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Newsletter: February 2019

Protecting stray and feral cats and dogs
Promoting neutering programmes overseas

Dear Friend / Supporter

It is our pleasure to send to you our newsletter with the latest updates of our activities. On the first pages you will read about some terrible losses within the animal welfare community at the end of 2018. However as you read on, you will see that our year was also filled with joy of achievement in collaboration with our donors, partner organisations and the rescue groups receiving equipment donations from us. Please note that we are looking for additional volunteers and ask for your help in finding them!

Chairman's Report

SNIP International has once again maximised the number of groups across the world that it helps by distributing TNR/CNR equipment to a significant number of new groups via our attendance at the International Companion Animal Welfare Conference held this year in Poland. To date we have distributed 1976 pieces of equipment to 79 countries. I am, as always, grateful to my colleagues on the Board who actually make this happen with great good humour and a lot of hard work. Thanks then to Lisette, Annika, Bob and Jo.

The year has been both momentous and very sad as we have lost two very important people. Sylvia Keith, a wonderful long time supporter of SNIPi along with Ian her husband, lost her battle with cancer. Sylvia was a gentle and very kind lady whom I had only just begun to know but her great desire to help animals always shone brightly. The other great loss was of course Adrian Burder. I am proud to have called him a mate and we enjoyed many a debate over the years about animal welfare and dogs in particular. It was typical of Adrian sending me a box of hand-made biscuits in the shape of dogs as a welcome gift for my new role as CEO of Assisi Animal Sanctuary in Northern Ireland. This was made more poignant by the fact that we had already lost him by the time I arrived at Assisi. Adrian was a great supporter of SNIPi and re-affirmed that support by continuing to allow us to distribute a large amount of equipment as guests at ICAWC in Poland and again in Malta in 2019.

Both Sylvia and Adrian will be greatly missed both personally and professionally.

I had hoped to be able to talk further about one or two new initiatives but these are still in train and we will work to try and make them happen going forward. A new SNIPi website has been under construction and will be launched in the first half of 2019. This will help us to reach more people about what we do and how we can help more groups around the world to give cats and dogs a better life through TNR schemes underpinned by equipment donated by SNIPi.

Once again I look forward to working with my fellow board members and supporters to maintain our work and explore other ways in which we can help animals all over the world in need.

Nigel Mason
Chairman



Sylvia Keith 18th July 1934 – 2nd October 2018

Eulogy given by Kate Horne at the funeral held on Friday 19th October 2018 at 1.00PM at St Paul's Church, Hadley Wood

It gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to Sylvia Keith today.

I know you will all have your own fond memories of this fine English gentlewoman, always impeccably dressed and invariably polite.

My own friendship with Sylvia was founded on a common interest in animal welfare. All I will say today applies equally to Ian, her devoted and inseparable companion in life.

My friendship with Sylvia and Ian goes back to the 1990s. The catalyst was a pregnant tabby cat sleeping in the doorway of an antiques shop in Paphos, Greek Cyprus. I could not resist talking to the proprietor of the shop, Christine Panayiotou, about the merits of neutering programmes for cats and dogs.

Sylvia and Ian were already strong supporters of Christine's charity, Animal Rescue Cyprus. They also supported another group in Cyprus, based on the Isle of Man, Cats in Need, Cyprus.

On one of their many visits to the island Sylvia and Ian formed a strong attachment to a particular cat. They sought out the cat on their next visit, were overjoyed to find her, and promptly arranged to bring her back to the UK. Polly, as she was named, could not believe her good fortune.

My next set of memories about the involvement in animal welfare of Sylvia and Ian hover over the International Companion Animal Welfare Conferences.

Dogs Trust organises these conferences annually in the major European cities. Cats Protection is one of the sponsors. Battersea Dogs and Cats Home were also involved in the organisation at an earlier stage. Some 300 delegates from all over the world come together to discuss vital issues arising from the management of cats and dogs.



Sylvia and Ian Keith at ICAWC Athens in 2012, representing SNIP International with a donation to Tierschutz Ombudsstelle Wien (TOW), Austria.

Sylvia and Ian would always sit near the front during the presentations, anxious not to miss anything. In the breaks they enjoyed a detailed inspection of the local food on offer; despite her slight frame Sylvia was quite a 'foodie'! However, most of all Sylvia and Ian revelled in the opportunity for networking – meeting up with old friends and making new ones. Especially the enthusiastic younger delegates, who are such a delight in the animal welfare world.

It is at these conferences that a small but influential charity, SNIP International, supported by Sylvia and Ian, plays a useful role. The specific focus of the charity's work is the donation of specialist equipment – traps, baskets, muzzles, gloves etc – to animal welfare groups working overseas. To date over 1500 items have been donated to groups working in 75 countries. Sylvia and Ian seemed to approve this practical contribution towards solving the problem of just too many free-living cats and dogs.



Sylvia and Ian Keith at ICAWC Porto 2015, representing SNIP International with a donation to Grace Han, Together for Animals, China

My more recent memories of Sylvia and Ian are closer to home, which for me is Normandy in France. ASCA runs a neutering programme for stray and feral cats in the town of Les Andelys and its surrounding communes. Sylvia and Ian have stayed with me on several occasions. We visited the local sights which include Claude Monet's gardens at Giverny and Richard the Lionheart's castle overlooking the River Seine. A highlight of their visits was to meet our local vets and especially the families who foster cats and kittens prior to adoption. Their eyes would light up as they were handed rescued kittens for cuddles.

As you can see the list of animal welfare charities attracting their attention and support is already long. Additions to the list comprise the Cat Action Trust, The Donkey Sanctuary, Guide Dogs for the Blind and the PDSA. There are representatives from some of these organisations here today, many having travelled a long way, to pay their respects.

Thank you for listening to my personal – and necessarily brief – overview of the major and ongoing contribution of the Trust set up by Sylvia and Ian Keith to improve the quality of life of many thousands of animals in the UK and over.

We - and the animals - are indebted to them.

Adrian Burder, formerly CEO of Dogs Trust

Adrian Burder, formerly CEO of Dogs Trust, died suddenly on 31 October 2018 at the age of 53. The advertisement for his job is headed, 'Dogs seeking their special someone'. Adrian was indeed a very special person.

Adrian joined the charity, then known as the National Canine Defence League, in 1994. Under his finance and marketing lead he helped to transform it from a relatively small outfit that raised c £1M a year to a hugely significant player in the animal welfare world, under its modern name of DogsTrust (DT), raising £100M a year.

At the retirement party for Clarissa Baldwin, CBE, former CEO of Dogs Trust, she quipped that she did not expect Adrian to be making a lot of changes to the organisation. Adrian was quick



Adrian Burder (picture by Dogs Trust)

to respond that he expected to make his own mark. Both of them were right, of course. Adrian continued to develop the innovations he and Clarissa had worked closely on together and introduced his own projects. At the time of his death the number of dogs cared for by the charity had doubled to 15,000, while the number of stray and abandoned dogs in Britain had halved. He is credited with redeveloping the 21 rehoming centres to give the dogs more comfortable lives and with being the driving force behind the introduction of mandatory microchipping in 2016. He also introduced the 'Dog School' which offers training and behaviour classes to c10,000 dogs a year and helped to establish the 'Sponsor a Dog' campaign for dogs considered unsuitable for rehoming.

SNIP International has had the good fortune to work closely with DT, mainly through Clarissa becoming a Trustee and Director of the Board of Management of SNIPi and Adrian's having continued the close liaison. At a practical level, the board meetings and special functions have been hosted by the DT headquarters in Islington. DT's training courses for delegates from overseas animal welfare groups, held twice a year, have provided a mechanism for SNIPi to offer specialist equipment like trap-transfer-restrainers and gloves for delegates to take home with them. DT's International Companion Animal Welfare Conference, ICAWC, held in European cities have enabled SNIPi to hand out £4K worth of specialist equipment to the 200-300 delegates from all over the world once a year. Both these outlets have allowed SNIPi to focus on the most progressive overseas animal welfare groups whilst reducing the otherwise heavy transport costs.

I'd like to end the tribute on a personal note. Whether it was giving professional advice on the review of the SNIPi flyer or offering introductions over a drink at the conferences Adrian was invariably generous, with his own gentle, accessible, humorous style. He will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues and by the animal welfare community across the world.

Kate Horne
former Chairman
SNIP International

Dogs Trust Bosnia and Herzegovina Veterinary Training Programme

On becoming CEO of Dogs Trust UK in 2014, Adrian Burder also became CEO of Dogs Trust Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was created in 2012; he visited regularly and was passionate about their work.

The country introduced a progressive no-kill animal welfare law in 2009, but its implementation had been poor. Acknowledging this issue, Dogs Trust UK partnered with local Bosnian authorities to launch a long-term project. Since October 2012, Dogs Trust Bosnia and Herzegovina has been working with local organisations, vets and schools to help humanely reduce the stray dog population, whilst also improving the long-term health and welfare of the dogs by educating the public.

More information can be found on their interesting website: <http://www.dogstrust.ba/en/>

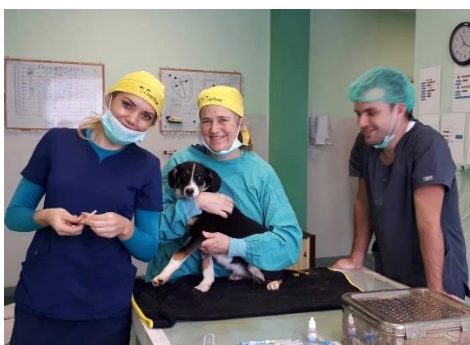
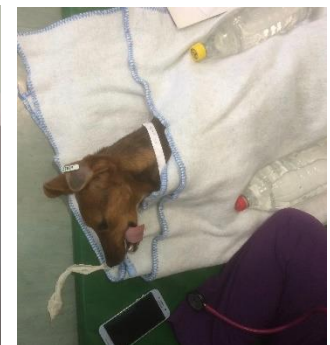
An expanding nationwide Neutering Programme is run by Dogs Trust Bosnia and Herzegovina which aims to promote mass neutering of stray dogs and free neutering of owned dogs. All treated dogs are identified by a microchip, ear tattoo and ear tag. In addition, these dogs receive a rabies vaccination and are dewormed.

Over the past seven years over 53,000 dogs have been neutered and the street dog population in Sarajevo has decreased from over 11,000 to less than 4,000.

In January I went back to volunteer at the Veterinary Training Programme at the Veterinary Faculty in Sarajevo and was joined by Registered Veterinary Nurse Rachel Lay-Flurrie Royston again. The Veterinary Training Programme provides training for veterinarians who can then implement the Neutering Programme at their own practices. Stray dogs are often stressed, of unknown health status and may be in season which can make surgery challenging, especially when only using injectable anaesthesia. Since 2012 over 310 vets and veterinary technicians from all over the country have been trained in surgical neutering and anaesthesia.

I would like to thank Dogs Trust for another opportunity to participate in this inspiring project, to work with a wonderful team and to meet more of the incredibly sweet natured street dogs of Sarajevo!

Lisette



Photos left to right: 1. Snowy Sarajevo; 2 One of the delegates castrating a street dog supervised by Lisette; 3. A stray bitch recovering after surgery with 'Coca cola hot water bottles'; 4. A young stray bitch being checked prior to surgery; 5. Two dogs recovering from surgery; 6. The team of Veterinary Faculty staff and delegates with their well-earned certificates.

International Companion Animal Welfare Conference in Krakow, Poland, 9-11 October 2018

ICAWC 2018 was held in Krakow, Poland. SNIP International was again represented by Nigel Mason, Annika Lähdeniemi and Lisette Cartier van Dissel with Miranda Luck representing MDC Exports. In addition Carly Bradbury from Cats Protection was a big help with the unpacking, demonstrating and handing out of equipment.

65 groups applied for equipment, a much higher number than in recent years. This was largely due to the large Polish TOZ (Towarzystwo Opiek Nad Zwierzetami w Polsce) contingent, the equivalent of the Polish RSPCA. ICAWC donations were given to 10 out of the 21 national branches attending ICAWC with the other 11 groups receiving donations through Project TNR Poland.

Previous ICAWC donations have numbered: 48 in 2017 Nicosia, Cyprus; 48 in 2016 Dubrovnik, Croatia; 51 in 2015 Porto, Portugal; 47 in 2014 Istanbul, Turkey; 70 in 2013 Barcelona, Spain; 65 in 2012 Athens, Greece and 44 in 2011 Riga, Latvia. In 2018 58% of the groups had not received donations previously.

The groups came from 26 different countries: Afghanistan (1), Austria (1), Belgium (1), Bulgaria (3), Cape Verde (1), Croatia (1), Cyprus (1), Estonia (1), Germany (3), Greece (2), India (1), Indonesia (1), Italy (1), Japan (1), Malta (1), Morocco (1), Norway (1), Poland (30), Romania (5), Russia (1), Slovenia (1), South Africa (1), Sweden (1), Spain (1), Taiwan (1), Ukraine (1). Of these Indonesia (Bali) and Morocco attended for the first time

83 pieces of equipment were donated with protective gloves and cat traps being the firm favourites as usual. As in the previous 2 years Cats Protection donated 20 Feline Fortresses, 15 of which were sent out after the Conference which meant groups from further afield were also able to apply for these bulky items.

We thank our partners MDC Exports Ltd and Cats Protection for their ongoing generous contributions to the equipment donations.



Left: Transylvania Animal Care, Romania, receiving a TTR (Trap Transfer Restraint) with SNIPi's Nigel Mason and Lisette Cartier van Dissel; Middle: BAWA (Bali Animal Welfare Association), Indonesia, receiving Rabies gloves with SNIPi's Annika Lähdeniemi; Right: Elizabeth Oliver from ARK, Japan, receiving a TTR with Cat Protection's Dr. Maggie Roberts and Annika Lähdeniemi from SNIPi.



Left: 2nd Chance Dogs, Cyprus, receiving a MAC Trap with SNIPi's Lisette Cartier van Dissel and Cats Protection's Carly Bradbury; Middle: EKOS Pet, Italy, receiving Rabies gloves with SNIPi's Annika Lähdeniemi; Right: SOS Animals, Sweden, receiving Professional Dog Muzzles with SNIPi's Lisette Cartier van Dissel and MDC's Miranda Luck.

Project TNR Poland

In March 2018 the Petplan Charitable Trust awarded SNIP International a third consecutive welfare grant for £2000. The grant was again match-funded by SNIPi, giving a total of £4000 used to fund TNR/CNR equipment for Polish animal welfare groups at ICAWC Krakow this year.

Fifteen groups received equipment through Project Poland, eleven of these were national branches of TOZ (Towarzystwo Opiek Nad Zwierzetami w Polsce) which is the Polish equivalent of the RSPCA. The four independent groups that applied all received a large equipment donation whilst the TOZ branches each received a smaller donation.

SNIPi will continue to evaluate the effect of the equipment donations over the coming 2 years.

All three Projects, Croatia 2016, Cyprus 2017 and Poland 2018, have been a tremendous success. Many thanks again to Petplan for their support in these exciting projects.

We plan to run Project TNR Malta at ICAWC later this year!



Left: Donation to Rzeszowskie Stowarzyszenie Ochrony Zwierząt with (from left to right) SNIPi's Lisette Cartier van Dissel, Katarzyna Pokrzywa, Petplan's Clarissa Baldwin CBE and Annika Lähdeniemi from SNIPi; Right: Donation to Skawinskie Stowarzyszenie Pomocy Dla Zwierząt with (from left to right) SNIPi's Annika Lähdeniemi, Klaudia Monica-Bogros and colleague, Petplan's Clarissa Baldwin CBE and Lisette Cartier van Dissel from SNIPi;



Left: Donation to Fundacja Kastor with (from left to right) SNIPi's Annika Lähdeniemi, Aleksandra Cieslicka, Petplan's Clarissa Baldwin CBE and Lisette Cartier van Dissel from SNIPi; Right: Donation to TOZ Celestynow with (from left to right) Cat Protection's Dr. Maggie Roberts, Łukasz Balcer, President of TOZ, and Annika Lähdeniemi from SNIPi.



Some thanks we've received

Animales Protegidos en Almonaster La Real, Spain

"Without the support of SNIP Internation we would not have been able to start on the TNR programme when we did. Although the number of cats neutered might seem small, it is only the beginning and it has improved the lives of those cats. They look healthier, have shiny coats and are neither too thin nor bulging with kittens all the time."



Animal Action Cyprus

"Because we work with many people across the whole of Cyprus we have been able to use the equipment in many places. We have had volunteers trapping cats in Nicosia, Limassol and Paphos. Cynthia Smith who was our representative on the day (and her organisation Mandry's Fund) has neutered 56 cats since the new equipment was donated. In addition to this our volunteers have neutered a further 10 cats in Nicosia, 10 in Limassol and 11 in Paphos. We have also neutered one dog. We thank you sincerely for trusting us to use the equipment wisely and for giving us the opportunity to help prevent unwanted animals."



JSPCA - Jerusalem Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Israel

"The Jerusalem Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (JSPCA) was originally opened in the 1940s and the organization has operated rescuing hurt and abandoned animals since the British mandate. The JSPCA is Jerusalem's largest animal shelter organization. We have found the equipment to be extremely helpful and would like to sincerely thank you once again."



We are looking for new volunteers

After ten years of invaluable contributions, our Treasurer and Company Secretary Bob Bacon wishes to retire, which is why SNIP International is looking for a new volunteer to take on the role of Treasurer. If you would be interested in this, please contact us.

We are also looking for volunteers to help in administration – this important work can be tailored to fit people's available time and can be done at home to make things easier.

For more information, please contact us on snipinternational@gmail.com and please feel free to pass on our appeal for anyone you think might be interested in joining our friendly, casual and animal loving team!

ICAWC 2019 – save the date!

SNIP International will be donating equipment again at the International Companion Animal Welfare Conference – ICAWC – organised by Dogs Trust from 8 to 10 October 2019 in Valletta, Malta.



Following our successful projects in Croatia (2016), Cyprus (2017) and Poland (2018), we will, in conjunction with the conference, also run a special donation programme for the local animal welfare organisations: Project TNR Malta!

If you are attending the conference, please come by our stand to say hi!

Thanks

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





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

