

Asociacion Las Nieves

On behalf of the Asociacion Las Nieves para la Proteccion Animal of Toledo, Spain, I would like to express our gratitude to SNIP International for your support and donations. The equipment donated is essential in our daily work and has proven extremely effective.

Last summer, 2 Eezicatch Cat Traps were donated to us by SNIP International. We have used them on a daily basis, both by our volunteers, by members of smaller organizations who do not have their own equipment and by private individuals who look after cat colonies.

We have directly rescued and neutered about 35 cats using the traps.

Thanks to the traps we can now rescue many more feral cats in dangerous ar-



reas. We can conduct TNR programmes more effectively, both directly and through private individuals looking after cat colonies and we can rescue feral cats in a more convenient and humane way.

Welcomes and farewells

After five years loyal service as Friends' Liaison Officer, Bill Green has left us for what must be one of the most enviable retirement roles ever, as a reviewer of pubs, restaurants and wine-tasting events.

Lisette is covering the role but we are looking for someone to take on this job. We want to discuss the job with anyone who might be interested. It means circulating one newsletter a year, and has

considerable development potential.

Harry Eckman left to work abroad; now he is back we are delighted he has re-joined as a consultant.

We offer best wishes to Ian MacFarlane in his role as Head of Operations (Welfare) for International Cat Care (formerly the Feline Advisory Bureau).

And we welcome Annika Lähdeniemi, who is managing the SNIP International Facebook page, to the Board.

Contact details:

E-mail: getintouch@snip-international.org

Web site: www.snip-international.org

www.facebook.com/SNIPInternational

Post: SNIP International, 3 Spa Road
Braceborough, STAMFORD,
Lincs., PE9 4NR, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 1778 56 00 44

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Clear Communications
clearcomms@gmail.com
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Members of the Management Board

Kate Horne, Chairman
Linda Brookes, Donations Coordinator
Lisette Cartier DVM MRCVS, Veterinary Surgeon; Acting Friends' Liaison Officer
Karen Heath, MamaCatTrust
Annika Lähdeniemi, Social Media

Professional Advisers

Bob Bacon, Treasurer
John Clarke, Database
Penny Dye FCA, Company Secretary
Harry Eckman, Animal Welfare Consultant
Doug Revell, Webmaster and Publications

SNIP at work in Greece

Last year SNIP International was represented at ICAWC by Trustees Lisette Cartier van Dissel and Annika Lähdeniemi.

Their journey started a few days before the conference as they volunteered for a Greek TNR (trap, neuter, return) project. This was organised by the Greek Cat Welfare Society (UK) in conjunction with the local Greek animal welfare organisation Nine Lives, based in Athens. Two of the Nine Lives' members later attended the ICAW conference.

Lisette, who is a veterinary surgeon, had been on three previous TNR projects in Greece, always in and around Thessaloniki in the north. This time the project was on the southwest coast of Greece, near Corfu.

Lisette initially worked on the island of Lefkada after which Annika joined her on the neighbouring island of Ithaki where there is no resident vet. The nearest veterinary surgery for Ithaki is



Lisette and Annika seen sterilising a cat on Ithaki

a four-hour ferry journey to the mainland, so they also provided additional veterinary services such as consultations, advice and vaccinations for local pets.

Altogether 69 cats were neutered during the four-day project. The photo shows Lisette and Annika performing a flank spay on a female cat. She has been ear-tipped to ensure easy future identification and a clamp has been applied to the ear to prevent bleeding during the anaesthetic.

Both Lisette and Annika found it a very rewarding experience and enjoyed meeting and working with the local animal welfare enthusiasts.

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SNIP in Greece

The 2012 ICAW Conference was held in Athens 16-18 October 2012. It was considered by many delegates to have been the best ICAW Conference yet, packed with delegates and held in a warm, idyllic setting on the coast.

There were 260 participants from 31 countries, representing 124 organisations worldwide. Over 80 items of specialist catching/trapping/holding equipment for use in neutering programmes, ranging from dog muzzles and protective gloves to sophisticated cat traps, carriers and restrainers, were donated by Cats Protection, MDC Exports Ltd and SNIP International.

65 groups from 22 countries applied for equipment: Albania, Argentina, Austria (2), Bahrain, Bosnia & Herzegovina (3), Bulgaria, France, Greece (26, which is remarkable considering the prevailing economic austerity), Hong Kong, India (2), Japan, Malta (5), The Netherlands (2), The Philippines, Poland (3), Portugal (2), Romania (5), Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden(2) and Switzerland (2).

Every applicant group came away with at least one item of equipment of their choice. In her report to the Board Lisette wrote 'It was a great atmosphere and everyone was very appreciative of their donations, which was wonderful.'

35 (54%) of the groups had not received donations previously so this was a huge increase from 34% last year. The SNIP International stand, covered by Lisette, Annika and Melvyn Driver, was kept busy with technical questions about the equipment and managing our donations.



Equipment on its way to one of the charities helping dogs in Romania

Help for Hydra and Ikaria

The crush cage, so very kindly donated to the Ikaria Volunteer Group, has proved to be invaluable helping us with our neutering programmes, not only on Ikaria but Hydra as well. I can't understand how vets manage without this useful cage, especially when dealing with feral cats.

We neutered 88 cats in three days on Hydra in February, many of which were pregnant, and ran an Ikaria programme in November during which we neutered 48 cats and a number of dogs.

We have another neutering programme on Ikaria scheduled for June and I am sure that the crush cage will be well used throughout the entire programme.

Many thanks again.

Carol, Ikaria Volunteer Group

Des Chats Françaises

The following short article allows your chairman to indulge her passions for France and cats.

In 2010 I took a big decision to sell my house in Stoke Newington and move with my two rescued cats to Les Andelys, a small town in Normandy, complete with a Crusader castle and a burgeoning cat population. It felt a bit like the 1980s when SNIP, the Society for Neutering Islington's Pussies, was established though Les Andelys is a lot smaller and the cat problems less intense, with the surrounding fields and forests heaving with wild life including snakes and wild boar.

L'Association pour la Sterilisation des Chats Andelysiens (ASCA), was formally recognised by the French authorities in November 2011. The Mairie issued an arrêté allowing us to work in public places as well as on private land where we worked previously.

The two veterinary practices are also helpful, fitting unscheduled operations in at the last moment. We've dealt with well over 80 animals to date, changing attitudes towards the sterilisation of cats. Within 24 hours of an article appearing in the local newspaper we had received two offers of help and an enquiry about a colony in a neighbouring village; also a couple of enquiries about getting domestic cats neutered.

Our logo shows a laid back cat (females are spayed midline in France) against an outline of Chateau Gaillard. The SNIP web-master and publications adviser, Doug Revell, tidied up the logo and is



Trapping cats in Les Andelys helping with our first leaflet.

Annika Lähdeniemi, who lives near Paris, runs the Facebook page. She's been helping ASCA with homing, for which she uses the "secondechance.org" web site.

ASCA has found it helpful, in dealing with the French bureaucracy, to establish links with other groups doing TNR work in France. There's a very helpful group in nearby Pontoise and another tackling the cats of Mercantour in the Haute Tinée. "Les amis des chats", near Toulouse, helped with documentation and the educational thrust.

For some years SNIP International has been donating equipment to animal welfare groups in France. The recipient groups work in Avignon, Nice, St Malo, Thiernay and around Toulouse.

They face different issues but we share ideas, protocols and where possible equipment; all are charged with a messianic fervour to do what it takes to improve the quality of life, not only for the cats but also the areas they're in.

**Kate Horne,
Chairman, SNIP International
La Presidente, ASCA**

What The Map Shows

A major part of SNIP International's work is the donation of specialist equipment to animal welfare groups all over the world to help them in their work with stray and feral cats and dogs.

In particular SNIP supports neutering programmes; the equipment is for trapping cats and catching dogs and holding them safely so that the animals are secure and the humans involved in their management - the trappers and catchers and the veterinary staff - are protected.

We have 170 recipient groups recorded on our web site, but by the time you read this that figure will probably be out of date.



World Map, showing the countries where our equipment is being used



Countries we've helped

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------|
| Argentina | Eire | Lebanon | Slovakia |
| Armenia | Finland | Lithuania | Slovenia |
| Austria | France | Malaysia | South Africa |
| Belarus | Germany | Malta | Spain |
| Belize | Greece | Mexico | Sri Lanka |
| Borneo | Hong Kong | Morocco | Sweden |
| Bosnia & H'govina | Hungary | Netherlands | Switzerland |
| Brazil | India | Peru | Taiwan |
| Bulgaria | Israel | Poland | Thailand |
| Costa Rica | Italy | Portugal | The Gambia |
| Croatia | Japan | Romania | Tunisia |
| Cyprus | Jersey | Russia | Turkey |
| Czech Republic | Kenya | Serbia & M'negro | Ukraine |
| Egypt | Latvia | Sierra Leone | Venezuela |



SNIP Facebook Page

SNIP International's Facebook page has been up and running since July 2012. It offers the chance to keep in touch with us at any time.

You can see news and images from all over the world where equipment we have donated is in use. SNIP International's Facebook page is also the place to visit when you feel like letting your eyes

rest on pictures of beautiful stray or feral cats.

We also share Trap-Neuter-Return and animal welfare related information that is available online. Come and (we hope) like us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/SNIPInternational



Cat Trapping On Naxos, Greece



Gilly came to Naxos and we met yesterday morning to get the cages. I was sooo happy!!

and immediately went to my cats' stations. The first cat that used it was the one in the picture, wounded in the leg, and he was transported and treated easier with the crush cage.

And then today, after years of trying to catch another female cat, she "fell" for the cage ! She's never entered any of our traps, she's very shy and I cannot touch her, but this cage she felt confident and entered it... and I closed the side door behind her... so she went to be



sterilised right away !
 These cages make my work with the cats so much easier !
 Once more we thank you so much for your donation !!!
Ranit Gabai, Naxos Animal Welfare

Help in Southern Greece

Our charity (Friends of Animals Society, Ermionida) were lucky enough to be given a cat crush cage at last years ICAW Conference in Athens. We really appreciate receiving this invaluable piece of equipment as it makes our TNR sessions so much easier & quicker.

We were recently fortunate to welcome a volunteer vet to our area from UK through the Nine Lives charity. We managed to neuter 45 cats in 3 days and this would not have been possible without using the crush cage you have given us.



Attached is a photo of the cage with some of our helpers and a lovely feral cat from our small town of Porto Heli.

Again many, many thanks for your generosity & good work.

Amy Edmonds, FASE Treasurer



The 2013 ICAWC (the International Companion Animal Welfare Conference) will be held from 14th to 16th October 2013 in Barcelona, Spain.

For more information go to:

<https://dogstrustinternational.com/conferences/icawc/>

SNIP International is pleased to acknowledge support from the Alice Noakes Memorial Charitable Trust, the Ann Daubeny Charitable Trust, the Ian Keith and Sylvia Keith Charitable Trust, MDC Exports Ltd, the Petplan Charitable Trust and SNIP International Friends.

Neutering in Portugal

We have neutered 511 animals since we started in February 2011. More than half of these animals are street cats. Without the traps, baskets and crush cages donated by SNIP International it would be almost impossible to do any work with these animals. This equipment has been used continuously, not only in our campaigns but also in between, to catch sick cats for treatment and by another local association.

Cristiane Lima, ARPA Portugal