



Mani International Animal Organisation

PINA



AKI (ALFIE) AND STEVIE



BODHI

September : cooler but still busy!

With the arrival of September life tends to get a little easier for us and the animals. After the intense heat and drought of summer the first autumn rains arrive - the Greeks have a special name for this - Protovrochia -and life is re-emerging from the scorched earth. Slowly the land is turning from bleached out yellow to green again and new life is abundant all around. The grass is growing and the olives are swelling beautifully just before the harvest begins late October.

With water and food more accessible, a new cycle of life begins and as animals do, they cycle with the tides of the seasons and many kittens and pups are born at the end of August and beginning of September. And, without halt, we get many, many messages about babies born to stray animals that are abandoned or ill. Although we try and neuter as many cats and dogs as possible through Marti's Fund and Agapi Fund, we struggle to keep up with the sheer number of them and simply don't have the resources to help them all. Read more about how you can help on page 5

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Pip

Adoptions

We are happy to announce that Pickwick, Pip, and Nell of the litter of 7 have found a forever home, and Betsy and Wilkins are reserved. We are also delighted to say that Teddy was finally adopted after having been in foster care for 2 years. Joschi, one of the Kambos pups has also been adopted!

Pickwick has gone to live on Kithara, a Greek Island, whilst Pip has been adopted locally in the Mani. Nell will leave for the UK end of October and Teddy, our little miracle boy (he survived a horrible car accident as a pup and had to have extensive surgery throughout the past 2 years) had found the best family here in the Mani. Joschi will travel to Belgium soon to join his forever family there.

Leo the cat has joined his eonderful new family in the Mani and Fortuna and Mati will leave for Austria this weekend. All were in foster in Kambos.

“It takes nothing away from a human to be kind to an animal.”

JOAQUIN PHOENIX



NELL



PIP



PICKWICK



JOSCHI



TEDDY

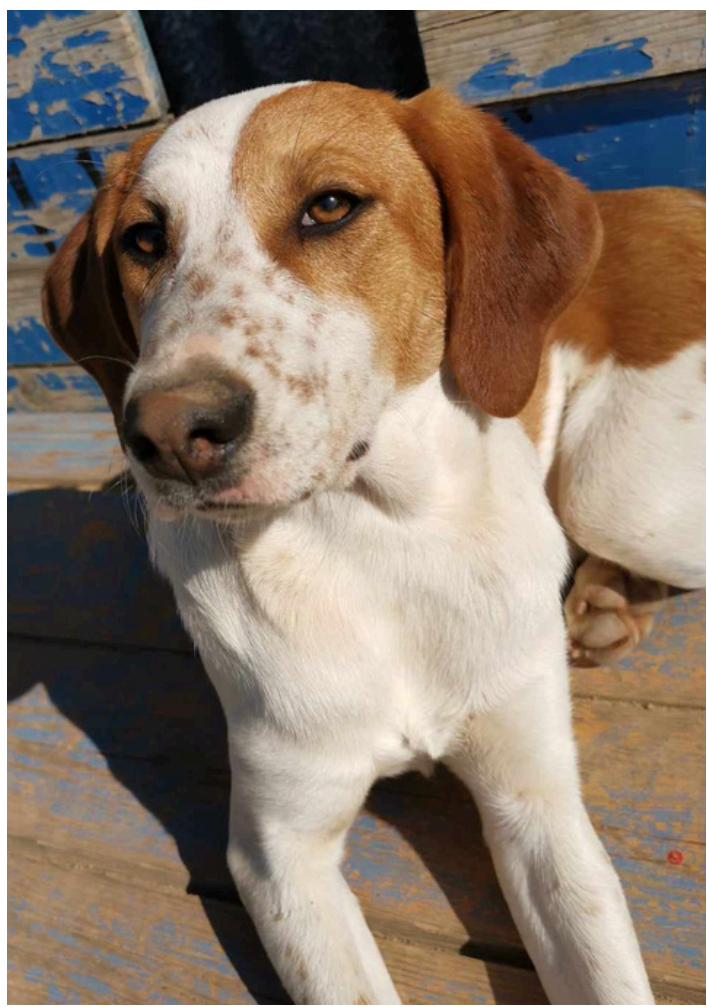
LUCKY PUPS

DOG OF THE MONTH

Meet the lovely Cara

Cara is a beautiful young dog – sassy, independent, playful, happy, outgoing and adventurous. She turned a year old on the 23rd of September. Cara is very people-oriented and loves hanging out with the volunteers in our little katafigio. She loves a fuss and a cuddle and will gladly jump into your lap to get some extra attention. Cara is pretty easy going with other dogs and tends to get on with most of them. With cats, however, she is not so good. Recently she has shown much care within the group by protecting our new arrival Bodhi (read more below) and preferring to spend time with him so he doesn't feel alone.

Cara is full of love and ready for her own family to play with and cuddle up to, though. She has been with us since November last year and she so deserves her own forever home. If you think she is waiting for you, get in touch!



New arrivals

BODHI

We received a call about Bodhi running scared in Proastio some 2 weeks ago, and one of our volunteers went to assess him. Due to his young age, estimated to be around 5 months, and his fearful behaviour, it was decided to take him into our Katafigio. One of our dogs had recently left after adoption and a space was available. It was clear that he would not have survived all on his own.

Bodhi is now slowly adapting to life in our little safe haven and learning that not all in the world is scary. It is still a little early to say much about his character as he is still in survival mode but slowly we can see a sweet and very playful character emerge from beneath all the fear. We can't even imagine how scary life on the streets must have been for such a young dog but we are doing everything to restore his confidence and help him find his forever family soon.



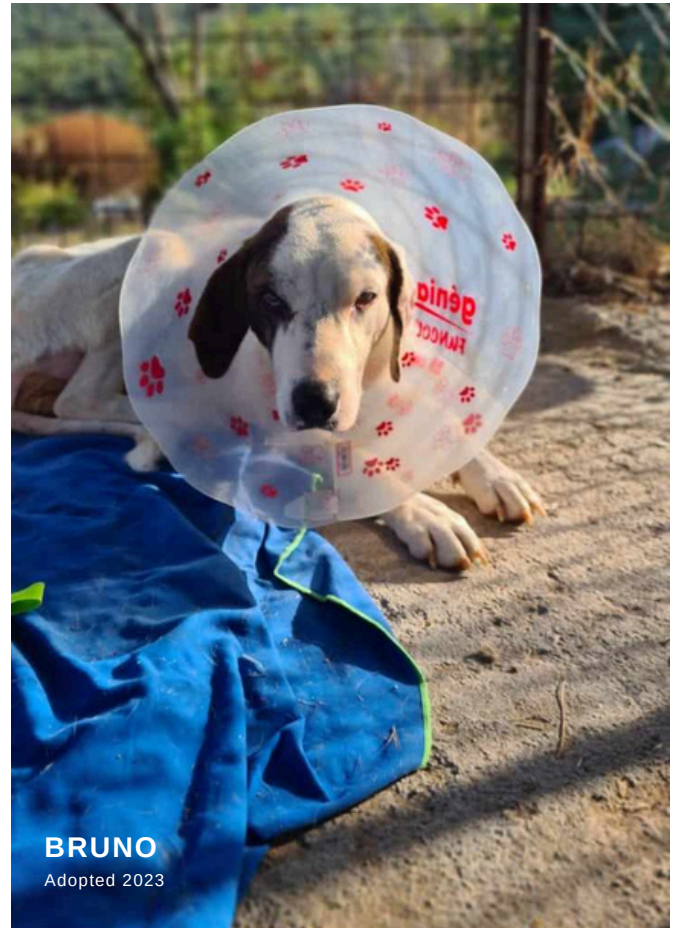
The dire stray animal situation in Greece...

...AND HOW YOU CAN HELP IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY WHEN YOU CAN'T GET HOLD OF AN ANIMAL RESCUE OR THEY CAN'T HELP (BECAUSE THEY ARE FULL)

We wrote about the stray animal numbers in Greece in the last MIAO Newsletter, but in case you missed the last issue, here is a quick recap - it is estimated that there a staggering 3 million stray dogs and 4 million stray cats living in Greece. Their suffering is terrible throughout the year with cold winters and scorching summers. This is oftentimes worsened by an uncaring or even fearful population, who will chase strays away or worse, get rid of the problem by poisoning them. Animal cruelty is sadly still a regular occurrence.

Whilst all animal rescue organisations are doing their very best to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome as many animals as they can, they are simply drowning in the sheer number of strays needing help. It is not only a matter of money to pay expensive vet bills and food, or lack of space in shelters or foster homes (they are all overly full), it is also a matter of having enough hands on deck to look after all the animals in their care. Most of them operate as non-profit organisations and are managed and run solely with the help of volunteers. And there are simply not enough of those either.

MIAO is no different. We are run entirely by kind-hearted volunteers and financed solely through private donations. The only help we get now and then is food provided my the local government, but even that is unpredictable and random.



The problem we face is that we are expected and want to help so many more animals, but we simply don't have the resources - finances and manpower- to do so. With around 40 animals in our care, all of them in foster places with private people (even our small shelters are only possible because of the goodwill of private persons offering a piece of their land to keep animals safe for a while) - we are stretched to the maximum.

Naturally, people will ring or message us when they see an abandoned or hurt animal, but the reality is often that we cannot help immediately. First, we need to find a volunteer who is available to find and assess the animal that has been reported, to see what its needs are and how we can provide the best help. With people having to work, tend to families and their own lives, that can take a little while.

With the first volunteer assessment, it is discussed what the animal needs. Emergency veterinary care? Food, water, shelter? Is the situation critical? Can the situation be managed through local volunteer care, ie feeding, regular monitoring and administration of medication through food? Or does the animal need a safe space or foster care? If we have space and it is deemed crucial for the animal go into our shelter or foster care, then we will take it there after a first veterinary health check. But more often than not, we are forced to manage the animal in its own environment on the streets as we have nowhere to take them. We are full. And it breaks our heart every time.

As we don't have a huge stray facility - for cats or dogs - like some other animal organisations do, we always have to assess the situation for each and every reported animal carefully. We try and do our best for every single one, but sometimes we just can't manage the situation as well as we would like. Please believe us when we say we want to help but don't know how right now. We simply don't have the resources.

If ever you should find yourself in the situation of finding a hurt, sick or abandoned animal, here are a few things you can do to help when you can't get hold of us or any other animal rescue.

1. Contact a Local Veterinarian

Call a local Vet: Use a smartphone to search for the nearest veterinary clinic and take the animal there. Our local vet is Dr. Melina Lang in Stoupa and Dr Kostas Antonopoulos in Kalamata.

www.veterinary.gr

Kostas Antonopoulos (Greek - English)

Melina Lang (German - English - Greek)

Stoupa Agora, 24024 Messinia

Phone: 27210 - 64900

Mail: kantonop@gmail.com



2. Providing First Aid (if trained)

Basic Care: If you have basic first aid knowledge for animals, you can provide immediate care, such as stopping bleeding or keeping the animal warm.

Safety First: Ensure your own safety and avoid getting bitten or scratched by the frightened or hurt animal.

3. Taking Pictures

Documenting Injuries: Take clear photos of the animal's injuries and overall condition.

Identifying Markings: Capture any unique markings or features that might help identify the animal.

Sharing with the local authorities: Send these pictures to the local vet or rescue to give them a better understanding of the animal's condition.

4. Sending Location Information

Using GPS: Use the smartphone's GPS to get the exact coordinates of the location.

Sharing Maps: Send the location via a map app or text message to the vet or rescue team.

Detailed Directions: Provide landmarks or specific directions to the animal's location if it's in a remote or hard-to-find place.

5. Staying with the Animal (if safe)

Monitoring: Stay nearby to monitor the animal's condition and ensure it doesn't move to a more dangerous location.

Comforting the Animal: If safe, gently comfort the animal to reduce its stress.

6. Publicizing on Social Media

Posting: Share the incident on social media with location details and photos.

Tagging Local Groups: Tag local animal rescue groups or community pages to spread the word quickly.

We understand that finding a hurt or sick animal is very distressing, and we really appreciate your compassion and willingness to help. Greece's stray animal situation is, as you have probably recognised by now, overwhelming, and despite our best efforts, it simply isn't always possible for us to respond to your call immediately. As an organization entirely run by volunteers, our resources and manpower are limited. The local authorities are mostly of little or no immediate help either. Therefore, if you can, the most effective way you can help is by taking the animal to the vet yourself.

By providing us with pictures, the exact location, and informing locals about the animal's whereabouts until we can come and assess the situation is also extremely helpful to us.



If you are concerned about the general welfare of an animal or would like to report direct or passive abuse, you can call the police (telephone 100) to report the issue. If you prefer to remain anonymous you can call the national anonymous helpline on 10410. You can also send an email to genast@astynomia.gr.

A very helpful site explaining the steps to take to report animal abuse is: <https://www.animalactiongreece.org/advice-and-welfare/how-to-report-animal-cruelty/> and <https://greekcitytimes.com/2023/12/21/how-to-report-animal-abuse/>

We hope you have found this information helpful and valuable. Next month we will write a little more in depth about animal abuse and how to report it.

Huge task of amalgamation of several databases is completed

Although admin is perhaps not the most rewarding or exciting part of animal rescue – it certainly is one of the most important ones.

For years the team kept different databases with info on the animals in our care up to date. There was a foster list, a spot on treatment list, a list of current animals available up for adoption, a chip registration and passport number list and a characters description list. To name but a few. Staying on top of all these different lists was a monumental task.

In order to make everyone's life easier and streamline our information flow, it was decided to create a new database in the "cloud" which would hold ALL the information in one place, accessible for all within the admin and care team.

This monumental task was completed over the summer months and we are incredibly grateful for the volunteers who put so much time and effort into this. This truly was a job well done!

Stevie the blind kitten

You may have seen the post about Stevie, a blind kitten found in Kardamyli, who was taken into foster care in Kambos. Stevie bonded really well with Aki (Alfie), another foster kitten of about the same age, and they went everywhere together. Aki became Stevie's guide cat, so to speak.

Stevie lost his eyes through contracting cat flu at a very young age and we are very sad to say that he passed last week due to unforeseen complications. Rest in peace little one. We would like to thank his sponsors for covering his vet costs. You can find a picture of Stevie and Aki on the front page.

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