWF/Animal Action Greece Chair

**PS: If you can give £25 today, we pledge to continue our lifesaving work for animals just like Sifis. Their future is in our hands.**



**I have a name. I'm Sifis**

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# Welcome to Elpida 36

## From the Chief Executive

As usual, we feel as though our feet haven't touched the ground! But that's a good thing when it comes to animal welfare - it means that we can promise our supporters that we are going all out to help the animals in Greece. From hands-on work – like our pioneering project to find an alternative to the cruel practice of hobbling (page 6) and our mass neutering drive in Athens, where we neutered and vaccinated more than 600 animals for World Spay Day (page 4) to our successful Education Project (page 11) and the lobbying work we do to change legislation, which leads to long term benefits (page 3) .

Don't forget to log onto our e-shop and order your Christmas cards or browse for a Caring Gift for any occasion. You can also renew your membership at the shop. You may also like to treat yourself or someone else to some extra special cruelty-free skincare products from our friend Jo's range. Take a look at page 7 for details – 10% of sales comes to GAWF.

As we head into the second half of the year we have taken time to reflect on the ups and downs of 2014 so far. We were saddened to hear of the death of Athanasios Veltsos (page 11) – a true pioneer in the field of veterinary work in Greece in the early days of GAWF. It's people like Mr. Veltsos and our founder Mrs. Close who had the drive and passion to begin the process of change for the animals of Greece but it is you, our loyal and caring supporters who have enabled us to continue what they started. As we enter our 55<sup>th</sup> year of **action for animals in Greece**, we want to reach out to each and every one of you. From all of us, and from the animals – a heartfelt “thank you”.

With warm wishes,

Amalia Sotirhou  
CEO GAWF/  
Animal Action



## New celebrity patron!

As well as being a renowned chef in Greece, a successful presenter of a travel/cooking show on TV and culinary writer of popular best-sellers, Vasili Kallidis is also a huge animal lover! GAWF/Animal Action is pleased to announce that he has now become a volunteer and supporter of our charity.



Vasili's first animal-friendly move was made in Easter when he posted via Instagram his support for our Free Range Eggs Campaign stating: *"This year I will buy free range eggs. The hens live in better conditions, graze eating worms and do not have to suffer being stacked in cages so that their bad karma goes into my Easter cake and cookies! "*

Vasili will be attending GAWF/Animal Action's outreach programmes across Greece to offer his assistance. He looks forward to lending a helping hand to our neutering and equine care programs which are carried out by our mobile vet teams. Welcome and thank you Vasili!

## No to angora rabbit farms

GAWF was invited to inform the Greek public, on SKY TV, about the cruel methods angora rabbit farms use in order to obtain angora wool for clothing.



A recent investigation into angora farms in China – the world's top producer of angora wool – revealed shockingly cruel treatment of rabbits.

GAWF's CEO Amalia Sotirhou sent a clear message that consumer demand drives the angora industry and the power lies with shoppers and the clothing industry to make the ethical choice – not to buy angora.

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# Campaigning and lobbying

## Building a Greece that cares about animals

In May this year there were local elections throughout Greece. Using our network of local animal welfare organisations, as well as concerned citizens, GAWF began collecting the signatures of 100 candidate-Mayors who had signed up to the following statement:

*"When elected, I pledge to implement the animal welfare framework law 4039/2012 through neutering and vaccination programmes involving stray animals."*

The pledge was accompanied by a list of arguments that explained why improved animal welfare measures were being requested from each newly-elected municipal authority.

The campaign ran successfully on many levels since:

- We managed to obtain 78 signatures/pledges out of which 27 Mayors have been elected (they take office in September 2014).
- We built rapport with all 100 Municipalities and highlighted the need for animal welfare programmes so that this issue is firmly on their agenda.
- We assisted local animal welfare groups and focussed in on a single 'ask' (such as an agreement to neuter and vaccinate their local stray animals) from their future Municipal Council. We agreed this in writing so the

groups can then follow up on necessary actions by their Municipal Council.

- We received media exposure raising awareness of GAWF on popular news sites and increased our facebook traffic and supporter base significantly in Greece.



Based on the numbers involved it would have been a Herculean task to lobby the majority of the candidates so we adopted the strategy of lobbying the MEPs most likely to be elected. It was, however, nearly impossible to book an appointment with them or a representative as campaigning took up all their time. Nevertheless we did

manage to meet with and obtain the signatures of six prospective MEPs.

Now that we know who the 21 Greek MEPs are, we plan to lobby them post Euro elections and ask them to sign up to the Eurogroup pledge. We plan to send all MEPs (except those of extreme parties) a letter congratulating them on their election and book meetings to explain the pledge so that we can potentially secure their signatures.

## MEP lobbying campaign: Putting Animal Welfare at the Heart of Europe

The MEP candidate lists were announced 2-3 weeks before election day (May 25) so this gave us a very limited lead time to get in touch with candidates.

The total number of Greek candidates running for the 21 seats was 1,299. This number is extremely high (compared to Germany where 1,053 candidates contested 96 seats, and Italy where 807 candidates fought 73 seats). In Greece the main political parties ran a total of 278 candidates.

## Forging strong links with the Ministry of Tourism

We had a very promising meeting with the Ministry's Marketing and Communications Executive recently and we are pleased to announce that following years of lobbying, we have finally made contact with the Minister herself (Olga Kefalogiani), who, having heard our arguments, is now very keen actively to work towards changing the perception of how Greece treats its animals. We have some exciting plans for a new project in the pipeline, and hope to announce these later this year, when we will go into more detail.

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# Neutering and veterinary out



Neutering candidates waiting in line!

## World Spay Day

World Spay Day 2013 overlapped into 2014 for GAWF this year – we simply kept on going with the neutering! We joined forces with the Athens Vet Association for the first time in order to conduct a free neutering programme for stray cats. More than 50 clinics participated, resulting in 250 neuterings and anti-rabies vaccinations.

Responsible citizens wanting to neuter the stray cat(s) they feed in their neighbourhood called our offices to request help. The response from the Greek public was huge and many people also signed up for our Friendship Programme.

We raised awareness through this initiative and it was featured on a prime time news programme - Sky Eco News TV. We are so pleased with the wonderful feedback we received from the public - we had many messages of thanks and were acknowledged as a leading animal welfare organisation that really helps and makes a difference.

## Funding from Fujiko Hemming

Japanese pianist Fujiko Hemming visited Greece in 2013 to perform and was so struck by the number of cats she saw that

she decided to fund a neutering programme. With her kind donation of €500 we neutered 65 stray cats in Southern Athens. Thank you Fujiko!

## BBF neutering

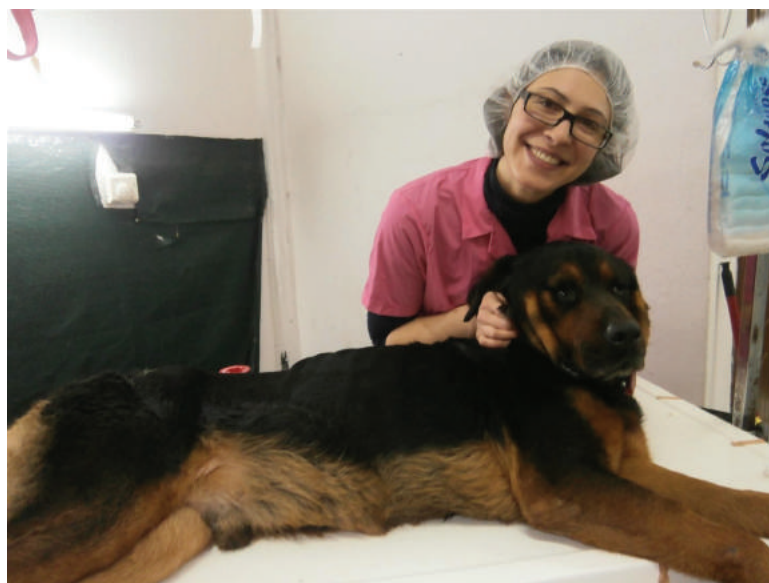
In April we ran a large-scale wave of neuterings in Athens and managed to neuter and vaccinate a total of 200, thanks to funding from the Brigitte Bardot Foundation.

We decided to do something different this time and the whole project was run and advertised through social media platforms, which worked really well. The response from the Greek public was amazing and we worked with our 7 partner vets to cover all areas of Athens. We are neutering more cats than ever before and making a significant impact not only to the numbers of free living cats but also to their quality of life.

## Chalkidiki

Following an invitation from the Municipality, on the 25 and 26 of January, GAWF/Animal Action's vet Eirini Ressou, travelled to the north of Greece to Chalkidiki for a neutering outreach trip.

A very active and willing volunteer team from Ag. Modesto awaited Eirini who managed to neuter 33 dogs and 2 cats over the course of the two days. All of the animals also received a vaccination to protect them against rabies, as is standard in our neutering programmes now.



Vet Eirini in Chalkidiki with a rather large patient!

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# treach

The whole project received a very positive response and we promised to return to the area soon and neuter more of their beautiful cats, as the stray population is quite large.

## Paxos

We revisited Paxos in March with our vet and two veterinary students, who both actively supported the vet in all the necessary areas. We were delighted to see young, promising vets-to-be, with such caring attitudes towards animals and pro-animal welfare attitudes, who are happy to be involved in and promote our work for the animals in Greece.

Along with the local animal welfare group, PAWS, we neutered a total of 38 cats and treated 3 cats with ear cancer. We would like to thank the Brigitte Bardot Foundation for funding this trip.

## Monemvasia

In April, we returned to Monemvasia and neutered 7 cats and 11 dogs. This trip was a great success, not least because our vet Eirini was forced to work alone since our second vet was bitten by a feral cat. It inflicted a wound that needed stitching, and she was therefore unable to take part. However, Eirini didn't let this bother her and managed to carry out the neuterings single handedly over one and a half days. She was certainly the hero of the day!



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## Seeking alternatives to cruel hobbling

GAWF/Animal Action launched a new project against cruel hobbling this year and we kicked this off on Paros on the 7th of June during our outreach visit.

Almost every animal on the island is hobbled, which is where two legs are tied together by rope, and in some cases tied again to other legs, in order to restrict movement and keep the animal in the desired location. During our previous visits we informed the owners about the dangers of hobbling and handed out leaflets but this year we organised a demonstration where we actually showed them, on site, how to use electric fencing as an alternative way of restricting an animal.



Although Paros is a main tourist destination in the Cyclades, it still retains an active tradition of farming, where horses, donkeys and mules are commonly used to work in less accessible land, and cows, sheep and goats are all raised on the island.

The field boundaries on the island are low and easily breached so, to prevent animals from crossing into neighbouring land and causing disputes, they are hobbled. This form of containment, while used for decades, is harmful to the animals. In equines, being hobbled from early life causes musculoskeletal injuries, the skin is often cut and infected by flies, working life is shortened and the animals suffer. The effects of hobbling on all animals are the same and can lead to death. A hobbled animal can't get over a wall but the temptation of food leads

them to try. Hobbling makes regaining lost balance impossible and the result is too often a broken leg followed by a slow, agonising death.

Our demonstration showed that electric fencing is easily adapted to different animals and with modern solar-powered systems it can be made to operate in a way which demands very low maintenance. This system gives animals space for feeding, easier growth and better conditions. Free walking equines are less prone to injury, lameness, breed more easily and have a longer working life.

Nick Turck from Farmcare UK explained in detail the parts of an electric fence system, the use of each part, the way they are connected and the different ways of easily adjusting the versatile fencing to be used for the different species of animals.

Four kinds of leaflets were handed out regarding the bad effects of hobbling, the advantages of the electric fencing, the procedure of setting up a fence and information on general equine care.

It was a very successful first attempt to introduce a practical alternative to hobbling. The owners that attended were genuinely interested. Some had never used electric fencing and went home completely informed on it. Others had tried to use it in the past but had failed due to problems regarding the type of animals they used it for, the dry ground etc. A few owners found it so useful that they bought their own fencing straight after the demonstration, and went home ready to install it.

We would like to thank Nick Turck for his amazing work and for kindly agreeing to bear all costs surrounding the workshops. We intend to demonstrate this system to larger audiences, as well as introducing more ways of training equine owners and farmers to stop using cruel hobbling.

Above left and below—examples of hobbling



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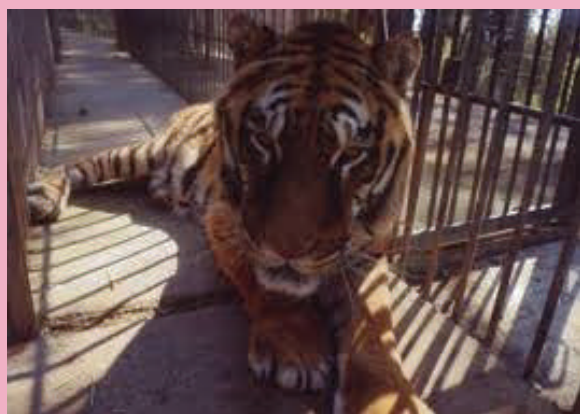
## **Phevos the Tiger**

GAWF has been supporting our former CEO, David Barnes, in his mission to rescue ailing tiger Phevos from a zoo in Greece, and relocate him to a sanctuary in California.

Phevos, and his companion Athena, both ex-circus animals, were cared for well until the economic crisis hit Greece. Very sadly Athena died recently and this has led Phevos to fall into a depression. He has lost weight and his health is deteriorating - David firmly believes that Phevos must be moved as soon as possible in order to give him expert care and a chance at the life he deserves.

David managed to raise most of the £11,000 needed to move Phevos by 15<sup>th</sup> July and has pledged to add the remaining funds needed himself. We are pleased to report that it now looks likely that Phevos will be moved to California, to a new, much happier and enriched life and we want to thank all of our supporters who generously contributed towards this very worthy effort.

David sent us an email recently and told us how pleased he was that our supporters had pledged funds towards this campaign. He thanked GAWF for spreading the word and generating donations and has promised to write an article for Elpida when Phevos is safely in his new home.



## **When Clare met Clare**



Our office volunteer Clare Smart is a compassionate animal lover and so when she flew to Naxos on holiday she wanted to visit to the local animal shelter.

The day Clare arrived at the shelter, the staff had found a little puppy dumped outside their gates. The poor, tiny thing had been tied up in a bag but she'd managed to get her head free. Despite the sadness of the situation – dumped animals are a daily occurrence for shelter workers – the staff chuckled when they noticed the back of the bag moving vigorously from side to side. The little dog was wagging her tail so frantically at the sight of her rescuers, and it was a funny and lovely sight.

The pup was named Clare, after our Clare and the two quickly bonded. They spent lots of time together and visited the beach so that our Clare could help to socialise the pup. Clare was sorry to have to leave but has kept in touch with the shelter staff, who are confident that they will find a loving home for Clare the pup soon.

## **Treat yourself to cruelty-free skincare and help the animals too!**

Our fabulous supporter Jo has kindly offered to give GAWF 10% of all profits from sales of her cruelty-free Sonya Skincare Range. We receive the donation when you make your purchase through this site <http://www.johendrickx.myforever.biz/store> – just click on the enter shop icon and do your bit for GAWF whilst enjoying beautiful, luxurious skincare products!

- Suits all skin types
- Suitable for all ages

Anti-ageing benefits - helps to build up resistance to factors that cause skin to age



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# GAWF Equine O

Our fantastic Equine Team has had a very busy start to the year with outreach trips and seminars all over Greece. As usual, a great many equines were treated routinely for sharp edges in their mouths and overgrown hooves, while others presented with far more serious issues.

In **Amorgos**, 43 equines were treated with 38 of them receiving dentistry treatment and 16 having their hooves trimmed. Lots of serious dental cases were found - in particular, an old mule with overgrown lower premolars that had twisted forwards and had to be cut; and a 36 year old donkey with long premolar hooks that had to be removed. This last patient arrived at the end of the last day so our vet had to perform the procedure in the dark – a real test of her skills - but all went remarkably well!

One of the working mules in Chora also had chronic laminitis. This mule was relatively young and therefore should have been in fit working condition but she was not able to work due to pain when walking on hard ground. Our farrier professionally shod the mule, enabling her to walk and trot again, free of pain.

An extremely obese donkey was presented and our vet Elisa had to explain to the owner that the lumps on the body and neck were fat deposits and not tumours as he had previously thought. Elisa gave advice regarding the dangers of obesity in donkeys and offered information on how to help him lose weight gradually.

Whilst visiting **Paros**, our team travelled by boat to the island of Antiparos which is opposite Paros, in order to treat the last two remaining donkeys on the island (sadly two others had died last year). Our contact on the island had tried for months to persuade the two elderly owners to accept our offer of a health check for their animals but they had initially been wary and reluctant. However,



Elisa rasping teeth

after our visit both of them were genuinely grateful and so pleased to receive treatment for their donkeys, who both had inflamed tendons and lameness and were in dire need of our help.

They are now looking forward to seeing us again and this is a lovely example of how with gentle persuasion, and a lot of hard work to build a good reputation, we have managed to integrate our programme

into general society in Greece, even when there has been resistance from those who may be too proud to accept help. It certainly isn't always easy but over the years we have become more and more accepted by working equine owners because they see just how much we can help them and also that we are very keen to teach them ways they can help their animals between our visits.

This was the third consecutive year that we travelled to Paros and during this visit it was clear to see the impact of our previous work. All the animals we had seen over the past 3 years were in a tremendously improved condition and their owners were listening very carefully to what we had to tell them. In contrast, during our first visit they been very suspicious and often ignorant of the problems their animals had. Moreover, we managed to see some new animals, treat their problems and spread the word about animal welfare and care to their owners.



Donkey foal on Paros

Our team revisited **Santorini** in May and as always, the two main stops were the caldera, where they checked the wellbeing of the mules used to carry tourists, and the island's shelter.

Our vet examined the animals at the caldera and observed that even though they were fed properly and were not dehydrated, they spent a great deal of time in the sun. Our team noted that the mules were not nearly as busy as they were the previous years, and felt that this could be partly as a result of the

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# Outreach Project



Vet Kleo checks mules at the Caldera

mule owners' reluctance to act on the complaints they have received from tourists and animal protection groups. Our team mentioned this and strongly recommended that all animal welfare issues were addressed. We will of course return to check the situation.

Next stop was the shelter for old mules that have "retired" from years of hard work at the caldera. This year the shelter offered a home to four more mules. Given the advanced age of the animals, it is inevitable that the majority of them face dental problems, and our vet had to treat a lot of ramps, hooks, and spikes. She also dealt with some veterinary problems and examined one mule with asthma, took care of one big wound and checked twelve mules with osteoarthritis. Our farrier spent his day helping mules that suffered from oversized hooves, one with ballerina syndrome and many with laminitis and imbalances.

Proper advice was given to the people running the shelter, so that they could attend to the animals' needs in the best possible way, at least until our team's next visit to the island. The advice was welcomed and the shelter's managers also expressed their gratitude for the fact that the mules live longer and far more comfortably, since GAWF began its visits to the shelter.

Each May we make a trip to the South East of Greece. Our visit this year consisted of 5 days in the area during which we saw and treated a total of 178 equines. Our team of vets and our farrier certainly had their hands full.

On the first day we landed in **Kalymnos** where we began by giving general health checks to all the equines on the island, mostly horses and donkeys. The next day we travelled to **Kos** and found that the main problem in both islands is that there are no vets or farriers and so the owners there are in desperate need of our visits and even anticipate them all year. By visiting year on year we are helping the local animal owners to build up their repertoire of skills so that they are able to care for their animals between our visits. They certainly make the most of us while we are there and drink in every last bit of information we pass on.

On both islands as always all the equines were given dentistry and farriery care. We had the great pleasure of seeing an old donkey that we treated last year - we had to extract two teeth from her then and she was about 38 years old and almost emaciated. To our pleasant surprise she had put on some weight and was looking like she had gained a few more years, which was very satisfying to see.

We had received a complaint about 2 donkeys in Kos from a tourist so while we were there we went to find and check on them. We managed to find the owner and one of the donkeys was indeed very skinny but the owner informed us that despite being fed properly, he had continued to lose weight. The donkey was about 30 years old and his teeth were in a dreadful state. He had wave mouth with very sharp edges to his teeth that had caused large ulcers. We quickly established that pain while eating was obstructing proper grinding of the feed and that was why the donkey was losing weight. We are certain that this donkey will now be able to eat comfortably and will start to gain some much-needed weight.

It is always so rewarding to visit parts of Greece that don't have vets, farriers or dentists and the local people (and the animals!) are always so appreciative of our visit.

On the last day of our trip we visited **Rhodes** where we spent some time in the shelter for small horses. Unfortunately, these little horses often have great problems with their teeth and hooves but, as usual, we were able to help. We also had a chance to visit the Lindos donkeys and check the condition they were in. Even though there has been some progress, compared to many years ago, there are still many things that need to be corrected and we feel it is a real shame that the owners don't accept GAWF's help and suggestions for im-

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provement. We will continue to check these donkeys.

In March we held our third seminar on the island of **Mytilene**, and as well as teaching new attendees, we focused on ensuring that the skills we have taught previously are being practised correctly. We specifically chose to hold the seminar in an area where there are a great many horses, and most of the owners choose to trim them and shoe them themselves. Besides locals and other trainees, we had many people from various other parts of Greece such as joining us to learn more about how they can take care of their animals - so the impact of our training is extremely far-reaching.

Delegates were divided into two groups, one for dentistry and one for farriery. The farriery theory covered the subjects of basic hoof trimming, hoof balances, problems arising from improper trimming and basic and more advanced principles of shoeing. The dentistry part covered areas such as normal anatomy and tooth growth, examination of equines, as well as basic dentistry problems and how to address them. After the theory the delegates were organised into groups for the practical courses that took place over the next two days.

All participants had the opportunity to work, learn, and practise in order to improve their skills and knowledge, under the watchful guidance of our farriers, vets and dentists. Delegates were assessed on their basic skills and some had the opportunity to move on to more advanced procedures. Some of the horses gave the trainees a bit of a hard time but this helped prepare them for the reality of working with equines and they all managed to carry out their tasks efficiently and effectively!

All participants were delighted once again by the seminar and left with improved skills and knowledge and are now far more capable of treating their animals, and bringing them comfort, than before.

This year in **Dadia** our team travelled for many hours into the mountains of Soufli in order to reach areas and villages that they had never been to before. They met mainly mule owners - loggers carrying wood from the mountains. These mule owners explained that they hadn't been paid for their work for two years, leaving them unable to afford any treatment their animals may need, and so assistance from GAWF was absolutely vital to them and to the welfare of their mules.

During our time there we also examined 129 horses in the villages and covered many miles. One of the most beautiful moments came when the team was reunited with an old mule. Last year our vet had been particularly worried be-

cause the animal was in very poor nutritional condition and had been losing weight for months. This was due to a wobbly tooth that wouldn't fall out due to the unusual angle of the root. Our vet carefully extracted it and the animal was relieved immediately. When we saw the mule again this year she was a very different animal - she had put on some weight, her coat was glossy and her owner couldn't stop thanking us!

In **Crete** our farrier treated the long feet of a rescued Shetland pony that was about to give birth while our vet gave information to her owner on how to feed the pony and give general preventive care.



Twisted, deformed hooves before...

Lots of veterinary problems were faced during the visit, including cases of colic, foot abscesses, skin mange, a sarcoid (skin tumour) etc. One of the colic cases was treated with simple drug therapy but the other was more serious and lots of fluids had to be administered intravenously. The sarcoid will be treated with a special treatment plan with the help of our vet and the cooperation of the



...and after. What a relief!

local animal welfare group.

The team, visited four beautiful villages in **Chalkidiki** and examined a total of 68 equines. On the first day they made their usual stop at the equine shelter where our farrier had to deal with two equines suffering from chronic laminitis and deformed hooves. In addition, two donkeys had oversized hooves - a condition that always needs special care.

During the second part of the trip our team examined many working mules used by the area's lumberjacks. An especially satisfying case was that of an elderly owner who for decades had used plate shoes, which are completely unsuitable. After a long and passionate discussion, our farrier convinced him that the best way of shoeing is using the open horseshoe. Today, his mules must be relieved and forever grateful to GAWF's farrier for changing the old man's habits and giving them some much longed for comfort and relief.

## Education Project success

Our Education programme continues to go from strength to strength and an amazing 1500 children have taken part in the Animals' Lawsuit workshop this school year. That's 1500 more children taking away a strong animal welfare message to pass on to their friends and families.

Some other great news from the project is that Ellinikos Kosmos, the Greek Cultural Museum that hosts the project, has decided to include our Animals' Lawsuit workshop in its summer camp programme, so we will be reaching even more children than originally planned.



Eager to begin!

Take a look at the fabulous photos from the programme. It is clear that this style of learning appeals greatly to children and encourages them to really live the experience and enter imaginatively into the lives of animals. We strongly believe that this leaves a lasting impression and a deeply ingrained respect for animal life. If we can plant such seeds in the future adults of Greece, we can expect the fruits to appear in the form of changes in the attitudes of the generations that will follow.



Dr. Athanasios Veltsos with GAWF founder Mrs Close.

## Athanasios Veltsos (1926-2014)

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Dr. Athanasios Veltsos who was a much respected animal welfare friendly vet and close associate of GAWF's founder, Eleanor Close.

Eleanor Close and Athanasios Veltsos met in Athens in the mid-60s when animal welfare was an almost non-existent concept in Greece, and managed with great difficulty to introduce the idea of animal welfare to a culture with very little regard for animals at that time. Together they launched projects that dramatically improved the quality of life of animals and significantly changed behaviours and attitudes towards them. They introduced humane euthanasia methods and fought to see anaesthesia used in slaughterhouses. Dr. Veltsos was also one of the first vets to neuter dogs and cats in Greece and paved the way for our neutering outreach programmes of today.

We are grateful for our partnership with Athanasios Veltsos, because together we made a huge difference to the lives of animals in Greece. He leaves a wonderful legacy.

## AGM Notification

We would like to invite all fully paid up members to join us for our AGM on October 15th 2014 at our office, 51 Borough High Street, London SE1 1NB. We will serve tea, coffee and biscuits. If you'd like a copy of our most recent accounts please check [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk) or contact us. Please let us know by September 30th if you wish to join us.

Please help animals in Greece—renew your membership or send a donation today

Name:

Address &  
Postcode:

Email/phone:

Signature:

Date:

I would like to join GAWF/renew my annual membership (& receive this magazine twice a year) & enclose:

☐ £20

☐ Retired/Student/Under 18/Unwaged £15

☐ Lifetime £200

I enclose a donation of: ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £10 ☐ Other £

(Please make cheques/POs payable to GAWF or Greek Animal Welfare Fund)

☐ Please debit my Charity/Barclaycard/Visa/Mastercard card No:

Expiry date:

MM / YY

In the sum of £

Security code:

☐ Please send me an acknowledgement

### Regular giving: Banker's Standing Order

Name of your bank:

Address & postcode  
of your bank:

Bank Sort Code:

Your account No:

Please pay to Lloyds TSB Bank plc, Butler Place Branch,  
1 Butler Place, London SW1H 0RP Sort Code: 309897 to  
the credit of the Greek Animal Welfare Fund, Account No:  
00747919, my donation of:

Amount in words

annually / monthly (delete as applicable) on

day ☐ ☐ month ☐ ☐ year ☐ ☐ and until  
further notice.

Name:

Address  
& postcode:

Date:

Signature:

### Gift Aid declaration – for past, present & future donations—GAWF/Greek Animal Welfare Fund

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made

☐ today

☐ in the past 4 years

☐ in the future

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2010 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2010.

#### Donor's details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name or initial(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Full home address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please notify the charity or CASC if you:

Want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please return to: The Greek Animal Welfare Fund, 51 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1NB

Tel: 0207 357 8500

Email: [gawf@gawf.org.uk](mailto:gawf@gawf.org.uk)

Website: [www.animalactiongreece.gr](http://www.animalactiongreece.gr)



Charity Number: 233574

Company Number: 881216