



Newsletter: May 2022

Dear Friend / Supporter

We hope that, despite the global uncertainties, our Newsletter finds you well. The Trap/Catch-neuter-return (TNR/CNR) and other efforts for animal welfare have not stopped, and we at SNIP International are happy to continue to help rescue groups worldwide.

Chairman's Report

We have been busy since last reporting to you. A significant number of applications for TNR equipment from groups all over the world have been received and we have responded, of course, by sending the much needed equipment. Unfortunately, this has come at a greater cost than in the past due to the vagaries of current export/import taxes and increased shipping costs, partially as a result of Brexit, but also the current volatility in world economies.



Nigel is looking forward to meeting the SNIPi team again after over two years of virtual Board meetings.

Our team has been 'Zooming' approximately every two months to catch up and process applications which has certainly saved travel costs. However, as we have not been able to meet 'in the flesh' for over two years we very much look forward to our first face to face meeting later this month!

We are happy to introduce to you Juliette Jones, who joined us in 2021 and whose professional experience in animal welfare is a very welcome addition to the SNIPi team.

We continue to be most grateful to our great benefactor, Amanda Green, whose wonderful legacy continues to help fund equipment donations. She has also given us the opportunity to make a significant investment in the 3-year feline population management 'Catstar' project in Sri Lanka run by The Dogstar Foundation. They have now commenced the programme with ambitious plans to neuter up to 9000 male and female owned and stray roaming/feral cats.

I must also mention the current and most terrible situation unfolding in Ukraine. Millions of pets are abandoned and in need of help, not to mention those animals that refugees from Ukraine have managed to take with them whilst fleeing to Poland, Romania and many other Eastern European countries. I am proud to report that SNIP International has been able to work with other NGOs on the ground in Poland by providing a grant for part-purchase of an animal ambulance van providing safe transportation and treatment of animals from Ukraine to Poland.

I hope you will enjoy our Newsletter of 2022 and if you are able to help support our work with a further donation please visit our new and improved website at www.snip-international.org where you will be able to donate.

Thank you.

Nigel Mason
Chairman

Sad farewells, yet good memories and legacies...

In 2021 SNIP International has lost two dear friends who contributed to its founding and had an important role in the charity's development over the years, Nigel Haygarth and Melvyn Driver. The legacy of these two gentlemen remains in the philosophy and truly lives on in the actions of SNIPi today and beyond.

Nigel Haygarth (1943-2021)

SNIP International regrets to announce the death in 2021 of one of its founding members and the first Chairman and Treasurer, Nigel Charles Haygarth FCA.

Way back in the 90s Nigel and I were both members of quite a different kind of enterprise, The New North Road Residents' Association. The road is a busy thoroughfare linking Essex Road with the City in what was then - and still is - trendy Islington. We occupied ourselves with such pressing concerns as through traffic, parking spaces and parking permits. Our meetings provided an excellent forum for close friends and neighbours to have a social get-together. I subsequently moved away; Nigel lived in Basire Street for the whole time during the period I knew him, a house which had an orange door and a lamp in the window.

I identified Nigel as someone who would make an excellent leader of the embryonic SNIP International. Nigel had taken early retirement from a senior role in a large insurance company, which had decided to relocate out of London. He didn't have any animals of his own but he did have a strong sense of wishing to build on his contribution to society. His commercial skills and qualification as a Chartered Accountant made him eminently suitable for the role of Chairman and Treasurer. In 1996 he established SNIP International as a charity, subsequently acquiring limited company status. In his dual role, he kept SNIPi up to date with changes in legislation and other administrative requirements. His style was methodical and precise; just what we needed in those early days especially.

Within the framework he provided, the rest of us, fervent animal welfarists, had the opportunity to develop our ideas on how a UK organisation could best assist programmes for sterilising free-living companion animals abroad. We wanted to make a distinctive mark in a field dominated by major players such as Dogs Trust and Cats Protection. We kicked around the idea of sending teams out under the aegis of SNIPi itself; Nigel reminded us of the possible liabilities. So we decided in the early days to give specialist equipment to some of the smaller organisations in the field, such as The Twinkle Trust, Friends of the Ferals, Care For Cats (Ibiza). The focus was initially on the Mediterranean countries. Since then, of course, SNIPi has become truly international.

Nigel and I were together able to recruit a hugely valuable person from one of the major charities in the field, Clarissa Baldwin, CBE, then CEO of DogsTrust, based close by. I remember well our meeting over lunch in the sumptuous surroundings of Frederick's Restaurant near the Angel, Islington. Thereby opening the door to a most fruitful liaison, which continues to this date, between SNIPi and DogsTrust and subsequently, through Clarissa's role as chairman of that body, with PetPlan Charitable Trust.

Nigel was Chairman and Treasurer from the inception of SNIP International in 1996 until 2006. Few associations have had the benefit of such financial and administrative expertise, combined with an amiable personality, not forgetting a dry sense of humour embodied in its first Chairman and Treasurer. Nigel provided the framework in which our ideas were allowed to develop and flourish.

He had borne a painful illness with fortitude for some years. We send our sincere condolences to his family and other friends.

Dr. Kate Horne
Chairperson of SNIP International 2006-2017

Melvyn Driver (1941-2021)

Melvyn Driver and his company MDC Exports Ltd already existed long before SNIP International.

Melvyn used to go out trapping feral cats with Celia Hammond in Islington, London. He listened to her and Dr Jenny Remfry (Veterinarian and former SNIP International Trustee) as well as Dr Peter Neville (specialist in ethology and animal welfare), all pioneers of TNR.

Based on the acquired insights, Melvyn developed his first cat trap, followed by a whole range of humane animal handling equipment.



Melvyn Driver in his element – talking about cat trapping at SNIP International's 20-year anniversary in 2016. Linda Brookes (front left, former Trustee of SNIP International) and the late Sylvia Keith (front right) listening attentively and enjoying the show.

Over the years, Melvyn kept on developing new products and improving the old ones based on the feedback he got from the experts. At the annual International Companion Animal Welfare Conference (ICAWC) he discussed with cat trappers and dog catchers and took notes in view of his next innovations. In 2013, his years of hard work were rewarded with a Welfare Award by International Cat Care.

Melvyn had a great heart and he turned his company MDC Exports Ltd into a generous partner of SNIP International and Cats Protection at the ICAWC conferences. His generosity allowed us to help so many animal welfare groups. We will also miss Melvyn's great personality and all the fun we had with him at the conferences. We will surely raise a glass for him in Sofia this October.



Melvyn enjoying the giving and a good laugh at ICAWC Porto in 2015.

We feel grateful for having had the opportunity to know Melvyn and to work with him all these years. We are pleased to know that his successors – his children Kay and Stephen and son in law Lee – will keep alive Melvyn's legacy and MDC Exports Ltd will remain in the animal welfare sector and continue partnering with SNIP International for the benefit of stray animals worldwide.

We look forward to this new chapter with the Driver family.

Kate, Nigel, Lisette and Annika

Meet and welcome Juliette

I am Woodgreen's Cat Behaviour and Training Specialist and I also manage the Behaviour and Training Specialist (BaTS) Team, which consists of specialists and advisors in dogs, cats and small animals.

My role is to lead and coordinate the BaTS team members in setting the standards for pet care at Woodgreen, providing advice and consultancy relating to pets, pet ownership and animal behaviour and training, within a shelter environment and in the home.

As Woodgreen's cat behaviour and training specialist, alongside my colleagues in the BaTS team, I give advice and support through our organisational pet related advice content and through casework to pet owners. Alongside this, I represent the charity at external meetings, speak at events and am a key spokesperson for media activities, such as writing articles on cat related subjects for magazines and appearances on radio or television. I also create educational resources for our many staff and volunteers at Woodgreen.



Juliette is a feline professional, but also loves dogs.

Another aspect of my role is to be involved in key projects at Woodgreen, such as designing animal accommodation for the pets that come through our doors. One recent project I am happy and proud to have been involved with is the design of our new cat centre that has just recently opened. By improving overall welfare, cats can be rehabilitated and rehomed more quickly – decreasing the average length of stay by an estimated 10%. This means the charity can be there for even more homeless cats with nowhere else to turn.

I am passionate about ongoing learning, seeking out the latest scientific studies and emerging best practice and promoting the importance of the correct environment, socialisation and training for all pets to prevent behavioural issues from occurring. I believe in blending a scientific approach with experience, alongside empathy and understanding for both pet and owner, to unravel the cause of the underlying emotions that drive behavioural issues and finding a solution that improves the lives of both pets and their people.

I really want to make a contribution to SNIP International's ongoing development, helping with content creation on the website and the social media. As a member of the small SNIPi team, it is also natural for me to offer my help in administrative work as the need arises.

I hope to contribute to SNIPi "thinking outside the box" and expanding the areas where we can increase awareness of both the animal rescue groups we help and our friends and supporters. As an example, I could mention advocacy of work with public bodies. We could show TNR gets better results in the medium and long term, is more cost effective, obviously more ethical and can promote community cohesion because it encourages groups of volunteers to solve problems in their neighbourhood in a positive way.

In the long term, I hope to contribute to SNIPi's future fundraising strategy and turn it into tangible results for the benefit of stray cats and dogs all over the world.

I look forward to this adventure with SNIPi and meeting the rest of the team for the first time later in May!

Juliette Jones
Volunteer for SNIP International

Our contribution to helping the animal crisis in Ukraine

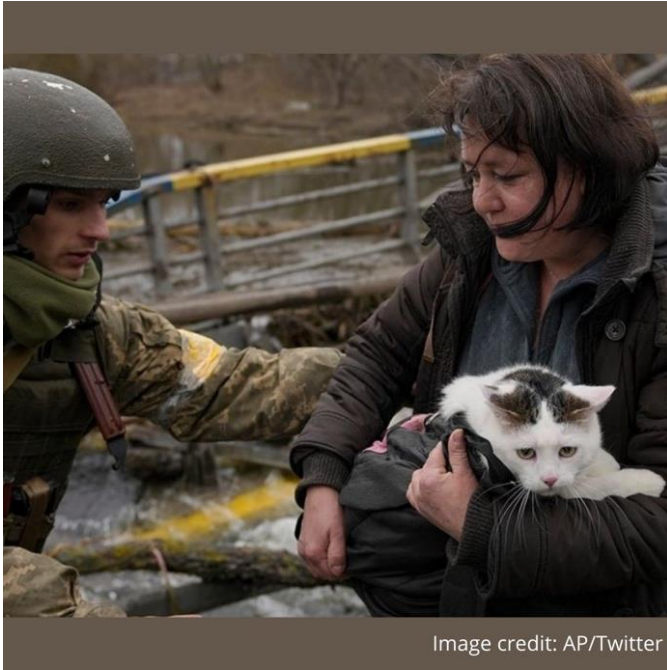


Image credit: AP/Twitter

A Ukrainian woman and her cat being helped to safety by a soldier.



Image credit: @vch3030_UAnimals_Instagram

A Ukrainian soldier and a stray dog having a moment of companionship.

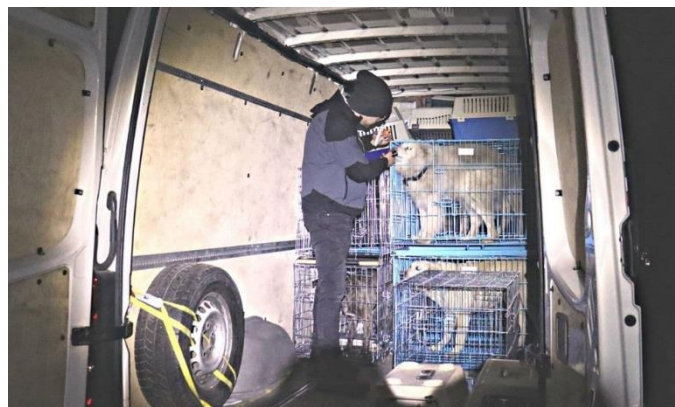
On the 6th March SNIP International responded to a desperate appeal from Network for Animals in response to an emergency call from their team in Przemysł on the Polish border where the rescued animals are pouring in from Ukraine. They are working together with the Polish animal welfare organisation Foundation ADA (FADA) who runs food and rescue missions across the border to Ukraine. FADA works 24/7 using their animal ambulance to travel into Ukraine laden with dog and cat food and return laden with rescued dogs and cats. The animals are traumatised, terrified and injured.

As FADA has sufficient volunteers they were requesting funds to buy a second animal ambulance to enable them to help more stray and abandoned animals in Ukraine and SNIP International was able to help pay for this.

“Heartfelt thanks to SNIP International. After we paid for the second animal ambulance for Ukraine, we suddenly received a VAT bill of nearly £2000.00 and it had to be paid immediately. SNIP International stepped in and paid the full amount. The generosity we have felt, from all four corners of the globe, has brought tears to us all. Whether it’s a cent, a dollar or a pound, it makes more of an impact than you could ever know.”



David Barritt, Executive director, Network for Animals and Animal Survival International



The animal ambulance partially financed by SNIP International – from the outside and the inside. Pictures : Network for Animals.

Update on project Catstar

As you may remember, SNIP International's first bigger grant from Amanda Green's legacy was given to Dogstar Foundation in Sri Lanka, to finance part of their ambitious plan to spay and neuter effectively the feline population in the city of Negombo.

Project Catstar officially started in April 2021 and SNIP International has provided the first and largest portion (£22,484) of the 3 year grant over the past year. This covered the costs of acquiring TNR equipment and surgical equipment, purchase of a mini van for transportation of trapped cats to the clinic and the employment of two additional local veterinary assistants.

The year 2021 has been very difficult around the world, but in particular on this island with the combined effects of COVID-19 and of the disastrous economic and political crisis it is going through at the moment.

Because of the pandemic, there were lock-downs that lasted for over two months. During those times it was impossible to take the cats to the clinics. One of the three partner clinics had to shut down for a whole month because the veterinary surgeon tested positive for Covid and had to go into isolation followed by a recovery period. Due to the import restrictions imposed by the Government, there were lengthy delays in the shipping of the cat trapping equipment and serious difficulties in getting the supplies of the drugs needed for the surgeries.

Therefore the team decided to start with the owned cats that would be easier to catch and handle while waiting for the equipment to arrive.

Despite these difficulties, 1377 cats were spayed/neutered in the Catstar programme throughout 2021. As 82% of these cats were female, it can be considered to already having made a huge drop in the number of kittens to be born.



Meals on wheels by Catstar / Dogstar for the stray cats of Negombo in Sri Lanka.



Mark Green, Operations Manager of Dogstar Foundation (third from left) and the rest of the Catstar team were happy to receive the surgical kits financed by SNIP International.

The Catstar team has received specific training covering various topics such as cat's lifestyles, TNR and its planning and organising, the different stages in the trapping process and how to use the donated equipment, ear-tipping, the R of the TNR, euthanasia policy, and much more.

Whilst not yet being able to trap the feral and stray cats, the team started doing surveys in the Negombo area in order to identify the cat colonies and plan the work areas for their trapping and spaying/neutering. The area was divided into 39 zones and the surveys were conducted within these zones, looking at number of cats, their age, condition, sex and neutering status.

The survey process is time consuming due to the fact that cats have a tendency to be hidden. Usually the colonies are first identified with help from feeders and the community and the Catstar team will walk through the zone to spot them.

So far 14 separate cat colonies have been identified, and in addition to these, there are small hotels and guest houses where smaller groups of cats have been identified. The surveys are ongoing in order to get a full and complete picture of the Negombo cat population.



These cats know it's best to be there when Catstar arrives.

The year 2022 has not changed the situation in Sri Lanka to any better. The economic and political crisis is getting worse and it has turned the life of Sri Lankans into endless queues for getting basic daily goods that have been rationed whilst their prices have skyrocketed.

The Government imposes curfews and there are often power cuts that may last up to 6-10 hours at a time. It is very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to conduct surgery under these conditions. The nation's discontent and frustration manifests itself in large, peaceful protests that the Government tries to control, sometimes with drastic methods that could negatively escalate the conflict.

It will continue to demand a lot of determination and hard work of the Catstar team to keep the project going and continue the mission of spaying and neutering the cat population. SNIP International will keep in touch with Dogstar Foundation and support them in their tremendous work in these challenging conditions.

Some thanks we've received

TAWESO – Tanzania

Tanzania Animal Welfare Society (TAWESO) was established in 2008 and is based in Dar es Salaam. They spay and neuter both owned and stray cats and dogs, vaccinate against rabies and provide education for communities and schools on responsible dog ownership. TAWESO has ten operational offices covering all the geographical zones of the country as the stray animal situation is very challenging.



The trap transfer restrainer allows the veterinary surgeon to administer the anaesthetic drugs to a feral cat without needing to touch her.



A dog receiving his vaccine while being kept still with the help of a dog pole.

TAWESO has a veterinary facility where they also provide general veterinary care in addition to the actions related to animal rescue and rehoming.

“The equipment we got from SNIPi we placed them in three of our operational offices and are very useful there but the rest of the remaining seven offices have no equipment for handling dogs and cats and makes our works difficult. It is for this reason we applied for more equipment.

The dogs and cats were trapped while feeding in garbage heaps and some from restaurants. These animals sometimes fight for dominance especially males causing injuries and most of the adult cats were fierce and they always charged when approached but great we have some handling equipments donated by SNIPi like traps (manual and automatic), cages, hard long gloves.

It is great that all the materials we received from SNIPi are well kept and are in good condition despite some of them are in use for more than 10 years now.

Again many thanks to SNIPi for the great support to us though we still need more to further reach out to many stray animal populations in the country.”

TAWESO Team



Another picture of a dog being controlled with a dog pole, again in a confined area. SNIP International requires specific training before donating a dog pole.



A cat being weighed prior to having its anaesthetic.

Floisvos Cats – Alimos, Greece

Floisvos Cats did TNR on 151 cats in the past 12 months and rehomed 9 cats. They do not have a shelter but foster any cats that are tame enough to be rehomed.

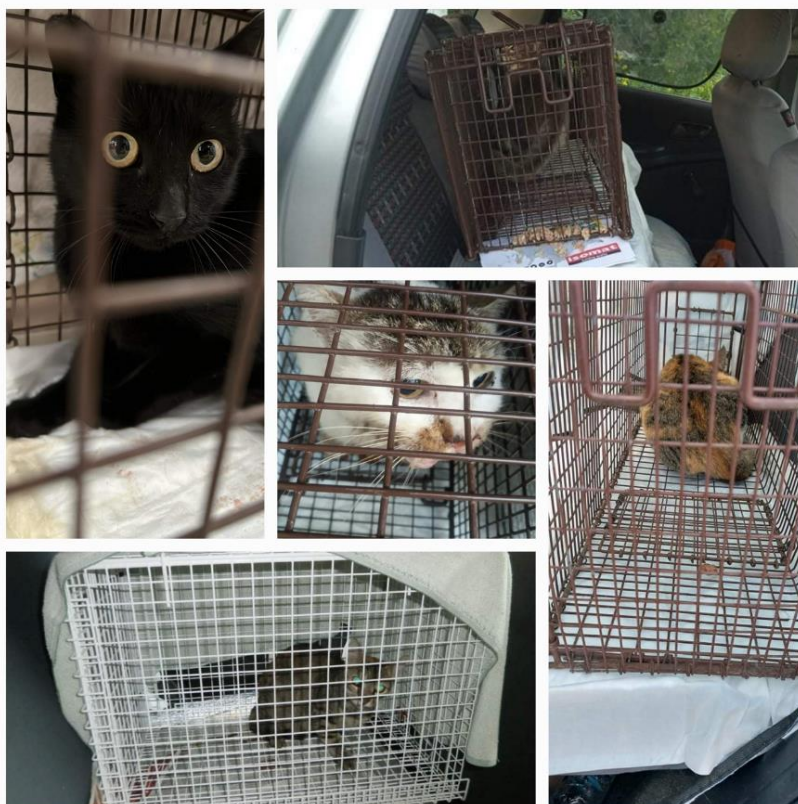
Their motto is to neuter 'everything that moves'.

"Dear SNIP International,

I am sending you some few photos and a video with the equipment we have received from you.

Thanks to you hundreds of stray cats have been trapped and live a better life. TNR is one of the main targets of our team and with the proper equipment we can offer a better life to Greek stray cats."

Sofia / Floisvos Cats



Traps and trap transfer restrainers are in good use. They are covered allowing the cats to calm down.

Tierhilfe Kos – Austria / Samos, Greece

Tierhilfe Kos was established in 2005. They are based in Austria and run neutering campaigns on Samos in Greece two or three times a year. They did TNR on 350 cats in the past 12 months.

Over a six-day long sterilisation project, the team sterilised 201 cats of which 110 females and 91 males. In addition they also dealt with one uterus infection, two cats with ear cancer (amputation), teeth removals (on four cats) and also four euthanasias.



Not all stray cats are feral. This one waits calmly while his friend is inside the transportation basket, waiting to be seen by the veterinary team.

It took place at the clinic of the municipality of Vlamari on the Eastern side of Samos. The municipality provided microchips for all the cats.

The local people participated in the project by bringing over the stray cats that they feed daily, some were seen on two different days with a number of cats. Their contribution was invaluable to reach the high numbers achieved.

The veterinary team admitted all the cats, checked them out and performed all the veterinary care that was needed. All the cats were also treated against parasites.

"Thank you so much for your support!"

Tierhilfe Kos



On the left: a cat inside a hospitalisation basket recovering from the surgery. On the right: a feral cat has been anaesthetized inside the trap transfer restrainer and can now be handled without danger whilst asleep. Below: a cat about to wake up after the surgery.

Kotor Kitties – Montenegro

“Dear Friends at SNIP-International

I’m thankful to say the equipment was picked up this fall, and the hospitalization cages and injection cages were immediately put to use by our veterinarians at Royal Vet, in Podgorica, and Novi Vet, in Herceg Novi.



DVM Bozo Perisić is particularly appreciative of the injection cage: last year a cat jumped, just as he injected it. The syringe flew straight up into the air, and down into Dr. Perisić’s eye! Several difficult weeks followed before it was finally determined that Dr. Perisić would retain normal vision and wouldn’t need to go to Zagreb for surgery.

We are grateful to SNIP-International for this donation, which increases the safety of our veterinarians and decreases the stress experienced by the cats in care.

April L. King, Board of Directors and Volunteer

SNIPi statistics

While a lot of activities have been on hold for SNIP International (ICAWC, face to face board meetings, meeting our supporters), it hasn’t stopped us from helping animal welfare groups in their invaluable work.

Over the past 12 months, SNIPi has donated £39,200 worth of equipment to 30 organisations in 22 different countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, China, Greece and Crete, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Ireland, Kenya, Netherlands, Palestine, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and four new ones Belize, Mauritius, Singapore and Zimbabwe.

The exceptionally large number is due to the backlog that was caused by the complications due to Brexit and the Pandemic in 2020, and that we have only managed to clear over the past months.

During its 26 years of existence, SNIP International has donated a total of 1,831 pieces of equipment to 580 animal rescue groups in 91 countries.



ICAWC – at last!

After two cancellations due to the pandemic, the International Companion Animal Welfare Conference (ICAWC) is at last happening in Sofia, Bulgaria! It will be taking place from 4 - 6 October 2022 and SNIP International will be there with plenty of equipment to donate to the animal rescue groups attending the conference.

We will also take this opportunity to donate additional equipment for Bulgarian and Romanian rescue groups under the project TNR Bulgaria & Romania.

We look forward to meeting many friends and supporters again, and also getting to know new faces!



INTERNATIONAL COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE
Twenty Second Annual Conference

Please remember to put the 4th – 6th October 2022 in your diary for the International Companion Animal Welfare Conference (ICAWC) in Sofia, Bulgaria.

More information to follow soon, but if you know anyone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please ask them to visit www.icawc.org.uk or email icawc@dogstrust.org.uk

ICAWC
4-6 October 2022
SOFIA · BULGARIA

SAVE THE DATE!
ICAWC 2022

Our thanks

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



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



SNIP International
Founded 1996
Registered charity no 1064664

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

Contact details SNIP International, 15 Woodland Close, NG12 2HZ, Radcliffe on Trent, UK
snipinternational@gmail.com

Board of Management - Trustees

Nigel Mason	Chairman and Company Secretary
Lisette Cartier van Dissel	DVM MRCVS, Veterinary Surgeon and Secretary
Annika Lähdeniemi	Fundraising, Communications
Johanna Lopez	Donations Coordinator
Melanie Davies	Treasurer email: Treasurer.SNIPi@gmail.com

Volunteers

David Wilson	Webmaster
Juliette Jones	Research and Development

UK Bank 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 **Facebook** www.facebook.com/SNIPInternational

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

