

## A Kasos diary

Kasos is a remote Greek island in the Aegean that we have been visiting for the past 2 years. Anna Stamatidou, Trustee of GAWF and Animal Action, not only sponsored this visit but also proved herself to be a real team player! Read on for her interesting account...

### Saturday 12th May 2012

Having satisfied our caffeine addictions, we got straight to work trying to catch the stallion we had been asked to castrate. We agreed that this was the best course of action, given that there is really no future for horses in Kasos (nowhere to ride them; no one to train them) and as a gelding Ares would have an easier, quieter life. Once the operation was over, and pain killers and antibiotics adminis-

tered, Ares decided he had had enough of lying on the ground and, he would get up now, thank you very much! But he had reckoned without the effects of the sedation, and there were some anxious moments during which someone got a foot trodden on, and Kleo was seen hanging on to a wobbly gelding's tail for dear life while Giannis tried to keep hold of his head. When Ares calmed he was led back into his stable where, once he was steady on his feet, we left him.

The team also saw Ares' mother. The docile mare was heavily pregnant, and we were concerned that as she was seriously underweight, she might not have the strength to push her foal out. There was nothing we could do except leave instructions that her feed needed to be increased – immediately! If she gets into difficulties during labour she will have to rely on the experience local shepherds have with helping their sheep and goats.



*Kleo and Giannis operating on Ares*



*Ares gets to his feet*

In the afternoon we went walkabout. The fact that the working donkeys on the island are now mostly retired has led to an attitude change among the islanders – they still regard the animals with some affection but are not prepared to put themselves to much trouble on their behalf. In their eyes they have become like a disused vehicle that it is no longer worth servicing. So we went looking for them.

### Sunday, 13th May 2012

A morning check on Ares to see how his wound is looking. Kleo had purposely left it open so that it would drain naturally and heal better. She administered liquid insecticide and an antibiotic shot. While we discussed his prospects, Giannis worked to show

Ares that he could safely allow someone to pick up his feet.



*Daisy and Flora soon after the birth*

*3 weeks later—both doing well*



### Monday, 14th May 2012

The mare (called Daisy), quietly and unaided, has given birth to her foal in the night! The little female (we named her Flora) was standing nuzzling her mother when we came down, while the mare stood protectively by. So another new equine life has begun, and the problem of what the future for equines on the island might hold, passes to the next generation.

### Thursday 7th June 2012

A fleeting trip back to Kasos and I managed to look in on Flora and Daisy. I am happy to report they are both healthy and well nourished and warmly welcomed a little TLC!

**Anna Stamatidou, Trustee**

# Campaign updates

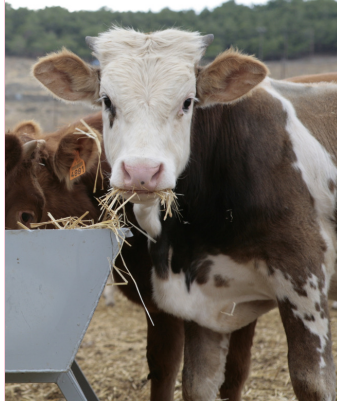
## Education campaign

Recently we have been re-examining our educational strategies, and looking at the most effective ways to get our messages to the mass public. We are turning to partner organisations and the mass media to help spread our messages more effectively – aiming to reach a wider audience than ever before. As well as social media, we are utilising TV, radio and print media to educate the public in Greece about our work and animal welfare.

Collaborating with TGI Friday's, we have created two entertaining and informative place mats with a variety of animal-related games and activities that will help communicate the welfare message to children. Working with partners such as TGIs enables us to reach many thousands of people with very little expense incurred – which means more money can be spent where it is really needed – caring for the animals.



we were informed in detail about the harsh conditions of the everyday life of intensively reared piglets, and, as a first move, we contacted the main offices in Greece of Lidl, McDonald's and Carrefour to let them know about the campaign, and to make enquiries regarding their supply chain and sources. The goal of this campaign is to stop the inhumane surgical castration of piglets without anaesthesia and painkillers and replace it with non surgical castration.



## Dairy campaign

Cows belong in fields. That is the simple premise behind Compassion in World Farming's dairy campaign in which GAWF / Animal Action is participating as one of their main partner organisations.

We are working to ensure that all cows have access to fields and pasture rather than being permanently housed with thousands of other cows, confined in giant sheds and milked three times a day - as they would potentially be in mega-dairies.

CIWF is using a new tool, developed by the European Commission, called the [European Citizens' Initiative](#) (ECI) (which enables one million [EU citizens](#) to call directly on the [European Commission](#) to propose a legal act) to secure EU legislation to protect the welfare of Europe's 23 million dairy cows. We will be working towards gathering 1 million signatures within the next year and securing a European Dairy Cow Welfare Directive. To find out more about this exciting new campaign visit [www.happycows.eu](http://www.happycows.eu)

## Eggs campaign

Old style battery cages were banned throughout Europe by an EU Directive on 1st January 2012. However, most producers in Greece still do not comply with the guidelines and requirements of this Directive. To encourage the public to choose animal welfare friendly eggs we produced a video which can be viewed online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLOjmuVbLs4>



We will continue our campaign to educate the public in Greece about conditions for battery hens and urge them to buy free range and organic eggs.

## Pig campaign

Between 8th and 10th of May 2012 the members of Eurogroup for Animals met in Brussels for their usual Spring Campaign meeting. The main subject of this session was an analysis, presentation and briefing on the forthcoming pig campaign. We were informed in detail about the harsh conditions of the everyday life of intensively reared piglets, and, as a first move, we contacted the main offices in Greece of Lidl, McDonald's and Carrefour to let them know about the campaign, and to make enquiries regarding their supply chain and sources. The goal of this campaign is to stop the inhumane surgical castration of piglets without anaesthesia and painkillers and replace it with non surgical castration.

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# The trials and rewards of the GAWF/Animal Action Equine Project Vet Team

**Vet Kleo taking time to gain her patient's trust**



Our team never knows what will happen from one day to the next and the weather conditions, the boat or plane connections and the accommodation offered often surprises us!

Sometimes the team has to confront strong winds, the freezing cold, the burning sun and the unexpected rain, and these can all make our work far more difficult than it would be in a veterinary surgery or even an enclosed area like a barn. The very nature of our mobile outreach work means that all of our work takes place outdoors with no shelter.

When visiting remote islands, we often run into difficulties trying to find convenient boat and plane connections and this summer, the team was forced to hire a sailing boat to get between islands. This enabled us to work for a day on each island and then move on to the next.

The accommodation, which is generally provided to us free of charge, is usually comfortable but this is not always the case. Last winter we returned after a particularly long and hard day to find there was no hot water for a shower! But there are perks to the work too and we get a great deal of satisfaction seeing the difference we are making from year to year. Despite the problems we encounter, our team is prepared for anything and our main goal is always to provide the best possible care for the animals we deal with and also to train their owners so that we can leave safe in the knowledge that those owners can apply the skills they have learnt to improve the welfare of their animals.

GAWF's equine team organised six trips in the first six months of 2012. We visited Crete, Soufli, Rhodes, Kasos, Kos, Symi, Amorgos, Paros, Santorini, Folegandros and Sikinos and 450 equines were treated in total.

The working conditions during the visits are never the same but they are always challenging to say the least.

## **A letter from a very satisfied equine owner**

*Hi GAWF,*

*I live on Kos Island in Greece, and was recently visited by Giannis and Kleo.*

*We were so grateful of their visit as we don't have a vet or a farrier here and needed some help. Not only did Giannis and Kleo address the problems that we had, but they taught us tips and tricks to maintain our animals' hooves, teeth and diets.*

*We had some pretty bad cases here that without help would have suffered for longer. It is not a case of abuse, just a lack of knowledge in many cases but all the animal owners were eager to learn, and they were both more than willing to teach.*

*Giannis and Kleo are both amazing people with the kindest nature. I have been in touch with both of them since they left our island with questions I had and both are more than happy to help. We are all truly grateful. Thank you from everybody here for allowing them to help the animals of Kos we can't thank you enough. Katy*

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# GAWF/Animal Action Mobil



Photo: © M. to Apostolides

Neutering is the only proven way to control stray animal populations humanely and effectively. It is estimated that every year 90,000 cats and dogs are abandoned on the streets in Greece. Approximately 2,000 dogs and uncountable cats roam as strays in the centre of Athens alone. The dire financial situation in Greece and continually diminishing incomes mean that more and more families can no longer afford to look after their pets. This situation, projected in the future, can only mean an increase in the numbers of the stray population, which is why we are prioritising our neutering campaign – all over Greece. Read on for accounts of some of our recent visits.

For the first time ever, GAWF's Mobile Neutering Team visited the island of Skiathos to conduct a TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) programme among the island's stray cat population. The programme was partially funded by The Brigitte Bardot Foundation (BBF) and locally coordinated by Skiathos Cat Welfare Association following an invitation from the Skiathos Municipality. We visited the island between the 6th and 8th of April 2012. During this time, a well-coordinated group managed to neuter 48 cats. Our vet team found the stray cat population of the island to be in quite a healthy condition, all due to the tireless efforts of the Skiathos Cat Welfare Society that was formed by Peter and Sharon Hewing in January 2007.

The next visit was to Milos between the 27th and 30th of April. Here our team of veterinarians provided care and treatment to the animals and neutered a total of 75 cats. In addition, two cats, both of which had been neutered some years ago, were found to be suffering from severe sunburn to their ears, and needed surgery, which was carried out successfully.

We would like to thank Sheila and Patrick Warwick of the Animal Welfare Association of Milos for the excellent organisation of the visit as well as the BBF for its generous sponsorship.



*Sedated and ready for surgery*



*Recovering after the op*

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# The Neutering Team in action

The 26 – 29th of May saw us visit Skopelos. Again, the trip was partly funded by the BBF and came about as a result of an invitation from the municipality.

During our visit and in spite of atrocious weather (it rained so hard we had trouble finding the cats) the team neutered a total of 50 animals. Our vets reported that the island's cats were in good physical condition, which we put down to the tireless efforts of the local volunteers who look after them all year round. We are grateful to the BBF for its generous support; the Municipality of Skopelos, which is demonstrating its interest in strays in this practical way and the committed group of volunteers that makes such a difference to the lives of the island's animals.

Between the 14 and 17th of July our team travelled to Sifnos and neutered 24 cats and 6 dogs. We are used to seeing lots of cats and dogs on our journeys but after a hard day's work, as we sat in a local taverna waiting to be served, we heard a tiny bleat and saw a baby goat at the table next to us! She was sitting on the lap of her owner who explained how she ended up with this unusual pet: "My father in law

runs a small milk farm and sadly the goat kids are routinely slaughtered to retain the goat's milk. I just felt so sorry for this baby and took her home, where she sleeps in our bed". That's one lucky goat!

We hope very much to return to Sifnos in the future and intend to carry on with our programme in the Sporades, as the systematic approach we are now using should yield results. We will soon see a noticeable reduction in the number of feral



*Evgenia with the baby goat*



*Mobile vet team in their improvised surgery*

and semi feral cats and an improvement in the health and wellbeing of the remaining population.

In conjunction with our neutering efforts, we hope to develop a public awareness campaign on Responsible Pet Ownership - focusing on neutering and not letting pets dogs roam the streets unneutered and unsupervised. Neutering the strays is only part of the solution, and we need to tackle the entire problem in order to solve it.

If you are part of a local animal welfare group in Greece and would like to apply for a visit from the GAWF/Animal Action Mobile Neutering team please see page 6 for more details.

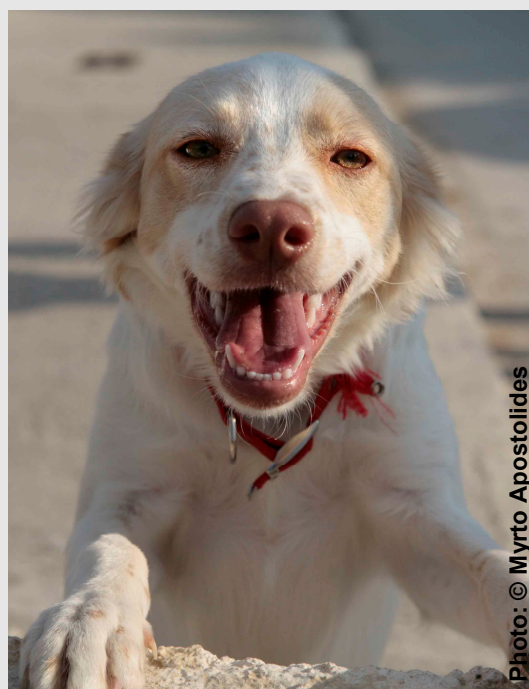


Photo: © Myrto Apostolides

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# News in brief

## Calling all groups—NEW GRANTS PROCEDURE!

Most of the grants we made in the past focussed on supporting local welfare groups in their neutering work. As we have reorganised our own neutering outreach programmes, we have found we are able to carry out neutering at a lower cost per animal than local groups. So, using the same resources, we are able to provide care – in cooperation with the same groups that we have historically supported – to a greater number of animals than before, making the funds of our generous supporters go further.

Therefore, for 2012, we are piloting a new approach to grants. Instead of supporting groups in their individual programmes we are offering a neutering visit from our own outreach team. Any group wishing to apply for such a visit is invited to contact us at [gawfgr@gawf.gr](mailto:gawfgr@gawf.gr). Together we hope to have a greater impact as we continue to control stray populations in the most humane, efficient and effective way.

## AGM 2012 NOTIFICATION

This year's AGM will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at the John Harvard Library, Borough High Street, London starting promptly at 2.30pm.

All fully paid-up members of GAWF are welcome to attend. Please let us know by 8<sup>th</sup> October if you would like to attend so that we can send you directions to the venue.



### Working in partnership with Thomas Cook

For some time we have been working towards building a relationship with Thomas Cook and we are very pleased to announce that the company has

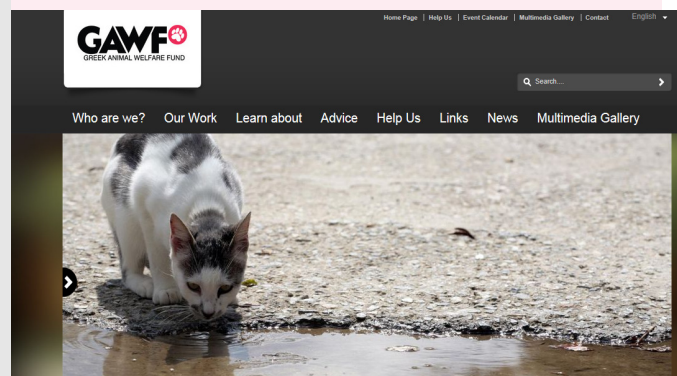
agreed to us designing a poster to be included in their customer information packs at hotels. This is a great way for GAWF to reach a huge audience of potential animal lovers and we are extremely grateful to Thomas Cook for the opportunity.

The poster gives people details about GAWF and what we do and a contact number and email so that they can call on us for help if they find animals in need during their holiday. As always, GAWF will try to put these people in touch with animal welfare contacts and will offer animal welfare advice.

## New leaflet and dual language website for GAWF/Animal Action

We've updated our information leaflet and would love you to help us spread the word about the work we do for animals in Greece. Can you give some of these to your friends and family? Or would a local Greek restaurant or veterinary surgery be prepared to display some for their customers? Please let us know and we will send as many leaflets as you need.

We have launched a new bilingual website (see below) [www.animalactiongreece.gr](http://www.animalactiongreece.gr) and this replaces the old website – [www.gawf.org.uk](http://www.gawf.org.uk) which is being phased out. To access all of our news and campaigns information or to make a donation for the animals of Greece please visit the new website and click the button in the top right hand corner to change the language to English. We hope you like the new website which has a more modern feel and is far easier to navigate. Do let us have your thoughts.



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# Local fundraising... spotlight on GAWF's Brighton group

On July 28<sup>th</sup> we held a fundraising and awareness raising event in central Brighton. The event came about thanks to the generosity of local business woman Lauren Heston who runs the Little Dippers swimming pools ([www.littledippers.co.uk](http://www.littledippers.co.uk)) Lauren is a big animal lover and wanted to donate many of her preloved clothes to raise money. We had a beautiful sunny day for the event and people visited us in their droves to check out the top labels and vintage designs we had for sale at very reasonable prices.

GAWF would like to thank Lauren for everything she did to make this event possible as well as our fabulous volunteers who helped us run the event on the day or baked delicious cakes for us to sell. We ran a raffle on the day which helped us to raise funds and these generous local companies and individuals kindly donated the following gifts:

- Toni and Guy Brighton - cut and blow dry
- Quince the florists - £35 gift voucher
- Tin Drum Seven Dials - 2 house cocktails
- Lush - Very Berry goody box
- Lauren Heston – candlelit swim for 6 people in a warm pool
- Jo Andrew's – a week of fitness classes



**Sarah and Arabella  
selling delicious**



**Customers flocking to grab a bargain and support animals!**

## Your time to shine!

Have you ever wanted to make a difference but didn't know where to start? Perhaps now is the time to stand up and do something proactive for animals in Greece! If you would like to start fundraising or campaigning in your local area please get in touch with us. We will support you in working alone or forming a group and can provide all the publicity materials you will need. Likewise, if you fancy arranging a train station fundraising collection we can supply your collecting kit and help you to organise this with your local station.



**All smiles for the commuters at Brighton station**

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# And finally...



Photo: ©Tolis Flioukas

## Fundraising

We've been very busy with our fundraising efforts this summer, collecting money at train stations and applying for grants to support our crisis appeal and enable us to

expand our neutering project. One of the grants we received was from the fresh handmade cosmetics company Lush and they awarded us £5000 for a sustained neutering drive in Athens. As Elpida goes to press we are right in the middle of this drive and we will bring you a full update in our annual review next year but for now, the project is progressing well.



We also applied for and were selected as one of 4 charities to take part in July's Feel Good Park Facebook vote which is run by Animal Friends Insurance. The charity securing the most votes received £5000, 2<sup>nd</sup> place got £2000 and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> were each given £1500 each. GAWF came in a respectable 2<sup>nd</sup> place and we would like to extend our thanks to all of those who voted for

us – the £2000 will make a huge difference to the animals. Thanks also to Animal Friends Insurance. If you are looking for pet insurance be sure to visit their website:

<http://www.animalfriends.org.uk>



## Can your vet help us?

We are producing a poster to display in veterinary surgeries throughout the UK. The poster will include GAWF's contact details and our text to donate number. We would be grateful if you would ask your own vet whether he/she would be willing to take a poster for their notice board. Please let us know so that we can post these out.

## Animal Action TVC

We have just finished work on a short animated film that was designed and made for us at no cost by FRANK and IMAGINA. The creators use a bit of risqué humour to support the practice of neutering. Now we're applying for free air time on Greek TV so that we can spread the message far and wide and the TVC will soon be available to watch on our website.

## A new way to donate for the animals of Greece

GAWF has set up 'Text to donate' to make it easy for people to donate quickly and easily. To donate £5 simply text **GAWF12 £5 to 70070** and please spread the word so that we can generate more funds.

## Greek Animal Welfare Fund UK

51 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1NB

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

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

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