



Founded 1996
Registered charity no 1064664
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Newsletter: February 2020

Protecting stray and feral cats and dogs
Promoting neutering programmes overseas

Dear Friend / Supporter

We are pleased to send out our Newsletter and share with you the most important events of the past year. We have gathered in this Newsletter some of the many thanks we've received and you can also read two stories about how our equipment donations are helping animals.

We are also interested in your views, so at the end of the Newsletter, we ask for your ideas in regards to our future projects.

Chairman's Report

SNIPi attended a very successful International Companion Animal Welfare Conference (ICAWC) in Malta during the year and further extended our reach with donations of equipment not only to groups in Malta through Project Malta but also across the world. We saw old friends and made new acquaintances, but it was also a poignant conference without our great friend, Adrian Burder, the former CEO of Dogs Trust. However, we did have the privilege of meeting Owen Sharp the new CEO and we hope to cement the 'special relationship' with Dogs Trust at ICAWC in the same way.



Nigel with the family rescue dog Peppa.

The Board of SNIPi have been working tirelessly to maintain and improve our charity and thanks must go in particular to Bob Bacon our Treasurer who has guided us through the transition of the charity to become a Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which is a better fit for us. Bob has now earned his retirement from SNIPi, more of which later; and we also warmly welcome Melanie Davies who has stepped into Bob's role.

I did promise in my last report that a new website would be launched in 2019. Unfortunately this did not happen for a number of reasons but I can report that we are well on our way to ensuring a new website will indeed make its debut in autumn of 2020 and a new logo will also feature.

I must also thank Amanda Green, a great friend of SNIPi who sadly is no longer with us, but who has bequeathed a very significant gift on her passing. This will give SNIPi the stability it needs to carry on into the future and also enter into new projects into the future.

I cannot end my report without once again thanking my fellow trustees for their time, effort and friendship. SNIPi has enabled tens of thousands of cats and dogs the chance of a better life, through donations of equipment to caring people, for TNR/CNR schemes in their neighbourhoods all over the world.

Nigel Mason
Chairman

Farewell to Bob

In the summer of 2018 Bob announced that he was planning to step down as both Treasurer and Trustee as he felt that it was time to retire after 10 years of volunteering for SNIP International.

Bob joined SNIPi in July 2008 when he was asked by Kate Horne, former Chairman and Founder Member, to take over the SNIPi finances. Kate had already known Bob for about 10 years through their mutual motor biking hobby where groups of around 20 bikes would set off for weekends in places such as Wales and Northern France, and later on through working together. Kate was looking for a replacement when Nigel Haygarth, the Treasurer, Founder Member and previous Chairman, retired and in her own words she says *"I knew that Bob is upright, sound and solid and that he had a cat and I managed to persuade him to take on the role over a couple of beers in a rather scruffy pub in Islington"*.

Bob's announcement came as quite a bombshell to the Trustees as he has played an invaluable role in so many ways. Not only did Bob deal with the SNIPi finances for 10 years but he also took on the role of Company Secretary after Penny Dye retired. In addition he both redesigned and managed the SNIP International Database which collates the details of the animal welfare groups and the equipment donations they received. Bob's consistent thoroughness and precision means that the Board could always rely on his judgement when important decisions needed to be made.

Luckily we managed to persuade Bob to stay on for a further year to allow a replacement to be found. Bob officially retired in May 2019 but has continued to offer support to our new Treasurer, Melanie Davies, in her first six months. He has been and still is instrumental in changing the SNIP International constitution from being an Incorporated Company, Limited by Guarantee, to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which will ensure the reporting and accounting disclosure is simpler.

Bob will now step down as Trustee but continue as a Director of SNIP International.

A big thank you to Bob – his invaluable skills and expertise will be missed within the Board. We plan to continue working with his legacy and we wish him well!

Lisette, Annika, Nigel, Jo & Melanie



Dinner of the Trustees during Bob's Farewell weekend held April 2019 in his hometown Broadstairs with (from L to R) Bob's wife Mal, Bob, Jo, Annika, Lisette and Nigel.

In Memory of Amanda Green
28 November 1967 – 27 July 2018



*"My little black cat, Elsa.
When my back is turned you will find me and just touch me on my back
as I kneel down, with your little paw to tell me you are here.
And at last I will sleep in peace with you curled on my lap."*

Amanda Jane Green, 2018

Amanda Jane Green was a kind, caring and compassionate person with a lifelong love of animals, nature, flora, fauna and freedom. Amanda went to university at Lampeter and read English Literature but with her passion for nature, she chose to become a landscape gardener. This allowed her to be at one with nature and the open air. She loved photography and wrote a guide book on walks in the Gower Peninsular.

Amanda travelled to Australia to see her relatives and also to Africa, where she spent time on Operation Raleigh, and loved her experience there. Unfortunately, when she returned from Africa her health was not strong and it is believed she may have caught a bug there. Amanda found this very debilitating and her ability to do things was greatly affected. This impacted on her for the rest of her life.

Amanda was very close to her immediate family, but also spent a lot of time on her own and in the company of animals and nature. Animals were her friends in life and she cared deeply about their wellbeing.

After her father's passing, Amanda dedicated herself to caring for her mother whose health had declined. Sadly her mother passed away in March 2018 and Amanda left this world only a few months later.

Amanda chose to leave her legacy for six different charities, explaining her decision with these words:
"I want my death to be of use to my beloved animals and their charities. Animals helped my life and this is the best way I can help them."

We are grateful for Amanda having chosen SNIP International as one of these six charities. We will do our best to make sure that her last wish will be respected and her legacy will be used to help animals all over the world.

We also want to express our sincere condolences to Amanda's family and friends and thank them for helping us to know more about Amanda's life.

Annika Lähdeniemi

Welcome to Melanie

SNIP International would like to introduce you to Melanie Davies, our new Treasurer and Trustee!

Melanie developed an interest in TNR when she visited Montenegro on holiday and became interested in the plight of Kotor's many cats, many of which were in poor health. She discovered a US charity 'Kotor Kitties' that had recently been set up to respond to the issue and has been assisting managing this for over a year, and is now registering the charity in the UK.

As an actuary with familiarity with Excel, she applied to volunteer as SNIPi's new Treasurer. Melanie is already proving to be invaluable to SNIPi's work and the Board very much looks forward to continuing to work together in the future.

The Board of Trustees
SNIP International

More about Kotor Kitties: Spreading the good news of neutering throughout Montenegro!

What do you do if you visit an area famous for its street cats but discover there's no spay-neuter program you can donate to? You start one of course! That is how Kotor Kitties began as the first on-going program offering free neutering in Montenegro. It was 2018 when some American tourists and their Airbnb hosts agreed to raise money to fund 10 spay surgeries through the local family vet in Kotor Municipality; they had no idea that there were no other neutering programs in the entire country.



Traps in Kotor waiting for cats to enter with one showing interest.

In its first year, Kotor Kitties spayed and neutered 796 cats, expanded to work in 3 municipalities, began a Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program, fielded numerous reports of sick, injured, and abandoned animals and helped coordinate care through its Facebook and Instagram pages.

Now at the 18-month point, over 1,500 cats have been neutered by Kotor Kitties.

Kotor Kitties attributes the program's rapid growth to the TNR program made possible in part by a donation from SNIP International. Even before Kotor Kitties was eligible to apply for a donation, SNIPi pointed the charity to an equipment distributor in the UK, MDC Exports, who kindly offered a discount on equipment and helped solve the problem of prohibitive shipping costs to Montenegro.

SNIPi's generous equipment grant last autumn gave a huge boost to the trapping program. Prior to this, there was only one humane trap known to be available in the entire country, and it circulated from community to community. At times it would "disappear" for months - meaning it wasn't passed on - and the rescue community couldn't remember who had it. But then it would resurface and be passed on again. The small amount of TNR work that was done was mainly by tourists employing laundry baskets and boxes!



Cats on their way to the veterinary clinic.

Kotor Kitties has a core group of volunteers, along with its Board of Directors, who together form the organisation's 'Planning Committee'. People were nervous about whether the precious TNR traps would be cared for or quickly disappear. Each has a stainless-steel ID tag attached, labelled with an ID number, the group's name and contact, and the request that if found it be returned to the closest veterinary clinic. And so far, the group happily reports that the check-out and return process is going smoothly, as people are so happy to be able to engage in catching, neutering and returning the cats in the safest and least stressful manner for cats and humans alike!

April King, General Coordinator, Kotor Kitties



ICAWC Malta
8-10 October 2019

ICAWC 2019 was held in Valletta on the beautiful island of Malta. The team consisted of Nigel, Annika and Lisette from SNIPi and Miranda Luck represented MDC Exports. In addition, Dr. Maggie Roberts and Sarah Reid from Cats Protection were a great help during the unpacking and handing out of equipment.

The conference was very successful with a wonderful buzz from all the enthusiastic delegates. In total 75 pieces of TNR (trap-neuter-return) equipment were donated to 41 different Animal Welfare groups of which

34% had not received donations previously. As expected there were less groups than in previous years due to the island location.

The groups came from 24 different countries: Albania (2), Belgium (1), Bulgaria (2), Croatia (3), Cyprus (1), Denmark (1), Estonia (1), Georgia (1), Germany (2), Italy (2), Japan (2), Malta (2), Nepal (1), Palestine (1), Poland (5), Portugal (1), Romania (2), Russia (2), Serbia (1), Slovenia (2), Spain (2), Sri Lanka (1), Sweden (2), Tanzania (1).



We thank our partners MDC Exports Ltd and Cats Protection for their ongoing generous contributions to the equipment donations and look forward to working together again later this year at ICAWC Sofia in Bulgaria!

Lisette Cartier van Dissel

SNIPi's Lisette Cartier van Dissel, Nigel Mason and Annika Lähdeniemi donating a Pet Porter and Mobility sling to Mrunio Foundation, Poland.



Left: ASTA, Italy, receiving a TTR (Trap Transfer Restrainer) with cover and a cat comb with Dr. Maggie Roberts and Sarah Reid from CP.
Middle: TOZ Oddział w Zabrze, Poland receiving rabies gloves with SNIPi's Nigel Mason and Lisette Cartier van Dissel.
Right: Galgos del Sol, Spain, receiving a professional muzzle set with Miranda Luck, MDC.

Project TNR Malta!

In March 2019 SNIP International was awarded a fourth consecutive welfare grant through the Petplan Charitable Trust. The grant was increased to £2500 and again match-funded by SNIPi. The resulting £5000 was used to fund TNR/CNR equipment donations for Maltese animal welfare groups at ICAWC Valletta, October 2019.

Eight Maltese groups applied for equipment through Project TNR Malta; seven groups were based on the main island of Malta and one was from the northern smaller island of Gozo.

The equipment was shared out between the groups according to their requests. All the groups were once again extremely grateful!

The donees will be asked to fill in a follow up questionnaire after 12 months to allow evaluation of the impact of the equipment donations.

SNIP International would like to thank Petplan for supporting another successful Project and plans to run Project TNR Bulgaria & Romania at ICAWC later this year!



Equipment donation to Association of Abandoned Animals (AAA) with Petplan's Ted Chandler and Clarissa Baldwin CBE and SNIPi's Nigél Mason.

Lisette Cartier van Dissel



Donation to Island Sanctuary with Petplan's Ted Chandler and Clarissa Baldwin CBE and SNIPi's Annika Lähdeniemi and Lisette Cartier van Dissel.

Animal Rescue Sofia's story on fiery Ogniana

Unfortunately, it is not unusual for an animal rescue organisation to find animals abandoned at its door or even thrown over the fence. However, finding a big black dog lying in a pool of blood was a shock for the staff and volunteers of Animal Rescue Sofia (Bulgaria) when they arrived at the shelter one morning.

They took the dog in immediately and she was given emergency treatment to save her life.



*Injured Ogniana being transported safely on the animal stretcher donated to Animal Rescue Sofia at ICAWC through SNIP International.
Photo credit: Animal Rescue Sofia*



*Ogniana at the veterinary clinic.
Photo credit: Ivanka Patterson for Stardust Pictures*

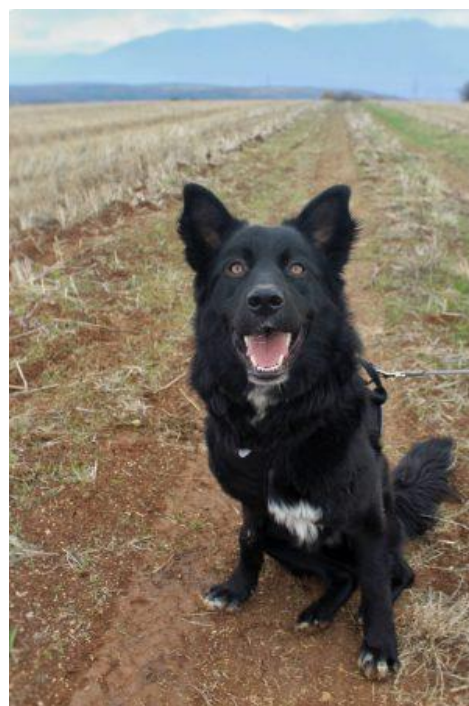
Over the coming days and weeks, Ogniana improved both physically and psychologically. She developed a strong bond with one of the dog carers, who couldn't help falling for her charm and ended up adopting her. Ogniana lives now happily in her new family with two other dogs.

A happy end for a tragic story!

We thank Animal Rescue Sofia for sharing this story with us. It is an excellent example of how our equipment donations really make a difference to animals in need.

Annika Lähdeniemi

*Happy Healthy Ogniana
Photo credit: Indre Vilkaite*



Some thanks we've received

Bermuda SPCA

Bermuda SPCA is an established organisation founded in 1919 in Bermuda. They are not running a feral neutering programme at the moment but they are called upon to rescue and attend to injured cats or kittens. The equipment received from SNIPi was used to tackle the neutering of small colonies in locations where they rescue kittens.

*Top right:
A cat in a transfer basket.
Below (L and R):
Cat trapping in progress.*



Tala Monastery Cat Park – Paphos, Cyprus

Tala are committed to helping the stray cats of Cyprus. The association works with a team of volunteers and feed and care for about 700 cats who live in and around the Tala Monastery Cat Park.

“Thank you to SNIP International for donating some of the trap cages. Just think of how many unwanted kittens this is going to save from being born and how much of a better life these cats are going to have. Thank you massively to everyone who has donated towards our TNR project so far. As you can see, your money is being well spent.”

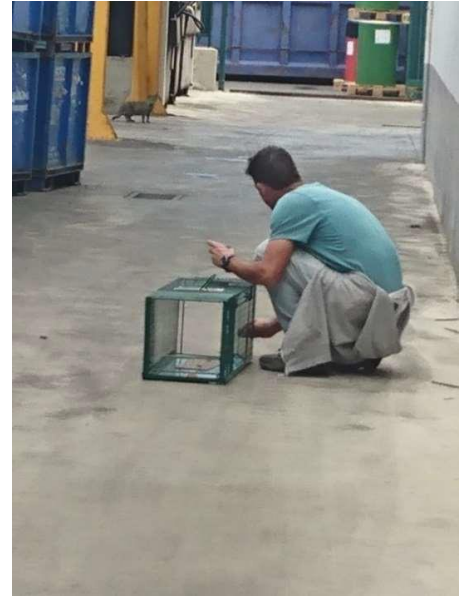


*In both pictures:
Cats in transfer baskets
waiting to be taken to the
veterinary clinic.*

Barcelona Gat I Gos – Barcelona, Spain

This association was founded in 2003 and takes care of feral cats in Barcelona and the surrounding districts.

“All us volunteers from Barcelona Gat I Gos would like to thank very gratefully Snip International for their kind and valuable donation of these 3 trap cages. These 3 cages have helped 72 cats to be neutered. But the cages have not only helped in TNR, they have also helped cats in many other ways. Some cats could get rehomed, adopted. And others were ill and could get their treatment after being trapped by these wonderful cages.”



On the left: a cat entering a cat trap. In the middle: a kitten inside a cat trap. On the right: a cat trap being set up.

The Ilioupolis Animal Welfare Union – Athens, Greece

The association is active in the field of collection, rescue and care of the stray animals in the Municipality of Ilioupolis in Athens, Greece. They promote responsible adoption and sterilise and treat around 300 animals (mainly cats and dogs) per year.

“The equipment donated by SNIP International has made our work more efficient and safer. The equipment is easy to use and is highly useful for transfers and vaccinations. Once again, we express our gratitude and appreciation for the aid you have provided. We hope to continue our relationship with you as we move forward and make every possible effort to provide excellent care, food and shelter for the animals at the Ilioupolis Animal Welfare Union and save as many lives as possible.”



Johanna Lopez

A cat in a transfer basket about to get treated for cat flu.

Project report from Kastor Foundation – Kielce, Poland

Kastor Foundation sterilises approximately 600 cats (mostly TNR) and 200 dogs per year. They also provide financial help for veterinary treatments in the poorest areas of Poland.

In 2018, Kastor Foundation applied for catching and holding equipment via **Project TNR Poland!** which was co-financed by SNiPi and The Petplan Charitable Trust. Kastor Foundation received cat traps, transfer restrainers, a hospitalisation basket, two dog traps, an animal stretcher, protective gloves and collars.

We received a detailed report from Kastor Foundation, showing that the equipment had been used extensively to help many animals, mostly cats and dogs but sometimes also birds and hedgehogs.

Enjoy this selection of pictures demonstrating their hard work!



On the left: two sick kittens who were adopted out after their veterinary treatments. In the middle: this 'wrong' dog was caught unintentionally in the dog trap. He enjoyed the sausage meal and waited patiently to be let out! On the right: a tomcat was trapped and released after he had been neutered.



From L to R: a mama dog living with her five puppies on a field in Bęczków was caught in a dog trap and her puppies were recovered from the den (on the right and below). The mama dog was spayed and all of them were eventually adopted.



On the left: the two last puppies of the five (see above). On the right: one of the stray dogs caught in Bęczków. He was adopted after neutering.



ICAWC 2020 and SNIPi's DOUBLE project!

This year, the International Companion Animal Welfare Conference – ICAWC – will be organised by Dogs Trust from 6 to 8 October 2020 in Sofia, Bulgaria. SNIP International will be there donating equipment to the rescue groups coming from all over the world.

And this time we have decided to launch a double project that will allow Bulgarian and Romanian rescue groups to apply for a substantial amount of catching and holding equipment from SNIPi. This way, we hope to reach also those rescue groups who do not usually have funds to travel to ICAWCs.

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at ICAWC!

We'd like to hear your views

We are considering the possibility of starting a grant programme and would welcome your ideas. Your proposal could be related to the objective of the grant, its requirements or a specific geographic area. The target of our help will continue to be stray and feral cats and dogs and promotion of TNR/CNR outside the UK.

If you have any suggestions, please contact us by email on snipinternational@gmail.com. We look forward to receiving plenty of great ideas on how to help more animals!

Thanks

SNIP International is delighted to acknowledge support from The Ian Keith and Sylvia Keith Charitable Trust, Catsprotection, MDC Exports Ltd, DogsTrust, Petplan Charitable Trust and the SNIP International Friends.

Very special thanks to Amanda Green for her legacy that will help thousands of animals as per her wishes.





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Contact details

Email snipinternational@gmail.com
Postal address SNIP International, 15 Woodland Close,
NG12 2HZ, Radcliffe on Trent, United Kingdom

Board of Management - Trustees

Nigel Mason	Chairman and Company Secretary
Lisette Cartier Van Dissel	DVM MRCVS, Veterinary Surgeon, Friends' Liaison Officer
Annika Lähdeniemi	Fundraising, Communications
Johanna Lopez	Donations Coordinator
Melanie Davies	Treasurer
	email: Treasurer.SNIPI@gmail.com

Professional Advisers

Bob Bacon	Financial and Administrative Adviser
Harry Eckman	Animal Welfare Consultant
Doug Revell	Webmaster

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

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

