



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

Newsletter: February 2017

Protecting stray and feral cats and dogs
 Promoting neutering programmes overseas

Dear Friend / Supporter

We said in the last newsletter that we'd try to get back to you soon after each annual International Companion Animal Welfare Conference, usually held in October. We weren't able to fulfil that hope following the Dubrovnik conference in October 2016; you will see why when you read about how busy we were in the latter part of last year, with the 20th anniversary celebrations in August and a special project annexed to the usual ICAWC commitment.

20th anniversary event: 19 August 2016

SNIP International was launched on 1 September 1996 in Lincolnshire in the presence of dozens of supporters including the late Princess Elizabeth de Croy and the late Miranda von Kirchberg. The name of the new organisation was emblazoned in fireworks in the evening sky, marking its high hopes for the future.



On the left: Stamford Mercury reporting the launch of SNIP International on its front page. On the right: Toasts for the success of SNIP International from left: Linda Brookes, Peter Brookes, Dr. Kate Horne, Princess Elizabeth de Croy and Joy Leney.

Since then SNIP International, a registered charity and limited company, has established itself as the only animal welfare organisation in the UK focused specifically on the promotion of neutering programmes for stray and feral cats and dogs outside the United Kingdom. In recent years we have concentrated on donating specialist equipment to assist in overseas trap/catch-neuter-return programmes. The donation of a basic combination of a trap and trap-transfer-restrainer for cats and equivalent equipment for dog handling can be sufficient to equip a group of motivated individuals concerned about the proliferation of stray and feral companion animals with the means to start making immediate, humane changes to the quality of the animals' lives.

Twenty years on and we felt there was something to celebrate about our having survived so long! And also having donated over 1350 items of specialist equipment to animal welfare groups working in 75 countries initially in the general Mediterranean area but more recently much further afield including Argentina, Hong Kong, Morocco, Tunisia and Venezuela.

The party was held at the Dogs Trust office in central London on 19 August. We have always enjoyed a strong relationship with Dogs Trust, through the support of Clarissa Baldwin CBE and her successor, Adrian Burder.

How many of these stalwarts from the animal welfare world do you recognise? Look out for Celia Hammond of CHAT, who introduced Kate Horne to cat work in the first place; Clarissa Baldwin CBE, the long standing CEO of DT; Melvyn Driver, founder of MDCEExports Ltd, who gave a presentation on his new cat carrier covers, Brian Faulkner, an adviser on stray dog management; Dr Maggie Roberts, the veterinary lead at Cats Protection, Dr Jenny Remfry, a pioneer of TNR who was instrumental in getting the idea of ear-tipping neutered free-living cats accepted in the UK and across the world; Diana and Ken Lord, amongst others. This really was a unique gathering of animal welfarists of a certain generation!



The event provided the occasion for a public recognition of the immense service to the organisation by Linda Brookes. Linda was a founder member of SNIP International. Indeed you will have noticed from the launch photos that we had a great party at her home in Stamford. She left us for a while following a move to Cornwall, then rejoined the Board, taking over the vital role of Donations Coordinator from Janine Button. All those 1350 items donated were preceded by assessment of the credentials of the applicant group against a detailed database, and many involved complicated negotiations about the best type of equipment to donate and not least how to get it to its destination. This sometimes involved her daughter using her influence as a BA employee. Linda is also something of an expert on the constitutional aspects of running a charity and many times gave us the value of her experience from her contributions to other organisations.



Here's a photo of Linda receiving a portrait of an actual free-living cat, Confucius, trapped, neutered and moved to a small homestead in Normandy. The portrait was painted by one of the artists amongst our supporters, Ivor Livi.

Thank you again, Linda, for all you did for SNIP. Here's wishing you a long and healthy retirement; though one has the sneaking suspicion that you won't be able to keep totally out of the local voluntary sector for long!

Kate

International Companion Animal Welfare Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia 11-13 October 2016

This time the conference was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and SNIP International was represented by a trio of Trustees: Lisette Cartier Van Dissel, Annika Lähdeniemi and Nigel Mason.

Forty-eight groups applied for equipment, and they came from 21 different countries: Austria (2), Bosnia & Herzegovina (4), Brazil (1), Bulgaria (4), Cape Verde (1), China (1), Croatia (14), Germany (1), Greece (1), Hungary (1), Ireland (1), Italy (1), Montenegro (2), Palestine (1), Romania (1), Russia (2), Serbia (1), Slovenia (6), Sri Lanka (1), Turkey (1), Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (1). Of these groups, over half (54%) were local, either from Croatia (27%) or from its directly neighbouring countries (Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro). 43% of the groups had not received donations previously.



The number of items donated was eighty-three, amongst which there was a novelty: The Feline Fort®, developed by Cats Protection to offer hospitalised cats a place to hide and so reduce their stress. Twenty Feline Forts were donated. In this picture it's featured with two of the four “stray cats” (not real, of course!) that were sent out to Japan (2), Sri Lanka (1) and India (1) to spread the word about spay and neuter and how important it is in feline population management.



Melvyn Driver from MDC Exports with TAC, China; Annika Lähdeniemi with SPA Pomurje, Croatia; and Nigel Mason with Animal Hope, Bulgaria.



Dr Maggie Roberts and Mike Elliott from Cats Protection with Kyrenia Animal Rescue, Northern Cyprus (TRNC); and Lisette Cartier van Dissel with Animal Rescue Sofia, Bulgaria.

We thank our partners in this project, MDC Exports Ltd and Cats Protection for their generous contributions to the pool of equipment to be donated.

Annika

Project TNR Croatia!

In April 2016 SNIP International was awarded a welfare grant by The Petplan Charitable Trust. The grant was for £2000 and to be match-funded by SNIPi, giving a total of £4000. This was allocated to fund TNR/CNR equipment for local animal welfare groups in Croatia. This location was chosen as the project was planned to be held in conjunction with ICAWC.

We feel this successful bid was linked to the previous year's ICAWC in Porto where we caught the eye of attendees for The Petplan Charitable Trust for two reasons. Firstly, the layout of the Porto conference meant we were allocated tables at the back of the lecture hall and thus our team, the equipment to be donated, the detail of the allocation process and the enthusiasm of the recipients were all highly visible to attendees. In addition one of the main presentations was given by Harry Eckman, of Change for Animals Foundation (CFAF), who also acts as a SNIPi consultant, on his very exciting Praia de Faro project in Portugal. This big, ongoing project, which SNIPi has donated vital trapping equipment to, was described at length in our last newsletter November 2015.

Thirteen groups applied to receive equipment through Project Croatia. They came from all over the country, the majority (6 groups) were from in and around Zagreb (7 hours drive away from Dubrovnik) but they came from as far away as Rijeka in the west of Croatia (7 hours drive away) and Osijek in the northeast of Croatia (8 hours drive away, travelling through Bosnia-Herzegovina).

The applicants were asked to select their most desired items, in order of preference, from a list of 19 different types of TNR/CNR equipment available (dog traps, a variety of cat traps, trap transfer restrainers, hospitalisation baskets, canine stretchers, protective gloves, muzzles and collars).

As MDC Exports Ltd very generously offered to pay for the transport of all the equipment for Project Croatia, it meant that the full £4000 was available to spend on equipment. We therefore divided this amount by the 13 groups and allocated every group around £300 – including as many items as possible within the allocated amount. Around £50 of left over funds was spent on extra equipment for the local Dubrovnik group, Zarkovica Animal Shelter.



From left: Lisette Cartier van Dissel and Annika Lähdeniemi with NGO 9 Lives; Ted Chandler and Clarissa Baldwin CBE from the Petplan Charitable Trust with Animal Friends Croatia; and Melvyn Driver from MDC Exports Ltd. with Udruga za zaštitu životinja "Sedma od Devet".

All the groups were extremely grateful and one group in particular, Udruga za Dobrobit (NGO 9 lives) was exceptionally generous and gave SNIPi a plaque commemorating the donation as well as a basket full of handmade cat ornaments!

We have asked all 13 groups to send us a report within 4 months to show the use of the equipment and have included one of the reports below. We will also send out a follow up questionnaire after 6 months to allow us to evaluate the effect of the equipment donations more objectively.

Following on from the success of Project Croatia, we plan to run Project Cyprus at ICAWC 2017!

Lisette

Dubrovnik for cats and dogs

After ICAWC, Lisette and I stayed in Dubrovnik for a couple of days and decided to look for animals in the Old Dubrovnik. There are no cars inside the castle walls, which possibly makes it an ideal place for them.



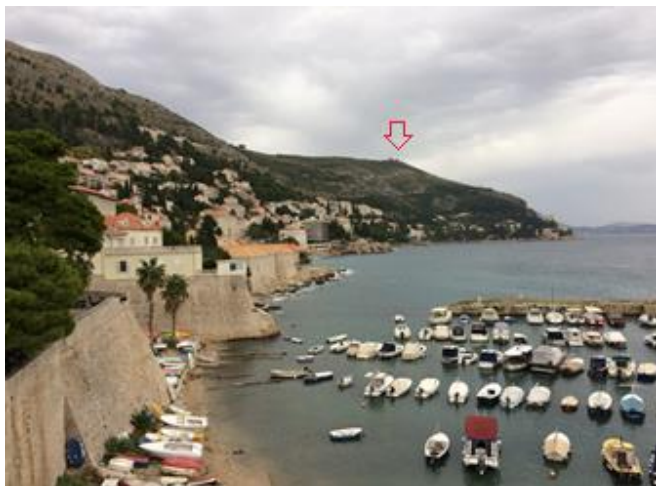
We saw several cats of which most were in good shape, and only some less so. It was not always easy to see whether the cat was owned or stray. We saw some male cats that had not been neutered and of all the cats we saw, only one was ear-tipped.

Everything looked rather good on the surface, but it seems like it's not that easy on stray animals. During the conference the municipality had threatened the street cats with removal and euthanasia. A petition had been raised and the order withdrawn.

Dubrovnik being the Crown Jewel of the Adriatic, the animal advocates should take advantage of it both by appealing to tourists' good will and generosity, and by putting pressure on the authorities.

Stray dogs are not allowed on the streets, so in order to find any, we had to go to the local animal shelter.

Društvo za zaštitu životinja Dubrovnik (The Animal Protection Society of Dubrovnik - APSD) was founded in 2001 and in 2004 an animal shelter was set on Žarkovica Hill as a temporary solution. And that's where they are still today, without proper buildings, electricity or running water. The town provides water brought by fire trucks (yet has to be carried up the last lap) and dog food, but that's all. And even at the shelter, the dogs are under threat. A little over a year ago, the police raided the shelter and removed dogs for euthanasia, and they were restored only after much protest.



From Dubrovnik, you can see the hill on which the shelter stands (look for the arrow in the picture), but you have no idea what it's like until you go there.

All the 300+ dogs at Žarkovica are micro chipped, and 85% of the females are spayed. The other 15% are kept separately. Males are not neutered due to lack of funds. There are 100 – 150 dog adoptions per year, most of them locally and occasionally internationally.



The settings were very rough with the unpaved path and old kennels, but the view over Dubrovnik Old Town was amazing, as shown on the picture on the right.

Unfortunately, that view has its price; the top of the hill is very windy and when it rains, everything becomes muddy. The winters are extremely harsh with snow and cold temperatures added with the strong wind. There are some old containers where the dogs are gathered in case of bad weather.



Sandra Sambrailo, Manager of Zarkovica Animal Shelter, Lisette, Tina Duk, Vice-President of APSD and Annika with loving and lovable dogs

We were pleased to see that despite the terribly high number of dogs present, they were behaving well; they seemed content and generally got on well within their little sub-groups. There seemed to be a harmony between the dogs and with humans.



We could see that Sandra Sambrailo, the manager of the shelter, really loves the dogs and they love her back, taking her as the person they can rely on. Her dream would be to find a good home for all the dogs. But new dogs arrive all the time, puppies in boxes by the gate and adults tied to the fence.



The next day, there was a big thunder storm in Dubrovnik and we could not help from thinking about the Zarkovica dogs when we looked up towards the hill that seemed to be so close to the lightning in the sky.

Annika

Some thanks we've received

Udruga Pobjede, Croatia

The group Udruga Pobjede is based in Osijek in the north east of Croatia. They run a no-kill shelter, opened in 2010. They have 50 volunteers who mostly work with stray dogs which are not allowed on the streets by law. In the past year they caught 260 dogs, neutered 300 and rehomed 360. They do some cat work also, having trapped 30 cats in the last year of which 20 were homed and 10 were returned to site. Project Croatia allocated the group the following equipment: Vulcan dog/fox trap, rabies gloves, soft e collar, Baskerville ultra muzzle. A message from Maša Riznić:



Udruga Pobjede dog trapping. We particularly liked the use of shrubbery to disguise the trap!

“During the ICAWC 2016 in Dubrovnik we were lucky enough to win all this equipment that had helped us in carrying out rescue and capture work. We sometimes have to deal with frightened dogs and it is obvious risk to the handlers. The capture equipment has helped in rescue and capture of many animals which would have been a challenge to accomplish without them. The equipment has been of great value and we seek to continue using them in our animal welfare work.”

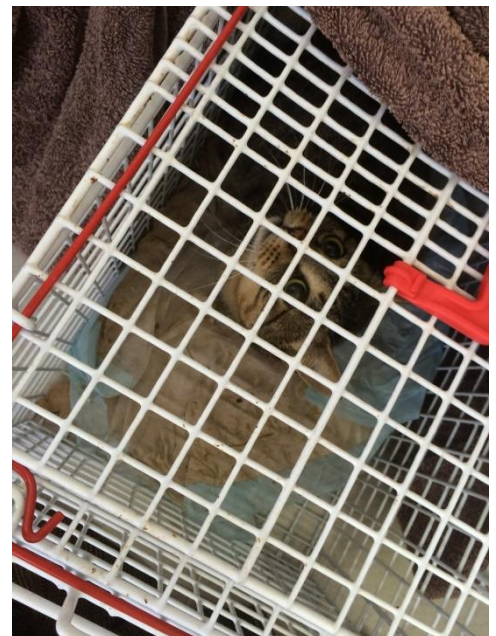
We feel greatly indebted to SNIP International for your kind donation of the equipment and we are very grateful for it. Thank you so much again and happy New Year!”

Veterinary visit to the island of Majorca, 25 November – 2 December 2016

The visit was organised by a German group, Chance fur Vier Pfoten, using visiting and local vets and local volunteer trappers.

“Here is the latest report of our charity, with many thanks for a donation of equipment from SNIP International (three trap-transfer-restrainers) which was all used in Majorca this winter.

We began an intensive spay and neuter program on 25 November. After seven days with 12 hour days in the surgery we treated an amazing number of 272 animals, including 253 cats which were spayed and neutered, 30 cats with serious teeth problems, c 50 cats received intravenous fluids due to their general health condition, 15 cats were tested for FIV/FelV, 20 cats were treated for ear mites, 8 cats which were suffering were euthanized, one cat had to have its ears amputated because of cancer, two cats had to stay with us for three days because of a serious bite wound that needed drainage and daily cleaning, five dogs were spayed as well.



Cat in a trap-transfer-restrainer donated by SNIP International

All those involved in this week and before and after are volunteers. Without volunteers these programs are not possible. The work continues and our vet in Felanitx continues to support us during the winter months”.



Cat trapping in the woods of Ibiza

Care4Cats on the island of Ibiza

Care4Cats is a big operation administered from the UK by volunteers. In August 2016 SNIP International donated three cat traps to their on-going neutering programmes. The Chairman, Angela Collins, sent this report.

“Here is our thanks for your generous donation last year. Ibiza, Spain, a small island with many thousands of feral cats, 17000 of which have been neutered by Care 4 Cats since 2000. We have many volunteers on the island, and also have about 12 trappers who come from the UK and Germany to help us with our neutering programme that goes on 52 weeks a year. Winter

is our busy time before cat breeding season and our end opening traps and end opening carriers are out every day working in different parts of the island. The more traps and carriers we have the more work we can do. If we don't have enough, the neutering has to stop and trappers have to share which holds up our neutering.

We are very grateful to SNIP International, an incredible charity that helps so many charities like ours, all over the world with a wide variety of much needed equipment. The traps they sent us were all put to good use as soon as they arrived as we had just trained some new trapping volunteers who were waiting for the traps and carriers so that they could get started. In two weeks we neutered 250 cats and after that the neutering just carried on and on and is still going as fast as we can as when the breeding season starts in March, all the females get pregnant, and we are racing against time!

Thank you SNIP International for your generous help to Care 4 Cats and all those wonderful charities that you are helping. We feel humbled to see such marvellous caring work going on.”

The total of number of items of equipment donated to date

In our 20th anniversary document that we published in August 2016, we stated we had donated directly or been involved in the donation of over 1350 substantial items of specialist trapping/ catching/ holding equipment to animal welfare groups operating in 75 countries across the world.

Since then, we have donated another 29 substantial items to groups which applied direct to the Board or those sending representatives to an international training course run by DogsTrust in early September. After adding the donations made at Dubrovnik under the usual ICAWC scheme and the Project Croatia, our current total stands at over 1500 items of donated equipment.

And the new countries on our list are Ethiopia and Afghanistan, which in itself is something of an achievement, with the new total of 77 countries.

Coming up – save the date!

SNIP International will be organising Project Cyprus in conjunction with the Conference, to reach out to the animal welfare groups operating in Greek and Turkish Cyprus. We will be building on the great success of Project Croatia in 2016.



Welcome to the new Donations Coordinator: Johanna Lopez

Hello Everyone,

My name is Johanna Lopez, I was born in Finland, and after a stint in Scotland and in London, I decided to move to France in 2002 and here I am – Parisian for the past 16 years. I work as the Executive Assistant in a capital venture company, and I am also a huge cat lover - the secret is out now!

I am a newbie on the animal welfare scene having become involved three years ago when I started doing some voluntary work for ASCA, a small cat organisation based in Normandy, France. It was actually through Annika Lähdeniemi that I got to know ASCA, and later on also SNIP International.



Jo with her two long-term foster cats for ASCA

The main focus of ASCA is on sterilising as many free-living and owned cats as possible, but the Parisian team is concerned mainly with the adoptions of rescued kittens and abandoned adult cats. I started off, in my innocence, by agreeing to foster an old abandoned grand lady the time she needed to recuperate from her bite wounds. It was supposed to be for four days...she ended up staying with me for six months before she passed away at a grand age of almost 18 years. After that I timidly started to do some paperwork and ads for adoption. Little by little I started doing more (more fostering, some adoptions, interviewing the potential adopters) and I realised that I had found something that I really enjoyed: trying to find solutions for the unwanted animals which come into our care. It is not always easy since one sees the negative sides of animal welfare (and of some humans!) and in some ways we are only scratching the surface but with my help the cats in our care get a new or good start in life.

Annika introduced me to the work of SNIPi and I first met the Board members in Les Andelys a couple of years ago. Linda Brookes was then Donations Coordinator and trained me in the detailed work involved in allocating items of equipment to overseas groups. She retired from the role last year and will be a difficult act to follow. I was invited to become a SNIPi Trustee in August 2016 and was delighted to see and chat with our supporters during the 20th Anniversary event.

It's so impressive that we have given away over 1500 items of equipment to groups working in nearly 80 countries. I feel that the technical skills I use in my professional work assist in operating the complex data base on the overseas groups, which has been finely tuned over the years. I'm also hoping that my five languages may assist in dealing with groups whose native language is not English though I continue to be impressed by how well they manage. That combined with my enthusiasm for helping animals overseas in a practical way will hopefully earn me a valued place in the team.

So from fostering an elderly cat in her last months through my local work for ASCA, I am aiming to develop a wider perspective on the needs of stray and feral cats and dogs across the world and to do my best to assist them through SNIP International.

Jo

Thanks

SNIP International is delighted to acknowledge support from the Alice Noakes Memorial Charitable Trust, Animals Worldwide, Ann Daubeny Charitable Trust, Ian and Sylvia Keith Charitable Trust, MDC Exports Ltd, Petplan Charitable Trust and the SNIP International Friends. We are grateful to Marjorie Tribble, a long-standing supporter of animal welfare, for remembering us in her will.

Kate Horne
Chairman, SNIP International



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

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

Contact details

Email getintouch@snip-international.org
Postal address SNIP International, The Chimes, 25 West Park Avenue,
Cliftonville, Margate, CT9 3LJ, United Kingdom

Board of Management

Trustees

Kate Horne	Chairman
Bob Bacon	Treasurer and Company Secretary
Lisette Cartier Van Dissel	DVM MRCVS, Veterinary Surgeon, Friends' Liaison Officer
Annika Lähdeniemi	Communications
Johanna Lopez	Donations Coordinator
Nigel Mason	Animal Welfare

Professional Advisers

John Clarke	Database
Harry Eckman	Animal Welfare Consultant
Doug Revell	Webmaster and Publications

UK Bankers

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

Website www.snip-international.org
Also on **Facebook** www.facebook.com/SNIPInternational
- Why not sign in and join the almost 600 other followers?

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

