



Mani International Animal Organisation

Boubou and Sadie relaxing after after the duvet just "exploded"



January: Gentle start, happy end.

January has been a gentle and quiet start to the year, as expected after the festive season. The early weeks brought gloomy weather, with rain and grey skies setting the tone, but thankfully, the second half of the month was much brighter, lifting spirits as we eased into the new year. As always, this time of year comes with a bit of a lull, with everyone recovering from the holiday rush, but despite the slower pace, we ended the month on an incredibly positive note—celebrating eight successful adoptions! It's always heartwarming to see our animals find their forever homes, and it gives us great momentum as we move forward into the new year.

Looking ahead, we are already turning our attention to the 2025 AGM, which will be a particularly significant event this year. With the entire current board stepping down, this marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for us, bringing fresh perspectives and new energy to guide us into the future. You can read more about this in this newsletter. We have big plans, and there's plenty to look forward to, and we can't wait to see what the year ahead holds!

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Adoptions

January is usually a bit of a quieter month, with many people muddling their way back into “normality” after the festive season again, so it was a quiet start, but we finished the month on a high with an astonishing 8 adoptions.

4 of the 9 of Winnie’s pups have found a forever home. Minnie (now Mira), Pearl (now Hailey), Storm and Greta are all adopted. 5 more to go! Mira and Hailey will go to live in Germany, Storm is going to the UK and Greta will move to the Netherlands!

Sammie was adopted by a wonderful young couple from Germany, as was Argos, who will also live in Germany! We know they will all be very loved.

Last but not least we are delighted to share that Zisi (was Snoopy) was finally adopted in Germany. He has been waiting for his people for such a long time, but it finally happened. And also, we are delighted to share that we have found a dream forever home for Lord and he will leave Greece soon.

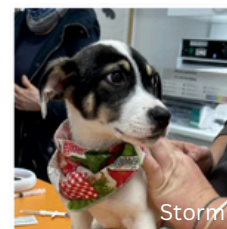


“We must fight against the spirit of unconscious cruelty with which we treat the animals. Animals suffer as much as we do. True humanity does not allow us to impose such sufferings on them. It is our duty to make the whole world recognize it. Until we extend our circle of compassion to all living things, humanity will not find peace.”

ALBERT SCHWEIZER



Minnie



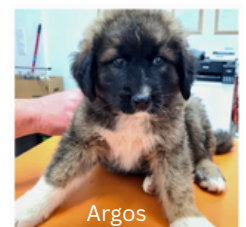
Storm



Pearl



Lord



Argos



Sam



Zisi



Greta

DOG OF THE MONTH

KIT

Kit is a beautiful, big and handsome male Greek Shepherd Mix who hasn't had the best of starts in life. He was chained as a very young pup, and probably beaten into submission too, so he is still a little wary of men because of this. But he has come a long way from when we first found him and is turning into a beautiful, soulful dog.

Kit will make a wonderful companion for someone who is willing to invest time and energy into his training as he has spent all of his life on the streets. However, recently he is spending more and more time indoors with his foster family and he is quick to learn and very eager to please. He gets very upset and sad when you have to tell him off for a little misstep and he will do everything to make it right again.

Kit currently lives with his 2 best friends Lisa and Emil and generally gets on well with other dogs. He loves his walks with volunteers who look after him and he loves to play with his little pack or spend lazy mornings in the sunshine.

He really is a lovely boy who deserves to find his family soon!



New arrivals

Kyria, Astera and Argos

These three fluffballs (quite literally) once again came from Exochori, where so many abandoned shepherd dogs live. This litter and mum were fed and taken care of by our volunteers but we just couldn't do anything else as we had nowhere to take them. Originally a litter of 4, one of them sadly disappeared and we knew we had to step in and take the remaining 3 pups into safety.

Argos, the big fluffy bear was adopted almost immediately and it looks like Kyria is going into foster in Germany with option to adopt. Astera is still available for adoption.

Pit

Pit was found by a young couple all alone on the main road between Platsa and Pigi. At only 7 to 8 weeks, Pit wouldn't have survived. He is now in foster care.



2025 AGM

Time for a Change of Guard

We are delighted to announce that our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the 28th of March, marking an important new chapter for Mani International Animal Organisation. At this meeting, the current board will formally step down, and we will elect a new team of leaders dedicated to continuing our vital mission of advocating for the welfare of animals in Mani.

It's a big thing for the current board though – as all of the board members are stepping down and will not stand for re-election. Therefore they are handing their “baby” (the current board is mostly made up of members that were the original founders) to a completely new generation of leaders.

“It is time for a new era”, says Eva – our current president of the organisation – “we have done our bit for a long, long time and it is now up to a new and somewhat younger generation of responsible and passionate people to move MIAO forward into the future.”

We need fresh, new ideas and people who have the vision, drive and energy to take MIAO to the next level at a time when animal rights and welfare protection is needed more than ever in Greece.

Everything is changing so fast, says Eva, legislation, ways of communication, social media. A new team will step up to these challenges with a fresh pair of eyes, enthusiasm and innovative, progressive thinking, which is exactly what is needed in these times!

We're looking for five new board members:

- ✦ President
- ✦ Vice President
- ✦ Secretary
- ✦ Treasurer
- ✦ Board Member

We're looking for team players who bring:

- Important skills to the table
- Preferably leadership experience
- A can-do attitude and the ability to think outside the box
- An open, innovative mind
- A commitment to go the extra mile for animals in need

Above all, we need individuals who share our passion for improving the lives of abandoned and abused animals.

To stand for election, you must:

- ✓ Be a paying member for at least one year
- ✓ Speak good English, as our organisation operates in a multinational environment

We especially encourage younger members to step forward and bring fresh ideas and energy to our mission. Joining the board is an incredible chance to lead, inspire, and make a lasting impact for animals while working with a team of dedicated volunteers.

2025 AGM

So, what is next and how does it work?

How AGM Elections Work at Miao: A Simple Guide

At Miao, the process of electing our leaders is all about teamwork, fairness, and making sure everyone has a say. We want to find the right people to guide us, and we do it in a way that's simple, democratic, and inclusive. Here's how it all works:

Step 1: Members Vote for Five Candidates

The first step is for all the members to come together and vote for the people they trust to take on leadership roles.

1. Nominating Candidates:

- Before the AGM, members nominate people they think would make great leaders. These are often kind-hearted, hardworking individuals who've already shown their dedication.
- Formal Applications: Members can also formally apply for specific board positions. This is a great way to show your interest and let everyone know how you can contribute to the group.
- Any applications/nominations must be made public at least 3 days before the AGM.

2. Background Information Matters:

- When applying, it's helpful for candidates to share information about their skills and experience, especially if they're aiming for roles like Treasurer or Secretary.
 - Treasurer: This role requires someone who's good with numbers and has experience managing budgets or financial records. Attention to detail and honesty are key.
 - Secretary: This position needs someone organized, good at communication, and comfortable with paperwork or administrative tasks. They should be able to keep accurate records and manage schedules.

3. Casting Votes:

- On the day of the AGM, every member gets to vote for up to five candidates they believe will do a great job.
- Voting is usually done in a fair and private way to ensure everyone feels comfortable. An online voting system for absent members will be established.

4.Choosing the Top Five:

- After counting the votes, the five people with the most votes are elected.
- These five become our leadership team and move on to the next step.

Step 2: Deciding Who Does What

Once the five candidates are elected, they work together to figure out which role each person will take. This is an important step where teamwork really comes into play.

1.Talking It Through:

- The five elected members sit down and discuss who should take on which role.
- They think about each person's strengths, experience, and what they're most passionate about.

2.Making Decisions:

- The goal is to agree on who's best for each role. If they can't all agree, they might vote among themselves or use another fair way to decide.
- The roles they assign are:
 - President: Leads the team and represents the group.
 - Vice President: Supports the president and steps in when needed.
 - Secretary: Keeps track of meetings and handles communication.
 - Treasurer: Manages the money and keeps the books in order.
 - Member: Contributes to all the team's efforts and takes on special tasks.

3.Sharing the Results:

- Once the roles are decided, the new leadership team is announced to everyone. This is a moment of pride and excitement for the group!

Why This System Works for Us

- Everyone Gets a Say: Every member helps decide who the leaders should be, so the process feels fair and inclusive.
- Working as a Team: The five elected people decide roles together, ensuring everyone has a part they're good at and comfortable with.
- Flexibility and Fairness: By letting the team assign roles, we make sure everyone's skills are used in the best possible way.

Challenges We Work Through

- Disagreements Can Happen: It's natural for people to have different opinions during the role-assigning stage, but we focus on listening and understanding each other.
- Fair Representation: We strive to make sure our leadership reflects all the voices in the group, so everyone feels included.

ALDO - A CHALLENGING COMMITMENT

Our work as animal welfare workers is not always easy, but it is usually a lot of fun and we all love working with cute little puppies, taking friendly, happy dogs for walks and even nursing sick animals back to health. However, there are always cases that push us to our limits. Aldo is just such a case.

Aldo just appeared one day! He took up residence in the garden of a restaurant that was closed for the winter and tried to live off left over food that was thrown into the public rubbish bins. Aldo is a beautiful hunting dog, watchful and intimidating. For a long time, he never let anyone get close to him, only a young girl and an older lady were allowed near him.

Unfortunately, Aldo has obviously had very bad experiences with people, he is always on his guard and always ready to defend himself. The problem with this is that he misjudges situations and also tries to bite when there is no reason to do so - or rather we don't understand why Aldo reacts in this way, although his reasons are perfectly clear to him. But, Aldo loves his two women unconditionally. Other volunteers however, have to constantly be on their guard.

Aldo was found wearing a collar with a tag, which hunting dogs get after a rabies vaccination, and he also has a long, fresh scar on his neck. The wound was treated professionally. All this shows that Aldo was once a "valuable" companion and that money was spent on him.



Our theory is that Aldo is a trained hunting dog and was used to hunt wild boar. The long scar indicates an attack by a wild boar. Aldo may have been traumatised by this accident and is therefore no longer suitable for hunting and was therefore "disposed of".

This dog has not only been through a terrible, traumatic accident, but has also been thrown away like a useless object.

We are now trying to re-socialise Aldo with a lot of love and commitment. Dog trainers and many extra hours from our helpers are necessary for this.

Aldo is just one example of how animal welfare is not just about looking after lovely, friendly animals, but it can often be dangerous and frustrating.

However, the joy is all the greater when such socialisation is successful and the animal concerned is given the chance of a happy life with a loving family.

We don't want to give up on Aldo, he is a wonderful dog who deserves a chance. We will keep you posted on his progress!

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