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## Newsletter: November 2015

Protecting stray and feral cats and dogs  
Promoting neutering programmes overseas

### Dear Friend / Supporter

After trying a new format of twice yearly newsletters and respecting your feedback we've settled on one a year for the time being, giving you news of the important International Companion Animal Welfare Conference, usually held in October, soon after the event rather than some months later and taking the opportunity to let you know about other exciting developments.

### International Companion Animal Welfare Conference in Porto, Portugal 6-9 October

The conference attracted 251 delegates from 101 organisations in 39 countries. SNIPI was very well represented at the conference, by Linda Brookes, Lisette Cartier Van Dissel, Kate Horne, Annika Lähdeniemi and Nigel Mason, our newest Trustee (please see below). Our strongest team yet!



Linda Brookes, Lisette Cartier Van Dissel, Nigel Mason, Kate Horne and Annika Lähdeniemi

SNIPI followed its now well established format of running a prominent stand at which delegates apply for free equipment. The equipment is donated by SNIPI and our partners in this project, MDC Exports Ltd, Cats Protection and the Company of Animals. We are immensely grateful to our partners for allowing us to donate a substantial number of items of equipment.

In Porto we donated 63 larger items of specialist equipment for use in catch/trap/neuter/ return projects ranging from canine cruisers and hospitalisation baskets through to gloves, gauntlets and muzzle sets. We also had many filler items to give away including leads, collars, training dumbbells and flea combs.

Fifty one groups from 23 countries applied for equipment: Afghanistan (1), Austria (2), Belgium (1), Bulgaria (2), Cape Verde (1), China (2), Croatia (1), Estonia (1), France (3), Germany (2), Greece (1), Ireland (1), Italy (3), Japan (3), Malta (1), The Netherlands (3), Portugal (13), Romania (3), Russia (1), Slovenia (3), Sri Lanka (1), Sweden (1) and Ukraine (1).

All the groups received a substantial item of equipment, chosen on the basis of need, any items they had received on previous occasions, whether a report had been submitted, whether they would be able to transport it home and giving some preference to the host country. Twenty five percent of the groups were from Portugal. Fifty two percent of the groups had not received donations previously.

As you can see from the photos the recipients were over the moon.



Left: Maggie Roberts (Cats Protection), Susan Mercer from HEART (Japan), Melvyn Driver (MDC Exports) and Sarah Elliott (Cats Protection). Right: Grace Han from Together for Animals (China) receiving animal gauntlets from SNIP International, represented by Sylvia and Ian Keith.



Petris, based in Porto, Portugal, received a Mac Cat Trap and a TTR. Sarah Elliott (Cats Protection), Melvyn Driver (MDC Exports), Raquel Castelo (Petris), Catarina Pinto de Almeida (Petris) and Maggie Roberts (Cats Protection).



Clarissa Baldwin, formerly Chief Executive of Dogs Trust, and a former Trustee and Director of SNIP International, was awarded the Honour of CBE in London during the conference. She joined us in Porto in time to be able to offer her own well-earned award for services to animal welfare to Dr Dorothea Friz of Lega Pro Animale (Italy).

Congratulations to both brave ladies!

## **The Full Monty: running a comprehensive, community based dog and cat welfare project in Praia de Faro, Portugal**

One of the presentations at the conference was given by Harry Eckman of Change For Animals Foundation, who also acts as an Animal Welfare Consultant to SNIPI, and Maria Pinto Teixeira from a local group, Animais de Rua. Here's an update on the project, which we have mentioned in previous newsletters, in Harry's own words;

### ***Praia de Faro project report for SNIP International***

*Since 2013, Change For Animals Foundation has been running a unique animal welfare project in Praia de Faro on the South coast of Portugal. Praia de Faro is a small, natural peninsula, only accessible by a single bridge from the mainland. This unusual geography means that the local animal population is almost completely isolated, with no natural migration - the only movement being through human actions.*

*The Praia is a very seasonal location and as such, life for the roaming dogs and cats there is extremely variable. During the summer months when the weather is good and thousands of holidaymakers visit, the animals are able to manage. Out of season however, the burden of care falls back to the very poor local fishing community who live there throughout the year.*

*CFAF's project on Praia de Faro had two main purposes. Firstly to improve the health and welfare of the animals and support the community so that they could more easily provide the necessary care. Secondly, it was to act as a model that could demonstrate to other organisations how things like assessments, monitoring, evaluation and measuring impacts could be easily incorporated into a project and in doing so, be able to share that meaningful and valuable information with others.*

*This methodical and scientific approach is something often missing from animal welfare work because it is often seen as complicated and laborious, so this project attempted to demystify the process and make it more accessible. We wanted to show how to easily capture information about the animal and human community that could be used to see and measure any changes and improvements over time.*

*For the animals we wanted to find out more about the population, their diversity, their health and welfare. For the people, we wanted to find out about their understanding of and attitudes and behaviours towards the animals.*

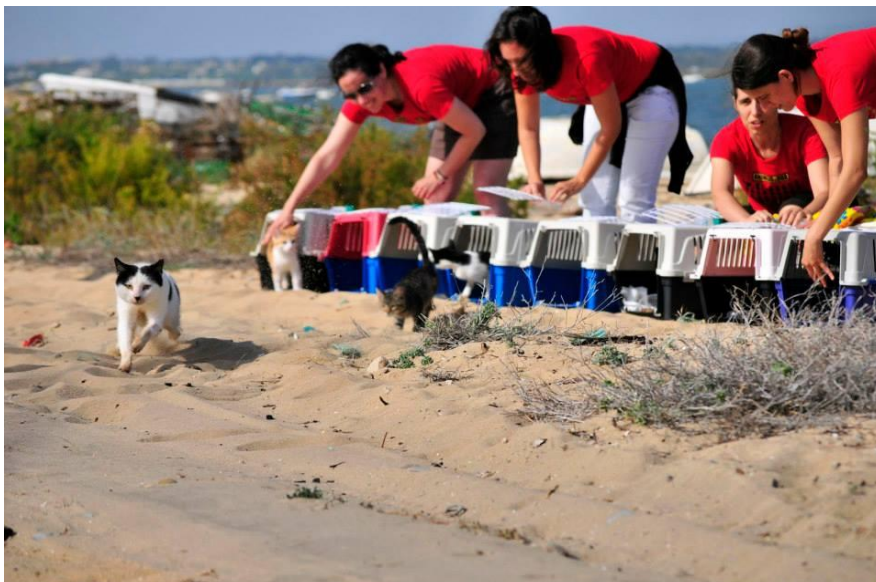
*After a year of assessment and surveying to really understand the location, the animal populations, the community and all the issues affecting them, we began our welfare interventions.*

*In October 2014 we ran a two-week TNR campaign to vaccinate, sterilise and treat as many cats as possible. In that time we reached 161 cats - an estimated 74% of the cat population. We also worked with a local university to collect things like skin and faecal samples to test for the presence of parasites, blood samples to test for zoonotic disease, and reproductive organ samples to test for tumours and other hormone related conditions.*



Cats being captured with a cat trap donated by SNIP International.

*Subsequent follow-up TNR by our local partner organisation, Animais de Rua, reached a further 41 cats achieving a current total of 202 - approximately 98% of the cat population. SNIP International kindly donated some of the vital equipment necessary for this stage of the project.*



Cats being released to their habitat after the spay/neuter.

*We then focussed on the dog population. Initially we were told that many of the dogs were unowned but a full assessment showed that in fact every single dog had an owner or carer but many of the owners had taken on ownership after their dog had been abandoned by someone else - a regular occurrence during summer months.*

*Knowing that this was a very poor community and that many of these dogs had never seen a vet, we focussed this stage of the project on not only providing health and welfare measures for these dogs through community outreach but also working with the local veterinary practices to help build bridges between them and the Praia de Faro community.*

*In June 2015 the project reached over 107 dogs - an estimated 67% of the dog population.*

*One of the biggest successes so far is the change we have already seen in the community in regards to their attitude to their animals. A quote from one of the community leaders said "We are very poor. We love our animals but have had no way of doing the things we know we should be doing. This project is one of the best things to ever happen on Praia de Faro. It has changed the lives of not only the animals here but the people too".*

*But the project is far from over! For the next two years CFAF will continue to monitor colonies and ensure cats not already reached will have access to vaccination, sterilisation and treatment. We'll build on the partnerships we've developed with local vets to ensure all dogs have access to treatment so that owners can continue to properly care for their dogs. We'll repeat population counts and community surveys to monitor and measure any improvements and changes. And finally, we'll publish all the data about the project so that anyone can have access to the information and replicate the process. Because the more we can show the effectiveness of what we are doing, by gathering the information we need, and presenting and sharing it in a way that shows the impact of what we are doing, the more we can improve the lives of animals and the communities they live with.*

*Harry Eckman  
Co-founder and  
Programmes Director  
Change For Animals Foundation*

## The Big Fix, Uganda

You may remember the amazing photo in our September 2014 newsletter showing a couple of motor bikes with traps on the back, with cats in them?

In their July 2015 newsletter The Big Fix say that they have served a total of 21,417 animals, held 161 village field clinics and performed 646 free surgeries. *'By the end of this year we hope to reach 30,000 total animals treated'*.

Their trap-neuter-return programme is a major plank of their work. SNIP International is delighted to be able to have assisted them.



*From April to June, our TNR work resulted in the trapping of 37 cats (21 males and 16 females). All cats were spayed/neutered, ear-tipped, vaccinated, de-wormed, treated for fleas/ticks and wounds/injuries, and monitored for a good recovery before their release. Our team now has the benefit of two new large drop traps, donated to us by SNIP International.*



## Skiathos Cat Welfare Association, Greece

*Skiathos Cat Welfare Association is a registered Greek Charity but relies solely on donations. Our number 1 priority is neutering and since 2005 the charity has neutered in the region of 4000 cats. Although Skiathos is a relatively small Island the lack of suitable cages has always proved difficult and time consuming with transferring cats to holding boxes to allow the few cages we had to be collected and utilised in another part of the Island to maximise the number of cats neutered. Thanks to SNIP International we received 4 cages which allowed us to increase the number of cats caught in a day by at least 30%. This increased the number of cats caught which in turn will prevent fewer kittens been born into a life of hardship. These cages will be used on every subsequent neuter event and will help us to continue to maximise the number of cats neutered Thank you SNIP International for supporting the work of Skiathos Cat Welfare Association!*



## Asociatia Prietenii Pisicilor, Romania

*I'm writing to you regarding the equipment SNIP International generously sent to us earlier this year - one Eeziset trap and two TTR's. I must say it has made a tremendous difference when it came to catching not so friendly stray cats (not to say wild, but they would have gladly torn us to pieces if they could :)). As we have been awarded a grant for a neutering campaign for cats, the equipment has been even more intensively used. And it works great! It is really easy to carry and place and it functions smoothly. And the TTR is just perfect for transfer and giving injections to cats who wouldn't accept it otherwise.*



*As there are some more cat lovers in Oradea beside us who are involved in TNR, the trap and one TTR are "traveling" as much as needed so cats in more neighborhoods can be easily captured and neutered. They usually come out after dark, when people feed them. And for the smartest and well-fed cats not tempted by what is inside, covering the trap and waiting does the trick. The equipment always returns to us in good condition, as all of us understood how useful it is and therefore it is well taken care of.*

*Our vet was also enthusiastic about the equipment, especially the TTR, as it was so much easier to inject the cats - whether it was a wilder cat in our care or a stray darling.*



*I hope that I have succeeded in explaining just how useful the trap and the TTR's are to us and how much they actually helped. On behalf of all our volunteers and all the people whose activity you made easier, and on behalf of all the cats who are under less stress thanks to the equipment, I would like to express our gratitude and send our warmest wishes to all of you! Thank you for your help and for everything that you do for animals!*

*Linda Cuban*

## Total number of items donated

SNIP International has donated or arranged the donation of a magnificent total of 1313 substantial items of specialist trapping/ catching/ holding equipment to animal welfare groups working in 75 countries across the world. These include traps, trap-transfer-restrainers, hospitalisation baskets, canine cruisers, dog graspers, gloves and gauntlets. When we first started the groups we helped were mainly Mediterranean countries; now we are donating equipment all over the world, including Africa and Asia.



Countries to which SNIP International has made donations are in yellow.

Albania	Cyprus	Latvia	Slovakia
Argentina	Czech Republic	Lebanon	Slovenia
Armenia	Egypt	Lithuania	South Africa
Australia	Eire	Malaysia	Spain
Austria	Estonia	Malta	Sri Lanka
Bahrain	Finland	Mexico	Sultanate of Oman
Belarus	France	Montenegro	Sweden
Belgium	Gambia	Morocco	Switzerland
Borneo	Georgia	Nepal	Taiwan
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Germany	Netherlands	Tanzania
Botswana	Greece	Norway	Thailand
Brazil	Hong Kong	Palestine	Tunisia
Bulgaria	Hungary	Peru	Turkey
Cape Verde Islands	India	Portugal	Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
Channel Islands (Jersey & Guernsey)	Israel	Poland	Uganda
China	Italy	Romania	Ukraine
Colombia	Japan	Russia	USA
Costa Rica	Kazakhstan	Serbia	Venezuela
Croatia	Kenya	Sierra Leone	

## SNIP International is now a member of the EU Dog and Cat Alliance



The Alliance was launched in 2014. The members are organisations from across the EU which are working to protect dog and cat welfare. Together we are calling for EU action to build a better Europe for dogs and cats. There are around 61 million owned dogs and 66 million owned cats in the EU.

Despite this there is currently very little EU legislation to protect dog and cat welfare. This means that national standards can vary widely across the EU with welfare issues arising as a result.

The secretariat for the Alliance is provided by the UK charity and founding member, Dogs Trust, with a dedicated European Policy Advisor based in Brussels. The first year has been devoted to meeting and briefing MEPs.

There is no cost involved for SNIP International though we may, on occasion, be asked to help sponsor or fund specific research, events or initiatives, if we wish.

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**SNIP International will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 2016 so we will be making an extra special effort to help more groups and the animals.**

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## Conference on Human Behaviour Change for Animal Welfare, 19-21 September 2016 at Dorking Halls, Dorking

Organised by Learning About Animals and Change for Animals Foundation (CAAF) with the help of a scientific committee. Harry Eckman, Animal Welfare Consultant to SNIP International, works for CAAF.

This promises to be an important conference advocating a move towards involving communities in projects thereby raising awareness of local animal welfare issues.

SNIP International Trustees will be attending. We're deciding whether to put in an abstract based on our own experiences.

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## 18<sup>th</sup> International Companion Animal Welfare Conference 11-13 October 2016 Dubrovnik, Croatia

SNIP International will be taking a stand, as usual, and, we hope, attracting a high profile.





## The SNIP International Board of Management

Here we are in Les Andelys, Normandy, our first meeting out of London, at the home of the chairman, Kate Horne. Also the first meeting at which our latest Trustee, Nigel Mason, was present in an official capacity.



From the left: Nigel Mason, Chief Executive, Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare; Annika Lähdeniemi, Communications; Kate Horne, Chairman; Linda Brookes, Equipment Donation Coordinator; Bob Bacon, Treasurer and Company Secretary; and Lisette Cartier Van Dissel, Veterinary Surgeon and Friends' Liaison Officer.

The weekend meeting enabled us to go into much greater depth about our business focus especially in the fund-raising area, which we have been able to follow up at subsequent meetings, with the help of (free) specialist advice from an internationally renowned consultant. We will report back when these deliberations have ended.

### **Nigel Mason** introduces himself

*I satisfied my youthful wanderlust by joining the British Army as a Royal Engineer and had the good fortune to serve in Australia, Belize and Northern Ireland. On leaving the army I became an Inspector with the RSPCA which gave me an amazing insight into the world of animal welfare and charity as well as people. The Blue Cross was my next career move and I was asked to manage their Cambridge Branch. Soon afterwards I was asked to develop and manage the new HQ Branch at Burford. After a few years I moved to re-energise a branch in Tiverton, Devon and from there moved to take on the role of Head of Animal Welfare for Wood Green Animal Shelters working with the new CEO to develop and improve that charity. In 2007 I was offered the opportunity to take on my current role of CEO at Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare with a now familiar remit to modernise and move the charity forward. Raystede now provides extraordinary care for a vast array of pet, sanctuary and exotic animals as well as local wildlife, receiving over 180,000 visitors each year in a haven for both animals and people.*

*My experiences over the last 30 years of animal welfare in the UK and subsequent contact with many colleagues around the world inspired me to become involved with SNIPI as it faces new challenges to make a difference for animals all over the world. I hope to be able to help with that process and look forward to working with my colleagues in SNIPI and beyond to take us to the next level.*

### **Bob Bacon** introduces himself

*I have been associated with SNIPI now for over 6 years having taken on the position of Treasurer after an invitation from Kate Horne, the Chairman. I had known Kate for about 10 years at the time, having been a member of a motorcycling club where we met on social outings.*

*The role of Treasurer is straightforward in that it involves keeping the day-to-day records and providing a summary of Income and Expenditure every quarter. With a small charity like SNIPI, there are few records so the task isn't that onerous.*

*However, although SNIPI is a small charity it is a limited company, limited by guarantee, which adds to its reporting complexity in that statutory returns adhering to a strict timetable, have to be completed. In the last year, I also took on the role of Company Secretary after the retirement of Penny Dye who had held the post for a number of years. Being without specific experience in this area meant a steep learning curve, although Penny has been on hand to advise where I was uncertain about some aspects. In addition with the increased responsibility came the invitation of becoming a Trustee and Director, which I duly accepted.*

*I would be the first to admit that I'm not an out and out animal welfarer although I do have sympathy for the plight of cats, in particular, that SNIPI endeavours to help; and tremendous admiration for the passion of those who dedicate their time and resources in an attempt to alleviate the suffering of such. Since our marriage my wife and I have always had a cat (or two) in the family, although at the present do not have one.*

**Karen Heath** resigned in July to be able to devote more time to her work in London and for Mama Cat Trust in the Cambrils area of Spain. We thank her for her contribution to our work and wish her well for the future.

### Thanks

SNIP International is pleased 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.

### Feedback

We love it! – positive or negative. Please do get in touch!



Kate Horne  
Chairman, SNIP International



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### Contact details

**Email** [getintouch@snip-international.org](mailto:getintouch@snip-international.org)

**Post** SNIP International, 3 Spa Road, Braceborough, Stamford  
Lincolnshire, PE9 4NR, United Kingdom

**Telephone** +44 (0) 1778 56 00 44

**Website** [www.snip-international.org](http://www.snip-international.org)  
Also on **Facebook** [www.facebook.com/SNIPInternational](http://www.facebook.com/SNIPInternational)  
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