



Founded 1996  
Registered charity no 1064664  
Company limited by guarantee registration no 3259867

## Newsletter: February 2018

Protecting stray and feral cats and dogs  
Promoting neutering programmes overseas

### Dear Friend / Supporter

We are very pleased to send to you our newsletter and share the highlights of our year as well as the new chairman Nigel Mason's report and Kate Horne's greetings from France, revealing the history of SNIP International and her thoughts on the years to come.

### Chairman's Report

I have now been at the helm of SNIP International for 9 months and I think it is fair to say that it has been steady-as-she-goes.

I recall the day Kate engaged me in conversation at the retirement event for Clarissa Baldwin CBE, former Dog's Trust CEO in the autumn of 2014. Little did I realise that I had been skilfully snared and sure enough I dutifully met her at the next meeting of the SNIPI board members and soon afterwards joined this small band of passionate and dedicated people. In 2017 and after some little thought I agreed to take over the role of Chairman – a rather daunting role to take on following one of the founders!



So what can I bring to SNIPI? Having spent nearly 40 years working in animal welfare in the UK for a number of larger charities, I certainly bring experience. I also bring many contacts within our sector and most importantly, I still have a passion to make a difference to the lives of animals in need.

SNIPI is a very small charity in terms of income but punches above its weight in terms of impact. So for the future we want to make an even bigger difference and so are exploring opportunities to do just that. Of course we can do very little without the finances to realise our ambitions so we must also concentrate on telling our story to a wider audience to raise those funds that will give us opportunities to help more animals around the world. We are looking at a number of new initiatives and will be able to tell you more about these as they develop into the future.

I look forward to working with my fellow board members into the future and hope to add to our number this year to grow SNIPI and its important work.

Nigel Mason

## 40 years hunting cats not men

### Preliminary

This is the nearest I'll get to an obituary so forgive the indulgence.

### In the beginning

There was Celia Hammond and a tortoiseshell cat living outside my office in Gosfield Street W1. Over the years I watched the RSPCA take her litters of kittens to an uncertain destiny. One Sunday Celia trapped the cat and had her spayed. The cat came back to my home in Islington and enjoyed a tranquil retirement. Celia saw that I had undergone a Road to Damascus experience and donated me a manual trap.

### Islington in the 1980s was a lively place to be

Margaret Hodge was Leader of the Council. In applying for recognition for SNIP, the Society for the Neutering of Islington's Pussies, set up in 1983, I was required to attend a meeting of the Environment Committee. I must have passed this rather daunting test because they gave SNIP a grant of £1000, one of the first Councils in the UK to award such recognition, and I was invited to become an independent member of the Committee. The sexy name attracted a lot of public attention; I still have copies of my appearance in TV documentaries about cat catching. It was around this time that our Patron, Brian Redhead, the broadcaster, told Margaret Thatcher, PM, all about SNIP, finishing with the remark, 'and it's on the Rates, Margaret'. SNIP is still working with feral cats, placing them in stables where they are welcome as rat-catchers.

### Setting up the C4 Consortium

We realised that we would not be making much of an impact on the cat population unless we started to tackle the source of the problem, entire domestic cats. In October 1998 SNIP convened a meeting with four other cat groups in north London, to create the Cat Care and Control Consortium (C4). We called on the big players, Cats Protection and the RSPCA, to fund a free – subject to income requirements – neutering scheme within the M25. By the financial year ending 31 March 2017 C4 had arranged the neutering of 123,248 cats.

### Why SNIP spawned SNIP International

Visits to the Mediterranean as a tourist were another milestone for me. Seeing the cat fertility on islands like Samos, Crete and Cyprus convinced me of the need to assist those who were already doing TNR (trap-neuter-return) and encourage its adoption where there was no such activity. Undertaking TNR without a formal structure involving issues like insurance was risky. We only needed a released cat to dart across a

road and cause an accident to be in deep trouble. After several private visits I was asked by WSPA to work as an adviser on visits around the Mediterranean and further afield in Grenada and Antigua in the Caribbean. The need for support from the UK in the form of advice and specialist equipment was evident.



Toasts for the success of SNIP International. From left to right- Linda and Peter Brookes, me, the late Princess Elizabeth of Croy and Joy Lenev, formerly of WSPA.

SNIP International was founded to meet this need. The impressive launch was held on 1 September 1996 in Lincolnshire in the presence of dozens of supporters including the late Princess Elizabeth of Croy and the late Baroness Miranda von Kirchberg. At first we focused on helping UK groups running neutering programmes round the Mediterranean: The Twinkle Trust, Friends of the Ferals, Care for Cats, etc. The basic equipment for stray and feral cats was a trap and a trap-transfer-restrainer, for dogs catching and handling equipment. As the message about TNR/ CNR (catch-neuter-return) spread, ownership of the problem started to shift in favour of local groups often run by enthusiastic young people. And the focus extended out from the Mediterranean to all corners of the earth.

The mechanism for allocating equipment operates in three directions: direct application to the Board of Management; application via the training courses offered by Dogs Trust with whom we have always worked closely and owe a deep debt of gratitude, and via the International Companion Animal Welfare Conferences organised annually by Dogs Trust. Another important partner is the equipment firm, MDC Exports Ltd, whose welfare orientation has been really valuable. More recently we have enjoyed partnership in special projects linked to ICAWC with the Petplan Charitable Trust. The overall figures are impressive – 1722 large items of specialist equipment donated to animal welfare groups working in 77 countries.

For a small animal welfare charity we have always punched above our weight, working alongside the movers and shakers.

## **20 successful years!**

On 19 August 2016 we celebrated twenty years of activity with a party at the Dogs Trust office. A unique event attracting a wide spectrum of animal welfarists some of whom were out in the field before I was!

I take this opportunity to thank personally all the Trustees over the years for their dedicated service, singling out for special mention Nigel Haygarth FCA, the first chairman, Clarissa Baldwin CBE, former CEO of Dogs Trust and Dr Jenny Remfry, a pioneer in the field. Friends of SNIP International due a special mention are Ian and Sylvia Keith, also Mike and Meg Armstrong. Lack of space precludes a longer list. To all – many thanks indeed!

## **And the future – for SNIP International**

You can be reassured that the future of the organisation lies in the hands of a committed team, comprising relative old timers and some new blood to bring the organisation more firmly into the digital age with all it offers for research and marketing.

## **And for me – ASCA in France**

No sooner had I retired to France than I realised I was stepping back in time 35 years in terms of animal welfare. Cats in every street requiring sterilisation, kittens born to abandoned cats needing homes.

ASCA (Association pour La Sterilisation des Chats Andelysiens) has managed over 1270 animals since it was founded in December 2011. We have adopted the C4 approach in working closely with other local groups. The relationship between the local Mayors and the 30 Millions d'Amis association parallels the C4 reliance on the big funders. Annika Lähdeniemi and Johanna Lopez, fairly new Trustees on the SNIP International Board, handle most of our adoptions in Paris and provide valuable interaction between the two organisations.

I'm giving it five more years here before I hang up my traps and turn to Proust (in the original?) and hope in the meantime to work on making ASCA a model organisation which will be totally sustainable when the time comes.



Photo: Valerie Cameron LRPS  
Speaking in Westminster at the launch of Animals Worldwide, set up by Sir Roger and Lady Suzy Gale.

Dr Kate HORNE  
Chairperson of SNIP International 2006 - 2017

## International Companion Animal Welfare Conference in Nicosia, Cyprus, 3-5 October 2017

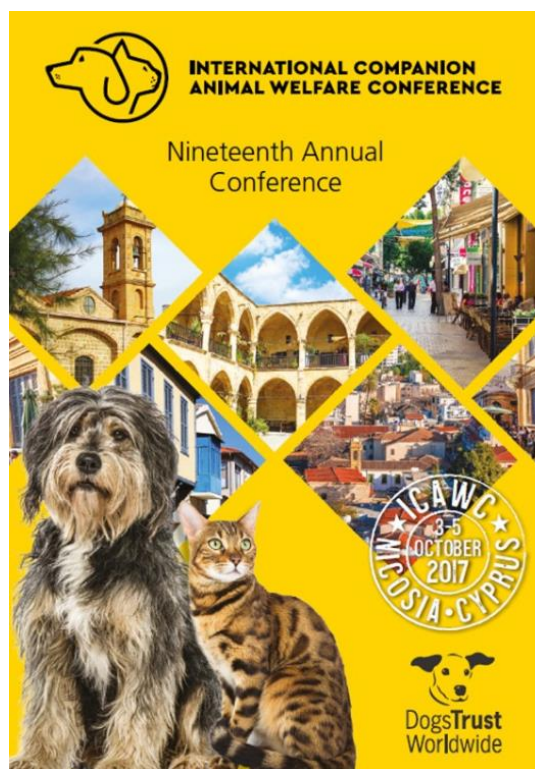
Last year ICAWC was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, and SNIP International was represented by three of the Trustees: Nigel Mason, Annika Lähdeniemi and Lisette Cartier Van Dissel.

48 groups applied for equipment, a similar number to the past 2 years. The groups came from 23 different countries: Afghanistan (1), Albania (1), Armenia (1), Belgium (1), Bulgaria (3), Cape Verde (1), Croatia (4), Cyprus (11), Finland (1), Germany (1), Greece (2), India (1), Italy (1), Japan (1), Nepal (1), Puerto Rico (1), Romania (5), Russia (4), Serbia (1), Slovenia (1), Sri Lanka (1), Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (2), USA (2). 48% of the groups had not received donations previously.

99 pieces of equipment were donated with protective gloves and cat traps being the firm favourites again.

We thank our partners MDC Exports Ltd and Cats Protection for their generous contributions to the pool of equipment that was donated.

Lisette



Left: Ravi Dubey (centre) from People for Animals Trust, India receiving a hospitalisation basket and a cat trap with Cats Protection's Maggie Roberts and SNIPi Supporter Ian Keith; Middle: Saving Pound Dogs, Cyprus, receiving a Vulcan dog trap with the SNIP International Trustees Nigel Mason, Lisette Cartier van Dissel and Annika Lähdeniemi; Right: Humans for Dogs, Cyprus receiving a Canine Cruiser stretcher with Maggie Roberts (Cats Protection) and Miranda Luck (MDC Exports Ltd).



Left: Sam & Mark Green from Dogstar Foundation, Sri Lanka with Cat Protection's Maggie Roberts; Middle: Norma Torres from You can make a Difference, Puerto Rico receiving lightweight dog muzzles with SNIPi's Annika Lähdeniemi. ICAWC was held just 2 weeks after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. Right: Dora Persi from NGO Indigo, Croatia receiving Rabies gloves and a Feline Fort with SNIPi Supporter Ian Keith.

## Project TNR Cyprus!

In March 2017 the Petplan Charitable Trust awarded SNIP International a second consecutive welfare grant for £2000. The grant was again match-funded by SNIPi, giving a total of £4000 used to fund TNR/CNR equipment for Cypriot animal welfare groups at ICAWC Nicosia.

Eleven groups applied to receive equipment through Project Cyprus and SNIPi will continue to evaluate the effect of the equipment donations over the coming 2 years. Many thanks again to Petplan for supporting this exciting project.

We intend to run Project TNR Poland at ICAWC Krakow later this year!

Lisette



Left: Donation to Dog Valley Rescue with (from left to right) Nigel Mason from SNIPi, Leah Stylianou and Petplan's Clarissa Baldwin, CBE. Right: Donation to Animal Rescue Cyprus with (from left to right) SNIPi's Lisette Cartier van Dissel, Zenovia Bancila, SNIPi Supporter Ian Keith, Oana Simion-Bodnaras and Annika Lähdeniemi from SNIPi.



Left: Donation to Kyrenia Animal Rescue, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, with Petplan's Clarissa Baldwin CBE and Margaret Ray & other KAR volunteers; Right: Donation to Roberts Dog Sanctuary with (from left to right) Annika Lähdeniemi representing SNIPi, Oksana Savchenko & her daughter and Petplan's Clarissa Baldwin CBE.

## Paphiakos

After ICAWC, Lisette and I decided to go to Paphos in the South West of Cyprus, to visit Paphiakos, the largest and oldest operating shelter in Cyprus. It was founded in 1982 by Christine and Christos Panayiotou under the name “Cyprus Cat Protection and Animal Welfare”, and since 1994, it has been named “Paphiakos & CCP Animal Welfare”.

It provides shelter for hundreds of cats, dogs, donkeys, horses, goats, bunnies, turtles... whatever animal finds its way there. It also provides free neutering for stray cats, rescue and 24-hour Veterinary emergency service. In order to be able to cover the costs, it also provides paid Veterinary services for pets at the onsite clinic, as well as grooming and boarding. It also runs several charity shops and a coffee shop to help raise funds.

At our arrival, we were welcomed by the stray cats outside the fences of Paphiakos, and on the inside, there were the donkeys, who have free rein of the site, and followed us throughout the tour.



Lisette and Annika with Oana Bodnaras, Advertising & Media Co-ordinator.



Zenovia Bancila, Shelter Manager.



Most of the cats roam freely outside, with access to food and shelter in the "cat house".  
All the cats are neutered and ear-tipped and very friendly!



The dogs are divided into several groups by their size, age and temperament. The day was very warm, so the dogs were mostly resting in the shade. They can also shelter in the barrels shown in the background. The dogs are regularly exercised and trained in a separate large paddock and get a lot of love and attention.



Lisette with one of the free roaming cats.

The number of animals was overwhelming, and the time and effort and money needed to take care of them is enormous, which is why Paphiakos, like so many animal welfare organisations, is constantly struggling. The animal welfare situation is very difficult in Cyprus, especially as stray dogs are banned from the streets by law, which means CNR (catch-neuter-return) is not an option, putting organisations like Paphiakos under tremendous ongoing pressure.

Paphiakos received equipment from SNIP International both via the Project TNR Cyprus and ICAWC. We hope this will help them, and we look forward to receiving their news in the reports shortly.

Thank you Christine, Oana and Zenovia for the inspirational visit!



Annika with a blind cat.

Annika

## Some thanks we've received

### HESY, Finland

HESY's main goal is to protect all animals within the resources they have. They have a refuge and handle mainly adoptions for cats and dogs but all type of animals through them: chinchillas, reptiles, hamsters, rabbits and even turtles! They also run trapping programs for feral cat colonies and received a donation at the ICAWC Cyprus:

*"The Feline Fort donated by SNIP International has been a big hit since half of the cats trapped come from feral colonies and the Feline Fortress has been a huge comfort for the shy kitties. The gauntlets have been very useful when dealing with feral cats."*



### Animal Welfare Ikaria, Greece

*"I attended the recent conference on Cyprus and was very fortunate to receive a crush cage. As well as the work I do on Ikaria, I organise various neutering programmes on different islands and rural areas throughout*



*Greece. The cage has already been used during a programme last weekend on the island of Poros, where we neutered 92 cats in 3 days. My next programme will take place on Hydra next month, followed in December with one on Ikaria.*

*As you can see the cage is going to be in regular use and such a huge help."*

### The Parcent Bridge Cats, Spain

A small organisation deals with several colonies of feral cats in their village.

*"Just wanted to say thanks again for the three pieces of equipment which you kindly gave us this autumn; I attach some photos to show them in action.*

*All have already been put to good use and in particular the nurse's best friend/dropper trap has proved invaluable! Thanks once again."*



### Haytap, Turkey

Haytap is one of the largest animal rescue groups in Turkey. It was founded by 8 different NGOs and is headquartered in Istanbul. Haytap supports TNR programs all over Turkey and also lobbies for end of animal sales in pet stores.

*"Since I received the cat trap, transfer cages and anti-rabies bite gloves in Dubrovnik, it has been more than 6 months. This is my report about how I used the equipment SNIPi has donated to us.*

*I have caught 11 cats and a puppy with trap cage. All the cats have been neutered and rabies vaccinated. The puppy had a broken leg and she is ok now, she has also been treated for worms and vaccinated."*

Johanna



## Coming up – save the date!

SNIP International will be donating equipment again at the International Companion Animal Welfare Conference – ICAWC – organised by Dogs Trust from 9 to 11 October 2018 in Krakow, Poland.

Following our successful projects in Croatia (2016) and Cyprus (2017), we will, in conjunction with the conference, also run a special donation programme for the local animal welfare organisations: Project TNR Poland!



## Thanks

SNIP International is delighted to acknowledge support from Cats Protection, Dogs Trust, the Ian Keith and Sylvia Keith Charitable Trust, MDC Exports Ltd, Petplan Charitable Trust and the SNIP International Friends.





**Protecting stray and feral cats and dogs  
Promoting neutering programs overseas**

SNIP International  
Founded 1996  
Registered charity no 1064664  
Company limited by guarantee  
Registration No. 3259867

#### **Contact details**

Email [snipinternational@gmail.com](mailto:snipinternational@gmail.com)  
Postal address SNIP International, The Chimes, 25 West Park Avenue,  
Cliftonville, Margate, CT9 3LJ, United Kingdom

#### **Board of Management - Trustees**

Chairman	Nigel Mason
Friends' Liaison Officer	Lisette Cartier Van Dissel, DVM MRCVS, Veterinary Surgeon
Communications Coordinator	Annika Lähdeniemi
Donations Coordinator	Johanna Lopez
Treasurer and Company Secretary	Bob Bacon email: <a href="mailto:Treasurer.SNIPI@gmail.com">Treasurer.SNIPI@gmail.com</a>

#### **Professional Advisers**

Animal Welfare Consultant	Harry Eckman
Webmaster and Publications	Doug Revell

#### **UK Bankers**

National Westminster Bank PLC  
SNIP International Registered Charity No. 1064664  
Sort Code 60-12-02 Islington Angel branch  
Account Number 13997084

**Website [www.snip-international.org](http://www.snip-international.org)**

Also on **Facebook** [www.facebook.com/SNIPInternational](http://www.facebook.com/SNIPInternational)  
*- Why not sign in and join over 650 followers?*

SNIP International is a member of the EU Dog & Cat Alliance.

