

August/September 2013



Striving to improve the welfare of animals in Greece

The bad news: Rabies has returned to Greece The good news: with your help we could avoid an epidemic

Greece has been rabies-free since 1988 but in the last few months 24 cases of this terrifying disease have been identified in free-living animals. But the Greek authorities are not taking concerted action to deal with the problem so things can only get worse.

Rabies is a cruel and deadly disease. It targets the brain and nervous system and affected animals show symptoms such as delirium, aggression and paralysis. It is always fatal and can be spread to humans by a single bite or scratch from an infected animal. That is why the news of its return is feeding a wave of hysteria in Greece.

We know that some people don't need an excuse to treat animals cruelly, but if rabies becomes more widespread, we also know that we will see many animals being persecuted – and not only the sick ones. People lash out when they fear for their safety. With an animal- borne killer disease on the rise, the first victims are bound to be cats and dogs.

GAWF/Animal Action has stepped in—It's likely that you are familiar with our Stray Neutering Programme, and that we have neutered many thousands of animals, but did you know that we have begun to vaccinate each animal we neuter against rabies? We also plan to help Municipalities all across Greece to vaccinate animals in their ward so that, together, we can make a real impact – preventing the disease from spreading.

Your help is crucial—If enough animals are vaccinated – as with the recent measles epidemic in the UK – herd immunity can be established, and the virus will have nowhere to go. Eventually it will disappear from Greece again, and the

street animals will once more be safer from persecution... shooting, hanging and poisoning. Just £25 enables us to protect five animals, and the effect of each jab can last for as much as 3 years. So please, send us whatever you can afford today, and we will step up our vaccination campaign in a bid to return Greece to its rabies-free state. We have achieved so much for the animals over the past 50+ years; now, threatened by economic hardship and a killer disease, they need our help more than ever.

Thank you for being there for them. Best wishes,

Srian

Brian Cowie Chair GAWF/Animal Action

PS: It is only by working together that we are able to make long lasting and sustainable changes for animals in Greece. Please help us to help them in their hour of need.

NB: all money raised from this appeal will be used to fund our campaigns and projects



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Equine Project news



GAWF vet Kleo gets to work

lymnos the animal owners have no help whatsoever with their equines. There aren't any trained professionals on the island so the animals were in dire need of attention from our specialist vet and farrier, who offered their services in a calm and gentle manner, so as to gain the trust of the ani-

global health

Supporting working equines

Lucy Westmore, head of UK operations Greek Animal Welfare Fund (GAWF) describes the



Above: The work of our Equine Team was featured in a 3 page spread in Equine Health Magazine earlier in 2013

mals - and their owners!

as ever and so

have helped

Kos, Rhodes,

Kasos, Soufli, Dadia, Paros and

Provatona, and have also run a

successful train-

ing seminar in Stavros. Both los

and Kalymonos

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are new destina-

team and in Ka-

working equines

in Kalymnos, Ios,

Fortunately, the one vet living on the island was keen to learn, and eagerly followed the team around, observing how properly to care for equines. The owners were equally enthusiastic and the team managed to examine and treat 42 equines, most of which were working horses. Each year our expert team helps hundreds of ani-

Our Equine Team mals that might otherwise suffer in silence. We also arrange has been as busy for equine owners to be trained and given the skills they need properly to care for their animals. Our farriery semifar this year they nar in Stavros earlier this year did just that – and more. We were able to offer the 12 amateur farriers and 25 trainee veterinarians in attendance the opportunity to develop their practical skills, as they were offered the experience that only dealing with real cases can give.

> The Equine Project has been caring for animals and making a sustainable difference for 14 years now - but it hasn't always been a smooth ride. In the early years many owners were sceptical about our intentions - they simply couldn't believe that anyone would want to help their animals for free! It took some years to convince them that as an animal welfare organisation our only concern was the animals but slowly and surely people began to acknowledge the good work we did and gradually trust built. Nowadays we have more requests for help than we can possibly respond to, particularly in these times of financial crisis, but we know that through our programme of skill sharing and training we are enabling the Greek people to ensure their animals are working comfortably and that their health and welfare are not compromised.



Giannis and Aris working side-by-side to teach their eager students at our Stavros seminar

It is our wish that one day, we will not be needed at all as more and more vets in Greece show an interest in working with equines and more owners are trained in basic farriery and health care.

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Rescuing Barbarella



During one of our recent outreach visits to Paros our team not only managed to offer much needed treatment to a young donkey but also to find her an amazing new home!

The donkey was found in a dreadful state. The injury to her leg had been caused by barbed wire and was a deep cut that had been left untreated for at least a week. She was in severe pain and could barely put her foot on the ground so stood holding it in the air. The leg was

Barbarella's leg was in a sorry state when we found her

bleeding, full of pus and granulation tissue and our vet Elisa got to work – carefully and gently cleaning and treating the wound immediately.

The very next day the donkey started walking again. In order to recover fully, the wound would need to be treated on a daily basis for a more than a month, so Elisa showed the owner exactly what to do in order to prevent further infec-



The leg was in a sorry state when we removed Barbarella from her owner

tion and growth of granulation tissue.

After we left the island, Mary and Marielli (who had organised our visit) kept sending photos to Elisa so that she could follow the progress of the donkey, and the owner was informed that we were keeping an eye on the treatment to ensure things continued to improve. However, he didn't continue with the treatment as he had promised and put the donkey in grave danger.

We were determined to save the donkey and insisted on moving her to a new, more suitable home where she could receive the proper treatment. The owner reluctantly agreed and Barbarella (as she was now known - after that pesky barbed



Almost as good as new

wire) was removed although sadly, by this time, the leg was once more in a sorry state... swollen and infected.

Mary took good care of the wound while a suitable new home was found, and soon enough Barbarella was transported from Paros to a donkey sanctuary on the mainland where care is now given daily. Her leg has improved so much that very soon it will be completely healed.

Barbarella's life has changed beyond her wildest dreams and we are so pleased to report that she is happy and content and enjoying the company of other donkeys in her new "forever home".

Barbarella relaxing and recuperating in her new forever home

Animal Action Friendship Programme

Due to the volume of phone calls we have received from animal-loving people in Greece requesting help with neutering their neighbourhood strays, we decided to launch our new "Friendship Programme". Sensitive to the dire economic conditions, we wish to support, to the extent that we are able to, those caring people that are looking after their local strays. They are not only helping the animals themselves but also making a valuable contribution to society as a whole. People in Greece can sign up to the programme for just €25, which is sufficient to allow a stray cat to be neutered and to cover the annual Friend's membership fee. A very warm welcome to all of our new friends – we are thrilled to have so many on board already!

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News, campaigns

GAWF/Animal Action Greece AGM notification

Please come and join us in London Bridge (venue tbc) on October 22nd 2013

The meeting will include a presentation on the previous year's projects and campaigns and you will have the opportunity to ask staff and trustees questions about all aspects of our work. All fully paid up members are welcome so please let us know if you plan to join us so that we can get an idea of numbers attending. We hope to see lots of our members on the 22nd October!

Newsflash – biggest ever fine for animal cruelty imposed In Greece!

When a small white sack was thrown from a moving car in Kilkis, Northern Greece, onlookers rushed to investigate. Inside the sack they found a small, terrified dog. Quick thinking meant that the dog's rescuers were able to take note of the perpetrator's number plates and they reported him to the police.

The man was arrested and given the highest fine ever for animal cruelty in Greece - a whopping €31,000! The best news of all is that lovely Valia the dog has recovered from her ordeal and is in a local shelter awaiting a home and receiving lots of TLC in the meantime. This hefty fine sends a strong message to would-be animal abusers that despicable acts of cruelty like this will not be tolerated and will be punished.





Happy Cows

The Better Dairy campaign is growing in momentum and numbers - more than 190,000 citizens across Europe have now signed the Supporting Better Dairy petition calling for better welfare standards for dairy cows.

Earlier this year GAWF/Animal Action and Ben & Jerry's joined forces in the campaign with a

'Free Cone Day'. Ben and Jerry's the ice cream makers showed their support by giving all customers a free scoop of ice cream and this gave us the chance to

speak to people about dairy cow welfare and encourage them to sign the Better Dairy petition. The event was a great success and we collected over 1500 signatures in Athens!

If you haven't signed up you can do so at <u>www.happycows.eu/sign</u>



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nd project updates

Any old iron?

Well, perhaps not iron but do you own a vehicle that you want to sell or get rid of? If so please think about donating it to GAWF/Animal Action through Giveacar and help our lifesaving work for animals in Greece!

Giveacar raises money for UK charities by scrapping and selling old cars. They provide a nationwide FREE service which:

- Arranges the collection of the vehicle from your home
- Depending on its age and condition, recycles it at an authorised facility or sends it to auction

Scrap donations raise about £100 for the charity (depending on the price of metal) while auction cars can raise much more.

To arrange donation of a car, visit <u>http://giveacar.co.uk/</u> <u>charities/greek-animal-welfare-fund</u>. or call 020 7736 4242, quoting Greek Animal Welfare Fund as your preferred charity. Thank you in advance for your support!



The importance of neutering

We have a new short animation in production which we will use to raise awareness of why it is essential to have cats and dogs neutered. The film's stars are a pair of amorous 'love cats' that soon spiral into many thousands of cats. The key message is that just one pair of unneutered cats can become five thousand cats over the course of 5 years but there is a very easy way to stop this from happening.

We intend to apply for advertising space on TV in Greece so that this film can be broadcast far and wide and the positive benefits of neutering can be shared.



Thank you all!

Our supporters are the lifeblood of our charity and we want to say thank you for enabling us to continue the work we do.

Some of you donate to us on a regular basis, while others run events to raise money or spread the word about our work so that we can reach new people and grow as an organisation. Whatever you do to help us, we want you to know that it makes a huge difference so please do keep doing what you're doing!

A big thank you also goes to our funders, sponsors and partners including Wind, Atcom, Fondation, Brigitte Bardot, Donkey Sanctuary, and Thomas Cook.

Thanks to the RSPCA for covering the cost of our membership to Eurogroup for Animals.

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Neutering in Skopelos



GAWF/ Animal Action sent its mobile veterinary team to carry out a vaccination and neutering programme

Post op: a dog resting and recuperating on Paxos

for the stray animals of Skopelos on the 27th and 28th of April. The programme followed a formal invitation from the Municipality of Skopelos. Our vet team, consisting of two veterinarians Irene Resou and Argirios Resos, arrived in Skopelos where they were greeted by Britta Schubring, member of the local animal welfare organisation (SCAN Skopelos http://www.scanskopelos.org/) and Urania Kathinioti, owner of a local pet shop and future veterinarian.

This is GAWF's 2nd visit to Skopelos in less than a year - the team had conducted a stray neutering programme last May, 2012. Conducting sterilisation programmes at least twice within a year, is a cornerstone of GAWF's strategy, given that this frequency gradually leads to effectively reducing the stray population in the target location. In only 1 ½ days, a marvellously coordinated team of vets and volunteers managed to:

- Neuter 28 stray cats (19 female, 9 male)
- Neuter 6 stray dogs (3 females, 3 males)
- Vaccinate 35 stray animals against rabies
- Remove a cancerous breast tumour from a female bitch
- Offer dental care to a cat suffering from abscesses

 Provide overall check-up and deworming treatment to 35 animals

We are very pleased with the results of the programme, since we managed to help so many animals in need of immediate veterinary care. Productive and educational discussions were held with the locals explaining the benefits of neutering and how this is the only way forward if they aim effectively to manage their stray population. A healthy stray population is an image that must be pursued by every Greek citizen. Unfortunately, the beautiful island of Skopelos still lacks a permanent vet. GAWF will return for a third time provided we have the funding to do so. That is why supporting our work is so pivotal, especially in these difficult times.

We sincerely thank the SCAN group of local volunteers, the Municipality of Skopelos. Also, Urania Kathinioti for providing her time and her veterinary clinic and, of course, the Fondation Brigitte Bardot for partially funding the programme.

This year we have also visited Sifnos, Paxos and Loutraki to neuter, vaccinate and treat many animals in need of



Our vet working in Sifnos

our help. As well as routine procedures, our vets have contended with serious conditions and severe injuries including a gunshot wound and cases of poisoning. Our neutering and education programme will continue, and we will bring you further updates in the next Elpida.



A stray cat receives essential dental treatment

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A final act of kindness for Maro the mule

At the beginning of November 2012 we once again visited the beautiful island of Skyros to take care of the equines there.

The trip went really well but on the last day we came across a very unpleasant incident. A mule owner called our team in distress and it transpired that a couple of days previously one of his mules (Maro) had been involved in a road accident. She had run into a road where she was met by a speeding car that didn't have time to slow down and quite horrifically it collided with the poor mule. Thankfully the driver and passengers were ok but we couldn't say the same for Maro. Our team responded and travelled to Maro immediately. After examination our vet could clearly see that she had broken her right foreleg in many places. Her carpal joint was shattered and the metacarpal bone was also broken in two places. Of course she couldn't bear any weight on the leg and she was holding it uncomfortably in the air. As soon as we tried to do anything with her we realised she was very aggressive - someone who tried to examine her the day that the accident happened had been severely bitten by the terrified mule, who was clearly in agony.

From professional experience, we knew that Maro stood no chance of recovery from this kind of injury, so we explained this to her owner. We went on to tell him that the only humane thing to do now was to put her to sleep and end her

suffering. We also pointed out that once the team had left the island, there would be no one on Skyros who was qualified to end her suffering, so, if he didn't take our advice, the poor animal would be left in terrible pain indefinitely. The owner's decision was made with Maro's best interests at heart, and she was euthanised in a way that all animals deserve - with care and compassion.

Although this story seemingly ends sadly, it is an example of why our Equine Team Project is absolutely vital throughout Greece. Poor Maro would have continued to suffer had our vets not been present to help her. Our trained experts have the experience to handle these difficult situations. In Maro's case her owner clearly cared about her but she also helped him to earn his living, so it was necessary to have a carefully considered discussion about her fate. Because our vets are trusted and respected they were able to explain that the animal would never be in a position to work again, and Maro's owner was able to accept that this was the best outcome for his mule.

Thankfully, most of our stories have happy endings but we wanted to tell you about Maro because sometimes the saddest stories are the ones where we feel we have been able to help the most. And we will continue to put animals first while working with their owners to achieve ever higher levels of welfare for animals in Greece.

New GAWF Eshop

As we go to press, our new Eshop is going live! We wanted to give people an easy way to support the animals in Greece and

we're sure you'll agree that our secure shop is not only user friendly, but offers a great range of ways to help the animals.

You can select from a number of Caring Gifts and Tribute Gifts at the shop and stock up on your Christmas cards (5 fabulous new designs!) and blank note cards. We have also made it easy to renew your membership here or send a one off donation.

What's stopping you? Let's get shopping! Visit our eshop at: eshop.gawf.org.uk



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Lindsay's challenge for the animals of Paxos

Lindsay Geddes of Paxos Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), a group supported by GAWF/Animal Action, took on a mammoth challenge earlier this year - here she explains why...



Lindsay with Harry the Sussex Mountain Dog!

Fundraising is a perennial problem and I have to constantly apply for grants and dream up new ideas for raising money. In a moment of madness, and probably after a couple of glasses of wine, I was persuaded to enter the 50k (which was later extended by the organisers to 55k) Trans Pennine Challenge to be held on June 21st 2013. Always thinking that kilometres passed more quickly than miles, it didn't really register what a long way this was to walk in one day!

I had 6 months to prepare for 34 miles plus hills and it was the winter when the weather was ghastly and everywhere was knee deep in mud. In January the training programme began.

I had huge support from my friends and my little dog who with only 2" legs faithfully trotted beside me for hundreds of miles. Officially he is a Wire Haired Dachshund called Harry, but I have now registered him as a new breed – A Sussex Mountain Dog!

When the weather got a little warmer, I arranged to walk the whole of the South Downs Way with a variety of friends. This is a magnificent 105 mile trail from Eastbourne to Winchester which I completed in a week. Further training involved a 20mile South Down Hike and a 24 mile Surrey 4 Peak Trail by which time I had clocked up a total of about 380miles in 5 months. Surely I was ready?

Ten days before the event, I spent a very busy week on Paxos working on the new building that the municipality has given PAWS to use as a permanent veterinary clinic. The costs of the renovation work focused my mind on the impending charity walk so I returned home to the UK full of determination.

When the moment of truth finally arrived, my fundraising partner Graham & I set off for Manchester by train on the afternoon

before the walk.

The walk itself was an incredible adventure – the weather gods were in a good mood so we only experienced a couple of showers plus some light rain over the last 6k. The event was brilliantly organised by Action Challenge with four stops along the way. These comfort stations provided a variety of healthy food and drink as well as toilets and medical facilities. At each station along the way the Red Cross medical teams had increasing numbers of customers! The camaraderie with other walkers was wonderful so in a masochistic sort of way I really enjoyed the event. After 13 hours of walking through beautiful scenery along the Rivers Mersey and Tame and over the Pennines, I finally staggered over the finishing line to be presented with a medal and a glass of bubbly - I'll let you decide which I appreciated most!

Do it again? - not sure - I believe it was one step too far but ask me again in a few months' time. Recommend it? - Definitely!!

Celebrating at the finishing line!



Fundraising challenges - we need you!

Are you a daredevil at heart? Someone who likes a bit of a challenge? Or maybe it's time for that long awaited haircut. We are looking for people to take on personal challenges to raise funds for the animals in Greece. Whether you fancy taking on a sponsored dog walk or run, a sponsored silence or a bake-a-thon, we are looking for people just like you. If you fancy having a go please contact us at gawf@gawf.org.uk and we will help you organise your sponsored event to help the animals that so desperately need us.

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Fundraising news

Calling all art lovers

Greek artist George Tatakis has generously offered to donate 30% of the profits from the sale of his charcoal drawings and paintings to GAWF/Animal Action.

You can be the proud owner of a unique artwork, such as the piece below, and support the welfare of animals in Greece by purchasing one of his stunning pieces here:

http://www.etsy.com/shop/ GeorgeTatakisArt



Curry, sunshine, music, fundraising and friends

What more could you ask for? A huge thanks to Lauren Heston of Brighton for hosting another successful evening at her home in aid of the animals in Greece. With our trusty volunteers (thank you again Jenny and Mark!) running things behind the scenes, Lauren managed to pull off yet another great evening of entertainment and raise hundreds of pounds for GAWF.

If you fancy having a go at putting on your own fundraising evening don't hesitate to call Lucy in the office. She will talk you through everything you need to know whether you plan to invite just a few close friends or the whole street. Please consider running your own event and raising money for the animals in Greece who so desperately need our help.

We are currently planning another fundraising evening to be held in Holland Park, London and we have provisionally booked in September 14th. Tickets will cost £30 so f you are interested in coming along please let us know!

A quick and easy way to donate

Simply text **GAWF12 £5** (or the amount you would like to give) to 70070. This is a fast and secure way to donate towards the care and treatment of animals in Greece and every penny counts. Please share this on your social network pages. Thanks!



Brighton Vegfest 2013

In March our team of enthusiastic volunteers ran a stall at Brighton Vegfest... dressed as cats!

Jenny S, Sofia, Mark, Jenny D and Lucy spoke to hundreds of interested animal lovers about GAWF/ Animal Action's essential neutering work around mainland Greece and the islands, and our sustainable and practical Equine Project. Both projects make such a difference to the welfare of animals in Greece, with our neutering project showing clear results in terms of a reduction in numbers of cats and dogs living on the street in some areas, and the Equine Project demonstrating to owners the real value of good care for their working equines. They can see that it leads to clear improvements in both health and productivity.

Fabulous volunteer Jenny S donated one of her beautiful paintings for our prize draw and also baked 50 vegan chocolate cupcakes. Word spread that these delicious cupcakes were for sale on the GAWF stand and they were quickly snapped up.

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and also to Booja Booja for donating a box of their scrumptious truffles for our prize draw. Come and see us at Brighton Vegfest in 2014!

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Let GAWF take the strain out of Christmas shopping

Support the animals this Christmas by purchasing our lovely Christmas cards. Each pack of ten is just £5 including post and packaging. Simply complete the order form below and send it and your payment by cheque or use the form on the back of this Elpida. Alternatively visit our new online shop to buy your cards and caring gifts!

Description	Gift Number/ description	Quantity	Price
1. DONKEY AND ROBINS			
2. COSY FRIENDS			
3. ROBIN AND BERRRIES			
4. CHRISTMAS MULE			
5. CHRISTMAS MENAGERIE			
Caring Gifts (please write the number/s that correspond to the gift's you would like in the next column)			
Optional donation			
Total			

Merry Christmas



ith our wide range of Caring Gifts and Christmas cards

You could 'pay for a spay for Christmas' or purchase any of our other gifts, happy in the knowledge that your money will go towards our vital work. Just tick the gifts you want below and complete the order form on the left. We will send you a card, a voucher and a photograph which you can give to your chosen recipient so that they can see the good that their gift is doing.



All the money raised will go towards helping the animals that we work for and if the amount we receive for any individual item exceeds the funding required for that particular project, then it will be used to fund other aspects of our work. **Thank you for choosing a Caring Gift.**

1 £10 - buy an anti-tick/flea collar for a stray dog	7 £20 – buy anti-worming treatment for hard working donkeys	
2 £10 - buy cotton wool and bandages for dressing the wounds of injured equines	8 £30 - buy a full dental treat- ment for an equine	
3 £10 - buy a 3-day treat- ment for a hard working donkey suffering a foot abscess	9 £35 - pay for a spay for a cat or dog and help to control the population humanely	
4 £15 – vaccinate and protect a stray cat or dog against life-threatening viral infections	10 £60 – buy a trap transfer/ restrainer eliminating the need to physically handle feral cats. Allows treatment to be carried out safely with less stress for the animal	
5 £15 – buy preventative treatment against parasites for stray cats	11 £180 – vet for a day – provide a full day of neutering for stray animals	
6 £20 - Buy insect repellent treatment for 20 donkeys to prevent them being bitten by annoying insects	12 £1,000 – buy a 3 day neutering programme (covers all costs) on one of the Greek islands and make a sustainable difference there.	

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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 member	ship (& receive this magazine twice a year) & enclose:		
□ UK £20	Retired/Student/Under 18/U	nwaged £12 Lifetime £200		
I enclose a donation of: \Box £100 \Box £50 \Box £25 \Box £10 \Box Other £ (Please make cheques/POs payable to GAWF or Greek Animal Welfare Fund)				
Please debit	my Charity/Barclaycard/Visa/Mas	tercard card No:		
Expiry date:	MM / YY	In the sum of £		
Security cod	e:	Please send me an acknowledgement		
Regular givin	g: Banker's Standing Order	Gift Aid declaration – for past, present & future donations—GAWF/Greek Animal Welfare Fund		
Name of your bank:				
Address & postcode of your bank:		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.		
Bank Sort Code:		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		
Your account No:		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 under-		
1 Butler Place, Londo	TSB Bank plc, Butler Place Branch, on SW1H 0RP Sort Code: 309897 to ek Animal Welfare Fund, Account No: ion of :	stand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I under- stand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.		
	Amount in words elete as applicable) on	Donor's details		
		TitleFirst name or initial(s) Surname		
further notice.	a L year L and until	Full home address		
Name:		Postcode Date Signature		
Address & postcode:		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.		
Date:		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		
Signature:		your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.		
Please return to: The Greek Animal Welfare Fund, First Floor, 51 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1NB Tel: 0207 357 8500 Email: gawf@gawf.org.uk Website: www.animalactiongreece.gr				



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