



Newsletter 2026

Dear Friend / Supporter

We hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter with the latest news from the rescue groups that we have been able to help thanks to your support.

Please feel free to contact us, we always welcome any feedback you would like to give on our work.

Chairman's update

As we look back on 2025, I am proud to share what has been a truly milestone year for SNIP International. Our mission remains clear: to relieve the suffering of stray and feral cats and dogs in communities outside the UK, and to do so in a practical, humane way—most often through Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and Catch-Neuter-Return (CNR).

Behind every statistic is a dedicated local team, and behind every local team is a community of supporters who believe, as we do, that kindness and effective population control go hand in hand.

We began the year by donating equipment to 19 overseas organisations—tools that make it safer and more efficient for groups to carry out vital sterilisation work. Since SNIP International began, we have now supported TNR programmes in 96 countries, helped 708 groups, and distributed 2,442 pieces of essential equipment. This reach is humbling, but what matters most is the real-world difference it makes: fewer unwanted litters, less suffering, and healthier animals living alongside the people who share their streets and communities.

During the year, the Trustees also took an important step forward by agreeing to transition SNIP International towards a grant-giving model, enabling us to support overseas organisations that share our approach and can demonstrate strong, compassionate practice. We launched our first formal grants programme, creating clear application forms and a robust due diligence and practical assessment process for each submission. The response was heartening. From a strong field of high-quality applications, we awarded 11 grants of £2,000 each—helping local teams plan ahead, strengthen their capacity, and keep lifesaving work moving.



In October, three Trustees had the opportunity of running our Project TNR Romania at an Animal Welfare Conference in Bucharest, Romania. Alongside our partners—Cats Protection, MDC Exports and Pet Plan Charitable Trust—we distributed equipment directly to local animal welfare organisations, listening to their challenges and learning from their experience. The visit continued at Save the Dogs in Cernavoda, where our Trustees supported a four-day cat “spayathon”. Seeing the commitment of vets and volunteers working long days for the animals in their care was a powerful reminder of why our support matters.

None of this would be possible without the people who give their time, expertise, and steady encouragement to SNIP International. I want to thank my fellow Trustees for their commitment and teamwork throughout the year. I also want to warmly thank everyone who supports us through regular donations. Your generosity—month after month—helps us respond quickly, act responsibly, and give tens of thousands of cats and dogs a real chance of a better life.

Nigel Mason,
Chairman

As mentioned in last year's newsletter, SNIPi decided to look into alternative ways to distribute bulk TNR equipment donations in Romania after the annual ICAWC gatherings were ceased.



Some of the wonderful neutered and unneutered Romanian residents we met on our first day: eartipped street cats awaiting feeding in Bucharest, and stray dogs hanging around a local plaza near Bucharest.



We started by contacting two Romanian animal welfarists who are both well known to us after many years of having attended ICAWC together - Raluca Simion (Asociatia Red Panda) and Sara Turetta (Save the Dogs and Other Animals).

We thus heard the wonderful news that Asociatia Red Panda were busy organising their second Romanian animal welfare development conference, in their hometown of Bucharest; The Business of Saving Lives conference was due to be held in October 2025 and so, the plan was born to hold Project TNR Romania alongside this.

The Business of Saving Lives conferences are a great way for Romanian animal welfarists to share knowledge and experience on animal welfare and also enables useful networking between organisations.

SNIP International was very fortunate to be able to 'piggy back' on Red Panda's inspirational Conference, and in October 2025, SNIPi's Annika Lähdeniemi, Adelle Goodman and Lisette Cartier van Dissel, travelled to Romania to orchestrate the Project.

Project TNR Romania was jointly funded by Petplan Charitable Trust, MDC by Génia, Cats Protection and SNIP International, and allowed SNIPi to donate and distribute £8,000 worth of TNR equipment throughout Romania!

This is the 6th TNR Project that SNIPi has organised, and this time the logistics were extra complicated as it was a one-day conference, which involved many months of planning and coordinating with all the different parties. As always, MDC by Génia organised the shipping from France to Romania two weeks ahead of the conference.

Another crucial step was provided by Dr. Aurelian Stefan from Romania Animal Rescue, who offered to store the mountain of equipment for us at their impressive Center of Hope Veterinary Hospital, based near to Bucharest. Center of Hope provides paid veterinary services which help to fund Romania Animal Rescue's Homeless Animal Hospital Project. This provides free neutering and veterinary care for strays and low-income families; one of the ways they do this is by travelling throughout the country in their Hope spay mobile. They have achieved the milestone of neutering over 125,000 animals since 2004 and now aim to neuter over 1,000 animals every month! Dr. Aurelian Stefan stored the TNR equipment for us until the day before the conference and even arranged for it to be transported to the Conference Centre in their 'spaymobile'!



Adelle, Annika, Dr Aurelian Stefan and Lisette at Center of Hope



The second The Business of Saving Lives conference was held on 11th October 2026 - Asociatia Red Panda managed to arrange extensive sponsorship, including the loan of the conference hall, and was thereby able to keep the delegate fees down to just €10 per person!

Left: The 'spaymobile' van filled with TNR equipment; Right: Unpacking at the conference centre

The one-day event was attended by 100 delegates from organisations based throughout Romania.

The lectures were given by Romanian and English speakers, but simultaneous translations were audible through headphones, so all the delegates were able to follow every lecture.



Both Annika (left) and Adelle (right) presented at the conference and were very well received.

Project TNR Romania allowed each attending animal welfare organisation to apply for a TNR equipment kit - there was a choice of 2 cat kits (consisting of a variety of automatic box traps, restraining cages and/or transfer cages) and 2 dog kits (consisting of a variety of dog catching nets and/or gloves).

In total 103 items of TNR equipment, were donated to 27 organisations, which culminated in many happy delegates.

The Conference room with the banner naming all the sponsors



SNIP International extends a big thank you to everyone involved, especially the Asociatia Red Panda team, without whose tremendous input and support Project TNR Romania would not have been possible!

Conference applicants receiving their Project TNR Romania equipment donations:
Left: Help Animals from Onești;
Right: Asociatia Refugiul pentru Animale.

Following on from the conference, the SNIPi team travelled on to Cernavodă, where Save the Dogs and Other Animals have their magical Urme de Bucurie (Footprints of Joy) sanctuary.

Save the Dogs and Other Animals was established in 2002, after Founder Sara Turetta reached a deal with the local municipality to stop poisoning community dogs and cats and instead, set up a programme to sterilise and vaccinate them.

Subsequently, the Urme de Bucurie sanctuary was opened in 2012 - it has a Veterinary Clinic, sanctuary for equines, and a shelter for dogs and cats; They run a free sterilisation program for unowned dogs and cats, as well as for those belonging to low income families, and they are also involved in various different education projects.



The Veterinary Clinic at Urme de Bucurie pictured left, and one of the wonderful rescued donkeys pictured right.

Save the Dogs have now been doing CNR (capture-neuter-return) and rescue of stray dogs for nearly 25 years. Unfortunately, the situation for stray dogs is still very difficult in Romania – they are tolerated by some local authorities, but the approach is often still to systematically ‘eliminate’ them, and, in those instances, the more trusting dogs are of course sadly the ones most likely to be captured.

The Save the Dogs policy is to admit animals that interact well with humans into the shelter and put them up for adoption; animals that are not well socialised are released back onto the streets.

The team works hard on keeping rescued animal intake numbers low to maintain good animal welfare by preventing the hoarding of animals in kennels without them being rehomed and adopted. As aligned with SNIP International’s mission, they try to focus instead on rescue prevention - sterilising and vaccinating free-roaming cats and dogs, as trap/catch-neuter-return is the only way to stabilise and eventually reduce the numbers of animals that live on the street.





Some of the wonderful canines which the Save the Dogs team are dealing with. At the bottom of the previous page, left: one of the neutered street dogs, identifiable by blue ear tag; Right: a litter of young puppies found dumped at the entrance to Urme de Bucurie (something that unfortunately occurs on a regular basis); This page, above left: one of the shelter dogs visiting the Sanctuary Veterinarian to test for parasites before travel to her new home; Above right: Two of the shelter dogs bonding in one of the dogs runs.

In recent years, the stray cat population in Cernavodă has also been steadily increasing – this is also seen in other countries and may be related to a reduction in the numbers of stray dogs. Save the Dogs are therefore now also focussing on TNR (trap-neuter-return) in street cats.

When we contacted Sara Turetta earlier in the year, she invited the SNIPi team to help assist and advise them during one of their cat ‘spayathons’ - and thus we were fortunate to be able to spend several days with the team, supporting their cat spayathon event during which nearly 100 cats were sterilised!

Unfortunately, we were unable to meet up with Sara personally, as she was in Germany for the launch of ‘Freudepfoten’, the German version of her autobiography. Sara hopes to also publish the English version ‘Footprints of Joy’ in the future, so if anyone can help with this, please let us know. The proceeds help to fund the amazing work that Save the dogs do.



The team wasn’t there just to trap cats, though. The main goal was to skillshare and practise together in the field, sharing tips and tricks Annika and Adelle had learned over the years of their work in TNVR.

This meant first talking strategy before picking up any traps. The team discussed the fabulous surveying research that Save the Dogs had conducted beforehand, identifying where cat colonies were and how many cats were still unsterilised in each colony. This indicated where the team should first focus their trapping efforts, to ensure every target colony and area had all of its cats sterilised before moving onto the next ones.

Left: looking at colony maps to make a strategic trapping plan. Right: learning how to set up the MDC Drop Trap.



Then, we ventured together into the field to check out the local colonies we planned to trap in, spoke with the feeders to direct them on withholding dinner to prepare for trapping the cats the next day, and met the cats. Parts of the local area were very resource-deprived, with some people living in makeshift homes of metal sheeting.



Left: some very impoverished areas, reinforcing how when humans struggle, animals do too. Right: meeting the local cats.

Finally, it was time to trap some cats! Save the Dogs already had a stock of previously donated equipment, including the Multi Catch Cat Trap which the team weren't confident in using. Together, we learned how to make use of all the equipment they had, increasing their knowledge of different trapping techniques and utilising all the different types of equipment.

In addition, MDC by Génia had generously donated their brand new product, the Drop Trap, to use on this trip to Cernavoda, and for the Save the Dogs' team to keep. This was the first of its kind ever tested in the field! Drop Traps work in a different way to Box Traps - the trap 'drops' down from above which feels less threatening to cats, especially wary ones. Together, the team learned how to put it together, and strategies for how to use it for mass trapping of cats, as well as targeting difficult, unfriendly, or the last remaining unneutered cats. The Drop Trap, was used successfully both for mass-trapping as well as trapping while using several equipment types at once.



Left: mass trapping with the MDC Drop Trap. Right: patiently transferring cats into MDC Transfer Cages.

We also practised using the dropper trap, sometimes called a set over trap, with a floor that slides out which is lowered down over the top of the cat. This trap is very helpful for catching individual cats who are friendlier than others, and its cage-like shape means no transfer has to happen, reducing the risk of the cat escaping during transfer from a trap (see pictures of the use of a Dropper trap on the Thank you report from Travel Animal Rescue).

We also made sure to transfer the cats safely from trap to transfer cage, focussing on details such as keeping trapped cats covered to reduce stress, and using patience and encouragement - rather than force and intimidation.

At the clinic, each cat and their cage was meticulously labelled with vital information for both the vet team and the return team, so everyone knew where each cat was from and which colony they needed to return to. After a meal and a good night's sleep in a spacious hospitalisation cage, each cat was returned to the field.

With nearly 100 cats sterilised at the Save the Dogs Veterinary Clinic, and their team feeling more informed and empowered to continue their work, we finished the spayathon week on a further high note:

A cat with a broken glass jar stuck around his neck had been spotted several weeks earlier, but he had been impossible to trap a second time. This cat had previously been castrated (and ear-tipped) and was therefore now trap shy, but with a bit of convincing using very smelly oily fish, we eventually managed to catch him using the Drop Trap.

The Save the Dogs' vet safely removed the broken jar under general anaesthetic and gave him a health check, after which he was returned to his colony.

Save the Dogs has an incredible team completely dedicated to protecting animals. Being able to help support an organisation that is at the forefront of best practice, high-welfare animal care and population management was truly an honour for all of us from SNIP International - we learned a lot from each other, and we hope SNIPi's input will help Save the Dog's future work supporting the local cat population.



The 'Jar cat' waiting to be anaesthetised after finally being trapped

And so SNIPi's multifaceted Romanian venture drew to a close, a huge thank you to everyone involved and for helping us make a global impact together!

NUCA STREET ANIMAL LIFELINE

Asociatia NUCA Animal Welfare, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Thank you

In Cluj-Napoca, in northern Romania, NUCA Animal Welfare's team had been trying to catch two female dogs living rough on a piece of waste ground. They managed the smaller of the two with a live trap. The larger one was too cautious. She kept her distance, and despite weeks of feeding and patient effort, she eventually disappeared. The team thought of her often, wondered what they could have done differently, and quietly assumed the worst.



Pictured originally with the smaller female on the left; her larger companion was finally caught months later, 20 kilometres away.

Then, several months later, she turned up. Not in the same neighbourhood, not even nearby, but 20 kilometres away in another part of the city entirely. Strangers got in touch about her, and the team went out one more time. They did not catch her with the live trap, but they did catch her. *“So it’s a happy ending to the story,”* Alina Banu, the association’s vice-president, wrote to SNIPi in April. *“And for us as well, because we finally had closure.”*

NUCA Animal Welfare has been operating in Cluj since 2011. It is a registered Romanian charity with no paid staff, twenty volunteers, and a network of foster homes that takes the place of a shelter they do not have. In 2022, SNIPi donated a set of TNR equipment to NUCA through Project TNR Bulgaria & Romania: cat traps, transfer cages, and the kit that turns a kind-hearted volunteer into a TNR practitioner.



This poor cat was extremely anxious after having been abandoned and then chased away by local residents. NUCA eventually managed to trap him; he was castrated, vaccinated and placed into foster care where he is turning into a friendly and cuddly cat!

Three and a half years on, that equipment is still in daily use. In 2024, NUCA spayed or neutered 372 cats and dogs. In 2025, they pushed that figure to 473 (418 cats and 55 dogs), with almost 90% returned to their original colonies and most of the rest finding foster placements. Across the two reporting years, only three animals had to be euthanised, all on welfare grounds.

In October 2024, after years of patient advocacy, NUCA secured what most TNR organisations spend their careers chasing: a partnership with the local authorities. Cluj City now part-finances a stray-cat sterilisation programme that NUCA delivers in the field, handling trapping, transport, post-operative care and documentation. The team also continues a programme, now in its fifteenth year, supporting sterilisation for owners on limited incomes.



These puppies had been abandoned in the woods with their mother; they were extremely frightened and would not approach food when people were present, making it difficult to catch them. Using a live trap, the NUCA volunteers eventually managed to trap first the puppies, and later their mother, ensuring their safety.

Three and a half years on, that 2022 donation has already paid for itself many times over: in animals spared, litters never born, and the occasional moment of closure for the volunteers themselves.

“Our goal is to maintain or increase the number of animals humanely treated compared to previous years, prioritising high-density and high-risk areas. We intend to expand educational activities aimed at local communities, including information campaigns on responsible pet ownership, the benefits of sterilisation, and the humane treatment of animals.”

Alina Banu, Vice-President, NUCA Animal Welfare

Help Animals From Onești was established in 2017; two of their members are vets. Their main mission is to improve animal welfare by reducing the population of stray and unwanted animals through neutering programmes; they also focus on raising public awareness through education, and stimulate local people to volunteer, foster and/or adopt strays.

We first met Lidia Zahiu in Sofia when she applied for an equipment donation through Project TNR Bulgaria & Romania during ICAWC 2022. This year we crossed paths with Lidia again during the animal welfare conference in Bucharest, where Help Animals From Onești received a cat trap and two transfer cages through Project TNR Romania (see photo on page 3).

Help Animals From Onești have now managed to build a small clinic which is used primarily to neuter both owned and unowned dogs and cats, and it has sufficient space to keep strays overnight post operatively before releasing them back onto the street. As in so many countries, the neutering of owned animals alongside TNR is extremely important, as it reduces the ongoing source which originates either from unneutered pets mixing with unowned animals, or through unwanted kittens/puppies being dumped on the street.



Help Animals From Onești offer free neutering for unowned animals and those belonging to low income families. The sale of non-prescription veterinary supplies helps to generate extra funds for neutering.

During the past year Help Animals From Onești have managed to neuter impressive numbers: 1,500 owned cats and 500 street cats that were then released back on to the street; 1,200 owned dogs and 600 street dogs, of which 200 were pregnant.

And then, during the second half of our Romanian venture, we met Lidia again!

Lidia offers her veterinary skills for a heavily discounted fee to other animal welfare organisations during their spayathons – during these events, extra surgical hands are needed to neuter all the cats and dogs that are trapped/caught/brought in by low income families.

Save the Dogs and Other Animals used Lidia's services during the week we were there, and she worked non-stop for five long days, neutering all the cats that were brought in.

"Our animal protection association, formed by dedicated veterinarians and volunteers, would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for your generous support. The cat trapping equipment we received as part of the Trap-Neuter-Release program is of great help in continuing our mission to provide free spay and neuter services for both owned and stray cats and dogs.

Thanks to your generosity and collaboration, we are able to work more efficiently, prevent animal suffering, and contribute to a safer and more balanced environment for everyone.

We are deeply grateful for your trust and support and we look forward to continuing this wonderful partnership in the future. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!"

Lidia Zahiu
Help Animals From Onești

Our friends at Worldwide Vets tell us that each year they write about Ukraine, they hope it is the last time they will need to talk of war. Sadly, 2025 was not that year. Bombing has reached further west, pushed harder against Kyiv, and made many of the areas where Worldwide Vets worked in 2024 inaccessible. Yet the team is still there – sterilising, vaccinating, treating, and now building.

In February, Worldwide Vets founder Dr Gemma Campling wrote to SNIPi from a clinic operating without mains power, water or heating, in temperatures of around -15 C°.

“The team comes to work every day, but generally there is no power, water or heating. We have a small solar/battery system which allows us to run the lights for around four hours, but then it’s back to head torches. Plenty of uphill battles to keep us on our toes! But everyone wants to keep going as there are so many animals coming in from the frontlines, shelters, and grannies and grandads of the villages, and there is nowhere else they can get free care.”

Worldwide Vets set themselves a target of 10,000 treatments in 2025. They delivered 13,269, including 4,029 sterilisations (1,314 female dogs, 263 male dogs, 2,073 female cats and 379 male cats), 4,393 rabies vaccinations and 4,068 parasite treatments, alongside 179 critical cases and hospitalisations.

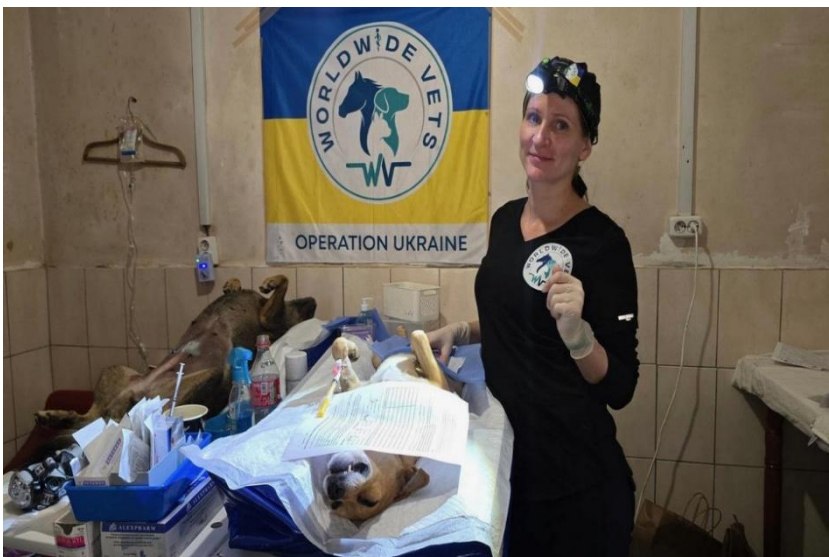
Cumulatively, they have now sterilised more than 10,000 animals since the start of the war.

Working by head-torch light during a power outage.



Last year, SNIPi contributed £3,000 towards neutering and treatment fees on the mobile clinic. Equipment we donated in earlier years (the trapping, handling and restraint kits photographed in our previous newsletters) continues to be used daily, both on the road and in their newest project, a permanent base.

In 2025 the team began creating “The Vet Hub”, a sterilisation centre and central base in the middle of Ukraine. It will allow shelters across the region to bring animals for treatment, serve as a stopover for animals being evacuated from the frontline, and welcome more international volunteers through the year. The mobile clinic still goes everywhere it has always gone. The Hub simply gives the team a static base behind it. Renovation is underway, with anaesthetic machines, surgical tables and recovery cages being fundraised for now.



The road into Kherson is now covered in a kilometres-long net to deflect kamikaze drones from civilian cars. Landmines scatter the fields where strays have to be returned. And still, every day, the team turns up. SNIPi is one of many supporters helping to keep that work going. The credit belongs to the people doing it.

Two dogs on the table at the same time, a routine sight at the new Vet Hub.



Voice of Animal Nepal's mobile Veterinary unit

Following on from the uplifting report in last year's newsletter, Voice of Animal received another equipment donation from SNIP International in February 2025.

In June 2023, SNIPi donated one Bali catch net for dogs, Animal Handling Gauntlets and Rabies Gloves. Following their request for more equipment, it was decided to send them an identical donation again last year. On both occasions Voice of Animal were able to arrange transport from the UK themselves, which greatly reduced the shipping costs.

Voice of Animal Nepal is continuing to work tirelessly to improve the welfare of stray animals in Kathmandu and the surrounding area. They are now a small team of eight employees and two volunteers, who are committed to spaying, neutering, and providing essential veterinary care to animals in need.

In the past 12 months the donated equipment has helped them to catch a further 1600 community dogs, 200 of which were entire and therefore neutered before being returned. All these dogs were also vaccinated against rabies.

One of the dogs they dealt with was a 6-year-old bitch from Lalitpur district which had a very painful tail wound, badly infected and infested with maggots. Voice of Animal rescued the dog and brought her to the shelter, where the wound was treated. She was given a long course of antibiotics and pain relief. The wound eventually healed and she was spayed and released back into the community, fully fit and healthy.



Pictures of the bitch with the tail wound before and after treatment.

400+ Community Cats Neutered in 4 Months

An update from the field

Travel Animal Rescue, Lefkada Island, Greece

Thank you

Travel Animal Rescue is a Cat Population Management-focused UK-registered charity supporting community cats nationally across Greece since 2023.

Early 2025, this organisation received an equipment donation from SNIP International, consisting of a Dropper cage, two Transfer cages and a Cat Trap Comb.

Last winter, Travel Animal Rescue organised an ambitious TNVR program (Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return) on the Greek Island of Lefkada. From November to April, the team trapped, transported, sterilised, recovered, and returned free-roaming community cats every day. The goal was not only to sterilise cats, but to build the capacity of the local community and animal rescuers to continue this work more sustainably; together with locals and organisations, they sterilised and treated the local cats, alongside providing them with equipment and practical skill-sharing.



Lefkada Island is off the west coast of Greece, connected to the mainland by a small bridge.

Travel Animal Rescue's goal was to provide a level of care not typically seen in TNVR programs, to treat each cat as an individual, and to improve their recovery and return outcomes. Each cat received thorough veterinary care, involving not only spay or neuter surgery, but also vaccinations, parasite treatment, and treatment for any other health issues, such as ear amputations, dental extractions, eye enucleations, wound care, and hernia repair.

This was only possible due to the equipment donation from SNIP International. Quality trapping equipment is hard to find outside of the US and UK, and very expensive to ship to Greece. Receiving transfer cages and trapping equipment meant the team could safely catch and transfer community cats, and keep them comfortable during transport and recovery.



The MDC Dropper cage helps to catch individual cats with a low-stress approach, as they don't need to be transferred out.

The norm in Greece is catching and transporting cats inside plastic carriers, which you find at most pet shops. Even though these carriers are taped and cable tied to keep the doors secure, there is always the risk they may break, or a cat escaping from them far from their home.

SNIPi changed that by providing the equipment needed to perform quality TNVR high-volume.

Cats can be safely caught and easily transferred using a Dropper cage and transfer cage.



The TNVR approach in this project was strategic, targeting cat colonies in specific areas to ensure every last cat was spayed or neutered before moving on. This meant the team were able to sterilise up to 100% of all the cats in many colonies they worked in. Sterilising 400+ cats is one achievement only possible by having enough equipment to catch 10 to 15 cats every day, but the greatest impact was achieving at least 80% and up to 100% cat sterilisation rates in each colony and area that they worked in.



The equipment donation was invaluable and is helping set a new standard of cat trapping in Greece, using safe trapping equipment to take better care of community cats.

Equipment is cleaned and disinfected after every use to keep cats safe from disease and to preserve it long-term.

Cretan Cat-a-List are based in Rethymno, northern Crete. They have received two equipment donations in recent years: in 2021 they received two Nurses Best Friend dropper cages (which are really useful to catch friendly street cats and kittens) alongside one restrainer cage; and early last year they requested a Vulcan Dog Trap. On both occasions they were able to arrange transport from the UK themselves which greatly helps to reduce the shipping costs.

Cretan Cat-a-list (CCL) was founded by Jayne Butler in 2005. Jayne felt more emphasis needed to be given to the cats, and therefore set up *Cretan Cat-a-list* to work alongside Rethymno Animal Welfare. Jayne sadly passed away in 2023, but all the CCL volunteers are continuing to do incredible work. The main focus is TNR, but any animal in need is given a chance ; and they work closely with all the other animal welfare groups working on Crete.

CCL have also built Cat Cafés around Rethymno Old Town. These safe feeding stations, which are maintained by local people, help protect and care for the cats while also informing both locals and tourists. Each café includes information in English and Greek and is designed to withstand the elements.



Left and middle: One of the cat feeding stations in Rethymno - street cats are fed here by both locals and tourists. On the right : A hungry stray dog being lured into the Dog trap by the smell of food

In the past 12 months CCL have managed to trap 1035 cats, of which 1005 needed neutering. The majority, 925, were released back onto the street, 50 were rehomed, 25 remain in foster care and sadly 35 had to be euthanased. The CCL volunteers also caught 35 stray dogs, which were all neutered; none of the dogs were released, 33 were rehomed and 2 are being fostered. By law stray dogs can be released back into the community providing they are neutered and vaccinated, but life on the street is not easy for dogs so the focus is on having them adopted.

The recently donated Vulcan Dog Trap is useful in catching nervous dogs which are not approachable. CCL were thus able to trap 11 very nervous dogs. The trap has also been used by other animal welfare groups, and in municipal neutering campaigns all over Crete.

One of the first success stories using the new dog trap was in April 2025, just a few weeks after it arrived. A litter of five puppies had been left to roam free in a village without any human contact. Food was available for them in various places and over time, the puppies grew to be big dogs. By age of six months no one could get near them. Two of them were hungry enough to go into the trap together (see picture). Eventually, all five puppies were caught, and in time, they became friendly and were rehomed.

SNIPi wishes *Cretan Cat-a-list* well with all the wonderful work they are doing!



Two of the six month old pups trapped in the Vulcan Dog Trap

Update on SNIPi's transition to Grant Giving

We are pleased to share that in 2025 SNIP International launched its new programme of grants for organisations to carry out Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)—awarding £2,000 to each successful organisation to help grow sterilisation and vital community animal welfare work. After receiving 27 applications through our detailed process, each one was independently scored out of 10.

Thanks to additional generous donations from our supporters, we were able to fund more Grants than originally anticipated; SNIPi was thus able to award 2025 Grants to all of the 11 highest-scoring projects (those scoring 8 out of 10, or above).

Grants were awarded to teams working across Brazil, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania (two organisations), South Africa, and Sri Lanka.

To celebrate this programme's and Project TNR Romania's reach, we've created a web diagram showing the countries where this year's grant recipients are based; an at-a-glance reminder of how far this support travels.

The response has been wonderful. Grant recipients have shared heart-felt messages about what this funding will make possible in helping them get started straight away and reaching even more animals with sterilisation, vaccination and care.



Snejanka Boneva, **The Last Cage** (Bulgaria) - *"This grant will make a significant difference in our ability to help more street cats, and we are excited to start!"*

Bettina Vine, **The Kitten Connection** (Portugal) - *"It makes a huge difference to know we can get straight into helping those cats."*

Ainhoa Leon, **Feral Cats Punta Cana** (Dominican Republic) - *"We are deeply grateful for your trust and for the opportunity to continue saving lives."*

Lorena De Olivera, **Associação Caudas Felizes** (Brazil) - *"We're absolutely speechless and so grateful to have this opportunity to work with you."*

Marieke Bronner, **Feral Cat Care** (South Africa) - *"We really appreciate it, and we are so excited to help these unfortunate community cats."*

Sharon Rose, **The Dziko Project** (Sri Lanka) - *"We are absolutely thrilled and so grateful for SNIP International's support."*

Cezara Condrea, **Asociația Lumea lui Cindy** / Asociație pentru Protecția și Reabilitarea Animalelor (Romania) - *"Thank you so much for this opportunity and support. It's amazing news! Looking forward to all the spaying we are going to do."*

We can't wait to see the impact these brilliant teams will make—and we're so grateful to everyone helping SNIP International reach more animals and communities around the world.

Want to help us fund the next round? Please consider making a donation, sharing this update with a fellow animal-lover, or following SNIP International for programme news and future grant opportunities.

In the Dominican Republic, the presence of feral and community cats is a controversial issue with divided opinions on acceptance and rejection. Until very recently, the prevailing approach was indifference, broken by occasional bouts of culling. Feral Cats PC, a small volunteer-led organisation in the resort area of Punta Cana, is working patiently and visibly to put another option on the table.

Founded in October 2020 and registered as a non-profit in 2023, Feral Cats PC has so far sterilised more than 700 feral and community cats, with no paid staff. Their network of fifteen volunteers runs weekly TNR programmes across colonies and natural areas, and twice a year hold awareness and training workshops for community members who want to bring TNR to their own neighbourhoods.

In December 2025, Feral Cats PC received a £2,000 grant from SNIPi (USD \$2,592 in their account). Surgery costs in the Dominican Republic are unusually high, with list prices for a single sterilisation between \$350 and \$400, so equipment rather than surgery was the priority.

The grant covered:

- Two Tomahawk transfer cages (Model 306NC2)
- Five Tomahawk live traps (605NC, 30x10x10)
- One collapsible drop trap for large or wary colonies (Model DT1)
- Five pairs of animal handling gloves and five trap covers
- Fifteen subsidised surgeries (catching, surgery, deworming and a rabies vaccine) at a partner clinic's discounted rate of \$88 per cat.

Through careful purchasing, the team came in under budget, with enough left over to fund a sixteenth surgery in February 2026.



Some examples of TNR Captures



Why the new equipment matters? A drop trap and a multi-capture cage are exactly the right tools for the colonies Feral Cats PC are now starting to take on: large, established, fast-reproducing groups where one-cat-at-a-time live traps simply cannot keep up. Equipping volunteers with the right kit means more autonomous teams, more colonies covered each week, and crucially, the ability to replicate the model in new locations.

Visibility is the word Feral Cats PC use most often when they describe what SNIPi's support has meant. In Punta Cana, attitudes to community cats are slowly changing, and every logo-painted trap or flyer handed to a curious neighbour is part of that. SNIPi is proud to back a partner who treats TNR as a public conversation as well as a clinical one.

"We are honoured to receive this international support from SNIPi, which increases our visibility and enables community transformation and cultural change in Punta Cana."

Dr Ainhoa León Zubillaga
President

Feral Cats PC's public flyer, part of a deliberate effort to explain ear-tipping and TNR to a community new to both.

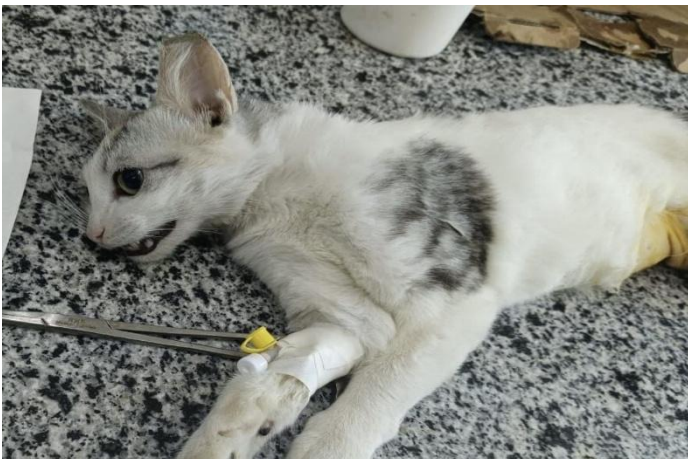


In Cairo, street animals face many challenges, such as dental problems, eye infections, wounds and flea infestations. Kittens are routinely born to malnourished, unvaccinated mothers, and many face starvation, abuse or abandonment or are orphaned early in life.

Miracle's Mission has been working to change this for almost a decade. The UK-registered charity runs a rolling Trap-Neuter-Return-and-Manage (TNRM) programme in Egypt, in partnership with Tracey Sedky's team at Egypt Unites for Animal Rights on the ground in Cairo. Across the past twelve months, the team has trapped, neutered and returned more than 380 cats and almost 900 dogs.

"We see a huge improvement in their health, from malnourished, sick cats to beautiful healthy, much friendlier, happier cats. When people see healthy cats, they are more likely to accept them into their areas and communities. The huge benefit is that less kittens are born to suffer. TNRM prevents this suffering. Thank you for being part of the solution to this overpopulation and suffering."

Tracey Sedky, Volunteer



*An ear-tipped cat recovering from her anaesthetic.
Ear-tipping is the universal sign of a neutered street cat.*

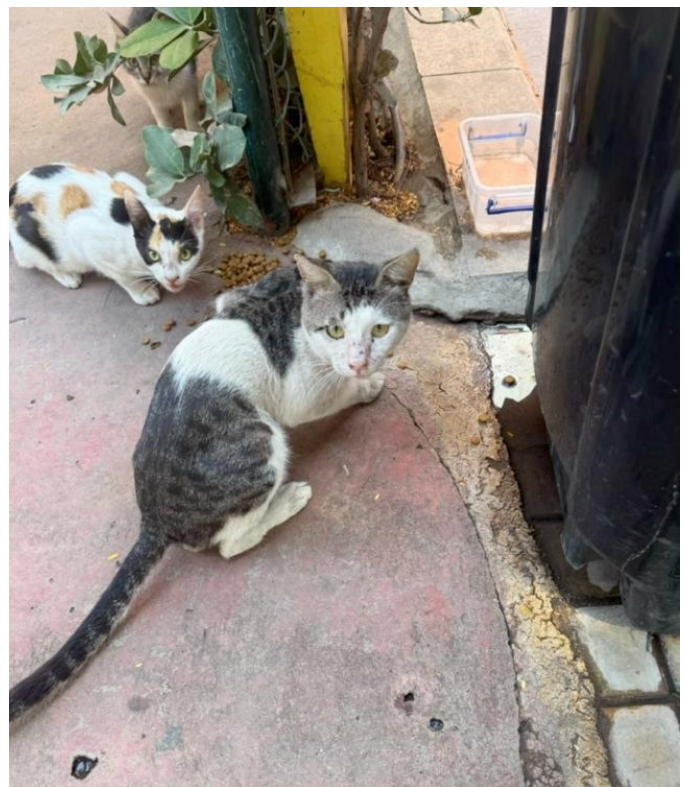
In November 2025, SNIPi awarded Miracle's Mission a £2,000 grant to neuter, vaccinate and ear-tip 80 street cats in Cairo over a three-month period. The unit cost is just £25 per cat, covering catching, transport, surgery, rabies vaccination, ear-tipping and recovery medication.

By December, the work was done. Eighty cats had been caught in groups of around five, taken to the vet, recovered for several days, and returned to their colonies, where local caretakers continue to feed and water them. Each cat's journey was tracked from street to operating table and back, with photographs and short videos at every stage. That level of documentation is the hallmark of Miracle's Mission's field work.

The compound effect of neutering 80 street cats is what makes the long-term difference. On Miracle's Mission's own modelling, those 80 cats prevent approximately 960 unwanted births in the next twelve months alone, and many hundreds of thousands of births across the next five years. The practical result is less competition for food, water and shelter, less disease, less fighting, and fewer kittens born into streets that have no place for them.

TNRM is long, patient, unglamorous work. Cat by cat, neighbourhood by neighbourhood, it works.

SNIPi is privileged to support it.



Two of the 80 TNR'd cats, all photographed before capture

Most TNR organisations advertise their sterilisation campaigns on Facebook ahead of time. Asociația Lumea lui Cindy, a small charity in the rural countryside east of Iași, used to do the same. Then they noticed who they were missing.

“The people who could truly benefit from our help may not have social media,” explains President Cezara Camelia Condrea. *“So our message doesn’t reach them. We prefer to go on the field ourselves, talk to people directly, and post the outcome.”* In practice, that means walking from house to house in the villages around their base in Podu Iloaiei (Henci, Scobîlteni, Coșițeni, Românești, Erbiceni, Popești, Hărpășești), finding the animals, identifying the females, and bringing them in for surgery one by one.

It is a model that asks a lot of a small team. Lumea lui Cindy has just one paid employee and six volunteers, and an animal welfare brief that runs from rural TNR through to a brand-new school education programme being introduced into twelve schools across Iași County this autumn.

Trapping Cats in rural Iași



Asociația Lumea lui Cindy were among the groups that came to Project TNR Romania in autumn 2025. They left with a Cat Kit 1: a box trap, a restraint cage and a transfer cage. These three pieces of equipment make cat TNR safer for the cats and easier on the volunteers. A few weeks later, SNIPi awarded them a £2,000 grant to use towards sterilisation surgery.



Trapping Dogs in rural Iași

Local prices in Iași County are unusually favourable: 170 RON (around £29) per dog, 135 RON (around £23) per female cat. The team chose to focus the grant on females, where the prevention impact is greatest. The team intended to use the SNIPi grant to spay 40 female cats and 37 female dogs.

They started with the cats, beginning the campaign on the 7th of January and ending it on February 26th. The cats were all from the rural area in Iași county and were cared for by people who fed strays, or they belonged to households that lived in poverty and couldn’t afford the expense of neutering. All cats were returned to the places where they had been captured and were tattooed inside their ear to mark that they were spayed.

Stray dogs that need catching – the arrow pointing to a bitch that they are targeting.



The campaign for female dogs started on January 30th but had to be postponed due to the very cold weather, as the team needed to ensure the dogs could be kept in warm and clean conditions after their ops. The project ended on April 3rd with 36 dogs spayed.

The dogs were also from the rural area in Iasi county, either from the streets, households with low income, from people who had taken many stray animals into their care and needed help with spaying and neutering, or from people who would have illegally bred their dogs under the pretence that they were purebred. All dogs were tattooed on their belly after surgery, and most were released or returned to their owners. Work was carried out to find 4 of the stray dogs good homes.

In their last twelve months they have spayed 174 female cats and dogs and neutered 29 males. For an organisation this size and this rural, those are extraordinary numbers.



Cats and dogs recovering from their anaesthetics after spay surgery

The work does not end at the operating table. The team rehome animals through partner organisations in the Netherlands and the UK, and from this autumn, they are introducing animal welfare into the curriculum of twelve local schools, a long-term investment in the next generation of Romanian pet owners.

SNIPi is delighted to support this organisation. Conservatively, the £2,000 we have committed will prevent hundreds of unwanted puppies and kittens being born in their corner of Iasi County over the next year alone. The schools programme should prevent many more in the years that follow.

It is thanks to YOU and the rest of our supporters that we can help these (and many more) animal rescue groups by providing them with funding to pay for essential TNR equipment and neutering operations that they struggle to afford.

Our donations help and protect both the volunteers and the animals and enable the rescue groups to become more efficient in their TNR / CNR and animal welfare work. **It is your generosity that makes these stories of hope and healing possible.**

SNIPi has a small group of loyal supporters, but we are always on the lookout for new SNIPi Friends. After reading our newsletter, please do think if there is **anyone you know who may be interested in supporting our cause**. With just £30 per year, they could contribute to this important mission and become a SNIP International Friend. It is very easy to donate via our website (PayPal), with a bank transfer or by sending a cheque.

Reading the newsletter gives a good overview of what we do, and as you well know, **SNIPi is a 100% voluntary organisation**, so our administrative costs are kept to the minimum, leaving the maximum possible for the actual help towards the animals. So please feel free to **pass on the Newsletter** with a kind word for us – the broader the support group the more we will be able to do to help animal welfare and the rescue groups taking care of stray cats and dogs all around the world!

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



Very special thanks to the late Amanda Green for her legacy that has helped and will continue to help thousands of animals as per her last wishes.

SNIP International
Founded 1996
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Protecting stray and feral cats and dogs
Promoting neutering programmes overseas

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