Midwinter In Moscow

We recently donated some equipment, including a trap, to a Moscow community Group. Their report shows some of the severe problems they face.

We had a very cold winter in Moscow; for a couple of weeks it was way below –30°C and even colder in the Moscow region. Having the trap gave us the confidence to try and catch cats we otherwise would be hard pressed to catch, but often we found when moving to the location where the cat was spotted that because of the extreme cold the cat that would otherwise run from people ended up coming to us themselves (often with frostbite).

I also learned during these months that it is important to ask questions when someone asks me to come with the trap to help catch a cat: the well meaning cat-rescue community members who want to trap feral animals often do not have a plan of what to do once the cat is trapped. Some of them can even be dangerous and, if mature, unsocializable.

Ekaterina Solomina

Trapping in Portugal

ARPA was created in February 2011 in Portugal by two vets to cut pet overpopulation and abandonment. They combine educational work with neutering programmes. In March 2011 SNIP International gave them two traps (seen in action on the right).

Over the next seven months ARPA managed to neuter more than 130 animals. The traps have been in use continually, and are loaned to other associations who also do TNR.

ICAWC 2011 in Riga

The 13th International Companion Animal Welfare Conference was held in Riga, Latvia 18-20 October 2011. Lisette Cartier and Linda Brookes, SNIP International Trustees, ran the stand, with assistance from a new recruit, Annika Lahdeniemi.

The procedure for inviting applications for the items of specialist equipment to be used in cat trapping and dog catching programmes works smoothly. All the delegates, including old hands who may have attended many conferences and those for whom it is their first time, are informed of the opportunity to apply for equipment. The delegates are asked to supply detailed information on their work and the equipment they already hold. Their completed forms have to be submitted to the SNIPi desk by a deadline.

Then there’s a frenetic period of activity during which the SNIPI team work out on a computer how the equipment should be allocated. The complexity can be appreciated by the fact that on this occasion 44 groups from 24 countries applied for 62 items of equipment. There were 21 different types of item ranging from traps and trap-transfer-restrainers through dog handling equipment and the ever popular (because easy to transport) gloves. Any previous history about the group, which may be available on the extensive SNIPI database, forms part of the objective assessment.

The second round of intensive activity involves the handing over of the items of equipment to the delegates in accordance with the allocation. Whilst not every group can receive their first choice we do our best to ensure that the allocation is fair and useful.

The 44 groups which applied were based in Bahrain, Belarus, Bulgaria (2), Croatia, Estonia (2), France, Greece (4 mainland and 2 from Crete), Guernsey, Hungary (2), Italy, Japan, Latvia (2), Lithuania, Malta (2), The Netherlands (2, for work in other countries), Poland (4), Portugal, Romania (3), Russia (2), Serbia, Spain (3), Sri Lanka, Sweden (for work in other countries) and Ukraine (2).
Our Supporters
SNIP International is delighted to acknowledge support from the Alice Noakes Memorial Charitable Trust, Ann Daubeny Charitable Trust, Ian Keith and Sylvia Keith Charitable Trust, MDC Exports Ltd, Petplan Charitable Trust and the SNIP International Friends, all of which makes our work around the world possible.

Across The World
The list of countries where SNIP International has helped stray animals gets longer every year. At this moment it stands at 60 countries, though since some of that help has gone to organisations who don’t work in their own countries but elsewhere, the real total may be higher.

We used mainly to support work in the Mediterranean area, then Eastern Europe began to need a lot of assistance, and now we are receiving requests from much further afield.

Countries We Have Helped
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ICAWC 2011 Cont.

Being in Latvia meant more delegates from Eastern Europe. 34% of the groups had not had donations before. Annika became the official photographer of the event. You can see the delight in the faces of the recipients in the photographs. Recipients are asked to send a report on the usage of the equipment within six months. Items are donated by SNIPI and also by Cats Protection and MDC Exports Ltd. We are most grateful for the participation of the other sponsors in what has become a well-established and valued focus at the ICAW Conferences.

ICAWC 2012

This will be held in Vravrona, Greece, from 16th to 18th October. For further details and a booking form please visit the Dogs Trust website, which is at https://dogstrustinternational.com

Gauntlets for Greyhound Rescues in Spain

Amigos de los Galgos is a charity located in Madrid, which aims to rescue stray galgos (greyhounds) and those abandoned by their owners at the end of the hunting season. They also help dogs of other breeds in trouble.

They were given a pair of MDC Animal Handling Gauntlets at Riga.

The gauntlets are mainly used after the dogs have been caught. Even though the dogs have often had a mild tranquilliser, they can still panic and try to bite their rescuers. Local vets have also found them useful.

Their report ends by saying of the gauntlets:

“They help a lot for our work. They are wonderful and most useful. I shall try to get some other pair of these gauntlets next time if possible!!! “

Kate Horne

Street Dogs in Kathmandu

More than 20,000 dogs live on the streets of Kathmandu, Nepal. Many suffer from starvation, injuries and illnesses. They are the main source of rabies, which kills countless dogs and hundreds of people in Nepal every year. For decades, the government killed thousands of dogs with poison. This didn’t cut the dog population but endangered people and pets.

The Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre is making Kathmandu a safer, healthier city. The organisation aims to create a healthy, sustainable dog population and cut rabies in the Kathmandu Valley. Their report to SNIP International said:

We now transport cats and puppies in a way that is safer, less stressful to the animals, and less likely to cause the spread of infectious disease. Our foster parents have a safe and easy way to bring the animals to and from the Centre. Our staff is able to handle potentially aggressive animals with less risk.

When we receive calls to rescue cats who are difficult to handle, we will be able to catch them and give them the treatment they need.

On behalf of the entire KAT team, I would like to express our gratitude to SNIP International.

You can read the full report on the SNIP International web site.

Trustees:
Linda Brookes, Donations Coordinator
Lisette Cartier DVM MRCVS, Veterinary Surgeon
Harry Eckman, International Fund for Animal Welfare
Bill Green, Friends’ Liaison Officer
Karen Heath, MamaCatTrust
Kate Horne, Chairman

Professional Advisers:
Bob Bacon, Treasurer
John Clarke, Database Adviser
Penny Dye FCA, Company Secretary
Doug Revell, Webmaster and Publications

Facebook

The SNIP International Facebook page publicising our donations to animal welfare groups, and showing their effects, is now on line.

The page was created and is run by Annika Lahdeniemi, a communications expert who lives near Paris with several rescued animals.

She was our photographer in Riga and will man our stand in Greece later this year.

The page is on Facebook at SNIPInternational

ADA Bogota, Colombia

The gauntlets have been used with stray animals that are going to sterilization surgery prior to anesthesia (5 to 7 operations daily between dogs and cats).

They are also used by Mr. Cristian Rico our inspector with trapped or injured animals. They have been very useful to avoid accidents in the handling of animals in our foundation.