



2023 Newsletter

PAWS is delighted to report that amazingly in 2023 we treated over 800 animals. Our Greek vet Nefeli worked 12 days at the PAWS clinic and treated 71 emergencies including one goat! Four UK vet teams visited in April, May, September & October.

Vets Olivia Grice & Heather Birrell with nurses Hannah Prince and Melanie Colvin in April

Vet Janet Brenton with nurses Emily Fairhurst & Hayley Blackmore in May

Vet Mike Houlihan with nurses Mandy Cooper, Jenny Proctor & Amy Readthorn in September

Vet Charmaine Cook with nurses Lisa Paszek & Megan Bucholz in October

The charity received £13,000 worth of grants and we sincerely thank GCWS, GAR, Jean Sainsbury, and WVS for their continued support. We would also like to thank Paxos municipality for contributing 15000 euros towards cat food and emergency treatment.

The Figures

587 stray cats neutered at the PAWS clinic.

52 other procedures on cats at the PAWS clinic.

12 other animals included pigeons, baby owls and a goat.

123 domestic cats neutered on the PAWS neutering scheme.

15 dogs neutered on the PAWS dog neutering scheme.

4 dogs neutered on the GAR free dog neutering scheme.

71 stray cats treated at the Paxos vet clinic by our Greek Vet Nefeli Damigou which included 4 sterilizations. These treatments were funded by Paxos Municipality.

Total animals treated in 2023 = 864

A few stories for you now ...

Firstly, from Di Mitchell- Kitten Olive

The Municipal Vet Nefeli Damigou called me on August 10th to ask me to go to a small olive grove next to the parcel delivery depot in Bogdanatika . She had received a call about a kitten in a bad way. When I arrived, I couldn't immediately see the kitten but after opening a tin of food I could hear it!

Once I had her in a cage we went straight to Nefeli's clinic where she prescribed antibiotics for a week and lots of TLC.

We posted photos of the kitten which I had now called Olive on our Facebook page. A few days later, a wonderful lady called Claudia contacted PAWS via the website to offer Olive a home.

Claudia was already booked to come to Paxos for a holiday at the end of September, so we carried out all the necessary vaccinations and prepared Olive's passport and adoption papers.

Claudia visited Olive every day during her holiday and built up a wonderful bond with her, spending around 2 hours each time playing and talking with her. On September 30th Claudia and Olive left Paxos to travel home to Germany.

And from Claudia:

Olive is the joy of my life. She is very smart, and I am so proud of her. The trip from Paxos to Germany was exciting, more than 7 hrs by boat, plane, and car but Olive was calm throughout. She has settled really well in her new home and has claimed my hair scrunchie as her favourite toy! She brings it to me every morning for me to throw or

hide for her. She is the most fun cat one can imagine and her arrival has improved my mental state a hundred per cent.

A huge thank you to Claudia from PAWS for giving Olive the most wonderful, safe, and loving home.



Anti Paxos visit – Faye Lychnou



Fine winter weather granted to us by the Greek gods inspired the PAWS team to visit Antipaxos in December as part of our neutering project. Loaded up with all necessary supplies and equipment we caught the early Anihalos boat surprising our fellow passengers who we chatted with happily during the 20-minute journey. It seems that reports of starving ill cats were greatly exaggerated, and all the locals were keen to keep the cat population healthy and under control.

Our hosts Babis & Akis accompanied by a group of 10 friendly cats were waiting to pick us up from the small fishing port of Agrapidia. Several of the cats were picked up manually and put into cages which made trapping very easy! Our Greek vet Nefeli and nurse Rena operated from Akis's family house behind Bella Vista tavern. Akis's wife Ioanna had prepared a well-appointed warm room for surgery as well as a bedroom for the recovery area.

More cats were caught by Di and myself at Vikra beach as well as looking for a 'Mum' cat as requested by Akis. On returning to Akis's home, 'Mum' cat was sitting happily in the garden awaiting her turn! Akis & Babis are considered permanent residents on the island so understandably there are always a lot of cats in that area. All of them looked well fed and healthy with only one needing treatment for ear cancer. The team neutered 23 cats, but still managed to catch the 4.30pm boat back to Paxos, accompanied by 3 kittens with cat flu that were going to be cared for at the PAWS clinic until fully recovered. It was a tiring, but very rewarding day and we will be returning in 2024 to check on the other half of the island.



From Nefeli:

I was contacted in the Summer by some tourists who had spotted a goat stuck on the rocks on Panagia island. Together with the port police, I was taken to Panagia to find and rescue the goat. It was a very difficult and dangerous operation trying to remove the goat from the rocks and transfer him into the boat. However, the mission was safely accomplished, and we took the goat back to my private clinic where I gave him fluids and pain medication. He was friendly but very old and sadly had an abdomen-meteorism.

We tried for 3 days to reverse the situation with IV fluids and medications but unfortunately, he didn't respond. On the following day we decided that it was kinder to put him to sleep, which was heartbreaking for me as you can see from the photos that I had become very fond of him.



And now some Paxos rescues from 2023...

During 2023, PAWS rehomed 29 kittens and 2 puppies and one dog called Alitis – see story below.

Alitis, a beautiful Retriever was owned by a local fisherman and was much loved by him and his family. He was always seen with his owner when he was out fishing. Sadly, the owner died unexpectedly after a short terminal illness and his wife understandably was distraught and unable to cope with the dog.

Alitis was left chained up outside and looked very lonely and neglected.

He was spotted by our trustee Di Mitchell and the PAWS team went into action. Nefeli approached the widow and offered medical help for the dog and a team of volunteers walked him daily and fed him good quality food to help him gain some weight.

After a few months Di and Ian offered to foster Alitis in their home and it soon became evident, although old, he was a handsome dog and very good natured.

He quickly adjusted to living indoors and to trust his foster family. One of our PAWS volunteers Louiza who had been walking him, very kindly offered to adopt him and he now lives indoors with another dog and 2 cats. He loves sleeping on his cushions and we hope he has put behind him his difficult years.



Here are some of the other rescues that were rehomed in 2023.



Once again, many thanks to all our wonderful volunteers that fostered all our rescues and helped re-home them.....and a BIG thank you to everyone who has given all these gorgeous animals a new home.

Other News:

Mandy Cooper and her friends once again raised over £200 making Christmas wreaths.

New volunteer Melanie Colvin raised over £400 at her practice for PAWS on Paxos.

So many of our Supporters gave us generous donations in 2023 and we thank them all.

Lindsay, with professional help from Toolkit created a new website which was launched in August. The response has been good but please spread the word!

**Don't forget to use the Greek hotline for animal abuse.
Callers can remain anonymous.**



A BIG THANK YOU.....

- to all our volunteers on Paxos for their daily commitment.
- to all our visiting vet teams from the UK....their dedication and continued support is exemplary.
- to all residents of Paxos who have been supporting animal welfare in any way.
- to Panos and Katerina who provide very good prices for accommodation and hire cars for our vet teams.
- to the private vets of Paxos.
- to Mayor, Spyros Vlachopoulos and Voula Apergi for their cooperation.

Plans for 2024

We are arranging for vet teams to visit the PAWS clinic in the Spring and Autumn.

We hope with the help of grants and donations to be able to support financially the PAWS municipal vet clinic and buy some new equipment.

We hope to improve co-operation with the Paxos municipality and persuade them to become more involved with the day to day running of animal welfare on the island and contribute more financially. As shown in the figures above of animals treated, local needs are increasingly demanding, urgent and costly. Ideally we would like to buy a veterinary incinerator, a vehicle for transporting animals and build a proper animal shelter. Money is also needed for specialist services regarding responsible pet ownership which would help fight local prejudices.

We are trying to renew and extend our volunteer network on Paxos. Please contact Faye or Di and help if you can as there can never be enough!



We are working on a scheme of educational visits for local schools,

Our Facebook page [Municipal Vet Clinic / PAWS | Facebook](#) is doing well and we will continue to post updates and photos on projects throughout the year.

PAWS - Greece is still a work in progress but hopefully will be up and running in 2024.

PAWS Voucher scheme for financial help with neutering domestic cats and dogs will also continue.

Finally, Lindsay as Director will be retiring at the end of 2025. It would be wonderful if someone could offer to take over the administration of running the UK registered charity. If you think you would like to help, please contact Lindsay via the website.

www.pawspaxos.com

Unfortunately, the job is unpaid and done for the love of animals and the love of Paxos.

Meanwhile Lindsay will do her best for the charity during the next 2 years.

WISHING ALL OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS A VERY HAPPY 2024.

Please find ways to support our projects financially by visiting our website page.

<https://www.pawspaxos.gr/contact> (bank transfer, Paypal, Amazon Smile)

