

ΕΛΠΙΔΑ 44  
OCT 2019



## THE CRADLE OF CIVILISATION?

A LENS ON LIFE - ANOTHER STRAY VICTIM OF ATHENS – FORGOTTEN IN A SNAP.



© Margarita Mavromichalis

### The Greek Animal Welfare Fund

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### Animal Action Hellas

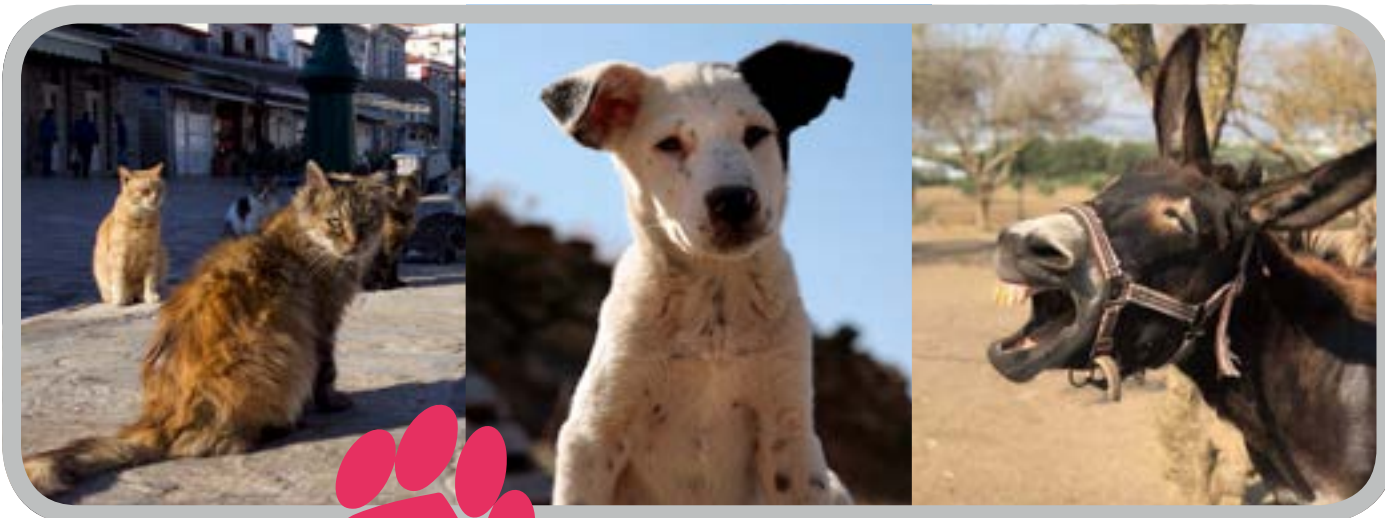
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[AnimalAction](https://www.facebook.com/AnimalAction)

UK Charity no. 233574 UK Company no. 881216





Dear Supporters,

Welcome to our 44th edition of Elpida where we celebrate over half a century of ongoing collaboration to bring hope to the animals of Greece.

As a UK-based charity operating in Greece since 1959, The Greek Animal Welfare Fund's (GAWF) purpose is 'the prevention and relief of cruelty and suffering amongst animals in Greece'. We have a vision for Greece; that it will become a nation whose people care about the quality of animals' lives.

As the longest serving animal charity operating in Greece nationally we are proud of what we have achieved for over half a century. Many animals' lives have been improved by our work. But there is still so much for us to do before the country becomes one in which the quality of animals' lives matters. That is why our mission is to use the way we care for animals to educate and inspire, encouraging changes in attitudes at every level of Greek society.

None of our work would be possible without our supporters – who give one-off donations, donate regularly or leave us legacies, however, the Trustees realise that times are tough. During recent times our income has declined, but, with your continued support, we can assure you that every penny received is spent wisely and effectively to ensure sustainable change and improvement in the lives of animals in Greece.



Phyllis Dunipace, OBE,  
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES,  
THE GREEK ANIMAL WELFARE FUND



This year saw the start of an ambitious three-year project (2019 – 2021) on the Island of Syros to neuter 90% of the estimated cat population of 3,000 (2,700 neuterings) .... Our first trip to Syros was on January 6 this year. The GAWF/AAH team spent three days on the island helping with a cat neutering "marathon", by the end of which 106 cats were able to go on to live longer and much healthier lives.

We returned to Syros in February to continue with our 2019 Cat Neutering Programme which will continue throughout 2019 with a target of neutering 1,000 cats by December - a third of the estimated feline population on Syros!

During the most recent trip we neutered a further 120 cats! This work would not have been possible without the expertise and tireless work of Dr Manolis Vorrisis (Aegean Cats, We Live Together) – one of the hardest working veterinary surgeons we have met – his team of assistants and the brilliant volunteers of Syros Cats – especially, Flora Vlachou, the

passionate and committed leader of volunteers.

We will return throughout the year to demonstrate that a concerted neutering effort is key to stopping the constant expansion of a stray population.

If it works in Syros, it can work on the other islands too!

The cats aren't terribly cooperative when it comes to keeping still and being counted but, if we reach our target, we will have covered about a third of the island's cat population. Our work is supported in a very practical way by the Municipality, which provides a man-with-a-van, and of course by your funding. Syros is gradually moving towards the aim of a happy, healthy and manageable population of street cats. It takes persistence and partnerships. It won't happen if the community isn't behind it, but we think Syros has all the ingredients for success!

Support us to prove that well-managed spay/neuter programmes give street animals better lives! Thank you for caring. <https://www.gawf.org.uk/donate/>



Elisa Geskou, our Equine Veterinary Surgeon, and Coordinator, on the Island of Paros in late September 2019 working with one of the resident donkeys during our latest outreach programme. In the absence of fences the residents of Paros are infamous for the practice of hob-

bling their animals to prevent them from straying. This involves restricting an animal's movement by tying its legs together, causing injuries and distress. This will be the focus of a planned year-long project in 2020 to try and eradicate this practice.



We have always worked in collaboration with numerous equine sanctuaries and shelters across Greece to provide ongoing support. Here are just two of those who have been part of our ongoing story ...



Post op and the source of the pain removed!

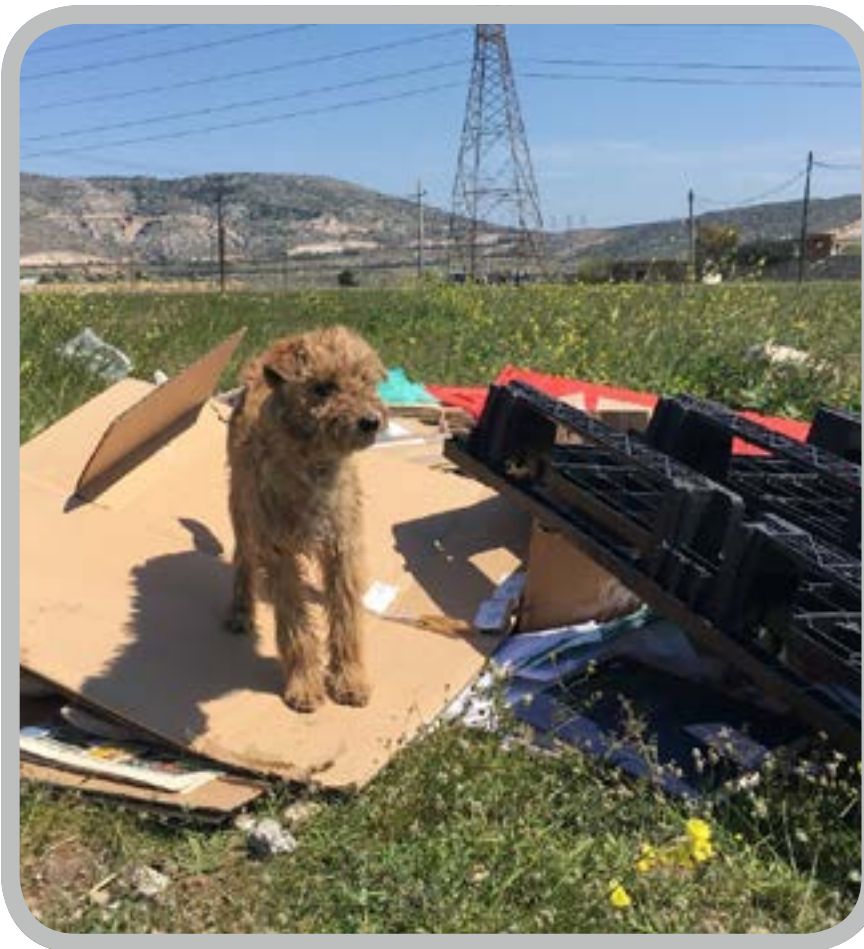


Vet, Michalis Gaganis along with our farrier Aris Vlachaskis were at work in Santorini this April as part of our ongoing support with Santorini Animal Welfare Association (SAWA). (The rotten teeth inset above are some of those he extracted)! All SAWA's donkeys and mules will now be able to eat pain free without any overgrown and diseased teeth hindering them. Your continued

support and generosity funds this vital work on islands like Santorini where there are often no Veterinary Surgeons available to carry out such specialised procedures. If you would like to make a donation to help shelters like SAWA, please complete the form at the end of this Elpida and return it or visit the website at

[www.gawf.org.uk](http://www.gawf.org.uk)





GAWF/AAH, have always prioritised collaboration and partnership with local animal welfare groups across Greece, often in places that aren't on the tourist trail; the industrial and unglamorous areas.

Areas like the one where the dedicated volunteers of the "Ghost Dogs of Aspropyrgos" work to support a stray population of dogs that exists almost invisible - a ghostly presence clinging to life at the fringes of human activity.

Like the volunteers, we understand that our neutering and spaying programmes not only add to the 'quality of life' for a stray animal but are also a key step in making any dog 'adoption ready'. So over the past few years we have focused on funding neutering & spaying to help the "Ghost Dogs".

When we can afford to, we also support them with emergency funding for outbreaks of disease, and with their ongoing need for medications for de-worming, vaccinations, and antibiotics (especially for treating canine STDs).

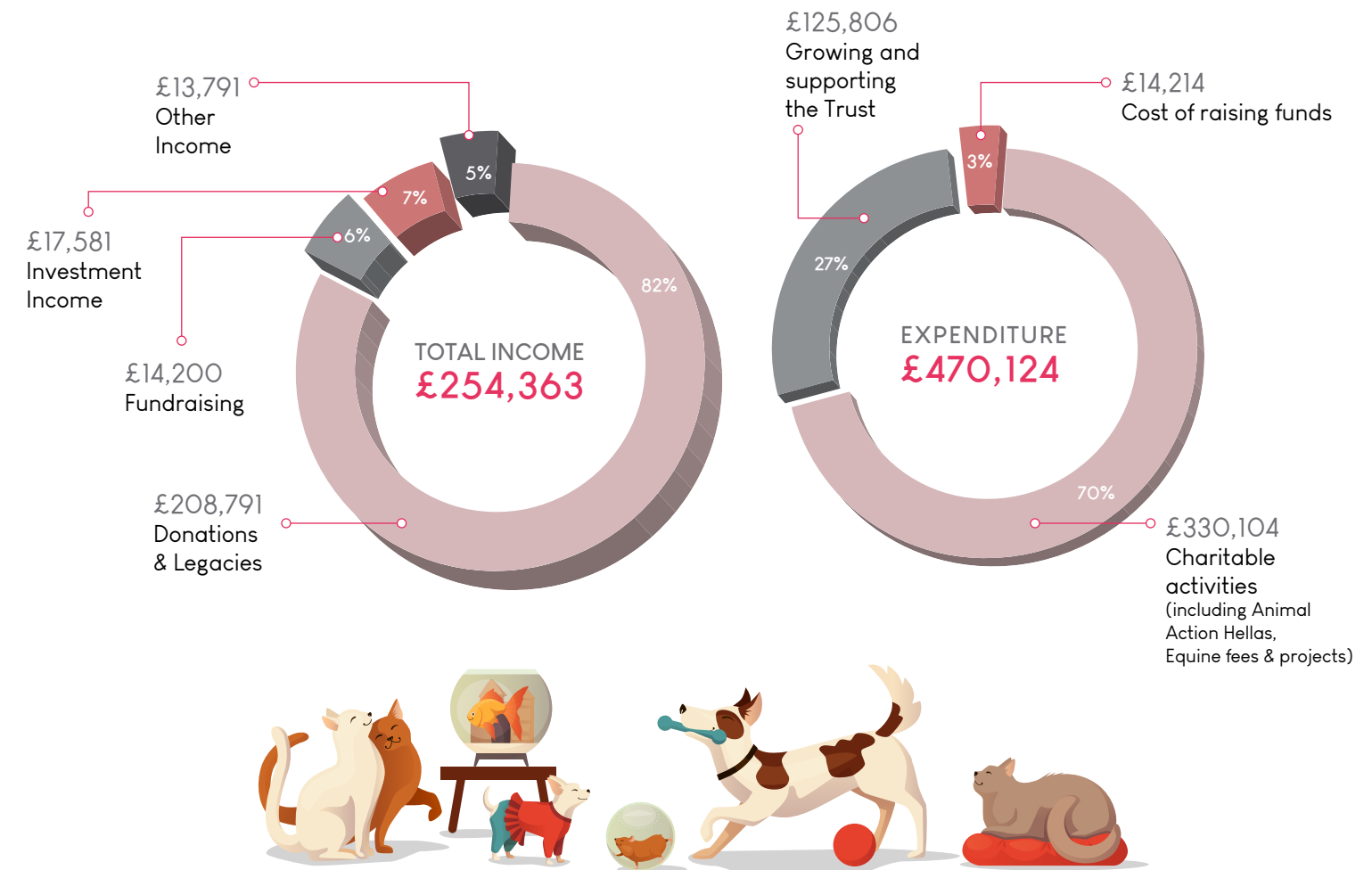
Although we don't have the resources or facilities to arrange animal adoptions, we do collaborate with groups like the "Ghost Dogs", who work with other international organisations to arrange them, enabling many individual animals to find loving homes abroad as well as in Greece.

With your help, we could double or treble the

number of sterilisation procedures we can pay for. GAWF/AAH has funded about 100 neutered dogs a year for the past 3 years and this has had a positive outcome for the animals and their chances of a better life.

This is what we would like to do with enough funding, longer-term projects are possible too. Here's what more we'd like to do to support the volunteers and the stray dog population in Aspropyrgos:

- 🐾 Carry out a proper survey to define the actual rather than estimated number of dogs, enabling better management.
- 🐾 Assist the "Ghost Dogs" volunteers with the construction of a much-needed permanent shelter.
- 🐾 Continue to fund neuterings to make dogs "adoption ready".



Our operational activities continued to be focused on ensuring our limited resources were targeted on four main areas seeking to improve the care and treatment of animals in Greece. They are:

- 🐾 Equine Outreach Programme, focusing on working horses, donkeys and mules.
- 🐾 Neutering Outreach Programme, for populations of stray cats and dogs in remote locations or those held in financially challenged shelters.
- 🐾 A subsidised neutering 'Friendship Voucher' scheme linked to a network of collaborator vets to pay for the neutering of stray cats.
- 🐾 Responding to Emergencies and urgent appeals for help.

We also continued to fund innovative projects such as our education project, respond to serious animal welfare crises such as the Athens Fires, and take action against organisations such as the Wildlife Rescue Centre (EKPAZ) of Aegina, all in the interests of furthering our mission. Details of these can be found under Achievement and Performance in the 2018 Annual Report and Accounts. A full copy of the GAWF 2018 Annual Report and Accounts is available by visiting the GAWF page on the Charity Commission website <https://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?regId=233574&subId=0>

When **everyone** goes home,  
we're **still here** for them



☒ **YES,** I want to help animals in Greece

- ☐ **£35** Covers the costs to sterilise a cat in Greece through our "Friendship" Programme
- ☐ **£50\*** Enables us to neuter a stray dog and add to their 'quality of life' by making them 'adoption ready'
- ☐ **£100** For the costs of the veterinary treatment of 2 donkeys or mules on our outreach visits

\*Most of our supporters send us £50

**Other amount**



### Personal details

Name

Address

Postcode  Telephone

If you haven't already, please give us your email

Please send me an acknowledgement of my donation ☐ by email ☐ by post  
(this option would help the charity save money on postage fees)

☐ I would like to receive a free booklet about leaving a gift in my will to GAWF

Online <https://www.gawf.org.uk/donate/>

Call **020 7357 8500**  
Calls charged at standard rate.  
Phone line open 10:00 to 16:00 Monday to Friday

Complete this form  
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Please pay the amount shown below **monthly** / **annually** (delete as applicable) starting on:

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Address of your Bank

Postcode of your Bank  Bank sort code

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Your address

Your postcode  Your telephone

Please pay to Lloyds TSB 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



The Greek Animal Welfare Fund is a registered Charity number 233574 for England and Wales

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*giftaid it*

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